

Motions to Council and Actions Arising 2023/24

| Meeting date | Motion topic | Submitted by | Resolutions | Actions arising |
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| 11 July 2023 | Cost of living crisis | Proposer: Cllr Mille Earl Seconder: Cllr Mike Cox | <p>RESOLVED: that Council supports the motion as set out below: That BCP Council is concerned at the continuing pressures of the cost-of-living crisis on so many in our communities.</p> <p>This Council:</p> <p>(a) calls on cabinet to work closely with partners, who are already undertaking incredible work to support our communities across BCP, to ensure that available funding in the current year such as the Household Support Fund 4 targets those most in need in line with the guidance for the funding;</p> <p>(b) calls on cabinet to set out in its next budget what action it is planning to take specifically to ensure that levels of financial support are sufficient to promote community engagement, to assist the staff, charities and voluntary groups who are supporting families and the vulnerable;</p> <p>(c) resolves to help ensure that all BCP residents can easily access the support they need whether that is through our own services, services provided by our partners and by the voluntary sector or help and support in the community during this time of economic hardship; and</p> <p>(d) furthermore this Council requests that the leader or relevant portfolio holder makes formal representation to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities that funding to Local Authorities be increased so that local authorities can provide support to residents during the cost of living crisis.</p> | <p>Cost of Living and Household Support motion:</p> <p>The Household Support Fund 4 ran from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, administering a total of £5,275,292.98 to households in need of support due to the cost of living situation. This included, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75,342 food vouchers issued for support during the school holiday, £400,000 in grants administered through Dorset Community Foundation to community groups across BCP, totalling 57 grants for food and energy support and warm welcome space that reached 26,771 residents, supported and delivered by 1,408 volunteers. 2,264 grants issued through Citizens Advice BCP and additional support provided around debt, evictions notices, domestic abuse, bailiff issues, negative income and households threatened with homelessness Lobbying for the extension of the Household Support Fund via national platforms and workshops, including a visit to BCP from the DWP National Policy team to understand our approach which is held up as best practice A further round of 6 month's funding in the form of HSF 5 has been confirmed and in the stages of implemented, however there are serious concerns among staff and partners around what happened when the current round of funding finishes as certainly the cost of living situation is not resolved and many have become reliant of the support provided through this scheme. The team delivering this programme of work won Bronze at the national leSE Public Sector Transformation Awards 2024 in recognition of their work <p>The Access to Food Partnership founded in 2019 has now just entered its third and final year of funding from the National Lottery. During 2023/4 the Partnership achieved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 67 partners supported with Level 2 food hygiene qualifications for their community food projects Over 45 bulk donations of food have been shared and distributed across the food network There are 83 community food listings on the Access to Food map and it has been searched over 5,100 times in the last year alone and a staggering 42,000 times since its creation 135 frontline staff have now been trained in community food offers so that they can direct people to food support, totalling over 1,000 now in total 214 partners connecting and collaborating at events to works together to tackle food insecurity |

