

# Notice of Council (Reconvened from 15 October 2024)



Date: Monday, 4 November 2024 at 7.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY

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**Chairman:**

Cllr L Dedman

**Vice Chairman:**

Cllr S Bull

Cllr C Adams  
Cllr S Aitkenhead  
Cllr H Allen  
Cllr M Andrews  
Cllr S Armstrong  
Cllr J Bagwell  
Cllr S Bartlett  
Cllr J Beesley  
Cllr P Broadhead  
Cllr D Brown  
Cllr O Brown  
Cllr R Burton  
Cllr J J Butt  
Cllr P Canavan  
Cllr S Carr-Brown  
Cllr J Challinor  
Cllr A Chapmanlaw  
Cllr B Chick  
Cllr J Clements  
Cllr E Connolly  
Cllr P Cooper  
Cllr M Cox  
Cllr D d'Orton-Gibson  
Cllr B Dove  
Cllr M Dower

Cllr M Earl  
Cllr J Edwards  
Cllr G Farquhar  
Cllr D Farr  
Cllr A Filer  
Cllr D A Flagg  
Cllr M Gillett  
Cllr C Goodall  
Cllr A Hadley  
Cllr J Hanna  
Cllr E Harman  
Cllr R Herrett  
Cllr P Hilliard  
Cllr B Hitchcock  
Cllr M Howell  
Cllr A Keddie  
Cllr M Le Poidevin  
Cllr S Mackrow  
Cllr R Maidment  
Cllr A Martin  
Cllr D Martin  
Cllr G Martin  
Cllr J Martin  
Cllr C Matthews  
Cllr S McCormack

Cllr P Miles  
Cllr S Moore  
Cllr A-M Moriarty  
Cllr B Nanovo  
Cllr L Northover  
Cllr M Phipps  
Cllr K Rampton  
Cllr Dr F Rice  
Cllr J Richardson  
Cllr V Ricketts  
Cllr C Rigby  
Cllr K Salmon  
Cllr J Salmon  
Cllr P Sidaway  
Cllr P Slade  
Cllr V Slade  
Cllr M Tarling  
Cllr T Trent  
Cllr O Walters  
Cllr C Weight  
Cllr L Williams  
Cllr K Wilson  
Cllr G Wright  
Vacancy

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All Members of the Council are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to attend or view the live stream of this meeting at the following link: <https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Mid=6260>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Democratic Services on 01202 096660 or [democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 118686 or [email.press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:email.press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at [democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk](https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

GRAHAM FARRANT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

25 October 2024

**DEBATE  
NOT HATE**



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on the Mod.gov app



## Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

### Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

#### Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

#### Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer  
([janie.berry@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:janie.berry@bcpcouncil.gov.uk))

### Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

### Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

### Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

### Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

### Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

### Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

### Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

# AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting of the Council has been convened to deal only with the items of business not dealt with at the adjourned meeting of the Council on the 15 October 2024.

**1. Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

**2. Declarations of Interests**

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance.

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

## ITEMS OF BUSINESS

### Recommendations from the Cabinet and Committees

Please refer to the recommendations detailed in item 3 below.

**3. Cabinet 2 October 2024 - Minute No. 62 - Constitution Hill Road, Poole, Dorset, BH14 0QA**

7 - 20

**RECOMMENDED that Council: -**

- 1. Approve a further £995k for design, planning and demolition of existing buildings;**
- 2. Approve the delegation to the Chief Operations Officer in conjunction with the Director of Finance and the Director of Law & Governance authority to enter a contract for demolition providing all key parameters (including delivery within approved capital budget) are met;**
- 3. Appropriate the site for housing purposes under section 19 of the Housing Act 1985; and**
- 4. Transfer the site to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) from the General fund at an appropriate certified value of the land.**

Note - resolution 5 was a resolved matter by the Cabinet.

**4. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report**

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This is the annual report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer on Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) activity within BCP Council. There is a requirement to report on the work of O&S to Council, to ensure good visibility of the function and Council ownership of activity and any improvements required.

The annual report contains a summary and analysis of O&S activity during 2023-24, reflections on working practices and an action plan identifying strategic improvements to the O&S function.

All O&S committees received the annual report for consideration, providing opportunity for comment prior to the supply of the final report to Council.

## **5. Questions from Councillors**

The deadline for questions to be submitted to the Monitoring Officer is Monday 7 October 2024.

