

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 February 2026 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr C Rigby – Chairman

Cllr D d'Orton-Gibson – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr B Chick, Cllr M Gillett, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr J Martin and
Cllr V Ricketts

38. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Anne-Marie Moriarty and Cllr Jo Clements.

39. Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

40. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

41. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on November 2025 were confirmed as an accurate record.

42. Recommendation Tracker

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer explained the tracker was a new document which would be included on every O & S agenda. When decisions were made to cabinet they had a duty to respond within 2 months and those outcomes of responses could get lost within other work, therefore the tracker tightened up the process to put all the recommendations in one place. The document had all the O & S committees listed with their recommendations. Where recommendations had been made to cabinet and responses had been received. There was a response received on the safer accommodation strategy between meetings and the committee were informed that had been updated.

It was explained that the document was not only to be able to see if recommendations had been accepted but also explore if the committee could ask for periodic updates where value could be added and progress on the recommendations.

There was a section for actions which was separate from recommendations where information was asked for from officers if the committee wished to use it.

The Chair thanked the officer and agreed the document would be useful. It was agreed the chair would follow up on any actions and the committee would contact the Chair if they had anything they would like followed up.

43. Recommendations from Portfolio Holders, Cabinet or Council

The Chair presented the item which was a motion from Council and the committee agreed that the item would be discussed under the workplan item.

The Council's constitution provides that Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committees may consider requests for work from a range of sources, including requests from Portfolio Holders, Cabinet and Council.

The O&S Committee was asked to consider a request for scrutiny recently made by Council, on flooding and resilience which put as a motion to Council by Cllr Peter Cooper.

RESOLVED that the item was added to the committee's longlist work plan to be discussed at the work planning session.

44. Public Issues

There were no public issues

45. Climate Action Annual Report

The Cabinet Member 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.

This report presents the sixth annual update to Cabinet on progress towards commitments made in the BCP Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration, made on the 16 of July 2019.

In the 2024-2025 year, progress against the main commitments were:

- Make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030 - scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions **reduced by 20.9%** from the 2019 baseline
- Work with the wider community to make the region carbon neutral before 2045 – according to data released in 2025, total area-wide emissions for 2024 had **reduced by 17.7%** from the 2019 baseline.

It was reported that good progress had been made with a 21% reduction in the council's footprint and 18% reduction in the area.

It was reported that the information was from the year before due to date being received.

Some of the challenges reported were:

- Flooding at Iford and in the winter had been particularly difficult where a caravan site was evacuated and the frequency of the events were increasing. The report included information from the Met Office from their assessment which highlighted the growing challenges in terms of wetter winters, heat waves and heath fires. That trend was increasing due to not the Council not acting quickly enough. The government are thinking seriously about how much the changing climate was going to impact life in the UK in ways that people might not have thought about.
- It was highlighted that the BCP council housing stock in both Bournemouth and Poole were the biggest part of the footprint. It was reported that on the council's leased buildings there was a 16.2% decrease in the use of carbon which was particularly in the Bournemouth area which had seen a significant decrease. Poole had also dropped reasonably well.
- Another area highlighted was the use of gas and electricity. It was reported that there had been a modest increase in natural gas which was up on last year which was something that still needed to be worked on. There was a significant increase in fuel which was due to the price dropping and the council managed to purchase fuel at a lower price. The electric vehicle fleet has also increased which had also made a difference. The Council have not moved away from gas as much as expected.
- There had been quite a lot of work done with key partners area wide both private and public sector organisations which involved sharing and listening as well as telling them where we were upto. There were a number of successful events which aimed to happen quarterly with more organisations attending each time.
- It was reported that the number of properties both household and commercial using battery storage devices has risen since 2023.
- The number of electric and hybrid vehicles registered and owned since 2025 has now overtaken the petrol and diesel vehicles.

There was a question asked around targeting the reduction of total emissions and EPC ratings and why the council have targeted total emissions rather than the industry standard ratings? The committee were informed that the council had set targets for their own properties which they have control over but it was down to tenants how they used their property. The target was set for the fabric of the properties, there were some older properties that the council owned that were not at that level. The challenge with the area wide targets was that the council did not control everything, it was about how to engage with people and advise, support and guide them to increased EPC ratings in homes.

BCP homes were looking to try and reduce emissions the first part of the plan was the HRA budget and 30 year business plan that enabled a lot of investment to bring the EPCC of council house up by 2030. There would then be 70million pounds over 20 years to 2050 which would improve carbon emissions. Windows in BCP houses were having windows replaced with triple glazing to improve energy efficiency.

