

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
CABINET

Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 October 2021 at 10.00 am

Present:-

Cllr D Mellor – Chairman

Cllr P Broadhead – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr M Anderson, Cllr M Greene, Cllr N Greene, Cllr M Iyengar,
Cllr R Lawton and Cllr K Rampton

Present virtually: Cllr M White (Cllr White attended virtually and was therefore unable to
participate in the voting on the items listed below)

Lead Members: Cllr H Allen, Cllr S Baron, Cllr N Brooks, Cllr B Dove
and Cllr J Kelly

Also in attendance virtually: Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr D Butler and Cllr A Hadley

Apologies: Cllr M Haines

66. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

67. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 29 September were confirmed
and signed as a correct record.

68. Public Issues

The Leader advised that there had been no questions, statements or
petitions received from members of the public on this occasion.

69. Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Board

Cabinet was advised that there were no additional recommendations from
the Overview and Scrutiny Board on items not otherwise included on the
Cabinet Agenda on this occasion.

70. MTFP Update Report

The Leader of the Council presented a report, a copy of which had been
circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to
these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the report;

- Presented a refresh of the medium-term financial plan (MTFP) of the council to reflect the annual fundamental review and its extension to a 5-year time horizon;
- Showed progress towards delivering a balanced budget for 2022/23 and highlights the key financial risks faced by the Council;
- Provided an update of the CIPFA Financial Management Code of Practice;
- Provided an update on the CIPFA Financial Resilience Index; and
- Provided An update on the CIPFA Treasury Management and Prudential Code of Practice.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note: -

- (a) the current budget position for 2022/23; and**
- (b) the progress made in refreshing the MTFP and its extension to cover the five-year period to 31 March 2027.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

71. Organisational Design - Implementation Progress

The Leader of the Council presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the implementation of the Council's new Operating Model is a fundamental part of the wider "Our New Normal" transformation programme, and that despite the impact of the Pandemic, significant progress has been made in setting up and beginning the four-year programme of activity that will deliver the Local Government Reorganisation vision as well as underpinning the savings required by the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board addressed the Cabinet advising that at their recent meeting the Board members had highlighted the need for all member governance, with concern expressed in relation to the lack of accessibility, and that the item would be brought back to the Overview and Scrutiny Board in a few months' time.

RESOLVED that Cabinet noted the progress made on the implementation of the Council's new Organisational Design and Operating Model.

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

72. Estates and Accommodation - Retention of Poole civic space

The Leader of the Council presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'C' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the delivery of the council's Estates and Accommodation Strategy will enable the organisation to reduce its exposure to a large and inefficient office accommodation estate, whilst at the same time supporting the development of single council identity where staff work in modern and flexible ways, delivering services that are transformed in order to be as customer focused and financially efficient as possible.

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that the creation of the BCP Council Civic Centre and relocation of the customer service offer to local libraries represents the first phase in the council's Estates and Accommodation Strategy and comprises the necessary investment in the Bournemouth campus and larger libraries, plus the associated work required to allow for new uses of the legacy Poole and Christchurch civic offices.

Cabinet was reminded that in the November 2020 Estates and Accommodation Cabinet report, it stated that the intention was no longer to dispose of the Poole Civic Centre in its entirety but to maintain ownership of the core building to protect the Mayoral connection and to consider alternate uses. The Poole civic building is a 1930s listed building and has played an important part in Poole's history. BCP Council are committed to retaining it as a Poole asset.

Further to this Cabinet was informed that it is proposed that BCP will retain the freehold of the Poole Civic Centre and a 'vertical slice' will be remodelled for retention as a civic building in Poole, and that consideration has been given as to the best use of this space alongside the Poole Charter Trustees. Cabinet was further informed that the Dorset Coroners service has been looking to relocate from Bournemouth Town Hall, and the gravitas and location of the building is a good fit for their needs. The use of the building by the Coroners service alongside the mayoralty function, located in the heart of Poole, presents a viable future for the retained building.

In addition, Cabinet was advised that the other sections of the Poole Civic Centre and wider campus will be repurposed in due course, and that the Poole Charter Trustees and Coroner have been engaged with regarding the proposed layout of this space.

