Notice of Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday, 1 March 2023 at 6.00 pm

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

Membership:

Chairman:
Cllr S Gabriel

Vice Chairman:
Cllr R Lawton

Cllr S Bartlett	Cllr M Earl	Cllr M Iyengar
Cllr M F Brooke	Cllr D Farr	Cllr C Rigby
Cllr E Coope	Cllr A Hadley	VACANCY

All Members of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee 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=5399

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Claire Johnston 01202 123663 or email democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 454668 or email press.office@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

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

Available online and on the Mod.gov app

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

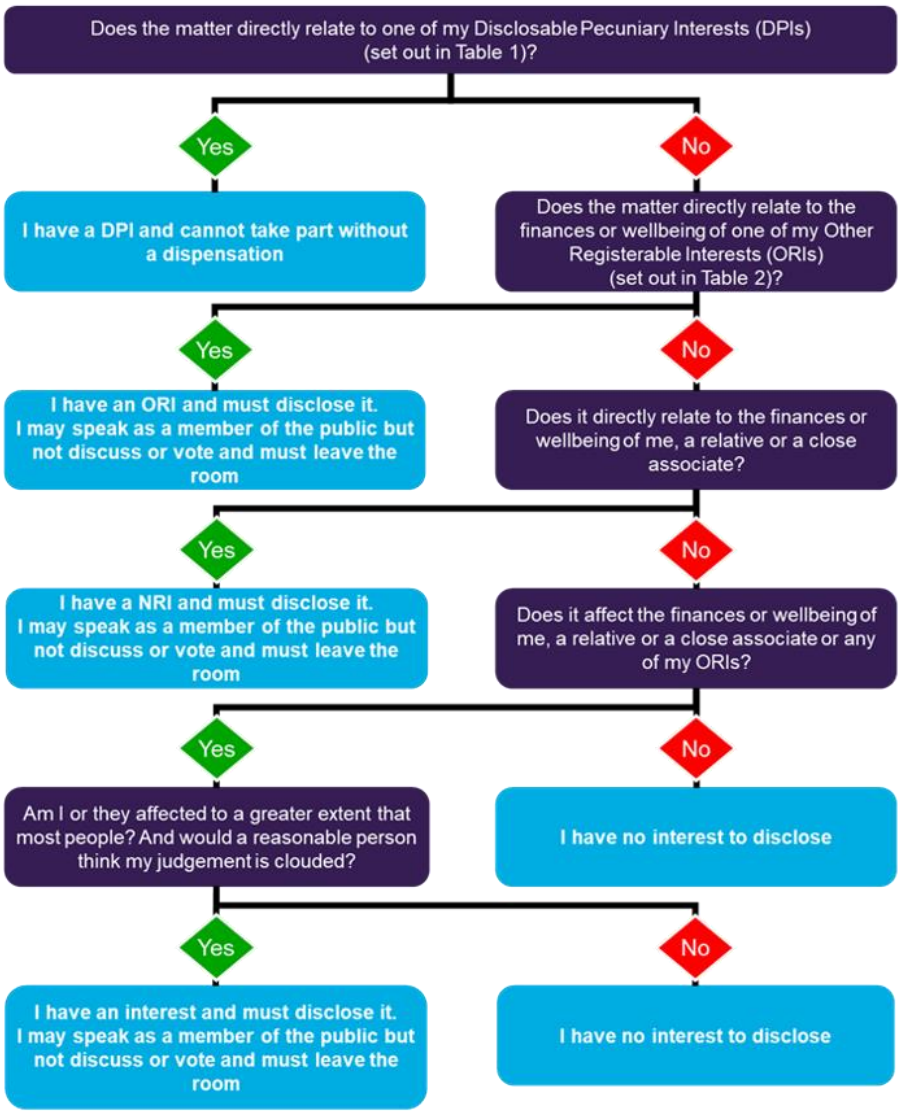
21 February 2023

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	Predetermination 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?	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. Substitute Members

To receive information on any changes in the membership of the Committee.

Note – When a member of a Committee is unable to attend a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee, the relevant Political Group Leader (or their nominated representative) may, by notice to the Monitoring Officer (or their nominated representative) prior to the meeting, appoint a substitute member from within the same Political Group. The contact details on the front of this agenda should be used for notifications.

3. 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.

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. Confirmation of Minutes 1 - 20

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 16 November 2022 and the Special meeting held on 2 February 2023.

6. Poole Crematorium: Detailed Options for the replacement of cremators 21 - 102

In September 2022, Cabinet requested a report detailing options for the replacement of cremator(s) be brought to Cabinet in the next 6 months, with the aim of working towards new cremator(s) being installed in the next 18 months.

This report provides up to date crematoria market analysis, data and trends supported by an independent feasibility report as to the options available on the

installation of cremators at Poole Crematorium to support a reinvestment decision.

CDS Limited were commissioned to carry out a feasibility report following the Cabinet meeting on 28 September 2022 whereby Cabinet committed to bringing forward the reinstatement of cremators at the Poole Crematorium facility, subject to a continuing review of demand, emerging green technologies and the preferred future location(s) and appropriate timeframe for this investment.

Since April 2020 Poole Crematorium site has been operating as a ceremonial only venue with deceased conveyed to Bournemouth Crematorium for cremation.

7. Climate Programme 103 - 190

Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note that the Climate Programme Cabinet report is yet to be finalised.

Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider and comment on the three drafted supporting appendices:

- Annual Report 2021/22
- Draft Climate Strategy 2023 – 2028
- Draft Action Plan 2023 - 2025

8. Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: Reforms to National Planning Policy and Implications for the emerging Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Plan 191 - 196

Government is currently consulting on changes to national planning policy to incentivise the preparation of local plans as the means to deliver more homes to meet its national targets. Government is aware that local plans delayed by contentious issues such as housing targets and allocations within the Green Belt are delaying plan making and resulting in less homes being built.

The implications for the emerging Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Plan are significant. The proposals strengthen the Council's position in demonstrating that the government's standard methodology figure of 2,800 homes per year is not achievable. The proposed changes to national policy suggest that a lower housing target can be found sound at examination, where local constraints and circumstances are considered. This allows the Council to prepare a draft plan without having to release Green Belt for housing development or plan for densities out of character with the current built environment.

In accordance with the Local Development Scheme the intention remains to publish a draft local plan in Autumn 2023, test it through examination and adopt it in late 2024.

There is new emphasis too on place making and protecting the character of places. An up-to-date local plan will provide greater protections to residential areas at risk from speculative high density flatted development as the Council will not be required to demonstrate a five-year land supply.

9. Work Plan 197 - 206

The Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and approve the attached work plan for the Committee or make suggestions for amendments as required.

