

Notice of Cabinet

Date: Wednesday, 13 January 2021 at 10.00 am

Venue: Virtual Meeting



Membership:

Chairman:

Cllr D Mellor

Vice Chairman:

Cllr P Broadhead

Cllr M Anderson

Cllr M Greene

Cllr N Greene

Cllr M Haines

Cllr M Iyengar

Cllr R Lawton

Cllr K Rampton

Cllr M White

Lead Members

Cllr H Allen

Cllr S Baron

Cllr N Brooks

Cllr B Dove

Cllr B Dunlop

Cllr J Kelly

All Members of the Cabinet are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=4259>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Sarah Culwick (01202 817615) or email democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

5 January 2021



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app



Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests

Do any matters being discussed at the meeting relate to your registered interests?

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

Yes

Declare the nature of the interest

Do NOT participate in the item at the meeting. Do NOT speak or vote on the item EXCEPT where you hold a dispensation

You are advised to leave the room during the debate

Local Interest

Yes

Declare the nature of the interest

Applying the bias and pre-determination tests means you may need to refrain from speaking and voting

You may also need to leave the meeting. Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer

No

Do you have a personal interest in the matter?

Yes

Consider the bias and pre-determination tests

You may need to refrain from speaking & voting

You may also need to leave the meeting. Please seek advice

No

You can take part in the meeting speak and vote

What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer
(susan.zeiss@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2. **Declarations of Interests**

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance.

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

3. **Confirmation of Minutes**

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 16 December 2020.

7 - 24

4. **Public Issues**

To receive any public questions, statements or petitions submitted in accordance with the Constitution. Further information on the requirements for submitting these is available to view at the following link:-

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is 4 clear working days before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday the working day before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a petition is 10 working days before the meeting.

5. **Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Board**

To consider recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Board on items not otherwise included on the Cabinet Agenda.

6. **2020/21 Mid-Year Corporate Performance Report**

25 - 54

This report provides an overview of performance against the priorities set out in the Corporate Strategy delivery plans for the first six months of 2020/21.

The report introduces interactive performance dashboards which are informed by a range of performance measures being collected and reported across the council.

Year one of BCP council was used to collect baseline performance data which has been used to set performance targets and intervention levels.

Current performance, where it is available, is reported against these and informs the RAG ratings for each of the measures.

The report identifies some key improvements and some performance

issues.

These are addressed in more detail in exception reports, attached as Appendix B to the report.

7. Council Tax - Tax Base 2021/22

55 - 62

This report calculates and presents the proposed council tax base for council tax setting purposes in line with current legislation and guidance.

Three separate council tax bases have been maintained for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole areas during the period of council tax harmonisation.

8. Setting up the BCP Cultural Compact

63 - 132

Developing a strong cultural agenda that offers inclusive opportunities lies at the heart of our aspirations for fulfilled lives, brighter futures, connected communities and a better place to live, work and visit.

The recommendations of the 2019 BCP Cultural Enquiry were widely accepted and Arts Council England encouraged and supported the setting up of a multi-sector BCP Cultural Compact to deliver on the recommendations and support the development and delivery of a city-region wide Cultural Strategy.

In response to the COVID emergency the Cultural Future conference, which would have been a stepping-stone to the Cultural Compact, was postponed and £150k funding previously made available to support this work was withdrawn.

To take forward the Enquiry recommendations a task and finish Cultural Action Group worked from May to September 2020, producing a report and recommendations (Appendix 1) including the proposed outline format of the Cultural Compact.

To deliver on these recommendations the agreement of Cabinet is requested to re-provision a three-year budget package to support cultural development and the establishment and delivery of the Compact and a Cultural Strategy and delivery plan.

The three-year budget package will be the start up investment required to enable this work to be undertaken. It is anticipated Arts Council England will support this with an additional £20k grant. Over time the funding of the Cultural Compact from external sources will reduce its reliance on Council funding for day-to-day running costs.

The budget allows for further consultation with communities and groups with protected characteristics which have been identified in the Cultural Enquiry as under-represented in cultural activity, such as young and older people, disabled and Black and Minority Ethnic communities. This work will also be a platform for diverse recruitment to the Cultural Compact and new officer roles.

When the Cultural Compact is fully established it will become the focal point for cultural development and participation in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, upholding the values and aspirations of the Council, our communities and multi-sector stakeholders.

<p>9. Concessionary Fares Bus Operator Reimbursement</p> <p>To seek approval to make changes to the method of calculating bus operator reimbursement for the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme in 2021/22 as part of a proposed Recovery Partnership government initiative and to support the CIMT recommendation regarding reimbursement for 2020/21.</p>	<p>133 - 152</p>
<p>10. Dorset Heathlands Interim Air Quality Strategy</p> <p>Natural England has objected to several major planning applications concerning the in-combination effect of additional development upon the Dorset Heathlands designated sites (SPA, SAC and Ramsar).</p> <p>Airborne nitrogen and ammonia gases from multiple sources, including agriculture and vehicle emissions settle on heathlands, enriching the soil. This favours faster growing plants and the spread of species not normally found on heathlands which outcompete and inhibit the recovery of the heathland habitats.</p> <p>A strategy is needed to help address emissions caused by the additional car trips from new development. The proposed joint strategy with Dorset Council set out in this report provides interim mitigation measures in advance of a formal policy position in the emerging BCP Council and Dorset Council local plans.</p> <p>The strategy is required until at least 2030 when the take up of electric powered vehicles should negate the need for mitigation and improve air quality. Current Council strategies such as modal shift will help, but targeted projects around heathland sites are also needed.</p> <p>A budget of £750,000 is needed for 5 years mitigation projects, £562,500 from BCP Council and £187,500 from Dorset Council based on the proportions of planned development at £50 per dwelling. The strategy will be paid for by developers from the overall Community Infrastructure Levy receipts.</p>	<p>153 - 188</p>
<p>11. Freeport Bid</p> <p>In November Government released the 'Freeports Bidding Prospectus' and formally opened the Freeports bidding process. CMB met on 1st December and agreed that BCP Council will co-ordinate, with Rigby Group and Poole Harbour Commissioners, Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (DLEP) and others, a bid to Government for Freeport status.</p> <p>This report provides a background to Freeports; a summary of the Bidding Prospectus and the potential requirements of the Council if successful; and some themes that could be included in the bid.</p> <p>This report also requests approval of £50K investment by the Council, as identified in the December Cabinet Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring 2020-21 and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update Report. This funding will be used to commission specialist resources through the DLEP to develop the bid.</p> <p>Given the timescales involved, it isn't possible to fully detail the contents of the bid at the time of writing this report. However, this report aims to provide sufficient content for Cabinet to approve the recommendations outlined below.</p>	<p>189 - 198</p>

12. St Aldhelm's - Capital Investment to Maintain Capacity

199 - 204

St Aldhelm's Secondary Academy in Poole has a Published Admissions Number (PAN) of 180 pupils, this being the number of pupils that can be admitted into each year group. Until recent years this number was not fully utilised, and the school had unfilled places. However, the school is now filling to capacity. In addition, forecasts show pressure on Secondary School places in BCP over the short to medium term.

Following a significant investment in the school infrastructure by the Department for Education (DfE) to support a change of Academy sponsor and to drive improvement, the school buildings are fit for purpose but will not support 180 pupils in all year groups.

Delegated Powers were used to agree an investment of £390k in May 2020 that enabled additional capacity to be created to allow 180 pupils to be admitted in September 2020.

A further investment of £610k is now required to allow the PAN of 180 to be maintained permanently. This can be funded from existing DfE Basic Needs capital grant. Cabinet were presented with an initial cost range for this of £460k to £610k at the May 2020 meeting; this report further refines this budget and provides up-to-date evidence supporting the Basic Need requirement for these places.

13. The Determination of Admission Arrangements 2022/23 for Maintained Mainstream Schools

205 - 222

In line with the requirements of the School Admissions Code 2014 and associated legislation, BCP Council is statutorily required to determine its admission arrangements annually. This report requests Cabinet to determine the 2022/23 admission arrangements for its maintained community and voluntary controlled schools. The arrangements remain unchanged from the previous academic year.

14. Cabinet Forward Plan

To consider the latest version of the Cabinet Forward Plan for approval.

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
CABINET

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 December 2020 at 10.00 am

Present:-

Cllr D Mellor – Chairman

Cllr P Broadhead – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr M Anderson, Cllr M Greene, Cllr N Greene, Cllr M Haines,
Cllr M Iyengar, Cllr R Lawton, Cllr K Rampton and Cllr M White

Also in attendance: Lead Members: Cllr H Allen, Cllr S Baron, Cllr N Brooks, Cllr B Dove,
Cllr B Dunlop and Cllr J Kelly

Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr G Farquhar, Cllr F Rice and Cllr L Williams.

259. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

260. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 11 November 2020 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

261. Public Issues

The Leader advised that five public questions had been received from the following members of the public:

- Gerald Riglar – in relation to Agenda Item 14 (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document)
- Conor O'Luby - in relation to Agenda Item 7 (Wessex Fields Site Development Update)
- Susan Chapman – in relation to Agenda Item 13 (Climate Action Annual Report 2019/20) and Agenda Item 7 (Wessex Fields Site Development Update)
- Elizabeth Elwick – in relation to Agenda Item 13 (Climate Action Annual Report 2019/20) and;
- Anita Rose – also in relation to Agenda Item 13 (Climate Action Annual Report 2019/20)

The Leader advised that copies of the public questions and responses had been circulated to the Cabinet and had been published on the Council's website.

262. Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Board

Cabinet was advised that there were no additional recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Board on items not otherwise included on the Cabinet Agenda on this occasion.

263. Housing Development Scheme - Cynthia House (Cynthia Close, Poole)

The Portfolio Holder for Homes presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was requested to consider the award of a new contract to the preferred bidder for the delivery of works on the Cynthia House site. In relation to this Cabinet was advised that these works will deliver the demolition of the current empty building and construction of 22 new council homes at affordable rents and shared ownership comprising 10 houses and 12 flats within the HRA. Further to this Cabinet was advised that these homes will help to deliver much needed Council housing across Poole and will be built to the Passive House Institute (PHI) Low Energy Building standard ensuring the highest quality build and impact on local lives

RECOMMENDED that Council:-

- (a) Approve a £4.543 million scheme to redevelop Cynthia house to provide 22 new homes;**
- (b) Approve the financing of the scheme including £3.019 million of prudential borrowing, £1.096 million of Right to Buy Receipts and £428k of capital receipts from the shared ownership element of the scheme; and**
- (c) Approve the award of the construction contract to the preferred bidder.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Homes

264. Wessex Fields Site Development Update

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was reminded that the land at Wessex Fields was located adjacent to the A338 in Bournemouth and between the University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust (formerly Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospital) and the Stour Valley way greenfield site, and that on 18 March 2020 Cabinet had authorised officers to progress soft market testing in order to identify interested parties and viable delivery options which related to the preferred use themes of; health, care, research and education as well as seeking to include key worker or affordable housing and realisation of the vision of the Living Lab.

In relation to this Cabinet was advised that following a period of soft market testing undertaken by external agents Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) an options appraisal had been produced which considers the range of delivery options, the advantages and disadvantages of each and outlines the preferred option for progression for the Council. Further to this Cabinet was advised that the recommended option, proposes a disposal of part of this site to the adjoining landowner University Hospitals Dorset, another public sector body, in partnership with Bournemouth University to deliver their proposal for a strategically relevant development with a focus on Medtech, medical research & education put forward via the soft market testing. Fields site in line with the preferred use themes and in the most strategically beneficial way to the conurbation and local community and supports the Council's desire to work with the NHS Trusts. Cabinet was informed that progressing this option would enable BCP Council to develop the remainder of the Wessex Fields site in line with the preferred use themes and in the most strategically beneficial way to the conurbation and local community and supports the Council's desire to work with the NHS Trusts.

In closing Cabinet was advised that the report sought consent in principle to dispose of part of the site adjoining the hospital boundary to University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust in partnership with Bournemouth University and determine the exact future development structure and collaboration for the remainder of the site which will be subject to a further Cabinet approval.

Councillor George Farquhar addressed Cabinet questioning whose responsibility it would be to build the key homes? In relation to this the Portfolio Holder advised that it was likely that the build would be progressed by ourselves as the Council in collaboration with the hospital.

Councillor Lawrence Williams addressed Cabinet welcoming the paper.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

- (a) Agrees in principle to progress the development of the site at Wessex Fields in accordance with the recommended option and explore funding opportunities in collaboration with University Hospitals Dorset in partnership with Bournemouth University to facilitate the wider mixed-use development of the site which meets the preferred use themes;**
- (b) Authorises officers to enter into negotiations with University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust in partnership with Bournemouth University on the detailed terms of the recommended option; and**
- (c) Approves a £100k budget to cover external legal and professional advice and adjust the MTFP for 2020/21. This sum to be funded by capital receipt from disposal of part of the site.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning

265. Bereavement Services Business Plan - Phase 1

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Cleansing and Waste presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'C' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the Bereavement Service Business Plan 2021-26 presented a background to the service, an overview of the regional competition, current market forces and current industry trends, identifying the impact the private sector has had on the regional market, future potential threats and opportunities within this market. And that further to this it highlights opportunities for the service to increase its income streams through the introduction of alternative, innovative, efficient and sustainable solutions in response to both industry and customer demand, with a focus on continual investment, service improvement and diversification.

In relation to this Cabinet was advised that through consultation across the wider bereavement industry, the Council, customer feedback and the identification of future trends a preferred option had been presented in moving the service forward.

Cabinet was informed that if approved the preferred option would be initiated over two phases.

Phase 1:

Consolidating the service into a dual site single crematorium model, with initial investment into the infrastructure at Poole to further develop a high-end ceremonial and memorial venue, retaining the site's current reverence for the future

Additional investment into Bournemouth Crematorium would be required to provide better direct access to the crematory under the coffin conveyancing arrangement enabling greater flexibility on movement without interruption to services taking place. Introducing a more tailored pricing matrix for a range of services to meet the demands of current market forces, industry and customer feedback, focusing on a more transparent, flexible and mobile approach, responding to wishes of the bereaved and changing market trends.

Continue to harmonise the teams across BCP, identify new and alternative burial provision, enhance our marketing plan, harmonise ITC systems, data and record storage, communication and media channels.

Phase 2:

Focus on developing a long-term solution for the continued use of the Poole Crematorium site as a location for the bereaved, following a further review after 18 months of the impact of the implementation of Phase 1 of the business plan.

Cabinet was advised that this will not exclude the replacement of cremator/s at Poole Crematorium, the further enhancement of the location as a ceremonial and memorial venue or the addition of alternative functions associated with Bereavement.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) The Bereavement Services Business plan 2021-2026 be approved;**
- (b) The preferred option of a two phased approach to delivering the Bereavement Services Business Plan 2020-2026 be approved;**
 - i. Phase1: To approve developing a dual site single crematorium model for Bereavement Services, with an initial investment into Poole Crematorium to enhance the venue as a high-end ceremonial and memorial location;**
 - ii. Phase 2: To bring back to cabinet within 18 months an investment plan for the long-term usage of Poole Crematorium as a continued site for the bereaved once the impact of the implementation of Phase 1 has been fully evaluated; and**
- (c) The capital investment required to deliver the recommended options within Phase 1 of £559K, as outlined in section 6.3 of the Business Plan and to be funded through use of reserves and prudential borrowing be approved.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Environment, Cleansing and Waste

266. Bournemouth Towns Fund Update

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'D' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was reminded that the 26 June Cabinet meeting approved our approach to the preparation of a Town Investment Plan for Boscombe-Bournemouth.

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that the Towns Fund project is overseen by the Bournemouth Towns Fund Strategic Board and BCP Council is the Accountable Body for receiving and managing the grant.

Cabinet was asked to note that on 30 September 2020, BCP Council had received an additional grant of £1m to fund capital projects that can be delivered this financial year (Accelerator Funding) through the Towns Fund. And that the grant will be used to start the delivery of 'shovel-ready' projects contained in the Interventions Framework of the Town Investment Plan, namely:

- 1) the deployment of the first phase of Smart Place infrastructure in Boscombe;
- 2) preliminary work needed ahead of the purchase of the land and buildings occupied by Bournemouth Indoors Bowls Centre (ground floor) and Skills and Learning (First Floor);
- 3) Boscombe precinct short-term public realm improvements.

Cabinet was further asked to note, that the Bournemouth Town Investment Plan was submitted to MHCLG on 30 October 2020 after scrutiny and approval by the Bournemouth Towns Fund Strategic Board, with a funding request for £24,998,803. The funding will enable the implementation of a number of projects and to part fund and facilitate the two flagship projects, namely the transformation of the Grade II listed Royal Arcade and the Boscombe Town Centre Masterplan. In relation to this Cabinet was informed that a decision from the MHCLG on the success of our Towns Fund bid is anticipated in early 2021.

Councillor George Farquhar addressed the Cabinet expressing support for the paper and advising that it was long overdue. In addition Councillor Farquhar advised that he had attended a number of the consultations and meetings with residents and businesses.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Cabinet note that on 30 September 2020, BCP received an additional grant of £1m to fund capital projects that can be delivered this financial year (Accelerator Funding) through the Towns Fund;**
- (b) the deployment of a small, sub-6 GHz 5G network as part of the first phase of deployment of the first phase of Smart Place infrastructure in Boscombe be approved; and**
- (c) the contents of the Town Investment Plan, submitted to the MHCLG on 30 October 2020 be noted.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning

267. Housing and Property Compliance Update (Housing Revenue Account)

The Portfolio Holder for Homes presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'E' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that this annual report provided information on how the Council meets its responsibilities in ensuring that all Council Housing within the Housing Revenue Account is managed in a way that meets compliance with current health and safety legislation, best practice and regulatory standards to ensure the health and safety of residents.

Further to this the report highlights any challenges there are in achieving compliance and what remedial action is being taken. This year, there have been some serious challenges in achieving compliance.

Cabinet was informed that social distancing measures introduced because of the Covid-19 pandemic had made it more difficult to carry out gas and electrical safety tests in tenants' homes, and that there are some risks identified in the detail of the report across both neighbourhoods along with details of how the teams are working to mitigate and address these.

In addition Cabinet was advised that despite the challenges presented by Covid-19, compliance within both the Bournemouth and Poole

neighbourhoods had been successfully maintained overall and continued to be a high priority.

Thanks were expressed to Officers for their hard work in what has been a difficult time for residents.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the compliance information provided which details how the Council is performing against statutory building compliance relating to its Council Housing be noted; and**
- (b) Future performance be reported annually to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Homes

268. HWRC Policies Alignment

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Cleansing and Waste presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'F' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was informed that since the formation of BCP Council in April 2019 it has been known that within waste services, there are some Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) operating policies that need to be aligned between the three legacy Councils.

In relation to this Cabinet was advised that all three HWRC sites can be used by any BCP resident (and businesses at Millhams Lane & Nuffield Road), so it is important to have common policies in place to avoid misunderstandings which can lead to complaints and confrontation at the sites.

Cabinet was informed that the policies contained in this paper are only those where a difference existed currently and, alignment is required.

Cabinet was advised that recommendation e should refer to paragraph 5b and not 6b as in the report.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Charity waste acceptance policy**

Extension of the Charity Permit Scheme currently in operation in Poole (Nuffield) to:

- I. Bournemouth charities and allow them to tip at either Millhams or Nuffield; and**
- II. Christchurch charities and allow them to tip at either Millhams or Nuffield (as Wilverley Road has no weighbridge),**

provided always that permits would only be issued to charities if they meet one of the following criteria:

- they have a retail presence in the BCP area, when only one permit per town may be issued (irrespective of the number of shops they have in each town) i.e. maximum of 3 permits; or
- they are a local charity with a registered office that is in the BCP area and can prove their waste is donated household waste.

(b) Van permit scheme

- I. Bringing Wilverley Road in line with Millhams/Nuffield by restricting householders whose only vehicle is a van, to 6 visits per annum with a minimum renewal period of 12 months.
- II. Bringing Millhams/Nuffield in line with Wilverley Road by offering a Limited Entry permit that allows a householder up to 3 visits using their van, where they also own a car with a minimum renewal period of 12 months.
- III. Allowing permit holders to use Wilverley Road at weekends and Bank Holidays.
- IV. Using the Wilverley Road criteria for Dual Cab pick-ups which classify them as a car (currently classed as van for Millhams/Nuffield) and to continue to class Single Cab pick-ups as vans.
- V. Using the Wilverley Road description of vehicles excluded from the scheme as this includes agricultural vehicles and tippers.

(c) Opening hours

- I. Retaining the current opening hours.

(d) Chargeable waste

- I. Extending the charge made at Wilverley Road for window/door glass, shower screen/panel and greenhouse glass to Millhams/Nuffield
- II. Delegating authority to agree annual price reviews for chargeable waste to the Service Director in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

(e) Pedestrian access

- I. wording (as set out in 5.b) to be added to webpages to explain pedestrian access to the HWRCs.

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Environment, Cleansing and Waste

269. Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring 2020-21 and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update Report

The Leader presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'G' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was informed that this report includes 2020/21 budget monitoring information for the end of September 2020 and progress made over the autumn in closing the MTFP budget gap for 2021/22 and future years.

In relation to this Cabinet was advised that the projection for the 2020/21 revenue account is a balanced position after Covid-19 pressures, mitigation action and other budget variances are reflected. The pressures due to the pandemic have grown since the November report with further government support also received. The drawdown of resilience reserves to balance the year is projected at £0.6 million.

Further to this Cabinet was informed that the updated 2020/21 annual projections for reserve movements, the capital programme and housing revenue account (HRA) are also included in the report.

Cabinet was advised that financial planning had progressed over the autumn with the aim of closing the previously identified budget gap for next year of £13.4 million, and that this report provided the progress made in updating the MTFP, including the refinement of pressures, savings, and assumptions based on the latest information available, and that furthermore the current plan is showing a residual gap to close for next year of £10.3 million. Cabinet was informed that work is now progressing to establish final proposals to enable a balanced and lawful budget for 2021/22 to be set in February 2021.

Councillor George Farquhar addressed the Cabinet advising that he was pleased that the whole council was backing children's services.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

- (a) Note the current budget position for 2020/21;**
- (b) Approve £310,000 of additional investment expenditure within children's services to support the service improvement plan during 2020/21 as set out in paragraph 32;**
- (c) Approve the application of £365,000 additional investment during 2020/21 in the new administrations 100-day plan as set out in paragraph 73;**
- (d) Note an additional £350,000 investment in the transformation programme to support development of smarter staff structures;**
- (e) Note the additional £251,000 investment in the Estates and Accommodation Project in 2020/21 as approved by Council on the 24 November 2020;**
- (f) Approve capital virements as set out in paragraph 107;**
- (g) Note progress made in developing a balanced, robust and lawful budget for 2021/22; and**

- (h) **Approve the continuation of the current Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS) into 2021/22 as set out on paragraphs 148 to 150.**

RECOMMENDED that Council:-

- (a) **Approve the capital virement as set out in paragraph 108;**
(b) **Approve the refinancing of £4.8 million historic infrastructure spending via CIL and S106 funds to support the 2021/22 budget position as referenced in paragraphs 140 to 142 and Appendix D1; and**
(c) **Approve the Discretionary Business Rates Relief policy of BCP Council as set out in paragraphs 151 to 155 and appendix E.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Finance and Transformation

270. Climate Action Annual Report 2019 20

The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Sustainability presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'H' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was reminded that BCP Council had declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency on 16 July 2019 and followed this by considering and approving for consultation a draft Action Plan at its meeting on 16 December 2019, and that this report sets out the work the Council has carried out in the first year towards achieving our targets to:

- Make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030
- Work with the wider community to make the region carbon neutral before the UK target of 2050

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that this period has seen the Covid-19 pandemic trigger a national lockdown, which has impacted on some of our planned activity and had a direct effect on environmental quality. During this time, the Council has been working to establish the full extent of the challenge by calculating the amount of carbon emissions from Council operations that will need to be avoided or offset – over 40,000 tCO₂e. And that these efforts have led to BCP Council being named one of five UK towns and cities praised as global climate leaders by carbon disclosure charity CDP on their 'Cities A-List'. Cabinet was informed that actions in 2019/20 have included:

- Incorporating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – including no.13: 'Climate Action' into our Corporate Strategy
- Improving the safety of cyclists and walkers at key transport locations using the £312k Government Emergency Active Travel grant
- Purchasing green electricity from renewable sources for all our buildings and a proportion of streetlights

- Incorporating Sustainable Procurement in the Council's new Financial Regulations
- Allowing key workers free use of sustainable transport during the pandemic, with 1000 essential journeys made on Beryl Bikes
- Helping the 691 households referred into the Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) save £770,000 in energy bill reductions and financial benefits, whilst generating carbon savings
- Undertaking works at bus facilities in response to COVID-19 measures ensuring that buses can be used safely
- Launching a Decision Impact Assessment tool enabling all projects, decisions and policies to be assessed against sustainability criteria (including climate change)
- Installing Electric Vehicle charging points at council depots and an Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle and road sweepers are to be trialled
- Forming a Coastal Engineering Partnership with Dorset Council to help protect communities from coastal flooding and erosion.

Councillor Felicity Rice addressed the Cabinet stressing the urgency of the climate agenda, and that the Council may need to look ways of incorporating alternative events which complimented the climate agenda in future.

Councillor Andy Hadley addressed Cabinet expressing the importance of multi parties working together to retain the urgency.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) **Cabinet endorses this report as an update on activities taken to address the Climate and Ecological Emergency during 2019/20;**
- (b) **Cabinet acknowledges that the total measurable GHG emissions from BCP Council activities for 2019/20 is 41,809 tonnes CO₂e; and endorses the use of this figure as a baseline against which to measure emissions reductions up to 2030;**
- (c) **Cabinet supports the development of:**
 - (i) **2030 BCP Council Climate Action Plan, overseen by the Climate Action Steering Group**
 - (ii) **Delivery plan and funding proposal to undertake activities identified in the 2030 BCP Council Climate Action Plan**
- (d) **Cabinet acknowledges that the total measurable GHG emissions from BCP Area activities for 2017 (reported in 2019/20) is 1,841,600 tonnes CO₂e; and endorses the use of this figure as a baseline against which to measure emissions reductions up to 2050;**
- (e) **Cabinet approves the launch of the 2050 Climate Action Plan public engagement survey subject to minor amendments agreed by the Portfolio Holder;**

- (f) **Cabinet supports the development of:**
- (i) **2050 BCP Area Climate Action Plan, overseen by the Climate Action Members Working Group, following completion of public engagement during 2020/21**
 - (ii) **Delivery plan and funding proposal to undertake activities identified in the 2050 BCP Area Climate Action Plan, including consideration of a Community Climate Bond scheme**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Transport and Sustainability

271. Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'I' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was requested to adopt the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Documents.

In presenting the report the Portfolio Holder advised of an amendment to be inserted at para 3.6.1 of the document so that the paragraph now reads:

*3.6.1 In order to future proof development ahead of the expected transition to electric vehicles (EV), the council expects the inclusion of charging points for electric vehicles in all new developments. **Proposals for houses/bungalows with at least one designated parking space within the curtilage of its own plot must ensure the installation of at least one active EV charging point.** Conversions and change of use applications will be agreed with the LPA on a case by case basis.*

Further to this Cabinet was advised that following the above addition to paragraph 3.6.1 that there was a consequential change to Table 1 – which required a new row to be inserted into the table and an additional text on the next two rows (highlighted in red), so that the table will now read:

Table 1 EV provision

	Percentage of bays with “active [1]” chargepoint provision	Percentage of bays with “passive [2]” chargepoint provision
All houses/bungalows with 1+ space	100%	0%
All other residential development less than 10 spaces	20%	80%
All other residential development with 10+ spaces	50%	50%
Non-residential development with 10+ spaces	30%	70%
Non-residential development less than 10 spaces	To be agreed with LPA	

Councillors Felicity Rice and Andy Hadley addressed the Cabinet welcoming the addition of the EV charging points. In addition Councillor Rice requested that the addition of charging points for bikes be considered.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- (a) **Council adopt the Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document (SPD); and**
- (b) **The making of any minor changes to the SPD and publication arrangements are delegated to the Director of Growth and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning.**

Voting: Nem. Con. (1 abstention)

Portfolio Holder: Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning

272. Dorset Nature Park

The Portfolio Holder for Economy and Strategic Planning presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'J' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was informed that when planning for new homes the Council must ensure the development is nitrogen neutral and does not have an adverse effect upon Poole Harbour Special Protection Area. Nitrates cause algal mats which smother the feeding areas of internationally protected birds.

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that BCP Council and Dorset Council work in partnership to collect contributions from developers and use them to implement mitigation projects to ensure development within the catchment of Poole Harbour is nitrogen neutral. The councils award grants for projects that change agricultural land from high to low nitrate input, in order to offset the impact of nutrients entering Poole Harbour through sewage treatment works, including Poole. The strategy is set out in the

Poole Local Plan (2018) and the Nitrogen Reduction in Poole Harbour Supplementary Planning Document (2017).

Further to this Cabinet was advised that there are 2,076 planned homes in the Poole Local Plan area requiring 105 hectares of agricultural offsetting within the Poole Harbour water catchment basin during 2020/21, and that the Council is collecting developer contributions for this purpose with no implications for the Council budget.

Cabinet was informed that the proposal is to use developer contributions to award grant to Dorset Wildlife Trust, to purchase agricultural land and manage it in perpetuity as low nitrate input. Known as the Dorset Nature Park, this proposal will allow the Council to continue to grant planning permission for new homes, as well as providing multiple benefits to residents across Dorset and BCP Council areas. This proposal has the written support of Natural England.

Councillor Andy Hadley addressed the Committee stressing concerns in relation to additional developments adding to the problems relating to nitrates and sewerage.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- (a) In principle agreement to award grant of £2,047,500 to Dorset Wildlife Trust to offset the nitrate impact upon Poole Harbour Special Protection Area from planned housing and tourism accommodation during 2020/21;**
- (b) In principle agreement to award Dorset Wildlife Trust an additional £741,000 to mitigate planned development during 2021/22; and**
- (c) The Council finance this proposal from community infrastructure levy and planning obligations, as a grant with conditions attached, naming Dorset Wildlife Trust as beneficiary.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning

273. Domestic Abuse Strategy

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'K' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that this strategy sets out the key priorities for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in tackling domestic abuse and outlines the key areas for action over the next three years, and that further to this the strategy aims to ensure that service users are at the centre of our work, that we respond to local need and that we work collaboratively to deliver our ambitious vision that “no resident living within or visiting Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole should live in fear of, or experience domestic abuse.”

The Portfolio Holder in presenting the report informed that this was a two stage process, and that phase two of the process would deal with the delivery. In relation to this the Portfolio Holder presented an amended recommendation as set out below.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board addressed the Cabinet, expressing thanks that the recommendations from the recent meeting of the Board as set out below had been largely reflected in the change in the recommendations.

The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommended that this item is withdrawn from the December Cabinet meeting to allow time for the issues raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Board to be considered further in order to update the strategy document and to present it to a future Overview and Scrutiny Board to be considered further in order to update the strategy document and to present it to a future Overview and Scrutiny Board and Cabinet together with the high level delivery plan.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Cabinet note the first phase of the work that has taken place; and**
- (b) the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Domestic Abuse Strategy be brought back to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity along with the delivery plan.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Community Safety

274. Housing Scheme at Wilkinson Drive, Bournemouth

The Portfolio Holder presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'L' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the report sought agreement to enable the proposed housing scheme to progress with the agreed funding arrangements to construction and subsequent completion in order to deliver the wide range of benefits to the Council and local communities.

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that the BCP Council owned site comprised open space and a disused playpark which was identified as surplus to requirements in the Bournemouth Neighbourhood play and open space review of 2009, and that the current proposal presents a new build scheme of 4 x 3-bed houses and 9 x 2- bed flats with associated parking and landscaping. In addition Cabinet was advised that these homes will help towards Local Plan housing targets and will also contribute significantly to unmet housing need, and that all of the homes are to be for social rent and will be designed to high energy efficiency standards with ground source heat pumps and triple glazing.

RECOMMENDED that Council approves the proposed £2.771m housing development, including specifically:

- (a) Approval to commence and completion of build subject to the conditions set out in the Financial Strategy and authorises the**

Corporate Director for Environment and Community to approve necessary contractual and legal agreements in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer;

- (b) Approve the proposed funding model for the scheme, with specific approval for the use of £1.2m new prudential borrowing to be repaid from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) over 50 years;**
- (c) Approves the designation of the development as ‘social rented’ housing and acknowledges the financial impact of this decision as summarised in paragraphs 24, 25 & 48; and**
- (d) Authorise the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance to determine the detailed funding arrangements.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Homes

275. Housing Scheme at Duck Lane (Phase 2), Bournemouth

The Portfolio Holder for Homes presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'M' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the report sought agreement to enable the proposed housing scheme to progress with the agreed funding arrangements to construction and subsequent completion in order to deliver the wide range of benefits to the Council and local communities.

Cabinet was informed that the BCP Council owned site comprised a disused plot within the grounds of three HRA flat blocks. The land is behind a block of garages and is a frequent location for fly tipping and other anti-social behaviour, and that the current proposal is for the provision of 12 x 2-bed flats for smaller families. There is to be associated parking and landscaping.

Cabinet was further advised that these homes will help towards Local Plan housing targets and will also contribute significantly to unmet housing need, and that all of the homes are to be for affordable rent and will be designed to high energy efficiency standards with ground source heat pumps and triple glazing.

RECOMMENDED that Council approves the proposed £2.405m housing development, including specifically:

- (a) Approval to commence and completion of build subject to the conditions set out in the Financial Strategy and authorises the Corporate Director for Environment and Community to approve necessary appropriations and contractual and legal agreements in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer.**
- (b) Approve the proposed funding model for the scheme, with specific approval for the use of £1.684m of prudential borrowing**

to be repaid from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) over 50 years.

- (c) Authorise the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance to determine the detailed funding arrangements.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Homes

276. Organisational Design – Acceleration of Transformation Savings for 2021/22 Budget

The Leader presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'N' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was reminded that Cabinet and Council had previously adopted the Organisational Design and Operating model as the basis of the BCP Council Transformation Strategy, and that this paper set out an approach to accelerate the identification and delivery of savings that are consistent with both the ambitions and approach of our Transformation Programme in order to help the Council address the impact of the pandemic on the financial position.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board addressed Cabinet advising that at their recent meeting the Board resolved to make the following recommendation to Cabinet in respect of this item.

The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommended to Cabinet that it notes the proposed new approach and requests that the Council continue to consult staff extensively and ensures that adequate support is available to staff to ensure their wellbeing during the transformation process and that it continuously monitors the Council's capacity, particularly within Children's Services and Adult Services.

Councillor George Farquhar addressed the Cabinet expressing his support for the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Board. In addition Councillor Farquhar questioned what the unions were doing in respect of the accelerated plan.

RESOLVED that the proposed approach for the identification of accelerated savings proposals based on the wider transformation approach of the Council be approved.

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Finance and Transformation

277. Childrens Services Response to Ofsted Focus Visit

The Director for Childrens Services provided a verbal update in respect of the services response to the Ofsted focus visit.

Cabinet was informed that the failure of leadership and management had been swiftly addressed, and that an action plan had been co-produced with the service to identify the most effective way to address actions.

The Portfolio Holder thanked Members for their cross party support.

278. Cabinet Forward Plan

The Leader advised that the latest Cabinet Forward Plan had been published on the Council's website.

The meeting ended at 12.52 pm

CHAIRMAN

CABINET



Report subject	2020/21 Mid-Year Corporate Performance Report
Meeting date	13 January 2021
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This report provides an overview of performance against the priorities set out in the Corporate Strategy delivery plans for the first six months of 2020/21.</p> <p>The report introduces interactive performance dashboards which are informed by a range of performance measures being collected and reported across the council.</p> <p>Year one of BCP council was used to collect baseline performance data which has been used to set performance targets and intervention levels.</p> <p>Current performance, where it is available, is reported against these and informs the RAG ratings for each of the measures.</p> <p>The report identifies some key improvements and some performance issues.</p> <p>These are addressed in more detail in exception reports, attached as Appendix B to the report.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Note mid year performance (ii) Consider exception reports relating to areas of current adverse performance (iii) Advise of any amendments, deletions of additions to the performance indicator set that informs corporate performance
Reason for recommendations	An understanding of performance against target, goals and objectives will help the Council understand and manage service delivery and identify emerging business risks.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Leader of the Council
Corporate Director	Julian Osgathorpe
Report Authors	Bridget West – Head of Insight, Policy & Performance
Wards	All
Classification	For recommendation

Background

1. The BCP Council Corporate Strategy which was adopted by Council at its meeting on 5th November 2019, is the key component of the Council's performance management framework.
2. This is the basis for prioritisation and the allocation of resources and the beginning of a golden thread which links service, team and personal performance to BCP Council's agreed priorities and objectives.
3. The performance management framework was approved by the Council's Cabinet at its meeting on 9th September 2020. This explains the council's planning and performance reporting processes.
4. It sets out a quarterly performance review cycle for monitoring progress with delivering the council's priorities.
5. Performance was not reported at quarter one as the organisation was still responding to Covid. The impact of this response is reflected against some of the measures that make up this report.
6. Key measures of success originated in the delivery plans, to inform quarterly performance reports to Cabinet.
7. The process of identifying underlying systems of measurement, collecting baseline data, setting targets and intervention levels against these measures found that not all of them lent themselves to quarterly reporting.
8. Through a process of engagement with Service Units, some of the measures have been replaced.
9. The current set of measures being used to report mid-year performance are presented in [interactive performance dashboards](#) for each of the priorities in the corporate strategy.
10. The performance dashboards along with a brief headline performance summary based on progress with performance measures, is presented in Appendix A.
11. These dashboards are hyperlinked to the live interactive tool where more detail behind each performance measure is displayed.
12. Exception reports have been prepared for all the performance measures that are RAG rated as red.

13. The exception reports presented in Appendix B explain the reasons for the level of performance, the associated risks and equality implications and the mitigating actions.
14. The performance measures used are not a finite set of measures. They can and should be reviewed and enhanced to ensure they continue to reflect council priorities and emerging risks and issues.
15. Through this report, Members are asked to consider what additional performance information they would like to see to included in the performance dashboards.
16. Going forward, the ambition is to fully automate performance reporting processes and to replace written performance reports with the interactive dashboards.
17. This will help to reduce the time between the end of a quarter and the actual reporting. Work is underway to understand performance measurement systems and to write the workflows that will facilitate this.

Summary of financial implications

18. Financial implications are explained in exception reports.

Summary of legal implications

19. Legal implications are explained in exception reports.

Summary of human resources implications

20. Human resources implications are explained in exception reports.

Summary of sustainability implications

21. Sustainability impacts are explained in exception reports.

Summary of public health implications

22. Public health implications are explained in exception reports.

Summary of equality implications

23. Equality implications are explained in exception reports.

Summary of risk assessment

24. The risks and mitigating actions are explained in the commentary provided in the exception performance reports at appendix B.
25. Background papers

[BCP Council Corporate Strategy & Delivery Plans](#)

BCP Council Performance Management Framework

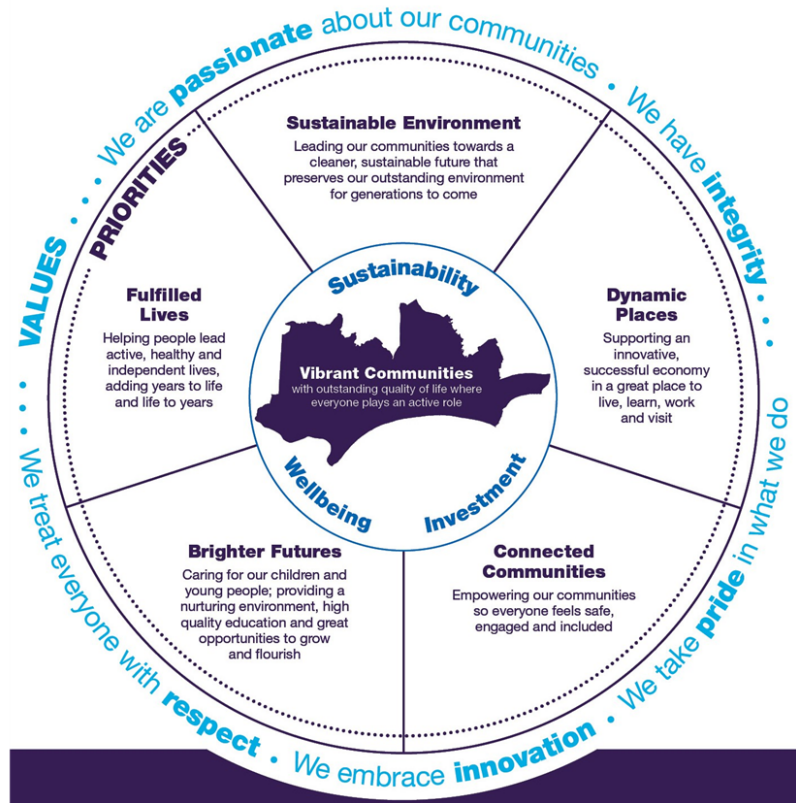
Appendices

Appendix 1 – Summary of Performance

Appendix 2 – Performance Exception Reports

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BCP Council Performance Dashboards



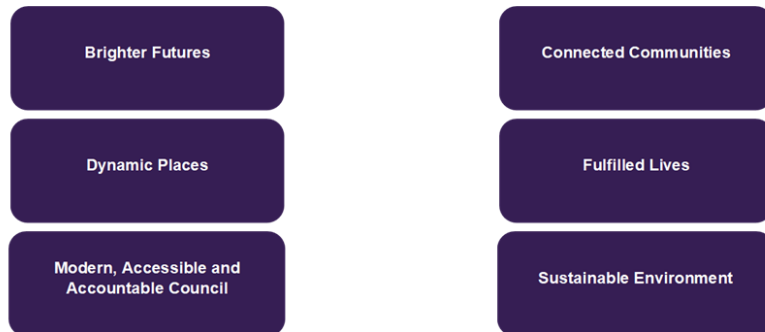
Welcome to these interactive performance dashboards for BCP Council.

There is a performance dashboard for each priority in the Corporate Strategy which will be updated on a quarterly basis, in line with the Council's performance management framework.

They are informed by a range of performance measures being collected and reported across the council. Year one of BCP Council was used to collect baseline data, to set targets and intervention levels, which RAG rates performance as updates are provided. Trend data will build over time and highs, lows and seasonal trends will be easily tracked.

Performance measures should be reviewed to ensure they continue to reflect council priorities and emerging risks and issues.

Click on a council priority below to view current performance.

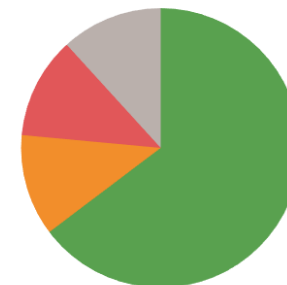


Produced by the Policy and Performance Team

Brighter Futures - caring for our children and young people; providing a nurturing environment, high quality education and great opportunities to grow and flourish.

Agreed measures:	Target	Q4 2019/20	Q2 2020/21
% of 16-19 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEETs) and unknowns	5.00	4.70	6.80
% of two year old children benefitting from funded early education	84.00	84.00	79.50
Care: % of care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation.	85.00	92.60	98.90
Education: % of children with Education, Health and Care Plans in mainstream & special schools	Null	89.80	88.40
Education: Early Years: % of children attending a setting rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted	97.00	97.00	99.10
Education: Permanent Exclusions as a % of all Primary school children	0.06	0.06	0.00
Education: Permanent Exclusions as a % of all Secondary school children	0.19	0.19	0.02
Education: Primary: % of Children attending Good/Outstanding Schools	85.00	89.00	94.00
Education: Secondary: % of children attending Good/Outstanding schools	85.00	75.00	89.00
Education: Special Schools: % rated Good/Outstanding	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number of children and families accessing family support early help services	Null		1,339.00
Number of children who are missing out on education	636.90	637.00	456.00
Social Care: % of assessments to identify children's needs made in a timely fashion	80.00	60.30	84.70
Social Care: % of children in care placed over 20 miles from homes	20.00	17.50	16.80
Social Care: % of children in care with long-term stability	70.00	56.80	71.30
Social Care: % of repeat referrals in 12 months	20.00	19.00	26.10
Social Care: % of timely decisions for children who need a social worker	90.00	77.60	66.40

RAG rating
■ On Target
■ Monitoring Required
■ Action Required
■ No RAG Set
■ No Data Available



Performance Summary

Generally performance in the Brighter Future priority has been good.

There have been marked improvements in the timeliness of childrens needs assessments and the long-term stability of placements for children in care. The vast majority of children in education are in a good or outstanding rated setting.

The percentage of NEETs has shown an increase but this is often the case in September as the new school year commences.

However, there has been a considerable increase in the percentage of repeat referrals for social care in the past 12 months, 70% of the repeat referrals have been for issues not identified by the first referrals and continuing work to enhance the process will reduce this.

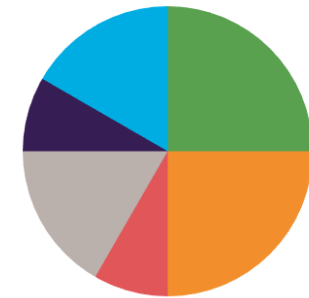
There has also been reduction in the timeliness of decisions for children who need a social worker. It is expected that performance will improve as additional resources are added to the "front door" service.

Connected Communities - empowering our communities so everyone feels safe, engaged and included.

Agreed measures:	Target	Q4 2019/20	Q2 2020/21
Engagement: Number of BCP clients supported by Citizen's Advice BCP	5,000.00	15,059.00	5,832.00
Engagement: Number of community and voluntary sector organisations supported by Community Action Network	140.00	181.00	132.00
Engagement: Number of issues supported by Citizen's Advice BCP	8,000.00	32,824.00	10,946.00
Engagement: Number of new community and voluntary sector organisations supported by Community Action Network	10.00	32.00	11.00
Libraries: Engagement in events and activities held	Null		37,290.00
Libraries: Number of events and activities held	Null		788.00
Museums: Number of visits	27,620...	184,136.00	20,242.00
Number of people experiencing cultural activities	Null		
Safety: Levels of anti-social behaviour	6,183.00	13,017.00	9,722.00
Safety: Levels of serious violent crime	1,733.00	3,648.00	1,761.00
Safety: Perceived fear of crime – across the BCP area and in targeted neighbourhoods	Null		
Safety: Risk to most vulnerable victims of domestic abuse	1.00		

RAG rating

- On Target
- Monitoring Required
- Action Required
- No RAG Set
- Reported Annually
- No Data Available



Performance Summary

Targets and baselines for many of these measures are still under development.

Engagement with the community, as measured here through Citizens Advice and the Community Action Network, has been above target. Additionally the Covid-19 community support programmes have greatly enhanced our understanding of, and engagement with the most vulnerable in our communities.