Cabinet was further informed that the project budget requested reflects the need to create a fit for purpose space for the Poole Charter Trustees and Coroners service.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board addressed the Cabinet advising that at their recent meeting the Board had comprehensively discussed the report and proposed the following recommendation in respect of this item:

The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommends that Cabinet considers how use of the retained section of the building by community groups can best be accommodated outside of Coroner and Mayoralty hours, making

appropriate and reasonable adjustments to the current proposal where necessary while accepting this use is secondary to Coroner and Mayoralty use.

Councillor Hadley addressed the Cabinet stressing the importance of maintaining the historic core of the building and of ensuring that any refurbishment or building works looked at ways in which sustainable energy can be utilised.

Councillor Butler addressed the Cabinet stressing the importance of considering the use of any vacant space to bring in rent and of considering all options in order to make the best use of the building.

In relation to this the Leader of the Council stressed that options were still available to be considered with regards to certain areas of use for the building but that disposing of the building was not one of them, and that by not disposing of this asset the Council was ensuring it had a future.

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) the retention of the Poole Civic vertical slice and use to accommodate the requirements of the Poole Charter Trustees and Dorset Coroners Service be approved;**
- (b) the proposed budget set out in Appendix 2 be approved for Recommendation to Council.**
- (c) the provisional scope and delegates to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, final decisions in respect of the footprint of the retained section of the building, within the agreed budget allocation be approved;**
- (d) Cabinet authorises the commencement of the procurement process and delegates authority to award contracts to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and appropriate senior officers as appropriate, in accordance with delegated authorities and the council's financial regulations; and**
- (e) consideration be given to how use of the retained section of the building by community groups can best be accommodated outside of Coroner and Mayoralty hours, making appropriate and reasonable adjustments to the current proposal where necessary while accepting this use is secondary to Coroner and Mayoralty use.**

RECOMMENDED that: -

- (a) Council approve the budget set out in Appendix 2.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder(s): Leader of the Council
Environment, Waste and Cleansing

73. 'Futures Fund' Allocation for the Installation of a Core Gigabit Fibre Network

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'D' to these Minutes in the Minute

Cabinet was advised that the report set out the case for £5.87m* of 'Futures Fund' investment in a 70.5km long core gigabit-fibre network in order to deliver operational savings for the Council. In particular these cost savings relate to the Wide Area Network (WAN) and the delivery of 'Smart' technology solutions.

*[*This includes £200k approved through a Member Decision Notice to enable ducting to be installed as soon as possible as part of ongoing Transforming Travel programme works]*

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that an investment analysis has indicated that with the support of the already budgeted Futures Fund, additional net savings would be delivered to the Council, with a breakeven point from Year 6 (2026/27) based on prevailing interest rates. In addition to providing cost savings to the Council, the installation of this fibre network supports the Council's Transformation and Smart Place programmes and also has the potential for supporting BCP Council's 'Big Plan'.

Cabinet was advised that an estimated 30km of the ducting and fibre can be installed during the course of the Transforming Travel construction programme, and that utilising 'open' excavations will reduce the cost of installation of ducting by approximately 40%.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board addressed the Cabinet advising that at their recent meeting the Board had accepted the general value of the scheme but questioned whether this should be carried out by the Council or whether this should be left to those within the industry to put the infrastructure in place, in addition it was advised that the Board had a lack of confidence about the programme but understood that it was required.

Cllr Hadley addressed the Cabinet expressing concern that the scheme already felt dated and that further technologies were available.

RECOMMENDED that: -

- (a) Council be asked to approve the £5.87m Smart Places Gigabit Fibre scheme; and**
- (b) Council note that the funding for the Smart Places Gigabit Fibre scheme will be from drawing down £5.87m of the £50m Futures Fund approved by Council as part of the 2021/22 Budget and associated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) of the Council.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning

74. BCP Commissioning Plan for Regeneration and Development and Urban Regeneration Company Business Plan

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'E' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was informed that the opportunity to shape a better Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole in the coming years is a hugely significant one, and that the BCP area faces a demand for over 2,000 new homes to be built each year over the next 16 years.