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

PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 November 2022 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr S Gabriel – Chairman

Cllr R Lawton – Vice-Chairman

Present:	Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr M F Brooke, Cllr N Brooks, Cllr E Coope, Cllr D Farr, Cllr A Hadley, Cllr M Iyengar, Cllr C Rigby and Cllr S Moore (In place of Cllr M Earl)
Also in attendance virtually:	Cllr D Mellor, Cllr M Anderson and Cllr B Dove

30. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr M Earl

31. Substitute Members

Cllr S Moore substituted for Cllr M Earl

32. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

33. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 16 June and 21 September 2022 were approved as a correct record.

34. Public Issues

There were no public questions or petitions received. There was one public statement received from Mr McKinstry in relation to agenda item 6, and read out on his behalf by the democratic services officer as follows:

> "Doubtless, Lord Kerslake knows what he's taken on in accepting the chairmanship of FuturePlaces. The company is controversial; many say its work could be done by the Council in-house, at significantly lower cost (no need for loans or bonus schemes). The main problem however is the company's opaqueness: no minutes published since March, no outline business cases produced - not even for the three small car park sites in Poole (despite the company existing for eighteen months now). Greater visibility, and more widespread consultation - plus discarding the term 'charette' as a synonym for consultation - would benefit this company immeasurably."

35. Future Places - Introduction from the new Independent Chairman

The Committee considered a verbal update on the FuturePlaces company from the new Chairman. The Chairman of FuturePlaces explained their reasons for taking on the position and that the BCP area had great potential but there were things which could be improved, including ensuring that there was housing accessible to everyone. The Committee was also advised that the Chairman had experience of establishing external companies as Chief Executive of a local authority. The Chairman of FuturePlaces went on to highlight some of the priorities and issues for the company. It was noted that the last year had been a year of setting-up but it was expected that a number of business cases would be coming through in the next few months. It was hoped that local Councillors would be brought in ahead of any future consultations and this would be strengthened going forward. The Chairman of FuturePlaces expressed a hope that the company would come to a position where it was seen by all as something of great value for the area. Further plans for improving accountability and transparency were also highlighted.

The Chairman thanked the Chairman of FuturePlaces for bringing this introduction and update to the O&S Committee and advised that the Committee looked forward to seeing the future business cases as they were coming through. A number of issues were raised by the Committee which included:

- A Councillor commented that the public meeting which took place in Christchurch the preceding day was welcomed, and it was good to see engagement taking place with people feeling that they could express themselves on future direction. The Councillor also commented that they could appreciate the process and the somewhat lengthy gestation period for schemes to come forward.
- A Councillor commented that it would be useful to have wider Councillor engagement in any schemes with a potential community impact and not just the local ward Councillors.
- A Councillor welcomed the information received regarding transparency and governance arrangements. It was discussed that, in the lead up to the business cases coming forward, there would need to be more dialogue rather than less.

The Chairman thanked those present for attending and providing information.

36. Impact of Budget on Services within the remit of Place O&S Committee

The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation, and the Chief Operating Officer introduced a report a copy of which appears as appendix A to these minutes in the Minute Book and a copy of which had been circulated to each member of the Committee. The

Committee were reminded that the focus of this item was to consider the impact of budget issues on services within the remit of the Place Committee. In the following discussion a number of points were raised by the Committee and were responded to by the Leader and Officers including:

- The capitalisation direction and the impact of the change in Prime Minister and Cabinet. It was noted that the transformation programme of approximately £60m was originally intended to be funded through the SPV but the Council had now received a minded to letter which meant the capitalisation direction was approved in principle. There was also the option to utilise the flexibility of capital receipts.
- Commercialisation of services – Whether there was any intention to charge for delivery of services which people were not charged for at present. It was confirmed that this was not the case, but for 'charged for services', there would need to be an increase due to current inflationary pressures.
- How the consultation would be carried out and if it would ask about cuts to services or payment for services. The consultation would be asking about priorities and would be conducted in a wider way than normally, in order to ensure that the residents voice was at the heart of the choices to be made.
- The lack of engagement and consultation around not providing a free carparking offer across the Christmas period in town centre car parks.
- Service rationalisation – whether there was consideration given to cutting back services to the statutory minimum. It was noted that consideration was being given to different ways of providing services.
- The staff time spent working on transformation and the capitalisation of staff time. This was largely a percentage of officer time and was weighted towards more senior roles, rather than a dedicated transformation team. There had been lots of work in housing, environment and planning in terms of the place based services.
- Transformation savings for 2023/24, assumed that a third of savings were not itemised and it was not known where these savings were coming from. It was noted that a back-office system would allow the tracking of every pound spent as an organisation.
- Air Festival 2023, the cost to Council to put this on and what savings were being built into the budget for the next show. The Leader advised they were committed to this issue and discussion was underway on options for financially commercialising it. The Leader undertook to provide a written response on further details around this.
- Commercialisation and providing services to the community. There was concern regarding the maximum increases in costs of services for residents.
- Crematorium loss of income and increased service costs, along with increases in competition and whether the Council was in the right place in the market. It was noted that a paper was coming forward on this issue but it was still in early stages and would come back to Scrutiny in March. The team were working hard on this and there had been some positive responses to the new facilities in Poole.

- Council activity on avoiding and capturing waste and sale of items from recycling centre. It was noted that the 'New to You' initiative was being monitored and was going well, with new opportunities and sites being considered.
- Savings in street lighting despite the utility price increases. It was noted that much of the saving came through the use of new bulbs. In terms of the cost going forward all options were being looked at and mitigating the rising energy costs would need to be considered.
- It was noted that the Leader had mentioned the aspect of benchmarking and it was suggested that the Council should look at other comparable authorities along the coastline. It would be useful if some clear indication on benchmarking could be provided in future.

37. Fire Breaks

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place and the Strategic Lead for Greenspace and Conservation 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. The Committee was asked to endorse the current management approach to wildfires and the work of the Emergency Planning Team and strong partnership work in place with the Urban Heath Partnership and Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service. The Committee considered a comprehensive presentation which was circulated to Committee members and appears as Appendix 'C' to these minutes in the Minute Book. The Strategic Lead was supported in the presentation by representatives from Emergency Planning, the Urban Heath Partnership and the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service. Following the presentation, a number of points were raised and responded to including:

- Properties surrounding heathland areas and use of firebreaks. It was noted that there was an effort to minimise extensive areas of heather or gorse near to property boundaries. A proportional response in terms of what action would be necessary was needed but it was noted that it was a concern for residents, and it was a case of minimising the risks.
- The social media campaign following the recent fire on Canford Heath. It was noted that this was a very positive piece of work and it was hoped it would continue.
- The sighting of fire boxes and the risk/benefit analysis for those who may be using them.
- The Litter Free Dorset campaign to stop selling disposal BBQs.
- It was noted that there was a PSPO in Dorset covering people lighting fires in various areas and that evidence was needed for these to be implemented. Officers advised that this was being worked on for both beach and heathland areas. It was noted that a report to Cabinet was expected to come forward on this issue.
- Concern from residents not backing on to heathland but with significant amounts of vegetation which may have been considered a fire risk during the dry summer. It was suggested that there would be a multi-agency workshop to consider areas of risk. Officers advised that the

multi-agency response was important, as each area had a wealth of knowledge but was not aware of a workshop and would pick this up outside of the meeting.

