

**BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**30 January 2018**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Janet Walton	Borough of Poole - Chair
Councillor John Beesley	Bournemouth Borough Council - Vice-Chair
Councillor David Flagg	Christchurch Borough Council - Vice-Chair
Councillor Philip Broadhead	Bournemouth Borough Council
Councillor David Brown	Borough of Poole
Councillor John Challinor	Borough of Poole
Councillor Blair Crawford	Bournemouth Borough Council
Councillor Mike Greene	Bournemouth Borough Council
Councillor Nicola Greene	Bournemouth Borough Council
Councillor May Haines	Borough of Poole
Councillor Trish Jamieson	Christchurch Borough Council
Councillor Jane Kelly	Bournemouth Borough Council
Councillor Robert Lawton	Bournemouth Borough Council
Councillor Drew Mellor	Borough of Poole
Councillor Pat Oakley	Bournemouth Borough Council
Councillor Margaret Phipps	Dorset County Council
Councillor Karen Rampton	Borough of Poole

**OFFICERS:**

Andrew Flockhart, Chief Executive, Borough of Poole  
David McIntosh, Chief Executive, Christchurch and East Dorset Councils  
Jane Portman, Managing Director, Bournemouth Borough Council  
Tanya Coulter, Service Director, Legal and Democratic & Monitoring Officer

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am

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

<https://bcpjointcommittee.wordpress.com/meetings/>

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**12. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Beverley Dunlop - Bournemouth Borough Council, Councillors Deborah Croney and Councillor David Jones - Dorset County Council (it was noted that Councillor Jones may arrive later). Named Substitute Members, Councillor Pat Oakley - Bournemouth Borough Council and Councillor Margaret Phipps - Dorset County Council were in attendance.

An apology for absence was also received from Debbie Ward - Chief Executive, Dorset County Council.

A Member reported that the website publishing the meeting indicated that it started at 10 am. Officers confirmed that they would check the website and amend accordingly.

**13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interests by Joint Committee Members.

**14. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**DECISION MADE:**

That the minutes of the meeting on 15 January 2018, be confirmed.

**15. PUBLIC ISSUES - DEPUTATIONS/QUESTIONS/PETITIONS**

The Joint Committee was advised that no deputations, questions or petitions had been submitted for this meeting.

**16. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS/COMMITTEES**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Ron Parker to the meeting to present the following recommendations/comments of the Borough of Poole Business Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee:

- (i) A timeline that sets out each stage of the Local Boundary Review process be produced and circulated to all Elected Members should the Secretary of State approve the creation of a new Unitary Authority for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

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Comments

It is acknowledged that even with the Secretary of State's approval, a full Boundary Review may not take place and the contingency, as detailed in the report to the Joint Committee today, may need to be relied upon instead.

- (ii) When the five year predicted Electoral Forecasts that are required for a Full Boundary Review are available, they are distributed to all Elected Members and published in the public domain.

Comments

Sub-Committee Members have requested these figures in order for them to analyse the projected growth of the electorate over the next five years and to ensure that no Political Group is at a disadvantage during the Local Boundary Review consultation period, should a review be undertaken. It was acknowledged by Sub-Committee Members that these figures could not be relied upon entirely as they were only projected.

- (iii) The four year election cycle, as currently used by the existing Unitary Authorities, remain in place.

Comments

As the Structural Change Order sets out that the new Authority should be recognised as a District Council with County Functions, there is no reason to switch to a County Electoral Cycle

The Joint Committee was then advised of the following recommendation of the Bournemouth Council's Electoral Arrangements O&S Working Group (LGR/Shared Services O&S Panel):

That the Joint Committee be advised that Bournemouth O&S members had considered report 6 of the Joint Committee papers, 'Electoral Arrangements for Structural Change Order - Report of the Task and Finish Group', and supported the recommendations within.

**DECISION MADE:**

That the above recommendations be referred to the Electoral Arrangements Task and Finish Group with any recommendations referred back to the Joint Committee.

