BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 October 2025 at 7.00 pm and resumed on 3 November 2025 at 7.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr L Dedman – Chairman

Cllr S Bull – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr C Adams (14 Oct), Cllr H Allen (14 Oct), Cllr M Andrews, Cllr S Armstrong (14 Oct), Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr J Beesley (3 Nov), Cllr D Brown, Cllr O Brown (14 Oct), Cllr R Burton, Cllr J J Butt (14 Oct), Cllr P Canavan, Cllr S Carr-Brown, Cllr J Challinor (14 Oct), Cllr A Chapmanlaw (3 Nov), Cllr B Chick (14 Oct), Cllr E Connolly (14 Oct), Cllr P Cooper (3 Nov), 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 (14 Oct), Cllr D A Flagg (14 Oct), Cllr M Gillett, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr A Hadley, Cllr J Hanna, Cllr E Harman, Cllr R Herrett, Cllr P Hilliard (14 Oct), Cllr B Hitchcock (14 Oct), Cllr M Howell (14 Oct), Cllr A Keddie, Cllr M Le Poidevin, Cllr D Logan, Cllr S Mackrow, Cllr A Martin, Cllr D Martin, Cllr G Martin, Cllr J Martin, Cllr C Matthews (14 Oct), Cllr S McCormack, Cllr P Miles (14 Oct), Cllr S Moore, Cllr A-M Moriarty, Cllr B Nanovo, Cllr L Northover (14 Oct), Cllr M Phipps, Cllr K Rampton, Cllr Dr F Rice, Cllr J Richardson, Cllr V Ricketts, Cllr C Rigby (14 Oct), Cllr K Salmon, Cllr P Sidaway (14 Oct), Cllr P Slade, Cllr T Slade, Cllr V Slade (14 Oct), Cllr M Tarling (14 Oct), Cllr T Trent, Cllr O Walters, Cllr C Weight (14 Oct), Cllr L Williams (14 Oct), Cllr K Wilson and Cllr G Wright

38. Apologies

14 October 2025

Apologies for absence were received from: -

Councillor Sue Aitkenhead
Councillor Julie Bagwell
Councillor John Beesley
Councillor Adrian Chapmanlaw
Councillor Peter Cooper
Councillor Anne Filer
Councillor Joe Salmon

3 November 2025

Apologies for absence were received from: -

Councillor Sue Aitkenhead
Councillor Hazel Allen
Councillor Marcus Andrews

Councillor Sara Armstrong
Councillor Julie Bagwell
Councillor Olivia Brown
Councillor Judy Butt
Councillor John Challinor
Councillor Brian Chick
Councillor Eleanor Connolly
Councillor Duane Farr
Councillor David Flagg
Councillor Paul Hilliard
Councillor Mark Howell
Councillor Chris Matthews
Councillor Pete Miles
Councillor Lisa Northover
Councillor Chris Rigby
Councillor Joe Salmon
Councillor Vikki Slade
Councillor Michael Tarling
Councillor Clare Weight
Councillor Lawrence Williams

39. Declarations of Interests

Councillors Stephen Bartlett and Crispin Goodall declared interests in Minute No. 48 (AFC Bournemouth stadium expansion. Land requirements and Disposal) and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

The Chief Executive reminded members that a dispensation had been granted to all BCP Councillors in respect of the Community Governance Review item to ensure all Councillors were freely able to participate in the debate and vote.

40. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 July 2025 and reconvened on 16 September 2025 were confirmed as a correct record.

41. Announcements and Introductions from the Chairman

The Chairman advised Council with sadness of the recent death of former Borough of Poole Councillor and Member of Parliament for Mid Dorset and North Poole Dame Annette Brooke. Councillor Vikki Slade relayed personal experiences of working with Dame Annette Brooke following which Councillors stood in silent tribute.

The Chairman updated Council on her activity since the last meeting and made particular reference to an event attended for Maddie's Miracle, a breast-feeding support group in Boscombe and the Royal Visit for the opening of the Police Headquarters.

42. Public Issues

The Chairman advised Council that given the significant number of questions and statements received the time limit for public questions and statements would be extended to 30 minutes.

Public Questions

Public Question from Barry Smith

Would BCP surrender the lease on Scott's hill lane play park and land on adjacent side of the road to allow Christchurch town council to take up a new lease with the freeholder and BCP council renew the lease owned by the freeholder on Purewell crossroad only? My question from the previous meeting had false information so could I have true facts please.

This is all to allow us to rejuvenate the play park which has been dilapidating for the past 4 years.

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Partnerships, Councillor Sandra Moore

Yes, BCP Council is exploring the available options with the landowner regarding the lease of Scott's Hill Lane play area, plus the other relevant land, to try to provide a solution which could then lead to the play area being improved in the future.

I would also like to confirm that BCP council is open to these discussions, and this work is continuing, but it is all very complicated given the nature of the land holdings and the lease agreements.

However, the Deputy Leader of the Council who is also the ward councillor for the area where the play park is sited, has spoken personally with the landowner and has been assured that a solution is in sight.

Public Question from Joanne Keeling

Predetermination & Legal Consultation

In the recent "Leader Live" broadcast, Cllr Millie Earl stated that it is the democratic right of elected members to deliver their mandate, including the creation of Town and Parish Councils, as reflected in official campaign literature. The first Gunning principle requires that consultations occur at a formative stage and that outcomes are not predetermined. If the Council proceeds despite consultation responses demonstrating overwhelming public opposition, does this indicate a predetermined decision, potentially rendering the consultation unlawful? Will the Leader confirm that the Council fully accepts its legal duty to comply with the Gunning principles, and explain how the current process ensures proposals remain genuinely open to influence before any final decision is taken?

Response by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl

May I thank Ms Keeling for her question and confirm that the council recognises the Gunning principles and seeks to adhere to them at all times. The process by which the consultation on the Community Governance Review has taken place and been considered as part of the decision

making process has followed the advice of our professional officers, and the recommendations before us come from a cross-party Task and Finish Group, commissioned by the council to undertake the detailed work, which has taken time to evaluate the consultation responses, as set out in the substantial report we are considering this evening. Their recommendations have been subject to public scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Board, which is both cross-party and exempt from party political influence, which had a full and open debate and which voted to support the recommendations. They have been publicly considered by the Council's Cabinet, which agreed to recommend the recommendations to this public meeting of the Council. It remains open, this evening, for issues to be raised that may support the recommendations or argue against them, and it is for individual councillors to vote as they see fit in the light of the consultation responses, the recommendations of those committees and the debate that will shortly take place.

With regard to the proposals being open to influence, should Ms Keeling care to compare the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group that were put to residents within the consultation exercise, with those that Council is considering this evening, she will note that these have already changed substantially in the light of the consultation responses, which have already influenced which town councils are being recommended, and which are not, have influenced the numbers of councillors proposed for each town councils, and have influenced the boundaries, sizes and names of the wards in the proposed town councils. It remains open to the Council to make further amendments to the proposals this evening, if that is the Council's wish.

Public Question from Daniel Parkin

1. The Christchurch Town Council repurchase of a car park highlights the complexity of assets transfer and if the town councils went ahead will BCP transfer any assets free of charge to these councils as they have for Christchurch, and how will the purchase costs of high-value assets be allocated to residents? And can you produce a list of said assets for the public today? As for the assets that will not be transferred, will the Town Councils be liable for maintaining, repairing, or developing assets they do not own? Clear definitions of ownership, liability, and cost allocation are essential at these early stages.
2. Can the Council confirm the exact legal and financial arrangements to prevent new councils from being exposed to unforeseen obligations.

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor Mike Cox

1. Daniel. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to highlight the fantastic achievement of Christchurch Town Council in purchasing a car park in the centre of Christchurch which the previous Conservative Council wanted to sell to a private equity company. The car park has been financed by Public Sector borrowing and will cost the Council circa £50k a year in interest or about £4 per

household per year. A fantastic value for money to keep such an important anchor tenant in the centre of Christchurch.

Apart from the Allotments BCP has no plans to transfer any other properties at the moment to any Town Councils but I am sure if you have been paying attention you would have heard about the great working being done by our Community Asset Transfer team which looks to transfer community assets BCP can no longer afford to maintain.

It goes without saying that any Town Council will not be liable to maintain an asset it does not own – I can't understand where you could have go that from or maybe I can.

2. All Town and Parish Councils are governed by their own constitutions and strict financial regulations and framework models of which are available from National Association of Local Councils.

Public Question from Judith Parkin read by the Daniel Parkin

The cost of electing Town/Parish Councillors and establishing each separate Town/Parish Council remains unclear.

Will it fall on new councils, potentially placing them in debt before operation or will it be borne by BCP?

Additionally, BCP Council will need to set the first-year precept. How will these costs be calculated to ensure fairness, transparency, and affordability?

How strong must public opposition be for the Council to respect consultation results rather than proceeding with predetermined policies?

Residents need assurance that financial and democratic safeguards are fully in place.

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Transformation, Resources and Governance, Councillor Jeff Hanna

Thank you to Ms Parkin for her question. As portfolio holder for governance and elections, may I confirm that, if the council agrees to create all three proposed new town councils, the total cost of the elections for all three in 2026 is estimated to be £933,500. The cost would be borne by the town councils themselves. Based on the numbers of properties in all three areas, this would make the precept, the extra Council tax, for a Band D property, just over £7 a year. In future years, with no elections needed, that small amount, some sixty pence a month, would generate the best part of one million pounds to be spent on local improvements and community activities across those new town councils. One million pounds that would benefit our residents, in Broadstone, Poole and Bournemouth. If agreed this evening, the first year's actual recommended precept will be calculated by the Task and Finish Group which will need to follow the wording in the recommendation, to do this on the basis of minimal transfer and precept, with their report to come to a meeting of the Full Council, to be debated publicly before finally being set.

Question from Jason Keeling read by Joanne Keeling

Competence of Allowance-Paid Councillors

Unitary authorities operate with professional officers, consultants and strong budgetary oversight to ensure accountability and compliance. Town and Parish Councils, while smaller, would still be run by councillors who receive allowances but may have little or no relevant experience. How can the public be confident these councillors will manage funds responsibly, deliver statutory services effectively, and avoid errors or overspending? In an authority already under financial strain, inexperienced councillors risk being set up to fail, passing financial and operational risks onto residents. What training, oversight, and safeguards will be in place to ensure councillors can meet their statutory, financial, and operational responsibilities and maintain public trust?

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Transformation, Resources and Governance, Councillor Jeff Hanna

Thank you to Mr Keeling for his question. As portfolio holder for governance, may I assure Mr Keeling that town councils will be supported by competent town clerks, potentially part-time, and such other officers as they see fit.

Training will be made available to all elected councillors either directly by the clerk to the council, or via the local association of parish and town councils or through the national association of local councils.

In our democratic system, there is no guarantee of competency for any future town councillors, or current or future BCP councillors, or any district and county councillors, elected Mayors, Members of Parliament or Prime Minister. That absence of a guarantee of competence was so clearly demonstrated recently by the former Conservative Prime Minister, Liz Truss. Nevertheless, we remain a democratic country. The assumption is that many of those elected will bring their experience in other walks of life to the role, and, collectively, with the professional advice available, and such training as is provided, some good decisions will be made that will benefit the communities they serve.

Public Question from Jane Newell

Would the Leader of the Council explain the anticipated cost to be borne by BCP Council taxpayers in 2026/27, being the proposed first year of Town Councils for Poole and Bournemouth, given that the costs for year one set-up, the holding of elections in May 2026, and other costs or aspirations will effectively be recharged in advance through a precept on Council Tax bills for 2026/27.

Response by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl

Thank you to Ms Newell for her question. May I refer her to Cllr Hanna's answer to the very similar question from Ms Parkin a few minutes ago, when he explained the costs involved.

Public Question from Gabi Sanger-Stevens

In May 2024, Overview & Scrutiny unanimously recommended reviewing the consultation process after repeated petitions and responses were

ignored. No report has been presented, and similar engagement patterns persist. Lawful consultation requires conscientious consideration of all responses. This consultation returned overwhelming opposition to Town and Parish Councils, alongside serious concerns regarding uncapped costs, unclear service responsibilities, and transparency.

How does this consultation avoid previous failings and ensure residents' views are genuinely considered? Will the Council commit that the concerns and preferences of residents will be genuinely reflected in the final decision? If ignored, will the Council use public funds to defend against legal challenges arising from failure to respect consultation principles? Finally, how will the Council restore public confidence, rebuild engagement, and demonstrate that participation influences final decisions, reassuring resident that their engagement is meaningful and that the consultation is not just a token gesture to justify a predetermined outcome?

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Transformation, Resources and Governance, Councillor Jeff Hanna

Thank you to Ms Sanger-Stevens for her question. With regard to the consideration of the consultation responses, may I refer her to the Leader's answer to the very similar question from Ms Keeling. It would be inappropriate to comment on how the council would respond to any legal challenge. In terms of public confidence in consultations, the Overview and Scrutiny Board is reviewing the consultation process, and we await their advice.

Public Question from Mrs S Sandwell

Will the new Town and Parish Councils be given a meaningful role in promoting active travel and sustainable transport, including walking, cycling and innovative options such as electric trams or monorails? What authority and resources will they have to influence local transport planning and ensure communities can help shape greener, low-carbon solutions?

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Councillor Andy Hadley

Mrs Sandswell, thank you for your question.

If creation of Parish and Town Councils gets the go-ahead, It will be for those bodies to define their interests, and how they allocate their precept, raise funds from grants or elsewhere, or to aim to influence others.

I do have a relevant example from our neighbours. Last week, I was invited to a joint meeting of the Wimborne, Corfe Mullen and associated Town and Parish Councils, because they collectively want to see a solution to enable people to walk or cycle safely across Julians Bridge and the A31 junction between Corfe Mullen and Wimborne.

Dorset Council continues as the Transport authority to be responsible for highways, and a Dorset Council officer was present to answer their queries and take back recommendations to be considered. The A31 is managed by Highways England, who would also be a decision maker in respect of their junction.

I was invited as the parishes recognise the flows between Merley/Bearwood

towards Wimborne Shops and Schools, and for children from Wimborne and Corfe Mullen to attend Corfe hills school, and shop or work in Broadstone and Poole. Such measures need to be done in partnership.

I hope this illustrates the role of Parish and Town councils on Transport matters. Similarly, Christchurch Town Council were consulted recently on bus priority measures in Purewell, including a ride on a bus to experience the problem first hand.

When it comes to innovations like Electric Trams or Monorails, it is likely that a Town or parish council would be a consultee. The current Government aim is to devolve some powers for strategic investment to regional mayoral authorities, and that may give us more chance to promote such large schemes, if the funding follows.

The local voice is important in ensuring that communities can help shape and benefit from greener, low-carbon solutions, as you suggest, and indeed any enhancements to their area. The resources that they put into it will be for them to decide.

Public Question from Rick Ashcroft

A majority of respondents oppose Town Councils and the associated precept. If substantial numbers refuse to pay in protest, how will the Council respond? Will payment enforcement, penalties or service adjustments be applied? How will essential services be maintained without penalising compliant residents? Residents require clarity on legal and financial consequences of refusal and a framework outlining enforcement, liability, and service continuity before precepts are imposed.

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Transformation, Resources and Governance, Councillor Jeff Hanna

Thank you to Mr Ashcroft for his question. Whilst a taxpayer may disagree with specific decisions by the council, there is no ability to withhold all or part of their Council Tax on that basis. A Council Tax bill is compiled from different charges, but it is not an itemised bill. Therefore, the withholding of any Council Tax will not result in a reduction of payments to a Town Council. The Council has a legal requirement to charge and recover unpaid Council Tax and whilst it may be disagreeable, recovery action would have to be taken if Council Tax is not paid. It would be inappropriate to comment on exactly what process is followed in this situation, other than to reassure Mr Ashcroft that the council does have appropriate processes in place.

Public Question from Susan Lennon read by the Chief Executive

BCP Council if we are to have Parish councils does that mean our services already outsourced by Council will get worse or better?

Will Parish councils have to raise money to pay for services badly dwindling?

Why are Parish councillors not paid, but Council ones are?

Who will make Parish Council decisions them or you on Policy?

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Transformation, Resources and Governance, Councillor Jeff Hanna

Thank you to Ms Lennon for her question. Services provided by parish and town councils are in addition to those provided by unitary councils such as BCP, so their creation will unquestionably improve the overall services provided to residents, in contrast to the situation where no parish or town council exists. Parish and town councils make their own decisions as to what services they provide and do so independently of unitary councils. They do need to raise funds, through a precept, an increase in the Council Tax, to meet the costs of services they provide. I have already exemplified that a precept of some 60 pence a month could generate some one million pounds of benefits to residents across Broadstone, Poole and Bournemouth. Allowances received by councillors on unitary councils reflect the level of responsibilities they hold. Few parish and town councils provide services at a level that warrants allowances being given to their councillors.

Public Question from Trevor Muddimer read by the Chief Executive

I have a leaflet from 1998 which talks of Light Rail (trams) as a solution to increasing congestion across our area (the DARTS Scheme).

Many councils have taken this route, so when will this or something similar be implemented?

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Councillor Andy Hadley

Trevor, thank you for your question, this was a blast from the past, that leaflet was actually produced by me, with a small group of volunteers meeting at my house nearly 30 years ago, aiming to try and seek solutions to our traffic congestion problems. In addition to briefing councillors and MPs, it made a 2 page article in the Evening Echo, and the Meridian news.

The DARTS scheme consisted of 3 parts.

1) An integrated Transport Authority to ensure co-ordination rather than competition between different modes of public transport
2) Integrated ticketing, to enable frictionless travel on any form of public transport
3) Higher frequency of trains across the conurbation, and light rail/Trams to link up to Wimborne and the Airport, down to Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch town centres, and potentially to connect to the Ferry Port and to Swanage Railway.

It was then included in the current Local Transport Plan 3 documents as a “long-term ambition”.

In response to being asked about your question, the Director of Investment and Development for BCP Council highlighted to me last week, that “Buses need to be replaced every 7 years. Routes are always dependant on commerciality and funding, whereas a tram lasts 30 years, and anchors new developments. Over its life cycle, trams can be a lot better value for money.”

