

**Appendix B:
Borough of Poole Comments on the 'alternative proposal' of Christchurch
Borough Council as discussed at Full Council on 2nd January 2018**

We understand that Christchurch Borough Council is suggesting an 'alternative proposal' including a single unitary council for the Poole and Bournemouth area. I would like to make the following observations on behalf of the Borough of Poole on these proposals.

1. **There is no evidential basis for the 'alternative proposal'**, despite Christchurch Council having had a year in which to explore this. The Secretary of State will be aware that Christchurch Borough Council has been opposed to Future Dorset for a significant period of time and yet has not, until now, resolved to resource or commence any work on a business case with the requisite details, costs, savings, or stated benefits.
2. There is no statement of how the 'alternative proposal' meets the five established judgement criteria which are improved services for residents, a sustainable solution, stronger leadership, better value for money and efficiency and delivery of significant savings. Future Dorset has evidenced each of these criteria in detail.
3. **Both local government solutions offered within the 'alternative proposal' have been reviewed and discounted based on strong, detailed and robust evidence.**
4. We already know that the two-tier structure within the Dorset area is not sustainable. This fact was a key driver for the Future Dorset submission. Continuing with a two-tier structure will further perpetuate a growing revenue gap within the County Council area.
5. We already know that a single unitary authority for Poole and Bournemouth is not a viable option, as proven within the extensive evidence set out in the Future Dorset document.
6. **There is no evidence of widespread support for this model from residents or stakeholders.** We know from the representation household survey that Poole residents support the creation of a unitary council for Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch more than they do any other option. In the representative household survey, only 27% of Poole residents supported a single unitary authority for just Poole and Bournemouth.
7. Local partner agencies and businesses have expressed strong support for the two unitary model proposed through Future Dorset. I would particularly wish to bring your attention to the support expressed by local health organisations. Dorset County, Poole and Bournemouth Councils are working in effective and close collaboration with all health partners in delivering an ambitious Sustainability and Transformation Plan and the strength of our local partnership has been recognised through our Accountable Care System status. The Future Dorset proposals will provide an excellent organisational and geographical

context to take forward our Sustainability and Transformation Plan. The proposals are also supported by the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership and major local businesses.

8. I wish to express deep concern about the potential of further delay if additional time is agreed to undertake work on Christchurch Borough Council's alternative proposals.

END