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**17. ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR STRUCTURAL CHANGE ORDER  
- REPORT OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

The Joint Committee considered a report of the Task and Finish Group circulated at '6'. The report detailed the Task and Finish Group's responses and recommendations regarding outstanding issues relating to the Structural Change Order and in respect of matters concerning the size of the Council and other aspects of the electoral arrangements which had to be included within the Order.

Councillor Flagg, Chairman of the Task and Finish Group, reported that the intention of the MHCLG was that a full boundary review would be undertaken. He explained that as a fall back position the proposed option detailed in column two of Appendix A attached to the report setting out electoral arrangements be recommended for inclusion in the Order.

The Chairman then read out the recommendations as detailed in the report.

**DECISION MADE:**

That the Joint Committee:

1. Agrees the recommendations made by the Task and Finish Group as set out in the report in respect of the size and warding arrangements of the new council to be included in the Structural Change Order.
2. Authorises the Chief Executives and Managing Director, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chairs, to submit the required information to MHCLG regarding council size and five year forecasts.
3. Notes that the Electoral Arrangements Task and Finish Group will consider matters relating to the boundary review referred to in previous reports at its next meeting in February 2018, and will further update the Joint Committee on this work at future meetings.

**18. THE STRUCTURAL CHANGE ORDER - UPDATE**

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive, Borough of Poole, circulated at '7'. The report summarised the decisions made at previous meetings by the Joint Committee which related to the Structural Change Order, provided an update on advice and asked Members to confirm the decisions before they were submitted on 31 January 2018 to the MHCLG for its consideration. The report also drew the Joint Committee's attention to a decision made by the Dorset Area Joint Committee about the electoral cycle for the new Dorset Council.

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The Chief Executive highlighted the decisions made by the Joint Committee on the Order detailed at paragraph 2 of the report. He indicated that the Service Director Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer would provide clarification on these decisions where necessary. The Chief Executive reported that the MHCLG had now confirmed that as the Executive Committee of the Shadow Authority was an executive body there was no requirement for minority party representation on the Executive.

The Joint Committee was advised that the Dorset Area Committee had agreed that the new Dorset Council should hold all out elections based upon the County electoral cycle of 5 years. The Chief Executive asked if the Joint Committee wanted to change the electoral cycle from what was currently assumed.

The Service Director, Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer provided clarification in respect of 2v of the report which stated that the Shadow Authority and Executive Committee will operate with Bournemouth Council's constitution and standing orders. She explained that the Shadow Authority and Executive Committee would operate based on Bournemouth's constitution and standing orders which would be adapted accordingly. The Service Director reported that the legal status of the new authority referred to in 2vii of the report would be a District Council with County Powers.

A Member representing Dorset County Council referred to paragraph 3i of the report which she explained had been brought forward following a question to the Joint Committee. She asked how the Shadow Executive would engage with 'co-opted members'. The Service Director, Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer reported that this would be a matter for the Shadow Executive and indicated that the working practices would be contained in protocols and sit with the Constitution. Members were advised that this would form part of the next phase of work. A Member of the Committee referred to the Disaggregation Task and Finish Group which would meet next week and establish the disaggregation principles.

The Chairman read out the recommendations as detailed in the report asking the Committee to confirm its views relating to the electoral cycle.

**DECISION MADE:**

That the Joint Committee:

1. Confirms its decisions made at previous meetings which relate to issues in the Structural Change Order before they are submitted on 31 January to the MHCLG for its consideration.

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2. Notes the further advice received from the MHCLG.
3. Notes and confirms the four year electoral cycle for the new council in the light of the decision made by the Dorset Area Joint Committee.
4. Delegates authority to the Chief Executives and Managing Director in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Joint Committee to make any further urgent decisions required as to the content of the SCO should MHCLG require further input on the final draft.

Note:

Councillor David Brown requested that his abstention from the decisions at 1-4 above be recorded.

The meeting closed at 9.50 am.

Contact: Karen Tompkins, Head of Democratic Services  
☎ 01202 451255 ✉ [karen.tompkins@bournemouth.gov.uk](mailto:karen.tompkins@bournemouth.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.bournemouth.gov.uk](http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk)