



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Councillor Millie Earl
Civic Centre
Bourne Avenue
Bournemouth
BH2 6DY

24 September 2025

Dear Councillor Earl,

Re: Opposition to the Creation of a Bournemouth Town Council

I am writing to express a strong objection to your administration's plans to create Bournemouth Town Council in the face of the overwhelming public opposition expressed during consultation.

The results were clear and decisive:

- **Boscombe Community Council:** 82% opposed
- **Bournemouth Town Council:** 76% opposed
- **Southbourne Community Council:** 74% opposed

These figures reflect a resounding rejection of the proposals. To proceed regardless raises serious questions about the purpose of democratic consultation. Why on earth did the council conduct an expensive and time-consuming process if the outcome was always going to be ignored?

This is not an isolated incident. The delay to the Plan for Play consultation—following failures in the seafront paid parking consultation—caused frustration among teachers, parents, and children, who say the timing limited meaningful participation. During the parking consultation, you publicly dismissed the proposals midway through. It's hard to avoid the conclusion that your administration does not treat these consultations as genuine opportunities for public input.

Residents deserve better. They deserve transparency, respect for their views, and a council focused on delivering services—not creating additional layers of governance that will confuse responsibilities and increase costs. My constituents fear that BCP Council services will be offloaded to new councils, eroding clarity and trust in local government.

Turnout in town and parish council elections is consistently low. This is not a sign of apathy, but a reflection of the public's lack of faith in these structures to improve their lives. Creating new councils that residents have overwhelmingly rejected will only deepen that disillusionment.

I urge you to listen to residents and halt the introduction of these councils. Democracy must mean more than consultations—it must mean action that reflects the will of the people.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Hayes MP
Member of Parliament for Bournemouth East