We have a great local bus company, and we buck the national trends on bus-usage, but Trams increase capacity significantly and do attract different users.

I am very aware of the short-term disruption that installation of such a system brings, but we are one of the largest conurbations in the UK without mass transit. In France, Germany and even the USA, many towns have Light rail/trams on their highly used routes. Regional Devolution may provide the means to finally make progress.

I cannot give you a timescale. 30 years ago, we estimated £55M and 15 years. Costs will of course have multiplied hugely, and little has changed beyond congestion getting ever worse. There has though been some progress:

Network Rail recently undertook a study of adding one or two trains per hour through the area (the Dorset Metro concept). We have also been working with the bus company on integrated ticketing ideas, and I am keen that Officers look again at the feasibility of light rail in the mix, both in terms of land assignment in the Local Plan and taking steps to make a viable start on a Mass Transit scheme for the BCP area.

Public Question from Susan Chapman

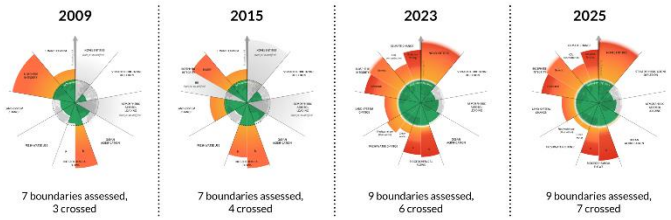
The Stockholm Resilience Centre warns that humanity has breached seven of nine planetary boundaries. The planetary boundaries framework highlights the rising risk from human pressure on nine critical global processes that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth. Crossing boundaries risks generating "large-scale, abrupt or irreversible environmental changes" for which, dangerously, none of us are as yet prepared.

Please will BCP ensure they include this illustrated information in their newsletter and publications as well as telling us how we can all help maintain a safe operating space for humanity in our decision-making?

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Councillor Andy Hadley

Soo, thanks for your question and the clarity of your warning. The severe consequences of the shocks to planetary systems are increasingly stark, creating a very uncertain future for life on Planet Earth, whatever the populist politicians may do or say.

Planetary boundaries



The evolution of the planetary boundaries framework. Licenced under CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 (Credit: Azote for Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University. Based on Sakschewski and Caesar et al. 2025, Richardson et al. 2023, Steffen et al. 2015, and Rockström et al. 2009).

Planetary boundaries - Stockholm Resilience Centre

Globally, only one of the 9 planetary boundaries identified in their research has been controlled. International action on Ozone depletion has seen a

reversal and a mending of the Ozone Layer since the 1980s. This provides a faint hope for humanity when we all work together.

In the social media age, I'm afraid so many people are ignoring the science and choosing their own version of reality, to suit continued inaction, based on echo-chamber discussions.

We have known of the dangers of Climate Change since at least the 1991 Earth Summit. Councils across the UK, and much of the civilised world are doing their bit, and yet changing habits and our reliance on fossil fuels it seems, is too hard, particularly against the powerful vested interests. Changes to our weather systems are evident locally with drier summers and sudden heavy rainfall causing localised flooding.

We have seen with microplastics and pesticides, examples of the dangers of Novel entities in the environment. More unintended consequences of synthetic substances will emerge.

Ocean acidification, through CO2 absorption threatens marine life, with corals, molluscs and crustaceans evidently struggling, and so the marine food-web that depends on them is also threatened.

These factors are all inter-related and global. As a Council and a community, we cannot resolve them in isolation. We can highlight the challenges, and step up individually and together, on Climate and environmental responsibility, which helps to reduce the pressure on the stability and resilience of life on Earth.

This isn't a middle class or woke obsession, it is about adaptation and survival of the species. Our Biodiversity Net gain work, planting trees as identified in the BCP Urban Forest strategy, the work on our heathlands and natural spaces are all forces for good.

Individually, we all need to consider changing

- how we heat our homes,
- how we generate and use power,
- how we collect and use water,
- how and where we travel for work and leisure,
- what we buy,
- what we plant, and its impact on nature
- what we eat and
- what we reuse, repair, recycle and throw away

This all helps. The Council will do what we can to help people to make responsible choices for themselves and the common good, at this practical level.

Public Question from Mark White

This administration doesn't listen to its residents pure and simple with 80% of respondents saying no to town councils.

With our MPs bar one all raising concerns over the total lack of democratic process, there is now a very large growing concern raised by all over what appears to be a breach of the Gunning Principles in this consultation. Specifically, the principle requiring that proposals be at a formative stage

seems to have been disregarded, with outcomes appearing predetermined prior to public engagement. This undermines the integrity of the consultation and public trust in the process. with the large volumes of evidence of the leader stating elections will take place in May 2026 prior to the opening of the consultation

Could the leader please clarify how she ensured compliance with all four Gunning Principles, particularly regarding the openness to influence before decisions were made?

Response by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl

Thank you to Mr White for your question. May I refer you to my answer to Ms Keeling's very similar question given a little earlier with regard to the Gunning principles.

The public statements listed below were duly submitted in advance of the meeting, however as the allotted time for public presentations was exceeded it was not possible for them to be read aloud during the meeting. All statements and questions were circulated to members prior to the and are provided here for the record and for informational purposes.

Public Statements

Public Statement from Mark White

Dorchester has a population of 23,000 a town council budget of £2.2 million, a staff of 22 with offices costing a total £965,000 & £24,400 of councillor's allowances. Dorchester increased precepts twice in 2024 hitting pockets of residents by £210 providing the bare minimum of events, allotment and facilities.

Poole and my ward Hamworthy a population of 151,000 with high areas of deprivation compare that to Highcliffe with a population of 14,000 with low or nil deprivation.

We all know these councils will not just take on the allotments it will end up taking more BCP services. Residents are not silly, we know you cannot compare the £50 precept of Highcliff to that of Poole, we know it will cost more then Dorchester.

Public Statement from Nick Greenwood

Encouraged by local Councils, Climate change has become the perfect trojan horse for global elites to push centralised, authoritarian control. The UN flag frequently flies outside; Proved.

Framed as an existential crisis, it demands urgent action that bypasses local democracy and justifies intrusive regulation, surveillance, and top-down mandates. Carbon markets, energy tracking, and global "green" policies expand State and Corporate intrusions into everyday life, all in the name of saving the planet. Public fear and moral pressure silence dissent, making centralised control appear not just necessary, but virtuous. Under the banner of climate, national sovereignty erodes, and decision-making shifts to technocrats and multinational bodies, creating a globalised governance model that few truly debate.

What begins as environmental concern morphs into an excuse to concentrate power, limit freedoms, and reshape societies according to the dictates of a distant elite—an urgent crisis manufactured to normalise authoritarianism under the guise of morality.

Public Statement from Susan Chapman

An important, detailed report by the defence chiefs concerning the climate crisis threatening the UK's national security was unexpectedly not launched in London last Thursday.

Governance at all levels should be preparing us for the destabilising impacts of the climate and nature crises. The looming collapse of vital natural ecosystems, food shortages and economic disaster are just years away. We're over-dependent on imports.

A robust system of protections must be implemented before dangerous changes accelerate, governments fall and there's social disorder.

Developers mustn't be allowed to commodify nature in new planning laws. Ancient woodlands, wetlands, and species-rich grasslands aren't interchangeable. Once they're destroyed, they cannot simply be recreated elsewhere.

Habitats carry centuries of ecological complexity that cannot be replicated by planting trees or designating land somewhere else. One in seven UK species faces extinction. 41% are declining. Nature must be respected if we're to survive.

Public Statement from Bob Cooper

The Reports you have had are misleading.

Requests received for activities which BCP cannot provide do not justify these Councils. I could ask for a Christmas tree in Talbot Village However if it meant a Town Council with a cost approaching £300 per year with no cap, I would say no thanks

To argue that Bournemouth and Poole already have a two-tier local government with Charter Trustees is both misleading and wrong. We don’t. Legally they are not a local authority.

Not mentioned in reports, the ward boundaries for Town Council’s and BCP Wards differ. One side of Wallisdown Road would be in Poole the other in Bournemouth. A recipe for confusion and inequality.

The consultation showed less than 1% of the population want Town Councils

Don’t be taken in by a misleading report. Recognize that there is minimal support for these Councils and don’t proceed with them.

Public Statement from Pat King

Digital payments offer convenience, but a fully cashless approach excludes and disadvantages many residents.

Older and younger people, those with disabilities, and individuals on low incomes often depend on cash for budgeting and daily spending. For many, it remains essential, not optional.

Councils have a duty to keep services accessible to all, not only the digitally connected. Cashless systems are fragile — network failures halt payments, and digital transactions risk privacy and data security. Visitors and tourists may also be unable to pay.

Under the Equality Act 2010, councils must ensure access and avoid indirect discrimination. Going cashless breaks that principle.

True inclusivity demands both cash and digital options — protecting fairness, accessibility, and public trust in council services, not eroding them.

Public Statement from Bill Hoodless

Since local government reorganisations are invariably costly, good justification is needed. The reported 78% level of objections is significant here.

Extra costs would arise from further buildings for further staff leading to reduced productivity of existing staff who would do less.