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| | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed a 'start cooking' recipe book to share across the food network to build confidence in cooking skills, share hints and tips and signpost to support Trialled the One Stop Glut Hut at Christmas to store and share bulk food donations across the network, more commonly known as the 'Turkey Problem' due to the high number usually donated at this time of year Carried out a range of listening activities to capture the lived experience and help to shape future policy around food insecurity Building on the Partnership's Bronze award in 2022, Silver award in 2023, the Partnership were awarded Gold in the national leSE Public Sector Transformation Awards 2024 for the outstanding partnership working taking place to ensure that this topic remains high on the agenda of decision makers, both locally and nationally <p>Cost of Living Support</p> <p>Alongside all of this activity, a dedicated Cost of living hub is maintained on the Council's webpage detailing a wide range of support that is available. As we're very conscious that not everyone has access to the internet, we also train up frontline workers, including a session which was held for Cllrs around the support available so that they can signpost and also have information in key locations such as schools, libraries, pharmacies, GP Surgeries etc.</p> |
| 12 September 2023 | Knife Crime | Proposer: Cllr Sara Armstrong Seconder: Cllr Kate Salmon | <p>RESOLVED: that Council supports the motion as set out below:</p> <p>(a) To consider the amount of funding required to effectively deliver our Serious Violent Crime duty and if there is a short fall, to lobby the government for resources that reflect the specific needs of BCP;</p> <p>(b) To work in partnership with other voluntary services such as youth organisations to find alternative sources of funding to develop and deliver early intervention programmes especially in areas where we know there are vulnerable young people and their families;</p> <p>(c) To commit to working towards a public health approach that brings together youth services, community groups, schools, NHS and other statutory partners to tackle knife crime and serious violent crime in our neighbourhoods; and</p> <p>(d) That the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulatory Services reports back to Council on</p> | <p>Knife Crime and Serious Violent Crime Motion</p> <p>Cllr Wilson provided an update to Full Council in January 2024 on the BCP Community Safety Partnership's Serious Violence Duty, which was adopted in January 2024, including an oversight of some of the key data relating to Serious violence in BCP such as knife crime. In addition, a full report was prevented to Overview & Scrutiny in December 2023, which include the detailed achievement and challenges for the Community Safety Partnership.</p> <p>We are now four months into the new duty for Serious Violence and we are making good progress. The eight week campaign: #livesbeforeknives #changesaremade to raise awareness of knife crime is now live and includes a range of activities for young people, parents and carers and professionals to educate an support around knife crime with our partners including AFC Bournemouth, Town Centre BID, Dorset Police, Community Champions and the community and voluntary sector. Dedicated Task & Finish groups focus on specific activity such as the Young Person's Serious Violence group which aims to look at safeguarding vulnerable young people from harm and or exploitation.</p> <p>Other community safety activity which has taken place over the last 12 months focussing on reducing serious violent crime includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping Our Young People Safer conference, which brought together professionals to better understand issues such as knife crime, county lines, |

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| | | | <p>progress of the Community Safety Strategy in particular paying attention to knife crime, at the full council meeting in January. This update to include figures on the current attainment of the KPIs set out in the Community Safety Strategy. These figures to be available via a dashboard and shared with councillors and the relevant stakeholders.</p> | <p>and trauma informed responses, and equip professionals with practical tips to take away and help keep our young people in BCP safer week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual Violence Awareness Week, which included training for professionals on sexually harmful behaviour in young people, and honour based abuse, forced marriage, and female genital mutilation. A domestic abuse forum was held with a range of talks from local services that provided support to victims of sexual violence and/or domestic abuse. Further, a community engagement event was held at Bournemouth Library where members of the public were able to top in and speak to stallholders from STARS, Sexual Health Dorset, and the Dorset Working Women's project. • 16 days of action, which included training on honour based abuse, an awareness session on male victims of domestic violence, webinars on healthy relationships and 'arguing better', understanding stalking in the context of domestic abuse, an introduction to the domestic homicide timeline, and a webinar on street harassment by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust. There was also an art exhibition which ran throughout the week for members of the public to drop in to. • The Prevent Partnership Group week of action – 'Preventing Radicalisation', which consisted of 9 live webinars for professionals, educators and parents, and 2 'in house' sessions at Weymouth College and Bournemouth and Poole College. The week gained positive feedback, with participants reporting they have a greater understanding and awareness of Prevent after attending the workshop, and that they felt confident knowing who to contact and how if they had concerns for a friend, colleague or child. • Safer Internet Day, which included three free webinars for the public and professionals. Dorset Cyber Crime Unit provided a free webinar on cyber awareness, Progressive Masculinity provided a free online talk for parents on Healthy Masculinity and Online Influences, and the Dorset Police Safer Schools Team ran an online webinar on online safety for parents. • From June to August 2023, BCP and the Community Safety Partnership commissioned a domestic abuse lived experience survey with residents, survivors and perpetrators to understand their experiences and ensure that their voices are heard as part of our work to recommission domestic abuse services. • Launched the Unity promise women's safety charter in March, together with businesses from across different sectors including retailers, taxis, buses and clubs. The unity promise consists of seven commitments and will support businesses with training on how to improve safety for women and girls. • Achieved Purple Flag accreditation for Bournemouth Town centre, an award that is has held since 2010. The partnership in Bournemouth has been commended for its strength and focus, serving as a driver that ignites enthusiasm and commitment towards enhancing the night time economy experience within the town. Recognition was given by the assessors for initiatives such as the Street Pastors, Safe Bus, and the efforts to prevent |

