

**BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE JOINT COMMITTEE  
21 February 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 Deborah Croney	Dorset County Council
Councillor Anne Filer	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 David Jones	Dorset County Council
Councillor Jane Kelly	Bournemouth Borough Council
Councillor Drew Mellor	Borough of Poole
Councillor Pat Oakley	Bournemouth Borough 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  
Debbie Ward, Chief Executive, Dorset County Council  
Julian Osgathorpe, Joint Executive Director, Corporate Services  
Tanya Coulter, Joint Service Director, Legal and Democratic & Monitoring Officer  
Adam Richens, Joint Service Director, Strategic Finance & Section 151 Officer  
Saskia De Vries, Joint Service Director, Human Resources and Organisational Development  
Sarah Longdon, LGR Programme Manager

The meeting commenced at 10.04 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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**19. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beverley Dunlop and Robert Lawton - Bournemouth Borough Council. Named Substitute Members, Councillors Anne Filer and Pat Oakley - Bournemouth Borough Council were in attendance.

**20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

For transparency purposes, the Joint Service Director, Legal and Democratic & Monitoring Officer reported that the three Chief Officers for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole would leave the room during the consideration of item 9 on the agenda, at clause 27 below. Although reference was made within the report to Executive Directors and Statutory Officers, they would remain present to advise the Joint Committee as necessary.

**21. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**DECISION MADE:**

That the minutes of the meeting on 30 January 2018, be confirmed.

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

The Joint Committee was advised that no public questions, deputation requests or petitions had been received for this meeting of the Joint Committee.

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

- a. Christchurch Borough Council - Scrutiny and Policy Overview Committee - 9 January 2018.

The Chair welcomed Councillor David Jones, Vice-Chairman of the Christchurch Borough Council Scrutiny and Policy Overview Committee to present the minutes of the meeting on 9 January 2018. In presenting the minutes, Councillor Jones extended an invitation to the Chairman and Vice-

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Chairs to attend any future special meetings of the Committee. The Chair highlighted that given the retrospective nature of the minutes, they would be referred to the Programme Board for consideration.

The minutes of this Committee can be viewed at the following link:-

[Christchurch Borough Council - Scrutiny and Policy Overview Committee - 9 January 2018](#)

- b. Borough of Poole - Business Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee - 19 February 2018

The Chair welcomed Councillor Ron Parker, Chairman of the Borough of Poole Business Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee to present recommendations arising from the meeting on 19 February 2018.

The full representation made to the Joint Committee can be viewed at the following link:-

[Borough of Poole - Business Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee - 19 February 2018](#)

**DECISION MADE:**

1. That the minutes of the Christchurch Borough Council Scrutiny and Policy Overview Committee on 9 January 2018, be noted and referred to the Programme Board for consideration.
2. That the following action be taken in respect of the recommendations of the Borough of Poole Business Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 19 February 2018:-
  - i) That this recommendation be referred to the Programme Board.
  - ii) That this recommendation be taken into account in considering item 9 on this agenda at clause 27 of these minutes.
  - iii) That this recommendation be taken into account in considering item 8 on this agenda at clause 26 of these minutes.

**24. PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Programme Director, circulated at '6'. The report provided an overview of programme activity undertaken on behalf of the Joint Committee. The Programme Director introduced the report and drew attention to recommendation three, alongside paragraphs 11-13. Although to date a final decision had not been made by the

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Secretary of State, any further delay in undertaking the planning and mobilisation of Phase 2 of the programme was likely to significantly increase the risk of a lack of service continuity during the transition from the preceding authorities to the new unitary authority.

In response to one Member's questions in relation to the resourcing implications of Phase 2, the Programme Director informed the Joint Committee that to date all work had been managed within existing resources. The expectation would be for the planning of Phase 2 to continue on that basis. The incremental cost of Phase 2 would be reported back to future Joint Committee meetings to consider any additional resource implications.

**DECISION MADE:**

1. That the progress made since the last Joint Committee on approved workstreams, be noted.
2. That the proposed activity to progress approved workstreams in the lead up to the next Joint Committee, be noted.
3. That the planning and mobilisation for Phase 2 of the BCP Programme, be agreed to start.