Covid-19 has impacted the number of people that can visit the libraries and museums, this has led to the libraries making a lot of their events virtual and engagement levels have been high. Once this measure is established regularly we will be able to RAG rate them.

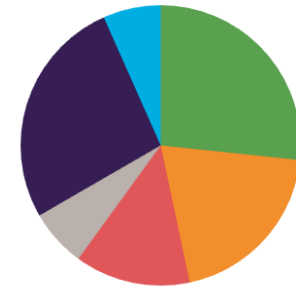
Anti-Social Behaviour remains a concern with figures continuing to increase. It is thought that this may partly be driven by Covid-19 related ASB. The perceived fear of crime is reported through the resident's survey which is next expected in 2021.

Dynamic Places - supporting an innovative, successful economy in a great place to live, learn, work and visit.

Agreed measures:	Target	Q4 2019/20	Q2 2020/21
% of journeys undertaken by sustainable modes	Null		
Development: BCP Council investment portfolio income (high level) (millions)	5.30	5.30	
Development: Gross development value generated by Bournemouth Development Company	12.60	12.60	12.60
Economic Development: Business stock (number of businesses)	15,135...	15,135.00	15,115.00
Economic Development: Footfall in the three town centres	Null	3,888,955.00	8,744,895.00
Economic Development: Number of businesses receiving support/quarter	200.00		
New Homes: Completed homes on Council Owned land year to date	0.00	127.00	0.00
New Homes: Total number delivered year to date	2,572.00	1,703.00	
Planning: Major applications determined on time	88.00	85.30	72.00
Planning: Minor applications determined on time	86.00	82.50	67.00
Planning: Other applications determined on time	90.00	87.40	60.00
Skills: % of higher-level qualification (NVQ4 and above)	39.20	35.70	39.40
Smart Place: Jobs created as a result of the programme	5.00		0.00
Smart Place: Number of enquiries relating to business investment through the programme	2.00	0.00	4.00
Tourism: Visitor spend per head to resort	34.00	34.00	

RAG rating

- On Target
- Monitoring Required
- Action Required
- No RAG Set
- Reported Annually
- No Data Available



Performance Summary

Performance for the dynamic places priority has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, whilst there has been a slight fall in the number of businesses in the area, footfall in the town centres has increased considerably.

There has been an increase in the numbers of people with higher level qualifications in the area.

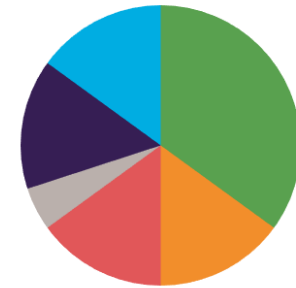
Planning application processing times haven't met local targets and dropped below national intervention levels in this quarter. Minor and other applications have fallen considerably (15% and 27% respectively). There is an action plan in place to bring these applications back up to speed.

The smart place programme is developing and positive figures are expected to be available at new year.

Fulfilled Lives - helping people lead active, healthy and independent lives, adding years to life and life to years

Agreed measures:	Target	Q4 2019/20	Q2 2020/21
Adult Care Services: % rated good or outstanding by the Care Quality Commission	89.00	89.00	
Adult Carers: % receiving info/advice or another service after an assessment	55.00	53.00	48.80
Adult Social Care: % of users aged 18+ with control over their daily life	81.00	81.00	
Adults Learning Disabilities: % in receipt of support and services in employment	4.50	3.90	4.60
Adults Learning Disabilities: % in settled accommodation	76.00	74.60	79.30
Adults Mental Health: % of adults in receipt of support and services in employment	7.00	7.00	8.60
Adults Safeguarding: % reporting reduced risks as a result of an enquiry	95.00	95.00	95.90
Drug and Alcohol Treatment: % of people completing treatment successfully for primary alcohol issues	41.00	36.00	30.00
Drug and alcohol treatment: Number of people with dependency accessing the service	1,599.00	1,142.00	1,436.00
Ease of access of all (As determined by the National Highways Transport survey results)	77.00	72.00	79.00
Housing: % of positive outcomes for care leavers under 25 achieved on time	76.00	54.00	46.00
Housing: % of positive outcomes for eligible applicants achieved on time	76.00	60.00	63.00
Housing: % of positive outcomes for families with children achieved on time	76.00	61.00	63.00
Housing: Number of homeless households in bed and breakfast	40.00	213.00	206.00
Housing: Number of people rough sleeping at latest street count	36.00	47.00	32.00
HR: Apprentices employed by BCP Council	5.00	2.00	
Public Health: Take up of health checks	Null		
Skills and Learning: % of all learners who live in a bottom 25% Indices of Multiple Deprivation ward	40.00	34.60	47.60
Skills and Learning: Further Education Choices Learner Satisfaction Rates	95.00	94.50	
Skills and Learning: Learner Achievement Rates	89.50	88.30	

RAG rating
■ On Target
■ Monitoring Required
■ Action Required
■ No RAG Set
■ Reported Annually
■ No Data Available



Performance Summary

Whilst good improvements have been made with supporting those with learning disabilities into employment and settled accommodation and the quality of safeguarding remains high other areas have not met the target levels.

Homeless households in bed and breakfasts remains far above target, driven by the Covid-19 efforts to prevent people from homelessness, consequently the number of people rough sleeping at the last count has reduced considerably. Processing speeds for positive outcomes in housing remain below target, with outcomes for care leavers particularly decreasing.

Health checks, Care Quality Commission ratings and the Learner achievement measures have all been suspended due to the difficulty of data collection during Covid-19.

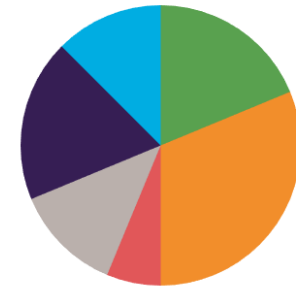
The percentage of total Skills and Learning learners from an indices of multiple deprivation bottom quartile ward have increased and are now at nearly 50%

Modern, Accessible and Accountable Council

Agreed measures:	Target	Q4 2019/20	Q2 2020/21
Communications: Number of website views (to include legacy sites and BCP Council initially)	6,686,882...	7,652,029.00	8,174,739.00
Communications: Total number of BCP Council Corporate account social media followers	96,474.00	73,460.00	117,622.00
Communications: Total number of BCP Council email news subscribers	41,370.00	35,974.00	38,655.00
Customer: % of all interactions raised by online portals	60.00	64.00	62.00
Finance: % of business rate collected	98.00	98.00	50.20
Finance: % of council tax collected	97.50	97.20	53.20
Finance: % of successful grant applications	75.00		56.00
Freedom of Information: % of requests responded to within statutory deadlines	90.00	75.00	83.00
HR: % of employees completing development training	25.00	10.00	
HR: % of employees completing mandatory training	100.00		2.10
HR: % of employees utilising mental health support service	5.00		3.10
HR: Diversity of workforce - at all levels in comparison to BCP demographics	Null		
HR: Employee engagement levels	65.00	56.00	
HR: Employee sickness absence levels (days)	7.00	10.00	8.44
Residents' levels of trust in BCP Council	Null		
Residents' satisfaction across all services	Null		

RAG rating

- On Target
- Monitoring Required
- Action Required
- No RAG Set
- Reported Annually
- No Data Available



Performance Summary

Good progress is being made towards creating a Modern, Accessible and Accountable Council against a backdrop of increasing difficulty as the Covid-19 pandemic impacts resources and capacity.

Of concern is the impact that the pandemic has had on the collection of business rates and council tax, with business rate collection down by 7% on previous years and council tax collection down by 2%. This measure has not been RAG rated due to the corporate decision to not pursue missed payments during lockdown.

The engagement with our social media and email news platforms is increasing and the percentage of contacts coming through online platforms remains high.

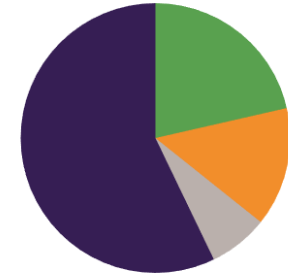
A number of the workforce related measures are reported annually and are unavailable at mid-year. Staff sickness absence has fallen slightly despite the ongoing pandemic. The percentage of staff registered as having completed mandatory training is low and work is being undertaken to increase registration rates

Residents' satisfaction and level of trust is measured through the resident's survey next scheduled for 2021.

Sustainable Environment - leading our communities towards a cleaner, sustainable future that preserves our outstanding environment for generations to come.

Agreed measures:	Target	Q4 2019/20	Q2 2020/21
Beaches: Number of Blue Flags awarded	9.00	9.00	
Fleet: Number of BCP Council vehicles replaced with cleaner and greener vehicles	20.00	4.00	
Number of people cycling	Null		
Parks and Open Spaces: % of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in favourable condition owned by or which the Council has management control over	27.00	25.00	25.00
Parks and Open Spaces: Number of Green Flags awarded	23.00	23.00	23.00
Parks and Open Spaces: Number of volunteer hours supporting environmental sustainability and enhancement programmes	150,000.00	101,559.00	
Single occupancy cars entering conurbation	Null		
Street Scene: Standard of cleanliness achieved in line with the Environmental Protection Act 1990	Null		
Sustainability: Number of households receiving energy efficiency advice and guidance	500.00	691.00	117.00
Sustainability: Scope 1 and 2 CO2 emissions for BCP Council	Null	11,389.00	
Use of public transport	Null	25,575,883.00	
Waste: % of total household waste recycled, re-used or composted	50.00	53.92	51.61
Waste: Residual household waste per head of population (kg)	116.46	437.52	108.66
Waste: Residual household waste per household (kg)	108.64	432.22	112.39

RAG rating
■ On Target
■ Monitoring Required
■ No RAG Set
■ Reported Annually



Performance Summary

The picture of performance for the sustainable environment priority is unclear. Data collection against this priority has been particularly hampered by the Covid-19 pandemic which has prevented the conducting of the usual transport surveys, the surveying necessary for Blue Flag accreditation and has also impacted the household energy efficiency surveys.

In addition a number of the measures for this priority are only collected on an annual basis.

Where there is data available performance is encouraging. Whilst residual waste per head and per household is not at target the household waste recycled, re-used or composted remains above 50% indicating strong waste performance.

The renewal of the council's fleet for cleaner and greener vehicles has been hampered by the economic circumstances relating to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Brighter Futures:

Exception Performance Report	
Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard): Proportion of repeat referrals in social worker in 12 months	
2020/21 Q2 outturn: 26%	Quarterly Target: 20%
Reason for level of performance: During April to June, we experienced higher numbers of repeat referrals. The referrals were dip-sampled and identified that in 70% of cases the repeat referrals were made for different issues and concerns to those identified in the original referrals. In the latter part of the period, numbers reduced again to be more in line with comparator averages.	
Summary of financial implications: None identified.	
Summary of legal implications: A safe and effective front door service is essential for Children's Services to fulfil our statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the area who are in need, as set out in the Children Act 1989.	
Summary of human resources implications: None identified.	
Summary of sustainability impact: None identified.	
Summary of public health implications: Safe, effective and timely decision making in front door services is essential to ensure the health and welfare of children and young people. This includes keeping them safe from harm, abuse and maltreatment.	
Summary of equality implications: The impact of this performance was indiscriminate, in that it affected all children and young people in the same way, including those from protected groups. However, some groups of children are more likely than others to be referred to social care services. For example, disabled children have been found to be at greater risk of abuse and neglect, and recognition and assessment can be delayed for this group, as signs of neglect and abuse may be confused with the underlying disability or condition. Disabled parents, and parents with a learning disability, may require additional support to engage with children's services. The ways in which abuse and neglect manifest differs between age groups, but some forms of neglect may be less well recognised in older young people, or indeed those who are pre-verbal. There is a growing recognition of the role of fathers as protective factors, although there remains a focus on mothers. There is a strong correlation between abuse and neglect and deprivation. Unaccompanied asylum seeking children are without parental protection and may face language barriers. ¹	

¹ NICE Social Care Guideline Equality Impact Assessment

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

Proportion of repeat referrals in social worker in 12 months

Actions taken or planned to improve performance:

Whilst performance has now reduced, to 21% in September, further improvements are required in the front door service. This includes workforce development to improve the application of thresholds, timely decision making with management oversight, and an improved understanding of the new Early Help offer.

Completed by: Lorraine Marshall, Service Director

Service Unit Head approval with date:

Lorraine Marshall, 1 December 2020

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

Social Care: % of timely decisions for children who need a social worker

2020/21 Q2 outturn: 66%

Quarterly Target: 80%

Reason for level of performance:

Front door services are those which are the first point of contact for people seeking help for children and young people in BCP. Contacts for help are triaged and directed to the most appropriate service, which may be a referral to Children's Social Care or Early Help.

During the first half of the year, the timely progression of decisions within front door services has been too slow. This has been impacted by resourcing challenges within the team and steps taken to resolve this are expected to rapidly improve performance within the second half of the year. Some improvement has been noted in August and September, despite an increase in demand during this time.

Summary of financial implications:

Additional capacity has already been identified and is in place within the team in Quarter 3. There are no additional funding requirements.

Summary of legal implications:

A safe and effective front door service is essential for Children's Services to fulfil our statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the area who are in need, as set out in the Children Act 1989.

Summary of human resources implications:

None identified.

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

Social Care: % of timely decisions for children who need a social worker

Summary of sustainability impact:

None identified.

Summary of public health implications:

Safe, effective and timely decision making in front door services is essential to ensure the health and welfare of children and young people. This includes keeping them safe from harm, abuse and maltreatment.

Summary of equality implications:

The impact of this performance was indiscriminate, in that it affected all children and young people in the same way, including those from protected groups. However, some groups of children are more likely than others to be referred to social care services. For example, disabled children have been found to be at greater risk of abuse and neglect, and recognition and assessment can be delayed for this group, as signs of neglect and abuse may be confused with the underlying disability or condition. Disabled parents, and parents with a learning disability, may require additional support to engage with children's services. The ways in which abuse and neglect manifest differs between age groups, but some forms of neglect may be less well recognised in older young people, or indeed those who are pre-verbal. There is a growing recognition of the role of fathers as protective factors, although there remains a focus on mothers. There is a strong correlation between abuse and neglect and deprivation. Unaccompanied asylum seeking children are without parental protection and may face language barriers.²

Actions taken or planned to improve performance:

There has been an increase in both the volume and complexity of contacts and referrals post-lockdown, in particular following the schools reopening in September. This has and continues to result in pressure within front door teams, but planned mitigations are supporting the sustainment of some performance improvements.

Challenges remain to ensure that timely decisions are made for children and that as a result they receive the right support at the right time. Workforce development will be a key priority in the next six months within the teams to improve not only timescales but also management oversight and threshold decisions.

Completed by: Lorraine Marshall, Service Director

Service Unit Head approval with date:

Lorraine Marshall, 1 December 2020

² NICE Social Care Guideline Equality Impact Assessment

Connected Communities

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

Safety: Levels of anti-social behaviour

2020/21 Q2 outturn: 9722

Quarterly Target: 6182

Reason for level of performance:

The increase in reports since April 2020 is highly likely to be largely attributable to Covid 19 breach reports. This has been experienced locally and nationally www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52298016

Much of the increased anti-social behaviour recorded during the first six months of 2020/21 has been due to breaches of Covid regulations, people gathering either inside homes or outside during the summer. This was particularly an issue during the summer where we saw large numbers of people travelling to the conurbation.

With the reopening of shops and licensed premises in the summer, we have also seen a return of begging and street anti-social behaviour in our town centres, although this is much reduced from this same period last year.

Summary of financial implications:

N/a

Summary of legal implications:

The intention is to consult on a new Public Spaces Protection Order for the BCP area in the new year, to ensure that where we see alcohol related ASB, this can effectively be dealt with.

Summary of human resources implications:

The ASB team have had a vacancy, which has been temporarily filled, and there are plans in place to fill the vacancy for the Senior ASB Officer, which has been vacant for the past year. This will give the ASB team more resilience and ensure they are better able to manage their caseload.

Summary of sustainability impact:

N/A

Summary of public health implications:

Addiction is one of the most significant causes of anti-social behaviour, whether this is dependant drinkers who congregate in public spaces or drug consumption and dealing.

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

Safety: Levels of anti-social behaviour

Summary of equality implications:

A significant number of the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour will be vulnerable in some way, whether this is through addiction, mental health issues or because they are young people at risk of exploitation.

Actions taken or planned to improve performance:

A Tactical Response Plan has been developed in order to deliver an effective response to the issues presented by Covid 19 including ASB. In addition, 12 new covid marshals have been deployed across the BCP area since 31/10/20 to support with compliance of rules and social distancing. Joint work with Police, BIDs, addiction and homelessness services aims to address the street based ASB we see in our town centres.

The Community Safety Partnership is also developing a longer-term ASB Strategy to co-ordinate our partnership work.

Completed by: Hannah Kier/Andrew Williams

Service Unit Head approval with date:

Dynamic Places

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

Planning: Minor planning applications determined on time

2020/21 Q2 outturn: 67%

Quarterly Target: 86%

Reason for level of performance:

The Covid-19 global pandemic had a direct impact on ability to determine applications on time during Q2. This is due to measures that had to be put in place in Q1 (during when the lockdown was in place) to protect the safety of the staff as well as the wider public through cessation of staff initially being able to come to the office, restrictions with being able to work from home (the workforce did not have access to all the equipment initially), a pause on application publicity and limitations on being able to leave their homes to carry out site visits. The decision to pause the planning application notification during much of Q1 pending easing of lockdown restrictions added time to the application process to ensure that the public had their statutory right to comment on proposals.

The swift corporate response to providing the teams with laptops was, however, very much welcomed and enabled the staff to move to working remotely. Notwithstanding this the systems accessed through the laptops were initially slower in Q1 than in if connected to desktops in the office. This was resolved through working with ICT during Q1 but meant that normal tasks took longer before that. There was also a delay in taking required support kit home such as a second screen due to the lockdown restrictions.

A significant proportion of the workforce were also impacted by having to home school during lockdown as well as carry out the day job of processing planning applications. It is understood that this was a national issue but was a factor in terms of the performance output in Q2.

Whilst mitigation measures were put in place as lockdown restrictions eased and operations continued, the impact of the volatility during Q1 has resulted in planning applications received in Q1 subject to delayed determination periods during Q2, with some exceeding the government set timeframes for determining applications.

A further aspect was that demand started to increase rapidly as the market reacted to the relaxation of lockdown towards the end of Q1 creating a bulge of workload in the system that needed to be processed in Q2. The capacity of the team available in Q2 to deal with the additional spike in workload also affected the ability to process the volume of work on hand as efficiently as it would in normal circumstances.

Summary of financial implications:

There is a need to boost capacity to deal with workload with some additional short term staff but this is covered through existing vacancies

Summary of legal implications:

None identified

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

Planning: Minor planning applications determined on time

Summary of human resources implications:

The increased workload potentially impacts on the health and well being of the existing staff and that is being managed carefully. Bringing in additional short term support will ease pressure for existing staff as well as ensure performance is improved by the end of the monitoring period.

Summary of sustainability impact:

None identified

Summary of public health implications:

Staff are enabled to work from home and carry out site visits safely within Covid restrictions. Outbreaks of Covid within staff will need to be managed accordingly but to date staff have remained safe and well in respect of Covid.

Summary of equality implications:

The planning service is available for all people to use as required for their needs and in this regard there are no equality implications identified as the service remains open and operational. A delay in processing a planning application should equally therefore not adversely affect any parties with protected characteristics. However, as a safeguard the service will identify and prioritise any applications that are shown to be vital to be determined in time in order to safeguard any applicants with protected characteristics that would be unduly affected by a prospective delay. There have been no instances of delays causing any parties with protected characteristics issues to date.

Actions taken or planned to improve performance:

An action plan is in place to drive efforts on reducing demand and significantly improve performance to service the ongoing workloads efficiently by end of monitoring year and beyond. Key measures include:

- Streamlining processes and using additional staffing resources within available budgets to reduce on hand demand;
- Better communication with customers to resolve issues through the roll out of MS Teams telephony;
- Weekly performance reviews to improve workflow management, focus on determining applications approaching time limits, identify the pressures and act to resolve as early in the process as possible;
- The S106 process for minor developments is being reviewed to make it leaner and more customer friendly, which will directly enable quicker decisions to be made;
- The front-end registration part of the process is being reviewed and Q2 delay already being significantly unblocked to release applications quicker into the planning officers;
- Comprehensive review of planning application process underway including working with transformation team to embed culture of continuous improvement and to ensure service expectations are achieved through the Council's new operating model;
- Ongoing work to move the legacy planning systems to a single system to standardise process and enable better resilience and management of the single local planning authority function;
- Resource planning as part of corporate transformation to address staffing needs representative of the volume and type of planning application work that is serviced each year, including bringing in short term support.

Completed by: Nick Perrins

Service Unit Head approval with date: Nick Perrins 2/12/20

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

Planning: Other planning applications determined on time

2020/21 Q2 outturn: 60%

Quarterly Target: 90%

Reason for level of performance:

The Covid-19 global pandemic had a direct impact on ability to determine applications on time during Q2. This is due to measures that had to be put in place in Q1 (during when the lockdown was in place) to protect the safety of the staff as well as the wider public through cessation of staff initially being able to come to the office, restrictions with being able to work from home (the workforce did not have access to all the equipment initially), a pause on application publicity and limitations on being able to leave their homes to carry out site visits. The decision to pause the planning application notification during much of Q1 pending easing of lockdown restrictions added time to the application process to ensure that the public had their statutory right to comment on proposals.

The swift corporate response to providing the teams with laptops was, however, very much welcomed and enabled the staff to move to working remotely. Notwithstanding this the systems accessed through the laptops were initially slower in Q1 than in if connected to desktops in the office. This was resolved through working with ICT during Q1 but meant that normal tasks took longer before that. There was also a delay in taking required support kit home such as a second screen due to the lockdown restrictions.

A significant proportion of the workforce were also impacted by having to home school during lockdown as well as carry out the day job of processing planning applications. It is understood that this was a national issue but was a factor in terms of the performance output in Q2.

Whilst mitigation measures were put in place as lockdown restrictions eased and operations continued, the impact of the volatility during Q1 has resulted in planning applications received in Q1 subject to delayed determination periods during Q2, with some exceeding the government set timeframes for determining applications.

A further aspect was that demand started to increase rapidly as the market reacted to the relaxation of lockdown towards the end of Q1 creating a bulge of workload in the system that needed to be processed in Q2. The capacity of the team available in Q2 to deal with the additional spike in workload also affected the ability to process the volume of work on hand as efficiently as it would in normal circumstances.

Summary of financial implications:

There is a need to boost capacity to deal with workload with some additional short term staff but this is covered through existing vacancies.

Summary of legal implications:

None identified

Summary of human resources implications:

The increased workload potentially impacts on the health and well being of the existing staff and that is being managed carefully. Bringing in additional short term support will ease pressure for existing staff as well as ensure performance is improved by the end of the monitoring period.

Summary of sustainability impact:

None identified

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

Planning: Other planning applications determined on time

Summary of public health implications:

Staff are enabled to work from home and carry out site visits safely within Covid restrictions. Outbreaks of Covid within staff will need to be managed accordingly but to date staff have remained safe and well in respect of Covid.

Summary of equality implications:

The planning service is available for all people to use as required for their needs and in this regard there are no equality implications identified as the service remains open and operational. A delay in processing a planning application should equally therefore not adversely affect any parties with protected characteristics. However, as a safeguard the service will identify and prioritise any applications that are shown to be vital to be determined in time in order to safeguard any applicants with protected characteristics that would be unduly affected by a prospective delay. There have been no instances of delays causing any parties with protected characteristics issues to date.

Actions taken or planned to improve performance:

An action plan is in place to drive efforts on reducing demand and significantly improve performance to service the ongoing workloads efficiently by end of monitoring year and beyond. Key measures include:

- Streamlining processes and using additional staffing resources within available budgets to reduce on hand demand;
- Better communication with customers to resolve issues through the roll out of MS Teams telephony;
- Weekly performance reviews to improve workflow management, focus on determining applications approaching time limits, identify the pressures and act to resolve as early in the process as possible;
- Reducing the requirements for officers reports for 'other' applications where there no objections received to free up officer time to focus on decision making within time;
- The front-end registration part of the process is being reviewed and Q2 delay already being significantly unblocked to release applications quicker into the planning officers;
- Comprehensive review of planning application process underway including working with transformation team to embed culture of continuous improvement and to ensure service expectations are achieved through the Council's new operating model;
- Ongoing work to move the legacy planning systems to a single system to standardise process and enable better resilience and management of the single local planning authority function;
- Resource planning as part of corporate transformation to address staffing needs representative of the volume and type of planning application work that is serviced each year, including bringing in short term support.

Completed by: Nick Perrins

Service Unit Head approval with date: Nick Perrins 2/12/2020

Fulfilled Lives

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

Adult Carers: % of carers who receive info/advice or another service after an assessment

2020/21 Q2 outturn:

48.8

Quarterly Target:

55

Reason for level of performance:

Performance has been impacted by the necessary reduction in day opportunities as a result of Covid 19 restrictions. The pandemic has also resulted in a reduction in the number of recreational Vouchers (of all types) being issued or issued but then not used. Many carers are, understandably, reluctant to engage in social activity because of the risk of cross-infection.

Similarly, there has been a reduction in residential respite due to homes not wishing to risk introducing infection to their establishments from short-stay clients, as well as carers not wishing the person they care for to be admitted to a care home; particularly at that time when care homes were seen as high risk environments.

Summary of financial implications:

Demand for, and therefore spending on, respite services has been suppressed since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and continues to be less than usual for the reasons expressed above. Similarly, the uptake of vouchers has been lower than usual, resulting in reduced spending in this area.

Demand for additional support to cared-for individuals has, in some cases, risen as an alternative to residential respite care. In many cases, however, carers and those they care for have chosen to reduce the risk of infection by isolating themselves as much as possible and simply managing day-to-day as best as they can.

Summary of legal implications:

Government recognised that the full requirements of the Care Act (2014) might be difficult for Local Authorities to discharge during the Covid-19 pandemic and introduced Easements to the Act. The provision of easement powers for Local Authorities took legal effect on 31st March 2020 through the Coronavirus Act (2020).

An easement was applied relating to adult social care day centres, this easement has now been lifted with restricted provision being put in place in a Covid safe way in order to accommodate those adults at high risk including where the carer relationship is at significant risk of breaking down.

Summary of human resources implications:

Operational teams have been equipped with the technology and PPE necessary to work in a more flexible way with reduced use of office space and a greater reliance on working from home and videoconferencing in order to continue to work with carers.

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

Adult Carers: % of carers who receive info/advice or another service after an assessment

Summary of sustainability impact:

The move to widespread home and remote working and the use of videoconferencing when working with carers has led to very significant reductions in travelling to venues and consequently lower carbon emissions. There is significant learning about the use of technology in offering support and services to carers in a sustainable way and also mobile and flexible working, which will be taken forward from this period.

Summary of public health implications:

Carer stress has been a key issue during the lockdown period and this has resulted in a higher level of safeguarding contacts being made.

Summary of equality implications:

The focus has been on ensuring that carers and those they care for continue to be able to access information, advice, assessments and services whilst working through a reporting period where the Covid 19 virus and subsequent lock down restrictions have been in place. The closure of day services for some of the period, limited use of the voucher scheme and limited use of respite has impacted on carers and those that they care for including older people and those with a physical disability, learning disability or mental illness. These impacts have been mitigated through the use of interim community-based support services and the use of technology including the use of videoconferencing to support clients and carers with the greatest needs.

Actions taken or planned to improve performance:

Support to carers is ongoing. We are working with Tricuro who are providing outreach support following the closure of day-centres. Where required Tricuro are referring to ASC for urgent need. The Carers Centre continues to support carers virtually, with a wide range of carers social events moving to online delivery. During the summer months, the Carers Centre has been able to facilitate visits using the outdoor space for socially distanced one-to-one support. Over the Winter months, indoor visits will be facilitated in accordance with prevailing restrictions and safety measures. Carers have identified that mutual support with other carers benefits them the most, so small groups, as defined by prevailing public health advice, will be permitted to visit the Carers Centre by pre-booked arrangement.

A comprehensive review of the support available to unpaid carers, including young carers, is being planned with an expected launch early in 2021. Learning from the experiences of carers before and during the Covid-19 pandemic will be an integral feature of this review.

Completed by: Mali Gudgion, Adult Social Care Commissioning

Service Unit Head approval with date:

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

Housing: % of positive outcomes for care leavers under 25 achieved on time

2020/21 Q2 outturn:

46

Quarterly Target:

76

Reason for level of performance:

13 out of 28 Households prevented/relieved within 56 days. However robust housing and support pathways are in place for all care leavers who do not yet have settled accommodation. This group have spent longer in temporary housing awaiting a more settled housing solution due to increased single homelessness demands across the conurbation.

The reduced availability of settled and affordable accommodation in the private and social sector has led delays in moving Care leavers into a settled home.

Summary of financial implications:

N/A

Summary of legal implications:

N/A

Summary of human resources implications:

N/A

Summary of sustainability impact:

N/A

Summary of public health implications:

N/A

Summary of equality implications:

Young people are disproportionately affected by homelessness and may be at greater risk of unemployment as a result of the pandemic. Young LGBTQ people are disproportionately affected by homelessness.

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

Housing: % of positive outcomes for care leavers under 25 achieved on time

Actions taken or planned to improve performance:

Proposals in development for an updated Housing & Children's Services Young Persons Housing Protocol including Care Leavers. Focus on 16/17 year old's including emergency accommodation; Care Leavers accommodation planning and transition, Young people leaving custody, 18-25 year old young people with support needs and our Supported accommodation and settled housing move-on offer.

Early referral and housing resource panel in place to mitigate against risks for Care Leavers becoming homeless. New aligned Housing Allocations Policy proposed to further prioritise social rented accommodation for care leavers. Council Housing Strategy identifying care experienced young people as an area of need for suitable housing is in draft and due for consultation in early 2021. Young People Interview Guidance for Housing Officers about to be launched November 2020.

Completed by: Ben Tomlin, Head of Housing Options & Partnerships

Service Unit Head approval with date:

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

Housing: Number of homeless households in bed and breakfast

2020/21 Q2 outturn:

206

Quarterly Target:

40

Reason for level of performance:

Households accommodated in B&Bs are significantly higher than forecast due to the 'Everyone In' government initiative which locally has meant supporting over 300 households (mainly singles) with safe accommodation during the pandemic.

Homelessness demands to house rough sleepers continue because of the need to allocate emergency placements to mitigate transmission of Covid 19 across the single homeless community. The numbers of people who subsequently became at risk of rough sleeping at the start of the pandemic due to precarious housing circumstances breaking down was high (e.g. sofa surfing, staying with friends).

Summary of financial implications:

Additional costs have been required to resource hotel accommodation, housing officers management, support and security staff both within the hotels and centrally and provide subsistence, laundry and other essential personal costs to support the number of households above the target.

When the lockdown was first announced £54,000 was awarded to BCP Council towards the costs of 'Everyone In'. The Council has also been awarded a grant of £396,000 by Defra for Emergency Assistance, the purpose of which is to fund immediate needs of those who are struggling to afford food and essentials due to Covid-19. It is anticipated that this funding is intended to be spent between August and October. The Council received £1.4m Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) grant for 20/21 pre-Covid, MHCLG have confirmed that £220,000 of this can be repurposed to support the Covid related additional costs. Further analysis of the RSI grant is taking place to see if other elements of the grant can also be repurposed to support these costs.

The Council has been successful with securing Next Steps Accommodation Programme grants for this year and the following 3 years of over £1million revenue support & £4million capital.

Additional 'Next Steps' revenue and contingency grant funding of over £2m will support the financial pressure in 2020/21.

The cost of managing the additional case work is largely being absorbed by existing staff in the Housing Options team & St Mungo's outreach team.

The housing options team are preparing bids for addition funding for Cold Weather Fund, Protect Programme and the Shared Outcomes fund, all of which are expected to aid Council financial pressures from the additional hotel placements.

Summary of legal implications:

N/A

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

Housing: Number of homeless households in bed and breakfast

Summary of human resources implications:

Additional grants received to support the management and support of additional people in temporary housing in this year is placing an additional dependency on good quality agency staff which are often in short supply.

Summary of sustainability impact:

N/A

Summary of public health implications:

Robust outbreak management plans are in place for all emergency accommodation settings with Covid-19 Secure temporary accommodation is in place for people who are required to self isolate or who have had a positive test results.

A dedicated interim Housing Manager is in place to support the business continuity arrangements across all Housing settings within BCP, providing a close working partnership with Public Health and other key partners.

Summary of equality implications:

Many people who rough sleep and need emergency accommodation and welfare assistance have complex health needs and complex behaviours. Improving their own opportunities to secure longer term independence and improvements in health and wellbeing, whilst ensuring the wider community impact is lessened remains a priority. Person centred interventions are provided in partnership with a range of statutory & non-statutory partners.

The approach seeks to enhance the local offer to people who would otherwise not receive housing, care and support due to presiding housing legislation and guidance.

The following equality impacts are key in the delivery of this offer & will have positive benefits across each specific group.

It is recognised that people from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds may be at greater risk of COVID19 for a variety of socioeconomic factors. People from migrant backgrounds who do not have full access to public funds are at great risk of homelessness. People with existing health conditions may be more vulnerable to the virus. People who are homeless have high instances of additional health conditions.

It is recognised that single men make up a majority of homelessness applicants, and particularly of rough sleepers.

Women and men have different experiences of homelessness. Women are disproportionately likely to be victims of domestic abuse and become homeless as a result of domestic abuse. They are also more likely than men to become homeless with their children.

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

Housing: Number of homeless households in bed and breakfast

Young people are disproportionately affected by homelessness and may be at greater risk of unemployment as a result of the pandemic. Young LGBTQ people are disproportionately affected by homelessness.

Actions taken or planned to improve performance:

Move-on planning for people accommodated during lockdown is reducing households in B&B. A successful Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) grant will further aid these efforts with the BCP Homelessness Partnership. The existing NSAP Capital and Revenue Grant award of c£7M is already helping mitigate the costs of providing temporary accommodation and support, as well as providing new targeted homes and support to this group to enable move on into settled homes. The integrated support provision across services, particularly health services, has been key in helping those placed in bed and breakfast accommodation stay inside and avoid returning to the streets. This work continues.

Effective governance arrangements are in place through the Homelessness Reduction Board and Partnership. The Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Strategy, due for public consultation in November, will agree the strategic approach to tackle homelessness in all forms.

Completed by: Ben Tomlin, Head of Housing Options & Partnerships

Service Unit Head approval with date:

Modern, Accessible and Accountable Council

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

HR: % of employees completing mandatory training

2020/21 Q2 outturn:

2.10%

Quarterly Target:

100%

Reason for level of performance:

As this data is taken from the iLearn system many employees who did their mandatory training when they first joined the organisation have not renewed their training in the system. Our policy states that mandatory training must be completed every 3 years.

The recorded rate of employees completing their mandatory training has also been impacted by the decision to stop informing managers of the completion rate of mandatory training in their areas due to the reduction in the Learning and Development (L&D) team. There is a clear need to improve communications about the importance of mandatory training amongst staff and to secure greater engagement from managers and directors in driving its take-up across the organisation. This will be tackled as a priority over the next quarter in order to make the required improvement in performance.

Summary of financial implications:

Should BCP council be unable to defend a data breach. For example, a GDPR breach, where there is no evidence of mandatory training taking place or the intent to train, the Council could be liable for financial penalties.

Example; In 2018 the UK Information Commissioner's Office fined Equifax and Facebook for data failures under the pre-GDPR Data Protection Act, in which the highest possible fine is £500,000.

Summary of legal implications:

Most mandatory training is in place as there is statutory legislation requiring this training to be completed.

For example; The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 requires every employer to provide whatever training, equipment, PPE, and information necessary to ensure the safety and health of their staff, this includes some form of health and safety training.

Any organisation failing to meet the expectations of health regulators, or the appropriate Health and Safety Executive (HSE), faces a risk to their reputation. Health regulatory bodies are required to publish inspection reports, while information about HSE inspections can be gained via Freedom of Information requests.

Example; A local authority was fined after two of its social workers were assaulted on a home visit by the mother of a vulnerable child. HSE found that the local authority failed to follow its corporate lone working policy or violence and aggression guidance. No risk assessment was completed, and staff were not trained accordingly. The authority was fined £100,000, with costs of £10,918.88.

Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard):

HR: % of employees completing mandatory training

Summary of human resources implications:

Employees may be at risk in the workplace if they have not completed the necessary mandatory training. Managers may be held accountable for performance and delivery. There could also be increased risk to service delivery, which could result in absence, grievance and disciplinary processes.

Summary of sustainability impact:

No impact identified.

Summary of public health implications:

Failure to comply with Health & Safety standards, due to the services that BCP Council deliver, may have an increased risk to Public Health, for example; catering or waste disposal.

Summary of equality implications:

Equality and Diversity Training forms part of our mandatory training. Failure to complete this means that staff may be unaware of the Council's Public Sector Equality Duties and how this applies to their role and workforce behaviour and any subsequent impacts on the Council's commitment to equality and diversity.

Actions taken or planned to improve performance:

- Internal audit completed to highlight the risk and propose actions
- Data cleanse to compare current ilearn records with current E1st establishment to understand true baseline and set target for improvement reporting monthly.
- Communications campaign to raise awareness of completion rates and requirement to complete.
- Buy in and role modelling from senior leaders within the organisation.
- L&D resource is required to maintain records and improve completion rates – resource requirements may be addressed in corporate restructure project.

Completed by: Lucy Eldred, Head of HR

Service Unit Head approval with date: Matti Raudsepp, Service Director – Organisational Development

CABINET



Report subject	Council Tax - Tax Base 2021/22
Meeting date	13 January 2021
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This report calculates and presents the proposed council tax base for council tax setting purposes in line with current legislation and guidance.</p> <p>Three separate council tax bases have been maintained for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole areas during the period of council tax harmonisation.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</p> <p>(a) Approves the report for the calculation of the council's tax base for the year 2021/22 and recommends the tax base to Full Council.</p> <p>(b) Pursuant to the report, and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended, the amount calculated as the council tax base for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council for 2021/22 is 139,170.5, comprising of the following area tax bases: Bournemouth 62,176.7, Christchurch 20,021.9 and Poole 56,971.9.</p>
Reason for recommendations	The Council is required by the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended, to calculate the council tax base for the financial year 2021/22.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Drew Mellor, Leader, Finance & Transformation
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Adam Richens (Chief Finance Officer) Matthew Filmer (Finance Manager) Daniel Povey (Assistant Chief Financial Officer)
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council is required to calculate its tax base in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended, and provide this information to the Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner, the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority as well as the relevant parish, town and neighbourhood councils and charter trustees in the BCP Council area.
2. There is a requirement to maintain three separate council tax bases for the areas of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole during the period of council tax harmonisation.

Calculation of council tax base

3. Under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and accompanying regulations, detailed procedures exist for calculating the tax base which will be used for calculating the levels of council tax charged to residents. The tax base for the individual Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole areas is expressed as the number of band D equivalent properties and will be used to calculate BCP Council's element of council tax as well as the council tax charged by other preceptors.
4. In addition to calculating the tax base for BCP Council, a separate tax base has to be calculated for each part of the council's areas to which a special item of expenditure relates. Parish, town and neighbourhood council and charter trustee precepts are all treated as special items for these purposes and their precepts are charged only over the tax base for the relevant area.
5. Following the Community Governance Review a calculation of the tax base applicable to the new Throop and Holdenhurst Parish Council is included in Appendix D. The creation of this new parish council has reduced the tax base over which the Charter Trustees of Bournemouth can charge their precept as they cannot charge in an area that is precepted by a parish council.
6. The detailed calculation of the BCP Council tax base by area and the tax base relating to each individual parish, town and neighbourhood council and charter trustee is provided in Appendices A – D. In summary the total tax base of 139,170.5 for BCP Council is made up from the following band D equivalents:
 - a. Bournemouth 62,176.7;

- b. Christchurch 20,021.9;
 - c. Poole 56,971.9.
- 7. The calculations include estimated changes in the Valuation Office's Valuation List that will take place during 2021/22 by reference to the following:
 - a. Provision for successful appeals;
 - b. Provision for exempt properties;
 - c. Changes in the number of properties (demolitions and new additions);
 - d. Cost of local council tax support scheme (LCTS);
 - e. Estimated single person and other discounts, and;
 - f. Estimated collection rate.
- 8. The total estimated tax base for BCP Council has reduced from 142,996.2 in 2020/21 to 139,170.5 in 2021/22 due to the estimated impact of covid-19 on both the cost of the LCTS and the collection rate. This reduction equates to a 2.7% reduction in the tax base compared to the current MTFP planning assumption of 3.9%.
- 9. The cost of the LCTS is estimated at £29.062 million (£25.697 million 2020/21) which is an increase of £3.365 million or 13.1% compared to last year and reflects the 13.5% increase in the cost of working age claimants. The weighted average collection rate is estimated at 97.2% (99.0% 2020/21).
- 10. There continues to be an increase in Single Person households being reported. Resources are being allocated so that Single Person discount claims will be fully reviewed annually, and data matching exercises undertaken to prove their validity. This review process will also link to recommended checks as advised by National Fraud Initiative.
- 11. The council tax requirement for 2021/22, which will be approved by BCP Council in February 2021, will be divided by the calculated tax base in order to arrive at the charge for a band D property, from which the charges for other valuation bands will be determined.

Options Appraisal

- 12. The council can make differing assumptions regarding the estimated additions, deletions, exempt properties, discounts, cost of LCTS and the collection rate and their impact on the tax base. However, these have been set at a level based on historical trend and with due regard to the current economic environment and effects of covid-19, in order to ensure as far as possible that a deficit does not occur on the collection fund.

Summary of financial implications

- 13. As set out in the body of this report.

Summary of legal implications

- 14. The calculation and approval of the tax base is a crucial step in the council being able to set a legal balanced budget for 2021/22.

15. The council must set its tax base in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended, and inform other preceptors of their relevant tax base.

Summary of human resources implications

16. None.

Summary of sustainability impact

17. None.

Summary of public health implications

18. None.

Summary of equality implications

19. None.

Summary of risk assessment

20. None.

Background papers

None.

Appendices

Appendix A – Bournemouth area tax base 2021/22.

Appendix B – Christchurch area tax base 2021/22.

Appendix C – Poole area tax base 2021/22.

Appendix D – Parish, town and neighbourhood council and charter trustee tax bases 2021/22.

