

Bournemouth-Christchurch-Poole Joint Committee

Notes on meeting of 21st February 2018

1. I attended this the fifth meeting of the Joint Committee at Bournemouth Council Offices along with Cllr Sue Spittle.
2. All the papers referred to can be found at <https://bcjointcommittee.wordpress.com/meetings/>
3. As a general observation, representatives continue to contribute primarily from a parochial standpoint. There is little evidence of a vision of a broader picture. Some of course are far worse than others.
4. The meeting received a verbal report from Councillor Jones representing the Christchurch Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Apparently, a written paper has been submitted to the Joint Committee and the points raised in it will be dealt with in due course.
5. We then heard from the Poole Business Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee who made three recommendations:
 - 5.1. A task group be set up to consider the final name of the new authority
 - 5.2. The appointment of a permanent Chief Executive should be made by the time the Shadow Authority takes over from the Joint Committee
 - 5.3. Disaggregation must be closely monitored – self-evident I would have thought
6. **The first paper** concerned progress on the overall programme.
 - 6.1. No decision yet from SOS. This will not, we are advised, affect the parliamentary timetable but could adversely impact the domestic timetable. A decision has been taken to implement Phase 2 of the programme without waiting for the formal green light.
 - 6.2. The Structural Change Order has been submitted to Whitehall. The Civil Servants have subsequently made changes to the Order. These affect the representation of Christchurch on various committees such as the Shadow Authority and the Shadow Executive. I need to see these changes in writing to form a reasoned view of their impact
 - 6.3. The committee voted in favour of writing a letter to the SOS expressing their frustration at the current state of affairs. This was approved by 17 to 1, Councillor Jones (DCC-CBC) being the vote against
7. **The second paper** concerned Disaggregation.
 - 7.1. This is proving to be a large, complex, thorny issue. They have decided to deal with the most complex issues first. I'm by no means certain that I personally would have taken that approach. Presumably they're hoping to create enough precedent that the less complex can be dealt with using a more mechanistic system.
 - 7.2. There clearly is a time squeeze and that must raise questions over resources deployed. It also raises the issue of enough time being devoted to understanding the issues, the outcomes, and the eventual proposals. There was agreement to put working papers into the public domain subject to usual caveats over individual and commercial sensitivities. A proposal to this effect was tabled by Councillor Jones (DCC-CBC) but subsequently amended by Councillor Beasley (Bournemouth). The amended proposal was approved 14 to 4, with the 4 against being the two CBC representatives, Councillor Jones and a Poole Councillor.
8. **The third paper** concerned the appointment of top tier officers for the new council. They agreed to set up a task and finish group to consider key issues and to propose a framework for the development of a recruitment process and timetable.
9. The next meeting is at Bournemouth on Tuesday 20th March 2018

Jim Biggin, 21st February 2018