

Notice of Cabinet



Date: Wednesday, 27 July 2022 at 10.00 am

Venue: Committee Room, First Floor, BCP Civic Centre Annex, St Stephen's Rd, Bournemouth BH2 6LL

Membership:

Chairman:

Cllr D Mellor

Vice Chairman:

Cllr P Broadhead

Cllr M Anderson

Cllr B Dove

Cllr B Dunlop

Cllr M Greene

Cllr N Greene

Cllr J Kelly

Cllr K Rampton

Cllr M White

Lead Members

Cllr H Allen

Cllr S Baron

Cllr N Brooks

Cllr J J Butt

Cllr L Fear

Cllr T Johnson

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=5012>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Sarah Culwick (01202 817615) on 01202 096660 or email democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 118686 or email 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

19 July 2022



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



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 22 June 2022.

7 - 12

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.bcpCouncil.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 Committees

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

6. End of Year Corporate Performance Report 2021/22

13 - 86

BCP Council's priorities and values, underpinning how we will work to develop and deliver services are set out in the Corporate Strategy, adopted by Full Council in November 2019.

Refreshed vision and ambition statements are set out in the Big Plan, providing a wider context and further drive to deliver the Corporate Strategy.

Delivery plan actions are refreshed annually in line, affording the opportunity to celebrate the progress already made and ensure future planned actions remain relevant and are in line with the council's wider vision and ambitions.

The appended reports show a positive performance story against the actions and the key performance indicators that Cabinet agreed in February 21. Individual exception reports provide explanations and planned actions

to address areas in need of improvement.

The performance updates have been cross referenced to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Levelling up Goals and show a really encouraging position.

A separate paper on Equality and Diversity progress captures our equality journey so far and some of the positive steps taken and being taken to continue to embed equalities and diversity into the culture and activities of the council.

7. Smart Place Strategy (2022)

87 - 146

The Smart Place Strategy aims to generate significant local value by helping to address some of the key challenges across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. Whether making it easier for people to go about their daily lives, improving the prospects of our local businesses or enabling communities to function more effectively Smart Place interventions are set to deliver major social and economic benefits to our area.

The strategy is a key foundation of the Council's Big Plan ambitions and supports government's recently published UK Digital Strategy. In addition, the strategy also helps to deliver a number of priorities within the Council's Corporate Strategy and is strongly aligned to government's Levelling Up agenda.

Whilst Smart Place applications and services are set to transform how areas operate, a major challenge is that at present there is no statutory responsibility nor associated regular funding to support the full development of Smart Places within the UK. The strategy therefore sets out a unique, financially self-sustaining business model which seeks to secure major private investment to deliver the Smart Place Programme across the whole of the BCP area.

8. Accelerating Gigabit Fibre

147 - 184

Gigabit fibre is critical digital infrastructure, providing the connectivity backbone for many vital public, private and voluntary services and helping to power our businesses and local economy as well as supporting our Smart Place Programme. The provision of ubiquitous, high speed, affordable Gigabit connectivity is therefore now a priority for the Council. The Council's Big Plan states:

'We will invest in the physical and digital infrastructure of our coastal city region, to ensure that BCP has the best connectivity in the country.'

As well as many residents not having access to affordable broadband, leading to a 'digital divide', poor connectivity also has a significant impact upon local economic productivity, costing an estimated £150m per annum. Therefore, there is an urgent need for the Council to accelerate the deployment of affordable Gigabit fibre to almost every home and business across the whole BCP area.

Following a recent open 'Request for Information' (RFI) exercise and the responses received from the telecommunications industry, it has been concluded that procuring a 'Neutral Host Operator' (NHO), to work together with the Council, represents the best prospect of delivering the digital connectivity that the area needs.

9. Housing Subsidiary Companies Business Update	185 - 198
<p>This report provides a review of the following four companies - Seascope Group Limited, Seascope South Limited (SSL), Seascope Homes and Property Limited (SHP) and Bournemouth Building Maintenance Limited (BBML).</p> <p>The report sets out the growth plans and ambition for each company, an operational update from the last year and the 2022/23 annual plan for each.</p> <p>The Seascope Group, including its two subsidiaries SSL and SHP, has scope for further growth in activity and sizeable income generation opportunities. This income can be returned to the Council as the sole shareholder to support the funding for services to vulnerable people.</p>	
10. Harmonising Community Infrastructure Levy	199 - 214
<p>The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a levy that local authorities can charge on development in their area. CIL income can be used to contribute towards the funding of infrastructure needed to support new development.</p> <p>BCP Council currently operates three legacy approaches in the implementation of the levy. This report and accompanying appendices are looking to harmonise these legacy approaches to deliver a single policy approach to be implemented across the charging authority area. These policy changes will be implemented as part of the Planning Harmonisation and Improvement Project.</p> <p>Internal auditors have reviewed the current CIL processes and identified a series of actions. The response to these actions is set out in the report, with many actions already implemented or in the process of being implemented through the Planning Harmonisation and Improvement Project. Cabinet is asked to note the progress against these actions.</p> <p>Officers will prepare a CIL guidance note for applicants, to reflect the recommendations below. This will ensure that the current three ways of working are harmonised into a single BCP Council approach. Cabinet is also asked to note that requests from the NHS to fund infrastructure projects will be kept under review, given the current demand on CIL funding.</p>	
11. BCP Local Plan update and way forward	215 - 402
<p>This report provides an update on the progress of preparing the local plan for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) area, and sets out the next steps in the local plan process.</p> <p>The report seeks approval of a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) which is the formal mechanism for setting out the timetable to produce the BCP Local Plan and other development plan documents. The LDS provides clarity on when the statutory stages in plan making will be undertaken.</p> <p>The Council completed an initial Local Plan Issues and Options consultation between January and March 2022. The consultation sought to</p>	

provide an early steer on some of the issues and options for the BCP Local Plan to address. The consultation was one of the biggest consultations undertaken by BCP Council and response rates exceeded any previous local plan consultation undertaken in the BCP area. The findings from the consultation are summarised in this report.

We are planning further engagement with all our communities and stakeholders to form a 'preferred option' for the next Local Plan, which will set out how we believe we can best accommodate the sustainable growth needs of the conurbation up to 2038. This will be developed over the next six months and is set out in the revised LDS.

Moving forward we have also taken advice on the governance arrangements to support the next phase of the local plan process. As such, this report seeks approval for updated governance arrangements including the provision of a cross party Local Plan Advisory Group and Local Plan Delivery Board.

12. Biodiversity Net Gain Task Force Recommendations

403 - 422

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is an approach to development and / or land management that aims to leave biodiversity in a measurably better state than before. BNG in the development process is now a statutory requirement following Environment Act coming into force in November 2021. The Act proposes to require all development to deliver a mandatory 10% BNG to be maintained for at least 30 years. However, the Government are continuing to consult on the practical and legal details of the BNG requirements as part of secondary legislation.

Cabinet considered a report in December 2021 outlining initial actions to implement BNG on a wider scale in the BCP Council area. This report updates the previous report and makes further recommendations.

The BNG Guidance Note is an interim position pending the national introduction of BNG. If Cabinet and Council supports its adoption it will be used to ensure that all new relevant development contributes to BNG in advance of the Act taking effect as encouraged by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and current planning policies across the three legacy areas.

A review of the Council's estate to understand the existing and potential biodiversity will allow the Council to undertake BNG projects that could be part funded by developers.

The preparation of a BNG strategy and implementation plan would enable the Council to plan for BNG across the Council estate and wider area in a joined coherent manner.

These proposals will play an important part in the work in progress of developing an effective BNG strategy in the BCP area. £90,000 has been identified for this project for 2022/23. To implement these proposals will require the appointment of a temporary ecologist for 18 months and so Cabinet is asked to extend the funding into 2023/24.

13.	Youth Justice Service - Annual Youth Justice Plan	423 - 466
	<p>To present the Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23. There is a statutory requirement to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which must provide specified information about the local provision of youth justice services. This report summarises the Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23, with a copy of the Plan appended. The Youth Justice Plan needs to be approved by the full Council.</p>	
14.	Urgent Decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution	Verbal Report
	<p>The Chief Executive to report on any decisions taken under urgency provisions in accordance with the Constitution.</p>	
15.	Cabinet Forward Plan	To Follow
	<p>To consider the latest version of the Cabinet Forward Plan for approval.</p>	

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.

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BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
CABINET

Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 June 2022 at 10.00 am

Present:-

Cllr D Mellor – Chairman

Cllr P Broadhead – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr M Anderson, Cllr B Dove, Cllr B Dunlop, Cllr J Kelly,
Cllr K Rampton and Cllr M White

Lead Member: Cllr T Johnson

Present virtually: Cllr N Greene (For minute No. 18 only)
Lead Members: Cllr H Allen, Cllr N Brooks

Also in attendance virtually: Cllr L Williams (Chairman of the Community and Culture Overview
and Scrutiny Committee)

Apologies: Cllr M Greene, Cllr N Greene
Lead Members: Cllr S Baron and Cllr L Fear

11. Declarations of Interests

The Leader Councillor D Mellor advised that in relation to Minute No. 17 (BCP FuturePlaces Ltd – Revised business plan and funding mechanism) that he was a board director with FuturePlaces, and so declared an interest. In relation to this however the Leader advised that he had been provided with a dispensation from the Chief Executive to be able to participate in the discussion and voting thereon.

The Deputy Leader Councillor P Broadhead advised that in relation to this item he was also an unpaid director on FuturePlaces on behalf of the council and declared an interest and advised that he had also been provided with a dispensation from the Chief Executive to be able to participate in the discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor B Dove declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 18 (Home to School Transport) and refrained from voting on this item.

12. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2022 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

13. Public Issues

The Leader advised that there had been no questions, statements or petitions received from members of the public on this occasion.

14. Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

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

15. 2021/22 Outturn Report

The Leader of the Council 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 advised that the report provided details of the final financial outturn for the revenue account, capital programme, reserves, and the housing revenue account (HRA) for the financial year 2021/22.

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that the general fund revenue outturn is a surplus of £6.8 million for the year, of which £3.3 million has already been allowed for in the budget for 2022/23, and that it is proposed that the balance of £3.5 million is transferred to the financial resilience reserve to mitigate the emerging in-year cost of living inflationary pressures.

Cabinet was advised that the position compared with quarter three reflects faster income recovery after Covid and higher expenditure savings, with some efficiencies now recognised from the transformation programme, and that this improvement has meant that resources previously earmarked to support net overspending across services can instead be carried forward to support the cost-of-living crisis and medium-term financial plan (MTFP).

Cabinet was further informed that the statutory requirements are that the council undertakes prudent financial planning as evidenced by delivery of a highly positive outturn.

The Chairman of the Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee addressed the Cabinet advising that at their recent meeting the Committee had extensively discussed the report but had proposed no formal recommendations.

RECOMMENDED that Council: -

- (a) approve that the final revenue surplus for the year of £6.8 million is added to financial resilience reserve with the extra £3.5m not assumed in the 2022/23 budget being used to mitigate the emerging inflationary cost of living pressures; and**
- (b) approve the capital virement as set out in paragraph 97.**

RESOLVED that Cabinet: -

- (c) approves the capital virements to accept new government grants as set out in paragraph 96.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

16. Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update

The Leader 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 advised that the report presented the latest medium-term financial plan (MTFP) of the council to reflect government announcements since the February 2022 budget report and updated assumptions.

Further to this Cabinet was informed that the report proposed a financial strategy to support the delivery of a legally balanced budget for 2023/24 and a budget planning process and timeline for key financial reports.

In addition, the report recognised the positive outturn from the 21/22 financial year end, the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, and the improvement in some of the key risk areas as identified in the setting of the 22/23 budget.

The Chairman of the Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee addressed the Cabinet advising that at their recent meeting the Committee had had a long discussion on borrowing but had made no formal recommendations.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve the second homes premium and revisions to empty homes premium subject to their confirmation via the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.

RESOLVED that Cabinet: -

- (a) endorsed the updated MTFP position as set out in paragraph 15;**
- (b) approved the financial strategy as referenced in paragraph 21;**
- (c) acknowledged the cost of living and other operating pressures likely to impact in 2022/23 and future years;**
- (d) acknowledged the potential mitigation strategy in respect of cost of living and 2022/23 financial pressures; and**
- (e) approved the timeline for key financial reports during 2022/23 as set out in appendix A.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

17. BCP FuturePlaces Ltd - Revised business plan and funding mechanism

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 'C' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that in May 2021 the Council approved the formation of BCP FuturePlaces Ltd, ("FuturePlaces") a wholly owned Urban Regeneration Company (URC), and that the fundamental purpose and principles of FuturePlaces is to drive "Place Making", regeneration and property market transformation both across key sites owned by the Council

and the wider area to support the aspirations set out in the Council's Big Plan.

Further to this Cabinet was informed that this report sought approval for funding changes to the business model due to a revised approach as proposed in the Councils 2022/23 Budget as to how the company will be funded, and that it also sought approval for the revised company business plan as Council approval as sole shareholder as such a change is a reserved matter under the Shareholders' Agreement.

In addition Cabinet was advised that the report also sought approval to streamline the Gateway Approval process outlined in the Commissioning Plan, and that the changes seek to remove duplication and ensure that each new stage builds on, and complements, its predecessor. Further to this Cabinet was informed that there will not be a reduction in the work required to investigate options for delivery of each project and it is still based on HM Treasury Green Book guidance.

RECOMMENDED that Council: -

- (a) approve an increase in the working capital loan facility to £8m (from £400k) to support BCP FuturePlaces Ltd from July 2022; and**
- (b) approve the revised BCP FuturePlaces Ltd Business Plan attached to the report and the confidential Appendix 1.**

RESOLVED that Cabinet: -

- (c) delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer (s151) to agree and finalise the terms of the working capital loan; and**
- (d) delegate authority to the Chief Executive to amend and finalise the Commissioning Contract to reflect the new gateway process and business plan.**

Vote: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning

The Leader Councillor D Mellor and the Deputy Leader Councillor P Broadhead were provided with dispensations with regards to this item and were therefore able to participate in the discussion and voting thereon.

18. Home to School Transport

The Portfolio Holder for Council Priorities and Delivery 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 BCP Council is legally required to have a single home to school transport policy, and that a BCP Council Policy has been drafted to replace the three existing policies.

Cabinet was advised that the draft policy has been developed to ensure consistency across the conurbation, and that it will provide a single point of reference for families and officers regarding eligibility and how it is assessed.

Further to this Cabinet was advised that permission to determine the policy is being sought from cabinet following a public consultation held January-February 2022, and that the consultation was held in accordance with the requirements of the Department for Education's statutory guidance. Key stakeholders were targeted during the consultation period.

RESOLVED that Cabinet: -

- (a) agrees to determine the Home to School Transport policy; and**
- (b) delegates authority to the Director of Education, Children's Services to implement the policy for eligibility requests from 2022/23 academic year.**

Voting: Nem.Con (one abstention)

Portfolio Holder: Council Priorities and Delivery

Councillor B Dove declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item and refrained from voting.

19. Cemetery Regulations and Cemetery Fees Harmonisation for BCP Council Cemeteries

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place 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 BCP Council are the Burial Authority responsible for the proper management, regulation, and control of all its owned and managed 9 cemeteries across the 3 towns as governed by The Local Authority Cemetery Order (LACO)197.

Cabinet was informed that following the formation of BCP Council under Local Government Reorganisation in April 2019, all 9 cemeteries remain governed by 3 separate legacy Rules and Regulations adopted by the then councils of Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole, and that each set of these Rules and Regulations have variances in how the cemeteries are managed.

Cabinet was further informed that the legacy Rules and Regulations are now out of date with best practice and industry regulation having changed since their adoption by the legacy councils, and that harmonisation of the Rules and Regulations will lead to a more efficient and effective operation of all cemeteries that are compliant with industry standard best practice and conform to statutory guidance provided in the LACO.

RECOMMENDED that Council: -

- (a) adopts the harmonised and updated Cemetery Rules and Regulations for all nine cemeteries to be adopted from 01 September 2022; and**
- (b) adopts the harmonised cemetery fees for all nine cemeteries to be adopted from 01 September 2022.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Environment and Place

20. Urgent Decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution

Cabinet was advised that there were no urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution to report on this occasion.

21. Cabinet Forward Plan

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

Portfolio Holders raised the following items which are due to be added to the Forward Plan in due course: -

- Transformation Funding – Childrens
- Green infrastructure
- Community Safety Partnership - 28 September meeting
- WISE – November 17 meeting
- CCTV Strategy – November 17 meeting
- Poole regeneration – central poole and the bus station improvements – to come to Cabinet later on this year
- Development priorities including the study on the avenue road area of Bournemouth – development brief should be coming to the October meeting

The question was raised as to why the play areas item had been moved back from July to October and in relation to this the Leader advised that a positive meeting had been held with the Mayor of Christchurch at which a number of points had been discussed, and that he was following up this matter and that he would update the Lead Member with a formal response outside of the meeting but assured that he was formally engaged in trying to move all of this forwards.

The meeting ended at 11.00 am

CHAIRMAN

CABINET



Report subject	End of Year Corporate Performance Report 2021/22
Meeting date	22 July 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>BCP Council's priorities and values, underpinning how we will work to develop and deliver services are set out in the Corporate Strategy, adopted by Full Council in November 2019.</p> <p>Refreshed vision and ambition statements are set out in the Big Plan, providing a wider context and further drive to deliver the Corporate Strategy.</p> <p>Delivery plan actions are refreshed annually in line, affording the opportunity to celebrate the progress already made and ensure future planned actions remain relevant and are in line with the council's wider vision and ambitions.</p> <p>The appended reports show a positive performance story against the actions and the key performance indicators that Cabinet agreed in February 21. Individual exception reports provide explanations and planned actions to address areas in need of improvement.</p> <p>The performance updates have been cross referenced to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Levelling up Goals and show a really encouraging position.</p> <p>A separate paper on Equality and Diversity progress captures our equality journey so far and some of the positive steps taken and being taken to continue to embed equalities and diversity into the culture and activities of the council.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Consider the Corporate End of Year Performance reports (b) Consider the performance exception reports relating to areas of underperformance (c) Advise of any amendments, deletions or additions to the performance indicator set that informs corporate performance
Reason for recommendations	<p>The corporate strategy represents the objectives and outcomes that the Council's performance will be judged against and as such is a vital component of the Council's performance management framework.</p> <p>An understanding of performance against targets, goals and objectives helps us understand and manage service delivery and identify emerging business risks.</p>

Portfolio Holder(s):	Leader of the Council
Corporate Director	Chief Executive
Report Authors	Bridget Webber, Head of Policy and Research
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For information

Background

1. Council adopted the Corporate Strategy and corporate priorities in November 2019.
2. Cabinet adopted the draft new aspirational vision for the wider Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole city region, The Big Plan, and approved the revised delivery plans in February 2021.
3. The Big Plan and the Council's Corporate Strategy & delivery plans are the beginning of a golden thread that links service, team and personal performance to the things that matter most to the organisation. Together they are the key components that make up the council's approach to performance management.
4. This end of year Corporate Performance Report presents a picture of performance against the priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Strategy.
5. It includes a separate Equalities Progress report on progress with the Equalities Footprint, adopted by Cabinet in July 2021, progress against the Equality Framework for Local Government and an update against the six domains of the Equality and Human Rights performance framework.
6. Our Corporate Strategy shapes the way we deliver and improve our services in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) area and how we are [transforming the council](#) into a modern, accessible and accountable council.
7. There are five priorities in the Corporate Strategy supported by a delivery plan which sets out the actions for the year ahead:
 - Sustainable Environment
 - Dynamic Places
 - Connected Communities
 - Brighter Futures
 - Fulfilled Lives
8. Progress across all priorities is really positive and this has been a contributing factor in the annual refresh of the delivery plans – helping to highlight areas for continued action and areas needing new actions.
9. This performance report sets out progress made against the delivery plans agreed by Cabinet in [February 2021](#), during the last year.



10. Performance scorecards have been created for each priority, one showing progress with the 171 actions in the delivery plans and one showing performance against the 75 key performance indicators.
11. Of the 75 performance measures used to monitor progress across all the priorities there are eight exception reports. These provide some context and explanations for red RAG rated performance and the steps being taken to improve it, under the relevant priority areas.
12. The exception reports provide detail, where relevant, on the financial, legal, human resource, sustainability, public health and equality implications of performance in need of improvement.
13. The Corporate Strategy and its supporting performance management framework includes both the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Levelling up Goals.
14. The SDGs are a universal blueprint for all countries to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all.
15. The Levelling Up Goals take their inspiration from the SDGs, but are focused on the UK, providing a framework for organisations to articulate their purpose and the social impact they are seeking to achieve.
16. All the goals are embedded throughout the delivery plans that make up the Corporate Strategy. SDG and Levelling up scorecards have been developed using the progress reported against relevant actions in the delivery plans. These are included in the End of Year Performance Report - Appendix 1 to this paper.
17. The Council wants to ensure fairness to everyone through the planning and delivery of services which is demonstrated by the equality and diversity commitments expressed throughout the Corporate Strategy and other council strategies and plans. The Equality Footprint, adopted by Cabinet in July 2021, reinforces these commitments.
18. Progress with implementing the Equality Footprint is reported in the Equality and Diversity Progress Report for 2021/22 which is appendix 2 to this paper.
19. The report also provides an update on:
 - progress against the four elements of the Equality Framework for Local Government and
 - performance against the six domains of the Equality and Human Rights commission

20. In November 2021 the Council took part in a Local Government Association (LGA) led Corporate Peer Challenge. Cabinet received a separate report prepared by the LGA in April 2022.
21. This recognised that the council had achieved much in just two and a half years and set out some key recommendations which Cabinet have addressed through a Peer Challenge action plan.
22. Amongst the key recommendations was one to embed equality and diversity into the culture of the organisation. The Equality and Diversity Progress Report provides some assurance that good progress is being made in this area.

Summary of financial implications

23. Performance exception reports have identified financial implications but apart from the impact of finding alternative provision for children permanently excluded, if they cannot be placed in a mainstream school, they are being managed within existing resources.

24. Summary of legal implications

Performance exception reports provide a summary of any legal implications.
None have been identified.

25. Summary of human resource implications

Some performance exception reports note staff capacity and ability to recruit as a contributing factor to reduced performance.

24. Summary of sustainability impact

Performance exception reports provide a summary of any sustainability implications where relevant.

25. Summary of public health implications

Performance exception reports provide an individual assessment of public health implications.

26. Summary of equality implications

Performance exception reports provide an individual assessment of equality impacts and some have noted an impact on protected groups. The Equality & Diversity Progress report presents a fuller picture of performance and issues.

27. Summary of risk assessment

Performance exception reports provide a summary of any risks identified and the mitigating actions.

Background papers

[Our Big Plan](#)

[Corporate Strategy](#)

[LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report](#) and [Action Plan](#)

[BCP Council Performance Management Framework](#)

Appendices

- 1 End of Year Performance Report 2021/22
- 2 Equality & Diversity Progress Report 2021/22



End of Year Performance Report

2021-2022

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Introduction

This end of year Corporate Performance Report presents a picture of performance against the priorities in the Council's Corporate Strategy.

Our Corporate Strategy shapes the way we deliver and improve our services in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) area and how we are [transforming the council](#) into a modern, accessible and accountable council.

There are five priorities in the Corporate Strategy:

- Sustainable Environment
- Dynamic Places
- Connected Communities
- Brighter Futures
- Fulfilled Lives

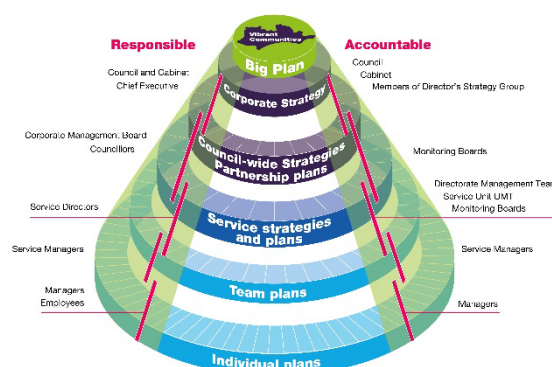
Each priority is underpinned by a delivery plan which sets out the actions for that year. Delivery plan actions are reviewed annually and this performance report sets out progress made against the those agreed by Cabinet in [February 2021](#).

There are scorecards for each priority, one showing progress with actions and one showing performance against key performance indicators.

There are more detailed exception reports to explain the cause of red RAG rated performance measures and the steps being taken to improve performance.

In addition to the priority updates, there are two sections considering progress using the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and Levelling Up Goals which are recognised elements of the Council's Performance Management Framework and the Corporate Strategy. These sections show the goals in order of the number of contributing actions from the delivery plans and demonstrates the council's commitment to three shared goals: increasing equality and diversity, good health and wellbeing and climate action.

A new set of delivery plan actions have been agreed for 2022/23 and these will form the basis of our reporting for the year ahead.



Head of Policy & Research

Bridget Webber

Sustainable Environment

Corporate Strategy Delivery Plan Actions



Key:

Completed

On target

Monitor

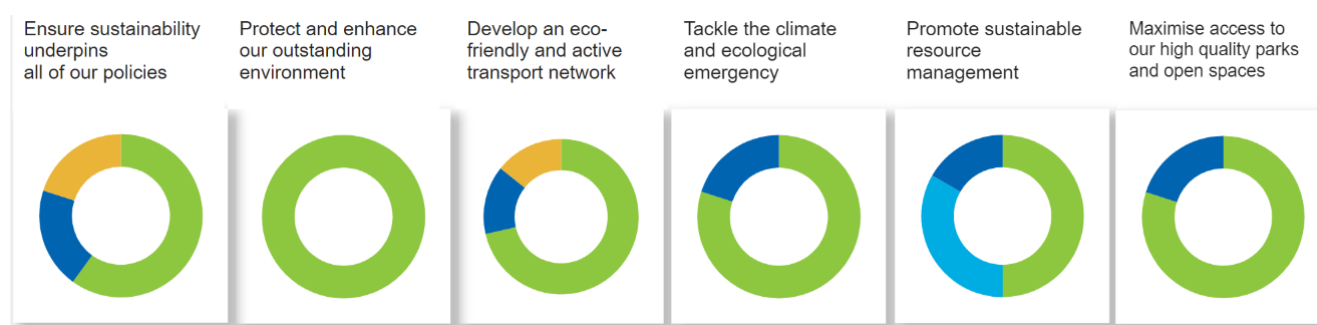
Not started

Overall performance towards achieving the actions set out under Sustainable Environment is very good. None of the actions are showing as a concern and the majority are on target.

The two actions which have not been started are both dependent on central government decisions. Firstly, the development of our environment strategy is impacted by the publication of the

Environment Bill and secondly, the outcomes of the forthcoming Resources and Waste Strategy will inform our waste strategy.

Broken down by objectives overall performance looks like this:



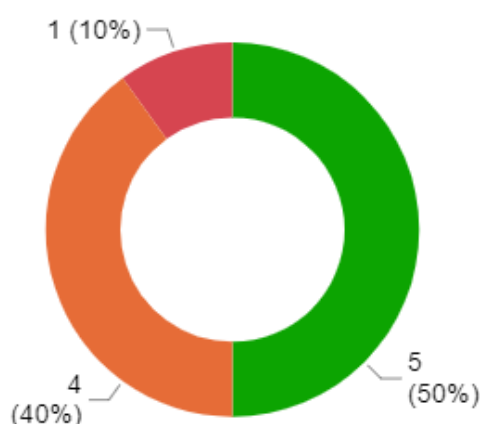
Two areas have an action that requires monitoring. This first is within **develop an eco-friendly and active transport network** and relates to the development of a sustainable fleet replacement strategy and an annual percentage increase for numbers of council operated Ultra Low Emission Vehicles by December 2021. This strategy has been developed and approved. Procurement is underway however current marketplace manufacturing lead in times and, in some instances, complete pause to any new orders is impacting the services ability to rapidly increase the % of EV vehicles. The second is within **Ensure sustainability underpins all of our policies** and relates to the preparation of our local plan. This is now due to be agreed in 2023.

Five actions have been completed contributing to five out of the six objectives. These include:

- embedding the Climate Change Decision Impact Assessment (DIA) tool in all decision-making processes
- the development of local cycling and walking infrastructure plan
- the submission of emissions data to global climate reporting organisations
- the letting of a contract for the treatment and disposal of the Bournemouth and Christchurch residual waste
- the electronic mapping of all of our grassland and wildflower sites which is available via BCP Council website

All other actions are on target.

Performance Measures for Sustainable Environment



10 measures feed into the dashboard for sustainable environment. Only one is red which relates to **Percentage of total household waste recycled, re-used or composted**. This figure has dropped below the nationally set target of 50% due to a technical change in how wood from Household Recycling Centres is now reported as non-recycled even though it is sent for the production of biogas. This has affected several local authorities as most wood in the UK is now used for biogas. A full exception report can be viewed on the next page.

50% of the measures are on target. Two of these also relate to our performance on waste. For both

Household waste per head of population (kg) and **Percentage of household waste diverted from landfill** we met our targets during 2021/22. Performance is also improving on the **Number of households receiving energy efficiency advice and guidance** which is recovering following the end of lockdown.

We maintained our **Blue Flags** and Bournemouth beach was ranked among the best 25 beaches in the world and rated as having the fifth best beach in Europe. With these latest accolades Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole continue to boast a combined total of 9 Blue Flags and 14 Seaside Awards. The area's Blue Flag beaches are Alum Chine, Branksome Chine, Canford Cliffs, Durley Chine, Fisherman's Walk, Sandbanks, Shore Road, Southbourne and Manor Steps. On top of this, all nine Blue Flag locations have the added honour of receiving Seaside Awards, as well as the beaches at Bournemouth, Boscombe, Friars Cliff, Avon and Highcliffe.

Measure	Latest Outturn	Target	Outturn over time	
Beaches: Number of Blue Flags awarded	9.00	9.00		Action Required
Environment: Standard of street cleanliness achieved in line with Environmental Protection Act 1990	0.56	1.00		Monitoring Required
Fleet: Number of BCP Council vehicles replaced with cleaner and greener vehicles	52.00	80.00		On Target
Sustainability: Number of households receiving energy efficiency advice and guidance	724.00	560.00		
Sustainability: Scope 1 and 2 CO2 emissions for BCP Council	8268.00	9,858.00		
Transport: Use of public transport	17030000.00	18,000,000.00		
Waste: Household waste per head of population (kg)	434.10	442.40		
Waste: Percentage of household waste diverted from landfill	85.80	85.20		
Waste: Percentage of total household waste recycled, re-used or composted	47.30	50.00		
Waste: Residual household waste per household (kg)	486.40	457.20		

Sustainable Environment Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description: Waste: Percentage of total household waste recycled, re-used or composted

2021/22 Q4 outturn: 47.4%

Quarterly Target: 50%

Reason for level of performance: The UK government (not individual councils) had a 50% target which came from European legislation, and BCP would normally have achieved 51.3% using the last few years methodology. However, the Environment Agency have advised that all separate wood being taken to a Biomass facility can no longer be classed as recycling (but does not affect our landfill diversion rate which is 86.66%). This change reduced our recycling rate from 51.3% to the newly reported 47.4%.

BCP remains a high achieving Council (in top third overall). The urban nature of this authority hampers our numbers when compared against some councils in rural areas which have a far higher composting rate due to larger gardens, fewer flats as examples.

As a comparison of 94 Unitary Authorities in England:

Dry Recycling rate:	Composting rate:	Overall Rate:
Highest 34.97% (North Somerset)	Highest 33.4% (Cheshire West)	Highest 60.1% (East Riding)
BCP 27.33% (18th highest of 94)	BCP 19.68% (35th highest of 94)	BCP 47.4% (27th highest of 94)
Average 23.22%	Average 16.96%	Average 40.6%
Lowest 14.72% (Coventry)	Lowest 0.62% (Westminster)	Lowest 19.7% (Tower Hamlets)

Summary of financial implications: None – waste is still going to the same treatment as previous years.

Summary of legal implications: England has a 50% recycling target rather than individual Councils. BCP Council at 47.4% is still well above the national average as a high performing Council.

Summary of human resources implications: None

Summary of sustainability impact: There has been no change to how we treat waste, only a technical change to statistical recording. BCP Council awaits the outcomes of the governments forthcoming Resources and Waste Strategy when new services are potentially introduced to drive increased performance.

Summary of public health implications: None

Summary of equality implications: None

Actions taken or planned to improve performance: During 2022/23 a full audit of how different waste streams are recorded and applied to our statistical returns will be undertaken. Following confirmation of the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy, work will commence on a BCP Waste Strategy and associated planning for service delivery changes that should increase the amount of waste sent for recycling & composting.

Completed by: David Rickards/ James Doughty

Service Unit Head approval with date: Ian Poultney 06/07/2022

Dynamic Places

Corporate Strategy Delivery Plan Actions



Key:

Completed

On target

Monitor

Stopped

Overall performance is good. Over half of the actions have been completed or are on target.

One action has been stopped and this relates to the implementation of a series of strategic car parking adjustments. Delivering the remainder of the strategic car parking strategy has been delayed due to travel impacts because of Covid.

Broken down by objectives overall performance looks like this:



The three actions which make up **Increase productivity through skills development** all require monitoring. This is mainly due to the delay in the development of a skills strategy, which impacts two of the three actions. This is now under way and due for approval during 2022.

The monitoring required in **Support our businesses to operate more creatively** relates to work being progressed with the universities and businesses to create paid placements, internships and using research to create new products and services.

Revitalise and reinvent our high streets and local centres is on target with the only exception being the creation of a Destination Strategy which has been delayed due to the Government Destination Management Organisation review and the impact of Covid on the tourism sector.

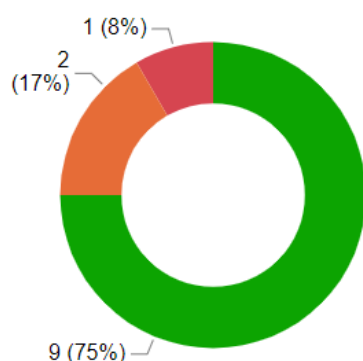
The delay of the developer event rescheduled to winter 2022 has impacted on the performance of the **Invest in the homes our communities need** and is the only action which requires monitoring. All other actions have either been completed or are on target.

The Department for Transport is planning to issue new guidance for Local Transport Plans in Autumn 2022 and this has delayed work on our local transport to avoid abortive work. This is the one of the actions within **Develop sustainable infrastructure** that requires monitoring as the Transforming Cities Fund Programme and the interim staff travel strategy are on target. The other action requiring monitoring relates to the development of the Local Plan which is now scheduled for April 2023.

80% of the **Create a sustainable, vibrant and inclusive economy** actions have either been completed or are on target. Most of the work in this area is around supporting our existing businesses and helping them to recover following Covid. A £250m+ grant programme has been administered successfully and efficiently with 99.8% awarded to businesses

Create a 21st century digital infrastructure is performing well with two out of the three actions completed. Public Wi-Fi is now available in the Lansdowne and Boscombe areas and the availability of fibre-based connectivity is on target through the CityFibre build project.

Performance Measures for Dynamic Places



Dynamic places measures are performing well. 75% are on target.

The red indicator relates to the **Gross development value generated by Bournemouth Development Company**. This Gross Development Value target relates to the completion of the Wessex Mansions scheme on the former Durley Chine Car park site. The scheme consists of 44 new open market sale homes. Due to Covid and supply chain disruption the contractor Parsons & Joyce has advised completion will be delayed until Autumn 2022. A full exception report can be viewed on the next page.

Areas for monitoring include Jobs created because of the Smart Place programme. In the past two years 14.5 jobs have been created as a direct result of the programme - which equates to £0.73m PA GVA (Per Annum Gross Value Added) to the local economy. We are waiting for updated Office of National Statistics and Business Register and Employment Survey data to provide a fuller idea of impact upon jobs

At 83% the Minor planning applications determined on time measure did not quite hit its target of 86%. However, we are continuing to implement the planning improvement programme and performance has steadily improved since June 2021 with only a slight dip at the end of last year. The two other planning measures relating to Major and Other planning applications have both hit their targets for the first time since June 2021.

We have seen a marked improvement in footfall in the three town centres, which is now strong. The ending of lockdown and the introduction of a new footfall system have both contributed to this.

The development of the Bike and E-scooter scheme to provide a convenient sustainable transport option for residents in the BCP Council area and the surrounding "journey to work" has seen 547,622 journeys undertaken over the last year.

Measure	Latest Outturn	Target	Outturn over time
Development: Gross development value generated by Bournemouth Development Company	0.00	13.20	
Economic Development: Business stock (number of businesses)	15240.00	15,000.00	
Economic Development: Footfall in the three town centres	21200000.00	17,500,000.00	
Economic Development: Number of businesses receiving support from the council per quarter	2426.00	200.00	
New Homes: Completed homes on council owned land year to date	16.00	14.00	
Planning: Major applications determined on time	96.00	88.00	
Planning: Minor applications determined on time	83.00	86.00	
Planning: Other applications determined on time	94.00	90.00	
Skills: Percentage of higher-level qualification (NVQ4)	40.20	39.00	
Smart Place: Jobs created as a result of the programme	5.50	8.00	
Smart Place: Number of enquiries relating to business investment through the programme	2.00	2.00	
Usage of the BCP bike and e-scooter share scheme – number of journeys per annum.	547622.00	500,000.00	

Action Required

Monitoring Required

On Target

Dynamic Places Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description: Development: Gross Development Value (GDV) generated by Bournemouth Development Company

2021/22 Q4 outturn: 0.0

Quarterly Target: 13.2

Reason for level of performance: This Gross Development Value (GDV) target related to a projected value to be realised from the completion of Wessex Mansions, a new build residential scheme consisting of 44 new homes, delivered by the Bournemouth Development Company LLP (BDC) on the site of the former Durley Chine Car park site.

The performance indicator relating to the GDV generated from this scheme has exceeded its original target projection by £800k to £14 million. This is due to the current buoyant housing market, resulting in increased sales prices. The Bournemouth Development Company has now exchanged contracts on 100% of the new homes off plan, providing certainty on the sales prices achieved and the enhancement of the scheme GDV.

Through targeted marketing the majority of the new homes have been successfully sold to first time buyers, with assistance from the Government's Help to Buy scheme and owner occupiers, rather than to investors or for use as a second home.

The original target completion date was Q1 22/23 not Q4 2021/22 as previously indicated, the timeframe for completion of the scheme is now expected in Q3 2022/23.

Now due for completion in Autumn 2022 the delay is a result of the local and national construction supply chain disruption as a result of the global Covid-19 pandemic.

Summary of financial implications: The Bournemouth Development Company BDC has continued to offer homes for sale off plan during the extended construction period, with contracts exchanged on 100% of the homes. A buoyant housing market has increased the sales values by £800k over the last 6 months, which has increased the GDV of the scheme to £14 million and increased the development profit element.

BDC LLP is a joint venture between BCP Council and MUSE. The Council will benefit from 50% of the profits generated by this scheme.

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: N/A

Actions taken or planned to improve performance: Continue to monitor programme and sales

Completed by: Sarah Longthorpe

Service Unit Head approval with date: Sarah Longthorpe 4/7/2022

Connected Communities

Corporate Strategy Delivery Plan Actions



Key:

Completed

On target

Monitor

Not started

Stopped

Over half of the actions relating to this priority have been completed or are on target.

However, compared to other priorities more have not been started or have stopped altogether. A decision was taken to pause the development of a public toilet strategy and both the Library Strategy, and the CCTV strategy have been delayed.

However, the library estate is being progressed via the development of the Customer & Digital Strategy. The CCTV improvements are also underway and additional investment has been identified through the Cleaner Greener Safer programme.

Broken down by objectives overall performance looks like this:

Empower a thriving voluntary and community sector

Respect and engage with our diverse communities

Ensure our communities feel safe

Strengthen the cultural identity of our towns and places

Encourage intergenerational interactions

Reduce loneliness and isolation



The objectives to **Reduce loneliness and isolation** and **Encourage intergenerational interactions** are both on target. Proof of concept projects are being developed within the council to reduce social isolation and an Age Friendly Communities Co-ordinator starts in post July 2022 who will co-ordinate activities with schools and partners.

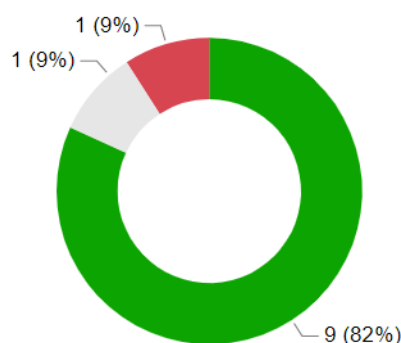
80% of the actions within **Respect and engage with our diverse communities** have either been completed or are on target.

The three actions that make up **Empower a thriving voluntary and community sector** have also either been completed or are on target.

50% of the actions within **Ensure our communities feel safe** have either been completed or are on target. This includes the adoption of a Domestic Abuse strategy in 2021. An associated action that requires monitoring relates to the development of an integrated domestic abuse service for victims and perpetrators which has been delayed until March 23. The other area for monitoring concerns the work with partners including Dorset Road Safe to reduce the number of persons killed or seriously injured on the highway and a new Dorset Road Safety Strategy has been developed to tackle this.

Several projects are underway to **Strengthen the cultural identity of our towns and places**. The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) awarded grants to Upton Country Park and Poole Museum, where capital work is underway. Highcliffe Castle is fully open and fulfilling its NLHF activity plan. Historic England have supported the High Street Heritage Action Zone project for Poole High Street and Quay, and work to open up Scaplen's Court has started. The delay of the Cultural Strategy until the end of 2022/23 shows up as an area for monitoring.

Performance measures for Connected Communities



Over 80% of the measures contributing to this priority are on target, with our engagement activities exceeding the targets we set. The number of visits to our museums has recovered after the end of COVID-19 lockdown and our libraries again are vibrant with events and activities for our communities.

One of the negative impacts of the COVID lockdown was a national increase in domestic abuse. Despite that, we have reached and slightly exceeded our target to complete actions that would reduce risks faced by the most vulnerable victims of domestic abuse in BCP. Another impact of the lockdowns was a national increase in

reported anti-social behaviour (ASB). Over the past year however, the levels of ASB reported to the police have reduced, thanks to a range of activities by the Council and police to proactively target those involved.

BCP Council's investment into community safety response has increased the number of accredited Council officers employed to patrol our streets and public spaces, engaging the public with safety information and advice, and challenging and taking action against those involved in ASB. These officers work alongside the police and supportive outreach services to ensure vulnerable residents get the help they need while those intent on making our communities unsafe are deterred from doing so.

The red indicator relates to the **Serious violent crime – assault with injury measure**. The reduction in serious violence during the lockdowns eventually declined and we are starting to see serious violence return to pre-COVID levels. Tackling violence of all types remain a priority for the Council and other partners that make up the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). As well as reducing violence within the home, the partnership is determined to maintain the reduction in the proportion of knife offences resulting in a stabbing and to prevent more serious outcomes. A full exception report can be viewed on the following page.

BCP Council is working with Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner to pull all relevant partners together, including community and voluntary organisations, to form a Violence Reduction Unit. This network will deliver targeted interventions (support and enforcement) directly to those individuals and families who are involved in violence. We want to identify and target those already involved and those likely to be involved in violence, using the knowledge we have collectively about the causes and early indicators of violence.

Finally, last year was the first year we ran a BCP residents' satisfaction survey and so have for the first time collected data about residents' perception of crime across BCP and in targeted neighbourhoods. We will use the reported outturn as a baseline for future measures and to set future targets and intervention levels.

Measure	Latest Outturn	Target	Outturn over time
Engagement: Number of clients supported by Citizen's Advice BCP	12859.00	5,000.00	
Engagement: Number of community and voluntary sector organisations supported by Community Action Network	199.00	140.00	
Engagement: Number of issues supported by Citizen's Advice BCP	10125.00	2,000.00	
Engagement: Number of new community and voluntary sector organisations supported by Community Action Network	36.00	20.00	
Libraries: Engagement in events and activities held	20140.00	20,100.00	
Libraries: Number of events and activities held	1236.00	1,200.00	
Museums: Number of visits	30560.00	25,000.00	
Safety: Completed actions to reduce the risk to most vulnerable victims of domestic abuse	98.20	97.00	
Safety: Levels of anti-social behaviour	12440.00	16,502.00	
Safety: Levels of serious violent crime	2479.00	1,893.00	
Safety: Perceived fear of crime – across the BCP area and in targeted neighbourhoods	94.00		

Action Required

Monitoring Required

On Target

No Target or Intervention

Connect Communities Exception Performance Report

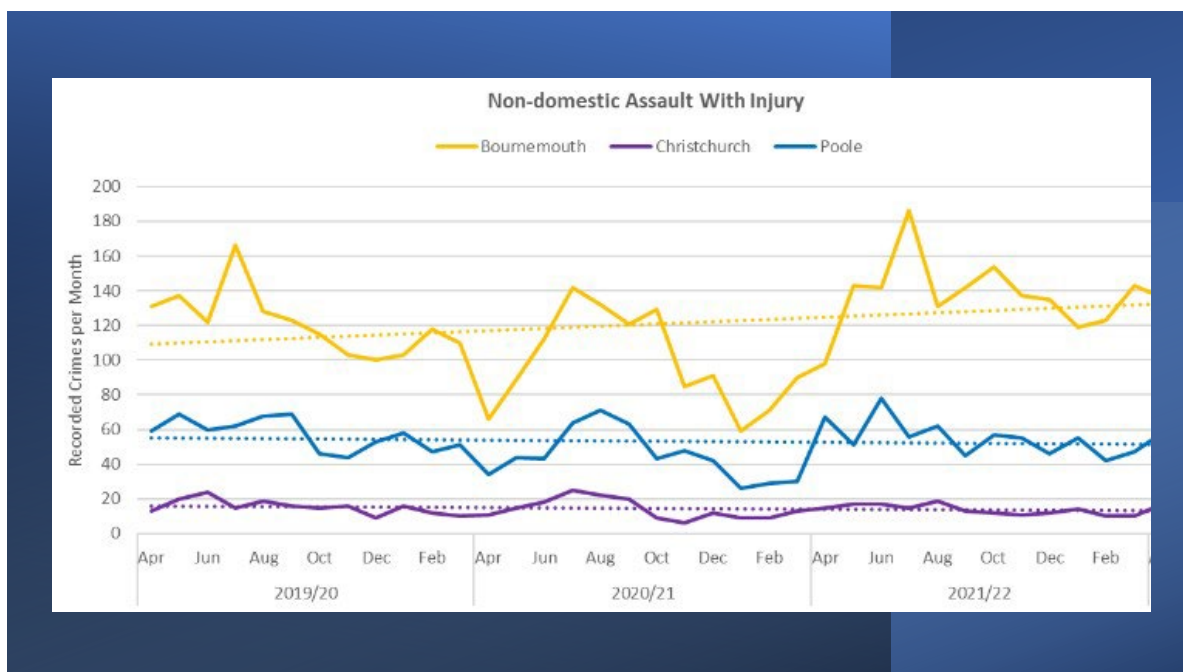
Indicator Description: Serious violent crime – assault with injury (non-domestic)

Cumulative figure for year.

2021-22 Q4 outturn: 2479

Quarterly Target: 1893 target
2272 intervention

Reason for level of performance: An increase in public place violence was expected following the exceptionally low levels in 2020/21 (1,893) due to the closures and restrictions, particularly of the night-time economy, as a result of the Covid pandemic. As the chart below illustrates, prior to Covid in 2019/20, there were 2,327 assault with injury crimes in the equivalent period, reflective of more typical times and trends. Comparing the latest 2021/22 outturn figures to pre-covid numbers therefore shows a 6% increase, and whilst not minimising this relatively small increase of 152 crimes, this comparison would not have triggered intervention. Assault with injury offences include any assault resulting in an injury, which may range from a scratch to a broken nose.



Summary of financial implications: None identified

Summary of legal implications: None identified

Summary of human resources implications: None identified

Summary of sustainability impact: None identified

Summary of public health implications: None identified

Summary of equality implications: Information indicates that males under 30 are more likely to be a victim of public space violence and women of all ages are more likely to be a victim of violence by an intimate partner or ex-partner.

Connect Communities Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description: Serious violent crime – assault with injury (non-domestic)

Cumulative figure for year.

Actions taken or planned to improve performance: Violent crime remains a priority for the BCP Community Safety Partnership (CSP), where tackling all forms of violence is one of the priorities. This is to avoid escalation to Most Serious Violence (Homicide, Attempted Murder, etc.). Knife crime has been assessed as a focus for preventative work, as evidence shows that some youths tend to carry knives for their own protection and may be involved in public place violence. In addition, knives are often a weapon of choice in drugs-related assaults in cases where drugs are being imported into the County.

The CSP has identified multi-agency information sharing as a priority to identify the areas of threat so that the most appropriate action may be taken to intervene early across the partnership. Analysis of recorded crimes have shown a 17.5% decrease of knifepoint robberies, whilst violent offences involving a knife have only increased by 2.7% (5 actual) on 2020/21 figures. The proportion of knife crimes resulting in a stabbing has reduced year on year over the last three years, from 36.3% (95 of 262) in 2019 to 33.9% (99 of 292) in 2021, with the proportion resulting in serious injury having fallen from 18.6% to 16.1% during this time.

The police are conducting post-investigation audits to improve their grip around youth violence investigations and are working with partners on complex safeguarding cases and other initiatives, such as seasonal youth interventions, targeted and proactive policing in hotspots locations, and putting in place clear officer-ownership and management of perpetrators or suspects.

Key elements of improvement work across the CSP include the police developing their intelligence systems to identify youths who pose the highest risk, or those needing intervention. When this is matched with other agency data, more targeted early intervention should avoid involvement of the criminal justice system. The Council, working with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, is committed to developing a Violence Reduction Network, having agreed a 10-steps “road map” and the role for a skilled Coordinator to bring the relevant functions of multiple agencies in this targeted work to prevent and reduce violence. In addition, the Council has invested in our Community Safety resources including a £600,000 investment in our Community Safety Accredited Scheme Officers, who provide proactive patrolling as well as commissioning additional security to enhance foot patrols during the day and into the evening during the busy summer season.

Completed by: Kelly Ansell

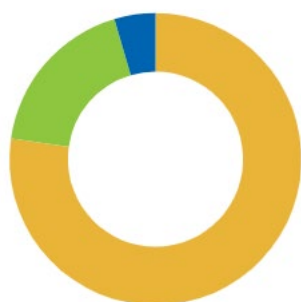
Service Unit Head approval with date: 27/04/2022



Kelly Ansell

Brighter Futures

Corporate Strategy Delivery Plan Actions



Key:

- Completed
- On target
- Monitor

Overall performance towards achieving the actions set out under Brighter Futures is good. None of the actions are showing as a concern however the majority require monitoring.

The completed task is the agreement of the Housing Strategy which addresses the needs of vulnerable young people and their families.

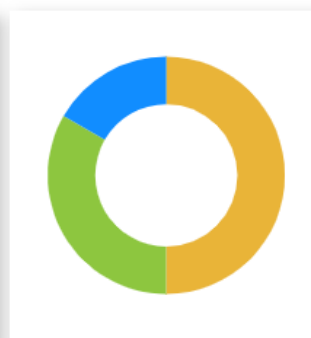
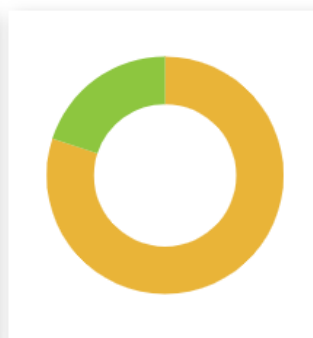
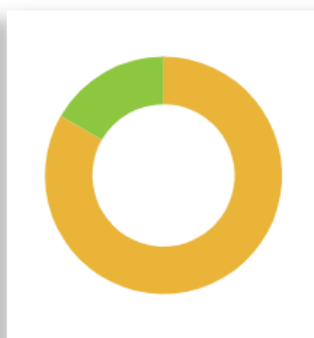
Broken down by objectives overall performance looks like this:

Enable access to high quality education

Be aspirational for our children in care

Support parents and guardians to care for their children well

Prevent harm through early intervention

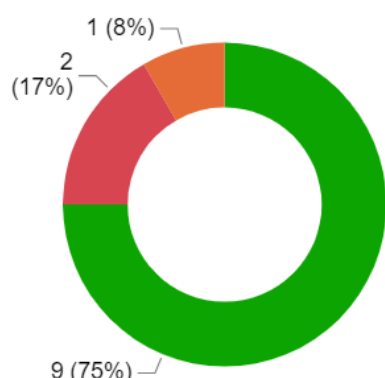


The main area of concern is **enabling access to high quality education**. Two initiatives taken to improve this area includes the introduction of a written statement of action workstreams, one of which addresses preparation for adulthood to support our young people with learning and physical disabilities transition into adulthood. Another concerns the development of a quality assurance framework for alternative education providers to ensure children educated outside of mainstream schools receive a good education.

Most progress has been made towards **the prevent harm through early intervention** objective. Actions on target in this area include regular meetings of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and the expansion of the functions of IMPACT (a police safeguarding team) to address contextual safeguarding concerns earlier.

The two areas where actions mostly require monitoring, but which also have projects on target are the **be aspirational for our children in care** and **support parents and guardians to care for their children well**. Actions on target include the establishment of the Early Help Partnership Board, designed to improve the timeliness of early help and the fact we have been able to increase the number of foster carers bringing our total bed capacity to 350.

Performance measures for Brighter Futures



Most Brighter Future measures are showing as Green, indicating performance is good. Recent Ofsted inspections may alter future target and intervention levels measuring performance going forward.

There are two red measures causing concern. These are:

Education: Permanent Exclusions as a percentage of all Secondary school children: The decision to permanently exclude a pupil is made by the headteacher of a school; the Local Authority is not required to approve such decisions. School leaders report that a lack of funding impacts on their ability to meet the needs of children and young people with more complex

profiles. Actions being planned include the piloting of a multi-agency pre-exclusion 'case conferencing' system and the promotion of the co-produced Development and Behaviour pathway within all settings to improve early identification and assessment of needs, providing good support and strategies to children and young people and parents and carers in the pre-assessment stage. including training and resources.

Social Care: Timeliness of assessments: There was a spike in referrals in January 2022, 481, which coincided with several agency staff leaving and a gap in being able to recruit new staff. This resulted in a significant number of children being re-allocated, higher caseloads and delay in completion of assessments on time in the quarter.

The exception reports can be viewed on the following pages.

The percentage of children in the area attending a setting rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted is high for our early years, primary, secondary, and special schools, with all performing above 90%. Two of our secondary schools have moved from Requires Improvement and Inadequate to Good respectively. Ofsted has been asked to inspect all schools and further education providers by summer 2025, to give a quicker assessment of how well education is recovering from the pandemic.

Measure	Latest Outturn	Target	Outturn over time
Education: Early Years: Percentage of children attending a setting rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted	98.10	97.00	
Education: Permanent Exclusions as a percentage of all Primary school children	0.01	0.05	
Education: Permanent Exclusions as a percentage of all Secondary school children	0.23	0.13	
Education: Primary: Percentage of Children attending Good/Outstanding Schools	95.00	85.00	
Education: Reduce attainment gap and improve learning outcomes for vulnerable groups at all key stages	-14.50	-14.40	
Education: Secondary: Percentage of children attending Good/Outstanding schools	93.90	85.00	
Education: Special Schools: Percentage rated Good/Outstanding	100.00	100.00	
Number of pupils who are missing out on education	189.00	637.00	
Social Care: Increase number of local foster carers	2.50	0.00	
Social Care: Percentage of children in care with permanence and parallel plan in place	99.00	95.00	
Social Care: Percentage of repeats referrals in 12 months	22.70	25.00	
Social Care: Timeliness of assessments	61.00	80.00	

Action Required

Monitoring Required

On Target

Brighter Futures Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description: Permanent Exclusions as a percentage of all Secondary school children

2021/22 Q4 outturn: 0.23%

Quarterly Target: 0.13%

Reason for level of performance: The decision to permanently exclude a pupil is made by the headteacher of a school; the Local Authority is not required to approve such decisions. School leaders report that a lack of funding impacts on their ability to meet the needs of children and young people with more complex profiles.

Summary of financial implications: Local authorities have a statutory duty to arrange education for children that are permanently excluded. If they cannot be placed in a mainstream school this will be in alternative provision. An alternative provision place will cost between £20,000 and £50,000 per year. Places are funded from the Schools High Needs Block funding, which is currently in deficit

Summary of legal implications: Local Authorities have a statutory duty arrange education for children that are permanently excluded from the 6th day after they are permanently excluded. The high number of permanent exclusions and limited alternative provision capacity can result in the Council failing to arrange appropriate education within statutory timescales which could result in legal challenge.

Summary of human resources implications: The prevention of permanent exclusion and the placement, monitoring and safeguarding of permanently excluded children requires significant staffing resources.

Summary of sustainability impact: Evidence indicates that children and adults that were permanently excluded will require greater support from services during their lifetime.

Summary of public health implications: It has been evidenced that children that have been permanently excluded achieve less well against a wide range of health and wellbeing outcomes, both through childhood and later life.

Summary of equality implications: It has been evidenced that children who are disadvantaged, vulnerable, have additional needs and have BAME heritage are disproportionately affected by permanent exclusion.

Actions taken or planned to improve performance: Information, advice and guidance is provided to schools to encourage the development of strategies to manage challenging behaviour that are an alternative to permanent exclusion. Schools have been provided with additional resources and access to alternative provision to support pupils they identify as being at risk of and prevent permanent exclusion.

Parents have been supported to challenge and overturn schools' decision to permanently exclude through the independent review panel system.

The outcome of the Appreciative Inquiry was 45 recommendations to improve inclusive practices across BCP schools; the implementation of these recommendations should reduce exclusions. The Written Statement of Action will ensure delivery of many of the recommendations of the Appreciative Inquiry.

Brighter Futures Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description: Permanent Exclusions as a percentage of all Secondary school children

Actions being planned include:

- a) Revising BCP's Managed Move process and guidance
- b) Introduction of extended duties of the Virtual School - now having a strategic approach for all children with a social worker regarding education
- c) Virtual School providing free trauma and attachment training for all schools regardless of the number of Children in Care
- d) Reviewing the mainstream banding system so schools are funded to meet the needs of more children and young people with SEND
- e) Specific team with the Inclusion Service to oversee the number of permanent exclusions and suspensions and work with schools strategically to reduce this.
- f) Audit and review of alternative provision in the local area
- g) Reviewing service level agreements with alternative providers, looking specifically at reintegration to mainstream school, providing places for schools to purchase
- h) Improving referral pathways for diagnosis and support
- i) Setting up a BCP Headteachers Forum
- j) Forming a pre-exclusions panel
- k) Agreeing an Inclusion Standard for schools to sign up to
- l) Co-producing a 5-year education strategy with schools, families and partners
- m) Introducing an Inclusion Quality Mark
- n) Providing all schools with a Navigator
- o) Strengthening early intervention support through Inclusion and Early Help team
- p) Increasing funding for schools to support children with Education, Health and Care Plans
- q) Supporting the consistent implementation of graduated response from all schools
- r) Increasing resource base and special school provision
- s) Promote the co-produced Development and Behaviour pathway within all settings to improve early identification and assessment of needs, providing good support and strategies to children and young people and parents and carers in the pre-assessment stage. including training and resources.
- t) Development of a multi-disciplinary pilot programme in collaboration with schools to proactively support pupils at risk of exclusions/experiencing poor attendance. This pilot will include robust evaluations in helping BCP to inform future sustainable offer.

Completed by: Geraint Griffiths, Operational Manager, Inclusion and Family Services

Service Unit Head approval with date: 03/05/22



Brighter Futures Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard): Timeliness of assessments

2021/22 Q4 outturn: 61%

Quarterly Target: 80%

Reason for level of performance: There was a spike in referrals in January 2022, 481, which coincided with several agency staff leaving and a gap in being able to recruit new staff. This resulted in a significant number of children being re-allocated, higher caseloads and delay in completion of assessments on time in the quarter. It was anticipated that there would not be any improvement in timeliness of assessments before April 2022 due to recruitment and referral pressures.

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, however the ongoing drive to recruit does place pressure on HR/ Recruitment services

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 significant harm.

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 with protected characteristics. However, some groups of children are more likely than others to be referred to Children's 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. In addition, children who are from Black, Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds can be over-represented. There is a growing recognition of the role of fathers within assessments and the household/ child's life, however they are not always fully included within the assessment process- this is a current focus area. There is a strong correlation between abuse and neglect and deprivation. Unaccompanied asylum seeking children are without parental protection and may face language barriers, but also other trauma and can be at greater risk of exploitation and trafficking due to their vulnerabilities.¹

Actions taken or planned to improve performance: A fifth Assessment team was introduced in January 2022 and this team became fully staffed in April 2022. Consideration is being given to resourcing to meet a sustained high level of demand.

Stabilisation of the workforce is the key to improving performance- team managers are meeting with staff more regularly through briefings, service meetings and workshop sessions to ensure staff feel supported and safe which, in turn, will improve retention. The number of staff leaving has reduced in April 2022, however there is a risk that rising fuel and accommodation costs may impact on the willingness and ability of locum staff to work for BCP Council. There are continued pressures in recruiting permanent staff- the pay review may aid and alleviate some of this, but also there is recognition that the Ofsted rating also impacts on staff willingness to join.

Brighter Futures Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description (taken from performance scorecard): Timeliness of assessments

The service manager has worked with colleagues to prepare an advertisement to recruit to permanent social work posts- advertisements for team manager and social worker posts are currently live.

The managers have worked hard to reduce caseloads by implementing more robust case management processes, weekly performance meetings and tracking. Teams have action plans in place for their staff, to drive performance each week, however this also needs to be balanced against quality. Early indications are showing a positive impact on improved timeliness in Q1.

Changes have been made in Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub to strengthen threshold decisions and ensure that children are appropriately signposted to early help services where a statutory service is not required.

Completed by: Sarah Allum, Service Manager

Service Unit Head approval with date: Zafer Yilkan, 25 April 2022/ reviewed Juliette Blake 12 July 2022

Fulfilled Lives

Corporate Strategy



Key:

- Completed
- On target
- Monitor
- Stopped

Delivery Plan Actions

Overall performance is good with just under half of the actions being completed or on target.

The completed activities relate to a range of successful Government grant applications which have enabled the development of new and ongoing projects that support homelessness prevention activities and provide new homes for people in need and, as previously mentioned we approved a housing strategy, and the

associated action plan is now being monitored by the Homelessness Reduction Board.

Broken down by objectives overall performance looks like this:



The best performing area here is **Tackle homelessness and prevent rough sleeping**. Over half the actions have been completed and the remaining action specifically aimed at rough sleeping is on target. An on-going programme of activities is underway which targets prevention of rough sleeping, reducing the dependency on emergency accommodation and reviewing and providing updated housing pathways for people additional and complex needs.

All actions within **Develop age-friendly communities** are on target. As part of our work to improve crossing facilities for wheelchair and mobility scooter users we have introduced 16 new pedestrian crossings of varying types including Zebra, Puffin and Toucan. To encourage people of all ages back onto their bikes we have a team of Bikeability instructors who provide cycle training, free of charge, for any adult who lives, works, or studies in Bournemouth, Christchurch, or Poole. Delivered on a one-to-one basis or in small groups, courses are tailored to individual needs and are suitable for everyone, from complete beginners to people who would like to gain more confidence or more experienced cyclists who want to improve their skills on more challenging roads and junctions.

80% of the actions underpinning **Support people to live safe and independent lives** are on target with monitoring only applying to increase the proportion of adults with care and support needs in employment, training, and volunteering. However, the associated indicator shows higher than expected performance for the last quarter of 2011/22.

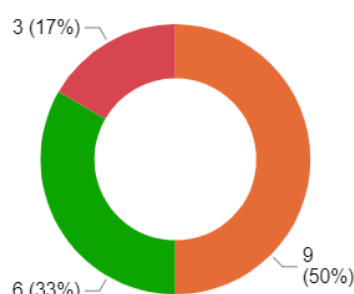
60% of the actions aligned to **Enable people to live well through quality social care** are on target. "Our Dorset" integrated care system is working to ensure we have a sustainable future model which will enable people in Dorset to lead independent lives in their own homes, avoiding admitting them to hospital unless necessary and getting them back home with the right support following an admission.

We have secured additional funding and our work with partners to address food security continues to contribute to the **Promote happy, active and healthy lifestyles** outcome.

The action concerning recognising the needs of staff members who are carers within BCP Council's conditions of employment has been postponed to align with the implementation of the Pay and Reward Project. The remaining 80% of actions within **Value and support carers** are either on target or require monitoring.

All actions under the **Promote lifelong learning for all** require monitoring however, the lifelong learning strategy is being developed and the new Poole Adult Education Centre will be opening in September. Work is in progress with Bournemouth and Poole College to provide taster sessions for apprenticeships and vocational courses aimed at vulnerable students.

Performance measures for Fulfilled Lives



The fulfilled lives priority has three red rated performance measures:

Number of homeless households in bed and breakfast: This figure is higher following positive Covid intervention. Households continue to be accommodated in B&B following Governments Protect & Vaccinate programme. Single people who were rough sleeping or without somewhere safe to stay during a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol activation trigger, continued to be accommodated in late March 2022, further increasing the overall total of households accommodated.

Number of people rough sleeping at latest street count: There has been a rise in both numerical and proportional terms of those rough sleeping who are repeat cases and therefore previously known. This is a negative but does mean that we have more data on these cases and are therefore better informed about how to provide more sustainable solutions moving forward. The number and proportion of flow (brand new) cases was very low (1 case) and the proportion of those with No Local Connection was down to 20% - this has regularly been 33% of any given count for some time. There were also 5 people seen on the night who currently have accommodation - just over 10%. The spread of numbers across BCP was also very different than normal. Poole and Christchurch saw large rises as did the Boscombe/Southbourne area, whilst Bournemouth Town Centre was stable. More analysis of this is needed.

Percentage of positive outcomes for families with children achieved on time: Significant increases in demand from families facing homelessness and the ongoing challenges for families of accessing an alternative affordable housing option has inhibited homelessness prevention outcomes for this group. Non fault private sector housing evictions being the significant cause. The full exception reports can be viewed on the following pages.

92.8% of our domiciliary, nursing and residential services are rated Good or Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission. Whilst this is good performance, going forward we will be implementing regional monitoring systems to improve consistency and transparency of market management and quality information.

One of the measures that requires monitoring relates to Drug and Alcohol Services. The percentage of people completing treatment successfully for primary alcohol issues is 28% (based on latest data from December 2021). This is below the current national performance of 31.9%. It is hoped that the new provider will improve outcomes for individuals once the service has settled down as previously Bournemouth was always above national average whereas Poole and Christchurch were always below.

Measure	Latest Outturn	Target	Outturn over time
Adult Care Services: Percentage rated good or outstanding by the Care Quality Commission	92.80	89.00	
Adult Carers: Percentage receiving info/advice or another service after an assessment	54.20	55.00	
Adults Learning Disabilities: Percentage in receipt of support and services in employment	4.60	4.00	
Adults Learning Disabilities: Percentage in settled accommodation	80.40	80.00	
Adults Mental Health: Percentage of adults in receipt of support and services in employment	9.50	7.00	
Adults Safeguarding: Percentage reporting reduced risks as a result of an enquiry	91.00	95.00	
Drug and alcohol treatment: Number of people with dependency accessing the service	1496.00	1,599.00	
Drug and Alcohol Treatment: Percentage of people completing treatment successfully for primary alcohol issues	28.00	37.90	
Housing: Number of homeless households in bed and breakfast	148.00	104.00	
Housing: Number of people rough sleeping at latest street count	48.00	36.00	
Housing: Percentage of positive outcomes for care leavers under 25 achieved on time	80.00	76.00	
Housing: Percentage of positive outcomes for families with children achieved on time	59.00	76.00	
Housing: Percentage of positive outcomes for eligible applicants achieved on time	68.00	76.00	
HR: Apprentices employed by BCP Council	59.00	60.00	
Skills and Learning: Further Education Choices Learner Satisfaction Rates	94.50	95.00	
Skills and Learning: Learner Achievement Rates	83.30	89.50	
Skills and Learning: Percentage of all learners who live in a bottom 25% Indices of Multiple Deprivation ward	45.50	40.00	
Transport: How Easy Buses are to get on/off (as determined by the National Highways Transport survey results)	76.00	77.00	

Action Required

Monitoring Required

On Target

Fulfilled Lives Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description: Housing: Number of homeless households in bed and breakfast

2021-22 Q4 outturn: 148

Quarterly Target: 104

Reason for level of performance: A spike in emergency accommodation demand at the end of Q3 2021 due to a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) trigger increased the overall total number of people requiring 'move-on' in Q4. Family homelessness has also seen a local rise in Q4 mainly due to non-fault Private Rented Sector evictions.

Limited supply of suitable move-on accommodation for households in B&B and other forms of temporary housing continues to place pressure on the total number of people in B&B, in particular the private rented sector affordability and social sector supply is not meeting demand.

National challenges in recruitment for the sector are felt locally in the Housing Options team creating, additional pressures on homelessness prevention activities.

Summary of financial implications: Increase in hotel use has been managed through the allocation of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund and direct government grants that support the provision of emergency accommodation and support. The additional grants have enabled a balanced position to be reported for year end.

Summary of legal implications: A small number of people accommodated in Hotels with No Recourse to Public Funds are jointly assessed by Housing & Adult Social Care to determine any substantive duties owed under the Care, Local Government and NHS Acts. Each individual receives a careful assessment of responsibilities under the terms of the acts. Some families have been accommodated in B&B longer than the legal limit of 6 weeks.

Summary of human resources implications: The Housing Options service has an increasing number of vacancies and posts covered by agency. A targeted strategy to improve workforce resilience through the appointment of additional apprentices has been approved. Support roles to assist people placed in emergency accommodation remains a priority to fill.

Summary of sustainability impact: None

Summary of public health implications: Covid outbreak management incidents have taken place across hotels and hostels used to provide emergency accommodation. Comms plans in place with PHD, Adult social care and health partners. With the ending of all Covid restrictions, many procedures remain in place to provide the necessary safeguards.

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 with a range of partners. A range of minority groups are disproportionately impacted by homelessness for which targeted support interventions are in place.

Actions taken or planned to improve performance: Move-on planning for people accommodated during lockdowns will aim to reduce households in B&B.

Council New Build Housing and Acquisition Strategy homeless acquisition programme in place to increase the portfolio of all property sizes for homeless households

Temporary Accommodation Strategy in development to confirm key objectives in future temporary accommodation provision

A Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme grant will further aid these efforts with the BCP Homelessness Partnership.

The development of an ambitious Rough Sleepers Initiative grant application for the next 3 years seeks to procure alternative forms of Emergency accommodation with tailored support.

Fulfilled Lives Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description: Housing: Number of homeless households in bed and breakfast

The development of a Multi-Disciplinary Team will further support the comprehensive and collaborate efforted to reduce inappropriate hotel / B&B use.

Effective governance arrangements are in place through the Homelessness Reduction Board and Partnership.

Workforce recruitment and sustainment planning to be developed for Housing related support services.

Completed by: Ben Tomlin, Head of Housing Operations.

Service Unit Head approval with date: Lorraine Mealings 11/5/2022

Fulfilled Lives Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description: Housing: Number of people rough sleeping at latest street count

2021-22 Q4 outturn: 48

Quarterly Target: 36

Reason for level of performance: The April rough sleeper count saw a steep rise to 48 people. Almost all of these were repeat cases (those individuals who had previously been accommodated). Repeat cases are mainly due to evictions from supported or emergency housing (often due to behaviour) and abandonments from the same accommodation types. The type of accommodation used in these instances does not fully meet the individuals needs (such as B&Bs). Non-local rough sleepers are around 25% and people new to the street or long term living on the street less than 10%.

Summary of financial implications: None

Summary of legal implications: None

Summary of human resources implications: The Housing Options service has an increasing number of vacancies and posts covered by agency. A targeted strategy to improve workforce resilience through the appointment of additional apprentices has been approved. Support roles to assist people placed in emergency accommodation remains a priority to fill.

Summary of sustainability impact: None

Summary of public health implications: People who are rough sleeping have disproportionate levels of health needs, often chronic. These are exacerbated the longer that people remain out and include physical health needs as well as mental health issues. In addition, there are often related substance dependencies with the further health implications these bring.

A focus of the work as a Homelessness Partnership relates to more holistic support, with health care being a crucial part of this, especially with its links to early engagement and acceptance of help.

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 with a range of partners. A range of minority groups are disproportionately impacted by homelessness for which targeted support interventions are in place.

Fulfilled Lives Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description: Housing: Number of people rough sleeping at latest street count

Actions taken or planned to improve performance:

Conclude procurement exercise for the development of a Health Homeless Hub

Reconnections Worker (St Mungo's) to increase focus on this area

New Multi-Disciplinary Group to be launched to focus interventions on rough sleepers disengaged from services

Review of protocols and eviction practice for Supported Housing

Work towards extended protocols that end evictions to the street in all but the most extreme cases.

Utilise planned interventions funded via Rough Sleeping Initiative 5 – DLUHC funding, including options appraisal for Housing Led service (high support building with own front door flats/bedsits, staffed 24/7 for high need and complex cases) as well as further Somewhere Safe To Stay services providing emergency housing

Task & Finish group in place to continue to challenge groups that are not involved in the BCP

Homelessness Partnership and who are enabling and encouraging rough sleeping and non-locals with provision of food, tents etc.

Completed by: Fraser Nicholson, Housing Strategy and Policy Manager

Service Unit Head approval with date: Lorraine Mealings 11/05/2022

Fulfilled Lives Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description: Percentage of positive outcomes for families with children achieved on time

2021-22 Q4 outturn: 59

Quarterly Target: 76

Reason for level of performance: Repossession of private rented homes, family breakdown and domestic abuse are the highest reasons for family homelessness, with the Private Rented Sector (PRS) significantly the major cause. No fault evictions have risen in the past quarter, coupled with an increasingly competitive PRS market where affordable supply has not provided solutions for families at the same rate as earlier in the year. Families in B&B has increased as has the time spent there.

Summary of financial implications: Increase in hotel use has been managed through the allocation of Containment Outbreak Management Fund and direct government grants that support the provision of emergency accommodation and support. The additional grants have enabled a balanced position to be reported for year end.

Summary of legal implications: The Council has a statutory duty to prevent and relieve family homelessness, for which a range of regulations are laid down concerning the reasonable steps required to discharge these duties. Increased demand from families will likely impact the demand for legal services to support any reviews and subsequent casework.

Summary of human resources implications: The Housing Options service has an increasing number of vacancies and posts covered by agency workers. A targeted strategy to improve workforce resilience through the appointment of additional apprentices has been approved. Support roles to assist people placed in emergency accommodation remains a priority to fill.

Summary of sustainability impact: None

Fulfilled Lives Exception Performance Report

Indicator Description: Percentage of positive outcomes for families with children achieved on time

Summary of public health implications: Several outbreak management incidents have taken place across hotels and hostels used to provide emergency accommodation. Communication plans are in place with Public Health Dorset, Adult Social Care, and health partners. With the ending of all Covid restrictions, many procedures remain in place to provide the necessary safeguards for families sharing accommodation facilities (hostels).

Summary of equality implications: Families who experience homelessness often have more health and social care needs including complex trauma. The priority remains to improve opportunities to secure longer term settled housing which in turn improves health and wellbeing, whilst ensuring the wider community impact is lessened. Person centred interventions are provided in partnership with a range of statutory & non-statutory partners, notably working together with Early Help Childrens services. The approach seeks to enhance the local offer to families who would otherwise not receive housing, care, and support at the right time when homelessness statutory duty safety net is triggered.

Actions taken or planned to improve performance: A PRS action plan is in development across the Homelessness Partnership and establishment of an associated action group, including the development of a communications plan to promote the Council's early help offer which supports families threatened with homelessness.

Landlords Conference development to improve access to and relations with the sector.

Move-on planning for families accommodated will aim to reduce households in B&B

A whole family assessment model will be disseminated across Housing Options services including Signs of Safety training.

Social rented allocations plans developed to increase family move-on

Homelessness Emergency Accommodation brought in house to improve move-on support.

Effective governance arrangements are in place through the Homelessness Reduction Board and Partnership. The Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Strategy action plan has made significant progress in addressing local homelessness. An annual report will provide a progress update of successes and ongoing challenges, citing reducing hotel & prevention as a priority.

Workforce recruitment and sustainment planning to be developed for Housing related support services.

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

Service Unit Head approval with date: Lorraine Mealings 11/5/2022

Modern, accessible, accountable council

Corporate Strategy Delivery Plan Actions



Key:

Completed

On target

Monitor

Stopped

Progress towards making BCP Council a modern, accessible, and accountable council is well underway with over 50% of the actions either having been completed or are on target.

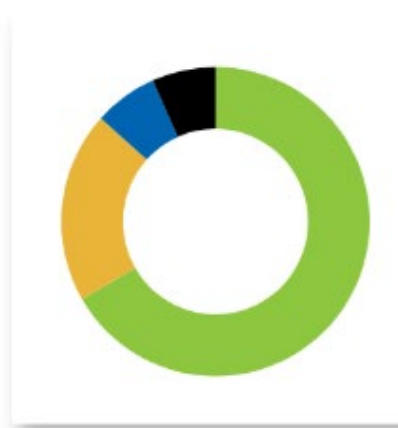
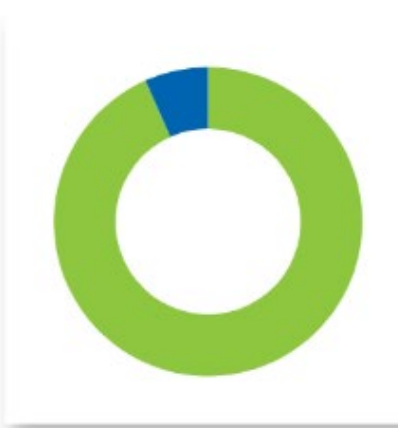
The action stopped relates to the Pay and Reward project being delayed and sits within Modern Council.

Broken down by objectives overall performance looks like this:

Accessible Council

Accountable Council

Modern Council



Most actions aligned to **Accountable Council** are on target. The completed target relates to the successful Peer Challenge held in November 2021. Cabinet agreed an action plan to address the findings and the peer team will be revisiting the council in the Autumn to review progress.

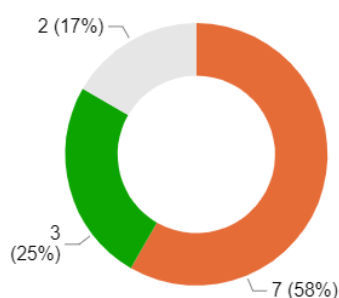
About 31% of the actions within **Accessible Council** require monitoring. Most of these concern Equality and Diversity (E&D) actions. We have, however, made quite a bit of progress with our E&D agenda, including:

- launching our Equality Footprint
- establishing an EIA quality assurance panel
- introducing independent observers to recruitment processes
- understanding our staff contributions to, and understanding of E&D, through annual appraisal processes.

A separate Equality & Diversity Progress report has been prepared for Cabinet.

Over 65% of our **Modern Council** actions are on target. The two which are showing as requiring monitoring cover how we better use data and the harmonisation of our major plans and policies.

Performance measures for Modern, Accessible Accountable Council



Modern Accountable and Accessible Council is the only priority without any measures requiring attention.

Although customer engagement on line and through social media is going well, we are aware of concerns about customer telephone contact and are introducing new measures to monitor performance. Covid, post covid, increased or fluctuating demand, and reduced capacity to meet the demand are all contributing factors. Temporary additional resources have been allocated for 2022/23 and this together with the transformation work to simplify and optimise the customer journey through channel shift should

help manage demand.

Our council tax and business rates collection targets have not quite been met. These have been impacted by both Covid19 and work to implement numerous Business Grant and Business Rate Relief schemes on behalf of Government which created additional backlogs within the service. However, there has been improvement on our business rates collection figure and slight improvement on our council tax collection figure since 2020/21.

Our HR engagement figure is lower than our target which is being addressed through the Corporate and service unit staff engagement survey action plans.

The average number of employee working days lost through sickness has increased overall in Quarter four, largely due to covid and poor mental health. Additional analysis and reporting has been undertaken to understand the impact of and to monitor this.

Two of the measures included in this section were collected for the first time this year. They are:

- Customer: Residents' levels of trust in BCP Council
- Customer: Residents' satisfaction across all services

No target or intervention level was set as the reported outturn will be used as baseline to measure changes over time.

Measure	Latest Outturn	Target	Outturn over time	
Communications: Email news average open rate	53.80	47.00		
Communications: Total number of social media engagements	112069.00	100,000.00		Action Required
Customer: Percentage of all interactions raised by online portals	79.00	76.00		Monitoring Required
Customer: Residents' levels of trust in BCP Council	81.00			On Target
Customer: Residents' satisfaction across all services	55.00			On Target
Equalities: Percentage increase in the equality data collected across services and from staff	69.40	100.00		No Target or Intervention
Finance: Percentage of business rates collected	95.90	98.00		No Target or Intervention
Finance: Percentage of council tax collected	95.30	97.50		No Target or Intervention
Finance: Percentage of successful grant applications	72.00	75.00		No Target or Intervention
HR: Employee engagement levels	59.00	65.00		No Target or Intervention
HR: Employee sickness absence levels (days)	11.10	7.00		No Target or Intervention
HR: Percentage of employees completing mandatory training	42.00	90.00		No Target or Intervention

Appendix A

Sustainable Development Goals

End of Year Performance 2021-2022



Background

“The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.”

In March 2021, BCP Council adopted the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), integrating them into the Corporate Strategy and public reporting framework. Adopting the 17 SDGs demonstrates BCP Council’s commitment to sustainable and equitable development which prioritises the health and wellbeing of both our people and our environment.

At the outset, all SDGs were regarded as equal (no primary SDGs were selected for targeted effort) but it is clear that some align more closely with the Council’s established priorities and work areas. This report shows the existing trends and connections.

Project managers and decision-makers are helped to consider the impact of activities on the SDGs through the Decision Impact Assessment (DIA) process. It is essential that all proposals recognise sustainability risks and where possible, identify opportunities to incorporate added value benefits and deliver long-term value for money, particularly in light of the declared Climate and Ecological Emergency. The DIA facilitates collaborative and transparent project development and enables the collection of council-wide cumulative impact data. The DIA is intended to be supplementary and complimentary to other legal and democratic processes such as equality, regulatory and financial assessments. It is a requirement of BCP Council’s Financial Regulations and Procurement Guidance that a DIA is completed for all projects, policies, plans, procurements, guidance documents, strategies, service changes and other proposals requiring a decision from corporate or democratic individuals/boards.

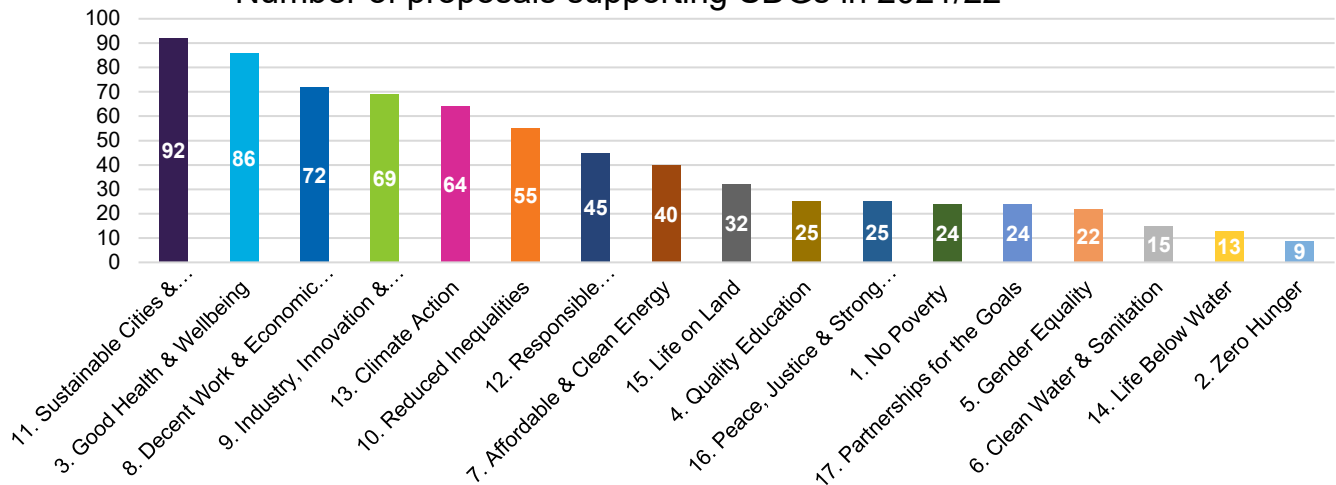
This is the first report on BCP Council’s performance against the SDGs and as such, gives a high level overview of the data collected and how that can be interpreted to better understand our impact on the Sustainable Development Goals and plan for broader, more equitable effort in the future. The scope and focus of this report will be developed over time and the outcomes used to inform service planning and project design.



Activity in 2021/22

In the year from 1st April 21 to 31st March 22, BCP Council staff completed DIA assessments on 144 proposals, making 712 links to the SDGs. Although the DIA process is capturing many of the proposals developed in BCP, we acknowledge that not all decisions are made with the support of a DIA report. This is recognised in the next steps as a key area for process development. Targeting directorates that appear to be under-represented in DIA reports will be a priority, as they are likely to be adding to many of the goals, but the benefits are not being captured.

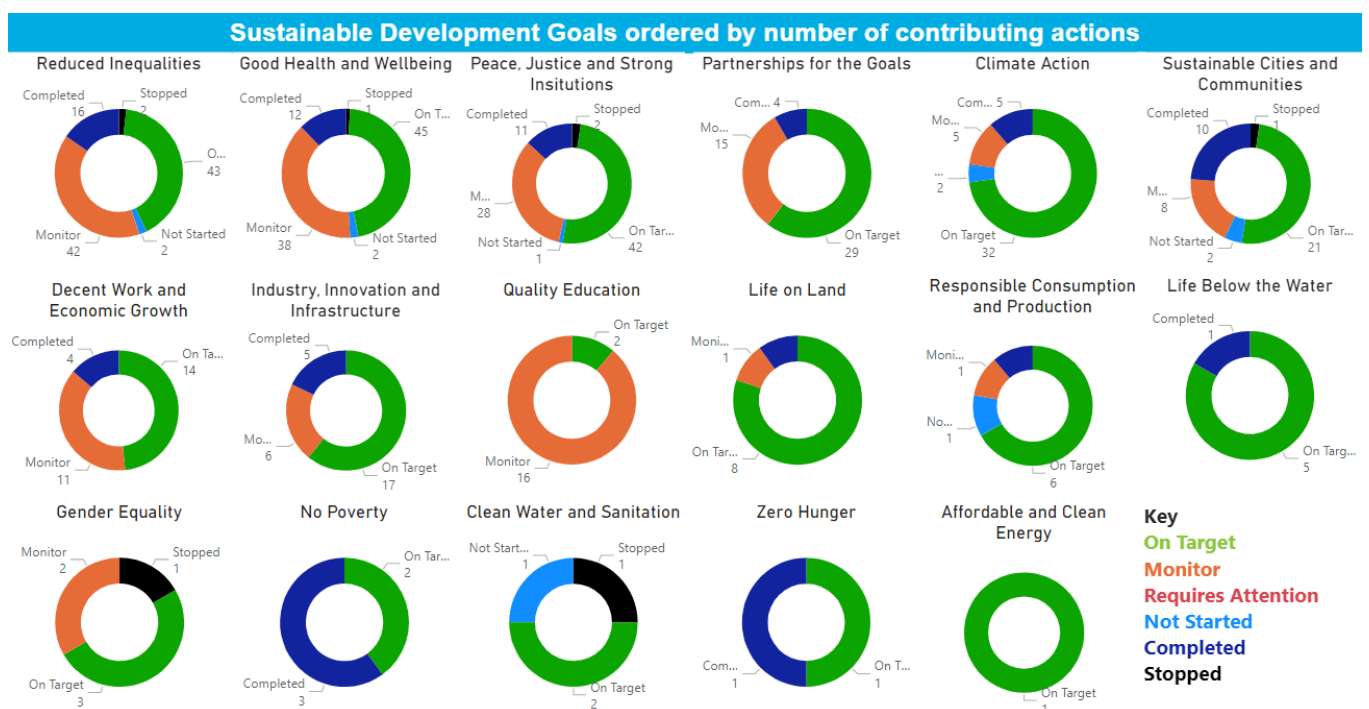
Number of proposals supporting SDGs in 2021/22



As shown in the graph above, 92 activities recorded through the DIA supported **Sustainable Cities & Communities**, followed by 86 that contributed to **Good Health & Wellbeing**. **Decent Work & Economic Growth**, **Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure**, **Climate Action** and **Reduced Inequalities** ranked next highest, showing a positive trend towards more holistic benefit realisation, covering many of the corporate priority areas.

End of Year Performance against the Corporate Strategy

The dashboard below shows the SDGs in order of the number of contributing actions from the 2021-22 Corporate Strategy delivery plans. A RAG breakdown of progress for contributing actions is demonstrated within the graphs under each heading.



From this dashboard we can see there are three main goals which the council has contributed the most to in 2021-2022:

1. 61% of the corporate strategy actions contribute to **Reducing Inequalities** for residents and staff. Of those 56% have either been completed or are on target. 40% of the actions require monitoring with the remaining 4% either being stopped or not yet started
2. 57% of the corporate strategy actions contribute to **Good health and wellbeing** for residents and staff. Of those 58% have either been completed or are on target. 39% of the actions require monitoring with the remaining 3% either being stopped or not yet started
3. 49% of the corporate strategy actions contribute to **Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**. Of those 63% have either been completed or on target. 33% of the actions require monitoring with the remaining 4% either being stopped or not yet started.

The dashboard shows there is still work to be done for **Quality Education** with 89% of the actions requiring monitoring.

Next Steps

The Climate and Sustainability team proposed next steps will involve working with relevant teams such as the Policy and Research team, to further improve BCP Council's integration of the Sustainable Development Goals. Next steps are set out in the table below:

Next steps
Improve governance of and compliance with the DIA process in all routes of decision-making. Understand where gaps exist in the process and ensure that no decisions are made without a DIA assessment.
Collaborate with the corporate Policy and Research team to integrate and simplify assessment processes and improve compliance/engagement with SDGs and equalities priorities.
Promote SDGs both internally and externally to improve understanding and communicate added value benefits being achieved through BCP Council activities.
Establish a verified baseline to measure impact from on an annual/cumulative basis. Undertake compare and contrast exercise with other SDG assessment tools and establish priority SDGs.
Investigate any existing SDG leader board/scorecard platforms to enable measurement of BCP Council's performance against other organisations and/or areas.
Explore opportunities for visual/geospatial representation of SDGs across the BCP Council area.
Engage with officers/Members/partners to discuss how data collected around BCP Council's performance against the SDGs can be used to design and deliver projects in the future.

Appendix B

Levelling Up Goals

End of Year Performance 2021-2022



Background

At the end of 2021 BCP Council became a leading council of the [Levelling Up Councils Coalition](#), part of the wider [Purpose Coalition](#) who are organisations who have adopted the Levelling Up Goals and are actively working towards levelling up their communities. This was prior to the release of the Government's Levelling Up White Paper. In February 2022 Cabinet agreed that the Corporate Strategy and supporting Performance Management Framework would align to the Levelling Up Goals.

This end of year performance report is a retrospective review of actions from the 2021-2022 delivery plans and how progress with these align to advancement with the goals. A more detailed picture of progress is being developed in partnership with This Is Purpose, the strategy and campaigns consultancy behind the Levelling Up Goals. This externally-produced report will show how current and planned work is contributing to levelling up. A separate metrics report will demonstrate specific areas that need to be addressed to level up across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. In addition, further internal work is being developed to integrate the goals and wider levelling up agenda across council decision-making processes.

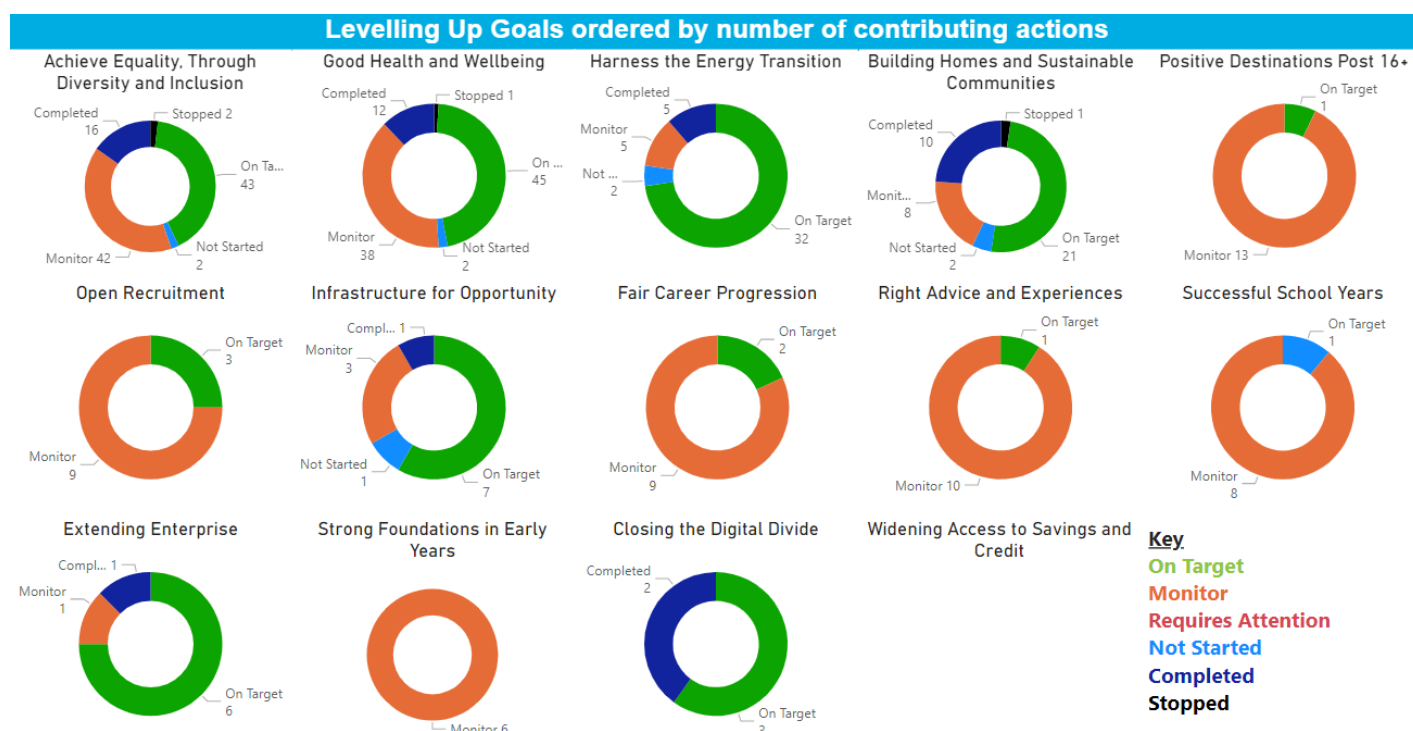
The Levelling Up Goals are in essence a framework for social mobility and social impact developed in consultation with the Purpose Coalition. The 14 goals focus on different social, economic and environmental factors that impact the quality of life that people have and the opportunities that are available to them to improve their lives.



End of Year Performance

The dashboard below shows the Levelling Up Goals in order of the number of contributing actions from the 2021-22 Corporate Strategy delivery plans. A RAG breakdown of progress for contributing actions is demonstrated within the graphs under each heading.

There were no specific Corporate Strategy contributing actions to **Widening access to savings and credit** however the council plays a supporting role in the advancement of this goal through work being done in services and with partners.



From this dashboard we can see there are four main goals which the council has contributed the most to in 2021-2022:

- 61% of the corporate strategy actions contribute to **Achieving equality through diversity and inclusion** for residents and staff. Of those 56% have either been completed or are on target. 40% of the actions require monitoring with the remaining 4% either being stopped or not yet started
- 57% of the corporate strategy actions contribute to **Good health and wellbeing** for residents and staff. Of those 58% have either been completed or are on target. 39% of the actions require monitoring with the remaining 3% either being stopped or not yet started
- 26% of the corporate strategy actions contribute to **Harnessing the energy transition**. Of those 84% have either been completed or on target. 11% of the actions require monitoring with the remaining 5% not yet started
- 25% of the corporate strategy actions contribute to **Building homes and sustainable communities**. Of those 74% have either been completed or on target. 19% of the actions require monitoring with the remaining 7% either being stopped or not yet started.

Whilst **Closing the digital divide** has almost the fewest contributing actions, 100% of these actions have either been completed or are on target.

The dashboard shows there is still work to be done for **Positive destinations post 16+, Open Recruitment, Fair Career Progression, Right advice and experiences, Successful school years and Strong foundations in Early Years** with most identified contributing actions requiring monitoring.



Equality & Diversity Progress Report

2021-2022

Samuel Johnson

Policy & Performance Manager

Foreword

“BCP Council plays a vital role as an employer, service provider and community leader.

“We are committed to demonstrating respect for difference, working proactively to eliminate discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity for all, and building positive relationships and understanding between people of diverse backgrounds who live, work, or visit the communities that we serve.

“Our aim is to exceed our duties under equality legislation and in doing so establish a community where everyone matters, feels safe, can participate in public life and achieve their full potential feeling they are treated with respect and fairness.”



Councillor Drew Mellor
Leader of BCP Council



Councillor Bobbie Dove
Portfolio Holder
Community & Regulatory Services

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1. Introduction

The Corporate Strategy for BCP Council, together with the Big Plan sets out BCP Council's vision, mission, ambition, and priorities, as well as the values which underpin the way BCP Council develops and delivers its services.

The principles of equality are embedded in the Corporate Strategy to ensure that fairness and the progression of equality are central to our development as we continue to grow as a new council, and they become part of the DNA of the organisation to make sure people remain central to everything we do. This is increasingly evident in our organisational culture and is further demonstrated through [Our Values](#), and our approach to 'business as usual'.

Five major concepts make up the Big Plan. They show how we deliver our commitment to improve people's lives and recognises the council's commitment to understanding and valuing the diversity of our communities.

In July 2021 we introduced an Equalities Footprint which contributes to monitoring and measuring our progress on equality and our obligations as a public authority as community leaders, service providers and a major employer. It also enables us to track progress of our vision, how we advance equality and is an indicator of how well we are doing in meeting our responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).

For the first time we have assessed performance against the six domains of the Equality and Human Rights Commissions (EHRC) Performance Measurement Framework for Equality and Human Rights. This framework helps to show the outcomes or difference that we have made to people's lives because of our continued commitment to ensure equality & diversity is embedded in the way that we deliver develop and design our services and gives a clearer indication whether we are accomplishing the equality objectives that are embedded within the Corporate Strategy. Although we have used the EHRC performance measurement framework to track our progress we are still mindful and pay close attention to each of the protected characteristics as defined within the Equality Act 2010, and the impact of intersectionality when considering equality impact sand outcomes. The EHRC framework provides a systematic way to assess a broader variety of improved outcomes that contribute to the reduction of the equality gap.

This report provides a snapshot of the work over the past 18 months from across the Council that is driving our equality agenda forward and gives an indication of our direction of travel on our journey to date. We recognise that our residents and customers do not all have the same experience or access to our services and as we continue to learn and understand more about the changing needs of our increasingly diverse communities, we have responded by adapting and changing our policies and procedures, practices, and processes, and the design and delivery of our services and employment practice.

The needs of our residents and staff have been central to our approach. There is a different feel to equality within BCP Council which is evident from the shift in organisational culture that has taken place since our inception.

There is more understanding and confidence among our staff and councillors.

There is far greater understanding of the importance of equality and the application of the public sector equality duty in business as usual and the reduction of reputational and financial risk.

Going forward, other ways will be found to make the overall picture of progress clearer still and evermore transparent. This will help us improve more outcomes for people that reduce inequality, so we narrow the equality gap further still.

2. The Big Plan

The Big Plan consists of five themes that will deliver big changes across the whole area including the creation of jobs, improvements in the local economy and better standards of living. The five themes are underpinned by the work we are doing with communities, culture and children. We have committed ourselves to the delivery of clean, safe and affordable housing; improved lifelong wellbeing, good jobs, and financially sustainable livelihoods for our residents. We are redefining our culture and entertainment offer so they are more inclusive to enhance the sense of belonging across all age groups and communities. We will ensure that BCP area becomes one of the best places in which to live and grow up as a child, through the provision of better health & wellbeing and education from early years through to adulthood. We will create an environment in which people have the opportunity to flourish and reach their full potential.



Iconic: We will increase participation and accessibility to transport to our urban and natural environment. By working with our partners, we will increase diversity in employment opportunities and community life.



Seafront: We will improve our facilities and access to our seafront. We will support people to make healthier life choices so more people can access our beautiful city region and some of the best coastlines in the world. We will support our restaurants and hospitality industry, famous for the quality and imagination of their international food offering and the excellence of their service.



Rejuvenate Poole: We will rejuvenate Poole, bringing a vibrant, attractive, and sustainable mix of residency, business, hospitality, retail, culture, and green spaces within the historic town and on the Quay, creating new employment opportunities.



Infrastructure: We will invest in the physical and digital infrastructure of our coastal city region. We will reduce internet poverty by providing superfast broadband and digital connectivity through exploiting the full potential of digital infrastructure to make BCP a genuinely smart city region. We will use digital data to plan, manage and deliver better services for our residents and businesses.