- The causes of heathland fires, including whether there was human intervention in starting them and whether this was deliberate or otherwise. It was noted that prevention was better than cure. Members asked if anything could be done to lobby MPs. It was noted that evidence was needed for this. Officers undertook to provide information to the Committee members on this.
- Concern was raised regarding the increase in heathland fires.
- The Committee was pleased to see the partnership working in this area to try to address these issues and expressed its support for the education initiatives to help address this problem.
- Methods for controlling fires and managing vegetation were discussed.

RESOLVED:

a. That the current management approach to wildfires be endorsed;
b. That the current work of the Emergency planning team to support and react to events on the ground be endorsed;
c. That the strong partnership working already in place through the Urban Heaths Partnership and Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service be acknowledged.

Voting: Nem. Con.

The Committee were very supportive of the proposals around Public Space Protection Orders regarding Heathland Fires and discussed making a recommendation regarding this issue. The Committee then:

RESOLVED: That the Committee supports the work underway to introduce a PSPO to cover damaging activities related to wild fires, in areas of heathland, woodlands and inappropriate open space.

Voting: nem com

The meeting adjourned at 8.21pm and resumed at 8.27pm.

Cllr M Iyengar left the meeting during the adjournment.

38. WISE Fly Tipping Enforcement Review

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services 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. The Committee was advised of the work carried out since May 2022 with the Councils Communications Team and Waste Compliance Officers in line with recommendations made to Cabinet, the report summarised some of the learning from other Local Authorities and provided an update on the performance and data of the pilot. In the subsequent discussion a number of points were raised and responded to by the Portfolio Holder and Officers including:

- The option outlined appeared to be the economically best option for the Council.
- There was concern regarding the economic viability of the outlined option and whether all other options had been explored. It was confirmed that it was cost neutral to the council, which was why officers were recommending this approach. There was an intention to go out to tender, market testing had been very positive so this would be the next step.
- Residents leaving things outside their houses for others to collect and consequently receiving fines. It was suggested that there could be schemes to support this kind of community recycling and reusing as there were elsewhere.
- It was noted that the hours of Household Waste Centres were reduced many years ago to reduce costs and based on usage data. Use of these were also free in most circumstances.
- The rate of returns in the pilot and fines issued, including the issues for following through with pursuing Fixed Penalty Notices. Concerns were raised regarding the number of fines paid. The payment rates for duty of care inspections were favourable. Prosecutions were costly and time consuming and efforts would be focused on persistent offenders.
- Concerns around RIPA in terms of activities undertaken in the pilot. It was noted that it was not deemed to require RIPA approval as it was not targeted covert surveillance. The officers were visible in full uniforms and were not targeting anyone.
- Whether dog fouling was included wasn't and required a PSPO to b. It wasn't and would require a PSPO in place in order to enforce this. However, it would be included as litter if within a plastic bag. Concerns were raised that dog waste bins had been removed.
- Whether litter thrown from cars to roadside verges was covered through the scheme. Litter thrown from cars in car parks would be covered but an evidence base would be needed.
- Concern was raised regarding enforcement on this issue as it was not always welcomed, including hostility to the use of body cameras before it had been established if there had been an offence committed.
- Concerns were expressed that the detail on the other options within the report were not as clear as the preferred option.
- How use of officers' time would be allocated to different areas within the conurbation, including the district centres.
- It was noted that fines wouldn't be issued to under 18s but enforcement officers would seek to engage with them.

The Chairman outlined the recommendations within the Cabinet report and asked the Committee if these were accepted.

RESOLVED: That the Committee accepted the recommendations as outlined within the Cabinet report

Voting: 8 for; 0 against; 2 abstentions

39. Work Plan

The Chairman introduced the item, a copy of the associated report had been circulated to members and a copy of which appears as appendix D in the Minute Book. The Chairman raised the following points:

There were FuturePlaces Business cases due to be considered by Cabinet in February. A Special meeting of the Committee would need to be arranged to consider these in early February. Democratic services would look into a date.

The Tree Strategy Working Group was yet to meet but was looking to get dates in the diary and was scheduled to report into the next scheduled meeting.

Committee members raised the following issues:

- The Development of Templeman House in Redhill and Northbourne. The contractor for which had gone into liquidation. It was noted that there were wider issues to look at concerning procurement processes.
- Sterte Court Cladding – the provider for this scheme had also gone into administration and the process around this needed to be considered.
- The emerging Local Plan – As the previous O&S working group was no longer operating there was no scheduled public scrutiny of this issue. It was noted that the Local Plan was on the Committee's work Plan with a date to be scheduled. Further scheduling for this would be given consideration.
- Climate Change Progress report – this was a very important issue which needed to be considered by the Committee.
- Concerns were raised that the gap between meetings was too long. The next meeting not being until March and that scheduling ad hoc special meetings was chaotic. It was suggested that the scheduled meetings should be tracking Cabinet dates in order to avoid not having an opportunity to consider Cabinet reports for pre-decision scrutiny.

The frequency of O&S Committee meetings had been agreed by Council. Committee members felt that this needed to be reconsidered A motion was proposed that the number of scheduled meetings needed to be increased. It was noted that there was difficulty in trying to look at everything.

RESOLVED the Committee request that the Constitution review working group review the frequency of Place O&S Committee meetings with a recommendation that these should track Cabinet meeting dates.

7 in favour 2 against 1 abstention.

40. Future Meeting Dates

The date of the next scheduled meeting was 1 March, an additional meeting would be scheduled to consider Futureplaces Business cases.

The meeting ended at 9.36 pm

CHAIRMAN

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL

SPECIAL PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 02 February 2023 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr S Gabriel – Chairman

Cllr R Lawton – Vice-Chairman

Present:	Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr M F Brooke, Cllr E Coope, Cllr D Farr, Cllr A Hadley, Cllr M Iyengar, Cllr C Rigby, Cllr M Andrews and Cllr L Williams
Also in attendance:	Cllr P Broadhead
Also in attendance virtually:	Cllr J Butt, Cllr D Butler, Cllr L Dedman, Cllr B Dove, Cllr B Dunlop, Cllr J Edwards, Cllr M Howell, Cllr J Kelly and Cllr M Phipps,

41. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr M Earl

42. Substitute Members

Cllr M Andrews substituted for Cllr Earl

43. Declarations of Interests

The following interests were declared for the purpose of transparency:

Cllr A Hadley advised in relation to agenda item 10 that he was Chair of the Poole Harbour Trails group.