**25. STRUCTURAL CHANGE ORDER**

The Joint Committee considered a verbal update from the Chief Executive, Borough of Poole on progress made with the Structural Change Order since the last meeting of the Joint Committee. The following two key issues were noted:-

- No final decision had been confirmed by the Secretary of State and therefore the Structural Change Order had not yet been presented to Parliament.
- In response to the Joint Committee's proposals relating to the Structural Change Order, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) had identified the imposition of the following arrangements, contrary to the Joint Committee proposals:-
  - 125 Members of the Shadow Authority, to include the current five Dorset County Council Members in the area covering Christchurch.
  - 1 Christchurch Borough Council representative on the Shadow Executive.
  - 1 Dorset County Council representative from the area of Christchurch on the Shadow Executive.

The Joint Committee noted that the initial proposals had identified 120 Members of the Shadow Authority, with 2 Christchurch Borough Council representatives on the Shadow Executive. The proposals for 8 Bournemouth

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Borough Council and 6 Borough of Poole representatives on the Shadow Executive remained unchanged.

In response to questions relating to Dorset County Council Members on the Shadow Authority, Officers confirmed that all 5 current Members were also Members of Christchurch Borough Council and therefore in practice would have 2 separate seats and associated votes on the Shadow Authority.

Further concerns were expressed in relation to the impact on various timescales and workstreams. The Chief Executive, Borough of Poole highlighted that MHCLG had confirmed that the Parliamentary timetable would not be impacted, however the timetable at a local level continued to create risks that were monitored by the Joint Committee in the Programme Update reports. One Member highlighted that the proposal could experience considerable opposition in Parliament which could impact on the timetable.

A number of Members expressed their disappointment in the decision of the MHCLG, given the experience and expertise of the two Christchurch Borough Council representatives on the Joint Committee.

In response to concerns relating to twin-hatted Christchurch Members having votes in both their capacity as a Dorset County Council and a Christchurch Borough Council Member, the Chief Executive, Dorset County Council highlighted this as a common issue in the County of Dorset with other District and Borough Councils. It would be a matter for each individual Member how they voted.

The Chair of the Task and Finish Group on the Structural Change Order moved the adoption of a proposal, seconded by the Christchurch Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee, for the Chair and Vice-Chairs to formally write to the MHCLG to express frustration at the imposition of the new arrangements and to strongly request that the decision be reviewed.

**DECISION MADE:**

That the Chair and Vice-Chairs of this Joint Committee formally write to the MHCLG to express frustration at the proposed changes to the Structural Change Order and to strongly request that the decision be reviewed.

Notes:-

Councillor David Jones requested that his dissent from the decision above, be recorded.

Following the meeting and the Secretary of State's final decision that he intends to implement the Future Dorset proposals, MHCLG confirmed that the Structural Change Order would now include the following composition of the

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Shadow Executive, in accordance with the Joint Committee's original proposals:-

- 8 Members of Bournemouth Borough Council
- 6 Members of the Borough of Poole
- 2 Members of Christchurch Borough Council

The composition of the Shadow Authority would remain as amended by MHCLG as 125 Members, including the Dorset County Council Members for the area covering Christchurch.

**26. DISAGGREGATION UPDATE**

The Joint Committee considered a report by the Programme Manager, circulated at '8'. The report outlined progress with the work to review the Dorset County Council services provided in Christchurch. The Chief Executive, Dorset County Council, introduced the report and highlighted the work of the Task and Finish Group to date. Although there had been some challenges and consequential delays to the service disaggregation aspect of the workstream, it was reported that these had been rectified and progress was back on track. The Joint Committee noted that weekly scrutiny was undertaken at an Officer level in the style of performance monitoring, using a Red/Amber/Green (RAG) rating system. A further meeting of the Task and Finish Group would take place following this meeting of the Joint Committee to look at service areas in more detail. Further to the service disaggregation aspect of the workstream, all three other areas were on track as follows:-

- Assets and liabilities for Dorset County Council associated with Christchurch.
- Budget allocations.
- Staffing disaggregation from the East Dorset and Christchurch Partnership.