Bournemouth Council Tax Base 2021/22

BAND	Disab A	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Total
Total Properties	0.0	19,763.0	19,042.0	24,320.0	16,738.0	8,005.0	3,484.0	1,512.0	127.0	92,991.0
Exempt Properties	0.0	1,566.0	554.0	1,080.0	1,337.0	173.0	72.0	14.0	2.0	4,798.0
No. of chargeable dwellings subject to disabled reduction	0.0	6.0	22.0	73.0	59.0	40.0	28.0	19.0	15.0	262.0
No. of dwellings effectively subject to Council Tax for this band by virtue of disabled relief	6.0	22.0	73.0	59.0	40.0	28.0	19.0	15.0	0.0	262.0
No. of dwellings entitled to a 25% discount	4.0	11,163.0	7,790.0	7,241.0	4,249.0	1,738.0	691.0	223.0	13.0	33,112.0
No. of dwellings entitled to a 25% discount as all but one resident being disregarded for Council Tax purposes	0.0	163.0	222.0	308.0	88.0	85.0	28.0	10.0	0.0	904.0
No. of dwellings entitled to a 50% discount due to all residents being disregarded for Council Tax purposes	0.0	11.0	23.0	36.0	32.0	17.0	31.0	27.0	19.0	196.0
No. of dwellings classed as 2nd home with 50% discount	0.0	312.0	5.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	320.0
No. of dwellings classed as empty and being charged the Empty Home Premium	0.0	81.0	63.0	45.0	19.0	14.0	16.0	8.0	1.0	247.0
Total number of dwellings receiving a discount	4.0	11,649.0	8,040.0	7,587.0	4,369.0	1,840.0	751.0	260.0	32.0	34,532.0
Total number of dwellings being charged a premium	0.0	81.0	63.0	45.0	19.0	14.0	16.0	8.0	1.0	247.0
Reduction in taxbase as a result of the Family Annexe discount	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6
Number of dwellings where there is a liability to pay 100% Council Tax	2.0	6,483.0	10,436.0	15,594.0	10,994.0	5,966.0	2,636.0	1,226.0	77.0	53,414.0
Number of dwellings with reduction under the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme	2.3	4,450.3	2,986.7	2,481.8	761.9	200.1	54.5	9.2	0.0	10,946.8
Total equivalent number of dwellings after discounts, premiums, exemptions and disabled relief	2.7	10,847.6	13,598.3	18,883.0	13,538.4	7,169.6	3,168.7	1,421.0	98.3	68,727.6
Estimated number of additions	0.0	21.7	27.2	37.8	27.1	14.3	6.3	2.8	0.2	137.5
Net Total	2.7	10,869.3	13,625.5	18,920.7	13,565.4	7,183.9	3,175.1	1,423.9	98.4	68,865.0
Ratio to Band D	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	
Number of Band D equivalents (line 18 + 19) x line 20	1.5	7,246.2	10,597.6	16,818.4	13,565.4	8,780.4	4,586.2	2,373.1	196.9	64,165.8
Less 3.1% Losses										-1,989.1
Tax Base 2021/22										62,176.7

Christchurch Council Tax Base 2021/22

BAND	Disab A	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Total
Total Properties	0.0	1,748.0	2,341.0	6,298.0	6,255.0	5,170.0	1,656.0	804.0	41.0	24,313.0
Exempt Properties	0.0	59.0	31.0	94.0	100.0	67.0	25.0	2.0	0.0	378.0
Demolished Dwellings	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
No. of chargeable dwellings subject to disabled reduction	0.0	4.0	9.0	35.0	33.0	49.0	22.0	5.0	4.0	161.0
No. of dwellings effectively subject to Council Tax for this band by virtue of disabled relief	4.0	9.0	35.0	33.0	49.0	22.0	5.0	4.0	0.0	161.0
No. of dwellings entitled to a 25% discount	1.0	1,043.0	1,319.0	2,308.0	1,891.0	1,234.0	270.0	145.0	4.0	8,215.0
No. of dwellings entitled to a 25% discount as all but one resident being disregarded for Council Tax purposes	0.0	11.0	20.0	67.0	80.0	81.0	17.0	4.0	0.0	280.0
No. of dwellings entitled to a 50% discount due to all residents being disregarded for Council Tax purposes	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	11.0	3.0	7.0	2.0	39.0
No. of dwellings classed as 2nd home with 50% discount	0.0	77.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	82.0
No. of dwellings classed as empty and being charged the Empty Home Premium	0.0	5.0	4.0	5.0	3.0	6.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	26.0
Total number of dwellings receiving a discount	2.0	1,131.0	1,339.0	2,376.0	1,987.0	1,328.0	291.0	156.0	6.0	8,616.0
Total number of dwellings being charged a premium	0.0	5.0	4.0	5.0	3.0	6.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	26.0
Reduction in taxbase as a result of the Family Annexe discount	0.0	5.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.5
Number of dwellings where there is a liability to pay 100% Council Tax	2.0	557.0	993.0	3,821.0	4,181.0	3,742.0	1,320.0	645.0	31.0	15,292.0
Number of dwellings with reduction under the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme	0.9	476.9	558.8	834.2	350.8	118.9	18.2	4.5	0.0	2,363.0
Total equivalent number of dwellings after discounts, premiums, exemptions and disabled relief	2.4	913.7	1,446.5	4,778.6	5,322.5	4,627.9	1,525.1	755.7	35.0	19,407.3
Estimated number of additions	0.0	1.8	2.9	9.6	10.6	9.3	3.1	1.5	0.1	38.8
Net Total	2.4	915.5	1,449.4	4,788.1	5,333.1	4,637.1	1,528.1	757.3	35.1	19,446.1
Ratio to Band D	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	
Number of Band D equivalents (line 18 + 19) x line 20	1.3	610.3	1,127.3	4,256.1	5,333.1	5,667.6	2,207.3	1,262.1	70.1	20,535.3
Less 2.5% Losses										-513.4
Tax Base 2021/22										20,021.9

Poole Council Tax Base 2021/22

BAND	Disab A	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Total
Total Properties	0.0	5,103.0	12,310.0	23,125.0	12,590.0	8,350.0	4,077.0	3,323.0	1,064.0	69,942.0
Exempt Properties	0.0	167.0	173.0	474.0	278.0	130.0	52.0	48.0	14.0	1,336.0
Demolished Dwellings	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
No. of chargeable dwellings subject to disabled reduction	0.0	9.0	25.0	121.0	77.0	74.0	45.0	29.0	29.0	409.0
No. of dwellings effectively subject to Council Tax for this band by virtue of disabled relief	9.0	25.0	121.0	77.0	74.0	45.0	29.0	29.0	0.0	409.0
No. of dwellings entitled to a 25% discount	6.0	3,281.0	5,485.0	6,529.0	3,307.0	1,917.0	887.0	609.0	136.0	22,157.0
No. of dwellings entitled to a 25% discount as all but one resident being disregarded for Council Tax purposes	1.0	25.0	100.0	211.0	129.0	73.0	26.0	24.0	2.0	591.0
No. of dwellings entitled to a 50% discount due to all residents being disregarded for Council Tax purposes	0.0	11.0	9.0	24.0	23.0	10.0	12.0	24.0	5.0	118.0
No. of dwellings classed as 2nd home with 50% discount	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0
No. of dwellings classed as empty and being charged the Empty Home Premium	0.0	67.0	23.0	17.0	22.0	10.0	7.0	9.0	4.0	159.0
Total number of dwellings receiving a discount	7.0	3,317.0	5,594.0	6,765.0	3,460.0	2,001.0	925.0	657.0	143.0	22,869.0
Total number of dwellings being charged a premium	0.0	67.0	23.0	17.0	22.0	10.0	7.0	9.0	4.0	159.0
Reduction in taxbase as a result of the Family Annexe discount	0.0	19.3	0.8	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.0
Number of dwellings where there is a liability to pay 100% Council Tax	2.0	1,566.0	6,616.0	15,825.0	8,827.0	6,180.0	3,077.0	2,609.0	874.0	45,576.0
Number of dwellings with reduction under the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme	3.0	1,345.7	2,191.7	1,994.1	490.3	173.8	38.4	14.0	0.0	6,251.0
Total equivalent number of dwellings after discounts, premiums, exemptions and disabled relief	4.3	2,820.0	8,662.8	18,932.4	10,968.7	7,524.2	3,743.3	3,099.8	988.0	56,744
Estimated number of additions	0.0	5.6	17.3	37.9	21.9	15.0	7.5	6.2	2.0	113.5
Net Total	4.3	2,825.7	8,680.1	18,970.3	10,990.7	7,539.3	3,750.8	3,106.0	990.0	56,857.0
Ratio to Band D	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	
Number of Band D equivalents (line 18 + 19) x line 20	2.4	1,883.8	6,751.2	16,862.4	10,990.7	9,214.7	5,417.8	5,176.6	1,980.0	58,279.5
MOD Properties										153.2
Less 2.5% Losses										-1,460.8
Tax Base 2021/22										56,971.9

Parish, Town Council and Charter Trustee Tax Base 2021/22

Parish / Town / Charter Trustee	Gross Tax Base	Tax Base after Collection Rate
Burton	1,605.7	1,565.6
Hurn	236.3	230.4
Christchurch Town Council	12,232.9	11,927.0
Highcliffe and Walkford	6,439.8	6,278.8
Unparished Christchurch	20.6	20.1
Throop and Holdenhurst Parish	299.0	289.7
Bournemouth Charter Trustee	63,866.8	61,887.0
Poole Charter Trustee	58,432.7	56,971.9
Total	143,133.8	139,170.5

CABINET



Report subject	Setting up the BCP Cultural Compact
Meeting date	13 January 2021
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Developing a strong cultural agenda that offers inclusive opportunities lies at the heart of our aspirations for fulfilled lives, brighter futures, connected communities and a better place to live, work and visit.</p> <p>The recommendations of the 2019 BCP Cultural Enquiry were widely accepted and Arts Council England encouraged and supported the setting up of a multi-sector BCP Cultural Compact to deliver on the recommendations and support the development and delivery of a city-region wide Cultural Strategy.</p> <p>In response to the COVID emergency the Cultural Future conference, which would have been a stepping-stone to the Cultural Compact, was postponed and £150k funding previously made available to support this work was withdrawn.</p> <p>To take forward the Enquiry recommendations a task and finish Cultural Action Group worked from May to September 2020, producing a report and recommendations (Appendix 1) including the proposed outline format of the Cultural Compact.</p> <p>To deliver on these recommendations the agreement of Cabinet is requested to re-provision a three-year budget package to support cultural development and the establishment and delivery of the Compact and a Cultural Strategy and delivery plan.</p> <p>The three-year budget package will be the start up investment required to enable this work to be undertaken. It is anticipated Arts Council England will support this with an additional £20k grant. Over time the funding of the Cultural Compact from external sources will reduce its reliance on Council funding for day-to-day running costs.</p> <p>The budget allows for further consultation with communities and groups with protected characteristics which have been identified in the Cultural Enquiry as under-represented in cultural activity, such as young and older people, disabled and Black and Minority Ethnic communities. This work will also be a platform for diverse recruitment to the Cultural Compact and new officer roles.</p> <p>When the Cultural Compact is fully established it will become the focal point for cultural development and participation in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, upholding the values and aspirations of the Council, our communities and multi-sector stakeholders.</p>

Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cabinet agrees the proposal for funding to deliver on the recommendations of the Cultural Enquiry, to establish and develop the Cultural Compact and to improve and diversify BCP Council's cultural development activity for a three-year period should be considered as part of the budget setting process for 2021/22. b) Cabinet agrees the report and recommendations of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Cultural Action Group, including the proposed format of the Cultural Compact. c) Cabinet agrees that the Cultural Compact should embody the BCP Council's equality, diversity and inclusion principles and practices in its work and in the Cultural Strategy so that they fully reflect the Council's values.
Reason for recommendations	To facilitate the establishment of the Cultural Compact, so that BCP Council and the Cultural Compact can deliver on the recommendations of the Cultural Enquiry and the priorities of the Council. In doing so we will support and enable inclusive and diverse creative engagement and participation by the community and visitors.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Mohan Iyengar, Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Leisure and Culture
Corporate Director	Bill Cotton, Corporate Director for Regeneration and Economy
Service Director	Chris Saunders, Director of Destination and Culture
Contributors	Michael Spender, Museum and Arts Manager
Wards	All Wards
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. "Culture" is a word with broad meaning, often used to refer to food, religion and other forms of heritage. For the purposes of this report, we are using it to reference the broad and inclusive range of cultural activity carried out by individuals, community groups and professional organisations encompassing everything from combined arts, music, dance, artistic sport, theatre, visual arts, literature, heritage and more. The cultural sector is fully inclusive, for people of all ages and backgrounds, with a spectrum from "high" and professional arts to popular and voluntary activity.
2. Creativity and culture play a vital role in supporting local economies, developing talent, facilitating health and wellbeing, building and sustaining communities, creating a sense of place, reflecting identity, and creating well-balanced children and

young people. Creation or enjoyment of cultural activity plays an important role for all of us, allowing us to reflect and comment on society, better understand ourselves and the lives of others, define who we are, broaden our horizons and can provides a space in which to debate and express personal issues and aspirations.

3. At its best, culture also reflects and champions diversity in our communities, recognising and celebrating this diversity as a national asset. Culture plays an important role in challenging inequalities of wealth and opportunity, accessibility, social isolation and mental ill-health. Culture can express and challenge societal inequalities and can highlight and help people understand important issues of our time, such as racial inequality. For example, Poole Museums have been researching and publishing information about Poole's historic connections with the transatlantic slave trade.
4. To most effectively achieve the positive benefits of culture, the creative community needs to fully develop itself. This community is inclusive and diverse and embraces audiences, creative people and organisations. It enables learning opportunities for children & young people and career development for creatives. It supports flourishing commercial enterprises, quality cultural infrastructure including public realm and physical assets like cultural buildings, museums and libraries. It also supports BCP communities, the voluntary sector and peer support networks, and will work across sectors, linking with business, tourism, education and the health sector.
5. The Cultural Enquiry, commissioned by Bournemouth Borough Council, Borough of Poole and Christchurch Borough Council in 2019, was the first and most publicly engaged review of the opportunities presented by the creation of BCP Council. A link to the Cultural Enquiry report is in the published works at the end of this report. The Enquiry report was widely published, and the recommendations received universal support. These identify three major priorities for ambitious development and investment:
 - a. Culture and talent: embracing creative education, building a creative workforce, championing diverse cultural expressions, and enabling people of all backgrounds to actively participate in the cultural life of their communities and the conurbation.
 - b. Cultural infrastructure: with a commitment to building cultural capacity, leveraging the excellence of existing hubs, venues and organisations, and boosting BCP as a place that produces and hosts great art and culture of international significance.
 - c. Culture and place: embedding culture as a tool for planning, with a focus on nurturing distinctive neighbourhoods, dynamic town centres, accessible and imaginative public realm, urban mobility, and an attention to social cohesion, health and wellbeing and environmental sustainability.
6. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole already have a flourishing creative community with a number of well-established cultural assets including the Arts by the Sea festival, Bournemouth Emerging Arts Fringe, BIC, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Lighthouse Poole, the Pavilion and Pavilion Dance South West, Poole and Scaplen's Court Museums, Red House Museum, Regent Centre, Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum and Shelley Theatre. Five of these assets are recognised by Arts Council England as National Portfolio Organisations. BCP also benefits from outstanding natural and built heritage assets, having, for example, more Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II listed buildings than any other place in Dorset. The Cultural Enquiry identified the great opportunity to maximise co-ordination and promotion of these assets and several areas in need of development and improvement to enable the area to deliver a truly world-class offer.

7. It was, however, recognised in the Enquiry that there is an 'invisible city' of communities and groups that are not fully engaged with culture:

"This invisible city effect means that certain demographic groups find it particularly challenging to find a voice and then have their voice heard in the cultural system of BCP. This is the case for young and older people, people who are disabled and those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. Participants in the Cultural Enquiry have talked passionately of the need to open-up the cultural system of BCP, to diversify decision-making, and to support young people and their interests alongside more championing of diversity."

There are also communities with cultural traditions that are invisible to those outside those groups and which should be more widely appreciated, shared and celebrated. Budget has been allocated to engage with these communities and groups to consult them on their needs to ensure they have a fully say and opportunity to participate in decision making and co-creation through the Cultural Compact and Cultural Enquiry.
8. As a result of BCP Council's commitment to the recommendations of the Cultural Enquiry we successfully applied to Arts Council England for financial support to set up the BCP Cultural Compact. This Compact will closely link the cultural sector with other sectors including business, tourism, education and health, providing a vehicle to create joint strategies, leverage increased investment and deliver projects which will embody the aims and values of the BCP Council and Arts Council England's 10-year strategy 'Let's Create', published in February 2020.
9. Cultural Compacts were established following the 2019 Cultural Cities Enquiry report, and BCP Council is working to develop the Cultural Compact framework and investment plan with DCMS, Arts Council England, Key Cities and Core Cities as part of a national network of about 20 early adopter places, including Birmingham, Sheffield, Nottingham, West of England and Cornwall. The Cultural Compact will firmly place Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole at the forefront of cities and regions acknowledged by government and agencies as leading the way in recognising and using culture as a key force in driving cross-cutting change, development and investment.
10. On 18 March 2020 Cabinet accepted the findings and recommendations of the Cultural Enquiry and agreed to the staging of the Cultural Future conference on 23 March 2020 as a stepping-stone to the formal setting up of the Cultural Compact. Cabinet agreed a Cultural Strategy and Plan should be developed as a joint initiative of the Cultural Compact and BCP Council and also a three-year stand-still settlement (2020-23) for the six funded arts and heritage organisations operating in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (Activate Performing Arts [Inside Out Dorset Festival], Audacious CIC [Light Up Poole!], Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Lighthouse Poole, Pavilion Dance South West and Red House Museum). These actions will all work towards delivering the existing cultural objectives in the BCP Council Corporate Strategy which include:
 - a. ensure strengthening the cultural identity of local communities is embedded throughout the BCP Council Local Plan by November 2022
 - b. establish a Cultural Compact of BCP Council, agencies, culture and communities by March 2021
 - c. promote and encourage a sense of pride and celebrate the historic traditions and identities of our communities and their cultures
 - d. continue to support and promote a range of regional and local events and activities that reflect cultural diversity and are accessible to all

Measures of success already identified in the Strategy include:

- e. numbers of visits to museums
- f. number of people experiencing cultural activities

Further measures of success should be defined, including a longitudinal shift in participation from underserved groups (for example young and older people, people who are disabled, Black and Asian communities), visiting and engaging with culture and cultural spaces and developing their creative skills and careers.

11. As described in the March 2020 Cabinet report the widest possible inclusive and diverse participation in culture will have inclusive and diverse positive benefits for the population, including enhanced productivity, economic, environmental and tourism impact, health and wellbeing, community identity and cohesion. The 'Let's Create' strategy envisages "a country transformed by its culture and at the same time transforming it: a truly creative nation in which every one of us can take part." The Compact will bring together our creative communities and organisations, providing a vehicle to develop and celebrate our shared pride in our cultures, affirming our sense of place and enabling our people to enjoy richer, more fulfilled and productive lives and wellbeing.
12. In support of the recommendations of the Cultural Enquiry and the development of the Cultural Compact and Plan, as well as the Council's priorities and other key local strategies, the Council had previously approved an additional investment in culture of £150,000 in 2020/21, with an additional budget request of £320,000 in 2021/22. This budget would have included the recruitment of two employees to support cultural development. There is presently a 2.6 FTE culture team, already fully deployed on existing activity, and to take forward the recommendations of the Cultural Enquiry it will be necessary to increase this team to at least 4.6 FTE.
13. Arts Council England have invited the Council to apply for £20,000 additional funding for the development of the Cultural Compact and its work in 2021/22, supporting the Council's funding.
14. The COVID emergency caused the Cultural Future conference to be postponed until November, and withdrawal of the previously allocated £150,000 budget as an emergency measure to help manage the wider Council finances meant staff could not be recruited. To move forward the task and finish Cultural Action Group was set up with a membership of 23 cultural organisations and practitioners, the DLEP, HE and schools, but with the enforced absence of healthcare. The Cultural Action Group formed three working groups (Recovery, Priorities and Engagement), which met regularly from May to September and agreed a set of recommendations including the below (see Appendix 1 for the full recommendations and outline delivery plan):
 - a. Create and roll out the BCP Cultural Compact, recruiting an independent chair with a national profile, advertised for as widely as possible
 - b. Review the Cultural Future Conference in agreement with Arts Council England
 - c. Develop and implement a diverse, inclusive and investable BCP Cultural Strategy and Plan, ensuring all stakeholders and communities are engaged and aligned.
 - d. Develop cultural opportunities nationally and internationally and with neighbouring authorities and stakeholders
 - e. Develop and implement place-based Cultural priorities and opportunities including new communications channels, diverse cultural quarters, culture and heritage trails.
 - f. Develop key cultural infrastructure, including an iconic gallery building.

- g. Develop and support place-shaping activity, including festivals and cultural heritage.
 - h. Create and implement an inclusive talent development and retention programme supporting creative people to produce and work in the region, including the development of workspaces and grants for cultural practitioners.
15. In addition to the above recommendations put forward by the Cultural Action Group, further public consultation will take, with a focus on collecting insights and data from under-represented and underserved groups who were not fully engaged with the Cultural Enquiry – the ‘invisible city’. For example, the Cultural Enquiry found that young people felt under-represented in cultural activity and further consultation with them will be needed. Although the BCP area has the greatest demographic concentration of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people within Dorset, the views of these communities, and of other underserved groups such as young and old people, LGBTQ+ people, and people who are disabled were under-represented in the Cultural Enquiry and in the Cultural Action Group in proportion to their representation in the population. In order to include meaningful engagement from these groups as part of the Cultural Compact and Strategy an ongoing project to capture their voices, led by organisations that represent their needs and cultures, will be initiated. This project has been allowed for in the proposed budget.
 16. As indicated, additional resource is required to deliver on the recommendations of the Cultural Enquiry, as well as the objectives and measures of the Corporate Strategy, in the form of a three-year funding package. When the Cultural Compact is fully established it will be able to lever investment and become increasingly self-reliant and responsible for cultural development and delivery functions for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.
 17. A structure for the Cultural Compact is proposed in the Cultural Action Group Summary Report (Appendix 1). The precise structure, procedures and branding of the Cultural Compact will be further refined as it is incorporated (probably as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation or Community Interest Company) and developed in consultation with our communities and stakeholders, such as Arts Council England and local communities, to ensure it is fit for purpose.
 18. Initially an executive officer should be recruited and seconded to the Cultural Compact and a BCP Council Cultural Development Officer recruited to develop cultural projects and programmes for the Council, working with the Cultural Compact. These posts should be advertised widely, and the engagement activity with under-represented communities used as a platform, to enable diverse recruitment.
 19. A working budget and project budgets will also be required to take forward the recommendations in this report. An outline budget for the three-year Cultural package is in sections 20-23. If Cabinet agrees to this proposed budget the Cultural Compact will be set up in 2021 and the Cultural Strategy and Plan developed and agreed in 2021/22, as set out in the Corporate Strategy action plan.

Summary of financial implications

20. The cultural sector is a significant element of UK GDP and GVA and cultural activity has major economic impacts, most particularly in places with thriving cultural organisations and programming. New cultural assets and increased connectivity, programming and marketing that the Cultural Compact can engender will enhance the tourism offer for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, and make it a better place to visit, live, work and spend money in the local economy.

21. The MTFP implications are a budget request of £150,000 in 2021/22 and additional budget requests of £129,000 in 2022/23 and of £121,000 in 2023/24. However, the direction of travel will be a transfer of responsibility for budget responsibility from the Council to the Cultural Compact. In 2021/22 the Cultural Compact will start generating income independently, having a positive impact on the Council's budget requirement 2022/23 and 2023/24.
22. The budget package should be understood as an investment to lever in external funding and includes specific items to be used as match-funding for external project bids, such as to the Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.
23. Arts Council England will further support development of the Cultural Compact with a potential grant contribution of £20,000, additional to the Council's funding.

Cultural Compact and BCP Cultural Development - additional revenue budget 2021-24			
Item	Budget 2021/22	Budget 2022/23	Budget 2023/24
Cultural Compact Executive Officer Grade J)	£46,000	£48,000	£50,000
Cultural Development Officer (Grade H)	£37,000	£38,500	£40,000
Cultural Compact working budget	£20,000	£70,000	£75,000
Communities and groups consultation and engagement	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Cultural Strategy	£10,000	£10,000	£5,000
Additional support for festivals	£18,000	£22,500	£80,000
Small grants and wellbeing fund and grants	£5,000	£10,000	£15,000
Digital cultural hub project initiation and development	£0	£10,000	£50,000
Options and feasibility for iconic art gallery	£2,000	£20,000	£10,000
BCP culture and heritage interpretation project	£2,000	£10,000	£25,000
Projects feasibility and contingency	£0	£30,000	£40,000
Total	£150,000	£279,000	£400,000
Pressure	£150,000	£129,000	£121,000

Summary of legal implications

24. Democratic Services will be asked to support the setting up of the Cultural Compact, probably either as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation or Community Interest Company.
25. There will be two additional job roles, one seconded to the Cultural Compact, and HR and Democratic Services will be asked to support the secondment. This will not be a TUPE arrangement for the time being.

Summary of sustainability impact

26. The Cultural Compact and Cultural Strategy and Plan will support the Council's environmental sustainability goals. Cultural organisations and practitioners and sector support organisations such as Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund are fully supportive of environmental sustainability. The decision will therefore have a positive impact on the environmental sustainability agenda.
27. The Decision Impact Assessment for this report, No.166, is at Appendix 2. The DIA assessment is Low Impact.

Summary of public health implications

28. Supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities lies at the heart of these recommendations and the NHS and other health sector organisations have stated they wish to be fully engaged with culture and with the Cultural Compact and Strategy because they recognise the benefits for the health and wellbeing of the population that cultural participation brings, particularly for isolated, deprived and diverse communities. There is well corroborated evidence that the widest possible participation in culture improves the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce health inequalities locally.
29. BCP Cultural organisations are innovative in their health and wellbeing work. One example of this is the pioneering COVID testing work being carried out in partnership with Southampton University by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, which has been praised by the Secretary of State for Culture.

Summary of equality implications

30. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out for the proposals in this report and this is at Appendix 3.
31. At the heart of our proposals for cultural development are our aspirations that cultural activity will be more inclusive for all communities and groups. A decision to agree the setting up of the Cultural Compact will support inclusive participation in all aspects of culture and creativity by our communities, including removing barriers for groups with protected characteristics to engage and participate in cultural activity and supporting and enabling 'invisible' cultural activity in communities.
32. The Cultural Enquiry carried out consultation with over 1,000 residents at 50 events and online to establish the priorities of creative practitioners and communities. It was very clear that our creative communities were receptive to cultural development of the kind envisaged. Further consultation online took place from February to March 2020. A report of benchmark examples and learning resulting from them was compiled and this is at Appendix 4.
33. The results of this consultation gave a clear set of priorities for cultural development which informed the establishment of the Cultural Compact and development of the Cultural Strategy. In February-April 2020 we consulted online with the creative community and the survey results are at Appendix 5.
34. However, when compared to the BCP population some groups with protected characteristics were not well enough represented in the consultation feedback. It will therefore be important for the Cultural Compact and the Council to collect data and consult further with communities and groups to inform the development of the Cultural Strategy. For example, the Cultural Enquiry found that young people felt under-represented in cultural activity and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities were under-represented in the Cultural Enquiry. It is also well documented that people with disability are less likely to participate in cultural and art activities.
35. Because of this under-representation, in preparing this report there has been wide consultation, including with BCP Council's Equality Action Commission and Policy and Performance Manager, and the Dorset Race Equality Council. As a result proposals for the Cultural Compact have developed and budget has been set aside for ongoing engagement with underserved and under-represented communities and groups to ensure they are fully represented and served in the development of the Cultural Compact and Cultural Strategy and subsequent activity and opportunities.

36. The engagement work will also be used as a recruitment platform to encourage and enable representatives of underserved groups and communities to consider the new officer posts and membership of the Cultural Compact board and consultative group.

Summary of risk assessment

37. The principle risks of not making this decision will be:

a. Reputational

If the Council does not follow through on the widely accepted recommendations of the Cultural Enquiry, it will be reputationally damaging to the Council. The strength of support for culture during the COVID crisis, from government and throughout our communities, is evidence of the importance attached to it by the public.

b. Economic

The Cultural Compact, Cultural Strategy and Plan will support and deliver on aspirations and plans for place making, tourism, development and creative jobs which will all support the economy. The risk of not supporting the recommendations is that the economic benefits culture can bring will be diminished.

c. Health and Wellbeing

The Cultural Compact, Cultural Strategy and Plan will support the health and wellbeing of our communities. The risk of not supporting the recommendations is that the health and wellbeing benefits culture can provide will be reduced.

Background papers

Published works:

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Cultural Enquiry report, December 2019:
<https://bcpculturalcollective.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/BCP-Cultural-Enquiry-Report-VF.pdf>

'Let's Create' – Arts Council England's 10-year strategy:
<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/letscreate>

Appendices

Appendix 1: Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Cultural Action Group Summary Report, September 2020

Appendix 2: Decision Impact Assessment Report: Setting up the BCP Cultural Compact, DIA Proposal ID: 166

Appendix 3: EIA Assessment: Setting up the BCP Cultural Compact

Appendix 4: Benchmark examples given during the Cultural Enquiry

Appendix 5: A Cultural Future for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 2nd interim online consultation results 1 May 2020

Summary Report of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Cultural Action Group

31 October 2020

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1 Introduction

The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Cultural Enquiry was instigated in 2019 by Bournemouth Borough Council, Christchurch Borough Council and the Borough of Poole as the first major sector assessment of the opportunities created by the formation of BCP Council. The enquiry took place throughout 2019 and its report and recommendations were widely disseminated and agreed by Cabinet in March 2020. It was also agreed to take forward the development of a multi-sector, inclusive Cultural Compact, with the support of Arts Council England.

The Cultural Action Group worked from May to September 2020 as a task and finish group to take forward the recommendations of the Cultural Enquiry and to make recommendations for the format of the BCP Cultural Compact. This is a summary report of the group's key findings and recommendations.

During the early stages of BCP Council's COVID-19 response previously allocated funding for additional culture staff, working budgets and project initiations in support of the recommendations of the Cultural Enquiry was withheld. However, resources will have to be found to support the work of the Cultural Compact and the recommendations of the Cultural Action Group. It will be for the Council, other cultural stakeholders and the Cultural Compact to identify and access these.

2 Culture in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

For clarity, we define "culture" to embrace all aspects of the sector, including "popular" and "high" arts, the broader creative industries, heritage, arts and health interventions and diverse youth and community culture. It is important to distinguish between local culture and external cultural dynamics. The former can generate character and enhance distinctiveness but may result in a lack of innovation and quality without sufficient financial resources. The latter can introduce creative influences and encourage diversity but may result in the adoption of regionally or national styles and practices. A balance is needed which delivers a vibrant and diverse local culture.

Exceptional access to rivers, harbours and the sea for trade, industry, travel and leisure has shaped the development of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole from prehistoric times to the 21st century. The Cultural Action Group's recommendations recognise this and the outstanding opportunities which culture can enable for place-shaping, identity, community engagement and tourism. However, the recommendations also recognise the need to draw on positive external influences.

COVID-19 has had a major impact on cultural delivery and participation in the UK, in Dorset and in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP). The recovery period will be protracted and complex. As cultural venues re-open and re-set, we all inhabit a much-altered cultural landscape. Unfortunately, some organisations and creative practitioners may cease working in the months and years to come, notwithstanding the availability of emergency funding and opportunities to reopen venues and activity.

Despite this, our ambition to transform the cultural life of BCP has not dimmed. In fact, it has increased, because of the need to change our ways of working to continue to meet the needs and demands of the diverse communities within BCP. New priorities and opportunities are emerging, and some previous priorities will have become less urgent. That the fact that we did not have a set idea of what BCP's future overarching cultural model looks like means that we can be agile in developing new structures and ways of working to suit the new emerging reality.

In doing this it is vital we do not lose sight of the strength of our existing cultural sector, particularly our cultural organisations and creative communities and practitioners, and that we support these in recovery and future growth. Also critical is the need to nurture and develop our talent pipeline of people of all backgrounds and ages and provide diverse opportunities for this talent to be made welcome, be retained and to grow within the cultural sector. Our conviction is that culture is a force for driving change for good, socially, environmentally and economically, and that it will be the inclusive glue that makes a place of our towns and our city region.

Culture is central to the identity of a town or city and a key element in the wellbeing of residents and communities. Successful councils and places embrace culture, integrating it broadly within their policies and empowering local cultural stakeholders and communities. The creation of BCP Council has presented an opportunity to change attitudes towards culture, within and outside the Council. The importance of culture and creativity is already recognised within BCP Council and wider Dorset strategies and policies.

The predecessor councils commissioning of the Cultural Enquiry and BCP Council's contribution to the development of the Cultural Compact and its continuing funding of major cultural institutions demonstrates its support for stakeholders. More investment will be needed though beyond the recovery period to deliver a step change in cultural infrastructure. We will need to work with partners across all sectors, and beyond our local authority boundaries. We are aligning our emerging cultural strategy with Arts Council England's 'Let's Create' 10-year strategy.

3 Key findings

3.1 The Cultural Action Group has established three guiding principles:

- 3.1.1 Culture, in the broadest, inclusive sense of the word, should be understood and used by the Council and other stakeholders as a key driver for positive change, socially, environmentally and economically.
- 3.1.2 Culture should serve as the glue that brings our communities and towns together in a way that retains their distinctive characteristics but gives the area the weight, pulling power and vibrancy of a city region.
- 3.1.3 For these objectives to be achieved Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole need to become more rewarding places for all people to be creative and for creative people to live, work and develop their practices and all communities and individuals must be enabled to engage more actively in cultural life.

3.2 In support of these principles, the Cultural Action Group identified five key priorities

- 3.2.1 Setting up the Cultural Compact and producing a Cultural Strategy with deliverable actions and timescales.
- 3.2.2 Improving communication of cultural events and activities to residents and visitors through a one-stop Digital Hub.
- 3.2.3 Establishing diverse cultural quarters in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.
- 3.2.4 Developing key cultural infrastructure, including an iconic gallery building in central Bournemouth.
- 3.2.5 Developing a co-ordinated and inclusive talent development and retention programme.

4 Summary of recommendations and outline delivery plan

The Cultural Action Group believes that culture should be a key driver for positive change, socially, environmentally and economically. Culture can also serve as the glue that brings our towns together in a way that retains their distinctive characters but gives the area the weight, pulling power and vibrancy of a city region.

This report describes the key recommendations of the Cultural Action Group and its three working groups, which were tasked with developing a recovery plan for cultural venues and practitioners, a shortlist of cultural priorities and a proposed format for the Cultural Compact.

The recommendations are directly in support of and consistent with the priorities identified by the Cultural Enquiry. The Cultural Action Group's recommendations support all the strategies referred to in section 3. In section 5 we have described how they specifically support the BCP Corporate Strategy.

There are several commonalities across the recommendations of the three working groups, reflecting consensus about the priorities for culture. To preserve the integrity of the working group reports they are included in full below. The headline recommendations can be summarised as:

4.1 Create and roll out the BCP Cultural Compact

- 4.1.1 Identify resources to support the Cultural Compact, BCP cultural development and the recommendations of the Cultural Action Group.
- 4.1.2 Consult with and engage underserved groups in the co-development of the Cultural Compact and Cultural Strategy.
- 4.1.3 Set up and launch inclusive Cultural Compact, recruit executive support, Chair and Board/Cultural partners.
- 4.1.4 Review the Cultural Future Conference in agreement with Arts Council England.

4.2 Develop and implement the BCP Cultural Strategy and Plan

- 4.2.1 Develop and agree with all stakeholders and communities a Cultural Strategy and Plan for BCP based on the recommendations of the Cultural Enquiry and Cultural Action Group.
- 4.2.2 Ensure all communities, stakeholders and partners are engaged and signed up to a diverse, inclusive and investable Cultural Strategy and Plan.
- 4.2.3 Develop cultural opportunities nationally and internationally and with neighbouring authorities and stakeholders.

4.3 Develop and implement place-based Cultural priorities and opportunities

- 4.3.1 Ensure culture becomes better connected and stronger, shouting louder about the strong cultural offer that already exists whilst publicising new initiatives.
- 4.3.2 Set out policies and plans for the role of culture that support and inform planning practice, placemaking, development and investment.
- 4.3.3 Create new cultural communications channels, including a one-stop Digital Cultural Hub, BCP Arts Channel and PR function (with alternative access for those experiencing digital exclusion).
- 4.3.4 Establish diverse cultural quarters in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.
- 4.3.5 Develop BCP digital and physical culture and heritage trails and wayfinding, representing and enabling all BCP communities and groups.
- 4.3.6 Develop key cultural infrastructure, including an iconic gallery building.

4.3.7 Develop and support place-shaping activity, including festivals and cultural heritage.

4.4 Create and implement a talent development and retention programme

4.4.1 Work with all sectors to develop a co-ordinated cultural talent development and retention programme that also nurtures those with protected characteristics or from a lower socio-economic background who may need extra help and support.

4.4.2 Support emerging and mid-career as well as internationally successful creatives to develop, work and produce in the region.

4.4.3 Enable development of workspaces and markets for creatives and SMEs and working opportunities for developing talent.

4.4.4 Implement small grants programme.

4.5 Outline delivery plan

No. (above)	Recommendation	Action	Lead	Date	Resource
4.3.1	Ensure culture emerges from COVID-19	Advocate for, promote and support the cultural sector and practitioners	BCP (& CC)	Jan 21-Mar 22	ACE, NLHF & BCP
4.1.1	Identify resources to support the Cultural Compact, etc.	Re-provide the funding withdrawn because of COVID-19 response, Appoint executive support for CC	BCP (& CC)	Jan 21-Mar 22	BCP, ACE, HE, DLEP, NPOs & sector stakeholders
4.1.4	Review the Cultural Future Conference	Agree revised approach and budget with ACE	BCP	Jan-Mar 21	BCP
4.1.2	Engage with underserved groups	Work with organisations representing groups to ensure fully represented	BCP	Jan-May 21	BCP
4.1.3	Set up and launch Cultural Compact and recruit	Set up a CIO based on the proposed structure and diverse recruitment	BCP	Jan 21-Mar 22	ACE, BCP & stakeholder funding & support
4.2.3	Develop cultural opportunities	Explore and implement opportunities for cultural development and events, such as City of Culture	BCP & CC	Apr 21 – Mar 24	BCP & CC
4.3.3	Create new cultural communications channels	Implement website and other plans	BCP, CC and partners	Apr 21 – Mar 24	BCP & funds raised
4.2.1	Develop and agree Cultural Strategy and Plan	Develop and agree a collaborative strategy and plan	CC & BCP	Apr 21 – Mar 22	BCP, CC & funds raised (as above).

4.2.2	Ensure all stakeholders and partners are engaged	Consult and engage widely with the cultural and wider community and stakeholders	CC & BCP	Apr 21 – Mar 22	BCP, CC and partners
4.3.2	Set out role of Culture in placemaking	Work across BCP and with partners to embed cultural planning in key policies and plans	BCP & CC	Apr 21 – Mar 22	BCP, CC, NHS & DLEP
4.3.4	Establish diverse cultural quarters	Agree in principle and adopt in BCP and other policies	BCP & CC	Apr 21 – Mar 24	BCP, DLEP, ACE & CC
4.3.5	Develop culture and heritage trail	With additional support develop options and feasibility, applying for grant	BCP & CC	Apr 21 – Mar 24	NLHF, ACE, CC, DLEP, BCP Smart Places, BU & AUB
4.3.6	Develop key cultural infrastructure	Develop options and feasibility and source funding opportunities	BCP & CC	Apr 21 – Mar 24	Funds raised (as above), BCP, CC, HE, ACE, DLEP & stakeholders
4.4.1	Develop talent development and retention programme	Develop and agree an delivery plan and carry out options and feasibility work	BCP, CC, HE and partners	Apr 21 – Mar 23	BCP, HE, DLEP, schools, B&P College, Skills & Learning & CC
4.4.2	Support emerging and mid-career creatives	Deliver an inclusive and effective plan	BCP, HE, CC and partners	Oct 21 – Mar 24	CC, Schools, FE, HE, BCP, DLEP & ACE
4.4.3	Enable development of workspaces and markets	Continue to develop creative spaces, clusters and cultural market/tourism opportunities	BCP, CC and partners	Oct 21 – Mar 24	BCP, DFEP & ACE
4.3.7	Develop and support place-shaping activity	Increase support and promotion of museums, heritage assets, festivals and other place related culture	BCP & CC	Apr 22 – Mar 24	ACE, BCP, NLHF & stakeholders
4.4.4	Implement small grants	Roll out community and practitioner grants programme, including wellbeing and small grants	BCP & CC	Apr 22 – Mar 24	BCP & CC

CC = Cultural Compact; BCP = BCP Council cultural staff; ACE = Arts Council England; NLHF = National Lottery Heritage Fund

5 Proposed BCP Cultural Compact format

Key information from the Cultural Cities Enquiry Report



Purpose

The Compact will:

- Involve a new level of strategic partnership which champions culture through a 'whole place' approach, engaging all our communities in shaping our collective and diverse culture.
- Play a transformative role for the conurbation and wider region – working to support a joined-up cultural sector that connects culture, communities, education, health and wellbeing providers, business, transport, planning, the environment and tourism.
- Be a catalyst for investment, creating a cohesive vision and delivery plan for culture that will result in much greater impact across the region. To achieve this will require close alignment with the Dorset LEP Local Industrial Strategy, with culture the heart of a wider 'collaborative cluster'.

Vision, values, aims, deliverables

The Compact will develop a clear vision and set of values through a consultation process with its members, so each stakeholder is clear what the Compact is trying to achieve. These are likely to include:

- Culture will be embedded in placemaking projects, expressing the personality of the conurbation and its town centres and neighbourhoods through cultural activity within new developments and enhancement of the heritage.
- Culture will play a lead role in environmental sustainability.
- The Compact values inclusion, diversity, equality and accessibility and will prioritise these values and measurable outcomes in the decision-making and delivery of all projects.
- The Compact will take and build on the three themes of the Cultural Enquiry – talent, infrastructure and quality of place – to mobilise a new era of partnership and co-investment.

Format and Membership

The Compact will bring together local consultative partners with a shared interest in maximising the role of culture in place-making and the identity of communities and individuals. These partners will work together to create and deliver a plan to drive social and economic benefits from a thriving cultural sector. Compact partners will include business, universities, local authorities, the cultural

sector and LEPs, and will pledge to align focus around key goals, in order to unlock new resources for cultural projects*.

In order to ensure diverse and underserved groups and communities are fully engaged and represented at all levels in the Cultural Compact it is important that we reach out to them in our recruitment processes to enable their participation. Initial engagement work will be used as a platform for recruitment to ensure that in addition to specific roles for underrepresented groups and communities on the Board and among the Consultative Partners they are also represented in other roles, in turn encouraging creative participation by these groups.

*From the Cultural Cities Enquiry Report

The Compact is formed of:

1. An Executive Board with diverse representation
2. Consultative partners that represent the diverse needs of local communities
3. Task & Finish Project Groups including members from a Cultural Stakeholder Bank

Cultural Compact Board

Membership is sector-representative. Each member is responsible for reporting from and feeding back to their sector. Some members will attend on a rotating basis (e.g. from each of the BCP NPOs in turn). The Board will openly recruit a Chair and board, widely advertised for to ensure diverse applications. Meetings will take place on a regular basis (monthly or bi-monthly).

In addition to the Chair and support from an executive team it is proposed the **Board** will consist of about 10 members representing a spectrum of organisations, practitioners, diverse and underrepresented communities and groups, proposed to be in the following areas:

1. BCP Council
2. Education
3. Corporate sector
4. Dorset LEP
5. Tourism
6. Health
7. Professional arts and heritage
8. Voluntary, community and popular culture
9. Young people
10. Diverse community groups (EDI rep)

The Board will be assisted by **Consultative Partners** with attendance rights, which could include:

1. Arts Council England
2. Tourism
3. Environmental Sustainability
4. National Portfolio Organisations
5. Cultural heritage
6. Popular culture
7. Further and Higher Education
8. Health services
9. Environmental
10. Schools

11. Diverse community stakeholders

The Board will appoint an **Executive Team** from their own Members. Depending on the skillset required, this team will complete specific tasks (e.g. drafting the Business Plan).

Remit of the Cultural Compact Executive Board

To refine and deliver a business plan which will include detail on vision and values, negotiate with large stakeholders, drive agendas and raise investment. It will set clear objectives and deliverables. It will develop an operating manual of the necessary policies and procedures around voting, reporting and representation. It will ensure diversity and inclusion within its members and that all voices participate in the decision-making process through the members of the Task & Finish Project Groups and the Project Group Community Consultations.

Decision making

Decision making will be by the Executive Board but it should consult the Cultural Stakeholder Bank for major policy changes.

The Compact will need to develop an effective consultation/voting framework and method that:

- maintains as flat a structure as possible
- enables consensus to be reached in the event of a stalemate
- allows for voting on key decisions but is not required for detailed operational decisions
- ensures equal voting from all stakeholders, particularly when some members are representing their sector and a group of individuals.

Initial Actions:

1. Recruitment of a chair and board
2. Board sets up Executive Team (funding dependent)
3. Executive Team writes Business Plan which identifies priorities
4. Board sets up Task & Finish Project Groups which each work on one of the priorities.
5. Executive Board identifies some pilot projects to support/ deliver as quick-win Cultural Compact initiatives (artist-led community conversations/ local commissions).

Task & Finish Project Groups

T&F Project Groups and community consultation around each project ensures engagement of all stakeholders and a flatter structure within the governance and decision making of the Compact as a whole.

- The Task & Finish Project Group structure will ensure priorities are broken down into achievable projects and progress is made.
- Each group will be made up of the most appropriate members from the Cultural Stakeholder Bank, ensuring engagement from all relevant local cultural stakeholders.
- Each group will undertake consultations with the relevant wider community on their topic, ensuring further local engagement before a delivery plan is designed and implemented for each project.
- Projects will be approached using a logical analysis framework (e.g. Theory of Change) and will base delivery on a SMART delivery plan model.
- Each project will incorporate an all-parties zoom to feedback on progress.

Cultural Stakeholder Bank

The Project Groups take members from this group depending on who has an interest in and is appropriate to that project. An emphasis on inclusivity and diversity should be forefront when recruiting the Project Group members and when undertaking the consultation for each Project. The Board will brief the Cultural Stakeholder Bank on a twice-yearly basis. The Cultural Stakeholder Bank will include representatives from:

1. The Independent Cultural Sector and practitioners
2. Freelance practitioners
3. Community organisations
4. Advocacy Groups (e.g. What Next? Dorset)
5. Tourism
6. Hospitality
7. Young people
8. Specialist council departments e.g. Planning and Economic Regeneration
9. Leisure
10. The voluntary sector
11. Dorset Chamber of Commerce
12. Specific professions within the business sector (e.g. independent architectural practices)

The below table gives examples of potential Task & Finish Project Groups based on the Priorities already identified in the Cultural Enquiry and by the CAG*.

*The Cultural Compact Executive Board should cross-reference the work already carried out by the Cultural Enquiry and the CAG when developing their Priorities. They should also work with representatives from various sectors to align with non-cultural agendas when identifying projects and deliverables for the T&F Project Groups.

In addition to longer-term objectives, the T&F Project Groups should identify and prioritise quick-win projects that may include smaller-scale interventions and pilots, in order to start engaging with communities, making progress and familiarise people with the type of Cultural Compact initiatives they can expect.

Task & Finish Project Group	Why? / detail/ priority.	Output/ deliverable	Members
Infrastructure			
Create a central communication hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides support for promotion of small-scale interactive events e.g. festivals and pop-ups, enabling grass roots to grow organically through the platform. Provides a centralised voice and personality for the conurbation. Provides a space for peer sharing, promotion of funding opportunities, learning and involvement of young people and communities Provides a central information hub for audience. 	New platform/ website/ App for interacting with and informing of the cultural offer.	Creative practitioners Small cultural organisations Audience Young People BCP Council? Diverse community groups
Create more exhibition space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual artists and audience both feel this is 	More gallery space	Visual artists Audience Town Centre BIDs

	<p>lacking in the conurbation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be a catalyst to revitalise/ reimagine or repurpose our high streets. • Improves opportunities for emerging and early-career artists. 		BCP Council (Planning? Economic Development?)
Create more artists' studios and 'making space' including production capacity and facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artists, creative businesses and workshop providers are lacking in affordable space to carry out their work. • Cultural quarters will enhance creative collaboration and audience experience. • Cultural quarters can create/ enhance identity and place-making and revitalise or reimagine our high streets. • In order to become a world-class producing centre, we need a facility for production and capacity within our creative sector. 	<p>More very affordable studio space. A cultural quarter in each of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.</p> <p>A new production facility.</p> <p>NB link up with Development and the Towns Fund work being developed for Boscombe and with BEAF's work to create artist studios in Lansdowne.</p>	Creative practitioners Creative organisations BCP Planners Dorset Chamber/ Town Centre BID Leisure/ tourism?
A new Cultural Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCP needs an architectural gem, an iconic visitor attracting centre, a beacon and a starting point for cultural regeneration (probably in Bournemouth as centre of the region). • Existing facilities need to be redefined for BCP's future (time to regenerate the BIC) - let's reimagine what we want our towns to look like and deliver for us. • A large-scale project can/ should reference smaller scale developments - e.g. artists boats on quay, cultural quarters, new transport links and environmental concerns. 	A large-scale capital project creating an iconic facility with international standing (e.g. Bilbao, Singapore, Margate, Wakefield).	

Talent			
Involve more young people in programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people of varying ages have expressed the need for different or additional programming to the current offer. The cultural life of BCP needs to be relevant and driven forwards, attracting the next generation of talent and audience. 	Youth programmed strands of artistic content within festivals, events and cultural organisations.	Young people Creative practitioners Cultural organisations, events and festivals. Diverse community groups
Improve the talent pipeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive opportunities for young people to engage in culture need improving. Skills development, workplace training and job opportunities need improving. Emerging artists need more opportunities for development and presentation. We need to attract and retain talent to/ from the universities and into the local creative sector. There needs to be provision for life-long learning opportunities. 	A selection of structured opportunities within education and cultural organisations. An accessible digital learning environment. Formal institutional connections. More skills development and CPD opportunities	Young people Creative practitioners Schools HEIs Businesses Wave & Soundstorm Cultural organisations (who could offer work experience for YP). BCP Council (Education?)
Developing our Festivals offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If we develop our current festivals to achieve greater scale, quality and excellence, greater innovation, more diversity and improved production capacity, this creates a breeding ground for talent development and cultural production. Festivals offer different opportunities for R&D, skills exchange and professional development. Festivals can also more effectively converge key emergent strengths in BCP e.g. outdoor arts and digital technology and new immersive approaches to culture. 	<p>Develop a festivals programme and production team</p> <p>Develop a growth plan for ABS and LUP and a converged offer with BFX.</p> <p>Develop BEAF as a key fringe festival.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Festivals can become part of our brand narrative that delivers a longer tourist season and drives growth and innovation in the creative economy 	Feasibility study for a new festival production centre.	
Quality of Place			
Ambitious vision and strategy. A BCP brand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCP needs a clear vision of its identity and of its ambition, and of its long-term goals in order to attract investment and so that all Partners and stakeholders can reference back to it. Need to identify BCP's USP - something to hook onto - the natural environment, digital, tech, health & wellbeing. Opportunity for coordination across the BCP region. <p>BRAND-Water: Heritage: Trade: Education: Interaction: Boundaryless: Cool and Modern: Green and Digital.</p> <p>VISION: discovery across BCP (districts focussed), high streets as places to meet and for cultural consumption. Broad horizons, intergenerational, 're-green-eration' using parks and water.</p>	A long-term 20-year cultural vision and strategy for BCP. A BCP brand. A commitment to staffing.	<p>Community representatives including those representing BAME people</p> <p>Artists Creative industries Tourism LEP BCP Council (whoever develops the Local Plan and Tourism Strategy) ACE? HLF?</p>
Interconnection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel links and transportation need to be reconsidered and revitalised. BCP needs vision around planning of waterfront sites. Anchor institutions need to be better connected with schools, colleges, hospitals, artists etc. 		