Cllr M Brooke advised for all agenda items that he was on board of the Bournemouth Development Company.

44. Public Issues

There were no public petitions or statements. Four public questions had been received from Mr McKinstry, a local resident. Mr McKinstry was in attendance to read out his questions. Responses to the questions were provided by the Portfolio Holder. The questions and responses were as follows:

1. Can you clarify whether the outline business case for Chapel Lane, and the sums of money cited in the officer's report, relate purely to the north side of that site? I can Clarify that the Outline Business Case and any sums cited relate to the north part of Chapel Lane only.

2. The officer's report states FuturePlaces will receive £31,000 if the outline business case for Chapel Lane gets approved, and £42,000 if Constitution Hill goes through. Can we have the equivalent figures for the other three sites? (I appreciate the actual reports have been deferred.) A number of the reports will be coming to the next Cabinet mee3ting. Figures for the remaining outline business cases for the sites to be considered will be made available when the reports are published.

3. If these schemes get approval, the Council will also be obliged to commit £350,000 for a full business case for Constitution Hill, plus £753,000 for Chapel Lane. Again, can we have the equivalent figures for the other three sites, and are these sums likely to be met by further PWLB borrowing?
Yes, I can confirm that they will be met by further Public Works Loan Board borrowing and upon consideration and approval of the outline business cases the Council will be able to include the Chapel Lane and Constitution Hill projects in the capital programme and commit these funds to fully work up the schemes and complete the full business cases.
Figures for the remaining outline business cases for the sites will be considered at later Cabinet meeting will be made available when the reports are published.

4. Finally, do these figures include a profit element or a success fee, both of which were cited as possibilities in the FuturePlaces business plan; and if so, can you confirm the relevant percentages? (Profits and success fees were discussed on pages 53 and 55 of the 'public reports pack' for the 16 June meeting of this committee, using PDF pagination: https://democracy.bcpcouncil.gov.uk/mgChooseDocPack.aspx?ID=5341)

First of all the full business case for Constitution Hill is worked up directly by the Council's Housing development team, and this fee will not include a profit element or a success fee.

The figures cited for Chapel have been calculated in accordance with the Cost plus charging model detailed in section 7.2 of the approved company business plan and covers third party costs, FuturePlaces development advice, staff costs and overheads and a profit element. A success fee is not payable in this instance as it does not relate to an acquisition or disposal.

The Chairman reminded members that there may be a need for the meeting to move into a non-public session but as far as possible discussions on the exempt information would be undertaken at the end of the meeting after discussing all schemes.

There was some discussion about what issues were inside and outside of the scope of the public and non-public parts of the session and how this should be addressed by the Committee it was noted that as far as possible most material could remain in public session but figures around certain issues would need to be considered within a non-public session.

The Lead Member for engagement commented that it needed to be clear what issues were not within the public domain and the reason for excluding information from the public should be made clear.

45. FuturePlaces - Outline Business Case for Chapel Lane

The Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration presented a report a copy of which was circulated to Committee members and a copy of which appears as Appendix A to these minutes in the minute book. The Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Director of Investment of FuturePlaces, outlined the work which had gone into the outline business case (OBC) and some of the issues and considerations around this. In the following discussion the Committee raised a number of issues which were responded to by the Portfolio Holder and Officers including:

- The impact of the development on the availability of parking. The scheme was not new, but car parking losses could be addressed through altering the development plans. The car park was extremely well used.
- That issues raised in earlier meetings with FuturePlaces do not appear to have been addressed or taken into consideration in this outline business case. In response the Committee was advised that the purpose of the OBC was precisely to get feedback at this stage which can then be incorporated into later stages.
- Comparisons of the costs involved for an inhouse officer team or via FuturePlaces.
- The full business case (FBC) costs. There appeared to be a significant premium on the overall project costs which pushed the project beyond viability.
- The financial model for FuturePlaces appeared more favourable due to capitalising costs but it was not free due to the need to pay interest on the loan.
- Whether any consultation had taken place – there was a general preference for surface car parks rather than multi-storey car parks.
- The impact of the addition of the 7 commercial units if these were going to remain empty.
- The commercial space was proposed to be used for Planning Class E, which could be any kind of commercial, business or social use.
- The Ward Councillors contribution to the process. It was not clear when this consultation happens, and it would be useful to have a flow diagram for non-Cabinet members input into the process. It was confirmed that engagement would be taken on board.
- The process was anti free-market. Putting this out to the free market would reduce the risk to the Council as outlined in option 6. The only risk would be the loss of place making influence. Other members raised concerns with this and it was suggested that it was extremely unlikely to get a mixed use housing development if it went to a commercial developer. It was noted that there were development issues with all of the sites and the desired schemes were not ones which would come forward from the private sector.

- Engagement with business. It was noted that there had been some engagement and feedback was generally positive, but this was ongoing.
- Concerns were raised regarding the close relationship between this and the specifications in the Big Plan as the this had never been considered by a scrutiny body or Council.
- It was highlighted that the housing figures were based on the government's standard formula. It had been confirmed that local Councils were now able to use their own figure for housing demand.
- The regreening of southern car park section. However, there was no mention of using space for off-ground solar panels. These should be considered for all developments. It was noted that this would be considered as part of the second stage.
- It was noted that the larger sites would take longer to come forward to outline business case stage.
- The importance of public engagement for the next stage of this process was highlighted, particularly with local businesses.

Following debate, a Committee member moved that recommendations A and C as outlined in the report, to approve the outline business case and move to the full business case, be replaced with a recommendation to accept option 6 or 7 as outlined in the report.

The move was not seconded. However, another Councillor asked for it to be recorded that he could not support recommendations at B or C of the report.

A Councillor advised that there was a reference to city region and suggested that this be removed.

46. FuturePlaces - Outline Business Case for Constitution Hill

The Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration presented a report a copy of which was circulated to Committee members and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these minutes in the minute book. In the following discussion the Committee raised a number of issues which were responded to by the Portfolio Holder and Officers including:

- Full support was expressed for the predominately affordable housing scheme proposed on this site. It was suggested that the site could be developed in stages more quickly rather than redeveloping the whole site as one. For example, the residential blocks could be refurbished more quickly. It was agreed that this could be looked into.
- Care needed to be taken regarding the throughways on the site. It was noted that there were informal paths through site and positioning of paths should be considered carefully and existing tracks should be looked at to allow them to be incorporated. This issue would be looked into as the site was taken forward.

- As a predominately affordable housing scheme, the full business case would be worked up with housing development, FuturePlaces would also retain a design element oversight.
- A Councillor supported maintaining the original building. Whilst none of the buildings were listed the Councillor requested that some of the historical elements of the site be maintained.
- The entrance to the site was currently tight bottleneck. It was suggested that building this out at the earliest possible opportunity would be beneficial.