The new employees would have to learn on the job, involving liaison with the previously responsible officers and do various new administrative tasks.

There would be debates between BCP and town councils regarding responsibilities - a costly misuse of time.

More bureaucracy, higher taxes.

Typical households' tax increase estimate is £400, yet without proof of better services.

I support the petition (signed by more than 2,000) calling for any decision on this whole matter to be postponed until after the May 2027 local elections in order to allow effective democratic consideration before voting. The petition's understandable concerns include higher taxes, bureaucracy and division within communities.

Public Statement from Roy Pointer

The proposal to set up new town councils as an extra tier of local government within BCP area should be rejected for many obvious reasons including the following:

1. More widespread publicity should have been given prior to consultation.
2. Consultation responses were overwhelmingly against proposals.
3. This radical change should be subject to a local referendum.
4. 'Back to the future' - 60s style administration; this was swept away in 1974.
5. Extra layer of government confuses communication and responsibilities.
6. Set up costs, new members, staff transfer, new staff needed, premises, transport, IT configuration and utility costs.
7. Increased ongoing uncapped costs to taxpayers.
8. Better to liaise with LGA and Government to justify extra resources for these responsibilities within current arrangements.
9. BCP already has poor record on capturing benefits from its own reorganisation.

10. Review the proposals after next local elections to test stakeholder appetite then.

Public Statement from Peter Schroader on behalf of Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs Residents Association

- This proposal should be rejected for many reasons, including;
- The proposed extra tier of local government within BCP will do nothing to solve the problems we face of

  # Lack of a clear vision for BCP especially concerning Tourism, the key to future prosperity

  # The ongoing neglect of our environment; the Chines, footpaths, the esplanade etc

  # Inconsistences in planning decisions and inadequate monitoring of their implementation

- The consultation was badly handled including the exclusion of any discussion of cost
- BCP should concentrate on making its own creation work
- Before implementing such a radical and backward development a proper referendum is needed

Public Statement from Elizabeth Glass

As I have been unable to find the council's reasons for wanting to introduce town councils,

I surmise that –

a. Council feels unable to manage all local services required. Certainly, the area desperately needs revitalising. Introducing town councils would essentially be reverting to pre 2019 when BCP was formed, an option which should be considered.
b. Council needs more finance to deliver these services. Further finance could be available for local services if less money was spent on pursuing net zero globalist policies.

Public Statement from Mark White

The administration has made statements over the last few months. you believe in localism, just so long as its on your own terms.

You believe in restoring trust in local government but then undermine it with constant flawed consultations going against the 80% that say no.

You believe in listening to local voices, just as long as they say what you want to hear.

You believe in democracy but won't allow a referendum as No offends you.

This is not localism, its another word.

Council, there are those in the administration who have told me privately they have deep doubts about this, scared to voice concerns and are whipped to toe the line. But vote with your heart and not by the party whip. Listen to your MPs, examine the consultation results, but most importantly its time to listen and vote how your residents have indicated, vote down town councils.

43. Petition: 'Stop Parish & Town Councils Until 2027 - Let Residents Decide'

Consideration was given to a petition calling on BCP Council to postpone any decision to introduce parish and town councils until after the May 2027 local elections.

The petition organiser, Mrs Joanne Keeling provided Council with background relating to the submitted petition following which Mrs Keeling responded to a number of questions from Councillors.

The Chairman thanked the petition organiser for the submitted petition and advised Council that as the petition related directly to Agenda Item 10, Cabinet 1 October 2025 – Minute No. 47 – Community Governance Review – Final Recommendations the agenda order was being altered to now deal with Agenda Item 10.

Council debated whether the petition should be considered as a stand alone item or whether debate on such should be included within Agenda Item 10. The Chair called on members to vote on whether the item should be considered as part of Agenda Item 10 and upon being put to the vote this was carried and the meeting therefore moved onto Agenda Item 10.

44. Cabinet 1 October 2025 - Minute No. 47 - Community Governance Review - Final Recommendations

The Leader of the Council presented the report on the Community Governance Review – Final Recommendations and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

In introducing the report, the Leader advised of an alteration to deal with the issues as set out in paragraph 86 of the report and as discussed by the Working Group that an additional recommendation be included at (d) to read: -

(d) ***the Chief Executive be delegated authority to make amendments to the boundary between Bournemouth and Poole to avoid the co-existence of the Charter Trustees and a Town Council for the respective area.***

The Leader advised that this addition was to avoid duplication as the boundaries of the historic borough and the Charter Trustees were not coterminous.

Council consented to the amendment which therefore became part of the substantive motion.

Council comprehensively debated the item with members speaking both for and against the introduction of Town Councils with members making reference to the petition submitted to the meeting.

Councillor John Challinor proposed an amendment to recommendation (j) seeking to delay the introduction of town and parish councils and the election of councillors onto those until 2027 as follows: -

(j) ***a Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the***

above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April ~~2026~~ 2027 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in ~~2026~~ 2027.

This amendment was seconded by Councillor Lawrence Williams.
The monitoring officer advised council that the proposed amendment was not in accordance with the constitutional provisions set out in Part 4, Paragraph 14.9 for the submission of an amendment, and that the amendment as submitted had the effect of seeking a vote against the motion and therefore negated the motion itself and was subsequently deemed to be inadmissible as an amendment.

Council continued to debate the substantive motion.

Councillor Simon McCormack proposed that the question now be put in accordance with Procedural Rule 14.16 of the Councils Constitution, this proposal fell and following a short adjournment for a comfort break the debate on the item continued.

Meeting adjourned at 9.24pm
Meeting reconvened at 9.44pm

Following a lengthy further debate Councillor Margaret Phipps proposed that the question now be put in accordance with Procedural Rule 14.16. 2 of the Council's Constitution, this proposal was seconded and upon being put to the vote was carried with voting: For: 40, Against:26, Abstentions:1

Councillor Oliver Walters, Chair of the Community Governance Task and Finish Group addressed the Council as the seconder of the proposer and provided background to the work of the Task and Finish Group and of the benefits the proposed Town and Parish Councils could provide.

Following summing up by the Leader of the Council, the recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote.

Councillor Cameron Adams requested a recorded vote in respect of this item and upon receiving the required support for a recorded vote the substantive motion was put to the vote and carried as set out below.

Councillor Patrick Canavan proposed an amendment seeking to amend paragraph J in section 117, paragraph J in section 116 and paragraph J in section 118 removing the year 2026 and replacing with 2027, this was seconded by Councillor Sharon Carr-Brown and following debate the amendment was put to the vote and fell with voting:

For:32, Against: 28 Abstentions:

Following which the original motion was put to the vote:

RESOLVED that the: -

(a) Task and Finish Group community governance review final recommendations, as set out in paragraphs 49, 62, 74, 92, 104, 117, 128, 140, 152, 166 and 181 of this report be approved as follows;

(i) existing parishes of Burton and Winkton (paragraph 49), Hurn (paragraph 62), Highcliff and Walkford (paragraph 74), Christchurch Town (paragraph 92), Throop and Holdenhurst (paragraph 104) should not be abolished;

Voting:

For: 56

Cllr Hazel Allen	Cllr Andy Hadley	Cllr Marion Le Poidevin
Cllr Marcus Andrews	Cllr Jeff Hanna	Cllr Karen Rampton
Cllr Sara Armstrong	Cllr Emily Harman	Cllr Felicity Rice
Cllr Stephen Bartlett	Cllr Richard Herrett	Cllr Judy Richardson
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Paul Hilliard	Cllr Chris Rigby
Cllr Olivia Brown	Cllr Brian Hitchcock	Cllr Kate Salmon
Cllr Simon McCormack	Cllr Alasdair Keddie	Cllr Peter Sidaway
Cllr Richard Burton	Cllr Dawn Logan	Cllr Paul Slade
Cllr Judes Butt	Cllr Sandra Mackrow	Cllr Toby Slade
Cllr John Challinor	Cllr Andy Martin	Cllr Vikki Slade
Cllr Brian Chick	Cllr David Martin	Cllr Michael Tarling
Cllr Mike Cox	Cllr Gillian Martin	Cllr Tony Trent
Cllr Lesley Dedman	Cllr Chris Matthews	Cllr Oliver Walters
Cllr David d'Orton-Gibson	Cllr Simon McCormack	Cllr Clare Weight
Cllr Bobbie Dove	Cllr Pete Miles	Cllr Lawrence Williams
Cllr Millie Earl	Cllr Sandra Moore	Cllr Kieron Wilson
Cllr David Flagg	Cllr Bernadette Nanovo	Cllr Gavin Wright
Cllr Matthew Gillet	Cllr Lisa Northover	
Cllr Crispin Goodall	Cllr Margaret Phipps	

Against: 1

Cllr Patrick Canavan

Abstentions: 9

Cllr Cameron Adams	Cllr George Farquhar	Cllr Jamie Martin
Cllr Sharon Carr-Brown	Cllr Duane Farr	Cllr Anne-Marie Moriarty
Cllr Jackie Edwards	Cllr Mark Howell	Cllr Vanessa Ricketts