Act at scale: We will use census data to invest in the development of new homes making sure that social housing includes accessible homes for life along with an investment in a sustainable mix of affordable and high-end apartments and houses. Central to the delivery of the Big Plan are Community, Culture and Children.



Community: We will introduce and advance the principles of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) through a whole system approach of better engagement to inform decision making and the development of services. The principles of ABCD allow the council to use lived experiences; individual and collective knowledge; and places people at the centre to co-produce and codesign our services

3. The Corporate Strategy

Our equality objectives are embedded in [The Corporate Strategy](#) as adopted by Cabinet in February 2022.



Fundamental to the councils vision is the building of vibrant communities and the creation of an environment where there is increased participation and where everyone can play an active role in our ambition to build a fairer and more levelled society across the conurbation.

More recently there has been a renewed focus on equity of outcome and the inequality of opportunity. As we rebuild the post covid economy, we are maximising the collective potential of our communities, we are capitalising on the talents of all BCP Councils communities, improving on fairness and are increasingly transparent. We have continued to protect the most vulnerable people; and are reducing the inequality gap in the process.

The advancement of equal treatment and equal opportunities for all peoples requires a deviation from uniformity. It demands that we give everyone equal access and promote the absolute right of all people to be treated fairly as individuals and, to recognise and respond to individual needs and abilities to enable all equal of opportunity to progress.

For each of the five priorities, we have actions, activities and set objectives. We have tangible measures to show improvement and progress to signal where we are succeeding and indicate where we need to improve which can be seen in the following sections.

4. Equalities Footprint

In June 2021 we introduced an Equalities Footprint to help monitor and measure our progress on equality.

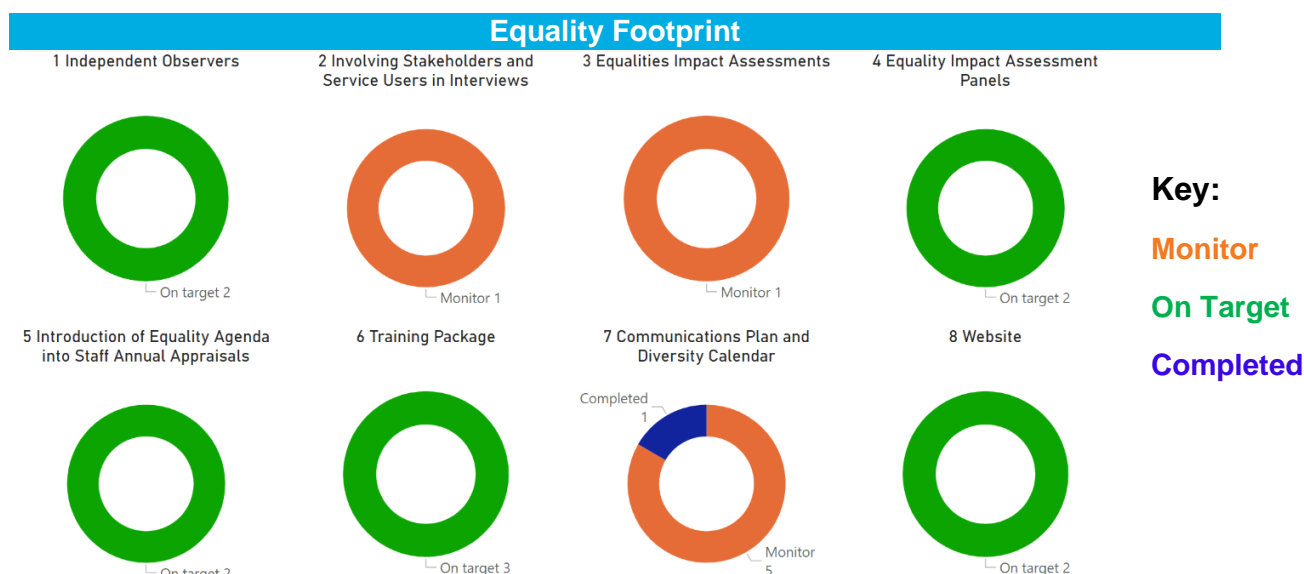
An Equalities Footprint is defined as:

The activities undertaken by the council in accordance with our role that contribute to the delivery of BCP Council's equalities agenda and the duties of the council at individual, team, and service levels.

The equality footprint is informed by eight actions that the council are taking forward:

1. The introduction of independent observers for appointments to posts that attract a salary more than £40,000 per annum, Heads of Service or above, including promotions and secondments to these positions.
2. The inclusion of stakeholders or service users on interview panels, (if appropriate), for all interim, permanent appointments, secondments, or internal promotions to positions that sit within the Senior Leaders Network.
3. The undertaking of Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) at the point of registering committee reports and portfolio holder decisions on BCP Council's ModGov system
4. The introduction of EIA Panels
5. The requirement to demonstrate fulfilment of the requirements of the PSED in annual appraisals process enabling staff to evidence how they are contributing to the council's Equalities Footprint and Corporate Strategy.
6. Development of a new hybrid training package that is fit for purpose and takes account of variation in learning styles to enable officers and councillors to understand and discharge their responsibilities under the PSED during their work
7. The delivery of an equality and diversity communication plan and diversity calendar, and production of accessible communication standards
8. Completion of a user-friendly website that conforms to the [public sector accessibility requirements](#) and is easy to read, navigate and access.

The Equalities Footprint not only ensures equality and diversity is at the heart of the council but enables BCP Council to conduct more inclusive decision making and 'joint' delivery of services for those who work, live, and visit BCP area.



The Equality Footprint dashboard above shows that good progress is being made.

A total of nine Independent Observers have been recruited of which seven have been trained in the Councils Recruitment and selection procedures. Additional expressions of interest have been received and further recruitment and training will be undertaken at the right time to ensure that sufficient capacity is available to service recruitment panels as the process becomes embedded throughout the organisation.

Stakeholders and service users have been involved in Children Services interview processes but there are still opportunities to develop this further.

The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) process has been improved. Practice and procedure have been amended to ensure EIA prompts are included in all committee reports. Work is ongoing to develop an online EIA tool in line with the Sustainability Decision Impact Assessment tool.

In June 2021, EIA panels were introduced across BCP Council to ensure consistency of approach in the development of EIAs and to provide assurance at all decision gateways, not just committee decisions, that we were meeting our public sector equality duty.

The panel meets weekly. They are made up of independent Service Unit Equality Champions (SUECs), to ensure officers are not marking their own homework and supported by the E&D Policy lead and policy officers.

Feedback from the panel members has been positive. Participants have found them helpful for improving not only their understanding of how to practically discharge the public sector equality duty but given them a wider understanding and respect for all the different ranges of work going forward across the council.

Officers are required to present their EIAs to the panel outlining any changes to a service/policy and demonstrate they have considered the equality implications of the change

and whether they will be positive or negative and who will be impacted and how. Most importantly officers are required to show what mitigating actions can or will be taken to remove or reduce any negative impacts on equality if any are found.

Each EIA is given a RAG rating and an outcome form is completed and returned to the presenting officer, SUEC and Service Director with any observations, comments, or suggestions for improvement.

A review of feedback and learning will be carried out so that good practice can be shared with SUECs to help reduce the risk of non-compliance with the Public Sector equality Duty (PSED). A summary of the panel's activity is presented opposite.

There has recently been a noticeable improvement in the number of EIAs that come out of a panel with a green RAG rating.

A review of the Council's equality and diversity training offer has been conducted, and a training needs analysis has been undertaken. The Council's E-learning training courses have been refreshed and a variety of bespoke training commissioned to develop staff and Councillors to meet the organisation's needs and reduce the risk of non-compliance with the PSED and the possibility of judicial review.

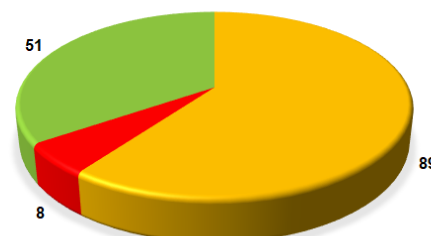
Some aspects of equality training are mandatory for officers; and accessibility to training has improved as the training options now take account of the variance in learning styles among officers and Councillors. All equality and diversity related courses are supportive of continued professional development and enable the council to build a more skilled, knowledgeable and equality confident and competent workforce.

Demonstrating fulfilment of the requirements of the PSED is now an integral part of the Council's annual appraisal process. This encourages staff to evidence how they are contributing to the council's Equalities Footprint and Corporate Strategy and acts as a prompt for discussion between officers and line managers where this needs further exploration.

The development of the Diversity Communication Plan and calendar continues. New events and celebrations are built into the calendar for the year ahead and are being supported with full communication plans.

The Council continues to develop its user-friendly website and a recent accessibility audit confirms that it meets the relevant standards, meaning it is easy to read, navigate and access.

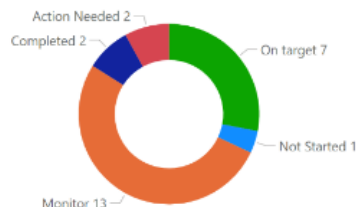
OUTCOME OF EIA'S PRESENTED TO THE EIA PANEL SINCE JUNE



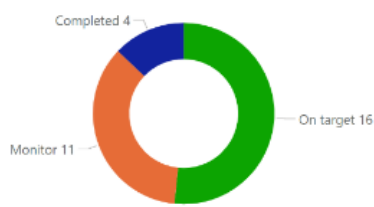
5.Equality Framework for Local Government

Equality Framework for Local Government

1 Understanding and working with your communities



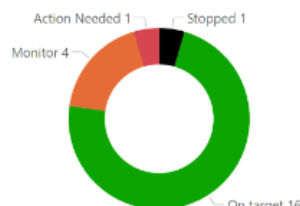
2 Leadership, Partnership and Organisational Commitment



3 Responsive Services and Customer Care



4 Diverse and Engaged Workforce



KEY:

Action Needed

Monitor

On Target

Completed

Not Started

Stopped

More detailed updates of progress under each of the improvement modules of the Equality Framework for Local Government (EFLG) are presented below.

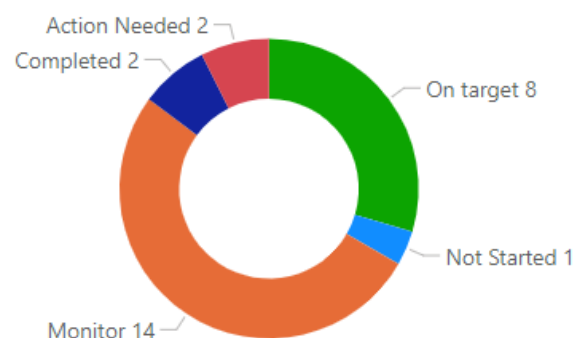
5.1 Understanding and working with your communities

A total of 27 actions included in the Corporate Strategy, the Equalities Footprint and the Equality & Diversity action plan have been identified as contributing to this improvement model of the EFLG.

Progress is promising, suggesting that the council has a good understanding of its communities.

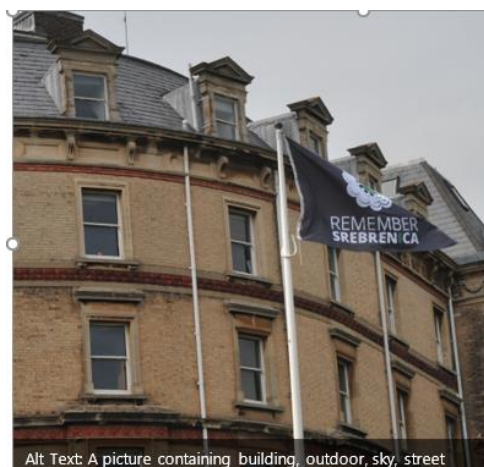
Support provided to community-based groups and to promote events that raise awareness and celebrate diversity across the BCP area has improved as result of increased resources having been made available.

This has led to improved community engagement and stronger participation from the council in community events which promote inclusion and positive relationships between people who share a characteristic and those who do not.



We have increased the resources to promote and support a variety of equality related community-based events which include:

- Poole Museums Gypsy and Travellers Display
- Holocaust Memorial Day
- The Chinese and Jewish New Years
- Holocaust Memorial Day for Gypsy and Travellers
- International Men's Day
- International Women's Day
- LGBTQ History Month
- World Mental Health Day
- Disability History Month
- International Day Against Homophobia
- Bourne Free,
- Black History Month,
- Worlds Aids Days



Alt Text: A picture containing building, outdoor, sky, street

We held a memorial service in our council chambers bringing Muslim, Jewish and other communities together to make sure we continue Remembering Srebrenica whose name has become synonymous with those dark days in July 1995 when, 8,372 men and boys were systematically murdered and buried in mass graves. The victims, who were Muslim, were selected for death based on their identity. This was the worst atrocity on European soil since the Second World War and we continue to show demonstrable support to the people of Ukraine by flying the Ukrainian flag outside of Civic Offices.

We will shortly be hosting an event to celebrate the achievements of women.

Nevertheless, despite the progress that has been made, further action is required to improve the percentage of equality data collected from our customers and staff. This is critical in understanding how accessible our services are and to the development of robust EIAs and further improvement of our decision-making processes.

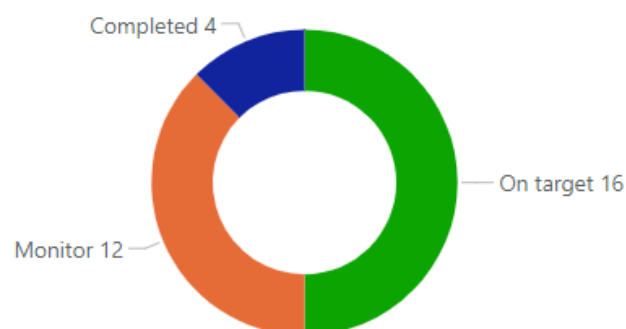
It will also help ensure that there is equity of opportunity in recruitment selection and progression of all people with BCP Council. We are encouraging all staff to ensure their personal equality monitoring data is up to date on our central HR system as this will enable us to connect with colleagues, we want to engage with about issues affecting them in the workplace

Our next steps will be to undertake a mapping exercise to understand and identify the profile of the occupants of key roles in public life across the BCP Council area.

5.2 Leadership, Partnership and Organisational Commitment

A total of 32 actions included in the Corporate Strategy, the Equalities Footprint and the Equality & Diversity action plan have been identified as contributing to this improvement model of the EFLG.

The Equality Governance and Delivery Framework, which sets out how equality and diversity is managed across the council, has been reviewed to reflect the roles of the Equality Action Commission, the Equality Impact Assessment panel and to clarify the roles of other supporting services in the Council.



The governance framework is still led by the Strategic Equality Leadership Group, who provide the strategic direction for equality.

The Equality Action Commission is an independent working group, made up of representatives of the Community, Trade Union Congress, and Elected Members.

The governance framework is underpinned by three implementation groups.

- Service Unit Equality Champions (SUECs)
- Staff Network Groups (SNGs)
- Community Equality Champions

SUECs have a key role in helping their services understand and discharge the public sector duty and are key to ensuring the robustness and quality of EIAs and holding others to account at EIA panels.

There is a more comprehensive update of progress with staff network groups later in this report and really good progress has been made here. CMB are currently identifying SNG champions for each of the groups.

Community Equality Champions provide the link between the council our diverse communities. We would like to do more to recognise and celebrate the contribution this group make in supporting communities and helping services respond to their needs.

Specialist support is also provided through the Corporate Support Group, which consists of staff from Policy and Research, Human Resources, Legal, Communications and Marketing teams. The council works in partnership with several agencies to discharge its PSED. This includes the Armed Forces Covenant Agreement which is integrated into decision making processes to support the wider delivery of the Covenant Action Plan.

The council has adopted a Voluntary and Community Strategy which aims to enable a thriving, sustainable and dynamic voluntary community sector and improve the lives of individuals and communities across the BCP area.

The LGA Corporate Peer Challenge in November 21 found there were emerging Green Shoots in relation to the progression of equality. The responding action plan highlighted some steps the council plans to take to improve this perception ahead of their return visit in the autumn 2022.

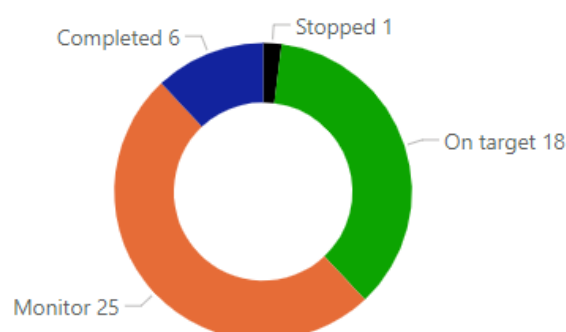
The review noted that there was scope to strengthen some partnerships across BCP communities and elements within the voluntary and community sector. Councillors from all parties have a critical role to play in engaging with communities to improve accessibility to support services and raise awareness of and access to information.

The Councils planning and reporting processes will be monitored more closely to ensure they are equality benchmarked and clear targets are set for improvement. Implementation of the suicide strategy and the delivery of the lifelong learning strategy will be embedded within the councils' partnerships, a point picked up during the Peer Review who recommended that:

"The Council should also consider involving partners earlier in discussions around policy development and priority setting, being clear on the joint outcomes they want to achieve."

5.3 Responsive Services and Customer Care

During the response to COVID-19, the Council demonstrated how quickly it can adapt to introduce new working practices and challenges. The Council developed impactful multi-agency work across the public and voluntary sectors to support those in need, including to bringing those rough sleeping inside. The Council's responsiveness and agility should be applauded with Members, Officers, partners, and communities working effectively and efficiently together. In all 50 actions included in the Corporate Strategy, the Equalities Footprint and the Equality & Diversity action plan are known to have contributed to this improvement model of the EFLG.



Most come from the delivery plan actions in the corporate strategy under the Connected Communities; Brighter Futures and Fulfilled Lives priorities and are a further demonstration of the Council's commitment to embracing and embedding equality and diversity in everything we do.

For our young people, we are working with young minds and key partners to ensure young carers increase the take up of services available to support their needs.

We continue to work with schools to ensure we track young people with disabilities and special educational needs to ensure that those who require Adult Social Care support receive this at the earliest opportunity.

Steps are being taken to make sure the views of children, young people, and their families are fed into the design and delivery of the services they access, so the council has a better understanding of the experience of children and families and the quality of services they provide to them.

We continue to engage with adult carers to encourage them to access support, information and advice and we are actively exploring options for increasing our short break offer.

We are on target to expand the number of dementia friendly communities which will be further supported the appointment of an Age Friendly Communities Coordinator.

We have adopted a Community Engagement & Consultation Strategy which is designed to empower and engage our diverse communities and help us provide more responsive services.

Skills and Learning are continuing to promote access to Career Education Information and Guidance appointments. These are particularly for people where English is not their first language and for people with learning disabilities who want to improve their skill base or improve their confidence and knowledge for everyday life.

Two practical examples, not captured in other updates of how the Council's Community Services coordinate and source support, help community groups and galvanise responsive services are set out below.

Helping families from Afghanistan

In September 2021, BCP Council were notified that 23 Afghanistan Families would be arriving in Bournemouth within 24 hours to be temporarily housed in a hotel for up to three months as part of a resettlement scheme.

Using our community contacts, arrangements were put in place to ensure that their arrival was as smooth and welcoming as possible. This included arranging for the Imam from the Bournemouth Islamic Centre and Central Mosque to attend the hotel to welcome the arrivals. The local Muslim community was contacted, and arrangements put in place for the donation of clothes, shoes and other items that were identified as needed.

Using our business contacts, JP Morgan donated funding to enable the purchase of mobile phones and sim cards so that the families could contact family members remaining in Afghanistan. We worked with the hotel to create a prayer room with prayer mats and Koran's and arranged for transport to the Town centre mosque for Friday afternoon prayers. Through our knowledge and relationship with our communities within Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole we were able to support the Afghan families and hopefully reduce some of the strain of the situation.

Helping families from Ukraine

A significant amount of support is underway for people fleeing the war in Ukraine. There are formal ESOL classes available through Skills and Learning are offering with peer support and language centres/teachers. When individuals register for Universal Credit, their English levels are assessed, and they are referred for ESOL support as required.

There is a dedicated support network on social media for guests and sponsors in the BCP and Dorset area and members of the Community Team have twice weekly meetings with them and other community leaders to update them on offers of support, job opportunities, or any changes in guidance etc as they arise.

They also hold a weekly Q&A with their members to collate questions (lots around schools' admissions and uniforms for example) and funnel these through to us for a response which they then share with their members- it has helped to significantly reduce the number of repeat enquiries we have received. These groups are incredibly organised and have compiled a wide range of resources for new members to access as required.

Staff from the Community team are members of this group and can monitor the interactions picking upon any issues that arise in between meetings. We are setting up a mailchimp email newsletter for sponsors so that they can receive updates as they arise and are also proposing to CMB the recruitment of a Ukrainian translator to work across services (housing, childrens etc) to help with complex cases- for example where see Ukrainian refugees presenting as homeless where sponsor or family relationships have broken down.

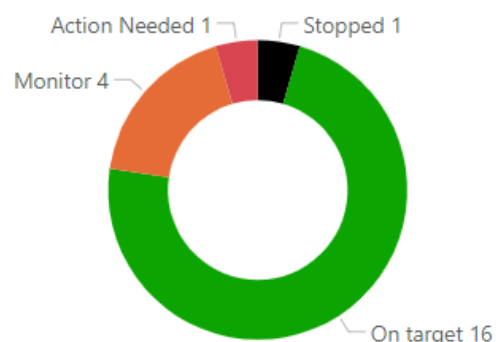
5.4 Diverse and Engaged Workforce

The Council has made quick progress in its aim to advance equality in the workplace. A total of 22 actions included in the Corporate Strategy, the Equalities Footprint and the Equality & Diversity action plan have been identified as contributing to this improvement model of the EFLG and we are on target for most of them.

We have carried out a series of Q&A sessions for our staff through conversations with the Chief Executive and other senior leaders which have:

- improved recruitment practices
- provided wider and improved training offers for our staff
- improved engagement and understanding of the PSED through the EIA panel process
- improved recognition and understanding among staff of the relevance and importance of equality & diversity through the appraisal process
- made significant and positive progression and development of our staff network groups, which is explained in further detail below.

The roll out of the new Enterprise Resource Planning system with a new HR system will help with collecting staff equality monitoring data and improving our understanding of the diversity of our workforce.



Staff Network Groups

A total of five networks groups have been put in place and are progressing well. The value of staff networks is often undervalued, and their purpose misunderstood. The networks perform several distinct functions. However, the four main aims effective staff networks provide are:

1. A safe space for discussion of issues related to an identity or protected characteristic.
2. They help to raise awareness of issues within the wider organisation
3. They provide a source of support for individual staff who may be facing challenges at work.
4. They provide a forum for a collective voice from unique perspectives from the workforce to management

To fulfil the fourth aim above of staff networks above – providing a collective voice for staff to management – it is essential that buy-in to the work of the networks from senior leaders at the very top of the organisation is secured. Therefore, our leaders are engaging with our staff networks, and we have been assigning network champions from within our Corporate Management Board to give the networks a voice on the councils Leadership Team. All equality champions are expected to promote and raise awareness of equality issues and provide feedback to SELG and drive progression of the council's equality objectives.

Disabled Staff Network Group

The Disability staff Network group have provided qualitative data as 'experts' by experience that has been invaluable in enabling the council to identify where there are opportunities to improve employment practice and enhance its reputation and the experiences of disabled customers and staff.

The staff survey shows that those who live with a disability are consistently less satisfied than those who do not.

As a result of the input from disabled staff Neuro disability specific training has been commissioned to ensure managers are better prepared to provide support to disabled staff so the full potential of this group of staff is maximised and the accessibility of services and access to employment improved

LGBTQ+ Staff Network Group

The group have held frequent six weekly virtual meetings including some face-to-face meetings to bond the group and created a social network-group. Members report they have appreciated this, and it has supported emotional well-being. The group has been grown to 30 members of LGBTQ+ staff and their allies.

Over the past year there has been wider involvement of staff in the group meetings and in progressing their work e.g. planning for the Bourne Pride event funded by an investment of £4,500 from an uplift in the corporate equalities budget for 2022/23.

The increased budget was used for a variety of items which included T-shirts for staff to wear with the Councils equality branding and logo, and to purchase bunting that was placed



around the balcony of the Civic Offices and around the town centre to demonstrate our commitment to the LGBTQ+ community. Lanyards designed by this group are worn by staff at all levels including senior managers which sends a powerful message of an accepting and inclusive workplace to staff and potential employees. Senior managers and Councillors also attend the pride event.

The Local Government Peer Challenge was influenced by their attendance, and members of the group are in regular dialogue with the Chief Executive.

The LGTBQ+ groups progress is one example of the changing and more inclusive culture in BCP Council's evolution as a new organisation and adds value to its credentials as an equality opportunities employer.

It is apparent that the LGBTQ+ Staff Network are influencing the developing culture of BCP Council through both their presence and work and are having a positive impact on the wellbeing of its members.

Over the next year the group aim to increase distribution of its rainbow lanyards and t-shirts not only because they are proving popular but to also to reinforce BCP Councils support to its LGBTQ+ communities and staff, and determination to be an inclusive employer that attracts the best talent and have staff who are proud of who they work for and are.

The lanyards are also worn by staff who are 'straight allies' and serve to support delivery of the public sector equality duty.

The group are advocating for staff to be able to add the rainbow logo to their BCP e-mail signature and are also working towards improving their support for trans colleagues.

Councils LGBT group, alongside the portfolio holder for equalities, has been critical in arranging the Councils participation and visible presence in Bourne free 2022. This was attended by approximately 30 staff including members of the Corporate Management Board and the Leader of the Council.



Council staff who attended Bourne Free Pride event also promoted BCP Councils' services and handed out over 1000 stickers during the parade to members of the public. This reinforces and demonstrates the organisational commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion to residents and visitors alike.

It is important that our commitment to equality is demonstrated within our communities, so we fly the Rainbow flag from our Civic Centre on International Day Against Homophobia on the 17 May and during Bourne Free Pride Festival in July. Our support for our LGBTQ+ communities and friends must be seen to be done as our communities include one of the proportionately largest in the UK.

Such activities are key to improved community engagement and are known to have a positive impact on underrepresented and minority groups. It improves trust and confidence and leads to better community relations, enhances reputation and is supportive of our ambition to be an employer of choice.

The LGBTQ+ Staff Network Group were instrumental in the introduction of pronouns as part of email signatures across the organisation. They were one of the groups who facilitated workshops at the Senior Managers Equality themed network meeting in September 2021 and contributed to the review of the results of the staff engagement surveys and the development of action plans.



Race & Cultural Diversity Staff Network Group

The Race & Cultural Diversity Staff Network Group (RCDSNG) has made considerable progress over the past twelve months. The group was instrumental in securing recognition from and support for Jamaican Independence Day and Black History Month in 2021 sharing life stories through exhibitions and presentations to other local authorities and international organisations such as Barclays Bank.

They have also developed and conducted a skills survey amongst its membership which has identified a wide range of untapped experience, knowledge, and skills that the council can draw on and are planning to put in place a mentoring scheme to support and develop its members.

The group has also recorded a variety of staff from across the organisation who detail their role and to show that there is diversity within the organisation and to provide a more diverse cohort of staff who can be used in council publications and media to, so they are more representative of the Councils workforce and the communities we serve.

The RCDSNG are hosting an event to celebrate Black History Month in October 2022, to recognise the contributions and achievements of those with African or Caribbean heritage across Dorset and the UK. It also provides an opportunity to gain experience more about the effects of racism and practical tools to show how to challenge negative stereotypes or build resilience to discrimination. The theme of the event is "Reflecting on the past – Daring to dream" and aims to inspire particularly young black and as well as other minority ethnic

people and will highlight examples of excellence, with a focus on future opportunities for young people in Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole.

The group has also developed partnerships with other public sector organisations who are supportive of advancing equality such from the private and community sectors successfully attracted sponsorship in support of the event from Unison, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services, Dorset Police, and Dorset Police Crime and Commissioners Office, and local businesses such as Turtle Bay Restaurant.

The group has also planned a social event and have extended it all the councils staff network groups to bring all together to further strengthen the networks, build partnerships and to increase council community engagement among minority and underrepresented groups.



Religion and Belief Staff Network update

The Religion and belief network have been impacted by the low number of attendees to meeting which has adversely affected our ability to deliver the agreed core actions.

The R&B network plans to invite Councillor Bobbie Dove to a future meeting in order to have an update on the Equalities Footprint.

The R&B network have attended meetings with the Council regarding the equality calendar and highlighted specific events in the religious calendar.

We have support BCP Council in the development of information handouts on different religions including Buddhism, Christianity, Humanism, Islam and Judaism.

We have offered to be primary consultees in relation policy development and Equality Impact Assessments.

We participated in the Equality Senior Managers Network, highlighting the need for staff to complete monitoring data which will allow for improved recognition of any adverse or positive impacts for 'Protected Characteristics'.

The future plans for the group will be dictated by the member participation, this needs a significant increase in member attendance.

Womens Staff Network Group

Following the tragic murder of Sarah Everard Enhanced safety measures were discussed following the subsequent vigils that took place where powerful messages made it clear that women do not feel safe on the streets. BCP Council has recognised that change needed to happen to on 15 March 2021 the Leaders of the council put forward a motion on several initiatives to work towards the change that was being called for. One of which was to develop an internal woman's staff group to understand the experiences of colleagues in and out of the workplace. Given that approximately two-thirds of the council's workforce are women the concerns were of significant relevance to them.

A successful Womens Staff Network Group (WSNG) has since been formed of which they are currently more than 120 members making it the largest membership of the network groups. Meet frequently and have made considerable progress since their foundation.

The group offers a safe space and a supportive environment in which women can share experiences, discuss opportunities, and develop broader links across the council.

The womens group is unique female only environment and as such is considered by its members as a safe space to process emotions – feedback received from members is that sessions are fun and morale-boosting (some have said they are akin to 'self-care') whilst still tackling serious issues that perpetuate female gender inequality.

The WSNG has set up several sub-groups to address Health & Wellbeing, Flexible Working and Equality-Driven Change. They have held an in-person meet-up for International Women's Day and forged strong links with other staff network groups both within and external to the Council.

The WSNG has have been critical to the councils review of its approach to menopause and menstruation awareness, training, and support – and is working in collaboration with the Corporate HR Wellbeing Lead, NHS and CCG groups, and Menopause Support Groups to develop BCP's offer for its staff. The group also has ongoing input to delivery of BCP's accommodation strategy/Town Hall refurbishment.

In addition to the WSNG facilitated breakout groups at Senior Managers Network meeting on Equalities and developed the content for the BCP intranet Menopause wellbeing page

The group has also made submissions to the Government consultation on flexible working and had input to several corporate HR policies and contributed to the staff survey review

The staff have invited both internal and external speakers address their meetings including a local Soroptimist Group, their Equality Champion/sponsor from the Corporate Management Board, and the councils Estates & Accommodation Project Lead.

The WSNG plans include training development to support members with the return to office spaces, including on how workspace accommodation can better support women's needs and address concerns around personal safety

The continuance of support to address health and wellbeing considerations that impact women (e.g. personal safety, support for carers, etc) and to continue to engage with BCP decision-making process as stakeholders (e.g. by facilitating engagement sessions so that Service Directorates and senior management can engage and consult with their members).

Further Training and Development

We are committed to the continuous professional development of our staff and invited inspirational speakers as subject matter professionals to attend a Senior Managers Network meeting. Equalities was the theme of the day and the key aims were to enable managers to:

1. understand and summarise the planned BCP equality journey
2. be able to link identified equality issues and therefore understand how to improve performance and a range of areas within BCP Council
3. have a clear understanding of issues relating to Gender Identity and how the subject matter relates to BCP Council
4. have a clear understanding of the BCP Equality Footprint and provide them with the ability to explain how this relates to their specific workspace.

Other outcomes were to equip managers with knowledge which enabled them to understand the rationale for the creation of staff networks, improve understanding of how equality can be the conduit between internal communication and improved community confidence.

An increasing number of staff and customers identify as Transgender.

This is also the most complex of all protected characteristics to understand and respond to. In recognition of the need to improve support for managers and staff a subject matter professional Ayla Holdom was brought in to provide an interactive session which enable us to raise the levels of knowledge and understanding of what many see as the most complex area of equality and dispel some of the myths about transgender people and a protected characteristic that is broadly misunderstood.

“Thank you. I think that this has been the most engaging and influential hour in my professional life for a very long time.

Your courage, candour and integrity are an astonishing example for all of us”.

The event was attended by over 150 members of the Senior Leadership Group and received extremely positive feedback from the attendees.

“Thank you very much for sharing your experiences with us. Your presentation was truly inspirational. It is absolutely critical that as an organisation and individuals we take the opportunity to listen, talk and in turn educate ourselves and others with regards to discrimination of any kind. Without exception, I believe we are all now a little bit better informed than we were at 9.00am this morning”.

This is in addition to the Disability Awareness training that DOTS Disability have been commissioned to deliver and the specialist Neurodiversity disability awareness coaching, mentoring, and training that has been commissioned to be delivered to staff and councillors as appropriate to their role or need.

Cultural Awareness Training- Gypsy Roma and Travellers

Cultural Awareness training was delivered to teams from Museum and Housing and attendees included staff, volunteers as well as Community Curators. Unfortunately, front of house staff were unable to attend the session due to working patterns, however many were able to access recording of the training either at home or through a special session set up at the museum.

The training included a conversation and conflict management tool which can be applied when challenging inappropriate behaviour using the CUDSA model. CUDSA encourages all parties to make choices that increase the chances of the cause of the conflict being resolved in a constructive rather than destructive manner and consists of five stages. It also helps avoid the escalation of conflicts through misunderstanding:

1. **C**onfront or challenge
2. **U**nderstand the others position
3. **D**efine the problem(s)
4. **S**earch for or evaluate alternative /language/solutions
5. **A**gree/implement best solution

Below are some of the headline comments of the impact and effectiveness of the training, its added value to staff development and potential impact on improved customer and community relations. These are presented against the Arts Council Generic Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge and Understanding

"It is good for everyone to take some time out to focus on Equality & Diversity"

"It was brilliant"

"...I think everybody in BCP should have the opportunity part of this training..."

"...really interesting and thought-provoking"

"I have learnt a lot"

Skills

"...made me feel more confident in challenging. It didn't feel a confrontational approach but a positive one..."

"I found CUDSA really helpful so will put it into practice if I need to"

"I definitely would challenge, understand, define, etc."

Attitudes and Values

"I will remember to look
'beyond the cover' of the
book!!!"

"I have a different feeling and approach towards
travellers and other cultures"

"Absolutely brilliant training"

"I will be more open-minded in my thinking of all travellers and try to encourage others to
do the same".

Enjoyment, Inspiration & Creativity

"Absolutely fascinating!"

"Brilliant thank you!"

"Thanks, Excellent session"

Action, Behaviour and Progression

"the training was incredibly comprehensive and detailed
but did not feel overwhelming in terms of the quantity of
content, and was highly memorable"

"It has reinforced my
confidence in my ability to
support cultural awareness"

"...the practical advice given for how to have difficult conversations is something that has
genuinely empowered me to make a difference..."

The Equality Action Commission

The commission aims to help improve the way we work with and support Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) individuals and communities.

The commission also aims to review our current practices and what we could do to improve our understanding of the needs and vulnerabilities of BAME communities and individuals.

We have reviewed the Terms of Reference our ensure that the EAC to ensure our original aims and objectives are achieved as planned, including giving us the level of challenge that we need to continue to improve our performance on the progression of our equality agenda.

Going forward we will focus on how deep dives into our organisation can work best so the EAC has unfettered access to information and the level of detail it needs to bring forward recommendations to the Council.

This will help us to reset the EAC and its work to bring forward the challenge to the Council that will drive continued improvement at pace.

The EAC has been instrumental in helping us make so much progress to date and in challenging our performance and were key partners in assisting the Council and Public Health to improve take up rates of vaccines among minority ethnic communities who were among the most disproportionality impacted by the pandemic.

6.EHRC Measurement Framework

According to the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) there are six domains or areas of life where efforts should be made to improve outcomes as this leads to a reduction in inequality overall.

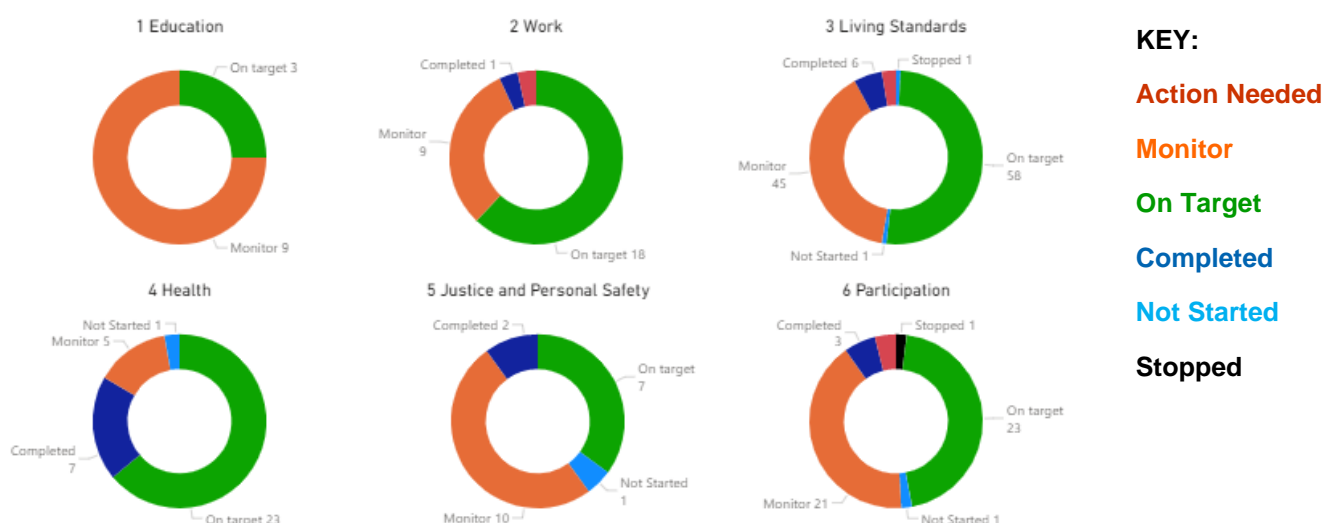
Comparing ourselves to the EHRC Measurement Framework allows us to have a more holistic view of our progress in advancing equality as it takes account of the range of activity across the council.

We have mapped the updates we have gathered from across the council to create an EHRC dashboard to try to show how we are reducing the difference in experience between diverse groups of people.

The [EHRC framework](#) set out 10 reasons for mapping progress against it:

1. It has strong theoretical foundations (equality, inequality, capability, human rights, vulnerability and intersectionality) that are applied to equality and human rights monitoring in a practical way.
2. It translates the central and valuable freedoms and opportunities, or critical things in life that people can actually do or be (capabilities), into outcomes for the future of Britain.
3. It has precise indicators and topics to monitor whether we are making progress in achieving the future we want.
4. To assess whether there has been progress, regression or stalling in relation to these indicators and topics, it provides detailed guidance on what structure, process and outcome evidence to look at.
5. It is exemplary in relation to data disaggregation and equalities analysis.
6. It champions a new approach to vulnerability and people who are at higher risk of harm, abuse, discrimination or disadvantage because they face adverse external conditions and/or have difficulty in coping due to individual circumstances.
7. It uses intersectionality as a practical, analytical tool to show the distinct forms of harm, abuse, discrimination and disadvantage experienced by people when multiple categories of social identity interact with each other.
8. It brings consistency to our equality and human rights monitoring, by replacing the different frameworks that had previously existed with a single framework that can be applied across England, Scotland and Wales.
9. It is compatible with major policy and statistics frameworks across the UK and globally.
10. It can be used to drive social change and, ultimately, achieve progress towards equality and human rights (Figure 1.1 illustrates the way in which we view the Measurement Framework as driving social change in terms of progress towards equality and human rights).

EHRC Performance Management Framework



Education

The EHRC dashboard shows that we are beginning to see some progress, however three quarters of the actions that impact equality across the area of education need closer monitoring and focus. Some of this work has already commenced where activities with schools and work across public, private, and voluntary sectors have been developed. These are currently coordinated through a variety of projects such as the mentoring programmes. These encourage intergenerational interactions and enable the sharing of skills and experience, fostering good relations between those who share a characteristic and those who do not.

The PfA Team continue to support young people through a strengths-based approach and by raising aspirations to improve outcomes for young people. The team can evidence case examples of the successes that young people have achieved. The team now effectively track young people in year 10 special school placements to ensure those who required ASC support receive this at the earliest opportunity. Year 1 review currently underway, Progress across most areas and a tiered training offer is also available for staff and external providers.

In early years education, the percentage of children attending a school setting rated good or outstanding by Ofsted is 98.10% which exceeds the target of 97% that was set. This is also the case for the number of children attending primary schools which is 95% which exceeds the target of 85% that had been set.

We are promoting lifelong learning for all and delivered a lifelong learning strategy with partners which provides a broad learning offer for work, wellbeing, culture, and arts.

Conversely, the scorecard reveals that three quarters of objective that that would positively impact the progression of equality within this domain requires though it is worthy of note that some objectives under this area of life are delayed due to the pandemic.

Work

Two-thirds of the objectives which fall under this domain are on target to be achieved. Action is required around several actions that impact equality and almost a third need to be monitored more closely as they are amber.

There is targeted work to ensure care leavers, disadvantaged boys, and young people with the greatest barriers to learning and work join apprenticeships.

Work is in progress with Bournemouth & Poole College to provide taster sessions for apprenticeships and vocational courses aimed at vulnerable students. Partnership working with local colleges is underway to offer a course that prepares Children In Care and Care Leavers for education/apprenticeships in horticulture and employability skills.

Living Standards

Over half of the actions identified under the Corporate Strategy's Delivery Plan are on target and will contribute towards improvement of living standards for BCP residents.

The support for people to live safe and independent lives is improving and there has been an increase in the proportion of adults with a learning disability with care and support needs who can live in their own home. Year-end performance was above the target which was 80.4%. An Accommodation Review Programme is currently underway, and its delivery will increase availability of supported accommodation, and reduce over reliance on residential care.

We are assisting people to live well through access to better quality social care. We have developed our outreach support with GPs in community-based settings to facilitate earlier engagement and improve the quality of life for those residents at risk of worsening health outcomes. Our ASC Contact centre and fieldwork teams are working closely with primary care to support clients in community settings with a focus on early intervention and prevention. Managers are developing links with primary care networks and a pilot has taken place to embed a care manager within a GP practice. Some aspects of the work have, however, been set back by the pandemic and we are awaiting development of Integrated Care Board to better understand how further integration with primary care can be progressed.

A new first point of contact service for adult social care to improve online information and advice and support residents' wellbeing and independence has been implemented. The Adult Social Care Contact Centre is established as the single first point of contact. Further work to develop online information and enhance website content will be undertaken within the corporate Customer workstreams over the following 12 months.

We are tackling homelessness and reducing rough sleeping by increasing access to suitable accommodation and re-modelling a range of sustainable housing support pathways. We have on-going programmes of activities which target prevention of rough sleeping, reducing the dependency on emergency accommodation and are reviewing and providing updated housing pathways for people with additional and complex needs through an additional Government grant.

We are working with the NHS, through the Homefirst programme, to improve the range and effectiveness of services which support people to live well in their own homes and reduce the need for hospital admissions. "Our Dorset" are working in partnership to ensure we have a sustainable future model which will enable people across BCP and Dorset to lead independent lives in their own homes, avoiding admitting them to hospital unless necessary and getting them back home with the right support following an admission.

We are preventing harm through early intervention and have developed a BCP Council Housing Strategy which addresses the needs of vulnerable young people and their families.

Health

We are promoting happy, active, and healthy lifestyles and have improved parental and family mental health by identifying families needing additional support through mandatory checks for children up to 5 years of age. Health Visitors are conducting mandatory checks between birth and age 3.5 prior to starting school. Families are identified via Family Hub Operational meetings and referrals from Health to the parenting programmes.

As part of our commitment to partnership working on suicide prevention, we have implemented a BCP Council strategy and action plan a review of the plan is currently underway. We have seen progress across the tiered training offer for staff and external providers. Some objectives of the strategy have invariably been delayed due to the pandemic.

We are improving the health of our residents and have improved the provision of smoking cessation services focusing on areas with the highest prevalence and need, through the LiveWell Dorset service. There is an increase in the proportion of people living in the most deprived quintile within BCP Council area where access to smoking cessation services rose during the period 2019 - 2022. The total number of smokers who successfully quit in BCP Councils area was 432.

The proportion of people with dependency successfully accessing alcohol and drug treatment services is increasing. Numbers in treatment have increased in all domains. Data between 2021 to 2022 shows 2,413 individuals accessed treatment – 1,337 opiates, 446 Non opiates, 630 primary alcohol and 102 young people. Targets for 22-23 are 2,510 in treatment – 1,400 opiates, 460 non opiates, 650 primary alcohol and 110 young people. All Local Authorities have been given targets to increase the numbers in treatment by 20% for the 2024/25.

Justice & Personal Security

We are continuing our support for people to live safe and independent lives and promote and have extended the use of assistive and digital technology to enable independence and enhance people's quality of life. Authorisation has been given to progress to a full options appraisal to inform the future model for BCP.

To ensure our communities feel safe we are delivering on our action plan to tackle rogue traders who target vulnerable people in their homes.

In addition to the above we are collaborating with partners including Dorset Road Safe to reduce the number of persons killed or seriously injured on our highways by at least 40% by 2030. A New Dorset Road Safety Strategy 2021 to 2030 has been developed to tackle KSIs based on partnership review of trends. By 2030 the aim is to have less than 88 KSIs. The targets for 2020 and 2021 were 146 and 137, respectively. And the actuals for those years were 106 and 109 (provisional). However, these periods did include Covid related restrictions, hence, which is reflected in the amber rating which requires us to keep a close eye on progress against this objective.

We have also developed and implemented our Domestic Abuse Strategy and action plan.

We supported the most vulnerable in our communities during the Covid 19 pandemic through the Together We Can Community Response and although now operationally concluded, the partnership continues as a means of supporting communities through covid recovery.

The free school meals programme during school holidays has allowed us to identify the most vulnerable in our communities and ensures that we can deliver targeted support as we enter the cost-of-living crisis.

We are reducing harm through early intervention by ensuring risk is appropriately identified and measures put in place to mitigate it by improving the quality of our social care, and early help assessments of need.

We continue to tackle all forms of child exploitation, including County Lines, early and effectively through preventative initiatives and effective cross Council working and collaboration with partner organisation such as the police.

Participation

A variety of new crossings have been delivered as part of the transportation related capital programmes. During 2021/22 16 new pedestrian crossings of varying types (e.g. Zebra, Puffin and Toucan) were installed to increase participation and access for older people and users of mobile scooters and pushchairs.

We have worked with carers to improve access to information and advice ensuring it is delivered at the right time and tailored to the individual carer though we recognise that we have fallen short of our target. However, we encourage carers to have an assessment and we train staff to support identification of need and uptake. We actively engage with carers to improve the information and advice we make available to them.

We have improved the accessibility, quality, and range of information available to young carers to increase take up of the services to support their needs. We have worked across the partnership during the Carer's services review with Young Minds, Children's Services, and other key partners to ensure our offer is attractive to young carers, including information available on CRISP website.

We are promoting happy, active, and healthy lifestyle and increased leisure provision and residents' leisure discount schemes to enable greater participation in activities.

The cultural identity of our towns and places has been strengthened to be more inclusive of the diversity of the cultural identity of our local communities. It is shaping our cultural infrastructure and will influence the development of the Local Plan.

We have built on the findings of the Cultural Enquiry in developing a Cultural Compact and a Cultural Strategy that supports diversity in community arts and culture to make them more inclusive and broaden participation.

7.Next Steps

The Council undertook its first Corporate Peer Challenge in November 2021.

Peer challenges are a tool used by council as an improvement tool and provides opportunities to gain experience good practice from other councils across a wide variety of business areas. Peer teams function as 'critical friends' and where councils are performing well and where there are areas for improvement.

The peer review team recognised that the council has long-term ambitions for its place agenda and has a resolute focus on its community leadership role for the whole area that it serves. It also noted that the council had a clear understanding of the challenges as well as the opportunities in the BCP area.

The dedication of staff, their commitment to delivering the best outcomes for residents and visitors and their widespread understanding of customers' needs is akin to their enthusiasm to deliver the councils ambition and vision for the BCP area and was commended by the Peer Challenge team. The team concluded that equality and diversity was not sufficiently embedded into the organisation's culture however, we are anticipating that this is likely to be viewed differently when the peer review team return in November 2022.

Since our establishment we have made significant progress with our E&D agenda. We have been decisive in our response following feedback from the corporate peer challenge and increased the resources available to expedite progress on equality to move from outputs to the delivery of tangible outcomes, so it is apparent that we are committed to ensuring equality and diversity is embedded into our organisational culture.

We therefore reviewed our Equality & Diversity Governance Framework and the terms of reference for each of the implementation groups which underpin the Strategic Equality Leadership Group, to ensure they have easy access to the SELG and a review of the Council's Equality & Diversity Policy is imminent and will be brought before council for approval.

Additional funding and support, has been set aside to promote and encourage wider participation in our Staff Network Groups, improve the availability and range of equality related staff training. We have increased the level of the Councils support for community events that support the three aims of the public sector equality duty bring people who share a characteristic and those who do not together to make our communities stronger.

Members of the Corporate Management Board will accept roles as Equality Champions in turn sponsors each of our Staff Network Groups which are representative of the key protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010, so they have a voice at the Corporate Management Board and at our most senior meetings.

We are embedding our Equality Footprint and have successfully launched an EIA panel and process which provides assurance and confidence at decision gateways. This also ensures meaningful consideration is given to the impact on equality that our decisions may have, maximises any positive benefits and reduces or removes those that may have an adverse impact on any particular protected characteristic or group.

We have recruited and trained Independent Observers who we encourage and welcome them to join in our recruitment processes.

We will be taking professional pictures of our Independent Observers to be shared internally and externally to the Council, so they are known to recruiting managers and our communities.

This will improve trust and confidence among our minority groups and take positive action to achieve a workforce that is more representative of the communities we serve.

We are seeking to gain a clearer understanding of how our staff contribute to and understand the delivery of the public sector equality duty and E&D, through the annual appraisal processes.

CABINET



Report subject	Smart Place Strategy (2022)
Meeting date	27 July 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The Smart Place Strategy aims to generate significant local value by helping to address some of the key challenges across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. Whether making it easier for people to go about their daily lives, improving the prospects of our local businesses or enabling communities to function more effectively Smart Place interventions are set to deliver major social and economic benefits to our area.</p> <p>The strategy is a key foundation of the Council's Big Plan ambitions and supports government's recently published UK Digital Strategy. In addition, the strategy also helps to deliver a number of priorities within the Council's Corporate Strategy and is strongly aligned to government's Levelling Up agenda.</p> <p>Whilst Smart Place applications and services are set to transform how areas operate, a major challenge is that at present there is no statutory responsibility nor associated regular funding to support the full development of Smart Places within the UK. The strategy therefore sets out a unique, financially self-sustaining business model which seeks to secure major private investment to deliver the Smart Place Programme across the whole of the BCP area.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Cabinet approves the Smart Place Strategy</p>
Reason for recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Delivers significant economic and social benefit for residents, businesses and communities. (ii) Supports the Council's Big Plan and regeneration ambitions, and Corporate Strategy priorities. (iii) Endorses the raising of private investment of £90m to fund the delivery and roll out of the Smart Place programme across the whole of the BCP area. (iv) Delivers cost savings and potential future income generation for the Council. (v) Supports government's Levelling Up agenda and UK Digital Strategy.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Philip Broadhead
Corporate Director	Adam Richens
Report Authors	Adrian Hale
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

Challenges

1. The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) area is facing major challenges. These include economic pressures with an annual productivity deficit estimated at £1bn compared to the national average, and considerable loss of local economic value. It also includes social challenges, particularly around a rapidly growing and ageing population. These problems are exacerbated by relatively poor existing digital connectivity.
2. Value is escaping from our local economy. Major global companies are harnessing and monetising local people's data in a way that local businesses currently cannot. This is clearly evidenced in the retail sector where the rise of e-commerce is contributing to the decline in shopping locally and our high streets are suffering.
3. In terms of digital connectivity, whilst understandably the current market delivers services to locations where the business viability stacks up, where it does not many residents and businesses can be left without access to affordable, high-speed broadband. Poor or expensive connectivity can also impact the modern delivery of vital services, as well as inhibiting innovation.

Aim and Ambition

4. The aim of the Smart Place Strategy and underlying programme is to:
Generate significant local value, creating digital solutions to improve the lives of our residents, the vibrancy of our communities and the prospects of our local businesses.
5. By helping to support an ageing population, tackling homelessness, improving security, revitalising our high streets and encouraging more environmentally sustainable behaviour, the Smart Place Strategy supports many of the priorities set out within the Council's Corporate Strategy as well as government's Levelling Up agenda.

BCP Council Big Plan

6. BCP Council has a clear ambition to improve digital infrastructure across the BCP area. The Council's 'Big Plan' states:
"We will invest in the physical and digital infrastructure of our coastal city region, to ensure that BCP has the best connectivity in the country – whether through superfast broadband and digital connectivity or through land, air and sea transport."

We will exploit the full potential of digital to make BCP a genuinely smart city region, where we use digital data to plan, manage and deliver better services for our residents and businesses and where digital natives thrive.”

7. By aiming to deliver the best possible digital connectivity, supporting local businesses to be at the forefront of developing new ‘Smart’ technologies and helping people to develop advanced digital and technological skills, the Smart Place programme underpins the Council’s Big Plan ambitions and government’s recently published UK Digital Strategy.

BCP Council Smart Place Strategy Delivery Programmes

8. BCP Council’s Smart Place Strategy (2022) (see Appendix 1) sets out how the Smart Place Programme will support the ‘Big Plan’, delivering major social and economic benefits for local people, businesses and communities over the next 5 years.
9. The Smart Place Programme is delivered in three key stages:
 - (i) Lansdowne Smart Place Pilot (£1.9m now complete, funded by Dorset LEP)
 - (ii) Boscombe Smart Place Demonstrator (£2.7m ongoing, funded from the Towns Fund)
 - (iii) Full Roll-Out across BCP (subject to private investment – approx. £90m)
10. An outline delivery plan for the Smart Place Programme is provided in Appendix 2.
11. The strategy describes four key Smart Place interventions that comprise the programme. Individually and collectively these interventions will help to deliver significant social and economic benefits, underpinned by a financially self-sustaining business model enabling full roll out across the whole of the BCP area. The four Smart Place interventions are:
 - (i) Gigabit-speed fibre networks
 - (ii) Private 5G and wireless networks
 - (iii) Place-based data insight platform
 - (iv) Smart Place applications & services

Smart Place Sustainable Business Model

12. Whilst Smart Place applications and services have the potential to transform how areas operate a major challenge is that at present there is no statutory responsibility nor associated regular funding to support the full development of Smart Places within the UK. Against a background of considerable public sector budgetary constraints, the Strategy therefore also sets out a unique, financially self-sustaining Smart Place business model. This model is specifically aimed at minimising any financial burden on the Council by seeking to secure major private investment to help deliver the substantial Smart Place Programme across the whole of the BCP area. In addition, the model also looks at how new incomes streams can be generated for the Council through the programme.

Links to other strategies

13. The Smart Place programme goes beyond the scope of traditional delivery of statutory Council services, with a particular focus on place-based solutions that directly benefit people, businesses and communities. The aim is to help tackle issues at source thereby reducing consequential demand upon Council services through greater and earlier engagement and much richer local insight.

Accordingly, the programme will particularly support and enhance the delivery of outcomes from the Transformation Programme. The strategy supports other Council strategies as well including the draft 2050 Climate Action Plan; the Economic Development Strategy; the Community and Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Strategy and the High Streets and District Centres Strategy.

14. Critically, by adopting the approach of minimising Council spend whilst also seeking to generate income the Smart Place Strategy supports the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.
15. The Smart Place strategy also aligns very well with a series of government strategies particularly its Levelling Up agenda and its UK Digital Strategy (published June 2022) strengthening the prospect of future government grant funding, over and above that already secured.

Consultation

16. Extensive consultation on the Smart Place Strategy has taken place with key stakeholders and there is considerable local support from local people and businesses. Over 78% of respondents to a recent public survey indicated their support for the aim of the strategy (see Appendix 3).

Options Appraisal

Do Nothing Option

17. With the 'Do Nothing' option the Smart Place Strategy is not adopted. With this option the programme will continue to be delivered in a piecemeal manner over a much longer time period. This will not deliver the Council's Big Plan ambition of being the best-connected area nationally and major potential social and economic benefits will not be realised. On this basis the 'Do Nothing' option is considered to be not a viable option.

Do Something Option

18. With the 'Do Something' option the Smart Place Strategy is adopted. This creates the opportunity to secure the major private and public funding necessary to deliver the Smart Place Programme across the whole of the BCP area. This option delivers on the Councils' Big Plan ambitions and will result in major social and economic benefits being realised. This is a viable option and is the preferred option.

Summary of financial implications

19. The Tables below indicate the sources of funding for the Smart Place Programme. No additional funding is required at this time beyond what has already been budgeted.

Revenue						
Funding Sources	Pre 20/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
Council revenue		188,647	185,200	188,904	192,682	755,433
From Reserves		117,000	52,000			169,000
One off revenue addition 2022/23			209,000			209,000
One off revenue addition 2022/23			68,000			68,000
Boscombe Phase 2 (DLUHC)		4,188	82,906	72,906		160,000
	-	309,835	597,106	261,810	192,682	1,361,433

Capital						
Funding Sources	Pre 20/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
Lansdowne Digital (LEP)	900,000					900,000
Lansdowne 5G (LEP)	1,000,000					1,000,000
Council WAN (Futures Fund)		4,900	2,195,100	3,000,000	670,000	5,870,000
Boscombe Phase 1 (DLUHC)	490,000	220,000				710,000
Boscombe Phase 1 - Police Grant		60,000				60,000
Boscombe Phase 2 (DLUHC)		50,513	1,000,000	738,000		1,788,513
DCMS			46,000			46,000
Innovate UK	13,000	37,000				50,000
SP Investment Plan (DLEP)	369,000	11,000				380,000
	2,772,000	383,413	3,241,100	3,738,000	670,000	10,804,513

Potential Private Investment (to be sought)						
Funding Sources	Pre 20/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 +	Total
Gigabit Fibre - Private Inv.				4,000,000	4,000,000	8,000,000
5G/Wireless - Private Inv.				2,000,000	25,000,000	27,000,000
Data Platform - Private Inv.				2,000,000	22,000,000	24,000,000
Apps & Services - Private Inv.				2,000,000	29,000,000	31,000,000
			-	10,000,000	80,000,000	90,000,000

20. The Smart Place Team will continue to pursue government grant funding and other third-party sources of funding when it is prudent to do so.

Summary of legal and governance implications

21. The Council has general power allowing it to act for the good of its area in ways that are not specified by statute. The Council will consider the following general powers as part of the delivery of the strategy:

- Section 111 of the LGA 1972. This section enables a local authority to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions. It provides local authorities with a general power to enter into contracts for the discharge of any of their functions.
- Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (LGA 1999). This section contains a general duty on a best value authority to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of:
 - economy;
 - efficiency; and
 - effectiveness.

22. Further Section 1(1) of the Localism Act 2011 introduced the “general power of competence” for local authorities, defined as “the power to do anything that

individuals generally may do” and which expressly includes the power to do something for the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area. The generality of the power conferred by subsection (1) is not limited by the existence of any other power of the authority which (to any extent) overlaps the general power.

23. The Council will consider all available legal routes as part of the delivery of the strategy, for example use of a company. For this purpose, the Council may apply Section 4(2) of the Localism Act 2011 which, provides that where, in exercise of the general power, a local authority does things for a commercial purpose the authority must do them through a company. Section 95 of the Local Government Act 2003 also authorises the Council to do for a commercial purpose anything which it is authorised to do for carrying on any of its ordinary functions (other than where it is under a statutory duty to provide that function) however, this power is only exercisable through a company.
24. Particular elements of the strategy and programme will require specific legal advice as and when they come forward for consideration. Typically, advice from Law and Governance and Strategic Procurement will be required on Subsidy (formerly State Aid); competition legislation, procurement options, contract law, intellectual property, the setting up of joint venture companies, as well as other general legal matters.
25. As part of the Smart Place Investment Plan work, options are being considered on potential preferred Smart Place ‘Special Purpose Vehicle’ (delivery vehicle) options. These will be explored in more detail as and when different Smart Place components come forward for consideration.
26. Consideration will also need to be given to statutory requirements, typically around equality and diversity, health & safety and employment law.
27. Allowance has been made within the Smart Place budget for additional legal and procurement advice, including external advice where necessary.

Summary of human resources implications

28. It is likely that specialist technical and other additional resources will be required in future to help deliver elements on this strategy. No resources will be recruited without first ensuring relevant budgets are in place. Any recruitment of new posts will go through the required steps for CMB approval.

Summary of implications upon the Levelling Up agenda

29. The Smart Place Strategy strongly supports government’s Levelling Up agenda. ([Levelling Up the United Kingdom: Executive Summary](#)). In particular the strategy supports the following Levelling Up ‘Medium Term Missions’:
 - a. Productivity: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK,
 - b. Digital Connectivity: By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
 - c. Skills: By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK.
 - d. Health: By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed.
 - e. Well-being: By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK.
 - f. Pride in Place: By 2030, pride in place will have risen in every area of the UK.

- g. Crime: By 2030, homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst affected areas.

30. At a local level the Council's 'Levelling Up' priorities are:

- Address cost of living issues including affordable housing
- Address skill shortages and low skill attainment
- Reducing health inequalities and the wider determinants and disparities between wards
- Increase support/development/opportunities for children and young people
- Improve transport links including cycling infrastructure

31. In addition, the Council has adopted the following 'Levelling Up' Goals with its three priority goals being 8 - Good health and well-being, 12 – Building homes and sustainable communities & 14 - Achieve equality through diversity & inclusion.



32. The Smart Place Strategy will particularly support:

- Goal 8: Good Health and well-being
- Goal 9: Extending enterprise
- Goal 10: Closing the digital divide
- Goal 11: Infrastructure for opportunity
- Goal 12: Building homes & sustainable communities (sustainable communities' aspect)
- Goal 14 Achieve equality through diversity and inclusion

33. The public consultation exercise conducted for Smart Place Strategy highlighted many community priorities which are reflected in the objectives of the strategy. A key priority from the survey was the need to provide digital skills training for 'everyday' purposes for those people at risk of digital exclusion. Enabling the improvement of personal digital skills is now a key objective of the strategy helping to close the digital divide.

Summary of sustainability impact

34. A Decision Impact Assessment has been created at Programme level, with recognition that if the recommendations in this report are approved, further DIAs will be created on a project level. The current DIA has a 'low risk' outcome overall and the Interim Report is included at Appendix 4.
35. Positive impacts only have been identified in the following areas: Climate Change and Energy; Communities and Culture; Economy; Health and Wellbeing; Learning and Skills; Natural Environment; Transport and Accessibility.
36. Waste and Resource Use is rated amber because we have not yet assessed whether the proposals will reduce water use and Sustainable Procurement is rated amber as there is further work to do to consider sustainable resource use within the whole life cycle of the individual projects.
37. The Sustainable Development Goals supported by the proposal are 1. No Poverty 2. Zero Hunger 3. Good Health and Well Being 4. Quality Education 7. Affordable and Clean Energy 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure 10. Reduced Inequalities 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities 13. Climate Action 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions 17. Partnerships for the Goals.

Summary of public health implications

38. The Smart Place Strategy will have a major positive impact upon public health. Examples include enabling remote surgery appointments and earlier interventions. Better connectivity to individuals' homes will enable people to access greater support, including more contact with friends and family. Improved and affordable gigabit connectivity will accelerate the deployment of healthcare technology, such as assistive living devices, helping to keep people living independently in their own homes for longer, thereby reducing the demand upon healthcare and Council services. Public services will be able to move and share health data around more quickly and cost-effectively.

Summary of equality implications

39. Equality implications are positive. The Smart Place programme will benefit low-income households in the area with numerous positive outcomes anticipated, including increased access to skills, jobs and services, better access to information, targeting of services, and better access to digital connectivity.
40. There are many positive implications for people with protected characteristics, particularly those who experience a greater level of digital exclusion such as people with disabilities or who are in older age groups. The COVID pandemic has highlighted the digital divide for children in low-income families with access to sufficient bandwidth, digital devices and skills impacting on their learning. The programme seeks to address these inequalities and to enable people with other protected characteristics and organisations supporting them to benefit from better access to information and to online services.
41. An Equality Impact Assessment: conversation screening tool (Form 1) has been produced at a programme level. The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) form was

completed predominantly based upon evidence collected from the two consultation exercises that have taken place.

42. The EIA conversation screening tool form was reviewed by the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Panel on 5th August 2021. The Panel did not find any issues that would contravene the Council's statutory equalities responsibilities. The Panel further concluded that as this was a Programme Level EIA there was no requirement for a full EIA at this stage but that a full EIA would be required for any significant underlying projects.
43. The key finding from the panel was that as the EIA form had been based solely upon auditable evidence it had not captured the full potential and ambition of the Smart Place programme to have a significant beneficial impact upon all people including those with "protected characteristics". For this reason, the panel awarded the EIA 'Amber' status. The Screening Tool has since been enhanced to reflect these comments and is included at Appendix 5.

Summary of risk assessment

44. A programme level Risk Register covering the key risks of stakeholder support; finance and funding; programme delivery and legal considerations has been produced and updated. The latest Programme Risk Register can be found in Appendix 6.
45. Individual risk registers will be produced for any key Smart Place projects, typically a risk register has already been completed for the digital connectivity project as part of the Boscombe Towns Deal Fund and a risk register has also been prepared for the Accelerating Gigabit fibre Smart Place (NHO) initiative.

Background papers

None

Appendices

- 1 Smart Place Strategy [2022]
- 2 Smart Place Programme - Outline Delivery Plan
- 3 Smart Place Strategy Public Consultation Results
- 4 Smart Place Programme Decision Impact Assessment Interim Report
- 5 Smart Place Programme EIA Screening Tool
- 6 Smart Place Programme Key Risks Register

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Smart Place Strategy 2022 [Draft]

Smart Place | Development Services

Author: Adrian Hale
Version: v0.1
Date: 14 June 2022

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Executive Summary

The Aim of the Smart Place Programme

- i. With a clear focus on generating local value, helping to tackle key challenges across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole lies at the heart of this Smart Place Strategy. Whether making it easier for people to go about their daily lives, improving the prospects of our local businesses or enabling communities to function more effectively, combining information, data and emerging digital technologies will deliver considerable benefits for our area.

The aim of the Smart Place programme is to generate significant local value, creating digital solutions to improve the lives of our residents, the vibrancy of our communities and the prospects of our local businesses.

Delivery Programme

- ii. This Smart Place Strategy sets out how the programme will continue to be funded and developed over the next five years. The Smart Place programme is being delivered in three key stages: (i) Lansdowne Pilot; (ii) Boscombe Demonstrator and (iii) Full BCP Roll Out.

Progress to date

- iii. The programme is already having an impact. The proof of concept '[MyBoscombe](#)' App has been launched to provide support for individuals, voluntary agencies and local businesses, to strengthen the Boscombe community. The [Affordable Assistive Living](#) use case trial examines how we can help people to live independently in their own homes for longer, reducing future demand on Adult Social Care services. Our [community safety](#) solution will make it quicker to monitor CCTV cameras and notify response agencies. The Beach Check App has helped to keep beach-going local people and visitors safe during COVID-19 and the Tip App is helping local people to plan their trips to local recycling centres. We are planning many more Smart Place applications and services that whilst helping to address the Council's Corporate Priorities, go beyond the statutory services traditionally provided by local councils, delivering solutions directly to people and places and supporting the government's Levelling Up agenda.
- iv. A key outcome from the Smart Place programme is the creation of local jobs to boost our economy. There are now over 60 private companies in our Smart Place Research & Development (R&D) Consortium working on addressing our key local challenges. Many of these are local small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Fourteen new jobs have already been created locally as a direct result of the Smart Place programme, delivering an annual benefit of £700k to the local economy. In regard to our digital networks, we have laid over 5km of ducting and high-speed gigabit fibre and deployed public Wi-Fi and highly cost-effective 5G private networks in Lansdowne and Boscombe. These 5G networks are amongst the most advanced in Europe and are now ready to be used by local digital companies and manufacturers to help the area to be at the forefront of advanced digital technologies. This economic aspect of the Smart Place Programme directly supports the Council's Big Plan ambitions as well as aligning strongly with government's recently published [UK Digital Strategy](#).

Challenges

- v. There is a need to deliver the benefits of the Smart Place programme across the whole of the Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council area. This will help to address key local issues including social, health and economic challenges; including the £1bn annual local productivity deficit; value escaping from the local economy; the recovery from COVID-19 and pressures on public sector budgets.
- vi. A major barrier facing the full scale roll out of the Smart Place programme is funding. There is no statutory funding associated with Smart Place provision and there are considerable

budgetary pressures within the public sector. A new sustainable Smart Place business model has therefore been created which minimises the need for Council funding and aims to attract an initial £90m of private investment funding to accelerate the full roll-out of the Smart Place interventions. The 'Smart Place Investment Plan' has tested this model and indicates a strong return for investors whilst also generating a surplus that can be reinvested in further Smart Place initiatives. Delivered through effective public/private sector joint ventures this model can also be 'franchised' in other places across the UK and beyond, increasing the proposition for investors

Smart Place Interventions

vii. Four key Smart Place Interventions have been identified to deliver our Smart Place ambition:

a) Gigabit fibre networks

The creation of a 'core' gigabit network and establishment of a neutral host provider will help to accelerate gigabit fibre across the BCP area, delivering the affordable, high-speed digital connectivity that businesses and residents need.

b) 5G and wireless networks

High-speed 5G mobile connectivity will help boost productivity, particularly in the digital and advanced manufacturing sectors within the BCP area and beyond. It will also help those businesses that want to exploit this latest technology by building hardware and software such as assistive living devices, drones, robotics, digital platforms etc.

c) Place-based data insight platform

Comprehensive and coherent place-based data is essential to inform how to improve the wellbeing of our residents, businesses, and communities. A new Place-based Data Insight Platform will receive, analyse and share local data from multiple sources, securely and on a major scale. This will provide local insights and analytics that otherwise would not be available, helping to shape the services of tomorrow.

d) Smart Place applications & services

The Place-based integrated suite of applications and services will allow residents, businesses and community groups to engage far more effectively with their 'place'. Tailored for local end-users and visitors, typical applications will support initiatives such as 'buy local', better access to learning and skills training, healthier lifestyles and access to support, increased security, better homes, more sustainable travel and much more.

Stakeholder Support

viii. There is considerable stakeholder endorsement for the Smart Place Programme. The 2021 online consultation exercise demonstrated overwhelming local public support. Local businesses and businesses from away looking to build a presence in the BCP area are keen to play an active role in the Smart Place R&D Consortium. The launch of the MyBoscombe app has already generated major community interest. Importantly, the programme continues to attract significant government and political support with the programme becoming recognised in government circles as an exemplar for other places to follow. Investor conversations continue to be very positive as has engagement with other local authorities.

Summary

ix. The Council's Smart Place programme is already responding to local needs and delivering positive outcomes for local people and businesses. This strategy sets out how even greater economic and social benefits will be delivered across the whole of the BCP area, mainly utilising private sector funding, thereby minimising costs to the Council whilst enabling major savings and generating new income streams for the Council and other local agencies.

Introduction

With a clear focus on generating local value, helping to tackle key challenges within our area lies at the heart of this Smart Place Strategy. Whether making it easier for people to go about their daily lives, improving the prospects of our local businesses or enabling communities to function more effectively, combining information, data and emerging digital technologies within a Smart Place context across an entire area will deliver comprehensive benefits.

However, these benefits have to be realised in the climate of considerable budgetary pressures within the public sector. Being a non-statutory function, this Smart Place strategy therefore also sets out the new sustainable business model that need to be adopted to provide the funding necessary to support the significant Smart Place programme.

This Smart Place Strategy sets out how the programme will continue to be developed over the next five years to ensure that momentum is maintained in generating real value for local people, businesses and our communities.

1. Aim

The aim of the Smart Place programme is to generate significant local value, creating digital solutions to improve the lives of our residents, the vibrancy of our communities and the prospects of our local businesses.

2. Drivers for Change

- 2.1 Local people, businesses and communities are facing a series of major challenges. From an economic perspective, recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting local businesses, tackling low productivity levels, and preventing significant value escaping the local economy are all key priorities. From a social perspective, there is an urgent need to address the demands of an ageing population, to support good quality housing and tackle homelessness, to generate good employment opportunities for local people and to create safe and vibrant communities.

Figure 1. Drivers for Change

1. Social, health and economic challenges locally
2. £1bn annual local productivity deficit
3. Significant value escaping from the local economy
4. Pressure on public sector budgets
5. Recovery from Covid -19



3. Scope

- 3.1 The Smart Place programme is a major undertaking with an initial estimated value of £90m over the first five years, rising to £500m over the next 10 years. The programme seeks to introduce targeted, place-based digital interventions across the entire BCP area, consisting of four key elements:

- 1) Provision of gigabit fibre networks;
- 2) Deployment of wireless networks, including innovative 5G and public Wi-Fi;
- 3) A substantial, secure place-based data platform
- 4) Smart Place applications and services.

- 3.2 As a place-based initiative, the scope of the Smart Place programme is to use digital insights and technologies to provide a broader set of new innovative services to residents, businesses and community groups across BCP. These services will go beyond the traditional statutory services provided by the Council and will lead to greater engagement with users who may otherwise have limited contact with the Council or other public sector bodies. This broader interaction with people and the place will provide a much clearer view of how the area currently operates and what measures are necessary to improve how the area functions. This insight will continue to help inform the new 'smart' services to be provided.
- 3.3 The local insight gained, and innovative technologies deployed can also be used to support public sector delivery. Typically, this includes informing prevention and behaviour change agendas, helping to reduce demand on council and health services. The Smart Place programme therefore has an important part to play in supporting the Council's objectives, including contributing to its internal transformation programme.

4. Strategic Objectives

- 4.1 The following strategic objectives have been set for the Smart Place Programme:

- (i) **Using Smart Place solutions to improve the lives of our residents**
- (ii) **Using Smart Place solutions to improve the prospects of our local businesses**
- (iii) **Using Smart Place solutions to improve the vibrancy of our communities**
- (iv) **Create a financially sustainable Smart Place business model**
- (v) **Support local and national policies and priorities**

[Smart Place solutions include gigabit fibre, wireless technologies and 5G, data insight and 'smart' applications and services]

- 4.2 Based upon stakeholder engagement and other research and evidence an initial set of deliverables have been identified to achieve the Smart Place strategic objectives. These deliverables are shown in Appendix A.

5. Strategic Fit

Links to BCP Strategies

- 5.1 The Smart Place Programme supports BCP Council's Corporate Strategy (February 2020) and the five strategic priorities of Sustainable Environment; Dynamic Places; Connected Communities; Brighter Futures and Fulfilled Lives.
- 5.2 The strategy also supports BCP Council's 'Big Plan' which involves five major projects that will support the creation of 13,000 jobs across all sectors of the local economy.
- 5.3 One of the 'five big projects' that BCP Council is seeking to invest in is physical and digital infrastructure. This is to ensure that:
- "... BCP has the best connectivity in the country... We will exploit the full potential of digital to make BCP a genuinely smart city region, where we use digital data to plan, manage and deliver better services for our residents and businesses and where digital natives thrive."*

Figure 2. BCP Council's 'Big Plan'



- 5.4 The Smart Place programme supports many other Council strategies, including the Economic Development Strategy, the Community and Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Strategy and the High Streets and District Centres Strategy. In addition, it can enhance wider strategies around community safety, tackling homelessness and suicide prevention.

Links to Government Strategies

- 5.5 The Smart Place programme supports a number of government strategies. This particularly includes the UK Digital Strategy published in 2022 and the 'Levelling Up' Agenda. The programme has strong links to government's security agenda and the Smart Place Team works very closely with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) having contributed to the Connected Place Cyber Security Principles. The programme also supports the 'UK Industrial Strategy'; the 'UK Innovation Strategy 2021'; the Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review' and the '5G Supply Chain Diversification Strategy'.

[UK Digital Strategy](#)

[Levelling Up the United Kingdom](#)

[UK Industrial Strategy - Building a Britain Fit for the Future](#)

[UK Innovation Strategy - Leading the Future by Creating It](#)

[Connected Places Cyber Security Principles](#)

[Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review](#)

[5G Supply Chain Diversification Strategy](#)

6. Challenges & Opportunities

Improving productivity

- 6.1 **Challenge:** It is currently estimated that there is a productivity deficit of £1bn within the BCP area with poor digital connectivity (fixed and mobile) costing the local economy around £150m per annum due to lost productivity. In 2021, against a UK average of 15.1%, only 10.5% of homes and businesses in Christchurch and only 0.8% in Poole have gigabit connectivity. A 2017 Which report also cited the Bournemouth conurbation as having the worst 4G coverage nationally.

- 6.2 **Opportunity:** A key outcome from the Smart Place programme is to improve both gigabit fibre and mobile connectivity in support of the Council's ambition to create 21st century digital infrastructure. These are also key priorities for government. Wherever viable the programme will seek to install ducting and fibre to support the Smart Place programme. In terms of mobile connectivity, the programme has already made use of 'place-based' spectrum from Ofcom to deliver one of Europe's leading standalone 5G networks in Lansdowne and Boscombe. These networks are available to local companies to develop and test new 5G products.

Retaining value in the local economy

- 6.3 **Challenge:** As online platforms and digital marketplaces continue to expand at considerable pace, this is having a major impact upon the local economy. Typically, disposable incomes that used to be spent within local shops are now being spent online, often with overseas digital companies with profits not only leaving the area but also the UK. This situation has worsened as a result of COVID-19. This is leading to significant value escaping from local businesses, which is clearly manifested within our declining high streets.
- 6.4 **Opportunity:** One of the main drivers behind the success of online marketplaces is data. A key theme for the Smart Place programme is to create a rich source of local data, hosted on a secure, place-based data platform. By holding information on products and services and, with their consent, local people, it is possible to begin to reshape this economic landscape. Typically, the creation of local digital marketplaces that promote both local virtual and physical businesses will help to ensure that more value is retained within BCP.

Supporting local businesses

- 6.5 **Challenge:** Many small local businesses can struggle to compete with larger companies for business and often find market entry difficult, particularly for valuable public sector contracts. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has increased difficulties for local businesses.
- 6.6 **Opportunity:** Smart Place and digital technologies have the potential to grow significantly over the next few years. There are already over 60 companies in the Smart Place R&D Consortium, many of whom are local small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). These SMEs have been working on a series of Smart Place proof of concept projects and already fourteen local jobs have been created over the past two years with an annual value of £700k to the local economy.

Tackling social and environmental issues

- 6.7 **Challenge:** The Council's Corporate Strategy sets out many of the challenges that face the BCP region. These include addressing loneliness and isolation; addressing climate change; revitalising our high streets; improving the safety of our communities; encouraging more sustainable travel; empowering a thriving community and voluntary sector; enabling access to high quality education; supporting people to live independent lives; tackling homelessness and promoting active and healthy lifestyles.
- 6.8 **Opportunity:** The Smart Place programme will enable new innovative services and applications to be developed to help tackle many of these local challenges. Through co-design with stakeholders and businesses a series of proof-of-concept projects have already been developed as part of the Lansdowne and Boscombe Smart Place Projects. These include the launch of the [MyBoscombe](#) community app as well as initiatives around [affordable assistive living](#) technology, [monitoring air quality](#), [revitalising the High Street](#), [asset monitoring](#), and co-ordinating homelessness data. These and further Smart Place applications and services will be developed and rolled out across the whole of the BCP area.

Addressing reducing Council budgets

- 6.9 **Challenge:** Local Authorities are facing unprecedented financial challenges, with a combination of increasing demand upon services against a background of real term reductions in central funding. Reducing ongoing revenue costs is therefore a priority for BCP Council.
- 6.10 **Opportunity:** As a place-based initiative the Smart Place programme can utilise technology to help reduce current and future demand upon services and associated costs to the Council, the NHS and other public sector bodies. The need to reduce ongoing revenue costs also applies directly to the Smart Place programme. By creating its own networks and infrastructure it is possible to control costs associated with transmitting, storing, managing and analysing place-based data, enabling innovation to thrive. Where appropriate the opportunity will be taken to make an 'Invest to Save' case for Council investment in Smart Place infrastructure.

Sourcing funding

- 6.11 **Challenge:** Whilst being recognised as a major factor in the future success of places and cities, there is currently no statutory duty upon councils to deliver Smart Place programmes and no associated core government funding support. This is a major barrier to the expeditious roll-out of digital technologies and the delivery of accompanying social, environmental and economic benefits within local authority areas.
- 6.12 **Opportunity:** The Smart Place programme recognises the considerable latent value within the local area. The opportunity has therefore been identified to develop innovative new business models to harness this value in order to attract inward investment to help fund and accelerate the deployment of Smart Place technology solutions.

7. Innovative Digital Technology

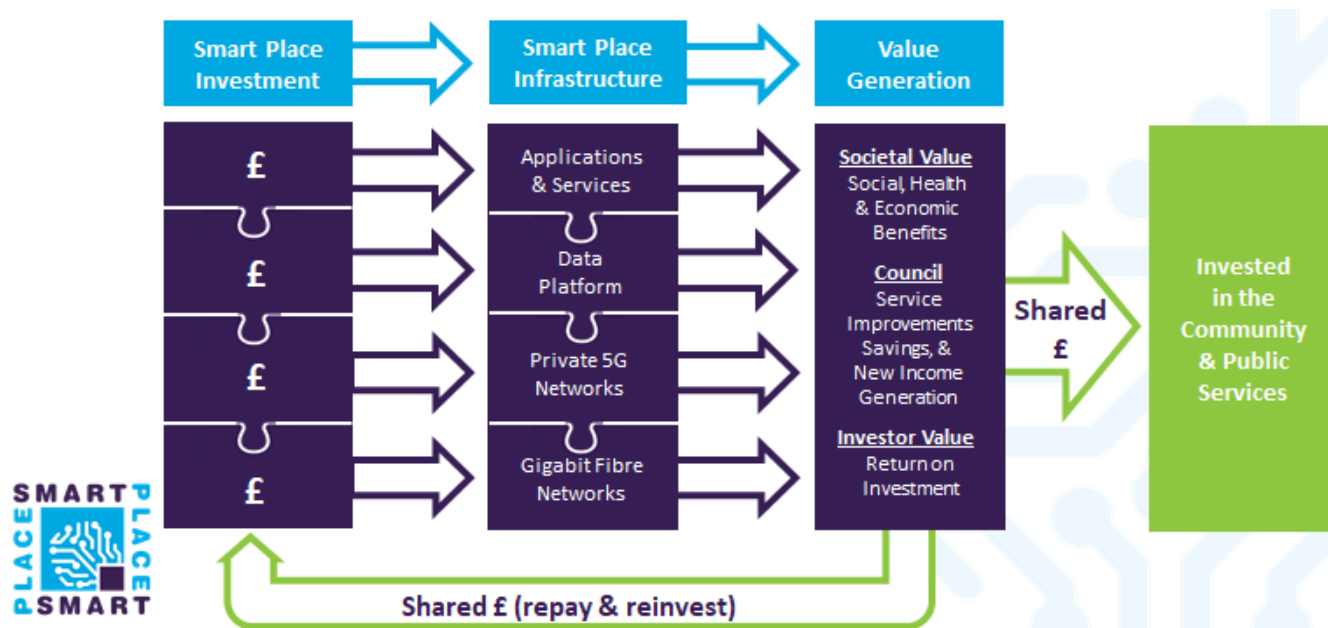
- 7.1 In order to ensure that the opportunities to address local challenges are taken, the Smart Place programme has identified four key innovative digital interventions that need to be delivered across the BCP region:
- (i) Gigabit fibre networks
 - (ii) 5G and wireless networks
 - (iii) Place-based data insights platform
 - (iv) Smart Place applications & services
- 7.2 Details of these digital technology interventions are provided in Appendix B. Typical Smart Place applications & services can be viewed via the following link: [Smart Place Applications & Services \(bcpCouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/smart-place-applications-services)

8. Sustainable Smart Place Business Model

- 8.1 The aims of the Smart Place programme cannot be achieved without investment in digital technologies. Beyond occasional grant funding at present there is no statutory provision nor core funding for Smart Place development. To address this issue a financially sustainable, Smart Place, business model has been developed aimed at generating regular income that will be used to fund the ongoing development of the Smart Place Programme. With £380k of funding from Dorset LEP a Smart Place Investment Plan has been developed to examine the sources and level of potential revenue generation in order to attract inward investment for the four Smart Place products. The outcomes from this Plan are provided in Appendix C. Early market engagement is taking place with investors and the selection of preferred investor partners will take place between 2022 and 2023, subject to funding of the procurement process.

8.2 The projected financial returns from these four Smart Place products will be sufficient to make the Smart Place programme financially self-sustaining and has the potential to produce a surplus that can be reinvested in community initiatives and public services. The diagram below illustrates how the model works.

Figure 3. Smart Place Sustainable Business Model



9. Stakeholder Engagement

9.1 Engagement on the Smart Place Programme has taken place with local residents, the business Community, UK government, investors, external stakeholders and internal Council departments. There is overwhelming support for the programme from all stakeholders. A summary of the outcomes from this engagement is provided in Appendix D.

10. The Delivery Programme

10.1 The Smart Place Programme is effectively split into three phases. Phase 1 was the development of the Smart Place Pilot project at the Lansdowne. Phase 2 is the Smart Place Demonstrator Project at Boscombe which is funded through the 'digital connectivity' element of the Boscombe Towns Deal. Phase 3 is the full roll-out of Smart Place capabilities across the whole of the BCP area, which is dependent upon inward investment.

Figure 4. Smart Place Delivery Programme Overview



10.2 The outline of what is planned, what has been done to date and next steps for each phase of the programme are provided in Appendix E.

10.3 The outline delivery plan for the Smart Place Programme is shown in Appendix F. Ultimately the pace of delivery will be dependent upon the source and the level of investment secured.

Appendix A: Smart Place Objectives - Deliverables

(i) Using Smart Place solutions to improve the lives of our residents

- Providing affordable digital connectivity to all
- Improving personal digital skills
- Using technology to promote healthy lifestyles
- Creating 'apps' highlighting local services & products
- Using place-based data to enhance local services & products
- Creating digital innovations that support the Council's approach to tackling key social issues (e.g. loneliness, homelessness and suicide)

(ii) Using Smart Place solutions to improve the prospects of our local businesses

- Building major on-line marketplaces to promote 'buy local'
- Digitally enabling the local supply chain and logistics
- Leading on digital connectivity and 5G innovation
- Developing new digital opportunities for industry
- Creating high-value digital technology jobs
- Increasing productivity through better digital connectivity
- Enabling new manufacturing and working methods
- Increasing local workforce digital capability
- Using local companies in the Smart Place programme

(iii) Using Smart Place solutions to improve the vibrancy of our communities

- Improving digital connectivity including public Wi-Fi
- Enhancing the level of information available to support the voluntary sector
- Revitalising the high street, through augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) and other digital technologies
- Using Smart Place applications to enhance the leisure & tourism offer
- Using place-based insights to help reduce carbon emissions
- Improving community safety through digital functionality
- Providing live data to help manage assets (e.g. roads, car parks)
- Supporting major incident response

(iv) Create a financially sustainable Smart Place business model

- Leading the UK in place-based innovation, enabling the attraction of major private sector investment
- Identifying and unlocking untapped financial value in places
- Developing an investment plan for the development of scalable and marketable digital solutions
- Developing new business models and the required company structures that enable a return on investment for investment partners and financial returns for BCP Council

(v) Support local and national policies and priorities

- Generating and retaining value locally
- Securing major inward investment
- Generating financial returns through innovative business models
- Creating savings and delivering efficiencies
- Underpinning BCP Council's Big Plan
- Contributing to BCP Council's Corporate Strategy and other Council strategies
- Helping to tackle the Climate Emergency
- Aligning with BCP Council's Transformation Programme
- Helping to deliver government's 'Levelling Up' programme
- Delivering against the national and local Industrial Strategies

Appendix B: Innovative Digital Technology - Details

Gigabit fibre networks

- B.01 Businesses and residents require very high-speed gigabit fibre, however neither the existing telecoms market nor government support is delivering at sufficient pace to meet existing or future demand. The Smart Place programme therefore aims to accelerate the delivery of gigabit fibre within the BCP area through the creation of a 70km core gigabit network. A similar sized gigabit fibre deployment in Stoke on Trent is forecast to generate a 15-year economic (gross value added – GVA) benefit of £568m.
- B.02 The Council has already approved £5.87m via the Futures Fund to deliver this core gigabit network. This core network will help to connect local town centres, major business parks, hospitals, the universities, proposed development areas and other centres of demand. A total of 210 points of interest have been identified and mapped. The network will allow far more devices to be connected which will enable new digital services to be developed by both the private and public sectors. A particular feature of the proposed network is to build a ‘point to point’ network enabling much greater upload speeds, which will address this perennial issue for businesses.
- B.03 Wherever possible to reduce costs and minimise disruption the ducting and fibre core will be installed during other construction works including the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) transport corridors works. The fibre route will also leverage existing public sector owned ducting.
- B.04 To maximise the benefits from the gigabit network, it is proposed to procure a Neutral Host Platform provider. This will encourage new entries into the Internet Service Provider (ISP) market, helping to provide more cost-effective broadband and other wireless services to local businesses and residents.

5G and wireless networks

- B.05 The Smart Place Team has already secured its own ‘place-based’ 5G spectrum licences from Ofcom and deployed a highly innovative, standalone private 5G network as part of the Lansdowne Smart Place Pilot scheme. This is one of the most advanced 5G networks in Europe and the next step is to roll out this cutting-edge technology to key areas across BCP.
- B.06 Very high-speed mobile connectivity services will help to boost both the digital and advanced manufacturing sectors within the BCP area and beyond. This includes businesses that simply need to access this technology, typically to improve productivity, as well as those businesses that want to build hardware and software associated with the technology, such as assistive living devices, drones, robotics, digital platforms etc.
- B.07 As well as 5G networks it is intended to extend the latest version of other wireless technologies across other areas within the conurbation including Narrow Band - Internet of Things IoT (NB-IoT) and Long-Term Evolution of Machines (LTE-M) networks as well as public Wi-Fi.

Place-based data insight platform

- B.08 Coherent, comprehensive place-based data is essential for the development and management of services that improve the wellbeing of residents, communities and businesses. The Place-based Data Insight Platform will receive, analyse and share data from multiple sources securely and at significant scale enabling local insights that would not otherwise be possible.

- B.09 Place-based data will be generated from digital applications and services via the Smart Place integrated applications suite (see below). Further local data can be leveraged from other secure sources from various sectors. Partner organisations including the public sector, private sector and voluntary sector can then all benefit from much richer local insights, helping local businesses and improving services. This data exchange will underpin many aspects of the Smart Place programme and be the foundation upon which Smart Place solutions are created.
- B.10 Security of the Place-based Data Insight Platform is fundamental. The Smart Place Team has been working very closely with UK security agencies who have been providing input and guidance. A standards-based approach is being taken to the system design and data governance with particular focus on the BSI Publicly Available Specification (PAS) standards. An essential aspect of the platform will be the ability to put individuals in control of their data.

Smart Place applications & services

- B.11 The place-based integrated applications and services will deliver a unique digital portal that allows residents, businesses and community groups to engage far more effectively with their 'place'. Local knowledge and data will enable the Smart Place suite of applications to be tailored for local end-users and visitors. This will provide a much richer and better experience than apps that offer similar services but on a national or international basis.
- B.12 The Smart Place applications and services can either be software or hardware solutions. Central to the place-based focus of the Smart Place Programme will be the development of a series of 'one-stop-shop' community apps across the whole of the BCP area. The first proof of concept community app, 'MyBoscombe' was launched in May 2022 and covers community based activities such as volunteering, where to visit and eat, local travel information, wellbeing information and details of local independent shops. It already has significant support from local voluntary agencies and businesses. These place-based apps will also directly support initiatives such as better access to learning and skills training, healthier lifestyles, access to support agencies, increased security, better homes and much more. A Smart Place market research exercise conducted in 2020 indicated that there is significant local appetite for a trusted place-focused suite of applications.
- B.13 In addition to applications a range of Smart Place services will also be developed. Typically, these will be more 'hardware' focused and may include the provision of affordable monitoring devices in people's homes, improving security and air quality monitoring and interactive digital displays utilising VR and AR technologies to promote events or locations etc.
- B.14 In partnership with Council departments, Smart Place technology can also be adapted for Council purposes such as property asset monitoring, intelligent street lighting, traffic management and waste management.
- B.15 With appropriate governance, consents, data protection and security in place the Smart Place applications and services can ultimately be a rich source of local information for the data insights platform which can help to shape services provided to local people by both the public and private sector. This also opens up opportunities for generating income in support of the wider Smart Place Programme.
- B.16 A key aspect of the Smart Place applications and services is the ability to encourage local companies to help develop these solutions through their participation within the Smart Place R&D consortium. This will help to generate further value within the local economy.
- B.17 Typical Smart Place applications & services can be viewed via the following link: [Smart Place Applications & Services \(bcpCouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/smart-place-applications-services)

Appendix C: Smart Place Business Model Assessment

A Smart Place Investment Plan has been developed to examine the sources and level of potential revenue generation in order to attract inward investment for the four Smart Place products. The following details the outcomes from this Plan.

Gigabit fibre network

- C.01 With a minimum investment of £8m in a 100km gigabit fibre and ducting network, it is projected that there will be an Internal Rate of Return (IRR) of 13% over 20 years. Investment could either come from the private sector or from the Council, where an 'invest to save' case can be made, or a mix of both. The source and level of investment will influence the level of any return to the Council.

5G and wireless networks

- C.02 Private investment of up to £27m is sought to deliver 5G and associated wireless networks to key areas around BCP. It is projected that there will be an IRR of 17% over 20 years on this investment. It would be necessary to set up some form of joint venture (JV) company between the Council and the private sector with the Council sharing in any returns created.

Place-based data insights platform

- C.03 Private investment of up to £24m is sought to deliver the place-based data insights platform. It is projected that there will be an IRR of 17% over 20 years on this investment. It would be necessary to set up some form of JV company between the Council and the private sector with the Council sharing in any returns created.

Smart Place applications and services

- C.04 Private investment of up to £31m is sought to develop Smart Place applications and services. It is projected that there will be an IRR of 27% over 20 years on this investment. It would be necessary to set up some form of JV company between the Council and the private sector with the Council sharing in any returns created.

Appendix D: Summary of Stakeholder Engagement

Local Residents

Smart Place Strategy Objectives Consultation

- D.01 The Council undertook a public consultation exercise to receive views on the Smart Place Strategy aim and the detailed objective deliverables (as listed in Section 4). The consultation ran from June to July 2021 and 337 responses were received.
- D.02 The consultation demonstrated widescale support for the Smart Place Strategy's aim and objectives (see end of this Appendix). In regard to the aim of the Strategy, 78% of respondents were in support of the aim, 11% were neither in support or against and 12% opposed the aim.
- D.03 On the subject of the Smart Place objective of using Smart Place technologies to improve people's lives there was good support for all of the initiatives surveyed. There was particularly strong support for providing digital skills training for residents, creating digital technology solutions to help tackle key social issues and helping to provide affordable broadband and other digital connectivity.
- D.04 Regarding the Smart Place objective of using Smart Place technologies to increase the prospects of our businesses, there was widespread support in all areas surveyed. Support was very strong for using local companies in the development of Smart Place solutions and for providing digital skills training for the local workforce.
- D.05 In regard to the Smart Place objective of using Smart Place technologies to empower our communities there was generally widespread support for all of the initiatives surveyed. Support was particularly strong for using digital technologies to manage major incidents, manage transport and car parks, enhance community safety and support the voluntary sector. There was also strong support for improving broadband speeds and public Wi-Fi.
- D.06 Respondents were also invited to provide their own additional feedback. As well as general supportive comments a recurring observation from this feedback was the importance of the delivery of the Smart Place objective to provide skills training for people who may not be digitally confident to ensure that these people did not miss out on the Smart Place opportunities. In regard to people who opposed the strategy or its objectives, 21(6%) of the 337 respondents did not believe that digital solutions would make a major difference and eight people (2%) were concerned about the Council funding the programme.

Smart Place Use of Technology Questionnaire

- D.07 In 2020 a Smart Place 'Use of Technology' market research questionnaire survey was conducted to provide evidence in support of the Smart Place Investment Plan and the wider Smart Place programme. This postal survey took place between October and November and there were 1,288 responses to this survey.
- D.08 In regard to sharing of data, 97% of respondents felt that trust is important when deciding about sharing information, with just over three quarters (76%) reporting that trust is very important. Two thirds (66%) of respondents would trust BCP Council to keep their information safe and secure. Over 55% of respondents would be happy sharing information about community interests and involvement e.g. volunteering, use of public transport, health and wellbeing and shopping habits, if it could help to sustain local businesses and benefit the environment.
- D.09 If BCP Smart Place were to provide an online marketplace 86% of respondents said they would be likely to use it if it were the same price as alternative companies/websites and two thirds (67%) said they would be likely to use it if prices were 2% more expensive.

- D.10 Of the 6% of respondents who did not use the internet 34% said that this was due to lack of skills or confidence, 33% had security concerns and 32% had no equipment. 97% of those with no disability use the internet at least once a day compared to 87% of those with an illness that limits their activities a little and 82% of those whose activities are limited a lot.

The Business Community

- D.11 There is significant support for the Smart Place Programme from local, national and international businesses. The Smart Place R&D Consortium now has over 60 partners many of which are local SMEs. Association with the Council's Smart Place programme is very important for these SMEs. Many companies benefited from being involved in the Smart City World Expo in 2020 as part of BCP Council's Smart Place participation.

UK Government

- D.12 There has been considerable engagement with various government departments over the past three years and there is a keen interest in BCP Council's Smart Place programme. These departments include the Cabinet Office, DCMS, the Department of International Trade (DIT), Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), DLUHC, the NCSC and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI). There is particular interest in the innovative 5G networks and Smart City security. Cabinet Office and DCMS are also very interested in the new, financially self-sustaining business model, for leveraging in major private investment to accelerate the roll out of digital technologies to support communities and industry.

Investors

- D.13 Securing inward investment is critical to the future success of the Smart Place Programme. In February 2021 BCP was selected by the DIT to be its first UK showcase Smart City. This event, coupled with the launch of the Smart Place Investment Plan, has led to a series of early market conversations with investors interested in all areas of the Smart Place programme. These conversations continue to be very positive and there is sufficient interest to move forward with the investor selection process.

External Stakeholders

- D.14 The Smart Place Team has been actively engaging with various external stakeholders, including numerous community groups and voluntary agencies, the Dorset LEP, which provided the £1.9m funding for the Lansdowne Smart Place Pilot project; AFC Bournemouth; Bournemouth University, the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group; Dorset Police and the local Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). There is considerable support for the Smart Place programme and the willingness to work together to optimise solutions.

Internal Council Departments

- D.15 Having showcased Smart Place capabilities many BCP Council departments have been working with the Smart Place Team to understand how the technology can help support their future digital ambitions. A number of departments have already been involved in the development of the Lansdowne proof of concept projects and the creation of the Beach Check app and Tip App. There is now the potential for more digital innovation to take place in support of the Council's internal Transformation Programme.