The Chairman outlined that the general consensus of the Committee was generally supportive of this project.

47. FuturePlaces - Outline Business Case - Christchurch Civic Centre

The Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration presented a report a copy of which was circulated to Committee members and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'C' to these minutes in the minute book. In the following discussion the Committee raised a number of issues which were responded to by the Portfolio Holder and Officers including:

- That there appeared to be huge risks in this scheme and the viability of the scheme was seriously questioned..
- The previous Christchurch Borough Council had already had a scheme worked out for this site which would open out the waterfront and was far more ambitious than the proposed OBC.
- There was surprise that the proposal was for a hotel on this site as it did not appear to lend itself to this purpose. FuturePlaces confirmed that a number of leading hotel operators had shown an interest in the building.
- There was no detail on consultation within the report. It was noted that there was a strong expression from local residents that the site should be used for some sort of community purpose, and this should be included within the plans for the development.
- It was noted that the marina project scheme developed by Christchurch Borough Council was included in considerations. However, there was a significant issue with flooding, it was thought that the flood risk had worsened further and using the existing building gets over issue of flood risk.
- There was concern raised that any building on the car park to the rear of the civic centre would obstruct views out to Hengistbury Head.
- There were issues highlighted concerning sustainable tourism in the area covered in a recent report and asked how this could be incorporated into this project.
- The Committee was confirmed that the issue of converting the former Civic Centre into a hotel had been raised before. The previous conclusion to this was that, as the site was within flood zone 3A, a sequential test would be required which would mean there would need to be no alternative site for a hotel in order for planning permission to be granted. It was proposed that no further action or spending should take place on this site until the flooding situation was resolved. FuturePlaces

advised that there were in conversation with the flooding authority on this and this would be part of the process of developing the full business case.

- A Councillor commented that the civic centre building was designed in a modular fashion to be easily adaptable as a hotel.
- It was questioned how it would be ensured that this would be a 'high quality boutique hotel'. It was noted that the proposal was to contract with a operator to an agreed standard and therefore the Council would retain an element of control.
- It was questioned whether enough in-depth consultation had been carried out with the right people.
- It was suggested that the rateable value of the building listed in the papers was incorrect.

Following discussions, the following motion was proposed and seconded:

To recommend to Cabinet that it seeks advise on the flood risk impact and that further funding for this project should not be committed until the position on flood risk issues for the development is clear.

There were concerns raised that the wording of the recommendation was overly restrictive and could cause problem with taking the project forward.

It was suggested that the wording of the recommendation could be amended as follows: That a specialist flood risk report should be completed and incorporated prior to the OBC being approved by Cabinet. The amended wording was not seconded, and the original motion was put to the vote.

Voting: 3 for, 6 against, 2 abstentions

A further motion was proposed and seconded, without further debate it was:

RESOLVED: That the O&S Committee recommended to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder that a flood risk report be obtained part of the OBC

Voting: 5 for, 4 against, 2 abstentions.

48. FuturePlaces - Outline Business Case Poole Civic Centre

The Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration presented a report a copy of which was circulated to Committee members and a copy of which appears as Appendix A to these minutes in the minute book. In the following discussion the Committee raised a number of issues which were responded to by the Portfolio Holder and Officers including:

- This was a hugely interesting project, and it was hoped that this would be a great development site.
- Councillors sought confirmation on the timing of the project.
- It was noted that the provision of space for the Coroners Court was a Council decision and would need further approvals to amend.

- It was noted that there was concern about the entry and exit point for the site. Various options may be considered for changes to the gyratory system. Members expressed concern that this would be a critical element of the development, ensuring traffic calming and noise reduction. FuturePlaces recognised the benefits of this, but stated this was outside the OBC scope.
- Demolition of the annex and the storage of goods. Areas had been earmarked for storage need.
- It was noted that the site had lots of car parking spaces, most of these were provided in the staff multi-story carpark. The Committee considered that any hotel development on the site would need considerable parking provision.
- Issues concerning the future use of the solar array on top of civic-centre annex and the multi-story carpark.
- Questions were raised concerning the number of rooms being provided. It was noted that to accommodate the 150 rooms this would require mansard extensions facing into the space in the centre of the building. The illustration in the business case only indicated 80-90 rooms. The Committee was advised that hotel operators had indicated a need for an increase to this number.
- That the figures on this project were significant and in the past the area had not been considered a prime hotel location.
- That the Poole Civic Centre was built in the 1930's for community and civic use and it was vital that the civic function be kept.
- It was noted that the people of Poole had not yet been consulted on what they would like to see at this site. It was noted that public consultation on this was expected to take place in June 2023.
- There was a possibility of disposal after a number of years and a question of whether it was better for the Council to retain ownership in the long term or dispose of it, was raised. The options were included in the OBC and it would be for the Council to consider this further. This didn't alter the current work for FuturePlaces. The Portfolio Holder confirmed it was not his preferred option to sell. Committee members also expressed their preference to retain ownership of the site as a heritage asset.
- Issues were raised regarding the walking routes across the site. This would be considered when moving forward with the full business case.
- The Committee questioned how the social housing proposal would fit in with the development of a mid-range hotel on the site. The Lead member for engagement advised that there was nothing in the report regarding engagement on this specific issue.
- Some concerns were raised regarding the financial aspects of the hotel development. It was suggested these be followed up within the non-public session.
- Concern was raised regarding the current lack of civic space available for use by the Mayoralty in Poole.

49. FuturePlaces - Poole Quay

The Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration presented a report a copy of which was circulated to Committee members and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'E' to these minutes in the minute book. The Chief Executive of FuturePlaces explained that this was a large public realm space and designers had produced two separate options for future development. The first option was a fully shared space with distinctive road kerbs and markings removed. The second option would retain a carriageway and incorporate distinctive spaces for all different types of vehicles. The proposal would be to take this through to a public consultation. In the following discussion the Committee raised a number of issues which were responded to by the Portfolio Holder and Officers including:

- A member welcomed what had been done and commented that in terms of shared space and removing kerbs, this generally didn't seem to work well with traffic, and they would favour shared space but excluding traffic.
- A comment was made that the area needed a major uplift; the lanes led into an area where nothing was done.
- It was hoped that work would continue on schemes in this area of Poole. The area behind the quay needed a lot of work. Further work on this area would look to explore the linkage between the quay and the high street area.
- A Member commented on a new development behind a pub, that if the buildings had been knocked down it could have created an open green space, which would have been amazing and consequently suggested that the area should be considered as a whole rather than one planning application at a time.
- It was noted that it had been a struggle to get something in place on this site and it had been difficult to reach any kind of consensus on how it should be developed.
- The Committee discussed whether a masterplan for the area was appropriate or whether a more light touch overview for the area would be more appropriate and would be more likely to move forward action in the area.
- A view was expressed that one of the most important elements in the area was resurfacing as this was not in a good condition.
- Members supported the views within the paper going out to wider consultation to gain further views on aspirations for the area.
- Funding options for moving this forward to an outline business case was discussed
- Comments were made that some of the ideas outlined were great, but it was questioned whether it was the right economic climate to move it forward.
- Suggestions were made that there should be a focus on drawing different parts of the town together and ensuing good links between areas.