Endnotes:

What is the cultural sector?

The cultural sector is made up of creative practitioners, organisations, communities and audiences. It encompasses heritage, tourism and the creative industries as well as the performing, media and visual arts. It must include some form of talent pipeline for young and emerging practitioners and artists, and opportunities for artists to create and exhibit or perform their work. It must include opportunities (venues, events, festivals) for audiences to consume the work. It should also provide opportunities for community co-creation and for communities and individuals to create and participate in cultural activity. It is essential that the interests of diverse and underrepresented/underserved groups and communities are fully represented in the Cultural Compact. We need to use a variety of consultation methods, channels and partners to reach the right people.

Design a structure for the Cultural Compact Board.

The priorities identified by the Cultural Enquiry and by the CAG Priorities group should be turned into Task & Finish Project Groups.

Each group should recruit members from relevant organisations and sectors to run the Project.

Each group should undertake consultation with relevant communities and a wider group of stakeholders to ensure they are engaging everyone who needs a say in the decision.

A representative from each Project Group will report back to the Executive Board.

The Board will include a paid employee who will undertake admin and marketing support for the Project Groups.

Appendix 2

Decision Impact Assessment Report

Setting up the BCP Cultural Compact

DIA Proposal ID: 166

Assessment date: 16th September 2020

Assessor(s): Michael Spender

Support: Roxanne King



The Decision Impact Assessment (DIA) is a requirement of BCP Council's Financial and Procurement Regulations. It has been developed to help project managers maximise the co-benefits of proposals, reduce risk and ensuring that sustainable outputs and value for money are delivered through every project, plan, strategy, policy, service and procurement.

The following report highlights the opportunities and potential issues associated with the above titled proposal. It has been assessed against a number of themes and shared with BCP Council Theme Advisors for internal consultation. The RAG ratings and additional information have been provided by the project manager and may or may not have incorporated feedback from theme advisors. Results should be scrutinised by decision-makers when considering the outcome of a proposal.

The results of this DIA will be combined with all other assessments to enable cumulative impact data across a wide range of data sets. Individual DIA reports should be included in proposal documentation and made available to decision makers for consideration. Cumulative impact reports will be produced annually or as required.

For questions and further information, please contact Sustainability Team at DIA@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Please note: This report is in a draft format and may appear different to future DIA reports.

Decision Impact Assessment

DIA Proposal ID: 166

Welcome Roxanne King



Proposal Title: Setting up the BCP Cultural Compact

[Review registration](#)

Home Page

Climate Change & Energy

Complete



Communities & Culture

Complete



Waste & Resource Use

Complete



Economy

Complete



Health & Wellbeing

Complete



Learning & Skills

Complete



Natural Environment

Complete



Sustainable Procurement

Complete



Transport & Accessibility

Complete



Key



Not yet assessed



Serious challenges - remedial action required



Some challenges - further thought and mitigation action required



On target - positive or no negative impacts identified



No positive or negative sustainability impacts identified

[Submit Proposal](#)

[Ask for help](#)








Proposal Title	Setting up the BCP Cultural Compact Plan
Type of Proposal	Plan
Brief Description	To agree the re-provision of funding to deliver on the recommendations of the Cultural Enquiry, to establish and develop the Cultural Compact and to improve and diversify BCP Council's cultural development activity for a three-year period.
Assessor	Sam Munnings, Museum & Arts Manager
Directorate	Regeneration & Economy
Service Unit	Destination & Culture
Estimated Cost	Between £25k and OJEU threshold
Ward(s) Affected	All wards

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Supported



RAG reasoning and proposed mitigation/monitoring actions

Theme	RAG	RAG reasoning <i>Details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps</i>	Mitigation and monitoring actions <i>details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc)</i>
Climate Change & Energy		Cultural activities can promote awareness and education around environmental sustainability and promote good practice, for example in the recent Arts by the Sea Festivals. Proposal includes feasibility assessments for infrastructure and the design of these assets will be as green as possible.	Environmental impact assessments will be undertaken at project level.
Communities & Culture		These identify three major priorities for ambitious development and investment: a. Culture and talent: embracing creative education, building a creative workforce, championing diverse cultural expressions, and enabling people of all backgrounds to actively participate in the cultural life of their communities and the conurbation. b. Cultural infrastructure: with a commitment to building cultural capacity, leveraging the excellence of existing hubs, venues and organisations, and boosting BCP as a place that produces and hosts great art and culture of international significance. c. Culture and place: embedding culture as a tool for planning, with a focus on nurturing distinctive neighbourhoods, dynamic town centres, accessible and imaginative public realm, urban mobility, and	Measures of success within the Corporate Strategy include: a. numbers of visits to museums b. number of people experiencing cultural activities

		an attention to social cohesion, health and wellbeing and environmental sustainability.	
Waste & Resource Use		Waste reduction and efficient resource use will be built into projects coming out of the Cultural Compact Strategy and Plan.	N/A
Economy		<p>One of the key recommendations is to create a talent development and retention programme for all ages and demographics. Programmes will nurture and retain talent locally - resulting in more SMEs, jobs and better productivity.</p> <p>When the Cultural Compact is fully established and has secured sufficient investment it will deliver activity that will have a beneficial impact on the economy.</p>	Economic impacts assessment underway and will be monitoring and developing positive impacts going forward.
Health & Wellbeing		BCP Cultural organisations are innovative in their health and wellbeing work and there is a growing corroborated evidence that participation in and enjoyment of cultural activity enhances health and wellbeing and can reduce the cost of healthcare.	Engagement with under-represented and underserved communities and groups will take place there will be monitoring and developing of positive impacts going forward.
Learning & Skills		The Cultural Compact will create and implement a talent development and retention programme. All sectors of formal and informal learning will be engaged with the Cultural Compact.	Performance indicators to be decided in collaboration with education partners.
Natural Environment		The Cultural Compact will help develop BCP digital and physical culture and heritage trails and wayfinding.	Data analytics will be available from the trails.
Sustainable Procurement		No procurement involved at this stage.	N/A
Transport & Accessibility		The heritage trails and wayfinding activities will support and encourage sustainable/active travel.	Surveys and data analytics will be used to monitor travel behaviour of artists and participants.

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Executive Summary and Conclusions

Once the Equality Impact Assessment Template has been completed, please summarise the key findings here. Please send a copy of your final document to the Policy and Performance Team.

The decision will support inclusive participation in all aspects of culture and creativity by our communities, including removing barriers for groups with protected characteristics to engage and participate in cultural activity. It will recognise and celebrate the cultural diversity within our communities and enable them to share their culture and traditions and celebrate the cultural diversity within Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

At the heart of our proposals for cultural development are our aspirations that cultural activity will be more inclusive for all groups. We believe that a decision to agree the setting up of the Cultural Compact will support inclusive participation in all aspects of culture and creativity by our communities, including removing barriers for groups with protected characteristics to engage and participate in cultural activity and provide a welcoming platform for our diverse communities to publicly celebrate their cultural heritage.

We have consulted creative communities to understand whether they were receptive to cultural development of the kind envisaged and what their priorities for this would be. The results gave a clear set of priorities for cultural development which will inform the development of the Cultural Compact and the Cultural Strategy. Further consultation with a wider, diverse audience will continue on formation of the Cultural Compact.

Setting up the BCP Cultural Compact will represent an important change in approach to the publicly funded delivery element of culture by BCP Council. Instead of formulating arts and culture policy and programming within the Council the Compact will provide an opportunity for wide, engaged consultation and co-creation with residents. Co-creation, improved marketing and inclusive, diverse programming will enable groups with protected characteristics that currently come up against barriers to engagement, to participate in cultural activity. As a result the setting up of the Cultural Compact will have a positive and beneficial impact on the health, wellbeing and productivity of those in the protected characteristics groups who are enabled to participate in and to contribute to cultural activity.

Members of the BCP Equality Action Commission and Dorset Race Equality Council and members have reviewed and commented on the Cabinet Report and their comments and proposals incorporated.

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Part 1 - The Project

Policy/Service under development/review:	Setting up the BCP Cultural Compact
Service Unit:	Destination and Culture
Service Lead:	Michael Spender
Equality Impact Assessment Team:	Michael Spender Katie Heaton (Destination and Culture EDI Rep).
Date assessment started:	01/01/2019
Date assessment completed:	02/11/2020
What are the aims/objectives of the policy/service?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The recommendations of the 2019 BCP Cultural Enquiry were widely accepted and Arts Council England agreed to the setting up of a multi-sector BCP Cultural Compact to deliver on the recommendations of the Enquiry and deliver a Cultural Strategy shared with the Council and further strategic development. 2. The Cultural Compact will maximise the benefits of BCP's cultural assets and encourage a more integrated offer which will easier for all sectors of the community to understand and access. 3. This will widen participation in terms of equality of access to take account of all sections of the community, bringing people together and enabling people who share different characteristics and heritage to enjoy cultural activity together in a common space, building community cohesion.

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Part 1 - The Project

Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An inclusive and diverse Cultural Compact will be created in 2021. 2. Corporate Strategy measures for visits to museums and engagement in cultural activity will be developed from 2021 together with other measures, to be defined, that ensure fully inclusive cultural participation. 3. A Cultural Strategy will be developed for the whole community, including all groups with protected characteristics leading to the delivery of engaging cultural activity that the whole community can co-create, contribute to and participate in. 4. Cultural Strategy outcomes will be achieved from 2022.
Are there any associated services, policies or procedures?	<p>Yes (If 'Yes', please list or link below)</p> <p>BCP Council Corporate Strategy; BCP Council People Strategy; BCP Council Equality Action Commission; Corporate Equality Action Plan; Community Equality Champions; Employee Equality Champions; Equality & Diversity Policy Equality & Diversity Strategy; Equality Governance structure; Equality Monitoring; Public Sector Equality Duty; Service Unit Equality Champions; Strategic Equality Leadership Group (SELG); Dorset Race Equality Council</p>

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Part 1 - The Project

Please list the main people, or groups, that this policy/service is designed to benefit, and any other stakeholders involved:	BCP Residents Visitors to BCP area The cultural sector in BCP BCP businesses and the tourism and hospitality industry
With consideration for their clients, please list any other organisations, statutory, voluntary or community that the policy/service/process will affect:	All community groups in BCP Statutory & voluntary Partners

Part 2 – Supporting Evidence¹

Please list and/or link to below any recent & relevant consultation & engagement that can be used to demonstrate a clear understanding of those with a legitimate interest in the policy/service/process and the relevant findings:

1. The Cultural Enquiry carried out consultation with over 1,000 residents at 50 events and online to establish the priorities of creative practitioners and communities. It was very clear that our creative communities were receptive to cultural development of the kind envisaged. A report of benchmark examples and learning resulting from them was compiled.
2. Further consultation online took place from February to March 2020.

¹ This could include: service monitoring reports, research, customer satisfaction surveys & feedback, workforce monitoring, staff surveys, opinions and information from trade unions, previous completed EIAs (including those of other organisations) feedback from focus groups & individuals or organisations representing the interests of key target groups or similar.

Part 2 – Supporting Evidence¹

The results of this consultation gave a clear set of priorities for cultural development which informed the establishment of the Cultural Compact and development of the Cultural Strategy. In February-April 2020 we consulted online with the creative community and the survey results are at Appendix 5.

However, when compared to the BCP population some groups with protected characteristics were not well enough represented in the consultation feedback. It will therefore be important for the Cultural Compact and the Council to collect data and consult further with communities and groups to inform the development of the Cultural Strategy. For example, the Cultural Enquiry found that young people felt under-represented in cultural activity and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities were under-represented in the Cultural Enquiry. It is also well documented that people with disability are less likely to participate in cultural and art activities.

Because of this under-representation, in preparing this report there has been wide consultation, including with BCP Council's Equality Action Commission and Policy and Performance Manager, and the Dorset Race Equality Council. As a result proposals for the Cultural Compact have developed and budget has been set aside for ongoing engagement with underserved and under-represented communities and groups to ensure they are fully represented and served in the development of the Cultural Compact and Cultural Strategy and subsequent activity and opportunities. Both must be relevant to and representative of all residents.

The engagement work will support recruitment that encourages and enable representatives of underserved groups and communities to consider the new officer posts and membership of the Cultural Compact board and consultative group.

3. Further consultees:

BCP Council Equality Action Commission
Dorset Race Equality Council
BCP Council Policy and Performance Manager
Destination and Culture EDI representative
External cultural stakeholders, communities and groups
Arts Council England

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Part 2 – Supporting Evidence¹

4. Engagement with under-represented groups or their representatives such as Access Dorset, Dots Disability, Age UK, Unity in Vision, Dorset Race Equality Council and community groups will be undertaken during the project to ensure their views and needs are taken into account during the development of the Cultural Compact. This may need to be written into the specification later on. It is well documented that people with disability are less likely to participate in cultural and art activities.

Please list and/or link to below any recent & relevant consultation & engagement that can be used to demonstrate a clear understanding of those with a legitimate interest in the policy/service/process and the relevant findings:

5. The Cultural Enquiry worked over 10 months across BCP to facilitate animated conversations which enhance networking, convene purposeful dialogue on the key issues and opportunities for culture and collect evidence to inform a set of strategic themes and priorities for culture in BCP. Over 1,000 people were actively engaged in over 50 events and platforms. These included:
 - February 2019 Launch event at Arts University Bournemouth, including introductions from Darren Henley, Chief Executive of Arts Council England, and Professor Stuart Bartholomew, then Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Arts University Bournemouth
 - March: Technology and the Arts workshop hosted by Pavilion Dance South West, facilitated by Dick Penny of Watershed Bristol
 - March: Placemaking and culture open space event, hosted by Lighthouse Poole, with speakers including Dom Jinks of Exeter Culture, Libby Battaglia from Light up Poole, and Elspeth McBain of Lighthouse.
 - April: People and the Arts workshop, hosted by Poole Museum, with a contribution from Oli Rantala of Oulu Municipality, Finland, Colette Bailey of Metal, Southend, Michael Spender of Poole Museums and Phil Hallett of Coda.
 - May: Health, wellbeing and communities event, hosted by Highcliffe Castle in Christchurch, featuring Val Birchall of Coventry City Council and Ruth Eastgate from Blackpool Grand Theatre

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Part 2 – Supporting Evidence¹

- May: International partnerships and excellence, hosted by the Eco Hub in Poole's Dolphin Centre, with Carlos Martins, ex-Director of Guimarães, European Capital of Culture 2012, and Dougie Scarfe, Chief executive of the BSO.
 - June: Survey of young people launched – led by Digipigz
 - July: Cultural Ecologies and approaches to cultural planning, hosted by Russell Coates Museum with leading international cultural planning expert Professor Franco Bianchini and Director of Coventry, UK City of Culture 2021, Chenine Bhathena.
 - October: Council member briefing with newly elected BCP councillors, hosted by Pavilion Dance South West
 - October: Closing prioritisation workshop, hosted by The Lighthouse, with interventions from a range of key strategic partners.
6. The process also included many smaller meetings with local cultural networks and groups, cultural, education and health organisations, plus many individuals. including Power House Poole and the Bournemouth Emerging Arts Fringe (BEAF) in Boscombe.
 7. The Cultural Enquiry website provided a platform for dissemination and feedback throughout the process. It also included a Cultural Enquiry Blogspot: www.culturalequiry.co.uk The Cultural Enquiry Twitter platform generated a rich mix of perspectives: @culturalenquiry
 8. A series of formal 'written submissions' were also provided by individuals and organisations across BCP
 9. Notable amongst the feedback and findings relating to equalities and protected characteristics groups were the following:

The “invisible city”
 - BCP, with its elongated urban form and polycentric structure mean the neighbourhood is a disproportionately important unit of scale for cultural development. Add to this the conurbation's unique economic and thus demographic profile – with, for example, an ageing population coupled with a very young and diverse population of students and people working in care and financial services – and BCP can be understood as a particularly complex place to develop and deliver culture.

Part 2 – Supporting Evidence¹

One participant in the Cultural Enquiry talked of BCP as ‘the invisible city’, where at different times of the day, many communities are out of sight, invisible (e.g. elderly people lack mobility and care workers are inside looking after the elderly people); or where different neighbourhoods are un-connected to one another, occupying a place in the other’s imagination, with very few opportunities or incentives to meet. This ‘invisible city’ paradigm makes typical approaches to grassroots cultural activity very challenging. Finding shared points of reference, values and ambitions for a place is difficult if communities are invisible to each other.

- Culture can of course play a powerful role in tackling this invisibility; but the capacity and resources of the cultural sector are not sufficient to deliver the kind of in-depth and engaging work required to build bridges and make cultural connections. Vital here is the connecting tissue between the NPOs and the community and voluntary sector, with a significant need for community-based hubs and networks, local decision-making in cultural resources, as well as tailored programming which targets intercultural and intergenerational dialogue. Such as aspects should be keenly engaged as part of the Local Plan, ensuring transport, planning and place embrace culture to reduce the invisible city effect of BCP. of the council.

Young people and diversity undervalued

- This invisible city effect means that certain demographic groups find it particularly challenging to find a voice and then have their voice heard in the cultural system of BCP. This is the case for young people, older people and ethnic minorities. Participants in the Cultural Enquiry have talked passionately of the need to open-up the cultural system of BCP, to diversify decision-making, and to support young people and their interests alongside more championing of diversity. The Cultural Enquiry survey showed that young people want more opportunities to watch live music and performance, more festivals, move international food and a stronger nightlife as well as real improvements in safety and transportation.
- We tracked comments relating to the Cultural Enquiry on the Bournemouth Echo website. There were no comments relating to EDI.

A summary of benchmark examples and learning resulting from them was compiled: [BCP Cultural Enquiry Appendix 1 Case Studies.docxx.pdf](#)

A Cultural Future online consultation, Feb-April 2020: . [BCP Cultural Future Survey results May 2020.pdf](#)

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Part 2 – Supporting Evidence¹

Contextual document setting out how people can participate in culture: ‘Let’s Create’ – Arts Council England’s 10-year strategy: <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/letscreate>

If there is insufficient consultation or engagement information please explain in the Action plan what further consultation will be undertaken, who with and how:

The Council and Cultural Compact will carry out further research to gather data describing which communities and groups with protected characteristics are excluded from cultural activity for reasons such as poor access or access information, perceptions of elitist “culture vultures” and high art programming, incohesive marketing, access to buildings and spaces, lack of beginners’ classes, high price points, or that culture is not for “people like me”.

The Cultural Compact will engage with these communities and groups to co-create a Cultural Strategy and Plan which is owned and loved by the whole community.

Please list or link to any relevant research, census and other evidence or information that is available and relevant to this EIA:

We will use the data provided in the BCP Insight reports to target wards, communities and protected characteristics groups to gather data, consult, engage and ensure they are fully represented in decision making about the Cultural Strategy:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/bcpinsight#!/>

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Cultural Enquiry <https://bcpculturalcollective.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/BCP-Cultural-Enquiry-Report-VF.pdf>

Please list below any service user/employee monitoring data available and relevant to this policy/service/process and what it shows in relation to any Protected Characteristic:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/bcpinsight#!/>

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Part 2 – Supporting Evidence¹

If there is insufficient research and monitoring data, please explain in the Action plan what information will be gathered:

Part 3 – Assessing the Impact by Equality Characteristic

Use the evidence to determine to the impacts, positive or negative for each Equality Characteristic listed below. Listing negative impacts will help protect the organisation from potential litigation in the future; it does not mean the policy cannot continue.

Click here for more guidance on how to understand the impact of the service/policy/procedure against each characteristic.

If the impact is not known please explain in the Action plan what steps will be taken to find out.

	Actual or potential positive outcome	Actual or potential negative outcome
1. Age ²	<p>Age UK research shows a clear link between participation in creative and cultural activity and well being for older people. As many elderly people are often alone supporting people to come together and find a shared interest or purpose are key drivers to enhancing well-being. Other research shows there can be cognitive and physical benefits, which flows from engagement. Improving access to and participation in cultural activity can potentially improve health, well-being and quality of life for older people.</p> <p>Those under 18 are not included in this characteristic but all young people, and especially more disadvantaged children will</p>	<p>The barriers to older people engaging in cultural activity include location, transport, poor health (mental or physical), poor social networks and low income. Although many activities are free, there are indirect costs such as transport, materials, room hire or simply refreshments. Carers may need respite care, and older people who are on their own may need a friend to go with them.</p> <p>Transport, location and cost must be taken into account in programming for older people and action taken to reduce these barriers and make the offer more age-friendly.</p>

² Under this characteristic, The Equality Act only applies to those over 18.

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Part 3 – Assessing the Impact by Equality Characteristic

Use the evidence to determine the impacts, positive or negative for each Equality Characteristic listed below. Listing negative impacts will help protect the organisation from potential litigation in the future; it does not mean the policy cannot continue. [Click here](#) for more guidance on how to understand the impact of the service/policy/procedure against each characteristic. If the impact is not known please explain in the Action plan what steps will be taken to find out.

	Actual or potential positive outcome	Actual or potential negative outcome
	have full access to the wealth of artistic and cultural opportunities.	<p>Failure to overcome these barriers won't achieve the desired positive outcomes and as the population ages have an overall negative effect.</p> <p>If the council does not protect the buildings and services that older people value, such as libraries and community centres this will negatively impact the policy.</p> <p>BCP has an ageing population with the number of residents' aged 65 and over set to increase by 18% prior to 2028.</p>
2. Disability ³	Engagement with arts and culture can have a transformative impact on disabled people. Arts and culture should make as huge a	Adults, children and young people with disabilities do not currently have equal access to cultural opportunities.

³ Consider any reasonable adjustments that may need to be made to ensure fair access.

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

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If the impact is not known please explain in the Action plan what steps will be taken to find out.

	Actual or potential positive outcome	Actual or potential negative outcome
	<p>contribution to the lives of those with disability as it does to abled, offering additional opportunities to enhance health and wellbeing as well as enrich lives.</p> <p>Disabled artists are an important cultural asset in the UK and their engagement will be a priority.</p> <p>Access to culture for those with disabilities will be equal to those of able bodied.</p> <p>Anti Ableist principles to support and protect disabled people will be embedded and promoted.</p> <p>People with disabilities will be enabled to engage and co-create through opportunities to participate in life-long learning and cultural activity.</p>	<p>The Cultural Compact must work to eliminate those barriers or it will not achieve the positive outcomes. The Cultural compact must be advocates for access and inclusion to arts and culture.</p> <p>If public buildings and the public realm do not provide equal physical access this will negatively impact the policy and may breach the Equality Act.</p>
3. Sex	<p>Ensure that males and females have equal access to fully participate in cultural activity.</p> <p>Provision will be ensured for single sex cultural activity or participation within the exceptions defined in the Equality Act.</p> <p>Males dominate Art & Culture sectors.</p> <p>Females will be fully and as much as possible equally represented in cultural provision.</p>	<p>Females are under represented in Art and Culture sector providers and as artistic participants. For example only 5% of art sold in galleries worldwide is by female artists.</p> <p>Ethnic females are further underrepresented. If the policy does not seek to promote and improve representation of females across the sectors it will</p>

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

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Click here for more guidance on how to understand the impact of the service/policy/procedure against each characteristic.

If the impact is not known please explain in the Action plan what steps will be taken to find out.

	Actual or potential positive outcome	Actual or potential negative outcome
	Female artists and cultural providers will have the same opportunities as males to participate, engage, provide and showcase. Ethnic females will have greater representation. Females will be represented fully in the workforce and at leadership levels.	negatively impact positive aspiration to provide equal access and participation. Failure to provide equal opportunity for females may breach the Equality Act. Certain exemptions make it permissible for the provision of single sex facilities. Failure to do so may breach the Equality Act.
4. Gender reassignment ⁴	Ensure no Gender Reassignment discrimination or barriers to access, engage and participate in cultural activities. Promote inclusion equally with all other characteristics. Foster good relations for those who share this characteristic and those who do not.	Negative only if activity excludes or is biased against those individuals undergoing, intending to undergo or have gone through gender reassignment.
5. Pregnancy and Maternity	Cultural activity will be fully accessible to people who are pregnant or have young children. Cultural organisations have good policies and practices for pregnant women and those with young families.	Negative only if opportunities are not made available for pregnant women or young families.

⁴ Transgender refers people have a gender identity or gender expression that differs to the sex assigned at birth.

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

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	Actual or potential positive outcome	Actual or potential negative outcome
6. Marriage and Civil Partnership	Cultural activity will be fully accessible for people in all marriages and civil partnerships.	Negative only if opportunities are not made available for people in marriages and civil partnerships.
7. Race	<p>People of all races will be enabled to engage and co-create through opportunities to participate in cultural activity.</p> <p>Black and ethnic minorities will be positively encouraged to contribute, shape and be part of the cultural programme. They will have the same opportunities and have equal access to culture and its creativity.</p> <p>Black and ethnic minorities heritage will be recognised and valued equally and they will have the same opportunities to participate, engage, provide and showcase.</p> <p>Black and ethnic minorities will be represented fully in the workforce and at leadership levels.</p>	<p>Black and ethnic minorities are under represented in the Cultural Sector both in provision and participation. If the policy does not increase participation and engagement and contribution to the cultural programme the policy will not have achieved its aspirations.</p> <p>BCP has a rich mix of cultural diversity that can have positive impact on the community as a whole. Over 85 languages are spoken across BCP.</p> <p>Failure to engage these groups will result in lost opportunities for a vibrant cultural sector.</p> <p>Failure to take positive action to reduce inequality and access to cultural activity may breach the Equality Act.</p>
8. Religion or Belief	<p>People of all religions and beliefs will be enabled to engage and co-create through opportunities to participate in cultural activity.</p> <p>The religious heritage of our diverse faith groups will be recognised and valued.</p>	<p>Negative if diverse religions and beliefs not recognised in cultural activity.</p> <p>Although the population is largely Christian other faith groups include Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Jewish.</p>

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Part 3 – Assessing the Impact by Equality Characteristic

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	Actual or potential positive outcome	Actual or potential negative outcome
	Minority faith groups will be encouraged to be part of the cultural programme.	Failure to take positive action to engage minority faith groups, reduce inequality and access to cultural activity may breach the Equality Act.
9. Sexual Orientation	Everyone regardless of sexual orientation will have equal access to engage, participate and contribute to the cultural programme or participate. Positive action will be taken to ensure where sexual orientation disadvantage varies across the groups (Heterosexual, Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual) inequity is removed and equal access is maintained for all groups. Ensure that those groups continue to be represented in events and cultural programmes.	Negative if sexuality is not recognised in cultural activity. Only 2% of residents identify as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual. These groups already experience more discrimination and may be more negatively impacted if the policy does not take positive action to address that. Failure to do so may breach the Equality Act.
10. Armed Forces Community	Cultural activity, particularly in the heritage sector, is respectful of services commemorations and activity. Armed Forces community representatives will be included in programming of those commemorative events.	Armed forces community should be fully included in activity and opportunities to avoid negative impact on the services or the well-being of veterans.

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Part 3 – Assessing the Impact by Equality Characteristic

Use the evidence to determine to the impacts, positive or negative for each Equality Characteristic listed below. Listing negative impacts will help protect the organisation from potential litigation in the future; it does not mean the policy cannot continue. [Click here](#) for more guidance on how to understand the impact of the service/policy/procedure against each characteristic. If the impact is not known please explain in the Action plan what steps will be taken to find out.

	Actual or potential positive outcome	Actual or potential negative outcome
	Veterans will be actively encouraged to engage and participate in cultural events.	
11. Any other factors/groups e.g. socio-economic status/carers etc ⁵	<p>Culture and cultural engagement are particularly beneficial for those with health and wellbeing issues. Research shows a clear link between participation in creative and cultural activity.</p> <p>For example carers, young carers, socially disadvantaged, those living in deprivation, and those with health issues will be positively targeted to provide equal access to engage and participate in culture.</p> <p>Disadvantaged children will be a priority. Positive action will be taken to engage under represented and under served communities.</p>	<p>People with good social networks, good health and good financial resources are more likely to have high levels of wellbeing. These people also have greater access to cultural activity.</p> <p>3% of BCP's population lives in the 10% most deprived areas of England. 10% live in the 20% most deprived area whilst 20% live in the 20% least deprived in England.</p> <p>Barriers to those underserved and under represented communities are often location, transport and cost. Failure to over come those barriers and engage will result in these groups falling further behind.</p>

⁵ People on low incomes or no income, unemployed, carers, part-time, seasonal workers and shift workers

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Part 3 – Assessing the Impact by Equality Characteristic

Use the evidence to determine the impacts, positive or negative for each Equality Characteristic listed below. Listing negative impacts will help protect the organisation from potential litigation in the future; it does not mean the policy cannot continue. [Click here](#) for more guidance on how to understand the impact of the service/policy/procedure against each characteristic. If the impact is not known please explain in the Action plan what steps will be taken to find out.

	Actual or potential positive outcome	Actual or potential negative outcome
12. Human Rights	The policy will benefit people by supporting their human rights to life, live free from discrimination and the right to freedom of expression.	An opportunity to challenge infringements to human rights would be missed if culture does not continue to champion such causes.

Any policy which shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination must be stopped, removed or changed.

Part 4 – Equality Impact Action Plan

Please complete this Action Plan for any negative or unknown impacts identified in the assessment table above.

Issue identified	Action required to reduce impact	Timescale	Responsible officer
Consultation about the make up of the Cultural Compact board and consultative	Communities and groups and residents of the Invisible City will be consulted about representation, preferences, needs and benefits of	2020/21	Michael Spender

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

partners must be fully inclusive and diverse	cultural engagement and encouraged to be involved in a leadership role.		
Cultural Strategy and plan must be fully inclusive and diverse	Communities and groups and residents of the Invisible City will be consulted about strategy and plan, co-creation, marketing, opportunities and support requirements from funders. Under-represented communities and groups will be identified by the Cultural Compact and Council to ensure they are fully engaged in and can co-create the Strategy and plan	2021/22	Michael Spender
Cultural leadership and workforce should be inclusive	Cultural organisations will be encouraged to adopt EDI recruitment policies and procedures.	2021/22	Michael Spender

Key contacts for further advice and guidance:

Equality & Diversity:

[Sam Johnson - Policy and Performance Manager](#)

Consultation & Research:

[Lisa Stuchberry – Insight Manager](#)

Appendix 1. Benchmark Examples given during the Cultural Enquiry

Talent Inspirations

Blackburn Festival of Making

Part of the Festival of Making, Art in manufacturing Art in Manufacturing pairs artists and makers with manufacturers and domestic artisans; giving artists access to specialist machinery and heritage craft techniques to create work together that now appears across Blackburn.

The work and companies involved are hugely diverse and ranged this year from repurposing a wallpaper machine into a sculpture to recreating a 1980s living room as a celebration of British Asian Culture.

Lesson for BCP: *The success of the project leaves a legacy of artworks across the town as well as raising awareness of local businesses and building innovative new partnerships*

MIL Lisbon

An annual event which combines live performance by new artists, with talks and events on the creative economy with a particular focus on new international markets.

Run by a committed young team the event is partnered with five other music conventions to launch JUMP, the European Music Market Accelerator. Co-funded by the European Commission, this provides a framework for music professionals to develop innovative business models. It aims to help the music sector adapt to recent transformations of the market while encouraging it to work on a transnational level. For nine months, 10 to 20 participants from all over Europe will have the opportunity to develop their ideas and to benefit in parallel from extensive training and tutorship.

Lesson for BCP: What makes MIL so successful is that it connects internationally while also supporting local people to develop their careers.

Tesbeds, Luton

Testbeds, funded by Arts Council England, run by University of Bedfordshire and partners is an innovative scheme which offers incubation to starting artists, a 12 month collaborative research laboratory for mid-career artists, an elevator programme to help take organisations to a new level of impact and a flexible programme of events to develop enterprise skills.

In 12 months it has boosted successful arts council applications, increased participation in events and greatly improved perceptions among artists of Luton as a place to be based.

Lesson for BCP: *A sustainable university-led scheme that is actively helping to create a welcoming and nurturing environment for creative practitioners.*

Metal, Southend

Metal, a cultural development company with a base in Southend, shared with us how it has developed the Alt Art School. This gives local young people a practical guide to careers in the creative

industries, talking them through the opportunities that exist in local businesses and organisations. From opportunities to learn from local crafts people through to apprenticeships at established cultural organisations the guide demystifies the sector and is aimed as much at parents and schools as young people. Metal also run Alt Art School Events and training sessions.

What makes Alt Art School successful is that it pulls together a wide range of local voices and opportunities into one place in a sector that can feel very fragmented and hard to understand.

Lesson for BCP: Working with the grass roots and communities as full partners, can bring about greater ownership and engagement.

Infrastructure Inspirations

Second floor Studios Southeast England

This community Interest company develops studios in locations above shops and other unusual locations. In Sevenoaks (shown here) council invited it to open in a council owned building. It now has 18 artists studios and hosts many events open to the public such as an art market in November.

The success of the model (and there are many similar across UK) is that it utilises space which would otherwise become residential while bringing life and diversity to the high street while providing much needed affordable space for artists

Lesson for BCP: Models like this are vital in BC which lacks traditional post-industrial spaces and could play a part in the reimagining of the high street.

The Powerhouse (Poole)

A community-led groups seeking to develop a new hub on derelict land. The plans are still in development but it would provide a facility for Hamworthy (and Poole) including potentially a gallery, café, music and rehearsal spaces. Their recent survey of 97 local artists and creative professional showed support for a regionally significant gallery, workshop and studio space. The group are in discussion with property developers and housing associations. While they try and secure the land they will develop a programme of community focussed activity.

Lesson for BCP: Working with community groups to deliver in areas currently lacking cultural infrastructure will be vital.

St Helen's Libraries (St Helens)

The UK's most significant 'arts in libraries' project, now an Arts Council England NPO which enlivens St. Helens' network of 13 Libraries with performances, plays, gigs, workshops, courses, exhibitions and great art events funded by the National Lottery and distributed through Arts Council England. Recently crowned best arts project at The National Lottery Awards2016.

Activities range from a music tech hub every week for young people wanting to learn about digital music, through to *Northern Powerhouse: Last Towns Standing* a new online text adventure game created by Re-Dock, with young people from across the North. The Northern Powerhouse touring exhibition explores the future by showcasing imaginative and innovative objects - artefacts - featured in the game bringing the online world of 2065 into the physical.

Lesson for BCP: Opportunity to build on the excellent work already underway across BCP's libraries into a larger programme that gains national significance.

BOM Birmingham

BOM is a centre for art, technology and science dedicated to creative innovation with purpose.

Located in central Birmingham, the gallery is free to enter and presents cutting edge digital artworks and exhibitions that spark debate about technology and scientific progress while the café provides revenue and meeting space. BOM is dedicated to positive social impact. Its exhibitions and events explore topical issues in digital culture and science which impact on human lives. BOM also offers fellowships and a residency programme.

BOM Success is to build on Hacker culture and draw connections across sectors and between formal and informal learning

Lesson for BCP: The kind of third space that BOM offers provides active encouragement and support for collaboration and wider engagement.

Fusebox (Brighton)

The FuseBox is a hub in Brighton for digital innovators, tech visionaries and creative technologists. It is run by and is home to independent membership organisation Wired Sussex

It provides innovators with access to spaces, facilities, opportunities and expertise. It currently house the Brighton Immersive Lab and a 5G testbed.

Wired Sussex helped power Brighton's success as a creative-tech cluster through its job boards. The Fusebox brings together

research, start-ups, investors and innovators in a way that touches the whole creative economy

Lesson for BCP: The Fusebox helped put Brighton the map as a centre for innovation, encouraging firms to relocate and invest.

The Folkestone Triennial

The Folkestone triennial sees new artworks commissioned every three years, many of which remain around the town building an outdoor gallery of leading contemporary artwork. It is a key part of the physical renewal of the seaside town, that has also focussed on independent stores, food and drink.

The project is funded largely by Creative Folkestone which is also behind the Quarterhouse and Creative Quarter

The success of the Triennial is that its opens and accessible nature, it not only puts the town on the cultural map every three years, but ensures people come every year. Residents also benefit hugely from the socially engaged work.

Lesson for BCP: the triennial is a great example of how focussing on quality and legacy alongside an exciting festival programme can deliver long-term benefits.

Quality of Place Inspiration

Cultural planning and Hull 2017

Franco Bianchini, from the University of Hull, talked about the importance of a cultural planning process which engages the community, is critical, questioning and not afraid of being controversial. He emphasised that the success of Hull 2017 lies in the twin outputs of sustaining cultural participation and strengthening the appeal of the city as an international cultural tourism destination

Cultural planning is vital in shaping successful creative places – it relies on local knowledge, working across sectors, defining and mapping local cultural assets, as well as understanding the local ‘image bank’ (which ranges from media coverage through to local stereotypes and ‘conventional wisdom.

Lesson for BCP: Changing perception is not easy and requires risk taking, but must build up from the grassroots

Place Attractiveness Oulu, Finland

Olli Rantala, from the city of Oulu Government, shared the visionary approach of Oulu, a medium sized city in Finland, that has adopted an holistic approach to place attractiveness which is successfully attracting young people to stay, shaping a more liveable and dynamic city that celebrates its quirks (‘the world air guitar championships’) and places high value on design of even the most humble street furniture.

Oulu’s approach is fascinating because it could be any non major city in Europe facing the challenges that lack of scale and prominence bring. It’s approach is refreshing because it takes

things we often ignore – like fun and attractiveness – and places them in the centre of its strategy.

Lesson for BCP: The ‘small’ stuff matters along with the large projects when it comes to making

Plymouth Culture

Dom Jinks shared with the enquiry the inspiring story of Plymouth Culture. Through focussing on four linked themes – Nurturing talent, Community engagement, major projects and international projects – Plymouth has been on a journey which is starting to change the way it is seen internally and externally. The erection of Messenger – the UK’s largest statue of a woman – in 2019 received huge publicity and showed a town with a new sense of confidence. The success of Plymouth has been in bringing together often divergent voices to create a unified approach behind a strategic approach to cultural development that connects community engagement with international profile raising.

Lesson for BCP: Focussing on both local activity and headline grabbing initiatives can deliver real change.

Building Connectivity (Aveiro/Guimaraes)

Carlos Martins shared how the innovative approach adopted in Northern Portugal has seen a once declining former industrial area reposition itself through culture and creativity as a growing economy. The approach focussed on Hardware (Business incubation, art creation spaces) and Software (Showcasing, international events, cultural tourism). In Guimaraes The City of Culture bid which came at a time of recession, was transformative and embraced to the extent that the town changed its logo to the symbol of the year.

The success of Northern Portugal shows how closely linking culture with economic and social renewal through a large scale and long-term programme can deliver lasting change.

Lesson for BCP: Integrating culture into wider regeneration and economic planning is key to transformation.

BCP Future Parks Accelerator

Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund & National Trust, the Future Parks Accelerator (FPA) will see parks becoming “the backdrop for stimulating sustainable growth, improving health and wellbeing, biodiversity, reconnecting people with nature and are a driving force in bringing diverse communities together in positive activity.” The FPA will result in a green infrastructure strategy and business plan to create a sustainable model for 21st century parks. This will create a model for the UK’s parks services that can be replicated across other local authorities, especially merging authorities.

Lesson for BCP: the opportunity to ensure that culture is a key part of the sustainable future for our open spaces.

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A Cultural Future for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

2nd interim online consultation results

1st May 2020

Introduction

The conference 'A Cultural Future for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole', scheduled for 23rd March 2020 and designed to look at the outcomes of the BCP Cultural Enquiry in more detail, was postponed until later in 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis.

The conference was due to host workshops based around four themes: Talent, Infrastructure, Quality of Place and Festivals, and also included a Visioning Exercise looking at a long-term cultural vision for the region. The results of these surveys are due to feed into the creation of the BCP Cultural Collective – a Cultural Compact for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole - and inform the creation of a new Cultural Strategy for the region.

These five topics have been available since 7th February 2020 as online surveys in a public consultation. The surveys are still open, but this report provides a summary of responses so far until 1st May 2020.

Contents

Page 1	Introduction and contents
Page 2-4	Survey results – 'A Cultural Vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole'
Page 5	Introduction to the workshop topics
Page 6-8	Survey results – 'Talent'
Page 9-11	Survey results – 'Infrastructure'
Page 12-14	Survey results – 'Quality of Place'
Page 15-17	Survey results – 'Festivals'
Page 18	List of respondees

Appendix (Excel document) Raw data – full list of additional responses

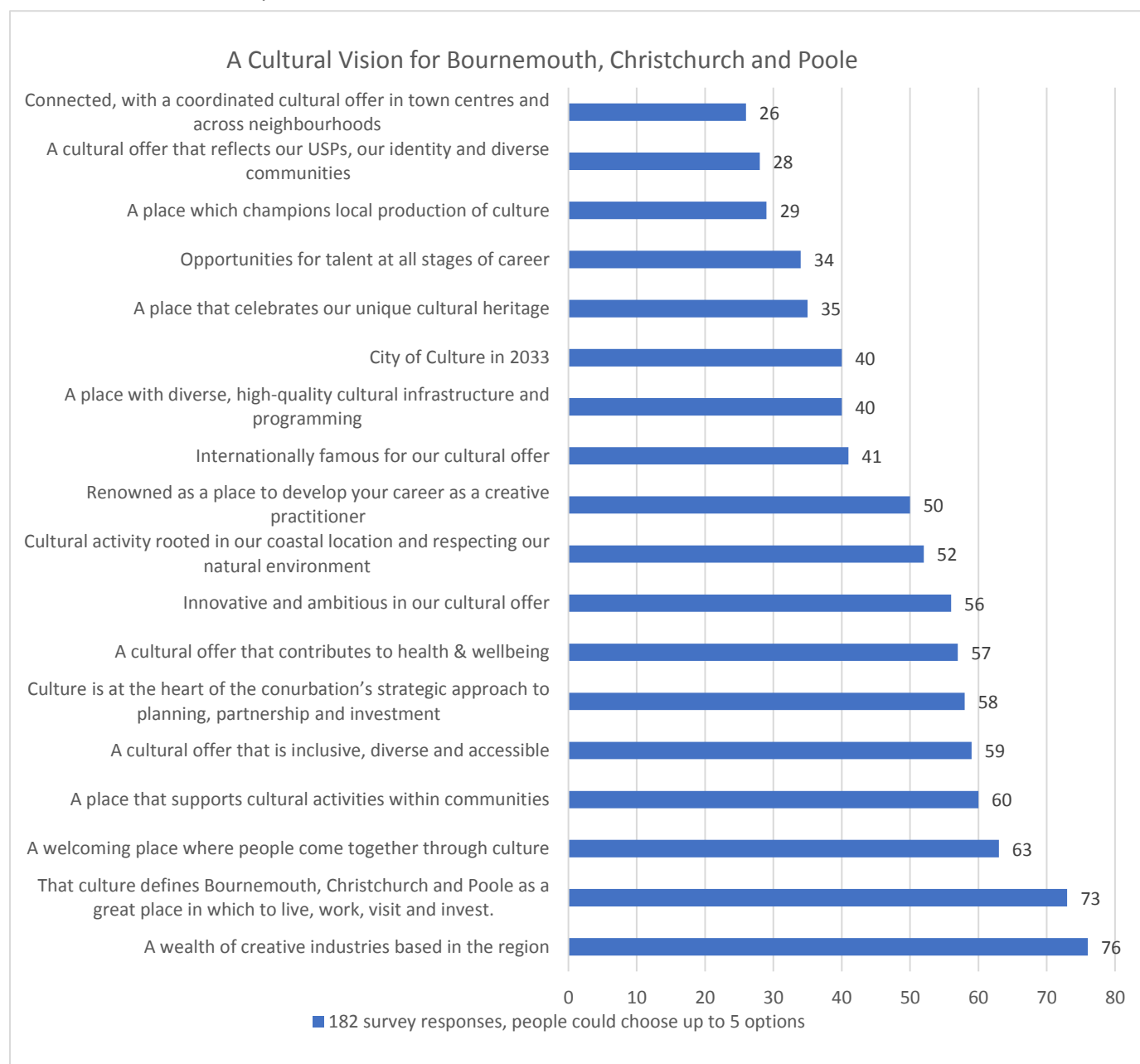
Survey 1 – “A Cultural Vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole”.


Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are entering a new era. The three towns have an incredibly rich cultural offer across their neighbourhoods, and an impressive range of cultural assets and organisations, in an area of natural beauty with the coastline that joins them together. With a new Unitary Authority of a scale comparable to Bristol, now is the time to shape a shared ambition, a whole-place approach to culture, with a long-term cultural vision for the conurbation.

Respondees were asked to consider:

“What is your 20-year cultural vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole?”

They were asked to choose up to 5 options from the below list and provide their own further comments. 182 responses have been received so far.





Summary of additional comments on Vision

Content/ programming

BCP needs to attract and support cultural institutions of the highest quality.

Our current cultural provision feels outdated and in need of a revamp.

Our current cultural provision is fantastic and should be maximised and supported.

Culture needs to be coordinated across the conurbation to offer a range of quality content.

Need to focus on a broad range of diverse content, not just high culture - this could include more galleries, interactive museums, wet weather family offer, music on the beach, a sculpture park, art cinema, contemporary art exhibition space, a more varied quality music scene.

We need to cater throughout the year for residents as well as for the summer tourist season.

Heritage

We need to celebrate the individual heritage of the three towns.

We need to celebrate our historic and literary links, listed buildings and our natural attractions.

Partnerships

The Universities need to be involved in generating ideas and shaping strategy.

More collaboration with AUB

More collaboration with museums and educational institutions.

Partnerships with schools and the involvement of the younger generation is key.

An anchor institution/ creative hubs

BCP needs a highly visible anchor institution to act as a catalyst for further development - like a Turner Contemporary.