Regarding replacing gas boiler at which were at the end of their life it was going to be on a case by case basis which was part of the decarbonisation strategy. Heat source pumps were not always the solution and no commitment was made to put heat pumps in every home. It was up to people who they have their homes,

efficiencies can be made but if people like their homes hot the council have no control over that.

Solar panels on new developments were mentioned as part of the local plan, there was a target to have a small amount of solar on roofs around 10 or 20% but would have liked it to be more, some local authorities had done that and there was a conversation to have with planning colleagues. Sustainability needs to be at the heart of planning for future buildings, they would be high quality and energy efficient.

The climate dashboard was still available where figures could be drilled down and interrogate all the finer details.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the Climate Progress Report 2024-25

Voting: Unanimous

46. Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031 Update

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Regulatory Services 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.
Public Report

Homelessness continued to be one of the most significant challenges facing Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. Demand for assistance has risen sharply, driven by rising private rents, household income pressures and increasing complexity of need.

Progress has been made across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole which was not only measurable but human. The impact over the past five years, the partnership approach had transformed the way we responded to homelessness. We created more than 275 new support accommodation claim placements. The somewhere safe to say service continued to prevent people slipping into rough sleeping in the hardest moments.

Some of the most inspiring progress we made was in prevention work. We saw more than a 30% increase in prevention outcomes in the last year alone, keeping significantly more people in their homes and preventing crises before they unfold.

BCP had worked really closely with private landlords and enhanced the relationship to catch those issues, early services like let's talk, renting, youth, family support and enhanced triage meant that more households than ever were able to remain in their homes or find suitable alternatives.

There was a dramatic fall in the use of bed and breakfast accommodation from over 140 families in B & B's for well over the statutory 6 week limit to over a year of no families in B & B's for over 6 weeks.

This was noted as good work but there was still work to do there were still families in who were struggling which was why the strategy was important.

The strategy had been very well consulted on with various partners and people with lived experience. The things that were stated that mattered the most were even earlier intervention, stronger integration with health and wellbeing services and compassionate and consistent support.

The strategy set out a clear hopeful direction in which homelessness in BCP became rare, brief and unrepeated. BCP were committed to changing the narrative around homelessness, challenging stigma and building empathy.

The Chair reported that the Chair of Health and Adult Social Care O & S reported to him that it was quite high level and didn't seem mention mental health support. That ensuring that those with mental health or medical conditions were an essential part of helping people with homelessness and rough sleeping. The Chair agreed that there was not a lot of detail around the homelessness and rough sleeping and was there any scope to include that with the document. It was stated that there was a lot of mentions of health and there had been a constant push from the partnership, partners and organisations.

The delivery plan would be evolved over time and within that health colleagues would help shape some contents and contents of the delivery. Regarding rough sleeping, the committee were informed that every week there was a multidisciplinary team of organisations including health, social care, housing and voluntary and community sector each week. Rough sleeping only constituted less than 10% of people that are homeless or impacted by homelessness. The delivery plan for the strategy would look at not only health but wider groups of people, families and other single adults.

There were a number of people in locked in bed and breakfast currently both single people and couples because it was really difficult to find the correct solutions to move them onto.

It was reported that success was more in the human stories, there were some people who had been sleeping on the streets for years and years and the team continued and helped to try and engage and after a long period of time and the team managed to get them into homes, get jobs and get them back on their feet. It was also to try to reduce rough sleeping as low as possible, maintaining families out of B & B for long periods and to try and reduce the stigma and the attitudes towards people who are homeless.

RESOLVED that

Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

i) endorse the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026–2031 and consider any further improvements ahead of consideration at Cabinet in May 2026

1. ii) **supports the co-production of the Delivery Plan with people who have lived experience and through a working group of Homelessness Delivery Board members.**
2. iii) **consider how future updates of this area of work might be considered for scrutiny.**
3. **The Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee may wish to consider this item with the delivery plan as part of their work planning.**
4. **This item to come to E & P committee to see progress in the future.**

Voting: Unanimous

47. Work Plan

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

The Chair informed the committee that the van life briefing had been rescheduled from 18 March to the 15 April which allowed further evidence to be gathered.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirmed the work plan ahead of the scheduled work planning session.

Voting: Unanimous

48. Corporate Performance Report Q2

The Chair 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.

This report was an audit item and for information only to track data and progress.

The meeting ended at 7.48 pm

CHAIRMAN

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