

**BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE SHADOW AUTHORITY
19 December 2018**

PRESENT:

Councillor	Authority	Councillor	Authority
Janet Abbott	Christchurch	May Haines	Poole
Mark Anderson	Bournemouth	Paul Hilliard	Christchurch
Elaine Atkinson	Poole	Mark Howell	Poole
Stephen Bartlett	Bournemouth	Mohan Iyengar	Poole
Claire Bath	Christchurch	Patricia Jamieson	Christchurch
John Beesley	Bournemouth	David Jones *	Christchurch
Philip Broadhead	Bournemouth	David Jones *	Dorset
Mike Brooke	Poole	Denise Jones	Christchurch
David Brown	Poole	Jane Kelly	Bournemouth
Judy Butt	Poole	David Kelsey	Bournemouth
John Challinor	Poole	Roger Marley	Bournemouth
Ian Clark	Bournemouth	Frederick Neale	Christchurch
Eddie Coope	Bournemouth	David Newell	Poole
Blair Crawford	Bournemouth	Jane Newell	Poole
Bernie Davis	Christchurch	Ray Nottage - Chairman	Christchurch
Norman Decent	Bournemouth	Pat Oakley	Bournemouth
Lesley Dedman *	Christchurch	Susan Phillips	Bournemouth
Lesley Dedman *	Dorset	Margaret Phipps *	Christchurch
David d'Orton-Gibson	Bournemouth	Margaret Phipps *	Dorset
Jackie Edwards	Bournemouth	Ian Potter	Poole
Malcolm Farrell	Poole	Karen Rampton	Poole
Laurence Fear	Bournemouth	Lisle Smith	Christchurch
Anne Filer	Bournemouth	Philip Stanley-Watts	Bournemouth
Michael Filer	Bournemouth	Ray Tindle	Poole
Sean Gabriel	Poole	Ann Stribley - Vice-Chair	Poole
Mike Greene	Bournemouth	Chris Wakefield	Bournemouth
Nicola Greene	Bournemouth	Janet Walton	Poole
Vishal Gupta	Poole	Mike White	Poole
Andy Hadley	Poole	Kieron Wilson	Bournemouth

* Denotes a Councillor of Christchurch Borough Council and Dorset County Council and a Member of the Shadow Authority in respect of both.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Shadow Authority, 19 December 2018

Note: To see a copy of the public reports that were considered by the Committee at this meeting please visit:

<https://moderngov.bcpshadowauthority.com/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=166&Ver=4>

21. APOLOGIES

The Designated Interim Monitoring Officer read out the following apologies which had been received for the meeting:

Councillor	Authority
Sue Anderson	Bournemouth
Simon Bull	Bournemouth
Colin Bungey	Christchurch
Les Burden	Poole
Sally Derham Wilkes	Christchurch
Xena Dion	Poole
Mike Fisher	Poole
David Flagg	Christchurch
Tavis Fox	Christchurch
Andy Garner-Watts	Poole
Wendy Grace	Christchurch
Peter Hall	Christchurch
Vikki Hallam	Christchurch
Nigel Hedges	Bournemouth
Andy Jones	Bournemouth
Chris Mayne	Bournemouth
Andrew Morgan	Bournemouth
Sandra Moore	Poole
Ron Parker	Poole
Marion Pope	Poole
Lynda Price	Bournemouth
John Rampton	Poole
Allister Russell	Bournemouth
Louise Russell	Poole
Vikki Slade	Poole
Susan Spittle	Christchurch
Rae Stollard	Bournemouth
John Trickett	Bournemouth
Trevor Watts	Christchurch
Michael Weinhonig	Bournemouth
Mike Wilkins	Poole
Lawrence Williams	Bournemouth
Graham Wilson	Poole
Lindsay Wilson	Poole

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Shadow Authority, 19 December 2018

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made for transparency purposes:

- Councillor David Brown in respect of agenda item 8d declared that he is Chairman and Trustee of the Kinson Community Centre.
- Councillor Janet Abbott in respect agenda item 8 declared that she is a Trustee of the Mudeford Community Centre.

23. PUBLIC ISSUES

The Chairman reported that no public questions or statements had been submitted for this meeting.