Voting: For:56, Against:1, Abstentions:9

(ii) that the proposed new parishes not to be established for Redhill and Northbourne (paragraph 128), Boscombe and Pokesdown (paragraph 140) and Southbourne (paragraph 152);

Voting:

For: 55

Cllr Cameron Adams	Cllr Matthew Gillett	Cllr Margaret Phipps
Cllr Hazel Allen	Cllr Crispin Goodall	Cllr Marion Le Poidevin
Cllr Marcus Andrews	Cllr Andy Hadley	Cllr Karen Rampton
Cllr Sara Armstrong	Cllr Jeff Hanna	Cllr Felicity Rice
Cllr Stephen Bartlett	Cllr Emily Harman	Cllr Vanessa Ricketts
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Richard Herrett	Cllr Chris Rigby
Cllr Olivia Brown	Cllr Paul Hilliard	Cllr Kate Salmon
Cllr Simon McCormack	Cllr Brian Hitchcock	Cllr Peter Sidaway
Cllr Richard Burton	Cllr Dawn Logan	Cllr Paul Slade

Cllr Judes Butt	Cllr Sandra Mackrow	Cllr Toby Slade
Cllr John Challinor	Cllr Andy Martin	Cllr Vikki Slade
Cllr Mike Cox	Cllr David Martin	Cllr Michael Tarling
Cllr David d'Orton-Gibson	Cllr Gillian Martin	Cllr Oliver Walters
Cllr Bobbie Dove	Cllr Chris Matthews	Cllr Clare Weight
Cllr Michelle Dower	Cllr Simon McCormack	Cllr Lawrence Williams
Cllr Millie Earl	Cllr Pete Miles	Cllr Kieron Wilson
Cllr Jackie Edwards	Cllr Sandra Moore	Cllr Gavin Wright
Cllr Duane Farr	Cllr Bernadette Nanovo	
Cllr David Flagg	Cllr Lisa Northover	

Against: 2

Cllr Brian Chick	Cllr Judy Richardson

Abstentions: 8

Cllr Patrick Canavan	Cllr George Farquhar	Cllr Anne-Marie Moriarty
Cllr Sharon Carr-Brown	Cllr Mark Howell	Cllr Tony Trent
Cllr Eleanor Connolly	Cllr Jamie Martin	

Voting: For:55, Against:2, Abstentions:8

(iii) that a proposed new parish be established for Broadstone (paragraph 117);

Voting:

For: 36

Cllr Marcus Andrews	Cllr Jeff Hanna	Cllr Bernadette Nanovo
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Emily Harman	Cllr Margaret Phipps
Cllr Olivia Brown	Cllr Richard Herrett	Cllr Marion Le Poidevin
Cllr Richard Burton	Cllr Paul Hilliard	Cllr Felicity Rice
Cllr Brian Chick	Cllr Mark Howell	Cllr Judy Richardson
Cllr Mike Cox	Cllr Dawn Logan	Cllr Vanessa Ricketts
Cllr Lesley Dedman	Cllr Sandra Mackrow	Cllr Paul Slade
Cllr Millie Earl	Cllr Andy Martin	Cllr Vikki Slade
Cllr David Flagg	Cllr David Martin	Cllr Michael Tarling
Cllr Matthew Gillett	Cllr Chris Matthews	Cllr Tony Trent
Cllr Crispin Goodall	Cllr Simon McCormack	Cllr Oliver Walters
Cllr Andy Hadley	Cllr Sandra Moore	Cllr Claire Weight

Against: 24

Cllr Cameron Adams	Cllr Bobbie Dove	Cllr Karen Rampton
Cllr Hazel Allen	Cllr Michelle Dower	Cllr Chris Rigby
Cllr Sara Armstrong	Cllr Jackie Edwards	Cllr Kate Salmon
Cllr Stephen Bartlett	Cllr Duane Farr	Cllr Peter Sidaway
Cllr Simon Bull	Cllr Brian Hitchcock	Cllr Toby Slade
Cllr Judes Butt	Cllr Alasdair Keddie	Cllr Lawrence Williams
Cllr John Challinor	Cllr Gillian Martin	Cllr Kieron Wilson
Cllr David d'Orton-Gibson	Cllr Pete Miles	Cllr Gavin Wright

Abstentions: 7

Cllr Patrick Canavan	Cllr George Farquhar	Cllr Lisa Northover
Cllr Sharon Carr-Brown	Cllr Jamie Martin	

Cllr Eleanor Connolly	Cllr Anne-Marie Moriarty	

Voting: For:36, Against:24, Abstentions:7

(iv) that a proposed new parish be established for Poole (paragraph 166);

Voting:

For: 36

Cllr Marcus Andrews	Cllr Jeff Hanna	Cllr Bernadette Nanovo
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Emily Harman	Cllr Margaret Phipps
Cllr Olivia Brown	Cllr Richard Herrett	Cllr Marion Le Poidevin
Cllr Richard Burton	Cllr Paul Hilliard	Cllr Felicity Rice
Cllr Brian Chick	Cllr Mark Howell	Cllr Judy Richardson
Cllr Mike Cox	Cllr Dawn Logan	Cllr Vanessa Ricketts
Cllr Lesley Dedman	Cllr Sandra Mackrow	Cllr Paul Slade
Cllr Millie Earl	Cllr Andy Martin	Cllr Vikki Slade
Cllr David Flagg	Cllr David Martin	Cllr Michael Tarling
Cllr Matthew Gillett	Cllr Chris Matthews	Cllr Tony Trent
Cllr Crispin Goodall	Cllr Simon McCormack	Cllr Oliver Walters
Cllr Andy Hadley	Cllr Sandra Moore	Cllr Claire Weight

Against: 24

Cllr Cameron Adams	Cllr Bobbie Dove	Cllr Lisa Northover
Cllr Hazel Allen	Cllr Michelle Dower	Cllr Karen Rampton
Cllr Sara Armstrong	Cllr Jackie Edwards	Cllr Chris Rigby
Cllr Stephen Bartlett	Cllr Duane Farr	Cllr Kate Salmon
Cllr Simon Bull	Cllr Brian Hitchcock	Cllr Toby Slade
Cllr Judes Butt	Cllr Alasdair Keddie	Cllr Lawrence Williams
Cllr John Challinor	Cllr Gillian Martin	Cllr Kieron Wilson
Cllr David d'Orton-Gibson	Cllr Pete Miles	Cllr Gavin Wright

Abstentions: 7

Cllr Patrick Canavan	Cllr George Farquhar	Cllr Peter Sidaway
Cllr Sharon Carr-Brown	Cllr Jamie Martin	
Cllr Eleanor Connolly	Cllr Anne-Marie Moriarty	

Voting: For:36, Against:24, Abstentions:7

(v) that a proposed new parish be established for Bournemouth (paragraph 181)

Voting:

For: 34

Cllr Marcus Andrews	Cllr Jeff Hanna	Cllr Marion Le Poidevin
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Emily Harman	Cllr Felicity Rice
Cllr Olivia Brown	Cllr Richard Herrett	Cllr Judy Richardson
Cllr Richard Burton	Cllr Paul Hilliard	Cllr Vanessa Ricketts
Cllr Brian Chick	Cllr Dawn Logan	Cllr Paul Slade
Cllr Mike Cox	Cllr Sandra Mackrow	Cllr Vikki Slade
Cllr Lesley Dedman	Cllr Andy Martin	Cllr Michael Tarling
Cllr Millie Earl	Cllr David Martin	Cllr Tony Trent
Cllr David Flagg	Cllr Chris Matthews	Cllr Oliver Walters

Cllr Matthew Gillett	Cllr Sandra Moore	Cllr Clare Weight
Cllr Crispin Goodall	Cllr Bernadette Nanovo	
Cllr Andy Hadley	Cllr Margaret Phipps	

Against: 31

Cllr Cameron Adams	Cllr Bobbie Dove	Cllr Anne-Marie Moriarty
Cllr Hazel Allen	Cllr Michelle Dower	Cllr Lisa Northover
Cllr Sara Armstrong	Cllr Jackie Edwards	Cllr Karen Rampton
Cllr Stephen Bartlett	Cllr George Farquhar	Cllr Chris Rigby
Cllr Simon Bull	Cllr Duane Farr	Cllr Kate Salmon
Cllr Judes Butt	Cllr Brian Hitchcock	Cllr Toby Slade
Cllr Patrick Canavan	Cllr Alasdair Keddie	Cllr Lawrence Williams
Cllr Sharon Carr-Brown	Cllr Gillian Martin	Cllr Kieron Wilson
Cllr John Challinor	Cllr Jamie Martin	Cllr Gavin Wright
Cllr Eleanor Connolly	Cllr Simon McCormack	
Cllr David d'Orton-Gibson	Cllr Pete Miles	

Abstentions: 2

Cllr Mark Howell	Cllr Peter Sidaway

Voting: For:34, Against:31, Abstentions:31

(b) the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to make all necessary reorganisation of community governance orders to implement the changes agreed by Council;

Voting:

