

Bournemouth-Christchurch-Poole Joint Committee

Notes on meeting of 30th January 2018

1. I attended this fourth meeting of the Joint Committee at Poole Council Offices along with Cllr Sue Spittle.
2. All the papers referred to can be found at <https://bcjointcommittee.wordpress.com/meetings/>
3. The meeting received a verbal report from Poole Overview and Scrutiny Committee which was supportive of the Joint Committee. A similar written report had been submitted by Bournemouth Scrutiny Committee. No report had been received from Christchurch Scrutiny Committee. In conversation after the meeting I established that whilst Poole and Bournemouth are scrutinising events before the Joint Committee meets, Christchurch are scrutinising the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting – too late to have any effect.
4. **The first paper** concerned some detail to be included in the Structural Change Order.
 - 4.1. The first recommendation covered the size and warding arrangements of the new council. Currently the three areas Christchurch-Bournemouth-Poole have 101 Councillors: DCC- Christchurch 5; Bournemouth 54; Poole 42; making 101 in total. The proposal for the new unitary is: Christchurch 10 (up 5); Bournemouth 37 (down 17); Poole 29 (down 13); making 76 in all. The option proposed complies with statutory guidance and is a more positive position in terms of electoral equality than exists currently.
 - 4.2. The second recommendation authorised Chief Executives and Managing Director, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Committee, to submit required information to Central Government
 - 4.3. The third recommendation concerned the boundary review and promised future updates
5. The paper was passed unanimously
6. **The second paper** also concerned detail to be included in the structural change order.
 - 6.1. The first recommendation summarised decisions made at previous meetings of the Joint committee which will now be included in the structural change order. Amongst others, these include
 - 6.1.1. The name of the new authority in the Order will be Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. It will be a District Council with County functions
 - 6.1.2. A Shadow Authority will be established as a means for preparing for the new council. This Shadow Authority will not have any executive responsibilities in relation to the operation of the existing councils.
 - 6.1.3. The membership of the Shadow Authority will be all members of the councils of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. This is a membership of 120 comprising 54 Members from Bournemouth, 42 from Poole and 24 from Christchurch.
 - 6.1.4. The Executive Committee of the Shadow Authority will comprise 8 members from Bournemouth, 6 members from Poole and 2 members from Christchurch.
 - 6.2. The second recommendation noted advice received from Central Government to the effect that as the Executive Committee of the Shadow Authority is an executive body there is no requirement for minority party representation on the Executive
 - 6.3. The third recommendation related to the use of a four-year electoral cycle by the new unitary
 - 6.4. The fourth recommendation delegated authority Chief Executives and Managing Director, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Committee, to submit required information to Central Government
7. The paper was passed unanimously

8. The next meeting is at Bournemouth on 21st February 2018

Jim Biggin

30th January 2018