Local Residents Smart Place Survey Results

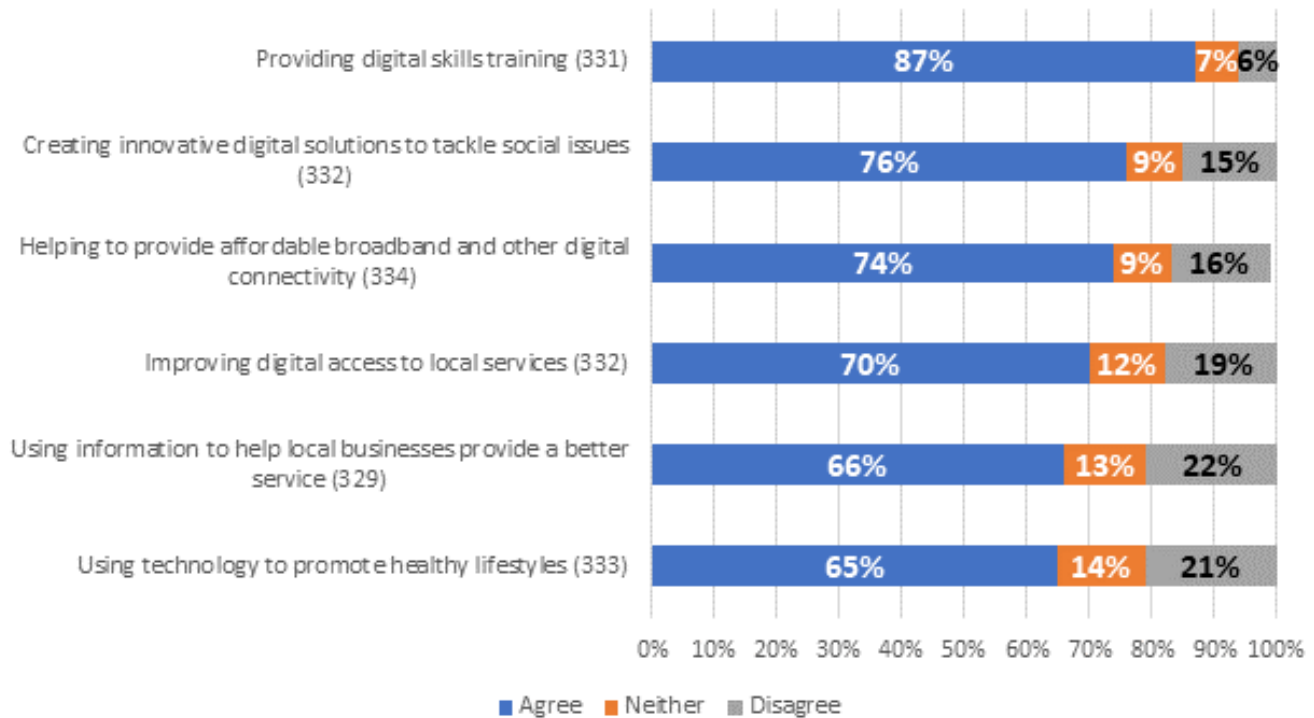
(337 respondents)

Smart Place - Overall Aim

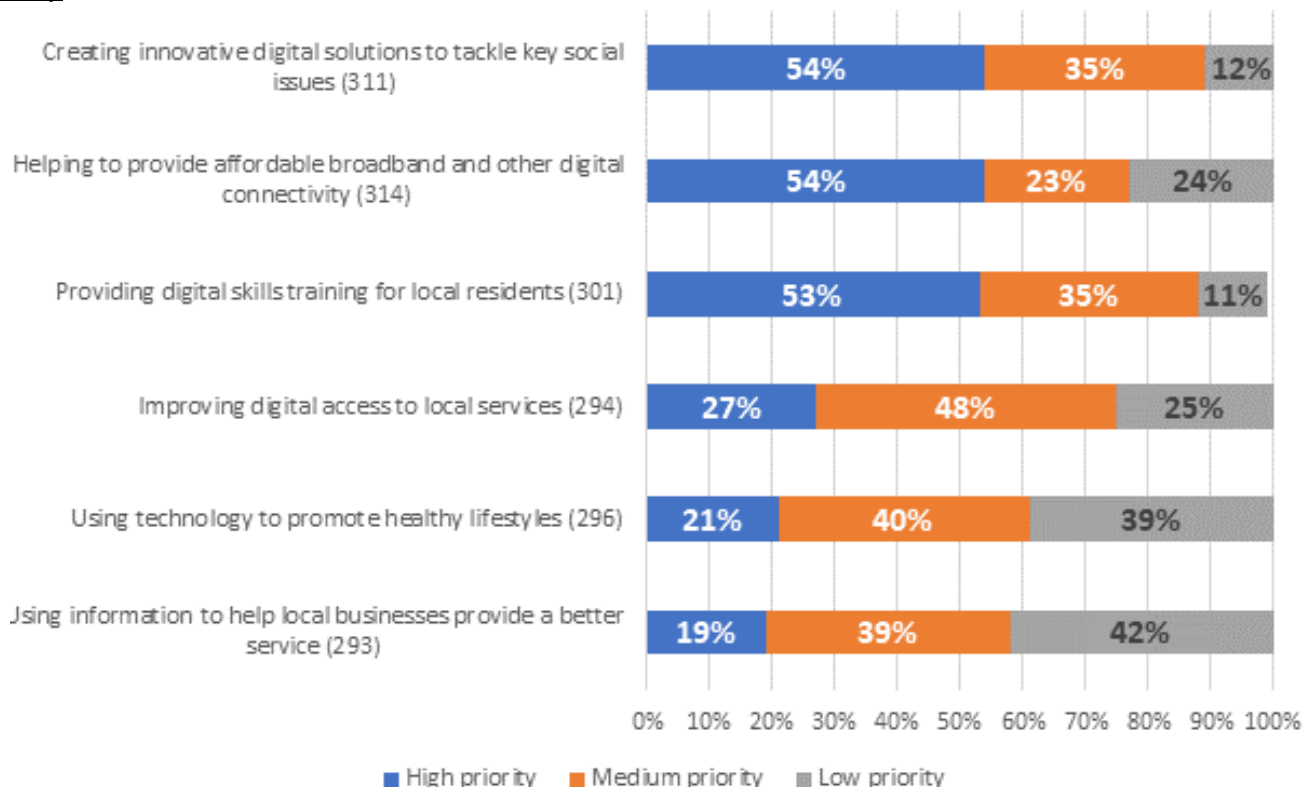
78% support, 12% oppose and 11% neither support nor oppose

Smart Place Objectives – People

Agreement

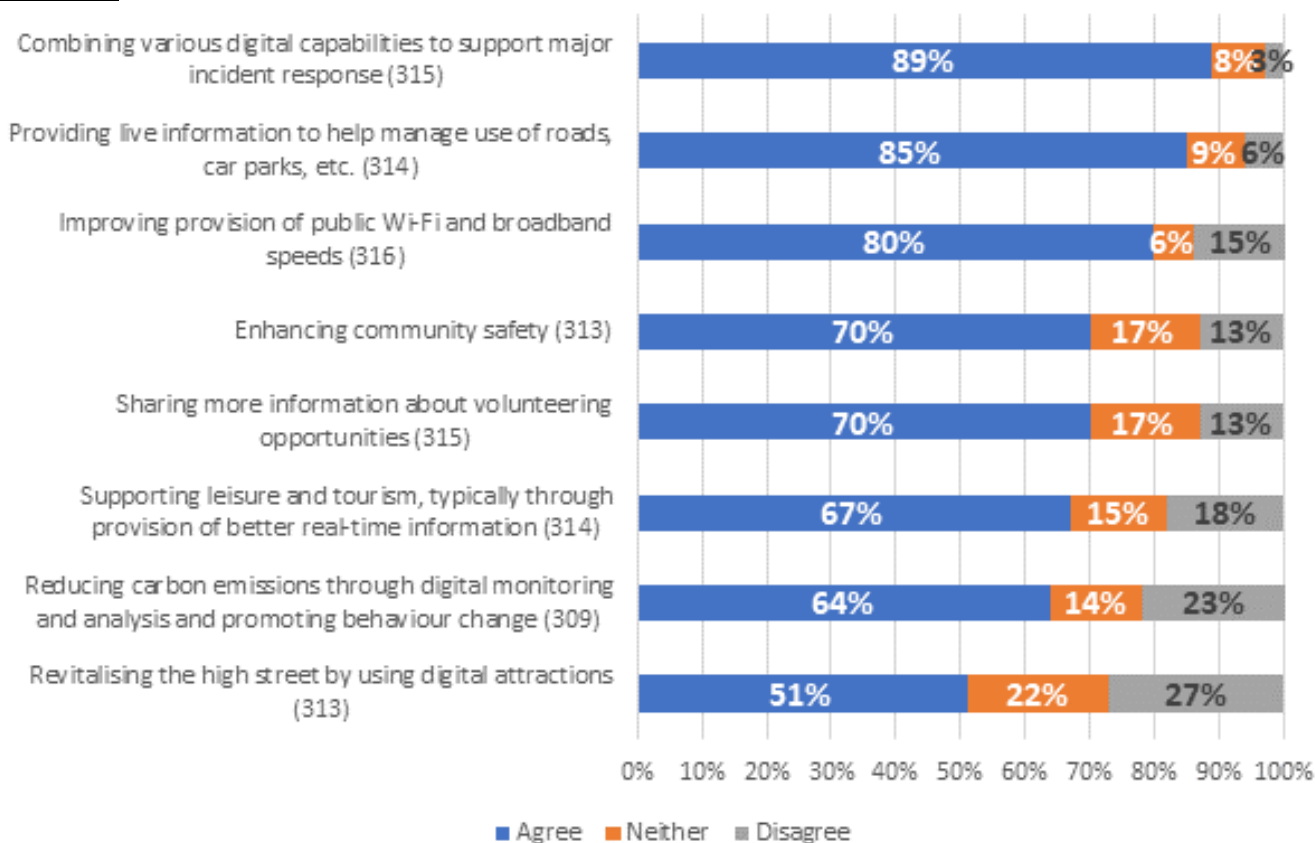


Priority

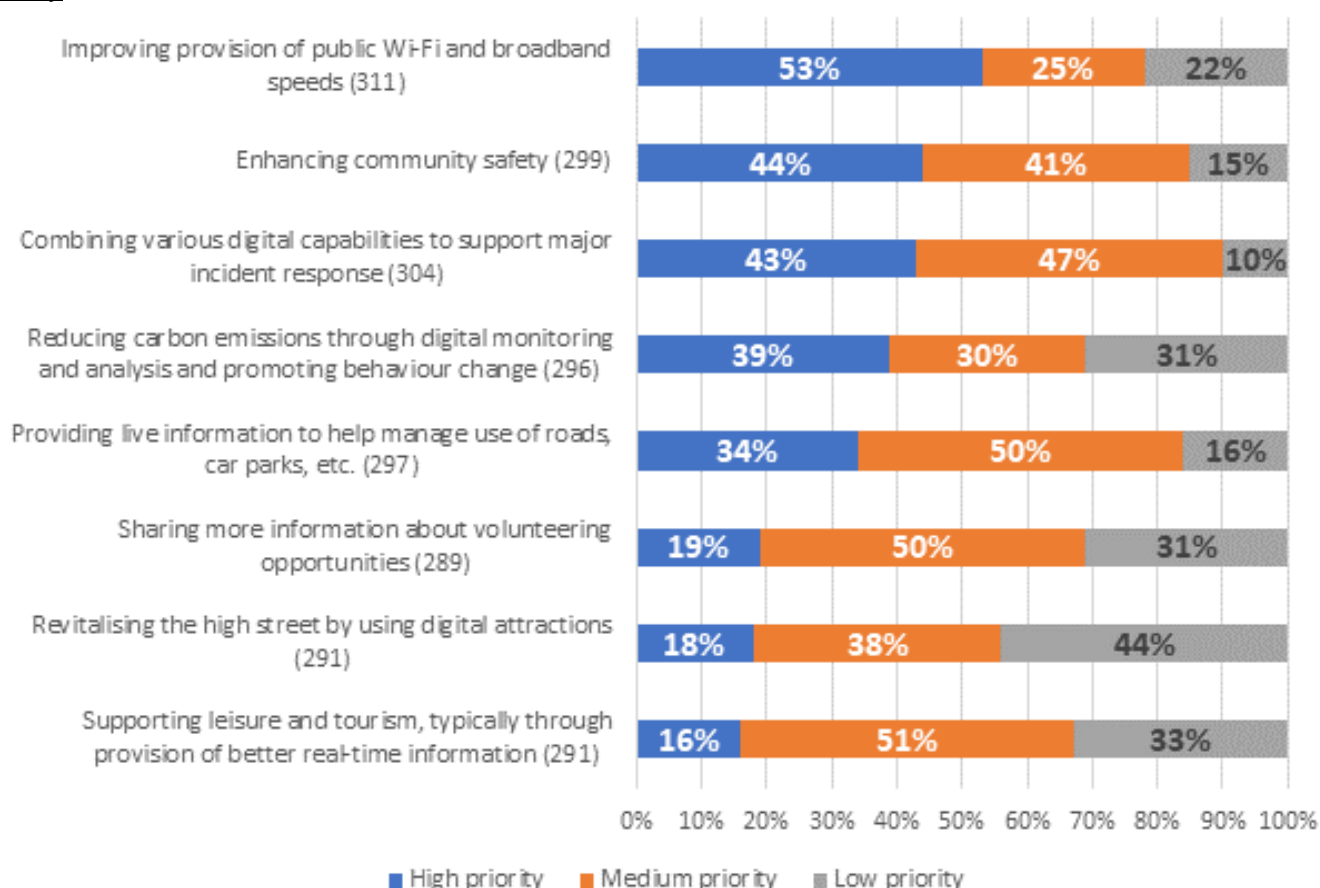


Smart Place Objectives – Place

Agreement

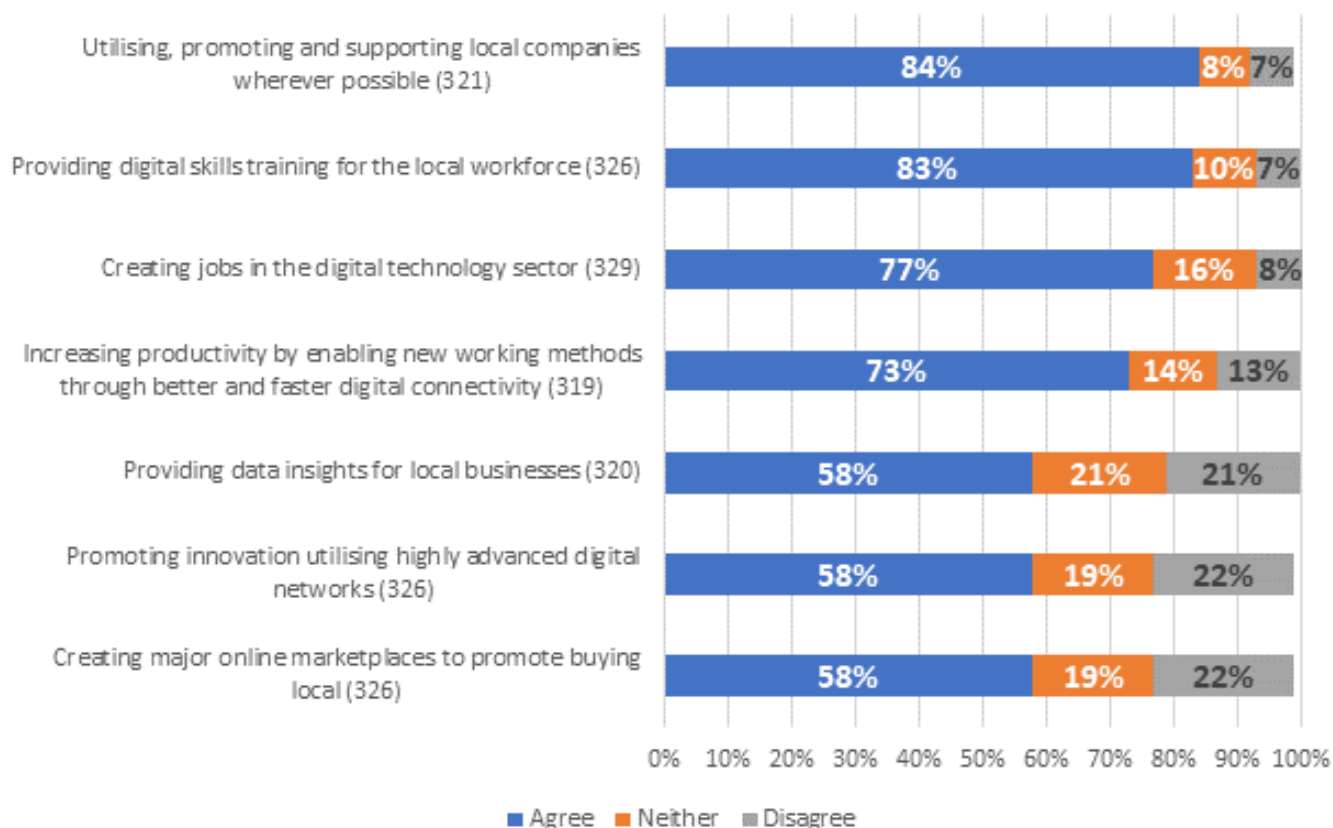


Priority

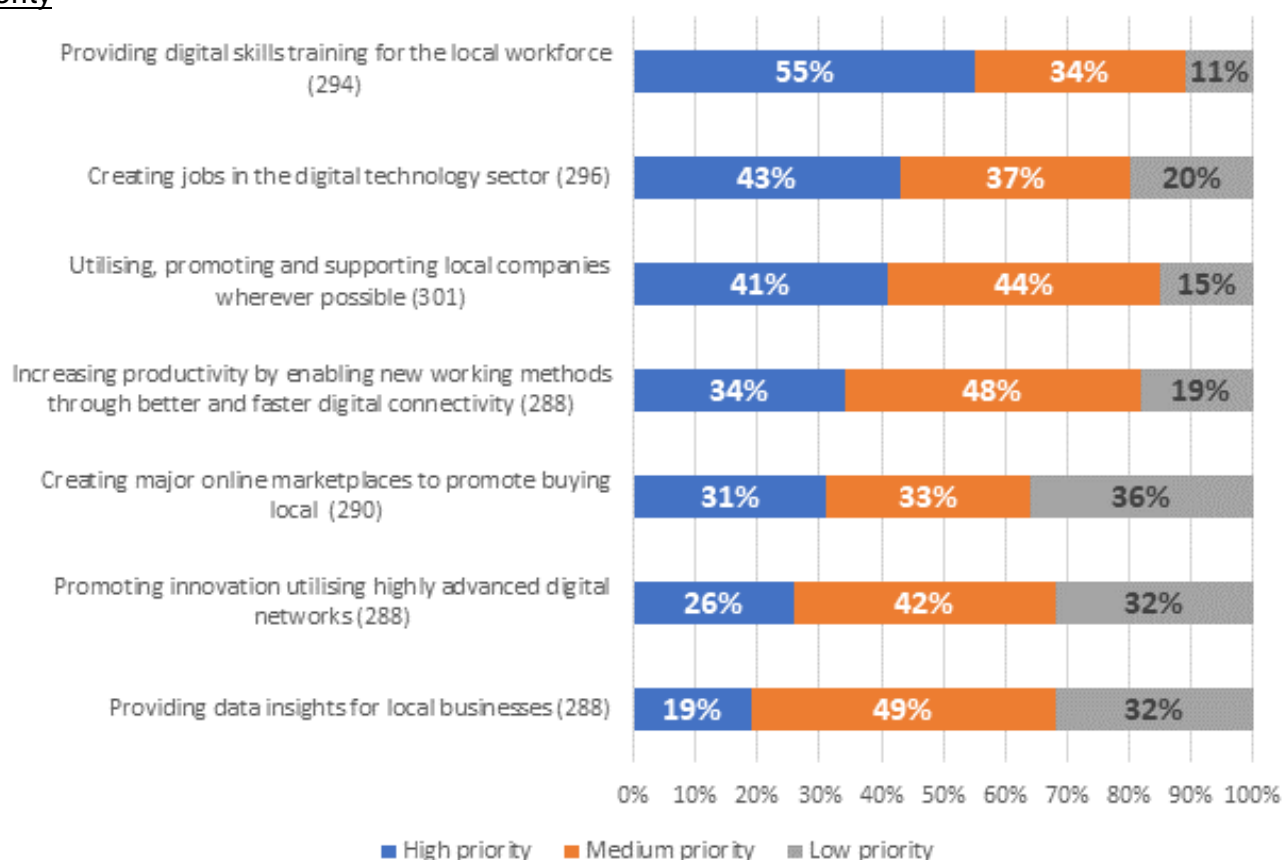


Smart Place Objectives – Business

Agreement



Priority



Appendix E: Delivery Programme – Details of Each Phase

Phase 1: Lansdowne Smart Place Pilot

- E.01 The Lansdowne Smart Place Pilot represents phase 1 of the Smart Place Programme and was conducted from January 2020 to July 2021. This £1.9m pilot project was funded by Dorset LEP and involves the provision of digital connectivity around the Lansdowne area including the laying of a local gigabit fibre network and the provision of a variety of wireless networks. These wireless networks include a standalone 5G network, an LTE-M network, an NB-IoT network and a public Wi-Fi network.
- E.02 In order to demonstrate the capability of these networks and to support local businesses in their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, a series of preliminary Smart Place proof of concept projects (Smart Place Challenges) were set up. Working with various client stakeholders and appointed Smart Place R&D partners, these Smart Place Challenges cover: Tackling Homelessness; Reinvigorating the High Street; Affordable Assistive Living Technology; Air Quality Monitoring; Improving Community Safety, Public Asset Monitoring and Highway Monitoring. As well as illustrating the potential value of the Smart Place solutions, nine local jobs have been created within the local R&D partners as a direct result of their involvement with this early stage of the Smart Place programme.
- E.03 Against a backdrop of COVID-19 and Brexit the highly innovative Lansdowne project has been completed successfully within an 18-month timescale. The next step is to take the innovative technology that has been developed, as well as the learnings, and to deploy these within Boscombe.

Phase 2: Boscombe Smart Place Demonstrator

- E.04 The Boscombe Smart Place Demonstrator is the second phase of the programme and involves Smart Place technologies being rolled out more widely across a distinct neighbourhood area. This demonstrator project is funded from the Digital Connectivity element of the Boscombe Towns Fund provided by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).
- E.05 In autumn of 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, MHCLG (now DLUHC) awarded £1m of emergency advance funding to BCP Council. £710k of this funding was set aside to accelerate the digital connectivity work in Boscombe. From February to July 2021 ducting and gigabit fibre was installed between Lansdowne and the centre of Boscombe. In addition, public Wi-Fi units have been installed within Boscombe Precinct along with two innovative 5G units.
- E.06 A Full Business Case for Boscombe Digital Connectivity funding was submitted to government along with the Towns Fund Summary Business case in June 2021. Subsequently an additional £1.788m of capital funding and £160k of revenue funding was awarded by DLUHC in autumn 2021 which provides funding for Boscombe up until March 2024.
- E.07 This further funding extends the fibre and wireless networks, including 5G and public Wi-Fi, from the centre of Boscombe onwards to Pokesdown, Boscombe Seafront and Kings Park, including AFC Bournemouth's football ground.
- E.08 Phase 1 of an initial Smart Place App focused upon the Boscombe area and its specific community needs ([MyBoscombe](#)) has already been developed with local stakeholders using the advanced funding and this will be enhanced as part of Phase 2. Further demonstration use cases will also be undertaken including a wider roll out of assistive living technologies, further community safety initiatives, improved local sustainable transport information and supporting and promoting leisure and tourism experiences.

E.09 A key outcome from the Towns Fund project is to enable Boscombe to become a major centre for innovative digital technologies and businesses. To help facilitate this a digital innovation hub facility will be created within the centre of Boscombe. This hub will serve three main purposes. The first is to provide an environment where local companies can come and develop and test new digital products across the various wireless networks including 5G. It will also become a centre where local job seekers can come and learn new digital skills, interacting with local digital companies. Finally, the facility can also be a community hub for local people to come and learn basic digital skills to ensure that they do not miss out on the opportunities that digital knowledge allows.

Phase 3: Smart Place Full Roll-Out

E.10 The full roll-out of Smart Place capabilities across BCP will require significant inward investment. In recognition that the scale of funding required can neither be provided by the Council nor UK government new business models have been devised. Business models for each of the four Smart Place 'products' have now been developed further and analysed as part of the £380k, LEP-funded, Smart Place Investment Plan. In total it is now estimated that £90m is required over the next 5 years to complete a substantial element of full roll-out and to generate revenues that can then be re-invested to accelerate further roll out.

E.11 The Smart Place Investment Plan, along with the Smart Place Pilot and demonstration work taking place at Lansdowne and Boscombe will help to attract investors and encouraging early discussions are already taking place.

E.12 Having established that there are viable propositions in each of the four technology layers of the Smart Place Programme the next step is to undertake a formal investor partners selection process, taking account of all legal and financial requirements. Subject to confirmation of funding this will take place over the next two years and will include agreement upon the equitable share of revenues and the form of any JV companies where applicable.

E.13 Work is already taking place on planning future digital network infrastructure delivery and the creation of the Smart Place Data Insight Platform and Smart Place applications. This work will move to a more detailed phase once investment has been secured and timescales with investors have been agreed.

Appendix F: Smart Place Programme – Outline Delivery Plan

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Appendix 2		Smart Place Programme - Outline Delivery Plan																												13/06/2022
Activities		Pre-2020	2020				2021				2022				2023				2024				2025				2026			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Preparation																														
0.01	Bid for Lansdowne Growth Deal LEP Funding (£0.9m)																													
0.02	Bid for Lansdowne Smart Place Pilot LEP Funding (£1.0m)																													
0.03	Bid for Smart Place Investment Plan LEP Funding (£380k)																													
0.04	Bid for Boscombe Towns Fund Phase 1 - Advance Funding (£710k)																													
0.05	Bid for Boscombe Towns Fund Phase 2 - Full Funding (£1.88m)																													
Phase 1. Lansdowne Smart Place Pilot Project (LEP)																														
1.01	Install ducting and fibre around Lansdowne Area																													
1.02	Install Public Wi-Fi																													
1.03	Install 5G Network around Lansdowne																													
1.03	Install NB-IoT & LTE-M Wireless Networks around Lansdowne																													
1.04	Complete 8 Smart Place Proof of Concept Projects																													
Phase 2. Boscombe Smart Place Demonstrator Project (Towns Fund)																														
<i>Stage 1 - Advance Funding</i>																														
2.01	Install ducting & fibre between Lansdowne & Pokesdown																													
2.02	Install Public Wi-Fi in Boscombe Town Centre																													
2.03	Install 5G Network in Boscombe Town Centre																													
2.04	Install NB-IoT & LTE-M Wireless Networks in Boscombe Town Centre																													
2.05	Create Initial Demonstrator Smart Place App for Boscombe																													
<i>Stage 2 - Full Funding</i>																														
2.06	Install ducting & fibre between Boscombe Centre & Kings Park																													
2.07	Install ducting & fibre between Boscombe Centre & Seafront																													
2.08	Install 5G Network in Kings Park & along Boscombe Seafront																													
2.09	Install NB-IoT & LTE-M Networks at Kings Park & Boscombe Seafront																													
2.10	Create Full Demonstrator Smart Place App for Boscombe																													
2.11	Run Smart Place demonstrator challenges - security; health; tourism etc.																													
2.12	Establish the Digital Innovations Hub for businesses and skills training																													
Phase 3. Full Roll Out																														
3.01	Complete Smart Place Investment Plan																													
3.02	Conduct Early Market Investor Engagement																													
Smart Place Product 1 - Gigabit Fibre Networks																														
3.03	Cabinet Decision on Council Investment in Gigabit Ducting & Fibre for WAN Network																													
3.04	Installation of Gigabit Ducting & Fibre 'Spine' (subject to Cabinet Decision)																													
3.05	Council Approval for Neutral Host procurement (Cabinet Decision)																													
3.06	Conduct procurement for Gigabit Fibre Neutral Host																													
Smart Place Product 2 - Private 5G Networks																														
3.07	Council Approvals for investor selection & structure of JV																													
3.08	Conduct investor selection process for 5G roll-out to key sites																													
3.09	Set up JV for 5G roll-out																													
3.10	Build 5G roll-out to key sites																													
Smart Place Product 3 - Place-Based Data Insights Platform																														
3.11	Establish Data Governance & Security Policies and Procedures																													
3.12	Council Approvals for selection/structure of pilot investment																													
3.13	Conduct preliminary investment selection process for Pilot Product																													
3.14	Set up legal construct for Pilot Product																													
3.15	Build Place-Based Data Insight Platform Pilot Product																													
3.16	Council Approvals for selection/structure of full investment																													
3.17	Conduct investor selection process for full Place-Based Data Insight Platform																													
3.18	Set up JV for Place-Based Data Insight Platform																													
3.19	Build Place-Based Data Insight Platform																													
Smart Place Product 4 - Applications & Services																														
3.20	Council Approvals for selection/structure of full investment																													
3.21	Conduct investor selection process for development of SP Apps & Services																													
3.22	Set up JV for development and widescale roll out of SP Apps & Services																													
3.23	Develop and roll out Smart Place Applications & Services																													

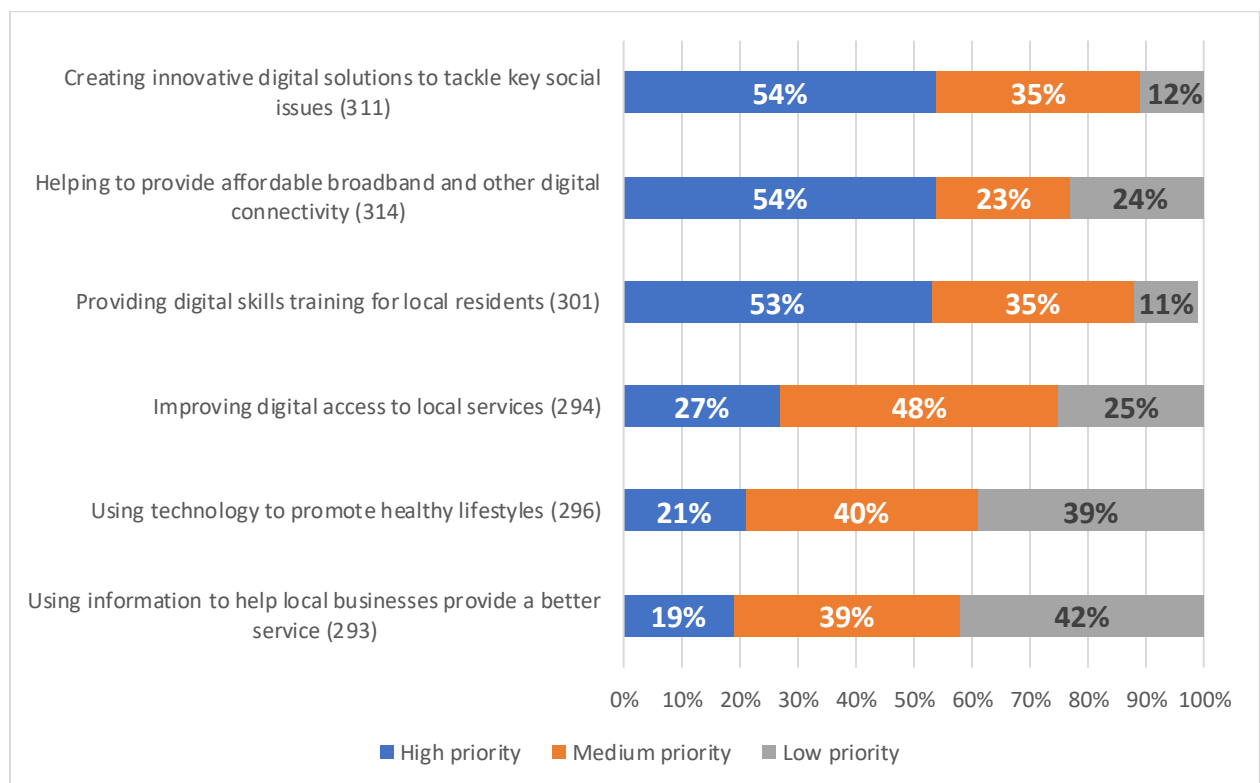
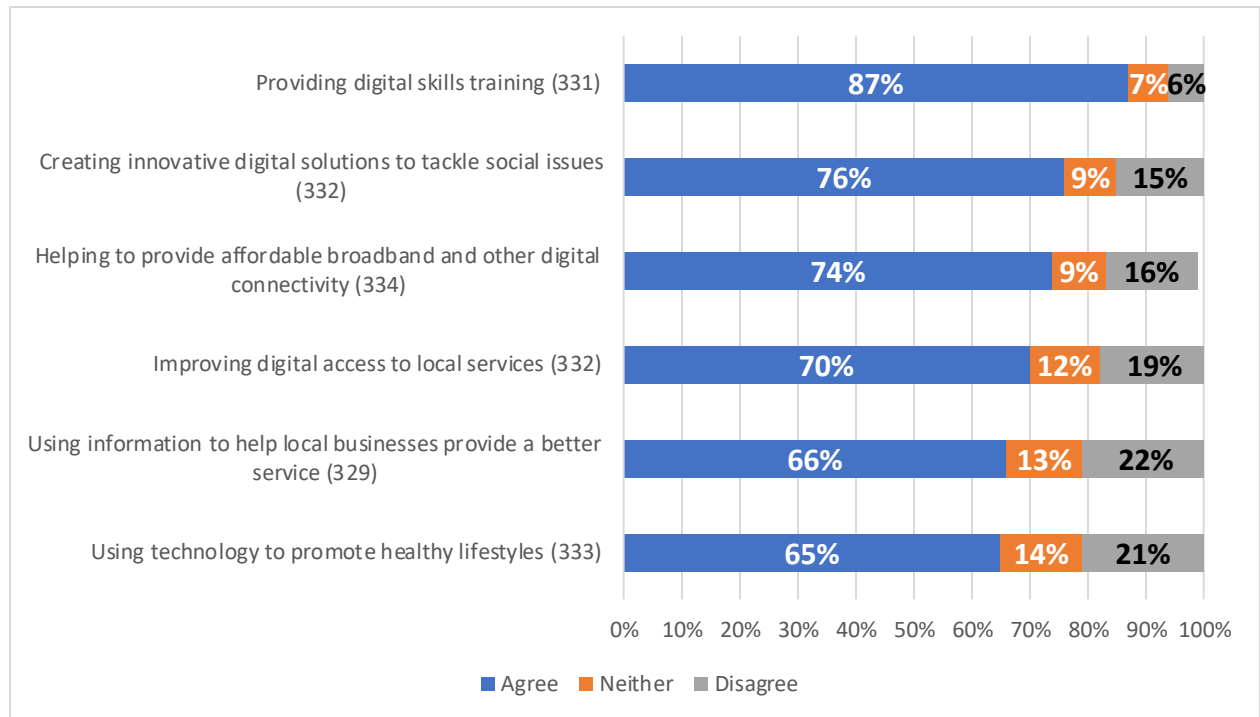
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Appendix 2: Smart Place Strategy Public Consultation Results (final) (337 respondents)

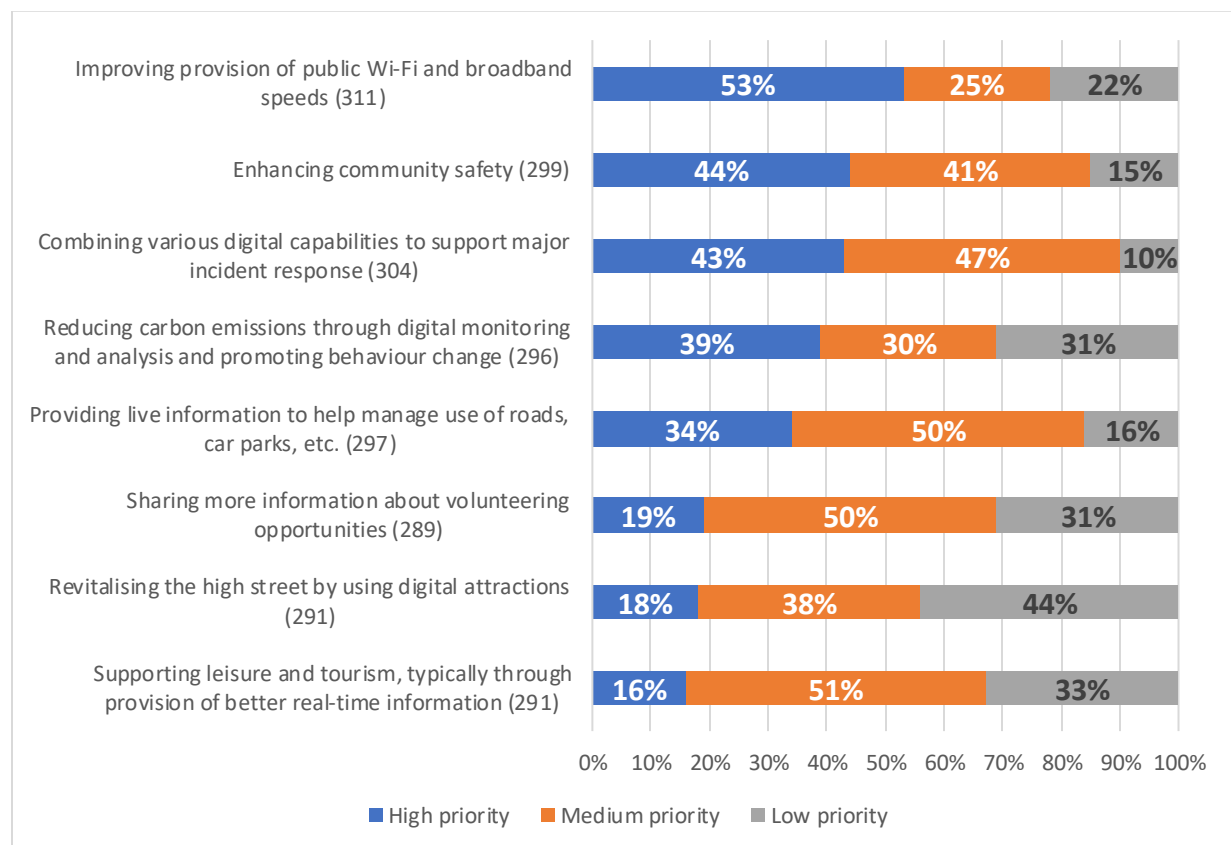
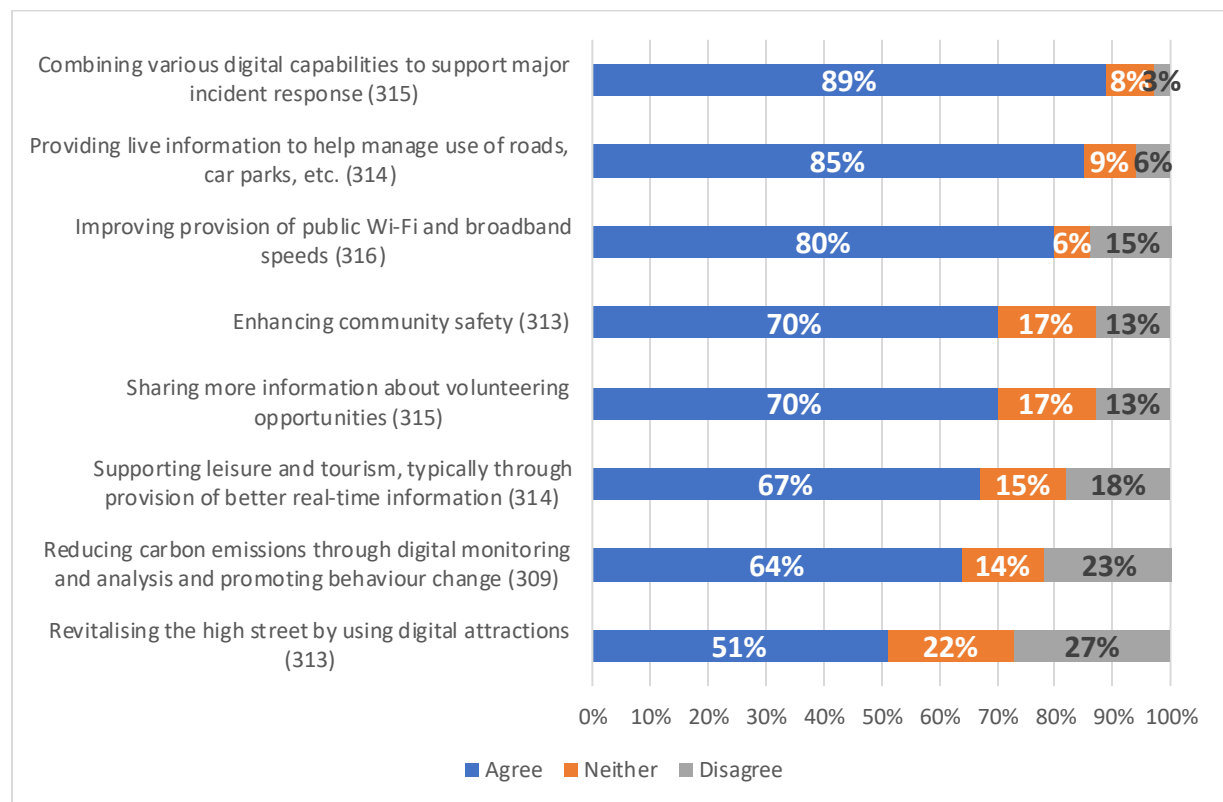
Overall Smart Place Programme Aim

78% support, 12% oppose and 11% neither support not oppose

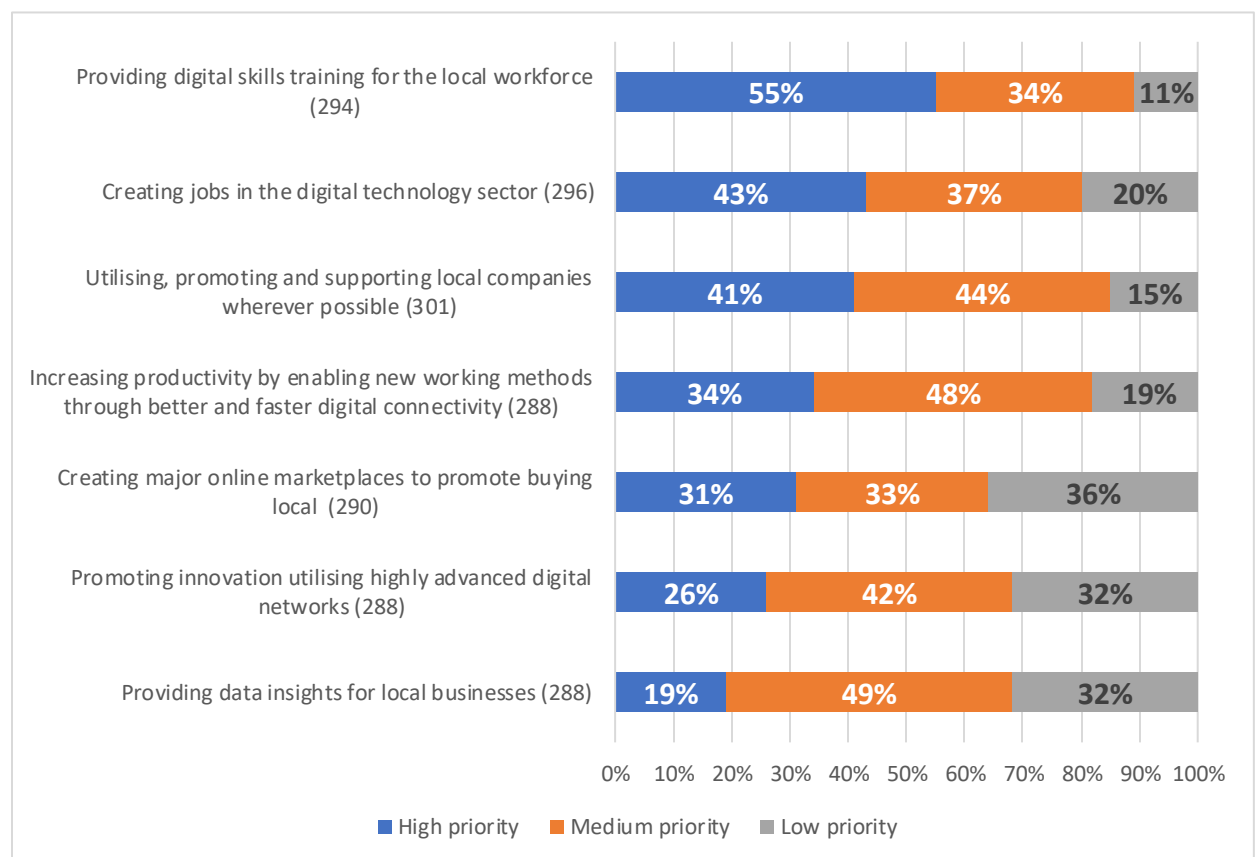
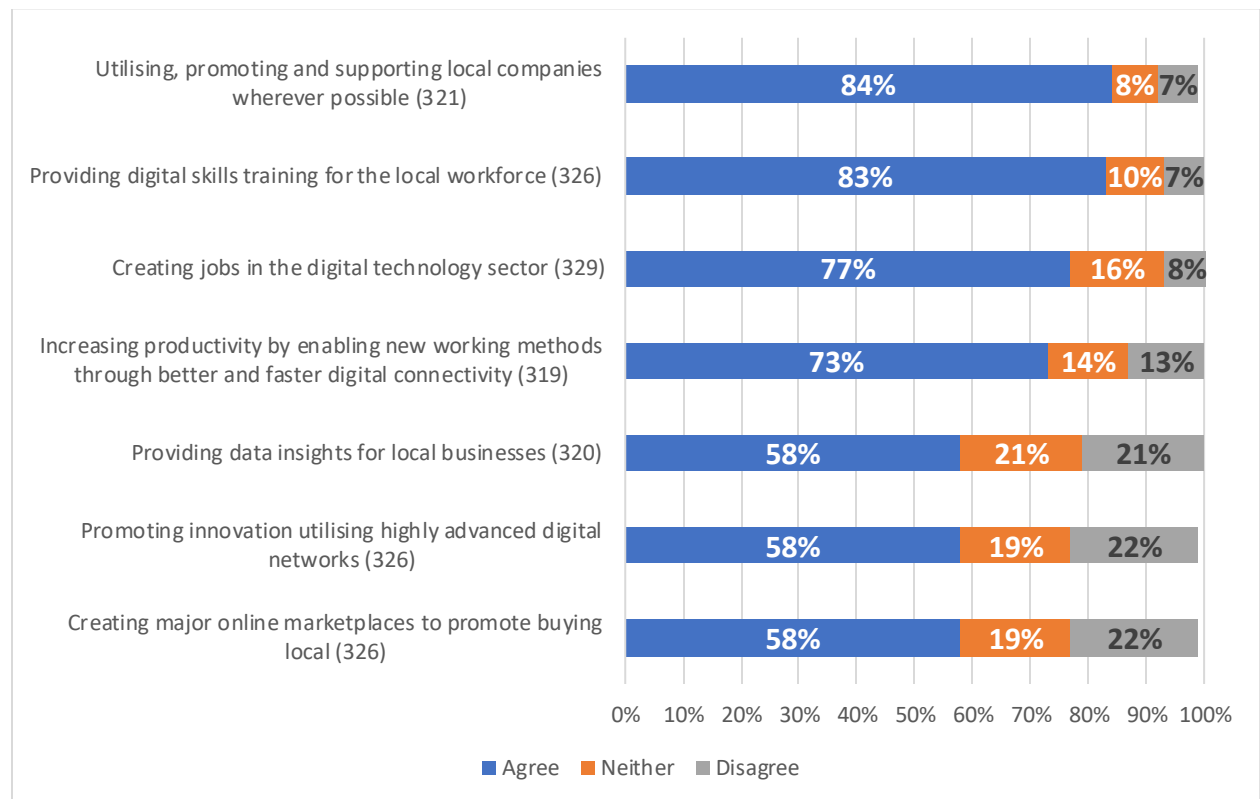
People



Place



Economy



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Proposal Title: «Reg_ProposalTitle»

Impact Summary

Climate Change & Energy	Green - Only positive impacts identified
Communities & Culture	Green - Only positive impacts identified
Waste & Resource Use	Amber - Minor negative impacts identified / unknown impacts
Economy	Green - Only positive impacts identified
Health & Wellbeing	Green - Only positive impacts identified
Learning & Skills	Green - Only positive impacts identified
Natural Environment	Amber - Minor negative impacts identified / unknown impacts
Sustainable Procurement	Amber - Minor negative impacts identified / unknown impacts
Transport & Accessibility	Amber - Minor negative impacts identified / unknown impacts



Major negative impacts identified



Minor negative impacts identified / unknown impacts



Only positive impacts identified



No positive or negative impacts identified

Answers provided indicate that the score for the carbon footprint of the proposal is: 2	The Carbon Footprint is banded as follows:		
	0-4	4.5-9.5	10-14
	Low	Moderate	High

Proposal ID: **261**

Proposal Title: **Smart Place Programme**

Type of Proposal: **Report**

Brief description:

This is the DIA to support the 29 Cabinet Report for the Smart Place Programme, due to be submitted in draft by 11 August. Included in the report are recommendations for Cabinet to approve the Smart Place Strategy and budget, and approve the commencement of the procurement for the Gigabit Speed Fibre component of the Programme.

Proposer's Name: **Ruth Spencer**

Proposer's Directorate: **Regeneration & Economy**

Proposer's Service Unit: **Development**

Estimated cost (£): **Between £25K and OJEU threshold**

If know, the cost amount (£): **£1.59m (subject to change as conversations with Finance develop)**

Ward(s) Affected (if applicable): **All Wards**

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) supported by the proposal:

1. No Poverty 2. Zero Hunger 3. Good Health and Well Being 4. Quality Education 7. Affordable and Clean Energy 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure 10. Reduced Inequalities 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities 13. Climate Action 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions 17. Partnerships for the Goals

Proposal Title: «Reg_ProposalTitle»

Climate Change & Energy

Is the proposal likely to have any impacts (positive or negative) on addressing the causes and effects of climate change? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Has the proposal accounted for the potential impacts of climate change, e.g. flooding, storms or heatwaves? **Partially**
- 2) Does it assist reducing CO2 and other Green House Gas (GHG) emissions? E.g. reduction in energy or transport use, or waste produced. **Partially**
- 3) Will it increase energy efficiency (e.g. increased efficiency standards / better design / improved construction technologies / choice of materials) and/or reduce energy consumption? **Yes**
- 4) Will it increase the amount of energy obtained from renewable and low carbon sources? **Yes**

How was the overall impact of the proposal on its ability to positively address the cause and effects of climate change rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified

The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

Key elements of the Smart Place Strategy are to 1) develop ubiquitous high speed connectivity 2) develop a place based data insight hub and 3) develop place based applications and services.

1) Ubiquitous high speed connectivity will enable widespread deployment of Internet of Things (IoT) sensors. In this case, these sensors can be deployed to collect data remotely from a wide range of locations eg in sea water, in high risk flood areas

2) The data insight hub will collect and analyse this data at scale and enable the place to better monitor the impacts of climate change and make earlier interventions

3) Data collected from IoT devices and other sources will enable us to create applications that display this data to the public where appropriate and drive help behaviour change. Sustainable travel apps will help provide the information for the public to choose alternative transport modes such as walking and cycling. Community energy apps will enable communities to share the deployment of smart and sustainable energy infrastructure, driving the adoption in local communities.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

Through the deployment of Internet of Things Sensors, product manufacturing and transportation will be required. Where possible the programme intends to use local companies and ensure efficiencies are made in deliveries.

Consideration will also need to be given to the products' components and their resilience to the known impacts of climate change.

Proposal Title: «Reg_ProposalTitle»

Communities & Culture

Is the proposal likely to impact (positively or negatively) on the development of safe, vibrant, inclusive and engaged communities? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will it help maintain and expand vibrant voluntary and community organisations? **Yes**
- 2) Will it promote a safe community environment? **Yes**
- 3) Will it promote and develop cultural activities? **Yes**

How would the overall impact of the proposal on the development of safe, vibrant, inclusive and engaged communities be rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified

Reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

1) Development of 'vibrant communities' is a key objective of the Smart Place Strategy. It intends to develop a wide network of partnerships in order to support the voluntary sector. The aforementioned data insight hub and place applications is key in enabling different types of information to be shared appropriately and securely with multiple organisations.

2) The technology being developed in the Smart Place Programme will enable the implementation of a more sophisticated CCTV network across the region. A Proof of Concept (PoC) is currently in operation in partnership with BCP Security team to trial the use of software analytics on existing CCTV cameras. This enables more sophisticated searches and analysis in real time by an automated system rather than an individual, enabling efficiency and accuracy and ultimately leading to safer communities.

3) It will develop promote and develop cultural activities in many ways. The strategy will provide the digital connectivity for creative industries to transform. For example the use of Augmented and Virtual Reality requires high speed 5G Connectivity to operate. A recent PoC has trialled the use of 5G technology and augmented reality in the Lansdowne area of Bournemouth. The PoC aims to bring the high street back to life and drive footfall through the display of engaging imagery and historical information about the local area within an app. Local creative companies have been engaged in developing the app along with the creation of stunning vinyl imagery that is displayed in empty shop frontages in the Lansdowne.

3) The use of footfall data will enable the management of cultural activities

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

Pilots and Proof of Concepts have been undertaken prior to wider roll out to ensure project objectives are met.

Proposal Title: «Reg_ProposalTitle»

Waste & Resource Use

Is the proposal likely to have any impacts (positive or negative) on waste resource use or production and consumption? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will it prevent waste or promote the reduction, re-use, recycling or recovery of materials? **Yes**
- 2) Will it use sustainable production methods or reduce the need for resources? **Yes**
- 3) Will it manage the extraction and use of raw materials in ways that minimise depletion and cause no serious environmental damage? **Not Relevant**
- 4) Will it help to reduce the amount of water abstracted and / or used?
Don't know even though may be relevant

How would the overall impact of the proposal on the sustainable production and consumption of natural resources be rated?

Amber - Minor negative impacts identified / unknown impacts

The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

1) and 2): Via the ubiquitous high speed digital connectivity, the data insight hub and the place based applications and services, the Smart Place strategy aims to provide unrivalled insight at scale about the place. This information has many uses. For example, it can be shared with BCP Council and other public sector organisations such as PHE, DCCG, police, fire & rescue to make much more informed decisions enabling to more efficient use of resources. It will also, where appropriate, make insight available to industry to drive innovation in clean energy product development benefiting the local supply chain and ultimately the local area. In addition, it will enable information to be made available to the public, helping the public make more sustainable choices and driving behaviour change at scale.

3) and 4) The four key technology components of the strategy (gigabit fibre, 5G, data insight and applications and services) do not intend to use raw materials or cause any environmental damage.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

The gigabit speed fibre will require fibre cables to be fitted underground. However, compliance with all current environmental and health and safety legislation will be adhered to. Furthermore, it is possible to consider a less intrusive and extensive construction project if fibre cables are able to be laid at the same time as the Transforming Cities Fund projects, subject to an investment of £3m from the Council. More information on this can be provided.

It will be necessary to use a data centre in order to support operation of the data insight hub. There are environmental impacts associated with the use of data centres, particularly in the amount of energy required to keep data centres cool. More information on this can be provided. At a project level, it is intended to work with suppliers to engage them around reducing packaging waste where possible at procurement stage.

Proposal Title: «Reg_ProposalTitle»

Economy

Is the proposal likely to impact (positively or negatively) on the area's ability to support, maintain and grow a sustainable, diverse and thriving economy? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will the proposal encourage local business creation and / or growth? **Yes**
- 2) Will the proposal enable local jobs to be created or retained? **Yes**
- 3) Will the proposal promote sustainable business practices? **Yes**

How would the overall impact of the proposal on it's potential to support and maintain a sustainable, diverse and thriving economy be rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified

The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps)
Economic growth is a major part of the Smart Place Strategy and aims to 'drive the prospects of businesses'. It is expected that the Smart Place Strategy will enable major economic growth due to the implementation of high speed digital connectivity and 5G due to the links between improved connectivity and productivity. Due to the highly innovative nature of a Council owned and managed 5G network and data insight hub, the programme is already attracting technology companies to locate in the area bringing improved job opportunities for local people. The strategy aims to improve digital skills for all and the recent consultation has evidenced the demand from this from local people.

In 2018, the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership funded the Smart Place team to undertake a project specifically to drive economic growth and job creation in local businesses, 'Smart Place Pilot' (See Cabinet Report December 2020). This project included helping local digital businesses experiment with enhanced high speed digital connectivity and understand how new technologies could drive innovation in product development. Using this funding, in the Lansdowne area of Bournemouth, BCP Council built a gigabit speed fibre network, a 5G network, a public WIFI and Internet of Things Network. It engaged 60 companies by creating a Research & Development Consortium which led to the development of eight Proof of Concepts (PoCs). This led to the creation of 9 jobs worth £450,000 to the local economy.

The LEP also funded the 'Investment Plan' which identified the economic, social and commercial benefits of investing in gigabit speed fibre, 5G, data insight and applications and services. This Investment Plan has led to identifying £150m of private inward investment opportunities. Our early market engagement with major infrastructure investors has identified multiple interested parties. More information can be provided on the outcomes of this.

In the future, the Smart Place team can engage with its broad network of technology companies to promote environmentally sustainable businesses practices.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc)

At a project level, consideration will be given to reporting the impacts of the Smart Place strategy on the local economy, particularly around job creation and number of SME's established in the local area.

Proposal Title: «Reg_ProposalTitle»

Health & Wellbeing

Is the proposal likely to impact (positively or negatively) on the creation of a inclusive and healthy social and physical environmental for all?

Yes

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will the proposal contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of residents?

Yes

- 2) Will the proposal contribute to reducing inequalities in health between different communities or groups?

Yes

- 3) Will the proposal contribute to a healthier and more sustainable physical environment?

Yes

How would the overall impact of the proposal on the creation of a fair and healthy social and physical environmental for all be rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified

The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

1) Yes. The Smart Place strategy aims to 'Improve the lives of residents' with objectives including helping people achieve healthier lifestyles. A wide range of initiatives will be made possible through the delivery of the proposed infrastructure. This could include applications that enable and empower self-care and applications to support the reduction of social isolation.

2) Yes. An example key component is delivering ubiquitous affordable high speed digital connectivity which aims to ensure all people have access to connectivity - something that is increasingly enabling us to go about and enjoy our every day lives.

3) Yes. For example, through the proposed Internet of Things network, we are able to collect and monitor air quality and make early interventions to improve where required.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

Consideration will be given to how we gather feedback from residents around the impact of these applications and connectivity. For example, the Smart Place team has previously run surveys with residents to assess the need and demand for some of its solutions, including a recent consultation in June 2021.

Proposal Title: «Reg_ProposalTitle»

Learning & Skills

Is the proposal likely to impact (positively or negatively) on a culture of ongoing engagement and excellence in learning and skills? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will it provide and/or improve opportunities for formal learning?
Partially
- 2) Will it provide and/or improve community learning and development?
Partially
- 3) Will it provide and/or improve opportunities for apprenticeships and other skill based learning?
Yes

How would the overall impact of the proposal on the encouragement of learning and skills be rated? **Green - Only positive impacts identified**

The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

1) Yes. The Smart Place Programme has a good relationship with both local universities and intends to work closely with both Bournemouth University and Arts University Bournemouth in providing 'real life' Smart Place projects for university students to benefit from.

2) Yes. A pilot initiative is underway in Boscombe to support the development of digital skills development

3) Yes. Through the Smart Place Research & Development Consortium we are able to engage directly with industry and promote the benefits of utilising apprenticeships through our own experience. A Digital Degree Apprentice has just completed their degree as part of the Smart Place team.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

The Smart Place team recently met with Childrens Services Director and it has been agreed to meet further with the Extended Leadership Team about possible benefits Smart Place can bring Childrens Services, particularly in relation to the Corporate Parenting Responsibility, including opportunities for jobs and apprenticeships in this field.

Proposal Title: «Reg_ProposalTitle»

Natural Environment

Is the proposal likely to impact (positively or negatively) on the protection or enhancement of local biodiversity or the access to and quality of natural environments?

Yes

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will it help protect and improve biodiversity i.e. habitats or species (including designated and non-designated)? **Yes**
- 2) Will it improve access to and connectivity of local green spaces whilst protecting and enhancing them? **Yes**
- 3) Will it help protect and enhance the landscape quality and character?
Partially
- 4) Will it help to protect and enhance the quality of the area's air, water and land?
Yes

How would the overall impact of your proposal on the protection and enhancement of natural environments be rated?

Amber - Minor negative impacts identified / unknown impacts

The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

1) Yes. The Internet of Things is an area of science and technology that can help in the fight against biodiversity loss and climate change. For example a monitoring system can be deployed that combines sensors and cameras can capture and transmit real-time information on wildlife and human activity anywhere in the region.

2) Yes. Applications can be developed that enable the location and access to our green spaces to be easily discovered.

3) Yes. Recently the Smart Places team conducted a pilot which embedded Internet of Things sensors in the cliff tops at East Cliff and transmitted data around the stability of the cliffside back to a dashboard that could share information with officers and send alerts if there were any causes for concern. This was in response to the cliff top landslide at East Cliff and the considerable damage this caused to the natural environment. This could be scaled up across the region.

4) Yes. As per (1)

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

3) Partially. As described, IoT technologies can have great benefits on monitoring our natural environment. However, in order for information to be collected, small sensors need to be installed on site and larger units deployed (generally on lamp columns) in order to deploy the network connectivity (including the deployment of 5G radios and access points) that enables data transmission which could be seen as negatively impacting the character of an area. Local consultation and explanation of the benefits this technology brings may be required in order to capture any concerns and

Proposal Title: «Reg_ProposalTitle»

reassure the general public. BCP Council recently ran a 'Call for Evidence' at an Overview & Scrutiny panel on the deployment of 5G technology. This was the first UK consultation on the benefits and risks associated with 5G technology and reached out to communities to get feedback. Two further sessions were held to review the evidence and the report formed a recommendation to Cabinet that they approve the deployment of a Council owned 5G network. This was approved, with an agreement that the Smart Place to team would monitor Electro Magnetic Field transmissions to ensure they remained within Public Health England and World Health Organisation safety limits. This information is publically available on the Smart Place website. Similar approaches could be taken in all aspects of this Decision Impact Assessment in regard to the protection of the natural environment.

Proposal Title: «Reg_ProposalTitle»

Sustainable Procurement

Is the proposal likely to involve the procurement of goods, services or works which risk negative impact on resources (including power, water, raw material extraction), natural environment or labour markets (e.g. welfare standards)?

Don't Know

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

Has or is it intended that the Strategic Procurement team be consulted?

Yes – already underway

If the Strategic Procurement team was not consulted, then the explanation for this is:

- 1) Do the Government Buying Standards (GBS) apply to goods, services and/or works that are planned to be bought?

Don't know even though may be relevant

- 2) Has sustainable resource use (e.g. energy & water consumption, waste streams, minerals use) been considered for whole life-cycle of the product/service/work?

Don't know even though may be relevant

- 3) Has the issue of carbon reduction (e.g. energy sources, transport issues) and adaptation (e.g. resilience against extreme weather events) been considered in the supply chain?

Don't know even though may be relevant

- 4) Is the product/service/work fairly traded i.e. ensures good working conditions, social benefits e.g. Fairtrade or similar standards?

Don't know even though may be relevant

- 5) Has the lotting strategy been optimised to improve prospects for local suppliers and SMEs?

Don't know even though may be relevant

- 6) If aspects of the requirement are unsustainable then is continued improvement factored into your contract with KPIs, and will this be monitored?

Don't know even though may be relevant

How is the overall impact of your proposal on procurement which supports sustainable resource use, environmental protection and progressive labour standards been rated?

Amber - Minor negative impacts identified / unknown impacts

The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

Since this proposal is at programme level, specific procurements have not yet been confirmed. When specific projects have been identified, the procurement processes above will be considered such as considerations given to transportation of goods and end of life treatment to products and supplies.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

As above

Proposal Title: «Reg_ProposalTitle»

Transport & Accessibility

Is the proposal likely to have any impacts (positive or negative) on the provision of sustainable, accessible, affordable and safe transport services - improving links to jobs, schools, health and other services? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will it support and encourage the provision of sustainable and accessible modes of transport (including walking, cycling, bus, trains and low emission vehicles)?

Yes

- 2) Will it reduce the distances needed to travel to access work, leisure and other services?

Yes

- 3) Will it encourage affordable and safe transport options?

Yes

How would the overall impact of your proposal on the provision of sustainable, accessible, affordable and safe transport services be rated?

Amber - Minor negative impacts identified / unknown impacts

The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

1) The provision of sustainable travel applications, powered by the data insight hub will enable much better access to information which will empower the public to make more sustainable travel choices

2) The ubiquitous, affordable gigabit speed fibre will have a major impact on everyone's ability to work from home.

3) The provision of gigabit speed fibre will enable the foundation to connect our traffic camera network to high speed connectivity. Software can be added to cameras which enables detection of incidents and real time alerts for the emergency services.

Details of proposed mitigation and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

During the laying of fibre cabling there may be diversions/disruptions on the transport network which may lead to temporary traffic delays but these will be managed and mitigated in the same way as any transport network maintenance or civils work.

Short term project work will be mitigated wherever possible to enable the long term benefits of the programme. For example contractors will be encouraged to use sustainable transport choices where possible.

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Equality Impact Assessment: conversation screening tool

[Use this form to prompt an EIA conversation and capture the output between officers, stakeholders and interested groups. This completed form or a full EIA report will be published as part of the decision-making process]

Policy/Service under development/review:	Smart Place Strategy
What changes are being made to the policy/service?	This is a new strategy (This is BCP Council's first Smart Place Strategy)
Service Unit:	Smart Place/Development
Persons present in the conversation and their role/experience in the service:	Adrian Hale – Smart Place Strategy & Programming Lead Ruth Spencer – Head of Smart Place Ian Woodgate – Smart Place Commercial Lead Sarah Powell Pisareva – Smart Place Analyst Jack Matthews – Smart Place Digital Degree Apprentice
Conversation dates:	27/07/21
Do you know your current or potential client base? Who are the key stakeholders?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents • Local businesses e.g. digital companies, manufacturers, retailers, hospitality etc.; • Local voluntary/community groups e.g. YMCA; Shelter; Community Action Network; Business Improvement Districts; Poole Housing Partnership etc. • Smart Place R&D Consortium technology partners; • Smart Place Investors; • Local skills providers; • Bournemouth University; • Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group; • Local health providers • Dorset Police; • BCP Council internal departments including Community Services; Adult Social Care; Children's Services; Transport; Environment; Waste Management; Seafront Services; CCTV team; • Dorset LEP; • AFCB Bournemouth; • Government departments including Cabinet Office, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government; Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport; Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy; National Cyber Security Centre; Centre for Protection of National Infrastructure;
Do different groups have different needs or experiences in relation to the policy/service?	<p>Yes. An online public consultation on the Smart Place Strategy Objectives relating to People, Communities and Businesses took place between June and July 2021. This produced the following high-level findings in relation to protected characteristics:</p> <p>People</p>

- Affordable broadband is significantly more of an issue for older people;
- Using technology to promote healthier lifestyles is significantly more important for older people;
- Using information to help local businesses to provide a better service was significantly more important for older people;
- Creating innovative digital solutions that help tackle key social issues is significantly more important for people with disabilities;
- Providing digital skills training for local residents is a significantly higher priority for females and Christians.

Communities

- Reducing carbon emissions through digital monitoring and behaviour change is significantly less important for heterosexual respondents than for other sexual orientations;
- Enhancing community safety through digital technology was significantly more important for older people and a much higher priority for older people, females and Christians;
- Providing live information to help manage use of roads, car parks, etc. is a much higher priority for people with disabilities;
- Utilising digital capabilities to support major incident response is a much higher priority for Christians.

Businesses

- Creating major online marketplaces to promote buying local is significantly more important for older people and a much higher priority for older people, females and Christians;
- Promoting innovation utilising highly advanced digital networks is more important for older people;
- Providing data insights to help local businesses improve their systems is much more important for older people;
- Providing digital skills training for the local workforce is a much higher priority for older people, females and Christians.
- Utilising, promoting and supporting local companies within the Smart Place programme is a much higher priority for females.

A further public engagement postal survey relating to 'Use of Technology' was conducted for the Smart Place programme in October/November 2020. The key findings in terms of protected characteristics were as follows.

- Age is the biggest factor in determining whether people use the internet. Those aged 65 and over are less likely to use the internet (18% do not use the internet) than other age groups. All of those aged under 45 use the internet, with 2% of those aged 45-54 and 3% of those aged 55-64 not using it.
- Those with a disability that limits their activities a lot are less likely to use the internet (17% do not use the internet) than those with no limiting illness (3%).
- In terms of economic activity, 18% of those permanently sick or disabled and 15% of those retired from work do not use the internet.
- Black minority ethnic (BME) respondents are more likely to use the internet when out and about using mobile internet (82%) than White Other or White groups.
- Of those who do not use the internet skills/confidence is a barrier for 40% of those aged 45-54, 31% of those 55-64 and 44% of those aged 65 or over. No respondents under the age

	of 35 said this was an issue. Skills/confidence is a bigger factor for those who are permanently sick/disabled (57%),
Will the policy or service change affect any of these service users?	Our analysis of how the strategy will affect people, including those with protected characteristics is in the following section.
[If the answer to any of the questions above is 'don't know' then you need to gather more evidence and do a full EIA. The best way to do this is to use the Capturing Evidence form]	
What are the benefits or positive impacts of the policy/service change on current or potential service users?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Different Ages</i> Older people have less experience of emerging technology and may need support in accessing online services safely and suitable devices. The wider Smart Place programme will deliver skills-based programmes to address any access issues caused by lack of confidence or knowledge. There is great potential to support independent living through Smart Technology which can assist users and carers in the home with telecare and other digital devices. In partnership with members of the Research and Development Consortium, which is part of the project, we are exploring assistive technology alongside Poole Housing Partnership and Adult Social Care. The COVID pandemic has highlighted the digital divide for children in low-income families with access to sufficient bandwidth, digital devices and skills impacting on their learning. The gigabit network will offer benefits to schools and organisations working with young people, for example by enabling schools to set up dedicated networks for learning. <i>Those who are married or in a civil partnership</i> There is no specific impact. <i>Those with physical and/or mental disabilities and those with caring responsibilities</i> Although visually, physically and hearing impaired people face more challenges in accessing online services, wider access to the networks will enhance the options for them. Partnered with skills sessions to support use of accessibility settings such as screen reader, and enlarged fonts, together with the reduction in requirements to leave the home for services will benefit many residents. There is great potential to support independent living through Smart Technology which can assist users and carers in the home with telecare and other digital devices. <i>People from different ethnic groups and different religions or beliefs</i> Although some differences in internet use and behaviours were suggested in our surveys, the installation of the network will not disadvantage any ethnic or religious group. Better connectivity could offer community groups and organisations improved communications and access to online services. The MyBoscombe app offers a platform for community groups and organisations and for potential users to find information about them. <i>Different sexes/genders and people with different sexual</i>

	<p><i>orientations, those who identify as trans</i></p> <p>Although some differences in internet use and behaviours were suggested in our surveys, the installation of the network will not disadvantage any sex or gender. Better connectivity could offer community groups and organisations improved communications and access to online services. The MyBoscombe app offers a platform for community groups and organisations and for potential users to find information about them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Those who are pregnant or on maternity leave</i> Some concerns have been raised in the press about radiation resulting from mobile phone masts. Our recent electromagnetic field site survey, conducted by an appropriate external assessor in April 2022, shows that levels are low and within the ICNIRP 1998 General Public limits which form the basis of the relevant Regulations. We continue to keep levels under review and data is publicly available via the Smart Place website. • <i>People on low incomes</i> There are numerous positive outcomes anticipated, which include increased access to digital skills, boosting the local economy and creation of local jobs in the digital sector, better access to information and services and access to more affordable digital connectivity through the free wi-fi in the centre of Boscombe. Some lower income households may struggle to access digital services due to a lack of appropriate devices (laptops, smart phones and computers). We will address the issue by investigating how the programme could support the collection and recycling of hardware, for example through the voluntary sector.
What are the negative impacts of the policy/service change on current or potential service users?	<p>None currently known.</p> <p>Potential minor impact on accessibility and noise whilst construction works are taking place.</p>
Will the policy or service change affect employees?	Yes – it should help to secure existing jobs and lead to the creation of new job opportunities.
Will the policy or service change affect the wider community?	Yes – ultimately the Smart Place Programme should have a significant beneficial impact upon communities. Typically, information about local events, volunteering opportunities and local support can be made available.
What mitigating actions are planned or already in place for those negatively affected by the policy/service change?	At this programme level there are no significant negative impacts and therefore no mitigation actions are required at this stage. Mitigation measures will be considered where applicable for any specific future Smart Place project.
Summary of Equality Implications:	<p>Equality implications are positive. The programme will benefit low-income households in the area with numerous positive outcomes anticipated, including increased access to skills, jobs and services, better access to information, targeting of services, access to more affordable digital connectivity through the free wi-fi in the centre of Boscombe and a more welcoming and safer local environment for all groups.</p> <p>There are many positive implications for people with protected characteristics, particularly those who experience a greater level of digital exclusion such as people with disabilities or who are in</p>

	older age groups. The COVID pandemic has highlighted the digital divide for children in low-income families with access to sufficient bandwidth, digital devices and skills impacting on their learning. The programme seeks to address these inequalities and to enable people with other protected characteristics and organisations supporting them to benefit from better access to information and to online services.
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For any questions on this, please contact the Policy and Performance Team by emailing performance@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

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Appendix 6														Smart Place Programme - Key Risks Register		Updated		15/06/2022	
Ref	Status	Risk	Impact 1 = Low 2 = Medium 3 = High	Probability 1 = Low 2 = Medium 3 = High	Gross risk factor (Impact x Probability)	Date Raised	Raised by	Assigned to	Due Date	Strategy	Management/ Contingency Action	Impact 1 = Low 2 = Medium 3 = High	Probability 1 = Low 2 = Medium 3 = High	Residual risk factor (Impact x Probability)	Actual Closure Date	# Days Overdue			
01 Key Stakeholder Support																			
01-001	Ongoing mitigation	Lack of government support - could lead to missing out on Smart Place/Digital funding opportunities	3	2	6	01-Aug-17	R. Spencer/ A Hale	R. Spencer/ A Hale	Ongoing	Reduction	Positive relationships formed with government departments including DCMS; Cabinet Office; MHCLG; DT; BEIS (via Dorset LEP); NCSC; CPNI.	3	1	3	N/A	N/A			
01-002	Ongoing mitigation	Lack of political support - could lead to non-delivery of programme outcomes	3	2	6	01-Dec-17	R. Spencer/ A Hale	R. Spencer/ A Hale	Ongoing	Reduction	Smart Place reports taken to Cabinet Dec 2019 (Lansdowne) and January 2020 (Investment Plan). Regular updates being provided to Leader and Deputy Leader of Council. Engagement with, and support secured from local MPs. Smart Place programme now an integral part of the Council's Big Plan and £5.87m was approved from the Futures Fund in Autumn 2021 to build out the Council's WAN network. Additional funding has also been secured to develop the four Smart Place Interventions. Smart Place Strategy and the Accelerating Gigabit Fibre (Neutral Host Operator model) Cabinet Papers being taken to Cabinet, July 2022.	3	1	3	N/A	N/A			
01-003	Ongoing mitigation	Lack of industry support - could lead to sub-optimal programme outcomes including creation of new industries and jobs	3	2	6	01-Jun-18	R. Spencer/ A Hale	Xavi Nunez	Ongoing	Reduction	Smart Place R&D Consortium created and continuing to grow and develop Smart Place solutions. Liaison with Economic Development Team, Dorset LEP and industry bodies to promote the Smart Place programme and opportunities	3	1	3	N/A	N/A			
01-004	Ongoing mitigation	Lack of external stakeholder support - could lead to sub-optimal project outcomes	3	2	6	01-Jun-18	R. Spencer/ A Hale	R. Spencer/ A Hale	Ongoing	Reduction	Liaison with various external stakeholders including Bournemouth University, AUB, AFCE, Vitality, Siemens, YMCA, Town Centre BIDS.	3	1	3	N/A	N/A			
01-005	Ongoing mitigation	Lack of public support - could lead to sub-optimal programme outcomes and reputational risks for the Council	3	2	6	01-Jun-19	R. Spencer/ A Hale	R. Spencer/ A Hale	Ongoing	Reduction	Smart Place Strategy aim and objectives consulted upon (06/21 - 07/21) and comprehensive public support received. Smart Place Use of Technology consultation (10/20 - 11/20) indicated widespread support for developing local digital offers and the need to improve broadband. Comprehensive Overview and Scrutiny process followed for 5G deployments in Lansdowne.	3	1	3	N/A	N/A			
01-006	Ongoing mitigation	Lack of private investor support - could lead to major reduction in programme outcomes due to inability to deliver full-scale roll-out	3	2	6	01-Jun-19	R. Spencer/ A Hale	Dave Reynolds	Ongoing	Reduction	A comprehensive Smart Place Investment Plan has been created (using £280k funding from Dorset LEP). DIT event run with investors focused solely on BCP's Smart Place investment opportunities. Positive investor conversations ongoing.	3	1	3	N/A	N/A			
01-007	Ongoing mitigation	Lack of senior management support - could lead to non-delivery of programme outcomes - including potential direct benefits to Council	2	2	4	01-Jun-19	R. Spencer/ A Hale	R. Spencer/ A Hale	Ongoing	Reduction	Regular updates provided to CMB officers and Transformation Board. Propose to work closely with Transformation Team to ensure that full extent of opportunities and benefits created by the Smart Place programme can be realised for the Council.	2	1	2	N/A	N/A			
02 Finance/Funding																			
02-001	Ongoing mitigation	Lack of ongoing funding - The Smart Place programme is an important but currently non-statutory function. As such there is no secured ongoing major revenue funding nor capital support. It is therefore necessary to secure funding from ad-hoc grant funding or from special Council initiatives prior to securing major private investment.	3	2	6	01-Jun-18	R. Spencer/ A Hale	Adrian Hale	Ongoing	Reduction	To date the Smart Place Team has been successful in securing £4.9m of external funding: • £0.9m Lansdowne Digital project; • £1.0m Lansdowne Smart Place Pilot project; • £0.38m Smart Place Investment Plan • £0.71m Boscombe Towns Fund Digital Connectivity (advance funding) • £1.788m Boscombe Towns Fund Digital Connectivity (phase 2 funding) In addition £5.87m has been secured from Futures Fund to build the Council's Gigabit WAN network. The Towns Fund and Futures Fund support will enable further infrastructure works and Smart Place services and applications to be developed over the next 2-3 years. The long-term aim is to secure major inward investment (currently estimated at £90m) to enable full roll-out of the Smart Place programme across the whole of BCP over the next 5-7 years (see below) thereby minimising the financial risk upon the Council. Following the development of the Smart Place Investment Plan conversations are taking place with private investors, government and the Council to determine how this funding should be secured. The Smart Place programme is a key pillar of the Council's 'Big Plan' and an ask is being made of the Council in the report to cabinet in September to	3	1	3	N/A	N/A			
02-002	Closed	Potential inability for Council to access capital borrowing for investment in Smart Place programme if considered to be for commercial yield	2	2	4	01-Aug-21	R. Spencer/ A Hale	Adrian Hale	Ongoing	Reduction	Advice being taken from CIPFA and specialist consultants. The case is that any capital would be used to invest in the Smart Place programme infrastructure to deliver social and economic benefits. Any surplus would either be reinvested to accelerate deployment of the Smart Place Programme, or to support economic and social initiatives e.g. providing digital training for local people. The programme also enhances outcomes for the Council's Transformation programme. This issue only applies to where the Council would elect to invest in the programme. The programme can still be delivered albeit possibly at a slower pace and with sub-optimal outcomes.	2	2	4	01-Sep-22	N/A			
03 Programme Delivery																			
The Smart Place Programme consists of three key stages: 1) Lansdowne Pilot Project; 2) Boscombe Demonstrator Project 3) Full-roll out across BCP																			
03-001	Closed	Lansdowne Smart Place Pilot project not delivered and outputs and outcomes not achieved, impacting upon benefits to local people and businesses, future funding and reputation.	3	2	6	01-Aug-18	A Hale/R Spencer	Adrian Hale	30-Jun-21	Prevention	Project Completed. (Dorset LEP funded. Project originally covered the £0.9m Lansdowne Digital project and extended in 2019 to include the £1.0m Lansdowne Smart Place Pilot project.) Full business case(s) submitted and Grant Agreement signed. Export project resource recruited. Delivery and funding programmes developed and monitored in accordance with Dorset LEP governance requirements. 3-month delay to project caused by late start (5 months) and impact of Covid-19 on equipment delivery and Smart Place Challenge programme. Project was completed by end of June. Outputs including 5G and public Wi-Fi networks delivered. Outcomes being delivered including at least 9 new jobs created among R&D consortium partners in 2020/21. Additional staff funding support being requested at September 2021 Cabinet.	3	1	3	01-Jul-20	90			
03-002	Closed	Boscombe Towns Fund Digital Connectivity - Phase 1: Advance Funding - Project not delivered and outputs and outcomes not achieved, impacting upon benefits to local people and businesses, future funding and reputation	3	2	6	01-Sep-20	Adrian Hale	Adrian Hale	30/06/2021 - (Infrastructure)	Prevention	Project successfully completed	3	1	3	31-Mar-22	0			
03-003	Closed	Boscombe Towns Fund Digital Connectivity - Phase 2: Inability to secure funding impacting upon benefits to local people and businesses and reputation	3	2	6	01-Jan-20	Adrian Hale	Adrian Hale	30-Jun-21	Prevention	Funding secured	3	1	3	01-Sep-21	0			
03-004	No further action	Smart Place Full Roll Out - Development of Smart Place Investment Plan - Lack of evidence or due diligence could lead to failure to secure investment which will prevent or reduce speed and/or scale of full roll out	3	2	6	01-Jun-19	A Hale/R Spencer	Dave Reynolds	31-Mar-21	Prevention	Need for Smart Place Investment Plan recognised to attract private and government investment. Smart Place Investment Plan (funded by Dorset LEP £380k) now completed along with Investment Prospectus. Major event held with Dept of International Trade to promote BCP Council Smart Place opportunities. Early investor engagement now taking place.	3	1	3	30-Mar-22				
03-005	Closed	Smart Place Full Roll Out - Investor Selection/Procurement Process - Lack of financial support to undertake a formal procurement/selection process will lead to failure to secure investment which will prevent or reduce speed and/or scale of full roll out	3	3	9	01-Feb-21	R. Spencer/ A Hale	R. Spencer/ A Hale	31-Mar-22	Prevention	Financial carryover from previous year's budget approved to help fund Smart Place investment team members and additional procurement and legal support. Additional £27k also agreed in 2022/23 budget.	3	2	6	31-Mar-22	0			
03-006	Planning Mitigation	Difficulty in securing technical resources into the Smart Place Team resulting in delays to the programme.	3	2	6	15-Jun-22	A Hale/R Spencer	A Hale/R Spencer	30-Sep-22	Prevention	The Smart Place Team has lost a few members of staff over the past 12 months due to significant competition in the employment market. A recruitment exercise earlier in 2022 only resulted in one of the three vacant posts being filled. This resource issue is having an impact upon the speed of delivery of the programme. It is inevitable that increased Market Forces Supplements will be required both to recruit and retain staff that are key to the success of the programme and another recruitment exercise will be undertaken over the summer of 2022.	3	1	3					
04 Legal																			
04-001	Ongoing mitigation	Issues relating to GDPR, Information Governance, Subsidy (State Aid), competition legislation, intellectual property, procurement etc. could have a significant financial impact and reputational risk upon the Council	3	2	6	01-Jun-18	R. Spencer/ A Hale	R. Spencer/ A Hale	Ongoing	Reduction	In regard to GDPR and information governance the Smart Place team has worked with the Council's GDPR and Information Governance teams to assess the implications of its initial pilot projects to ensure compliance. The team will continue to work closely with these teams as the programme develops. Throughout the development of the Investment Plan the team has engaged regularly with the in-house legal team around Subsidy (State Aid), monopolies, local authority commercial 'freedoms' and procurement. Specialist external legal advice has also been secured utilising Investment Plan funding. Further legal advice will be required during any future	3	1	3	N/A	N/A			

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CABINET



Report subject	Accelerating Gigabit Fibre
Meeting date	27 July 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Gigabit fibre is critical digital infrastructure, providing the connectivity backbone for many vital public, private and voluntary services and helping to power our businesses and local economy as well as supporting our Smart Place Programme. The provision of ubiquitous, high speed, affordable Gigabit connectivity is therefore now a priority for the Council. The Council's Big Plan states:</p> <p><i>'We will invest in the physical and digital infrastructure of our coastal city region, to ensure that BCP has the best connectivity in the country'.</i></p> <p>As well as many residents not having access to affordable broadband, leading to a 'digital divide', poor connectivity also has a significant impact upon local economic productivity, costing an estimated £150m per annum. Therefore, there is an urgent need for the Council to accelerate the deployment of affordable Gigabit fibre to almost every home and business across the whole BCP area.</p> <p>Following a recent open 'Request for Information' (RFI) exercise and the responses received from the telecommunications industry, it has been concluded that procuring a 'Neutral Host Operator' (NHO), to work together with the Council, represents the best prospect of delivering the digital connectivity that the area needs.</p> <p>In view of the above the following recommendation is made:</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Cabinet give approval for the Smart Place Team, supported by Law and Governance and Strategic Procurement, to procure a Gigabit Fibre Neutral Host Operator.</p> <p><i>[Prior to the award of the NHO contract a further report will be brought back to Cabinet requesting authorisation to proceed to contract.]</i></p>
Reason for recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Helps to deliver significant economic and social benefits to the area. 2. Helps to meet the Big Plan objective of BCP having the best connectivity in the country. 3. Supports the Council's regeneration and place-shaping ambitions.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Supports the Council's Smart Place programme. 5. Supports the government's 'Levelling Up' missions particularly by helping to address the local 'digital divide' through more widely available and affordable broadband services. 6. Encourages wider private sector investment into Gigabit fibre infrastructure and creates more competition in the Internet Server Provider (ISP) market. 7. Is the most cost-effective solution for delivering the Council's Gigabit connectivity objectives whilst minimising the Council's financial commitment and commercial risks. 8. Opens up the opportunity for income generation for existing ducting and fibre asset owners including the Council.
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Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Philip Broadhead
Corporate Director	Adam Richens
Report Authors	Adrian Hale/Dave Reynolds
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. Gigabit fibre is critical digital infrastructure, providing the connectivity backbone for many vital public, private and voluntary services and helping to power our businesses and local economy. Gigabit fibre is also a key foundation for many of the innovation aspects of the Smart Place programme, creating new business opportunities and the development of new technologies to help address many of the area's social and economic challenges.
2. The provision of ubiquitous, high speed, affordable Gigabit connectivity is therefore now a priority both within the Council's 'Big Plan' and the Smart Place Programme, helping to realise the Council's ambition of BCP having the best connectivity in the country.
3. It is currently estimated that there is an annual productivity deficit of £1bn within the BCP area with poor digital connectivity, fixed and mobile, costing the local economy around £150m per annum. Within the BCP area, in 2021 48% of homes and businesses in Bournemouth (West) had access to Gigabit connectivity. The figure for Bournemouth (East) is 18.5%. These figures compare favourably with the UK average of 15.1%. However, in 2021 the figure for Christchurch was only 10.5% and for Poole a very low 0.8%. By comparison, the average provision of Gigabit fibre in Europe (EU39) is 52.5%.
4. Whilst recognising the important contribution that the current Gigabit fibre provider market is making to the local area, in order to meet the Council's ambition of BCP having the best connectivity in the country there is an urgent need for the Council to encourage the acceleration of the deployment of Gigabit

fibre across the whole of the BCP area, ensuring that this is affordable to avoid any 'digital divide'.

Options Appraisal

5. To understand how the Council could help to accelerate the provision of affordable Gigabit fibre the Smart Place Team, with support from the Council's Law & Governance and Strategic Procurement teams, conducted an open 'Request for Information' (RFI) exercise during April 2022. The purpose of the RFI exercise was to seek input directly from the telecommunications industry on the various possible models that could be employed to achieve the Council's Gigabit fibre ambition.
6. Responders to the RFI were asked to consider the following strategic objectives:
 - Gigabit fibre should be available across the whole of the BCP area.
 - Gigabit fibre needs to be rolled out at pace.
 - Gigabit fibre needs to be affordable to residents, businesses, public sector and the voluntary sector.
 - Create a market which attracts widescale investment in gigabit fibre.
7. As a result of the RFI exercise an Options Appraisal was carried out which considered five options:
 - (i) Do Nothing Option
 - (ii) Do Something Option 1 - Open Market Review/Government Investment
 - (iii) Do Something Option 2 - BCP Investment in further Gigabit network assets
 - (iv) Do Something Option 3 - Neutral Host Operator Model - Market-Led
 - (v) Do Something Option 4 - Neutral Host Operator Model - Working with BCP Council
8. Full details of the Options Appraisal are provided in Appendix 1

Preferred Option:

9. **The preferred option is Do Something Option 4 – Neutral Host Operator Model - Working with BCP Council**
10. An explanation of how this model works is provided within the 'Neutral Host Operator Model' section below.
11. With this preferred option the Council adopts a proactive approach to encourage a Neutral Host Operator (NHO) to establish itself early within the BCP area.
12. Whilst not currently common within the UK the NHO model is used successfully overseas in particular in Scandinavia where Sweden's fibre coverage is 95% compared to the UK's 36%. Responses to the RFI indicate that there is strong interest from telecommunication organisations in this model.
13. This option would require a formal open NHO procurement/selection process in order to comply with Subsidy Control legislation.
14. In this option the Council would typically:
 - endorse the NHO initiative, including licencing the Council brand in association (with safeguards in place).
 - provide finite supporting resources and expertise to help successfully establish the NHO within the BCP area.
 - offer all or part of its fibre assets for use by the NHO, under a separate commercial agreement, similar to other potential fibre owners.

15. The NHO would typically be responsible for:

- operating and managing the core network as a wholesale telecommunication provider.
- negotiating access arrangements with other existing and future fibre owners within the BCP area.
- attracting further investment to build out other parts of the Gigabit network across BCP.
- creating the Internet Service Provider (ISP) marketplace and attracting ISPs to the platform.
- acquiring broadband market share

16. This 'NHO Model - working with BCP Council' option is the preferred option for the following reasons:

- (i) This option has the greatest prospect of meeting the Council's Big Plan ambition of having the best digital connectivity in the country and delivering against its key Gigabit objectives as outlined in the RFI.
- (ii) Financial commitment and commercial risks are minimised for the Council in meeting its Gigabit objectives.
- (iii) Council involvement enables it to exercise greater influence over the delivery of its objectives.
- (iv) Council involvement helps to strengthen and build the market for the NHO.
- (v) Council involvement strengthens the Council's negotiating position in terms of income generation potential.
- (vi) This option opens up the opportunity for existing asset owners to open up, share and monetise their assets, which in turn may reduce the pressure to dig up the highway for 'duplicate' duct runs.
- (vii) The model has been successfully deployed elsewhere.
- (viii) Responses to the RFI indicate that the establishment of an NHO would give rise to provision of new and innovative services and offerings such as affordable broadband in deprived areas.
- (ix) Responses to the RFI indicate that there are companies willing and able to work with BCP to establish a NHO model, subject to due process.

The Neutral Host Operator Model

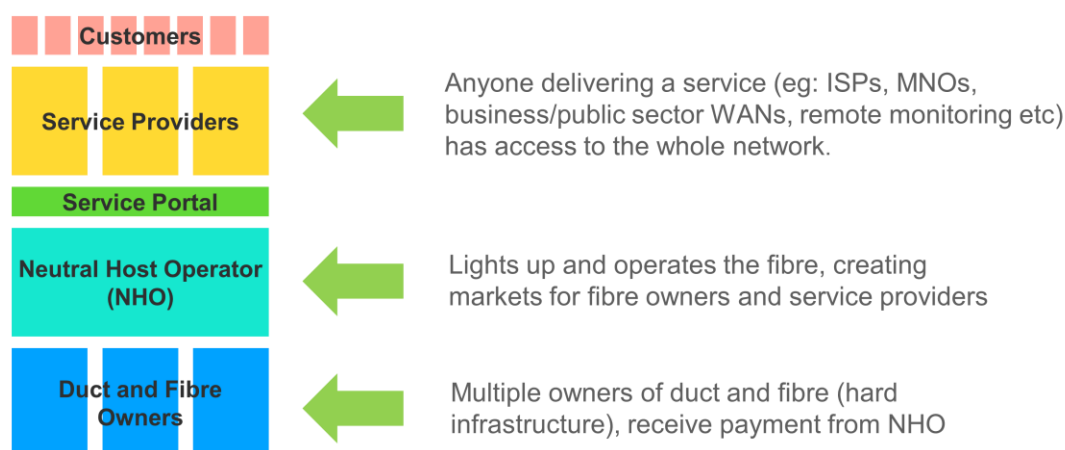
17. Traditional practice with the UK telecommunications market is that the organisation that funds, installs and owns fibre networks will either run services over the infrastructure itself or will work in partnership with specific partners to do so, typically internet service providers (ISPs). In contrast the NHO model decouples the physical fibre infrastructure from the services delivered upon it. The NHO, which manages and operates the network, provides a middle layer between the fibre owners and the ISPs running end-user services, in effect acting as a broker of the infrastructure.

18. The decoupling of the infrastructure from the services creates a wider market for fibre ownership beyond traditional telecom companies helping to encourage investment from non-telecom investors. The NHO model also lowers the barriers of entry to market for service providers. These service providers are not only providers of internet service (ISPs) but are those who require access to data networks to deliver a range of services such as mobile phone (5G) operators,

wireless ISPs, security and CCTV through to education and health services. By providing open access to the fibre and by being 'neutral' as to who owns it, the focus is on ensuring that the fibre is available irrespective of the owner's motive. This helps to ensure that services are available to solve the problems determined by the end users thereby creating an innovative, vibrant marketplace for service and solution providers.

19. The Neutral Host network would be based upon superior "peer-to-peer" architecture, giving the BCP Council area significant differentiation from other regions, making it more attractive to businesses and delivering on our Big Plan.
20. The model allows any party to own the physical elements (ducts and fibre) of a network, without the need to have any technical capabilities to operate or charge for its use. The NHO pays a fee directly to the duct and fibre owners. In addition, existing and new service providers can deliver their products over the network, by purchasing connectivity through the NHO, without worrying about who owns the fibre or how it is operated.
21. Table 1 below explains how a typical NHO model works:

Table 1 – Typical Neutral Host Operator Model



22. The network is operated and managed by the NHO. The peer-to-peer network provides symmetric upload and download speeds and enables many use cases such as telehealth, monitoring of vulnerable people, IoT sensor connectivity, school to pupil connectivity and 5G backhaul.
23. With the NHO model the Council can potentially buy connectivity for Council premises and assets at wholesale rates, greatly reducing costs for digitally enabled services.
24. Existing fibre owners in the region can potentially benefit as they can include their fibre within the Neutral Host network, giving them access to a larger customer base.

Next Steps

25. The next step is to procure the Neutral Host Operator (NHO). The Smart Place, Law and Governance and Strategic Procurement Teams will be working closely together to agree the most appropriate form of contract to secure a NHO, such as whether to use a licence and/or service agreement as well as the preferred procurement process to be followed. The form of contract will serve to minimise or remove any future liability on the Council in the event that the NHO fails to meet its obligations. Contract documents will then be drawn up typically setting out the various responsibilities of the NHO and the Council and specifying

specific outcomes, financial terms, timeframes and performance measures. An open competitive procurement process will then be conducted to select the most beneficial NHO.

26. Prior to the award of the NHO contract a further report will be brought back to Cabinet requesting authorisation to proceed to contract.
27. It is hoped that the procurement process can be completed within the next six to nine months.

Summary of financial implications

28. The Table below summarises the financial implications of the proposed next step.

	Additional Financial Cost	Financial Year	Comments
Procurement of Neutral Host Operator	£0K	2022/23	Funding for the procurement process will be drawn down from the existing £277K provision within the 2022/23 budget for setting up the four key Smart Place work packages.

29. The selection of an NHO and the execution of this model places no additional direct financial obligation on the Council. The commercial risk of running the wholesale broadband network in BCP would sit wholly with the NHO and is not underwritten by the Council. Likewise, the Council will not be responsible and will not underwrite any investment returns of investors who choose to invest in fibre assets across the BCP region.
30. As with any other fibre owner within the BCP area should the Council choose to make its fibre assets available to the NHO there would be an expectation of a financial return.
31. Subject to agreement, by licencing its branding to the NHO there is the potential that a secondary income stream could be generated for the Council.

Summary of legal and governance implications

32. The Council has considered the application of the Public Contract Regulations 2015, and Concession Contracts Regulations 2016 in relation to the procurement of the NHO and finds that these do not apply.
33. The Council has considered Section 111 Local Government Act 1972 (LGA 1972) for the purposes of procuring and contracting with a successful NHO appointed following a competitive tender exercise. The Council pursuant to Section 111 LGA 1972 is able to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions, which includes the improvement of wellbeing and economic development of its area.
34. Furthermore, the Council pursuant to Section 1(1) of the Localism Act 2011 has the power to do anything that individuals generally may do, and which expressly includes the power to do something for the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area. The procurement of a Neutral Host Operator will be managed in accordance with the Councils Financial Regulations supported by the Council's Strategic Procurement Team.

35. The Council has considered the application of Subsidy (formerly referred to as State Aid) to the procurement of the NHO. Subsidy is defined as any advantage granted by public authorities through state resources on a selective basis to any organisations that could potentially distort competition and trade in the European Union (EU) and Northern Ireland. There will be no direct financial or in-kind subsidy and any risk of challenge in terms of unfair economic advantage or distortion in or harm to competition will be minimised by an open, competitive procurement process.
36. Under the NHO model the NHO would fulfil the role of telecoms operator and is subject to Ofcom rules and regulations. The Council does not become an operator.

Summary of human resources implications

37. There will be the need to secure additional temporary resource from Strategic Procurement and from Law and Governance to assist with the procurement of the Neutral Host Operator. This resource will be funded from a previously agreed Smart Place budget.

Summary of implications upon the Levelling Up agenda

38. Accelerating Gigabit fibre strongly supports government's Levelling Up agenda. (Levelling Up the United Kingdom: Executive Summary). In particular it supports the following Levelling Up 'Medium Term Missions':
 - a. Productivity: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK,
 - b. Digital Connectivity: By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
39. Accelerating Gigabit fibre will also indirectly support other government Levelling Up 'Medium Term Missions' relating to skills, health and well-being:
40. Locally, the Council has adopted the following 'Levelling Up' Goals with its three priority goals being 8 - Good health and well-being, 12 – Building homes and sustainable communities and 14 - Achieve equality through diversity & inclusion.



41. Accelerating Gigabit fibre will particularly support:

- Goal 8: Good Health and well-being
- Goal 9: Extending enterprise
- Goal 10: Closing the digital divide
- Goal 11: Infrastructure for opportunity
- Goal 12: Building homes & sustainable communities (sustainable communities' aspect)
- Goal 14 Achieve equality through diversity and inclusion

Summary of sustainability impact

42. A Decision Impact Assessment has been created with recognition that if the recommendations in this report are approved, further work will be required to build sustainable resource into the whole life cycle of the project and to ensure that sustainable resource use is considered throughout the supply chain. The DIA has a 'low risk' outcome overall and is supported by Theme Advisors for Communities, Learning, Procurement, Consumption and Transport. The DIA Interim Report is included at Appendix 2.
43. Positive impacts only have been identified in the following areas: Climate Change and Energy; Communities and Culture; Economy; Health and Wellbeing; Learning and Skills; Natural Environment; Transport and Accessibility.
44. Waste and Resource Use is rated amber because we have not yet assessed whether the proposals will reduce water use and Sustainable Procurement is rated amber as there is further work to do to consider sustainable resource use within the whole project life cycle and supply chain.
45. The Sustainable Development Goals supported by the proposal are 1. No Poverty; 3. Good Health and Well Being; 4. Quality Education; 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth; 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; 10. Reduced Inequalities; 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities; 17. Partnerships for the Goals.

Summary of public health implications

46. By improving the availability of high-speed, affordable Gigabit fibre, which underpins many critical healthcare services, it is expected the establishment of a Neutral Host Operator within the BCP Council area will have a major positive impact upon public health. Examples include enabling remote surgery appointments and earlier interventions. Better connectivity to individuals' homes will enable people to access greater support, including more contact with friends and family. Improved and affordable gigabit connectivity will accelerate the deployment of healthcare technology, such as assistive living devices, helping to keep people living independently in their own homes for longer, thereby reducing the demand upon healthcare and Council services. Public services will be able to move and share health data around more quickly and cost-effectively.

Summary of equality implications

47. Equality implications are positive. The Smart Place programme will benefit low-income households in the area with numerous positive outcomes anticipated,

including increased access to skills, jobs and services, better access to information, targeting of services, and better access to digital connectivity.

48. There are also many positive implications for people with protected characteristics, particularly those who experience a greater level of digital exclusion such as people with disabilities or who are in older age groups. The COVID pandemic has highlighted the digital divide for children in low-income families with access to sufficient bandwidth, digital devices and skills impacting on their learning. The programme seeks to address these inequalities and to enable people with other protected characteristics and organisations supporting them to benefit from better access to information and to online services.
49. An Equality Impact Assessment: conversation screening tool (Form 1) has been produced at a programme level. The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) form was completed predominantly based upon evidence collected from the two consultation exercises that have taken place.
50. The EIA conversation screening tool form was reviewed by the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Panel on 5th August 2021. The Panel did not find any issues that would contravene the Council's statutory equalities responsibilities.
51. The key finding from the panel was that as the EIA form had been based solely upon auditable evidence it had not captured the full potential and ambition of the Smart Place programme to have a significant beneficial impact upon all people including those with "protected characteristics". For this reason, the panel awarded the EIA 'Amber' status. The screening tool has since been enhanced to reflect these comments and is included at Appendix 3.

Summary of risk assessment

52. A project level Risk Register for accelerating Gigabit fibre (NHO model), covering the key risks of stakeholder support; finance and funding; programme delivery and legal considerations has been completed. The Accelerating Gigabit Fibre Project Risk Register can be found in Appendix 4.