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| | | | | <p>violence against women and girls were celebrated for their contributions to community safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secured Safer Street 5 funding for a range of projects in Bournemouth Town Centre aimed at reducing violence against women and girls such as the installation of new CCTV in hot spot locations; expansion of the existing voluntary sector night time community guardianship scheme for Bournemouth Town Centre; work with the Universities and students to develop a student led peer community guardianship scheme to cover the Lansdowne area linking Bournemouth Town Centre to the University accommodation blocks; establish and deliver through STARS an Alcohol Consent Engagement Officer This is all new additional work taking place alongside our existing work around Domestic Abuse, MARAC, Prevent partnership, Channel panel, UP2U domestic abuse perpetrators programme for BCP and Dorset, Domestic Homicide Reviews, analytical reviews to inform task and finish groups, attendance at community events and numerous partnership meetings around community safety. Launched Knife Crime Awareness events with young people and communities to increase the awareness of knife crime risks and support younger members of the community with diversionary activities. <p>Data and monitoring</p> <p>The CSP produces quarterly KPI reports which are reviewed by the CSP Executive Board along with monthly reports on serious violent crime. All of these documents are available on the Safer BCP website.</p> |
| 7 November 2023 | Conflict in Israel and Palestine | <p>Proposer: Cllr Joe Salmon</p> <p>Seconder: Cllr Kate Salmon</p> | <p>RESOLVED: -</p> <p>That this Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expresses deep sympathy for all those affected by the conflict in Israel and Palestine. To those in the BCP area who have been affected by this conflict we offer our support in this difficult time. Hopes for an immediate further release of all hostages and an immediate ceasefire to allow more aid and the possibility of a peaceful resolution. Believes Muslims, Jews and people of all faiths and none should feel safe and supported throughout the world; that the increase in antisemitic and Islamophobic violence in the UK is reprehensible and | <p>When this motion was submitted the Leader advised Cllr Salmon that the Equalities Action Commission had been disbanded and that a more inclusive Equalities Group was being scoped. It was expected that reference to this group would be deleted from the motion and its inclusion is why the leader had to abstain on the motion.</p> <p>The council actively works with groups across our diverse communities including those affected by the conflict in Gaza and other locations around the world.</p> <p>BCP Council continues to facilitate protests and other events to reflect and remember those caught up in events including the conflict in Israel and Palestine and in support of other causes</p> <p>No specific support has been required for individual residents and the Council stands ready to provide any such support that may be required.</p> <p>The Council proactively works with Dorset Police to monitor all language used in protests, social media and other communications across the BCP area. Social media posts are difficult to control, but the Council has a proactive media team who monitor local social media and will respond to any inappropriate posts, and will disseminate positive messages of community cohesion.</p> |

