

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 November 2025 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr C Rigby – Chairman

Cllr D d'Orton-Gibson – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr B Chick, Cllr J Edwards, Cllr M Gillett, Cllr C Goodall,
Cllr J Martin, Cllr A-M Moriarty and Cllr Dr F Rice

Also in Cllr M Andrews and Cllr Andy Hadley (Portfolio Holder for Climate
attendance: Response, Environment and Energy)

29. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Jo Clements and Councillor Vanessa Ricketts

30. Substitute Members

There were no substitute members on this occasion.

31. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

32. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2025 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

33. Public Issues

The Committee was advised that there had been no petitions submitted by members of the public on this occasion, but that two questions and three statements had been received in relation to Agenda Item 7 (Waste Strategy for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council 2026-2036).

Public Questions received from Mr Paul Brelsford on Agenda Item 7 (Waste Strategy for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council 2026-2036)

Question 1

I am pleased to see that Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR) under the producer pays principle, together with profit from BCP's commercial waste collections, has reduced the Council's waste expenditure from £36.7 million to £17.3 million, a net reduction of £19.4 million. However, was the strategy analysis extended to consider the longer-term benefits of reinvesting part of this net saving into developing new local

recycling infrastructure? Such investment could accelerate BCP's transition to a circular economy, create sustainable green jobs, support climate objectives, reduce the carbon footprint, and generate further economic value that would, in turn, benefit both BCP's finances and the environment.

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

All services in BCP are expected to minimise their net impact on Council Tax through fees and charges where applicable. The net reduction mentioned includes £10 million which is not just commercial income but includes all waste service income such as garden waste subscriptions and the sale of other types of household waste. This figure is not a new figure and has always been included in waste management budgets which reduces the overall net expenditure of the waste service and therefore the cost to the taxpayer.

The only recent new income has been the Extended Producer Responsibility (ePR) payment of £9.4 million in 2025/26, which is a new government tax on the packaging industry. The payment is intended under the producer pays principle to make the packaging industry pay for the collection and disposal of the existing packaging waste rather than this falling to the Council Taxpayer.

If the policy is successful and works as intended, producers and retailers will seek to minimise their packaging, and we will see a reduction in this tax income year on year as packaging reduces or is switched to more recyclable materials.

The government have indicated that Councils will be inspected in order to show that they are providing effective and efficient waste services, and if any changes are recommended the ePR funding should be used to implement them.

If any new facilities are required in the future by the Council to manage its waste, a separate business and financial case will be developed, with its associated funding agreed by Councillors. Given the scale of our waste streams, and the shifting global market for recyclates, it is unlikely that the Council could create a facility at scale to be economically sustainable.

We do have plans to extend the "new 2 you" facility to divert reusable items from the waste stream.

There is still a lot of uncertainty in the UK waste industry as several new government policies have not yet started, and the impact of them on how we currently operate our waste services and any future requirements is still not fully known. We know we will have to introduce new or amended services to increase our recycling rate to 65%, but these will be evaluated as we go. We are currently monitoring the new Deposit Return Scheme in 2027 and the Emissions Trading scheme for Energy from Waste facilities in 2028.

Question 2

The communities of Bearwood and Merley are among the most affected by waste management operations, given the concentration of such activities at Canford Resource Park. The intensification of waste processing adjacent to

internationally designated environmental and ecological sites is of particular concern. Residents also experience health and wellbeing impacts linked to traffic, pollution, odour, noise, and other nuisances. Were these local impacts considered as part of the strategy review, and were any representations or concerns raised specifically on behalf of Bearwood and Merley residents by their ward councillors?

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

This document is a high-level strategy document that discusses the principles on how we will manage our waste and the infrastructure that may be required over the next ten years and beyond. The document is designed to show how we will meet our environmental and carbon reduction targets, and any supporting actions that can be progressed following the public consultation.

There are currently waste treatment facilities, waste transfer stations and waste depots across the BCP area. This waste strategy does not look at individual sites as our requirements will be subject to market forces, availability and capacity when procuring future services.