Background papers

None

Appendices

1. Detailed Options Appraisal
2. Accelerating Gigabit Fibre (NHO) Decision Impact Assessment Interim Report
3. Smart Place EIA Screening Tool
4. Accelerating Gigabit Fibre (NHO) Project Risk Register

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Appendix 1: Detailed Options Appraisal

Options Appraisal

1. With Portfolio Holder support and following advice from the Council's Law and Governance and Strategic Procurement teams, a procurement-led open Request for Information (RFI) exercise was carried out during April 2022 aimed at the telecommunication industry. The purpose of the RFI exercise was to seek market insight, recommendations and proposals on the various possible delivery models (technical, operational and commercial) that would accelerate the deployment of affordable Gigabit fibre to almost every home, business and organisation across the BCP Council area.
2. Responders to the RFI were asked to consider the following strategic and operational objectives:

Strategic Objectives:

- 1) Gigabit fibre should be available across the whole of the BCP area.
- 2) Gigabit fibre needs to be rolled out at pace.
- 3) Gigabit fibre needs to be affordable to residents, businesses, public sector and the voluntary sector.
- 4) To create a market which attracts widescale investment in gigabit fibre.

Operational Objectives:

- 1) All broadband connectivity should be available as a symmetric* service.
- 2) Enhancing digital maturity and service take up.
- 3) Wish to create the mechanisms, technically, operationally and commercially that allows the local region to create specific layer 2 networks.
- 4) Create a vibrant ISP marketplace
- 5) Solutions that allow the potential exploitation of any fibre deployed within the BCP area into a single aggregated solution.

**Symmetric means that download and upload speeds are the same.*

3. Nine organisations responded to the RFI. Whilst a few responders were simply offering their consultancy services, meaningful responses were received, including from major telecommunications companies. On the basis of these responses the following options have been assessed as to their effectiveness in meeting the Council's objectives.

Do Nothing Option

4. With the "Do Nothing" option, the status quo of commercially driven installation will continue. Whilst the region will continue to see connectivity gradually rise and coverage increase the level of connectivity will not differentiate BCP from anywhere else in the UK and the Big Plan objective of ensuring that BCP has the best connectivity in the country would not be achieved. Many households and businesses would still be without affordable connectivity and full realisation of

economic benefits such as increased productivity and new technology related commercial opportunities will not be achieved. Similarly improved social outcomes will not be fully delivered such as tele-healthcare and support for independent living, and more innovative public sector service delivery would also be inhibited.

Do Something Option 1 – Undertake an Open Market Review/Government Investment

5. This option would require further engagement with the market. Such exercises have previously been conducted around the UK and enable providers to enter into agreements with the Council to disclose commercially sensitive information. This enables the Council to have a clearer understanding of areas that have gigabit provision or will have within planned programmes.
6. Whilst this has resulted in some improvement, mainly in rural areas, this has often been dependent upon accompanying funding from government (DCMS) which in turn has been passed on to the network providers to build out networks in otherwise unviable areas.
7. This option has been discounted for the following reasons:
 - i. BCP already has quite detailed information about the deployment of Gigabit fibre in the area and such an exercise is unlikely to provide any significant new insight.
 - ii. To realise any benefits this option requires some form of external funding and DCMS have previously indicated that as an urban area BCP is already relatively well served by providers. It is highly unlikely that necessary funding would therefore be available from DCMS.
 - iii. Whilst this option would help to meet some of BCP Council's Gigabit network objectives, particularly fuller roll-out, it is less certain how other wider objectives would be met. Therefore, even if funding were available this option is likely to lead to a sub-optimal solution for significant areas of the BCP region.
8. Whilst suggested by a consultancy it is worth noting that no operator responding to the RFI suggested this approach.

Do Something Option 2 - BCP Investment in further Gigabit network assets

9. This option examines BCP Council covering the additional cost of building the Gigabit fibre network to those areas that would otherwise not be covered by the commercial operators. This option recognises the unlikelihood of DCMS funding the network to unviable areas as described in Do Something Option 1. With this option there would be the need for the Council to comply with Subsidy Control legislation.
10. There are two sub-options as to how this could be deployed:
 - 1) Funding could be given to one of the incumbent wholesale telecommunications operators, currently operating within BCP, to augment their own network with the BCP funded one.

- 2) BCP could enter an arrangement with an alternative operator (AltNet) typically operating in the region, but generally not currently within BCP, to build a jointly owned network segment.
11. This option has been discounted for the following reasons:
- i. This option would require a significant financial outlay by BCP Council and whilst there would be general societal benefit it would be difficult to justify direct Council investment in real financial terms.
 - ii. Whilst this option would help to meet some of BCP Council's Gigabit network objectives, particularly fuller roll-out, there remain uncertainties as to how the other wider objectives would be met. Therefore, even if BCP Council funding were available this is likely to lead to a sub-optimal solution for significant areas of the BCP region.
 - iii. If sub-option 2, agreement with an AltNet, were to be pursued this would potentially open the Council up to various risks associated with operating a telecommunications network.

Do Something Option 3 – Neutral Host Operator Model - Market-Led

12. A further option to emerge from the RFI exercise is what is referred to as Neutral Host Operator (NHO) model.
13. Traditional practice with the UK telecommunications market is that the organisation that funds, installs and owns fibre networks will either run services over the infrastructure itself or will work in partnership with specific partners to do so, typically internet service providers (ISPs). In contrast the NHO model decouples the physical fibre infrastructure from the services delivered on it. The NHO, which manages and operates the network, provides a middle layer between the fibre owners and the ISPs running end-user services, in effect acting as a broker of the infrastructure.
14. The decoupling of the infrastructure from the services creates a wider market for fibre ownership beyond traditional telecom companies helping to encourage investment from non-telecom investors. The NHO model also lowers the barriers of entry to market for service providers. These service providers are not only providers of internet service (ISPs) but are those who require access to data networks to deliver a range of services such as mobile phone (5G) operators, wireless ISPs, security and CCTV through to education and health services. By providing open access to the fibre and by being 'neutral' as to who owns it, the focus falls on ensuring that the fibre is available irrespective of the owner's motive. This helps to ensure that services are available to solve the problems determined by the end users thereby creating an innovative, vibrant marketplace for service and solution providers.
15. Whilst not common within the UK the NHO model is used successfully overseas and responses to the RFI indicate that there is strong interest from telecommunication organisations in this model.
16. **There are two NHO options.** In this Do Something Option 3 – NHO Market-Led option there is no barrier to any Neutral Host Operator coming and establishing itself within BCP, working with existing and future asset owners and service providers. In this option the Council simply adopts a neutral welcoming position.

17. The Do Something Option 3 – NHO Market-Led option has been discounted for the following reasons:
- i. Whilst this option has significant potential in helping to deliver many of the Council's Gigabit fibre objectives there is less certainty when the market would be willing to move, which could delay the realisation of the significant societal and economic benefits.
 - ii. The final outcomes are still likely to be sub-optimal.
 - iii. The Council has limited influence over the timing and realisation of its Gigabit fibre objectives
 - iv. The income generation potential for the Council is likely to be sub-optimal.

Do Something Option 4 – Neutral Host Operator Model - Working with BCP Council (Preferred Option)

18. This option is identical to 'Do Something Option 3', except in this NHO option the Council adopts a proactive approach to encourage the market to establish itself early within the BCP area. This option would require a formal open NHO procurement/selection process in order to comply with Subsidy Control legislation.
19. In this option the Council would typically:
- 1) endorse the NHO initiative, including licencing the Council brand in association (with safeguards in place).
 - 2) provide finite supporting resources and expertise to help successfully establish the NHO within the BCP area.
 - 3) offer all or part of its fibre assets for use by the NHO, under a separate commercial agreement, similar to other potential fibre owners.
20. The NHO would typically be responsible for:
- 1) operating and managing the core network as a wholesale telecommunication provider.
 - 2) negotiating access arrangements with other existing and future fibre owners within the BCP area.
 - 3) attracting further investment to build out other parts of the Gigabit network across BCP.
 - 4) creating the ISP marketplace and attracting ISPs to the platform.
 - 5) acquiring broadband market share
21. This 'NHO Model - working with BCP Council' option is the preferred option for the following reasons:
- i. This option has the greatest prospect of meeting the Council's Big Plan ambition of having the best digital connectivity in the country and delivering against its key Gigabit objectives as outlined in the RFI.
 - ii. Financial commitment and commercial risks are minimised for the Council in meeting its Gigabit objectives.
 - iii. Council involvement enables it to exercise greater influence over the delivery of its objectives.

- iv. Council involvement helps to strengthen and build the market for the NHO.
- v. Council involvement strengthens the Council's negotiating position in terms of income generation potential.
- vi. This option opens up the opportunity for existing asset owners to open up, share and monetise their assets, which in turn may reduce the pressure to dig up the highway for 'duplicate' duct runs.
- vii. Responses to the RFI indicate that the establishment of an NHO would give rise to provision of new and innovative services and offerings such as affordable broadband in deprived areas.
- viii. Responses to the RFI indicate that there are companies willing and able to work with BCP to establish a NHO model, subject to due process.










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Proposal Title: Accelerating Gigabit Fibre

This is an interim report for a DIA that has been requested but yet to be completed.

If there is a RAG (coloured circle) that has not had its dependent field selected yet, it will appear as a white circle.

Impact Summary

Climate Change & Energy	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Communities & Culture	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Waste & Resource Use	Amber - Minor negative impacts identified / unknown impacts	
Economy	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Health & Wellbeing	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Learning & Skills	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Natural Environment	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Sustainable Procurement	Amber - Minor negative impacts identified / unknown impacts	
Transport & Accessibility	Green - Only positive impacts identified	

Answers provided indicate that the score for the carbon footprint of the proposal is: **2.5**

Answers provided indicate that the carbon footprint of the proposal is:	Low	
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Proposal Title: Accelerating Gigabit Fibre

Proposal ID: **420**

Proposal Title: **Accelerating Gigabit Fibre**

Type of Proposal: **Procurement**

Brief description:

Identification of a Neutral Host Operater for a gigabit fibre network for BCP

Proposer's Name: **Linda Krywald**

Proposer's Directorate: **Regeneration & Economy**

Proposer's Service Unit: **Development**

Estimated cost (£): **No Cost**

If known, the cost amount (£):

Ward(s) Affected (if applicable):

All Wards

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) supported by the proposal:

1. No Poverty 3. Good Health and Well Being 4. Quality Education 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure 10. Reduced Inequalities 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities 17. Partnerships for the Goals

Proposal Title: Accelerating Gigabit Fibre

Climate Change & Energy

Is the proposal likely to have any impacts (positive or negative) on addressing the causes and effects of climate change? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (in this case there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Has the proposal accounted for the potential impacts of climate change, e.g. flooding, storms or heatwaves? **Partially**
- 2) Does it assist reducing CO2 and other Green House Gas (GHG) emissions? E.g. reduction in energy or transport use, or waste produced. **Partially**
- 3) Will it increase energy efficiency (e.g. increased efficiency standards / better design / improved construction technologies / choice of materials) and/or reduce energy consumption? **Yes**
- 4) Will it increase the amount of energy obtained from renewable and low carbon sources? **Yes**

How was the overall impact of the proposal on its ability to positively address the cause and effects of climate change rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified



The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

Installation of a gigabit fibre network will enable the development of technologies dependent on fast broadband. These may in future enable a decrease in reliance on non renewable energy sources and increased efficiency eg through better traffic management, but at present these future benefits are not quantifiable.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

The overall impact of the project will be increase use of internet to access services, reduce travel and enable development of Smart technologies. Note DIAs 261 and 336 are relevant - the former (rated Green) relates to the overall programme and the latter (rated Amber) to purchase of hardware for fibre network installation.

Proposal Title: Accelerating Gigabit Fibre

Communities & Culture

Is the proposal likely to impact (positively or negatively) on the development of safe, vibrant, inclusive and engaged communities? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will it help maintain and expand vibrant voluntary and community organisations? **Yes**
- 2) Will it promote a safe community environment? **Yes**
- 3) Will it promote and develop cultural activities? **Yes**

How would the overall impact of the proposal on the development of safe, vibrant, inclusive and engaged communities be rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified



Reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

Development of 'vibrant communities' is a key objective of the Smart Place Strategy. It is developing a wide network of partnerships in order to support the voluntary sector. Communities will also benefit from increased access to information, communications and services via the internet and the MyBoscombe app. The programme is enabling the implementation of a more sophisticated CCTV network. A Proof of Concept (PoC) is currently in operation in partnership with BCP Security team to trial the use of software analytics on existing CCTV cameras. The scheme now uses the Smart Place 5g network in Boscombe and this will shortly be extended to Pokedown.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

Proposal Title: Accelerating Gigabit Fibre

Waste & Resource Use

Is the proposal likely to have any impacts (positive or negative) on waste resource use or production and consumption? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will it prevent waste or promote the reduction, re-use, recycling or recovery of materials? **Yes**
- 2) Will it use sustainable production methods or reduce the need for resources? **Yes**
- 3) Will it manage the extraction and use of raw materials in ways that minimise depletion and cause no serious environmental damage? **Not Relevant**
- 4) Will it help to reduce the amount of water abstracted and / or used? **Don't know even though may be relevant**

How would the overall impact of the proposal on the sustainable production and consumption of natural resources be rated?

Amber - Minor negative impacts identified / unknown impacts



The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

The Smart Place strategy aims to provide a data insight hub to enhance place based applications and services. This can be shared with other public sector organisations and partners to make much more informed decisions around efficient use of resources. It will also, where appropriate, make insight available to industry to drive innovation in clean energy product development benefiting the local supply chain and ultimately the local area. In addition, it will enable information to be made available to the public, helping the public make more sustainable choices and driving behaviour change at scale.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

The gigabit speed fibre will require fibre cables to be fitted underground. However, all current environmental and health and safety legislation will be adhered to. It will be necessary to develop a server room and potentially a data centre in order to support operation of the data insight hub. There are environmental impacts associated with these, particularly in the amount of energy required to keep them cool. More information on this can be provided. At a project level, it is intended to work with suppliers to engage them around reducing packaging waste where possible at procurement stage.



Proposal Title: Accelerating Gigabit Fibre

Proposal Title: Accelerating Gigabit Fibre

Economy

Is the proposal likely to impact (positively or negatively) on the area's ability to support, maintain and grow a sustainable, diverse and thriving economy? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will the proposal encourage local business creation and / or growth?

Yes

- 2) Will the proposal enable local jobs to be created or retained?

Yes

- 3) Will the proposal promote sustainable business practices?

Yes

=How would the overall impact of the proposal on it's potential to support and maintain a sustainable, diverse and thriving economy be rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified



The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

Economic growth is a major part of the Smart Place Strategy and aims to 'drive the prospects of businesses'. It is expected that the Smart Place Strategy will enable major economic growth due to the implementation of high speed digital connectivity and 5G due to the links between improved connectivity and productivity. The strategy aims to improve digital skills for all as consultation has evidenced the demand from this from local people. The council has set up a Research and Development Consortium - currently with 65 member technology companies. As well as creating 9 jobs to date, they are working with the council on a number of use cases investigating and testing the application of Smart technology within a 5g environment.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

At a project level, consideration will be given to reporting the impacts of the Smart Place strategy on the local economy, particularly around job creation and number of SME's established in the local area.

Proposal Title: Accelerating Gigabit Fibre

Health & Wellbeing

Is the proposal likely to impact (positively or negatively) on the creation of a inclusive and healthy social and physical environmental for all? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will the proposal contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of residents or staff?
Yes
- 2) Will the proposal contribute to reducing inequalities?
Yes
- 3) Will the proposal contribute to a healthier and more sustainable physical environment for residents or staff?
Yes

How would the overall impact of the proposal on the creation of a fair and healthy social and physical environmental for all be rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified



The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

The Smart Place strategy aims to 'Improve the lives of residents' with objectives including helping people achieve healthier lifestyles, improving digital inclusion (evidence shows that older people and those with disabilities are most likely to be excluded) and enabling telecare and digital devices to be placed into social and healthcare settings to support people to live independently.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

Consideration will be given to how we gather feedback from residents around the impact of these applications and connectivity. For example, the Smart Place team has previously run surveys with residents to assess the need and demand for some of its solutions, including a consultation in June 2021.

Proposal Title: Accelerating Gigabit Fibre

Learning & Skills

Is the proposal likely to impact (positively or negatively) on a culture of ongoing engagement and excellence in learning and skills? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will it provide and/or improve opportunities for formal learning?
Partially
- 2) Will it provide and/or improve community learning and development?
Yes
- 3) Will it provide and/or improve opportunities for apprenticeships and other skill based learning?
Yes

How would the overall impact of the proposal on the encouragement of learning and skills be rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified



The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

The Smart Place Programme has a good relationship with both local universities and intends to work closely with both Bournemouth University and Arts University Bournemouth in providing 'real life' Smart Place projects for university students to benefit from. A pilot initiative is underway in Boscombe to support the development of digital skills development. Through the Smart Place Research & Development Consortium we are able to engage directly with industry and promote the benefits of utilising apprenticeships through our own experience. A Digital Degree Apprentice completed their degree last year as part of the Smart Place team and we have also recently hosted a school age work experience student.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

The Smart Place team met with Childrens Services Director and it has been agreed to meet further with the Extended Leadership Team about possible benefits Smart Place can bring Childrens Services, particularly in relation to the Corporate Parenting Responsibility, including opportunities for jobs and apprenticeships in this field.

Proposal Title: Accelerating Gigabit Fibre

Natural Environment

Is the proposal likely to impact (positively or negatively) on the protection or enhancement of local biodiversity or the access to and quality of natural environments?

Yes

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will it help protect and improve biodiversity i.e. habitats or species (including designated and non-designated)? **Partially**
- 2) Will it improve access to and connectivity of local green spaces whilst protecting and enhancing them? **Yes**
- 3) Will it help protect and enhance the landscape quality and character? **Partially**
- 4) Will it help to protect and enhance the quality of the area's air, water and land? **Yes**

How would the overall impact of your proposal on the protection and enhancement of natural environments be rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified



The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

Smart technology has many potential applications to protect and enhance the environment. We are already using 5g to support air quality monitoring in the Lansdowne area and it is planned to offer residents real time information to enable sustainable transport choices. We are also supporting the development of software to analyse water quality monitoring. The MyBoscombe app provides a means for residents to access information about their environment, local green spaces, and environmental services such as recycling and reporting fly tipping to enable behaviour change. Last year the Smart Places team conducted a pilot which embedded Internet of Things sensors in the cliff tops at East Cliff and transmitted data around the stability of the cliffside back to a dashboard that could share information with officers and send alerts if there were any causes for concern. This was in response to the cliff top landslide at East Cliff and the considerable damage this caused to the natural environment. This could be scaled up across the region.

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

Proposal Title: Accelerating Gigabit Fibre

Some concerns have been raised in the press about radiation resulting from mobile phone masts. Our recent electromagnetic field site survey, conducted by an appropriate external assessor in April 2022, shows that levels are low and within the ICNIRP 1998 General Public limits which form the basis of the relevant Regulations. We continue to keep levels under review and data is publicly available via the Smart Place website.

Proposal Title: Accelerating Gigabit Fibre

Sustainable Procurement

Does your proposal involve the procurement of goods, services or works? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

Has or is it intended that the Strategic Procurement team be consulted?

Yes – already underway

If the Strategic Procurement team was not consulted, then the explanation for this is:

- 1) Do the Government Buying Standards (GBS) apply to goods and/or services that are planned to be bought?

No

- 2) Has sustainable resource use (e.g. energy & water consumption, waste streams, minerals use) been considered for whole life-cycle of the product/service/work?

Partially

- 3) Has the issue of carbon reduction (e.g. energy sources, transport issues) and adaptation (e.g. resilience against extreme weather events) been considered in the supply chain?

Partially

- 4) Is the product/service fairly traded i.e. ensures good working conditions, social benefits e.g. Fairtrade or similar standards?

Yes

- 5) Has the lotting strategy been optimised to improve prospects for local suppliers and SMEs?

Not Relevant

- 6) If aspects of the requirement are unsustainable then is continued improvement factored into your contract with KPIs, and will this be monitored?

Not Relevant

How is the overall impact of your proposal on procurement which supports sustainable resource use, environmental protection and progressive labour standards been rated?

Amber - Minor negative impacts identified / unknown impacts



The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

It has not been possible to discover any government buying standards applicable to the telecoms industry.

Proposal Title: Accelerating Gigabit Fibre

Details of proposed mitigation/remedial action and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

This proposal is at programme level but whole life issues have been considered on procurement to date and will continue to be taken into account where they arise.

Proposal Title: Accelerating Gigabit Fibre

Transport & Accessibility

Is the proposal likely to have any impacts (positive or negative) on the provision of sustainable, accessible, affordable and safe transport services - improving links to jobs, schools, health and other services? **Yes**

If the answer was No, then the explanation is below (there are no answers to subsequent questions in this section):

- 1) Will it support and encourage the provision of sustainable and accessible modes of transport (including walking, cycling, bus, trains and low emission vehicles)?
Yes
- 2) Will it reduce the distances needed to travel to access work, leisure and other services? **Yes**
- 3) Will it encourage affordable and safe transport options?
Yes

How would the overall impact of your proposal on the provision of sustainable, accessible, affordable and safe transport services be rated?

Green - Only positive impacts identified



The reasoning for the answer (details of impacts including evidence and knowledge gaps):

The provision of sustainable travel applications, powered by the data insight hub will enable much better access to information which will empower the public to make more sustainable travel choices. Ubiquitous, affordable gigabit speed fibre will have a major impact on everyone's ability to work from home. Provision of gigabit speed fibre will enable additional functionality for our traffic camera network. For example software can be added to cameras which enables detection of incidents and real time alerts for the emergency services

Details of proposed mitigation and monitoring (inc. timescales, responsible officers, related business plans etc):

During the laying of fibre cabling there may be diversions/disruptions on the transport network which may lead to temporary traffic delays but these will be managed and mitigated in the same way as any transport network maintenance or civils work.

Equality Impact Assessment: conversation screening tool

[Use this form to prompt an EIA conversation and capture the output between officers, stakeholders and interested groups. This completed form or a full EIA report will be published as part of the decision-making process]

Policy/Service under development/review:	Smart Place Strategy
What changes are being made to the policy/service?	This is a new strategy (This is BCP Council's first Smart Place Strategy)
Service Unit:	Smart Place/Development
Persons present in the conversation and their role/experience in the service:	Adrian Hale – Smart Place Strategy & Programming Lead Ruth Spencer – Head of Smart Place Ian Woodgate – Smart Place Commercial Lead Sarah Powell Pisareva – Smart Place Analyst Jack Matthews – Smart Place Digital Degree Apprentice
Conversation dates:	27/07/21
Do you know your current or potential client base? Who are the key stakeholders?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents • Local businesses e.g. digital companies, manufacturers, retailers, hospitality etc.; • Local voluntary/community groups e.g. YMCA; Shelter; Community Action Network; Business Improvement Districts; Poole Housing Partnership etc. • Smart Place R&D Consortium technology partners; • Smart Place Investors; • Local skills providers; • Bournemouth University; • Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group; • Local health providers • Dorset Police; • BCP Council internal departments including Community Services; Adult Social Care; Children's Services; Transport; Environment; Waste Management; Seafront Services; CCTV team; • Dorset LEP; • AFCB Bournemouth; • Government departments including Cabinet Office, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government; Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport; Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy; National Cyber Security Centre; Centre for Protection of National Infrastructure;
Do different groups have different needs or experiences in relation to the policy/service?	<p>Yes. An online public consultation on the Smart Place Strategy Objectives relating to People, Communities and Businesses took place between June and July 2021. This produced the following high-level findings in relation to protected characteristics:</p> <p>People</p>

- Affordable broadband is significantly more of an issue for older people;
- Using technology to promote healthier lifestyles is significantly more important for older people;
- Using information to help local businesses to provide a better service was significantly more important for older people;
- Creating innovative digital solutions that help tackle key social issues is significantly more important for people with disabilities;
- Providing digital skills training for local residents is a significantly higher priority for females and Christians.

Communities

- Reducing carbon emissions through digital monitoring and behaviour change is significantly less important for heterosexual respondents than for other sexual orientations;
- Enhancing community safety through digital technology was significantly more important for older people and a much higher priority for older people, females and Christians;
- Providing live information to help manage use of roads, car parks, etc. is a much higher priority for people with disabilities;
- Utilising digital capabilities to support major incident response is a much higher priority for Christians.

Businesses

- Creating major online marketplaces to promote buying local is significantly more important for older people and a much higher priority for older people, females and Christians;
- Promoting innovation utilising highly advanced digital networks is more important for older people;
- Providing data insights to help local businesses improve their systems is much more important for older people;
- Providing digital skills training for the local workforce is a much higher priority for older people, females and Christians.
- Utilising, promoting and supporting local companies within the Smart Place programme is a much higher priority for females.

A further public engagement postal survey relating to 'Use of Technology' was conducted for the Smart Place programme in October/November 2020. The key findings in terms of protected characteristics were as follows.

- Age is the biggest factor in determining whether people use the internet. Those aged 65 and over are less likely to use the internet (18% do not use the internet) than other age groups. All of those aged under 45 use the internet, with 2% of those aged 45-54 and 3% of those aged 55-64 not using it.
- Those with a disability that limits their activities a lot are less likely to use the internet (17% do not use the internet) than those with no limiting illness (3%).
- In terms of economic activity, 18% of those permanently sick or disabled and 15% of those retired from work do not use the internet.
- Black minority ethnic (BME) respondents are more likely to use the internet when out and about using mobile internet (82%) than White Other or White groups.
- Of those who do not use the internet skills/confidence is a barrier for 40% of those aged 45-54, 31% of those 55-64 and 44% of those aged 65 or over. No respondents under the age

	of 35 said this was an issue. Skills/confidence is a bigger factor for those who are permanently sick/disabled (57%),
Will the policy or service change affect any of these service users?	Our analysis of how the strategy will affect people, including those with protected characteristics is in the following section.
[If the answer to any of the questions above is 'don't know' then you need to gather more evidence and do a full EIA. The best way to do this is to use the Capturing Evidence form]	
What are the benefits or positive impacts of the policy/service change on current or potential service users?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Different Ages</i> Older people have less experience of emerging technology and may need support in accessing online services safely and suitable devices. The wider Smart Place programme will deliver skills-based programmes to address any access issues caused by lack of confidence or knowledge. There is great potential to support independent living through Smart Technology which can assist users and carers in the home with telecare and other digital devices. In partnership with members of the Research and Development Consortium, which is part of the project, we are exploring assistive technology alongside Poole Housing Partnership and Adult Social Care. The COVID pandemic has highlighted the digital divide for children in low-income families with access to sufficient bandwidth, digital devices and skills impacting on their learning. The gigabit network will offer benefits to schools and organisations working with young people, for example by enabling schools to set up dedicated networks for learning. <i>Those who are married or in a civil partnership</i> There is no specific impact. <i>Those with physical and/or mental disabilities and those with caring responsibilities</i> Although visually, physically and hearing impaired people face more challenges in accessing online services, wider access to the networks will enhance the options for them. Partnered with skills sessions to support use of accessibility settings such as screen reader, and enlarged fonts, together with the reduction in requirements to leave the home for services will benefit many residents. There is great potential to support independent living through Smart Technology which can assist users and carers in the home with telecare and other digital devices. <i>People from different ethnic groups and different religions or beliefs</i> Although some differences in internet use and behaviours were suggested in our surveys, the installation of the network will not disadvantage any ethnic or religious group. Better connectivity could offer community groups and organisations improved communications and access to online services. The MyBoscombe app offers a platform for community groups and organisations and for potential users to find information about them. <i>Different sexes/genders and people with different sexual</i>

	<p><i>orientations, those who identify as trans</i></p> <p>Although some differences in internet use and behaviours were suggested in our surveys, the installation of the network will not disadvantage any sex or gender. Better connectivity could offer community groups and organisations improved communications and access to online services. The MyBoscombe app offers a platform for community groups and organisations and for potential users to find information about them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Those who are pregnant or on maternity leave</i> Some concerns have been raised in the press about radiation resulting from mobile phone masts. Our recent electromagnetic field site survey, conducted by an appropriate external assessor in April 2022, shows that levels are low and within the ICNIRP 1998 General Public limits which form the basis of the relevant Regulations. We continue to keep levels under review and data is publicly available via the Smart Place website. • <i>People on low incomes</i> There are numerous positive outcomes anticipated, which include increased access to digital skills, boosting the local economy and creation of local jobs in the digital sector, better access to information and services and access to more affordable digital connectivity through the free wi-fi in the centre of Boscombe. Some lower income households may struggle to access digital services due to a lack of appropriate devices (laptops, smart phones and computers). We will address the issue by investigating how the programme could support the collection and recycling of hardware, for example through the voluntary sector.
What are the negative impacts of the policy/service change on current or potential service users?	<p>None currently known.</p> <p>Potential minor impact on accessibility and noise whilst construction works are taking place.</p>
Will the policy or service change affect employees?	Yes – it should help to secure existing jobs and lead to the creation of new job opportunities.
Will the policy or service change affect the wider community?	Yes – ultimately the Smart Place Programme should have a significant beneficial impact upon communities. Typically, information about local events, volunteering opportunities and local support can be made available.
What mitigating actions are planned or already in place for those negatively affected by the policy/service change?	At this programme level there are no significant negative impacts and therefore no mitigation actions are required at this stage. Mitigation measures will be considered where applicable for any specific future Smart Place project.
Summary of Equality Implications:	<p>Equality implications are positive. The programme will benefit low-income households in the area with numerous positive outcomes anticipated, including increased access to skills, jobs and services, better access to information, targeting of services, access to more affordable digital connectivity through the free wi-fi in the centre of Boscombe and a more welcoming and safer local environment for all groups.</p> <p>There are many positive implications for people with protected characteristics, particularly those who experience a greater level of digital exclusion such as people with disabilities or who are in</p>

	older age groups. The COVID pandemic has highlighted the digital divide for children in low-income families with access to sufficient bandwidth, digital devices and skills impacting on their learning. The programme seeks to address these inequalities and to enable people with other protected characteristics and organisations supporting them to benefit from better access to information and to online services.
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For any questions on this, please contact the Policy and Performance Team by emailing performance@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

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Smart Place Programme Accelerating Gigabit Fibre (NHO) - Key Risks

v0.3 Nov-21

Ref	Open/ Closed	Status	Risk	Impact 1 = Low 2 = Medium 3 = High	Probability 1 = Low 2 = Medium 3 = High	Gross risk factor (Impact x Probability)	Date Raised	Raised by	Assigned to	Due Date	Strategy	Management/ Contingency Action	Impact 1 = Low 2 = Medium 3 = High	Probability 1 = Low 2 = Medium 3 = High	Residual risk factor (Impact x Probability)	Actual Closure Date	# Days Overdue
01 Key Stakeholder Support																	
01-001	Monitored	Ongoing mitigation	Lack of political and senior management support	3	1	3	13-Jun-22	A Hale	A Hale	Ongoing	Reduction	Reports on Smart Place Strategy and Accelerating Gigabit Fibre taken to CMB and Cabinet July 2022. Regular updates being provided to Leader and Portfolio Holder and Senior Management through Big Plan Delivery Board. Engagement with, and support secured from local MPs. Smart Place programme now an integral part of the Council's Big Plan. Cabinet has supported £5.87m investment in gigabit fibre	3	1	3	N/A	N/A
01-002	Monitored	Ongoing mitigation	Reputational risk: loss of or failure to achieve public support - potential reputational damage if the programme is not completed as planned	3	1	3	13-Jun-22	A Hale	A Hale	Ongoing	Reduction	Public engagement and communications. Contractual and governance arrangements will be established to oversee delivery and progress.	3	1	3	N/A	N/A
02 Finance/Funding																	
02-001	Monitored	Ongoing mitigation	Risk to Council funding: the Council may not realise a return on its investment	2	1	2	13-Jun-22	A Hale	A Hale	Ongoing	Reduction	Using the NHO model minimises the Councils' up front investment in realising its Gigabit Fibre ambitions compared to other options. Typically there is no need for significant investment in ducting and fibre assets.	2	1	2	N/A	N/A
02-002	Monitored	Ongoing mitigation	Lack of staff resource for overseeing delivery of the programme and relationship with the NHO	2	2	4	13-Jun-22	A Hale	A Hale	Ongoing	Reduction	Funding for posts to oversee the governance will be met from the income streams generated.	2	1	2	N/A	N/A
03 Programme Delivery																	
03-001	Monitored	Ongoing mitigation	Suitable NHO not secured	3	1	3	13-Jun-22	A Hale	A Hale	30-Jun-21	Prevention	There will be an open procurement process to attract as wide a range of options as possible. Our RFI undertaken in April 2022 has indicated industry interest	3	1	3	N/A	N/A
03-002	Monitored	Ongoing mitigation	Delays to awarding the contract eg lack of available resources, awaiting advice etc	2	2	4	13-Jun-22	A Hale	A Hale	30-Jun-21	Prevention	Ongoing discussions taking place with Law and Governance and Strategic Procurement	2	1	2	N/A	N/A
03-003	Monitored	Ongoing mitigation	The project is dependent on the appointed NHO to provide funding and attract investment to manage and build out the network. The NHO could fail to deliver sufficient investment to complete the full network envisioned by the strategy, particularly in areas deemed less "profitable"	3	2	6	13-Jun-22	A Hale	A Hale	30-Jun-21	Prevention	RFI exercise undertaken Outcomes clearly defined and performance monitoring put in place in contractual arrangements	3	1	3	N/A	N/A

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CABINET



Report subject	Housing Subsidiary Companies Business Update
Meeting date	27 July 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This report provides a review of the following four companies - Seascope Group Limited, Seascope South Limited (SSL), Seascope Homes and Property Limited (SHP) and Bournemouth Building Maintenance Limited (BBML).</p> <p>The report sets out the growth plans and ambition for each company, an operational update from the last year and the 2022/23 annual plan for each.</p> <p>The Seascope Group, including its two subsidiaries SSL and SHP, has scope for further growth in activity and sizeable income generation opportunities. This income can be returned to the Council as the sole shareholder to support the funding for services to vulnerable people.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>(a) Supports the plans for the two Seascope Group subsidiaries and BBML</p> <p>(b) Approves the Terms of Reference for BBML and SGL and notes the TORs for the two subsidiaries.</p>
Reason for recommendations	The Seascope Group subsidiaries – SSL and SHP and BBML - provide valuable services and will collectively generate additional financial benefits for BCP Council as the sole shareholder to help continue delivering Council services to vulnerable people.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Karen Rampton, Portfolio Holder for People and Homes Councillor Philip Broadhead, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration
Corporate Director	Jess Gibbons – Chief Operating Officer
Report Authors	Lorraine Mealings – Director of Housing
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

BACKGROUND

1. The Council has a number of wholly owned companies in place, led by the Housing Service Unit, that deliver valuable services and provide benefits to the Council as the sole shareholder. This report provides a review of the following 4 companies - Seascope Group Limited, Seascope South Limited (SSL), Seascope Homes and Property Limited (SHP) and Bournemouth Building Maintenance Limited (BBML).
2. The following sets out the growth plans for each company, an operational update over the last year and the 2022/23 annual plan for each company.
3. The company activity set out in this annual update helps to deliver 'Our Big Plan' to be bold, confident and proud, creating vibrant communities. The company activity helps deliver the BCP Council Corporate Plan, particularly in terms of 'Fulfilled Lives', by tackling homelessness and supporting people to live independent lives.

SEASCOPE GROUP LIMITED (SGL)

4. Seascope Group Limited is a 100 per cent owned Council Company, with BCP Council as the sole shareholder. It has two subsidiaries – SSL and SHP.
5. It is a requirement of the Shareholders Agreement between the Council and Seascope Group Limited that the company produces a medium term five-year strategic plan which was approved by Cabinet in May 2020 – 'Seascope Group Limited 5 Year Strategic Plan (2020-25)'.
6. The five-year strategic plan is based on a step-change in growth, innovation and ambition, operating across the wider BCP geography, maintaining customer focus, investing in supporting staff and ensuring sizeable income generation to help financially support the delivery of valuable services for BCP Council as the sole shareholder.
7. The Seascope Group Ltd 5 year plan 2020 to 2025 sets out a vision seeking to achieve continuing growth by:
 - Providing services across the expanded geographical area of the Council, stretching beyond Bournemouth to cover Christchurch and Poole, automatically creating a larger customer base;
 - Expanding our activity by utilising our existing skills and resources, and investing in additional specialist capacity to pursue sustained growth;
 - Pursuing new business opportunities to achieve growth and maximise our potential, including directly building new homes for private rent and sale;
 - Gaining external accreditations from trade bodies for the provision of new services
8. An Away Day was held on 30th March 2022 for the Group, Subsidiary Directors and Senior Officers. Annual business plans have been agreed for each subsidiary identifying the relevant areas of the 5 year strategy and setting out the headlines of how the companies will move forward over the coming year. These annual plans are contained in the appendices and the key issues are covered in the subsidiary updates below.

SEASCAPE SOUTH LIMITED (SSL)

9. SSL was set up as a commercial company to deliver works to clients outside of the Council. Over the years, the focus is to become the company of choice for external clients in relation to Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) works in the BCP area, deliver construction and refurbishment projects in the conurbation and for a small, but growing number of clients, deliver day to day maintenance.

The Company objectives as stated in the Terms of Reference are to:

- Achieve increased turnover and market share of the DFG programme of works to external clients across BCP
 - Grow the provision of construction services to additional private sector customers.
 - Secure additional investment in capacity and specialist skills for development of opportunities, driving marketing and promotion, manage contract growth and drive forwards operational efficiencies.
10. SSL has secured additional resource by way of a Commercial Lead role to bring in additional capacity and expertise in order to determine the way forwards in terms of potential growth. This role commenced in April 2022 and is currently considering the scope and approach for potential growth. Growth is thought to fall into 3 potential areas of activity:
- Disabled adaptations.
 - Construction
 - Maintenance
11. Disabled Adaptations - With the forming of the new combined BCP Disabled Facilities Grants staff team in 2022, the plan is to build on the successful delivery of the grants work in the Bournemouth area of BCP Council by extending to the Poole and Christchurch area and become the contractor of choice for all works of this nature to private clients to whom we provide a grant. The delivery of these disabled adaptations works is managed primarily through the Council's internal trades team employed by BBML.
12. Construction - SSL has forged links with Academies in the BCP area and plan to continue to work with these and identify other clients to undertake construction works. The delivery of these construction services is managed through the Council's inhouse Construction Works Team (CWT). It is worth noting that prior to BCP Council, SSL involved Bournemouth Borough Council as the sole shareholder and therefore traded with Poole and Christchurch Councils as external clients. This work is now effectively internal works and no longer requires a company vehicle to deliver.
13. The services delivered within SSL are of great value to customers and the Council. The delivery of disabled adaptations work is critical to help keep people live independently and safely in their own homes. The construction activity is valuable to help ensure a good quality built environment across BCP.

SEASCAPE HOMES AND PROPERTY LIMITED (SHP)

14. Seascope Homes and Property Limited was originally established to provide additional housing options for homeless households through a lettings solution. The Company objectives, as stated in the Terms of Reference now are to:
 - Expand portfolio of properties to homeless households to enable the shareholder to discharge homeless duties
 - Grow the Private Rent Sector (PRS) activity by renting properties out at full market rent levels and renting to other specialist client groups.
 - To act as a delivery vehicle for directly building homes on Council owned land, primarily for private rent and private sale.
15. There are 3 distinct areas of activity that SHP plans to grow over the next 3 years
 - Managing Private rented sector (PRS) accommodation
 - Managing Homelessness move-on accommodation
 - Building homes for private rent and sale
16. Private Rented Sector
 - The plan is to materially grow the current PRS units being managed within SHP even further over the next 3 years.
 - Targets around growth within this priority are embedded within the BCP Council's 'Council New Housing & Acquisition Strategy' (CNHAS) where the council will acquire 250 street properties for rent over 5 years and build private rented sector homes. Many of these will be leased to SHP where they will be managed on assured shorthold tenancies.
 - New build council owned schemes include the Princess Road development involving 119 homes and a 20 bed hostel where some of the homes will be privately rented through SHP.
 - The Carters Quay Poole new build scheme involving 161 homes for private rent gained approval in 2021 and the completed units will be rented through SHP.
 - Geographical spread of properties will extend to all of the BCP area.
 - The Seascope tenancy management team has been restructured within the service to accommodate the growth. They remain focused on delivering good quality landlord services to tenants and playing its part in helping to drive up standards across the private rented sector.
17. Homelessness move-on accommodation
 - CNHAS also sets out targets to continue growing the homelessness move-on portfolio of properties by scaling up our street acquisitions, not only increasing the number of existing family homes, but also providing a much-needed range of move-on accommodation options for care leavers and street homeless clients.
 - The SHP homes are a key part of our local provision to help prevent and tackle homelessness alongside our many other housing options.

18. Building Homes for market rent/sale and other commercial opportunities
 - Existing Council owned land is being developed for market housing (PRS and/or market sale) alongside affordable housing. It has been approved through CNHAS that SHP could act as the delivery vehicle for the Council to directly build market housing as a more favourable financial model.
 - CNHAS also involves the ability to acquire additional land, which could be developed for mixed tenure through SHP.
 - Opportunities may also arise for using SHP where appropriate for commercial acquisition with a view to managing assets through SHP. This will be considered as opportunities arise.
19. A land and acquisition manager role has been recruited to assist in further shaping the programme to scale up the property portfolio.
20. Infrastructure requirements are being considered including the need to upgrade IT systems to effectively manage rent accounts etc.
21. The income generation activity from the property portfolio managed through SHP contributes significant surpluses to the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, to help fund wider activities.
22. The contribution of the portfolio managed through SHP is also significant in terms of cost avoidance. It is estimated that the Council has benefited from over £7M in cost avoidance for bed and breakfast accommodation to date by placing homeless households within these tenancies instead. There are additional savings made in terms of debts related to rent deposits which have been avoided.
23. In addition, the Council importantly benefits financially from the increased asset value relating to the purchased stock over time. With the first phase of housing acquisitions totalling £45M investment over the last few years, if we reasonably assume an increase in local property prices of 10% since purchase, this would deliver a £4.5M increase in asset value for the Council. The Council Newbuild Housing and Acquisitions Strategy (CNHAS) has approved a new c£48M programme of investment in acquisitions which adds to this potential for asset value appreciation.
24. The services delivered within SHP bring significant benefits to BCP residents. The company delivers good quality and affordable housing for some of our most vulnerable residents otherwise facing homelessness. The company delivers good quality housing management and maintenance services to its tenants.

BOURNEMOUTH BUILDING MAINTENANCE LIMITED (BBML)

25. Cabinet approved the set-up of BBML in March 2014 as a trading company. BBML was primarily created as a response to the need to transfer maintenance staff working on Council housing from an external contractor, involving approximately 80 staff at the time. The company model provided employment at a reasonable cost and with minimal disruption.
26. BBML is a Teckal company, wholly owned by the Council as the sole shareholder and reports directly to Cabinet with a Board of Directors alongside the Seascope Group.
27. BBML employees are now spread over a significant number of business areas including: Finance Team, Repairs Centre Team, Asset Management Team, In House Team, Construction Works Team, Health & Safety and Parks – Catering and Land Train.
28. In autumn 2021, due diligence was undertaken around the future role of BBML as an employment model for delivery. This work presented some options for staff operating models that is now being revisited as part of the service redesign work undertaken with KPMG, looking at the most efficient operating model across housing services.
29. An interim business plan is in place to streamline BBML operations in the meantime.

GROUP GOVERNANCE

30. An internal audit was undertaken of the four companies in 2020 and a number of governance issues were identified that required improvement. Significant work has been undertaken in response to the audit insight to close the majority of these recommendations with only two being taken into Company Risk Registers as accepted risks, both relating to the awaited plans for the future of BBML.
31. Completed actions included delivering specialist training for Directors, developing strategic plans for each of the companies, ensuring far greater visibility of the companies through reporting to Cabinet/Council and appointing a permanent Company Secretary.
32. The Company Secretary has developed Governance Frameworks for all four entities and these will include work flows for the coming year.
33. A full review of Board composition is planned for later in the year, whereupon a Board skills matrix will be established to ensure the mix of skills on each of the Boards is appropriate.
34. The Company Secretary will also continue to work closely with Risk and Audit teams to ensure compliance of all companies and also identify further topics for review in the coming year.

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TORs)

35. TORs have been drafted for all entities. Approval of the TORs is a shareholder reserved matter and so TORs for SGL and BBML are included as appendix B for Cabinet approval.
36. TORs for SSL and SHP are attached as appendix C, these have been approved by SGL as the Shareholder, so are included only for noting.

Summary of financial implications

37. The growth of the Seascope Group companies will provide much needed income generation back to the Council as sole shareholder as well as significant cost avoidance on homelessness services.

Summary of legal implications

38. The governance audit has been actioned with concerns now having been resolved to ensure the most effective operation of the wholly owned companies.

Summary of human resources implications

39. None identified

Summary of sustainability impact

40. None identified

Summary of public health implications

41. None identified.

Summary of equality implications

42. None identified.

Summary of risk assessment

43. None identified

Background papers

44. None.

Appendices

1. Appendix A – Financial Results for SSL, SHP and BBML for noting
2. Appendix B – TORs for BBML and SGL for approval
3. Appendix C – TORs for SSL and SHP for noting

Appendix A

Financial Results for SSL, SHP and BBML for noting

Seascope South Limited – Financial Results

4. 4 years ago SSL was generating turnover of £500k and net profit of around £25k. This has grown significantly over the last 5 years – largely due to increased activity on Tricuro and Other Works undertaken by CWT.
5. Turnover for the year ended 31 March 2022 has grown to £954k – only £9k lower than budget for the year of £963k. Of this £567k was in relation to disabled homes adaptations completed for private residents. A further £339k of income was generated from external commercial works (CWT), and £48k income from Tricuro.
6. Forecast net profit of £112k has been achieved. This is a significant improvement to budget profit of £44k (£68k more profit than originally budgeted) because it includes profit recognised on large CWT projects completed in the year and the release of defects provision built up in previous years has been released in part.
7. Corporation tax of £24k is estimated for the year ended 31 March 2022.
8. With turnover of £568k, around half of the company's activities are on disabled adaptations. This position is unchanged in projections for Budget 2022/23 but is dependent on the availability of BBML staff to undertake the works. Disabled adaptations continue to generate gross profit margins of around 23%.
9. £340k of other works completed by CWT during the year include Pramalife, Portsmouth Diocese, Moordown Community Association and Ambitions Academy Trust. These projects have contributed £79k gross profit toward the company's professional support services and are stated after appropriate allowance is made for defects provision.
10. Professional support services and administrative costs of £115k include accountancy, payroll, ICT services and company secretarial services for the year ending 31 March 2022. These costs are not apportioned across the company's core activities and are shown in total.
11. Interest payable of £2k is in line with forecast and represents interest on the £35k short term loan payable to BCP Council. The loan was repaid in March 2022.
12. At 31 March 2021, the company's retained reserves stood at £85.7k. This is estimated to increase by £88k (after corporation tax) to £174k by 31 March 2022.
13. The company retains a healthy cash balance of £175k at 31 March 2022. Debtors of £205k were owed to the company at 31 March 2022 (reclassification of £70k to WIP). Of this debtor sum, £132k relates to disabled adaptations debtors. These sums are expected to be fully recovered and no allowance for bad or doubtful debts is proposed. Creditors balance includes £12.5k defects provision for CWT works recently completed.
14. All financial information is still draft and is subject to annual external audit.

Seascope Homes and Property Limited – Financial Results

15. Before looking at the finance related to SHP, the most significant financial benefit of the company is realised within the Council's budget in terms of income generation and cost avoidance.
16. Income generated from the management of this portfolio within SHP contributes significantly to the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) with a projected additional income of £469k for 2022/23 increasing in subsequent years as the portfolio grows.
17. The use of the portfolio to accommodate people who would otherwise be in emergency enables significant cost avoidance. This includes avoiding the cost of emergency accommodation but also avoiding the costs of providing rent deposit loans that are not required for placements into SHP managed properties. The cost avoidance is significant and suggested to equate to over £7M in cost avoidance for bed and breakfast accommodation to date. In addition to this, there are savings made in terms of debts related to rent deposits and the council also benefits financially from the increased asset value relating to the purchased stock over time.
18. Figures for the year ending 31 March 2022 record a full year surplus of £26k. This is in line with projection at February 2022 and is £3k higher than budgeted surplus of £23k.
19. Turnover (rental income) of £1,383k was generated in the year – this is broadly in line with forecast and £57k lower than full year budget of £1,440k. Around £583k (42%) is from the rental of 63 units of self-contained accommodation for homelessness prevention (average monthly rent £797 per property). £607k of this is from rental of Treetops flats, (average monthly rent of £1,076 per property), £133k from other properties (farms and parks) and £60k from rental of 1 bed flats under the Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme (RSAP) (average monthly rent of £455 per property).
20. Most (around 92%) of the rental income received by Seascope Homes is paid to the council via quarterly lease payments. Lease payments to the council vary each quarter as they are based on actual rent collected in the period. It follows that is the council, not Seascope Homes, that bears any financial risk in relation to rent arrears.
21. Since the last financial report to Board in February 2022, 5 new units have been acquired, with a further 8 currently in the pipeline. Rent associated with these new units will start to be realised in 2022/23.
22. Gross operating profit (after lease payment, management fee & premises costs) of £105k was achieved in the year (8% of turnover). This more than covers forecast fixed administrative expenses (including accountancy, payroll, company secretarial, insurance and ICT services).
23. Net operating profit (after administrative costs) is £26k. This is 2% of turnover and is slightly improved to budget.
24. Because of losses accumulated from previous years, negative reserves at the start of the year were (£35k). This position will improve by the net £26k net profit generated this financial year. Whilst still negative, reserves at 31 March 2022 are expected to be (£10k).
25. The company also benefits from a healthy cash balance and retains the use of a short-term borrowing facility with BCP Council that it has not yet had to access. Creditors at year end consisted primarily of QTR4 lease payment owed to the council. Debtors at year end includes £130k of rent in arrears. Whilst full bad debt provision has been allowed for these, the council will continue to seek recovery of these amounts.

BBML – Financial Results

26. A summary of annual financial performance over the last 5 years is provided below – this demonstrates growth in BBML activity (barring 2020/21 which was impacted by Covid). It also demonstrates the financial impact of the company's 'cost plus 3.8%' charging policy on the bottom line. The risks of increasing labour and materials costs in the current market are borne to a large extent by BBML customers as opposed to BBML itself.

	actuals 2017/18 £000	actuals 2018/19 £000	actuals 2019/20 £000	actuals 2020/21 £000	actuals 2021/22 £000	budget 2022/23 £000
Income	6,204	7,879	7,871	7,186	8,903	8,469
Cost of sales	(5,660)	(7,209)	(7,220)	(6,716)	(8,261)	(7,814)
Gross profit	544	670	651	470	642	655
Admin expenses	(357)	(393)	(389)	(410)	(324)	(344)
Interest payable	(5)	(5)	(3)	(1)	(1)	0
Net surplus	182	272	259	59	317	311
Dividend paid	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)
Profit transferred to reserves	82	172	159	(41)	217	211
Retained reserves	272	444	603	562	779	990

27. Turnover of £8,903k for the year ended 31 March 2022 exceeds budgeted turnover (of £7,358k) by £1,545k. Most of this increase was anticipated in the 10 month forecast position presented to Board in February 2022. Turnover includes BBML labour provided to BCP council to deliver frontline services and the cost of works delivered for the housing revenue account (including disabled adaptations, kitchen and bathroom replacements and void repairs). Increased turnover to budget also reflects BBML's ability to pass on market related raw materials and sub-contractor price increases post Brexit and Covid to BCP council (through its cost plus 3.8% charging mechanism).
28. Forecast net operating profit of £317k, after direct cost of works and administrative costs is 3.7% of turnover. This compares with a projection in February 2022 of £296k surplus for the year.
29. Net operating profit of £317k will reduce to £217k after proposed dividend of £100k payable to the council. No corporation tax is payable as BBML operates as a Teckal company.
30. BBML reserves at 31 March 2021 were £562k. This is estimated to increase by £217k to £780k by 31 March 2022. The council's MTFP includes potential for a one-off dividend of £200k to be paid from BBML to the council in 2022/23, subject to approval by the council and BBML Board.
31. The company benefits from a healthy cash balance in excess of £1 million and has repaid its £200k 'loan' from BCP council during the year. £1k interest was paid on this loan during the course of the year.
32. All financial information is still draft and is subject to external audit.

Appendix B

TORs for BBML and SGL for approval

Bournemouth Building and Maintenance Limited (“BBML”) Terms of Reference

Purpose

To manage the building services workforce commercially in line with the private sector, in order to provide staffing flexibility and efficiencies.

Objectives

- To enable the transfer of maintenance staff from an external contractor
- To operate within the Teckal requirements
- To implement an external staff employment operating model alongside the council's direct employment model

Timing

Quarterly, for 1 hour.

Agenda and Papers to be circulated by the Company Secretary prior to the meeting.

Quorum

A quorum of 3 directors shall be required to transact business at a meeting.

Membership

Cllr Karen Rampton, Chair

Cllr Nigel Brooks, Director

Shirley Haider, Director

Lorraine Mealings, Director

Andy McDonald, Director

Or their nominated representatives

Other officers may attend at the invitation of the Chair.

Secretariat: Provided by the Company Secretary.

Seascope Group Limited (“SGL”) Terms of Reference

Purpose

To hold shares in the Seascope Group Subsidiary Companies

Objectives

- to oversee the carrying on of the businesses of the Group Companies
- to retain control over the strategic direction and key decisions of the Group Companies
- to undertake such other business(es) as BCP Council may from time to time determine

Timing

Quarterly, for 1 hour.

Agenda and Papers to be circulated by the Company Secretary prior to the meeting.

Quorum

A quorum of 3 directors shall be required to transact business at a meeting.

Membership

Directors

Councillor John Beesley	Chair
Councillor Philip Broadhead	Director and Chair of SHP
Councillor Drew Mellor	Director
Paul Whittles	Finance Director

Attendees

Councillor Robert Lawton	Chair SSL
Shirley Haider	Finance Director SSL and SHP
Lorraine Mealings	Director of Housing
Stephen White	Company Accountant
Beccy Brookwell	Head of Service for SSL
Rebecca Lawry	Company Secretary
Ben Tomlin	Head of Service for SHP
Nigel Ingram	Head of Service for SHP

Other officers may attend at the invitation of the Chair.

Secretariat: Provided by the Company Secretary.

Appendix C

TORs for SSL and SHP for noting

Seascope South Limited (“SSL”) Terms of Reference

Purpose

To be the contractor of choice for external clients in relation to Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) works and private construction

Objectives

- Achieve increased turnover and market share of the DFG programme of works to external clients across BCP
- Grow the provision of construction services to additional private sector customers.
- Secure additional investment in capacity and specialist skills for development of opportunities, driving marketing and promotion, manage contract growth and drive forwards operational efficiencies.

Timing

Quarterly, for 1 hour.

Agenda and Papers to be circulated by the Company Secretary prior to the meeting.

Quorum

A quorum of 3 directors shall be required to transact business at a meeting.

Membership

Cllr Robert Lawton, Chair

Cllr Nigel Brooks, Director

Shirley Haider, Director

Lorraine Mealings, Director

Andy McDonald, Director

Or their nominated representatives

Other officers may attend at the invitation of the Chair.

Secretariat: Provided by the Company Secretary.

Seascope Homes & Property Limited (“SH&P”) Terms of Reference

Purpose

To provide housing options through a lettings and new build solution.

Objectives

- Expand portfolio of properties to homeless households to enable the shareholder to discharge homeless duties
- Grow the Private Rent Sector (PRS) activity by renting properties out at full market rent levels and renting to other specialist client groups.
- To act as a delivery vehicle for directly building homes on Council owned land, primarily for private rent and private sale.

Timing

Quarterly, for 1 hour.

Agenda and Papers to be circulated by the Company Secretary prior to the meeting.

Quorum

A quorum of 3 directors shall be required to transact business at a meeting.

Membership

Cllr Philip Broadhead, Chair

Cllr Hazel Allen, Director

Shirley Haider, Director

Lorraine Mealings, Director

Or their nominated representatives

Other officers may attend at the invitation of the Chair.

Secretariat: Provided by the Company Secretary.

CABINET



Report subject	Harmonising Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
Meeting date	27 July 2022
Status	Public
Executive summary	<p>The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a levy that local authorities can charge on development in their area. CIL income can be used to contribute towards the funding of infrastructure needed to support new development.</p> <p>BCP Council currently operates three legacy approaches in the implementation of the levy. This report and accompanying appendices are looking to harmonise these legacy approaches to deliver a single policy approach to be implemented across the charging authority area. These policy changes will be implemented as part of the Planning Harmonisation and Improvement Project.</p> <p>Internal auditors have reviewed the current CIL processes and identified a series of actions. The response to these actions is set out in the report, with many actions already implemented or in the process of being implemented through the Planning Harmonisation and Improvement Project. Cabinet is asked to note the progress against these actions.</p> <p>Officers will prepare a CIL guidance note for applicants, to reflect the recommendations below. This will ensure that the current three ways of working are harmonised into a single BCP Council approach.</p> <p>Cabinet is also asked to note that requests from the NHS to fund infrastructure projects will be kept under review, given the current demand on CIL funding.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet recommend to Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approval of the proposed BCP CIL Instalment Policy; b) Approval of the proposed BCP CIL Payment in Kind Policy; and c) Approval of the BCP CIL Discretionary Relief Statement.
Reason for recommendations	<p>To adhere to the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended).</p> <p>To ensure CIL audit recommendations are followed up and implemented.</p> <p>To ensure applicants are fully aware of the CIL process and the necessary steps to follow.</p>

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Philip Broadhead – Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration Councillor Bobby Dove – Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director	Jess Gibbons – Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	Luke Bennett – Senior Planning Officer Steve Dring – Planning Policy Manager
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a levy that local authorities can charge on development in their area. CIL income can be used to contribute towards the funding of infrastructure needed to support new development. BCP Council currently operates three legacy approaches in the implementation of the levy.
2. Planning is currently undergoing a Planning Harmonisation and Improvement Project to harmonise the three legacy processes into a single improved process. The focus of the Project is to implement a single planning software system later this year. Ahead of the launch of the new software several processes need Cabinet approval as they will necessitate a change in policy. This report seeks to harmonise the CIL policies for the BCP Council area.
3. The CIL policies are the operational policies we use to collect CIL. The operation of CIL was subject to a review from Internal Audit. This review made recommendations to ensure that the CIL process is transparent and fit for purpose. To assist meeting these recommendations this report seeks to harmonise the CIL policies across the BCP Council area. The harmonisation of the CIL policies will allow for fairness and equality within the planning department's implementation of CIL across the authority area providing a better planning service for all.
4. It is proposed that the CIL policies outlined within this report will be implemented when a new single Planning software system becomes operational later in the year, as they are intrinsically linked.
5. This report does not propose changes to the three legacy charging schedules that set out the types of development and rates per square metre. Whereas the decision to harmonise CIL policies can be agreed by Cabinet and Council, the CIL Charging Schedule must go through statutory consultation and examination.
6. The timetable for a new BCP wide CIL Charging Schedule follows the BCP Local Plan process and is set out in the Draft Local Development Scheme (2022) – see separate Cabinet report:
 - Autumn 2023: Consultation on Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule (Reg 15)
 - Winter 2023: Publication of Draft Charging Schedule (Reg 16)
 - Spring 2024: Draft Charging Schedule Submitted for Examination (Reg 19)

- Summer 2024: Examination (Reg 23)
- Winter 2024: Adoption of the Charging Schedule (Reg 25)

CIL Draft Instalment Policy

7. Regulation 69B of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) states that a charging authority which wishes to allow persons liable to pay CIL to do so by instalments must publish on its website an instalment policy.
8. An instalment policy was adopted by each of the legacy authorities outlining the phasing and timescales for payment. We propose using the Poole and Christchurch approach as a basis moving forward with the addition of CIL payments under £10,000 to be paid in full. This is set out in the CIL Draft Instalment Policy in Appendix 1. Bournemouth's legacy approach for payments over £75,000 requires 3 instalments to be paid over 360 days whereas this will now be aligned to 4 instalments over 720 days, allowing applicants and developers more time to pay these higher amounts.
9. The introduction of a minimum threshold of £10,000 will remove additional work for officers in splitting up smaller payments into instalments. Developers will have 60 days from commencement of the works to pay the amount in full up to £10,000.

CIL Draft Payment in Kind Policy

10. There may be circumstances where the charging authority and the person liable for the levy will wish land and/or infrastructure to be provided, instead of money, to satisfy a charge arising from the levy. Regulation 73B of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) states that a charging authority which wishes to allow infrastructure payments in its area must publish a policy document which sets out the conditions in detail.
11. Christchurch was the only legacy authority to state that payment in kind was a possible means of settling the levy. Bournemouth and Poole remained silent on the matter neither confirming nor denying whether payment in kind would be accepted.
12. The proposal is to allow payment in kind across the BCP Council area and this is set out in the CIL Draft Payment in Kind Policy in Appendix 2.
13. There may be time, cost and efficiency benefits for the charging authority in accepting completed infrastructure from the party liable for payment of the levy. Payment in kind can also enable developers, users and authorities to have more certainty about the timescale over which certain infrastructure items will be delivered.

CIL Draft Discretionary Relief Statement

14. It is proposed that a policy for discretionary charitable relief, discretionary social housing relief or discretionary relief for exceptional circumstances is not adopted by BCP Council. Only the mandatory forms of relief shall be applied, and claims submitted for discretionary relief will not be considered. The CIL Draft Discretionary Relief policy is set out in Appendix 3.
15. Poole was the only legacy authority that previously made discretionary relief available. Since the original adoption of CIL in Poole on 2 January 2013 not a single claim for

discretionary relief has been made as the mandatory forms of relief have been sufficient to meet the needs of the applicants.

CIL Audit Recommendations

16. Internal Audit have made the following recommendations to improve the operation of CIL in the BCP Council area. Some of the recommendations have already been implemented others are dependent upon the outcome of Smarter Structures and the implementation of Planning Harmonisation and Improvement Project.

Recommendation R3 - An independent officer reviews all planning applications received and confirms they have been assessed, invoiced and coded correctly and in a timely manner, including checks on exemptions awarded.

17. Work towards this recommendation is ongoing with the legacy arrangements in place. There is now one CIL/Planning Obligations Team but where it sits is to be determined through a wider service restructure. The team currently sits within Business Support through Smarter Structures. The CIL checking process will be simplified by the implementation of the new Planning software system later this year (2022) as all officers will be operating on one system.

Recommendation R4 - Formal processes are determined and documented for the monitoring of overdue CIL monies and escalation and authorisation of CIL enforcement decisions.

18. The CIL/Planning Obligations Team carry out the day-to-day monitoring with formal procedures outlined within Appendix F of the BCP Debt Management Policy (April 2022 – see Appendix 5 of this report). In relation to this some CIL forms and notices are currently published online and attributed to the relevant application. A full review of all CIL forms and notices suitable for publication online will be carried out and effective from the implementation of the new Planning software system later this year as per recommendation R3.

Recommendation R5 - In line with the CIL Regulations 2010, interest on late payments across all geographic areas of the council should be applied at the nationally set rate of 2.5% above the Bank of England base rate.

19. Interest on late payments across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole is applied at the nationally set rate of 2.5% above the Bank of England base rate, and this interest is applied at the same time as the surcharge is raised.

Recommendation R6 - The structure of the CIL/Planning Obligations Team is reviewed to ensure operational management arrangements are in place.

20. There is now one CIL/Planning Obligations Team with interim operational management allocated to the Interim Planning Policy Manager. The structure of the Contributions Team is subject to ongoing review through Smarter Structures and is to be determined.

Recommendation R7 - Future CIL spending priorities are formally considered and endorsed for detailed inclusion in the 2020/21 Infrastructure Funding Statement.

21. A basic list of priorities is presented annually to the Future Infrastructure Programme Board for agreement and publication in the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS). The IFS is to be published annually by 31 December reporting on expenditure from the previous financial year.

Recommendation R8 - A governance framework is implemented, including a documented decision-making process covering all aspects of CIL expenditure, corporate oversight and direction of CIL spend and a BCP Apportionments and Allocations policy, for agreement by relevant senior officers and Councillors.

22. The governance framework sees CIL Admin (5%), Neighbourhood Portion (15 or 25%) and Harbour and Heathland Mitigation top sliced from CIL. The allocation of Neighbourhood Portion (NP) funds is determined by the CIL NP Allocations Panel with the Strategic funds allocated by the Future Infrastructure Programme Board in accordance with the types of infrastructure listed in the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS). This framework is now operational providing a documented decision-making process for all CIL expenditure and providing oversight / direction of spend with spending outlined annually in the Council's IFS. With this framework now operational and transparent there is no longer a need for a separate BCP Apportionments and Allocations policy.

Recommendation R9 - The budget holder liaises with Accountancy annually to consider the application and use of the CIL Administration Fund, including whether all applicable costs have been identified.

23. Finance provide quarterly updates on the CIL Admin position to the Head of Planning and these funds are allocated accordingly to the administration of CIL.

CIL Guide for Applicants

24. There are currently three legacy CIL guides for applicants on the BCP website for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole respectively. As part of the harmonisation of CIL it is proposed that one guidance document is produced including all relevant information and signposting for applicants with development liable to pay CIL, including the recommendations proposed in this report. Links to the existing guides are available in the background papers at the end of the report.

Contributions to NHS infrastructure

25. The Systems Leadership Team of the 'Our Dorset' integrated health care system set up a task and finish group to explore the potential for CIL to fund National Health Service (NHS) healthcare infrastructure. The findings identified a cost per dwelling to cover the impact of an increase in population upon health care infrastructure. Whilst the Council welcomes the opportunity to continue to work with the NHS to deliver infrastructure there are insufficient CIL funds available currently to fund essential Council infrastructure as well as funding NHS infrastructure. This will remain under review and future funding of NHS infrastructure projects will continue to be explored.

Options Appraisal

26. The following Options have been set out with regards to the harmonisation of CIL policies and procedures. While a mix and match of the recommendations is possible for simplicity just two options have been set out within this report:

Option 1 – Continue with existing policies and procedures from legacy authorities

Option 2 – Adopt the proposed new BCP wide policies and procedures set out in this report

Option 1 Advantages:

- Applicants and developers who are regular users of the planning service are aware of the legacy policies and procedures for the three areas.

Option 1 Disadvantages:

- Three different approaches across a multitude of CIL processes within one charging authority area will be confusing for applicants and developers.
- Onerous on Council Officer time for those working across the three areas to ensure the three different processes are followed.
- Lack of ownership on the policies and procedures from BCP Council.
- Enforcing and adhering to three legacy approaches can be time consuming and delay the planning process.

27. Option 2 Advantages:

- One uniformed approach will simplify the process for Council Officers and applicants alike removing unnecessary delays in the planning process.
- Provides clear direction from the Council to the applicant.
- The best elements of the legacy approaches will be taken forward in the new BCP-wide approach.
- The changes are not drastic so will be simple for applicants and developers to come to terms with.

Option 2 Disadvantages:

- Familiarisation period for applicants and developers to get used to new policies and processes.
27. Option 2 is recommended. The harmonisation of the legacy approaches concerning the policies and processes involved in the operational delivery of CIL is fundamental to providing applicants and developers with the best service possible and allowing Council Officers to administer the levy effectively.

Summary of financial implications

28. The CIL instalment policy will allow the larger payments to be made proportionally over an extended period. On the other hand, the introduction of a threshold will reduce the time period before the payment is due in full.
29. The adoption of a CIL payment in kind policy will allow the applicant to mitigate the impact of their development with land and/or infrastructure, instead of money, to satisfy a charge arising from the levy. For example, where an authority has already planned to invest levy receipts in a project there may be time, cost and efficiency benefits in accepting completed infrastructure from the party liable for payment of the levy. Payment in kind can also enable developers, users and authorities to have more certainty about the timescale over which certain infrastructure items will be delivered.
30. It is proposed discretionary relief from CIL will not be made available as there are sufficient measures in place for mandatory relief as outlined within the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) for charities, social housing and self builds.
31. With regards to the CIL audit recommendations it has been agreed that interest on late payments across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole is applied at the nationally set rate of 2.5% above the Bank of England base rate, and this interest is applied at the

same time as the surcharge is raised to ensure a consistent approach across the three areas.

32. Concerning the spending of Strategic CIL a basic list of priorities is presented to the Future Infrastructure Programme Board for agreement and publication in the Infrastructure Funding Statement published annually. The implemented governance framework also provides a documented decision-making process covering all aspects of CIL expenditure, corporate oversight and direction of CIL spend. As part of this the budget for the administration of CIL has been reviewed with the potential appointments of additional posts in the future CIL structure to be allocated from the Administration Fund. SVPP invoicing costs will be looked at going forward.

Summary of legal implications

33. Regulation 69B of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) states that a charging authority which wishes to allow persons liable to pay CIL to do so by instalments must publish on its website an instalment policy. Without an instalment policy it would not be possible to pay by instalments and therefore make the payment of CIL by applicants virtually impossible given the sums of money involved and the readiness of funds in relation to the chargeable development.
34. Regulation 73B of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) states that a charging authority which wishes to allow infrastructure payments in its area must publish a policy document which sets out the conditions in detail. Failure by the Council to do so would not make it possible to settle the levy through this means.

Summary of human resources implications

35. There is now one CIL/Planning Obligations Team with interim operational management allocated to the Planning Policy Manager. The structure of the CIL/Planning Obligations Team is subject to ongoing review and is yet to be determined. The review may result in potential appointments of additional posts, possibly including a team manager. Once this review has been completed as part of the wider restructure then there will be greater clarity from a human resources perspective with regards to job roles and team structure.

Summary of sustainability impact

36. The impact on sustainability in relation to climate change is negligible when considering the impact of the harmonisation of CIL processes. There would not be a negative impact regarding sustainability.

Summary of public health implications

37. There are no public health implications.

Summary of equality implications

38. There are no equality implications.
39. The proposed CIL harmonisation will ensure equality across the charging authority area with the same framework and processes being followed regardless of where in the charging authority area the application site may be located. The proportion of instalments and payment deadlines proposed through the draft instalment policy is aligned with the legacy Poole and Christchurch approaches (plus the addition of no

instalments for payments under £10,000), with only a slight alteration to the legacy Bournemouth approach. This is also to the benefit of the applicant allowing four instalments of payment for CIL charges over £75,000 over a longer period. Therefore, Bournemouth applicants are not unduly impacted by this change.

40. The draft discretionary relief statement proposes not to adopt a policy for discretionary charitable relief, discretionary social housing relief or discretionary relief for exceptional circumstances. Only the mandatory forms of relief shall be applied by BCP Council and claims submitted for discretionary relief will not be considered.
41. Regulation 43 of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) outlines the criteria necessary to obtain mandatory charitable exemption from paying CIL with the chargeable development to be used wholly or mainly for charitable purposes and directly facilitate the carrying out of the charitable institution's charitable purposes.
42. Mandatory social housing relief is a discount that can be applied to most social rent, affordable rent, and intermediate rent dwellings, provided by a local authority or private registered provider, and shared ownership dwellings. Subject to meeting specific conditions, social housing relief can also apply to discounted rental properties provided by bodies which are neither a local authority nor a private registered provider.
43. Mandatory social housing relief can also apply to dwellings where the first and subsequent sales are for no more than 70% of their market value ("First Homes"). Regulation 49 of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) defines where social housing relief applies.
44. Given the availability of these mandatory forms of relief from the levy there is not a need to also make discretionary relief available and charities or social housing providers will not be unduly affected by this.

Summary of risk assessment

45. The only notable possible risk is the change in some of the processes adopted by the legacy authorities as applicants accustomed to the legacy approaches will have to familiarise themselves with the new single approach. However, the changes are minimal and are tweaks as opposed to an overhaul. To mitigate this risk BCP Council will need to ensure that applicants are reasonably informed through signposting on the Council's website. Hence the need to produce a single BCP CIL guide for applicants.
46. Non-implementation of the recommendations would result in a much greater risk by delivering a disjointed approach across the charging authority area which could cause confusion and frustration amongst applicants, and an unnecessary burden on officer workloads in delivering three different legacy approaches.

Background papers

[BCP Council Debt Management Policy \(1st April 2022\)](#)
[Bournemouth CIL Guide for Applicants and Developers \(2017\)](#)
[Christchurch CIL Guide for Applicants and Developers \(2017\)](#)
[Poole CIL Guide for Applicants and Developers \(2014\)](#)

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft BCP CIL Instalment Policy
Appendix 2 – Draft BCP CIL Payment in Kind Policy

- Appendix 3 – Draft BCP CIL Discretionary Relief Statement
- Appendix 4 – CIL Audit Recommendations Update
- Appendix 5 – Details of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Debt Recovery Procedure taken from Appendix F of the BCP Council Debt Management Policy (1st April 2022).

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Instalment Policy



Effective from 2022

CIL payments under £10,000

To be paid in full within 60 days of commencement (no instalments).

CIL payments between £10,000 and £75,000:

1 st	Instalment	25% payable by 60 days from commencement
2 nd	Instalment	75% payable by 360 days from commencement

CIL payments greater than £75,000:

1 st	Instalment	20% payable by 60 days from commencement
2 nd	Instalment	20% payable by 360 days from commencement
3 rd	Instalment	30% payable by 540 days from commencement
4 th	Instalment	30% payable by 720 days from commencement

Additional Information:

Where an outline planning permission permits development to be implemented in phases, each phase of the development is a separate chargeable development and will be collected in accordance with this Instalment Policy. Nothing in this Instalment Policy prevents the person with assumed liability to pay CIL, to pay the outstanding CIL (in whole or in part) in advance of the instalment period set out in this policy.

In accordance with Regulation 70 of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) the BCP CIL Instalment Policy will only apply where the Council has received a valid CIL Assumption of Liability form and CIL Commencement Notice prior to commencement of the chargeable development.

If either of the above requirements are not complied with, the total CIL liability will become payable immediately. In addition, surcharges will apply due to the CIL Assumption of Liability Form and / or the CIL Commencement Notice not being submitted to the Council prior to the commencement of the chargeable development.

Once the development has commenced, all CIL payments must be made in accordance with the CIL Instalment Policy. Where a payment is not received in full on or before the day on which it is due, the total CIL liability becomes payable in full immediately.

In summary, to benefit from the CIL Instalment Policy, the relevant forms must be submitted to the Council prior to the commencement of the chargeable development, and all payments must be paid in accordance with the CIL Instalment Policy.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Payment in Kind Policy



Effective from 2022

In accordance with Regulations 73, 73A, 73B and 74 of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) BCP Council as the charging authority for the area will allow the payment of CIL by land payments or infrastructure payments.

The infrastructure to be provided should be related to the provision of those types of infrastructure listed in the Council's most recent Infrastructure Funding Statement, and land should be used to provide or facilitate the provision of identified infrastructure to support the development of the charging authority's area.

Additional Information:

In most cases, CIL will be paid to the Council in the form of money. The CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) allow the Council as the CIL charging authority to introduce a policy which details alternatives to cash payments through the provision of land or infrastructure.

The Council may accept full or part payment of a CIL liability by way of the transfer of land or to receive infrastructure as payment. Any agreement relating to such a payment must be made before the chargeable development commences.

The value of any land or infrastructure offered by way of payment must be determined by a suitably qualified independent person to be instructed by the Council yet paid for by the developer/applicant.

The Council is not obliged to accept any offer of payment in kind by way of land or infrastructure.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Draft Discretionary Relief Statement



Effective from 2022

BCP Council has not adopted a policy for discretionary charitable relief, discretionary social housing relief or discretionary relief for exceptional circumstances. Only the mandatory forms of relief shall be applied by BCP Council and claims submitted for discretionary relief will not be considered.

DRAFT

CIL Audit Recommendations Update

ID	Recommendation	Priority Rating	Target date	Status	Update
Transport & Engineering and Planning - Management of Complaints & Freedom of Information Requests 2020/21					
371	<i>R3 - It is recommended that an independent officer reviews all planning applications received and confirms they have been assessed, invoiced and coded correctly and in a timely manner, including checks on exemptions awarded.</i>	High	19/11/21	Ongoing	Legacy arrangements remain in place. There is now one CIL/Planning Obligations Team but where it sits is to be determined through the wider restructure. The team currently sits within Business Support through Smarter Structures. The CIL checking process will be simplified by the implementation of the new Planning software system later this year (2022) as all officers will be operating on one system.
372	<i>R4 - It is recommended that formal processes are determined and documented for the monitoring of overdue CIL monies and escalation and authorisation of CIL enforcement decisions.</i>	Medium	20/05/22	Implemented	The CIL/Planning Obligations Team carry out the day-to-day monitoring with formal procedures outlined within Appendix F of the BCP Debt Management Policy (April 2022).
				Ongoing	Some CIL forms and notices are currently published online attributed to the relevant application. A full review of all CIL forms and notices suitable for publication online will be carried out and effective from the implementation of the new Planning software system later this year as per recommendation R3.
373	<i>R5 - It is recommended that in line with the CIL Regulations 2010, interest on late payments across all geographic areas of the council should be applied at the nationally set rate of 2.5% above the Bank of England base rate.</i>	Medium	20/05/22	Implemented	Interest on late payments across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole is applied at the nationally set rate of 2.5% above the Bank of England base rate, and this interest is applied at the same time as the surcharge is raised.

APPENDIX 4

ID	Recommendation	Priority Rating	Target date	Status	Update
374	<i>R6 - It is recommended that the structure of the CIL/Planning Obligations Team is reviewed to ensure operational management arrangements are in place</i>	Medium	20/05/22	Implemented	There is now one CIL/Planning Obligations Team with interim operational management allocated to the Interim Planning Policy Manager.
				Ongoing	The structure of the CIL/Planning Obligations Team is subject to ongoing review through Smarter Structures and is yet to be determined.
375	<i>R7 - It is recommended that future CIL spending priorities are formally considered and endorsed for detailed inclusion in the 2020/21 Infrastructure Funding Statement.</i>	Medium	20/05/22	Implemented	A basic list of priorities is presented annually to the Future Infrastructure Programme Board for agreement and publication in the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS). The IFS is to be published annually by 31 st December reporting on expenditure from the previous fiscal year.
376	<i>R8 - It is recommended that a governance framework is implemented, including a documented decision-making process covering all aspects of CIL expenditure, corporate oversight and direction of CIL spend and a BCP Apportionments and Allocations policy, for agreement by relevant senior officers and Councillors.</i>	High	19/11/21	Implemented	The governance framework sees CIL Admin (5%), Neighbourhood Portion (15 or 25%) and Harbour and Heathland Mitigation top sliced from CIL. The allocation of Neighbourhood Portion (NP) funds is determined by the CIL NP Allocations Panel with the Strategic funds allocated by the Future Infrastructure Programme Board in accordance with the types of infrastructure listed in the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS). This framework is now operational providing a documented decision-making process for all CIL expenditure and providing oversight / direction of spend with spending outlined annually in the Council's IFS. With this framework now operational and transparent there is no longer a need for a separate BCP Apportionments and Allocations policy.
377	<i>R9 - It is recommended that the budget holder liaises with Accountancy annually to consider the application and use of the CIL Administration Fund, including whether all applicable costs have been identified.</i>	Medium	20/05/22	Implemented	Finance provide quarterly updates on the CIL Admin position to the Head of Planning and these funds are allocated accordingly to the administration of CIL.

APPENDIX F

Details of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Debt Recovery Procedure

Where payment is due we will:

- Send a bill showing the amount owed, how to pay and who to contact in the event of a query.
- Send a reminder notice.*
- Issue 1st CIL notice
- Issue 2nd CIL notice
- Refer the case back to Department

*If the first instalment is not paid, the right to pay by instalments can be removed and the full amount will become due.

In accordance with The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 surcharges can be imposed and interest added for late payment. A stop notice can also be served, prohibiting further development until payment is made in full.

Further recovery action could include:

- A Liability Order can be obtained to enable the Council to:
 - seize assets
 - request committal to prison

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CABINET



Report subject	BCP Local Plan update and way forward
Meeting date	27 July 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This report provides an update on the progress of preparing the local plan for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) area, and sets out the next steps in the local plan process.</p> <p>The report seeks approval of a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) which is the formal mechanism for setting out the timetable to produce the BCP Local Plan and other development plan documents. The LDS provides clarity on when the statutory stages in plan making will be undertaken.</p> <p>The Council completed an initial Local Plan Issues and Options consultation between January and March 2022. The consultation sought to provide an early steer on some of the issues and options for the BCP Local Plan to address. The consultation was one of the biggest consultations undertaken by BCP Council and response rates exceeded any previous local plan consultation undertaken in the BCP area. The findings from the consultation are summarised in this report.</p> <p>We are planning further engagement with all our communities and stakeholders to form a 'preferred option' for the next Local Plan, which will set out how we believe we can best accommodate the sustainable growth needs of the conurbation up to 2038. This will be developed over the next six months and is set out in the revised LDS.</p> <p>Moving forward we have also taken advice on the governance arrangements to support the next phase of the local plan process. As such, this report seeks approval for updated governance arrangements including the provision of a cross party Local Plan Advisory Group and Local Plan Delivery Board.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</p> <p>(a) Approve the revised Local Development Scheme which includes the timetable to produce the BCP Local Plan;</p>

	<p>(b) Delegate to the Director of Planning in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration to make minor text changes to the LDS prior to publication;</p> <p>(c) Agree the proposed approach to Local Plan engagement and governance, and delegate to the Director of Planning in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration to agree the final details; and</p> <p>(d) That the Local Plan Working Group is renamed as the Local Plan Advisory Group and delegate to the Director of Planning in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration to agree the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Group.</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>The preparation and maintenance of an up-to-date LDS is a statutory requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (and subsequent amendments). Preparation of the BCP Local Plan as set out in the LDS will help deliver the Council's strategic priorities as expressed in the Corporate Strategy and Big Plan. It will also provide up-to-date policies to set out our strategy for growth and to enable the effective management of development.</p> <p>We are keen to continue to engage our communities and stakeholders in the BCP Local Plan in order that they can influence the plan. Appropriate time is therefore set out within the LDS to continue to actively engage our communities before the draft of the Local Plan is published.</p> <p>To ensure the timetable set out in the LDS is achieved approval is sought regarding the ongoing governance arrangements.</p>
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Phillip Broadhead, Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration
Corporate Director	Sam Fox, Director of Planning
Report Authors	<p>Laura Bright, Senior Planning Officer</p> <p>Steve Dring, Interim Planning Policy Manager</p>
Wards	All
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 places a statutory duty on the Council to have a development plan in place, with a requirement set in law that planning

decisions must be taken in line with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

2. The Council is also required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to publish and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The purpose of an LDS is to set out what development plan documents will be prepared and provide a timetable for their preparation. The LDS provides the community and other interested parties clarity over what planning policy documents are to be prepared by the Council and by when.
3. A vital component of the LDS will be a Local Plan for the BCP Council area. This will replace the existing legacy Local Plans, providing a single up to date planning framework for our area. The Local Plan will set out our vision and a framework for the future development of the area, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure, as well as, forming a basis for conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment, mitigating, and adapting to climate change, and achieving good quality placemaking. The Local Plan timetable within the LDS includes the stages that must be met to accord with statutory requirements for plan making.
4. The LDS also sets out other planning policy documents that will form part of the development plan, such as neighbourhood plans.
5. There are many complex planning issues in the BCP area which will need to be addressed through the Local Plan. To get the best possible local plan for the BCP area we want to hear from all our communities about these issues in order that we can incorporate them where appropriate. We propose to undertake additional engagement to enable the local plan to be developed in collaboration with our communities. The LDS and timetable within it replace that previously published in 2019 and now ensures time to undertake additional engagement is factored into the overall timetable.
6. We are working in a context of evolving guidance from government and the time factored in for additional engagement will also allow us to align the local plan process with any changes emerging from the draft Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.
7. Two stages of public consultation about the local plan have been completed to date. The first consultation focused on the Issues for the Local Plan to address and was completed in November 2019. From January to March 2022 a Local Plan Issues and Options consultation was completed. This sought to engage our communities and stakeholders on initial ideas for how to address the various complex planning issues across the BCP area. The consultation did not set out any firm proposals, and these will come later in the process when a draft of the BCP Local Plan is published. The response to the consultation has provided an importance insight into ten key topic areas. As set out above we now wish to go further to build consensus on the way forward and to ensure all groups have the opportunity to feed into the local plan process.
8. The Council has taken advice on the Local Plan programme and associated governance as the Local Plan progresses. The Council has also recently appointed an interim Director of Planning who is now directly overseeing the Local Plan. The Governance

framework set out in this report sets out a clear structure to take the Local Plan through the next stages of production.

The Local Development Scheme for BCP Council

9. The LDS is attached in appendix 1. As required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the LDS specifies the development plan documents which will be prepared, the subject matter and area to which they relate, and the timetable for their preparation.
10. An important part of the LDS is to guide the preparation of the BCP Local Plan. The proposed high-level timetable the production of BCP Local Plan is as follows:
 - Oct to Nov 2019 - Initial Issues Consultation and Call for Sites (Complete)
 - Jan to March 2022 – Issues and Options consultation (Complete)
 - Spring/summer 2022 – Analysis of Issues and Option consultation
 - Autumn 2022 – Further engagement and continued evidence gathering
 - Spring/Summer 2023 – Preparation of a draft of the Local Plan
 - Autumn 2023 – Draft Local Plan published
 - Winter 2023 – Draft Local Plan submitted for examination
 - Winter 2024 – Adopt BCP Local Plan

Extract from LDS

		2023												2024															
Task	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Key dates summary																													
Ongoing community engagement and evidence gathering																													
Preparation of the draft Local Plan																													
Publication of the draft Local Plan (Reg 19)																													
Preparation for Submission																													
Submission of the draft Local Plan (Reg 22)																													
Examination in public (Reg 24)																													
Plan adoption (Reg 26)																													

11. The formation of BCP Council was the subject of consequential orders set by national government. These required that the Council has in place a local plan for the BCP area by 2024. The timetable set out seeks to ensure that this will be achieved.
12. The LDS highlights the Neighbourhood Plans which are in production. The Council has a statutory duty to support the production of Neighbourhood Plans.
13. The LDS also sets out that other planning policy work will include preparation of supplementary planning documents to, in time, replace those adopted by the legacy councils.
14. BCP Council will also review its arrangements for Community Infrastructure Levy and other developer contributions charges, which broadly will follow the timetable for the

BCP Local Plan. Before a full review of the Community Infrastructure Levy takes place, it is proposed to harmonise the arrangements for managing the CIL process as set out in the CIL Harmonisation report which is also being considered by cabinet.

Engagement

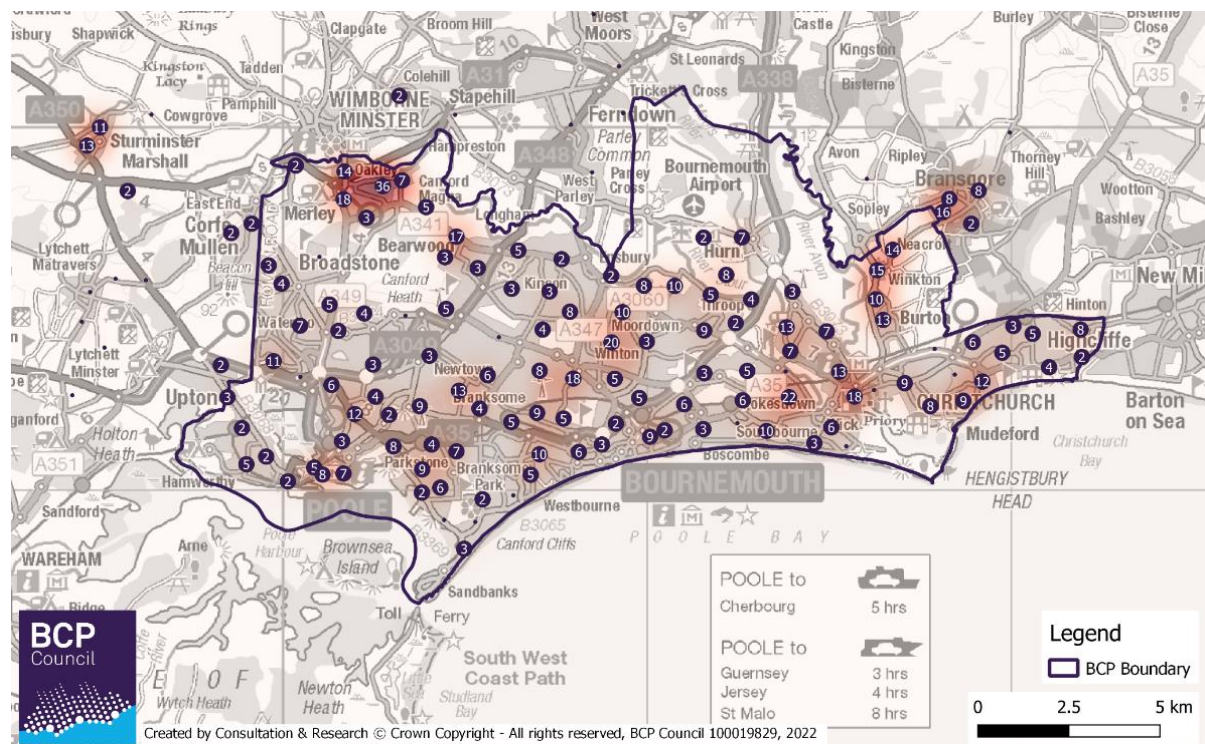
15. Consultation on the initial Issues and Options for the BCP Local Plan took place between January 2022 and March 2022. The consultation highlighted many important points which will be considered in the preparation of the next stages of the Local Plan preparation.
16. The consultation started when the covid pandemic was prevalent and council staff were advised to work from home and limit face to face interactions. These restrictions limited the initial face to face engagement that could be safely undertaken. However, these restrictions lifted during the consultation period, leading officers to introduce a hybrid approach of digital and face to face engagement methods. The consultation was the biggest consultation run by BCP Council to date and comprised of:
 - A dedicated web platform
 - Interactive mapping
 - Online survey
 - Paper survey
 - Podcast
 - Local Plan special Facebook Live Q&A sessions
 - Library events
 - Press releases and subsequent articles
 - Promotional video
 - Stakeholder e-newsletters to 2,900+ subscribers
 - Corporate e-newsletters to 46,000+ subscribers
 - Staff e-newsletters to 5,000+ recipients
 - Social media posts #BCPLocalPlan (Facebook/Twitter/LinkedIn/Instagram)
 - Agents & developers session
 - Parish Councils session
 - Youth forum sessions
17. The response to the consultation exceeds that which has been achieved for a planning consultation of this type which has been undertaken by any of the legacy authorities. In total:
 - 957 survey responses were received (831 people took part in the online survey and 126 people completed a paper survey)
 - 602 people left 1,290 comments on interactive site maps
 - 251 letters and/or emails were received
 - Approximately 90 people attended the library drop ins
 - There were 12,923 unique visits to the webpage
 - 14,269 minutes watched in Live Q&As
 - 1,115 Facebook comments

- Over 15 press articles
18. A summary of the responses is set out in appendix 2.
19. General support for the suggested approach in the consultation document included:
- Aspects of regenerating our town centres and network of vibrant communities
 - Providing specialist homes for older people and those with disabilities
 - Our future transport strategy
 - Transport infrastructure and the transport impacts from new development
 - Conserving and enhancing biodiversity
 - Protecting and improving air quality impacts on the Dorset Heathlands
 - Ensuring good placemaking and urban design
 - Preserving and enhancing our heritage, coastal and landscape character
 - Promoting health and wellbeing
 - Ensuring a high standard of amenity
 - Maximising energy efficiency and the uptake of energy from renewable sources
 - Delivering the infrastructure to support growth
 - Protecting community facilities and services
20. The areas which were most contentious included:
- Parts of the vision *'We aim for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to be the UK's newest city region, brimming with prospects, positivity and pride'*.
 - The provision of new homes
 - Sites that had been promoted to us in the Green Belt
 - Planning for urban intensification including tall buildings and identified areas of potential change
21. The main reason for concern in relation to vision surrounded the use of the phase 'city region'. At the time of publication the council were pursuing a bid for City Status and this was a high-profile issue. In acknowledgement of this feedback and other discussions being held with communities we are considering amending the vision to provide a stronger emphasis on the three towns that make up the BCP area.
22. While it was recognised in the responses received that the provision of housing was an issue, particularly the affordability, type and availability of housing the issues connected to the number homes to be provided and where these should be located generated a large amount of interest. We propose to explore these issues further with our communities, businesses and stakeholders.
23. In the lead up to the publication of a draft of the Local Plan, continued engagement is essential to explore the options for the draft BCP Local Plan in more depth. This will inform our work on a preferred strategy. One of the principles of consultation that will be

tested by the Planning Inspectorate will be demonstrating that the views of a wide cross-section of our communities have been incorporated in the plan-making process. Whilst further engagement will add time to the local plan production it is considered vital to develop a plan that, as far as possible, is done in collaboratively with our communities.

24. Respondents to the Issues and Options consultation were typically aged between 35-84 years. These respondents made up 90% of responses but only equate to 57% of the BCP Council area population. Continued engagement is therefore needed to ensure feedback from harder to reach groups.
25. It is also important to highlight that while responses were received from across the BCP area (illustrated below) they were not distributed evenly geographically. This is demonstrated when comparing the populations of electoral wards as percentages of the total BCP Council area population against the responses per ward as percentages of the total respondents. Nine wards were overrepresented in the survey to varying degrees including Bearwood & Merley, Burton & Grange, Commons, Mudeford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe, Muscliff & Strouden Park, Talbot & Branksome Woods, Christchurch Town, West Southbourne, and Poole Town. The most overrepresented ward is Bearwood & Merley which hosts 3% of the BCP Council area population but represents 14% of the total survey responses. In contrast Boscombe West represents <1% of the survey responses despite hosting 3% of the BCP Council area population. Bournemouth Central and Canford Heath each represent 4% of the BCP Council area population but each represent 1% of survey respondents. The ongoing engagement can therefore help ensure the views of all our communities are represented.

Distribution of respondents to the Issues and Options survey



26. Some concerns were raised during the Issues and Options consultation around the extent of the digital engagement methods. The engagement approach resulted from the

covid situation and restrictions in place at the launch of the consultation. However, these concerns are recognised and for the next stages of plan preparation a variety of engagement methods will continue to be used. Further, face-to-face engagement will be an important component of our ongoing approach. It is proposed that this will include a series of face-to-face community workshops to help facilitate the co-production of a preferred approach for the draft Local Plan. These events will be used to:

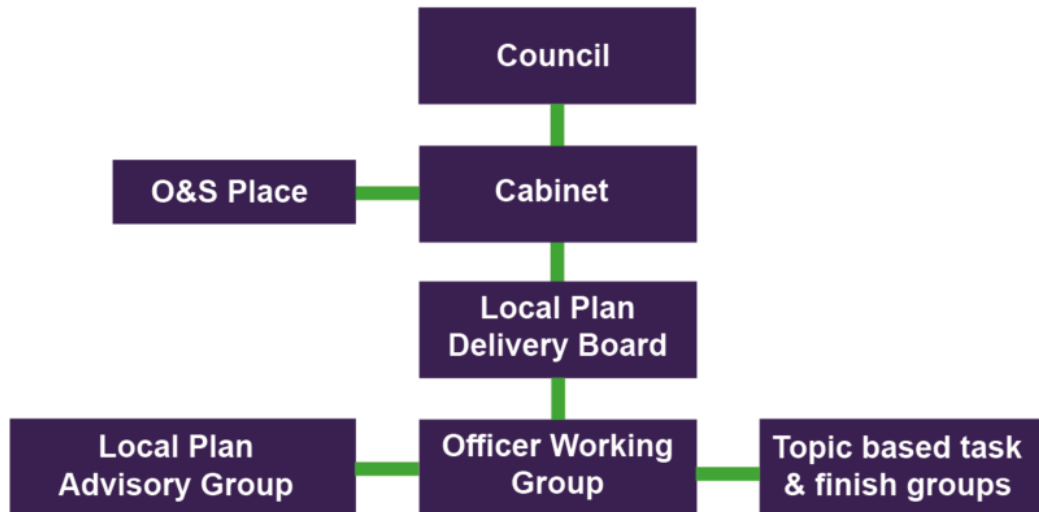
- Communicate the findings of the Issues and Options Consultation
- Provide information about the process and statutory requirements of a Local Plan
- Feedback on the findings of our evidence gathering
- Work with communities to explore options and develop preferred options

27. Digital tools will remain important and are likely to be useful in capturing the views of younger people. The workshops will therefore be supplemented with online engagement tools, targeted engagement of underrepresented groups, specific stakeholder meetings and ward member engagement sessions.

Local Plan governance

28. As part of the ongoing engagement approach set out above, a series of workshops with Councillors will be set up. It is proposed that a structured series of officer topic based task and finish groups will also be established to feed into an Officer Working Group.
29. Under the current governance arrangements, a cross-party member Local Plan Working Group provides political oversight of the local plan process, operating under the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This cross-party approach has had a positive role in the Local Plan preparation. It is therefore proposed to continue with a cross party forum to debate various issues and topics that form part of the Local Plan, making recommendations on the proposed content of the Local Plan. It is proposed that the Local Plan Working Group is renamed as the Local Plan Advisory Group with updated terms of reference to inform the Officer Working Group. For continuity it is suggested the current Chair of the Local Plan working group continues as Chair of the Local Plan Advisory Group.
30. A member Local Plan Delivery Board will be set up to provide the overarching direction on the Local Plan process and to ensure the Local Plan is delivered to the timetable. It is proposed that the Delivery Board would be made up of senior officers, cabinet members and the Chair of the Local Plan Advisory Group. The proposed new structure is set out below:

Proposed Local Plan Governance Structure



Options Appraisal

31. The Council has a statutory duty to publish and maintain an up-to-date LDS. The timeline sets out within the LDS is challenging but deliverable. We will continue to review and adapt the timetable as necessary to ensure that community engagement is at the heart of our approach. We could work towards publishing a draft of the Local Plan earlier than is set out, at the beginning of 2023. This would then bring forward the submission, examination, and adoption dates. However, to meet this deadline would mean that the community engagement planned for this year would not be able to take place. As a result, communities would not benefit from further involvement in the plan making process. It is therefore not recommended to proceed with this as an alternative.

Summary of financial implications

32. Preparation of the Local Development Scheme is met within existing budgets. When preparing the development plan documents, additional costs will be incurred for example through specialist consultant fees, examination costs and printing.
33. There is approximately £484,000 of funding in place from legacy budgets for plan preparation. No additional financial request is made at this stage, but this will need to be kept under close review as the project progresses to ensure sufficient resources remain in place to ensure the project is delivered on time.

Summary of legal implications

34. Failure to have in place an up-to-date LDS could result in planning documents being found unsound at examination. Section 15 of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended by the Planning Act 2008 section 180 and the Localism Act section 111) state that a local planning authority must prepare and maintain an LDS. Recent amendments under the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 also make provision for the Secretary of State to prepare an LDS for Local Councils who do not have one in place and then direct that the LDS is brought into effect.

35. The formation of BCP Council was the subject of consequential orders set by national government. These required that the Council has in place a local plan for the BCP area by 2024.

Summary of human resources implications

36. Following recent recruitment there are sufficient staffing resources to support preparation of the plan as set out in the LDS. The ability to meet the LDS timetable would however be affected by reduction in staff, the deflection of resource to support other planning activity, for example neighbourhood plans, and/or local plan evidence base budget.
37. The operation of the Local Plan Advisory Group and Local Plan Delivery Board will require additional support from democratic services and planning staff.

Summary of environmental impact

38. The LDS and proposed arrangements for the Local Plan production do not have any direct sustainability impacts. However, as the LDS facilitates the preparation of a Local Plan there will be a series of potential impacts on the environment through the adoption of a new strategic planning policy framework for the BCP area. The Local Plan will be subject to testing by way of Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment.

Summary of public health implications

39. The LDS and proposed arrangements for the Local Plan production do not have any direct public health impacts. However, as the LDS facilitates the preparation of a Local Plan there will be a series of potential impacts on the health and wellbeing agenda through the adoption of a new strategic planning policy framework for BCP Council.

Summary of equality implications

40. The revised LDS will ensure a Local Plan is in place by the end of 2024. The Local Plan itself will include a variety of policies some of which have the potential to impact on groups with protected characteristics. The timeline results in these policies not being adopted until 2024 and therefore could potentially have negative impacts on some groups with protected characteristics. However, the further engagement proposed provide the opportunity for these groups to be more involved in the process, ensuring better overall outcomes through the local plan strategy and policies.
41. Each stage of the plan will be subject to a detailed Equalities Impact Assessment to ensure emerging policies are suitably framed to consider the impacts on groups with protected characteristics.

Summary of risk assessment

42. Failure to have in place an up-to-date LDS could pose a risk to the timely delivery and adoption of the BCP Local Plan, which will have consequences for delivery of Council objectives. In particular, the ongoing lack of a single up to date Local Plan and lack of existing five year housing land supply could result in planning applications having to be decided, either by the Council or at appeal, outside the framework of an up-to-date plan.

43. In this regard, the Council is required to provide a five-year land supply of housing against the housing requirement set out in adopted strategic policies, or housing need as set out by the governments standard methodology. As the existing local Plans for the Bournemouth and Christchurch areas are no longer up to date the government's methodology is the basis for determining the housing requirement. The Poole Local Plan remains up to date and is the starting point for determining the housing requirement. However, the Council is unable to demonstrate a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites in any of the legacy areas. As a result, the existing plans are considered out of date and the presumption in favour of sustainable development applies. The Council currently therefore must give the provision of new homes significant weight when considering planning applications. The provision of the BCP Local Plan will set a housing requirement for the BCP area against which the 5-year housing land supply position will be calculated.
44. Any reduction in planning staff working on the Local Plan will impact on its timely delivery. This can be mitigated by ensuring sufficient staff resources and plan preparation budget remain available to support the lifetime of the project.
45. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill is proceeding through Parliament. Depending on the progress and emerging detail relating to provisions in the Bill could have an impact on the Local Plan timetable. This will be kept under review.
46. The May 2023 local government elections are likely to have an impact on the evolving content of the Local Plan. Ensuring cross party involvement through specific all member briefings and the implementation of the cross-party Local Plan Advisory Group will help to ensure all members are informed of the requirements, evidence and decision making in relation to the Local Plan. The pre-election period will prevent consultation activities taking place.
47. Any requirement for a further additional stage of consultation beyond those detailed in the LDS will delay the production of the Local Plan and as a result the timetable set out in the consequential order will not be met.