24. MINUTES

DECISION MADE:

That the minutes of the Shadow Authority held on 17 October 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

25. RECORD OF DECISIONS

DECISION MADE:

That the minutes of the following meetings be received and noted:

- Shadow Executive Committee - 17 October and 7 November
- Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 11 October and 1 November

26. CONSISTENT COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS

The Shadow Authority considered a report requesting its approval to implement consistent Council Tax Discounts across the conurbation. Councillor Beesley outlined the proposals explaining that they would have the effect of bringing Christchurch in line with Bournemouth and Poole. He reported on the priority to bring empty properties back into use. Councillor John Beesley moved the recommendations as set out in the report and was seconded by Councillor May Haines.

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Shadow Authority, 19 December 2018

Members discussed the implications of the proposals on local residents which included the following comments:

- concern about the detrimental effect that recommendations 1 & 2 would have on Christchurch residents.
- support for the policy to bring properties back into use whilst seeking clarification on the definition of an unfurnished property.
- opposing the proposals that were indicative of how the new authority would deal with Christchurch.
- seeking clarification if a property was gutted by fire and a resident moved into another property would there be discretion for officers to deal with such situations. Councillor Beesley confirmed that would be the case in those circumstances.
- highlighting that the policy was both fair and equitable.
- supporting the need for consistency.
- seeking clarification on the application of the proposed percentages.

Officers explained how the 100% applied to furnished and unoccupied/unfurnished properties and the period after which the higher percentage would be effective.

Members referred to the impact of empty properties on communities and the need to house the most vulnerable. A Member highlighted the use of empty properties rather than building on the green belt.

DECISION MADE:

The Shadow Authority:

1. Approves that from the 1 April 2019 that no Council Tax Discounts will be provided in respect of vacant dwellings including properties undergoing major repairs or structural alterations across the new BCP Unitary Authority.
2. Notes that such a decision will amend the policy operated in Christchurch but will be consistent with the policy currently operated in Bournemouth and Poole.
3. Approves that the current 50% Empty Homes Premium as applied currently across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole will be increased to a 100% premium from 1 April 2019.
4. Approves that a 200% premium on properties left empty for more than five years will be applied on the 1 April 2020.
5. Approves that a 300% premium on properties left empty for more than ten years will be applied on the 1 April 2021.

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Shadow Authority, 19 December 2018

(Note: Recommendations 1 and 2 were voted on first followed by 3, 4 and 5)

27. CONSISTENT LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME (LCTSS)

The Shadow Authority considered a report which requested approval to implement a consistent Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS) across the conurbation.

The proposed scheme;

- slightly amends the current policies of Bournemouth and Poole to be in line with the latest good practice and amends the Christchurch policy to ensure conurbation-wide consistency.
- ensures that every person considered vulnerable remains protected.
- has been put together in reflection of a public consultation exercise undertaken across the three predecessor councils in September and October 2018.

Councillor Beesley in presenting the report outlined the detail of the scheme and emphasised that vulnerable groups remain protected. He explained that funding would be set aside for such groups with helpful and supportive advice from Officers. The scheme which was well thought out provided consistency across the BCP area.

Councillor Beesley moved the recommendations as set out in the report and was seconded by Councillor May Haines.

Members discussed the implications of the proposals which included the following comments:

- A Christchurch Member, whilst noting recommendation, 1 explained that she was not able to support recommendation 2 as Christchurch residents would be paying more, explaining that it was a shame that it was not being introduced through harmonisation. Councillor Beesley explained that it was necessary to establish the scheme across the whole authority area.
- Full support for the scheme which had been looked at in great detail together with the financial implications for residents on a weekly basis.
- The need to ensure that residents receive as much information as possible on the scheme.
- Outlining how the scheme was introduced in Poole and the implications of the percentage increases which had been applied, the need to protect vulnerable groups and apply the proposed scheme consistently across the BCP area.
- The proposal to achieve consistency across the BCP area which was supported whilst emphasising that those in authority had shown the same approach to harmonisation.

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Shadow Authority, 19 December 2018

- Concern about the impact on the most vulnerable residents. Some Members felt that local residents in Christchurch would be compromised. A Member highlighted the need to ensure that advice and support was provided to residents throughout the process.
- A Member, in referring to the approach undertaken in Poole, was satisfied that the mitigations were sufficient and would support the proposals.