The Portfolio Holder outlined that this was different to the others as a project outline case and there were a number of options to consider. The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions to this item.
The Committee adjourned at 10.04pm and resumed in non-public session at 10:07pm.

50. Exclusion of Press and Public

Following the conclusion of discussions on each of the items the Chairman proposed, and the meeting agreed:

That under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information.

51. Non-Public Discussion of all items

The Committee raised a number of points regarding financial elements of the outline business cases and the project outline case. The issues were responded to by the Portfolio Holder and Officers from FuturePlaces.

The meeting ended at 10.41 pm

CHAIRMAN

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

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CABINET

Report subject	**Poole Crematorium: Detailed Options for the replacement of cremators**
Meeting date	8 March 2023
Status	Public
Executive summary	In September 2022, Cabinet requested a report detailing options for the replacement of cremator(s) be brought to Cabinet in the next 6 months, with the aim of working towards new cremator(s) being installed in the next 18 months. This report provides up to date crematoria market analysis, data and trends supported by an independent feasibility report as to the options available on the installation of cremators at Poole Crematorium to support a reinvestment decision. CDS Limited were commissioned to carry out a feasibility report following the Cabinet meeting on 28 September 2022 whereby Cabinet committed to bringing forward the reinstatement of cremators at the Poole Crematorium facility, subject to a continuing review of demand, emerging green technologies and the preferred future location(s) and appropriate timeframe for this investment. Since April 2020 Poole Crematorium site has been operating as a ceremonial only venue with deceased conveyed to Bournemouth Crematorium for cremation.
Recommendations	**It is RECOMMENDED that:** **a) Cabinet recommends investment be built into the future capital programme for the provision of cremators to meet the needs of the whole BCP Community.** **b) Cabinet note the downturn in overall cremations undertaken by BCP Bereavement Care Services since the opening of New Milton crematorium in April 2022 and ongoing marketplace emergence of national Direct Cremation providers** **c) Cabinet consider the contents of CDS Group feasibility review for cremator replacement at Poole Crematorium** **d) Cabinet to approve either Option 1, 2, 3 or 4 including the associated capital and ongoing revenue**

	commitment for each option as detailed of this report for the future investment into the replacement of the cremators at Poole
Reason for recommendations	The recommendations of this report seek to ensure provision of cremators to meet the needs of the whole BCP Community.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Mark Anderson Portfolio Holder for Environment & Place
Corporate Director	Jess Gibbons – Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	Andy McDonald – Head of Parks & Bereavement Services Liz Hall – Bereavement, Coroners & Mortuary Manager Mike Morris - Senior Property Manager Kate Langdown – Director Environment
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For information and decision

Introduction

1. Whilst financially there is limited feasibility in installing new cremators at Poole due to the influx of competition within the market area, spiritually it is important for the bereaved to have the site at Poole cremating once again.
2. People respond to grief in different ways. Grief is the response to loss, particularly to the loss of someone or some living thing that has died, with which a bond or affection was formed. Although conventionally focused on the emotional response to loss, grief also has physical, cognitive, behavioural and philosophical impacts on a person. There is a difference between a healthy grieving journey and a not so healthy grieving journey. It is important that the wishes of their loved one is met wherever practically possible. If their loved one had a connection with the town of Poole or had people that were significant to them in life cremated at Poole, they will often wish to be cremated at the same site. Grieving people will associate the cremation site as their loved one's final resting place choosing to have their cremated remains scattered onsite following the cremation service and continue to visit the site to pay their respects long after. It is not unusual for a lifelong partner of a loved one cremated at Poole years previously to want to be cremated at the same site.
3. Whilst Poole as a ceremonial-only venue continues to remain a popular choice of venue, we are aware of a large number of families that have been deterred by booking Poole by the fact that their loved one is not cremated onsite and instead is conveyed to another site for their cremation. For some, this can cause further upset and may affect how that family move forward with their grief in order to regain some sense of wellbeing.
4. The online petition demonstrates strongly the community's support for having new cremators installed at Poole. As well as providing spiritual benefits to the bereaved, operationally there are many benefits such as spreading the resilience across the two sites and also providing opportunities longer term to expand the bereavement business model in response to the changing demands of the industry.

Background

5. Cabinet on the 28 September 2022 agreed the following recommendations:
    a. Cabinet recommends investment be built into the future capital programme for the provision of cremators to meet the needs of the whole BCP Community.
    b. Cabinet commits to bringing forward the reinstatement of cremators at the Poole Crematorium facility, subject to a continuing review of demand, emerging green technologies and the preferred future location(s) and appropriate timeframe for this investment.
    c. Cabinet requests a report detailing options for the replacement of cremator(s) be brought to Cabinet in the next 6 months, with the aim of working towards new cremator(s) being installed in the next 18 months.

Current Poole Crematorium operating model

6. Poole crematorium ceased operating as a crematorium in April 2020. This was due to the age of the cremation equipment, which had become uneconomical to repair with replacement parts being obsolete or unavailable.

7. Poole Crematorium has since been operating as a ceremonial and memorial location only and a location for the scattering or interring of cremated remains within its memorial grounds.

8. Since April 2020, 2790 funeral services have taken place at Poole, following which 1794 deceased have been conveyed by Bereavement Care Services to Bournemouth Crematorium for cremation at no additional fee and 996 deceased conveyed directly by the family-appointed funeral directors for which a fee may have been levied to the family. The usage data confirms the position that the venue remains a popular choice for funeral services amongst local families despite not currently offering an on-site cremation service.

9. The Poole crematorium site suspended all operations in March 2022 to undertake a significant refurbishment. These works were in line with Phase 1 of the Bereavement Services Business Plan. The facility re-opened on the 26 September 2022 for ceremonies.

10. Since reopening, The Halo ceremonial hall has undertaken 231 funeral services, following which 196 deceased have been conveyed to Bournemouth Crematorium by the Bereavement Care team at no additional cost to the families.

