

March 2025

Dear Resident,

I want to update you on some of the work we are doing to support local communities and make positive change across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

As a council we improve the lives of those who rely on us to be there when it matters. We keep children and vulnerable adults safe – that means children at risk of harm, older people, adults with disabilities, and those facing homelessness. When people have additional care needs, we help them live fulfilled, independent lives, whilst supporting those who care for friends and families. We fix the roads, collect bins and sweep up rubbish. We provide libraries, housing and work with our partners to make our communities safe. We invest in our highway infrastructure, cultural activities and create new homes and jobs for local people.

Just like you, we must live within our means when it comes to how we spend our money. In the last year we have delivered services within budget and that has meant making tough choices. More people rely on us for help and the cost of providing services continue to rise. We also need to cover the government's increase to the National Living Wage and employer's National Insurance contributions. Together, this has added almost £12million to the cost of delivering council services. To meet this demand, we will increase council tax by 4.99% which includes a 2% social care precept. Our council tax level remains low compared to other neighbouring councils of a similar size.

We have changed how we work and made almost £8million in savings for 2025/26 – on top of the £38million of savings already found in the current year. We have significantly reduced the number of families living in temporary accommodation – everyone deserves a place they can call home. Our Children's Services has jumped from an 'inadequate' Ofsted rating to 'good'; a huge achievement. We have a clean bill of health from government and are now known as a council with a culture built upon respect, trust and pride.

Like you we want our town centres and high streets to thrive. We've been working with partners to address issues you have raised; we are pleased that businesses are choosing our area as a place to invest and are excited to be one of four areas piloting a scheme bringing empty buildings back into use. I am proud of this work but know there's still more to do.

I look forward to working with and for you – our local communities.

Cllr Millie Earl

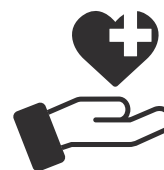
Leader of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council

# Budget 2025/26 visual summary

  
over  
**400,000**  
RESIDENTS

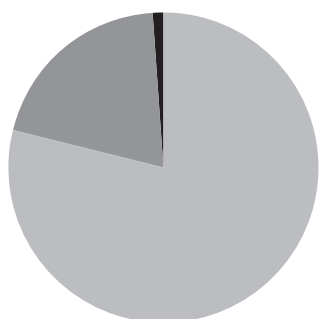
**16%**  
0-15 years

**22%**  
65+ years



**£356** million  
spent on  
**PUBLIC SERVICES**

## How your council services are funded



- 79%** Council Tax
- 20%** Business Rates
- 1%** Grants and New Homes Bonus

## BCP Council's budget of £356 million for 2025/26 is split as follows



**£127**  
million  
on adult social,  
public health and  
commissioning



**£11**  
million  
on customer services,  
libraries and culture



**£22**  
million  
on highways and  
infrastructure



**£77**  
million  
on children's services  
including social care,  
education, fostering  
and adoption



**(£19)**  
million  
generated by  
parking services



**£42**  
million  
on key council support,  
such as democratic  
and legal services,  
finance, HR and IT



**£64**  
million  
on environmental  
services such as  
street cleaning, waste  
and collections



**£10**  
million  
on housing and  
communities  
including safety  
and enforcement



**£23**  
million  
on corporate items –  
pay award, pensions,  
contingency, debt  
servicing



**£21**  
million  
on education  
and learning



**£4**  
million  
on planning and  
regeneration



**(£26)**  
million  
generated by seafront  
and leisure