Following Members' agreement officers were asked to comment on the practical arrangements. Officers explained that the aim was to achieve alignment and support residents through the change. Members were informed that those that had reached pensionable age would be protected.

DECISION MADE:

The Shadow Authority:

1. Notes that under these proposals, Council Tax Support applicants or their partners in receipt of one of the following, will continue to be protected:
 - Disability Premium
 - Enhanced Disability Premium
 - Severe Disability Premium
 - Disabled Child Premium
 - Carer Premium
 - Support component within the ESA
 - War Disablement Pension
 - War Widow Pension
 - War Widows Disablement Pension or
 - Universal Credit recipients, who are not pensioners, but the applicant or their partner is in receipt of an income or premium listed above
2. Agrees that the amendments to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme as set out in paragraph 9 of the report be implemented from 1 April 2019.

(Note: The above recommendations were dealt with separately)

28. COUNCIL TAX - TAX BASE 2019/20 AND BOURNEMOUTH NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEF SCHEME

The Shadow Authority considered a report which calculated and presented the proposed Council Tax Base for council tax setting purposes in line with current legislation and guidance. The report also sought extension of Bournemouth Borough Council's current National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) discretionary scheme to March 2021.

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Shadow Authority, 19 December 2018

Councillor Beesley in presenting the report explained the annual requirement to set a Council Tax Base. Members were informed that there was a requirement to maintain three separate Council Tax bases for Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch until the Council Tax Band D charge was harmonised for the new authority. Councillor Beesley moved the recommendations set out in the report and was seconded by Councillor Haines.

DECISION MADE:

The Shadow Authority:

1. approves the report for the calculation of the Council's Tax Bases for the year 2019/20;
2. pursuant to the report, and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 as amended, agrees the amount calculated as the Council Tax Base for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council is split for the year 2019/20 as Bournemouth 63,723, Christchurch 20,494 and Poole 57,555.
3. agrees to a delegation to the interim Chief Financial Officer for the BCP Shadow Authority to make any minor amendments should they be required
4. agrees to extend the existing Bournemouth NNDR Discretionary Relief awards set out in paragraphs 8-10 until March 2021.

29. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS FOR BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH & POOLE COUNCIL

The Shadow Authority considered a report on the appointment of the Tier 2 Directors. The process for four of the five roles concluded on 28 November 2018 with the Senior Appointments Committee agreeing that the Shadow Authority be recommended to appoint to the Director roles as set out in the report.

Councillor Janet Walton moved and Councillor Philip Broadhead seconded the following:

1. That the Shadow Authority approves the appointment of Jan Thurgood as the Director of Adult Social Care, and as the statutory Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) under Section 2 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
2. That the Shadow Authority approves the appointment of Bill Cotton as the Director of Regeneration and Economy.
3. That the Shadow Authority approves the appointment of Kate Ryan as the Director of Environment and Community.
4. That the Shadow Authority approves the appointment of Julian Osgathorpe as the Director of Resources.

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Shadow Authority, 19 December 2018

5. That the Shadow Authority delegates authority to the LGR HR Workstream Lead to undertake the necessary HR processes in order to implement these recommendations and to agree the date from which these decisions take effect.
6. That the Shadow Authority delegates authority to the Head of Paid Service to approve appointments to Tier 3 roles, with the exception of the Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer which require Shadow Authority approval under the Constitution.
7. That the Shadow Authority approves the salary range of £120,000 - £140,000 based on the Independent evaluation carried out by Korn Ferry Hay Group.

Councillor Walton highlighted the rigorous process which had been undertaken in respect of the Tier 2 appointments and the remaining appointment that was required for the Director of Children's Services. Councillor Broadhead in seconding the above move reported that he was satisfied with the process which had been robust and supported the outcome which secured the Tier 2 appointments.

DECISION MADE:

That the recommendations as set out above be approved.

Note: Councillor Stephen Bartlett wished to be recorded as abstaining from the decision at 2 above.

30. SHADOW AUTHORITY NOMINATION TO WESSEX REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE

The Shadow Authority was advised that the membership composition of the above Committee was varied and became effective from 26 November 2018 in line with the relevant Regulations to reflect the two new Shadow Authorities.