You mentioned the circular economy in your prior question, the Strategy does emphasise the importance of the Circular economy, and the hierarchy of reduce, reuse, repair, repurpose, and recycle before “energy from waste” or landfill. We must also record and report the distances our waste travels as part of the Authority’s CO2 footprint.

If any local sites are required to meet the goals identified in the strategy and currently do not have Environment Agency permits to operate, as with all large changes to services, strategies and policies they will be agreed by Councillors through the normal democratic process. The jointly prepared Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan (2019) identifies sites for new waste management facilities to meet the county’s needs. It provides the policy framework for determining planning applications for waste management facilities up to 2033. Any new facility would need agreement through the Planning process and the Environment Agency in the normal way.

The Waste Strategy was discussed at an all Members briefing in May 2025, and available for public consultation for 4 weeks in June 2025. The Waste Strategy, alongside the consultation findings, were then discussed with and later commented on by a Member’s cross-party waste strategy group in October 2025.

The issues pertaining to Bearwood and Merley are specific to the private facilities there. Ward Councillors have been actively supporting the concerns of the community on the planning application, but that is a planning matter, and a separate issue to the overall strategy being discussed here.

Public Statements received from Mr Paul Brelsford on Agenda Item 7 (Waste Strategy for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council 2026-2036)

Statement 1

The 2019 BCPD Waste Plan is based on data from 2015. This data is now outdated and superseded by actual data since 2019, which has demonstrated the waste plan forecasting to be significantly inaccurate. Moreover, the draft strategy articulates, England's management of waste is undergoing transformational change at the national level to create a circular economy.

In this context assumptions and decisions for any waste management strategies or developments through to 2033 would be at significantly undue risk of failure if based against out of date and inaccurate waste forecasts from the 2019 Waste Plan.

We would urge this committee to satisfy itself that all future waste management planning, contracts and infrastructure are based against the most recent data available and take into account the recent national level waste reduction measures.

It would also be beneficial to publish waste data information and waste strategy targets on the BCP website.

Statement 2

Many of BCPs waste management contracts expire in 2027. Whilst it's recognised the changing landscape of waste management is challenging and presents risk, it is also an opportunity. The committee should be satisfied that the strategy's vision is bold enough to ensure future contracts will be designed and sufficiently robust enough to achieve the ambitions of a circular economy.

Procurement processes will of course seek best economic value, but the strategy must go much further to meet its ambition. I would urge the committee to explore whether BCP is in a position to leverage the circular economy opportunities, and what the strategy needs to consider to be in a position to leverage the best outcome from future contracts.

This is an important point, given the refresh of the medium-term financial plan is due to be published in February.

Statement 3

The strategy must support Climate and Ecological Emergency policies, and the circular economy whilst moving waste up the hierarchy beyond both landfill and incineration, both of which are linear and not circular waste disposal treatments.

The strategy narrative is not balanced in this respect; it rightly promotes waste diversion from landfill but fails to promote waste diversion from incineration where possible. Both are equally harmful options as incineration destroys recoverable resources, with up to 51% of the residual waste stream being recyclable.

Waste incineration is known to be harmful to recycling and is also the dirtiest form of power generation in the UK.

To not address this imbalance sends the wrong message to the public about BCP's ambitions to achieve a circular economy.

We hope BCP will recognise this waste strategy represents a once in a generation opportunity to be bold in its vision to create a sustainable circular economy.

34. Waste Strategy for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council 2026-2036

The Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy 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.

The Committee were informed that with the UK Government progressing major waste legislation and policy reforms, the Waste Strategy for BCP Council 2026-36 had been drafted setting out clear ambitions and commitments, with consideration to the key drivers for change, to provide a pathway for enhancing our waste and recycling services over the coming decade.

Further to this the Committee were advised that the strategy will direct the retender of a major waste disposal contract in 2027 and sets out ambitions and supporting actions for progressing towards achievement of our waste and carbon targets by 2035.

In addition, the Committee were reminded of the all-member briefing which was held in May and the informal cross party working group which had been formed following the briefing to consider the required legislative impacts, developed ambitions and public consultation results.