11. In March 2022 a public petition was launched to 'Save Poole Crematorium 'Petition · Save Poole Crematorium. Install a new cremator. · Change.org 3394 signatures have been added to the petition as of 16th January 2023. (3172 in September 2022)

Crematorium Provision

12. Residents of Dorset are currently served by 10 operating crematoria:

Facility	Operator	No of cremations Jan – Dec 2022
Bournemouth Crematorium	BCP Council	4446
Harbour View Crematorium	Tapper Funeral Services	1414
Weymouth Crematorium	Dorset Council	1330
New Milton Crematorium	Westerleigh Group	892 (April – December)
Salisbury Crematorium	Salisbury City Council	1494
Southampton Crematorium	Southampton City Council	1606
Wessex Vale Crematorium (Southampton)	Westerleigh Group	2130

Test Valley Crematorium (Romsey)	Westerleigh Group	1813
Yeovil Crematorium	South Sommerset District/Yeovil Parish Council	1723
Pure Cremation (Andover)	Pure Cremation Ltd	9632 (an increase of 4167 in 2020)

Data Source: The Official Journal of the Cremation Society, Pharos International, Statistics Issue 2022.

Regional & Local Cremator Capacity, Dorset & West Hampshire

The potential market

13. In 2021/22 the total number of deaths registered within the local catchment of Dorset and West Hampshire was 11,125 of which 90% led to funeral arrangements for cremation. Leaving a requirement for around 10,000 cremations per annum within the catchment area.
14. Out of the UK's 315 operating crematoria, BCP Council Crematorium is the second busiest in the country in terms of the number of cremations carried out. BCP Bereavement Care undertook 4446 cremations in 2021 of which 882 were direct/unattended cremations.
15. BCP Bereavement Care currently holds 40% of the local cremation market in 2021/22.

Cremator capacity

16. A single cremator can undertake around 2190 cremations per annum (6 per day) based on average gas cremation time of 90 minutes) during standard working hours. (Mon-Fri, 09:00 -17:00 hrs)
17. At present there are 10 operational cremators (Bournemouth x 4, Weymouth x 2, Harbour View x 2 based in Dorset and New Milton x 2 based in West Hampshire).
18. This gives a potential to undertake **21,900** cremations within normal business hours within the catchment area.
19. Yeovil and Salisbury also provide an additional capacity to the North Dorset region. With Pure Cremation being the market leader within the region for unattended (Direct cremations) funerals.
20. There is therefore **double** the cremator capacity required within the catchment area in view of the number of deaths registered for Dorset and the 90% cremation disposal rate.

21. Bournemouth Crematorium with its four cremators currently operates on average at less than 50% of its business-as-usual capacity. Variances in seasonal and annual death rates can mean fluctuations in demand throughout the year or from year to year.

Impact of local competition on BCP Crematorium

22. The opening of Harbour View Woodland Burial Ground, which is situated just outside of BCP Council's western boundary in 2006, with their crematorium opening in 2017 has seen them secure a growing market share within the West BCP Council (Poole) and Mid Dorset region. In 2020 and 2021 they undertook 1401 and 1414 cremations respectively, which can be directly linked to the reduction in cremations undertaken at Poole Crematorium in the preceding years prior to it ceasing cremations in April 2020 at the beginning of the Coronavirus Pandemic (please refer to *Fig 1*).

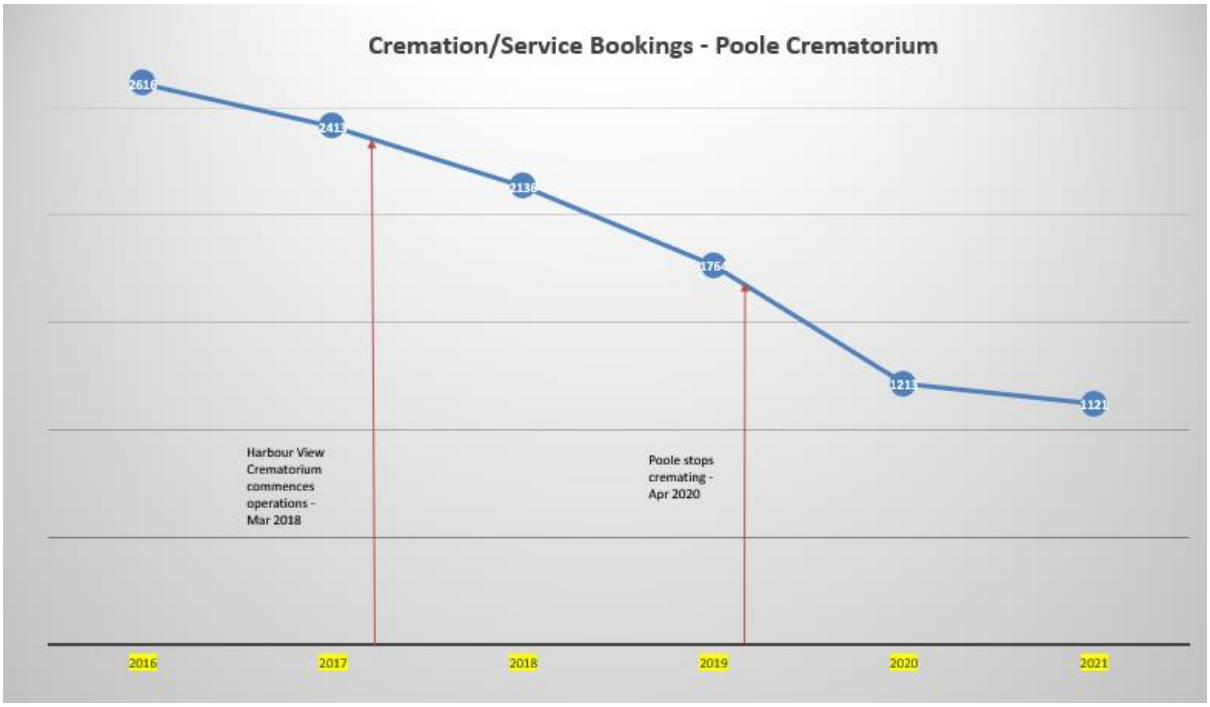
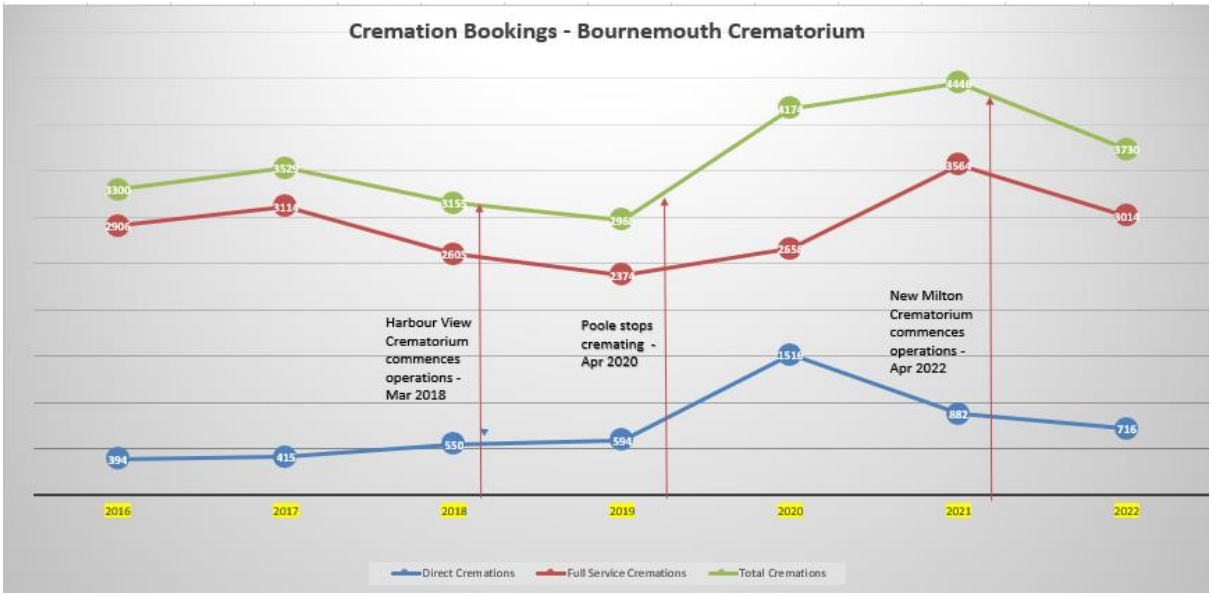