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| | | | <p>should be punished to the full extent of the law.</p> <p>This Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the equalities action commission explore how the council can better support and facilitate events for people of all faiths and none where they can come together and express solidarity and sadness in response to these events. • Offer appropriate support to any local resident who needs our assistance as a result of these violent events. • Stand ready to provide support and open our arms to innocent people displaced and affected by these events. • Condemn the use of all dehumanising language and calls on our communities to treat each other with respect and refrain from inflammatory terms to describe either the Palestinian or Israeli populations. • Continue flying the UN flag as a symbol of peace outside the Civic Centre until a ceasefire is agreed. | <p>The community safety team will monitor protests and community concerns and work closely with Dorset Police to promote free speech but support members of the communities affected.</p> <p>The UN flag continues to fly at the BCP Civic Centre, as a symbol of peace, whenever there are no central requirements to fly specific flags for particular purposes.</p> |
| 7 November 2023 | Photo ID at Polling Stations | <p>Proposer: Cllr Peter Cooper</p> <p>Seconder: Cllr Patrick Canavan</p> | <p>RESOLVED:-</p> <p>That this Council is concerned that the introduction of requiring residents to produce photo ID in order to vote at polling stations is having a negative impact on our democracy by disenfranchising particular sections of our society. For example, in some wards, turnout was noticeably lower than in 2019. This Council therefore agrees to raise these concerns with the Local Government Association, local MPs and Government as a matter of urgency to seek the removal of this unnecessary requirement on voters.</p> | <p>The Chief Executive raised this matter in the following forums, quoting directly from the Council meeting and the views put forwards by councillors helping to illustrate the debate beyond the knowledge of the Polling Stations and the Count:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LUHC Select Committee – personal appearance and evidence given 2. House of Lords Constitution Committee – personal appearance and evidence given 3. R9 (regional lead CExs) Group meeting with DLUHC Director General and senior civil servants 4. LGA via the R9 Group (Regional representative Chief executives) and in separate discussions at SW Chief executives meetings <p>In addition the Chief Executive wrote to the LGA specifically on this matter and it was raised by the Head of Elections, Land Charges & Registration Services during meetings with DLUHC and the Electoral Commission as part of the Electoral Co-ordination Advisory Board.</p> <p>Voter ID figures for the Police and Crime Commissioner election in May 2024 are similar to the previous Local and Parish Council elections in 2023, and a press release with these figures is due to be published on the council website shortly.</p> |

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| | | | | The Elections team are also using a banner advising of the requirement to have photo ID to vote at a polling station on all communications to raise awareness with anyone contacting the service. |
| 9 January 2024 | Lift the Ban Motion on Asylum Seekers | Proposer: Cllr Matthew Gillett Seconder: Cllr Chris Rigby | <p>RESOLVED: -</p> <p>BCP council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. in BCP, there are over 500 people seeking asylum in receipt of Section 95 support (Immigration Compliance Network (ICN) December 2023); ii. since 2002, people seeking asylum have only able to apply for the right to work after they have been waiting for a decision on their asylum claim for over a year, and only if they can be employed into one of the professions included on the Government's Shortage Occupation List; iii. people seeking asylum are left to live on £6.77 per day (or £9.58 per week if in a contingency hotel), struggling to support themselves and their families, and left vulnerable to destitution, isolation, and exploitation; iv. allowing people seeking asylum the right to work would increase tax revenue by £1.3 billion, reduce Government expenditure by £6.7 billion, increase GDP by £1.6 billion, and improve the wellbeing of those individuals (National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NISR) June 2023); v. 81% of people polled by Lift The Ban agreed with the statement: "when people come to the UK seeking asylum it is important they integrate, learn English and get to know people. It would help integration if asylum-seekers were allowed to work if their claim takes more than six months to process"; <p>BCP Council believes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vi. people seeking asylum want to be able to work so that they can use their skills and make the most of their potential, integrate into their communities, and provide for themselves and their families; | <p>The Leader has written to the Home Secretary to seek this change in legislation. A reply was received confirming that they have no intention of enabling those who are seeking asylum to work.</p> <p>BCP Council has formally joined the Lift The Ban Coalition and should be listed on their website as a supporter</p> <p>The Leader also met with a student journalist and an Asylum Seeker living in a hotel in Bournemouth to better understand GI we can help to integrate them into our communities and support them to contribute through volunteering programmes. This meeting was supported by a member of the Communities team.</p> |