For: 40

Cllr Marcus Andrews	Cllr Emily Harman	Cllr Marion Le Poidevin
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Richard Herrett	Cllr Felicity Rice
Cllr Olivia Brown	Cllr Paul Hilliard	Cllr Judy Richardson
Cllr Simon Bull	Cllr Mark Howell	Cllr Vanessa Ricketts
Cllr Richard Burton	Cllr Dawn Logan	Cllr Peter Sidaway
Cllr Brian Chick	Cllr Sandra Mackrow	Cllr Paul Slade
Cllr Mike Cox	Cllr Andy Martin	Cllr Vikki Slade
Cllr Lesley Dedman	Cllr David Martin	Cllr Michael Tarling
Cllr Millie Earl	Cllr Chris Matthews	Cllr Tony Trent
Cllr David Flagg	Cllr Simon McCormack	Cllr Oliver Walters
Cllr Matthew Gillett	Cllr Sandra Moore	Cllr Clare Weight
Cllr Crispin Goodall	Cllr Bernadette Nanovo	Cllr Kieron Wilson
Cllr Andy Hadley	Cllr Lisa Northover	
Cllr Jeff Hanna	Cllr Margaret Phipps	

Against: 22

Cllr Cameron Adams	Cllr David d'Orton-Gibson	Cllr Pete Miles
Cllr Hazel Allen	Cllr Bobbie Dove	Cllr Anne-Marie Moriarty
Cllr Sara Armstrong	Cllr Michelle Dower	Cllr Karen Rampton
Cllr Judes Butt	Cllr George Farquhar	Cllr Toby Slade
Cllr Patrick Canavan	Cllr Duane Farr	Cllr Lawrence Williams
Cllr Sharon Carr-Brown	Cllr Brian Hitchcock	Cllr Gavin Wright
Cllr John Challinor	Cllr Gillian Martin	
Cllr Eleanor Connolly	Cllr Jamie Martin	

Abstentions: 5

Cllr Stephen Bartlett	Cllr Alasdair Keddie	Cllr Kate Salmon
Cllr Jackie Edwards	Cllr Chris Rigby	

Voting: For:40, Against:22, Abstentions:5

(c) the Task and Finish Group continue to consider the transfer of civic and ceremonial assets, statutory services and precept requirements for year 1, for each new parish, on the basis of minimal transfer and precept, and a report be presented to full Council in due course.

Voting:

For: 37

Cllr Marcus Andrews	Cllr Emily Harman	Cllr Margaret Phipps
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Richard Herrett	Cllr Marion Le Poidevin
Cllr Olivia Brown	Cllr Paul Hilliard	Cllr Felicity Rice
Cllr Richard Burton	Cllr Mark Howell	Cllr Judy Richardson
Cllr Brian Chick	Cllr Dawn Logan	Cllr Vanessa Ricketts
Cllr Mike Cox	Cllr Sandra Mackrow	Cllr Peter Sidaway
Cllr Lesley Dedman	Cllr Andy Martin	Cllr Paul Slade
Cllr Millie Earl	Cllr David Martin	Cllr Vikki Slade
Cllr David Flagg	Cllr Chris Matthews	Cllr Tony Trent
Cllr Matthew Gillett	Cllr Simon McCormack	Cllr Oliver Walters
Cllr Crispin Goodall	Cllr Sandra Moore	Cllr Clare Weight
Cllr Andy Hadley	Cllr Bernadette Nanovo	
Cllr Jeff Hanna	Cllr Lisa Northover	

Against: 25

Cllr Cameron Adams	Cllr David d'Orton-Gibson	Cllr Pete Miles
Cllr Hazel Allen	Cllr Bobbie Dove	Cllr Anne-Marie Moriarty
Cllr Sara Armstrong	Cllr Michelle Dower	Cllr Karen Rampton
Cllr Stephen Bartlett	Cllr Jackie Edwards	Cllr Toby Slade
Cllr Judes Butt	Cllr George Farquhar	Cllr Lawrence Williams
Cllr Patrick Canavan	Cllr Duane Farr	Cllr Kieron Wilson
Cllr Sharon Carr-Brown	Cllr Brian Hitchcock	Cllr Gavin Wright
Cllr John Challinor	Cllr Gillian Martin	
Cllr Eleanor Connolly	Cllr Jamie Martin	

Abstentions: 5

Cllr Simon Bull	Cllr Chris Rigby	Cllr Michael Tarling
Cllr Alasdair Keddie	Cllr Kate Salmon	

Voting: For:37, Against:25, Abstentions:5

The Leader advised that as all proposed areas had been carried that the alteration and proposed addition of recommendation (d) was therefore withdrawn as no areas remained un-parished.

Councillor Mark Howell proposed the adjournment of the Council meeting, however in relation to this Council was advised that there were items on the agenda which needed to be dealt prior to any adjournment, with this in mind

council adjourned for a short comfort break before proceeding with the agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 11.07 pm
Meeting reconvened at 11.24pm

Councillors Cameron Adams, Stephen Bartlett, Judy Butt, John Challinor, Micheal Dower, Jacqui Edwards, Duanne Farr and Kieron Wilson left the meeting at 11.07pm

45. Audit and Governance Committee 24 July 2025 - Minute No. 23 - Increased Borrowing - Poole Museum

The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee presented the report on the Increased Borrowing – Poole Museum and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

RESOLVED that Council approved the revised funding strategy for the Poole Museums capital schemes which will mean an increase in the approved prudential borrowing of £1.3m.

Voting: Unanimous

46. Audit and Governance Committee 24 July 2025 - Minute No. 31 - Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2024/25

The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee presented the report on the Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2024/25 and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

RESOLVED that Council approved the Annual Report 2024/25.

Voting: Unanimous

47. Licensing Committee 18 September 2025 - Minute No. 14 - Review of Statement of Licensing Policy

The Chair of the Licensing Committee presented the report on the Review of Statement of Licensing Policy and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

RESOLVED that Council approved and adopted the Statement of Licensing Policy.

Voting: Unanimous

48. Cabinet 1 October 2025 - Minute No. 51 - AFC Bournemouth stadium expansion. Land Requirements and Disposal

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report on the AFC Bournemouth stadium expansion, land requirements and disposal and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

RESOLVED that Council: -

(a) Noted the confidential minutes and the recommendations of the Cross-Party Asset Disposal Working Group meeting held on the 13 July 2025;

(b) Approved the negotiation and agreement in principle of Heads of Terms for the leasehold disposal of the two parcels of land at Kings Park to AFC Bournemouth shown in Option C; and

(c) Required officers to return to Cabinet and Council with the proposed Heads of Terms for decision as soon as possible.

Voting: For:44, Against:2, Abstentions:2

49. Review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each political group and the appointment of Councillors to Committees and Outside Bodies

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl 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.

Council was asked to consider and approve the review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each political group, the appointment of Councillors on Committees and appointments to outside bodies following the result of the by-election in the Talbot and Branksome Woods Ward on 11 September 2025 and other political group changes.

RESOLVED that: -

(a) the revised political balance of the Council, as set out in Table 1 to this report be noted;

(b) the allocation of seats to each political group, as set out in Table 2 to this report, be approved;

(c) the appointment of Councillors to Committees and Boards, taking into account the wishes of each political group, as detailed in Table 3 to this report, be approved;

(d) the allocation of seats to each political group to the outside bodies, as detailed in Table 4 to this report, be approved; and

(e) the appointment of Councillors to the outside bodies, taking into account the wishes of each political group, as detailed in Table 5 to this report, be approved.

Voting: For:44, Against:3, Abstentions:1

Meeting adjourned at 11.44 pm

Meeting resumed on 3 November 2025

50. Notices of Motions in accordance with Procedure Rule 10

Council was advised that two motions had been received on this occasion.

Standing United Against Racism and Division

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 10 of the Meeting Procedure Rules and was moved by Councillor Peter Cooper and seconded by Councillor Patrick Canavan.

Council notes:

- Recent far-right marches in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole that seek to spread hatred, fear, and division.
- An increase in racist vandalism and graffiti which desecrate our communities and cost taxpayers thousands of pounds to remove.
- The rising tide of racist activity nationally, which is being exploited for political purposes to divide communities.

Council recognises:

- The invaluable work of anti-racist organisations, community groups, and residents who stand in solidarity against racism and bigotry.
- The efforts of Dorset Police in managing demonstrations and addressing hate crimes in a challenging climate.
- That racism, in any form, undermines cohesion, community safety, and the reputation of BCP as a welcoming, inclusive place.

Council believes:

- That racist rhetoric, graffiti, and intimidation have no place in our communities.
- That public resources should be directed towards supporting communities and improving services, not wasted on cleaning up hate-fuelled vandalism.
- That BCP Council must show leadership in building unity, trust, and mutual respect across all communities.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. **Publicly denounce far-right marches and racist graffiti in BCP, affirming that hate has no home here.**
2. **Develop and bring forward anti-racist policies, in partnership with schools, community groups, and faith organisations, to promote inclusion and challenge prejudice.**
3. **Strengthen joint working with Dorset Police, community safety teams, and voluntary organisations to tackle racist activity and support victims.**
4. **Recognise and thank the work of anti-racist groups and campaigners who stand against division and for equality.**

5. **Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, calling for stronger national support and resources to tackle the rise in far-right activity and hate crime.**

Councillor Stephen Bartlett proposed an amendment to the motion which was seconded by Councillor Karen Rampton to replace the word 'far-right' with the word 'extremist' so that the resolutions would read as follows: -

Council therefore resolves to:

1. ***Publicly denounce ~~far-right~~ extremist marches and racist graffiti in BCP, affirming that hate has no home here.***
2. ***Develop and bring forward anti-racist policies, in partnership with schools, community groups, and faith organisations, to promote inclusion and challenge prejudice.***
3. ***Strengthen joint working with Dorset Police, community safety teams, and voluntary organisations to tackle racist activity and support victims.***
4. ***Recognise and thank the work of anti-racist groups and campaigners who stand against division and for equality.***
5. ***Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, calling for stronger national support and resources to tackle the rise in ~~far-right~~ extremist activity and hate crime.***

The proposer and seconder of the original motion advised that they would not accept the amendment which was therefore then debated.