The Committee comprehensively discussed the strategy and in particular raised the following areas of discussion: -

- Contamination of recycling bin waste.
- Batteries and in particular risks associated with batteries being included with waste and fires which had occurred as a result both in the refuse vehicles and at depots. The Committee felt that the messaging needed to be clear with regards to the disposal of batteries and concern was expressed with regards to those less able being able to dispose of batteries appropriately. In relation to this Officers advised that there were local drop off points for batteries at corner shops and supermarkets. The Committee felt that it was important to encourage more locations to accept and collect batteries for disposal.
- The role out of food bins across the Council, and contamination with food and potential issues with rats particularly in respect of flats. Officers advised in relation to this the flats would have a communal bin for food waste with each flat having a food caddy. Officers further advised that there are existing problems with contamination with

shared bins, and that it was hoped that this could be overcome by education and engagement with residents. It was highlighted that food waste was a weekly collection which was hoped would reduce the likelihood.

- Communal street bins shared across multiple properties. Officers advised that food waste bins hadn't been rolled out to such properties unless someone had indicated that they would take ownership. In relation to this a member queried whether they could have individual smaller bins and officers advised that any bins would need to not cause any obstruction and not be on the highway.
- Circular economy whereby members questioned whether there was a larger strategy around this, clarity around the costings and investment was also sought. Officers advised in relation to this that there was a commitment to the circular economy with a potential to hold repair workshops. In addition, officers further advised that the council was looking at ways in which it could support the reuse café, and that the issue was finding people with the skills who were available and whilst the council could be a conduit the reliance was on people wanting to contribute. Members also raised the importance of lobbying government to help achieve a circular economy and increase requirements on businesses.

The Chair proposed that whilst supporting Option 1, the recommendation to remove current separate kerbside battery collections that an additional point be included to read:

- (ii) and to develop a convenient battery recycling scheme with local businesses to create more easily accessible drop off points

this recommendation was seconded by Councillor Matthew Gillet and supported unanimously by the Committee.

Councillor Felicity Rice proposed amendments to section 5 of Appendix 1 to include the following: -

- Paragraph 5.1 of Appendix 1 to add the following '*and incineration*' to the end of the paragraph so that it reads '*Tendering waste disposal contracts that embed the waste hierarchy and minimise the use of landfill and incineration*' this proposal was seconded by Councillor Chris Rigby.
- Paragraph 5.3 of Appendix 1 to add the following '*whilst also considering the carbon footprint of the type of disposal*' to the end of the paragraph so that it reads '*Prioritising waste site proximity where possible, so waste travels only as far as it needs to and reduces the significant carbon impact of transporting waste whilst also considering the carbon footprint of the type of disposal*' this proposal was seconded by Councillor Chris Rigby.
- An additional point be included at 5.7 to read '*when considering the circular economy, we will work with our local MPs and government to influence the manufacturing industry to ensure products are made so that recycling is designed in at the manufacturing stage so that it*

does not require disposal' this proposal was not seconded and therefore fell.

The Committee discussed the proposed amendments raised by Councillor Rice, following which they were put to the vote with the additions at paragraphs 5.1 and 5.3 being unanimously agreed.

In respect of the proposed additional paragraph 5.7 which had not been taken to the vote the Chair advised that he would work with Councillor Rice to request that the Leader of the Council write to the government in regard to the circular economy.

RESOLVED that the committee supported the recommendations as set out in the report to Cabinet including Option 1 regarding the removal of current separate kerbside battery collections but requested an additional point be included in respect of this option to read: -

- (ii) **and to develop a convenient battery recycling scheme with local businesses to create more easily accessible drop off points**

and in addition, requested the strategy at appendix 1 be amended to include the following: -

- (a) **Paragraph 5.1 of Appendix 1 'A Waste Strategy for BCP Council 2026-2028' be amended to include '*and incineration*' so that the paragraph reads '*5.1 Tendering waste disposal contracts that embed the waste hierarchy and minimise the use of landfill and incineration*'; and**
- (b) **Paragraph 5.3 of Appendix 1 'A Waste Strategy for BCP Council 2026-2028' be amended to include '*whilst also considering the carbon footprint of the type of disposal*' so that the paragraph reads '*5.3 Prioritising waste site proximity where possible, so waste travels only as far as it needs to and reduces the significant carbon impact of transporting waste whilst also considering the carbon footprint of the type of disposal*'.**

Voting: Unanimous

Councillor Felicity Rice joined the meeting at 6.23pm during the debate on this item.

35. Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

The Committee were provided with a presentation from the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) a copy of which has been attached to these minutes and appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Chief Officer of Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA), Pia Bateman presented to the Committee providing background on IFCA and how it links in with the Council, following which there was an opportunity for questions and the following areas were raised: -

- The impact of climate change on the fishing industry and a request that the importance of climate change be emphasised on the IFCA website with signposting to relevant authorities;
- Blue Ink Octopus coming into the area which is believed to be due to the warming of the waters and who have been taking advantage of the crab and lobster which has affected some areas. It was questioned in terms of when this would become a conservation issue to which the Committee were advised that it would become a conservation issue if they were deemed to be under threat.
- Farmed fish – the Committee asked whether there were any farmed fish along the coast which IFCA has responsibility for welfare, to which they were advised that IFCA managed the statutory instrument regarding compliance and enforcement but that they didn't have welfare responsibility.
- Bottom toed fishing (towing a net along the sea bead) and the effect this may have.

The Chair thanked Pia for attending and presenting to the Committee.

36. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

The Overview and Scrutiny Specialist 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.

The Committee was advised that the report presented the annual report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer on Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) activity within BCP Council and highlighted that there was a requirement to report on the work Overview and Scrutiny to the O&S Board and Committees and then to Council.

In relation to this the Committee was advised that the presentation of the report promoted visibility of the O&S function and Council ownership of activity and any improvements required.

The Committee was informed that the annual report contained a summary and analysis of O&S activity during 2024-25, reflections on working practices and identified improvements to strengthen the O&S function.

Further to this the Committee was advised that the report version is for consideration by the O&S Board and O&S committees, providing opportunity for comment prior to the supply of the final report to Council, and that the Council would be the decision maker on any recommendations for change within the report.

In relation to this the Committee was advised that the final report to Council would be updated to incorporate the views of the O&S Board and Committees on these recommendations.

The Committee discussed Option A within the report with clarity being sought in respect of the limit of one topic to be undertaken at a time and the O&S Chairs and Vice Chairs group having the responsibility for prioritising topics.

Further to this the Committee was reassured that there would be a scoring matrix for the group to use to prioritise topics, and that relevant Chairs would report back regularly to the O&S Committees.

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) the Committee considered and commented on the annual report;**
- (b) the Committee commented on the proposed recommendation to Council that the Overview and Scrutiny committee structure as outlined in figure one be agreed.**
- (c) the Committee commented on the proposed recommendations to Council aimed at maximising the resource available for O&S work:**
 - i) for pieces of in-depth work, the constitution be updated to allow one scrutiny topic to be undertaken at a time across the whole O&S function, with one further topic being scoped during the same period.**
 - ii) the O&S Chairs and Vice Chairs group role be strengthened to include a responsibility to agree the priority of all work topics across the full O&S committee structure.**
 - iii) the O&S Chairs and Vice Chairs group strengthen scoping for all O&S topics by reviewing key lines of enquiry for topics on an ongoing basis to provide peer test and challenge.**
 - iv) the Monitoring Officer be delegated to make the associated updates to the Constitution.**

Voting: Unanimous

37. Work Plan

The Overview and Scrutiny Specialist 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 Book.

The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee was asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan.

The Chair reminded members of the scheduled briefing session on the 18 March on Vanlife where it was intended that there would be an opportunity for officers to brief members on the topic.

In addition, the Committee were advised of the work planning session scheduled for December via teams whereby it was intended the session would be a light touch work planning session on items already on the workplan with in-depth working planning sessions being planned for the New Year.

RESOLVED that:

the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review, update and confirm the Work Plan.

Voting: Unanimous

The meeting ended at 8.09 pm

CHAIRMAN