Background papers

Issues and Options Consultation Report [Local Plan Consultations \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Appendices

Appendix 1 – BCP Council Local Development Scheme

Appendix 2 – Issues and Options Consultation Report Executive Summary

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The BCP Local Development Scheme

Delivering our vision

Bold ● Confident ● Proud



Introduction

1.1 Local planning authorities are required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) to publish and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The primary role of the LDS is to set out what documents will make up the development plan for the area and provide a timetable for their preparation.

1.2 Legislation states that a Local Development Scheme must specify:

- The Local Development Documents which are to be Development Plan Documents;
- The subject matter and geographical area to which each development plan document relates;
- The timetable for the preparation and revision of the Development Plan Documents;
- Which Development Plan Documents, if any, are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authorities;
- Any matter or area in respect of which the authority has agreed (or proposes to agree) to the constitution of a joint committee (with other Local Planning Authorities); and
- The timetable for the preparation of the Authorities' monitoring reports.

1.3 The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) requires the LDS to be kept up-to-date and be made publicly available, so that local communities and interested parties can keep track of the progress of development plan documents.

1.4 This LDS supersedes the Council's previous LDS published in 2019. The focus of this LDS is to provide an up-to-date timetable for the production of a new Local Plan for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area as the primary development plan document.

Development Plan Documents

2.1 The Development Plan Documents for the BCP area currently consists of:

- Bournemouth Local Plan (saved policies) 2002
- Bournemouth Affordable Housing Development Plan Document 2009
- Bournemouth Core Strategy 2012
- Bournemouth Town Centre Area Action Plan 2013
- Christchurch Local Plan (saved policies) 2001
- East Dorset and Christchurch Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2014
- Poole Local Plan 2018
- 'Made' Neighbourhood Plans (Broadstone, Poole Quay Forum and Boscombe and Pokesdown)
- The Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan (2019)
- The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy and Minerals Sites Plan (2014)

2.2 In the future the Development Plan Documents for the BCP area will consist of:

- The BCP Local Plan
- 'Made' Neighbourhood Plans
- The Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan (2019)
- The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy and Minerals Sites Plan (2014)

2.3 In addition to the development plan documents listed above, there are also other important documents that relate to the development plan, including;

- Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule
- Statement of Community Involvement
- Supplementary Planning Documents
- Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans

2.4 These are not development plan documents and this is no requirement for these to be included within a LDS. However, some further information about each of these is provided so that interested parties are aware of the progress of these documents.



The BCP Local Plan

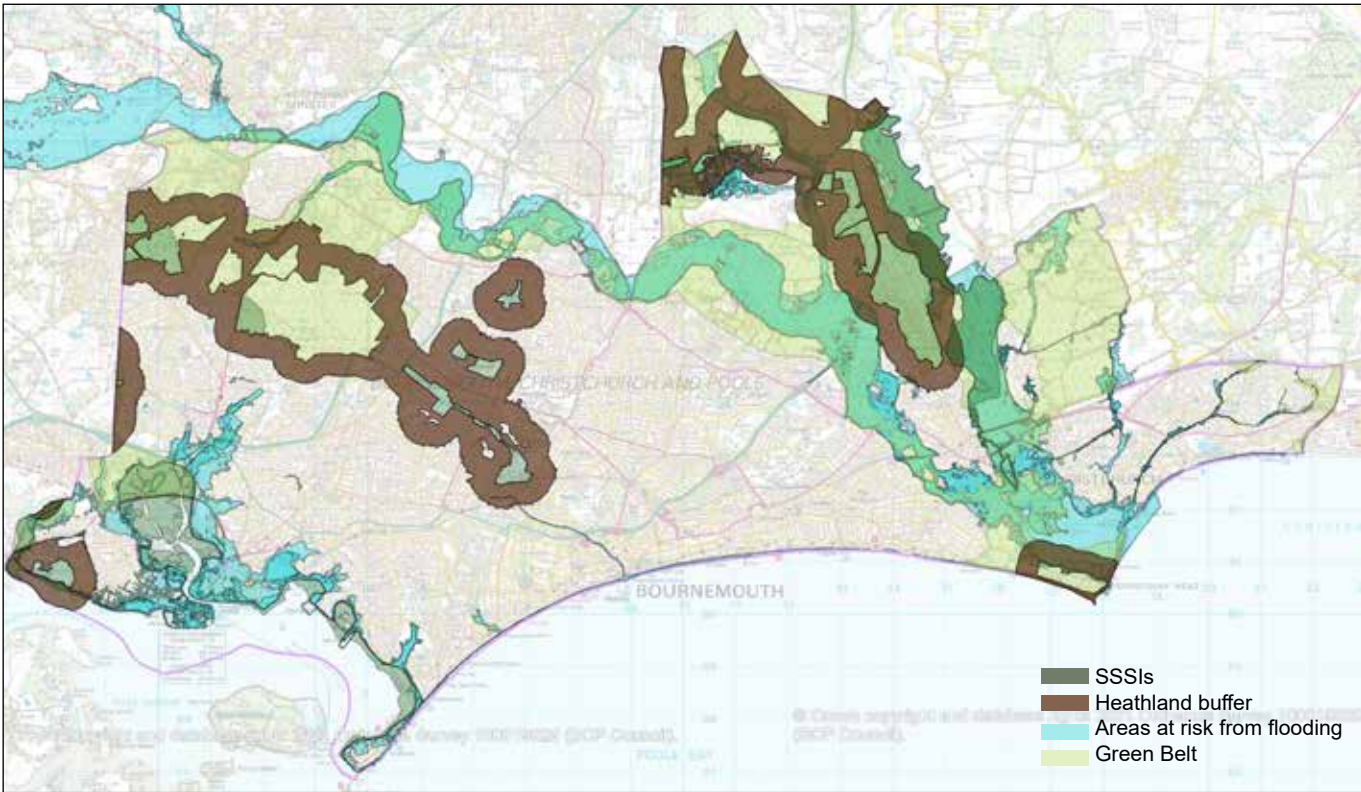
Introduction

3.1 The BCP Local Plan is being produced to set a new overarching and cohesive development strategy for the BCP area. It will set out how much, where and what type of development will take place across our area, giving us control over development decisions. The Local Plan will be critical in helping to delivery the Council's Big Plan and will help us to raise the quality of development so we can achieve the placemaking objectives we aspire to within the BCP area.

3.2 The BCP Local Plan will cover the period 2023-2038 and, once adopted, will provide one up to date planning document that is based on up to date social, economic and environmental evidence, and is conformity with all recent new planning legislation, policy, guidance and relevant case law. As well as setting out our development strategy the Local Plan will provide policies by which to determine planning applications, and will allocate sites to guide new development.

3.3 The BCP Local Plan will cover the whole of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole administrative area and will be produced by BCP Council.

- 3.4 Once adopted the BCP Local Plan will supersede:
- Bournemouth Local Plan (saved policies) 2002
 - Bournemouth Affordable Housing Development Plan Document 2009
 - Bournemouth Core Strategy 2012
 - Bournemouth Town Centre Area Action Plan 2013
 - Christchurch Local Plan (saved policies) 2001
 - East Dorset and Christchurch Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2014
 - Poole Local Plan 2018



The BCP Council administrative area and key planning constraints

Timetable

3.5 The preparation of the BCP Local Plan must follow the process set out in the Town and Country Planning Regulations and it must be consistent with the aims of the National Planning Policy Framework.

3.6 Work on the preparation of the BCP Local Plan commenced in 2019 when the Council undertook an Issues and Call for sites consultation. A further Issues and Options consultation was completed between January and March 2022.

3.7 In addition to these consultation exercises, a wide range of evidence has and continues to be prepared to ensure that the resulting Local Plan is evidence based and can be found sound once it reaches the examination stage.

3.8 There are four main remaining stages required to complete the Local Plan process.

- Publication of the draft BCP Local Plan (Regulation 19): The draft plan is published for further public participation before being submitted for Examination in Public. The regulations require a minimum period of publication of six weeks.
- Submission of the draft BCP Local Plan (Regulation 22): The draft plan which was published is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.
- Examination in Public (Regulation 24): The plan will be tested by an Independent Inspector at examination who will test the plan for 'soundness' to ensure the Plan and its policies are justified in the context of national policy and based on robust evidence. The Inspector can make recommendations on possible amendments prior to adoption. Any modifications will be subject to further consultation.
- Plan adoption (Regulation 26): The plan is formally adopted by the Council

3.9 We propose the following timetable for the remaining stages of the Local Plan preparation

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| • Autumn 2022: | Further engagement and continued evidence gathering |
| • Spring/Summer 2023: | Preparation of a draft of the Local Plan |
| • Autumn 2023: | Draft Local Plan published (Reg 19) |
| • Winter 2023: | Draft Local Plan submitted for examination (Reg 22) |
| • 2024: | Examination in public (Reg 24) |
| • Winter 2024: | Adopt BCP Local Plan (Reg 26) |

3.10 When BCP Council was formed we agreed through constitutional orders that our Local Plan would be prepared by 2024. The above timetable ensures that will be achieved.



		2023												2024																
Task	Dec Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
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Plan adoption (Reg 26)																														

Duty to cooperate

3.11 The Council is currently legally obliged by section 33A(1) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to demonstrate how it has co-operated with other authorities and statutory agencies in relation to cross boundary strategic matters and priorities. The ‘Duty’ is not a duty to agree, but every effort should be made to secure the necessary co-operation. Local Authorities produce a statement of compliance together with evidence of ‘effective working’ to present at Local Plan ‘Examination’, in order to demonstrate how they have complied with the Duty.

3.12 We are currently working with Dorset Council, New Forest National Park and New Forest District Council on strategy planning matters. Under the duty to co-operate members we will continue to work together and as the BCP Local Plan develops will prepare a statement of common ground to set out how we have worked together on relevant strategic issues.

SEA and SA

3.13 All Local Plan documents are subject to on-going Sustainability Appraisal which informs the content of the Local Plan. The Sustainability Appraisal must meet the requirements of United Kingdom regulations. As such, the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) are an integral part of the Local Plan preparation process. A Scoping Report was published prior to the Issues and Options 2022 consultation. The Sustainability Appraisal process will continue alongside local plan preparation and the relevant reports will be made available at the various stages of plan preparation. A detailed Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment will be published along side the draft Local Plan.

Evidence

3.14 A wide range of evidence is required to support the Local Plan process. Various studies have already been completed and others are underway. As it becomes available evidence will be published at www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/localplan.



Neighbourhood Plans

Introduction

4.1 Neighbourhood Plans cover specific designated ‘neighbourhood areas’. A parish council, town council or a designated neighbourhood forum can apply to have an area designated as a ‘neighbourhood area’ for the purpose of preparing a neighbourhood plan. Neighbourhood plans provide a specific strategy and/or set of policies for future development in the neighbourhood area.

4.2 A neighbourhood plan must meet certain specified ‘basic conditions’. These ensure plans contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, have regard to national policy and guidance and are in general conformity with adopted strategic local planning policies.

4.3 There are currently three made neighbourhood plans

- Broadstone (2018)
- Poole Quays Forum (2017)
- Boscombe and Pokesdown (2019)

4.4 In addition, the following areas are working on preparing a neighbourhood Plan

- Highcliffe and Walkford
- Christchurch Town Council
- Hurn
- Burton Parish
- Queen’s Park and Charminster
- Sandbanks Peninsula



BCP neighbourhood areas

Status

4.5 The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans must follow the process set out in Neighbourhood Planning (General) regulations 2012. The main stages of the Neighbourhood Plan process are:

- Publication of the draft Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 14): The draft plan is published for consultation by the neighbourhood planning body.
- Submission of the Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 16): The draft Neighbourhood plan is submitted to the local planning authority and is publicised for a minimum of 6 weeks.
- Examination (Regulation 18): The local authority appoint an independent examiner to consider that the neighbourhood plan meets the basic conditions and other requirements set out by law. The examiner will issue a report to confirm if the plan can proceed to referendum or if modifications are required.
- Referendum: People on the electoral register are entitled to vote on whether or not the neighbourhood plan should be used to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.
- Plan is ‘made’: If successful at referendum the neighbourhood plan is formally made and becomes part of the development plan.

4.6 The status of each neighbourhood plan is set out below.

Plan area	Status
Broadstone	Made
Poole Quay Forum	Made
Boscombe	Made
Highcliffe and Walkford	Examination
Hurn	Draft plan published (regulation 14)
Sandbanks	Draft plan published (regulation 14)
Christchurch Town	Formal designated as neighbourhood plan area (2021)
Burton Parish	Formal designated as neighbourhood plan area (2017)
Queens Park and Charminster	Formal designated as neighbourhood plan area (2018)



Minerals and Waste Plans

- 5.1 The Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan (2019) identifies sites for new waste management facilities to meet the county’s needs. It provides the policy framework for determining planning applications for waste management facilities up to 2033. This plan is currently up to date and will be reviewed after 5 years.
- 5.2 The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy was adopted in 2014. A five year review was carried out in 2020, as required by the National Planning Policy Framework. The review concludes that while an update of the Strategy is not currently required, a further review is now required to ensure the strategy remains suitable.
- 5.3 Both the Waste Plan and Minerals Strategy and prepared jointly between Dorset Council and BCP Council to cover the administrative areas of both Council’s.

Other policy documents

Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule

- 6.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will sets out a charging schedule of tariffs to be applied to qualifying development in the BCP area. This will allow funding to be secured for infrastructure that is needed because of development in the area. The tariff is typically applied per m2 of net additional residential floorspace. The rate of the tariff has been determined by examining the ability of development to bear the charge without unduly affecting a development’s viability.
- 6.2 The CIL charging schedule will be prepared by BCP Council to cover the administrative area of the Council.
- 6.3 The stages and the proposed timetable for the production of the CIL Charging is set out below and follows that of the proposed BCP Local Plan timetable.
- Autumn 2023: Consultation on Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule (Reg 15)
 - Winter 2023: Publication of Draft Charging Schedule (Reg 16)
 - Spring 2024: Draft Charging Schedule Submitted for examination (Reg 19)
 - Summer 2024: Examination (Reg 23)
 - Winter 2024: Adoption of the Charging Schedule (Reg 25)

Statement of community involvement

6.4 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted in 2020. It sets out how the district council will consult on planning matters including the preparation of planning policy and the determination of planning applications. The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 introduced new requirements for the SCI and as such it is now a requirement to review the SCI every 5 years. The next review of the SCI is therefore due to take place in 2025.

Supplementary Planning Documents

6.5 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are typically produced to provide more detailed guidance on how a particular policy (or policies) should be implemented. There are currently a number of Supplementary Planning Documents that relate to the legacy areas Local Plans. A full list of the existing SPDs is available on our website at www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/planningpolicy. The SPDs required to support the BCP Local Plan will be reviewed as the Local Plan is developed.

Authority monitoring report

7.1 The Council is required to produce an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR), setting out how it has monitored progress against key milestones in the programme of plan making, including how effective the programme has been. The AMR will also show how the Council has monitored the implementation of plan policies and will help to establish whether there is a need to revise the LDS. The AMR will be produced annually.



Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation Executive Summary

June 2022

Research and Consultation Team

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Key Messages

The Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation received a multitude of views from residents and key stakeholders. We have provided a very brief summary of the key messages to emerge from the consultation below.

You can find a more detailed breakdown of the responses in the [Executive Summary](#) below and full details of responses in the main Survey Results section of the full report. The relevant links have been provided for each objective below.

Respondents

- 83% of respondents live in Bournemouth, Christchurch, or Poole
- More than half of respondents (56%) were aged 55 and over

Findings

Vision

- Over a third of respondents agree that our vision '*We aim for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to be the UK's newest city region, brimming with prospects, positivity and pride*' is the right vision for the Local Plan, while just under half of respondents (46%) disagree. The main reasons for disagreeing with the vision are:
 - Objection to city status for BCP
 - The vision should prioritise environment
 - Infrastructure issues need to be fixed

Objectives

- 'Our natural environment' (60%), 'New market and affordable homes' (53%) and 'Regenerating our town centres' (43%) were the objectives that respondents were most interested in responding to
- There is a strong feeling throughout the consultation responses that green infrastructure should be protected for wildlife populations, the health and wellbeing of residents and for the prosperity of future generations. There are concerns throughout about the impact of building more houses on the Green Belt and other green spaces
- There is also significant concern throughout the consultation responses about infrastructure, that is already struggling to cope with existing demand, being overwhelmed further if more houses are built
- More than half of respondents agreed with all ten objectives, with agreement ranging from 53% to 89%

- There was strong agreement (88%) that the council fulfils its duty to **conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity** by including appropriate policies in the Local Plan. The key points to note for this objective are:
 - Highest levels of agreement were for the following Issues:
 - 'Dealing with Poole Harbour Nitrate Pollution' - 83% agree with recommendation to continue with existing Nitrogen Reduction Strategy
 - 'Improving the air quality on the Dorset Heathlands' - 80% agree with recommendation to implement Dorset Heathlands Interim Air Quality Strategy up to 2025

[Executive Summary](#) section for this objective.

- The objective to **'Provide a sufficient supply of new market and affordable homes to meet the different needs of our communities'** received the lowest levels of agreement (53%). The key points to note for this objective are:
 - Highest levels of agreement were for the following Issues:
 - 'Providing homes for older people and those with disabilities' – 79% agree with recommendation to make all homes compliant with Part M4(1) of the building regulations
 - accessible
 - 'Option 2 - lower locally derived housing figure' – 68% agree
 - 'Student accommodation' - 68% agree with recommendation to direct student accommodation into central town areas/campus sites and restrict the concentration of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)
 - There is greater support for the lower locally derived housing figure (68%) as opposed to the government's standard housing method (20%)
 - There is a difference in views on housing figures by age groups, with younger age groups favouring the higher figure
 - Developers agreed more with the higher housing figure
 - There is less support in providing custom self-build housing plots (43%) and concerns about providing the right mix and type of homes (40%)
 - There is a higher preference for considering allocating sites for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople within the urban area (50%) compared to the other options (ranging between 28% and 18% agreement)

[Executive Summary](#) section for this objective.

Key points for other objectives

- 66% of respondents agree with the objective to **'Regenerate our town centres and network of vibrant communities'**. The key points to note for this objective are:
 - **Bournemouth:** Respondents agreed most with the proposal to 'Support the diversification of shops, allowing a wider range of commercial activities, and the reuse of upper floors for alternative uses, such as new homes' (82%), while disagreeing most with the proposal to 'Positively encourage taller buildings in some areas to enhance our iconic skyline' (49%)

- **Poole:** Respondents agreed most with the proposal to 'Preserve or enhance the heritage areas, with a focus on the Quay and Old Town, through the Heritage Action Zone project' (94%), while disagreeing most with the proposal to 'Allow some taller buildings in the regeneration area and the area north of the railway line' (38%)
- **Christchurch:** Respondents agreed most with the proposal to 'Deliver strategic flood risk defences to protect the town from future flood risk' (87%), while disagreeing most with the proposal to 'Encourage the redevelopment of key sites around Stony Lane to deliver new homes, if flood risk issues can be overcome' (52%)

[Executive Summary](#) section for this objective.

- 73% of respondents agreed with the objective to '**Support economic growth, the creation of jobs and the offer to visitors**'. The key points to note for this objective are:
 - Highest levels of agreement were for the following Issues:
 - 'Visitor attractions' – 76% agree with Option 2: Focus new visitor attractions within our existing centres
 - Poole Port (74%) and Bournemouth Airport (72%) were the most favoured strategic employment sites for continued allocation

[Executive Summary](#) section for this objective.

- 78% of respondents agreed with the objective to '**Adapt our high streets and shopping areas to cater for changing retail demands**'. The key points to note for this objective are:
 - Highest levels of agreement were for the following Issues:
 - 'Vibrant centres' – 76% agree with Option 2: Identify harmful impacts on heritage Conservation Areas when changing from Class E to residential
 - 'Town centre boundaries and primary shopping areas' – 60% agree with Option 2: consider reducing boundary size to concentrate commercial activity into smaller areas

[Executive Summary](#) and section for this objective.

- 80% of respondents agreed with the objective to '**Provide a safe, sustainable and convenient transport network...**'. The key points to note for this objective are:
 - Highest levels of agreement were for the following Issues:
 - 'Transport impacts from new development' - 83% agree with recommendation for developers to include transport requirements in planning applications
 - 'Our future transport strategy' – 77% agree with recommendation to include a transport strategy in the Local Plan
 - 'Transport infrastructure' - 72% agree with recommendation to set out strategic transport schemes to deliver transport infrastructure and widen transport choice

[Executive Summary](#) section for this objective.

- 69% of respondents agreed with the objective to **‘Promote local character and the delivery of high-quality urban design’**. The key points to note for this objective are:
 - Highest levels of agreement were for the following Issues:
 - ‘Ensuring good placemaking and urban design’ - 91% agree with recommendation to develop an urban design policy that respects local area characteristics
 - ‘Preserving coastal and landscape character’ - 91% agree with recommendation to use Landscape Visual Impacts Assessments

[Executive Summary](#) section for this objective.

- 77% of respondents agreed with the objective to **‘Improve health and wellbeing and contribute towards reducing inequalities’**. The key points to note for this objective are:
 - Highest levels of agreement were for the following Issues:
 - ‘Ensuring a high standard of amenity’ - 94% agree with recommendation to support a high standard of amenity for existing residents and future occupiers of new homes
 - ‘Supporting health and wellbeing’ - 76% agree with recommendation to develop a specific policy to support health and wellbeing and use Health Impact Assessments for developments

[Executive Summary](#) section for this objective.

- 70% of respondents agreed with the objective to **‘Work towards achieving carbon neutrality ahead of 2050 and inspire action to combat the climate and ecological emergency’**. The key points to note for this objective are:
 - Highest levels of agreement were for the following Issues:
 - ‘Ensuring new buildings will be built to reduce their energy use and minimise carbon emissions’ – 85% agree with Option 2: set a higher local standard beyond the Part L building regulations
 - ‘Maximising the uptake of energy from renewable sources’ - 75% agree with Option 1: allocate specific areas for large scale renewable/low carbon technologies and infrastructure and Option 2: Determine renewable and low carbon energy proposals subject to policy criteria

[Executive Summary](#) section for this objective.

- 74% of respondents agreed with the objective to **‘Deliver the infrastructure needed to support development, local communities and businesses’** while 6% disagreed. The key points to note for this objective are:
 - Highest levels of agreement were for the following Issues:
 - ‘Community facilities and services’ – 77% agree with recommendation to protect existing community facilities or relocate underused ones to another location for the community to use
 - ‘Delivering the infrastructure to support growth’ - 76% agree with recommendation to develop an Infrastructure Delivery Plan to sit alongside the Local Plan

[Executive Summary](#) section for this objective.

Summary of respondent profile comparison to BCP (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole) Council area population

Age

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2020 mid-year population estimates are used to compare respondent age groups against the BCP Council area population age groups:

- The youngest and oldest age groups were underrepresented in the survey responses, and the age groups in between were overrepresented
- Respondents aged up to 34 years and 85+ years equate to 8% and 1% respectively compared to the BCP Council area equivalent age groups that represent 40% and 4% respectively
- Respondents aged 35-84 years make up 90% of responses but only equate to 57% of the BCP Council area population

Sex

- The population of the BCP Council area is split 50% male and 50% female. The divide between male and female respondents is 48% and 52% respectively.

Disability

- According to the 2011 census, 82% of the BCP Council area population are not limited by a long term illness or disability, 10% are limited a little and 8% are limited a lot
- Respondents who answered not limited by long term illness or disability equate to 82% and are representative of the BCP Council population. Those limited a little are overrepresented at 14% and those limited a lot are underrepresented at 4%

Ethnicity

- The 2011 census shows the BCP Council area population as 88% White English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British, 6% as White other and 6% as Other ethnic group
- White English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British are overrepresented equating to 95% of respondents. Both 'White other' and 'Other ethnic groups' are underrepresented at 4% and 2% of respondents, respectively

Religion

- 60% of the BCP Council area population identified as Christian, 29% as no religion and 6% as other religion in the 2011 census
- Christian respondents were underrepresented at 49%, people without a religious affiliation were overrepresented at 48% and those identifying as of other religions were underrepresented at 6% of respondents

Electoral Wards

Respondents to the online and paper surveys who provided their postcode and live within the BCP Council area are not distributed evenly geographically. This is demonstrated when comparing the populations of electoral wards as percentages of the total BCP Council area population against the responses per ward as percentages of the total respondents.

Some respondents within the BCP council area chose not to provide their postcode or provided a postcode that could not be matched to the ONS postcode directory:

- 9 wards are overrepresented in the survey to varying degrees including Bearwood & Merley, Burton & Grange, Commons, Mudeford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe, Muscliff & Strouden Park, Talbot & Branksome Woods, Christchurch Town, West Southbourne, and Poole Town
- The most overrepresented ward is Bearwood & Merley which hosts 3% of the BCP Council area population but represents 14% of the total survey responses
- The number of survey responses are representative in terms of population for 5 wards: Highcliffe & Walkford, Parkstone, Penn Hill, Creekmoor and Canford Cliffs
- The remaining wards are underrepresented in the survey responses. Boscombe West represents <1% of responses despite hosting 3% of the BCP Council area population. Bournemouth Central and Canford Heath each represent 4% of the BCP Council area but represent 1% of survey respondents each

Executive Summary

This Executive Summary provides a breakdown of the key findings from the Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation which ran between 10 January and 25 March 2022.

The consultation was promoted on the council's 'Have Your Say' engagement platform (haveyoursay.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/localplan) and used the following methods:

- Online and paper surveys
- Interactive maps
- Events at libraries
- Youth Forum sessions

1.Engagement Figures

This section shows the engagement figures for each method used during the consultation.

Overall response



A total of 957 survey responses were received to the surveys which included:

- 831 completed online survey responses
- 126 summary paper surveys, plus:
 - 24 letters
 - 193 emails
 - 1,290 comments on interactive maps



1.1. Respondent profile



83% of respondents live in Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole, with 11% living outside of the BCP Council area.

2% are members of organisations/associations and 5% were 'other' respondents including agents, developers and councillors (the numbers for each of these groups are too small to report individually).

The full respondent profile can be viewed [here](#).

1.2. Other engagement activity

In addition to the main survey responses above, there was a variety of other types of engagement with the consultation:

- 1,290 Pins were dropped on the interactive maps
- 24 letters
- 197 emails received
- 90 people attended the library drop ins
- 12,923 unique visits to the webpage
- 14,269 minutes watched Live Q&A sessions
- 1,115 Facebook comments
- Over 15 press articles

1.3. Engagement HQ analytics

The consultation was hosted on the council's engagement HQ website haveyoursay.bcpccouncil.gov.uk. There were approximately 20,700 **visits** to the [consultation page](#) during the consultation period. There were 12,923 **aware visitors** (i.e., a visitor who has made at least one single visit to the webpage) and 5,345 **informed visitors** (i.e., a visitor who has taken the 'next step' from being aware and clicked on something). 627 **engaged visitors** contributed to an activity on the website, such as the interactive maps.

Visitors engaged with the content on the main consultation page as follows:

- 2,410 visitors downloaded a document, including:
 - 1,632 downloads of the PDF version of the [consultation document](#)
 - 1,499 downloads of the [Interactive consultation document](#)
 - 433 downloads of the [PDF Summary Survey](#)
 - 191 visited the [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

1.4. Interactive map responses

Respondents were invited to leave comments directly onto 8 interactive maps to tell us what they thought about the promoted sites, as well as other issues.

602 respondents left 1290 comments on the eight interactive maps during the consultation period. Please note these figures only include comments made through the interactive maps not through text references in the surveys, letters, or emails.

The 'promoted Green Belt sites' map had the highest level of interest with 762 comments from 345 respondents^[1]. Next highest was the 'potential residential sites in the urban area' map with 371 comments from 208 respondents. A full breakdown of the interactive map responses can be seen in the table below.

Table 1: Interactive map responses

Interactive Map	Number of Comments	Number of Respondents
Promoted Green Belt sites	762	345
Potential residential sites in the urban area	371	208
Potential Areas of Change	63	41
Promoted Leisure sites	31	15
Conservation Areas	21	16
Strategic Employment sites	17	16
Centres of Employment	14	14
Proposed Retail Centre Hierarchy	11	8

^[1] 73 comments were left in locations where promoted Green Belt sites overlap. These comments have been attributed to each of the overlapping sites.

1.5. Youth Forum responses

Three online workshops were held with members of BCP Council's Youth Forum on 19 January, 2 February, and 16 February 2022. We engaged with 19 young people aged 13-19 years of age. Below is a summary of the sessions:

- **Session 1** asked the group to prioritise the objectives they wanted to discuss in more detail at the next sessions. They chose climate change, transport, high street and retail, housing, and health and wellbeing objectives
- **Session 2** focussed on 'tackling climate change', 'providing a safe, sustainable and convenient transport network' and 'adapting our high streets and retail areas':
 - **Tackling Climate Change**
 - Focus on renewable energy, e.g., biomass, solar farms
 - Need better waste management and recycling facilities
 - Need better regulation, e.g., fly tipping and sustainable house building
 - **Providing a safe, sustainable, and convenient transport network**
 - Need cheap and more accessible public transport
 - Need electric buses and cars, trams, monorail system
 - Improved safety around bus and train stations
 - Improved parking options and congestion charging to tackle traffic volumes
 - **Adapting our High Streets and retail areas**
 - Make High Streets more attractive and accessible for young people, e.g., farmers markets, café culture, colourful buildings
 - Reduce business rates
 - Tackle anti-social behaviour
 - More green spaces and planting
- **Session 3** focussed on 'promoting health & wellbeing' and 'new market and affordable homes':
 - **Promoting health & wellbeing**
 - More education in schools about healthy eating, e.g., health impact of junk food, food addictions, basic nutrition
 - LGBTQ+ awareness training in schools, tackling homophobia in class
 - **New market and affordable homes**
 - Need affordable homes with outdoor space for families
 - Consider shared housing options

2. Summary survey results

This section summarises all the quantitative findings from the survey and a summary of the main points from the write in [responses given by BCP residents and organisations, developers, agents, and Town/Parish Councils](#). The summaries of all respondents, including 'Residents living outside BCP' and 'Other' respondents that have not been included in this summary but can be found in the main report.

The number of respondents answering each question (the base) is shown in brackets throughout this section.

The bullet points for each question are summaries of respondent's comments and not our own words.

2.1. Our Vision

BCP Residents Responses

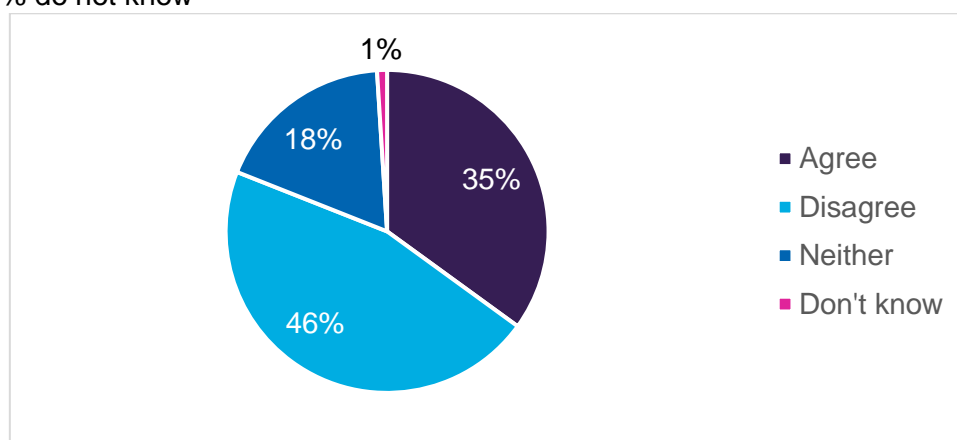
Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree that this is the right vision for the Local Plan?

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree that our vision is the right vision for the Local Plan.

Please note that Bournemouth's application for City status was rejected in May 2022. You can find more information on the decision [here](#). All the details of the bid can be found [here](#).

Vision: We aim for Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole to be the UK's newest city region, brimming with prospects, positivity, and pride.

- 35% strongly agree or agree with the vision
- 18% neither agree nor disagree
- 46% strongly disagree or disagree
- 1% do not know



Base (875)

- 44% of respondents living in [Bournemouth](#), 16% of those in [Christchurch](#) and 41% of those in [Poole](#) agree with the vision
- 36% of [White British](#) respondents agree with the vision, compared to 56% of those from [other ethnic groups](#)
- 42% of those with [no religion](#), 30% [Christians](#), 29% [other religions](#) agree with the vision

Q4. If you disagree or strongly disagree with the vision, please explain why.

Respondents were only asked to comment if they disagreed with the vision.

The most prevalent themes were **‘Objection to city status’ (166)**, **‘Vision should prioritise environment’ (55)** and **‘Infrastructure issues need fixing’ (51)**

BCP Residents Responses

Objection to city status

- BCP is not suitable for city status, the 3 areas have completely separate identities with differing needs
- Concerns that making Bournemouth a city will overshadow Christchurch and Poole, alienating residents and ruining the unique characters of the 3 areas which attracts visitors
- Concerns city status is being forced on the population without proper consultation
- Aim to develop the three towns in ways which enhance each town's unique and individual characteristics and strengths
- More likely to have positivity and pride by protecting the unique characters of the 3 regions which motivate people to live in BCP

Vision should prioritise environment

- It is vital to ensure the Vision, and Local Plan, prioritise the environment, particularly protection of the Green Belt
- The protection of the environment should be at the heart of the Local Plan as it is our greatest asset
- Prioritise environmental safety and cleanliness of green areas, low levels of pollution and green transportation links
- The council seems to have ignored the fact that it declared a climate emergency 2 years ago
- The vision needs to be revised to prioritise tackling climate change, reversing the loss of wildlife habitats, and improving the health and wellbeing of the BCP Council area

Infrastructure issues need fixing

- The conurbation is already overwhelmed with infrastructure issues and could become worse if the area were to attract more residents and visitors as a consequence of becoming a city

- Concerns that expansion without infrastructure improvements will lead to a lower quality of life
- Roads already too congested and road quality needs improving
- Not enough parking spaces
- GP surgeries and schools already oversubscribed with long waiting times

The following issues were mentioned by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Proposals/projects outlined in the Big Plan are limited in scope and lack the coherence needed to ensure the vision can be achieved
- The Local Plan needs to have policies which are appropriate to each area and provide a framework which makes it clear to developers what is required
- The Local Plan should reflect the views of residents, many of whom do not want a city, nor a centre which mimics cities in other countries
- Concerns that insufficient weight is given to the voice of rural residents in Local Plans and planning decisions
- Concerns over how the Local Plan will deliver "positivity" and "pride" as they are currently unmeasurable and poorly defined
- Include as objectives: actively listen to residents, businesses, and visitors so we can adapt the delivery of our Local Plan to meet changing behaviour and demand over the period to 2038
- Incorporate good technology to help us monitor and optimise the use of built and natural environment assets
- It is really important that BCP medical staff have affordable places to live and can live in a healthy environment for patients and staff with good public transport
- Council should prioritise environmental sustainability
- Support the vision if it enhances intercity connections and transport transformation that benefits outlying areas of BCP
- There has already been an objection to the term "city region" within the vision statement and suggestions that it should also respect our character and heritage. A sentence needs to be added so that this can also be included in the emerging Local Plan
- Bournemouth was once prized because of the beneficial effects of so many pine trees, which seems to have been a feature that has been lost and which could be restored as a supplementary aim to 'prospects, positivity and pride'
- Quality of the full range of infrastructure services and facilities will need to improve significantly to deliver the aim for the three towns to be a place where people and businesses want to be
- Investments in the seafront should be made without prejudice to the existing natural assets that have attracted so many visitors for so long
- Affordable homes need to be affordable for local working families on median annual-fulltime pay and readily available to them, in the face of competition from others

Agents

- Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole is not a city region. In economic terms, its hinterland is constrained, particularly by the New Forest, to the east
- It is ok as far as it goes but fails to address the heritage and character of the settlements. If it is not careful, BCP Council will irrevocably impact these important considerations to the detriment of the tourism industry on which the towns have relied on for over 100 years
- It is not clear why being “newest” should matter; it smacks of vanity rather than substance and would at best only have fleeting relevance, i.e., until any other new city is designated
- With apparently no appetite for Christchurch and Poole seeking city status, this effectively sets Bournemouth separate to, and above, the other towns which is unhelpful and divisive so soon after the merger of the councils
- If the Local Plan is to include a vision, it should be one with substance and meaning, to which the implementation of the detailed content of the document leads
- It is concerning that ‘prospects, positivity and pride’ has been included within the vision whilst other notions, such as health, prosperity, and sustainability, have been overlooked

Developer/Landowner

- The key to unlocking this vision is a more fluid planning process with a pro-development ethos. The current efficiency and mentality of planning in BCP needs some significant improvement to achieve this
- BCP Council needs to look at other areas to develop housing instead of the last remaining Green Belt near Bournemouth
- The high street is dying, so convert these areas into housing
- We all need affordable housing, but we also all need fresh air, wildlife, and countryside on our doorstep to enjoy

Town/Parish Councils

- Disagree that BCP’s seafront is one of the most beautiful and cleanest coasts in the world
- Dolphin centre needs investment
- Doubts that regenerating Poole will attract business to create job security and improve salaries
- No need for more high-end apartments and flats in Poole
- The site at Burley Road, Winkton, Christchurch is of particular concern, lying on the boundary of neighbouring villages without adequate infrastructure for which BCP Council has no jurisdiction over. The site fails to meet the requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework

2.2. Objectives

Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the ten objectives that we propose to include in the Local Plan?

Q7. Please tell us which of the objectives are most important to you by selecting your top 5 below.

The table below shows the percentage of respondents who agree with our proposed objectives (Q5 column) and the percentage of those who feel it is in their top 5 of importance. (Q7 column). Comments (Q6) about the objectives are shown on the next page.

Table 2: Agreement and importance of objectives

Objectives	% agree (Q5)	% top 5 importance (Q7)
a) Regenerate our town centres and network of vibrant communities (861)	82%	55%
b) Provide a sufficient supply of new market and affordable homes to meet the different needs of our communities (879)	53%	28%
c) Support economic growth, the creation of jobs and the offer to visitors (859)	73%	37%
d) Adapt our high streets and shopping areas to cater for changing retail demands (858)	80%	43%
e) Provide a safe, sustainable, and convenient transport network, with a step change in active travel behaviour, ensuring the necessary transport infrastructure is in place to make it easy for everyone to get around (865)	78%	53%
f) Conserve and enhance our protected habitats and biodiversity, and our network of green infrastructure and open spaces (868)	89%	75%
g) Promote local character and the delivery of high quality urban design (850)	69%	31%
h) Improve health and wellbeing and contribute towards reducing inequalities (856)	77%	41%
i) Work towards achieving carbon neutrality ahead of 2050 and inspire action to combat the climate and ecological emergency (867)	70%	45%
j) Deliver the infrastructure needed to support development, local communities, and businesses (847)	74%	37%

Q6. If you disagree or strongly disagree any of the objectives, please explain why.

The most prevalent themes were ‘Improvements’ (161), and ‘Concerns’ (116)

BCP Residents Responses

Improvements

- Should promote greener forms of building and accommodation (Objective B)
- More affordable housing converted from brownfield sites and restricted to local population (Objective B)

- Prevent the renewal of House of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) (Objective B)
- Local Plan should emphasise green infrastructure (Objective B)
- Improve travel infrastructure, reduce car travel, and prioritise giving less priority to cycle lanes and cyclists (Objective E)
- Protect the distinct characters of the conurbation, health, and wellbeing benefits of exposure to nature and protect the biodiversity of green areas (Objective F)

Concerns

Majority of concerns related to Objective B:

- No point in building more homes unless public transport infrastructure improves and becomes more sustainable (Objective B)
- Focus should be on sustainability, community and building a conscious humane economy (Objective B)
- Concerns about building more houses that prioritise rich second homeowners and are unaffordable for locals on lower incomes (Objective B)
- Concerns over negative environmental impact of building on green areas (Objective B)

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Include blue infrastructure utilising marine resources sustainably and in-line with the South Marine Plan
- They are worthy objectives but need a detailed cost-benefit analysis to determine a meaningful response
- Need a review of conservation areas and the quality of buildings
- Transport de-carbonisation and transfer away from a car-centric society is key to carbon neutrality
- A people-focused transport system creates vibrant high streets and improves health outcomes
- Need a green infrastructure review
- Planning for future green spaces should target areas to support plant and animal life with future (climate change) conditions in mind, not current environmental conditions
- Need to adapt and be flexible about urban areas
- Build the higher number of homes. Poor housing is the reason why many people are admitted to hospital and responsible for much poor health - physical and mental
- Housing communities should be built on brownfield sites to aid urban regeneration instead of Green Belt which is needed for our health and wellbeing
- Houses should be designed for multigenerational living
- Environmental sustainability should be at the core of the Local Plan including safer walking and cycling, improved public transport links and reduced car ownership
- Important to tackle health and wellbeing inequalities. These lead to increased pressure on our health service and lead to crime. We need to look after our most vulnerable people

Agents

- Growing the economy and creating jobs are important but Objective c should also express to what end they are being pursued, i.e., to meet the needs of businesses and workers
- Objectives a, b and c could all be improved with more detail
- A further objective should be added that aims to advance the status of BCP nationally and internationally as a well-connected and ambitious area eager to build relationships and attract growth
- The needs of older people should be adequately planned for through the Local Plan
- Clarify how C2 sites will be identified and allocated for housing for older people (including care homes, extra care, sheltered housing and age restricted housing) in the next stage of the production of the Local Plan
- The provision of Part M4 (1), (2) and (3) of the building regulations is not sufficient to properly account for the already significant need in the BCP Council area

Developers/landowners

- Stop wasting public money on high streets and town centres. Retail and shopping habits have irreversibly changed
- Housing delivery and economic growth should be the main priorities
- The significant lack of housing delivery and increasing construction costs
- needs to be considered Too much restriction with trees, green areas, and protected areas
- Large green areas should be out of town while the built environment should be within all of our towns
- Deliver affordable housing for locals without harming wildlife
- Consider local character which is threatened by the proposed plans
- A combination of local housing and more appealing shops for tourists with accommodation above would be a better option
- Limit the amount of housing available for student letting, making more of these properties available for families
- Universities should provide enough built accommodation to cater for all their students

Town/Parish Councils

- Too many higher end/retirement homes, need homes for local people
- More clarification needed on economic growth and retail demands
- Contradiction between protecting green infrastructure while proposing to build more homes
- Including Green Belt sites will reduce biodiversity and not use natural resources cautiously while conflicting with the aims of the National Planning Policy Framework

3. Summary of the Issues and Options

The tables in this summary outline the levels of agreement and disagreement for each of the issues and options for the ten objectives.

Each table shows the percentage of those strongly agreeing or agreeing with the issue/option (% agree) and those strongly disagree or disagree (% disagree). The percentages do not always add up to 100% as it excludes those respondents who selected 'neither agree nor disagree' and 'don't know'.

The number of respondents answering about each of the issues/options (the base) is shown in brackets next to each issue/option.

Overall, there are higher levels of agreement than disagreement for most of the issues/recommendations, except for a few (relating to tall buildings and development around Stoney Lane) and for some options (where respondents could state how strongly they agree or disagree with each of the options), as shown in the tables on the next few pages.

3.1. Regenerating our town centres

Objective: Regenerate our town centres and network of vibrant communities

Q10. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for regenerating our town centres?

Recommendation: We recognise that Bournemouth and Poole town centres have the most significant scope for regeneration and change. We propose that the vitality of each of these centres is supported through investment in visitor attractions, an increase in new homes and commercial development, with the encouragement of taller buildings in places, and through enhancements to streets and public spaces. The scale of opportunity in Christchurch is more limited, but there is still scope for improvements to streets and spaces and the development of key sites around Stony Lane, subject to the resolution of flood risk issues

	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Regenerating our town centres (299)	66%	23%

Q11. Please explain your answers in the box below and let us know if you can you suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about regenerating our town centres.

The most prevalent theme was 'Suggestions' (123)

Sub-themes: 'Buildings / Houses / Landlords', 'Regeneration' and 'Retail / Hospitality / Entertainment / Activities'

BCP Residents Responses

Buildings/Houses/Landlords

- Explore taller buildings provided they have exceptional design and high quality communal spaces
- Limit buildings above two stories in Bournemouth and Poole
- Convert former retail spaces into residential properties
- Collaborate with landlords to convert empty shops into spaces for business start-ups and attractions

Regeneration

- All 3 areas need regeneration of differing types
- Poole bus station is a priority due to safety and anti-social behaviour concerns
- Poole town centre needs better shops
- Christchurch high street needs better support to encourage traders to use it
- Biggest gains from regenerating local industry, shops and local services in Bournemouth and Poole

Retail/Hospitality/Entertainment/Activities

- Need to ensure that town centres adapt and are not allowed to become rundown
- Need to focus on residential redevelopment with leisure and entertainment facilities for families close by
- Town centres need a strong identity with smaller shopping outlets at affordable rents
- Local high streets need a community-centred approach

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- High Streets need to have services/products that attract people to visit. This, in turn, will service coffee shops and charity shops...but people will not visit just solely for these two services
- Need a range of family friendly attractions on BCP's high streets, e.g., boutique shops, soft play provision, play zones, creche facilities, eating areas
- Offer a fun, all year round, activity centre in Bournemouth that is for all ages, e.g., ice rink
- Offer free parking, e.g., for 2 hours to draw people into the high streets
- Remove double yellow lines in, and around, streets leading to high streets and offer these spaces to shop owners in the area
- Liaise with landlords to reduce business rates and/or subsidise rents
- Concern that the encouragement of taller buildings in the town centres could encroach into suburban areas of BCP
- Local Plan should be specific on the geographical placement of taller buildings to prevent developers building them away from town centres

- Covid showed that those living in tall buildings were negatively impacted by a lack of private outdoor space, so this needs to be considered
- New visitor attractions are essential to broaden the offer away from just the beach
- Quality of street space is critical to make these locations an attractive place to come
- Private non-residential parking charges could be critical to a) balancing the demand and b) providing essential funding to really invest in high quality non-car alternatives

Town/Parish Councils

- Concerns over how new homes will regenerate the town centre when there are no jobs
- No need for visitor attractions when we have such a great coast and seafront
- Essential to enhance Bournemouth and Poole town centres
- Reduce business rates to encourage smaller businesses to thrive along with a mix of residential usage
- Encourage independent businesses to run alongside major chains to attract more people to the area for economic prosperity
- Homelessness and rough sleeping must be addressed by rehousing people
- Houses should be built within town centres without sacrificing Green Belt for Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs)
- SANG development should focus on previously identified sites, e.g., Hicks Farm
- SANG green space should be allocated within walking distance of any new developments

Bournemouth

Q13. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following actions in our proposed strategy for Bournemouth?

	Agree	Disagree
a) Increasing the number of people living in the town centre by making more sites available for new homes (158)	65%	23%
b) Making significant investments in the Bournemouth International Centre and the seafront to boost the quality of the visitor attractions available (159)	71%	13%
c) Making stronger connections between different parts of the town centre, and from the main shopping and leisure areas to the seafront (159)	78%	9%
d) Supporting the development of new hotel stock by allowing poor hotels to more easily exit the market (157)	59%	11%
e) Developing the Smart City concept ensuring high quality digital infrastructure is available across the town centre (157)	54%	14%
f) Positively encouraging taller buildings in some areas to enhance our iconic skyline (150)	33%	49%
g) Embracing community-led and cultural initiatives that support regeneration (157)	68%	6%
h) Supporting the diversification of shops, allowing a wider range of commercial activities, and the reuse of upper floors for alternative uses, such as new homes (158)	82%	10%

i) Continuing to focus on enhancing walking/cycling/public transport, enabling the amount of surface public car parks to be reviewed and potentially considered for other uses (homes) (159)	51%	37%
j) Enhancing the role of the Lansdowne as an area for employment and education (150)	60%	8%

Q14. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative actions or have any other comments that we should consider.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Suggestions**’ (61) and ‘**Criticism**’ (40)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- Majority of suggestions related to Proposal i:
 - o Adequate surface level parking is essential
 - o Cannot improve quality of life without affordable and reliable public transport
 - o Aging population needs good transport infrastructure as many cannot cycle
 - o Need quality Park and Ride services if car parks are removed
 - o Current retail offer requires car travel so do not discriminate against car users
 - o Clear signposting/markings for different transport users to improve safety, e.g., cyclists, pedestrians, road traffic

Criticism

- Criticisms relating to Proposal i:
 - o Removal of car parks without adequate alternatives is having a negative impact on the area already
 - o Cycle lanes are underused and therefore wasting precious time and money
 - o Strategy fails to acknowledge that car use is the primary transport method for an aging population and visitors
 - o Strategy discriminates against car users
- Criticisms relating to Proposal f:
 - o Enough tall buildings in Bournemouth already
 - o Potential for conflict between increasing building height and the quality/design of urban spaces
 - o Bournemouth’s cultural identity will be lost if taller buildings increase
 - o Taller buildings will be detrimental to appreciation of the coastline

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Much needed apartments need parking facilities and viable shops especially in Bournemouth town centre

- Top priority should be to regenerate Bournemouth High Street making it cleaner and addressing anti-social behaviour issues in the town
- Parking is a huge problem in BCP that needs to be addressed, particularly in summer months
- Need to specify minimum building heights along key transport corridors and within town centres
- Encourage tall buildings to increase area densities and reduce urban sprawl
- Lansdowne has failed as employment centre; repurpose it to focus on education and housing
- Need to reduce number of parking spaces in line with the South East Dorset Urban Mobility Strategy (SEDUMS) Walking and Cycling Strategy to support active travel
- Need an Arts and Leisure Strategy. BCP is lacking in this respect despite producing thousands of arts students every year
- Need to reduce shopping area in Bournemouth town centre and divide into two sections reflecting market trends
- Seafront investment should continue along the length of the seafront towards Christchurch and Sandbanks to demonstrate commitment to BCP regeneration
- Definition of “unsuccessful hotels” should be clearer so thriving hotels are not unfairly penalised
- Allowance for taller buildings should be specific to certain areas and not approved in already overpopulated areas without community facilities
- Consider using car park sites to create new homes while alleviating problems related to public transport, roads, cyclists, and pedestrians
- Regenerate Bournemouth station area to create additional housing and/or commercial space, e.g., hotels
- Need to financially invest in the railway network, especially station facilities which need urgent improvement to match similar large urban train stations, e.g., booking halls, bridges, toilets and waiting facilities

Town/Parish Councils

- New homes must be built on brownfield sites within central Bournemouth and meet the National Space Standards for dwellings
- Essential that digital infrastructure incorporates more outlying/rural regions
- To comply with the council’s green strategy and net zero agenda, community-led cultural initiatives need to be within walking distance of town centres
- No further provision for car parking and a clear objective to significantly restrict or reduce traffic movements within outlying areas
- Council should not promote outlying areas as ‘go to’ destinations and seek funding for public transport to these areas

Poole

Q15. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following actions in our proposed strategy for Poole?

	Agree	Disagree
a) Increasing the number of people living in the town centre by making a number of sites available for housing (152)	61%	20%
b) Redeveloping the former power station site and support the regeneration of adjacent sites to create a vibrant new urban neighbourhood (153)	84%	9%
c) Allowing some taller buildings in the regeneration area and the area north of the railway line (153)	44%	38%
d) Creating a better sense of arrival into the centre, supporting improvements at Poole bus station, Poole railway station and around the Kingland Road area (152)	92%	2%
e) Working with Network Rail to resolve the ongoing concerns about the high street level crossing to see if it can be closed or made safer (153)	64%	15%
f) Considering reducing the size of the shopping area and create opportunities to introduce some residential uses into the high street (152)	61%	24%
g) Better connecting the Lighthouse within the rest of the town centre by reconfiguring or closing Kingland Road (152)	62%	18%
h) Refurbishing or replacing the Dolphin Leisure Centre to provide a fit-for-purpose leisure centre (153)	74%	8%
i) Preserving or enhancing the heritage areas, with a focus on the Quay and Old Town, through the Heritage Action Zone project (153)	94%	1%
j) Delivering strategic flood risk defences to protect the town centre from future flood risk (151)	80%	3%
k) Embracing community-led and cultural initiatives that support regeneration (151)	67%	7%
l) Enhancing wayfinding/signage to help improve connections between the Quay and the rest of the town centre (152)	64%	10%

Q16. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative actions or have any other comments that we should consider.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Suggestions**’ (44) and ‘**Criticism**’ (22)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- Need to regenerate the bus station desperately to create a better welcome to the town and resolve crime/anti-social behaviour issues in this area
- Strong support for merging the bus and railways stations to create a travel hub with more efficient transport links
- Poole needs to be appealing to residents not just tourists
- Transform the old power station into a vibrant urban residential community
- Promote the heritage of Poole to attract more visitors

- Improve the night-time economy in Poole, e.g., cinema in Falkland Square
- Regenerate underused retail spaces into residential properties – less infrastructure improvements needed
- Active travel needs to be the backbone of any strategy for Poole
- Make it easier to travel between the Quay and the Dolphin Shopping Centre

Criticism

- Criticisms relating to Proposal a:
 - o Concerns over the proposed redevelopment of Poole Stadium as it attracts tourists and is very popular with locals
 - o Poole town centre is already overcrowded with serious infrastructure issues, e.g., overwhelmed GPs, schools, and hospitals
 - o No more houses it will only make the area more overcrowded
 - o Concerns over anti-social behaviour problems worsening if the population increases in the town centre
- Criticisms relating to Proposal c:
 - o Taller buildings are not in keeping with Poole's heritage
 - o Poole does not have the infrastructure to cope with a denser population caused by taller buildings
 - o Taller buildings would have a negative impact on the landscape
 - o Taller buildings will be detrimental to appreciation of the coastline

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Need to specify minimum building heights along key transport corridors and within town centres
- Encourage tall buildings to increase densities and reduce urban sprawl
- Merge Poole bus and train stations to create a seamless interchange with a pedestrian-friendly surrounding environment
- Dolphin centre site is the best area for a travel interchange and would enable the level crossing to become a bridge
- Need efficient transport options between Sandbanks, Poole Park and Poole Town Centre to create a sense of cohesiveness between the 3 sites
- Consider building housing on car parks which would make much better use of land, e.g., Sainsbury's car park in Poole
- c) Object to lack of definition of the term "taller buildings". Accept in principle the need to have some tall buildings as defined by the current Plan "over 6 storeys", but not taller than buildings such as the Barclays building or current planning consents in the Poole regeneration area
- d) Need a radical overhaul of Poole's public transport provision with the creation of a new integrated railway and bus station hub between the Dolphin Centre and the

Sainsbury's supermarket, creating a first-floor link into the shopping centre over the existing railway line, thereby both removing the dangerous crossing and integrating the public transport provision into the heart of the shopping centre

- f) Whilst the draft proposals for Bournemouth suggest re-using upper floors for alternative uses such as new homes, proposals relating to Poole High Street appear to suggest residential uses at ground floor. This needs to be approached with caution, as it has the potential to exacerbate the already weak link between Dolphin Centre and Poole Quay, isolating remaining retail units between blank frontages
- g) Strongly object to allowing a break in the shopping frontage to develop between the Dolphin Centre and the Quay that would risk the Quay being isolated from the mainstream shopping area. Alternative complementary uses, particularly leisure and food, should be encouraged
- h) The draft proposals for Poole Town Centre North now talks of "replacing or refurbishing" the existing Dolphin Leisure Centre facility, which would be disappointing both in terms of land use and accessibility
- i) More needs to be done to preserve and enhance the heritage of the Quay and Old Town than can be completed by the Heritage Action Zones (HAZ). The suggested focus on "the Quay and Old Town" through HAZ fails to mention that the fund extends to a mere £1.25m, most of which is already allocated, and that the boundary of the HAZ area almost entirely excludes the Quay itself

Town/Parish Councils

- Need infrastructure for any housing developed in Poole
- Concerns over affordability of a new urban neighbourhood in Poole
- Not in favour of tall buildings in Poole
- Poole needs a pleasant shopping area
- The Lighthouse is well connected to the town centre but needs more parking

Christchurch

Q17. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following actions in our proposed strategy for Christchurch?

	Agree	Disagree
a) Encouraging the redevelopment of key sites around Stony Lane to deliver new homes, if flood risk issues can be overcome (104)	35%	52%
b) Supporting the redevelopment of the Lanes (south of the high street) and Saxon Square with mixed use development (103)	48%	34%
c) Enhancing the pedestrian connections around the centre and across Fountain Roundabout (102)	70%	10%
d) Undertaking improvements to streets and public spaces (104)	83%	5%
e) Delivering strategic flood risk defences to protect the town from future flood risk (104)	87%	4%
f) Supporting improvements to the Two Riversmeet Leisure Complex (104)	72%	5%
g) Embracing community-led and cultural initiatives that support regeneration (104)	67%	7%

h) Enhancing wayfinding/signage to help improve connections between the waterfront areas and the rest of the town centre (103)	62%	6%
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Q18. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can you suggest any alternative actions or have any other comments that we should consider.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Suggestions**’ (23) and ‘**Criticism**’ (20)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- If Stony Lane is redeveloped, road network will need to be upgraded (Proposal A)
- Must include social housing for family homes with gardens (Proposal A)
- A flyover or underpass is needed for through traffic at Stony Lane roundabout (Proposal A)
- Plant more trees where possible and move housing to brownfield sites unlikely to flood (Proposal A)
- Refurbish existing sites instead of redevelopments due to flood risks (Proposal A)
- Bold and innovative solutions are needed to mitigate the flood risks at Stony Lane (Proposal A)
- Need to protect current residents from flooding by using empty or green spaces as flood defences, not building (Proposal A)
- Redevelopment of Saxon Square should include multi-story car park (Proposal B)
- The Lanes area should be preserved as a heritage asset (Proposal B)
- Fountain Roundabout needs to be improved to provide better access through the town (Proposal C)
- Parking should not be reduced in the town centre (Proposal D)
- Make Christchurch high street bus only, ban cars from this area (Proposal D)
- More litter bins and emptied more regularly during the tourist season (Proposal D)
- Take into account the impact of any hard development on the infiltration capacity/runoff of the flood plains and adjacent areas (Proposal E)
- Community food production, energy production, retro fitting homes for insulation and damp and sustainable heating/cooling, creating sustainable jobs and health and wellbeing enhancement (Proposal G)

Criticism

- Criticisms relating to Proposal a:
 - Stony Lane is not suitable for housing as it is prone to flooding
 - Any new building in the flood plain would reduce overflow area and increase the risk of flooding of existing properties
 - The charm of the town will be destroyed by overdevelopment
 - More houses on Stony Lane will only make [already bad traffic problems, GP access and school availability worse
 - These areas are part of the gateway to Christchurch and should not be spoilt by housing developments

- Criticisms relating to Proposal b:
 - o Proposals are too dense and intrusive, threatening encroachment on areas such as Druitt Gardens and the Two Riversmeet leisure centre
 - o Christchurch is already well overdeveloped, any more would destroy its character further

Vibrant Communities

Q19. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for vibrant local Communities?

Recommendation: We propose to support local communities by retaining existing open spaces, shops, services, and facilities, wherever possible. We would also encourage new commercial, health, cultural, educational and leisure facilities, alongside investments in streets and open spaces, within walking distance of people's homes. This would help to reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling, promote health and wellbeing, and support community cohesion.

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Vibrant local communities (127)	88%	7%

Q20. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about vibrant local communities.

The most prevalent theme was **‘Suggestions’** (36)

Sub-themes: **‘Implementation’**, **‘Community/Community Centres/Engagement’** and **‘Open space/Green space/Climate change’**

BCP Residents Responses

Implementation

- Need to engage properly with the local community to understand their needs
- This can only work if local communities are given more power and influence
- Prevent any negative impacts on the Green Belt
- Only approve planning permissions that enhance a vibrant local community, not those that have a negative impact
- Interpretation is everything so all factors need to be considered carefully before implementation

Community/Community Centres/Engagement

- Relationships within communities needs building up and strengthening before creation of buildings
- Upskill local communities through training and events

- Localism should be a vital component of a climate change strategy
- Consider developing age-friendly communities
- Need more community centre and youth facilities
- Poor development leads to unattractive communities nobody wants to inhabit

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Recommendation is contradictory, either you retain existing open spaces, shops, services, and facilities or you support new ones

Town/Parish Councils

- SANG allocations for new development must be within walking distance of new homes
- No additional car parks within the Green Belt, conservation, and Parish areas
- New infrastructure facilities should be excluded from the Green Belt, conservation, and Parish areas, e.g., commercial, health, cultural, educational, leisure facilities or visitor centres

Q21. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following aspects of our proposed strategy to support vibrant local communities?

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
a) Maintaining access for residents to basic local services and facilities within walking distance of their homes wherever possible (127)	96%	2%
b) Supporting our network of district centres, local centres, high streets, and neighbourhood shopping parades by retaining them as a focal point for commercial activities (125)	92%	3%
c) Providing new homes within, or close to, existing centres (127)	65%	12%
d) Ensuring communities have access to open space and recreation facilities (127)	96%	2%
e) Providing safe, easy, and accessible walking and cycle routes to access shopping areas, schools, community facilities and open spaces (128)	89%	3%
f) Embracing community-led and cultural initiatives that support local communities (128)	83%	4%
g) Supporting local food growing opportunities (128)	83%	2%
h) Providing advice to local communities who wish to develop neighbourhood plans in their areas (127)	83%	4%
i) A continued focus on the regeneration of Boscombe through the Towns Fund proposals (126)	55%	12%

Q22. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about vibrant local communities.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Suggestions**’ (31) and ‘**Criticism**’ (18)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- Green Belt should not be used for new homes (Proposal C)
- Focus on brownfield sites, redeveloping empty shops, and reducing shopping areas for housing (Proposal C)
- Do not increase the existing density of population without the provision of green spaces (Proposal C)
- Consider creating ‘15-minute neighbourhoods’ where everything is accessible without the use of a car (Proposal C)
- Assess each neighbourhood individually but based on national design criteria across them all (Proposal C)
- Create a sense of belonging for residents and provide access to safe spaces (Proposal D)
- Vital for the council to work with residents so they can make a meaningful difference in their own community (Proposal F)
- Important to have free/low-cost activities to avoid exclusion of those who might benefit most (Proposal F)
- Need to provide spaces to grow healthy, chemical-free produce for wellbeing and wildlife/biodiversity benefits (Proposal G)
- Focus on more trees to protect inhabitants from toxic traffic fumes (Proposal G)

Criticism

- Criticisms relating to Proposal I:
 - No mention of Boscombe West which needs a unique approach to regeneration
 - Despite millions spent on Boscombe already there are still problems with homelessness, rough sleeping, and drug use
 - The current approach in Boscombe is not working and needs a rethink
- Criticisms relating to Proposal C:
 - Town centres and homes do not always make a good mix, e.g., Traffic and noise issues
 - New homes should not be the focus in town centres
 - New builds should not be the first choice, consider reusing existing buildings in better ways, e.g., separating student population away from areas suitable for families
- Criticisms relating to Proposal E:

- o Some recent cycle lanes are not suitable for the roads and have made them more dangerous, while blocking access for emergency services, e.g., Whitelegg Way

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Concerns over whether investment into Boscombe to date has demonstrated any success, has been value for money or created any positive outputs
- Review needed to determine whether retail policy designations are correct and reflect usage on the ground in Boscombe
- The definition of “basic local services” is important to ensure local communities are not overly supplied with one type of service

Town/Parish Councils

- Farms and conservation areas within parishes should not be the focal point of commercial activities or visitor centres, e.g., Hicks Farm in Throop
- Sites for recreational and open spaces should be within walking distance of homes
- No additional car parking within the Green Belt, conservation, and Parish areas
- Any future marketing by BCP Council must not promote the Green Belt, conservation, and Parish areas as “destinations”
- Conservation area of Muscliff Lane (Homes for Heroes specifically created for market gardens) should be fully restored to support local food growing opportunities
- Poole Quay area is not suitable for local food growing opportunities

Q23. Please tell us if you have any other comments about regenerating our town centres in the Local Plan, including any other issues or ideas you feel that we should consider.

The most prevalent theme was ‘**Suggestions**’ (189)

Sub-themes: ‘**Retail/High streets/Town centres/Supermarkets/Shops**’, ‘**Regeneration/Maintenance/Facilities**’, **Transport / Cars / Parking / Active Travel / Congestion**, and **Housing / Buildings / Hotels / Venues / Heritage**

BCP Residents Responses

Retail/High streets/Town centres/Supermarkets/Shops

- Shopping experience needs to be modernised and leisure/entertainment-focused
- Reduce business rates to encourage new businesses in town centres
- Focus more on boutique and independent shops
- Encourage shared working spaces in central locations to increase footfall

- Design districts as ‘15-minute neighbourhoods’¹ to make essential infrastructure easily accessible, particularly important for those with disabilities/mobility issues
- Need big shopping malls and supermarkets, while still valuing local high streets for thriving communities and residents’ wellbeing
- Better regulation of visitors during summer months

Regeneration/Maintenance/Facilities

- Regeneration should incorporate smaller towns not just larger areas
- Improve facilities such as toilets
- Improve facilities for the homeless
- Clean up central areas by removing graffiti and improving management of litter and waste
- Tackle anti-social behaviour such as drunken behaviour, crime, and verbal abuse as this has a significant impact on the town centre experience and perceived levels of safety
- Need stricter building regulations to ensure developments are fit-for-purpose and eco-friendly
- Avoid building on flood plains and green areas. The climate emergency should underpin everything in the Local Plan

Transport/Cars/Parking/Active Travel/Congestion

- Eradicate parking fees in town centres to encourage more people into the areas and resist building on existing car parks for homes
- Active travel needs more support through financial investment and supporting infrastructure
- Need sustainable public transport options e.g., trams/light railways to better connect the main population centres
- Christchurch urgently needs a bypass/relief road to accommodate increased population and housing

Housing/Buildings/Hotels/Venues/Heritage

- Make better use of underperforming buildings, including larger venues, so they are multi-functional, e.g., Bournemouth International Centre, old hotel stock
- Protect historical character of older buildings, this is particularly important in Poole and Christchurch

Tourism/Leisure/Sport/Hospitality

- Encourage more holidaymakers to the area by improving the entertainment offer, e.g., cinema in Poole
- Promote more independent shops and cafes/restaurants to help develop the conurbation and attract more visitors

¹ A 15-minute neighbourhood involves a range of policies that provide residents access to most, if not all, of their needs within a short walk or bike ride from their home. Source: smarttransport.org.uk

- Ensure entertainment facilities are family-friendly and not just aimed at pubs, clubs etc
- Develop the night-time economy so it has greater variety and is accessible to different types of visitors, both local and from outside BCP
- Better policing of the influx of tourists during summer months to reduce pressure on local infrastructure, e.g., parking

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Local centres should be supported to become '15-minute destinations' to meet the day-to-day needs of residents
- Object to the redevelopment of the Lanes and Saxon Square in Christchurch
- Suggested change - improvements "to" Two Riversmeet Leisure Centre rather than merely "at" Two Riversmeet
- Public transport is needed to encourage less car use
- Public transport needs to address urban transport deserts created by irrelevant travel timings for users as well as by inadequate routes
- Need a Cross-Country rail service linking the 3 towns with Swanage which could have a significant climate impact by reducing car use, congestion, and pollution
- Local planning needs to consider the benefits of Park and Ride systems
- Local Plan should place more emphasis on the seafront possibilities of Poole's beaches which are less commercialised and therefore more attractive to residents and visitors
- Reductions in the variety and quantity of hotels at Sandbanks would not be in the public interest
- Desire for tangible outcomes to the proposed strategy for Poole town centre
- Need to support local communities and protect the naturalness of areas
- Enforcement of Green Belt protection will reduce the tendency to hoard derelict, misused and underused urban land, e.g., missed opportunities with Poole Power Station
- Christchurch does not need any regeneration and should retain its car parks for visitors
- Ideas for all three town centres fails to include green infrastructure, yet this is vital for enhancing the quality of the urban realm
- Suggest changing "focus on enhancing walking, cycling and public transport, enabling the amount of surface public car parks to be reviewed and potentially considered for other uses, such as new homes" to "new homes or new areas of green space, tree planting or nature restoration" (Bournemouth)
- Suggest changing "redeveloping the former power station site and supporting the regeneration of adjacent sites to create a vibrant new urban neighbourhood" to "new nature-rich urban neighbourhood" or "new tree-lined urban neighbourhood" (Poole)
- Suggest changing "undertaking improvements to streets and public spaces" to "undertaking improvements, including tree planting and other urban greening, to streets and public spaces" (Christchurch)

- Local Plan should ensure development proposals to protect and support the distinct characters and needs of the 3 towns
- Need a clear objective around movement of people, goods, and services around the conurbation with viable and practical alternatives to private car use
- Need a strong evidence base and understanding of retail trends to develop a clear strategy for the future of retail areas
- Proposals for tall buildings that make better use of a limited supply of land need to be better articulated and supported in the Local Plan
- Network of vibrant and diverse communities is important for Pokesdown and Boscombe, but mass retail space is not needed
- Need support from the council with absentee landlords of empty shops
- Boutique shops need more support to thrive in other areas, e.g., Southbourne
- Enhancements to public spaces to be encouraged, e.g., Woodland Walk

Agents

- Local Plan must proactively encourage re-use, development, and investment opportunities where they arise in town centres
- High density residential developments within walking distance and within town centres will be increasingly important to sustain footfall to existing and future businesses and services
- Former gas works site can play a vital role in helping to regenerate Christchurch town centre and provide a vibrant community
- Support for proposals to build new affordable homes for an intergenerational community in Christchurch, e.g., around Stony Lane
- Support for proposals to build more homes in Bournemouth
- Lansdowne area should change from an employment designation to a mixed used area including new residential accommodation
- Focus on delivering strategic flood risk defences in Christchurch town centre

3.2. New market and affordable homes

Objective: Provide a sufficient supply of new market and affordable homes to meet the different needs of our communities

Q25. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the each of the two options (to supply new market and affordable homes)?

We want to meet housing needs that support our aspirations as a thriving and vibrant urban area. We will need to take forward one of the following options:

	Agree	Disagree
Objective: Provide a sufficient supply of new market and affordable homes to meet the different needs of our communities		
a) Option 1 - government's standard housing method (235)	20%	75%
b) Option 2 - lower locally derived housing figure (255)	68%	21%

Q26. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about our housing needs and housing requirement.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Suggestions**’ (77) and **Objection** (59)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- Do not build on Green Belt land
- There is a great need for more affordable housing with open spaces and parking which should be financially accessible to everyone including families and locals
- The type, quality and ownership of homes is more relevant than how many homes are built
- Prioritise family housing of a decent size and with essential amenities close by
- Need homes that promote a reduced carbon footprint, e.g., lowering greenhouse gas emissions
- Increased densities must be accompanied by improved infrastructure that can accommodate a larger population, particularly roads and transport
- Second homeowners should pay higher council tax in order to prevent a high number of empty homes for most of the year
- Free up expensive private rental housing and bring house prices down
- Focus on regenerating derelict buildings and brownfield sites
- Need to hold developers to account in the quality of housing they deliver and ensure they honour promises on affordable housing quotas

Objections

- Government’s standard methodology figures are unrealistic due to outdated data. These should be reviewed/challenged
- In order to meet the government housing figure, there needs to be greater regulation of developers otherwise the target will never be achieved
- Both options should be rejected in favour of developing brownfield sites and reusing existing buildings to protect Green Belt land
- Concern over the development of more high-rise flats
- Need a more strategic approach to growth in housing and employment space, while ensuring the scale and types of tourism are consistent with climate and biodiversity goals

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Much higher densities can be supported within town centres and main transport corridors than currently delivered, provided minimum height and design guidance is included as part of the Local Plan, e.g., Dutch/French densities

- Wrong to base housing calculations on out-of-date data which the Government's standard formula does
- Lack of sufficient brownfield sites would make development on Green Belt land inevitable causing significant harm to green areas
- Lower housing figure is more realistic and would not have a detrimental impact on the Green Belt
- Need stricter enforcement to ensure developers complete their permissions within three years
- Retain all Green Belt for agriculture to enable the UK to feed itself and effectively deal with climate change
- Need sufficient housing as there are too many people in the streets and children are living in poverty
- Support Option 2. Local knowledge and expertise should provide a more accurate demand figure than Central Government dictate. However, the numbers should be subject to continual review over the period (every 15 years)
- Planning applications and potential developments for the Poole regeneration sites have very high densities, which are unrealistic and need to be revised downwards
- Poole does not have the infrastructure, facilities, workplaces, shops and most importantly a cheap and efficient public transport system to support higher densities
- Consideration must be given to the negative impact these massive developments will have on the Heritage Zone of Poole Quay and Poole Old Town Conservation area
- Tall buildings should not be permitted within, or adjacent to, heritage sites and the Poole Old Town conservation area
- High density developments and tall buildings will result in a need for vehicle parking, but BCP Council encourages developers to provide zero vehicle parking
- There needs to be more consistency in how the community of the Poole Quays Forum area and the rest of the BCP conurbation meets future housing needs
- An over concentration of high-density developments and tall buildings within the Poole regeneration area, along existing high density transport corridors and the waterside, must be reviewed, and other sites should be considered
- A formal definition of "tall buildings" is needed to guide potential developers
- Regarding the objective to 'preserve or enhance Poole's heritage'; there must be a balanced approach taken to where new homes are built. Brownfield sites must be redeveloped, but they are more expensive and are unlikely to provide much, affordable housing

Agents

- Request an amended housing figure based on migration predictions and, if it is rejected, then plan for the higher figure
- If the council is genuine in its objectives, then it must adopt, as a minimum, the figures derived from the standard methodology. Growth has been too constrained over recent years
- The government's housing figure should be pursued rather than the lower figure, which will require robust evidence to demonstrate that it is based on realistic assumptions of demographic growth and justifies deviating from the standard methodology

- Transparency is required in Table 4.30 to disaggregate the data to the former local authority areas because there is no overall BCP growth strategy
- Transparency is required in Table 4.30 to justify the claim that “completions have been notably stronger”

Developers/landowners

- Opposed to a lower housing figure
- Housing figures issue does not acknowledge the pressures and constraints for development in wider areas, specifically Dorset Council and New Forest District Council areas. These need to be taken into consideration as well

Town/Parish Councils

- Support challenging the government’s proposed housing figure

Where new homes should be built

Respondents were invited to leave comments on a map of the 122 potential residential sites in the urban area.

208 respondents left 371 comments on the potential residential sites in the urban area interactive map. These comments were spread across 85 of the sites meaning that 37 of the sites received no comments.

Full details of these responses can be found in the main report.

Q27. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for providing affordable housing?

Recommendation: To meet our demand for affordable housing, we will require a proportion of new homes on major sites to be affordable. This proportion may vary across the BCP area. We will set out the type or tenure of affordable housing and the circumstances where this should be provided on site, and where a payment towards affordable housing on major sites would be accepted.

	Agree	Disagree
Issue: How to provide affordable housing (179)	62%	20%

Q28. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about providing affordable housing.

The most prevalent theme was ‘**Suggestions**’ (74)

Sub-themes: ‘**Detailed comments/suggestions on affordable housing, e.g., location, type, tenure, design**’, ‘**Comments on affordability of affordable housing/Should be linked to local wage / social housing**’ and ‘**Comments on developer abuse/greed/ensure robust regulation of developers**’

BCP Residents Responses

Detailed comments / suggestions on affordable housing, e.g., location, type, tenure, design

- Need to meet the needs of all residents
- Affordable housing should not be limited to small sized properties
- Need high quality starter homes to enable people onto the housing ladder, e.g., built to exceed new part L, F and O regulations
- Need warm homes with lower ongoing heating costs and emissions
- Should be located near to public transport links and have gardens/open spaces
- Affordable housing needs to be defined as also being sustainable housing, i.e., eco-friendly
- New developments should be smaller and, as a minimum requirement, have climate mitigation in the form of nature and flood defences

Comments on affordability of affordable housing/Should be linked to local wage / social housing

- Affordable should mean affordable to most of the population
- Strong concerns over the affordability of homes and rental properties in BCP
- People on lower incomes should have the right to buy their properties, including younger people
- 'Help to Buy' scheme should be reviewed as it ties younger people into buying expensive new build properties

Comments on developer abuse/greed/ensure robust regulation of developers

- Need tougher regulation of developers
- A payment in lieu of affordable housing by developers should not be accepted as this lowers the amount, they are liable to pay
- Concerns over the number of times developers breach agreements on the delivery of affordable housing
- Affordable housing should be built and sold first before expensive properties to ensure developers honour their commitments to build affordable properties
- If developers cannot provide a suitable quota of affordable homes, then another provider should be selected for the contract

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations / associations

- Lack of vacant property rates (circa 0.5% of stock or less instead of 5%), building more will lower prices and rents to better match local wages than artificially priced housing could
- Strongly encourage continued investment towards affordable housing

Agents

- The house building problem lies in viability assessment as the burden is still falling on housebuilders rather than landowners
- Urban area sites are too valuable to achieve the level of affordable housing required
- New safety regulations will make tall buildings even more expensive to build
- Affordable housing is more viable on green field sites
- Due to viability differences, the percentage of affordable homes required on major sites will vary across different parts of the BCP area
- The type, tenure, and proportion of affordable homes on new developments should comply with the requirements of the 2021 National Planning Policy Framework

Developers/landowners

- Delivery of new and affordable homes must be informed by viability considerations

Town/Parish Councils

- All new homes on major sites should be affordable

Q29. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for providing custom self-build housing plots?

Recommendation: To make plots available for self-build housing we could require a proportion of plots on large, strategic housing sites to provide an area of self-build.

	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Providing custom self-build housing plots (88)	43%	32%

Q30. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about providing custom self-build housing plots.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Suggestions**’ (10) and ‘**Objections**’ (9)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- There are too many large, expensive houses that waste space in BCP; prioritise affordable housing instead
- Offer unused land further out of town for self-build projects thereby protecting green spaces in urban areas
- Ensure building designs are of a high quality and in keeping with local character
- A range of plots should be available for more affluent builds
- All self-builds should aim for ‘passive house’² quality with better energy efficiency

² A building standard that is energy efficient, comfortable, affordable and ecological at the same time. Source: passipedia.org

- Large, strategic housing sites should focus on affordable housing. Allocating individual plots for self-builds would undermine building affordable housing on larger strategic housing sites
- Restrict self-builds within a certain area and provide advice and training on how to build them sustainably

Objections

- Self-build options are not affordable for the average resident
- Most self-builders would not want to build a property on a large strategic site, they would find individual plots more appealing
- Self-build properties should be requested on an ad hoc basis, land should not be allocated for this purpose
- Affordable housing is more important than allocating land for self-build properties

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Large strategic sites could be allocated only for self-build rather than poorly positioning self-build plots within unwanted parts of a site, e.g., Gravel Hill self-build site
- More information needed to make a judgement on this, including the council's thoughts on self-build opportunities in existing suburban areas

Agents

- Custom self-builds are elitist and discriminatory
- Disagreement with recommendation for providing custom self-build housing plots as there is no legislative or national policy basis for imposing an obligation on landowners or developers of large strategic housing sites to set aside plots for self & custom build housing
- Demand for custom self-build housing is minimal in BCP with only an average of 55 people applying to the council's Register every year
- Providing custom self-build housing plots on large strategic housing sites adds to the complexity and logistics of development due to practical and health and safety concerns
- Unsold plots should not be left empty to the detriment of neighbouring dwellings or the whole development

Q31. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for providing the right mix and type of homes?

Recommendation: A mix of all housing types and sizes are needed across Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole. In order to provide flexibility, we would not propose to prescribe a set housing mix, apart from on large, strategic development sites over 40 homes.

	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Providing the right mix and type of homes (185)	40%	40%

Q32. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about providing the right mix and type of homes.

The most prevalent theme was **‘Suggestions’** (74)

Sub-themes: **‘Need for proper regulation and implementation/Concern over developers’**, **‘Affordable housing a priority’**, **‘Criticism/Concerns over development of small flats’**

BCP Residents Responses

Need for proper regulation and implementation /Concern over developers

- Council needs to impose a set housing mix on developments to ensure affordable housing is delivered
- Need to ensure the process is not developer-led as this will lead to further executive houses and small flats unsuitable for the majority of the population
- Developers should be told to design buildings that fit in with existing architecture

Affordable housing a priority

- All housing developments should have 25-50% affordable housing options or an equivalent financial contribution
- A mix of housing is not needed, only affordable housing for local families on low incomes with outdoor space
- Need houses that are affordable for the younger generation
- Need more bungalows so older people can downsize and release larger properties

Criticism/Concerns over development of small flats

- Stop building expensive, small flats as there are too many in the area already
- Prioritise decent sized affordable family homes with some outdoor space including on smaller developments
- Get a greater understanding of the houses needed by the majority of the population and ensure builders deliver these types of homes
- Over development is causing the infrastructure issues the area is currently experiencing

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Town centre living for families is possible within flats if designed through well-crafted policies, i.e., Three beds as percentage mix with balconies etc
- Previous free-market approach has encouraged mono-developments, typically 1 bed flats which fail wider needs
- Housing should be suitable for everyone, families and older people included
- Different types of homes should be close to one another, creating intergenerational communities for mutual benefit
- Local Plan should acknowledge that balancing housing stock across the whole conurbation is not the only priority, it is also important to balance it within local communities and simultaneously address the needs of each community
- Building properties not suitable for the demographics of an area has negative impacts on schools, local businesses, congestion, and pollution

Agents

- A mix is required but the authority's choice of location appears biased towards high density on small sites in the urban area without enough private and public amenity space
- Green Belt sites will need to be released to provide family homes with adequate space and meet the government's housing figure
- Families are moving out of large cities where they have less local amenity space particularly since the impacts of Covid 19
- Higher density builds will negatively impact the urban environment
- To meet housing needs, the council should focus on allocating sites suitable for a wide range of development types across a wide choice of appropriate locations, rather than setting overly prescriptive housing mixes for individual sites of more than 40 dwellings

Developers/landowners

- Agree that all requirements need to be catered for
- There must be flexibility with the types of homes being delivered during the lifetime of the Local Plan

Town/Parish Councils

- Need a housing mix on all developments above 10 homes to prevent the cluster of social housing, i.e., Townsend, West Howe, Turlin Moor etc council estates

Q33. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for providing homes for older people and those with disabilities?

Recommendation: All homes should meet Part M4(1) of the building regulations to be accessible. Given there is a high and growing proportion of older people, and a significant proportion of people with a long-term health problem or disability, in our area, we propose also that all homes should meet the M4(2) higher accessibility standards to provide homes to meet changing needs over time, and 10% of homes should achieve the M4(3) standard of being wheelchair accessible, subject to viability testing.

	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Providing homes for older people and those with disabilities (110)	79%	13%

Q34. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about providing homes for older people and those with disabilities.

The most prevalent theme was **'Suggestions'** (25)

Sub-themes: **'Right housing should be accessible'**, **'More specialist homes needed'**, **'All homes should be specialist'** and **'Financial impact'**

BCP Residents Responses

Right housing should be accessible

- All housing should be accessible to people of all needs
- Making all new homes accessible could be very costly so need should be derived from research and careful planning
- Need to enforce minimum parking requirements so disabled/elderly have same ability to access and own property

More specialist homes needed

- Build as if disability is the norm to reduce costs and prevent resource shortages in the future
- Smaller accessible homes for older people are needed

All homes should be specialist

- Ensure all properties have the ability to be disabled friendly
- The [M4\(3\) standard](#) should be at least 50% of all homes built

Financial impact

- Build as if disability is the norm to reduce costs and prevent resource shortages in the future
- Making all new homes accessible could be very costly so need should be derived from research and careful planning

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Need purpose-built homes for the elderly with disabilities at an affordable amount
- Local Plan should go further than the minimum requirements of building regulations
- Move away from bungalows and more to flatted accommodation, which is better suited to older people and those with disabilities, when designed properly
- Need innovation to enhance accessibility whilst ensuring long term protection against environmental concerns

Agents

- If the government implements proposed changes to Part M of the Building Regulations, the council's proposed policy approach will be unnecessary
- If the council wants to adopt the optional standards for accessible & adaptable dwellings, then this should only be done in accordance with the 2021 National Planning Policy Framework
- Policies for M4(2) & M4(3) dwellings must be justified by credible and robust evidence
- Existing housing stock is significantly larger than new build potential so the adaption of existing stock will be an important part of the solution
- If requirements for M4(2) & M4(3) are carried forward, factors such as vulnerability to flooding, site topography and other circumstances should be considered
- Additional costs for M4(2) and M4(3) compliant dwellings should be included in an updated Viability Assessment
- Consider allocating sites for older persons housing depending on the proximity of sites to public transport, local amenities, health services and town centres

Q35. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for student accommodation?

Recommendation: We propose to direct purpose-built student accommodation into town centre locations and on campus sites. We also propose to restrict the concentration of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs).

	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Student accommodation (74)	68%	21%

Q36. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about student accommodation.

The most prevalent theme was 'Suggestions' (17)

Sub-themes: 'Location of student accommodation' and 'HMOs cause problems / Regulate HMOs'

BCP Residents Responses

Location of student accommodation

- Student accommodation should be near the education provider, not spread around different areas of the towns
- Students should have accommodation and facilities nearby that protect their health and wellbeing

HMOs issues/Regulate HMOs

- Resolve parking and street conflict by improving active travel
- Lobby national government to improve public transport for students to reduce car use
- Anti-social behaviour issues associated with student communities have a negative impact on communities and needs to be better regulated by the council and police
- Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) should be limited as they are not well maintained and do not promote healthy living
- Spread the student population across the conurbation to avoid constricted, student-only areas
- Landlords of HMOs should be obliged to meet higher housing standards

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Many HMOs are occupied by young professionals, those on low wages or as temporary accommodation due to a lack of other properties, not just students
- Agree as this will allow better access for students which will help reduce emissions

Q37. How strongly do you agree with each of the options for pitches for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople?

If there is an identified need for permanent residential and/or transit pitches for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople we will have to think about how it can be met by one or a combination of the following options:

	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Pitches for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople		
a) Option 1: Consider allocating site(s) within the urban area (107)	50%	37%
b) Option 2: Consider if exceptional circumstances justify allocating site(s) within the Green Belt (107)	28%	63%
c) Option 3: Rather than allocating sites, include a criteria-based policy against which to assess planning applications for permanent and/or transit sites (105)	27%	47%
d) Option 4: Requiring pitches to be provided as part of larger, strategic sites (105)	27%	50%
e) Option 5: Rather than allocating a transit site, consider alternative management approaches such as, providing	18%	68%

unauthorised encampments with water, waste disposal and toilets (105)		
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Q38. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about pitches for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Management of sites**’ (21) and ‘**Allocated/Permanent sites**’ (17)

BCP Residents Responses

Management of sites

- Option 5 will only make the situation worse by encouraging unauthorised encampments, littering, and disrupting the local community
- A Code of Conduct should be enforced on all sites
- Travellers, gypsies and showpeople should contribute to the maintenance costs of sites
- The council should stop spending money on clearing up sites used by travellers, gypsies and showpeople
- Keeping travellers, gypsies and showpeople in one location makes it easier for the council to clean up after them
- Need to improve on-site facilities for travellers, gypsies and showpeople, e.g., provide toilets, bins etc
- Keep travellers, gypsies and showpeople sites away from residential areas

Allocated/Permanent sites

- Travellers, gypsies and showpeople need a dedicated place to go with all the necessary facilities, e.g., water, waste disposal and toilets
- A dedicated site would help to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Lack of provision of a dedicated site reduces the power for the council to evict or efficiently remove members of the travellers, gypsies and showpeople community if they are breaking the law
- A dedicated site can be better controlled and maintained
- A dedicated site can protect Green Belt land from being polluted with waste left behind at sites
- Locate the permanent site on land near underused second homes, not near main residential areas
- Concerns about safety if a permanent site was located in urban areas, would make urban living unsafe, better to locate it in the countryside

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- It is a continuing breach of our duties to not provide suitable space for travellers, gypsies and showpeople

- Allocation of specific areas within BCP will allow travellers, gypsies and showpeople to access areas in an organised fashion for their visit as long as adequate provision is made for cleansing, waste disposal etc
- a) There are no sites within the Poole Quay area that would be suitable
- e) Strongly disagree with encouraging unauthorised encampments by providing services to these encampments
- b), c) & d) BCP will need to find sites so that the frequent unauthorised encampments during summer months can be stopped

Town/Parish Councils

- Need more evidence identifying required provision before responding

Q39. Please tell us any other comments about new market and affordable homes in the Local Plan, including any other issues or ideas you feel that we should consider.

The most prevalent theme was **'Suggestions'** (203)

Sub-themes: **'Protect/don't build on Green Belt/green spaces'**, **'Need affordable/council houses for young/families with open spaces'**, **'Develop on Brownfield sites first'** and **'Quality and type of build needed including mixed developments'**

BCP Residents Responses

Protect/don't build on Green Belt /green spaces

- Need to protect the Green Belt from any more development, develop brownfield sites instead
- Building on Green Belt contradicts the climate emergency objectives
- Protecting the Green Belt from developments is vital to the safety of the environment and BCP residents

Need affordable/council houses for young/families with open spaces

- Green, sustainable, and affordable builds should be a priority
- Need more homes for local people at reasonable prices, especially young people, and those on low incomes and in need
- Need to reduce the number of luxury homes and second homes

Develop on Brownfield sites first

- Much more preferable to develop on existing sites than on Green Belt
- Use existing buildings in the town centre, regenerate the town centre and build higher buildings
- In town centres, we need to replace retail buildings with residential close to transport and employment
- It is too high a price, environmentally, to build on Green Belt when there are feasible alternative brownfield sites available

Quality and type of build needed including mixed developments

- Need high quality, eco-friendly housing to bring wellbeing to residents

- New homes should be carbon neutral and have access to green space
- Need more student accommodation
- Need more energy efficient affordable homes
- New housing needs to have sufficient drainage, including for sewage
- To meet the climate emergency targets by 2050, new buildings need to be constructed with sustainable eco-friendly materials such as wood
- Need to consider rainwater capture in the landscape, to reduce flood and sewage overspill risks
- Homes need charging points for electric vehicles
- Covid has shown the need for outside space, urban food production, and health and wellbeing. Need for these amenities will increase in the future

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Some rural areas do not have the infrastructure to support further development
- Lower housing figure is better but concerned the area will be overwhelmed by the scale of new developments
- Plans fail to consider sites that are already in the process of being developed that will impact on limited infrastructure and rely on the destruction of buffers between communities and the loss of much valued Green Belt which gives distinction to our village settings
- Encourage affordable, small dwellings such as 2 bed semi-detached, mews style houses, or even town houses rather than always promoting flats
- Existing council-owned flats managed by Poole Housing Partnership could be extended by one or two floors upwards making use of the new permitted development rights and the prior approval process
- Need stricter implementation of affordable housing provision if the council is ever going to satisfy this particular need
- Leisure activities such as golf need to be retained not removed for housing estates
- More consideration for the constraints in the Christchurch environment: i.e., Special Planning Area, Green Belt, Flood risk etc
- Objection to the loss of key parking facilities in Christchurch
- Objection to proposed developments in Christchurch that will negatively impact on the green space and heritage assets
- Support homes in Christchurch that meet Building Regulations at Part M4(1)
- Ensure developers build to the required standard for M4(2) homes
- Sites of all types will be needed to deliver affordable housing
- Need more robust evidence about:
 - the effects of existing empty dwellings (derelict or otherwise)
 - how much of public interest is fostered by a lack of policy for avoiding waste and bringing any premises (and their infrastructure) back into use
- Object to any developments which cause a loss of ancient woodland, aged or veteran trees
- Recommend redrawing the site boundaries to exclude areas of ancient woodland from land allocated for development

- Recommend a minimum 50 metre buffer between ancient woodland and any developments
- Complete the Ancient Tree Inventory across any sites allocated or proposed to be allocated for development in line with the 2021 National Planning Policy Framework
- More information on the number of planning permissions for housing developments that have not yet been delivered due to constraints in the delivery process is needed
- New policy needs to look beyond the approval of planning permission and focus more on the delivery of housing
- Brownfield sites should be given greater priority and the money generated from these sites should be used to clean up and build on further brownfield sites
- Any empty commercial buildings should be allowed to be acquired and developed for housing
- Bring back council housing and stop selling council properties as this is not cost-effective in the long term
- Council housing tenants need support and should be made accountable for damaged properties

Agents

- Building on Green Belt that is in the vicinity of Wimborne, Bear Cross, Parley or Merley and other more rural areas increases risk of urban sprawl and towns and villages merging together
- More housing, not less, is needed to offset house price rises caused by migration
- The reduction in the housing needs figures along with the distribution of housing provision will make it harder to supply much needed affordable housing
- The Local Plan should recognise that there are sites within traffic-free cycling and walking distance of Wimborne town centre
- The reliance on net migration as the reason to reduce housing need will deliver substantially fewer homes than is required against the standard method
- There is no planning framework for the BCP area, and the frameworks of the legacy councils have constrained supply which have impacted on demographic trends. This needs addressing in the Local Plan
- Maximise use of brownfield sites in existing urban areas for housing
- Determining residential density standards should be undertaken in accordance with the 2021 National Planning Policy Framework
- Housing delivery is maximised where a wide mix of sites provides choice for consumers, allows places to grow in sustainable ways, creates opportunities to diversify the construction sector, responds to changing circumstances, treats the housing requirement as a minimum rather than a maximum and provides choice / competition in the land market
- Achieving the government figure for new homes, along with an appropriate mix of homes, will require BCP to maximise all available development opportunities with increased height and density in appropriate locations
- There is a significant local housing need with a critical need for older people's housing
- Need to review the November 2021 Local Housing Needs Assessment and the methodology used to calculate housing need for older people

- By using the 'Shop@ tool' method, the council is underestimating the housing need for older people, use the 'Housing in Later Life' ratios of provision instead

Developers/landowners

- Maximise brownfield sites for housing first before considering the Green Belt
- Road networks within towns should be reviewed as a priority to go with new developments
- The 400-metre heathland zone rule needs a major overhaul as it is restricting perfectly decent homes in prime locations

Town/Parish Councils

- The reliance on Green Belt sites and, in particular, land at Burley Road, Christchurch is unsustainable and contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework

3.3. A Prosperous Economy

Objective: Support economic growth, the creation of new jobs and the offer to visitors

Q41. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation to continue to allocate the following strategic employment sites?

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Recommendation: We propose to continue to allocate Bournemouth Airport; Poole Port; Talbot Village; Wessex Fields; and Lansdowne as the key strategic employment sites.		
Bournemouth Airport (91)	72%	18%
Poole Port (89)	74%	10%
Talbot Village (87)	40%	26%
Wessex Fields (88)	55%	14%
Lansdowne (86)	64%	12%

Q42. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about strategic employment sites.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Better use of sites**’ (10), ‘**Objection**’ (7), ‘**Prioritise Environmental Sustainability**’ (7), ‘**Transport improvements needed**’ (7) and ‘**Concerns**’ (7)

BCP Residents Responses

Better use of sites

- Having both an airport and a seaport together in the town should be an advantage for BCP
- Talbot Village and Wessex Fields have potential for commercial and/or educational developments rather than heavier industry
- Hospitals should build research and training facilities, as well as providing affordable housing for key workers and retired NHS staff
- Lansdowne needs to diversity it's offer so that it does not only appeal to students

Objection

- Object to airport option due to a lack of transport infrastructure
- Object to airport option due to negative impact of air and car travel on environment
- Poole Port should not be used as it is privately owned
- Lansdowne should not be used as it has been ruined by focusing too much on the needs of students Disagree with Wessex Fields in order to protect and enhance Stour Valley

Prioritise Environmental Sustainability

- If we are serious about carbon neutrality, air travel should be reduced

- These proposed sites are not consistent with the implementation of the Climate Emergency
- Invest in a green economy: renewable energy, wind turbines, increase energy efficiency
- Collaborate with private sector and local community to achieve zero carbon target
- Expansion of airport must respect Green Belt
- Social and environmental sustainability must underpin any plans to develop strategic employment sites

Transport improvements needed

- Improve public transport links to Bournemouth airport and Poole Port
- Wessex fields and Lansdowne need mass transport and enhanced rail links
- Reduce need to travel to work
- All proposed sites should be closer to transport links

Concerns

- Lack of employment opportunities
- Not sure if Poole Port is the best place for expansion
- Concerns over environmental impact of developments on Talbot Village, Wessex Fields, Holdenhurst and River Stour
- Concerns over worsening congestion due to the Phase 2 flyover proposal
- Need to set up strategic employment sites fast otherwise it could harm the local economy

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Any developments of Bournemouth Airport and Wessex Fields should not be car-focused
- Poole port is moving towards a leisure/pleasure market, and this should be supported
- Lansdowne has failed as an employment centre and should become a residential and campus location
- The impact on the potential sea traffic caused to Poole Harbour by the allocation of the Poole Port site would need mitigation

Agents

- Growth forecasts need to be revised to reflect a more positive outlook in the recovery from the pandemic and factored into an up-to-date evidence base to inform the emerging Local Plan
- Strongly support retaining Bournemouth Airport and Aviation Business Park as a strategic employment site
- Local Plan needs to show that provision at the airport is the most important strategic employment land allocation in the district
- Local Plan should express its support for employment development at the Aviation Business Park

Town/Parish Councils

- There has already been significant growth surrounding the Bournemouth Airport site without the infrastructure to support this
- Proposed projects such as the Aqua Park, Solar Park and Energy Recovery Facility will have a serious impact on Green Belt north of the river Stour which in turn impacts upon the Throop and Holdenhurst village Parish area
- Highmoor Farm and Talbot Heath should be protected from any further development
- Support restrictive developments of Wessex Fields, east of A338, but without any future development of the A338 junction west side
- If the Stour Valley Park project proceeds, recommend the identified gateway at Sheepwash becomes a major gateway with excellent transport interchange facilities, with car parking and access of walking and cycling along the Stour Valley

Q43. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the each of the options for protecting existing employment areas?

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Protecting existing employment areas		
a) Option 1: Continue to protect all existing employment areas for employment related use only (96)	42%	38%
b) Option 2: Be more flexible and allow a wider range of uses in employment areas, including housing (93)	64%	28%
c) Option 3: Identify specific employment areas that can be re-developed for housing (94)	49%	31%

Q44. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about protecting existing employment areas.

The most prevalent themes were ‘Agreement’ (10), ‘Fully assess needs’ (7), ‘Need mix use sites’ (7)

BCP Residents Responses

Agreement

- With more building proposed, existing employment sites are vital to protect
- Protect existing employment sites to sustain economic growth

Fully assess needs

- Need to assess the requirements for each area before deciding which to protect
- Need to ensure clear, detailed and fully enforceable criteria are adopted to ensure that the Plan priorities are not compromised
- Decision to protect sites should be based on how much they are used
- Market forces will dictate if an employment area is still viable

Need mix use sites

- Live/work units should be planned for and developed
- Consider change of use depending on state of current site
- Explore more versatile ways of using empty units, e.g., empty working units due to rise in working from home

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Local Plan should include the employment, economic and social benefits provided by the marine environment to local communities
- Sport creates opportunities for training as well as employment
- More housing is needed and will support delivery of commercial uses (Option 2)
- Some existing employment areas should be specifically redeveloped with a Masterplan approach encouraged (Option 3)
- Option 2 would help with sustainability and reducing emissions if residents were more closely located to employment opportunities

Agents

- Support for Option 2 especially as it promotes flexibility towards the best use of land
- The Dorset Strategic Economic Plan (2016) and the Draft Local Industrial Strategy (2019) both pre-date the global pandemic, and cannot be relied upon to predict future workplace trends – in particular the demand and need for additional office floor space
- A combination of the options should be applied
- A balanced and flexible approach is required so that important employment areas are allowed to diversify and flourish, whilst best use is made of those which no longer adequately serve that purpose

Q45. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the each of the three options for isolated employment sites?

Recommendation: Employment sites, which are not part of a wider employment area, still contribute to our supply of employment land. We have various options for how we manage these areas in the future, we could explore one of these options:

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Isolated employment sites		
a) Option 1: Continue to protect isolated employment sites for employment uses, requiring the site to be marketed for employment uses before allowing any change of use to occur, and exploring other uses that generate employment or health/care related development in the first instance (55)	58%	35%
b) Option 2: Continue to protect isolated employment sites for employment uses, requiring the site to be marketed for employment uses before allowing any change of use to occur. (56)	47%	29%

c) Option 3: No longer protect isolated employment sites for employment and encourage redevelopment (55)	41%	42%
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Q46. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about isolated employment sites.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Agreement**’ (6) and ‘**Take a flexible approach**’ (5)

BCP Residents Responses

Agreement

- Agreed with offering isolated sites for employment use first (Option 1)
- Agreed with no longer protecting sites longer than needed (Option 3)

Take a flexible approach

- Be flexible to ensure we do not lose employment spaces especially with the intention to build more homes
- Flexibility to meet changing ideals with the support of criteria-based regulation
- Consider options for sites that enables the community to develop and manage green initiatives

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Dispose of isolated sites as per Option 3
- Options 1 and 3 are dynamic and should be pursued to allow for flexible living/working

Q47. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the recommendation and each of the options for visitor accommodation?