In relation to this Cabinet was advised that to deliver these homes, as well as new offices and infrastructure, and realise the vision of a world class city region, as set out in its Big Plan, the Council will need to act at scale, deliver at pace and ensure development and placemaking of the highest quality.

Cabinet was informed that the report proposes that the Council should adopt a commissioning model for regeneration working with key partners including its Urban Regeneration Company (URC), *BCP FuturePlaces Limited*, the Bournemouth Development Company (BDC) and the Boscombe Towns Fund Board to deliver high quality regeneration and development for residents, and that further to this the report explains the Council's approach, detailing how it will commission services from *FuturePlaces*; the initial plans for regenerating key sites, and the anticipated outcomes from the approach.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board addressed the Cabinet advising that at the recent meeting of the Board Members had expressed their wish for there to be cross part representation on the associated Board, in addition Cabinet was advised that the Overview and Scrutiny members had requested that consideration be given to earlier assessment of planning consent or outline planning permission being sought at an early stage before a significant amount of money has been spent.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves: -

- (a) the commissioning approach to Regeneration and the Commissioning Plan described in this report, including the reporting and monitoring arrangements below and attached at Appendix 1;**
- (b) the URC Business Plan shown at Confidential Appendix 2;**
- (c) that the Council's formal relationship with the URC will be governed through several legal documents including: the Commissioning Contract; Articles of Association; a Shareholder's Agreement; a Support Services Agreement;**
- (d) that responsibility to finalise the terms of these documents be delegated to the Corporate Property Officer, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer;**
- (e) the initial sites and projects to be taken forward for development by the URC as shown in Table 1 and detailed in the Business Plan at Confidential Appendix 2; and**
- (f) the budget required by the URC to manage its planned programme and deliver the development management services necessary to progress the development of the sites identified in the business plan, subject to the approval of the additional budget by Council.**

RECOMMENDED that Council approves: -

- (g) **The financial recommendations as set out in the 29th September Cabinet report entitled 'Accelerating regeneration and investment in the BCP area' namely:**
- (i) **To approve £3.404m of additional resources to support the regeneration programme in 2021/22 (including £0.380m to fund the first phase of the Seafront Strategy.**
 - (ii) **To note that £3.470m has been requested to support regeneration in 2022/23 and £1.331m annually thereafter which will be subject to formal approval as part of the 2022/23 budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan Update report in February 2022.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning

75. Levelling up – Creating a Skills Commission

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'F' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was informed that the report recommends the creation of a time-limited Dorset Skills Commission to oversee an 'at pace' response to critical skills issues that have been identified from recent economic research.

In relation to this Cabinet was advised that these require an urgent response if the area is to achieve its economic ambitions and level up our economy. The Commission will be tasked with reporting back on its findings to a future Cabinet meeting in 2022/23.

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) **Cabinet supports the creation of a Dorset Skills Commission between November 2021 and September 2022;**
- (b) **For this Commission to facilitate the skills delivery needed for an effective and at pace response to a jobs-led approach to COVID-19 economic recovery and levelling up across Dorset;**
- (c) **the Commission undertakes a review into the Dorset skills landscape – with a particular consideration of the National Skills White Paper, and the levelling up agenda, producing a report that lays out a potential skills journey and opportunities/needs based on 10, 20 and 30-years trajectories;**
- (d) **the Commission works closely with the Dorset Skills Board and Panel to support immediate implementation of the wider skills priorities within the agreed Dorset Skills Plan and Dorset Investment Prospectus;**
- (e) **the Director – Economic Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Covid resilience, Schools and Skills, and the Cabinet member for Regeneration, Economy and Strategic**

Planning, be given delegated authority to agree with Dorset Council and Dorset LEP the governance and membership of the Commission for inclusion in the Terms of Reference.

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder(s): Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning
Covid Resilience, Public Health and Education

76. Children's Services Capital Programme

The Portfolio Holder for Covid Resilience, Public Health and Education presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'G' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the report sets out the capital programme for Children's Services, including summarising the available funding and approved projects. And in relation to this provides a brief summary of the status of projects which have been completed or are in progress, and of projects which have not yet been initiated.