A number of Members highlighted the frustrations in the delay to this workstream given the tight timescales associated with the wider Future Dorset programme. Given that absolute confidence would be required in the final findings of the workstream, Members encouraged a standing item on each Joint Committee agenda to closely monitor disaggregation. As the complex and high risk areas of adults and children were upcoming, concerns were expressed that adequate resource was in place. In response to one Member's queries on additional resource, the Chief Executive, Dorset County Council, reassured the Joint Committee that resourcing implications and requirements for the workstream were under constant review.

Councillor David Jones moved the adoption of a proposal, seconded by Councillor David Brown, that the membership, terms of reference and where

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permissible under the Local Government Act 1972, the papers considered by the Joint Committee's Task and Finish Groups, be made publicly available. The Joint Service Director, Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer, highlighted that any papers would need to be considered on a case by case basis to determine if they contained any exempt or confidential information, however wherever possible they should be made available in the public domain. In response to comments on the publication of membership of all Task and Finish Groups, whilst the membership was already in the public domain, it was not in a consolidated position on the Joint Committee website and this could be undertaken in consultation with the programme and project teams.

A number of Members spoke against the proposal and highlighted that papers had already been published wherever possible, considering the levels of sensitivity with both staffing and information relating to vulnerable individuals. The Bournemouth Vice-Chair moved the adoption of an amendment to the proposal, seconded by Councillor Karen Rampton, that the Task and Finish Group on Disaggregation be asked to consider the matter of bringing forward the information considered at their Task and Finish Group meetings, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer. A number of Members confirmed their intention to support this amendment. Those Members that spoke against the amendment suggested that that this was an unnecessary amendment. The amendment was carried 14 votes to 4 and was then considered as the substantive proposal.

**DECISION MADE:**

1. That the progress of the disaggregation workstream, be noted.
2. That the Task and Finish Group on Disaggregation considers the matter of bringing forward the information considered at the Task and Finish Group meetings for publication, in consultation with the Joint Service Director, Legal and Democratic & Monitoring Officer.
3. That further to recommendation 2, the Chairman of the Task and Finish Group on Disaggregation reports back to this Joint Committee at the meeting on 20 March 2018.

Note:

Councillors David Brown and David Jones requested that their dissent from the decisions at 2 and 3 above be recorded.

**27. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OFFICER/HEAD OF PAID SERVICE -  
PROCESS AND SUPPORT**

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The Joint Committee considered a report by the Joint Service Director, Human Resources and Organisational Development, circulated at '9'. The report sought the Joint Committee's approval for the establishment of a Task and Finish Group to consider the approach to be taken to recruit a Chief Officer for the new Unitary Council. The Programme Director introduced the report and drew attention to key outcomes from the session with the Local Government Association (LGA) that took place on 15 January 2018. These key outcomes would set the scope for the first meeting of the proposed Task and Finish Group. One Member suggested that the Task and Finish Group should also have oversight of the direction and vision for the role of Chief Officer, not just the process for an appointment. This suggestion was supported by a number of Members, to ensure that expectations were clearly set for the ambitions of the new Unitary Council. Furthermore, it was suggested that the cost of the appointment process should be included in the scope for the work of the Task and Finish Group.

One Member strongly suggested that the appointment process did not include a ringfencing arrangement in respect of the current Chief Officers.

In considering the suggestion of widening the scope of the Group, the Bournemouth Vice-Chair highlighted that the Joint Committee's guiding principles for size of membership may need to be increased given the scale of the task.

**DECISION MADE:**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the creation of a Task and Finish Group to consider the approach to be taken to recruit a Chief Executive, Strategic/Executive Directors and Statutory Officers for a new Unitary Council, be agreed.
3. That the recommendations of the Borough of Poole Business Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee be referred to the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group.

Note:-

The Chief Officers of Bournemouth Borough Council, Christchurch and East Dorset Partnership and the Borough of Poole left the room for the duration of this item of business.

**28. FORWARD PLAN FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE**

**DECISION MADE:**

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That the Forward Plan be noted.

The meeting closed at 11.39 am.

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