## **6. Notices of Motions in accordance with Procedure Rule 10**

### **Bournemouth Women's Refuge**

The following motion submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 10 of the Meeting Procedure Rules has been proposed by Councillor D Farr and seconded by Councillor H Allen: -

There has been no scrutiny of the decision to close Bournemouth's only Women's Refuge for those fleeing abusive relationships.

**We ask the decision be reversed and the council's policy on social care for vulnerable individuals escaping domestic violence must be fully scrutinised before committee.**

### **Council Elections Voting System**

The following motion submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 10 of the Meeting Procedure Rules has been proposed by Councillor J Salmon and seconded by Councillor Oliver Walters.

**This Council believes that the current First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) electoral system used for local elections does not fully reflect the diverse political preferences of our electorate. We propose that the Leader of the Council contacts the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and requests that BCP Councils 2027 local elections are used as an opportunity to trial an alternative Single Transferable Vote (STV) system.**

### **Background:**

#### **1. Electoral Fairness:**

- The FPTP system often results in disproportionate representation, where the distribution of seats does not accurately reflect the share of votes each party receives.
- STV is a proportional representation system that aims to allocate seats more fairly, ensuring that the majority of votes contribute to the election outcome.

#### **2. Voter Empowerment:**

- Under FPTP electors are frequently pressured to vote for candidates they do not favour out of fear of one they dislike even more being successful.
- Under FPTP any votes cast for the candidate who is not successful are simply ignored.
- STV allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference, reducing wasted votes and empowering voters to express nuanced preferences.

### **3. Encouraging Positive Campaigning:**

- FPTP can encourage negative campaigning as parties focus on winning narrow pluralities.
- STV incentivizes positive campaigning, as candidates must seek not only first-choice votes but also second and third preferences from a broader electorate.

### **4. Successful Implementation Elsewhere:**

- STV is already successfully used in several other democracies and in various elections within the United Kingdom, such as the Northern Ireland Assembly and local elections in Scotland.

#### **Proposal:**

- 1. This Council instructs the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government requesting that legislation be passed to allow the trial of STV in the 2027 local elections noting that BCP Council would be happy to pilot STV.***

#### **Changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance and protecting pensioners from fuel poverty**

The following motion submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 10 of the Meeting Procedure Rules has been proposed by Councillor P Broadhead and seconded by Councillor B Dove: -

#### **Council Notes:**

- **The Labour Government's recent decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Payment to only pensioners in receipt of means-tested benefits like Pension Credit, as announced by Chancellor Rachel Reeves.**
- **The estimated impact of this decision, which in the BCP Council area alone could see 75,627 pensioners lose their fuel allowance, and which Age UK says will mean 2 million pensioners across the UK who badly need the money to stay warm this winter will not receive it.**
- **The significant role that Winter Fuel Payments play in helping older residents of the BCP Council area and across the UK afford heating during the coldest months, thereby preventing 'heat or eat' dilemmas and safeguarding health.**
- **The criticism from Age UK, the Countryside Alliance and other charities, highlighting the social injustice and potential health risks posed by this sudden policy change.**
- **The additional strain this decision will place on vulnerable pensioners, many of whom do not claim Pension Credit despite being eligible, further exacerbating their financial hardship.**

#### **Council believes:**

- **That the Winter Fuel Payment has been a lifeline for many older people across the UK and that restricting its availability solely**

to those on Pension Credit risks leaving many pensioners in financial hardship.

- While some pensioners currently in receipt of the Winter Fuel Payment may not require it, many thousands across the BCP Council region sit just above the cut-off for Pension Credit and will now lose their allowance.
- The decision to means-test Winter Fuel Payments, especially with such short notice and without adequate compensatory measures, is deeply unfair and will disproportionately affect the health and well-being of our poorest older residents.
- The government's approach fails to consider the administrative barriers and stigma that prevent eligible pensioners from claiming Pension Credit, leaving many without the support they desperately need.

**Council resolves to:**

- (a) Bring forward a Council-led local awareness campaign to alert those eligible of Pension Credit which in some respects will help access to the Winter Fuel Payment for those most in need.
- (b) Request that the Council Leader write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment and asking the government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim Pension Credit, are protected from fuel poverty.
- (c) Commit the Council to signing the 'Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners' petition being run by Age UK and write to all members offering them the opportunity to sign the petition themselves.
- (d) Encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through council services and partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are supported in claiming their entitlement.

## **7. Urgent Decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution**

To consider any urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution.

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.