

## Bournemouth-Christchurch-Poole Joint Committee

### Notes on meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

1. I attended this the eighth and potentially the last meeting of the Joint Committee at Bournemouth Council Offices. The number of members of the public attending was even lower than last time and apart from Sue Spittle, CBC Councillors were notable for their absence.
2. All the papers referred to can be found at <https://bcjointcommittee.wordpress.com/meetings/>
3. The meeting received a written report from the Christchurch Overview and Scrutiny Committee. They made some comments on the Shadow Authority Constitution and these were dealt with when that item was discussed
4. A written report with verbal commentary was received from Councillor Parker from Poole Scrutiny Committee who also made comment on the Shadow Authority Constitution and these were dealt with when that item was discussed
5. As this was probably the last meeting of this committee there was a great deal of everybody thanking and congratulating everybody else. I haven't repeated it throughout these notes.
6. **The first paper** concerned progress on the overall programme. There were no exceptional items. Phases 1 and 2 are on schedule and planning for Phase 3 has commenced. The paper was passed unanimously
7. **The second paper** concerned disaggregation. This project was described as now "moving at pace". 153 templates have been approved with only 15 more now outstanding. DCC were present and supported the "satisfactory progress" report. Remarks were made to the effect that much had been learned about "what goes on in Christchurch" – it was not clear whether they were positive, neutral or negative lessons. The paper was passed unanimously
8. **The third paper** concerned the progress of the Parliamentary Orders. The Structural Change Order was to be presented in the Commons and the Lords today (23<sup>rd</sup> May) and will if approved then be promptly signed by the Secretary of State. This means that the first meeting of the Shadow Authority will be brought forward to the first week in June to be held at the University. The Consequential Orders are scheduled to be approved by Parliament by 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The paper was passed unanimously
9. **The fourth paper** concerned Warding arrangements. The report gave a very thorough resume and recommended submission of the proposals to the Ministry and through them to the Boundaries Commission. This was passed with one abstention.
10. **The fifth paper** concerned the Shadow Authority Constitution and associated arrangements. This represents a huge piece of work which I'm not going to attempt to summarise. The discussion was constructive. The paper was carried unanimously.
11. **We then received a verbal report on Civic Functions (Mayors etc).** It was quite difficult to hear what was said in the report but I didn't detect any hidden problems.
12. **The sixth paper** concerned the Consolidated Medium Term Financial Plan. This represented another large piece of work which you must read for yourself if you want detail. It describes a Financial Strategy for the new authority as well as an aggregated budget. The 2019/20 funding gap is approximately £14 million with a further £12 million in 2020/21. Allowing for savings and an increase in Council Tax the forecast 2019/20 funding gap is £10.5 million assuming a six-year tax harmonisation period and £11.4 assuming a three-year period.
13. Councillor Flagg (Christchurch) again raised the issue of Council Tax harmonisation from day 1. As he read out his prepared question I experienced a surreal moment as he morphed into a

certain local MP before resuming his more usual visage. It was pointed out to him that a mathematical model based upon that assumption has been in the public domain for some time. The paper was passed by all except Christchurch, which recorded two votes against.

**Jim Biggin, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018**