Further to this Cabinet was informed that a review of inclusion practice in BCP schools and a revised special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) strategy is underway, led by the Director of Education, and that a programme of capital works to help deliver that strategy will be brought forward as part of the 2022/23 budget setting process.

RESOLVED that Cabinet: -

- (a) notes that a special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) strategy (and associated programme of capital works) will be brought forward as part of the wider children's capital programme for Council approval in February 2022**

RECOMMENDED that Council: -

- (b) approves the pausing of the project to create a satellite for Winchelsea School at Somerford Primary School, and agrees to deferring the opening of such a satellite to the school year 2022-23 pending the approval of the SEND strategy and associated capital programme**
- (c) approves the removal of the existing Somerford Primary School capital budget from the approved capital programme. Council approval will be sought for a revised scheme and costings once completed.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Covid Resilience, Public Health and Education

77. The BCP Appreciative Inquiry into inclusion practices in BCP schools

The Portfolio Holder for Covid Resilience, Public Health and Education presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'H' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the report sets out the Appreciative Inquiry, which took place over the summer of 2021 and which concluded with a consultation process with schools about its contents.

Cabinet was informed that the final version of the Inquiry is attached along with suggested next steps.

Cabinet was further informed that if the recommendations are accepted by the Cabinet, this will allow for major changes in the services provided by the Council to schools to go ahead in principle, subject to separate business cases being submitted for authorisation when detailed work on relevant individual recommendations have been carried out.

RESOLVED that Cabinet: -

- (a) agrees in principle with the content and recommendations of the Appreciative Inquiry; and**
- (b) agrees to receive future business cases in respect of new capital or revenue spend arising from implementation of the recommendations, on the proviso these are cross-referenced with all other Council strategies for education such as the SEND strategy and the Children's Services Capital Programme.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Covid Resilience, Public Health and Education

78. Adult Social Care Commissioning Strategies

The Portfolio Holder for Adults presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'I' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was reminded that they had recently approved two commissioning strategies, the Care Homes for Older People Strategy, and the Extra Care Housing Strategy, and that in relation to this the strategy documents have been updated to give greater visual impact.

Cabinet was informed that no other changes have been made to the content, but in the interest of transparency the updated versions require Cabinet approval.

RESOLVED that Cabinet: -

- (a) approves the updated Care Homes for Older People Strategy; and**
- (b) approves the updated Extra Care Housing Strategy**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Adults

79. Urgent Decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution

Cabinet was advised that there were no urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution to report on this occasion.

80. Cabinet Forward Plan

The Leader advised that the latest Cabinet Forward Plan had been published on the Council's website.

In relation to the Climate Action Annual Report 2020/21 which was due to come to Cabinet in December the Portfolio Holder advised that following a significant change to the budget and the setting up of a dedicated team the item would now be coming to Cabinet in January.

81. Acceptance and allocation of the Household Support Fund

The Portfolio Holder for Covid Resilience, Public Health and Education in accordance with the constitutional requirements and following publication of the required notice presented an urgent report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'J' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the purpose of the report is to seek approval for BCP Council to accept the £2,653,367.04 allocated by the Department for Work and Pensions under the Household Support Fund (HSF) and to approve the outlined approach for administering the funding.

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that at least 50% of the total funding must be spent on families with children, and that the expectation is that the HSF should primarily be used to support households in the most need with food, energy and water bills, and that it can also be used to support households with essential costs related to those items and with wider essential costs.

Cabinet was further advised that there is an expectation that Councils begin providing support from the 6 October 2021 until the 31 March 2022.

RECOMMENDED that Cabinet: -

- (a) recommend that Council approve the proposed BCP wide approach to meeting the requirements of the Household Support Fund to be delivered by the Council working in partnership with partner organisations.**
- (b) recommend that Council approve the funding proposals detailed within the report and the summary financial implications section of the Cabinet Report (section 25).**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Covid Resilience, Public Health and Education

The meeting ended at 12.10 pm

CHAIRMAN