The Shadow Authority was asked to appoint a member and a deputy to cover the transition period to 31 March 2019.

Councillor Mark Anderson moved and Councillor Mohan Iyengar seconded that Councillor David Kelsey be appointed as the Member with Councillor John Rampton as the deputy.

DECISION MADE:

That the above appointment be agreed.

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Shadow Authority, 19 December 2018

31. NOTICE OF MOTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURE RULE 10

Members were advised that no motions had been received in accordance with procedure rule 10.

32. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE SHADOW AUTHORITY

The following questions from Members were put and answered:

- Councillor Paul Hilliard on Council Tax. Councillor John Beesley responded to the question and a supplementary.
- Councillor Philip Stanley-Watts on various bodies. Councillor Nicola Greene responded to the question.

The questions and responses to the original questions are attached at Appendix A to these minutes.

The meeting closed at 8.02 pm.

Contact: Karen Tompkins, Head of Democratic Services Bournemouth and Poole
☎ 01202 451255 ✉ karen.tompkins@bournemouth.gov.uk
Website: www.bournemouth.gov.uk

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Shadow Authority, 19 December 2018

Appendix A

Question to Councillor John Beesley, Vice-Chairman of the Shadow Executive Chairman of the Finance Task & Finish Group

In the November Shadow Executive meeting pack under item 7 'Parliamentary Orders update' there was a table showing the planned council tax modelling for 2019 to 2026.

It shows that from day one of the new BCP Council Christchurch residents will be paying £164.09 more than Poole residents. It also shows that Bournemouth residents will also be paying considerably more than Poole.

How can the new Council justify that the vast majority of residents will be treated unequal and see no additional benefits or services for their contributions?

Councillor Paul Hilliard

Reply from Cllr John Beesley, Vice-Chairman of the Shadow Executive and Chairman of the Finance Task & Finish Group:-

Firstly, can I highlight that there was a further update to the table referred to as part of the Consolidated Medium Term Financial Plan Update report to the Shadow Executive on 12 December 2018.

The update reflects the further progress that has been made before the final arrangements are included in the first Budget report of the new Council.

This reflects clarification around the timing of the precepts for Chartered Trustees in Bournemouth and Poole, and the decision by Christchurch Council, on behalf of their residents, to establish two new Town Councils and to accept on behalf of their residents the associated precepts from 2019/20.

The difference in Council Tax for a Band D property between Poole and Christchurch prior to the start of the new Authority is currently calculated as £156.77. The difference between Poole and Bournemouth is in fact not that considerable at just 2.2%. This is because Council Tax in both Bournemouth and Poole has been consistently and considerably lower than in Christchurch for many years.

The Shadow Executive has worked hard on developing its Council Tax Harmonisation Strategy. Our local preference is that;

- No Borough's council tax level will rise at a rate exceeding the Government's referendum limits; and

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Shadow Authority, 19 December 2018

- The absolute level of Council Tax levied in Christchurch in respect of the unitary authority is frozen until the new harmonised rate is applied. This is proposed to occur in the seventh year.

Residents can take the Secretary of State's recent endorsement of our local preference as assurance that he does not believe any resident is being treated unfairly.

It should be borne in mind that under the existing arrangements, the level of Council Tax for Christchurch residents would have been expected to increase by up to the referendum limit every year. However, the services previously provided to Christchurch residents have been broadly the same as those in Bournemouth and Poole, but at a higher cost to Christchurch Council Tax payers.

The proposals from April 2019 mean that the level of Council Tax for Christchurch residents will be frozen for up to six years, rather than increasing further, which was expected to occur had the two-tier structure been maintained. This also means that after the six years of frozen Council Tax, increases will start from a lower base, thereby saving money for Christchurch residents in perpetuity compared to what would otherwise have been the case.

19 December 2018

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Shadow Authority, 19 December 2018

Question to Councillor Nicola Greene, Member of the Shadow Executive Committee

With the item on the agenda will there be a flood and a coastal advisory board/tree strategy group on the new authority.

Councillor Philip Stanley-Watts

Response from Councillor Nicola Greene, Member of the Shadow Executive

I will add it to the long list of issues for the Governance Task and Finish Group.

19 December 2019