Comprehensive discussion took place on the amendment during which Councillor Gavin Wright advised that he was going to propose the same amendment.

Upon being put to the vote the proposed amendment fell with voting:

For:13, Against:33, Abstentions:2

Councillor Kate Salmon proposed an amendment to the motion which was seconded by Councillor Simon Bull with the deletions and insertions as set out below: -

Council notes:

- *Recent far-right marches in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole that seek to spread hatred, fear, and division.*
- *An increase in racist vandalism and graffiti which desecrate our communities and cost taxpayers thousands of pounds to remove.*
- *The rising tide of racist activity nationally, which is being exploited for political purposes to divide communities.*

Council recognises:

- *The invaluable work of anti-racist organisations, community groups, and residents who stand in solidarity against racism and bigotry.*

- *The efforts of Dorset Police in managing demonstrations and addressing hate crimes in a challenging climate.*
- *That racism, in any form, undermines cohesion, community safety, and the reputation of BCP as a welcoming, inclusive place.*

Council believes:

- *That racist rhetoric, graffiti, and intimidation have no place in our communities.*
- ~~*That public resources should be directed towards supporting communities and improving services, not wasted on cleaning up hate-fuelled vandalism.*~~ *That residents of BCP are losing out as a consequence of these incidents of hate-fuelled vandalism, which must be cleaned up at their expense using scarce public resources which would otherwise be spent on supporting communities and improving services*
- *That BCP Council must show leadership in building unity, trust, and mutual respect across all communities.*

Council therefore resolves to:

1. *Publicly denounce far-right marches and racist graffiti in BCP, affirming that hate has no home here.*
2. *Recognise and thank the work of anti-racist groups and campaigners who stand against division and for equality. (Moved from point 4 to point 2)*
3. *Establish a BCP Anti-Racism Partnership Task Group, comprising representatives from schools, community groups, faith organisations, Dorset Police, and anti-racism campaigners, to oversee the development and implementation of anti-racist policies and initiatives and seek external funding to deliver a Hate Crime Action Plan.*
4. *Support the creation of a publicly accessible Hate Crime Action Plan which outlines specific steps the Council and its partners will take to prevent and respond to racist incidents and support victims, with annual progress reports to Full Council.*

~~2. *Develop and bring forward anti-racist policies, in partnership with schools, community groups, and faith organisations, to promote inclusion and challenge prejudice.*~~

~~3. *Strengthen joint working with Dorset Police, community safety teams, and voluntary organisations to tackle racist activity and support victims.*~~

5. *Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, seeking a meeting with relevant ministers to discuss ~~calling for stronger~~ increased national support and resources to ~~tackle~~ address hate crime and far-right activity ~~the rise in far-right activity and hate crime~~.*

The proposer and seconder of the original motion advised that they were content with the amendments, however upon Council consent being sought

to confirm the amendments as the substantive a member indicated that they would not consent, the main body of the Council consented to the amendment which therefore became the substantive motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8.02pm due to a disturbance in the gallery

Meeting reconvened at 8.18pm

The substantive motion was debated as amended and it was resolved as follows: -

Council therefore resolves to:

1. **Publicly denounce far-right marches and racist graffiti in BCP, affirming that hate has no home here.**
2. **Recognise and thank the work of anti-racist groups and campaigners who stand against division and for equality.**
3. **Establish a BCP Anti-Racism Partnership Task Group, comprising representatives from schools, community groups, faith organisations, Dorset Police, and anti-racism campaigners, to oversee the development and implementation of anti-racist policies and initiatives and seek external funding to deliver a Hate Crime Action Plan.**
4. **Support the creation of a publicly accessible Hate Crime Action Plan which outlines specific steps the Council and its partners will take to prevent and respond to racist incidents and support victims, with annual progress reports to Full Council.**
5. **Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, seeking a meeting with relevant ministers to discuss increased national support and resources to address hate crime and far-right activity.**

Voting: For:34, Against:10, Abstentions:4

Councillor Margaret Phipps left the meeting at 8.25pm

Opposing Labour's Digital ID Scheme

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 10 of the Meeting Procedure Rules and was moved by Councillor Millie Earl and seconded by Councillor Richard Herrett.

Council notes the recent announcement by Keir Starmer's Labour Government of plans to introduce a mandatory Digital ID scheme for all UK residents.

Council further notes that the Government's plan:

- Could require every resident to obtain a Digital ID to access public services and entitlements;
- Could risk criminalising millions of people, particularly older people, those on lower incomes, or those without access to digital technology;

- Raises significant privacy and civil liberties concerns;
- Could result in an estimated £4.6 billion of pounds of taxpayers' money being wasted on a massive IT project, with no clear benefit or safeguards.

Council believes that Labour's scheme:

- Represents an expensive measure that will undermine public trust;
- Will do nothing to address the real priorities facing communities such as the lack of economic growth that our country is facing, the cost-of-living crisis that residents in Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole are experiencing, or the problems within public services that have been refused the investment that they need to deliver;
- Fails to protect our core British values of liberty, privacy and fairness.

Council welcomes the Liberal Democrats' consistent national opposition to Labour's ID cards, having previously defeated Labour's original plans for ID cards in 2010, and opposes Labour's renewed attempt to impose them in digital form.

Council resolves:

- To formally oppose the Labour Government's Digital ID plans;
- To request the Leader of the Council writes to:
    - The Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Minister for Digital Infrastructure expressing this council's firm opposition to Labour's mandatory Digital ID system and calling for the plans to be scrapped.
    - Members of Parliament across Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole asking for their firm commitment to oppose Labour's mandatory Digital ID system and ask them to confirm that they will instead advocate for the estimated £4.6b cost to be rediverted in to settling SEND deficits nationally.
- To work with local voluntary, digital inclusion and civil liberties groups to ensure that no resident in Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole is penalised or excluded as a result of any national identification scheme.

A number of members spoke on the motion and expressed concern that the motion had been submitted too early as the detail of the scheme hadn't been announced. In relation to this a member requested that the motion be withdrawn and brought back once the consultation had started.

Councillor Felicity Rice proposed an amendment to the motion to remove the reference to the Liberal Democrats in the final paragraph under *'Council believes that Labour's scheme:'*

In reference to this Councillor Rice was advised that the paragraph would not be included in the resolutions from Council, and that only the resolutions under 'Council resolves' would form the decisions arising from Council.

Council resolves: -

- **To formally oppose the Labour Government's Digital ID plans;**
- **To request the Leader of the Council writes to:**
    - **The Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Minister for Digital Infrastructure expressing this council's firm opposition to Labour's mandatory Digital ID system and calling for the plans to be scrapped.**
    - **Members of Parliament across Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole asking for their firm commitment to oppose Labour's mandatory Digital ID system and ask them to confirm that they will instead advocate for the estimated £4.6b cost to be rediverted in to settling SEND deficits nationally.**
- **To work with local voluntary, digital inclusion and civil liberties groups to ensure that no resident in Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole is penalised or excluded as a result of any national identification scheme**.

Voting: For:23, Against:15, Abstentions:8

Councillor Bobbie Dove left the meeting at 8.58pm prior to the vote on this item.

Councillors Emily Harman and David Martin left the meeting at 9.04pm

51. Questions from Councillors

Question from Councillor Anne-Marie Moriarty

Could councillors be granted access to the provisional schedule of works for regular cleansing and maintenance carried out by the environmental services team?

Having access to this information would significantly enhance our ability to fulfil our roles effectively. It would reduce the volume of correspondence between councillors and officers, streamline communication, and improve transparency for residents. When residents are informed about when and where work is scheduled, it helps manage expectations and addresses concerns about perceived inconsistencies in service delivery.

While I understand that such schedules are subject to change, having a working version available would still be invaluable. This request aligns with the principles of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, which supports councillors' rights to access information necessary for their duties, and with guidance from the Local Government Association on the importance of timely and relevant information for elected members.

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Councillor Andy Hadley

Thank you for your question Councillor Moriarty,

We have asked several times for this information to be made available. I have been advised that;

BCP Council's approach to not publishing schedules is aligned to neighbouring authorities across the region. In theory it provides residents with an in advance schedule from which to remove cars on a known date to aid cleansing, in practice from those that do so it often either a) results in very few residents moving their vehicles or b) residents move them and then are frustrated when a crew don't appear – this can be for many reasons including

- vehicle breakdowns - sadly frequent due to complexities of the kit
- staffing shortages - LGV drivers are regularly pulled off to support shortages on waste collection crews,
- heavy leaf-fall etc which means they are unable to complete as many roads as may have been advertised,
- wider emergency or emerging issues
    - e.g. for our area seasonal pressures with tourists which routinely pulls resources from residential areas due to resourcing limitations

The situation has unfortunately been changing for the worse because with more people working from home, residential streets have more cars parked on them blocking access to sweepers and gulley cleaners, but also, with our changing climate, the period of leaf-fall is now from September to March, whereas it used to be from November to January.