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| | | | <p>vii. enabling those seeking asylum to work would allow them to prove their ability to pay rent and therefore reduce the risk of them requiring council support for housing once they are granted leave to remain;</p> <p>viii. restrictions on right to work can lead to extremely poor mental health outcomes, and a waste of potentially invaluable talents and skills both for the economy of BCP and the UK;</p> <p>ix. allowing people seeking asylum the right to work would therefore lead to positive outcomes for those seeking asylum in BCP and for the local and national economy;</p> <p>BCP Council resolves to:</p> <p>x. join the Lift the Ban Coalition, which is campaigning to restore the right to work for everyone waiting for more than 6 months for a decision on their asylum claim;</p> <p>xi. asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Home Secretary seeking an urgent change to legislation to give people seeking asylum the right to work unconstrained by the shortage occupation list after they have waited six months for a decision on their initial asylum claim or further submission.</p> | |
| 20 February 2024 | Safety Valve | <p>Proposer: Cllr Patrick Canavan</p> <p>Seconder: Cllr Peter Cooper</p> | <p>BCP Council resolves to:</p> <p>(a) Ensure that this Council is able to debate and consider any contract or arrangement regarding the possible application of Safety Valve prior to this being agreed;</p> <p>(b) Ask the Leader and/or Chief Executive of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, seeking an urgent extension to the statutory override, to give local authorities time and space to address the crisis in SEND funding and services;</p> <p>(c) Ask the Leader and/or Chief Executive of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Education, expressing the urgent need for additional funding (or deficit write-off) for all local authorities;</p> | <p>There have been no further active discussions with the DfE DULCH Safety Valve team and there is no proposed contract or agreement.</p> <p>Conversations continue with DLUHC and DfE civil servants regarding the significant financial burden that the continued levels of spending on SEND above the budget provided are placing on the Council's finances</p> <p>A "SEND Progress Update re SEND Improvement Plan and Safety Valve" was considered by Cabinet on the 22 May 2024. Further to this meeting the councils Director of Finance wrote to Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities to seek their advice on how the council is supposed to cash flow the accumulating DSG deficit which is forecast to start and finish 2025/26 at £92m and £117m, respectively.</p> <p>The Leader wrote to both relevant Secretary's of State and the Chair for the Local Government Association (LGA). The Chair of the LGA provided a very positive and proactive response, supporting our position and echoing our concerns for the whole of local government. Neither Secretary of State has yet replied to, or even acknowledged the letters.</p> |

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| | | | <p>(d) Ask the Leader and/or Chief Executive of the Council to write to the Chair and/or Chief Executive of the Local Government Association, expressing the urgent need for local authorities to demand together that the Government supports local authorities through this crisis, to avoid unnecessary insolvencies without punishing vulnerable families.</p> | |
| 23 April 2024 | Cashless Only Council Facilities | <p>Proposer: Cllr Joe Salmon</p> <p>Seconder: Cllr Kate Salmon</p> | <p>1. Council resolves to:</p> <p>(a) acknowledge the importance of inclusivity and recognises the diverse financial circumstances of residents, including those who may be unbanked or underbanked.</p> <p>(b) commit to ensuring that all policies and provisions are designed to be inclusive and considerate of the needs of all residents, regardless of their banking status by adopting unbanked or underbanked as local characteristics that must also be considered when developing equality impact assessments.</p> <p>(c) be aware of the significance of maintaining accessibility for all residents to council facilities, regardless of their financial situation, and express a commitment to finding solutions that do not disproportionately burden those without regular access to banking services.</p> <p>2. Council:</p> <p>(a) instructs the relevant officers to bring a report to Cabinet that reviews the decision and impact of the implementation of cashless-only provision at council facilities that covers:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. The implications of the cashless-only policy on residents who are currently unbanked or underbanked and those who may require additional support</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. The reduction of income due to council service users and customers taking the business elsewhere</p> | <p>Work has not yet commenced on this paper.</p> <p>It is proposed that an update on this motion will be brought alongside the outcome of motions in the second half of 2024.</p> |

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| | | | <div><div>c. The consequences of encouraging cashless spending which can be more risky for those in financial difficulty</div><div>d. The future financial savings anticipated and those already realised from the move to cashless</div><div>(b) considers reinstating the acceptance of cash at council facilities if the review indicates that the cashless-only provision disproportionately impacts residents negatively relative to the envisioned savings."</div></div> | |