BCP should build on the existing creative venues and rediscover/ celebrate what it has.

Develop Poole quayside with a range of museums and galleries.

BCP needs affordable and accessible studio spaces for artists and creation spaces for R&D

The natural environment

Needs to be preserved and not spoilt by any tourism attractions and new cultural developments.

Our cultural offer should be in harmony with our local environment.

We should be leaders in sustainable living, supporting innovative ideas and enriching lives, fostering a sense of place and community.

Strategy

Ambition, innovation and sustainability are key

We need to create a cultural ecology, which is interconnected and cross generational

We need to develop a talent pipeline that supports those at all stages of career


We need better networks and the development of culture and strategy should be in part artist led

Culture should be at the heart of our vision for the conurbation.

Identity, health and wellbeing, community and the environment are all key elements in developing cultural strategy.

The tourist attractions are sometimes overplayed at the expense of cultural and other events.

Creating a vision needs to be led by a more diverse team of facilitators who are also experts at supporting local talent.



Culture needs to be embedded in local strategies in a more fundamental way, and connected with other sectors.

Use culture to regenerate our town centres especially where retail is failing.

Diversity and accessibility

We need more intergenerational activities that are inclusive and build new skills


We need a range of content that caters for our diverse communities, supports local artists and attracts top quality talent and audiences from further afield.

The vision for culture should be rooted in communities and our identity.

Networks and promotion

We need a joined-up way of promoting the existing cultural offer.

Bottom-up initiatives need more support and the infrastructure to help them thrive.



‘What Next?’ Workshops

The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Cultural Enquiry was established at the same time as the UK’s newest city region came into being under the new unitary authority of BCP Council. The Enquiry took place throughout 2019 and was initiated to shape a shared ambition and collective opportunity for the region as a place of culture. Now is the time to re-imagine a conurbation-wide cultural offer, to build something bigger and better and for culture to be impactful across a range of strategic agendas.

The Cultural Enquiry identified the need for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to concentrate on both

1. a neighbourhood and grassroots approach to culture and
2. a scaled-up culture-led city-making approach.

Bringing these together into a third approach

3. a **Whole Place Approach to Culture**. This marries the importance of micro-scale, locally embedded and community-facing activities; to one which thinks and acts big.

The Enquiry has helped shape three main themes for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole going forwards:

1. **Talent**
2. **Infrastructure**
3. **Quality of Place**

and some potential priority actions including

4. **Developing our festival offer**

These four topics are explored in the following surveys.

Survey 2 – “Talent”

By talent we mean arts and creative education, support for artists and creative practitioners at all stages of their careers and a step change in cultural provision and ‘everyday creativity’. It means supporting everyone to enjoy a creative life.

Respondees were told that:

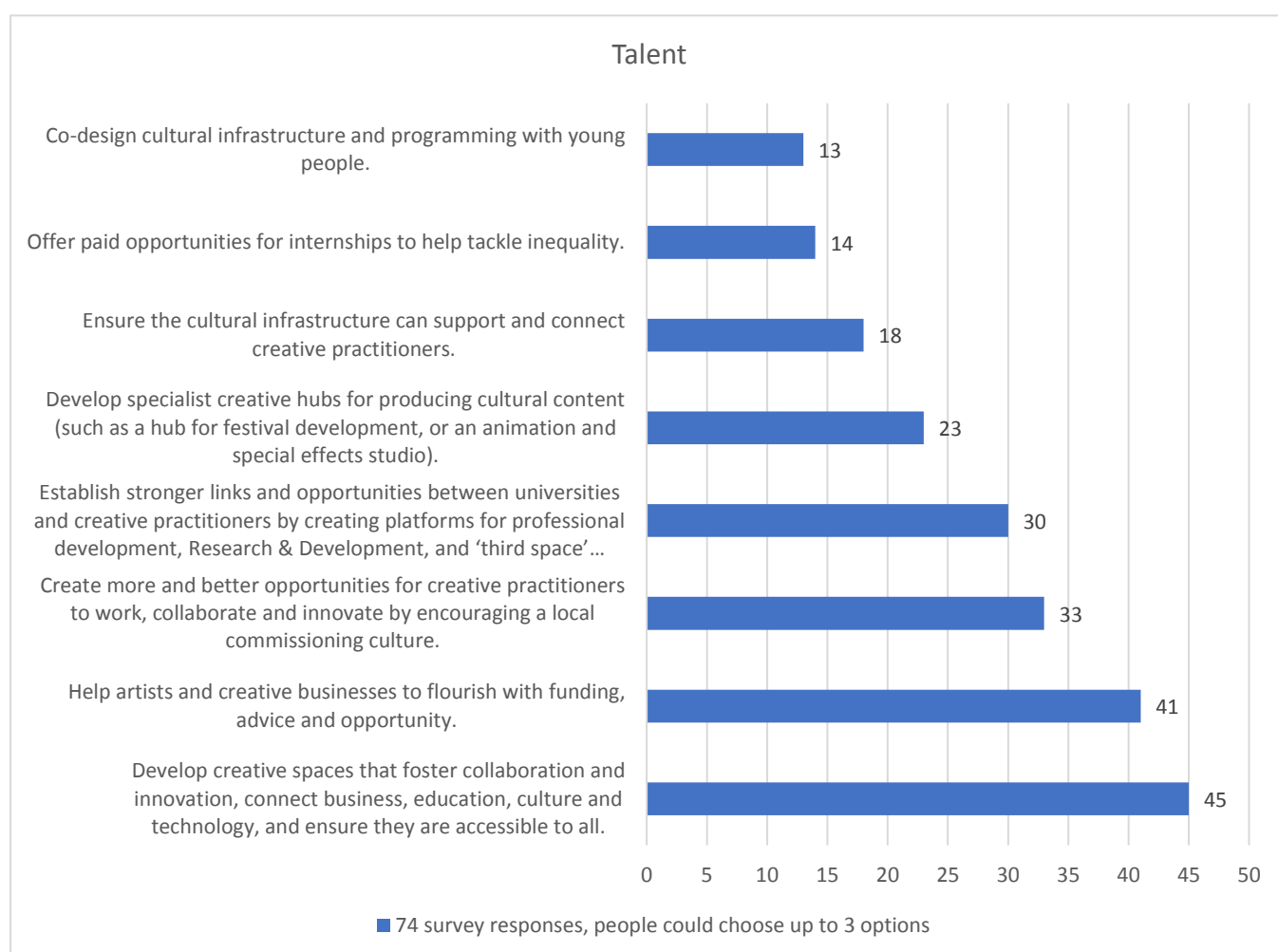
BCP Council will

1. Work with the [Local Enterprise Partnership](#) to ensure there is money to invest in this strategy and to make sure Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole produces the best, most ambitious culture and attracts and retains talented creatives.
2. Support schools to be champions in arts and creative learning.

Respondees were asked to consider the list below and think about:

“Which three things should the BCP Cultural Collective prioritise next?”

Respondees were asked to choose up to 3 options and provide further comments.





Summary of additional comments on Talent

Universities and Bournemouth and Poole College

We need more job opportunities to retain talented students

Need for stronger links between universities and the local area

AUB can link students with the creative industries, BU has a national identity, together they can link education and practice.

Need to involve B&P College as well as the Universities

Partnerships

Active links between BCP Council and AUB

Collaboration, producing work together in new partnerships, co-developing funding bids and discovering new approaches.

Bridge the gap between festivals and the film industry

Museums, arts centres, Parks and Countryside areas and events should work more closely together to provide better opportunities.

Connectivity and participation are key.

Developers and creatives should be linked to embed culture into developments.

Collaboration allows for two-way flow of knowledge and the creation of fresh ideas.

Ethos

Need to support a creative culture in the region as an attractive reason to live and work here

Encourage entrepreneurship

Vibrant

Arts and culture need a higher profile and to be embedded in BCP's DNA

Important to instil a sense of community and a sense of pride in what we produce in our local area.

Diversity and accessibility

Need to ensure our ethos is diverse, inclusive and tolerant.

Accessibility to and affordability of culture is vital.

Need to encourage work by BAME talent

Creative hubs

Repurpose empty retail units as creative hubs and create cultural quarters in Bournemouth and Poole

The need for a space for people to come together - experience new things, meet different people

Flexibility for people who only have free time in the evenings and weekends

Create an accessible public form and a place for outreach and education


Infrastructure to support collaboration, R&D and professional development.

A place to forge partnerships, work on joint projects, an incubation space and place for help and support.

A community space for classes, meetings and viewing exhibitions. Somewhere to host student work, a youth theatre, the best contemporary shows.

A place designed by the people who are going to use it.

There are people out there who want to contribute mentoring and training to support career development



Utilise existing facilities more and widen the scope of their use.

Content

More high quality visual arts

More commissions and grants needed to support survival of small freelance businesses.

Need ambition in the work we produce locally to be of international quality

Introduce local competitive exhibitions for visual artists

Involvement

People have got ideas, time and skill to contribute to developing our cultural future and they want to be allowed to participate in the process.

People want to be part of the decision making process

Artists, creatives, young people, old people - the entire community - want to be involved in development of strategies and infrastructure.

Infrastructure

A good cultural infrastructure is crucial to provide opportunities and resilience to the sector.

Networks need to be developed and maintained.

Need to improve the current lack of coordination and ambition in planning and funding culture.

Need to acknowledge that culture is an important driver for tourism and the local economy.

Summary – Survey 3 – “Infrastructure”

Here infrastructure refers to scaled-up, diversified and sustainable cultural organisations, venues and platforms across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. It means the alignment of spatial planning, transport and culture. It also means ‘softer infrastructure’, the tools and processes which can deliver the wider economic and social ambitions of BCP.

Respondees were told that:

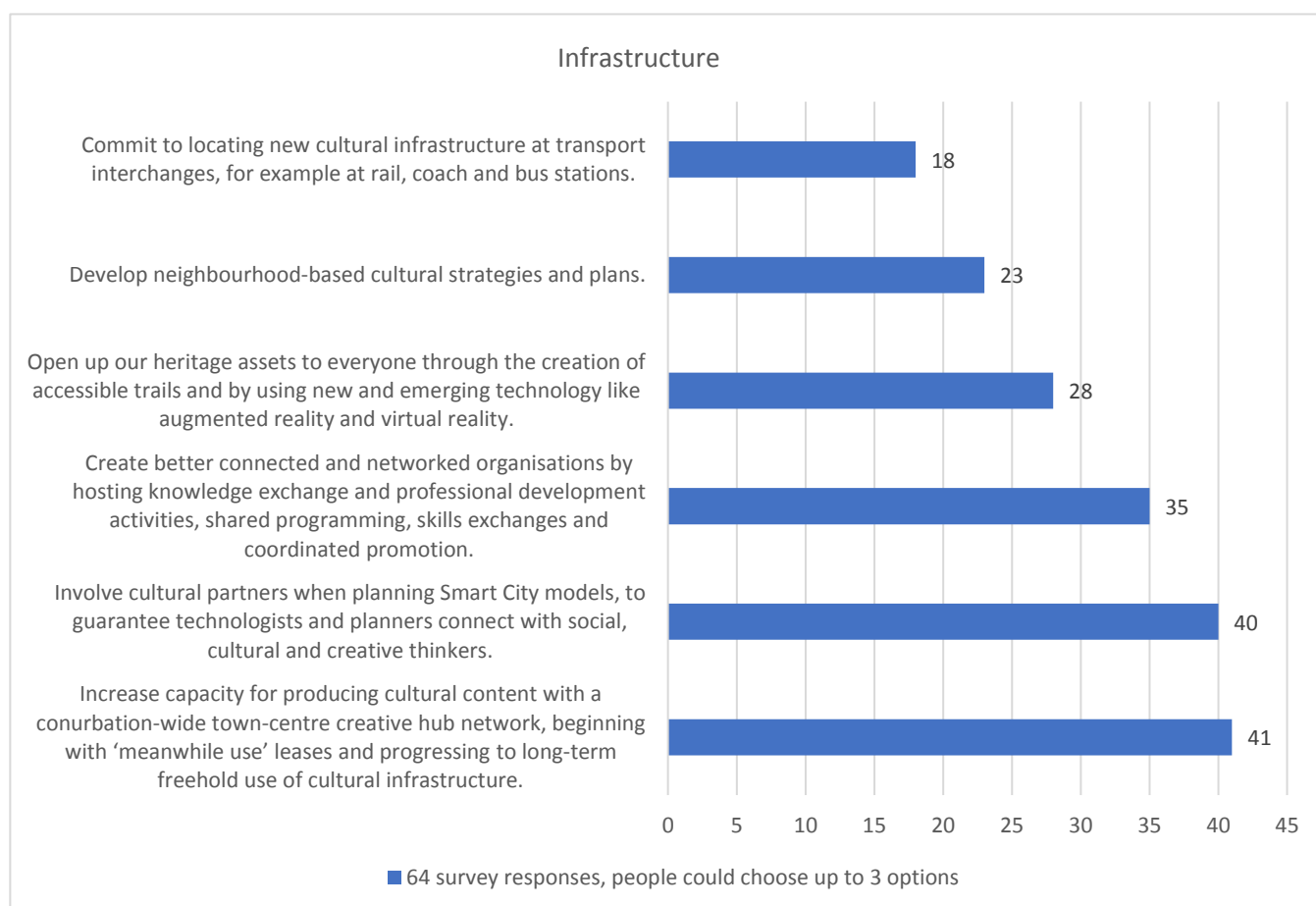
BCP Council will

1. Ensure culture is a key theme in the BCP Local Development Plan, so that culture becomes a factor in all major planning policy documents across the conurbation.
2. Consider a strategic review of the role and purpose of town centres, with the aim of creating an ambitious new vision for their use including artists and cultural organisations.
3. Undertake a feasibility study on redeveloping the Bournemouth International Centre (BIC) to create a cultural district including a combined gallery, event and performance space.

Respondees were asked to consider the list below and think about:

“Which three things should the BCP Cultural Collective prioritise next?”

Respondees were asked to choose up to 3 options and provide further comments.





Summary of additional comments on Infrastructure

Strategy

Need to ensure joined-up thinking which will result in better opportunities

Need to connect the Universities with the community more.

The significance of cultural and heritage assets needs to be realised and a structure put in place to support them.

Culture should be a key part of the Local Plan

Need a more coordinated, ambitious and sustainable cultural offer

Importance to champion the positive effect of culture on the community as well as on the economy

A cultural partnership should be created to bring together heritage and culture.

We should integrate cultural opportunities into Park Masterplans and Countryside sites, and work closely with the Future Parks Accelerator team

Utilise the Historic Environment Record and Maritime Archaeology Record to inform strategic planning.

Identity

We need to create a new sense of identity for the newly formed conurbation.

Bournemouth should sell itself as a green town based on it's historic identity as a healthy place to live.

Artists and creatives need to see themselves as part of the area's identity.

Creative Hubs

Encourage the use of empty buildings as creative hubs for cultural activities. Remove the red tape.

The importance of quiet spaces to allow creativity to flow.

Developing cultural activities at transport hubs would alienate all the people who cannot access those hubs.

Vital to improve access by public transport to any new creative hubs with frequent reliable transport links.

Communities need access to venues.

We should use underused park pavilions for cultural hubs

Town planning

We should use technology to embed culture into urban infrastructure

We should develop permanent lighting technologies for Poole to enhance the night-time identity.

Use existing partnerships to support current projects and initiatives

The ask of developers needs to be clear and viable in the context of planning and plan making.

Public transport

Needs to be improved to allow better access to our cultural attractions without having to drive.


Travel around the conurbation is very difficult especially in the evening.

Networks and partnerships

People need access to people for support advice and encouragement. Places with strong networking support have strong cultural offers.

Community events need support with promotion, organisational and business support.

Better networks mean stronger partnerships and more impact in community engagement



Stronger partnership working is needed to ensure the best results when constructing new buildings.
Build on the existing collaborations and avoid duplication and competition.

New cultural site

Bournemouth needs a public art gallery.

Poole needs a cultural centre of national renown and excellence.

Diversity and accessibility

Accessibility to spaces, support and cultural content needs to be improved.

Need to engage more with the BAME communities which means defining culture in a way that is meaningful to them.

Inclusivity and reflecting our audience demographics is important and cross-conurbation engagement of all neighbourhoods.

Involvement

People are keen to contribute to development of ideas and strategy and want to be involved in the decision making.

Organisations have venues they can offer up for events and exhibitions.

Communities and neighbourhoods need to be consulted about what they need before decisions are made.

Summary – Survey 4 – “Quality of Place”

This theme is about how culture and creativity can contribute to the quality of place in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole – that set of sometimes hard to define things that make places great places to live, work and visit.

Respondees were told that:

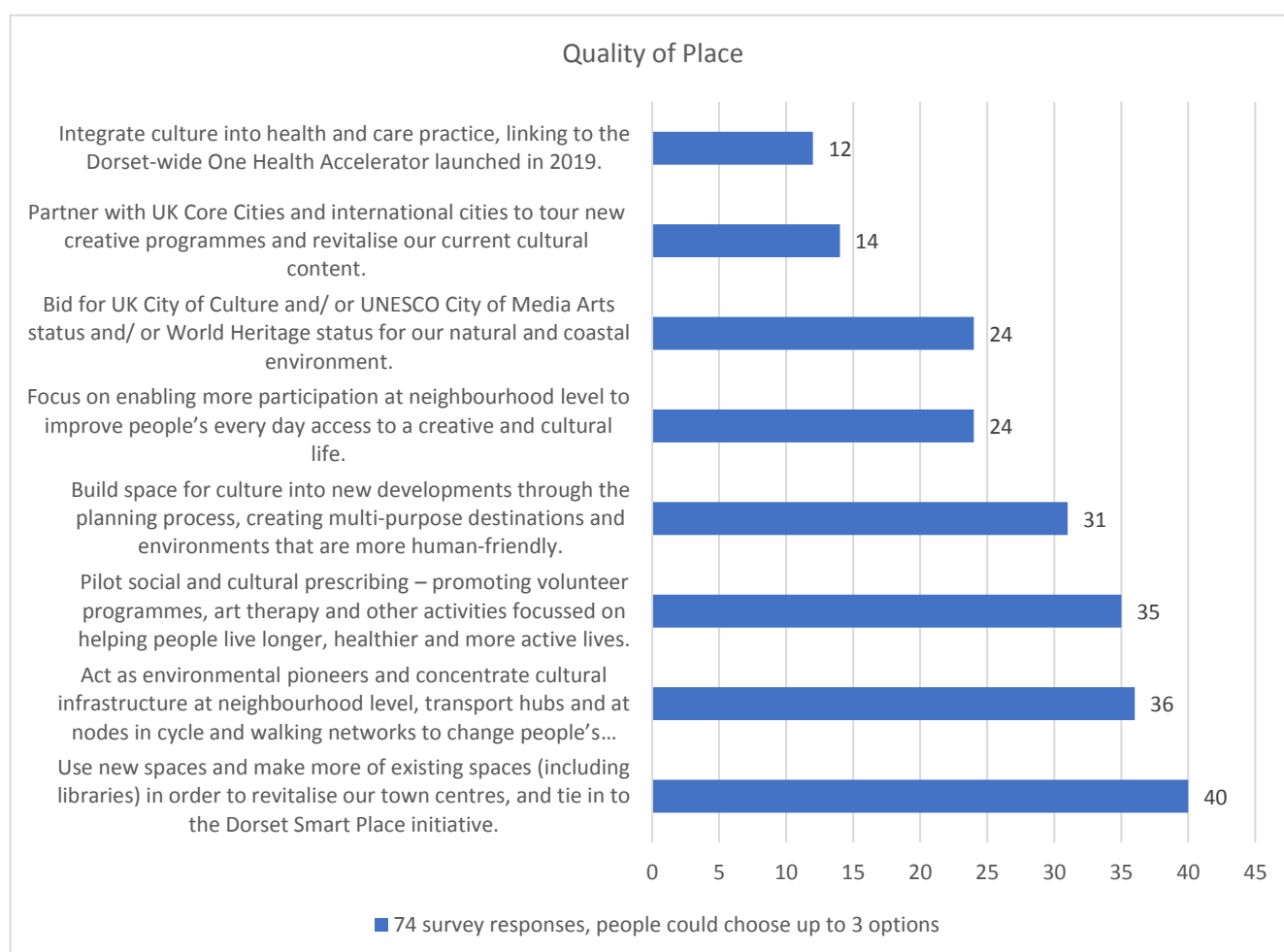
BCP Council has

1. BCP Council has positioned culture at the heart of BCP Council’s Corporate Plan – the whole idea of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole as a place needs to be articulated through culture.

Respondees were asked to consider the list below and think about:

“Which three things should the BCP Cultural Collective prioritise next?”

Respondees were asked to choose up to 3 options and provide further comments.





Summary of additional comments on Quality of Place

Strategy

A City of Culture bid would provide a focussed project for the whole sector to support and should include our neighbours in Dorset and Southampton.

Ensure culture is part of future development and regeneration programmes, including transport, housing and environment plans.

Housing needs, deliverability and viability need to be balanced with cultural requirements when ensuring space for culture in housing developments.

Utilise work already carried out by partners.

Link culture to the Future Parks Accelerator Programme to ensure a holistic response to our vision for BCP.

We should join our museums and heritage centres in one single cultural heritage service and link this closely with tourism and culture.

Creative hubs

We need to make better use of the existing spaces we already have before we build more.

The most diverse area of BCP is lacking a cultural centre.

Public transport

Needs improving across the local area.

BCP should be vehicle free on Sundays to encourage cycling and make safe spaces for pop up businesses, street entertainment and gatherings.

Introduce a fleet of electric buses between key locations.

Increasing pedestrian access and bike zones would demonstrate a forward-thinking progressive city.

The Natural Environment

Need better access to more open spaces.

Need a more holistic approach to town planning and home building.

Need to ensure we look after our natural environment more.

We should maintain our natural environment and revitalise existing spaces.

Make our parks, green spaces and cultural assets the backdrop to all civic life.

Cultural Prescribing

A strong cultural prescribing network would allow artists to find new audiences and support funding applications.

Needs investment to upskill cultural producers and funding to establish innovative cultural programmes.

Need to recognise different people's needs and provide the appropriate solution.

Need to offer programmes into new spaces to widen reach to more individuals.

Embed culture into well being activities.

Talent

Make use of the talent of the people already in place to identify new initiatives.

Invest at grass roots level more and build on what is already working.



Identity

Culture plays a large part in maintaining and improving 'place' as well as celebrating it's uniqueness. All towns known for their culture have a major modern or modernised gallery - to be taken seriously BCP needs one too.

Every place should have it's own special identity and artists can capture and showcase this.

Diversity

Utilise the multi-cultural hub to engage with diverse and hidden communities.

Summary – Survey 5 – “Festivals”

Building on our festival offer could create a greater scale of cultural offer, national and international visibility for the region, push for higher quality and excellence, greater innovation, more diversity and create improved production capacity. Festivals can be a breeding ground for talent development and cultural production.

Respondees were told that:

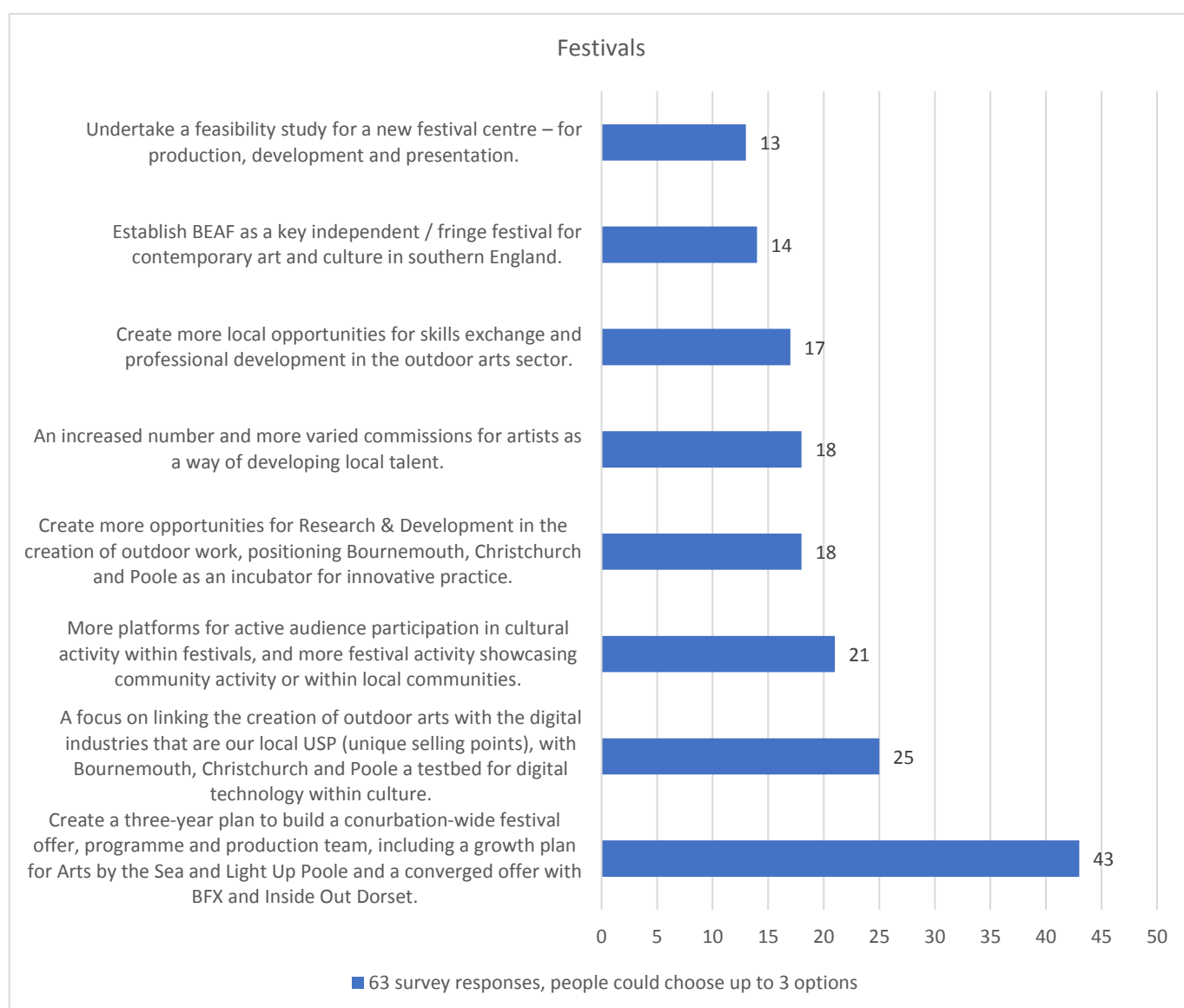
BCP Council will


1. Take a progressive approach to tourism within the new Tourism & Destination Strategy positioning Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole as a key location for weekend Cultural Tourism breaks.

Respondees were asked to consider the list below and think about:

“Which three things should the BCP Cultural Collective prioritise next?”

Respondees were asked to choose up to 3 options and provide further comments.





Summary of additional comments on Festivals

Artists/ talent

Work with the Creative Events Management course at AUB so students can develop their practice in front of a range of audiences within an industry setting

Incorporate BEAF into plans for festival development as the festival supporting emerging artists

BCP needs a serious music festival and a festival for local musicians.

Partners

Link festivals with the film industry.

Ensure museums and arts centres connect with and participate in the festival offer and are supported in their own activities.

Skills development

Support local skills development to benefit the sector and re-invest in local work rather than buying in.

We lack training for local production teams - existing festivals bring staff in from outside the region.

Train BCP based staff for these roles.

Support local and diversity

Support artist curated events and activity.

Support more diverse artists and bring on new emerging BAME artists.

Allow BAME communities to showcase their own original practised cultures.

Enable local artists to showcase their work creating an enhanced sense of belonging and accessibility for local communities

Commission more local artists

Planning, development, strategy

Develop new festivals that showcase critically acclaimed art or contemporary fringe work, or community led work, dance, heritage and music.

Ensure festivals have 12 month programmes wrapped around them so they're not just tourist events but invest across the year in community driven work.

Festivals should celebrate the locality and USP.

Ensure there is a new or existing wet-weather facility close to any proposed event so it can still proceed in bad weather conditions.

Utilise existing venues for events and participation.

Improve the ambition and sustainability of existing festivals.

Link the conurbation with larger scale festivals like Bestival


Audience

The existing festivals need to provide more participatory events for audience and reach a wider audience than their existing audience.

The existing festivals need a joined up marketing strategy to reach a wider audience, the general public and not just the usual arts people.

Innovation

BCP should be a national centre of excellence for festival production



BCP should be at the forefront of digital technology within culture, developing new platforms and technologies for home grown cultural heritage strategies.
Create four cultural quarters with different characters to host the different festivals, creating new environments and unlocking additional funding.

List of contributors

Survey respondees were able to provide their name or leave responses anonymously.

Emma	Abbey	David	Jones
Alejandro	Ballesteros	Loubna	Khamlichi
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Sarah	Bernardes	David	Lawrence
Zoe	Bradley	Cary	Lightfoot
Laura	Bright	Ken	Mantock
Beccy	Brookwell	Susan	McAdie
Rachael	Brown	Sam	Merrick
Laura	Bullivant	Adam	Merrifield
Jez	Carter	John	Merritt
Gerry	Clarke	Frank	Miles
James	Cole	Vanessa	Mill
Hayley	Curtis	Ben	Mitchell
Roy	Cusens	Sarah	Moore
Willem	de Bruijn	Lin	Moore
Martin	Devine	Sarah	Moore
David	Doust	Ashley	Nicholson
Ronnie	Draper	Donald	Nordberg
Ella	Dunn	Michele	O'Brien
Jonathan	Dyke	Mary	O'Sullivan
Laura	Eldret	Mike	Pearce
Cleo	Evans	Julie	Pearson
Jon	Exton	Victoria	Pirie
Graham	Farrant	Sarah	Price
Jacqui	Garrett		Read
Maria	Gayton	Jennifer	Roberts
Elisabeth	Gordon	Anthony	Rogers
Edward	Gould	Michelle	Rumney
Beth	Goy	Guido	Schillig
Diane	Grannell	Lauren	Sewell
Kris	Gumbrell	Chris	Shephard
Briony	Hartley	Jon	Shipp
Gabrielle	Hass	Amaya	Silveria
Julie	Hawker	Susan	Sloan
Trudy	Hicken	(SWFed)	South West Federation of Museums
Mark	Holloway	PAULINE	STANLEY
Sarah	James	Margo	Teasdale
Martin	John	Gary	Trinder
Ian	Jones	Jacqui	van Bommel
Jon	Weaver	Matthew	Vass-White
Kim	West	Katharine	Walker
Cal	West	Julia	Wittich
Mandy	West	Denise	Wootten
	Wheatcroft	Jayne	
Frances	Wheatley	Patrick	
Claire	Whitaker	Pamela	
Beckee	White		
Lawrence	Williams		

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ⁱ A full list of additional responses can be found in the Excel document Appendix to this report.

CABINET



Report subject	Concessionary Fares Bus Operator Reimbursement
Meeting date	13 January 2021
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	To seek approval to make changes to the method of calculating bus operator reimbursement for the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme in 2021/22 as part of a proposed Recovery Partnership government initiative and to support the CIMT recommendation regarding reimbursement for 2020/21.
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>(a) For the current 2020/21 scheme year Cabinet supports the CIMT recommendation to approve the 2020/21 reimbursement of bus operators based on adjusted pre-Covid levels as urged by Central Government.</p> <p>(b) For 2021/22 Cabinet endorses the formation of a Recovery Partnership with the bus operators to seek a local solution to bus service provision and funding arrangements to include concessionary fares reimbursement.</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted on bus travel including concessionary passenger journey numbers. Government guidance has been for local authorities to maintain pre-Covid concessionary fares reimbursement levels in support of vital local bus service providers so that they can continue to play a central role in our community during and after the pandemic.</p> <p>Without this reimbursement there would be a substantial loss of bus services across the BCP area. This would have the greatest impact on young people, older people and families from lower income households, disabled people and women. All these groups rely more on bus services than the general population.</p>

	<p>A phased move towards reimbursement again being based on concessionary journeys alone is required. Government is expecting to ask local authorities and bus operators to work together in a Recovery Partnership to get bus services back on a healthy path to recovery.</p>
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Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Mike Greene, Cabinet Member for Transport and Sustainability
Corporate Director	Bill Cotton, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economy
Contributors	John McVey, Sustainable Transport Policy Manager Richard Pincroft, Head of Transportation including Sustainable Travel
Wards	All BCP Council Wards
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The Council, as a Travel Concession Authority (TCA), is required to reimburse operators of eligible local bus services, for journeys undertaken by passengers holding English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) bus passes. Bus passes are issued to permanent residents who meet either the age criteria (currently pensionable age for women) or the disability criteria (based on DfT Guidelines).
2. The objective is to reimburse bus operators so they are 'no better or worse off' than they would be if the scheme didn't exist. In practice this is compensating them for the revenue lost from passengers who would have travelled even if no concession existed (the lost fares revenue) and for the costs sustained by carrying the extra passengers as a result the concessionary fare scheme (people travel more and more people travel).
3. These are generated trips. In certain circumstances the cost of providing extra or bigger vehicles required to cope with the numbers of concessionary passengers (additional capacity costs) is payable.
4. Payment is based on the number of concessionary journeys undertaken on each service per month as well as the average fare paid by adult non-concessionary passengers. Journey numbers fluctuate seasonally and are impacted by the weather. The amount paid is discounted by a 'generation factor' to take account of the number of extra trips generated by the availability of the concession.
5. Prior to the formation of the new Council, external transport specialist consultants were employed to recommend an appropriate concessionary fares bus operator reimbursement rate. This was the subject of an LGR BCP Programme Decision Record in November 2018 which was approved. BCP bus operator reimbursement in 2019/20 amounted to £8.13m. The budget for the current year, 2020/21 is £7,868,300.
6. Since March 2020 Covid-19 has had a significant impact on bus travel, particularly following advice from the Prime Minister to avoid using public transport. Bus use initially dropped to around 10-15% of pre-Covid levels. It has

since recovered but remains at around 60% overall though concessionary journeys are less at around 50% (September 2020 compared with September 2019). Social distancing requirements limit capacity of local bus services to around half and the requirement for face coverings (unless exempt) is a disincentive to travel for some.

7. In a letter from the Department of Transport (DfT) dated 25 March 2020 Local Authorities were asked 'to support vital local bus service providers so that they can continue to play a central role in your communities after this pandemic.' The letter also said, 'we would urge you to continue to pay bus and coach operators for tendered services and home to school transport at the levels before any downturn in service provision or patronage, **for at least the period of the outbreak**' and, '**We would also urge you to continue to pay operators for concessionary fares at levels before any downturn.**'
8. In the light of this a formula was agreed with the local bus operators to make concessionary fares payments to operators based on the February 2020 payment (the last complete month prior to the outbreak). For each month this was inflated by the average percentage change in reimbursement for three previous years to the month in question. This method was used from March-August 2020 (6 months).
9. In September and October 2020, the payments have simply replicated the 2019/20 payments. Interim payments at 50% the 2019/20 level have been made in November and December pending the most recent guidance from DfT. One of the bus operators has raised concerns about the significant impact on its cashflow of this reduction, putting the business at risk.
10. In its Covid Bus Services Support Grant (CBSSG) Restart Conditions (June 2020) the DfT continued '...to urge local authorities to maintain concessionary travel reimbursement and tendered service contract payments at pre-COVID-19 levels.' Local Authority CBSSG is used to make up for the reduction in fares revenue on tendered services as a result of Covid-19.
11. The majority of local authorities around the country have continued to reimburse bus operators based on pre-Covid levels, most on a 'like for like' basis. Some have made adjustments in the light of service changes planned prior to the pandemic. **It hasn't been possible to identify any local authority that isn't reimbursing in 2020/21 at or close to pre-Covid levels.**
12. In a letter dated 20 November 2020 on Concessionary Bus Travel, the DfT gratefully acknowledged authorities that have maintained concessionary payments at pre-Covid levels. It stated that, "Combined with funding from DfT, this support has worked together to ensure the continued operation of local bus services across the country".
13. The letter refers to Public Procurement Notices PPN 02/20 and PPN 04/20 which have been used to justify concessionary fares payments to bus operators but expired at the end of October. It goes on to recommend that local authorities

work with bus operators and develop a transition plan so the principles of PPN 04/20 can continue to be met. Further guidance on this has been promised in the proposed National Bus Strategy (anticipated January 2021) where recovery packages are being explored. The strategy is expected to recommend local authorities set up Recovery Partnerships with the bus operators to support them move back to a commercial footing. This will be backed by £300m of government funding.

14. The letter also proposed approaches for calculating concessionary fares payments at pre-Covid levels. It suggests *inter alia* taking into account the general fall in concessionary journeys numbers - 2.5% reduction in England in 2018/19. Locally the downward trend has been less with a 1.96% average decline over the three years preceding the pandemic.
15. It is therefore reasonable to suggest that based on journey numbers the outturn in 2020/21 would have been 1.96% less than in 2019/20. Account may also be taken of the level of service operated if 100% of services are not being provided.
16. Operating under government guidance, **the bus companies are trading without profit** and in this regard the DfT has procured Grant Thornton to review and audit bus operator submittals of Profit and Loss. They have an obligation to control costs and to work with the local authorities on the levels of service being provided. CBSSG funding rates are based on concessionary reimbursement continuing to be paid at pre-COVID levels as well as sending the Local Authorities details and claims based on actuals but receiving pre-determined amounts. This means that there is no double payment through different funding streams.
17. Since the lockdown measures were introduced in March 2020 the bus companies have played an active role including:-
 - Enabling an essential travel network for key workers during the height of lock-down;
 - Enabled shared ticketing with other transport operators to for the benefit of all residents of BCP at the height of lock-down;
 - Providing additional extra services such as additional Sunday morning journeys for those working at the COVID regional test centre in Creekmoor when there is no commercial case to do so;
 - Providing additional capacity from elsewhere within the business to maintain social distancing and meet the objectives of BCP Council and Central Government;
 - Maintaining services which would not otherwise operate due to poor loadings to maintain connectivity of different communities - reducing social isolation at difficult times;
 - Significant investment into facilities to make travel safe – including changes to Poole Bus Station, Gervis Place and Bournemouth Travel interchange. Also, they have installed safety screens, on board hand sanitising and developed the websites to show how busy buses are so people can decide if and when to travel;

- Significant and repeated costs incurred in regularly replacing road-side displays as part of each service change rather than two annual changes.

18. Under 'normal' operating conditions, legislation gives the bus operators the right of appeal to the Secretary of State if they consider the concessionary fares reimbursement rate to be insufficient. Whilst this right of appeal wouldn't be relevant in the current circumstances, a shortfall in concessionary fares revenue is likely to result in requests for contract price increases on tendered bus services as well as the withdrawal of marginally commercial routes.

19. Go South Coast and Bournemouth Transport have confirmed that a significant reduction in concessionary fares reimbursement or indeed any other government support would result in almost immediate reductions in services. As levels of patronage are at about 60% overall with additional resources (e.g. double decker's and duplicate runs), the operators' costs are far outweighing their income due partly to negative messaging about public transport and also the need to maintain social distancing.

20. The DfT guidance issued to all TCA's to date (refer to background paper 1) proposes that BCP bases concessionary fares payments on the following principles:

- 1. Seasonality of services** – (some authorities have adopted approaches to cover this, for example, averaging two lower winter and two higher summer payment methods)
- 2. Decline in concessionary patronage** - (total concessionary bus journeys fell by 2.5% in England in 2018/19, however, this may vary across local areas)
- 3. Decline in patronage as a whole**
- 4. Operators may have ceased trading/some services**
- 5. Operators may have started trading/new services**
- 6. Operators may have varied their services to increase/decrease the frequency/length of journey** - (If TCAs decide to consider this principle, we urge TCAs to only reduce concessionary fare reimbursement funding to the level of service that operators are providing them with. For instance, if an operator was providing 90% service levels, TCAs may consider providing 90% concessionary fare funding.)

21. The BCP Council Corporate Incident Management Team has considered this matter and agreed in principle to recommend the following to Cabinet and to Council:

Reimbursement for the current 2020/21 year at adjusted pre-Covid levels as follows:

- Reimbursements based on 2019/20 but reduced by 1.96% to account for the assumed reduction in journey numbers
- For the period not covered by the Public Procurement Notices PPN 02/20 and 04/20 (after 30.10.2020) operator reimbursement adjusted to reflect percentage of services operated.

Applying these adjustments results in a forecast outturn of £7,829,142 which is below the current year's budget of £7,868,300.

Estimated saving in 2020/21: **£39,158**

These calculations are set out in **Appendix A**

22. Alternative options would be:

- (a) To reimburse operators as per the full 2019/20 pre-Covid level = £8,114,761. This would result in an overspend of £246,461 and is **not recommended**.
- (b) To reimburse operators based only on the numbers of concessionary passengers carried = £2.6m (estimate). Although this would produce an estimated saving of £5.27m, it would not be in accordance with government guidance, result in significant loss of bus services and put the bus operators' business at serious risk of collapse. It is therefore **not recommended**.

Summary of financial implications

- 23. Total bus operator reimbursement in 2019/20 was **£8,127,562**.
- 24. The bus operator reimbursement 2020/21 budget is **£7,868,300**.
- 25. Reimbursement for 2020/21 at adjusted pre-Covid levels would be **£7,829,142**, producing a saving against budget of **£39,158**.
- 26. A yet to be determined saving is expected in 2021/22 dependent on the transition strategy developed with the bus operators through a Recovery Partnership based on the principles set out in section 20 above.

Summary of legal implications

- 27. The Transport Act 2000, as amended, provides a statutory basis for free off-peak travel for older and disabled people (resident in England outside London) on all local buses anywhere in England from 0930 until 2300 on weekdays and all day at weekends and on Bank Holidays.
- 28. Bus passengers are subsidised for concessionary travel via the bus operator and under normal circumstances there is no subsidy paid to the service providers. Any bus operator accepting an ENCTS pass for travel should be left 'no better off and no worse off' as a result. The operators are reimbursed by the TCA for revenue forgone and additional costs incurred such as extra resources to meet increased demand from passholders and administrative costs. There is no legal requirement to reimburse more than is sufficient to cover the revenue foregone and additional costs associated with the concessionary passengers carried.

Summary of human resources implications

29. The bus operators are major employers in the BCP area. Significant reductions in concessionary travel funding will result in service loss and possible business collapse.

Summary of environmental impact

30. In its recently published Decarbonising Transport Plan, the government set out its vision for a net zero transport system which will benefit us all. In the plan, public transport and active travel will be the natural first choice for our daily activities. We will use our cars less and be able to rely on a convenient, cost-effective and coherent public transport network. The bus is the most efficient user of road space and a vital part of an environmentally friendly local sustainable transport system. Actions taken by the council that negatively impact on bus service provision will make it more difficult to achieve this vision. It would also be contrary to the Council's own 2030 zero carbon priority set out in the Corporate Strategy.

Summary of public health implications

31. Urban traffic speeds are falling by on average 2% every year, causing NOx emissions to rise. Diesel cars are the single biggest contributor to NOx levels, responsible for 41% of all NOx emissions from road transport. Buses are amongst the cleanest vehicles on our roads with many now achieving Euro VI emissions standards.

Summary of equality implications

32. A full Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken (Appendix B).

Summary of risk assessment

33. None identified.

Background papers

1. [Department for Transport Supplementary Concessionary Travel Reimbursement Guidance \(20.11.2020\)](#)
2. [Decarbonising Transport Plan \(2020\)](#)

Appendices

A – Concessionary fares bus operator reimbursement calculation
B - Full Equalities Impact Assessment

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Executive Summary and Conclusions

Once the Equality Impact Assessment Template has been completed, please summarise the key findings here. Please send a copy of your final document to the Policy and Performance Team.

This EIA covers the equality implications of any changes to the local bus network resulting from the need to review financial re-imbursement for concessionary fares arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. The English National Concessionary Travel Scheme, (ENCTS) enables financial re-imbursement to bus operators for carrying eligible concessionary passengers through Travel Concession Authorities, in this case BCP Council. The extent of the predominantly commercially provided bus network in the BCP Council area is linked to the overall level of re-imbursement provided. If there was a significant reduction in the financial value of re-imbursement to the participating bus operators then there would likely be corresponding reductions in the overall level of bus services provided, in terms of routes and timetable frequency.

Any decline in bus services would affect the groups that the Equality Act is intended to protect based on the profile of bus passengers.

- **Age** - Travel by bus is higher at both ends of the age categories (those aged 16-24 and those aged 65 and over).
- **Disability** - People with a **disability** are significantly more likely to travel by bus regularly compared to those without a disability.
- **Race** – people from ‘Other white backgrounds’ are significantly more likely to travel regularly by bus compared to white British people.
- **Sexual Orientation** - travel by bus is significantly higher for ‘All other sexual orientations’ compared to heterosexuals.
- **Religion** ‘All other religions’ travel by bus to a greater extent than Christians and people with no religion.
- **Deprivation** - correlation between deprivation and frequent use of travel by bus with respondents living in the most deprived areas significantly more likely to frequently travel by bus compared to those in less deprived areas.

The recommended proposal is to continue with reimbursements for the remainder of the 2020-21 financial year based broadly on 2019/20 pre-pandemic levels. For the 2021-22 financial year, through a recovery partnership, funding arrangements need to include suitable concessionary fares re-imbursement to maintain the bus network. Approval of these measures will help secure the extent of our local bus network which will continue to provide the positive outcomes to the protected groups listed above.

If consideration is given to significantly reduced re-imbursement levels, through an approach where actual lower passenger numbers as a consequence of Covid-19 are used, then there is a likelihood of commercial bus routes being withdrawn, together with reduced timetables or buses not running during evenings and weekends. This will have a negative impact on the protected groups who use buses to a greater extent.

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Part 1 - The Project	
Policy/Service under development/review:	Concessionary Fares Bus Operator Re-imbursement.
Service Unit:	Growth and Infrastructure
Service Lead:	John Mcvey
Equality Impact Assessment Team:	Richard Barnes, Karen Fry
Date assessment started:	15/12/20

Part 1 - The Project	
Date assessment completed:	
What are the aims/objectives of the policy/service?	To seek approval to make changes to the method of calculating bus operator reimbursement for the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme in 2021/22 as part of a proposed Recovery Partnership government initiative and to support the Corporate Incident Management Team, (CIMT) recommendation regarding reimbursement levels for 2020/21. These changes are proposed following government guidance and are due to the impact on use of bus services of the Covid-19 pandemic, compared to the pre-Covid levels of use.