Recommendation: We propose to prioritise central Bournemouth as a location for new hotel development. We would seek to focus new hotel development in this area. In relation to existing hotels, we could consider one of three options (in the table below):

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Visitor accommodation		
a) Recommendation - We propose to prioritise central Bournemouth as a location for new hotel development. We would seek to focus new hotel development in this area (73)	49%	27%
b) Option 1 Resist the loss of hotels in specific zones within Bournemouth town centre and potentially within Christchurch and Poole town centres. (79)	53%	28%
c) Option 2 Resist the loss of hotels but support enabling residential development alongside hotel redevelopment. (80)	48%	36%

d) Option 3 Consider a more market driven approach that is more flexible to the loss of hotels (77)	35%	35%
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Q48. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about visitor accommodation.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Management of hotels/visitor accommodation**’ (11) and ‘**Objection**’ (9)

BCP Residents Responses

Management of hotels / visitor accommodation

- Need to adapt to the market to ensure visitors get what they want
- Need to develop a green tourism policy
- Need to ensure that visitor accommodation is located near to key attractions to reduce the need for travel by car
- Ageing hotels could be redeveloped to provide modern, energy and space efficient accommodation for both hotels and homes for residents
- Focus on providing hotels for visitor use and ban second homes and Airbnb properties
- Make sure hotels cater for different tastes and needs, both traditional and modern
- Need to introduce a register of holiday accommodation which ensures properties are only available to visitors if they meet standards for fire regulations, food hygiene, public liability insurance etc
- There should be a range of affordability for holiday accommodation/hotels

Objection

Respondents objected to one or more of the proposals due to concerns about:

- Developers taking advantage of viable employment sites (Options 2 and 3)
- Allowing the development of more HMOs (Option 2)
- Focusing on Bournemouth when Poole and Christchurch need more high-quality hotels (Recommendation)
- The development of more flats (Option 2)
- The sustainability of hotels, as they focus on short-term guests/tourism goals
- How our infrastructure already struggles to cope with the current volume of visitors, e.g., beaches overflowing, lack of visitor car parks

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- A clustering approach around key destinations should be supported, but left to market forces to determine scale of accommodation required

- Concerns that a recommendation could be made to convert hotel real estate into residential development sites within the wider BCP area which would affect the Haven Hotel site
- Sandbanks does not have the infrastructure to cope with a large increase in residential footprint

Agents

- It should be made clear that Bournemouth is not the only appropriate location for new hotel development, and a sufficient range and supply across the BCP area should be maintained to meet all needs
- The Local Plan should be worded carefully to reflect the subtleties of using sequential testing, and the suitability of locations including the Airport for hotel development

Q49. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the two options for visitor attractions?

Some sites have been suggested for new visitor attractions. These sites are outside of our town centres in the Green Belt. We need to decide if these sites should be included in the Local Plan. We could consider one of the following options:

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Visitor attractions		
a) Option 1 Explore if exceptional circumstances exist, which would allow us to allocate some of these sites (112)	37%	54%
b) Option 2 Continue to encourage new visitor attractions to be focused within our existing centres (117)	76%	16%

Q50. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about visitor attractions.

The most prevalent theme was **‘Objection’** (37)

- Sub-themes: **‘Don’t use Green Belt sites’**, **‘Objection to option 1’** and **‘No waterpark in Hurn (Ref 1113)’**

BCP Residents Responses

Don’t use Green Belt sites

- Strong objection to using any Green Belt land for visitor attractions
- Suggestions to use brownfield sites instead

Objection to Option 1

- Concerns over out-of-town attractions harming the Green Belt, increasing congestion, and taking business away from local suppliers
- Out of town attractions will require increased car use which would go against the council’s carbon neutral objectives
- Concerns over future flooding if Green Belt is built on

No waterpark in Hurn (Ref 1113)

- Strong objection to the water park proposed in Hurn
- Concerns over incursion into the Green Belt
- Concerns over traffic increase in an already traffic-challenged area
- Concerns over loss of tranquillity in and around Hurn (a conservation area)
- Concerns over increased bird strikes as location is in flight path of Bournemouth Airport
- Concerns over impact on existing ecosystem that supports wildlife
- Concerns that this proposal goes against the BCP objective to 'conserve and enhance our protected habitats and biodiversity'
- Not needed when there are already proposals to extend other attractions in the local area, e.g., Alice in Wonderland theme park, Parley Golf Course, water park at Ringwood

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Queries about the visitor market, i.e., original location of visitors, leisure, cultural or artistic local needs, regional importance of attractions
- Green Belt sites strongly add to the character of the area and should be preserved
- Lots of opportunities available for developing new and more appropriate visitor attractions in existing centres (and tourist hotspots such as Sandbanks)

Agents

- Enhancing cultural and tourist attractions within the towns should be prioritised
- Strongly oppose proposed visitor attraction at Hurn. Green Belt status around this site affords it a high degree of protection
- Safeguarding requirements in relation to the Airport places limits on the nature and extent of built development that can be allowed locally for flying to continue safely
- High trip generating car-based developments (Aviation Business Park and other schemes) may cause intolerable pressure on the highways
- Important heritage considerations and a high degree of sensitivity from a habitats and ecology perspective makes this area inappropriate for large scale leisure and visitor attractions

Town/Parish Councils

- Object to the development of the Aqua Lagoon at Hurn. It is against the Hurn Local Plan and would have a detrimental impact upon the Green Belt and wildlife habitats
- Hicks Farm proposal should be excluded from any commercial development or development into a visitor's centre

Q51. Please tell us any other comments about a prosperous economy in the Local Plan, including any other issues or ideas you feel that we should consider.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Suggestions**’ (59) and ‘**Objection**’ (18)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- Develop facilities on the seafront aimed at residents including more diverse evening options
- Replace beach huts with independent cafes
- Reduce rents and rates for businesses
- Provide free parking and better roads to attract visitors
- More wet weather activities in Bournemouth
- Need to explore eco-tourism initiatives, e.g., meat-free food festivals, abandoning the air show as these conflict with the climate emergency objectives
- Encourage people to visit the natural attractions in BCP
- Explore renewable energy options such as tidal wave energy
- Consider introducing tram lines in Bournemouth and Poole
- More and better transport links to the airport
- Make public transport to/from employment areas cheaper
- Employment sites should be integrated into the public transport system and active travel policies
- Need an attractive welcome at train/bus station hubs
- Encourage eco-tourism such as wildlife tours
- Bournemouth University could explore developing expertise in high tech research
- Prioritise manufacturing
- Consider business schemes for those just starting out or struggling financially

Objection

- Reject proposal for a waterpark at Hurn
- Concerns about the negative impact of developments on wildlife
- Rejecting Christchurch being part of a potential city region

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Build an ice rink, lido, art gallery, a new contemporary museum and reopen swimming pools in Bournemouth town centre and Kinson
- The local mix of earned incomes requires recognition and attention, since it probably has adversely affected the current median annual full-time pay that is so important for the provision of adequate dwellings for local working people

- Traffic congestion remains a current obstacle to improving anything, particularly in peripheral areas, likely to impact upon formal protections and wildlife which should be protected for the benefit of communities
- Nature and naturalness will be of huge importance to the economic success of the three towns as 'gateways' to their exceptional hinterland
- The Local Plan should not advocate Strategic SANGs and be very cautious in promoting new SANGs as they conflict with the Habitat Regulations and the Climate Emergency
- Hotel provision at Sandbanks / Canford Cliffs needs to be maintained
- The location of visitor attraction sites within the Green Belt may prove to be damaging to their vicinities and create congestion
- Creating public transport for visitors should not inhibit the provision of much better public transport for residents
- Complete the Ancient Tree Inventory to comply with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 for the protection of irreplaceable habitats
- A movement strategy needs to support the proposed land allocations at the Airport, Poole port and Talbot Village
- Support promoting the Lansdowne as the key Central Business District for the conurbation and to encourage investment in infrastructure to support local enterprise
- Need a BCP Council Investment Strategy to unlock delivery of modern fit-for-purpose employment space that has been constrained by financial viability challenges
- Continue to protect isolated employment sites for employment uses, requiring the site to be marketed for employment uses before allowing any change of use to occur
- Explore other uses for employment sites that generate employment or health/care related development in the first instance
- Attractions on the sea front and town centre is better than out of town

Agents

- Disappointing that the document has little to say about the importance of visitor attractions
- AFC Bournemouth should be regarded as a prime economic asset and visitor attraction
- Include the following provisions in the Local Plan:
 - Continuing acknowledgement of the special status of the Vitality Stadium in land use planning terms.
 - Generic Local Plan policies on open space, sports and leisure are unlikely to provide a basis for planning decisions on potential future proposals for stadium development
 - Supportive policy provisions for the principle of a well-designed stadium expansion or replacement
 - Acknowledge that enhanced stadium facilities could form the centrepiece of a wider regeneration of King's Park and the sports and leisure amenities it affords, and of Boscombe more widely

- o Local Plan should reflect Bournemouth Airport as a flagship regional airport with enhanced passenger facilities and new services for travellers

3.4. Adapting our high streets and retail areas

Objective: Adapt our high streets and shopping areas to cater for changing retail demands

Q53. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommended hierarchy of centres?

Recommendation: The government require us to set out a hierarchy of centres. These are used to help direct development to appropriate locations and to inform any strategies about the future of each centre. We propose the hierarchy shown in table 2 of the consultation document with Bournemouth and Poole defined as sub-regional town centres and Christchurch as a town centre.

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Our needs for shopping and other town centre uses (187)	56%	12%

Q54. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about our needs for shopping and other town centre uses.

The most prevalent theme was ‘Town centre / High Street improvements’ (26)

BCP Residents Responses

Town centre/High Street improvements

- Parking and public transport improvements for greater access to town centres
- Out of town retail remains popular with parking often free, e.g., Castlepoint
- Encourage local shopping to reduce car use
- Castlepoint should be developed to reflect its status as the main shopping area
- Accommodate cars as they will not disappear for a long time, e.g., improve parking in Christchurch
- Poole and Bournemouth need to service the wider community through improved public transport
- Congestion, road surface quality/width, and policing is poor in Christchurch
- Need good routes into town centres
- Town centres should have good shopping opportunities

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Bournemouth town centre should be where most shops, restaurants, family entertainment etc should be
- Car parking charging regime needs a complete overhaul. Where there is free parking, businesses tend to survive other changes more readily

- Need to review the town centre boundaries, with a view to concentrating the key retail activities in a smaller area in order to encourage a mix use economy
- Agree that Poole is designated a Sub-Regional Town Centre
- At present the shops and services provided in Hamworthy are inadequate for the size of the population. In order to reduce congestion on the bridges and approach roads, more active investment in shops and services should be planned to reduce the need for locals to travel by car. The largest housing development site in the BCP area that is likely to be built during the plan period is in Hamworthy, i.e., the Power station site, therefore shops and services should be a requirement in the development. Consideration should be given to changing the designation to Minor District Centre

Agents

- No reference is given to 4 to 16 Banks Road, which provides a retail offering similar to neighbourhood parades

Q55. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the options for town centre boundaries and primary shopping areas?

Defining the boundaries of our centres and primary shopping areas helps us direct retail, leisure and entertainment facilities, offices, arts, culture, and tourism uses into the most suitable locations. We could consider one of the following options:

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Town centre boundaries and primary shopping areas		
Option 1 Continue to encourage new visitor attractions to be focused within our existing centre (123)	39%	25%
Option 2 We could review the boundaries, with a view to reducing their size, in order to concentrate commercial activity into smaller areas to respond to increasing numbers of vacant units (132)	60%	23%

Q56. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about town centre boundaries and primary shopping areas.

The most prevalent themes were 'Agreement with Option 2' (16), 'Filling vacant retail space' (12) Objection (8)

BCP Residents Responses

Agreement with Option 2

- Shopping habits have changed, so keeping the same boundaries for some shopping areas does not make sense
- Need to reduce the amount of space as retail is changing
- Reducing size of shopping areas can release units for housing
- Need to create retail centres in the centre of towns with free parking
- This will help reduce some traffic congestion

Filling vacant retail space

- Reducing retail space could provide opportunities for more Hot-Desk office space, more training venues, call-centres, more medical/health/treatment centres etc
- Encourage more independent craft makers into the town centres
- Vacant space will only be filled if business rates are affordable
- Promote flexibility with vacant space so they can be re-purposed in the short term and returned to commercial use later
- The increasing trend to work from home and online shopping means maximising the use of empty space is essential
- Smaller units in the town centre do not work for major retailers
- Adapt vacant units into much needed high-quality and visually attractive homes

Objection

- Losing shopping areas would negatively impact residents who rely on them
- Reducing the size will make shopping less attractive and less walkable (Option 1)
- Leave them as they are, reducing business rates will help shopping areas thrive again
- Only include established town centres in this proposal, not out of town centres like Castlepoint
- Poole development should be other way round - demolish the Dolphin Centre and Lighthouse to make way for high-density housing with a new integrated transport hub train and bus station

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Review functional boundaries of shopping areas based on current/likely future retail demand
- Agree with Option 2 but with appropriate use of the real estate within the area left behind after the boundary reduction
- Focus on not leaving behind areas outside of the town, district, and local centres
- Accept that the Poole town centre definition can be reduced east to west to allow residential development behind the shops fronting the High Street
- Strongly object to allowing a break in the shopping frontage to develop between the Dolphin centre and the Quay that would risk the Quay being isolated from the mainstream shopping. Alternative complementary uses, particularly leisure and food, should be encouraged

Agents

- Need provision for start-up and fledgling businesses to ensure that new businesses have an opportunity to survive

Q57. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the options for sequential

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Sequential tests and impact assessments		
Option 1 Adopt a threshold of 400 sqm (70)	33%	32%
Option 2 Work with the national threshold of 2,500 sqm (73)	27%	39%
Option 3 Adopt a different approach with a different threshold or different thresholds for different locations (74)	48%	19%

and impact tests?

We have to apply the sequential test in line with government policy. For the impact assessment, we have options over which threshold we require the test. We could consider one of these options:

Q58. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about sequential tests and impact assessments.

The most prevalent theme was **'Agreement with Option 3' (10)**

BCP Residents Responses

Agreement with Option 3

- Makes sense to adjust and review according to each case/area on its own merits
- Flexibility is the key with the future development of the towns
- Flexible approach is needed but one with low thresholds to make change easier to manage, e.g., impact of Covid
- Different thresholds for different locations dependent on what that particular community needs

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Option 3 will allow for a more nuanced approach that would be sympathetic to the needs, geography, and environments of different communities

Q59. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the options for vibrant centres?

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Vibrant centres Due to government rules, we have less control over the change to use from a shop to other uses, including residential. However, for larger units and those in heritage areas, we retain some options to help manage change. We could consider both of these options:		
Option 1 Restrict the loss of existing premises over 1,500 sqm in Class E use (119)	68%	16%
Option 2 Identify the heritage Conservation Areas where changes of use from Class E to residential would likely have a harmful impact on the character and sustainability of the Conservation Area (119)	73%	8%

Q60. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about vibrant centres.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Suggestions**’ (17)

Sub-themes: **Conservation and heritage should be protected** and **‘Flexibility to consider on case by case basis’**

BCP Residents Responses

Conservation and heritage should be protected

- Ensure the architecture is delivered to a high standard and in keeping with the heritage of the area
- Development in Bournemouth seems to have no respect for the heritage of the area
- We should always preserve the character of the conservation areas

Flexibility to consider on case by case basis

- Judge each case on merit by location and local needs
- The council should be reviewing every change of use
- Each building needs to be looked at individually

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Stronger design policies would address the possible impact of removing retail uses in a conservation area defined by retail activity, such as Old Christchurch Road
- In smaller town centres, establish a ratio of retail to other activities below which it could be argued the vitality of the centre would be significantly harmed and so should not be allowed to happen. A suggested figure could be 50%

- Important to recognise the heritage conservation areas and note that change of use would additionally impact on support infrastructure

Q61. Please tell us any other comments about adapting our high streets and retail areas in the Local Plan, including any other issues or ideas you feel that we should consider.

The most prevalent themes were **‘Suggestions’ (93)**

Sub-themes: **‘Suggestions for improvements to specific areas’**, **‘Invest in BCP town centres including shops’** and **‘More local markets, bars, pubs, cafes etc’**

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions for improvements to specific areas

- Bournemouth needs development like Kingland Square in Poole
- Quality of shops in Bournemouth need improvement
- More boutique/independent style shops in Poole and Christchurch
- Christchurch High Street to be bus and pedestrian access only
- Better connect Christchurch town centre via an underpass
- Integrate the historic and main retail areas in Poole
- Cheaper car parking across the conurbation
- Protect the local character of the 3 regions

Invest in BCP town centres including shops

- Smarten up areas, including some building fasciae with heritage elements
- Initiative to support local shops to increase their opening hours beyond the traditional 9am-6pm
- Reduce the area sizes for shops, but make them specialist, e.g., boutique style shops
- More opportunities for new business enterprises to rent premises for free or less rent to encourage grow their businesses and stay in the BCP area
- Encourage retailers to participate in voucher schemes, e.g., free parking after spending a set amount
- Discourage out of town shopping areas
- More emphasis on independent retailers and not big chains, e.g., Bobby’s in Bournemouth

More local markets, bars, pubs, cafes etc

- The more markets, bars, cafes are in an area, the more vibrant it will be attracting more people
- More leisure and entertainment facilities in town centres

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Promote the '15-minute neighbourhood' concept to the local and high street areas, i.e., creating an environment for local self-sufficiency
- Support improved public transport to high streets and retail areas
- Important to consider the inter-relationship between day and night-time economies, e.g., a night-time economy adds to the overall vitality of a high street; but at the same time if such activities come to dominate then significant harm can be experienced by day-time retail
- Classification of some areas in Christchurch as major and minor local centres needs to be checked for accuracy and consistency
- Adapting the high streets and retail areas may prove to be difficult and will require considerable flexibility over the planning period
- Leave Christchurch high street alone, it is quaint and successful as it is
- Add to both options the intention to maximise the potential of town centre sites for urban greening, as this will add to their attractiveness and resilience
- Whilst it is easy to state that the high street needs to reduce in size, any loss of retail space needs to be supported by a strong evidence base, factoring in future trends
- Please change ward name to Boscombe East and Pokesdown
- Agree that changes are needed in both locations, however, the fact that Poole High Street is very long, has conservation issues and is interrupted by a busy railway crossing makes for a challenging project. In addition to the High Street, Poole has a declining shopping mall on the northern side of the railway crossing. The development within Beales of a medical centre/clinic is working proof of regeneration of retail sites
- Hamworthy, even with two bridges, regularly gets cut off from Poole Town due to accidents, operational faults, etc, etc and consequently desperately needs adequate facilities in order to be a little more self-sufficient. These are needed now – even before the development takes place of the former power station site, Sydenham's site, and the final section of the former Pilkington's Tiles site.
- Being a peninsula, some two and a half miles long, Hamworthy's boundary is determined by the waters of the harbour. It is somewhat isolated and needs two local centres. It is noted that Canford Heath which has a similar number of residents as Hamworthy has two Major Local Centres! Hamworthy, currently, does not even have one centre
- There is a need to ensure that all residents of Hamworthy have access to a '20-minute neighbourhood'. If Hamworthy residents had centres near to their homes, there would be less traffic on the Blandford Road and fewer vehicles travelling to or through Poole and Upton

Agents

- Retail should be focused on the core of the town centre. Extending retail out of the town will only further damage the town centre
- Retail should not be included on the former gas works site in Christchurch as this will only further pull retail uses away from the town centre

3.5. Provide a safe, sustainable and convenient transport network

Objective: Provide a safe, sustainable and convenient transport network, with a step change in active travel behaviour, ensuring the necessary transport infrastructure is in place to make it easy for everyone to get around

Q63. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for our future transport strategy?

Recommendation:

We will need to include a transport strategy in the Local Plan and this will be focused on providing a safe, connected, accessible and low carbon transport network across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and south-east Dorset, which seeks as appropriate to:

- a) direct new development to the most sustainable, and accessible locations to reduce the need to travel and maximise non-car travel
- b) improve cycling and walking routes and facilities
- c) improve bus and rail services
- d) investigate opportunities for innovative mass transport schemes
- e) apply traffic management measures to improve safety for all road users
- f) maximise opportunities to increase rail freight transport to and from Poole Port
- g) explore park and ride opportunities
- h) identify transport infrastructure requirements to deliver the Local Plan development allocations
- i) improve cycling and public transport connections to the airport and its business parks
- j) provide adequate public car parking provision and electric vehicle charging points
- k) improve air quality.

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Our future transport strategy (232)	77%	13%

Q64. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about our future transport strategy.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Suggestions**’ (98)

Sub-themes: ‘**Public transport improvements/transport infrastructure/regulation**’ and ‘**Comments on cycling/cycle routes/parking**’

BCP Residents Responses

Public transport improvements/transport infrastructure/regulation

- Public transport prices need to be heavily subsidising be an attractive alternative to car use
- Need more continuous bus lanes
- Consider an underground train network across the conurbation

- Priority should be given to walking, cycling and public transport
- Create low traffic neighbourhoods to connect to TCF routes
- Need transport interchange hubs with connections between local public transport, national public transport, express transport links between hubs, cycles, park, and ride

Comments on cycling/cycle routes/parking

- Cycle routes should not be on major congested routes taking space from motorists
- Improve cycling and walking routes and facilities
- The council should make cycling on the promenade safe, e.g., risk of loose dogs hitting cyclists
- Cycle lanes are underused and costly
- Train cyclists on how to use cycle lanes safely and respectfully towards motorists
- Need to reduce car parking charges to make town centres more accessible
- Set a target of 70% of people commuting by public transport, cycling, and walking by 2030
- On-street parking increases the danger to cyclists and pedestrians

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Business owners should be given discounts on parking or allowed to buy a permit to park at a reduced rate
- Vision and objectives appear to miss the opportunity to promote and develop public transport to rural areas which is cleaner and greener
- Deliver Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) network to LTN1/20 standard
- Provide an improved route bus coverage with more frequencies as per the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)
- Provide a hub & spoke train service to increase local connectivity with longer distance via Bournemouth and Poole station
- Build a tram network and focus most housing along the route and link it to major destinations/trip generators
- Use Trams as an economic development tool to attract investment, high quality public realm and support high density living
- Roll out School Streets and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods
- Protect the rail freight route and actively encourage intermodal sites at Poole Harbour and Bournemouth station
- Seasonal visitors could be intercepted and transferred to Park & Ride if car parks closed, and remaining parking was made very expensive
- A Traffic Management Plan is needed for BCP, including site specific infrastructure
- Tackle car dependency for the business park and airport via cycle facilities, buses, and parking charges etc to shift people out of cars
- Parking charges on and off-street are a better control measure than pure quantum of parking

- Electric vehicles should only be provided off-street, not on street due to equalities issues (loss of footway, cross subsidy for wealthy, lack of access for non-car drivers etc)
- Impose a Clean Air zone or Ultra Low Emissions zone across BCP or certain parts such as town centres
- Mass transport schemes are good in that they reduce the need for a car within a town centre, but they don't resolve the need for a car for those necessary out of town journeys
- Experience with development of cycleways in Broadstone would suggest there is a strong need to listen to and respond to residents who experience the potential safety issues that have arisen
- Continued partnership working with key stakeholders on traffic management measures in the Easter and Summer seasons at Sandbanks
- Support the concept of the Dorset Metro which will enable the railway to provide a 'golden thread' across the BCP area to / from which other modes can connect in and out of
- Shared transport needs to be given a high profile in the Local Plan
- Less cars, safer cycling, buses - preferably free for children to get to school. Everything to discourage car ownership for the environment and for health

Agents

- The Local Plan should make specific reference to the support that will be provided to the Airport as a key asset linking BCP with the rest of the nation, and indeed the rest of the world, and to the enhancement of services and facilities there

Town/Parish Councils

- Need a detailed traffic assessment and transport strategy for the area north of Castle Lane before commenting any further

Q65. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for delivering transport infrastructure?

Recommendation: We propose to set out strategic transport schemes, identifying and protecting routes and sites which could be critical to delivering transport infrastructure and widening transport choice.

This would be in addition to the current strategic transport schemes outlined below which could also be expanded as the Local Plan develops. Current strategic transport schemes that are likely to come forward over the Plan period include:

- a) investigating the potential for a package of park and ride sites in the conurbation
- b) a range of sustainable travel corridors and travel improvements
- c) bus infrastructure improvements - new bus stops, lighting, 'smart' traffic, smart ticketing, bus interchange improvements and improved real-time information
- d) new local travel app
- e) road / junction improvements
- f) cycle facilities for businesses, schools, colleges and universities
- g) improved pavement access for people with mobility needs

- h) upgraded wayfinding (information and signs)
- i) introduction of e-bikes
- j) improvements to the rail network and rail station provision.

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Transport infrastructure (227)	72%	14%

Q66. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about our transport infrastructure.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Suggestions**’ (69)

Sub-themes: ‘**c) Bus infrastructure improvements**’, ‘**f) Comments on cycle ways/facilities**’ and ‘**b) Sustainable travel corridors and travel improvements**’

BCP Residents Responses

c) Bus infrastructure improvements

- Get the basics right by delivering a well operating service before focusing on ‘smart’ options
- Buses need to be faster, cheaper and run later to all destinations and much more frequently
- Position bus shelters so they don’t block pavements and make them well lit
- Improve bus times (later at night and earlier in morning)
- More people would use the bus if there were more available in suburban areas
- Consider a shuttle bus going to the airport from the 3 regions of BCP, would reduce car/taxi use
- Bus travel will only increase significantly if it is more affordable
- Need a universal travel card (smart ticketing) that works on buses, trains, Beryl bikes, taxis etc
- Need traffic-free routes for buses as journey times are too long due to congestion

f) Comments on cycle ways/facilities

- Top priority should be protected cycle lanes on all main roads
- Need to encourage more people to use cycle lanes
- Unused cycle lanes are a waste of money
- Repaint cycle lane markings on all major roads more frequently
- Make cycle parking safer
- Too much focus on cyclists, need to consider motorists too

b) Sustainable travel corridors and travel improvements

- Need to consider road closures to create a sustainable travel corridor
- Tram or light railway across BCP
- Prioritise non-car use to encourage people to switch to more sustainable transport
- Public transport options need to be better and cheaper to encourage non-car use

- Subsidies required to encourage more sustainable transport
- Better maintenance of roads, e.g., fix potholes and maintain more frequently
- Need a network of local routes that serve schools, GPs, hospital, local shops etc

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Need LTN1/20 compliant cycle routes and Bus Service Improvement Plan bus facilitates along key transport corridors
- Spend your money on a back-office solution to deliver mobility as a service rather than a knock-off google maps which won't be used
- Secure covered weatherproof cycle parking to match future demand. Should also include other key trip generators
- Side road zebra crossings would make a big difference to improve pavement access for people with mobility needs
- Keep the existing design and colouring for wayfinding
- All BCP stations should have level crossing access from street to train by end of plan period
- Consider road/junction crossing improvements to this area
- Improvements to rail stations are a critical part of the Vision, but need to include facilities inside stations, not just outside
- Need to explicitly develop the concept of mobility hubs at stations and other key locations
- Very little mention of car clubs as part of shared transport
- Very limited highway improvements should be made
- Create an enhanced provision for other modes of travel, especially pedestrians, cyclists, and buses

Town/Parish Councils

- Need to see the implications of the proposed transport schemes before commenting any further

Q67. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for considering transport impacts from new development?

Recommendation: When submitting planning applications, we propose that developers consider a range of transport requirements including:

- a) transport assessment
- b) travel plans
- c) parking provision in line with the BCP Parking Standards (SPD)
- d) mitigation measures to address traffic/ safety/ congestion
- e) the provision of safe and convenient access points
- f) electric charging points
- g) bike and other vehicle storage
- h) making green vehicle technologies available
- i) safety for all users
- j) developer contribution (to transport modelling or strategic improvements)

k) air quality mitigation
l) highway works
m) walking and cycling improvements.

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Transport impacts from new development (196)	83%	9%

Q68. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about transport impacts from new development.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Suggestions**’ (48)

Sub-themes: ‘**c) Parking provision in new developments**’, ‘**m) walking and cycling improvements**’ and ‘**d) mitigation measures to address traffic/safety/congestion**’

BCP Residents Responses

c) Parking provision in new developments

- Need adequate parking provision in new builds, most families have 2-3 cars
- Need more rigorous parking enforcement to improve visibility and road safety
- Lack of parking causes significant disadvantages for residents and businesses
- Insufficient provision of home parking has a negative knock-on effect on free-flowing traffic due to using more on-street spaces

m) walking and cycling improvements

- Cyclists, pedestrians, and horse riders in rural areas need greater protection on roads
- Provision of safe pavements is essential to protect pedestrians
- More space between buildings and roads for cycle lanes
- All new developments must prioritise cycling

d) mitigation measures to address traffic/safety/congestion

- Developers need to understand the traffic situation in the area before they build
- Stop allowing development without infrastructure improvements
- Essential to consider the impact of any development on the transport systems and infrastructure before approval

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Transport Assessments, Transport Statements and Transport Plan Guidance should be more specific, with thresholds and clear criteria set out in Local Plan

- Need a clearer mitigation policy to address traffic/ safety/ congestion with expectation of new developments paying their share of impact
- Need to address the major lack of a highway safety policy
- Need a review of road hierarchy with new accesses supported except for within 15 metres of a junction or other hazard
- On main routes off-street parking should be actively encouraged to remove on-street parking
- Strengthen cycle parking requirements, particularly access and path design
- Need an Impact Assessment of increased traffic on infrastructure
- Need adequate lighting for safe storage of bikes
- No mention of investment in the rail network; it is essential that developer contributions go towards this
- Strongly disagree with the current BCP Parking Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Large scale developments proposed in the Poole regeneration area cannot hope to be successful with zero parking. Residents and visitors will expect to be able to use their cars and chaos will be the result if adequate provision is not provided
- Instead of building in and around the Town Centres consideration should be given to developing the conurbation and creating local centres or 'the 20-minute neighbourhood', negating the need to travel on already congested routes
- Perhaps we can learn from the past such as Welwyn Garden City: Other notable features that reflect Garden City Principles:
 - Separate factory sites, like Letchworth
 - Cultural activities important for community development – Festival Hall built
 - Mixed-tenure homes and housing types that are affordable for ordinary people
 - Strong local jobs offer in the Garden City itself, with a variety of employment opportunities within easy commuting distance of homes
 - Strong local cultural, recreational, and shopping facilities in walkable neighbourhood
 - Integrated and accessible transport systems – with a series of settlements linked by rapid transport providing a full range of employment opportunities
 - Beautifully and imaginatively designed homes with gardens, combining the very best of town and country living to create healthy homes in vibrant communities

Agents

- Disagree that developers should consider electric charging points when submitting planning applications

Q69. Please tell us any other comments about providing a safe, sustainable and convenient transport network in the Local Plan, including any other issues or ideas you feel that we should consider.

The most prevalent themes were '**Suggestions**' (135)

Sub-themes: **Public transport improvements including bus, rail** and **'Cycleways/Cycling infrastructure'**

BCP Residents Responses

Public transport improvements including bus, rail

- The council needs to provide sustainable transport throughout the community
- Improve public transport provision in rural areas
- Must change car dependency culture
- Buses should be smaller and electric, as our local roads are not large enough
- Provide Park and Ride facilities to reduce congestion caused by tourist's cars
- There needs to be fast, efficient public transport between the town centres and interchange hubs
- Bring lost train stations back, or build an underground system
- Need one bus company to make the network more efficient and cheaper
- Needs to be a balance between availability of affordable accommodation and affordable transport links
- Greater reliability of the train services and more trains

Cycleways/Cycling infrastructure

- Cycle paths need to be better thought out, so they are used properly and safer
- Concerns about dangerous use of bicycles and Beryl/e-bikes
- Improved monitoring/regulation of Beryl/e-bike use
- Cycle lanes needed to prevent congestion on roads, not cause it
- Prioritise cycle routes to schools
- Need the cycling infrastructure to join up across the conurbation

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- A safe, sustainable, convenient transport network should support an 8 year old making journeys unaided by an adult across BCP, as well as an 80 year old
- People, not cars, need to be the focus of the network with car use concentrated to the extremities and slowed down as much as possible
- Transfer from HGV to E-cargo preferable for freight needs
- Specify a Direct Vision Standard for goods vehicles
- All new developments should have some form of delivery and servicing capacity
- Refuse is major issue. On-site compaction/underground preferable as on-street not possible due to safety concerns but space required for turning and safety. Coordination needed with Waste Collection Authority (WCA)
- Smart ticketing and passenger mobility are not mentioned but should be. Seamless journeys are the primary goal
- Develop a series of public transport /car sharing hubs which enable rapid transit into places of work, and are fed by a series of minibuses circulating the larger suburban residential estates

- It requires more than just cycleways to resolve the current issues of congestion and pollution
- Assess residential mass transport needs in off-peak seasons to enable easier use of such facilities over private cars
- Need a more dynamic approach and vision which supports engagement with younger generations
- Vision and objectives miss the opportunity to promote and develop a generational step-change in attitudes to transport which are cleaner and greener
- A substantial improvement in bus and rail services is required - in coverage, frequency and usefulness, and not just marginal improvements from an inadequate base
- Park and ride is not a 'quick fix' but it is a 'real fix'. Some towns have found that facilities migrate to the parking area
- Improvements to air quality are already overdue
- Developers need to factor in impacts on air quality and this should be enforced by the council rigorously
- Reducing congestion should be a key objective
- Need to recognise the role of technology in supporting a movement strategy that optimises existing assets and informs/shapes future movement, e.g., real time wayfinding to car parks, autonomous vehicles
- A clear investment strategy in the alternative forms of transport is required, e.g., improved rail frequency, better bus routes, safer streets for cycling/walking
- More transport links and better pedestrian access to the Airport
- Not enough capacity for charging electrical vehicles; and hydrogen cars will soon supersede them
- There needs to be more clarity and detail around how the issues will be addressed
- The council must focus on improving public transport, better connections, and community car share schemes
- A better bus service is needed before people will start reducing the number of personal cars on the roads
- Walking and cycling really only works when the weather is clement, unless schools and businesses provide safe areas to store the cycles and adequate shower and changing facilities with lockers

Agents

- The Local Plan should incorporate a slip road onto the A338 Wessex Way from the top of King's Park Drive, assisting in the management of matchday traffic to the Vitality Stadium
- Consider other measures to improve the transport network, such as the temporary rephasing of traffic lights on Holdenhurst Road and Christchurch Road for the critical 45-minute period after football matches, to facilitate the dispersal of road traffic from the area around the Vitality Stadium
- The Local Plan should support the retention and future development of a football stadium in King's Park. There is an important transport dimension to this as regular

bus services are available on three local roads within easy walking distance – Christchurch Road, Ashley Road and Holdenhurst Road, providing connectivity to much of the conurbation

- The Local Plan should make it clear that a balanced approach to active travel and sustainable travel will be pursued
- Development opportunities in sustainable locations and close to existing public transport services (bus and rail) should be prioritised, with appropriate levels of car and cycle parking provision, to gradually reduce non-car use
- Proposals for the Hurn site include the potential to enhance pedestrian and cycle routes through the site and facilitate improved public transport services

3.6. Our natural environment

Objective: Conserve and enhance our protected habitats and biodiversity, and our network of green infrastructure and open space

Q71. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity?

Recommendation: We propose to fulfil our duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity by including appropriate policies in the Local Plan.

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity (302)	88%	5%

Q72. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Suggestions**’ (71)

Sub-themes: ‘**Suggestions for areas to be protected/protect Green Belt/wildlife**’ and ‘**Comments on developments/Housing/economy**’

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions for areas to be protected/protect Green Belt/wildlife

- The best way to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity is to protect all of the remaining green space in BCP specifically
- No further development allowed on green areas
- SANGs do not go far enough to protect wildlife and enhance biodiversity
- Wildlife corridors are essential and should not be destroyed
- More ranger patrols on heathlands to monitor visitors’ behaviour especially with dogs, riding motorbikes and littering

Comments on developments/Housing/economy

- Reduce the impact of overdevelopment. Infrastructure is already overwhelmed, e.g., sewage system
- No new developments should be approved unless they conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity
- The Local Plan should be designed to preserve the natural environment for future generations
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity will help to lower carbon emissions and improve health and wellbeing, reducing cost of care in the future

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- It would be good to see these policies align the South Marine Plan policies, e.g., climate change, biodiversity, water quality, infrastructure etc
- The requirements to replace and enhance biodiversity are currently inadequate
- Replacement of felled trees, whether protected or not, should be insisted upon, not 1 for 1, but up to 3 for 1 and of varieties that are more appropriate to the plot size
- Enforcement to conserve biodiversity and geodiversity must be up to the challenges
- You should exceed your duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity to help make the area a haven

Agents

- Concerned at the inaccurate and misleading nature of the baseline environmental information that is included in Section 4.6 of the Issues and Options consultation document
- Significant errors have been found at both the AFC Bournemouth's main sites in the conurbation – the Vitality Stadium and the training complex site at Canford – would suggest a more general need for the environmental baseline to be audited carefully before the Local Plan progresses to the next stage of preparation
- The underlying mapping for this issue is unsound for planning purposes

Town/Parish Councils

- Concerns about the lack of robust biodiversity data held at the Dorset Environment Records from which to monitor net gains in biodiversity. Access to detailed high resolution aerial images of relevant areas will aid public scrutiny and accountability in relation to discharging of ecological planning conditions

Q73. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for protecting Dorset Heathlands and mitigating development impacts?

Recommendation: We propose continuing to implement the approach advocated in the existing Local Plan policies and detailed in the Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework Supplementary Planning Document. We can explore the potential for other approaches that would still fulfil the council's duty to ensure mitigation of harmful impacts on the Dorset Heathlands from new development.

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Protecting Dorset Heathlands and mitigating development impacts (282)	79%	9%

Q74. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about protecting Dorset Heathlands and mitigating development impacts.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Suggestions**’ (71)

Sub-themes: ‘**Importance of protecting heathland**’ and ‘**Comments on developments/housing/economy**’

BCP Residents Responses

Importance of protecting heathland

- Natural habitat has to be one of the drivers with the Local Plan, as often it is too late to try to repair the damage
- Better regulation of damaging behaviour on heathland, e.g., BBQs, littering
- Ensure developers protect heathland when developing
- Protecting heathland protects the health and wellbeing of the BCP population
- To mitigate harmful impacts on heathland there should be no developments nearby
- Need to raise public awareness about protecting heathland and their ecosystems

Comments on developments/housing/economy

- Each new development has to provide mitigation for heathland
- Restrict parking around heathland entrances
- Creating other SANG areas for dog walking
- Closing off entrances to the heathland in certain areas
- 400 metre zone should be increased to 1km for developments
- Developments should provide their own SANG land

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Development impacts on the coast are also important here
- Ensure the heathlands are not lost and are protected through appropriate mitigation measures
- Cautious over the use of the term “mitigation” and would advocate preservation, restoration, and improvement of Dorset Heathlands

Developers/landowners

- The council are restricting so many perfect sites from having much needed residential developments within our towns due to an outdated heathland 400 metre zone planning condition
- You need forward thinking intelligent planning policies, not a blanket 400 metre rule

Town/Parish Councils

- Object to mitigation that creates negative impacts on other highly sensitive areas such as the Green Belt, conservation areas and Parish areas

- Object to proposed development of Hicks Farm as mitigation for overuse at Hengistbury Head

Q75. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the two options for the provision of strategic SANGs?

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Provision of strategic Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs)		
a) Recommendation - to continue the current approach to the provision of strategic SANGs through both public and private SANGs (198)	64%	20%
b) Option 1: Changing the use and/or management of some of our existing open spaces (198)	56%	19%

Q76. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about the provision of strategic SANGs.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Objection**’ (25) and ‘**Suggestions**’ (18)

BCP Residents Responses

Objection

- Most objections were in relation to Option 1
- Golf courses are already fulfilling all the requirements of open space (Option 1)
- Concerns SANGs will be considered suitable for housing in the future (Option 1)
- SANGs should not be forced onto areas already being used by the community (Option 1)
- SANGs have too much conflict of interest and do not protect wildlife
- Negatively impacting areas used for sport and fitness is not a good idea (Option 1)
- Do not deteriorate existing green spaces - more are needed not less (Option 1)

Suggestions

- There should be no parking fees at SANGs
- Golf courses should be more accessible to the public
- Some golf courses should be rewilded
- SANGs should all be accessible to the public
- SANGs should be within walking or cycling distance of those it intends to serve
- SANGs should be easily accessible by public transport, and cheaply
- Flooding of SANGs should be addressed

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Get rid of the golf courses and convert them to SANGs and continue expanding the Stour Valley Park as well
- As long as SANGs are for everyone's health and not for commercial gain

Developers/landowners

- Need big purpose-built SANGs within the local Green Belt
- Encourage high density in our towns and direct people out of town for large green open spaces, purposely built for use by lots of people

Town/Parish Councils

- Object to BCP's current approach for the provision of strategic SANGs upon the Stour Valley water meadows which are in direct conflict with Historic England's Conserving Historic Water Meadows Policy and BCP's 2050 Climate Action Plan
- Strongly agree to the change of use of existing urban open spaces e.g., golf courses to provide strategic SANGs which will be within walking distance of the proposed urban developments

Q77. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for improving the air quality on the Dorset Heathlands?

Recommendation: We propose to implement the Dorset Heathlands Interim Air Quality Strategy up to 2025, and then align projects to new policies in both the BCP Local Plan and the Dorset Local Plan.

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Improving the air quality on the Dorset Heathlands (164)	80%	6%

Q78. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about improving the air quality on the Dorset Heathlands.

The most prevalent themes were 'Suggestions' (21)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- Important to identify causes of air pollution, e.g., fires, cars
- Less cars doing less journeys is vital to improving air quality, leading to better wellbeing
- Improved air quality will relieve pressure on infrastructure such as healthcare and social services

- Large scale development of the Green Belt should be avoided at all costs (golden rule)
- Ban dog walking on heathlands due to the nitrifying effect
- Incredibly important that nitrate deposition is kept to a minimum
- Air quality should be assessed throughout BCP and Dorset, not just on heathlands
- Built up areas should be regreened
- Grassed areas should not be sprayed and should have local wildflower seed planted

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- The marginal increase from new development is pitiful compared with existing pollution. Natural England should address existing problems rather than tinker at the edges

Agents

- The Dorset Heathlands Interim Air Quality Strategy should be used by BCP as an effective tool to take ownership of, and manage, this issue as a Local Planning Authority rather than divesting it to external agencies

Town/Parish Councils

- Agree in principle, however, the sensitive lower valley water meadows within the Throop and Holdenhurst village Parish area should be given equal status to that of the Heathland infrastructure projects as part of the Interim Air Quality Strategy

Q79. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for dealing with Poole Harbour recreational pressures?

Recommendation: We propose to continue the strategy detailed in the existing Poole Harbour Recreation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and examine whether there are other realistic strategies for dealing with this issue.

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Dealing with Poole Harbour Recreational Pressures (116)	67%	7%

Q80. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about Poole Harbour recreational pressures.

The most prevalent theme was 'Suggestions' (17)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- Marine life and their ecosystems need to be protected
- Poole Harbour must be protected from developments and the damage caused by boats, jet skis etc

- Keep the Harbour for Dorset locals as tourists are harming the area
- Need policies that safeguard the future biodiversity of Poole Harbour, e.g., to regulate big carbon emitting boat engines

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Important to manage recreational pressures so that social, economic, and environmental impacts can all be managed sustainably
- This is a money-making exercise to fund projects that are not budgeted for otherwise
- Existing pressure on the harbour should be tackled by the statutory bodies before taxing new development
- Mitigation measures in the Supplementary Planning Document are strongly encouraged as visitor information is key for the Poole Harbour area
- Mitigation factors would need to be supported through appropriate facilities, such as information boards, wardens, and appropriate waste disposal, particularly with regards to fishing equipment, such as fishing lines
- Mitigation measures could be further enhanced by creating a wildlife haven site which would encourage visitors who want to see the wildlife rather than anti-social visitors

Q81. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for dealing with nitrate pollution in Poole Harbour?

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Dealing with Poole Harbour Nitrate Pollution (117)	83%	5%

Q82. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about dealing with nitrate pollution in Poole Harbour.

The most prevalent themes were ‘Suggestions’ (17)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- Priority should be to stop water companies from dumping sewage into the Harbour
- Need more information on Wessex Water’s role in nitrogen reduction
- Do more to tackle nitrate pollution through water run-off from farms
- Priority should be to upgrade sewage system before construction of large developments

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Local Plan should ensure that the land removed from agricultural production is planted with trees, as abundant evidence shows that trees have the most powerful effect at helping prevent nitrate run-off (whilst also sequestering more carbon than any other habitat)
- Agree and is in line with the Marine Plan Water Quality Policy
- Natural England and Environment Agency should address existing problems rather than taxing needed housing. Go after the agricultural sector and water companies
- Strongly agree with direct mitigation measures to enhance sewerage infrastructure and significantly reduce the risk of storm run-off being used inappropriately. These enhancement measures are actively encouraged along with natural mitigation measures
- Mitigation measures for BCP need to be conducted in partnership with Dorset Council due to the close neighbouring nature of the harbour coastline

Q83. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the options for supporting green infrastructure and open space?

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Supporting green infrastructure and open space		
a) Recommendation - to maintain and expand the Green Infrastructure Network (299)	69%	20%
b) Option 1: Allowing the loss of the open space, if it can be demonstrated that it is underused and surplus to requirements (316)	12%	81%
c) Option 2: Allowing the loss of open space for community uses that outweigh the loss of the open space (310)	14%	69%
d) Option 3: Making new developments pay financial contributions towards enhancing or providing alternative open space if they cannot provide open space on site (322)	53%	38%

Q84. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about supporting green infrastructure and open space.

The most prevalent themes were 'Objections' (67) and 'Suggestions' (18)

BCP Residents Responses

Objections

- Most objections were in relation to Option 3:
 - Concerns over developer damaging Green Belt

- o Concerns over developers not paying fair financial contributions
- o Concerns over financial contributions enabling developers to get out of building properties with open spaces
- o New developments should not be allowed to be built on Green Belt land no matter what the financial contribution is
- o Concerns financial contributions are a token gesture rather than a serious commitment to protecting Green Belt land
- o If developers cannot provide open space onsite, the development should not go ahead
- o Concerns the definition of "alternative open space" is subjective and open to abuse
- Objections in relation to Option 1:
 - o Need to understand why some open spaces are underused, not remove them
 - o We do not need to lose any open spaces
 - o There is no surplus open space in BCP
 - o Any undeveloped open space should not be lost under any circumstances
 - o Underuse is not a sufficient reason for the loss of open space

Suggestions

- Support green infrastructure by not allowing any building on it
- Developers should be made to pay for open spaces if they cannot provide within their sites
- There should be a scale of payment for developers which decreases with the increase of green space on their development
- Investigate why open spaces are underused and correct this, e.g., safety concerns, poor layout
- Financial contributions need to be substantial to enable rewilding of another area
- Underused open spaces should only be developed into other green spaces

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Object to the loss of some spaces as it conflicts with the proposal to maintain and expand the Green Infrastructure Network (Recommendation and Option 1)
- What is meant by underused? Even if it is not used by the public a green space serves a very useful function through its contribution to health and wellbeing (Option 1)
- What makes a green space surplus to requirement? A sports field may no longer be needed for sporting activities, but it should not be allowed to be built on - conversion to other greenspace uses could be beneficial, e.g., the provision of allotments in an area where no exist (Option 1)
- All new developments should provide sufficient amenity space for residents whenever possible (Option 2)

- Planners to have a more holistic approach to the development of the three towns rather than just allowing developers to dictate what is built because this will not lead to good placemaking, e.g., lost opportunity to add sufficient amenities including green space for 66 flats in Poole
- There is little open space, so it could instead be enhanced for all users (flora and fauna too) instead of community uses that may encourage building hard infrastructure (Option 1 and 2)
- Option 3 would need strict regulation to ensure it enabled the provision of open space and to prevent siphoning off for alternative uses
- Doubtful Option 3 works. We should not be losing green spaces

Agents

- Locations such as verges in 60s estates could be used as they are just there for aesthetic reasons and could be put to better use (Option 1)
- Larger areas should not be lost

Town/Parish Councils

- Unable to give a detailed response until the council has published its Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy
- More clarity over the relationship between BCP Council and the Parks Foundation over the management of all open spaces/park spaces within BCP
- As the council has declared a climate crisis, the focus should be on geodiversity and biodiversity, as opposed to the current focus on human leisure
- Opportunities for leisure should be focused on urban park space, thus protecting the sensitive natural environment and wildlife habitats

Q85. Please tell us any other comments about the natural environment in the Local Plan, including any other issues or ideas you feel that we should consider.

The most prevalent theme was ‘**Suggestions**’ (84)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- The protection of the area's natural environment must be given the highest priority
- Important to ensure our water is safe and clean, including our beaches
- All new developments should provide parks and green spaces to promote health and wellbeing
- Improve existing spaces, have/allocate more space for wildlife and higher quality spaces
- Heritage green sites like Sea View should be protected
- Protect trees
- It is essential to protect what exists already. Any new housing would increase the need for sewage disposal and water consumption - they are overstretched already

- Partner with voluntary and community organisations/groups to maintain our natural environment
- Engage with, and educate, communities about how best to protect the natural environment

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Green infrastructure should be a 'green thread' running through the Local Plan and forming part of every policy and every type of site use
- It would be good to see an increased role for woodlands throughout the Plan
- New woodland on the new SANGs could provide additional benefits such water quality improvements, flood alleviation, biodiversity increases, robust recreational greenspace, shade and shelter for people and animals in a changing climate, and carbon sequestration (substantially greater than any other habitat type)
- Important to identify a hierarchy of green corridors right down to local level e.g., where rear gardens provide a continuous stretch of green space, albeit it private
- Islands of woodlands/copse or other green space are important that can act as a steppingstone to another stretch of green corridor or significant open space. This approach has helped protect an area of woodland from inappropriate development
- Objection to any SANGs being utilised by changes of use of any golf courses, open-spaces which have an already existing community benefit either as play-parks or recreational spaces
- SANGs should be located in the Stour Valley Park only
- Enhancement of protected areas is particularly welcome Oakley Fields in Poole could be returned to their recent protected status within an enhanced Green Belt
- Any disturbance to some species is illegal and attempts to "minimise" any such disturbance also illegal
- Promotion of the conservation of watercourses will require evidence that Wessex Water can limit pollution to the satisfaction of all stakeholders
- The aim to continue enhancing the area's ecological network could be usefully accelerated by insisting on a 10% biodiversity net gain for all developments including the development of any SANGs
- Development of policies to protect the Bournemouth cliffs should not exclude those on the Poole seafront
- It is appreciated that some care homes are not so damaging to designated heathland, but such peripheral locations are not so effective for those receiving the care and who may have friends/relatives wishing to make visits therefore maintain the Green Belt without any loss of openness
- Financial contributions which fund Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) should ensure that further extinctions of locally valued species are aided by this
- The Plan fails to recognise the concerns about the damage to habitats and species caused by SANGs (especially Strategic SANGs) and should be suitably adjusted

- The plan being developed by the Stour Valley Park must comply with the Local Plans of both the councils in Dorset and protect valued habitats and species and secure at least a 10% biodiversity net gain
- Sewage discharges and existing pollution levels must be reduced not just maintained at their current levels.
- Object to all three options for supporting green infrastructure and open space
- In order for the three towns to become a "gateway to a wonderful experience of nature and naturalness, both on land and at sea", additional planting, green roofs and living walls need to be incorporated
- No doubt the eventual Local Plan will respect the 'bigger picture' (involving both councils in Dorset) that will ensure the developments in both planning areas are symbiotic Support the greater than 10% target for net gain. Some local plans are already setting 20% net gain targets which increases the chances that worthwhile amounts of net gain will be delivered considering green may fall short in practice
- Creating accessible woodland as part of the SANGs strategy will help with meeting targets for carbon capture, climate resilience and nature recovery
- Trees and woodland offer an effective way to screen sites from air pollution, by capturing particulate matter and by absorbing nitrogen oxide
- Planting trees and woodland offers an effective way to mitigate nitrate pollution
- The Local Plan should include green infrastructure and green areas as essential components of any development sites

Agents

- Data employed to define a 'potential ecological network' is not a suitably robust evidence base for a Local Plan
- Local Plan will need to strike a reasonable balance between ecological objectives, and the other purposes served by open spaces
- Concerned that plans in the 'BCP open space' section include various areas of land that are incapable of fulfilling this function, including the Vitality Stadium's forecourts, the car parks to the west and south, the players' pavilion and secure training pitches
- Concepts such as green infrastructure and open space will need to be defined more rigorously and mapped in the Local Plan more accurately, with land serving other purposes omitted
- Support the consideration of the use and/or management of the existing open spaces e.g., golf courses to provide strategic SANGs. In particular this is considered important especially given the emerging requirements through the Environment Act 2021 to deliver biodiversity net gain and that more land will be required for biodiversity offsetting
- The Habitats Regulation Assessment of the Local Plan will be essential in determining the mitigation required over the plan period in order to protect the various habitats across BCP. However, associated costs of mitigation on development industry are of concern. Any mitigation costs should be considered in combination with other development costs thorough a Viability Assessment

- Figure 16 of the Issues and Options Consultation Document includes areas designated as open space that may not be suitable as open space and/or does not align with the definition of open space as per section 336 Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- Further evidence should be provided to provide a Quality Assessment of which existing areas are suitable as open spaces
- Support aspirations to encourage the provision of more SANG land and develop the Stour Valley Park
- Concerned that Hicks Farm site is the only viable new SANG for Bournemouth. The council needs to ensure more land is brought forward as SANG to enable the completion of new development

Developers/landowners

- To protect and save the protected Dorset heathlands, dog walkers and mountain bikers should have restricted access
- Do not restrict the building of residential homes near heathland

Town/Parish Councils

- Main priority is the protection and enhancement of our natural environments in times of climate change

3.7. Our built environment

Objective: Promote local character and the delivery of high-quality urban design

Q87. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for ensuring good placemaking and urban design?

Recommendation: We propose to set out a policy in the Local Plan that requires good design in accordance with the National Design Guide, and that in the majority of cases new development respects the prevailing characteristics of the local area.

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Ensuring good placemaking and urban design (132)	91%	6%

Q88. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches, or have any other comments that we should consider about ensuring good placemaking and urban design?

The most prevalent theme was ‘**Suggestions**’ (27)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- Most comments were about the regulation of developers
- Concerns over developers only wanting to take the cheapest route to building properties
- Ensure all new development respects the prevailing characteristics of the local area, not just the majority
- Open spaces, public walkways and greenery should all be designed to respect the characteristics of the local area
- Developers should not be able to build homes that go against the National Design Guide
- The design guide needs to be built into all aspects of development control policy and implementation
- Design policies should include which materials to use and should encourage re-use and recycling of materials
- New build should be zero emissions and eco-friendly
- The environment needs to be at the top of the agenda to make homes sustainable and low cost to run
- Need quality, beautiful design that uses sustainable principles to mitigate climate change and make neighbourhoods better places to live
- The design standard will need to be enforced properly

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- The Local Plan should have clear guidance on what good design is and is not. It should:
 - specify where particular design should be proposed
 - detail the types of public realm expected for a range of uses and locations
 - clarify where conflict exists with other policies
 - clarify which standards have priority and where (street design)
- Policies should use active phrasing. i.e., “must”, “will” etc. not passive phrases like “should” or “could”
- Good design and place making are essential elements that lead to greater wellbeing, more attractive places, and therefore greater vitality
- If retaining the existing character of a place will be a fundamental element in the Local Plan, then there should be a series of design codes which are much more specific in nature
- New development should deliver sustainable high quality urban design. To be supported development proposals must:
 - Respond positively to the area’s character, scale, grain, and identity, creating or reinforcing local distinctiveness. Raising the standard of architecture, landscape, and design within the Plan area
 - Conserve or enhance the Plan area’s important built and archaeological heritage assets and their settings
 - Respond to the key existing development aspects of the Plan area’s layout, landscape, density, mix, height, massing, details, and materials
 - Promote accessibility and permeability by creating places that connect with each other and are easy to move through
 - Promote legibility through the provision of recognisable and understandable places, routes, intersections, and points of reference,
 - Deliver a coherently structured, integrated, and efficient built form that clearly defines public and private space,
 - Analyse and protect/enhance strategic views defined as (1) St James Church Tower from Dee Way (2) Brownsea Island from Poole Quay (3) Poole Quay from Poole Harbour
 - Deliver a well-managed built environment with high quality building designs for all and spaces that integrate with green infrastructure
 - Create a multi-functional, lively, and well-maintained public realm that sensitively integrates different modes of transport, parking, and servicing
 - Encourage the delivery of permanent and temporary public art
 - Safeguard the amenity and context of existing development and create a high-quality environment for future occupiers
 - Promote diversity and choice through the delivery of a balanced mix of compatible buildings and uses

- o Create buildings and spaces that are adaptable to changing social, technological, economic, and environmental conditions
- o Incorporate design features that deter crime or disorder and the fear of crime
- o Developers need to demonstrate how they aim to achieve building inline with the National Design Guide

Q89. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for planning for urban intensification?

Recommendation: We have significant pressures for new homes across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. To help address this, we propose to be proactive about supporting a change in character in specific areas. For example, through allowing building heights to increase or different type of development to take place.

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Planning for urban intensification		
a) Alder Road, Poole (94)	35%	19%
b) Alma Road, Bournemouth (94)	32%	18%
c) Ashley Road, Poole (96)	46%	22%
d) Barrack Road, Christchurch (101)	33%	35%
e) Bournemouth Road area, Poole (93)	36%	24%
f) Charminster Road, Bournemouth (95)	37%	21%
g) Columbia Road, Bournemouth (94)	32%	18%
h) Danecourt Road, Poole (94)	20%	24%
i) Fernside Road, Poole (95)	23%	26%
j) Higher Blandford Road, Broadstone (94)	20%	28%
k) Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth (94)	48%	13%
l) Lansdowne and surrounding area (94)	51%	15%
m) Longfleet Road, Poole (93)	35%	25%
n) Lymington Road/Highcliffe Centre and surrounds (98)	19%	38%
o) Magna Road, Poole (94)	20%	35%
p) Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth (93)	38%	19%
q) Parkstone Road, Poole (93)	30%	26%
r) Penn Hill Avenue, Poole (94)	30%	36%
s) Poole Road (92)	31%	20%
t) Ringwood Road, Bournemouth (96)	33%	18%
u) Ringwood Road, Poole (93)	33%	19%
v) Sandbanks Road, Poole (96)	28%	39%
w) Seabourne Road, Bournemouth (92)	24%	24%
x) Talbot Road, Bournemouth (92)	26%	24%
y) Wimborne Road, Bournemouth (94)	30%	20%
z) Wimborne Road, Poole (97)	31%	26%

Q90. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about planning for urban intensification.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Objection**’ (20) and ‘**Suggestions**’ (20)

BCP Residents Responses

Objection

- Concerns over increased traffic congestion and air pollution in many of the proposed locations
- Concerns that urban intensification will make already congested roads much worse
- Concerns that many of the areas proposed for urban intensification would lead to detrimental impacts on local character

Suggestions

- Height of buildings need to be similar; feeling too enclosed can affect health and wellbeing
- Prevent high-density projects near the shores of Poole Harbour
- Any intensification of development should only be considered after necessary improvements to transport infrastructure have been made
- Pressures for development from national development need to be resisted as far as possible
- New homes should have suitable parking and energy efficient
- Care needs to be taken when considering the impact of urban intensification on the local area
- Restrict developments of tall buildings to where they already exist
- Put rules in place to ensure an appropriate number of family homes with gardens are built

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Locations missing: Ensbury Park Road, Kinson Road, Richmond Park Road, Christchurch Road, Belle Vue Road, Castle Lane West, Tuckton Road, Bargates, Fairmile Road, Stour Road, Somerford Road, Carbery Avenue, Castle Lane East, The Grove, Wallisdown Road, Purewell, and Herbert Avenue
- The list of intensification locations should match the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) network and other main routes
- Disagree with intensification along Higher Blandford Road, Broadstone, primarily because the area shown on the map is not Higher Blandford Road, but Lower Blandford Road
- Agree if the consultation is referring to Lower Blandford Road as it is suitable for further intensification especially with the addition of an additional storey or two
- Commercial centres with existing mixed development and roads close to town centres can support higher densities of housing, but there should be sufficient amenity space available for residents
- Ashley Road has character and is heavily used by the local population, so would be a shame to intensify the urban nature
- Penn Hill Avenue, Poole Road & Sandbanks Road are gateway areas to tourist destinations and should be enhanced as visitor facilities to support residents and visitors alike rather than add to urban intensity

- Cramming all of the intensification and housing into Poole and Bournemouth Town centres is not sustainable, it will increase congestion and overwhelm services. Regeneration of the wider area and the-20-minute-neighbourhood should be considered.
- Urban intensification should be spread throughout the Local Plan area and not be concentrated into the Poole regeneration area.
- It is essential that the maximum density of development should be capped by the Local Plan at a level that does not overwhelm the character and infrastructure of the immediate area
- Urban intensification and, in particular tall buildings, should not be permitted that could cause greater congestion on the roads, and threaten the water and sewerage systems, schools and other services

Agents

- Agree only to intensifying areas of local shopping centres not entire roads. Fernside Road - only on the garage site or college site near to the base of the hill

Q91. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the two options for managing tall buildings?

To manage tall buildings, we could consider one or both of the following options:

Option 1: Focus the development of tall buildings into parts of Poole and Bournemouth town centres.

Option 2: Allow tall buildings in other areas, subject to criteria considering impact on the skyline, townscape character, microclimate and local amenity.

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Tall Buildings		
Option 1: Focus the development of tall buildings into parts of Poole and Bournemouth town centres (142)	60%	29%
Option 2: Allow tall buildings in other areas, subject to criteria considering impact on the skyline, townscape character, microclimate and local amenity (144)	26%	68%

Q92. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about managing tall buildings.

The most prevalent themes were 'Objection' (30) and 'Suggestions' (26)

BCP Residents Responses

Objection

- Strong feeling against tall buildings in all 3 BCP regions, especially Christchurch
- Tall buildings negatively impact Poole's character and appeal (Option 1)
- Tall buildings are poorly maintained in Poole (Option 1)

- Building tall buildings in other locations will dramatically affect the skyline and create an imposing atmosphere (Option 2)
- Concerns about negative impact on views and on light (Option 2)
- Tall buildings negatively affect the local character of areas (Option 2)
- Developers justify the building of tall properties because they make the most profit, not because they are the most suitable for residents and the local area (Option 2)
- Higher buildings do not work in rural areas (Option 2)

Suggestions

- Tall buildings which breach the Poole skyline should not be considered
- New buildings should have a cap of 3-5 storeys to protect local character, particularly in Christchurch
- Restrict to existing heights in each area and not adding floors to buildings
- Any new tall buildings should be concentrated in areas of lowest current density
- Need a detailed analysis of the BCP area to identify density and height limitations dictated by the needs of the conurbation
- No tall buildings developed on the green built or in rural areas
- Keep tall buildings away from seafront areas of Bournemouth town and limit the height to those already in the Lansdowne and the station areas
- Need more buildings in BCP that have 3 or more storeys
- Consider the impact of tall buildings casting shadows
- High density should be located next to public transport stations and shopping centres
- Tall buildings should have communal garden space and/or balconies both for commercial and residential buildings
- Underground car parks should be a requirement in any new tall buildings

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Taller buildings should focus on the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and other main corridors with a minimum number of stories (4/5) and density specified to deliver transit-orientated development
- Consideration of tall buildings away from specific town centres could lead to applications for developments in key 'world-class' resort sites which would significantly detract from the ambiance of the area and lead to inappropriate urban intensification (Option 2)
- Concerned that Option 2 could lead to developers developing tall buildings in areas currently contested which would devalue the visitor offer, increase pressure on decrepit sewerage, utility and communication infrastructure and increase nitrogen pollution into Poole Harbour
- All new development must respect the prevailing characteristics of the local area. A formal definition of "tall buildings" is needed to guide potential developers. Tall buildings should not be permitted within or adjacent to Conservation areas

- Support Option 2. There are parts of the borough which are not within the Poole and Bournemouth town centres that could help fulfil the housing goals by intensification with tall buildings
- It is sensible to allow higher densities, but this must be balanced across the whole conurbation
- Any development must preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Conservation area

Q93. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the two options for preserving and enhancing our heritage?

We have to preserve and enhance heritage assets as required by government and would set out a positive strategy for heritage. In addition, we could consider one or both of the following options:

Option 1: Consider the introduction of special controls that prevent the demolition of non-designated, locally important heritage assets.

Option 2: Undertake a comprehensive review through Conservation Area Appraisals to ensure the designations remain fit-for-purpose

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Preserving and enhancing our heritage		
Option 1: Consider the introduction of special controls that prevent the demolition of non-designated, locally important heritage assets (161)	87%	8%
Option 2: Undertake a comprehensive review through Conservation Area Appraisals to ensure the designations remain fit-for-purpose (156)	64%	14%

Q94. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about preserving and enhancing our heritage.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Agreement**’ (30) and ‘**Suggestions**’ (10)

BCP Residents Responses

Agreement

- Most comments expressed support for Option 1
- Any elements of heritage should be assessed in detail before demolition
- Heritage assets that maintain special local character must be preserved
- A lot of change in character has already occurred, so prevent further loss of heritage
- Bournemouth and Poole do not have a large amount of heritage assets, so they need to be protected
- Much of Christchurch’s historical heritage has been lost to unsympathetic developments, so new buildings need to change this

Suggestions

- Local heritage asset lists need updating, e.g., Roman Road in Hamworthy needs inclusion
- Create budgets to support private heritage buildings that contribute to the local environment and heritage of the area
- Protect heritage assets
- Consider creative adaptations of heritage sites, e.g., keeping the façade of the building and creating environmental spaces behind them
- Reviews should increase conservation areas, not reduce them

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- If buildings are of value, they should have formal status (Option 1)
- The designations are no longer fit for purpose. Queens Park has more good-to-excellent quality buildings than Meyrick Park or Talbot Woods despite lacking a conservation area status (Option 2)
- Poole Hill and West Cliff should be totally removed (Option 2). Only exceptional buildings should be worthy of retention (Option 2)
- Local heritage assets need to be reviewed from time to time but a fundamental issue is why have some been allowed to deteriorate to the extent that they are no longer fit for purpose?
- The approach should always be "enhancement of the conservation area" not building at any cost. There is a place for design codes here
- Recommend local consultations to ascertain non-designated locally important heritage assets, particularly with regard to how these can enhance the visitor offer
- Support Option 1. There needs to be an audit of underused, potential community space. The proposal to weigh the balance in favour of community development should be applauded. The Barn, on the Dibbens site, provides a striking example that could address the needs within the cultural hub in order to widen engagement and participation
- Object to a Conservation Area Appraisal that might be used to reduce the area or effectiveness of the existing Poole Old Town Conservation area

Agents

- Option 1 is inappropriate. If assets are worthy of a higher level of protection, then they should be assessed and designated accordingly. The National Planning Policy Framework approach should be followed in BCP, not one of special control or prevention

Town/Parish Councils

- There should be no compromise or dilution of the existing Green Belt and conservation areas within the BCP area especially within Throop and Holdenhurst Village Parish

Q95. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the recommendation and option for preserving coastal and landscape character?

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Preserving coastal and landscape character		
a) Recommendation - preserve the character of our locally-valued coastal and countryside areas and propose to set out policies in the Local Plan to achieve this (167)	91%	5%

b) Option 1 We could consider a specific policy in coastal areas to ensure development does not dominate or detract from views of the cliffs. (164)	90%	4%
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Q96. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider preserving coastal and landscape character.

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Agreement**’ (31) and ‘**Suggestions**’ (18)

BCP Residents Responses

Agreement

- Most comments expressed supported the Recommendation and Option 1 equally
- Our shoreline is our greatest asset and tourist attraction, we should protect it at all costs (Recommendation)
- So important for preserving the wonderful character and health-giving benefits of the area (Recommendation)
- So many residents live in BCP because of the coastal and countryside areas (Recommendation)
- Consider no more development at all (Option 1)

Suggestions

- Most suggestions were made on Option 1
- Houses along the coastline should be affordable to all, not just second homeowners
- The cliffs are not the only coastal landscape that should be preserved
- The policy should consider long, as well as short-term, impacts on coastal areas
- The policy should also consider overdevelopment on coastal cliffs that cause traffic congestion and hardship for people living there
- Views along Poole Harbour and Evening Hill should also be protected
- Focus on impact of tall buildings

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- This is not required. Good design policies will achieve the same thing
- Support Recommendation. Support the principle of Option 1 but consider that it does not go far enough. The word “cliffs” restricts the application of this principle and should be replaced by “coastline” which for the avoidance of doubt should include views of Poole Harbour and Christchurch Harbour.
- It is important that views of the Harbours are protected to ensure that development does not dominate or detract from views of the harbour which are unique assets of the area

Town/Parish Councils

- Request that BCP update, or provide, a Landscape Character Area Assessment for the Throop and Holdenhurst village areas
- Adequate attention has not been paid to the Landscape Visual Impact Assessment and the sensitivity of the Throop and Holdenhurst area

Q97. Please tell us any other comments about our built environment in the Local Plan, including any other issues or ideas you feel that we should consider.

The most prevalent theme was ‘**Suggestions**’ (82)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- Half of respondents’ comments related to developments, housing, and housing design
- Need to build on brownfield sites first
- Avoid developing on the Green Belt as much as possible
- Vital to protect our Green Belt, heathlands, and natural harbour
- Need more soft-landscaped, pedestrian only areas to improve health and wellbeing
- More creative greening, e.g., community gardens / growing spaces for food security, community building, environment, mental health, and wellbeing
- Discourage second homes and keep Airbnbs to a minimum
- Planning should collate a portfolio of well-designed areas that can be compared to at various stages of the process
- Need more affordable housing with gardens so families have space
- New developments should not dominate areas with sea views
- No building should be allowed near rivers and flood plains

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Support introduction of policies and approaches for tall buildings which constrain any future developments in Christchurch to 3 storeys only
- Preserving and enhancing our heritage - Support options 1 and 2 in combination
- Preserving coastal and landscape character - Support option 1
- More information on what design/methods could be used to successfully develop the Poole power station site. Consider attaching suitable conditions to future decisions and incorporate them into Local Plan
- A "Long Life / Loose Fit/ Low Energy" policy should be included in the Plan as it could still serve the three towns for the foreseeable future
- Dramatic urban intensification would occur if all bungalows were converted to houses
- The provision of adequate space around tall buildings needs to be addressed

- Option 2 for the issue of 'preserving and enhancing our heritage' should be given priority in the Local Plan and there should be more emphasis on natural heritage assets
- Some heritage assets are 'at risk' and the suggestion that improvements may not occur is disappointing, particularly when heritage assets are a key element of visitor attraction
- The options for 'coastal and landscape character' need to clarify the extent to which commercial pressure can adversely influence perception of our coastal and landscape character
- Leave car parks alone
- To meet the aspirations of the National Design Code for greenspace and nature, we recommend including the following elements in requirements for placemaking and design:
 - Buffer zones to protect ancient woodlands and root protection areas for ancient and veteran trees
 - Increase in tree canopy cover, through a mixture of retention and new planting
 - Use of Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees (CAVAT) to ensure the value of mature trees is incorporated into decision making
 - Encouraging connectivity in location of new planting and suitable species selection
- Recommend surveying areas for ancient and veteran trees to update the Ancient Tree Inventory (ATI) and ensure National Planning Policy Framework protection requirements are met
- The conservation area near Lambs Green and Ashington is adjacent to Dirty Lane Coppice PAWS ancient woodland. Any review of the boundaries or guidelines should respect the need to protect the woodland from harm, encroachment, or fragmentation
- Support value placed on tree-lined ridges and on preserving the natural and semi-natural landscape.
- Support including a recognised design framework, but a degree of flexibility will be required in its deployment, to manage conflicts and achieve an acceptable balance in determining applications
- Need a review of the definition of a tall building and of the tall building zones
- The conservation areas (CA) in Bournemouth town centre cover a significant area but their management is constrained by limited resource. The extent of the CAs puts pressure for higher density development on areas outside of the CAs in order to meet housing / other development targets. A review of CAs in the round, as opposed to area by area, would therefore be welcomed
- Support the Recommendation, it should have been implemented already. We would prefer that it be done on every application

Agents

- Local Plan must encourage all new development to achieve high quality design in accordance with national policy. This objective can be achieved alongside the aims of intensification, promoting tall buildings, and maintaining heritage and landscape protection, providing all development is carefully designed and assessed

- Support Option 2 for 'Tall buildings' and 'Preserving and enhancing our heritage' issues
- Housing need is at a level which requires high density development and tall buildings in suitable locations within the built-up area. Therefore, we strongly support the recommendation for planning for urban intensification
- The former gas works is a vacant contamination site according to the National Planning Policy Framework and the draft Local Plan should give substantial weight to its reuse. Redevelopment could create an important new identity for this part of the town whilst delivering much needed new homes. This site, together with the Council Civic building should be a prime site for urban intensification, where a change in character could occur. These sites should be included in Figure 18
- Support the approach for urban intensification, which would allow building heights to increase - particularly within town centre locations such as the Lansdowne area
- Concerns that urban intensification will most likely be for flatted developments and therefore unlikely to deliver the housing types and sizes needed across BCP, critically for family and affordable housing
- Taller buildings across BCP, whilst supporting the provision of flatted development, will not add to the choice and range of sites needed to deliver family housing
- Support Option 2 for 'preserving and enhancing our heritage'. Whilst it is important to respect the qualities of conservation areas there are opportunities to allow for development within conservation areas that are well designed and respect the current build form and local character
- Support Option 2 for 'preserving and enhancing our heritage' as the areas need to be reviewed and instead of expanded, a critical look at these areas to concentrate on preserving areas of actual merit
- 'Preserving coastal and landscape character' - there is little to preserve, and most views are hidden by the cliff edge and not impacting upon the area if only visible from the sea
- Tall buildings: Option 2 - there needs to be more flexibility across BCP regardless of conservation areas as some are of decreasing merit

Developers/landowners

- Building taller is the only way to achieve housing targets. Too much of the conurbation is constrained for low density development

Town/Parish Councils

- Throop and Holdenhurst Parish contains the largest collection of listed buildings in BCP and therefore the historical context in which they lie should be preserved and maintained
- Throop and Holdenhurst have important heritage values that pre-date the creation of Bournemouth and should be preserved under exceptional circumstances
- The Home for Heroes on Muscliff Lane are currently not identified as listed buildings, however they are crucial elements for conservation listing and bear significant historical importance to the conservation area and BCP
- Greater attention should be paid to the restoration and conservation of several important listed buildings within the Parish of Throop and Holdenhurst village that are deteriorating, including those under the ownership of BCP Council

3.8. Promoting health and wellbeing

Objective: Improve health and wellbeing and contribute towards reducing inequalities

Q99. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation and option for supporting health and wellbeing?

Recommendation: We propose to set out a specific policy in the Local Plan to support health and wellbeing and require that certain developments prepare a Health Impact Assessment (HIA). The size and type of development would determine the focus of the HIA and for smaller developments we propose applicants use the NHS Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool to assess potential health impacts.

Option 1: In addition, we could explore introducing a specific financial contribution from new developments towards health infrastructure.

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Supporting health and wellbeing		
a) Recommendation: Health Impact Assessment (HIA) (198)	76%	7%
b) Option 1- explore introducing a specific financial contribution from new developments towards health infrastructure (194)	75%	6%

Q100. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about supporting health and wellbeing.

The most prevalent theme was ‘**Suggestions**’ (23)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- New developments should contribute to health infrastructure
- Developer contribution to health infrastructure should be the norm
- A health and wellbeing plan should be based on environmental targets, e.g., greenhouse gas emissions, reducing pollution, more active travel etc
- Have to improve health infrastructure to cope with new houses being built
- Being able to make timely medical appointments must not be compromised when new building developments are planned
- Hot food takeaways should not be located near schools
- NHS Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool should be compulsory for any developer/property owner creating new homes or converting properties

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Instead of providing schools with the basic BB 99/103 spaces standards outside, increase playing fields and sports provision
- Introduce daily mile tracks on the outer edges of playing fields
- Seek better playing fields, not cramped through developer contributions
- Consider the use of Sport England's Leisure Locals and Activity hubs as either retrofits on existing sites or as part of new housing developments
- Not very clear what the recommendation is trying to achieve. A better approach would be to target hot food takeaways to reduce their concentrations like Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) and have exclusions zones near schools
- You're already asking for money to fix other existing problems why not health as well

Town/Parish Councils

- Sites should ensure that they are designed with health in mind, and this should not be offset elsewhere through financial contributions
- Option 1 is inappropriate. Health infrastructure should be funded through tax revenues
- Where a development has a specific impact on health infrastructure that would render it unacceptable without mitigation, and where the relevant tests are met, funding should be sought through a planning obligation, not a generalised financial contribution (in effect a health tax)
- The 'Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool' was published in April 2017 and contains various dated and London-specific references underpinning its evidence. Using this tool unamended in BCP is not an appropriate response to the local challenges, mitigation, and enhancement measures
- Any specific financial contribution must be evidenced, and viability tested
- It is unclear where the proposal for a financial contribution originates from

Q101. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the recommendation and two options for ensuring a high standard of amenity?

Recommendation: We want to support a high standard of amenity for existing residents and future occupiers of new homes considering levels of sunlight and daylight, privacy, emissions, noise/vibration and whether a development is overbearing or oppressive. There are some additional options we could explore:

Option 1: Setting internal space standards for new residential development inline with nationally described space standards. **Option 2:** Setting standards for external space on residential development for flats.

	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Ensuring a high standard of amenity		
a) Recommendation - support a high standard of amenity for existing residents and future occupiers of new homes (123)	94%	1%
b) Option 1: Setting internal space standards for new residential development in line with nationally described space standards (125)	82%	6%
c) Option 2: Setting standards for external space on residential development for flats (124)	89%	2%

Q102. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about ensuring a high standard of amenity.

Most prevalent theme was **‘Suggestions’ (13)**

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- No more small flats, they do not promote healthy lifestyles
- There needs to be adequate parking spaces suitable for families
- Go further than the national standard
- Soundproofing is essential
- Communal areas are only of benefit when everyone respects them
- Social, community and business premises need adequate ventilation in homes for health and wellbeing
- Need to consider the implications of increased homeworking in the design of buildings, e.g., loft conversions, extensions
- Tougher stance needed on hard surfacing and impact on the environment and drainage
- Decline in car use and ownership provides opportunities to create open spaces
- Better regulation of developers, and the properties they build, should be the highest priority to for the health and wellbeing of residents

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- “Amenity” is poorly defined currently and subjectively applied with new developments. Greater clarity is needed. This should apply to areas of hard standing, materials, dropped kerbs, hedging, walls, street trees and other features that define the public realm
- A complete review of back to back, side to front and other distance measures for privacy is required, ideally reducing the onerous requirements
- Requirements for storage space should be set

- Impose an Article 4 policy on dormer windows
- Provide clear policy on use of space and access to buildings including design of paths and cycle facilities
- External space could be achieved with balconies but not Juliette balconies

Agents

- Strongly disagree with Option 1
- Applying Optional National Described Space Standards (NDSS) to all dwellings should only be done in accordance with the 2021 National Planning Policy Framework (para 130f & Footnote 49)
- The council should provide a local assessment evidencing its case for requiring internal space policies in line with National Planning Policy Guidance
- There is a direct relationship between unit size, cost per square metre (sqm), selling price per sqm and affordability. The impact of NDSS should be fully accounted for in an updated Viability Assessment
- The council should recognise that customers have different budgets and aspirations. An inflexible policy approach to NDSS for all new dwellings will impact on affordability and effect customer choice
- An inflexible policy approach imposing NDSS on all housing removes the most affordable homes and denies lower income households from being able to afford homeownership. If the proposed requirement for NDSS is carried forward, the council should put forward proposals for transitional arrangements

Q103. Please tell us any other comments about our health and wellbeing in the Local Plan, including any other issues or ideas you feel that we should consider.

Most prevalent theme was **‘Suggestions’ (79)**

Sub-themes: **‘Comments/Suggestions for developments’**, **‘Importance of access to open spaces’** and **‘Community initiatives/regulation, e.g., events, promoting health and wellbeing, smoking/alcohol/fast food bans’**

BCP Residents Responses

Comments/Suggestions for developments

- Outdoor communal meeting spaces should be compulsory in developments where homes have no private outdoor space
- Consider potential health impacts of radio and electromagnetic fields, Wi-Fi and 5G masts
- 5G masts should not be installed without proper consultation with the affected community
- More allotments, recreation grounds and play areas, woodland areas and walks, natural open areas with lakeside amenities to improve health and wellbeing
- Stop further development in and protect what space we have left
- If more than 50% of the surrounding properties believe a proposed development is overbearing or oppressive, it should be refused

- Impact on wildlife habitats and natural assets valued by communities, e.g., trees, hedges, should be considered in planning applications
- Building less houses and getting traffic under control may improve health and wellbeing
- Ensure all new developments have cars taken off the roads when not in use

Importance of access to open spaces

- The Covid pandemic demonstrated how important open spaces are to health and wellbeing
- Nature is important for everyone's health, wellbeing, and happiness, especially people with disabilities
- Health is not only about having the right homes, it's also about open spaces for sport, walking, contemplation
- More communal spaces and facilities to bring communities together for mental wellbeing, e.g., green spaces in central town/village locations, benches
- Collaborate with NHS to develop events/activities to encourage the use of our natural spaces in aid of our health, easing the financial burden on the NHS
- More funding to encourage people to use the natural environment for exercise and wellbeing

Community initiatives/regulation, e.g., events, promoting health and wellbeing, smoking/alcohol/fast food bans

- Respondents want to see a ban on smoking and drinking in town centres/in public
- Need tighter restrictions on the number of fast food restaurants in town centres
- Need tighter enforcement on fast food restaurants to keep town centres clean, particularly by cleaning waste from their restaurants
- Introduce refund scheme to encourage return of plastic bottles and aluminium cans
- Introduce a sugar tax to discourage use of unhealthy food and drink
- Good nutrition, exercise opportunities to spend time in green space and socialise are key to good health
- Ban e-scooters due to safety concerns on roads and to pedestrians

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Developments themselves should be designed to create healthy places. Refer to the Sport England Active Design document which was published in conjunction with Public Health England: <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/active-design>
- Option 1 is best for the 'Supporting health and wellbeing' issue
- Option 1 is best for the 'Ensuring a high standard of amenity' issue
- It is hard to accept the possibility of achieving the objective of 'improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities' when the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is implementing a plan that converts Poole and Bournemouth hospitals into one hospital. This expects all planned procedures to involve everyone concerned travelling to Poole and all severe trauma procedures to involve everyone concerned having to be transported to Bournemouth. This will lead to potential delays beyond Dorset CCG's recommended time of the single 'golden' hour for emergency treatments

- It is unclear the extent to which the reduction in beds and access points will serve the increased population (and its distribution) that any adopted Local Plan will be fostering
- The concept of a Health Impact Assessment may be useful in determining whether the NHS has adequate facilities to support occupants of developments
- The lack of clarity concerning the basis of the population being served by the Dorset CCG plans suggests more collaboration is required now
- The issue about 'ensuring a high standard of amenity' should include implementing high standards of insulation, the use of solar panels on buildings and the opportunity to step outside or very good ventilation if no balcony is relevant
- It is understood that the three towns have approximately 206,000 roofs with about 6,000 of them with reported solar panel installations. An opportunity exists to generate electricity closer to where it is used (reducing transmission costs) on more urban roofs than the current reported 3% and thus allow fields to be kept for carbon capture, food and general health benefits, promoting health and wellbeing
- The concept of spending Community Infrastructure Levy monies to help fund primary care seems odd when the operation of Economic Evaluation Assessments (EVAs) limits the availability of such monies. Perhaps, under certain circumstances, the adopted Local Plan will require such EVAs to be conducted in public
- Support the proposal to ensure residential developments have access to external space on site and that this should include natural elements
- Support the proposal to provide access to the natural environment in the local area, including to woodland
- Recommend adopting policy standards for residential developments that support access to the natural environment and woodland for informal recreation
- Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space Standard recommends that all people should have accessible natural green space of at least two hectares in size, no more than 300m (five minutes' walk) from home. It also recommends:
 - at least one accessible 20-hectare site within 2km of home
 - one accessible 100-hectare site within 5km of home
 - one accessible 500-hectare site within 10km of home
- A minimum of one hectare of statutory local nature reserves per 1,000 people
- The Woodland Trust has developed a Woodland Access Standard to complement the Accessible Natural Green Space Standard. This recommends that:
 - no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2 hectares in size
 - there should be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20 hectares within 4km (8km round trip) of people's homes
- Support the principles of nationally described space standards and the requirement for external amenity space in balance with the viability and delivery of new development
- Object to all options. Keep open space and develop brownfield sites.
- Support Objective to 'Improve health and wellbeing and contribute towards reducing inequalities' and encourage more outdoor collective organisations like Parks in Mind
- Support Option 1 for 'Supporting health and wellbeing' issue
- Support both options for 'Ensuring a high standard of amenity'

- Internal and external space should be adequate! National standards for room sizes should be set

Agents

- External spaces should allow for eating out sat in a chair per occupant with room to manoeuvre around to get to the door. The London plan suggests 5 sqm plus 1 sqm per occupant with a minimum 1.5 metre depth.
- Support the council's aspiration to improve health and wellbeing through development but object to the requirement for Health Impact Assessments (HIA) or specific financial contributions as outlined in Option 1
- Support Option 1 for 'ensuring a high standard of amenity'
- Support Option 1 for 'Setting internal space standards for new residential development in line with the nationally described space standards'
- Objects to Option 2 for 'Setting standards for external space on residential development for flats'
- Concerned that an additional cost will be imposed on development through the introduction of a specific financial contribution towards health infrastructure. Vital that the associated costs are tested in combination with other costs imposed on development to ensure ongoing viability and delivery of the housing needed over the plan period
- Imposing internal space standards must be tested as part of the Viability Assessment to ensure that development remains viable and deliverable
- The Green Belt and land around Bournemouth Airport currently support a range of leisure and recreation uses including playing fields, golf courses, theme parks and other outdoor activities. These facilities are vital for the urban population and help to promote health and wellbeing. There are opportunities to complement these uses and help to improve general accessibility to the area by promoting improved public transport, and creating new walking and cycling routes
- Health and wellbeing: any contributions should be taken from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) pot
- Amenity: agree that the national space standards should be adopted but flat development will not be able to provide for a set standard of garden space. This is delivered through housing sites. Releasing the Green Belt in places will deliver this

3.9. Tackling climate change

Objective: Work towards achieving carbon neutrality ahead of 2050 and inspire action to combat the climate and ecological emergency

Q105. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the two options for ensuring new developments will be built to reduce their energy use and minimise carbon emissions?

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Ensuring new buildings will be built to reduce their energy use and minimise carbon emissions		
a) Option 1 Allow new development to comply with the national building regulation (Part L) requirements (184)	46%	34%
b) Option 2 Set a higher local standard beyond the building regulations (Part L) requirements. (204)	85%	7%

Q106. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about ensuring new developments will be built to reduce their energy use and minimise carbon emissions.

BCP Residents Responses

Most prevalent themes were ‘**Agreement**’ (41) and ‘**Suggestions**’ (32)

Agreement

- Most agreement was shown for Option 2
- Viability should be the focus of scrutiny
- BCP be the market leaders in ensuring our building regulations are above and beyond those that are stipulated for energy efficiency
- BCP need to be pioneers in new building design as national building regulations will be slow to catch up
- Investment in eco-friendly homes should be made locally so BCP becomes carbon-ready as fast as possible
- Set ambitious carbon and energy targets beyond building regulations to do our best to prevent climate catastrophe
- New developments should not just be carbon neutral, but carbon reducing
- More energy efficient homes reduce fuel poverty and studies show zero carbon housing is not significantly more expensive to build

Suggestions

- Minimum standard should be passive or net zero housing. If that cannot be achieved, the development should not go ahead
- New builds must focus on reducing environmental impact and climate change
- Policy for all new housing must encourage builders, architects, and developers to exceed new regulations

- Builders, architects, and developers must prove design, construction, and energy performance upon completion
- Build with sustainable materials especially fabric as a first option. Limiting building in general is the best way to tackle the climate emergency
- New and retrofitted homes should all be strongly insulated, double glazed, have rainwater collection systems, bee and bat bricks, solar panels, and electric charging ports
- Less costly to make a home energy efficient at the start than to add on later
- Need a strategy for reducing energy including help and advice for people living in older houses
- Quality passive energy policies are essential especially for affordable housing
- Need to consider the impact of embedded carbon in building materials
- The council must do more to ensure that existing private dwellings and businesses improve insulation levels to stand a chance of achieving/exceeding national and local targets for reductions in carbon emissions
- Gas boilers should not be permitted in new builds or refurbishments
- Consider using harbour or sea water to power large scale water source heat pumps
- Need council-approved/recommended retrofitters to ensure guidelines are met
- Encourage more self-builds
- Need to achieve zero carbon targets sooner, 2050 will be too late

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- The Local Plan should consider full scope emissions which would encourage building using wood rather than carbon-heavy materials such as concrete, steel and plastic. More fuel-efficient homes can help alleviate fuel poverty, which continues to be a significant issue as this year's record price rises show
- It's far, far more expensive to retrofit buildings to be lower energy in the future than it is to build them right in the first place. This burden shouldn't be passed on to the next person. BCP Council has declared a climate emergency, committing its own operations to be Zero Carbon in less than eight years' time, with the whole region to follow by 2050. This can't be done without an ambitious policy on Zero Carbon buildings
- Let's create policy that compares new buildings against the benchmarks and targets set in other city regions and towns
- Planning should incentivise people to reuse and adapt more existing buildings and bring these up to a modern standard of insulation and comfort
- The consultation document says that "Be Clean considers how to use energy efficiently", but other authorities say this refers to the clean generation of power through heat networks or communal systems. Let's match other city regions in this way
- New policy needs to be properly enforced. Let's mirror what other authorities and building control are doing, by asking developers to prove their performance at the end of the build.

- The national standard is a good start, but we should, as an area with a climate emergency, be demonstrating leadership in requiring a higher standard now
- With the pressures from climate change and global warming it is essential new properties are built to the highest possible environmental standards. The current level of making up to 10% savings is inadequate
- There has to be greater emphasis upon maximising solar insolation in the overall design of a building, whether for domestic or commercial use
- Higher standards of insulation, use of solar panels/ground source heat pumps, etc should all become standard features of any new proposals
- It is important that not just new council housing should be to passive house standards, but this should be an aim for all new dwellings

Agents

- Going beyond should be encouraged however not required. Going beyond would lead to affordable housing not being provided.
- Strongly agree Option 1 and strongly disagree with Option 2
- The key to success is standardisation and avoidance of individual council's specifying their own policy approach to energy efficiency, which undermines economies of scale for product manufacturers, suppliers and developers
- BCP Council does not need to set local energy efficiency standards to achieve the shared net zero goal because of the higher levels of energy efficiency standards for new homes set out in the 2021 Part L Interim Uplift, which are effective from June 2022, and proposals for the 2025 Future Homes Standard

Town/Parish Councils

- Option 2 is never inferior to Option 1
- National standards are regularly reviewed and BCP will need to ensure they maintain these regulations

Q107. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the two options for maximising the uptake of energy from renewable sources?

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Maximising the uptake of energy from renewable sources		
a) Option 1 Consider allocating specific areas for delivering large scale renewable/low carbon technologies and associated infrastructure. (203)	75%	9%
b) Option 2 Determine renewable and low carbon energy proposals, subject to policy criteria for example, respecting landscape quality and residential amenity. (204)	75%	7%

Q108. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about maximising the uptake of energy from renewable sources.

BCP Residents Responses

Most prevalent themes were 'Agreement' (36) and 'Suggestions' (26)

Agreement

- Most agreement was shown for Option 1
- BCP should be less energy dependent on overseas fuel
- Need to use every renewable, inexpensive energy resource at our disposal, e.g., wind, wave and solar
- BCP urgently needs to implement policies to tackle the climate emergency through renewable energy sources
- Option 1 will only work if there is a clear strategy within the Local Plan for the types of energy required and the most efficient way of delivering them
- Urgency is the most important factor, there is not time for long draw out battles with residents' groups and parish councils

Suggestions

- Better use of Green Belt land for renewable energy sources instead of large-scale building developments
- Tidal and wind energy are underused in BCP and should be looked into more
- Encourage use of solar/photovoltaic panels on new building developments and listed buildings (unless Grade 1)
- Solar power panels on homes are essential to maximising the uptake of renewable energy
- Install batteries in homes to store energy generated for peak energy demands
- Approval for renovations and extensions of old property planning permission should be contingent on making insulation, or energy efficacy improvements
- Collaborate with freeholders and housing associations on the installation of more solar panels on existing buildings
- Need to revisit offshore wind farm / turbines

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- BCP Council should support the transition to a low carbon economy by allowing more renewables and low carbon proposals
- Amenity and landscape quality concerns are of little value if societal breakdown has occurred if we fail to transition
- BCP Council should require low carbon technology in all new developments and actively encourage retrofitting
- Both options should be included - they are not mutually exclusive and could operate at significantly different scales. It is important to encourage such activity, whether on a large commercial scale or a much smaller community level scale
- There is little scope for delivering large scale renewable/low carbon technologies and associated infrastructure within the Poole Quay area

Agents

- To maximise the uptake of energy from renewable sources both options suggested by the Issues and Options should be pursued

Q109. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for flood and coastal erosion risk management?

Recommendation: In line with government guidance, we propose to direct the majority of development to areas of lowest flood risk. If any development has to take place in an area at risk of flooding because there is no alternative location, we will ensure that appropriate flood risk alleviation measures are provided. We also propose to require the provision of sustainable drainage systems in new developments.

	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Flood and coastal erosion risk management (159)	71%	22%

Q110. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about flood and coastal erosion risk management.

Most prevalent themes were ‘**Objection**’ (36) and ‘**Suggestions**’ (12)

BCP Residents Responses

Objection

- Most objections were made to building in areas at risk of flooding
- Areas already designated as flood risk areas, must not be developed under any circumstances
- Rainfall and coastal flooding will increase and no matter how many flood risk measurements are provided by new developments it is not sustainable
- Concerns that homes, not currently at risk of flooding, will become ‘at risk homes’
- If there is no alternative, then the area has reached its maximum capacity for housing

Suggestions

- Flooding is going to become a major problem for BCP
- Add sea walls/flood protection
- Adequate underground work needed for properties prone to subsidence/flooding
- Utilise natural coastal erosion/flood prevention opportunities through habitat restoration/creation
- Develop existing housing stock or stop developing completely
- Sustainable drainage systems should go in all new developments but not relied upon adjacent to vulnerable areas
- Need to stop people paving over their front gardens
- Flood risk alleviation should also not push flood risk onto existing properties

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Developers should be asked to contribute to the strategic use of woodland to mitigate risks of flooding, which would also provide added benefits such as water quality

improvements (nitrate pollution prevention, soil erosion, carbon sequestration, etc) whilst also providing recreational greenspace for the residents of BCP

- We can go further and require the use of swales and other flash flood mitigation techniques in new developments
- Some appropriate development should be supported in flood zones, subject to clear alleviation measures or adaptation approach. A blanket ban is not appropriate
- Aside from coastal and floodplain risk, attention needs to be given also to surface runoff flooding. Within Poole, for example, Broadstone has the highest number of houses at risk from surface runoff flooding than elsewhere in the town. It is therefore important that policies exist that would mitigate against such flooding
- Where possible retain as much porous surfacing as possible, but where non-porous materials are used then sufficient permeable/porous surfaces exist to which surface water can be drained

Agents

- What is being done about sea defences required for the entirety of Poole Town Centre? A collaborative scheme is needed on sites such as these

Q111. Please tell us any other comments about tackling climate change in the Local Plan, including any other issues or ideas you feel that we should consider.

Most prevalent theme was **‘Suggestions’ (108)**

Sub-themes: **Green initiatives e.g., solar panels, photovoltaic panels, insulation’ and ‘Address issues relating to transport use including electric vehicles, rail charging, congestion charges/low emission zones, active travel’**

BCP Residents Responses

Green initiatives e.g., solar panels, photovoltaic panels, insulation

- Strong support for an off-shore windfarm
- Support residents by helping with insulation and sustainable energy to go carbon neutral quicker
- Grants for installing ground or air source heating systems
- All new homes should not connect to the gas network and should have roof photovoltaic panels
- Move to permeable surfaces to allow rainwater to soak away in the earth to prevent surface water and river flooding
- Provision of animal habitats is imperative on new and old buildings
- Residents should be encouraged to have wildlife-friendly gardens, e.g., native shrubs/trees/wildflowers/small ponds
- All developments should meet excellent BRE/ BREEAM rating

Address issues relating to transport use including electric vehicles, rail charging, congestion charges/low emission zones, active travel port issues - electric cars, congestion charge, carbon free areas, public transport

- Transport situation will need to change for climate change to have a chance
- Implement carbon-free areas only for hybrids or electric vehicles

- Introduce a congestion charge and introduce benefits for non-care use – “polluters pay to mitigate pollution”
- Develop an education plan and uphold legislation to tackle idling engines (Regulation 12 of the Road Traffic Act)
- Financial penalties are the fastest route to behaviour change
- Not enough electric vehicle chargers in BCP, more would encourage further uptake of electrical cars
- Don't build housing estates that depend on two cars per house to function
- Promote physical activity and active travel more
- Solving our congested transport system is vital
- Change the parking strategy to promote electric vehicle parking in all new developments
- Provide an efficient train service across the conurbation
- Make bus fleets electric
- Reducing the use of cars for the school run would have an enormous impact on reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and improving air quality

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Please see South Marine Plan climate change policies
- Need a policy on retrofitting and de-carbonising existing buildings
- Needs adaptation policies for some areas and abandonment policies for some locations, i.e., Tuckton Park Homes
- A clear strategy for transitioning to a warmer climate is also needed including how green space is replanted with more suitable plant species better suited to a warmer BCP
- Clear links to transport and having a resilient transport network as the impact of climate change increases the likelihood of flooding events with very clear need to decarbonise transport and promote a BCP that is more convenient to walk and cycle around than driving
- Electric charging points should be encouraged for every new development no matter the building type
- There needs to be greater provision throughout the conurbation on public land, e.g., formal car parks, roads where suitable
- Support Option 1 for ‘Ensuring new buildings will be built to reduce their energy uses and minimise carbon emissions’
- Support Option 2 for ‘Maximising the uptake of energy from renewable sources
- Roofs of most buildings within the three towns should be encouraged to have solar panels serving batteries
- Local Plan could promote suitable group purchase schemes, since the number of roofs with solar panels is very small for the total number of buildings in the urban area and power is best generated where it is used to limit transmission costs
- As the summers get hotter it may also be useful to cover ground level parking areas with solar panels to provide suitable shading for the vehicles

- Large solar or wind farms in our locality are likely to damage the economy (based upon 'naturalness'), let alone general safety as storms become more severe. The investigation into the recent case of a wind turbine tower succumbing to storm Eunice may have its implications
- No doubt because of the reliability of tidal flows (involving millions of tons of sea water moving regularly like clockwork) support will be considered for sub-surface tidal flow turbines (well below the influence of waves) to generate electricity. It may even be an area for local industrial development and future employment, in view of existing engineering strengths
- Support a move to obtain hydrogen by solar powered electrolysis of land-fill methane provided the carbon is captured
- Support Option 1 for 'Maximising the uptake of energy from renewable sources', if the specific areas are to be "roofs of suitable buildings"
- The issue about 'flood risk alleviation measures' should include collaborating with all authorities in the catchment areas of all relevant rivers to ensure the function of water meadows is fully restored and enhanced.
- Whilst tackling climate change, ensure national 'guidance' is appropriately balanced to local needs
- Leave Christchurch as it is and follow Government guidelines
- Support the principle of reducing the energy impact of buildings, however this section is missing any mention of natural solutions. Incorporating existing and planting new trees and hedgerows in development sites can help mitigate the impacts of climate change, delivering natural cooling in urban heat islands through transpiration as well as providing shelter and shade, and contributing to sustainable urban drainage systems
- Support the principle of safeguarding natural assets when locating renewables infrastructure. Biomass should be included among the renewable energy sources listed
- We recognise that coastal locations require special measures to deal with flood protection. Policy should be strengthened with mention of natural solutions, including tree planting
- Natural flood management techniques can make an important contribution and should be part of the Resilience Strategy, e.g., leaky dams and planting trees
- Developers should be responsible for mitigating the impact of climate change
- Need a more strategic approach to reducing the carbon footprint by encouraging a conurbation-wide energy strategy and moving away from environmental "bling" that is not an effective response to the wider climate challenge, e.g., Carbon Heat and Power (CHP) has proven to be inefficient and space on rooftops taken up by Photovoltaics could be alternatively employed for amenity/green roofs
- Whilst the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) has been widely used it covers design and construction stages only. There are more relevant measures of building performance that look at the whole life cycle of the building
- Support Option 2 for 'Ensuring new buildings will be built to reduce their energy use and minimise carbon emissions'
- Support Option 2 for 'Maximising the uptake of energy from renewable sources'
- Do not build on flood plains when considering tidal renewable energy

- There should be requirement that not only are buildings energy efficient but should be “greened” as much as possible with living fauna and flora.
- The focus should be on making the urban spaces “greener”, e.g., Singapore
- The alternative to greening is things that generally look good when brand new but eventually end up looking drab, e.g., ASDA residential buildings in Poole

Agents

- Strong support for Option 1 for ‘Ensuring new buildings will be built to reduce their energy use and minimise carbon emissions’ issue
- Should leave energy requirements to building regulations as these often surpass the planning requirement and therefore are more flexible and don’t date as quickly
- Support Recommendation for ‘Flood and coastal erosion risk management’. Significant development potential and regeneration opportunities exist at Stony Lane in Christchurch subject to flood mitigation.
- Support Option 2 for ‘Maximising the uptake of energy from renewable sources’

Developers/landowners

- Leave our Green Belt, nature, and wildlife alone

Town/Parish Councils

- BCP Council should implement the policies within the Historic England 2017 Conserving Historic Water Meadows
- The Stour Valley water meadows should be given special status within BCP as a rare habitat

3.10. Providing infrastructure that supports development

Objective: Deliver the infrastructure needed to support development

Q113. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for delivering the infrastructure to support growth?

