

Leaders Office  
The Town Hall  
Bourne Avenue  
Bournemouth  
BH2 6DY



The Mayor of Christchurch  
Cllr Susan Bungey

Date: 22 September 2021

Our Ref: DM / JS

Contact: Cllr Drew Mellor

Via email: [sroxby@christchurch-tc.gov.uk](mailto:sroxby@christchurch-tc.gov.uk)

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Dear Madam Mayor,

You may be aware that areas around the country have been invited to bid for City Status as part of a competitive process to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

We have had further information from Government on the logistics around this opportunity, which has revealed that either full Council areas (For example the full BCP area) or individual towns (Poole, Christchurch and Bournemouth) are able to compete for the status. The applications themselves, even in an instance whereby an individual town wished to apply to be considered for City Status, technically has to be submitted by an upper tier local authority. An example of this nearby is Dorchester, where the Town Council made the decision to apply for the city status but it is Dorset Council that has to submit the application on their behalf.

As an administration, our strongly held view is that we must at all times respect, protect and celebrate the sovereign status of all three towns so we do not feel it is correct for the administration to take a position on BCP as a whole. Whilst we share much in common, not least the pressing need for full conurbation-wide answers to such strategic issues such as transportation and council services, we must recognise that each of our towns have their own identity and decision-making bodies.

We believe that the individual towns should consider this opportunity should they so wish and that it should be for those areas to decide – in the same way in which Dorchester Town Council has done. Therefore, I am writing to ask you to consider at your next meeting of the Town Council, whether Christchurch as a town would like to put forward a bid. Whatever the outcome of that decision, BCP Council will respect and put forward to Government. It should be your decision, not ours.

It could well be that none of the three towns feel that they want to take up this offer. Or it could be that one or more decide they would like to put forward a bid. There are no strict criteria elements that need to be considered, such as the need to have a cathedral like in the past, and therefore this could be a very straightforward process.

As there is a tight deadline for applications, we respectfully ask if you could seek a vote of Town Councillors at the next available meeting. This would give us the necessary time to prepare the paperwork should any of the three towns wish to apply.

We thank you for your consideration of this and trust that you will agree that for a decision as important as this, the final decision should rest with the individual towns themselves.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Drew Mellor', written over a light blue circular stamp.

**Cllr Drew Mellor, Leader, BCP Council**

[bcpcouncil.gov.uk](http://bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

'BCP Council' is the operational name for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.