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

What outcomes will be achieved with the new or changed policy/service?	<p>For the current 2020/21 financial year HM Government advice stated that re-imbursement for concessionary fares journeys from Travel Concession Authorities (TCAs) should be based on adjusted pre-Covid levels. For the 2021/22 financial year, the bus industry recommends the formation of a recovery partnership with local government including suitable funding arrangements for concessionary fares re-imbursement.</p> <p>Through such measures the stability of the local bus network will be maintained; noting the impact of any reduction in bus services which would result in significant equalities and wider community implications. This EIA shows the likely impact of a reduction of bus services to many in our community. As generally the BCP area has a comprehensive bus network, existing equalities benefits will continue if appropriate concessionary fares re-imbursement is maintained.</p>
Are there any associated services, policies or procedures?	<p>Primary legislation covering BCP Council's obligations as a TCA and governance/obligations for the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme, (ENCTS).</p> <p>BCP Council "Connect" Concessionary Fares Scheme</p> <p>Legislation, guidance and advice issued by HM Government and agencies for travel during various stages of the pandemic, wider HM Government support for the bus industry and communications to TCAs for re-imbursement during the pandemic.</p> <p>Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset Local Transport Plan 3, 2011</p> <p>BCP Council Climate Emergency, declared July 2019 and Sustainable Travel Commitments in the Corporate Plan.</p> <p>Requirement for Transport Authorities to take account of the needs of elderly and disabled people in the transport network.</p> <p>Equality Act 2010.</p>
Please list the main people, or groups, that this policy/service is designed to benefit, and any other stakeholders involved:	<p>Bus operators with eligible services within the BCP Concessionary Travel Scheme – predominantly More Bus and Yellow Buses. (Bournemouth Transport)</p> <p>Concessionary pass holders who qualify due to age or disability, both local residents and other ENCTS passholders who use buses in the BCP Council area.</p>

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Part 1 - The Project	
With consideration for their clients, please list any other organisations, statutory, voluntary or community that the policy/service/process will affect:	<p>Any changes to re-imbursement of concessionary fares will affect the overall bus network. This will affect the wider BCP transport system. If ENCTS passholders are no longer able to make bus journeys that they currently rely on, then their independence is lost with likely significant health and wellbeing impacts. Others may be called on, if available to provide their transport needs.</p> <p>Any loss of bus services is likely to affect travel to work, education, retail, healthcare and leisure, involving businesses, schools, higher education, shops, hospitals and the hospitality industry. For residents that have the alternative of private vehicles an increase in car use will have adverse environmental impacts and increase congestion. It needs to be recognised that many in the BCP Council area do not have access to cars – in several of our Council wards almost 50% of households do not have a car available.</p>

Part 2 – Supporting Evidence¹

Please list and/or link to below any recent & relevant consultation & engagement that can be used to demonstrate a clear understanding of those with a legitimate interest in the policy/service/process and the relevant findings:

¹ This could include: service monitoring reports, research, customer satisfaction surveys & feedback, workforce monitoring, staff surveys, opinions and information from trade unions, previous completed EIAs (including those of other organisations) feedback from focus groups & individuals or organisations representing the interests of key target groups or similar.

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

The potential for changes in Concessionary Fares re-imbursement arising from Covid-19 is of significant concern in general for the bus industry, as HM Government advice firstly to avoid public transport and then to travel only for essential journeys has resulted in much lower patronage compared to levels before the pandemic. This has resulted in significant financial challenges. Both Morebus and Yellow Buses have stated that if re-imbursement levels were significantly reduced then immediate or almost immediate reductions in each operators' networks would follow.

If there is insufficient consultation or engagement information please explain in the Action plan what further consultation will be undertaken, who with and how.

Please list or link to any relevant research, census and other evidence or information that is available and relevant to this EIA:

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Travel Survey, October 2018 to January 2019, a comprehensive local travel survey with a sample size of 3,621. There is detailed analysis as part of the survey linked to equalities profiles. Relevant findings are –

60% of respondents have used a bus in the last 12 months.

Respondents at both ends of the age categories (those aged 16-24 and those aged 65 and over) are significantly more likely to travel by bus at least weekly compared to all other age groups.

Respondents with a disability are significantly more likely to travel by bus at least weekly compared to those without a disability whilst those from other white backgrounds are significantly more likely to travel by bus at least weekly compared to white British respondents. Travel by bus is significantly higher for 'All other sexual orientations' compared to heterosexual respondents. 'All other religions' travel by bus at least weekly to a greater extent than Christians and people with no religion.

Significance testing shows a correlation between deprivation and frequent use of travel by bus with respondents living in the most deprived areas significantly more likely to frequently travel by bus compared to those in less deprived areas (43% of those in the lowest decile compared to 16% of those in the highest decile).

National Audit Office 'Improving Local Bus Services Outside London' 2/10/2020. Stated that 'Bus use is particularly common for people aged 17-20 and over 70 and for women and girls, most ethnic minority groups and people on lower incomes'.

Part 2 – Supporting Evidence¹

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Please list below any service user/employee monitoring data available and relevant to this policy/service/process and what it shows in relation to any Protected Characteristic:

The criteria for providing an ENCTS pass is based on pensionable age and disability only. Around 90% of passes are issued for age criteria but many of the elderly entitled will also have a disability.

If there is insufficient research and monitoring data, please explain in the Action plan what information will be gathered:

Part 3 – Assessing the Impact by Equality Characteristic

Use the evidence to determine the impacts, positive or negative for each Equality Characteristic listed below. Listing negative impacts will help protect the organisation from potential litigation in the future, it does not mean the policy cannot continue.

Click here for more guidance on how to understand the impact of the service/policy/procedure against each characteristic.

If the impact is not known please explain in the Action plan what steps will be taken to find out.

	Actual or potential positive outcome	Actual or potential negative outcome
1. Age ²	With those aged 16-24 and over 65 more likely to travel by bus, compared to other age groups, providing levels of re-imbursement, securing consistency in the bus network, will keep this positive outcome for these groups.	With any reduction in re-imbursement leading to a loss of bus services, those aged 16-24 and over 65 will be impacted to a greater extent. Pensionable age is one of the criteria for entitlement to travel as part of the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme – ENCTS. If there is a loss of bus services, there would be a significant impact on older people to be able participate in society and on their wellbeing.

² Under this characteristic, The Equality Act only applies to those over 18.

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

2. Disability ³	People with a disability are more likely to regularly travel by bus compared to people that are not disabled. Providing levels of re-imbursement that secure consistency in the bus network, will keep this positive outcome for disabled people.	With any reductions in re-imbursement leading to a loss of bus services, disabled people will have a negative outcome with fewer bus services available. Disability is one of the criteria for entitlement to travel as part of the ENCTS. Disabled people could have fewer opportunities to travel and as a result lose some independence.
3. Sex	According to the BCP Travel Survey there is no significant difference locally between men and women in terms of regular bus use.	The National Audit Office states that bus use is higher for women, so if services are withdrawn due to reductions in re-imbursement, then women potentially would be affected more than men.

Part 3 – Assessing the Impact by Equality Characteristic

Use the evidence to determine to the impacts, positive or negative for each Equality Characteristic listed below. Listing negative impacts will help protect the organisation from potential litigation in the future, it does not mean the policy cannot continue. [Click here](#) for more guidance on how to understand the impact of the service/policy/procedure against each characteristic. If the impact is not known please explain in the Action plan what steps will be taken to find out.

	Actual or potential positive outcome	Actual or potential negative outcome
4. Gender reassignment ⁴	There are not any known positive outcomes specific to Gender reassignment.	There are not any known negative outcomes specific to Gender reassignment
5. Pregnancy and Maternity	There are not any known positive outcomes specific to pregnancy and maternity	There are not any known negative outcomes specific to Pregnancy and Maternity.

³ Consider any reasonable adjustments that may need to be made to ensure fair access.

⁴ Transgender refers people have a gender identity or gender expression that differs to the sex assigned at birth.

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

6. Marriage and Civil Partnership	There are not any known positive outcomes specific to Marriage and Civil Partnership	There are not any known negative outcomes specific to Marriage and Civil Partnership
7. Race	Locally people who identify as 'White other', likely to be residents from the EU, are more likely to use bus services regularly than 'White British' people. Providing levels of re-imbursement that secure consistency in the bus network, will keep this positive outcome in terms of race.	With any reductions in re-imbursement leading to a reduction in bus services people who identify as 'White other' will have a negative outcome with fewer bus services available.
8. Religion or Belief	'All other religions' travel more regularly by bus than Christians and people with no religion. Providing levels of re-imbursement that secure consistency in the bus network, will keep this positive outcome for people with a religion that is not Christian.	Any reductions in bus services resulting from changes in re-imbursement levels will disproportionately affect people whose religion is not Christian.
9. Sexual Orientation	'All other Sexual Orientations' travel by bus to a greater extent than heterosexual people. Providing levels of re-imbursement that secure consistency in the bus network will keep this positive outcome for people that do not identify as heterosexual.	Any reduction in bus services would have a negative outcome for people that do not identify as heterosexual as they use buses more than heterosexual people.
10. Armed Forces Community	Members of the armed forces community are entitled to an ENCTS pass on disability grounds subject to certain conditions. Consistency in the bus network will continue to benefit those in this community eligible.	Any reduction in bus services would have a negative outcome for people in the armed forces community who qualify for a pass.

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Part 3 – Assessing the Impact by Equality Characteristic

Use the evidence to determine the impacts, positive or negative for each Equality Characteristic listed below. Listing negative impacts will help protect the organisation from potential litigation in the future, it does not mean the policy cannot continue. [Click here](#) for more guidance on how to understand the impact of the service/policy/procedure against each characteristic. If the impact is not known please explain in the Action plan what steps will be taken to find out.

	Actual or potential positive outcome	Actual or potential negative outcome
11. Any other factors/groups e.g. socio-economic status/carers etc ⁵	People living in the most deprived areas of our Council area rely on and use buses significantly more than residents in affluent areas. Providing levels of re-imbursement that maintain the existing bus network will keep this positive outcome for residents who experience deprivation.	Any reduction in bus services would result in a negative outcome for many of our residents in more deprived areas who are less likely to have their own transport and use buses more than people in affluent locations.
12. Human Rights	There are not any known positive outcomes specific to Human Rights	There are not any known negative outcomes specific to Human Rights.

Any policy which shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination must be stopped, removed or changed.

Part 4 – Equality Impact Action Plan

Please complete this Action Plan for any negative or unknown impacts identified in the assessment table above.

Issue identified	Action required to reduce impact	Timescale	Responsible officer
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⁵ People on low incomes or no income, unemployed, carers, part-time, seasonal workers and shift workers

BCP Equality Impact Assessment Template

Subsequent level of bus services provided by the bus operators compared to existing.	Monitor through published timetables and feedback from bus passengers. Liaise with bus companies the interdependencies with concessionary fares re-imburement	April 2021, when new financial year ENCTS scheme introduced.	John McVey

Key contacts for further advice and guidance:

Equality & Diversity:

[Sam Johnson - Policy and Performance Manager](#)

Consultation & Research:

[Lisa Stuchberry – Insight Manager](#)

CABINET



Report subject	Dorset Heathlands Interim Air Quality Strategy
Meeting date	13 January 2021
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Natural England has objected to several major planning applications concerning the in-combination effect of additional development upon the Dorset Heathlands designated sites (SPA, SAC and Ramsar).</p> <p>Airborne nitrogen and ammonia gases from multiple sources, including agriculture and vehicle emissions settle on heathlands, enriching the soil. This favours faster growing plants and the spread of species not normally found on heathlands which outcompete and inhibit the recovery of the heathland habitats.</p> <p>A strategy is needed to help address emissions caused by the additional car trips from new development. The proposed joint strategy with Dorset Council set out in this report provides interim mitigation measures in advance of a formal policy position in the emerging BCP Council and Dorset Council local plans.</p> <p>The strategy is required until at least 2030 when the take up of electric powered vehicles should negate the need for mitigation and improve air quality. Current Council strategies such as modal shift will help, but targeted projects around heathland sites are also needed.</p> <p>A budget of £750,000 is needed for 5 years mitigation projects, £562,500 from BCP Council and £187,500 from Dorset Council based on the proportions of planned development at £50 per dwelling. The strategy will be paid for by developers from the overall Community Infrastructure Levy receipts.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The interim Dorset Heathlands Interim Air Quality strategy covering the period 2020-2025 is adopted; (b) A £562,500 project budget is set aside from Community Infrastructure Levy to implement the strategy over the period 2020-2025;

	<p>(c) An Air Quality Project Co-ordinator is appointed from the project budget to bring forward projects; and</p> <p>(d) Any changes resulting from Dorset Council adopting this document are delegated to the Director of Growth and Infrastructure in liaison with the relevant Portfolio Holders.</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>A strategy is needed to allow the Council to continue granting planning permission for new development and facilitating growth. The proposed strategy will simplify the planning application process by removing the need for applicants to identify and implement bespoke mitigation projects to mitigate the air quality impact of developments upon the Dorset Heathlands.</p>

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Philip Broadhead, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning and Deputy Leader of the Council Councillor Mike Greene, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Sustainability
Corporate Director	Bill Cotton, Corporate Director Regeneration and Economy
Report Authors	Steve Dring, Planning Research GIS & Information Manager
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Recommendation

Background

1. The lowland heaths in South East Dorset, collectively known as the Dorset Heathlands are designated as Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar Site.
2. Airborne nitrogen and ammonia gases from multiple sources including agriculture and vehicle emissions settle on heathlands, enriching the soil. This favours faster growing plants and the spread of species not normally found on heathlands which outcompete and inhibit the recovery of the heathland habitats.
3. Vehicle emissions cause nutrient deposition and direct toxicity effects, principally within 200 metres of roads. Additional vehicle trips generated by new development, in-combination with all planned development across South East Dorset, is likely to have a significant adverse effect upon the integrity of Dorset Heathlands.
4. When preparing a local plan or granting planning permission for development, Councils are required through habitats regulations assessment to conclude no significant adverse effects on the integrity of designated sites, such as those sites which comprise the Dorset Heathlands.
5. Whilst air quality on designated sites has been an issue for a long time, it was a 2017 High Court ruling in the case of Wealden District Council v Secretary of State that made the impact of air quality on designated sites the responsibility of local planning authorities. The 'Wealdon Judgement' highlighted the need to consider the impact of all development 'in-combination' under the Habitats Regulations, rather than determine each application on a stand-alone basis.
6. For this reason, Natural England has objected to live planning applications concerning growth at Bournemouth Airport / Aviation Business Park and two strategic urban extensions at Merley and Bearwood that in-combination with other planned developments in South East Dorset would be harmful to the Dorset Heathlands. The applicants for these schemes have each employed ecological consultants to look at the issue and identify bespoke mitigation packages to ensure that each development does not harm the Dorset Heathlands. This is proving a difficult exercise and the production of the interim air quality strategy would simplify and speed up the process for all parties.

7. There are several other local authorities grappling with this issue across the country. BCP Council (with Dorset Council) has a track record of pioneering strategies for mitigating designated sites (e.g. recreational impacts on heathland and nitrogen pollution in Poole Harbour), and again can set a benchmark through the preparation of an air quality strategy.

The proposed strategy

8. The proposed strategy set out in Appendix 1 will simplify and speed up the planning process, facilitating growth, by avoiding each applicant having to employ ecological consultants to tackle this issue and identify and deliver bespoke mitigation.
9. Government plans to phase out sales of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030 to accelerate the transition to zero emission vehicles. As car manufacturing responds to this challenge, the current expectation is that by around 2030 the shift to zero emission cars and vans should result in air pollution levels returning to an acceptable level, helping to achieve the conservation objectives of the Dorset Heathlands in respect of air quality. At that point this strategy will no longer be needed.
10. The strategy has been prepared jointly with Dorset Council. It identifies 3 phases to facilitate the recovery the Dorset Heathlands towards favourable conservation status with regard to air quality:
 - *Phase 1: Measures already in place 2015-2020* – Projects implemented for other reasons but have air quality benefits to the protected heathland nearby;
 - *Phase 2: Interim approach from 2020-2025* - Projects to deliver benefits ahead of the preparation of formal local plan policy; and
 - *Phase 3: Local plan approach from 2025 onwards* - Projects aligned to new policies set out in the BCP Council Local Plan and the Dorset Council Local Plan. This strategy will then become an SPD.
11. Phase 2 is the first documented phase of the overall strategy. It is an interim strategy to deliver projects in the short term from 2020-2025. The aim of Phase 3 is to formalise the strategy in policy through local plans from 2025 onwards. The measures will be needed until air pollution levels return to an acceptable level and the conservation objectives of the Dorset Heathlands are achieved in respect of air quality. Measures include:
 - Managing heathland adjacent to roads;
 - Reducing vehicle trips by encouraging modal shift to other forms of transport;
 - Reducing vehicle speed past heathlands (e.g. A338 at Hurn & Gravel Hill);
 - Encouraging the use of zero emission vehicles (e.g. charging points, subsidy);
 - The re-siting or cleaning up of certain operations that generate emissions alongside heathlands (e.g. slurry pits, intensive livestock units); and
 - Changing of use of agricultural land adjacent to heathlands to less intensive use;
12. By taking a holistic approach with other mitigation measures and initiatives, this strategy will drive an improving trend in air quality which is targeted to the sources which make the greater contribution to current exceedances. This improving trend might then be taken into account by the Council when undertaking habitats regulations assessment of a development proposal and considering whether to grant

planning permission. The improvements to air quality on the Dorset Heathlands will also benefit air quality for local residents.

13. The projects will be solely funded from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) paid to the Council by developers. A budget of £750,000 would be set aside to appoint a project coordinator and for the implementation of projects. The budget for 2020-2025 is based upon 15,000 planned homes at £50 per home. Split by the proportion of planned development within 5 kilometres of the Dorset Heathlands, BCP Council would provide £562,500 (75%) and Dorset Council £187,500 (25%). Funding would be paid by developers from CIL.
14. The Air Quality Project Coordinator will prepare the Implementation Plan and update it regularly. The Coordinator will work with landowners to bring forward projects and establish a monitoring strategy to identify a baseline and assess vegetation changes and transport emission data over the timeframe of this strategy.

Options Appraisal

Preferred Option:

15. The preferred option is to adopt the Dorset Heathlands Air Quality Strategy. The strategy has the support of Natural England and would have multiple benefits:
 - It would enable the Council to mitigate development and thereby continue to grant planning permission;
 - Mitigation of the impact of the development will be passed from the developer to the Council, removing a block from the planning application process;
 - It saves planning applicants the cost of ecological consultants as all development that generates car trips would have to provide mitigation;
 - It enables the Council to achieve environmental benefits by facilitating the recovery the highly valued Dorset Heathlands towards favourable conservation status with regard to air quality;
 - Improvements to air quality would equally benefit human health; and
 - Mitigation projects can have 'layered benefits' such as a net gain in biodiversity, carbon offsetting and public access.

Alternative Option 1 – Require applicants to provide bespoke mitigation packages

16. In the absence of a strategy, applicants seeking planning permission will need to identify and agree with the Council, a package of bespoke mitigation measures. This will be necessary for the proposed development to pass habitats regulations assessment enabling the Council to grant planning permission.
17. The reasons this option is not taken forward:
 - This option is onerous upon the applicant, requiring appointment of ecological consultants at extra cost;
 - Bespoke mitigation measures would inevitably overlap where targeted on roads alongside heathland, risking developers paying multiple times for the same mitigation;
 - The Council does not have the ecological resource to negotiate bespoke mitigation packages with applicants; and

- The complex nature of the mitigation would cause delay in issuing planning decisions.

Alternative Option 2 – Do nothing

18. The Council could continue to grant planning permissions and ignore the advice of Natural England that mitigation is required.
19. The reasons this option is not taken forward:
 - Granting planning permission without mitigation would be unlawful, risking reputational damage to the Council and legal challenge or call-in of a planning decision by the Secretary of State;
 - To overcome Natural England concerns the Council may have to impose Grampian conditions on all new planning permissions for development that generates vehicular trips, effectively delaying construction until mitigation is in place; and
 - The risk of stifling development disadvantages local people, the economy (construction /employment) and has budgetary implications for the Council (Council tax, business rates, New Homes Bonus).

Summary of Options:

20. The preferred option is to the publish and implement the Dorset Heathlands Interim Air Quality Strategy to enable the Council to continue granting planning permission for new homes and jobs. The strategy would facilitate the recovery the Dorset Heathlands towards favourable conservation status with regard to air quality; simplify the planning process for applicants; facilitate growth; whilst also providing considerable environmental and health benefits to local residents.
21. Alternative Option 1 would require each applicant seeking planning permission to employ ecologists to identify the harm from the development and plan and deliver the necessary mitigation. This is onerous upon applicants and costly, when a Council led solution would provide a strategic approach that developers would contribute towards. All the work would be done by the Council, simplifying the planning process for applicants.
22. Alternative Option 2, Doing nothing, risks reputational damage to the Council and social and economic costs.
23. In summary, the Alternative Options would lead to delays in processing planning applications and the consequential reputational damage to the Council. The Council would also have to consider using Grampian conditions on planning permissions, meaning that developers would be unable to build new homes until the Council had provided the necessary mitigation. These options cannot therefore be supported.
24. The preferred option of a Council led strategy will provide certainty and allow the Council to continue granting planning permissions. Such certainty will ensure applicants seeking planning permission can through the payment of CIL mitigate the harm of their development, simplifying the process. A positive lead from the Council will be welcomed by developers who will be able to continue to build homes without delay. Through the payment of CIL the issue is resolved, simplifying and speeding up the development process. The social and economic benefits of this proposal therefore match the multi-layered environmental benefits.

Summary of financial implications

25. There would be no cost to the Council as projects would be funded from CIL, paid by developers to mitigate their schemes.
26. It is proposed that a budget of £750,000 is set aside to cover Phase 2 and enable the strategy to be implemented immediately. The budget is based upon 15,000 homes planned over the 2020-2025 period at £50 per home. Based on planned growth BCP Council would find £562,500 (75%) and Dorset Council £187,500 (25%). There are CIL funds available for this. The budget would fund a project co-ordinator, the delivery of projects and monitoring over the five-year period.
27. Further work is needed on costing up the projects and these will be set out in the separate Implementation Plan, published after the strategy is in place.
28. There is potential to link projects involving the change of use of agricultural land to other mitigation strategies to provide more cost-effective solutions such as Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace, nitrogen offsetting land, biodiversity net gain / compensation projects and carbon offsetting projects.

Summary of legal implications

29. The Councils are responsible as Competent Authority under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Amendment (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 which came into force on 31 December 2020. As Competent Authority the Council must ensure that when granting planning permission, the development will not have an adverse effect upon integrity of the Dorset Heathlands SPA, SAC and Ramsar site.
30. When granting planning permission, the Council must undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment of each proposal and be certain that the proposed development will not have an adverse effect upon a designated site such as the Dorset Heathlands SPA, SAC and Ramsar site.
31. The proposed strategy will allow the Council to grant planning permission with the certainty that the impact of the development will be mitigated. Were the Council to fail to deliver mitigation and knowingly grant planning permission, this would be unlawful.

Summary of human resources implications

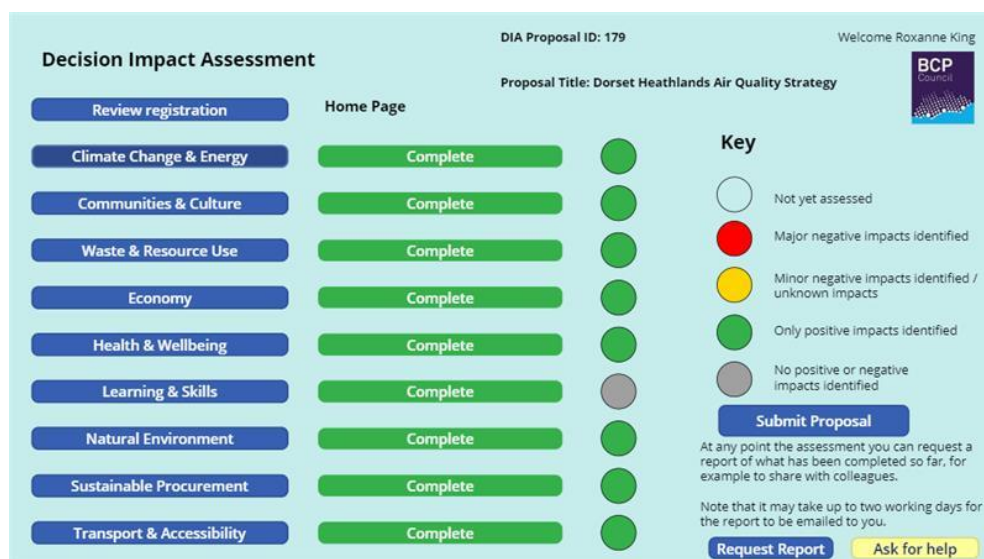
32. A project officer would be needed to coordinate and deliver projects. Discussions are ongoing with Dorset Council to sign to jointly fund a part time post. The post would be funded from CIL and could be employed by the Urban Heaths Partnership. The proposal has no implications for BCP staff, other than to maintain Council services.

Summary of sustainability impact

33. The strategy would have significant environmental benefits by helping to return the Dorset Heathlands to favourable condition, and through a general improvement to air quality.
34. Projects on agricultural land can be brought forward with 'layered benefits' such as carbon offsetting and net gain in biodiversity. The emerging Environment Bill will make it a requirement for all developers to contribute to achieving a net gain

in biodiversity and the Council will be looking for projects to spend developer contributions in coming years.

35. The Decision Impact Assessment 179 is a background paper. The summary of the assessment is below.



Summary of public health implications

36. The strategy would lead to an overall improvement to air quality to humans as well as the Dorset Heathlands, benefitting public health and well-being. Projects could also provide local residents greater public access to the countryside for exercise, education and general health and wellbeing.

Summary of equality implications

37. The Equalities Impact Conversation Guidance concluded that there are no equalities implications. The strategy will have a positive impact upon the Dorset Heathlands designated sites and upon air quality for human health.

Summary of risk assessment

38. Doing nothing risks considerable reputational damage to the Council due to uncertainty in determining planning applications.
39. Without the strategy, each application would need a bespoke mitigation package worked out by the applicant which is extremely onerous and costly. This can be easily avoided through the preparation of an overarching strategy.
40. Without the strategy the Council would have to consider using Grampian conditions on all vehicle generating development (e.g. employment, housing, etc.), preventing the development from being built until mitigation has been put in place. This would hinder developers at a crucial time for jobs and the economy during the recovery from the Covid pandemic. There would be social costs of housing delivery from lack of available housing. There could be damage to the economy and unemployment from a slowdown in construction. The Council would also miss out on Council tax, business rates and New Homes Bonus.

41. Therefore, a strategic approach is recommended as it will speed up the planning process, by providing certainty for all parties that the necessary mitigation will be delivered. This will enable the Council to continue to grant planning permission, continue to encourage growth and gain recognition for its positive approach for facilitating growth whilst improving habitat and air quality.

Background papers

Equalities Impact Conversation Guidance

Decision Impact Assessment

Appendices

1, Dorset Heathland Air Quality Strategy

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Dorset Heathlands Interim Air Quality Strategy

.....
A Strategy to help achieve the conservation objectives
of the Dorset Heathlands designated sites

Phase 2 – Interim Measures for 2020-2025

17 December 2020

V5.6 For Cabinet
BCP Council Planning Policy Team

Executive Summary

The aim of this strategy is to address the adverse effect of airborne nitrogen upon the Dorset Heathlands designated sites by contributing to the achievement of the conservation objectives for air quality and in doing so, facilitate the delivery of planned development.

This document is part of an agreed strategic approach by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP Council), Dorset Council and Natural England to address sources of airborne nitrogen based pollution generated in the vicinity of the Dorset Heathlands.

Airborne nitrogen-based pollutants from multiple sources including agriculture and vehicle emissions settle on heathlands, enriching the soil. This favours faster growing plants and the spread of species not normally found on heathlands which outcompete and inhibit the recovery of the heathland habitats. Ammonia and nitrogen oxides also have direct toxic effects on plant communities.

Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive requires member states to take appropriate steps to avoid deterioration of designated sites. When preparing a local plan or granting planning permission for development, Councils are also required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, through a habitats regulations assessment, to conclude no significant adverse effects on the integrity of designated sites, such as those which comprise the Dorset Heathlands.

Vehicle emissions cause nutrient deposition and direct toxicity effects, principally within 200 metres of roads. Additional vehicle trips generated by new development, in-combination with all planned development across South East Dorset, is likely to have a significant adverse effect upon the integrity of Dorset Heathlands SAC. The Councils can partially address this pollution by using developer contributions to fund targeted management of heathland but measures to actively reduce emissions are also required. This element forms part of the overall strategy to deliver the reductions in pollution necessary to help achieve the conservation objectives of the Dorset Heathlands.

The Councils have already implemented, or are already implementing, projects that will improve air quality on heathlands. The strategy envisages a phased approach to the delivery of further projects and measures to contribute to the recovery the Dorset Heathlands towards favourable conservation status with regard to air quality:

- *Phase 1: - Measures already in place 2015-2020* – Projects implemented for other reasons which have air quality benefits to the protected heathland nearby.
- *Phase 2: Interim approach from 2020-2025* - Projects to deliver benefits ahead of the preparation of formal local plan policy.
- *Phase 3: Local plan approach from 2025 onwards* - Projects aligned to new policies set out in the BCP Council Local Plan and the Dorset Council Local Plan.

This document constitutes Phase 2. It is the first documented phase of the overall strategy and will deliver projects from 2020-2025. Phase 3 of the strategy will be prepared through the BCP Council and Dorset Council local plans process. This strategy can then become a supplementary planning document (SPD) setting out the detail to implement local plan policies. By 2030, or when government policy on vehicle emissions will trigger an increasing shift to zero emission vehicles, the measures set out in this strategy should become embedded. The measures will be needed until air pollution levels return to an acceptable level and the conservation objectives of the Dorset Heathlands are achieved in respect of air quality.

Types of measures include direct measures targeting vehicle emissions adjacent to heathland. These include projects to encourage modal shift to other forms of transport, reduce vehicle speeds adjacent to heathlands, encourage the use of zero emission vehicles and through heathland management alongside roads. The strategy also addresses wider measures to reduce nitrogen deposition from agricultural land near to heathlands, or the re-siting / cleaning up of certain operations that generate emissions.

By taking a holistic approach with other mitigation measures and initiatives, this strategy will drive an improving trend in air quality which is targeted to the sources which make the greater contribution to current exceedances. This improving trend might then be taken into account by the Councils when considering whether to grant planning permissions in accordance with regulation 63 of the Habitats Regulations.

The Councils will produce and regularly update an Implementation Plan. A projects coordinator will be appointed to bring forward projects and establish a monitoring strategy to assess vegetation changes and transport emissions data over the timeframe of this strategy. A budget of £750,000 will be set aside from Community Infrastructure Levy, split between the Councils on the basis of planned development (75% BCP Council and 25% Dorset Council).

As projects are implemented and landowners are engaged within the process, the strategy will not only play its part in avoiding adverse effects to site integrity from proposed development but will also actively contribute to achieving the conservation objectives in respect of air quality for the Dorset Heathlands designated sites.

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1. Legislative and Policy Background

Designations

- 1.1 The lowland heaths in South East Dorset are covered by several international, European and national designations:
- Dorset Heathlands Special Protection Area (SPA);
 - Dorset Heathlands Ramsar Site;
 - Dorset Heaths Special Area of Conservation (SAC); and
 - Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC.
- 1.2 Collectively these designations are referred to as the Dorset Heathlands and cover an extensive area of South East Dorset fragmented by urban development, forestry, agriculture and other land uses. The sites include lowland dry heath, wet heath and mire, in particular air pollution affects the lower plant and lichen communities, as well as functional aspects of the habitats such as the structure. Examples of species negatively impacted by nitrogen include common heather, reindeer lichen, cross leaved heath and sundew in wet heathland and Sphagnum mosses, liverworts, Utricularia (bladderwort) species and bog asphodel in the Rhynchosporion community.
- 1.3 The Site Improvement Plan (SIP) for the Dorset Heathlands provides a high-level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of features on the site and outlines the priority measures required to improve the condition of those features. The following extract is from the Dorset Heathlands SIP (2014):

Plan Summary This table shows the prioritised issues for the site(s), the features they affect, the proposed measures to address the issues and the delivery bodies whose involvement is required to deliver the measures. The list of delivery bodies will include those who have agreed to the actions as well as those where discussions over their role in delivering the actions is on-going				
Priority & Issue	Pressure or threat	Features affected	Measure	Delivery Bodies
11 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix; H4030 European dry heaths; H7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	Reduce atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Natural England

- 1.4 The SIP also identified ‘actions’ against the issues and the extract in respect of air pollution is as follows. The need for the control, reduction and amelioration of atmospheric nitrogen impacts has therefore been recognised within the SIP.

11 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition							
Air pollution impacts on the site's vegetation diversity. As with most lowland heathlands and mires in England N deposition is close to, and in some cases exceeds critical loads (e.g. for Rhynchosporion)							
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
11A	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	Natural England	Not yet determined

The Habitats and Birds Directives

- 1.5 The European Commission Habitats Directive (1992) contributes towards securing biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species. Both the Dorset Heaths SAC and the Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes SAC are designated in accordance with the Habitats Directive.
- 1.6 The European Commission Wild Birds Directive (2009) concerns the conservation of all species of wild birds. The Dorset Heathlands SPA is classified under the Birds Directive.

- 1.7 Following the exit from the European Union, the United Kingdom is no longer a 'Member State'. However, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Amendment (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 came into force on 31 December 2020. Regulation 3A covers interpretation of the Directives, where it sets out that all references to 'Member States' include the United Kingdom. The requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives therefore continue to have effect. Furthermore, regulation 16A sets out new duties to manage the national site network with a view to contributing to the achievement of its management objectives. The management objectives are to maintain or restore habitats and species to a favourable conservation status and to contribute to ensuring the survival and reproduction of Annex 1 bird species as well as regularly occurring migratory species of birds.
- 1.8 Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive requires Member States *[including the United Kingdom]* to establish the necessary conservation measures which correspond to the ecological requirements of the habitats and species. Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive requires Member States *[including the United Kingdom]* to take appropriate steps to avoid the deterioration of designated SACs. In addition, regulation 10 of the Habitats Regulations sets out similar duties in respect of wild bird habitat where designated as part of an SPA, and UK National Planning Policy Framework (2019) affords Ramsar sites (known as International Sites) the same protection as SACs and SPAs (known as European sites). SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network across Europe and this, following the exit from the European Union, is now known as the National Sites Network in the UK.
- 1.9 Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, regarding the need for appropriate assessment of a plan or project which has a likely significant effect (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects), is transposed into UK law through Regulation 63 of the 'Habitats Regulations'.

The Habitats Regulations

- 1.10 European sites are protected by the European Commission Birds and Habitats Directives, specific provisions of which are applied in the UK by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). The regulations are more commonly referred to as the Habitats Regulations. They place responsibilities on a decision maker (referred to as the 'competent authority') in relation to such sites. The Councils when determining planning applications take on the role of the competent authorities under the Habitats Regulations and are advised by Natural England on how to fulfil these duties.
- 1.11 Regulation 63 of the Habitats Regulations requires that any application for development or strategic plan or policy which is likely to significantly affect a European site is subject to an appropriate assessment of the implications of the proposal in view of the site's conservation objectives. The planning authority must ascertain that the plan or project will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, either directly or indirectly, taking account of any conditions or restrictions that would help ensure no adverse effect, before granting permission or adopting a plan or policy.
- 1.12 Regulation 9(3) places a general duty upon a competent authority, in exercising any of its functions, to have regard to the requirements of the Directives so far as they may be affected by the exercise of those functions.

Legal Judgements

- 1.13 When preparing a local plan or granting planning permission for development, Councils are required, through appropriate assessment, to conclude no significant adverse effects on the integrity of designated sites, such as the Dorset Heathlands.
- 1.14 In 2017, the High Court ruled in the case of *Wealden District Council v Secretary of State*¹ that the failure to take account of proposed housing development in combination with other plans and

¹ Wealden DC v SoS and Lewes DC [2017] EWHC 351 (Admin)

projects had brought about a clear breach of the Habitats Directive. The Court explicitly recognised that ‘*if it is known that specific impacts are very low indeed, or are likely to be such, these can properly be ignored*’ (emphasis added) but the failure to take account of in combination effects could not be supported (under the circumstances) on logical and empirical grounds.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 1.15 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) outline the procedure set out by the government that should be followed in deciding whether to approve a proposal (a plan or project) that will potentially affect a protected habitats site.
- 1.16 The NPPF recognises the value of our natural environment stating that the ‘*planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment*’², for example by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes such as heathland, establishing coherent and resilient ecological networks and providing net gains for biodiversity. Importantly the presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment under the Birds or Habitats Directives or Ramsar convention is being considered, planned or determined.³

Development Plans

- 1.17 The two Councils have adopted legacy Local Plans which contain similarly worded policies to address the adverse effects on the Dorset Heathlands of pressures arising from population growth:
- Bournemouth Core Strategy (2012) - Policy CS33 Heathland.
 - Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 (2014) - Policy ME2 Protection of the Dorset Heathlands.
 - The Poole Local Plan (2018) - Policy PP32 Part (1) Poole’s nationally, European and internationally important protected sites.
 - The North Dorset Local Plan Part 1 (2016) – Policy 4 Natural Environment.
 - The Purbeck Local Plan Part 1 (2012) Policy DH Dorset Heaths International Designations and Swanage Local Plan (2017). A new Purbeck Local Plan is currently at examination and will replace the 2012 Plan with a replacement heathland policy (Policy E8).
 - The West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan (2015) – Policy ENV2 Wildlife and Habitats.
- 1.18 The strategy to implement these policies is set out in The Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework 2020-2025 SPD. The SPD identifies air pollution as an issue for the heathlands, but the strategy is focussed upon the recreational impacts of development, so does not deal directly with the additional airborne emissions associated with the developments.
- 1.19 The local plans are accompanied by habitats regulations assessments which set out the measures that need to be provided to enable development to be delivered. Together the habitats regulations assessments provide a consistent record of the approach to avoidance and mitigation and in varying levels of detail, the type and nature of projects required.
- 1.20 In addition to the local plans, there may be relevant policies in neighbourhood plans which will provide local context and support for the strategy.

² NPPF para 170

³ NPPF para 176,177

2. Evidence

2.1 The evidence section is broken down into 3 parts:

- Evidence of air pollution effects;
- Evidence of traffic patterns; and
- Evidence of air pollution remediation/mitigation opportunities.

Evidence of air pollution effects

Nitrogen deposition

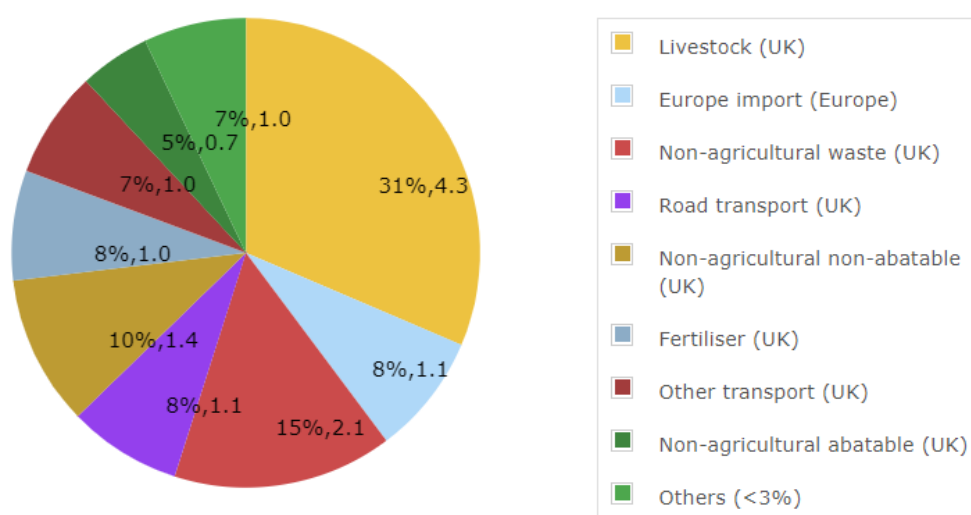
2.2 It is important to acknowledge that nitrogen deposition on to the heathlands comes from several sources. The main sources of atmospheric nitrogen deposition are nitrogen oxides (NO_x) from vehicles, industry and electricity generation and ammonia (NH₃), mainly from agricultural sources. Some local sources will make larger contributions when they lie close to the heathlands, such as road transport, airports, waste sites and agricultural activities.

2.3 Figure 1 below produced by the UK Air Pollution Information System (APIS) provides an indication of the contributions of different sources to total nitrogen deposition on the Dorset Heaths SAC. It represents the contributions averaged over a 5x5km square for the year 2012. It does not include the contribution from ammonia within the transport sector as this is an emerging area of research⁴ into how commercially available fuel additives, e.g. Adblue (used to control NO_x emissions in diesel exhaust gasses) lead to elevated ammonia emissions which may require consideration at the local level - hence it is only indicative.

2.4 There are some activities which can't be influenced at a local level such as deposition coming from abroad (Europe import) or aeroplanes and shipping (Other transport). Activities that can be influenced include agriculture (Livestock, Fertilisers) which accounts for 39% of deposition and vehicles (Road Transport) which accounts for 8%.

Figure 1 – Indicative proportions of nitrogen deposition on the Dorset Heaths SAC from different activities

■ Pie Chart: Local contributions to Nitrogen deposition (Kg N/ha/yr) from sources (UK)

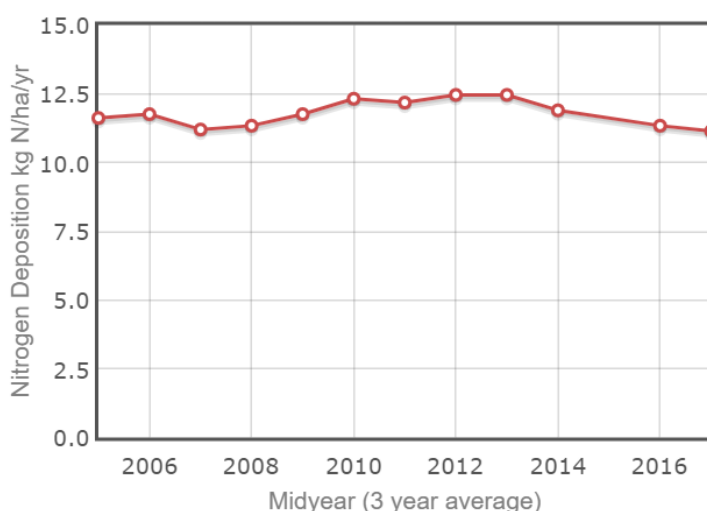


Source: <http://www.apis.ac.uk/src/source-attribution?submit=Source+Attribution&sitetype=SAC&sitecode=UK0019857&sitename=Dorset+Heaths>

⁴ A Guide to the assessment of air quality impacts on designated nature conservation sites. Institute of Air Quality Management, May 2020

2.5 Figure 2, also from APIS, shows the trend in nitrogen deposition to short vegetation within Dorset Heaths SAC over the period 2004 to 2018. This shows little change over the 14 year period.

Figure 2 – Trend in total nitrogen deposition to short vegetation on the Dorset Heaths SAC, 2004 to 2018.

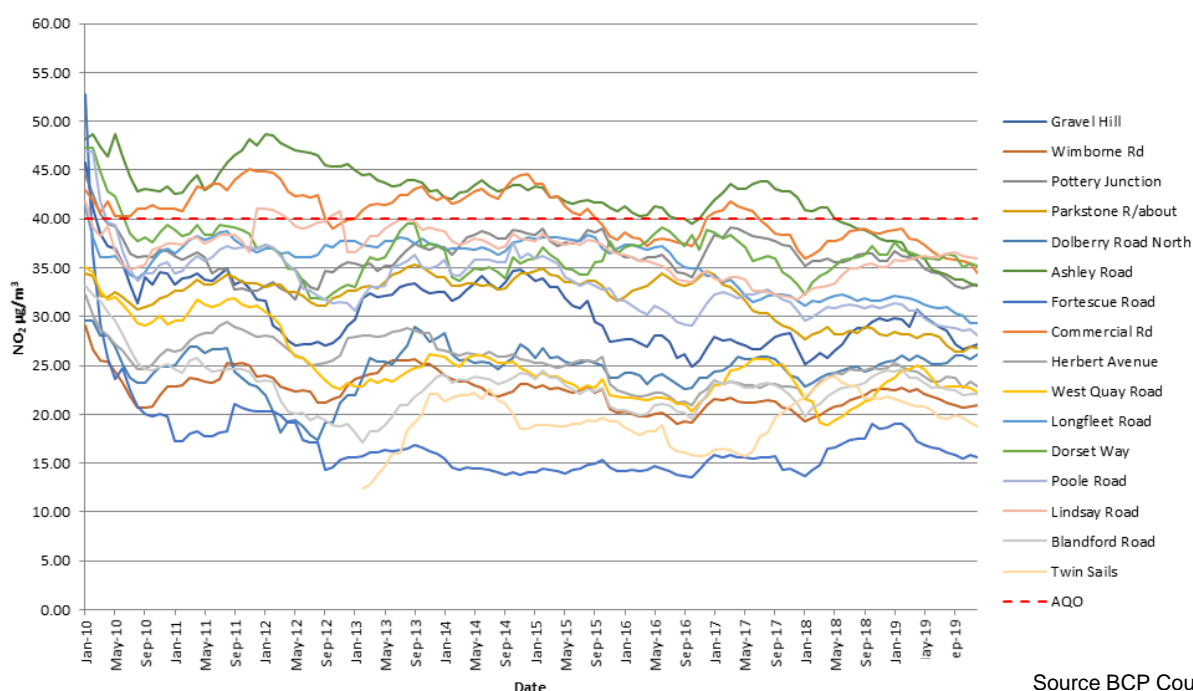


Source <http://www.apis.ac.uk/src/select-a-feature?site=UK0019857&SiteType=SAC&submit=Next>

Ammonia and Nitrogen Oxides

- 2.6 Ammonia and nitrogen oxides have toxic effects in their gaseous form, as well as contributing to nitrogen deposition. Key sources of ammonia are from agricultural activities with a further contribution from road vehicle emissions associated with the technologies being used to control the nitrogen oxides emissions. Lichens and mosses are particularly sensitive to toxic effects from ammonia.
- 2.7 Nitrogen oxides come from combustion sources, with road traffic being the key source. Emissions of nitrogen oxides from road traffic have been declining over the last decade, due to the introduction of legal controls on vehicle emissions. This is reflected in the roadside monitoring results for nitrogen dioxide from the former Borough of Poole over the period 2010 to 2019, as set out in Figure 3; there has been an overall decline over this period. This is due to both a reduction in regional emissions of nitrogen oxides and more directly to declining emissions from the road traffic close to the monitoring site from improving vehicle engine performance.