Recommendation: We propose to work with infrastructure providers and funding bodies to develop an Infrastructure Delivery Plan to sit alongside the Local Plan and continue to fund infrastructure from developer contributions.

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Delivering the infrastructure to support growth (136)	76%	10%

Q114. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about delivering the infrastructure to support growth.

Most prevalent theme was ‘**Suggestions**’ (29)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- Work with infrastructure providers who live in the area, not outside of it
- Ensure infrastructure providers cannot change Local Plans
- Look to the community too for suggestions and listen to them after proposals are put forward
- Infrastructure should be improved before new developments happen
- More houses require infrastructure with greater capacity and efficiency
- Ensure developers deliver quality and not provide the cheapest option
- No development should be allowed unless there is provision for the required infrastructure, e.g., sewage treatment, doctor surgeries and schools
- Need to also improve existing infrastructure when required
- Tougher regulation and requirements for developers

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Please see infrastructure policy within Marine Plan
- Necessary infrastructure should be delivered regardless of funding source
- A greater expectation that developments have to pay a greater share is required
- Some direct investment by the council should happen
- BCP Council should take a more active role in site assembly and infrastructure delivery. This is key for sites with multiple ownerships

- Any Infrastructure Delivery Plan should have flexibility to changes in infrastructure needs, potentially as a rolling requirement
- Water, Sewage and Energy suppliers must be pressed to be clearer on future need and plan their work to accommodate additional growth expected in certain locations
- It is essential that railway infrastructure is considered as part of this process and at an early stage

Town/Parish Councils

- Council to revisit the Christchurch relief road/bypass issue to allow Burton & Winkton Parish Council and other stakeholders to have a say in the renewed debate
- In planning for sustainable and deliverable development which does not cause severe traffic concerns for the life of the proposed plan; more should be done to ensure that Christchurch and Burton do not become overly congested in the future
- Strongly agrees with the recommendation as long as BCP liaise with Parish Councils on the development and implementation of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Q115. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for balancing the delivery of infrastructure with viable development?

Recommendation: Where an applicant sets out that a proposal would not be viable if it were compliant with all the policies that will be in the Local Plan, we propose to require the submission of a Viability Assessment. We would use the assessment to calculate the contributions applicant can make towards infrastructure. We will continue to require the independent scrutiny of submitted viability assessments and will consider introducing measures to strengthen that process and improve transparency.

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Balancing the delivery of infrastructure with viable development (122)	64%	24%

Q116. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about balancing the delivery of infrastructure with viable development.

Most prevalent theme was **‘Suggestions’** (28)

Sub-themes: **‘Developments should meet full requirements/no exceptions’** and **‘Viability Assessments to be comprehensive/transparent/hard evidence’**

BCP Residents Responses

Developments should meet full requirements / no exceptions

- If a development does not comply with the Local Plan, then it should not go ahead, full stop
- Set higher standards/criteria for developers to meet in the Viability Assessments
- Better regulation and enforcement so that developers cannot get around the Viability Assessment with money or influential contacts

- Concerns about corruption therefore enforcement needs to be clear and transparent
- Infrastructure Delivery Plan needs to be produced and costed before any final decisions about allocation of land for new development or intensified redevelopment can happen

Viability Assessments to be comprehensive /transparent/ hard evidence

- Needs to be a robust independent and transparent exercise
- The reasons for meeting the criteria of a Viability Assessment should be published for public viewing
- Concerns Viability Assessments could be used as a loophole by developers
- Needs to be more robust so taxpayers do not end covering the costs for poor development in the future
- Essential that Viability Assessments drill down to the day to day impact of development, ensuring developers provide hard evidence for their claims
- Need to see a comprehensive set of requirements included in any Viability Assessment which fully reflects the negative impacts of development
- Independent scrutiny is vital along with improving transparency of process
- Include environmental assessments in determining viability

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Within the marine environment, appropriate land-based infrastructure which facilitates marine activity (and vice versa) should be supported through the Marine Plan

Agents

- It is right that the Local Plan should ensure viability is taken into account in assessing the contributions that can be made through development

Town/Parish Councils

- All developments within BCP should be compliant, as a minimum standard, with all the policies listed in the Local Plan

Q117. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for telecommunications and digital infrastructure provision?

Recommendation: We propose to support proposals for telecommunications or radio equipment where they have an acceptable visual impact on the locality.

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Telecommunications and digital infrastructure provision (100)	65%	15%

Q118. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about telecommunications and digital infrastructure provision.

Most prevalent theme was **‘Suggestions’** (11)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- Need a high level of internet provision due to the rise in homeworking
- Telecoms towers should go through the planning process
- More fibre cabling is needed to residential properties that offer more choices of provider
- Improve internet service and phone lines in Christchurch
- The Local Plan should include policy to monitor and react to developments of 5G technology
- Reduce visual impact on locality by encouraging telecoms companies to share masts
- Local residents need to be consulted on potential impacts proposals may have
- Telecoms masts and cabinets should be located at the rear of footways
- Digital advertising panels and phone kiosks should be banned or subject to strict regulations about how much space they occupy on pavements
- Policy needed to regulate distraction and glare from digital advertising screens

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Not all impact is visual. Multiple recent telecommunications applications were proposed to have severe impacts on footway widths potentially forcing pedestrians, wheelchair users and parents with buggies into the carriageway
- Telecoms masts and cabinets should be located at the rear of the footway. A minimum width should be required on classified roads of 2 metres between the unit and the carriageway
- Digital advertising panels and phone kiosks should be banned or subject to similar requirements of telecoms retaining adequate width
- Additional thought given to distraction and glare for digital adverts with a specific policy produced

Town/Parish Councils

- As the Parish is within a conservation area, we do not allow for the placement of 5G masts. This brings greater importance and priority to the decision by the Council to invest in its own ducting and fibre assets that will lead to greater investment in fibre going forward including at Throop and Holdenhurst
- Full consultation is needed at all times until ultimate delivery

Q119. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for community facilities and services?

Recommendation: We propose to protect existing community facilities and services, unless it can be demonstrated that they are no longer needed or can be provided elsewhere in an accessible location to serve that community.

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Community facilities and services (132)	77%	15%

Q120. Please explain your answers and let us know if you can suggest any alternative approaches or have any other comments that we should consider about community facilities and services.

Most prevalent theme was **‘Suggestions’** (21)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- Need to keep existing community facilities and promote growth with more activities and community initiatives
- Social services in BCP needs an overhaul as too many people are slipping through the net and left to fend for themselves including the homeless
- Libraries need more investment as they play a vital role in the community
- Policing needs to improve with more officers on the 'beat' discouraging problems with alcohol, violence, and affray
- Residents should be encouraged to take ownership and responsibility of their communities with support from the council
- Parish Councils could be encouraged to be less insular and more visible in decision making
- Create a community volunteer scheme whereby volunteers link with councillors and build strong relationships within the community
- Need to ensure community facilities are kept for the long-term and short-term events do not affect their longevity
- Recommendation should include the enhancement of facilities where necessary
- Should expand, not just protect, existing facilities
- Each area needs its own community facilities

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Isn't this market forces? If use ceases something else will take over
- Support proposal to protect existing community facilities and services through policy within the future Local Plan, in line with paragraph 93 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

- We encourage protection and enhancement as protection alone can lead to no improvements
- All the community facilities in the Poole Quays Forum area are needed and more community facilities are needed in Hamworthy

Town/Parish Councils

- Request consultation on any future community facilities that may be proposed within the Parish

Q121. Please tell us any other comments about providing infrastructure that supports development in the Local Plan, including any other issues or ideas you feel that we should consider.

Most prevalent theme was ‘**Suggestions**’ (59)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- Maintain roads better e.g., potholes in many areas, congestion
- Transport links need to be improved drastically before any development is considered
- Need a good train service across the conurbation
- E-bike scheme should be reviewed due to safety concerns for riders and pedestrians
- Green infrastructure needs to be reviewed, e.g., open spaces, recreation areas, green networks/corridors, allotments, tributaries, rivers, and coastlines
- Allotments are vital to residents with very little garden to grow their own produce
- All infrastructure development should be assessed on the basis of its net cost / benefits towards achievement of Climate Emergency targets
- Quality of education also needs to improve
- Bournemouth in particular needs schools
- Empty shops should be turned into community hubs to improve health and wellbeing especially during the cost of living crisis

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Road improvements please
- Please consider a fully overview of the libraries and their current structure. Specialist services such as Music and Heritage (which currently have excellent reputations) are being put under pressure due to cuts. The libraries do so much for the residents and are a face of the council so should be a priority in this issue of the consultation
- Maintain the infrastructure we already have properly; roads and pavements in many areas are a mess, uneven, potholed...
- We should not support development, period
- Burton, Christchurch, barely gets 4G reception, so that may need addressing

- Transport infrastructure needs an uplift as the growth of the area increases
- Bus facilities need to be looked at seriously
- In some areas there are huge problems with anti-social behaviour perpetrated specifically on buses. This is inexcusable as it puts drivers and public at risk. All buses should have video links in them
- Cycle routes are well catered for and some not used very much. They should not be expanded at the cost of transport links as there is no room on roads if the cycle lanes are too wide
- Footpaths/pedestrian links need to be investigated as many are not in good condition and can be a hazard to pedestrians
- Roads have a lot of potholes and need to be re-laid
- Electric vehicle charging points are going to become a necessity in the area as electric vehicles become more normal. Although costly it is a must if so many people will need them, but they need to be sited strategically
- Flood risk measures especially in Christchurch needs an overhaul. It floods too often and with rising sea levels it is quite urgent
- Green infrastructure such as open spaces, recreation areas, green networks/corridors, allotments, tributaries, rivers, and coastlines all need to be reassessed. Especially recreation areas for children to play on
- Allotments are becoming vital to residents with very little garden to grow their own produce. This may mean using some green space to accommodate this venture, but it will promote good health and a community of its own too
- All the improvements come with a need for parking which is in short supply in all areas when so much accommodation is being built
- There is no youth club/society in Poole and as a result nowhere for our young people to meet and safely interact. As a result, they hang around the bus station. All fast food outlets along the high street have been closed (on health grounds but somehow this doesn't include the KFC in the bus station), but this has resulted in there being nowhere for young people to meet up. This needs to be addressed.
- Allocate sites for schools, community centres, health uses etc
- Please find some way to support museums and art galleries to come to the area
- We have a unique Victorian seaside resort. The priority should be to retain the character (if the priority is something else then we need a proper consultation document), but we need a plan that moves us to the end of the 21st century
- The transport policy is in complete disarray, and we have no coherent realistic plan
- The proposed high density residential developments need to be justified, but if considered to be a sound plan for the future, then we need to implement 21st century infrastructure solutions that take cognisance of green objectives
- Need district heating (and cooling) solutions that allow adoption of the most appropriate energy source at a point in time. District heating can adapt easily to energy source
- District solid waste schemes are operating successfully in the Middle East - If we want to be a world class resort, we have to adopt the world class solutions that are actually been adopted by real world class resorts

- Cycleways are really not too viable: making a cyclist safe but few people are hardy enough to cycle in inclement weather or too elderly, or too young
- Make buses free so it will be nigh on impossible to use a car as they will be free, but they must be frequent and comprehensive, and cheaper for the council than building and maintaining new roads. You have to think outside the box now
- Free parking bays for 30 minutes at retail centres
- Infrastructure to support working from home
- Deliver Cat 6 world class communications technology and beat the World
- Sort out our over congested roads and stop narrowing them and making them dangerous. Stop building on car parks and leave the Bournemouth International Centre alone
- More clarity needed on council's intentions
- Residential and commercial premises now require communication systems to avoid unnecessary travel to offices
- Development should be in green infrastructure. Create food growing areas, more allotments, roof gardens, living walls. Insulate homes, create green energy, and less use of cars
- All infrastructure development should be assessed on the basis of its net cost / benefits towards achievement of climate emergency targets
- Infrastructure, particularly transport links and services, need to be vastly improved before any further development is considered. It is not possible to get between Bournemouth and Poole on any reasonable timescale. In the past several decades, all changes in health provision, council service provision, shops etc., have seen a move away from very local provision to ever larger and remote facilities. This is one of the main contributing factors to the clogged roads and is the very opposite of one of the aims stated in the Local Plan
- It has to be observed that cycle lanes seem to be built where the roads are wide enough, not where the cyclists need them. More careful research into the most popular routes for cyclists would ensure that the money spent on these routes gets a better return on investment.
- Review the infrastructure of today that has grown up to support three separate towns and agree a future model for a single conurbation
- BCP Council must aim to provide what's best for the residents and businesses of the towns and not what developers offer if this is purely for profit
- Provide a decent train service across the conurbation, i.e., a half hourly stopping service between Wareham and Brockenhurst. Re-open Boscombe station
- Bournemouth especially needs more schools. Secondary schools in the area have such small catchment areas now due to the demand. The quality of education also needs to improvement
- The immediate future is likely to be very hard financially for most families and therefore community projects will prove vital in sustaining mental and physical health. Where high street shops have declined the space should be used to create hubs for local people.

- Each town needs to have its own community facilities. Under no circumstances should Two Riversmeet be closed - if you are proposing to build more properties, then those living in them need to have full access to local amenities.
- The roads and pavements are in a poor state in many areas
- The electric scooter experiment should be reviewed
- Our poor infrastructure has an awful impact on our lives, sitting in endless queues of traffic due to our inadequate roads and the amount of vehicles using them
- Concerns about the health impacts of radiation from 5G masts
- Infrastructure should be resilient, secure, and high quality with transparent ownership and effective regulation
- If you say something is being done across BCP make sure it is - recent money for park regeneration all went to Bournemouth and Christchurch areas - none to Poole
- Propose the inclusion of the following to the new Infrastructure Delivery Plan:
 - Enhance Maypole Square
 - Need a small Bus hub located close to Old Orchard/West Street shopping facility in the regeneration area
 - Need a medical centre in the regeneration area
 - More access to public transport which must be vastly improved
 - Tall buildings only in gateway areas on the regeneration areas, not on the lower High Street site, in the conservation area and heritage area
 - Needs to be a fair proportion of sharing the responsibility of housing density/Green Belt
 - Respect the heritage of the old town
 - More schools needed to take care of 4,000 dwellings
 - Enhance Poole Quay
 - Improve High Street
 - Existing electric supply is unstable
 - Need a 20 mile an hour speed limit covering the Poole Old Town area of Poole Quays Forum
 - Speeding vehicles in West Street should be addressed

Agents

- Whilst it is important that the appropriate level of infrastructure is delivered, any costs imposed on the development industry through Section 106 and/or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) financial contributions must be thoroughly tested through the Local Plan Viability Assessment and CIL charging schedule review
- There is an opportunity to provide a range of facilities to help improve accessibility to the area by sustainable modes of transport. We are currently exploring the feasibility of the following ideas: a transport hub with improved public transport services and electric vehicle provision. New pedestrian/cycle routes between Parley Lane and north Bournemouth. Improvements to the existing highway network to improve vehicle flows and reduce existing congestion in the local area
- This matter is controlled through the CIL regulations and there is no need to repeat national policy

- Community facilities: suggest the Local Planning Authority avoid reference to the 'Use Classes Order' as this can change at any moment and the policy is not stronger for this wording

Town/Parish Councils

- No more car parks within the Throop and Holdenhurst Village Parish and actively encourage cycling and walking
- Strongly object to additional traffic in Throop and Holdenhurst Village Parish

3.11. Other Comments and Suggestions

Q122. Finally, do you have any other issues, comments, or suggestions that we should consider for the Local Plan?

The most prevalent themes were **‘Suggestions’ (256)**

Sub-themes: **‘Protect Green Belt /green spaces/flood plains/trees’, ‘Comments on objective f) Our natural environment’, ‘Comments on objective b) New market and affordable homes’ and ‘Comments on objective e) Providing a safe, sustainable and convenient transport network’**

BCP Residents Responses

Protect Green Belt /green spaces/flood plains/trees

- Majority of these respondents wanted the Green Belt to remain fully protected with no developments
- Maintain small green urban areas for health and wellbeing and children’s play areas
- Focus on the regeneration of brownfield and inner town centre sites instead of building on Green Belt land
- Prioritise development of brownfield sites close to major travel hubs and places of employment
- Concerns that removing green spaces, including Green Belt land, goes against the council’s climate emergency objectives
- Concerns any development on the edges of BCP will only make travel problems worse
- Green fields, heathland, conservation areas, wildlife, parks, and community green spaces should be enhanced and developed rather than built on
- The Green Belt provides much needed wildlife highways and habitat
- It would not be necessary to build on green spaces if housing targets were lower
- Dorset has the best biodiversity of all the counties for its size so it should be protected for the benefit of the environment, BCP residents and tourists
- Concerns about developers focusing on profit alone, not protection of the green spaces in BCP

Comments on objective f) Our natural environment

- The highest level of protection must be given to the natural environment
- The majority of these respondents want the natural environment to be protected from developments and enhanced further for the environment, BCP residents and tourists
- Ancient woodland should be protected as a priority for wildlife benefits and for air quality in urban areas
- Developers should focus on the protection of the natural environment, not just profit
- Concerns that more development will lead to more erosion of the natural landscape
- Building should not in any circumstances be permitted on land prone to flooding
- Natural environment enables people to destress from the pressures of modern life which is vital at the moment

Comments on objective b) New market and affordable homes

- Concerns over densely populated urban areas encouraging crime and reducing quality of life
- Concerns over failed promises from developers on affordable housing, long delays on road repairs and excessive spending on materials
- Need a much stronger position on affordable housing, with stricter regulation of developers
- More social/affordable housing is needed not new builds that become second homes or private rental properties
- Need the necessary infrastructure to support new builds, e.g., schools, GP surgeries, roads, public transport
- Exhaust all options for building on brownfield sites before considering options on the Green Belt
- Concerns over excessive building of flats in BCP
- Concerns over the council setting up private companies to carry out development work
- Evaluate impact of homes owned by landlords and rented; Airbnb properties; second homes etc, on existing housing stock
- Greater control needed of second home buyers as they're preventing younger generations from the local area getting on the housing ladder
- If we want to be a city, we need to match the zero carbon policies of other major cities like London, Manchester, and Bristol
- More retirement villages in safe, rural areas

Comments on objective e) Providing a safe, sustainable and convenient transport network

- Desperately need a good, affordable public transport system
- Need bolder action to reduce car journeys despite the unpopularity of this with some motorists
- Enhance road networks to create free flowing traffic, provide better access and more affordable parking
- Invest in improving parking enforcement, especially around beach areas during summer months
- School car run is a significant problem regarding air pollution and congestion which must be tackled urgently
- Need more low traffic neighbourhoods as this had a positive impact on schools and enabled children to play in the street
- Tackle unnecessary car journeys and mileage around the conurbation as this is the root of many of the issues in the BCP area
- Concerns over money spent on cycle lanes that have caused delays, disruptions, and dangers for negligible gain

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- Trees are only mentioned with reference to the shading and urban cooling benefits, they should be far more prominent within the Local Plan for the wealth of benefits that they can bring and the role in a resilient future in the face of climate change
- More family-oriented activity centres, cheaper parking, less double yellow lines (possibly made into parking bays for town centre business owners), better rental prices for new and existing business, cleaner town centre
- More affordable 2 and 3 bed homes for families, more affordable homes for the elderly especially for the disabled elderly with well-equipped wet rooms
- The Local Plan should give mention of the Neighbourhood Plans being developed by smaller towns and parishes within BCP
- Generally, the Local Plan should be compatible with the needs of adjoining authorities and their various communities
- Collaboration with neighbouring councils should take account of climate change targets set by the government, amongst other issues
- Dorset Council is seeking (from government) an alternative way of developing a Local Plan which may affect the use of this consultation.
- It is unclear how the other planning authorities (local government or otherwise) will be trying to collaborate with BCP Council
- It is trusted that the declared objective of 'addressing key planning issues strategically' is to ensure mutual support from all authorities responsible for planning and controlling investments in Dorset
- There is particular concern over the challenges created by a Local Enterprise Partnership (planning to support growth) and a Clinical Commissioning Group (planning the pursuit of excellence whilst reducing access and costs), plus a water authority (with outstanding plans to reduce pollution)
- Every long-term plan should include intermediate milestones to enable performance monitoring and be a means by which practical prioritisation of issues and options may be secured. Such 'milestones' would be particularly valuable in ensuring adequate planning for climate change, let alone harmonizing the budgets of all stakeholders
- It will be important to see how BCP Council plan to ensure the adequate use and relevance of the eventual Local Plan, given the limited coverage of current parish councils. Perhaps neighbourhood forums, charter trusts and civic societies will be expected to contribute more strongly to the delivery of the adopted Local Plan
- Since the conurbation has so many bungalows, it may be beneficial to consider the regeneration of bungalow sites in suitable locations to local advantage and without too much strain on infrastructure services and facilities
- Owners of derelict, misused or under-used urban land could suggest their sites for redevelopment instead of using greener land which would be better used for carbon capture, food production and the life enhancing appreciation of nature

- An effective "staged" policy is required to prevent urban dereliction, a matter which creates a public desire to escape neglected areas for a more desirable urban environment
- Other factors (e.g., context, practicality, and acceptability) must be applied before the opinions that have been developed in the document can be considered as "robust evidence"
- BCP Council area - the current population data is stated but the relevant projected population data is not. 61% of the current population is of working age but the relevant projected percentage is not. No doubt this is a matter for clarification with the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership
- It is noted that 'homes' currently cost more than nine times average earnings. It would be helpful to know how the Local Plan will be expected to improve upon the current situation, especially with reference to current and projected median annual full-time pay
- The following should be included in the Local Plan:
 - absolute protection of ancient woodland, and ancient or veteran trees, with appropriate buffers and root protection areas specified
 - presumption of retention of existing healthy mature trees on development sites, and a greater than 1:1 replacement ratio where trees are removed
 - a borough-wide tree canopy cover target, and specific targets for development sites (we recommend a 30% canopy cover target) including use of urban greening factors where appropriate
 - a specification for native tree species, preferably from UK sourced & grown stock
 - setting targets for access to woodland as part of natural greenspace
 - inclusion of trees, woodland, and other natural solutions in policies on energy efficiency, flood management, air quality etc
 - incorporating green infrastructure as a green thread throughout the Local Plan.
- Appendix 1 - residential capacity could be increased at the following sites:
 - Bath Road North - increase residential capacity from 20 to 50 homes
 - Bath Road South - increase residential capacity from 10 to 50 homes
 - Central car park - increase residential capacity from 200 to 300 homes
 - Eden Glen car park - increase residential capacity from 30 to 60 homes
 - Winterbourne Hotel - increase residential capacity from 60 to 200 homes
- The following sites were previously included in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) but are omitted from the Consultation paper that should be included:
 - Winter Gardens - to reflect planning permission for 378 homes
 - Town Hall Annex - with potential capacity for up to 70 homes
 - West Hill - potential capacity for up to 70 homes
- It is important the Council addresses the tough questions and is bold in its decision making to ensure the Local Plan is robust and meets the needs of the conurbation through to 2038

- It would be a useful addition to the Issues and Options Consultation to identify how technology can be introduced to make the most of what BCP has to offer

Agents

- (a) and (g) Bournemouth's heritage is being destroyed in the advancement of (c) following the so-called Big Plan (e) The number and width of some on-road cycle lanes is putting cyclists at greater risk, reducing traffic capacity, and adding to congestion, therefore greater air pollution (h)
- The Issues and Options consultation document does not adequately plan for the housing needs of older people over the plan period. It relies on an out of date Shop@ methodology to calculate the housing needs for older people, resulting in a current shortfall of 955 housing with care units, by a further 678 units by 2038. The current strategy to address this need is via the Part M4(1), (2) and (3) of the building regulations but there is no detail on how the Council will ensure specialist housing is delivered over the Local Plan period
- BCP Council should revisit the November 2021 Local Housing Needs Assessment and the methodology and prevalence rates used in this
- A Viability Study should be produced which acknowledges the challenges faced by retirement community operators as well as the significant benefits specialist housing can bring to their residents and the wider community
- There are viability challenges for Extra Care housing which should be acknowledged through the Local Plan and then considered through relevant policies
- If specific sites are not allocated through the Local Plan for different forms of housing for older people, and the viability challenges for such forms of housing are not acknowledged through policy, retirement community developers will not be able to compete in the market to buy land, and this type of accommodation will not be delivered to meet the existing and forecast significant need for specialist housing
- Review the Financial Viability Review of Evidence in connection with the Solihull Local Plan EiP in full, with particular emphasis to the recommendations outlined at Paragraph 10.5 of the report and consider the measures included when producing the viability analysis to support the Local Plan

Developers/landowners

- More planning for conversion of existing commercial properties to homes
- Stop limiting housing to students and limit properties being used for holiday homes or second homes
- The next stage will be critical to ensuring a deliverable Local Plan. This must include a public facing explanation of the role and relationship of BCP to neighbour's areas who are facing pressure and opportunities also (Dorset/ New Forest)
- The involvement of the development industry to help inform viability considerations will be important to ensure the vision for BCP is one that is ultimately deliverable

Town/Parish Councils

- Site 07/03 is not a sustainable development which is contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework and contrary to the objectives (f) and (g). It would also fail objectives (i) and (e)
- f) There should be no compromise or dilution of the existing Green Belt and conservation areas within the BCP area especially within Throop and Holdenhurst village Parish area
- f) Object to BCP's current approach for the provision of strategic SANGs upon the Stour Valley water meadows residing within Throop and Holdenhurst village Parish area. This is in direct conflict with Historic England's conserving historic water meadows policy (Historic England 2017 Conserving Historic Water Meadows). This would be detrimental to the environment and in opposition to BCP's 2050 climate action plan
- f) Strongly agree with the change of use of our urban existing open spaces, e.g., golf courses to provide strategic SANGs which will be within walking distance of the proposed urban developments
- g) Throop and Holdenhurst village Parish contains the largest collection of listed buildings in BCP and therefore the historical context in which they lie should be preserved and maintained. The area has important heritage values that pre-date the creation of Bournemouth and therefore should be preserved under exceptional circumstances
- h) For a council that has declared a climate crisis, the focus should be on geodiversity and biodiversity as opposed to the current focus on human leisure. Opportunities for leisure should be focused on urban park space, thus protecting the sensitive natural environment & wildlife habitats within the Throop and Holdenhurst Parish area

3.12. Considering Equalities and Human Rights

Q123. Are there any positive or negative impacts of the recommendations and options in this consultation that you believe BCP Council should take into account in relation to equalities or human rights? If so, are you able to provide any supporting information and suggest any ways in which the organisation could reduce or remove any potential negative impacts and increase any positive impacts?

The most prevalent themes were ‘**Suggestions**’ (68) and ‘**Concerns**’ (31)

BCP Residents Responses

Suggestions

- More respect for people of all ages
- Need to plan for an ageing population
- Active travel is not accessible to an ageing population in BCP
- The elderly need better transport provision to prevent social isolation
- Disability must be given much higher priority in the Local Plan
- Public building access, parking and transportation all need to be improved for disabled people
- Need disabled access for all new developments and retrofitting to the existing built environment
- Too much emphasis on cycling which is not accessible to all, e.g., disabled, older people and infirmed
- Some cycle routes and lots of pavement parking exclude disabled and pushchair access
- Need to make active travel more accessible to less mobile people
- The council has a duty to protect children’s futures against the worst effects of the climate and ecological emergency
- Consider the needs of all sections of the community and not just minority communities
- Need to consider the views of all of its residents before the views of the rich and powerful landowners
- Need to provide the poor, disabled and troubled with greater access to community facilities and support, e.g., youth clubs and community activities

Concerns

- Safety concerns regarding Beryl bikes/e-scooters negatively impacting on pedestrians, pregnant women, families, and the elderly
- Concerns that discrimination of people on socio-economic grounds is a big problem in BCP, i.e., regarding the needs of the wealthy as more important than those of who are less well off
- Concerns over economic discrimination towards the poor, disabled and troubled, e.g., inability to enrol children in afterschool/holiday clubs or access community facilities

- The council needs to be careful not to dictate where people must live in order to gain access to employment opportunities, e.g., negative impacts of having to travel from Poole to Christchurch for work
- The Council needs to engage with the community more, especially children who will feel the effects of climate change more than anybody
- Concerns about active travel discriminating against those who cannot walk or cycle
- Concerns there is an absence of focus on how town policy might impact women, young families, or the elderly
- Concerns transport proposals discriminate against the elderly, disabled and the infirm, e.g., limiting access to healthcare further and not prioritising pedestrians enough
- Concerns that the needs of locals are not prioritised enough
- Concerns over the negative impact single unit housing is having on families, i.e., families are getting smaller and rarer, and this is contributing to an older population
- Concerns over how proposals discriminate against young people by not doing enough, e.g., lack of access to affordable housing, negative effects of climate change on younger people and higher cost of living

Responses made by organisations/associations, agents, developers/landowners, and Town/Parish Councils

Organisations/associations

- BCP has not considered neurodiversity within the consultation which is a clear discriminatory approach. The publication and consultation is very much structured to support a particular neurotype. See <https://becg.com/neurodiversity>
- Strong emphasis of infrastructure investment should be in public and shared modes. Investment in road / highway improvements does not benefit a wide cross section of the public and could discriminate against protected groups
- Equalities and human rights have nothing to do with your plans
- Improving the quality of the built environment with green infrastructure, and protecting the natural environment, including public access, helps address health inequalities and improve the health and wellbeing of the whole community
- Loss of trees in the urban environment risks exacerbating health inequalities and should be avoided

Developers/landowners

- You have a government target of how many homes to be built in the future. How many of these are specifically built for the disabled? This housing shortage crisis is bad, but it is a lot worse for the disabled trying to find a suitable home

Town/Parish Councils

- The digitalization of the consultation process disadvantages our many elderly residents and as a parish council we believe that we have a responsibility to voice concerns on their behalf. We support the greater involvement of residents in any consultation process, but it needs to be inclusive and properly facilitated

- Concerned about the impact of using Green Belt sites to meet arbitrary targets and the failure to protect the Green Belt set out in National Planning Policy Framework 13

Summary – agreement with vision and importance of objectives

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree that our vision is the right vision for the Local Plan:

Vision: We aim for Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole to be the UK's newest city region, brimming with prospects, positivity, and pride.

- 35% strongly agree or agree with the vision
- 18% neither agree nor disagree
- 46% strongly disagree or disagree
- 1% do not know

The table below shows the percentage of those strongly agreeing or agreeing with each of the objectives (% agree) and those who selected the objective in their top 5 (% top 5 importance).

Objectives	% agree	% top 5 importance
a) Regenerate our town centres and network of vibrant communities	82%	55%
b) Provide a sufficient supply of new market and affordable homes to meet the different needs of our communities	53%	28%
c) Support economic growth, the creation of jobs and the offer to visitors	73%	37%
d) Adapt our high streets and shopping areas to cater for changing retail demands	80%	43%
e) Provide a safe, sustainable and convenient transport network...	78%	53%
f) Conserve and enhance our protected habitats and biodiversity, and our network of green infrastructure and open spaces	89%	75%
g) Promote local character and the delivery of high quality urban design	69%	31%
h) Improve health and wellbeing and contribute towards reducing inequalities	77%	41%
i) Work towards achieving carbon neutrality ahead of 2050 and inspire action to combat the climate and ecological emergency	70%	45%
j) Deliver the infrastructure needed to support development, local communities and businesses	74%	37%

Summary – Issues and Options

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree that our vision is the right vision for the Local Plan:

Vision: We aim for Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole to be the UK's newest city region, brimming with prospects, positivity, and pride.

- 35% strongly agree or agree with the vision
- 18% neither agree nor disagree
- 46% strongly disagree or disagree
- 1% do not know

Summary – agreement with and importance of objectives

The table below shows the percentage of those strongly agreeing or agreeing with each of the objectives (% agree) and those who selected the objective in their top 5 (% top 5 importance).

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Summary – Issues and Options

The next pages summarise the levels of agreement and disagreement for each of the issues and options for the ten objectives.

Each table shows the percentage of those strongly agreeing or agreeing with the issue/option (% agree) and those strongly disagree or disagree (% disagree). The percentages do not always add up to 100% as it excluded those respondents who selected 'neither agree nor disagree' and 'don't know'.

The number of respondents answering about each of the issues/options (the base) is shown in brackets next to each issue/option.

Overall, there are higher levels of agreement than disagreement for the majority of issues/recommendations, with the exception of a few (relating to tall buildings and development around Stoney Lane) and for some options (where respondents could state how strongly they agree or disagree with each of the options), as shown in the tables on the next few pages.

1. Regenerating our town centres and network of vibrant communities

Issues	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Regenerating our town centres (299)	66%	23%

Levels of agreement and disagreement with our proposed actions in our proposed strategy for Bournemouth

	Agree	Disagree
a) Increasing the number of people living in the town centre by making more sites available for new homes (158)	65%	23%
b) Making significant investments in the Bournemouth International Centre and the seafront to boost the quality of the visitor attractions available (159)	71%	13%
c) Making stronger connections between different parts of the town centre, and from the main shopping and leisure areas to the seafront (159)	78%	9%
d) Supporting the development of new hotel stock by allowing poor hotels to more easily exit the market (157)	59%	11%
e) Developing the Smart City concept ensuring high quality digital infrastructure is available across the town centre (157)	54%	14%
f) Positively encouraging taller buildings in some areas to enhance our iconic skyline (150)	33%	49%
g) Embracing community-led and cultural initiatives that support regeneration (157)	68%	6%
h) Supporting the diversification of shops, allowing a wider range of commercial activities, and the reuse of upper floors for alternative uses, such as new homes (158)	82%	10%
i) Continuing to focus on enhancing walking/cycling/public transport, enabling the amount of surface public car parks to be reviewed and potentially considered for other uses (homes) (159)	51%	37%

j) Enhancing the role of the Lansdowne as an area for employment and education (150)	60%	8%
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Levels of agreement and disagreement with our proposed actions in our proposed strategy for Christchurch

	Agree	Disagree
a) Encouraging the redevelopment of key sites around Stony Lane to deliver new homes, if flood risk issues can be overcome (104)	35%	52%
b) Supporting the redevelopment of the Lanes (south of the high street) and Saxon Square with mixed use development (103)	48%	34%
c) Enhancing the pedestrian connections around the centre and across Fountain Roundabout (102)	70%	10%
d) Undertaking improvements to streets and public spaces (104)	83%	5%
e) Delivering strategic flood risk defences to protect the town from future flood risk (104)	87%	4%
f) Supporting improvements to the Two Riversmeet Leisure Complex (104)	72%	5%
g) Embracing community-led and cultural initiatives that support regeneration (104)	67%	7%
h) Enhancing wayfinding/signage to help improve connections between the waterfront areas and the rest of the town centre (103)	62%	6%

Levels of agreement and disagreement with our proposed actions in our proposed strategy for Poole

	Agree	Disagree
a) Increasing the number of people living in the town centre by making a number of sites available for housing (152)	61%	20%
b) Redeveloping the former power station site and support the regeneration of adjacent sites to create a vibrant new urban neighbourhood (153)	84%	9%
c) Allowing some taller buildings in the regeneration area and the area north of the railway line (153)	44%	38%
d) Creating a better sense of arrival into the centre, supporting improvements at Poole bus station, Poole railway station and around the Kingland Road area (152)	92%	2%
e) Working with Network Rail to resolve the ongoing concerns about the high street level crossing to see if it can be closed or made safer (153)	64%	15%
f) Considering reducing the size of the shopping area and create opportunities to introduce some residential uses into the high street (152)	61%	24%
g) Better connecting the Lighthouse within the rest of the town centre by reconfiguring or closing Kingland Road (152)	62%	18%
h) Refurbishing or replacing the Dolphin Leisure Centre to provide a fit-for-purpose leisure centre (153)	74%	8%
i) Preserving or enhancing the heritage areas, with a focus on the Quay and Old Town, through the Heritage Action Zone project (153)	94%	1%

j) Delivering strategic flood risk defences to protect the town centre from future flood risk (151)	80%	3%
k) Embracing community-led and cultural initiatives that support regeneration (151)	67%	7%
l) Enhancing wayfinding/signage to help improve connections between the Quay and the rest of the town centre (152)	64%	10%

Vibrant Communities

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Vibrant local communities (127)	88%	7%
a) Maintaining access for residents to basic local services and facilities within walking distance of their homes wherever possible (127)	96%	2%
b) Supporting our network of district centres, local centres, high streets, and neighbourhood shopping parades by retaining them as a focal point for commercial activities (125)	92%	3%
c) Providing new homes within, or close to, existing centres (127)	65%	12%
d) Ensuring communities have access to open space and recreation facilities (127)	96%	2%
e) Providing safe, easy, and accessible walking and cycle routes to access shopping areas, schools, community facilities and open spaces (128)	89%	3%
f) Embracing community-led and cultural initiatives that support local communities (128)	83%	4%
g) Supporting local food growing opportunities (128)	83%	2%
h) Providing advice to local communities who wish to develop neighbourhood plans in their areas (127)	83%	4%
i) A continued focus on the regeneration of Boscombe through the Towns Fund proposals (126)	55%	12%

2. New market and affordable homes

	Agree	Disagree
Objective: Provide a sufficient supply of new market and affordable homes to meet the different needs of our communities		
a) Option 1 - government's standard housing method (235)	20%	75%
b) Option 2 - lower locally derived housing figure (255)	68%	21%
Issue: How to provide affordable housing (179)	62%	20%
Issue: Providing custom self-build housing plots (88)	43%	32%
Issue: Providing the right mix and type of homes (185)	40%	40%
Issue: Providing homes for older people and those with disabilities (110)	79%	13%
Issue: Student accommodation (74)	68%	21%
Issue: Pitches for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople		
a) Option 1: Consider allocating site(s) within the urban area (107)	50%	37%
b) Option 2: Consider if exceptional circumstances justify allocating site(s) within the Green Belt (107)	28%	63%
c) Option 3: Rather than allocating sites, include a criteria-based policy against which to assess planning applications for permanent and/or transit sites (105)	27%	47%
d) Option 4: Requiring pitches to be provided as part of larger, strategic sites (105)	27%	50%
e) Option 5: Rather than allocating a transit site, consider alternative management approaches such as, providing unauthorised encampments with water, waste disposal and toilets (105)	18%	68%

3. A prosperous economy

Issues and options	Agree	Disagree
Recommendation: We propose to continue to allocate Bournemouth Airport; Poole Port; Talbot Village; Wessex Fields; and Lansdowne as the key strategic employment sites.		
Bournemouth Airport (91)	72%	18%
Poole Port (89)	74%	10%
Talbot Village (87)	40%	26%
Wessex Fields (88)	55%	14%
Lansdowne (86)	64%	12%
Issue: Protecting existing employment areas		
a) Option 1: Continue to protect all existing employment areas for employment related use only (96)	42%	38%
b) Option 2: Be more flexible and allow a wider range of uses in employment areas, including housing (93)	64%	28%
c) Option 3: Identify specific employment areas that can be re-developed for housing (94)	49%	31%
Issue: Isolated employment sites		
a) Option 1: Continue to protect isolated employment sites for employment uses, requiring the site to be marketed for employment uses before allowing any change of use to occur, and exploring other uses that generate employment or health/care related development in the first instance (55)	58%	35%
b) Option 2: Continue to protect isolated employment sites for employment uses, requiring the site to be marketed for employment uses before allowing any change of use to occur. (56)	47%	29%
c) Option 3: No longer protect isolated employment sites for employment and encourage redevelopment (55)	41%	42%
Issue: Visitor accommodation		
a) Recommendation - We propose to prioritise central Bournemouth as a location for new hotel development. We would seek to focus new hotel development in this area (73)	49%	27%
b) Option 1 Resist the loss of hotels in specific zones within Bournemouth town centre and potentially within Christchurch and Poole town centres. (79)	53%	28%
c) Option 2 Resist the loss of hotels but support enabling residential development alongside hotel redevelopment. (80)	48%	36%
d) Option 3 Consider a more market driven approach that is more flexible to the loss of hotels (77)	35%	35%
Issue: Visitor attractions		
a) Option 1 Explore if exceptional circumstances exist, which would allow us to allocate some of these sites (112)	37%	54%
b) Option 2 Continue to encourage new visitor attractions to be focused within our existing centres (117)	76%	16%

4. Adapting our high streets and retail areas

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Our needs for shopping and other town centre uses (187)	56%	12%
Issue: Town centre boundaries and primary shopping areas		
Option 1 Continue to encourage new visitor attractions to be focused within our existing centre (123)	39%	25%
Option 2 We could review the boundaries, with a view to reducing their size, in order to concentrate commercial activity into smaller areas to respond to increasing numbers of vacant units (132)	60%	23%
Issue: Sequential tests and impact assessments		
Option 1 Adopt a threshold of 400 sqm (70)	33%	32%
Option 2 Work with the national threshold of 2,500 sqm (73)	27%	39%
Option 3 Adopt a different approach with a different threshold or different thresholds for different locations (74)	48%	19%
Issue: Vibrant centres		
Option 1 Restrict the loss of existing premises over 1,500 sqm in Class E use (119)	68%	16%
Option 2 Identify the heritage Conservation Areas where changes of use from Class E to residential would likely have a harmful impact on the character and sustainability of the Conservation Area (119)	73%	8%

5. Providing a safe, sustainable and convenient transport network

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Our future transport strategy (232)	77%	13%
Issue: Transport infrastructure (227)	72%	14%
Issue: Transport impacts from new development (196)	83%	9%

6. Our natural environment

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity (302)	88%	5%
Issue: Protecting Dorset Heathlands and mitigating development impacts (282)	79%	9%
Issue: Provision of strategic Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs)		
a) Recommendation - to continue the current approach to the provision of strategic SANGs through both public and private SANGs (198)	64%	20%
b) Option 1: Changing the use and/or management of some of our existing open spaces (198)	56%	19%
Issue: Improving the air quality on the Dorset Heathlands (164)	80%	6%
Issue: Dealing with Poole Harbour Recreational Pressures (116)	67%	7%
Issue: Dealing with Poole Harbour Nitrate Pollution (117)	83%	5%
Issue: Supporting green infrastructure and open space		
a) Recommendation - to maintain and expand the Green Infrastructure Network (299)	69%	20%
b) Option 1: Allowing the loss of the open space, if it can be demonstrated that it is underused and surplus to requirements (316)	12%	81%
c) Option 2: Allowing the loss of open space for community uses that outweigh the loss of the open space (310)	14%	69%
d) Option 3: Making new developments pay financial contributions towards enhancing or providing alternative open space if they cannot provide open space on site (322)	53%	38%

7. Our built environment

	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Ensuring good placemaking and urban design (132)	91%	6%
Issue: Planning for urban intensification		
a) Alder Road, Poole (94)	35%	19%
b) Alma Road, Bournemouth (94)	32%	18%
c) Ashley Road, Poole (96)	46%	22%
d) Barrack Road, Christchurch (101)	33%	35%
e) Bournemouth Road area, Poole (93)	36%	24%
f) Charminster Road, Bournemouth (95)	37%	21%
g) Columbia Road, Bournemouth (94)	32%	18%
h) Danecourt Road, Poole (94)	20%	24%
i) Fernside Road, Poole (95)	23%	26%
j) Higher Blandford Road, Broadstone (94)	20%	28%
k) Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth (94)	48%	13%
l) Lansdowne and surrounding area (94)	51%	15%
m) Longfleet Road, Poole (93)	35%	25%
n) Lymington Road/Highcliffe Centre and surrounds (98)	19%	38%
o) Magna Road, Poole (94)	20%	35%
p) Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth (93)	38%	19%
q) Parkstone Road, Poole (93)	30%	26%
r) Penn Hill Avenue, Poole (94)	30%	36%
s) Poole Road (92)	31%	20%
t) Ringwood Road, Bournemouth (96)	33%	18%
u) Ringwood Road, Poole (93)	33%	19%
v) Sandbanks Road, Poole (96)	28%	39%
w) Seabourne Road, Bournemouth (92)	24%	24%
x) Talbot Road, Bournemouth (92)	26%	24%
y) Wimborne Road, Bournemouth (94)	30%	20%
z) Wimborne Road, Poole (97)	31%	26%
Issue: Tall Buildings		
Option 1: Focus the development of tall buildings into parts of Poole and Bournemouth town centres (142)	60%	29%
Option 2: Allow tall buildings in other areas, subject to criteria considering impact on the skyline, townscape character, microclimate, and local amenity (144)	26%	68%
Issue: Preserving and enhancing our heritage		
Option 1: Consider the introduction of special controls that prevent the demolition of non-designated, locally important heritage assets (161)	87%	8%
Option 2: Undertake a comprehensive review through Conservation Area Appraisals to ensure the designations remain fit-for-purpose (156)	64%	14%
Issue: Preserving coastal and landscape character		
a) Recommendation - preserve the character of our locally-valued coastal and countryside areas and propose to set out policies in the Local Plan to achieve this (167)	91%	5%

b) Option 1 We could consider a specific policy in coastal areas to ensure development does not dominate or detract from views of the cliffs. (164)	90%	4%
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8. Promoting health and wellbeing

	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Supporting health and wellbeing		
a) Recommendation: Health Impact Assessment (HIA) (198)	76%	7%
b) Option 1- explore introducing a specific financial contribution from new developments towards health infrastructure (194)	75%	6%
Issue: Ensuring a high standard of amenity		
a) Recommendation - support a high standard of amenity for existing residents and future occupiers of new homes (123)	94%	1%
b) Option 1: Setting internal space standards for new residential development in line with nationally described space standards (125)	82%	6%
c) Option 2: Setting standards for external space on residential development for flats (124)	89%	2%

9. Tackling climate change

	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Ensuring new buildings will be built to reduce their energy use and minimise carbon emissions		
a) Option 1 Allow new development to comply with the national building regulation (Part L) requirements (184)	46%	34%
b) Option 2 Set a higher local standard beyond the building regulations (Part L) requirements. (204)	85%	7%
Issue: Maximising the uptake of energy from renewable sources		
a) Option 1 Consider allocating specific areas for delivering large scale renewable/low carbon technologies and associated infrastructure. (203)	75%	9%
b) Option 2 Determine renewable and low carbon energy proposals, subject to policy criteria for example, respecting landscape quality and residential amenity. (204)	75%	7%
Issue: Flood and coastal erosion risk management (159)	71%	22%

10. Providing the infrastructure that supports development.

	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Delivering the infrastructure to support growth (136)	76%	10%
Issue: Balancing the delivery of infrastructure with viable development (122)	64%	24%
Issue: Telecommunications and digital infrastructure provision (100)	65%	15%
Issue: Community facilities and services (132)	77%	15%

Summary – Interactive maps

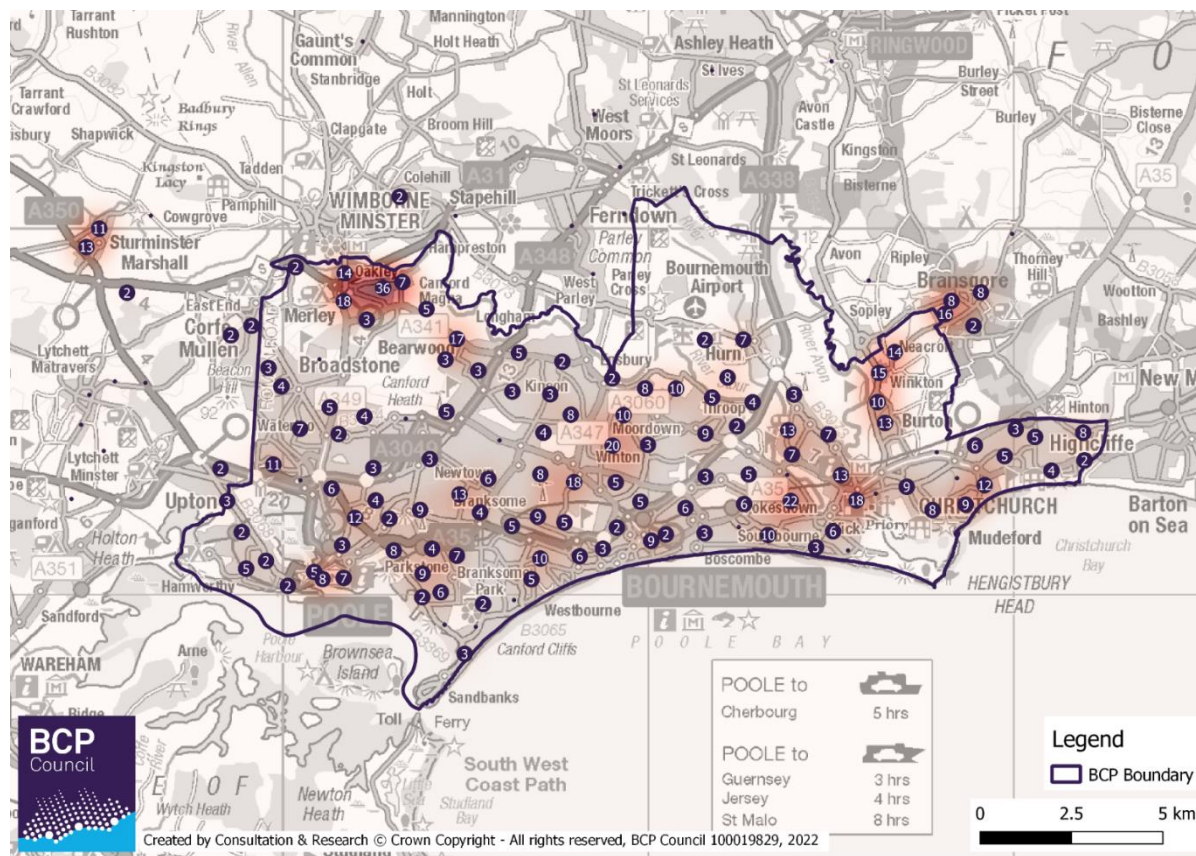
Respondents were invited to leave comments directly onto eight interactive maps that were available on the council's engagement website to tell us what they thought about the promoted sites and other issues.

602 respondents left 1366 comments on the eight interactive maps during the consultation period.

A summary table of the number of comments and respondents are shown in the table below.

Interactive Map	Number of Comments	Number of Respondents
Promoted Green Belt sites	762	345
Potential residential sites in the urban area	371	208
Potential Areas of Change	63	41
Promoted Leisure sites	31	15
Conservation Areas	21	16
Strategic Employment sites	17	16
Centres of Employment	14	14
Proposed Retail Centre Hierarchy	11	8

Figure 1: Area profile

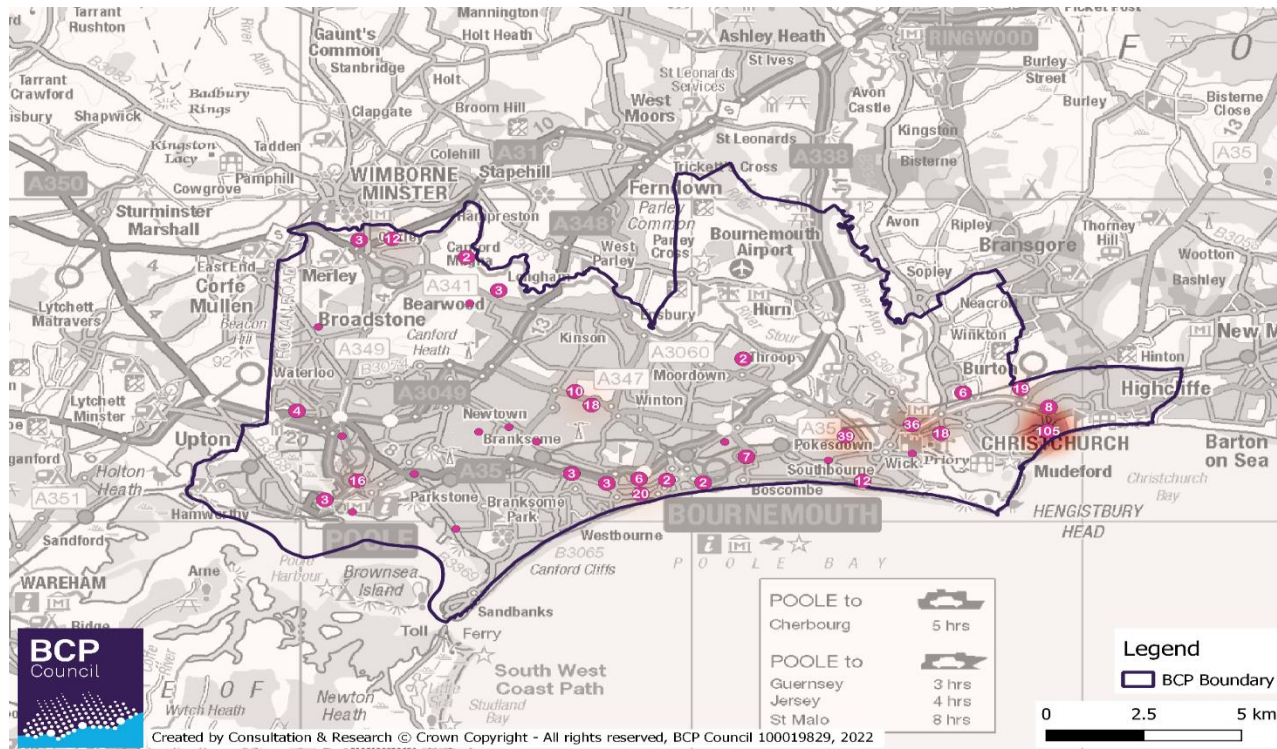


*This map shows the approximate location of online and paper survey respondents in the BCP Council area

Interactive map comments on Potential Residential Sites in the Urban Area

Please note, this map shows the approximate location of comments. Respondents were invited to leave comments on 122 potential residential sites in the urban area. 208 respondents left 371 comments on the potential residential sites in the urban area interactive map^[1]. These comments were spread across 85 of the sites meaning that 37 of the sites received no comments.

The site at Southcliffe Road Car Park had the most interest, with 105 comments pinned by 98 respondents, followed by the Beaufort Road/Cranleigh Road Play Area site which received 38 comments by 35 respondents.

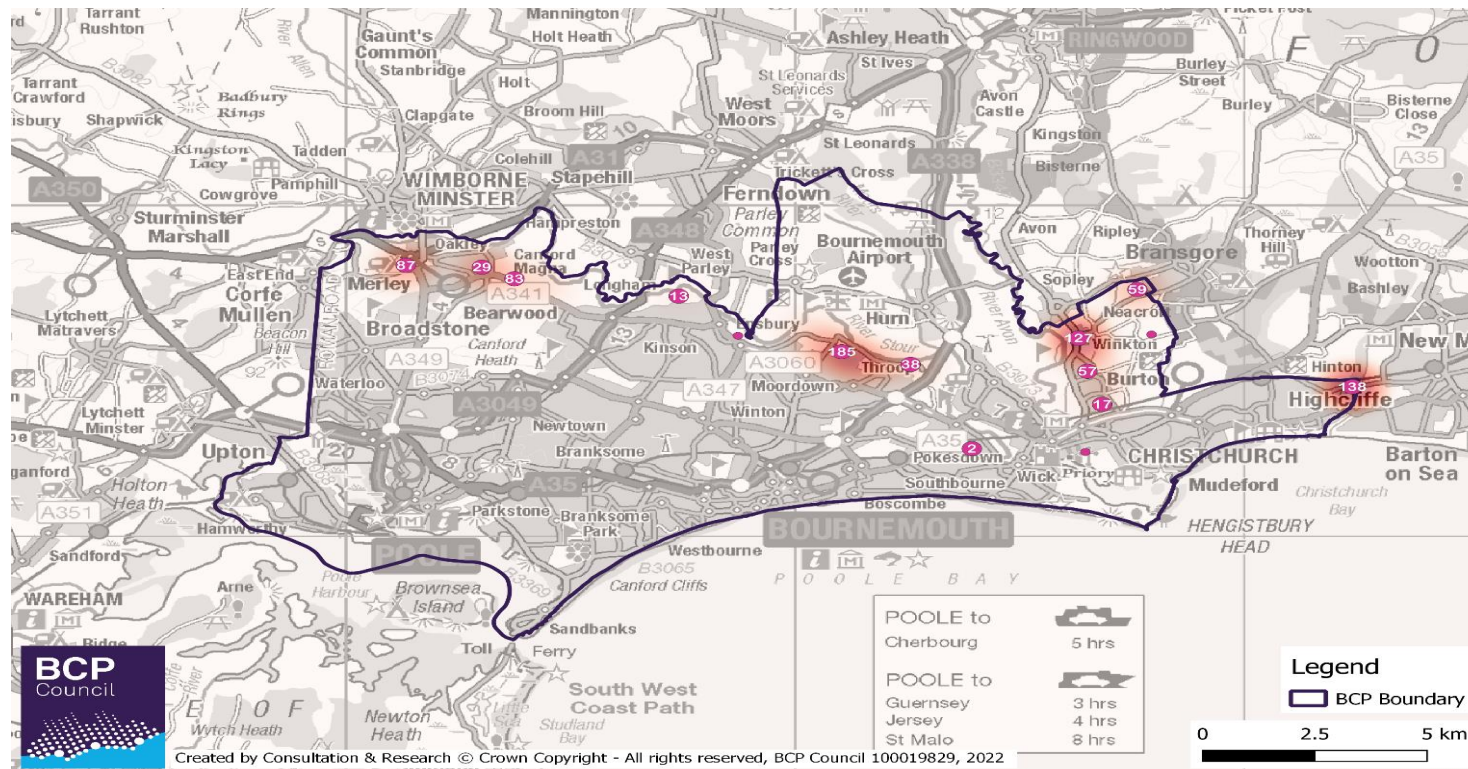


Interactive map comments on Promoted Green Belt sites

Please note this map shows the approximate location of comments and some were left outside of the promoted Green Belt site boundaries

Chewton Glen Farm had the most interest, with 98 comments pinned within its boundaries by 80 respondents.

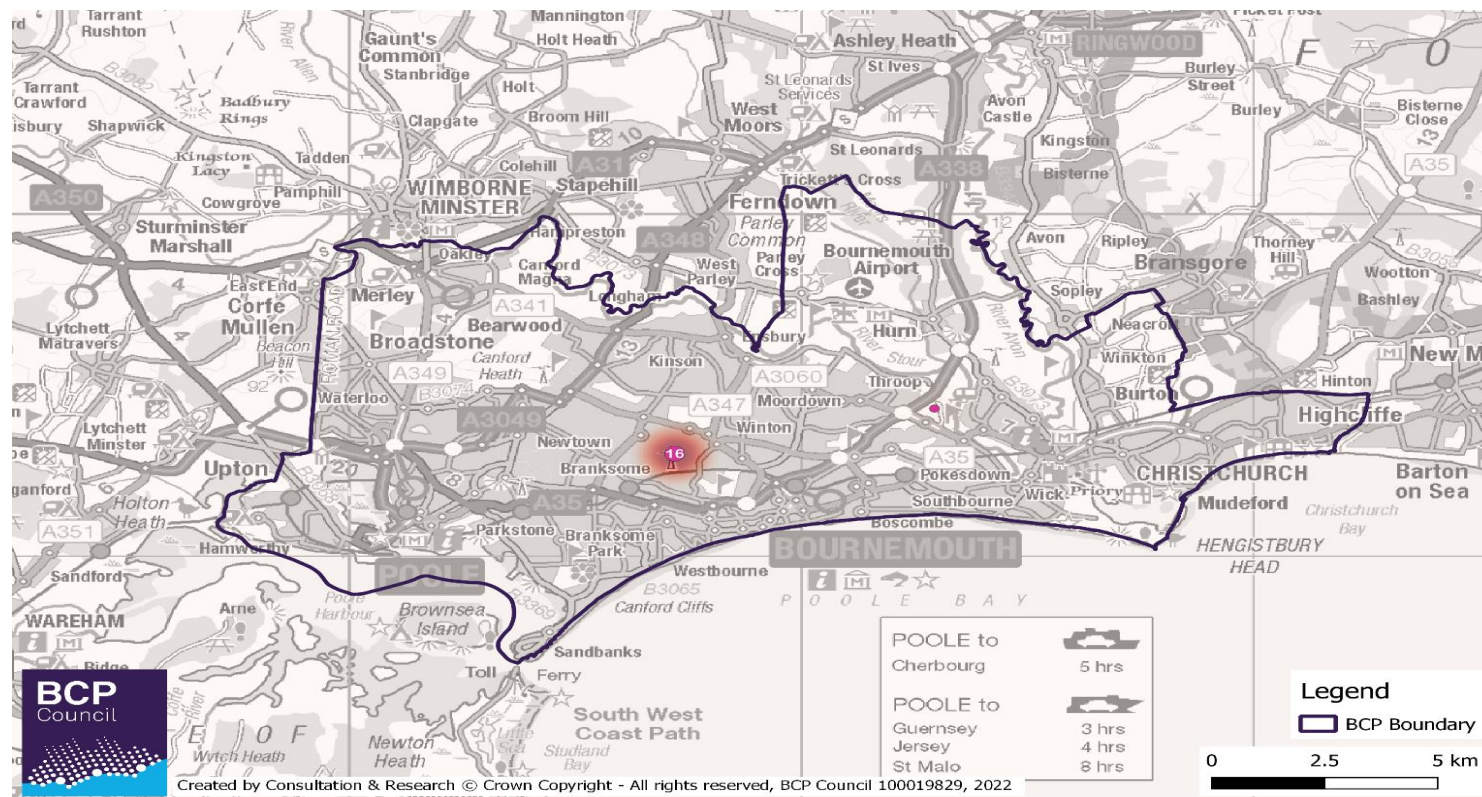
56 comments pinned within Land at Higher Clock House Farm by 42 respondents and 46 comments pinned within Land at north west junction of Canford Magna and Queen Anne Drive by 38 respondents.



Interactive map comments on Strategic Employment Areas

Respondents were given the opportunity to comment on the existing strategic employment sites or other sites they had in mind. 17 comments were made by 15 respondents on the Strategic Employment Areas interactive map.

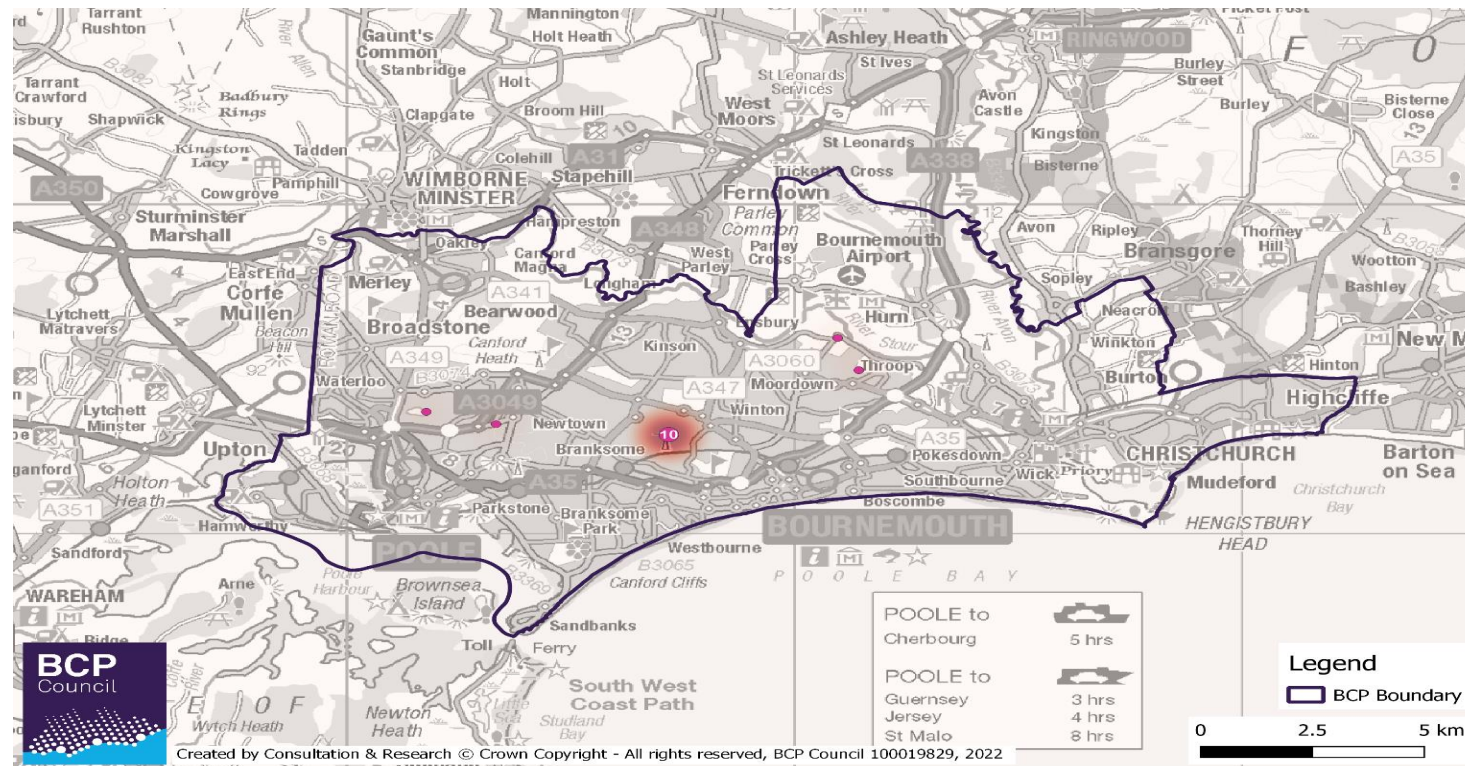
The Talbot Village site at Bournemouth University received the most interest with 16 comments from 15 respondents. The other comment was left on the Wessex Fields site⁵.



Interactive map comments on Centres of employment

Respondents were given the opportunity to comment on the existing employment areas in the BCP Council area.

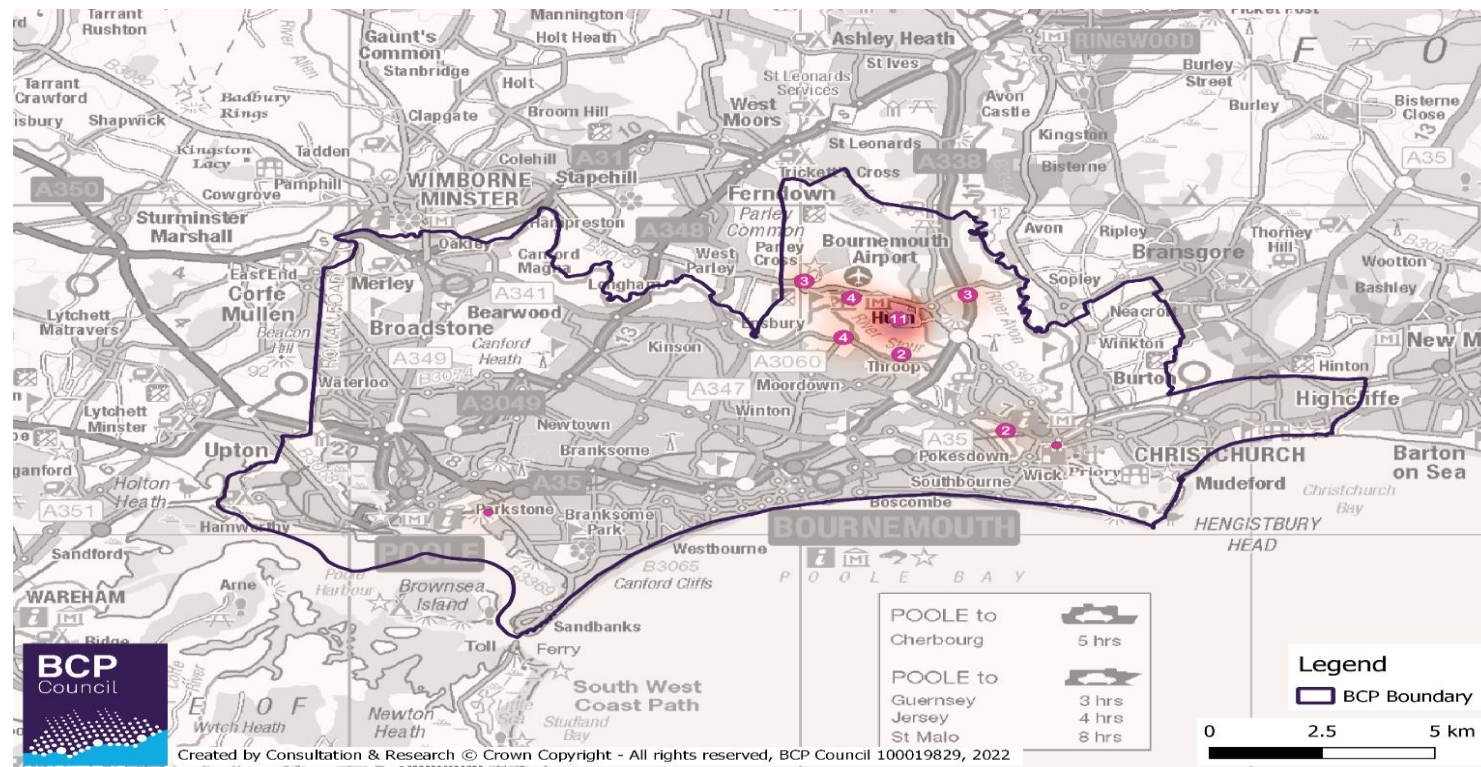
14 respondents left 14 comments on the Centres of Employment interactive map⁶. 4 existing employment areas received comments through the interactive map. The Talbot Village site at Bournemouth University received the most interest with 10 comments from 10 respondents.



Interactive map comments on promoted leisure sites

Please note this map shows the approximate location of comments, and some were left outside of the promoted leisure site boundaries.

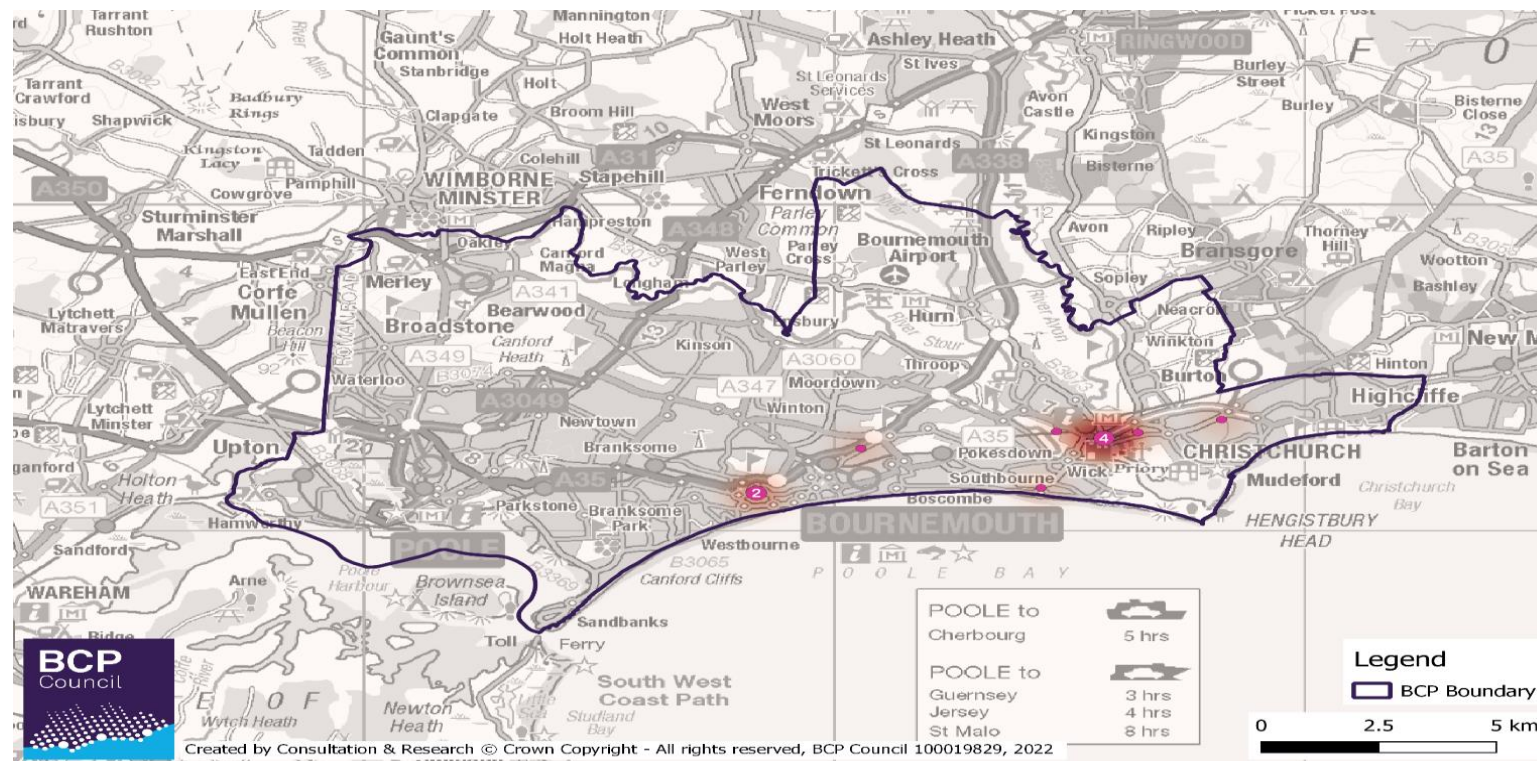
Respondents were given the opportunity to comment on sites promoted to us for leisure and visitor attractions in and around Hurn. 15 respondents left 31 comments on the promoted leisure sites interactive map⁷. Hurn Quarry received the most interest with 11 comments from 11 respondents, followed by Land at Merritown Farm which received 4 comments from 4 respondents.



Interactive map comments on Proposed Retail Centre Hierarchy

Please note this map shows the approximate location of comments.

Respondents were given the opportunity to comment on the proposed hierarchy of retail centres. 11 comments were left by 8 respondents on the retail centre hierarchy interactive map. Christchurch Town Centre received the most interest with 5 comments from 3 respondents, followed by Bournemouth Town Centre which received 2 comments from 2 respondents.



400

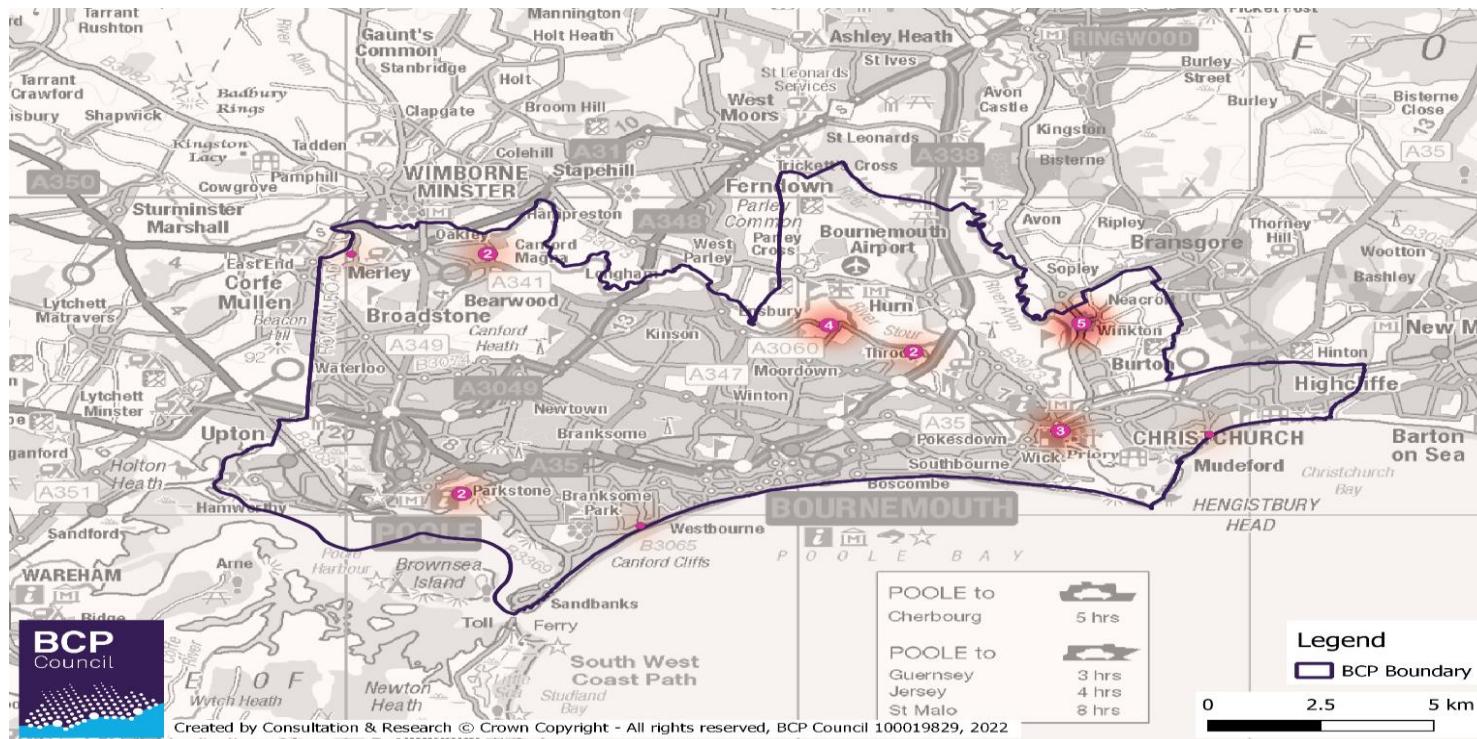
Respondents were given the opportunity to comment on potential areas of change. 23 respondents left 63 comments on the potential areas of change interactive map. The potential area of change at Talbot Road had the most interest, with 40 comments by 23 respondents, followed by the potential area of change at Wimborne Road which received 8 comments by 6 respondents.



Interactive map comments on Conservation Areas

Please note this map shows the approximate location of comments, and some comments were left outside of the conservation area boundaries

Respondents were given the opportunity to comment on the existing Conservation Areas in the BCP Council area. 21 comments were left by 16 respondents on the Conservation Areas interactive map. 8 conservation areas received comments through the interactive map. Winkton Conservation Area received the most interest with 5 comments from 4 respondents.



4. Full Respondent profile

The equalities profile is shown below. Percentages are not shown for any groups that have subgroups with less than ten respondents.

Figure 2: Respondent profile

Equalities	Group	Number	Percentage
Age*	Up to 24 years*	12	1%
	25 - 34 years	59	7%
	35 - 44 years	118	15%
	45 - 54 years	163	20%
	55 - 64 years	191	24%
	65 - 74 years	185	23%
	75 - 84 years	64	8%
	85 years and over*	10	1%
Gender**	Female	394	52%
	Male	367	48%
Sexual orientation	Straight / Heterosexual	642	94%
	All other sexual orientations	39	6%
Disability	Yes - limited a lot	31	4%
	Yes - limited a little	102	14%
	No	594	82%
Carers*	No	494	66%
	Yes, 9 hours a week or less	85	11%
	Yes, 10 to 19 hours a week*	25	3%
	Yes, 35 to 49 hours a week*	23	3%
	Yes, 50 or more hours a week	118	16%
Ethnic Group	White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	680	95%
	Other White background*	27	4%
	Other Ethnic Group*	11	2%
Religion*	No religion	321	48%
	Christian	332	49%
	Other religion*	21	3%
Armed Forces	Yes, previously served in Regular or Reserve Armed Forces	41	6%
	No	682	94%

* shows that some bases are less than 30.

**For the transgender question, counts were less than 10, so are not reported.

Figure 3: Ward profile

Ward	Respondents
Alderney & Bourne Valley	20
Bearwood & Merley	108
Boscombe East & Pokesdown	9
Boscombe West	3
Bournemouth Central	11
Broadstone	14
Burton & Grange	54
Canford Cliffs	13
Canford Heath	11
Christchurch Town	37
Commons	47
Creekmoor	17
East Cliff & Springbourne	14
East Southbourne & Tuckton	11
Hamworthy	12
Highcliffe & Walkford	25
Kinson	12
Littledown & Iford	11
Moordown	17
Mudeford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe	40
Muscliff & Strouden Park	39
Newtown & Heatherlands	19
Oakdale	17
Parkstone	20
Penn Hill	20
Poole Town	28
Queen's Park	6
Redhill & Northbourne	7
Talbot & Branksome Woods	39
Wallisdown & Winton West	12
West Southbourne	30
Westbourne & West Cliff	18
Winton East	14

4.1. Respondent postcodes

Most respondents provided their home or business postcode (or part postcode e.g., BH8) in their survey response. These were utilised to map the approximate geographic distribution of respondents. Respondent data from the online and paper forms that included respondent postcodes was exported from SNAP survey software as an Excel file.

The postcodes were matched to the Office for National Statistics Postcode Directory which includes the latitude and longitude of the postcode centroids, and the latitude and longitude of the postcodes was then joined to the Excel survey data. This allowed the survey data to be plotted in GIS software.

Current and historic local authority boundary layers were added to the GIS software and GIS techniques were used to add location information to the comments (e.g., the name of the current and legacy local authority areas that respondents lived in).

The map below shows the approximate locations of respondents' postcodes in clusters. The numbers in the dots represent the number of postcodes in that area.

882 respondents provided their postcode. 859 were matched to the Office for National Statistics postcode directory, of which 831 of were complete postcodes and 28 were part postcodes e.g., BH8.

23 provided postcodes that couldn't be matched, and 75 respondents chose not to provide a postcode.

Of the 859 postcodes that were matched, 755 were from within the BCP Council area, 59 were from the Dorset Council area and 38 from the New Forest District area. The furthest respondent postcode was in Leicester.

CABINET



Report subject	Biodiversity Net Gain Task Force Recommendations
Meeting date	27 July 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is an approach to development and / or land management that aims to leave biodiversity in a measurably better state than before. BNG in the development process is now a statutory requirement following Environment Act coming into force in November 2021. The Act proposes to require all development to deliver a mandatory 10% BNG to be maintained for at least 30 years. However, the Government are continuing to consult on the practical and legal details of the BNG requirements as part of secondary legislation.</p> <p>Cabinet considered a report in December 2021 outlining initial actions to implement BNG on a wider scale in the BCP Council area. This report updates the previous report and makes further recommendations.</p> <p>The BNG Guidance Note is an interim position pending the national introduction of BNG. If Cabinet and Council supports its adoption it will be used to ensure that all new relevant development contributes to BNG in advance of the Act taking effect as encouraged by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and current planning policies across the three legacy areas.</p> <p>A review of the Council's estate to understand the existing and potential biodiversity will allow the Council to undertake BNG projects that could be part funded by developers.</p> <p>The preparation of a BNG strategy and implementation plan would enable the Council to plan for BNG across the Council estate and wider area in a joined coherent manner.</p> <p>These proposals will play an important part in the work in progress of developing an effective BNG strategy in the BCP area. £90,000 has been identified for this project for 2022/23. To implement these proposals will require the appointment of a temporary ecologist for 18 months and so Cabinet is asked to extend the funding into 2023/24.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</p> <p>a. Endorse the Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance Note to</p>

	<p>enable the early implementation of BNG on applicable development and delegate its publication to the Director of Planning;</p> <p>b. Request the Planning and Environment Directorates to work jointly to prepare a Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy and an Implementation Plan;</p> <p>c. Support a review of the Council's estate to understand what biodiversity exists and what opportunities there are to enhance biodiversity; and</p> <p>d. Roll forward to 2023/24 any remaining monies of the £90,000 earmarked for this project unspent in 2022/23.</p>
Reason for recommendations	To enable the Council to be at the forefront of Biodiversity Net Gain delivery and meet the statutory obligations arising from the Environment Act and to have in place relevant policies and procedures.
Portfolio Holder(s):	<p>Councillor Philip Broadhead - Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration</p> <p>Councillor Mark Anderson - Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place</p>
Corporate Director	Jess Gibbons, Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	<p>Malcolm Hodges, Senior Planning Officer</p> <p>Martin Whitchurch, Strategic Lead Greenspace and Conservation</p> <p>Steve Dring, Interim Planning Policy Manager.</p>
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. BCP Council formally declared a climate and ecological emergency in July 2019 and subsequently published an Action Plan containing 153 climate change actions. These actions included commitments to improve biodiversity and more specifically develop policies in the new BCP Local Plan to create BNG. BNG is an approach to development and / or land management that results in the net improvement to biodiversity of that land when compared to its state beforehand.
2. The Environment Act came into force in November 2021 and includes a mandatory requirement for development (with some likely exemptions) requiring planning permission to achieve a 10% BNG that can be maintained for at least 30 years. Although the Environment Act is in force the government are continuing to develop and consult on the practical and legal implementation details of the BNG

requirements for development. Against this background it is essential to continue to plan how we can secure effective BNG in new development in the BCP area. This is a work in progress while full details of the national measures are finalised.

3. In December 2021 Cabinet considered and agreed a report on BNG. Cabinet supported the principle of BNG and endorsed its early delivery where possible in advance of the Act taking effect in the BCP area, noted the formation of an officer task force and supported the request for £90,000 of revenue funding requested for 2022/23, to sufficiently resource the services required to help deliver BNG. This report is an update from the officer task force.
4. The existing local plans for the legacy council areas contain policies which address the issue of BNG to some extent. However, the production of the new local plan allows for the development of a consistent, more up to date approach across the whole of the BCP area.

Environment Act 2021

5. Currently development is required by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to follow the Mitigation Hierarchy when considering wildlife impacts and to provide measurable net gains for biodiversity.
6. Following the Royal Assent of the Environment Act in 2021, BNG has entered planning legislation and subject to the thresholds laid out within the Town and Country Planning Act expected in 2023, all development will be required to utilise the national BNG metric to deliver 10% BNG. Given the importance of biodiversity net gain, it is recognised that there is considerable benefit for the BCP area and delivery of corporate objectives to promote the implementation of net gain principles in advance of the Act taking formal effect. This paper sets out an approach to do that on applicable development during before the 2023 statutory implementation date.

Exemption Thresholds

7. In order to promote the early implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain it is necessary to understand how Government expect it to be delivered in practice, and to which types of development, once the Act takes effect in 2023. In this regard, the January 2022 consultation document produced by the Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) sets out the following exemptions that are expected to be made to the biodiversity net gain requirements:
 - developments impacting habitat areas below a 'de minimis' (minimal) threshold -It is not clear what the threshold would be at this time, but the consultation document suggests the exemption would be based on the total areas of habitat within a site and the threshold could be as little as 2sqm, or as much as 50sqm.
 - householder applications for extensions, roof alterations etc.
 - change of use applications
8. The consultation document is also considering the exemption of self-build and custom housebuilding, although this would only be if evidence suggests that their inclusion would present a significant barrier to self-build development.

9. An initial exercise has been carried out using application data from recent years. This indicates that once the thresholds have been applied to the average number of applications received in a year at BCP Council, we can expect around 15% of all applications received will result in the use of the national BNG metric to deliver 10% net gain.

Planning Application Process

10. Developers will be required to demonstrate that they will deliver a minimum of 10% BNG through the submission of a BNG plan. A national biodiversity metric will be used to calculate the existing 'biodiversity units' that a site has compared with those as a result of the development.
11. The guidance indicates that in the first instance, the following core biodiversity gain information will be required and mandatory as part of national validation requirements when an application is submitted:
 - Details of how the development has taken steps to avoid and minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity;
 - The proposed approach to enhancing biodiversity on-site;
 - the pre-development and post-development biodiversity value of on-site habitats; and
 - any proposed off-site biodiversity enhancements (including the use of credits) that have been planned or arranged for the development.
12. A more detailed 'Biodiversity Net Gain Plan' can also be provided upfront as part of the initial application submission or during the process of the application. Alternatively, if the detailed information is not available during the application process, a standard condition (details of which will be set out in the secondary legislation) will be added requiring the submission and approval of the Biodiversity Net Gain Plan before commencement of any development.
13. In all cases the Biodiversity Net Gain Plan will need to have been finalised and agreed with the local planning authority prior to the commencement of development, and the local planning authority will approve the Biodiversity Net Gain Plan once they are satisfied that it and the completed biodiversity metric demonstrate a measurable net gain of at least 10% and any on-site and/or off-site gains have been appropriately secured, a clear timeframe for delivery, and details of how they will be managed and monitored agreed. Implementation should be secured within 12 months of the commencement of development where possible, or otherwise prior to occupation.
14. To support the early implementation of net gain, it is intended that BNG information will be added to the BCP validation checklist later this year as part of the registration process for new planning applications. The information provided will be assessed by Council ecologists in terms of meeting BNG objectives and compliance with existing local plan policies (where applicable).

Preparing BCP Council for Biodiversity Net Gain

15. The aim is to ensure that BCP Council is set up to respond to the launch of BNG in 2023 and to implement BNG in advance where possible. To do this we need to;

- Adopt a BNG Guidance Note (Appendix 1) to ensure that all new relevant development contributes to BNG as encouraged by the NPPF and the current local plan policies across the three legacy areas. This is an interim position pending the national introduction of BNG which allows the Council to implement BNG in developments immediately. Although the guidance note is not subject to public consultation it follows best practice currently in place in other local authorities.
 - Review our own landholdings to assess existing biodiversity and identify opportunities to enhance biodiversity. We propose to use consultants to undertake this work.
 - To prepare a BNG strategy and implementation plan. We will need to decide what weight we give to the strategy and it could form a Supplementary Planning Document; and
 - To employ a senior ecologist to lead the project for 18 months.
16. These measures will enable us to be prepared for the national policy requirement of BNG and consider how locally different strategies for use of our land holdings and investment can deliver BNG on our estate.

Links to other Strategies and Projects

17. The following pieces of work are complementary and will build BCP Council's resilience and strategy to not only deliver BNG, but to create policy around Green Infrastructure and greenspace standards and to understand the possibilities of 'green finance' and natural capital services.

BCP's Green Infrastructure Strategy and Design Guide – sets out the council's ambitions for investing in green infrastructure across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole over the next ten years. It reflects the council's objectives to support a sustainable environment, dynamic places, connected communities, brighter futures and fulfilled lives. The full strategy will come before Cabinet in September 2022.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Dorset) – a new England-wide system of spatial strategies that will establish priorities and map proposals for specific actions to drive nature's recovery and provide wider environmental benefits. BCP Council are working with Dorset Council on a county-wide Dorset response.

Natural Environment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) – a Defra competitive grant scheme that aims to stimulate private investment and market-based mechanisms, to improve and safeguard domestic natural environments by helping 'projects' (work, using generated private investment, to deliver improvements to the natural environment that result in BNG sellable credits) get ready for investment. Successful bid submitted by National Trust (on behalf of the Future Parks Accelerator Project), with BCP Council as a partner, to create a National Urban Nature Fund.

Landscape Recovery Scheme (Stour Valley Park) - bid submitted with BCP Council as the applicant, awaiting outcome. One of three new Defra led environmental land management schemes providing funding for long-term, large-scale change and habitat restoration projects in England, to enhance landscapes and support ecosystem recovery. For landowners and managers who want to take a more radical and large-scale approach to delivering a range of environmental benefits

and climate goods on their land. The Stour Valley Park (SVP) is seen as a nationally significant opportunity and BCP Council are working with the National Trust (NT) to appoint a Programme Manager (funded by NT) to progress the SVP project, regardless of the success of the Landscape Recovery Scheme application.

Tree and Woodland Strategy – consultant appointed and currently in the early stages of development with the initial draft due June 2023. An accessible document providing a long-term framework (i.e. 10 to 25 years) and supported by a shorter-term action plan to be subject to regular revisions and updates. Any future tree planting target will need to be considered as part of the strategy document.

Options Appraisal

Option 1 – as per the recommendations above.

Pros

- a. This recommendation would ensure the council is prepared for the national roll out of Biodiversity Net Gain in 2023, the production of a guidance note and strategy will allow the early adoption of BNG and allow staff to be trained before it becomes a national requirement. The implementation plan will allow a seamless transition into the approaches that Government will require the council to use when determining future planning applications.
- b. The opportunity is provided for BCP Council to take their place in addressing the Climate and Ecological emergency, through the appraisal of the Council's existing estate for opportunities to increase biodiversity, BCP Council can provide leadership through example for landowners in the BCP area.
- c. Provides additional support to the ecology team in the face of a significant increase in workload through the need to evaluate BNG schemes. The additional resource of a further ecologist will allow BCP Council to ensure that biodiversity net gain can be appropriately assessed and BCP to receive good quality biodiversity net gain.
- d. It will enable us to have a plan in place to maximise the biodiversity of the Council's estate in readiness for the receipt of any developer contributions.

Cons

- a. Secondary Legislation detailing BNG has not yet gone through, with the mechanics around BNG having recently been consulted upon. There is a chance that any changes to it may not be in line with BCP Council's strategy.
- b. The guidance note has not been subject to public consultation.

Option 2- do nothing

Pros

- a. In advance of the secondary legislation being finalised we do not know the full requirements that will be placed on the Council and therefore may avoid abortive work.

Cons

- a. BNG is mandatory government legislation, its progression is popular and likely to happen. Not preparing for its introduction will put BCP Council behind other Councils who are already proactively embedding this requirement, it will also make

it more difficult for Development Management to determine applications which meet the threshold therefore increasing delays in planning decisions.

- b. Not responding to ecological emergency which was declared by BCP council on 16 July 2019.

- 18 In conclusion Option 1 is preferable. It will allow us to address the Climate and Ecological emergency rather than wait for national legislation. The guidance note is an interim position that expands on existing local plan policies to help developers to ensure their developments enhance biodiversity. The guidance note is also consistent with national policy. Although no specific consultation has taken place on the guidance note it uses best practice used by other local authorities and can be implemented without delay.

Summary of financial implications

- 19. Cabinet has identified £90,000 to spend within 2022/23 with a further £20,000 grant from government. We propose using this money to appoint an ecologist for 18 months to work on the project (circa £60k) and employ WSP under a procurement framework to review our estate (circa £50K). The £90,000 is an in-year budget for 2022/23. By the time we appoint an ecologist there will only be six months of the year remaining. We are therefore requesting the roll forward of the remaining monies to 2023/24.
- 20. Listed costs are estimates only at this stage and additional costs may be required.

Summary of legal implications

- 21. The Environment Act will put a duty on Councils to deliver BNG. This report is setting out how we go about preparing for BNG in the BCP area so that we are prepared for its launch in 2023.

Summary of human resources implications

- 22. We propose to employ an ecologist in house on an 18-month temporary contract to work as BNG project officer. This will require recruitment in summer/autumn 2022.

Summary of sustainability impact

- 23. The Council has declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency. Securing BNG from developers and implementing projects within our own estate will help towards these ambitions.
- 24. The Decision Impact Assessment has been submitted under proposal ID 422.

Summary of public health implications

25. The enhancement of biodiversity across BCP area will have public health benefits from enjoyment of the Council's estate as well helping to provide cleaner air. The projects will need to ensure that a balance is struck between new planting and the need to retain space for public recreational use.

Summary of equality implications

26. Due to the nature of the project, there will be little to no equality implications on users of the biodiversity net gain strategy. Following the EIA Screening conversation, it has been established that the additional requirements for planning applications will not adversely impact those with protected characteristics. Increased biodiversity within the conurbation will allow greater access to nature for those from protected characteristics. The guidance note will be produced and published in line with the agreed accessibility regulations therefore addressing any issues that may be faced when accessing or interpreting the strategy.

Summary of risk assessment

27. There is a risk that we may not be able to secure an ecologist for this 18 month post due to the high demand for ecologists and lack of qualified ecologists available. If we are unable to secure a suitable candidate, we could increase the period to two years and seek additional funding. Another option would be to appoint two ecologists at a lower grade with the available funds. Alternatively, we could appoint WSP to complete all of the project work.
28. Not being prepared for the government launch of BNG risks the government seeking repayment of a £20,000 grant and puts the Council in a difficult position to seek developer contributions and spend them in a joined up coherent manner. Therefore, this report plans to ensure we are prepared for such an eventuality.
29. There is a risk that the parameters for BNG may be changed by government before its launch. However, the Council has declared an Ecological Emergency and this project will still provide an ecological strategy for the Council area that can be implemented anyway.

Background papers

Consultation on Biodiversity Net Gain Regulations and Implementation January 2022 – DEFRA (Published works)

The Environment Act 2021 (Published works)

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance Note

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN GUIDANCE NOTE

Advice to help applicants seeking planning permission secure net gain in biodiversity within their development

Author: BCP Council (Planning and Environment Teams)
Version: Cabinet Version
Date: July 2022

1. Introduction

1. This guidance note has been prepared to ensure that all new development in the BCP Council area, where practical, contributes towards biodiversity net gain. Biodiversity net gain is an approach which aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than beforehand.
2. This guidance expands upon emerging government proposals in the Environment Act 2020. The Environment Act 2020 sets out the Government's intention to make it mandatory for eligible planning applications to provide a demonstrable 10% net gain in habitat value compared to the pre-development baseline. The exact details of how and when the legislation will be implemented is still subject to Government consultation, but it is understood that the requirements will become mandatory from the end of 2023, and that secondary legislation will be provided which will set specific criteria that will apply. It is understood that some exemptions will be made from the compulsory 10% habitat gain requirements, and these will likely be for householder and other small-scale development. However, it is considered that these applications can make an important and valuable contribution to biodiversity recovery, particularly in terms of the addition of species-based features that can help local wildlife.
3. The BCP Council area supports a wide range of habitats and wildlife, many of which are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity under section 41 of the NERC Act (2006). While some may only be found on nature reserves, which there are many, ranging from Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Protected Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Ramsar sites, Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), some are found in built up areas and in buildings. These species, habitats and designated sites may be affected by development, but are also a priority to improve their conservation condition, they are listed on the website ([link](#)).
4. While BCP Council currently has a wide range of biodiversity, there is a risk that without correct actions there could be loss, hence BCP Council declared a climate and ecological emergency on 16 July 2019.
5. To help combat the ecological emergency this guidance note sets out how an applicant can ensure that their development complies with the principles of Biodiversity Net Gain. It will also help the applicant to meet the requirements of the biodiversity policies within the three currently adopted local plans within the BCP Council area. Providing details in accordance with this guidance will assist the Council's planning team and biodiversity team to understand how the planning application will provide a net gain in biodiversity.
6. This guidance will require regular updating as advice, guidance and standards are released by the Government and Department for Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

2. Policy context

7. The policies that this document refers to consist of the following:

[National Planning Policy Framework \(2021\)](#)

Paragraph 174: Enhancing the natural and local environment

Paragraph 179: Protect and enhance Biodiversity

Paragraph 180: Enhancing biodiversity in planning decisions

Paragraph 185 (c): Limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light

[Bournemouth Local Plan: Core Strategy \(2012\)](#)

Policy CS30: Promoting Green Infrastructure

Policy CS35: Nature and Geological Conservation Interests

[Christchurch Core Strategy \(2014\)](#)

Policy ME1: Safeguarding Biodiversity and Geodiversity

[Poole Local Plan \(2018\)](#)

Policy PP24 Green infrastructure (2) (b)

Policy PP33: Biodiversity and geodiversity

8. Paragraph 174 of the NPPF is clear that local planning authorities should be doing what they can to ensure that planning policies and decisions contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity.
9. Paragraph 180 sets out the principles that should be applied when considering applications for planning permission in terms of biodiversity which in general seeks to avoid harm where possible, particular in relation to protected sites and species. It also states that where possible, opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated into the design, especially where this would result in measurable net gains for biodiversity.
10. In recognition of this and taking account of the impending requirements of the Environment Act, BCP Council will now expect all applications, where practical, to demonstrate a measurable contribution towards biodiversity net gain.

3. Planning Application Requirements

11. The requirements will differ and be proportionate to the scale of development proposed, but as set out below, all applications relating to a site of 0.1 hectares or above will be required to include a Biodiversity Plan and where appropriate a Landscape Ecological Management Plan. Smaller scale applications under 0.1 hectares will need to complete the Biodiversity

Validation Checklist to identify potential harm and will also be expected to deliver a net gain.

12. A flowchart is located at Appendix 1 to establish whether your development will need to demonstrate a contribution towards biodiversity net gain.