Within BCP all our roads and pavement are being rescheduled for mechanical street cleansing to ensure parity of service across BCP, with historical resource greater in Poole than Bournemouth and Christchurch. I am told that Pre-LGR, Bournemouth went from 6 large sweepers down to only two covering the whole town.

Resources are targeted at areas of greatest need and alignment with Environment Protection Act Code of Practice for Litter & Refuse whereby zoning is applied. This is part of the roll out of in-cab technology within Waste & Cleansing and Environment more generally.

Once the new schedules have been worked a number of times to be able to provide reliable trends, this data will be used to adapt the schedules to reflect which roads and footpaths on the network are able to manage longer periods between sweeps and to identify those locations requiring more frequent cleansing, in order to be able to maintain consistent standards.

It should be possible to make details on historic and intended cleansing frequencies accessible to Councillors and the public via online mapping once these revisions to schedules have been complete.

In the meantime, cleansing requests can be made online via the Report It function for a review by the correct service team.

Report fallen leaves, pine needles and fir cones | BCP

Supplementary question from Councillor Anne-Marie Moriarty

May I just check what the timeline for this new kind of roll out is going to be in terms of when we will be able to support our residents to have a better understanding of when the schedule will be, do we have a timeline at all?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Councillor Andy Hadley

Thank you for your supplementary question, I am afraid we don't, we have started rolling out the in cab technology that started in October. The working up of an online and active map is I am aware of is underway for other areas. But I can go away and find out and get the information available to you.

Councillor Toby Slade left the meeting at 9.05pm

Question from Councillor Patrick Canavan

Given the rising cost of food, the waiting lists for allotments across BCP, and the clear benefits allotments bring for healthy eating, mental health, and community wellbeing would the administration commit to conducting a review of current allotment provision, and bring forward proposals to expand access by identifying under-utilised council land, prioritising areas of high demand, and supporting schools and community groups in accessing growing spaces?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Councillor Andy Hadley

Councillor Canavan, thank you for your question, and thank you for taking the trouble to give me advance notice, which was helpful to consider my response.

Providing Allotments and community food growing opportunities is a topic that I have had a long interest in.

With formal allotments, the waiting lists are variable around the area, and that partly depends on whether applicants are seeking space at a specific allotment, some of our smaller sites have a long waiting list, you could be waiting between 1 year and up to 10 years. Many plots have been reduced in size to encourage and support participation, but managing an allotment plot requires a lot of ongoing physical work to maintain, its outdoor gymnastics. About 1/3 of applicants decline the offer when they get to the top of the list.

For some time the team have been working to support the larger allotment associations who self-manage their sites. This has the advantage of greater autonomy, of being able to provide advice and nurturing support to new plot holders, maintaining the shared spaces, cheaper rents, more frequent inspections, and to quickly resolve any issues arising between plot holders, or reallocate plots. There are already 3 self-managed sites in Bournemouth area, and we are working with a Poole site in the process of changing to being self-managed.

Allotments are the one service that must transfer to the lowest level of local government. Longbarrow, which is a self-managed site, transferred to

Throop and Holdenhurst Parish Council, and all the Christchurch sites transferred to the new Town or Parish Councils in 2019. Given the Community Governance Review, this would be the wrong time for BCP to be undertaking a review of allotment provision. Any new formal allotment sites need a lot of surveying and preparation, which can be a significant outlay and take time.

However, we are actively supporting informal growing opportunities through community and school gardens, ranging from sites like Tatnam Organic Patch, a community garden I helped found in 1999, Turners Nursery community Orchard, BH15 grow together and others.

Many schools now have growing spaces and/or orchards in their grounds. It does of course depend on having an enthusiastic teacher and/or volunteers to sustain, and often summer holidays reduce access, interest, and thus the crop.

The Parks Foundation are supporting food growing in some of our public parks, including for example raised beds in Alexandra Park and Redhill Park. Sustaining a group to use the grow-zone Raised Beds in Churchill Gardens has been a challenge.

Projects like the Secret Garden in Boscombe, which has shared skills with many growers, and the Cornerstone Patch in Hamworthy are in particular set up to support the benefits you highlight, and we are working with Grounded Community and the Parks Foundation on food growing proposals for the Kings Park nursery site.

And we are supporting the BCP Access to Food project, which aims to map and co-ordinate the efforts to help those in need of support to access Food from across the area, including growing opportunities.

Supplementary question from Councillor Patrick Canavan

Thank you Councillor Hadley for that very comprehensive reply, I was just wondering though in the context of the possibility of new town councils would it not be an opportune time to actually just take stock of what our provision is and whether or not the other opportunities that you've outlined could be in come way itemised so that we know what it is that we might be transferring?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Councillor Andy Hadley

Thank you for your supplementary question, I think that as I highlighted the BCP Access to Food Project which is a project that we support does map all of those opportunities out across the range, creating a new formal allotment requires the ground to be of good agricultural quality and so there is a long process and effort involved to make it a formal allotment. But certainly mapping out and sharing what is out there is a project which is underway already.

Question from Councillor Chris Rigby

BCP Council have stated that attaching anything to public infrastructure, such as bridges and lamp posts, without permission is likely to be unlawful

and where it causes a safety risk it will be removed as a priority. This includes flags.

Could you explain why flags attached to lampposts on Alma Road in Winton (which recorded 12 accidents between 2020–2023, according to Crash Map data) are considered less of a safety risk than those on East Way (which recorded 2 accidents in the same period), given that flags on East Way were removed after 8 days (11/09–19/09) while those on Alma Road have remained since 08/09?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations

Thankyou to Cllr Rigby for the question, and Cllr Salmon for reading it.

The removal of flags is not based on historic KSI's, but on a multitude of factors; risk to street furniture, the impact it could have on that street furniture due to age and type of furniture, as well as welfare, wellbeing and volume of vulnerable people in proximity, as reports are received of flags officers will go and check situations, and perform a dynamic risk assessment as to whether removal is necessary, based on factors that include but are not limited to, shadows cast, impact on sightlines, where on street furniture flags are attached, what they appear to be attached with as well as location, Officers are operating within financial constraints too so have to prioritise on these factors and others that may be apparent on site.

I would encourage councillors concerned about flags to report, and if anything changes with those flags to re-report. If they slip, shift, or appear that they may be causing an issue they were not before officers will be pleased to assist within the constraints outlined.

Question from Councillor Jamie Martin

I was recently advised that there was at least £44,489.76 of CIL money that had been allocated to projects in my ward that had not been spent, and that the council was attempting to ascertain whether this money could be reallocated to the ward pot. As this money concerned projects where the council could no longer contact a project co-ordinator, it follows that unspent money is also available where a contact is known. This will no doubt be replicated across the conurbation. As such, can the portfolio holder confirm the following:

The total amount of unspent CIL money awarded during previous neighbourhood portion bidding rounds.

The mechanism whereby councillors can request these identified amounts be returned to ward pots.

The steps the council can take in monitoring the spend arising from allocations made in current and future bidding rounds, so that where appropriate the money can be returned to ward pots and benefit other projects in a timelier fashion.

Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl

The work towards confirming the total amount of unspent CIL money awarded during previous neighbourhood portion bidding rounds is always ongoing and we will have clarity on this for this year as part of the annual

update of the Infrastructure Funding Statement due to be published in December that demonstrates what CIL we have secured from developers and if and how it has been spent.

We have been through a process of review and reallocation across the Poole and Bournemouth wards for this round of Neighbourhood CIL, it should be spent in a timely manor. As part of Round 6, the NCIL Panel placed an emphasis on DELIVERY of projects which is leading to more positive outcomes. Project leads for Council delivered projects were also identified. This means that it is more efficient to be able to follow up on delivery. We can also advise successful bidders in Round 7 that project delivery needs to be timely, or they risk losing the funding.

Supplementary question from Councillor Jamie Martin

So given the fact that obviously for the majority of the time I have been an elected councillor I have not known about this money which has sort of been held off the books I know essentially with town councils it will be handled differently and so there is no mechanism for councillors to say, whats going on here? And get their money back into the pot? We just need a way to obviously make sure the money isn't just out there for years.

Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl

I have an example of this in my own ward where it was a huge amount, £50,000 that had just been sitting there for nearly 8 years, completely unspent and I think that is why this work is really important, and why it is working quite well as it is identifying all those pots which have been applied for in the past but haven't actually been spent in the community which allows us then to calculate them all up and they can be available for round 7. And like I said that process has been completed and I think that the town centre pot now is something like £80,000, its huge and so I would consider getting that spent.

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

Council was advised that no urgent decisions had been taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution since the last meeting of the Council.

The meeting ended at 11.44 pm

CHAIRMAN

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