Figure 3: Reduction in nitrogen oxides from vehicle emissions in Poole from 2010-2019



Source BCP Council

The effect of nitrogen deposition

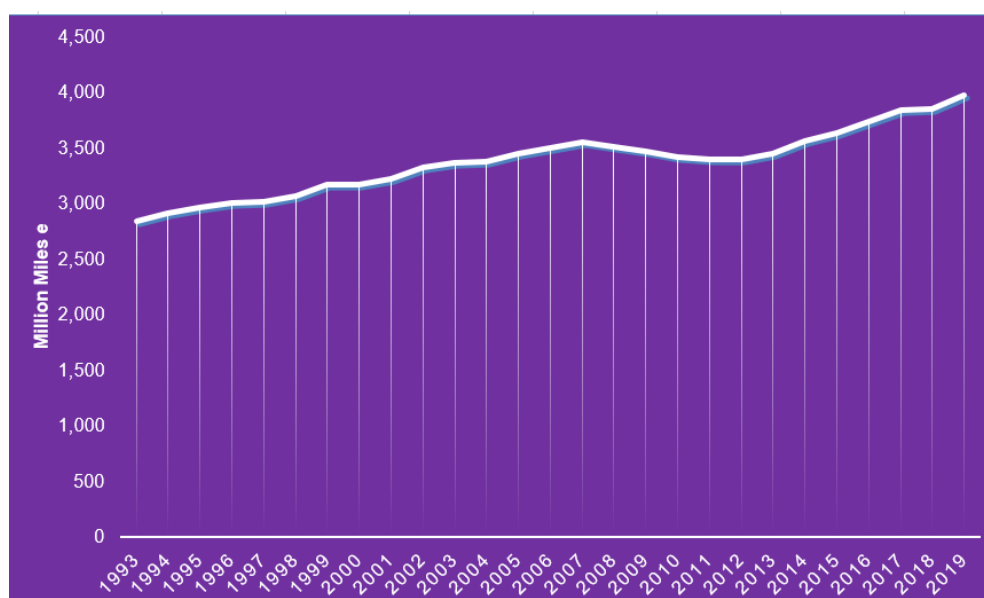
- 2.8 This nitrogen deposition affects the vegetation of lowland dry heath, wet heath and mire, in particular, the lower plant and lichen communities as well as functional aspects of the habitats. The likely effects of nutrient deposition are:
- Heath vegetation becomes "lusher" and so more prone to adverse effects such as heather beetle, fungal attacks etc. The growth rate of some species is accelerated e.g. European and dwarf gorses;
 - The vegetation responds with increased grass dominance and especially non-typical grasses and herbs responding to higher levels of available nutrients;
 - Nitrogen levels in heathland soils build up when there is increased aerial pollution and standard management measures such as cutting are less effective at removing nitrogen than more aggressive approaches such as humus removal;
 - The wetter habitats show increased vigorous purple moor grass cover due to increased nutrient availability;
 - Bare ground and open habitats used by SPA birds and features such as sand scrapes, which are important habitats for sand lizards, become vegetated over more rapidly and require more frequent management;
 - Site restoration measures are inhibited, e.g. succession pathway towards a bracken, birch seedling, grassland phase is facilitated rather than to heathland;
 - Non-native invasive species such as Gaultheria spp, rhododendron, Amelanchia spp and laurel are able to grow and spread more effectively; and
 - More vegetation growth can lead to an increased fire risk due to the higher fuel load produced and increased management costs and considerations.

The air quality impact of combustion engine vehicles and how this affects the Dorset Heathlands

- 2.9 As highlighted above by APIS, combustion engine vehicles (motor vehicles) make an overall contribution of around 8% of the nitrogen deposition upon the heathlands. However, Natural England advice to competent authorities is that this contribution will be higher within around 200 metres of the roadside⁵. The amount deposited on the vegetation declines rapidly away from the road.
- 2.10 Vehicle trips in the BCP Council and Dorset Council areas are rising as shown in Figure 4, and the Department for Transport projects this to continue. Traffic volume increased by 4% from 2001-2018. This trend makes it harder to reduce nitrogen deposition to the heathlands in order to meet the conservation objectives.

⁵ [Natural England's approach to advising competent authorities on the assessment of road traffic emissions under the Habitats Regulations](#)

Figure 4: Car Trips in Dorset and BCP Council Areas (million miles)



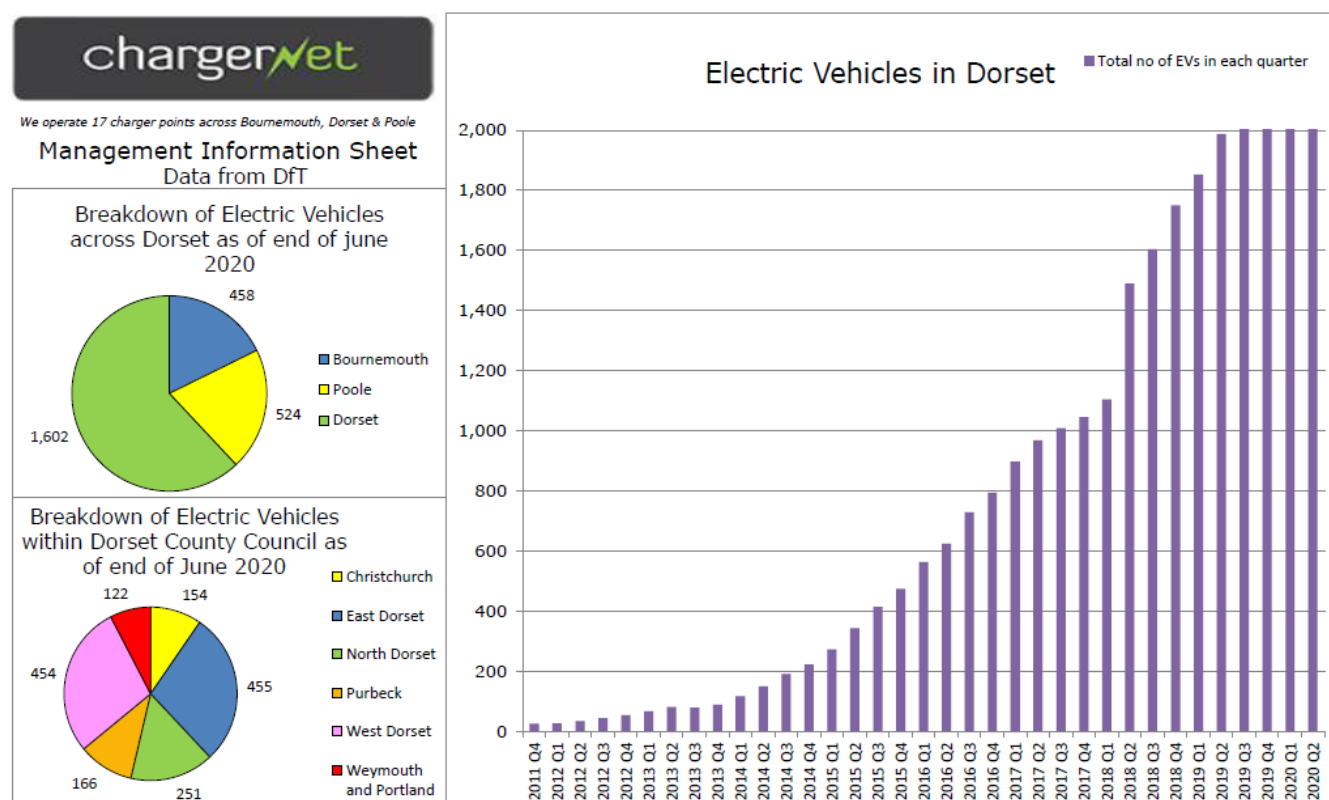
Source DfT: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/road-traffic-statistics-tra#traffic-by-local-authority-tra89>

Evidence of traffic patterns

The transition to zero emission vehicles

- 2.11 Government through '*The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution*' (November 2020) is planning to ban the sale of new purely petrol and diesel-powered cars and vans by 2030 and the sale of new internal combustion engines (including hybrids) by 2035. Government intends to invest in electric-vehicle charge points. The Ten Point Plan states that cars and vans make up nearly a fifth of emissions.
- 2.12 As car manufacturing responds to this challenge, the current expectation is that by around 2030 the shift to zero emission cars and vans should result in air pollution levels returning to an acceptable level, helping to achieve the conservation objectives of the Dorset Heathlands in respect of air quality. Measures are therefore required in the period between now and when wider government measures take effect and vehicle emissions reduce.
- 2.13 The two Councils are facilitating the transition to electric vehicles through the provision of publicly accessible electric charging points and by encouraging developers to make electric charging points available in new homes and businesses. Figure 5 shows the rapid growth in electric vehicles across BCP Council and Dorset Council areas.

Figure 5: Increase in electric vehicle ownership across BCP Council and Dorset Council areas



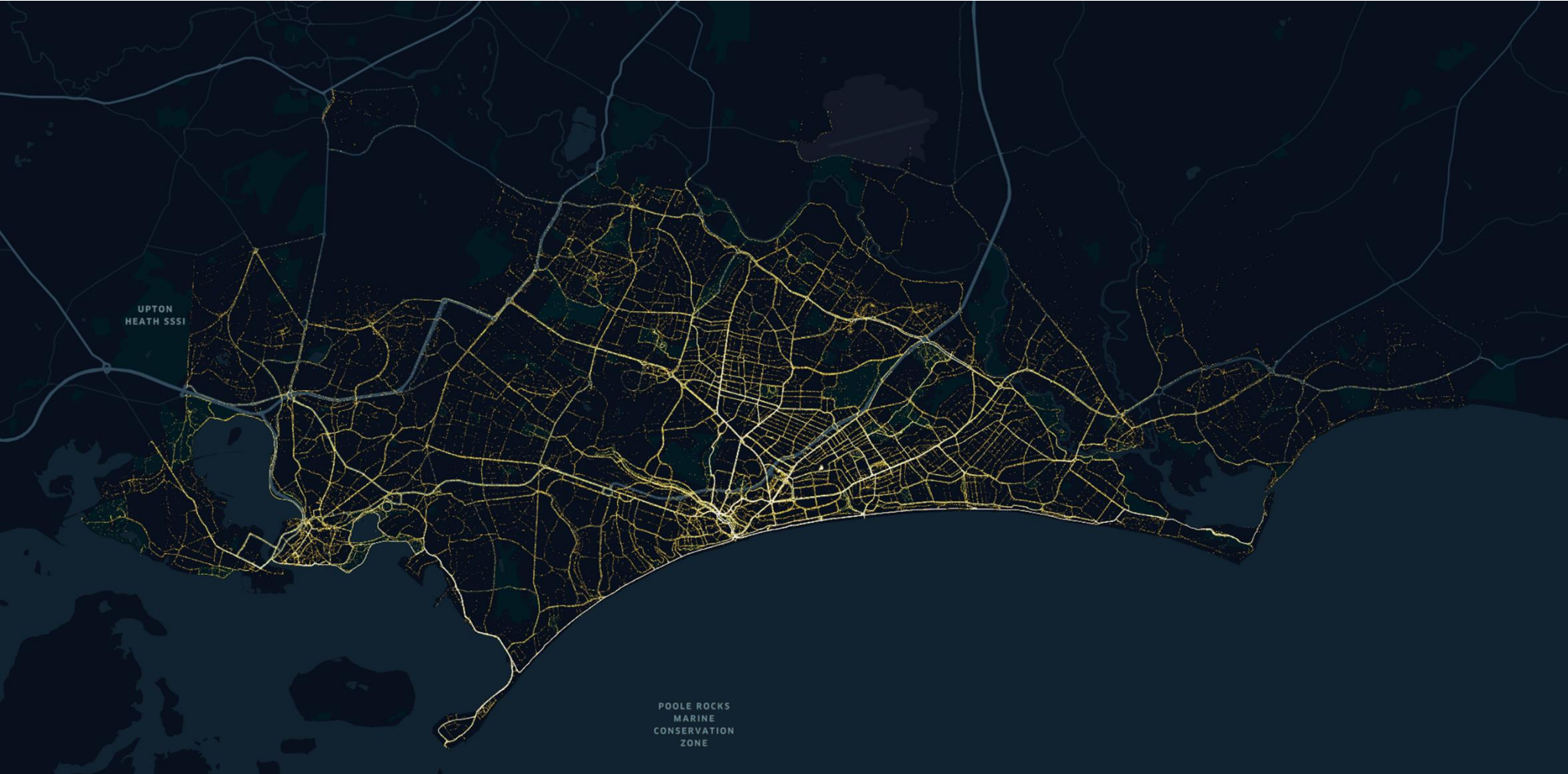
Source DfT, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/road-traffic-statistics-tra#traffic-volume-in-miles-tra01>

Transforming Travel

- 2.14 The Government's ten-point plan also includes proposals for significant further investment in public transport, cycling and walking. Government had already awarded BCP Council and Dorset Council £100m plus from the Transforming Cities Fund to make a step-change in local sustainable transport options. The local initiative called '*Transforming Travel*'⁶ will be the largest sustainable transport infrastructure improvement programme ever seen in the area.
- 2.15 The Councils are already actively promoting sustainable transport options. These strategies aim to improve accessibility and reduce reliance upon private motor vehicles for trips. BCP Council introduced a bike hire system in June 2019, with 235,000 journeys by bike in the first year. Survey data from riders indicates that 18% of riders used a hire bike instead of a private car, taking 42,300 car journeys off the road. Figure 6 provides a heatmap of all journeys since the launch.

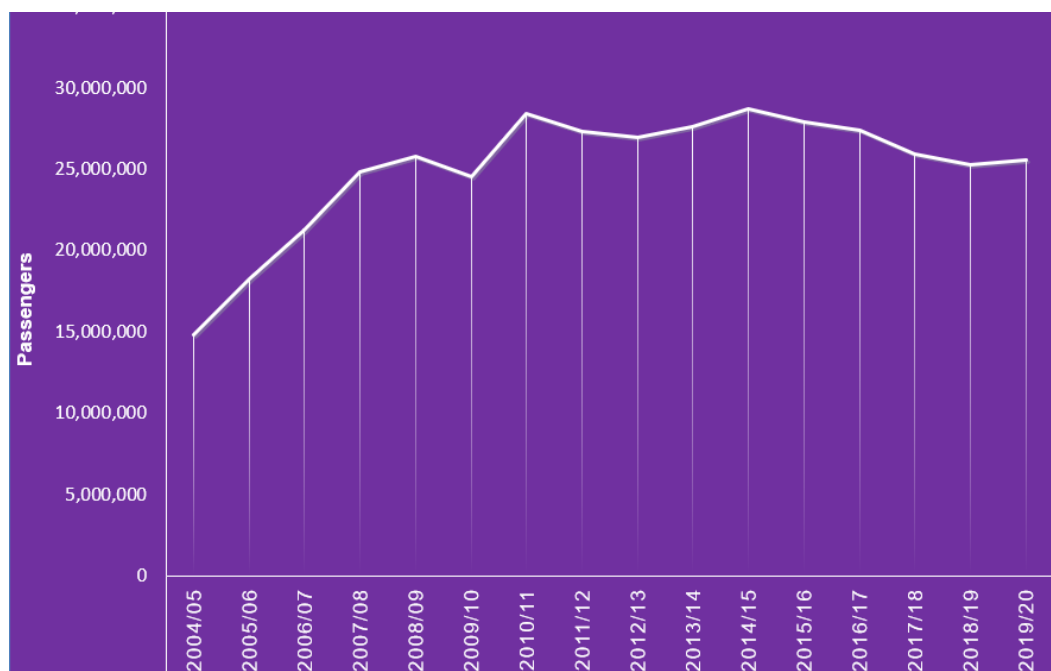
⁶ <https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/News/News-Features/Transforming-Travel/Transforming-Cities-Fund.aspx>

Figure 6: Heatmap showing trips made by hire bikes since June 2019



- 2.16 The provision of bus services including high speed routes across the conurbation saw a large increase in bus patronage to 2010 after which usage has levelled off as illustrated in Figure 7

Figure 7 - Passengers using local bus services in Bournemouth and Poole



Source: BCP Council

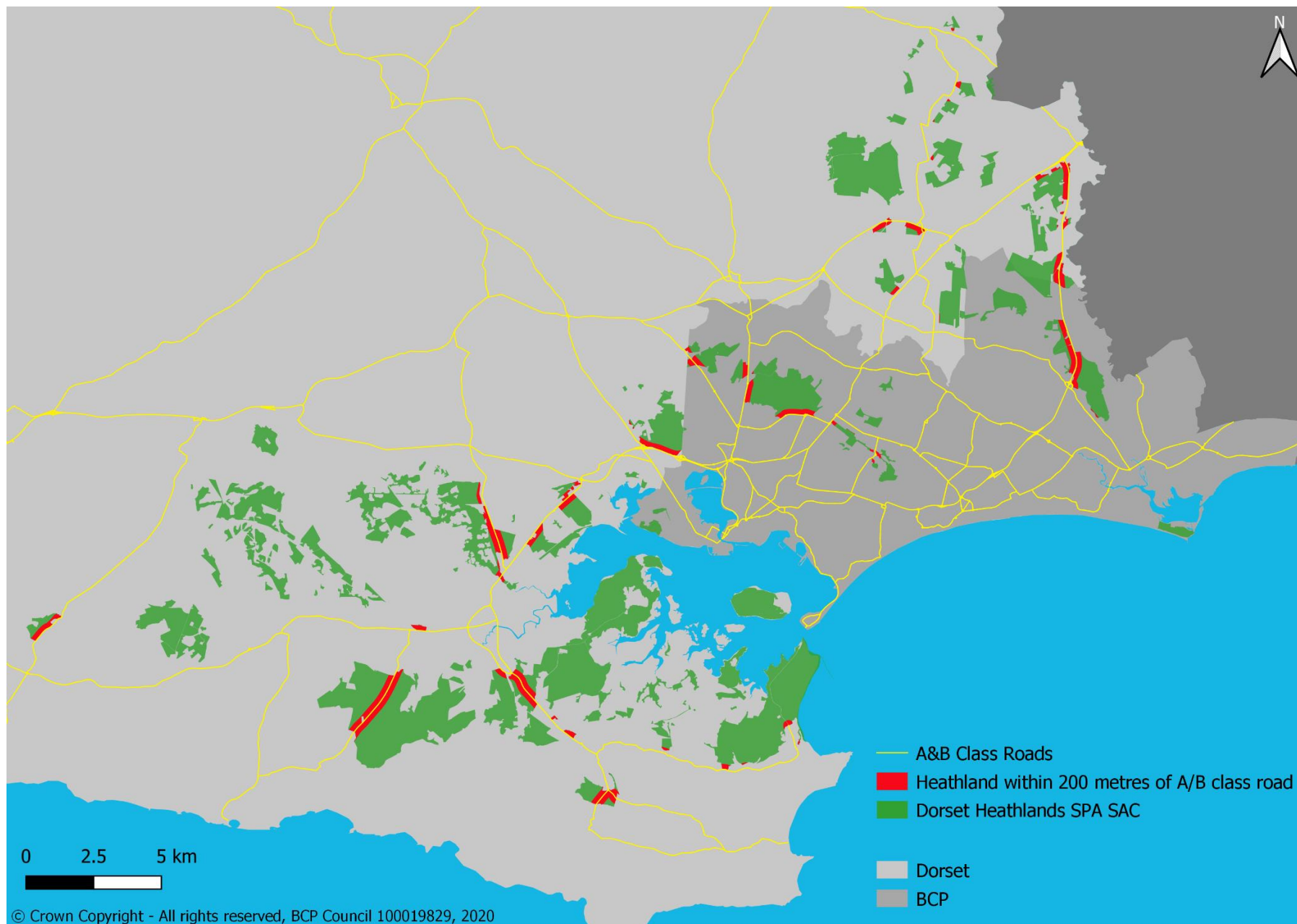
- 2.17 Moving forward the two Councils are committed to Transforming Travel and as the project progresses over the next few years, will encourage an increasing of proportion of all trips to be made by public transport, cycling and walking.

Evidence of air pollution remediation/mitigation opportunities

Additional management practices on heathlands

- 2.18 As evidenced above, heathland management can counteract the harmful effects from air pollution. To counteract air pollution from vehicles within 200 metres of a road, measures could include focussed grazing or stripping back of nutrient enriched soil / vegetation within these areas. These methods are consistent with current heathland management practices but carried out in a more focussed manner. This management will help facilitate native heathland species to recover. Currently landowners can secure countryside stewardship payments to maintain lowland heath at £274 per hectare per year. In the absence of detailed and costed management plans for the individual heathland sites, this cost is considered an established figure which should over the duration of the strategy ensure enough resources are available to counteract the identified harmful processes.
- 2.19 Using the road centre line for A and B class roads and measuring 200 metres in either direction identifies 638 hectares of heathland that are likely to be affected by vehicle emissions, as coloured red in Figure 8. Only some of this area will be suited to measures, as for example some heathland will be established broadleaved woodland, or landowners may not be interested in introducing measures.

Figure 8: A and B class roads passing heathland sites in South East Dorset



2.20 To counter the effects of vehicle emissions, increased land management practices can prevent areas remaining in an unfavourable condition, including:

- Heather sward cut or burnt more frequently;
- Increased grazing stock rate/more mixed grazing;
- Focussed small grazing units to tackle specific problem areas;
- Litter stripping with the creation of banks;
- Soil stripping of affected soil humus and enhanced control of invasive non-native plants;
- Increased frequency of bracken and gorse control to direct regeneration to heathland;
- Creation of bare ground; and
- Change of use of adjacent agricultural land to support conservation measures, e.g. Heathland Support Area.

Nitrogen Futures

2.21 The DEFRA Nitrogen Futures project⁷ aims to compare current and possible future emission reduction policies to help maximise the benefits to ecosystems and the people that live near them.

2.22 The project has quantified the benefits from a range of potential emission mitigation options and develop different scenarios. The scenarios explore the location for mitigation measures to maximise benefits to ecosystems and protected areas. The project results will be used as evidence to inform policy development at UK, country and local scale. It is not yet clear what the effect of the project on nitrogen deposition will be or the time scales involved.

Identification of Potential Remedies for Air Pollution (nitrogen) Impacts on Designated Sites (RAPIDS)

2.23 The 2015 RAPIDS study⁸ sets out potential measures and delivery mechanisms to reduce nitrogen deposition on heathland. Some of the suggested measures are set out below in Figure 9 for both agriculture and vehicle emissions, with an indication of the potential mitigation effect.

Figure 9: A selection of potential mitigation measures identified by RAPIDS

Method	Mitigation effect
Agricultural emissions	
Convert intensive agricultural land (arable and grass) to unfertilised grassland or semi-natural land cover (inc. woodland) around designated sites	90%
Reduce mineral fertiliser application rates	20%
Tree belt next to designated site	20%
Improvements to manure spreading, e.g. slurry injection	70-90%
Improved manure storage, e.g. a floating cover on slurry pits	50%
In planning applications for new sites, local protection of a designated site may be much improved by landscape-planning, i.e. siting the development further away.	Unspecified
Vehicle emissions	
Installation of bunds/screens alongside roads	Unspecified
Introduction of demand management technique, e.g. low emission zones (LEZs).	12%
Real time traffic information e.g. optimising traffic flows, re-routing of traffic	Unspecified
Promote greener technologies e.g. financial incentives to take up electric vehicles	Unspecified

⁷ <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/nitrogen-futures/>

⁸ https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/library/reports?report_id=865

3. The Dorset Heathlands air quality strategy

Aim of the strategy

- 3.1 The aim of this strategy is to address the adverse effect of airborne nitrogen upon the Dorset Heathlands designated sites by contributing to the achievement of the conservation objectives for air quality and in doing so, facilitate the delivery of planned development.

Objectives of the strategy

- 3.2 The objectives are:
- Contributing to the achievement of the conservation objectives of the Dorset Heathlands;
 - Facilitating the delivery of planned development;
 - Encouraging modal shift to reduce the number of trips by combustion engine vehicles;
 - Accelerating the shift to zero emission vehicles;
 - Working pro-actively with the agricultural sector to implement measures; and
 - Multi-layering projects to provide other benefits to include:
 - improved air quality for public health;
 - net gain in biodiversity; and
 - helping towards achievement of the Council's climate and ecological emergencies.

Types of Mitigation Measures

- 3.3 Figure 1 illustrates the range of air pollution sources affecting the Dorset Heaths SAC and highlights the need for the Councils to work with multiple agencies and landowners on a variety of different types of mitigation projects in order to help achieve the conservation objectives in respect of air quality.
- 3.4 Many of the sources require a national or even international approach to mitigate the harm. The RAPIDS study notes that *'While locally targeted remedies may be particularly effective for a number of designated sites, this is not a substitute for overall national and international efforts to reduce emissions, which are necessary to reduce large-scale regionally elevated background N concentrations and deposition.'* As mentioned above, a key national approach is the current government's aim to only allow sales of zero emission cars and vans by 2030 and all vehicles by 2035. Combustion engine vehicle use may be assumed to substantially decline thereafter.
- 3.5 This strategy is therefore limited to local measures that the two Councils can influence. As highlighted by the RAPIDS study there are some options that can be achieved locally. For instance, the two Councils can:
- As local planning authority prepare local plans for waste and for the location of development;
 - As local planning authority gather developer contributions as set out in the relevant local plans and supporting documents and use this funding to implement a range of management measures either on or adjacent to designated heathland;
 - As local highway authority encourage a modal shift from private cars to public transport, cycling and walking; manage transport and facilitate electric vehicle charging;
 - As landowners deliver projects within the Council owned estate; and
 - Continue working with landowners and the farming community, as with other habitats regulations mitigation projects, in particular on the emerging Poole Harbour Nutrient

Management Scheme, which provides a useful platform to identify air quality improvement projects.

3.6 Measures fall into two types; Category 1 and Category 2:

Category 1 measures - to mitigate the direct impact of development

3.7 These measures will directly mitigate the impact of development by increasing the resilience of heathland habitats within 200m of the road. Measures will allow the heathland to recover as traffic emissions continue to decline as a result of modal shift and a greater take up of zero emission vehicles. These projects will be focussed around transport corridors with the aim of tackling vehicle emissions.

Category 2 measures - to improve air quality across the whole of the Dorset Heathlands

3.8 Category 1 measures alone may not be sufficient to avoid adverse effects to integrity of the Dorset Heathlands if other sources are anticipated to increase or if the current exceedances of critical nitrogen loads/levels are predicted to persist into the long term. Therefore Category 2 measures will aim to address air pollution across the entire heathland site (beyond 200 metres from a road). Category 2 measures are essential to ensuring that Category 1 measures are not undermined and that the conservation objectives in relation to air quality are achieved. These projects will be carried out at locations around the heathland area and focussed on reducing emission from agriculture.

3.9 By taking a holistic approach in which category 1 measures are delivered in parallel with other category 2 mitigation measures and initiatives, this strategy will drive an improving trend in air quality which is targeted to the sources which make the greatest contribution to current exceedances. This improving trend might then be taken into account by the Councils when considering whether to grant planning permissions in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

A phased approach to the strategy

3.10 The strategy has 3 phases, each phase of which will combine Category 1 and Category 2 measures:

- *Phase 1: - Measures already in place 2015-2020* – Projects implemented for other reasons which also have air quality benefits for the protected heathland nearby.
- *Phase 2: Interim approach from 2020-2025* - Projects to deliver benefits ahead of the preparation of formal local plan policy.
- *Phase 3: Local plan approach from 2025 onwards* - Projects aligned to new policies set out in the BCP Council Local Plan and the Dorset Council Local Plan.

3.11 This document constitutes Phase 2, the Interim approach from 2020-2025 and is the first documented phase of the strategy. It will act as the Site Nitrogen Action Plan as set out in the SIP. Phase 3 of the strategy will be prepared through the formal BCP Council and Dorset Council local plan processes. This strategy will then be integrated into each Council's local plan policy, with an expectation that this document will become a supplementary planning document (SPD), setting out the strategy to implement local plan policies.

3.12 By 2030, or when government policy on vehicle emissions drives a shift to other transport modes such as zero emission vehicles, the measures set out in this strategy should become embedded. The measures will be needed either until air pollution levels return to an acceptable level and favourable conservation status of the Dorset Heathlands, in respect of air pollution, is achieved or it is shown that vehicle emissions no longer contribute towards this issue

3.13 The next section focusses on the types of project considered at each phase of the strategy.

4. Phase 1 - Measures already in place 2015-2020

- 4.1 When preparing Phase 2 of this strategy, it has become evident that the Councils have already been delivering projects for other reasons, which have the incidental benefit of also reducing air pollution on the heaths. These projects have been captured below as a record of how this strategy is ongoing:

Category 1 measures:

- Traffic management to reduce vehicle speeds:
 - From 50mph to 40mph on Gravel Hill alongside Canford Heath (2016); and
 - From 70mph to 50mph using average speed cameras along the Wessex Way (2019) alongside Town Common / St Catherine's Hill; Sopley / Ramsdown heaths (2019).
- Encouraging modal shift away from private motor vehicles:
 - South East Dorset Urban Mobility Strategy (SEDUMS) and the Transforming Travel strategy - implement sustainable transport measures across South East Dorset and avoid reliance upon private car travel; and
 - Local Transport Plan and Local Plan transport mitigation strategies.
- Encouraging the switch to zero emission vehicles:
 - Provision of publicly available electric vehicle charging points; and
 - Requirement to provide electric charging points in new homes to encourage the switch to electric cars.

- 4.2 The air quality benefits of these transport measures have not been quantified, although the Implementation Plan will attempt to do so. However, these measures provide some context as to how wider initiatives can help to tackle traffic emissions and contribute towards achieving the conservation objectives in respect of air quality on the Dorset Heathlands.

Category 2 measures:

- Changing the management of agricultural land around heathlands to low nitrate use through mitigation measures under the Dorset Heathlands SPD and Nitrogen Reduction in Poole Harbour SPD:
 - Upton Park Farm to create a 30-hectare Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace alongside Upton Heath (2015-2020);
 - Agreement with tenant farmer of Upton Park Farm for low intensity nitrate usage for a further 30 hectares of fields adjacent to Upton Heath (2015); and
 - Soldiers Road to revert use of 6 hectares of horse paddocks to heathland and incorporate into the adjacent Stoborough Heath National Nature Reserve (2017).

- 4.3 It should be possible to calculate the benefits of these measures and this will be carried out as part of the Implementation Plan. The RAPIDS study indicates that these changes of use can be up to 90% effective in tackling nitrogen deposition on nearby heathland.

5. Phase 2 Interim approach from 2020-2025

Planned development

- 5.1 Paras 4.12-15 of the Dorset Heathland Planning Framework 2020-2025 SPD identify the number of homes expected to come forward in each Council area within 5km of heathland over the 5 year period 2020/21-2024/25. This is 11,290 homes in the BCP Council area and 3,716 in the Dorset Council area, a total of 15,006 homes (rounded to 15,000).
- 5.2 This quantum of growth is likely to generate more vehicular trips on the road network and therefore contribute to nitrogen deposition on the Dorset Heathlands. However, current adopted local plans and habitats regulations assessments do not contain measures to ensure that new developments do not, alone or in combination, have an adverse effect upon heathland sites from increased air pollution. Because of recent legal judgements elsewhere in the UK and in the Dutch Nitrogen Case the issue has become critical for the Councils to address.
- 5.3 This leaves a policy vacuum for any new planning permissions until such time as the new local plans are adopted. The two Councils need to grant planning permissions and enabling housing growth during this time. To facilitate this, this strategy is intended to front load the implementation of projects to create a buffer through the delivery of measures. The two Councils can then take account of the mitigation provided through the delivery of such measures when completing habitats regulations assessments for new planning permissions.

Projects budget

- 5.4 Phase 2 will have an initial budget of £750,000 over 5 years, or £150,000 per year. This is based upon allocating £50 per dwelling from CIL paid by developers. Due to the need for mitigation to be provided early in Phase 2 and before harm is caused, this budget should be set aside from CIL from the outset (i.e. front loaded before CIL is paid by developers). In line with the proportion of development in each area the budget will be split 75% BCP Council (£562,500) and 25% Dorset Council (£187,500). This budget will include funding a projects coordinator, monitoring work and implementation of projects.
- 5.5 Mitigation will be funded from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or planning obligations. As with other strategies the Councils will ensure that the mitigation measures for designated sites remain the top priority for funding from the CIL.
- 5.6 Where housing proposals do not contribute CIL, there may be a requirement to provide a bespoke contribution towards the strategy through a planning obligation. By doing so the Councils will be able to conclude that the proposed development can satisfy Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- 5.7 There are other uses which do not contribute CIL, such as commercial uses that can generate vehicular trips. However, in practice, calculating the air quality impact of a specific proposal is both onerous for the applicant and uncertain in the longer term due to potential changes in occupancy. Any resulting bespoke mitigation package will inevitably contribute to the same measures as housing growth (i.e. using the same roads and impacting upon the same heathlands). Therefore, for simplicity, in terms of calculating air quality impacts, this strategy assumes that outward or inward commuting is balanced. Therefore, on the basis that people live and work in the area then any growth in commercial or other trip generating uses will be covered by the air quality mitigation necessary to mitigate housing growth. The Councils will use funds from the overall CIL fund to ensure these impacts are mitigated. There may be exceptions where major proposals are clearly going to have measurable impacts and these will be dealt with on a case by case basis with advice from Natural England.

Projects coordinator

- 5.8 To implement the Phase 2 measures (2020-2025) a projects coordinator will be appointed early in the five year period to:
- Prepare and regularly update the Implementation Plan to document the measures;
 - Establish an air quality monitoring programme and implement it early in the five year period;
 - Work with landowners of heathland to identify areas within 200 metres of roads where management change is necessary;
 - Contact owners of land around heathland to identify opportunities to change the management of the land;
 - Coordinate the efforts across Council departments including environment, transport and estates teams;
 - Input evidence into the preparation of the local plans and formalisation of Phase 3 elements of policy approach; and
 - Maintain a register of measures against which development can be released.
- 5.9 The possible types of measures are listed below. This is not an exhaustive list and the two Councils will work positively with local partners to investigate other proposals as they arise.

Category 1 measures:

- Work with the landowners of heathland sites (including Council owned sites) to implement new and additional management practices within 200 metres of roads;
- Actively encourage modal shift by improving public transport, cycling and walking and through positive communications strategy with public awareness campaigns;
- Ensuring that opportunities to facilitate zero emission vehicles e.g. through national government grants are taken;
- Actively incentivise the switch to zero emission vehicles through the delivery of a vehicle scrappage scheme that provides financial grants to households living within a defined distance of the Dorset Heathlands; and
- Require all new houses to install electric vehicle charging points through the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document (2021).

Category 2 measures:

- Decommission Poole's crematorium alongside Canford Heath (Completed April 2020);
 - Install nitrogen oxides abatement equipment at Bournemouth crematorium; and
 - Work with landowners and the farming community to change the management of agricultural land around heathlands to non-agricultural or low nitrate use.
- 5.10 The cost of measures is not yet known, and if the budget identified above is insufficient to mitigate planned growth, the projects coordinator can apply for further CIL funding.

Habitats regulations assessments of planning applications during Phase 2

- 5.11 Applicants seeking planning permission for trip generating uses will need to consider the impacts of air quality arising from the proposed development. Most applicants will be able to conclude through shadow appropriate assessment that the respective development will be contributing towards the Council's strategic approach where the proposal:
- (i) Encourages modal shift;
 - (ii) Facilitates the use of zero emission vehicles, and/or

(iii) Contributes CIL towards mitigation measures.

- 5.12 Subject to exceptional circumstances, where a bespoke approach may be required, it is anticipated that where development proposals satisfy the criteria above, it would be possible for the Council to conclude that air quality impacts from the proposed development will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Dorset Heathlands, either alone or in combination with other developments. Regular monitoring will be essential to ensuring that mitigation measures keep pace with development.
- 5.13 For proposals that don't involve housing, applicants can conclude that the Councils will implement the necessary measures from the overall CIL fund.
- 5.14 The Council after completing the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the proposed development will publish it alongside the determination of the planning application. The two Councils' application of the Habitats Regulations is in accordance with recent case law, e.g. *People over wind*⁹, *Holohan*¹⁰ and *Dutch nitrogen*¹¹, which all reinforce the need for a rigorous approach.

⁹ [People over wind case, Sweetman vs Coillte Teoranta \(ref: C-323/17\)](#)

¹⁰ [Holohan and Others \(C 461/17\)](#)

¹¹ [Dutch nitrogen case, Coöperatie Mobilisation for the Environment and Vereniging Leefmilieu \(C-293/17\)](#)

6. Phase 3 - Local plan approach from 2025 onwards

- 6.1 This strategy will be developed and formalised as policy in the BCP Council Local Plan and the Dorset Council Local Plan to ensure that new development does not have an adverse effect upon heathland. The Local Plans will be subject to a rigorous Habitats Regulations Assessment to ensure the development proposals have no significant adverse effect from new development upon the Dorset Heathlands. The Local Plans could include policies to address:
- The siting of new development by focussing growth in the urban area where there is better access to facilities and services and thereby minimising the need for additional car trips past heathland sites;
 - The siting and design of new agricultural buildings that create pollutants, e.g. stocking sheds, slurry pits, etc.;
 - The change of use of agricultural land near heathland to lower nitrogen inputs;
 - Ensuring that any major development proposals in the countryside near heathland include measures to reduce impacts elsewhere in the wider land ownership;
 - Look to identify multiple use benefits in the siting of Heathland Infrastructure Projects (HIPs), Poole Harbour Infrastructure Projects (PHIPs) and nitrogen offsetting projects on sites adjacent to heathland; and
 - Help implement the outcomes of the government's Nitrogen Futures project.
- 6.2 It is expected that this interim strategy document will be updated to reflect local plan policy and be formalised as a supplementary planning document (SPD). The SPD would set out the detailed strategy to implement local plan policies.
- 6.3 Government policy decisions based upon the Nitrogen Futures Project, modal shift and the move to zero emission cars and vans by 2030 should further contribute to support the local measures provided by the Councils. Since work commenced on this strategy Government commitments have tightened due to the climate change emergency and are likely to further strengthen over the duration of the strategy.

7. Implementation Plan

- 7.1 An Implementation Plan will be published early in the five-year period to 2025. The implementation plan will set out the monitoring strategy and the specific mitigation measures (projects) and timeline in which these measures will be delivered. The Implementation Plan will require regular updating to ensure that mitigation measures are delivered in pace with development.
- 7.2 An important part of the Implementation Plan will be quantifying the effectiveness of the delivered measures. It should be possible to calculate the benefits of the mitigation measures, starting with Phase 1 and looking ahead to Phase 2.
- 7.3 It is crucial that any grant payments towards management work secured by the Councils is over and above any existing funded management that takes place. It will therefore be important to ensure any agreements with landowners take this into account.

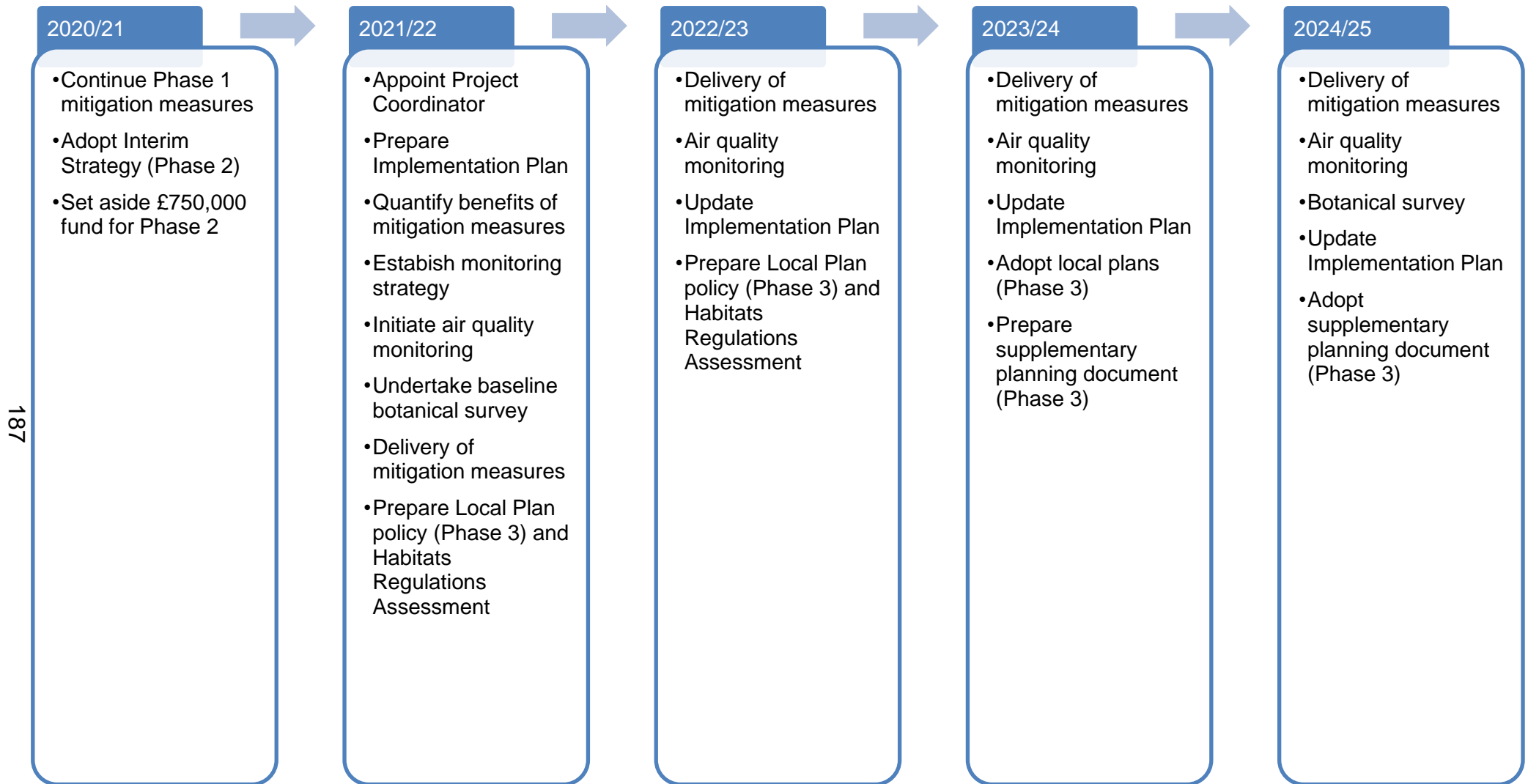
Monitoring Strategy

- 7.4 The monitoring strategy will need to be set up early in Phase 2 to enable the Councils to document the benefits of planned mitigation measures. The monitoring strategy will:
- Collect botanical data on heathland sites; and
 - Collect air quality data (ammonia and nitrogen dioxide) to monitor changes in air quality on heathland sites in relation to traffic levels.
- 7.5 The botanical surveyor would be required to visit all the relevant sites to establish a baseline condition. Survey information will include, where appropriate, lower plants and lichens and identification of specific monitoring trees as well as quadrat locations. The surveyor will identify possible measures to counteract the adverse effects from the available options. The Councils will then be in a position to approach land managers to discuss implementing such measures. When these measures are carried out the surveyor will revisit the site to confirm the actions and monitor the impacts. Based on 5 yearly monitoring cycle, the sites will need to be resurveyed prior to adoption of Phase 3 and twice up to 2030 or 2035. This will provide a minimum of three visits.
- 7.6 Air quality would need to be monitored continuously at various locations where busy roads run alongside the heathland, as well as at control sites away from roads. This will capture trend data on vehicle emissions directly affecting the adjacent heathland sites.

Timeline for Phase 2

- 7.7 Following adoption of this interim strategy the Councils will need to make swift progress with implementation. A timeline for implementation of Phase 2 is set out in Appendix A.

Appendix A: Timeline for Implementation



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CABINET



Report subject	Freeport Bid
Meeting date	13 January 2021
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>In November Government released the 'Freeports Bidding Prospectus' and formally opened the Freeports bidding process. CMB met on 1st December and agreed that BCP Council will co-ordinate, with Rigby Group and Poole Harbour Commissioners, Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (DLEP) and others, a bid to Government for Freeport status.</p> <p>This report provides a background to Freeports; a summary of the Bidding Prospectus and the potential requirements of the Council if successful; and some themes that could be included in the bid.</p> <p>This report also requests approval of £50K investment by the Council, as identified in the December Cabinet Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring 2020-21 and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update Report. This funding will be used to commission specialist resources through the DLEP to develop the bid.</p> <p>Given the timescales involved, it isn't possible to fully detail the contents of the bid at the time of writing this report. However, this report aims to provide sufficient content for Cabinet to approve the recommendations outlined below.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) approves the Council's inclusion in the submission of a bid to Government for part of the BCP area to be given Freeport status; (b) approves the allocation of £50K to support the development of a bid for Freeport status; (c) delegates authority to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning and the Director of Development, in partnership with other relevant organisations, to complete and submit a bid by or on the due date of 5th February 2021; and (d) authorises officers to further develop the full business case for Freeport status, subject to receiving notification of a successful application

Reason for recommendations	Freeports boost the local economy and create new jobs. By approving the Council's inclusion in a bid to Government for Freeport status, it creates an opportunity to bring investment and jobs to the area. This will help to deliver the Council's vision, specifically in relation to its objectives around creating Dynamic Places. If successful it will also help to boost the private sector after BREXIT and as the economy rebounds after COVID 19.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Philip Broadhead – Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning and Deputy Leader of the Council
Corporate Director	Bill Cotton – Corporate Director Regeneration & Economy
Report Authors	Chris Shephard – Director of Development
Wards	Commons; Hamworthy; Poole Town;
Classification	For Decision

Background

Freeports Summary

1. Freeports are designated areas where goods can be imported from outside the UK without paying customs duties. Customs duty becomes payable only when the goods, possibly after processing, enter the domestic market. Other incentives on tax, planning and reduced red tape can also be available in Freeports. Freeports can be air, sea and rail ports.
2. Working with the devolved administrations, the UK government wants to establish at least one Freeport in each of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and at least 10 in total. There are over 70 Freeports in the EU and Freeports existed in the UK before 2012.
3. On 16 November 2020 the government released the 'Freeports Bidding Prospectus' and formally opened the Freeports bidding process. The deadline for applications is 5 February 2021.

Freeports Bidding Prospectus summary

4. Freeports have 3 objectives:

Objective 1: Establish national hubs for global trade and investment across the UK

Freeports should bring new investment into the surrounding region and increase trade through the designated Freeport. Freeports will require joint working with local and international businesses to enhance the impact of increased investment in the wider region, and UK, to level up the economy. They will generate trade growth and enable trade processes to become easier and more efficient.

Objective 2 - Regeneration and levelling up

Freeports should harness ideas and investment from the private sector to deliver jobs, sustainable economic growth and regeneration in the areas which need it most.

Freeports should support emerging industrial clusters, property development (attracting anchor tenants to cluster around), transport (aligning with transport policy), and key regeneration outcomes (jobs and economic growth).