Applications of more than 0.1 hectares

13. All applications with a site area of 0.1 hectares or greater must provide the following information as part of a Biodiversity Plan / Landscape Ecological Management Plan. This must be submitted alongside the planning application for the Council to register the application:
 - Details of any existing ecological features within the site, e.g., hedgerows, trees ponds, and how they are likely to be affected by the development;
 - How the development has taken steps to avoid and minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity;
 - The proposed approach to enhancing biodiversity on-site;
 - The pre-development and post-development biodiversity value of on-site habitats (this will need to be calculated using the most up to date version of the DEFRA biodiversity metric at time of submission);
 - Any proposed off-site biodiversity enhancements (including the use of credits) that have been planned or arranged for the development; and
 - Any UK Government-provided statutory biodiversity credits purchased for the development.
14. Any Biodiversity Appraisal report submitted should be compliant with CIEEM'S [‘Advice Note On The Lifespan of Ecological Reports & Surveys’](#), April 2019.

Applications of less than 0.1 ha

15. Applications relating to small scale development on sites of less than 0.1 hectares including householder applications will be expected to complete the validation checklist at Appendix 2 to determine any impact on existing habitats and species. This checklist has been designed to provide more detailed guidance on the level of information and additional survey work that may be required to support the application. Any Ecological Impact Assessment or Survey work should be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist.
16. Where the checklist indicates that no additional surveys or reports are required, a copy of the completed checklist should be submitted with the planning application. This will then be reviewed by the Council's Planning team, who may request further information and/or photographs to complete the review. It should be noted that incorrect information may delay the application process.

Applications affecting locally designated sites

17. Proposals for development that affects biodiversity, and any sites containing species and habitats of local importance, including SNCI, LNR, ancient woodland, veteran trees and species and habitats of principal importance must:
 - demonstrate how any features of nature conservation and biodiversity interest are to be protected and managed to prevent any adverse impact;
 - Incorporate measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate disturbance of sensitive wildlife habitats throughout the lifetime of the development; and
 - Seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity through the restoration, improvement or creation of habitats and/or ecological networks.
18. The removal or damage of features of nature conservation/biodiversity interest will only be acceptable in exceptional circumstances.
19. A biodiversity appraisal should be submitted where there are protected, or important species and habitat features either within the site or in close proximity to it. The appraisal will need to demonstrate that the development will not result in any adverse impacts
20. In addition to ensuring the protection of and minimising harmful impact on existing habitats and species (in accordance with Biodiversity Validation Checklist), all applications for development will also be expected to demonstrate how they intend to enrich biodiversity and wildlife habitats by seeking to incorporate ecological features. There are numerous additions and adaptations that can be made to development, and these should be considered at an early design stage to ensure maximum benefit and are detailed below in section 6.
21. To fully assess the potential impact of a development and scope for biodiversity net gain the existing and potential ecological networks around the application site need to be considered. Dorset Environmental Records (DERC) have mapped these networks for the whole of Dorset, including BCP Council, at present this is available on <https://explorer.geowessex.com/>. From the menu choose the layer option required and then 'Environmental Records' and open 'Eco-networks – Existing Ecological Networks and Eco-networks -Higher Potential Ecological'. This mapping will be made available via the BCP website in the future.
22. Defra's website <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/> should also be consulted as this provides mapping on nationally and internationally designated terrestrial and marine sites for nature conservation, SSSI Impact Risk Zones and species and habitat information.
23. Developments should accord with the following British Standards:
 - BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development.
 - BS 8683:2021 Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain-Specification.
 - BS 42021: 2022 Integral nest boxes – Design and installation for new developments – Specification.

4. DEFRA Biodiversity Metric

24. If you are using the DEFRA metric, please use the latest version, current at time of submission of planning application. This version will then need to be used for lifetime of the development.
25. The DEFRA small site metric should be used when DEFRA publishes it, for sites that meet its requirements.

5. Provision of On-Site Biodiversity Net Gain

26. Suitable on-site net gain could include, but is not limited to:

- Green roofs/walls;
- Brown roofs;
- Tree and hedge planting;
- Pond creation;
- Installation of bird and bat boxes;
- Hedgehog friendly fences;
- Insect and bee hotels;
- Reptile habitats; and
- Grass and shrub planting

6. Detailed guidance on suitable on-site net gain

Grass and shrub planting

27. Planting and seed mixes should be of native species appropriate to this area. Use of non-native species should be limited to only ones that provide known benefit to wildlife such as provision of nectar and pollen. Plants listed on Schedule 9 of [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#) (as amended) must not be used at all.
28. Providing planting for wildlife, and especially for pollinators forms a key part of the Green Net and significantly adds to nature reserves and forms a key component of habitat connectivity. Advice can be found at [Pollinator Guidance - Buglife](#).

Tree/hedge planting

29. Tree and hedge planting should wherever possible be mainly if not wholly of native species, at a planting density to ensure a healthy hedge can be maintained, or to allow trees to be grouped together to maximise benefits for wildlife.

30. Tree replacement should follow the recommended levels set by [Bristol City Council Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document, 2012](#), which depends on size being removed, as in table below:

Trunk Diameter of tree lost to development (cm measured at 1.5 metres above ground level)	Number of replacement trees
Less than 15	0-1
15 -19.9	1
20 – 29.9	2
30 – 39.9	3
40 – 49.9	4
50 – 59.9	5
60 – 69.9	6
70 – 79.9	7
80 +	8

Birds

31. Swift bricks should, wherever possible, be included within the fabric of new buildings making them more durable. As they have an opening from the outside which leads to a self-contained chamber, there is no risk of birds entering the inside of the building. Swift bricks are also suitable for other species and have been found to be regularly occupied by Starlings and House Sparrows (which are also on the RSPB's Birds of Conservation Concern Red list) as well as Blue Tits.
32. Swift bricks should:
- Be positioned at a minimum height of 4.5m above ground level;
 - Be positioned out of direct sunlight; swift (universal bird) box location on northern aspect is best with locations on east and west only if well shaded; southern aspect to be avoided if possible and only built-in boxes to be used on that aspect and never external wooden ones, as they will overheat;
 - Have a clear entrance path not obstructed by trees, cables, creepers or aerials; and
 - Be installed at a ratio of 1-4 swift bricks on a development of a single house; 4-10 swift bricks on a small block of flats; and 10-20 swift bricks on larger buildings/site.
33. Further guidance is available at:
- swift conservation guidance <http://www.swift-conservation.org/OurLeaflets.htm>
 - swiftmapper <https://www.swiftmapper.org.uk/>
34. In addition, there are a variety of bird boxes available suitable for different species.

35. Swift boxes can be retrofitted onto existing development where Swift bricks are not an option. Swifts, House Sparrows and Starlings will nest under the eaves and in colonies, so 2 or 3 boxes can be sited, spaced out, on the same side of the house but should avoid south facing elevations and should ensure a clear, unobstructed entrance path.
36. The entrance hole size for bird boxes depends on the species you hope to attract:
- 25mm for Blue Tit and Coal Tit;
 - 28mm for Great Tit;
 - 32mm for House Sparrow and Nuthatch;
 - 45mm for Starling;
 - Boxes should be fixed 2-4 metres up a tree or wall, and unless the box would be shaded by trees or buildings, the box should ideally be positioned to face north or east to avoid strong sunlight and the wettest winds; and should have a clear flight path with no obstructions;
 - Tilt the box forward slightly so that driving rain will hit the roof and bounce clear; and
 - Make sure the box is out of reach of local cats.
37. Open fronted bird boxes include:
- A small box with a 100mm high open front for Robin or Pied Wagtail;
 - A small box with a 140mm high open panel for a Wren; and
 - Open fronted boxes for Robin and Wren should be well hidden in vegetation and below 2 metres.
38. The RSPB also gives detailed guidance on bird box sizes, materials and locations, including for other birds such as owls, Kestrel etc. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/nestboxes/>

Bats

39. Built in provision for bats in way of bricks/tubes/tiles is preferred as these will last for the lifetime of the building unlike boxes attached to a building or trees which are more susceptible to being removed and effects of weather.
40. Bat bricks/tubes/tiles/boxes to be installed in compliance with Bat Conservation Trust http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/bat_boxes.html
41. External lighting schemes shall be compliant with 'Bats and artificial lighting in the UK' by Institution of Lighting Professionals with BCT, Guidance Note 8, 2018 and subsequent new versions of this guidance.

Hedgehogs

42. Hedgehogs travel 1-2km a night, but their movement and journey options can be greatly inhibited by the presence of close boarded fences in gardens, resulting in many crossing the highway. The provision of a small hole at the bottom of the fence (13cm x 13cm) will allow access for hedgehogs but not most pets.

43. Provision of hedgehog homes is also appropriate, providing that they are sourced from a reputable wildlife box provider. Further information may be found on <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs-this-autumn/freeadvice/>

Reptiles

44. In areas where reptiles are known the provision of hibernacula/hibernaculum (underground chambers for use by amphibians and reptiles during the winter) should be created. The following provides information on construction <https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/how-to-build-a-hibernaculum-for-amphibians-and-reptiles>
45. Part of the site around hibernacula should be managed to provide cover and food for reptiles, by way of longer vegetation that is not cut while reptiles are active.

Amphibians

46. Provision of pond(s) will help support these species as will provision of hibernacula (See Reptiles)
47. Ponds are not to be built in existing wet areas unless an invertebrate survey shows that area is of low interest or that only portion of wet area affected. Building ponds in dry area adjacent to a wet area is ideal, with shallow margins for small mammals to access and egress the pond, and an area of deeper water, greater than 0.5 metres.

Invertebrates

48. Provision of wildflower (flower and grass species) areas comprised of native species suitable for soil on site will support range of invertebrate species and species that feed upon them (birds, hedgehogs, reptiles and bats). These areas to be subject to long term management that will maintain the condition of the area, options for how area may be managed are provided at <https://meadows.plantlife.org.uk/3-maintaining-meadows/>
49. BCP Council area is a key area for Stag Beetle, which are a species of principal importance as per NERC Act 2006. To protect and increase this species, developments should endeavour to protect any existing features and provide new features as follows:
- Retain as much dead wood (logs and stumps the larger the better) as possible on site;
 - Provide new features by building log piles, see [How to build a log pile - Stag Beetles \(ptes.org\)](https://www.ptes.org) or breeding boxes from preferably natural wood (do not use softwoods (conifers) or treated timber), these need to be on woodland edges where some degree of shade;
 - Ensure that a buffer zone is managed around large dead wood so that the soils and vegetation are protected as much as possible from disturbance; and
 - Avoid stump-grinding tree stumps wherever possible.
50. Provision of habitat/log piles will aid a wide range of invertebrates and may also be used by amphibians and reptiles. Guidance on construction is available at

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/dead-wood-for-wildlife/#:~:text=Woodpiles%20are%20a%20valuable%20habitat,the%20wood%20into%20small%20pieces>.

51. For further information on biodiversity options see Cornwall Planning for biodiversity guide. <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/adopted-plans/planning-policy-guidance/cornwall-planning-for-biodiversity-guide/>

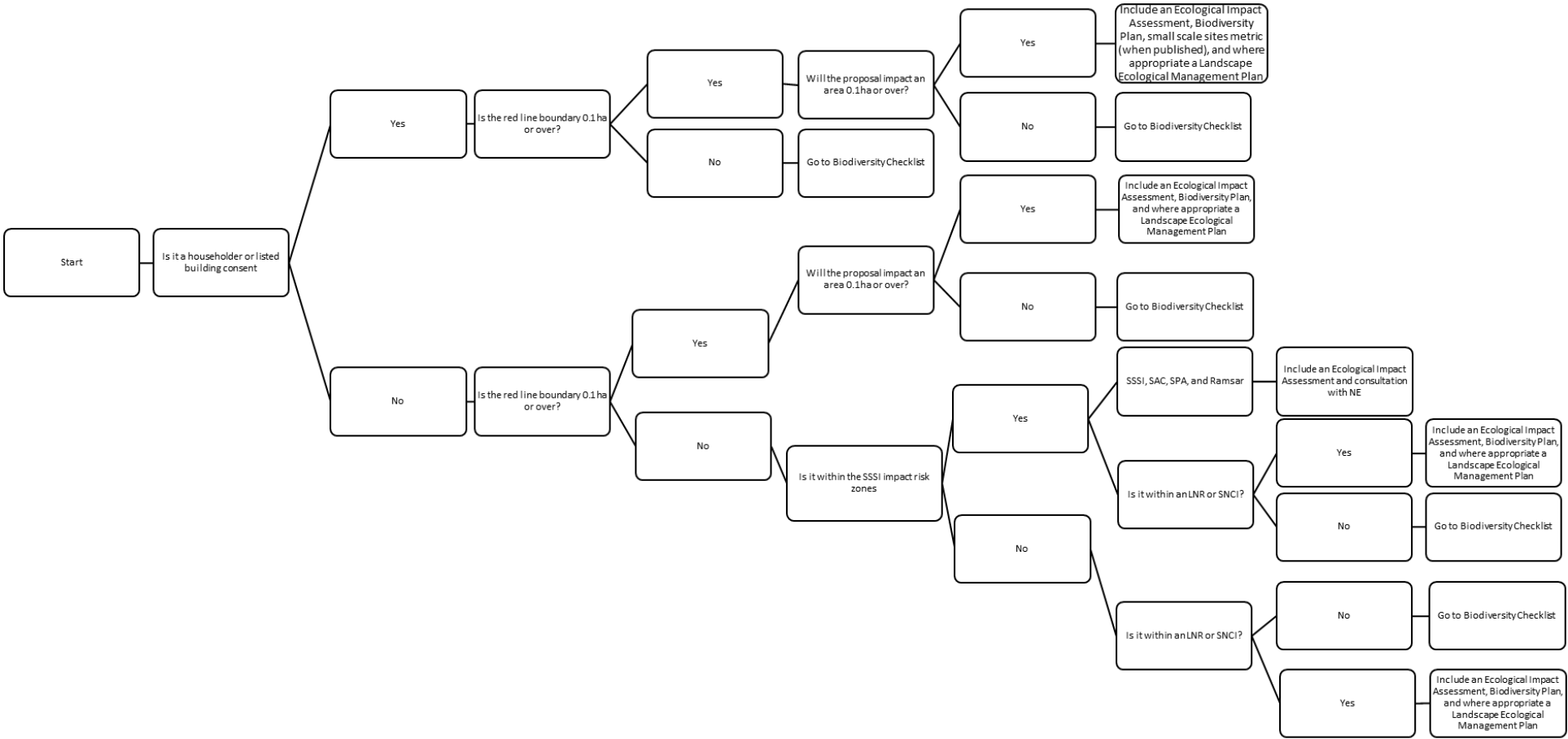
Green roof and walls

52. Adding green roofs or walls adds additional habitat value for invertebrates, pollinators and supports birds and bats. These features need to be considered and designed at an early stage to ensure adequate building design is incorporated. On development sites with limited space these features provide additional value, have urban cooling effects, slow down surface water flows and provide many benefits for wildlife.
53. Advice on green roof design can be found at [Creating-Green-Roofs-for-Invertebrates_Best-practice-guidance.pdf \(buglife.org.uk\)](#)
54. Suitable planting for a green wall can be found at [The Perfect Pollinator Living Wall - Landscape & Urban Design \(landud.co.uk\)](#)

7. Delivering Biodiversity net gain information.

55. Information showing biodiversity enhancements shall be supplied in specific drawings on this element and not to be part of drawings detailing other features, e.g. location of electric car charger, bin stores, brick type, etc.
56. For developments that biodiversity cannot be addressed on site, payments for off-site compensation for biodiversity loss and enhancement will be examined on a case-by-case basis.

Appendix 1: Flowchart to determine whether your application will need to provide biodiversity net gain



Appendix 2: Planning application checklist for use as directed by the flow chart and for all applications for sites of less than 0.1ha, including householder applications

Biodiversity features		Yes	No	Consider impact on the following:	Survey required
Trees/vegetation	Small areas of woodland or thick scrub, orchards within the site or immediately adjacent to the site			Nesting birds, Bats and bat roosts, Other notable species	Preliminary Ecological Assessment (minimum)
	Mature trees with a circumference greater than 1 metre at chest height or trees likely to exhibit holes, cracks, splits, cavities etc				
	Mature/overgrown garden, rough grassland, derelict land, brownfield railway sidings, allotments			Nesting birds, Notable species	
	Shrubs/bushes/climbing plants/hedgerows				
	Species rich meadow or grassland or coastal grassland on or directly adjacent to site				
Watercourses	Watercourse within 25 metres of application site			Amphibians (Note: Great Crested Newts have been recorded with the BCP area but are rarely found)	Preliminary Ecological Assessment (minimum)
	Ponds within 100 metres, particularly where connected to the application site by hedgerows, woodland, grassland or field boundaries				

When considering applications for demolition of buildings, conversion of current enclosed loft/roof space, and underground structures (e.g. cellars/caves) a Preliminary Ecological Assessment (minimum) may be required but will be decided upon submission of a planning application on a case by case basis.

CABINET



Report subject	Youth Justice Service - Annual Youth Justice Plan
Meeting date	7 June 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	To present the Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23. There is a statutory requirement to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which must provide specified information about the local provision of youth justice services. This report summarises the Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23, with a copy of the Plan appended. The Youth Justice Plan needs to be approved by the full Council.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: Cabinet recommend its approval to the Full Council
Reason for recommendations	Youth Justice Services are required to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which should be approved by the Local Authority for that Youth Justice Service. Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service works across both Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council and Dorset Council. Approval is therefore sought from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, as well as from Dorset Council.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Mike White, Portfolio Holder Children's Services
Corporate Director	Cathi Hadley, Corporate Director, Children's Services
Report Authors	David Webb, Manager, Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Recommendation

Background

1. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Youth Offending Teams (now more widely known as Youth Justice Services) are required to publish an annual youth justice plan. The Youth Justice Board provides guidance about what must be included in the plan. This year the Youth Justice Board guidance is more detailed and prescriptive and includes a template that must be used for the plan. The draft Youth Justice Plan for the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service is attached at Appendix One. A brief summary of the Youth Justice Plan is provided in this report.

Summary of Contents of the Youth Justice Plan 2022/23

2. The Youth Justice Plan provides information on the resourcing, structure, governance, partnership arrangements and performance of the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service. The Plan also describes the national and local youth justice context for 2022/23 and sets out our priorities for this year.
3. The Youth Justice Board continue to monitor three 'key performance indicators' for youth justice. The first indicator relates to the rate of young people entering the justice system for the first time. Local performance in this area had declined in the period 2016-2018 but has been improving in the last four years. The latest national data, relating to the 12 months to September 2021, shows a combined pan-Dorset rate of 183 per 100,000 under 18-year-olds entering the justice system for the first time. This compares with a figure of 288 per 100,000 under 18-year-olds in the year to December 2018. Local data enables us to monitor numbers of first-time entrants in each local authority area. This local data shows a reduction in the number of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole children entering the justice system from 108 in 2018/19 to 74 in 2021/22. The Youth Justice Plan provides more detail about work to divert children from the youth justice system.
4. The other two national indicators relate to reducing reoffending and minimising the use of custodial sentences. The reoffending rate fluctuates, partly because of the current counting rules for this measure. Our local reoffending rate has for the most part remained below the national rate. Local analysis shows that young people who are more likely to reoffend are also more likely to have more complex speech, language and communication needs, to have experienced traumatic events that have impaired the child's cognitive and emotional development and to find it hard to access education or training. The Youth Justice Plan sets out some of the actions that have been taken and future plans to address these issues.

5. Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service has low rates of custodial sentences, below the national average. Young people who are sentenced to custody have often experienced significant trauma in their earlier life, affecting their current behaviour. In 2020 the Youth Justice Service implemented a plan to become a trauma informed service, using the Youth Justice Board's 'Enhanced Case Management' model. More work has been undertaken in the past year to embed this approach and further development is planned for 2022/23.
6. The Youth Justice Service Partnership priorities for 2022/23 align with the strategic priorities of other services and partnerships, including the Community Safety Partnership and the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership. More work is planned to divert children from the justice system and to ensure their needs are identified and met; further work will be undertaken to reduce the over-representation of specific groups of children in the youth justice system; additional action is needed to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of our local youth justice system. The Youth Justice Plan also includes priorities for practice development within the Youth Justice Service to enhance the work done with individual children and their carers.

Options Appraisal

7. Councillors are asked to endorse the Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23 before it is considered by Cabinet. Cabinet will then decide whether to recommend approval of the Youth Justice Plan to the full Council.

Summary of financial implications

8. The Youth Justice Plan reports on the resourcing of the Youth Justice Service (YJS). Local authority and other partner contributions remained static from 2014/15 to 2018/19 when a cost of living increase to local authority contributions was agreed, along with a redistribution of the funding proportions to reflect Local Government Reorganisation. There have been no further cost of living increase in the local authority contributions. The annual Youth Justice Grant reduced from £790,000 in 2014/15 to £607,968 in 2020/21, increasing to £659,239 in 2021/22. At the time of writing this report, in early May, the Youth Justice Grant for 2022/23 has not been announced.
9. The creation of the pan-Dorset youth offending service in 2015 increased the service's resilience and ability to adapt to reduced funding and increased costs. The management of vacancies, and the deletion of some posts, has enabled a balanced budget to be achieved in the years to 2022.

Summary of legal implications

10. Local authorities are legally required to form a youth offending team with the statutory partners named in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act also stipulates that youth offending partnerships must submit an annual youth justice plan setting out how youth justice services in their area will be provided and funded; and how the youth offending team will be composed and funded, how it will operate and what functions it will carry out. The Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23 meets these legal obligations.

Summary of human resources implications

11. Local Authority YJS staff members who were previously employed by Poole and Dorset transferred to become employees of Bournemouth Borough Council in 2015.

Local Government Reorganisation in April 2019 led to a further TUPE transfer of local authority employees to the new Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole council. The YJS also includes employees of the partner agencies who have been seconded to work in the team and who remain employed by the partner agency.

12. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 also contains statutory requirements for the staffing composition of youth offending services. The Youth Justice Plan shows how Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service meets these requirements.

Summary of sustainability impact

13. No adverse environmental impact has been identified. The Covid-19 pandemic led to changes in the working arrangements of the Youth Justice Service. These changes included significant reductions in staff travel, both to and from work and to visit service users, with more activities being carried out remotely. As the balance moves back towards face-to-face work team members will continue to contain their travel requirements and to undertake some tasks remotely.

Summary of public health implications

14. Young people in contact with youth justice services are known to be more likely than other young people to have unmet or unidentified health needs. The Youth Justice Service includes seconded health workers who work directly with young people and who facilitate their engagement with community health services. The Youth Justice Plan includes information about the health needs of young people in the justice system and about the work undertaken by the Youth Justice Service health team.

Summary of equality implications

15. It is recognised nationally that young people from minority ethnic groups, and young people in the care of the local authority, are over-represented in the youth justice system and particularly in the youth custodial population. It is also recognised that young people known to the YJS may experience learning difficulties or disabilities, including in respect of speech, language and communication needs. Information from Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service records, summarised in the Youth Justice Plan, show that some of these issues of over-representation also apply locally. Actions have been identified in the Youth Justice Plan to address these issues.

Summary of risk assessment

16. The Youth Justice Plan sets out local priorities and actions to prevent and reduce offending by young people. These priorities and actions have been developed in response to identified risks and concerns. The recommendation for councillors to endorse the Youth Justice Plan is intended to support the Youth Justice Service to reduce the risks associated with youth offending. No specific risks have been identified as arising from this recommendation.

Background papers

None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service Youth Justice Plan 2022/23.

Youth Justice Plan 2022/23

Service	Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
Service Manager/ Lead	David Webb
Chair of YJS Board	Theresa Leavy

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1. Introduction, vision and strategy

Foreword

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service Statement of Purpose

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service works with children in the local youth justice system. Our purpose is to help those children to make positive changes, to keep them safe, to keep other people safe, and to repair the harm caused to victims. We support the national Youth Justice Board Vision for a 'child first' youth justice system:

A youth justice system that sees children as children, treats them fairly and helps them to build on their strengths so they can make a constructive contribution to society. This will prevent offending and create safer communities with fewer victims.

Who We Are and What We Do

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) is a statutory partnership between Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, Dorset Council, Dorset Police, The Probation Service (Dorset) and NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group.

We are a multi-disciplinary team which includes youth justice officers, restorative justice specialists, parenting workers, education and employment workers, police officers, a probation officer, nurses, speech and language therapists and a psychologist.

More information about the Youth Justice Service (YJS) partnership and the members of the YJS team is provided later in this document.

The team works with children who have committed criminal offences to help them make positive changes and to reduce the risks to them and to other people. We also work with parents and carers to help them support their children to make changes.

We contact all victims of crimes committed by the children we work with. We offer those victims the chance to take part in restorative justice processes so we can help to repair the harm they have experienced.

The organisations in the YJS partnership also work together to improve the quality of our local youth justice system, and to ensure that young people who work with the YJS can access the specialist support they need for their care, health and education.

The combination of direct work with children, parents and victims and work to improve our local youth justice and children's services systems enables us to meet our strategic objectives to:

- Reduce the number of children in the youth justice system
- Reduce reoffending by children in the youth justice system
- Improve the safety and well-being of children in the youth justice system
- Reduce and repair the harm caused to victims and the community
- Improve outcomes for children in the youth justice system.

Introduction

This document is the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) for 2022/23. It sets out the key priorities and targets for the service for the next 12 months as required by the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and overseen by the Youth Justice Board. This Plan has been developed under the direction of the DCYJS Partnership Board after consultation with DCYJS staff and taking into account feedback from DCYJS users. This year's Plan follows more detailed and prescriptive guidance from the Youth Justice Board about the Plan's contents and format.

The Youth Justice Strategic Plan:

- summarises the DCYJS structure, governance and partnership arrangements
- outlines the resources available to the DCYJS
- reviews achievements and developments during 2021/22
- identifies emerging issues and describes the partnership's priorities
- sets out our priorities and actions for improving youth justice outcomes this year.

Headline Strategic Priorities for 2022/23

We will:

- Continue to reduce the rate of local children entering the justice system
- Widen and deepen local understanding of and response to over-representation in the youth justice system
- Continue to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of the local youth justice system
- Make our assessments, plans and interventions more accessible, collaborative and responsive to discrimination
- Clarify and align activities to repair harm, to increase employability and to support pro-social interests and activities, including links to community organisations.

2. Local context

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) is a partnership working across two local authorities: Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. Dorset Council covers a large geographical, predominantly rural area with market towns and a larger urban area in Weymouth and Portland. Dorset Council has a population of about 380,000. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole together form a conurbation with a population of nearly 400,000.

Other members of the DCYJS Partnership, such as Dorset Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, NHS Dorset CCG, Dorset HealthCare Trust and the Probation Service (Dorset) also work across both local authorities.

The following tables provide demographic information about young people in both local authorities:

Population and benchmarking data:

Population (Age 10-17)

	Dorset	BCP
Number of Children	33,133	33,929
Male (%)	51.2	51.4
Female (%) ¹	48.8	48.6
Pupils eligible for Free School Meals (%)	18.8	17.1
Pupils with SEN Support (%)	12.9	13.2
Pupils with an EHC Plan (%) ²	4.9	3.8
Pupils from Black and Minority Ethnic groups (%) ³	9.1	11
Children living in Poverty after housing costs (%) ⁴	24.5	24.8

NB: Ethnicity data is only collected at the January School Census, and the January 2022 census figures are not yet available.

2020/21 Benchmarking Data

	Dorset	BCP	SN	Good+ SN	SW	England
Children in Need as at 31 March (rate per 10,000)	326	398	262	276	275	321
Child Protection Plans as at 31 March (rate per 10,000)	44	48.5	37	38	37	41
Children in Care as at 31 March (rate per 10,000)	66	62	59	58	56	67

Data updated for 2020/21.

SN – Statistical Neighbour

Good+ SN – Statistical Neighbour rated Good or

Outstanding by Ofsted: **Cornwall, East Sussex,**

Shropshire, Suffolk and Wiltshire

SW – South West region data

¹ Source: Dorset mid-year 2020 population estimates (published June 2021)¹

² Source: October 2021 School Census (includes all pupils at a Dorset School aged 10-17: ages as at 31 August 2021)

³ January 2021 School Census (all non-white British pupils at a Dorset School, excluding 'Refused' and 'Information not yet obtained')

⁴ Local child poverty indicators 2019/20. Based on the DWP/HMRC statistics "Children in low income families: local area statistics" (March 2021).

3. Child First

The national Youth Justice Board (YJB) promotes a vision of a “*Child First youth justice system, defined as a system where all services:*”

- *Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.*
- *Promote children’s individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.*
- *Encourage children’s active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.*
- *Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.”*

DCYJS supports these principles and promotes them in its own work and in its interactions with local partners in children’s services and the youth justice system. In 2021 the service changed its name, having previously been called Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service, to reflect the shift away from thinking of children as offenders.

The DCYJS Youth Justice Plan for 2021/22 set out strategic priorities which were aligned with the YJB’s Child First principles, reflecting work to improve both the local youth justice and children’s services systems and the quality of practice within DCYJS. The headline priorities were to:

- Continue and develop work to prevent children entering the justice system
- Reduce the rate of Black and Minority Ethnic children entering custody
- Develop joint work with other local services to improve outcomes for children in the justice system
- Widen the application of trauma-informed practice to all children working with the Youth Justice Service
- Strengthen the team’s work to repair harm and restore relationships.

Evidence of the Partnership’s commitment to Child First principles is embedded throughout this document.

4. Voice of the child

DCYJS works collaboratively with children to elicit their views and to hear their voices. The team’s Speech and Language Therapists complete assessments so that each child’s communication needs can be understood and responded to, not just by other workers in the team but also by the child, their carers and other professionals working with the child.

As well as hearing the child's voice in the team's day to day practice, there are also processes in place to gather the views of children and other service users about their experience of the service's work. A 'Smart Survey' feedback form is used, alongside some of the questions in the self-assessment documents that are completed by children and their carers. Service users also make spontaneous comments about the quality of the service's work with them. These comments are recorded and collated to give a wider, less structured perspective on the service's work.

In 2021/22 the service added a different approach to collecting feedback, focusing on a specific topic and conducting in-depth interviews with a small number of young people. The first topic chosen was young people who had been remanded or sentenced to custody in the past three years. The aim was to understand the child's journey to custody, their individual experiences, whether they experienced discrimination and how they had been affected by their contact with the Youth Justice Service and with other agencies, such as the police, the courts, education and children's services.

Eight young people and one parent have been interviewed for this project. A presentation summarising the young people's views has been shared with the Youth Justice Service Partnership Board, with team members in the Youth Justice Service and with other local partners including Dorset Police and the Care Experienced Young People's service in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.

Some of the main findings from this piece of work include:

- The young people experienced permanent exclusion from school as a turning point in their lives
- Most interactions with the Police were 'fair enough' but sometimes young people felt they were targeted more than their peers, with provocative comments from some officers
- Young people did not understand what happened in court and did not feel able to challenge or question it, including when they had doubts about the advice from their solicitor
- The specific resources and interventions used by Youth Justice Service workers were not remembered but the young people did remember the quality of the relationship with individual workers
- Those who were under 18 and in custody found it hard to reflect on their situation and the steps that led to it, perhaps reflecting the instability and lack of safety in their current circumstances
- Young adults in the adult prison estate were better able to reflect. As well as thinking about their journey to custody they also showed insight into their current experiences in custody, describing loneliness, isolation and anxiety about the future.

The learning from this work informs the service's current plans and priorities, reflected in the Service Improvement Plan in section 11 of this document.

5. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements

The work of the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service is managed strategically by a Partnership Board. The Partnership Board consists of senior representatives of the statutory partner organisations, together with other relevant local partners.

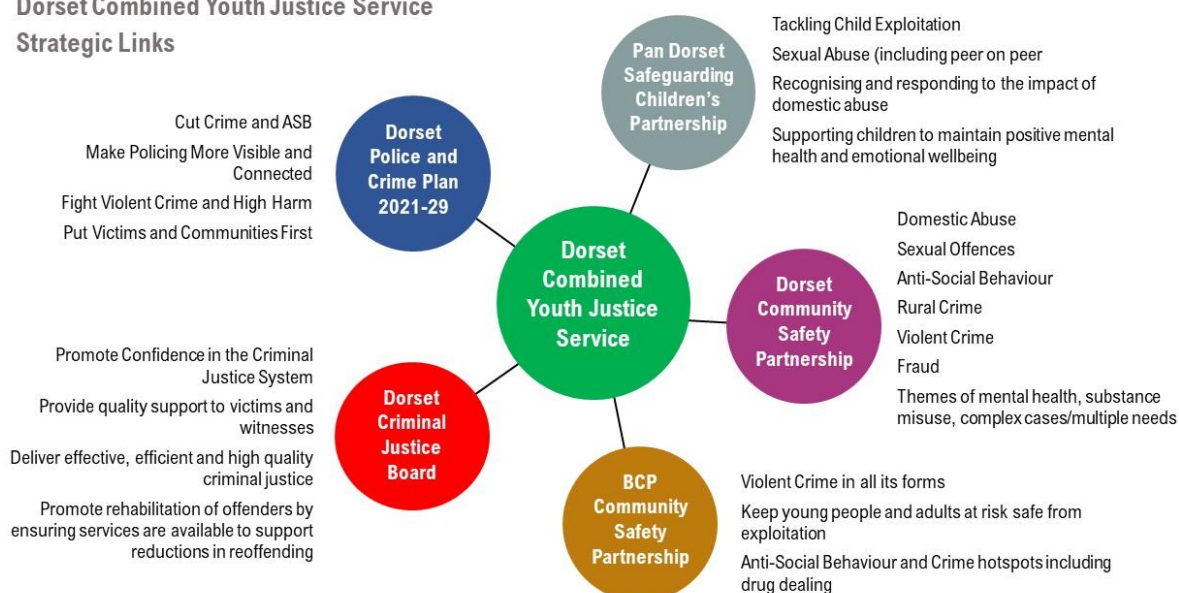
Membership:

- Dorset Council (chair)
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (vice-chair)
- Dorset Police
- The Probation Service (Dorset)
- NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group
- Public Health Dorset
- Dorset Healthcare University Foundation Trust
- Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal service
- Youth Justice Board for England and Wales
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Full Board membership, including job titles and attendance during 2021/22, is included in Appendix One.

The Partnership Board oversees the development of the Youth Justice Plan, ensuring its links with other local plans.

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service Strategic Links



Representation by senior leaders from the key partners enables the DCYJS Manager to resolve any difficulties in multi-agency working at a senior level and supports effective links at managerial and operational levels.

The DCYJS participates in local multi-agency agreements for information sharing, for safeguarding and for the escalation of concerns. Our Personal Information Sharing Agreement underpins local multi-agency work to prevent offending and to reduce reoffending.

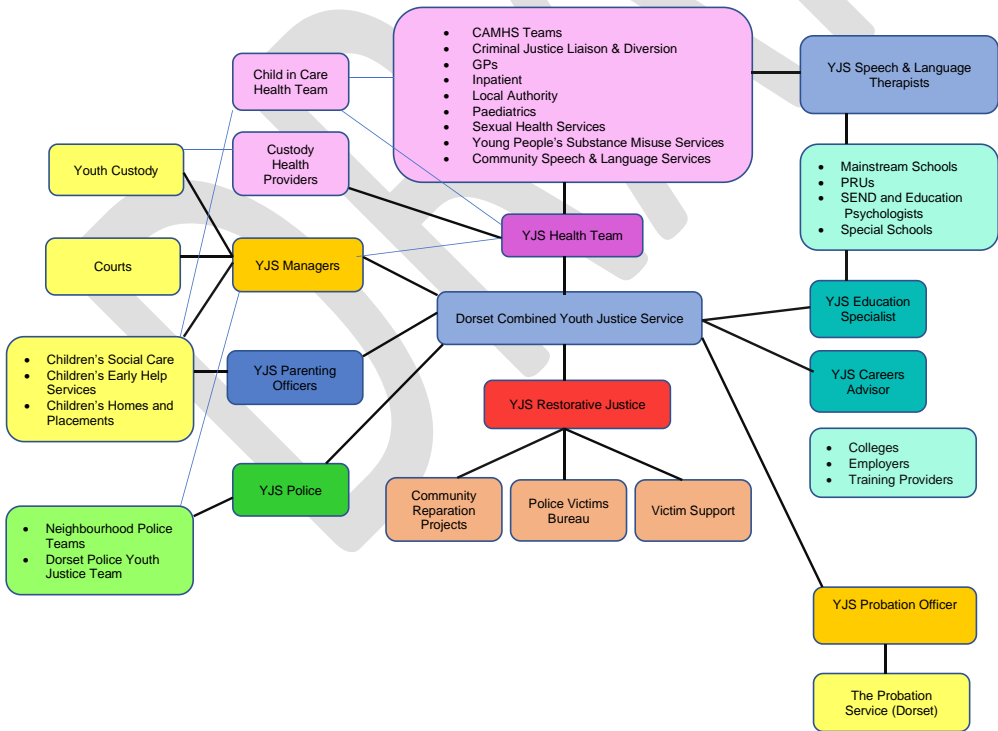
The DCYJS Partnership Board oversees activities by partner agencies which contribute to the key youth justice outcomes, particularly in respect of the prevention of offending.

The Partnership Board also provides oversight and governance for local multi-agency protocols in respect of the criminalisation of children in care and the detention of young people in police custody. The DCYJS Manager chairs multi-agency operational groups for each protocol and reports on progress to the DCYJS Partnership Board.

DCYJS is hosted by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. The Head of Service is a Tier 3 Manager, reporting to the Director for Corporate Parenting and Permanence in the Children’s Social Care service and maintaining regular contact with the equivalent post in Dorset Council.

Appendix Two includes the structure chart for DCYJS and structure charts showing where the service is located in each local authority.

DCYJS meets the statutory staffing requirements for youth justice services, set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Its multi-disciplinary team works closely with other local services, as illustrated below:



6. Resources and services

The funding contributions to the DCYJS partnership budget are listed below. All local authority staff in DCYJS are employed by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. Other staff are seconded from Dorset Police, the Probation Service (Dorset) and Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust. Like all public services, DCYJS operates in a context of reducing resources. Ensuring value for money and making best use of resources is a high priority for the service.

Partner Agency	21/22 Revenue (excluding recharges)	Staff
Dorset Council	£492,800	
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	£577,700	
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner	£75,301	2.0 Police Officers
The Probation Service (Dorset)	£5,000	1.0 Probation Officer
NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group	£22,487	2.8 FTE Nurses, 0.8 Psychologist, 1.4 Speech and Language Therapists
Youth Justice Grant	£659,239 (2021/22 figure)	
Total	£1,832,527 (assuming standstill contributions from all partners)	

The Youth Justice Board Grant is paid subject to terms and conditions relating to its use. The Grant may only be used towards the achievement of the following outcomes:

- Reduce the number of children in the youth justice system;
- Reduce reoffending by children in the youth justice system;
- Improve the safety and wellbeing of children in the youth justice system; and
- Improve outcomes for children in the youth justice system.

The conditions of the Grant also refer to the services that must be provided and the duty to comply with data reporting requirements.

The Youth Justice Grant contributes to the Partnership's resources for employing practitioners who work with children to prevent and reduce offending and to keep children and other members of the community safe from harm. Resources are also used to provide restorative justice and reparative activities, to promote pro-social activities for children building on their strengths and to improve the education, training and employment opportunities of young people in the local youth justice system.

In addition to the service outcomes listed above, the Youth Justice Grant and other Partnership resources are used to achieve the strategic priorities set out in this Plan. Progress against those priorities is reported to the DCYJS Partnership Board, with oversight also provided by the respective children's services scrutiny committees of the two local authorities.

In recent years DCYJS has benefitted from one-off grant payments from NHS England to support the introduction of trauma-informed practice. In 2021/22 NHS England provided a payment of £22,800 to provide capacity in the service for a 'Trauma Champion' to develop this area of work over a 12-month period commencing in March 2022.

7. Progress on previous plan

The DCYJS Youth Justice Plan for 2021/22 identified strategic priorities under the headings of 'System Improvement' and 'Practice Improvement'.

The System Improvement priorities are listed below with a brief summary of progress made:

Developing work to prevent children entering the justice system:

- Out of Court Disposals protocol between DCYJS and Dorset Police updated to reflect new diversion options and increased commitment to seek diversion outcomes
- Early Help representatives from each local authority now participate in the weekly Out of Court Disposal decision-making meetings
- Options for additional support for children who are subject to informal justice outcomes, such as a Youth Restorative Disposal, to avoid having to enter the justice system in order to access services
- Consolidation of the Youth Diversion Disposal as a response to 'simple' drug possession offences
- Plans for developing the police Youth Diversion Officer role and the availability of the Youth Diversion Disposal for other offence types have been delayed.

Reducing the rate of Black and Minority Ethnic children entering custody:

- View-seeking work with young people in custody has been undertaken to gain better understanding of issues facing black and mixed heritage children in our local justice system
- Review completed of possible disproportionality in first-time entrants and school exclusion rates in the BCP Council area (over-representation of black and mixed heritage children was not identified in these outcomes)
- Meeting held with senior police and CPS colleagues, a DCYJS manager and the mother of a black child who has been sentenced to custody to enable the family's voice to be heard by key decision-makers
- Whole service meeting held in response to the thematic inspection report on the experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the justice system to identify relevant team actions (included in the Service Improvement Plan in section 11 of this document)

Developing work with other local services to improve outcomes for children in the justice system:

- Strengthening of joint working arrangements and information sharing between DCYJS and the Harbour project in Dorset Council to reduce offending risks and improve outcomes

- Development of joint working and practitioner relationships between DCYJS and the Complex Safeguarding Team in BCP Council to help safeguard children who are suffering harm from child exploitation
- Pro-active work with local authority children's social care colleagues to improve joint support for children in care placed out of area and receiving youth justice interventions
- Ongoing work with CCG and local authority colleagues to develop a more integrated and comprehensive response to children who show harmful sexual behaviour
- Initiating a shared self-assessment process between DCYJS, SEND and Virtual School teams to identify possible improvements in our joint working arrangements
- The YJS has contributed to multi-agency work to improve the strategic and operational responses to children carrying weapons and to the use of the National Referral Mechanism but this remains an area for further development.

Practice Improvement priorities for 2021/22 are listed here, with brief details of actions taken, progress made and work still to do:

Widen the application of trauma-informed practice to all children working with the YJS:

- Work done to embed the trauma perspective in DCYJS assessments and plans
- Standard format established for recording health team consultations with case managers to summarise the impact of past trauma and guide engagement with the child
- Use of resources in work with children guided by trauma perspectives with priority given to engagement and relationship-building when necessary
- More work required on balancing the trauma perspective in work with children and the response to victim requirements

Strengthen the team's work to repair harm and restore relationships

- Progress made in embedding the 'standardised approach' for restorative justice responses to offences against emergency workers
- Work with The Harbour project to support their use of restorative approaches
- Some use of restorative approaches to respond to specific issues arising within the team
- Work to develop Unpaid Work and to establish clearer links and differentiation between reparation, victim work, Unpaid Work and positive activities has been delayed by staff sickness and pandemic issues
- Survey completed of staff knowledge, confidence and views on Restorative Justice to guide our plans for 2022/23.

8. Performance and priorities

The three national key performance indicators for youth justice services relate to:

- The rate of first time entrants to the criminal justice system
- The rate of reoffending by children in the criminal justice system
- The use of custodial sentences

The YJB publish quarterly performance data for youth justice services, compiled nationally, in relation to these three indicators. Since the start of the pandemic there have been some gaps in the publication of the national data. The information reported below is drawn from the data published in February 2022 for the period ending December 2021.

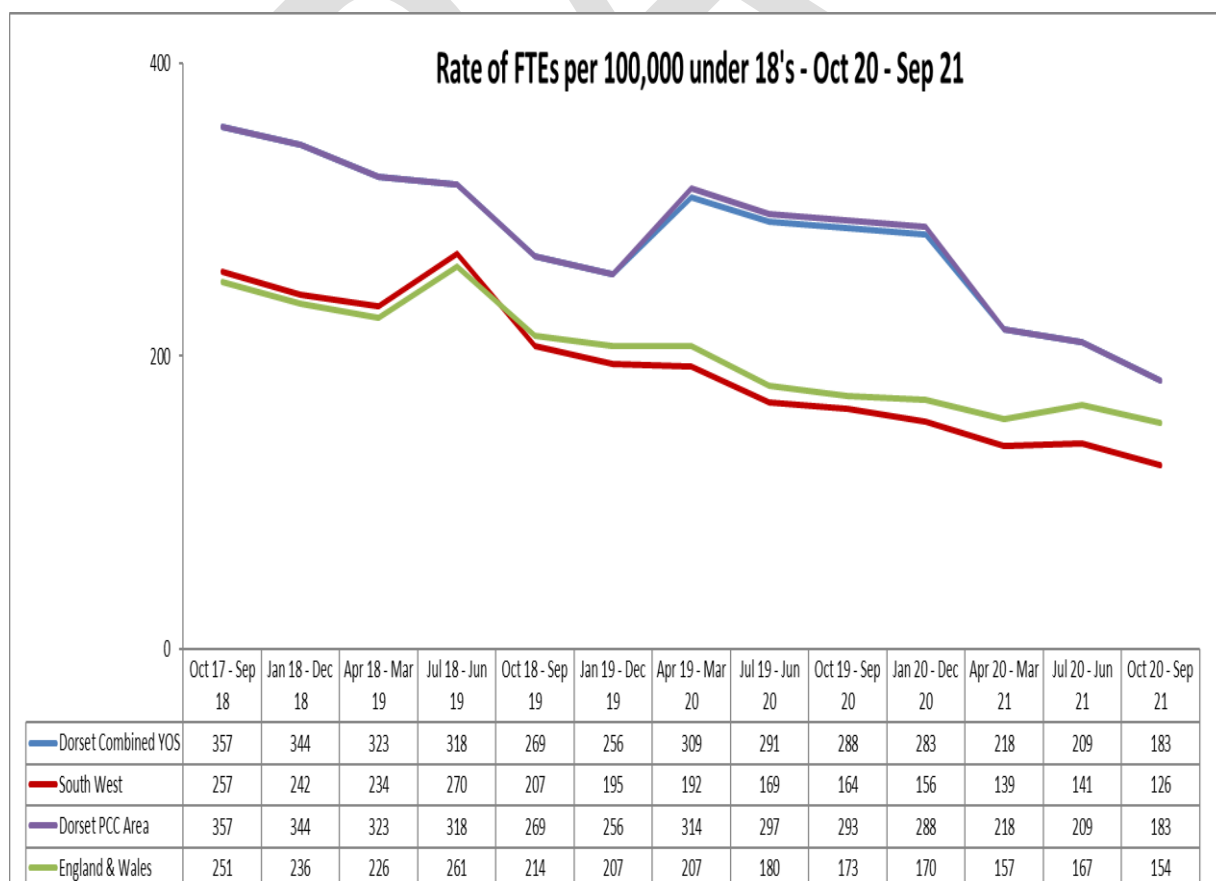
Attention is also paid to the use of custodial remands and to over-representation of minority groups in the youth justice system.

First Time Entrants

A 'First Time Entrant' is a child receiving a formal criminal justice outcome for the first time. A Youth Caution, a Youth Conditional Caution or a court outcome count as a formal criminal justice outcome. There are also informal options available for responding to offences by children. Dorset Police, DCYJS and other children's services work closely together to decide the appropriate outcome for an offence by a child, seeking an informal option whenever possible. It is recognised that receiving a formal justice outcome is in itself detrimental for children.

National performance data for First Time Entrants is drawn from the Police National Computer (PNC). Local data is also recorded on the DCYJS case management system. There is a discrepancy between national and local data for First Time Entrants; it is not possible to compare individual case records to confirm the accuracy of the respective figures. DCYJS has confidence in the accuracy of its case records showing home address information and child in care status.

The following chart shows the most recent published national First Time Entrants data. DCYJS has seen a reduction in its rate of children entering the justice system, reflecting the priorities of the DCYJS partnership and the work undertaken locally to divert children from formal justice outcomes. The combined rate for our two local authorities has dropped from 288 per 100,000 under 18s in the year to September 2020 to 183 in the year to September 2021. DCYJS remains above regional and national averages for this indicator but the gap is narrowing.



Local data for First Time Entrants shows a reduction across both local authority areas in recent years, shown in the following table:

[DCYJS First Time Entrants by Gender and Local Authority past 4 years:](#)

Year	BCP male	BCP female	BCP total	Dorset male	Dorset female	Dorset total	BCP and Dorset total
2018/19	78 (72%)	30 (28%)	108	75 (71%)	31 (29%)	106	214
2019/20	91 (85%)	16 (15%)	107	61 (77%)	18 (23%)	79	186
2020/21	63 (83%)	13 (17%)	76	38 (75%)	13 (25%)	51	127
2021/22 (to end Dec)	47 (87%)	7 (13%)	54	24 (92%)	2 (8%)	26	80
Total	279 (81%)	66 (19%)	345	198 (76%)	64 (24%)	262	607

This table shows that there has been a clear reduction in the number of local children entering the justice system over the past four years. Although there have been reductions in both local authority areas, this is particularly so in Dorset. The reduction applies to both males and females, with a larger proportionate reduction amongst females.

More detailed local data showing information about First Time Entrants over the past four years has been reported to the DCYJS Partnership Board. Some of the key points from this information are that:

- The reduction has not been so marked for the youngest age group with little change to the numbers of 10-13 year-olds entering the justice system
- There does not appear to be over-representation of children with diverse ethnic heritage. Over the past four years, 5% of Dorset's First Time Entrants and 8% of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole's First Time Entrants have been black or mixed heritage children, below the proportions in the population.
- The proportion of First Time Entrants receiving court disposals has increased, from 27% in 2018/19 to 43% in the first 9 months of 2021/22.
- The proportion of First Time Entrants receiving a Youth Caution has dropped from 56% in 2018/19 to 35% in the first 9 months of 2021/22. This suggests that some children are being diverted from Youth Cautions and receiving informal justice outcomes instead.

Following the analysis of local First Time Entrants data for the YJS Partnership Board meeting in January 2022, partners looked in more detail at the local children aged 10-13 who have entered the justice system since April 2020. The following table, drawn from Police, local authority and DCYJS information, shows the level of other needs amongst the BCP children in this group:

[BCP First-Time Entrants aged 13 or younger April 2020 to January 2021](#)

Factor	Yes (out of total 25 children)	Percentage
First contact with police as victim or witness of harm	24	96%
Known to children's social care	19	76%

Fixed Term Exclusions from school	23	92%
Permanent exclusion from school	11	44%
SEN support	14	56%
EHCP	7	28%
Weapons offences	13	52%
Other violence	7	28%
Previous YRD or SSCT input	7	28%
Youth Caution	11	44%
Youth Conditional Caution	10	40%
Referral Order	4	16%

All but one of these children first came to police attention not for their own behaviour but as the victim or witness of harm. In 23 out of 24 such instances the harm took place in the family home, such as witnessing domestic abuse, experiencing physical abuse, having a parent with mental health or substance use problems and/or having parents or older siblings in contact with the police.

The high level of Special Educational Needs in this group, combined with experiencing trauma at home, perhaps helps to explain the high level of fixed term and permanent exclusions from school which these children had experienced, despite their relatively young age.

It is also notable that 13 of these 25 children committed offences involving the possession of a weapon. This raises concern about the risk of harm and perhaps reflects the sense of threat that these children have experienced in their lives to date.

Prevention and Diversion

The rate of children entering the justice system is influenced by the effectiveness of local prevention and diversion activities. 'Prevention' refers to work with children who have been identified as being at risk of going on to commit offences if they do not receive additional help. 'Diversion' refers to the response to children who have been identified as committing an offence but who can be diverted from the justice system.

DCYJS does not directly undertake prevention work. Each of our local authorities provides early help services, working with other local organisations like schools, the Dorset Police Safer Schools and Communities Team and the voluntary sector.

In the Dorset Council area oversight of prevention activities sits with the Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People, supported by more detailed work at locality level. The DCYJS Manager is a member of the Strategic Alliance and team members participate in locality meetings to identify and respond to children at risk.

In the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council area, the Children and Young People's Partnership oversees prevention work.

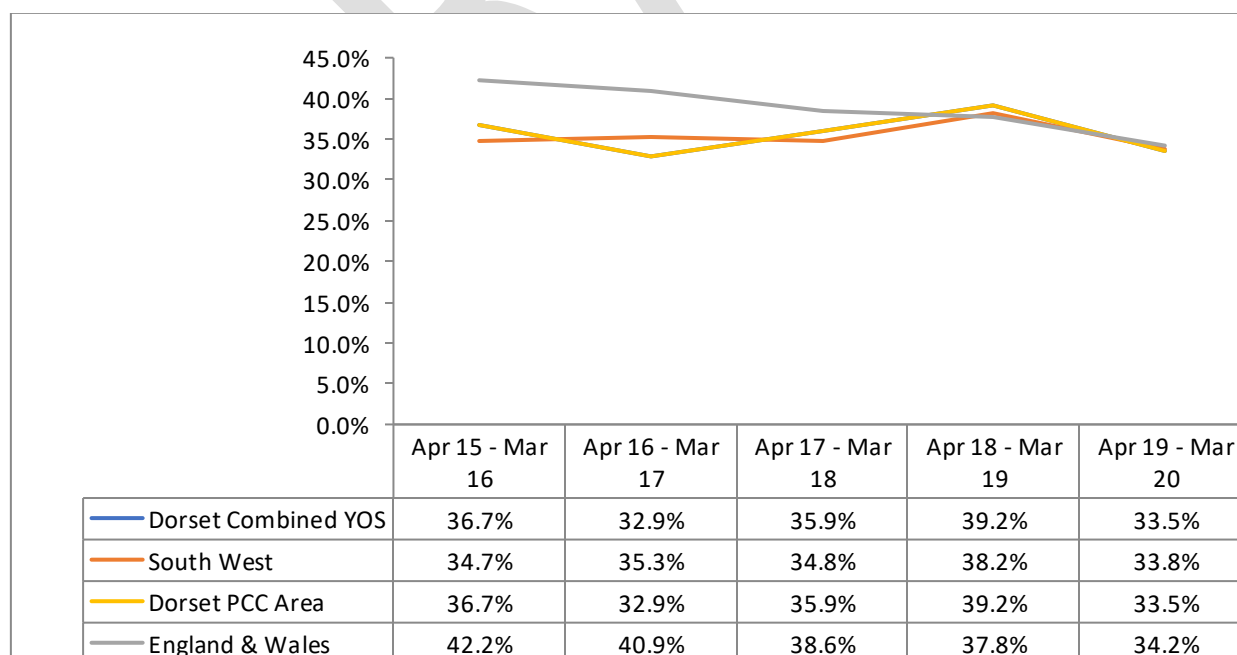
Diversion work is undertaken locally on a partnership basis. Dorset Police, DCYJS and local authority Early Help services meet weekly to review children who have come to attention for committing offences. Decisions are taken about the appropriate response, with diversion options being taken when possible. Diversion activities usually involve additional support for the child and, when appropriate, some form of restorative response in respect of the criminal offence. The Dorset Police Safer Schools and Communities Team, Early Help Services, Children's Social Care Services and DCYJS each provide support at the diversion stage. The appropriate service for each child is decided on the basis of the child's needs, risks and existing relationships with professionals.

During 2021/22 Dorset Police have piloted a Youth Diversion Officer. The remit of the post is to help ensure children who are diverted from the justice system get access to appropriate services and to identify and address any barriers preventing this access. Students from Bournemouth University are currently assisting Dorset Police with analysis of diversion work, including the role of the Youth Diversion Officer but extending back three years to look more widely at how outcomes for children who have contact with the justice system.

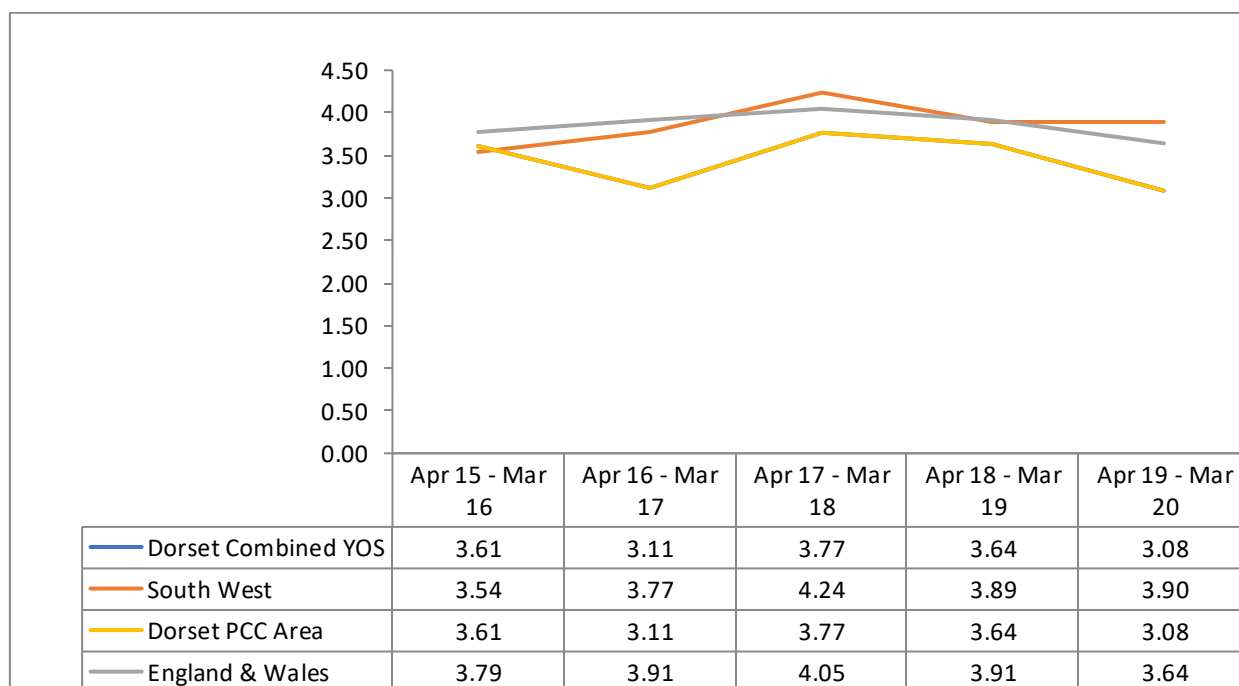
Rate of Proven Reoffending

National re-offending data is published in two formats: the 'binary' rate shows the proportion of children in the cohort who go on to be convicted for subsequent offences in the 12 months after their previous justice outcome; the 'frequency' rate shows the average number of offences per reoffender. Reoffending data is necessarily delayed in order to allow time to see if the child is reconvicted and for that later outcome to be recorded. The following data therefore relates to children with whom the service worked up to March 2020.

Reoffending rate (Reoffenders/Number in cohort)



Reoffences/Reoffenders



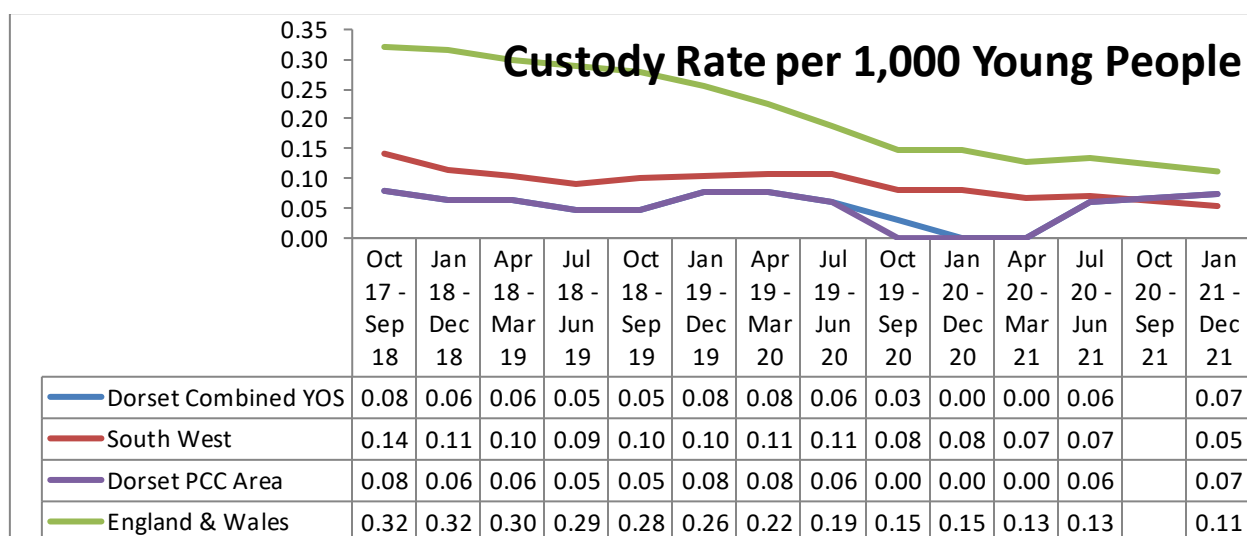
The data shows an improvement in the latest published performance, with Dorset below national and regional averages for both measures.

Local data can also be analysed for a more detailed and specific understanding of reoffending patterns. During 2021/22 the DCYJS Performance and Information Manager has experienced recurring periods of sickness absence, reducing the team's capacity for data analysis. Plans are in place to increase the resilience of the team's data analysis capacity in 2022/23.

[Use of Custodial Sentences](#)

DCYJS continues to see low numbers of children sentenced to custody.

The latest national data is copied below. The gap in the figures for the year to September 2021 reflects a gap in the national data publication.



[Supporting children in custody](#)

Members of the DCYJS partnership are committed to reducing the use of custody for children. It is recognised that incarceration can have a damaging effect on children's lives, putting pressure on family relationships, disrupting education, reviving or increasing experiences of trauma and damaging the child's living arrangements. Inspection reports for custodial establishments demonstrate ongoing concerns about their safety and about the impact on the children who are detained.

The low numbers of local children entering custody, reported above, is replicated across the south-west, meaning that there are no custodial establishments for children in our region. This means that all children in custody are located a considerable distance from home, making it harder for families to visit. DCYJS supports parents of children in custody, as well as the children themselves, helping them to cope with both the practicalities and the emotional impact of the situation.

DCYJS allocates paired case managers for all children in custody, to ensure resilience and shared reflection in the work with these children. A DCYJS nurse and a DCYJS education specialist are always allocated to children in custody to facilitate liaison with custody health care and education providers to help ensure that the child's specific educational and health needs can be met and to enable continuity of education and health care during and after the custodial period. DCYJS Speech and Language assessments are also shared with the custodial establishment to enable custody staff to communicate more effectively with the child.

Finding suitable accommodation for children leaving custody can be challenging. DCYJS contributes to local authority care planning processes, promoting the early identification of the child's release address. The DCYJS Manager reports to the DCYJS Partnership Board on the timeliness of accommodation being confirmed for children being released from custodial sentences. No children have reached their release date during 2021/22 so there is no current data to report.

While the national performance indicator relates to custodial sentences, there is also concern about the numbers of children being remanded into custody. In January 2022 the Ministry of Justice published a 'Review of Custodial Remand for Children' which noted that in 2021 about 45% of children in custody were on remand. During 2021/22

seven local children have been remanded in custody, an increase on the four custodial remands in the preceding year. Although there are some similarities among these remand cases, such as the seriousness of the alleged offences and in some cases the alleged commission of serious offences while on bail, each case has unique individual circumstances which require review. Of the seven cases, four remain on remand at the end of the year, two received a custodial sentence in excess of 12 months and one received a community sentence. Lack of suitable accommodation was a factor in the remand decision for this final case, concerns which DCYJS raised at the time.

Over-representation

It is recognised nationally that some groups of children, such as those with diverse ethnic heritage, children in care and children with Special Educational Needs are over-represented in the youth justice system. Nationally, just over 50% of children in custody identify as having diverse ethnic heritage, significantly more than the proportion in the total population.

The low numbers of local children being sentenced to custody makes it difficult to provide sound statistical analysis of possible over-representation of young people with diverse ethnic heritage. In the year 2021/22 fewer than 5 young people from the BCP Council area were sentenced to custody and no young people from the Dorset Council area received a custodial sentence. DCYJS undertakes an informal review process for each child sentenced or remanded to custody, including attention being paid to possible over-representation of or differential response to minority groups.

First-Time Entrants information referred to above, relating to the analysis of local children entering the justice system, does not show over-representation of children with diverse ethnic heritage at this stage of the justice system. National reviews do show, however, that black children can be more likely to 'progress' through the justice system to receive more onerous sentences, for complex reasons including the point of entry into the justice system and differences in the assessment of risk. Learning from national reviews, such as the thematic inspection published in October 2021 on the experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the justice system, is shared within the DCYJS team and applied to our practice.

The proportion of girls on the DCYJS caseload fluctuates but stays within a range of about 15%-20% of the total caseload, consistent with national rates. Worker allocation decisions are taken carefully to be sensitive to each girl's needs. In the context of the Violence Against Women and Girls agenda and concerns about peer on peer sexual abuse, DCYJS managers are currently reviewing good practice and resources used elsewhere to help us improve our work with girls. The emphasis of some of this work will be on work with boys to help them achieve healthy relationships and to reduce the risk they pose to girls. These developments are being undertaken with support from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

DCYJS also works with a small number of young people who are exploring their gender identity and may be in the process of gender reassignment. Given the low numbers and the emerging information and understanding in this area it is hard to assess the extent of possible over-representation of this group in the youth justice system. It is clear though that these young people face potential discrimination and are likely to have specific needs which require an individualised response. This is an area for the service to develop its practice in 2022/23.

The analysis of local First Time Entrants, summarised above, showed the high level of Special Educational Needs and school exclusions amongst younger children entering the justice system. These concerns fit with evidence collected by the DCYJS Speech and Language Therapists, showing high levels of communication needs amongst children in our local youth justice system. In most cases these needs have not been identified or formally assessed until the child meets with the DCYJS Speech and Language Therapist.

Education, Training and Employment

Nationally and locally it is recognised that children in the youth justice system are less likely to stay in mainstream schools, to achieve good educational outcomes and to access education, employment or training after Year 11. Each local authority's Director of Education is a member of the DCYJS Partnership Board. DCYJS employs an Education Officer and a post-16 Careers Adviser who work with schools and local authorities to increase the suitability of provision and with young people to understand their needs and to support their attendance and engagement. The DCYJS ETE workers maintain strong links with colleagues in the Virtual Schools, the SEND teams and Inclusion services.

Information reported above, in the section on First Time Entrants, showed the frequency of Special Educational Needs and school exclusions among younger children entering the justice system. Similar issues prevail on the overall DCYJS caseload. In late 2021 the DCYJS Manager and the BCP Council Director of Education reported to the BCP Council Equalities Action Commission on rates of school exclusions and possible links to over-representation. The following table reflects the BCP Council children on the the DCYJS caseload in November 2021:

BCP YJS cases November 2021

Ethnicity	No. on YJS caseload	Exclusions	Suspensions	Exclusions & Suspensions
White-British	81	16 (20%)	30 (37%)	46 (57%)
White-Other & White-Irish	6	1 (17%)	3 (50%)	4 (67%)
Mix WBA, WBC, Other	4	1 (25%)	2 (50%)	3 (75%)
All	91	18 (20%)	35 (38%)	53 (58%)

These figures indicate a high overall rate of permanent and fixed term exclusions on the YJS caseload, with a higher rate among mixed heritage children. It should though be noted that the low numbers in this group mean that a small change in numbers would have a large impact on the percentages.

Analysis of the DCYJS Dorset Council cases in March 2022 showed the following information about their education/training/employment status and their associated needs:

Dorset YJS cases March 2022

Education, Training, Employment Status	Number	With EHCP	Open to Children's Social Care	Open to Early Help
School age	20	5	9	4
Mainstream school	7	0	1	2
Alternative Provision/PRU	12	4	7	2
Custody	1	1	1	0
Post-16	21	5	4	1
Employed	6	1	0	0
Further Education	5	1	0	0
NEET	10	3	4	1
TOTAL	41	10	13	5

There is a higher rate of EHCPs and of contact with other children's services among those who are not in mainstream school and not in employment or further education. It should though be noted that those young people who are in school may be at risk of exclusion, needing support to avoid this outcome, and those who are in employment or at college may need help to maintain this status.

During the past year there have been low numbers of children receiving Elective Home Education. Successful work at individual case level means that in March 2022 there are no children on the YJS caseload who are designated as receiving Elective Home Education.

During 2021/22 DCYJS has started work to improve its data recording for ETE, to review the quality of joint work with local authority SEND services and with the Virtual Schools and to develop its options for post-16 young people who are NEET. These will continue to be priorities in 2022/23.

Serious Violence and Exploitation

Tackling child exploitation and reducing serious violence are priorities for strategic partnerships in both our local authority areas (as described in section 5 of this Plan).

Most of the violent offences committed by children do not reach the 'serious violence' threshold. Analysis and comparison of youth justice outcomes in the 3-month periods December 2019–February 2020 and December 2021–February 2022 shows a reduction in violent offences being dealt with but a small increase in weapon-related offences.

Analysis of First Time Entrants, summarised earlier in this section, shows that more than half of BCP Council First Time Entrants aged 13 or younger in the last two years had committed offences involving weapons (possession of a knife in most instances). The equivalent data for Dorset Council First Time Entrants showed a lower number and proportion of weapon offences, featuring in 20% of the cases.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2021 introduces a Serious Violence Duty for specified authorities, including youth justice services, to work together to share data

and knowledge, allowing them to target their interventions to prevent serious violence. As stated in section 5 above, tackling violence is a current priority for both our Community Safety Partnerships, and for the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner. This Youth Justice Plan contributes to that shared local commitment and endeavour.

Child Exploitation occurs across the pan-Dorset area, with DCYJS seeing higher rates of exploitation amongst its BCP Council caseload. DCYJS plays an active role in the partnership arrangements in both local authority areas to address child exploitation, participating in the strategic and tactical groups as well as other multi-agency initiatives. At the operational level, DCYJS team members are part of multi-agency child exploitation case meetings and contribute to multi-agency responses to concerns about specific locations or networks.

Dorset Police, Children's Social Care services and DCYJS work together to refer suitable cases to the National Referral Mechanism. Delays in the Home Office response to these referrals can lead to repeated adjournments of court cases involving young people who have had NRM referrals. Such delays exacerbate problems with youth justice timeliness, which were a local focus prior to the pandemic and which were compounded by court closures and restrictions during the pandemic. Long delays in completing cases in the youth court and the crown court mean that children can remain subject to bail conditions for many months. With months passing between the offence and the court outcome there is also a deleterious effect on work to meet the needs of victims and to address a child's offending.

[Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements \(MAPPA\)](#)

DCYJS is an active participant in the local MAPPA Strategic Management Board and has established strong working links with the MAPPA Coordinator. MAPPA status reflects either the young person's offence and sentence or a risk assessment indicating that the young person poses a High Risk of Serious Harm to others and requires multi-agency risk management above that which is provided through the DCYJS Risk Assessment Panel process.

In March 2022 eight DCYJS cases, out of 129 on the caseload, had MAPPA status, with most of them being managed at Level One (ordinary agency risk management).

During 2021/22, in line with the refreshed national MAPPA Guidance, improvements were made to MAPPA transition processes. When MAPPA Level Two or Level Three risk management commences for a young adult who was previously known to DCYJS the MAPPA Coordinator seeks relevant information from DCYJS to aid risk management and a representative of DCYJS attends at least the initial MAPPA meeting.

[Health and Communication Needs](#)

It has long been recognised that young people in the youth justice system have significant and interacting health needs which may not have been adequately identified or addressed. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires youth offending teams to include specialist health staff. The DCYJS health team, funded mostly by NHS Dorset CCG and employed by Dorset HealthCare Trust, comprises a part-time Psychologist, 2.8 Youth Justice Nurses and 1.4 Speech and Language Therapists. The YJS Nurses are employed through CAMHS and combine expertise in child mental health and wellbeing

with wider nursing expertise in respect of physical health, sexual health and substance misuse.

During 2021/22 the DCYJS health team has supported the development of the service's trauma recovery model of working. Young people in the youth justice system have often experienced past trauma, such as witnessing domestic abuse, being the victims of physical abuse, neglect and emotional abuse, which affects their cognitive and emotional development. Understanding a child's trauma history, and its impact on their current presentation, in a context of concerns about child exploitation and serious violence, enables YJS workers to respond to the child's individual needs with the emphasis often being on helping to establish a positive and pro-social relationship. YJS Nurses work directly with young people, sometimes providing treatment for past trauma, as well as providing case consultations to other YJS team members.

The YJS Speech and Language Therapists also play an important role in the individualised response to each child. All children who receive a court order or a second 'Out of Court Disposal' are offered a speech and language assessment. As was noted in the DCYJS 2021/22 Youth Justice Plan, the evidence from these assessments is that about 80% of young people known to DCYJS have additional communication needs, with about 30% having significant needs such as Developmental Language Disorder. In most cases these needs have not been identified until the YJS start working with the child and complete a speech and language assessment.

[Support for parents of children in the youth justice system](#)

The parents and carers of children in the youth justice system have particular needs and challenges. Although the law holds children individually responsible from the age of 10 for criminal behaviour, parents may feel a sense of responsibility and there is often a family context to a child's behaviour. The difficult, complex emotions that parents feel in this situation require sensitive support. The youth justice system has specialist language and procedures which may be hard for parents to understand and navigate.

DCYJS employs parenting workers to provide support directly to parents, working in partnership with colleagues who support the young person. This work is aimed at helping families to restore and repair relationships and to support children's positive achievements.

The DCYJS parenting workers also provide assistance with the challenges of the youth justice system. Feedback from parents has shown that they may not understand what takes place in the youth court. For the small number who have a child in custody there are numerous practical challenges to face, as well as the emotional impact of the separation from their child and the concern about their child's welfare.

During 2021/22 the team have developed their focus on working with both parents, including absent parents, recognising the importance of fathers as well as mothers and responding to messages from serious case and learning reviews about the need to include both parents. DCYJS raised concerns this year with the YJB about the AssetPlus self-assessment process only seeking and recording the views of one parent. The team seeks the views of both parents whenever possible and working with both parents will continue to be a focus in 2022/23.

Restorative Justice and Victims

One of the challenges for DCYJS during 2021/22 has been achieving the correct balance between meeting the needs of the child, as described in the previous section, and meeting the needs of the child's victim. The DCYJS Restorative Justice Practitioners contact every victim of children who work with the service, seeking to find out about the impact of the offence and to seek opportunities for Restorative Justice activities.

Delays in the youth justice system, which are more common in cases that go to court, make it harder to engage victims in activity to repair the harm they have experienced. The DCYJS Restorative Justice Practitioners exercise tact and sensitivity in their contacts with victims, emphasising the victim's choice in whether or how much they engage with our service.

The Covid pandemic has exacerbated court delays and has also restricted the opportunities for face to face Restorative Justice meetings. During 2021/22 some Restorative Justice Conferences have taken place face to face, some have been conducted virtually and in some cases it has not been possible to find a suitable and safe way to hold the meeting.

An area of development in 2021/22 has been the 'standardised approach'. This is the local name given to victim work with emergency workers, following offences such as 'assault emergency worker'. Police officers and other emergency workers make up a high proportion of the YJS victim caseload but may be reluctant to participate in Restorative Justice. As well as seeking ways to increase their participation, the YJS Restorative Justice Practitioners have worked with the YJS Police Officers to develop other ways to help young people to understand the impact of their behaviour on emergency workers and to look for ways for young people to repair the harm caused.

In early 2022 DCYJS's lead manager for Restorative Justice surveyed the views of other team members about their knowledge, confidence and enjoyment of Restorative Justice work. There is a high level of commitment to Restorative Justice in the team. The survey identified some specific areas for development which will form part of our plans for 2022/23.

9. National Standards

Youth justice services are required to comply with minimum national standards. The latest edition of national standards, 'Standards for Children in Youth Justice Services', was published in 2019. The YJB mandates youth justice services to undertake periodic self-assessments of their compliance with national standards.

The last national standards self-assessment was completed in March 2020. DCYJS demonstrated adherence to the standards with a small number of standards requiring further activity in order to strengthen compliance.

The following areas of activity were identified for further development:

- Development of local strategies to prevent children from becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour
- Multi-agency analysis of disproportionality in court and out of court contexts for local children

- Evidencing strategic partner confidence in the YJS supervision of children on justice outcomes in the community
- Holding local partners to account for their part in the successful transition and resettlement of children released from custody
- Consistent recording/storage of sentence plans.

These actions were reported to the DCYJS Partnership Board and were added to DCYJS team plans. Progress has been made in all these areas though some of these activities are outside the direct control of DCYJS. Continuing actions are identified for each of the above issues, to develop or audit the progress made.

10. Challenges, risks and issues

Like other youth justice services, DCYJS operates in a context of system challenges and resource pressures. Achievement of the service's priorities in 2022/23 could be affected by a number of risks and issues, including:

- Funding and resources – in cash terms the DCYJS budget was £261K smaller in 2021/22 than it had been in 2014/15, before allowing for inflation and pay increases during that period. Continuing budget pressures and inflation risks make this a continuing challenge.
- Children's Services face a number of challenges, nationally and locally, with the shortage of suitable placements for children in care being of particular relevance to youth justice services. Without suitable placements it is difficult to establish the building blocks to help children build positive futures, such as education, health care and positive peer networks.
- Delays in the youth justice system, linked to pressures in the wider criminal justice system and exacerbated by Covid, make it harder to engage victims in Restorative Justice and to work effectively with young people to prevent future offending.
- The impact of Covid on young people is still emerging, including setbacks to young people's education and their mental health. These issues may contribute to negative effects on children's behaviour, increasing the likelihood of substance misuse, exploitation and offending.

The DCYJS service plan for 2022/23 will continue to address these issues, making best use of resources, working with partners to mitigate the impact of placement shortages, developing plans to improve timeliness in our local youth court system and responding to the education and mental health needs of children following the pandemic.

11. Service improvement plan

The DCYJS service plan and strategic priorities for 2022/23 have been developed in the context of all the information summarised in the preceding sections of this document.

The service's plan and priorities also reflect learning from self-assessments, case audits, learning reviews and inspection reports during 2021/22.

Self-assessment:

DCYJS is currently awaiting inspection. HMI Probation is entering the fifth year of a six-year inspection programme of all youth offending teams in England and Wales. DCYJS has not yet been inspected during this programme.

As part of preparations for inspection, in 2021 DCYJS updated a self-assessment for 'Domain One' of the inspection framework, relating to the arrangements underpinning the service's Organisational Delivery. The service has been working on areas for improvement identified in the self-assessment including:

- Some aspects of the DCYJS Board's work, including Board members advocating for youth justice issues in other parts of their work
- Improving the collection and use of data to inform performance and service improvement
- Improving links with other local children's services electronic case management systems
- Some Equality Act 'protected characteristics' need further work.

Case audit:

DCYJS undertakes a detailed case audit each year, using the youth justice inspection criteria. The audit in 2021 identified good practice in building relationships with young people, despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic. Areas for improvement were identified in:

- More work to be done on making assessments, plans and interventions accessible, collaborative (with young people, parents and with other professionals) and responsive to discrimination
- Work to do on clarifying and aligning reparation activities, unpaid work, employability options and constructive activities, including links to community organisations.

Learning reviews and inspection reports:

DCYJS takes part in local multi-agency learning reviews under both the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership and the MAPPA Strategic Management Board. During 2021/22 the DCYJS Manager chaired the review panel for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review in the Dorset Council area and the review panel for a MAPPA Serious Case Review in Bournemouth.

Relevant issues identified in local learning reviews this year include:

- High quality transition arrangements for young people moving to adult services
- The importance of persistence in building positive relationships with young people
- Joint work across youth justice services for children in care placed out of area
- Identifying possible needs and risks for younger siblings when working with a child in the justice system
- Safe ways to manage risk within teenage intimate relationships.

HMI Probation published one thematic inspection report relating to youth justice work this year. The report on the experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the youth justice system has been mentioned above. The DCYJS Team Plan for 2021/22 was updated to include the recommendations from this report and work in these areas will continue in 2022/23.

HMI Probation continued to publish inspection reports into individual youth justice services during 2021/22, summarised in their Annual Report in March 2022: [2021 Annual Report: \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/2021-annual-report/).

Views of DCYJS Board members, team members and service users:

Information relating to the service's performance, progress on past plans, learning from local and other case reviews and inspection reports and the priorities of other local strategic partnerships were reported and discussed with the DCYJS Board in January 2022 and with the DCYJS team in February 2022. The views of service users were collected during the year, with particular attention paid to the messages from the view-seeking work with young people in custody. Those conversations identified the following strategic priorities for our youth justice partnership in 2022/23.

Strategic Priorities for 2022-23

The work of the service is underpinned by commitments to repairing harm to victims and children, to helping children to build positive identities and futures and to the 'Child First' ethos of the Youth Justice Board. All of these commitments depend on the team's ability to build positive relationships with children, parents/carers, victims, other professionals and each other.

The DCYJS strategic priorities can be grouped under the following headings:

- System improvement
- Practice improvement

System Improvement

Continue to reduce the rate of local children entering the justice system

- Allocate Youth Justice Worker time to support children who are diverted from formal youth justice outcomes
- Develop multi-agency understanding and plans to avoid children aged 10-13 entering the justice system
- Work with Dorset Police on the next steps of their youth diversion work, including the outcome of research into the impact of formal and informal out of court disposals in recent years
- Confirm local multi-agency arrangements to ensure that children identified for early concerns over anti-social behaviour have any additional needs recognised and addressed.

Continue to address over-representation of minority groups in the youth justice system

- Implement the recommendations from the thematic inspection into the experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the justice system
- Monitor the experiences and outcomes for young people in our youth justice system with diverse heritage and take action to reduce the risk of them entering custody

- Develop data recording and reporting to identify different groups at possible risk of over-representation, such as more specific ethnicity information, disability, care status, SEND
- Cross-reference youth justice disproportionality issues with other relevant outcomes for children, such as school exclusion, experiencing exploitation, contact with social care services
- Develop the YJS response to children with gender identity issues
- Continue to share with partners the findings from DCYJS view-seeking work with young people in custody
- Work with local authority SEND and Virtual School partners to self-assess our joint work and develop action plans as required.

Continue to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of the local youth justice system

- Work with HMCTS to shorten the time between charge and first hearing dates for youth cases
- Co-produce with magistrates, young people and parents a guide to the local youth courts so that young people and their parents/carers are better prepared for court and better included in the work of the court
- Work with defence solicitors to share the findings from view-seeking work with young people to improve communication and the effectiveness of legal advice
- Provide police colleagues with training in the communication needs of young people in the justice system and suitable communication techniques
- Strengthen the support for young adults in the justice system by working jointly with local authority leaving care services, SEND services and the Probation Service.

Practice Improvement

Make our assessments, plans and interventions more accessible, collaborative and responsive to discrimination

- Agree with young people a better format for intervention plans, with advice from the DCYJS Speech and Language Therapists, to be used across all DCYJS work
- Change the format of DCYJS Referral Order Initial Panel reports to present the information about the child before the information about the offence
- Support DCYJS staff to write assessments, plans and reports in 'Easy Read' style
- Work with young people to understand their experiences of discrimination and its impact on their identity
- Meet with young people and their parents/carers to go through reports and seek their views before court appearances or Referral Order panel meetings
- Include the views of young people and their parents/carers in team case audit activities.

Clarify and align activities to repair harm, increase employability and to support pro-social interests and activities, including links to community organisations

- Review the team's approach to our work with young people to help them repair the harm from their offence
- Clarify the overlaps and distinctions between work to repair harm, Unpaid Work, employability courses and constructive activities
- Agree a budget to support children to access positive pro-social activities, building on their strengths and interests, that can be continued after DCYJS involvement ends
- Build links with a wider range of community organisations to increase the service's ability to find the right activities for children's varying interests and skills.

Workforce Development

The DCYJS Workforce Development Policy identifies core training for different roles in the team. As well as refresher training in child safeguarding, child exploitation and information governance, team members have also completed training in Motivational Interviewing, AIM3 Harmful Sexual Behaviour assessments and Restorative Justice with complex and sensitive cases.

In addition to these core training courses, which will continue to be attended and updated in 2022/23, the service's development plans require staff training in the following areas:

- Trauma-informed practice – refresher training for all practitioner staff, initial training for new staff
- MAPPA and the management of risk – refresher training for all practitioner staff
- 'Easy Read' – support from the team's Speech and Language Therapists to help team members write assessments, plans and reports in an 'easy read' style
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – use our joint self-assessment process with local authority colleagues to identify training needs in respect of SEND
- Self-harm and suicide risk – DCYJS health team to support colleagues in their assessment and response to self-harm and suicide risks.

Working in youth justice has perhaps never been as demanding as in the last two years, with the Covid pandemic not only affecting our service users but also our team members. Supporting the wellbeing of our staff and volunteers will continue to be a priority in 2022/23, attending to relationships within the team as well as with children, parents/carers, victims and other professionals.

Board Development

As mentioned above, the DCYJS inspection self-assessment identified some areas where the work of the Partnership Board could be strengthened. In December 2021 the Youth Justice Board published updated guidance for YJS Partnership Boards, 'Youth Justice Service Governance and Leadership'.

In addition to its quarterly meetings, the DCYJS Partnership Board will hold a development session in June 2022 to review the key messages from the national

guidance and from the local self-assessment, as well as taking time to consider the service's priorities and arrangements for the coming years.

Details of the current membership and attendance of the DCYJS Partnership Board are included in Appendix One.

12. Evidence-based practice and innovation

DCYJS service developments in recent years have included the addition of Speech and Language expertise to the team in 2018 and the implementation of the Trauma Recovery Model in 2020. Both these developments reflected growing evidence about the specific needs of children in the youth justice system.

One of the messages from our conversations with local young people who have been sentenced or remanded to custody was that the crucial and memorable element for them was their relationship with their YJS worker, not the interventions and resources used by the worker. This echoes evidence that has accrued over the years, in a number of settings, that the quality of the relationship is the most important factor in supporting positive change. Building a balanced, trusting and consistent working relationship with a child in the youth justice system is not innovative but it is skilled, difficult and evidence-based work. Understanding a child's communication needs and the impact of their past experiences increases the chances of success in this work.

During 2021/22, working in the context of the Covid pandemic, DCYJS have introduced practice improvements to increase the effectiveness of our work including:

- Semi-structured interviews with young people who have been in custody to gain their views about how DCYJS and other local services could improve our work
- Use of virtual working to strengthen links between DCYJS practitioners and children in care placed out of our area
- Improved transition arrangements for young people entering adult services, supported by the DCYJS Probation Officer
- Increasing and diversifying DCYJS Police Officers' contacts with young people and parents to build trust
- Development of a DCYJS approach to improve restorative work for offences against emergency workers
- Increased use and consistent format for trauma-informed case consultations with the DCYJS health team
- Changing DCYJS practice to hold multi-agency Risk Assessment Panels for all weapons offences, not just those where the child is assessed as posing a High Risk of Serious Harm to others.

13. Looking forward

The strategic priorities and plans for the DCYJS partnership are set out in section 11. A more detailed action plan is used within the service to support this work.

While noting the concerns, risks and issues described in section 10 of this document, the intention of the DCYJS Partnership Board and the DCYJS staff group is that the coming year will see further improvements in the number of children entering the justice system, in how young people from over-represented groups are treated in our local youth justice system and in the efficiency and quality of our partnership work. For those young people

who do require support from DCYJS we will work collaboratively with them, making it easier for them to engage with our service and supporting them to access activities that will enable them to repair harm, enhance their education and skills and develop their strengths and abilities.

14. Sign off, submission and approval

Chair of YJS Board - name	Theresa Leavy
Signature	
Date	

15. Appendix 1

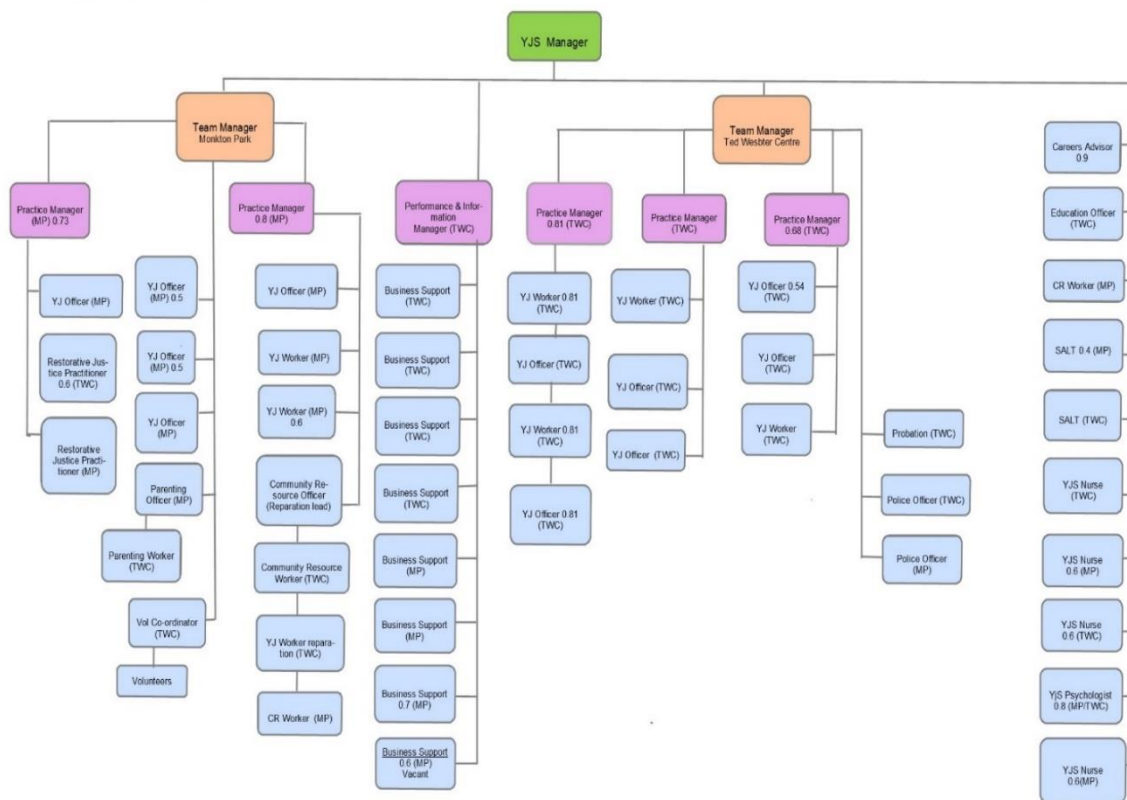
The following table shows the membership and attendance of the DCYJS Partnership Board:

Organisation	Current Post Holder	Board Member	Title	23/04/2021	16/07/2021	05/11/2021	21/01/2022	Key
Ansbury	Nicola Newman	Y	Chief Executive, Ansbury Guidance			N/A	N/A	Attendance Non attendance Deputy sent Papers circulated and comments sought in advance
BCP Council DCS	Elaine Redding	Y	Corporate Director Children's Services					Membership ceased in July 2021
BCP Council CSC	Brian Relph/Jane White	Y	Head of Children & Young People Social Care					
BCP Council Education	Sarah Rempel	Y	Director, Family and Inclusion Services, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	N/A	N/A			
BCP Council Finance	Stephen MacDonald/Jo Collis-Heavens	Y	Senior Accountant, Children's Services					
Clinical Commissioning Group	Elaine Hurl	Y	Senior Commissioning Manager, Mental Health					
Dorset Council DCS	Theresa Leavy (Chair)	Y	Executive Director for People - Children					
Dorset Council CSC	Sarah-Jane Smedmor	Y	Corporate Director Care and Protection					
Dorset Council Education	Mark Blackman/Vik Verma	N	Corporate Director, Education and Learning					
Dorset Healthcare Trust	Lisa White/Clare Hurley	Y	Clinical Services Manager, Bournemouth & Christchurch CAMHS					
Dorset Magistrates Youth Panel chair	Caroline Foster	Y	Chair, Dorset Magistrates Youth Panel					
Dorset Police	Jan Steadman	Y	Head of Criminal Justice and Custody					
Dorset Police	Kerry Shelley	Y	Head of Youth Services / Acting Inspector, Dorset Police Youth Justice Team					
HM Court Services	Jane Dunmall	Y	Legal Advisor			N/A	N/A	Membership cased July 2021
National Probation Service	Toni Shepherd	Y	National Probation Service Dorset					
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner	Lewis Gool/Helen Fletcher	Y	Grants and Commissioning Officer					
Public Health Dorset	Nicky Cleave	Y	Assistant Director for Public Health					
YJS BCP Council	David Webb	Y	Service Manager, Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service					
Youth Justice Board	Kate Langley	Y	Head of Innovation and Engagement YJB and Head of South-West and South-Central regions					

16. Appendix 2 – Service Structure Chart

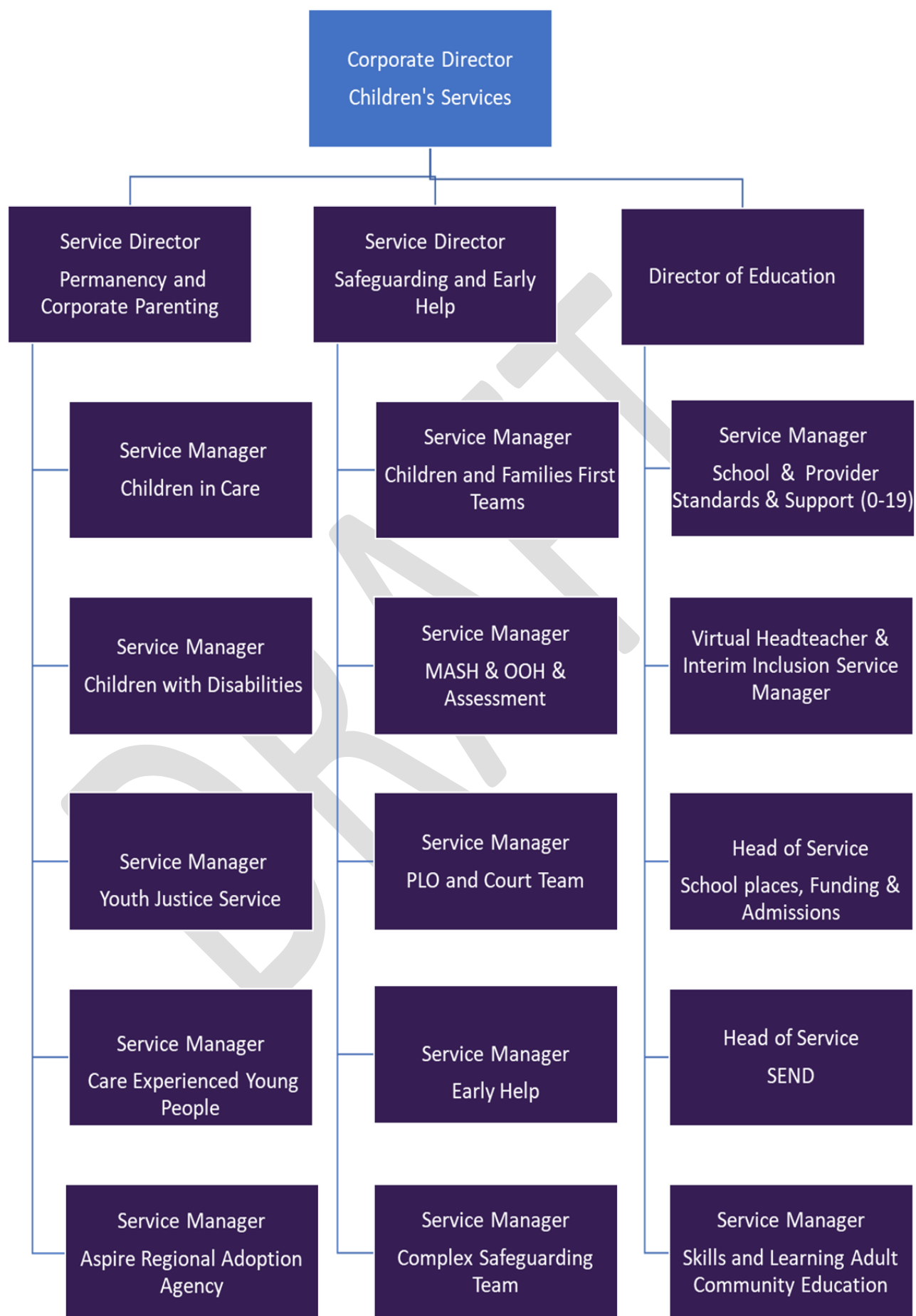
The following structure charts show the staffing structure of Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service and where the service sits in the two local authorities.

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service - YJS Structure



Dorset Combined
Youth Justice Service
January 2022

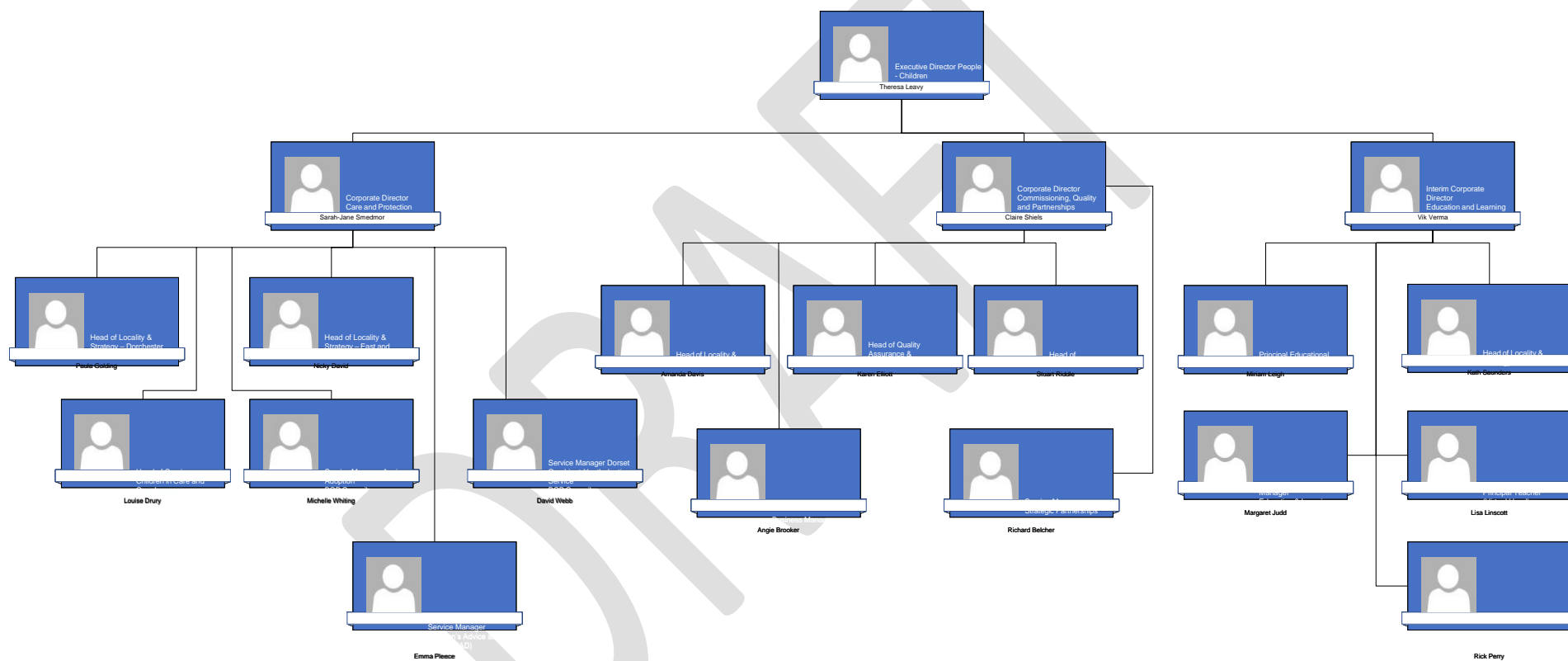
BCP Council Children's Services Extended Leadership Team:



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DRAFT

Children's Services Extended Leadership Team



DRAFT

DCYJS Staff and Volunteers:

The following table shows the gender and ethnicity of DCYJS staff members and volunteers:

Ethnicity	Female staff members	Male staff members	Female volunteers	Male volunteers	Total
White British	38	11	13	6	68
White Other	1	1	1	1	4
Mixed Heritage	1	0	0	0	1

Five staff members in DCYJS are recorded as having a disability.

Common youth justice terms
Please add any locally used terminology

ACE	Adverse childhood experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices
AIM 2 and 3	Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
ASB	Anti social behaviour
AssetPlus	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
CAMHS	Child and adolescent mental health services
CCE	Child Criminal exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity
Children	We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection.
Child First	A system wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenants to this approach, it should be: developmentally informed, strength based, promote participation, and encourage diversion
Child looked-after	Child Looked After, where a child is looked after by the local authority
CME	Child Missing Education
Constructive resettlement	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
Contextual safeguarding	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety
Community resolution	Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for

	low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt
EHCP	Education and health care plan, a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs
ETE	Education, training or employment
EHE	Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school
EOTAS	Education other than at school, children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting
FTE	First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal
HMIP	Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
HSB	Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves
JAC	Junior Attendance Centre
MAPPA	Multi agency public protection arrangements
MFH	Missing from Home
NRM	National Referral Mechanism. The national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them
OOCD	Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court
Outcome 22/21	An informal disposal, available where the child does not admit the offence, but they undertake intervention to build strengths to minimise the possibility of further offending
Over-represented children	Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average
RHI	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing
SLCN	Speech, Language and communication needs
STC	Secure training centre

SCH	Secure children's home
Young adult	We define a young adult as someone who is 18 or over. For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation service.
YJS	Youth Justice Service. This is now the preferred title for services working with children in the youth justice system. This reflects the move to a child first approach
YOI	Young offender institution

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