Objective 3 - Creating hotbeds of innovation

Freeports should create 3 types of innovation: Port specific innovation - directly benefits air, rail or maritime ports; Port-related innovation – innovation that indirectly benefits ports; and, Non-port-related innovation – innovation unrelated to the port that can take advantage of port-proximate locations or the Freeport wider offer, e.g. advanced materials, pharmaceuticals, robotics, AI etc

Design of Freeports

5. The proposed Freeport model allows for multiple sites to be designated within the overall Freeport to best reflect existing economic geographies and to maximise collaboration between ports, businesses, wider stakeholders and relevant economic assets. The 'Outer Boundary' of the Freeport must be declared and shown on a map – the limit of this boundary is 45km (unless exceptional circumstances are demonstrated). Bidders must demonstrate the economic rationale for their chosen boundary.
6. Within the boundary Freeports must have at least one port; at least one customs site (can apply for additional subzones); and, ideally a single tax site (if there's an economic case up to 3 tax sites can be proposed). Tax sites need to be shown on the map and cannot exceed 600ha (can be 3 sites up to 200ha each). Bidders need to justify these sites and explain how these sites are 'underdeveloped' – so that existing successful sites are not supported.

Customs

7. The operator of a Freeport customs site is responsible for the control of movement of goods and the access of people in and out of the customs site.

Tax

8. Possible tax benefits comprise:
 - Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) - SDLT relief on land purchases within Freeport tax sites
 - Enhanced Structures and Buildings Allowance (SBA) – tax relief for constructing or renovating structures and buildings
 - Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECA) – tax relief for new plant and machinery assets
 - Employer National Insurance Contributions (NICs) Rate Relief – 0% for new employees for up to 3 years on <£25k earnings
 - Business Rates Relief - 100% relief on certain sites for 5 years. The cost of the relief will be provided by government
 - Local Retention of Business Rates – retention of business rates growth

Local Authorities are required to set out decision making process for how retained rates should be reinvested.

Planning

9. The Government are changing to Permitted Development rights (Part 8 Class B) in ports, which are similar to those in airports. Local Authorities are encouraged to use Local Development Orders (LDOs) in Freeports. Bidders need to demonstrate relevant stakeholder support for their proposals to ensure successful delivery. At a minimum, the government would expect the relevant Local Authority to a. Be part of the bidding coalition b. Have discussed development plans as part of compiling the bid c. Offer statements of support for implementing a Local Development Order (LDO) or similar mechanism.

Regeneration & infrastructure

10. Successful bidders will have opportunity to access a share of £175m seed capital funding. Bidders need to outline proposals for how to spend this seed funding within their Outer Boundary.

Local Authority Borrowing

11. Local Authorities may consider tax increment financing (TIF) and may also consider a Special Purpose Vehicle.

Innovation

12. The government is particularly interested in private sector-led innovation within Freeports, and innovation ambitions that contribute to the decarbonisation agenda or Net Zero. Bidders should set out their proposals to establish Freeports as collaboration hubs (including accelerating growth through R&D) and working with academic institutions.

Wider government funding

13. Bidders need to outline how their proposal could be complemented by successful funding from existing or additional upcoming funding rounds from across government.

Delivery requirements

14. Bidders must consider their contribution to decarbonisation and environmental impact including driving the decarbonisation agenda and minimising environmental impact.

Governance

15. Formal governance is not needed at application stage but informal steering groups/coalitions are expected. Government is open to any degree of formality and legal structure so long as the proposal has clear justification, contains decision making structure which preserves the Local Authority's ability to be meaningfully accountable and meets core standards on effective structure, effective personnel, effective functions.
16. A small amount of short-term revenue funding will be made available to each Freeport, once locations are initially selected, to help with any local governance set-

up costs or coordination in their first year. For example, this could include the forward funding of a Freeport secretariat and coordinator.

Key Dates

- **5 Feb 2021 (noon) – deadline to upload submission**
- March – pass/fail. Those that pass have entire submission marked and official present appointable candidates to ministers
- Spring 2021 – Ministers make decision
- Summer 2021 – Start work on outline business case

A Freeport in the BCP area

Background

17. Initial discussions were held in November with Poole Harbour Commissioners (Port of Poole) and Rigby Group (Bournemouth Airport) regarding a Freeport covering both the port and airport – both declared an appetite for this joint approach. At the time of writing, there is also interest from several major private sector firms based locally to be part of the bid.
18. On 1st December, as part of the approved process for submitting a bid, a report was considered by Corporate Management Board on this item. It was agreed that BCP Council will co-ordinate, with Rigby Group and Poole Harbour Commissioners, Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (DLEP) and others, a bid to Government for Freeport status.
19. Cabinet is asked to approve an investment of £50K, as identified in the December Cabinet report “Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring 2020-21 and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update Report”, which is to be put towards the development of the bid. This will enable the commissioning of technical knowledge and capacity through Cushman and Wakefield, and their partners BDO. This has been enabled through the existing relationship between these companies and DLEP and will bring much needed expertise to achieve a high-quality bid in the time frame. Further seed funding and/or resources will be sought from the partners involved in submitting the bid.
20. Representatives such as: local MPs; Dorset LEP; local Department for International Trade (DiT) team; universities and colleges; local networks and Clusters; port and airport businesses; will also be required to be a part of the bid development and associated governance if successful.
21. It is envisaged by Government that a bidding partnership of private sector and public sector would be ideal. Therefore, a consortium that includes Rigby Group, Poole Harbour Commissioners, the Council and the DLEP has been created to drive the process, develop and submit a bid.
22. At this stage, bids can be in the form of an extended Expression of Interest. As shown in 16, if and when a bid is accepted, only then is an outline business case required. This will be submitted for further assessment by Government before a full business case is submitted. Guidance from Government shows that there is recognition that some bids may be more developed than others. Many of the points brought out in this report cannot and do not require answering as part of this bid, but will be addressed in an Outline Business Case if our bid is successful.

23. It must also be recognised that this will be very competitive process. With Government clearly stating that there will be a Freeport in each of the Devolved Administration areas (3), and on the assumption that England's biggest ports will be in line too (possibly 4), this could leave only a handful up for grabs. It will be important therefore to focus our bid not on scale, but on return on investment or "bang for buck"; on demonstrating what really makes our bid stand out from others; and on providing evidence that Freeport status will help to create jobs and stimulate regeneration.

The BCP Bid

24. At the time of writing, the bid is in its early stages of development. Therefore, many of the elements for consideration still need to be worked through. Many items will not need to be addressed fully at this stage and will be developed further on notification of a successful application.
25. In terms of the area in question, it is envisaged that the Outer Boundary would include the Port of Poole and Bournemouth Airport, in a contiguous zone. Sites within the boundary still need to be specified. Both Rigby Group and Poole Harbour Commissioners are in agreement with this.
26. The key themes that have emerged so far for a local bid include:
- building on the international recognition and technology that is being developed through the Council's Smart Place programme. This will enable the Smart tracking of goods and freight/trucks around and through the zone, helping to improve efficiency, reduce cost and boost business productivity.
 - The purchasing of spectrum for the Freeport area to provide 5G ready waveband, enabling gigabit speed connectivity for businesses, enabling the development of new apps and services.
 - Building on the current successful proposition for Bournemouth Airport as a logistics hub pre-and post EU Transition, due to its capacity and runway length;
 - Responding to Government's recent 10 point plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, specifically in relation to the JetZero and greener maritime aim to "supporting difficult-to-decarbonise industries to become greener through research projects for zero-emission planes and ships".
27. Broadly speaking, a Freeport would support locally strong key sectors of advanced manufacturing and engineering – specifically in relation to aerospace and marine/maritime businesses; associated professional, financial and technical services such as those in export services and logistics planning; technology companies supporting the Smart Place agenda; green technology companies that support the Government's JetZero and Greener Maritime aim.
28. The bid can also build on the work already underway between businesses and education, facilitated by the Council's Economic Development team, to ensure a home-grown talent supply in the industry sectors outlined above. Demonstration of a strong current and future supply of skilled talent, supported by industry will be a critical element of encouraging inward investment and growth.
29. In terms of development and regeneration within the outer boundary, most of the land available for business growth and expansion is on the airport business park, as

unused land is in short supply at the port. However, the port plays a major role in its freight and leisure offering, as well as supporting the wider maritime industry around it. It will be important to determine in the bid to show this strong relationship between the Port, Airport and the Airport Business Park to show how they will work together as a Freeport. It will also be important for these operators to determine what they want from Freeport status and what benefits it will bring. Whilst this report discusses the items for consideration for the Council, the Government guidance makes clear that the private sector must play a leading role in shaping the bid.

30. Consideration also needs to be given to whether improvements in infrastructure are part of the bid such as an improved rail link to the port for example, and needs to be considered in the context of current and future transport projects such as Transforming Cities Fund and DLEP funded infrastructure improvements.
31. There are a number of items to consider from the Council's perspective, as part of the development of the bid.
32. The first of these is Governance. As stated previously in this report, whilst Government does not expect or need to see detailed governance at this stage, it would be helpful to show the simplicity of the local arrangements in our bid, with only three main partners involved including the Council and support from DLEP, MPs and others.
33. The second is around planning. As the bid develops the Council will need to consider its role in supporting the bid through planning, for example, considering whether a Local Development Order is the right approach.
34. The third is around finance. These points are highlighted in the Financial Implications section of this report and will again be considered with colleagues as the bid develops.

Plan of activity

35. Cushman and Wakefield have proposed that they will
 - Meet with the three main stakeholders to gather content on vision, strategy and areas of focus
 - Will create a draft bid before the end of January
 - Finalise and submit the bid for the deadline on 5th February.

These next steps are being actioned.

Options Appraisal

36. To accept the recommendations and invest resources and time into submitting a bid
37. To not accept the recommendations and do not submit a bid.

Summary of financial implications

38. This paper asks Cabinet to approve the allocation of £50K towards the development of the bid, which was identified in the December Cabinet report Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring 2020-21 and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update.
39. Work needs to be done to consider the financial implications to the Council of the immediate bid and over the longer term if the bid is successful.

40. The Council will need to understand the scale of investment and what vehicles it would use to invest should this be something it would like to do. For example, Tax Increment Financing is proposed by Government. BCP Council normally assumes the benefit of future tax revenue from new developments as part of its annual budget setting process – i.e. this income is not ringfenced specifically to repay borrowing on developments. This will need to be considered as part of outline business case, i.e. the next stage if the bid is successful.
41. Other items for consideration in the Outline Business Case, if this bid is successful include:
- Potential increased costs of controlling movement of goods in and out of the port and tracking them as they move through the free port area;
 - Potential impact on local road network of increased HGV traffic – maintenance, safety, congestion, emergency planning
 - Potential impact on increased resource needed for public health checks on goods entering the port
 - Potential for reduced business rates collectable for BCP Council as businesses get 100% relief for 5 years. The guidance says local authorities will be compensated by Government, but further scrutiny of this statement will be required.
 - The Council would need to devote resources to develop a process to invest locally retained rates. This may also reduce the take BCP Council keeps from locally collected business rates.
 - Planning resources will be required to develop a local development order should that be the requirement, and to ensure the governance structure for the Freeport operates effectively.
 - The funding available may be for capital spend only. Consideration will need to be given to whether there will be any revenue grant available to help meet additional Council maintenance / monitoring / inspection costs that may arise
 - The bid should show how it complements other government grant funding (already received and on the horizon). Transforming Cities Fund and DLEP funded highways improvements (including Townside Access and A338 (to airport) and Holes Bay development as well as Heart of Poole, should be highlighted emphasising the strategic fit with existing Council strategies and policies on transport, housing development and regeneration.

Summary of legal implications

42. At this stage, there are no legal implications to submitting a bid. However, if the bid is successful there will be items to consider such as clarity over the Council's role in administering / running the Freeport. All legal implications will be worked through with Legal Services colleagues subject to the bid being successful in reaching the next stage.

Summary of human resources implications

43. Subject to Cabinet approval, the allocation of £50k funding for consultancy support is a helpful contribution, enabling technical expertise and capacity to be brought in to develop the bid. The Senior Economic Development Officer is co-ordinating the

development of the bid and ensuring other Council colleagues are brought in where required and is attending Government run workshops for bidders.

44. As outlined in the financial section above, if the bid is successful, further resources will need to be identified to assist with the development of the Outline Business Case.

Summary of sustainability impact

45. BCP Council's aim of gaining Freeport status would strengthen links between the local authority and port and airport from a sustainability perspective. This would facilitate opportunities to 'explore options to reduce emissions from shipping at the Port of Poole' and 'reduce pollution from aeroplanes and passengers driving cars to and from Bournemouth Airport' which were actions proposed in the draft 2050 Climate Action Plan which will be out for consultation in the near future.
46. According to the Freeports consultation which was undertaken earlier this year, "Investment should consider the sustainability of infrastructure and its contribution to meeting the net-zero target."
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/924644/FINAL - 200923 - OFF SEN - Freeports Con Res - FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/924644/FINAL_-_200923_-_OFF_SEN_-_Freeports_Con_Res_-_FINAL.pdf)
47. One of the emerging themes for the bid is to respond to Government's recent 10-point plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, specifically in relation to the JetZero and greener maritime aim to
"supporting difficult-to-decarbonise industries to become greener through research projects for zero-emission planes and ships".

Summary of public health implications

48. There are no public health implications at this stage. This will need to be addressed as part of an Outline Business Case if the bid is successful.

Summary of equality implications

49. At this stage there are no equality implications as it is a bid to progress to the next stage. This will be considered as part of the Outline Business Case if the bid is successful.

Summary of risk assessment

50. At this stage, the main risk is whether a credible bid can be developed and submitted in the short timeframe.

Background papers

None

Appendices

None

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CABINET



Report subject	St Aldhelm's - Capital Investment to Maintain Capacity
Meeting date	13 January 2020
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>St Aldhelm's Secondary Academy in Poole has a Published Admissions Number (PAN) of 180 pupils, this being the number of pupils that can be admitted into each year group. Until recent years this number was not fully utilised, and the school had unfilled places. However, the school is now filling to capacity. In addition, forecasts show pressure on Secondary School places in BCP over the short to medium term.</p> <p>Following a significant investment in the school infrastructure by the Department for Education (DfE) to support a change of Academy sponsor and to drive improvement, the school buildings are fit for purpose but will not support 180 pupils in all year groups.</p> <p>Delegated Powers were used to agree an investment of £390k in May 2020 that enabled additional capacity to be created to allow 180 pupils to be admitted in September 2020.</p> <p>A further investment of £610k is now required to allow the PAN of 180 to be maintained permanently. This can be funded from existing DfE Basic Needs capital grant. Cabinet were presented with an initial cost range for this of £460k to £610k at the May 2020 meeting; this report further refines this budget and provides up-to-date evidence supporting the Basic Need requirement for these places.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Cabinet approve the allocation of £610k of Basic Need capital grant to support the delivery of five additional classrooms and ancillary spaces at St Aldhelm's Academy to allow the school to continue to admit 180 pupils per year.</p>
Reason for recommendations	To enable the creation of additional capacity to reflect demand for places at the school and to ensure the council can meet its requirement to provide sufficient mainstream secondary places for BCP children and young people.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Nicola Greene, Portfolio Holder for Covid

	Resilience, Schools and Skills
Corporate Director	Elaine Redding - Interim Corporate Director Children's Services
Report Authors	Neil Goddard; Service Director, Quality and Commissioning
Wards	All
Classification	For Update and Decision

Background

1. Ambitions Academy Trust has been successful in supporting St Aldhelm's Academy to achieve an Ofsted "Good" rating which was awarded in 2016. Alongside this, the popularity of the school has increased. Although numbers remain low in the upper school, admission numbers have increased in the last 3 years.
2. As the overall numbers increase the lack of teaching spaces has become evident and is now unsustainable at the current admissions number of 180. An up-to-date Net Capacity Assessment (NCA) of the school shows that the school has available workplaces to accommodate between 723 and 804 full-time pupils, whereas in order to operate a PAN of 180 in all year groups a capacity of 900 is required.
3. The Trust, as the admissions authority for the school, have confirmed that without capital works to expand the school, they will have to pursue a reduction to their admission number for September 2021 to 120 a reduction of 60 places.
4. By September 2021 there is forecast to be pressure on secondary school places across the BCP area. The BCP school place planning strategy response to this is based on the delivery a new Free School, Livingstone Academy, for September 2021, which will provide an additional 5 Forms of Entry (FE). This will create the capacity required within the area and offer parents a choice of provision.
5. However, this is based on all existing schools maintaining their admission numbers. Any reduction, such as that which would be required at St Aldhelm's, would further increase pressure and require the identification of new or expanded provision elsewhere.
6. This pressure on places is forecast to continue for at least 3 years until academic year 2024/25. Beyond this, numbers are forecast to reduce slightly and settle at a level which continues to support the proposed places.

Investment in St Aldhelm's

7. Delegated Powers were used to agree an investment of £390k at St Aldhelm's to allow the admission number of 180 to continue to be offered in September 2020. At this time the potential need for further investment to deliver a permanent increase was identified, dependent on feasibility work with the Trust. Cabinet had been presented with an initial cost range of £460k to £610k at the May 2020 meeting.
8. The feasibility work has now been completed and the work to deliver a permanent maintenance of admission number at the school has been agreed. The value of this work is £610k including an appropriate level of contingency. This can be funded from existing DfE Basic Needs Capital allocation, which is provided to ensure sufficiency of school places.
9. The school occupies a very constrained site and the opportunity for development is limited. In recognition of this, the proposed scheme will provide additional accommodation through the installation of a modular block providing a further 5 classrooms with ancillary spaces as follows:
 - a) 5 classrooms
 - b) Small office
 - c) Toilet block
 - d) Stair well
 - e) Entrance foyer and access
10. The project will need to be completed by September 2021 to ensure places are available for the new year 7. This time pressure is a risk to the project, but this has been factored into the feasibility work that has been undertaken and the overall cost of the scheme.

Summary of financial implications

11. The capital resources required to deliver this project can be released from existing allocations of DfE Basic Needs Grant. The scheme will be delivered in partnership with the Academy Trust using existing project management resources.
12. The revenue implications of providing school places are met through the Dedicated Schools Grant and so will not impact on the Council's revenue budget.
13. Should these places not be provided pupils may need to be redirected to other schools in BCP. The closest schools that are anticipated to have surplus capacity are Oak Academy and Carter Community School, which may result in additional transportation costs to the council for eligible children.

Summary of legal implications

14. Councils have a statutory duty to ensure that there is a school place available for every child. The Children and Families Act 2014 requires councils to keep the provision for children and young people with SEN and disabilities under review (including its sufficiency).
15. Councils have a statutory duty to make transport arrangements for all eligible children including for all children who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school because of their mobility problems or because of associated health and safety issues related to their special educational needs (SEN) or disability.

Summary of human resources implications

16. None

Summary of sustainability impact

17. Through ensuring additional appropriate provision is available to meet needs closer to where children and young people live there will be a reduction in the distances travelled to get to school and an increase in the numbers being educated within their own communities.

Summary of public health implications

18. None

Summary of equality implications

19. The proposed projects will enable appropriate provision is available to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. An assessment of equality impacts will be carried out for each project.

Background papers

20. NA

Appendices

Appendix A - Place Planning Summary

Appendix A

The number of surplus (green) and deficit (orange) Y7 places to the nearest half FE* by planning area

Current forecast - low growth

Secondary planning area	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Central Poole	0 FE	1 FE	-3 FE	-2 FE	-3.5 FE	3 FE	1 FE	1.5 FE	1.5 FE	2.5 FE	3 FE
North West Poole	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE
Bournemouth	8 FE	6.5 FE	7 FE	3 FE	5 FE	4 FE	6 FE	6 FE	6.5 FE	8 FE	12.5 FE
Christchurch	0 FE	0.5 FE	0 FE	-1.5 FE	-1.5 FE	-1.5 FE	0.5 FE	0.5 FE	0.5 FE	2 FE	1.5 FE
Parkfield	0.5 FE	0.5 FE	1 FE	0 FE	0 FE	1.5 FE	2 FE	2 FE	1.5 FE	1.5 FE	1.5 FE
BCP OVERALL	9.5 FE	9.5 FE	6 FE	0.5 FE	1 FE	7.5 FE	10 FE	11.5 FE	10 FE	15 FE	20 FE

High growth scenario

Secondary planning area	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2028/30
BCP OVERALL	9.5 FE	4.5 FE	0.5 FE	-4.5 FE	-4 FE	2.5 FE	4.5 FE	6 FE	4.5 FE	9.5 FE	15 FE

*Note totals for BCP may not match totals for planning zones exactly due to rounding. *1FE (1 form of entry) = 30 places*
These levels of surplus are in addition to the 2% spare capacity required within the system

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CABINET



Report subject	The Determination of Admission Arrangements 2022/23 for Maintained Mainstream Schools
Meeting date	13 January 2020
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	In line with the requirements of the School Admissions Code 2014 and associated legislation, BCP Council is statutorily required to determine its admission arrangements annually. This report requests Cabinet to determine the 2022/23 admission arrangements for its maintained community and voluntary controlled schools. The arrangements remain unchanged from the previous academic year.
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Cabinet approve:</p> <p>(a) the admission arrangements for maintained community and voluntary controlled schools in accordance with Part III, Chapter I, Section 89 of the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act and Section 1 of the School Admissions Code 2014</p> <p>(b) the Coordinated Admissions Scheme for the administration of the 2021/22 year in accordance with Part III, Chapter I, Section 89 of the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act and paragraphs 2.202.22 of the School Admissions Code 2014.</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>BCP Council is legally required to determine admission arrangements for the 2022/23 academic year for all maintained schools for which it is an admission authority and to agree co-ordinated admission arrangements for all admission authorities in the area.</p> <p>Arrangements must be determined by BCP Council by 28 February 2021.</p>

Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Nicola Greene, Covid Resilience, Schools and Skills
Corporate Director	Elaine Redding, Corporate Director, Children's Services
Report Authors	Neil Goddard, Director of Quality and Commissioning
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The Council and schools which are deemed to be an 'admission authority' are required each year to set arrangements explaining how and when they will decide to offer school places.
2. The Council is required to have an admissions policy for its maintained community and voluntary controlled primary schools located in Poole and Christchurch.
3. The Council must also set an administrative scheme setting out for parents and schools how the application and offer process will be co-ordinated.

Admission Arrangements and Published Admission Numbers

4. The admissions arrangements must explain how to apply for a place and, once an application is received, how it will be processed. The policy must contain clear oversubscription criteria should there be more applications for places than there are places available. The number of places available at a normal point of entry for each school – The Published Admission Number - must also be set and included in the policy for parents.
5. The proposed admissions policy is attached at Appendix 1. Minor date alterations have been made. All other areas of the arrangements (catchments, supplementary information form, policies for service families and for requests for applications for a place in a year group different to that determined by date of birth, including delayed admission to reception for summer born children) remain the same.
6. As there are no changes to the proposed arrangements, the Council is not required to publicly consult.
7. Proposed Published Admission Numbers (PAN) for 2022/23 are attached at Appendix 2. They remain the same as the 2021-22 academic year and include the reduction in the PAN at Somerford Primary School to support the BCP programme to develop additional SEND provision. The Office of the School's Adjudicator agreed to the reduction in the PAN at Somerford on 25 August 2020 following the public consultation and recommendation made by Cabinet on 29 July 2020.

Co-ordinated Scheme

8. The Council is required under Paragraphs 2.20-2.22 of the Department for Education's School Admissions Code to set a Co-ordinated Scheme for the processing of school applications for entry to school in September 2022.

9. The scheme recommended and attached at Appendix 3 is a single scheme for the whole of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area. The scheme is in principle the same as that set by the Council for the 2021-22 academic year with minor date alterations.

Summary of financial implications

10. The admissions function is entirely funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Therefore, there are no wider revenue budget implications to the Council. The recommendations set out above are intended to be accommodated within the existing budget allocated from within the DSG for this purpose.

Summary of legal implications

11. Council must determine the co-ordinated scheme, admission arrangements and published admission numbers no later than 28 February 2021.
12. If no action is taken the Council will not meet its statutory duty to have admission arrangements which meet the requirements of the School Admissions Code 2014.

Summary of human resources implications

13. None.

Summary of sustainability impact

14. Admission Arrangements must be set in line with the statutory requirements of the School Admissions Code 2014.

Summary of public health implications

15. None.

Summary of equality implications

16. Admission Arrangements must be in line with the statutory requirements of the School Admissions Code 2014.

Summary of risk assessment

17. If BCP Council do not determine admission arrangements for its community and voluntary controlled schools by 28 February 2021, the council will not have met its statutory duty as defined in the School Admissions Code 2014 and the DfE may impose arrangements upon the Council.

Background papers

[School Admissions Code 2014](#). Published works

[1998 School Standards and Framework Act](#). Published works.

Appendices

Appendix 1 BCP Council Admissions Policy 2022/23

Appendix 2 Published admission numbers 2022/23

Appendix 3 BCP Council Coordinated Scheme for 2022/23

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED INFANT, JUNIOR AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS



ADMISSIONS POLICY 2022/23

The admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled mainstream schools in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council area is the Local Authority. This policy applies to applications for school places starting in September 2022 and should be read in conjunction with the parents' guide available at bpcouncil.gov.uk/schooladmissions from 12 September 2021.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan issued by a local authority naming a school where a child should receive his/her education will be admitted to that school before preferences are considered for admission in September.

Where there are more applications than places available the following criteria will be used, in numerical order, to decide the priority list for the offering of places up to the school's Published Admission Number:

1. "Looked After Children" or "previously Looked After Children" (note 1)
2. Children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted (note 2)
3. Children who BCP Council accepts have an exceptional medical or social need and where there is a need for a place at one specific school (note 3)
4. Children who live in the school's catchment area who have a sibling who is already on the roll of the school and will continue to attend the school at the time of admission (note 4)
5. Children living within the school's catchment area who are attending a recognised feeder school and are on that school's roll at the time of application (note 5)
6. All other children who live in the school's catchment area
7. Children who live outside the school's catchment area who have a sibling who is already on the roll of the school and will continue to attend the school at the time of admission (note 4)
8. Children living outside the school's catchment area who are attending a recognised feeder school and are on that school's roll at the time of application (note 5)
9. Children living outside the school's catchment area and whose parents wish them to attend a CE voluntary controlled school on denominational grounds (note 6)
10. Children of staff where the member of staff has been employed for two or more years at the school applied for at the time the application for admission is made or who have been recruited to a vacancy to meet a demonstrable skills shortage as at the date of application (in year) or relevant closing date under the LA co-ordinated scheme (normal year of entry) and who still intend to be employed at the school at the time of the child's admission (note 7)
11. All other children who live outside the school's catchment area.

If a school is oversubscribed in any of the categories above, children in the oversubscribed category who live closest to the school will be given priority (notes 8 and 9). If the distance measurement is equal for two or more applicants the place will be allocated by the drawing of lots (note 10).

Please ensure you read notes 1 to 10 and the remainder of this policy for further information.

Admission arrangements

Admission will be in accordance with the agreed scheme for co-ordinated admission arrangements 2022/23.

Starting Reception in 2022/23

All children can start in Reception on a full-time basis in September 2022. Parents/carers may discuss with the Headteacher whether or not their child should start on a part-time basis. The final decision will rest with the parent/carer of the child.

Delayed or deferred start

For children born between 1 September and 31 March, parents can delay their child's start date until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age (i.e. by the start of the term following their fifth birthday). For children born between 1 April and 31 August, parents can also delay their child's start date; but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year (i.e. the term that starts after the Easter/Spring holidays) for which the offer was made.

The school place offered cannot be delayed until the following academic year – it must be taken up in the academic year for which it is offered. Parents and carers who do not take up the offer of a place during the Reception year will need to reapply for a school place the following year. Places offered but not taken up by the beginning of the final term (i.e. the term that starts after the Easter/Spring holidays) will be withdrawn.

If parents/carers want to apply for the following year they would normally be expected to apply for a place in Year 1. Parents and carers need to be aware that Year 1 in the school they were originally offered could be full at this stage.

Applications for a place in a year group different to that determined by date of birth, including delayed admission to reception for summer born children

Applications for children to be educated in a year group different to that determined by their date of birth, including delayed admission to reception for summer born children, will be considered on their individual merits by a specialist panel comprising: a Senior Officer from the School Admissions Team, a senior member of the SEND Team where a child has/is believed to have special educational needs and the Headteacher of the school applied for.

Details of what you need to do to apply for a different year group can be found in the policy document "Policy for responding to parental requests for admission to community and voluntary controlled schools to a year group different to that determined by their date of birth, including delayed admission to reception for summer born children" available online at [bcpcouncil/schooladmissions](https://bcpcouncil.schooladmissions) or from the School Admissions Team.

Parents considering this are advised to contact the Local Authority at the earliest possible opportunity (preferably before 30 November 2021) to ensure a decision has been made by the Local Authority before the national closing date for applications to Reception.

Excepted pupils for infant classes (Years R, 1 and 2)

Infant classes must not contain more than 30 pupils with a single school teacher. Additional children may be admitted under limited exceptional circumstances. These children will

remain an 'excepted pupil' for the time they are in an infant class or until the class numbers fall back to the current infant class size limit. The excepted children are:

- Children admitted outside the normal admissions round with Education, Health and Care Plans;
- Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children admitted outside the normal admissions round;
- Children admitted, after initial allocation of places, because of a procedural error made by the admission authority or local authority in the original application process;
- Children admitted after an independent appeals panel upholds an appeal;
- Children who move into the area outside the normal admissions round for whom there is no other available school within reasonable distance;
- Children of UK service personnel admitted outside the normal admissions round;
- Children whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is admitted otherwise than as an excepted pupil;
- Children with Special Educational Needs who are normally taught in a special educational needs unit attached to the school, or registered at a special school, who attend some infant classes within the mainstream school.

In Year Fair Access

All the admission authorities in BCP Council have established an In Year Fair Access Protocol. The purpose of the In Year Fair Access Protocol is to ensure that – outside the normal admissions round – unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. Cases are considered by a Panel comprising Headteachers and/or their representatives. When seeking to place a child, the Panel will consider all schools in a fair, equitable and consistent manner. Decisions of the Panel may mean that individual schools admit children above the Published Admission Number. Admission authorities will not normally be asked to admit a child to an infant class where there are already 30 children in the class.

In Year Admissions – Looked After Children

A Looked After Child (see Notes) may be admitted to a school above the Published Admission number if it is felt by the local authority that a particular school is the most appropriate placement to meet the needs of the individual child. BCP Council has adopted a Protocol for dealing with in year admissions of Looked After Children.

Home Address

The home address where a child lives is considered to be a residential property that is the child's main or only address during term time. Applicants can be asked to provide additional evidence in order to verify addresses and/or other details provided. It is at the discretion of the local authority what evidence is required (evidence may include, but is not limited to, Child Benefit, GP registration, evidence of home ownership/tenancy etc.). The final decision on the home address of a child will be made by BCP Council. If any information supplied by an applicant is judged by the local authority to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading, the Council may refuse to offer a place, or if already offered, may withdraw the offer.

Applications from separated Parents/Carers

Only one application can be considered for each child. Where parents/carers are separated it is essential that agreement is reached by both parties concerning the nominated preferred schools. Where a child spends part of their week with one parent and part with the other, only one address can be used. This must be the address at which the child spends most of their time during term time. Applicants can be asked to provide additional evidence in order to verify addresses and/or other details provided. It is at the discretion of BCP Council what evidence is required (evidence may include, but is not limited to, Child Benefit, GP registration, evidence of home ownership/tenancy etc.). The final decision on the home address of a child will be made by the Council. If any information supplied by an applicant is judged by BCP Council to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading, the Council may refuse to offer a place, or if already offered, may withdraw the offer.

Applications for children of multiple births

If there are insufficient places to accommodate all the children of a multiple birth (i.e. twins, triplets etc) in any year group and one child can be admitted, the other siblings of the multiple birth will be admitted over the school's Published Admission Number. If it is in an infant class (Years R, 1 and 2) the additional children over the PAN will be considered as excepted pupils for the entire time they are in an infant class at the school or until the class numbers fall back to the infant class size limit in accordance with the School Admissions Code.

Waiting Lists

The LA operates a limited waiting list policy. Each added child will require the list to be ranked again in line with the published oversubscription criteria. Priority will not be given to children based on the date their application was received or their name was added to the list. Parents can apply to have their child's name placed on a waiting list for the academic year for which the school place was refused. If parents wish to keep a child on a waiting list beyond this term they will need to write in for an extension. There is no guarantee of a school place by remaining on the waiting list.

Appeals

If the LA is unable to offer a place at a school that has been applied for, the parent has the right to appeal to an independent Appeals Panel. Details will be included in the letter refusing the school place. The decision of the Panel is binding on all parties.

Notes

1. A "Looked After Child" means any child who is in the care of a local authority in accordance with Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989. A child who was "previously a Looked After Child" means a child who after being Looked After became subject to an Adoption Order under the Adoption Act 1976 or under Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, a Residence Order or Child Arrangement Order under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 or Special Guardianship Order under Section 14A of the Children Act 1989. Applicants can be asked to provide additional evidence in order to verify the previously looked after status of a child. It is at the discretion of BCP Council what evidence is required. The final decision will be made by the Council. If any information supplied by an applicant is judged by BCP Council to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading, the Council may refuse to offer a place, or if already offered, may withdraw the offer.
2. A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other

provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. Applicants can be asked to provide additional evidence in order to verify the previously looked after status of a child. It is at the discretion of BCP Council what evidence is required. The final decision will be made by the Council. If any information supplied by an applicant is judged by the BCP Council to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading, the Council may refuse to offer a place, or if already offered, may withdraw the offer.

3. If applying under medical or psychological grounds, written advice from an NHS Consultant (for medical grounds), or an NHS Consultant Psychiatrist (for psychological grounds) that documents the child or young person's medical or psychological needs must be included with the application. Children will only meet this criterion if the school(s) named on the application form is assessed by BCP Council to be the only school(s) that can meet any specific medical or psychological needs identified.
4. "Sibling" means:
 - a full brother or sister who lives with one or both parents or carers in the same property during the school week.
 - a half-brother or half-sister who lives with one or both parents or carers in the same property during the school week.
 - an adoptive brother or sister who lives with one or both parents or carers in the same property during the school week.
 - a foster brother or sister who lives with one or both parents or carers in the same property during the school week.
 - non-blood related children who, together, all live with one or both parents or carers in the same property during the school week.

For Christchurch Infant School and Mudeford Infant School the sibling link will apply to Christchurch Junior School and Mudeford Junior School and vice versa.

5. Children who are on roll at the recognised feeder Infant School and are applying to the recognised receiver Junior School. This applies to Mudeford Infant & Junior Schools and Christchurch Infant & Junior Schools only.
6. In order to qualify for consideration under this category, parents/carers will need to show that at least one adult family member and the child to whom the application relates to have been attending their local church at least once a month for a minimum of a year prior to the closing date for applications. The application must also be supported by a Supplementary Information Form signed by the vicar/priest/minister or leader of the church confirming this.

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these admissions arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or relevant place of worship or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

7. Staff are defined as all Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council employed teaching and support staff at the preferred school. 'Children of staff' refers to situations where the staff member is the natural parent, the legal guardian or a resident step parent. If applicants wish to be considered under this criterion then a letter from the Headteacher confirming the above applies to the applicant must be provided at the time of application.

8. With the exception of Hillbourne Primary School the distance between the child's home and preferred school will be determined by the shortest straight line measurement calculated using the LA's geographical information system in use at the time of allocation (the system at the time of setting the policy is Servelec Synergy, and takes the measurement between the address mapping points of the school and the applicant's home). NB. School transport is based on walking distances.
9. **For Hillbourne Primary School** the distance from home to school is measured using the shortest, safe and practicable walking route using the centre line of roads and footpaths (excluding paths identified for the sole use of bicycles i.e. cycleways). Roads and footpaths measured are normally public. If your property is only accessible via a private road or footpath, this road or footpath may be included in the measurement.

The starting point for the measurement is taken from your home address. This has been geolocated using the geocoded address point obtained from the local authority's Local Land and Property Gazetteer. The total distance measured is a combination of 2 measurements using 3 points:

- i) Geocoded home address point
-to-
- ii) Centre of nearest road/footpath
-to-
- iii) Nearest approved school access point that is for use by pupils

All measurements are obtained from the local authority's Admissions System. The GIS maps used are provided by Ordnance Survey and represent the position as at the beginning of the annual admission cycle i.e. September in the year prior to admission. Any alterations to Ordnance Survey map references, footpaths or roads added after this time will not be taken into consideration. No measurements obtained through other sources (e.g. search engines, mapping systems) will be accepted.

10. For applicants living on islands or residing permanently on a boat within Poole harbour, the distance measurement will be a straight line from the geocoded home address point to either:
- 1. the nearest public landing steps at Poole Quay, or
 - 2. a point on the mainland that the applicant proves to the satisfaction of the local authority that he/she can access

The total distance measured is a combination of 3 measurements using 4 points:

- i) Geocoded home address point
-to-
- ii) Public landing steps or other approved access point on the mainland
-to-
- iii) Centre of nearest road/footpath
-to-
- iv) Nearest approved school access point that is for use by pupils using a straight line or walking route distance dependent upon the school applied for.

If an applicant advises the local authority that the child would or could use the Sandbanks/Studland Chain Ferry in the journey to school, then the distance will be measured on that basis from the geocoded home address point and will include the distance travelled by the ferry.

11. If there are insufficient places to accommodate all applicants and the distance criterion is used, the local authority will use random allocation for applicants living an equal distance from the school (up to three decimal points) or at the same address or in the same block of flats who are eligible for the remaining places. Applicants will have their names drawn as lots to see who should be offered the place(s). The person drawing the names will be an officer within the local authority who has no involvement in the school admissions process.

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED INFANT, JUNIOR AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBERS 2022/23



School Name	Published Admissions Number 2022/23
Burton CE Primary School	60
Christchurch Infant School	120
Hillbourne Primary School	60
Mudeford Community Infant School	60
Mudeford Junior School	66
Somerford Primary School	30

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED INFANT, JUNIOR AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS



COORDINATED ADMISSIONS SCHEME 2022/23

All schools in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole together with the Local Authority have, in accordance with statutory requirements, agreed to coordinate the main entry admission and transfer process for 2022-23. The agreed scheme enables an application to be made on a single application form.

The coordinated scheme applies to the following admission points of entry:

Point of Entry	National Closing Date (Applying on Time)
Entry into Reception at all First, Infant Primary and All-Through schools	15 January 2022
Entry into Year 3 at Junior schools	15 January 2022
Entry into Year 5 at Broadstone Middle School	15 January 2022
Entry into Year 7 at schools with a point of entry at year 7	31 October 2021
Entry into Year 9 at Corfe Hills School and LeAF Studio School	31 October 2021

BCP Council will coordinate with other local authorities to ensure that a child receives only a single offer of a school place. It will seek to offer the highest preference able to be agreed subject to the receipt of information in sufficient time and the other local authorities' schemes providing for this.

Parents/carers should complete an application and name three different schools in the order that they would like their child to attend. Parents/carers must submit their application to their home local authority by the published closing date specified in the table above.

Preferences on faith grounds

Parents/carers expressing a preference on faith grounds must check the relevant school policy to find out how to provide evidence of religious faith and practice. Parents/carers will be required to complete a Supplementary Information Form and submit the Form before the published closing date. Where baptismal evidence is required, parents/carers must check how this is provided to the school. All relevant evidence must be submitted before the published closing date. The Supplementary Information Forms can be downloaded from the BCP website or from the relevant school website.

Changes or applications received after the closing date

Applications or any change of preference received after the national closing date for applications will be considered as a late application unless otherwise specified within the school's admissions policy.

Applications that are considered late will be processed after all on-time applicants have been notified of their result. Late applications received before the published late closing date will be processed in accordance with the timetable (see below).

Any applications received after the published closing date for late applications will be processed as quickly as possible after the timetable (see below) has been completed. Once processed, they will be immediately added to the waiting list(s) if a place is not available.

Living or applying for schools outside BCP Council

Parents/carers who live outside the BCP Council who wish to apply for a school will need to complete their home local authority's application form in accordance with timescales published in that Local Authority's scheme.

BCP Council will send a list of all applicants to all school Admission Authorities within the council's area. It will send applications for schools in other local authorities to the relevant local authority to administer.

Information from other admission authorities

Where a parent/carer lists a school which is its own admission authority, or a school in another local authority as one of their preferences, information is electronically transferred to the relevant school or local authority. The admission authority will then be required to rank in order the applications they received in accordance with their admission arrangements and decide whether they can offer the child a place.

Once the decisions have been made by the relevant admission authority, they are returned to the Local Authority by the deadline specified (see timetable below). The LA then compares the provisional offer lists; if a child's name appears on more than one offer list, the LA will then refer to the preference order on the parent/carer application to see which school the family wants the most. Then, in accordance with the order of preference on the application form, the child's name will be retained on the list of the highest preference school able to offer a place and removed from the lower preference school(s) offer list(s).

Places freed up by this process will then be offered to applicants who are next on a school's ranked order of priority.

When preferences cannot be met

For those applicants who are not able to be offered any of their preferred schools:

- if they are resident in BCP Council, they will be offered a place at the nearest school to their home address which still has places available with agreement from the relevant admissions authority; or
- if they are resident outside of BCP Council, they will be referred to their own local authority to discuss schooling.

Those applicants who apply after the national closing date go through a similar process again, resulting in further offers being made in accordance with the agreed late application timetable.

Outcome of application

BCP Council will advise parents/carers who applied online by uploading the outcome to the online system. Parents/carers will be able to view the outcome of their application online on the relevant national offer date. BCP Council will issue letters to all parents on the national offer dates.

Waiting list

The length of time a child's name is on the waiting list cannot be taken into account when places become available. Places are offered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria in the school's published admissions policy.

Waiting lists for the point of entry must be held until 31 December 2022. Not all schools hold waiting lists after this time. Parents will receive information in their notification letter about how the waiting lists are managed.

All waiting lists held for the academic year 2022/23 will expire on 31 August 2023. Parents/carers must submit a new school application form for 2023/2024 and any subsequent years. Applications can be submitted from 1 June 2023.

Appeals

School Admission Authorities will inform the BCP Council of the outcome of any appeals within 2 working days.

Timetable for On Time Applications 2022/23

	Secondary	Junior/Middle	Reception
Closing date for applications	31/10/21	15/01/22	15/01/22
BCP Council (BCP) to exchange applicant information with other local authorities (LAs) by BCP to exchange applicant information with other school Admission Authorities (AAs) in Council's area, with the exception of any applications received from outside the area, by	19/11/21	04/02/22	04/02/22
BCP sends a list of all applicants from outside the area to other AAs in BCP	26/11/21	18/02/22	18/02/22
AAs to send electronically a list of pupils to BCP in the order to be considered, together with the relevant criteria for each applicant	07/01/22	02/03/22	02/03/22
First exchange of offers between BCP and other LAs for applicants resident in their respective areas by	21/01/22	16/03/22	16/03/22
Deadline for final exchange of offers between LAs for applicants resident in their respective areas	04/02/22	31/03/22	31/03/22
BCP to inform other AAs of final allocation of places by	23/02/22	13/04/22	13/04/22
BCP issues notification letters to all applicants and on-time notifications to be uploaded on	01/03/22	19/04/22	19/04/22
Parents accept/refuse offer by	15/03/22	03/05/22	03/05/22

Timetable for Late Applications 2022/23

	Secondary	Junior	Reception
Closing date for late applications	28/01/22	11/02/22	11/02/22
BCP Council (BCP) to exchange applicant information with other school Admission Authorities (AAs) in BCP	04/02/22	07/03/22	07/03/22
AAs to send electronically a list of pupils in the order to be considered, together with the relevant criteria for each applicant	24/02/22	21/03/22	21/03/22
BCP to inform other AAs of final allocation of places	04/03/22	06/05/22	06/05/22
BCP issues notification letters to all applicants on	11/03/22	11/05/22	11/05/22
Parents accept/refuse offer by	25/03/22	24/05/22	24/05/22

Please note

At the end of the above timetable, the BCP Council will continue to coordinate the allocation on a regular basis until the end of the school year.

IN YEAR ADMISSIONS

With the agreement of the school admission authorities, BCP Council coordinates all applications for school places in the council's area except Highcliffe School. Parents are advised to contact Highcliffe School directly for an application form.

One application form will be available for parents/carers wishing to apply for any school located in BCP Council. The application will invite parents to list up to three schools ranked in the order they would like their child to attend. The parents/carers should then submit the application to the BCP Council.

Parents/carers applying for a church school who request a place on faith grounds must provide a completed Supplementary Information Form. The Supplementary Information Form (SIF) is available from the school or a copy can be downloaded from the BCP website. Details of where to return the SIF are set out in the information on each school's websites regarding their admission arrangements.

For applications for schools in the council's area, BCP Council will send the application details to the relevant school Admission Authority, normally within 3 working days of receipt.

Admission Authorities will inform BCP Council within 7 school days of the outcome of the application. BCP Council will send out an offer or refusal letter (except for Highcliffe School which will send the letter to the parent, copied to the Local Authority). Only in exceptional circumstances will BCP Council agree an extension to the time taken for an application outcome. It will be expected from the relevant admission authority that they will be able to give a clear explanation to the parents/carers as well as the Local Authority why there are further delays. Information regarding schools that do not process applications in a timely manner may be passed on to the Schools Adjudicator and/or relevant Department for Education agencies (e.g. RSC, EFSA). The need to request direction may also be considered.

All Admission Authorities will inform BCP Council of the results of any appeal hearings within 2 working days of the appeal outcome.

Applications to start in September 2022 for places in a year group different to the point of entry

With the exception of applications for Grammar Schools, these applications will not be processed until after 1 June 2022.

Any applications received prior to 1 May 2022 will be too early to be processed and the parent will be asked to submit a new application after 1 June 2022. Applications received between 1 May and 1 June 2022 will be retained by the School Admissions Team and processed after 1 June 2022.

Applicants applying before 1 June 2022 will be informed that their application will not be processed until after this date. This does not constitute a refusal to offer a school place at any of the preferred schools and therefore there will be no right of appeal until such time as the application has been processed.

Grammar School applications will need to be processed early to allow sufficient time for testing and, if appropriate, to allow appeals to be heard before the end of the Summer Term. Therefore applications for grammar school will be processed as and when received.

Looked After Children

A "Looked After Child" means any child who is in the care of a local authority in accordance with Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989. BCP Council has adopted a Protocol for

dealing with In Year applications for Looked After Children. All applications will be processed in accordance with the Protocol.

Waiting lists

New waiting lists are normally created from September each year.

Where waiting lists are held, BCP Council will ensure any places that become available are offered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria within the published admissions policy of the school.

The waiting list for 2022/23 will expire on 31 August 2023. Parents/carers must submit a new application for 2023/2024 and any subsequent years. Applications for the new waiting list can be submitted from 1 June 2023.