Fig 1.

23. Increasing local market competition and the growing popularity of direct/unattended cremation has over time, between 2017 - 2021 resulted in a 25.2% decrease in the number of cremations undertaken by BCP Council. The largest decrease evidenced in 2018 following the formal opening of Harbour View Crematorium. (See graph 2)

24. The opening of the New Milton Crematorium, coupled with the increasing competition from regional direct cremation market has seen a drop in the number of cremations undertaken at Bournemouth Crematorium to **3730** January 2022 to December 2022, a reduction on the previous year (4446) of **716** cremations.

25. New Milton Crematorium opened in April 2022. Early information indicates that they have already undertaken 892 cremations up to the 22/12/2022. This would indicate an annual figure of around 1400 cremations per annum and is being reflected in the drop in cremation numbers at Bournemouth Crematorium in the period from April 2022 – to date. (Please refer to *Fig 2.)*



26. On opening, the New Milton facility offered a below market direct cremation fee of £250, £100 pounds less than the BCP Bereavement Care Services of £350 at the time.

27. The New Milton facility direct cremation fee has subsequently risen to £475, compared to BCP Bereavement Care Services current fee of £385 (January 2023). There is evidence that funeral directors have returned to using Bournemouth crematorium because of its current lower direct cremation fee, indicating that the local market remains very price sensitive.

28. The reduction in cremations held at Bournemouth Crematorium of 716 in the last 12 months, following the opening of New Milton Crematorium, is an early indication of a further loss in the market share previously held by BCP Bereavement Care and is in line with the rise in cremations being held at New Milton.

29. The increase in the direct cremation fees by BCP Bereavement Care to £385 per cremation in Oct 2022, may also have contributed to this drop in cremation numbers at Bournemouth Crematorium with the lower fee being offered at the time by New Milton Crematorium thus attracting more bookings.

30. It is yet to be determined how the local market will settle in the medium to long term, but it is anticipated that the opening of New Milton will have an ongoing impact on the market shares held by all other crematorium operators within East Dorset & West Hampshire, having an impact on Bournemouth crematorium

Direct or Unattended Cremation Market

31. All local funeral directors offer direct cremations, with many leading local funeral directors having standalone ceremonial halls within their own premises, conveying to local crematorium, or further afield, following a service as an unattended cremation.
32. The direct/unattended cremation market was identified as a growing trend within the Bereavement Services Business plan. This market though has seen rapid growth during the pandemic, being accelerated by the legal restrictions placed upon funeral attendance during the pandemic period.
33. The emergence of new regional and national market specialists in direct or unattended cremations has seen an impact on the local market, with providers conveying to their own centralised crematorium located outside of Dorset in which their operating model by-passes other ceremonial and memorial services offered by funeral directors and crematorium. They also provide funeral directors with a direct collection and ashes return service eliminating the need for cremations to be undertaken locally.
34. Recent national data released for the period January to December 2021 has shown one leading direct cremation provider, based at Charlton Park Crematorium in Andover (Pure Cremations Ltd), increasing the number of cremations it undertakes from 5465 in 2020 to 9632 in 2021, of which 8793 (4717 in 2020) are recorded as direct cremation in one calendar year. This facility is now the busiest crematorium in the country.
35. This market is extremely cost driven offering a low-cost alternative to traditional funeral plans and services previously offered, by removing the need for formalised funeral services and associated costs which in 2021 the average cost being £3,765 compared to £1,647 for an unattended cremation service.
36. It is yet to be determined how this will impact the local market over the long term. It is anticipated that there will be an increased need to undertake a Celebration of Life or memorial service in order to achieve 'closure' for the bereaved as part of a more positive grieving journey. These though are more likely to move away from traditional services and venues.

Other factors influencing consumer choice in the local funeral Market

37. Funeral Directors remain the primary point of contact for the majority of families following a bereavement. This allows them to strongly influence the type of funeral undertaken, the venue and location of the funeral and the associated messaging used to guide a family in their choice of funeral. It remains extremely difficult for BCP Bereavement Care Services to directly influence any funeral process, other than providing a venue and a method of disposal, which has been previously agreed between the bereaved family and their chosen Funeral Director.
38. Bookings for services at Harbour View woodland burial ground and crematorium can only be made through one of 10 office branches owned and operated by Tapper Funerals Limited. This prevents the use of the venue by other funeral directors outside of this group, especially within West BCP Council (Poole) & Mid-Dorset Region.

39. Independent funeral directors within West BCP Council (Poole) & Mid-Dorset Region have been the most vocal and instrumental in driving the call for the reinstatement of cremators at Poole.

40. The impact of the new Financial Conduct Authorities (FCA) regulation of pre-paid funeral plan providers, required them to be authorised by the FCA, prior to 29th July 2022, is yet to be determined. The market has already seen several funeral plan providers go into liquidation. Consequently, some families may find funding funerals difficult, and this may lead to increased levels of 'funeral poverty'. Families that are claiming certain benefits or tax credits can apply for a Funeral Expenses Payment which will help towards some, not all, of the cost of a funeral. This may also impact on the levels of referrals made to Local Authorities to fund Public Health Funerals where there is no known family or friends willing or able to make the funeral arrangements.

Options Appraisal

41. Cabinet requested on the 28 September 2022, that a report detailing options for the replacement of cremator(s) be brought to Cabinet in the next 6 months, with the aim of working towards new cremator(s) being installed in the next 18 months.

42. Bereavement Care Services commissioned CDS Limited to carry out the feasibility report following the Cabinet decision. The full report can be found in Appendix 3. The report includes:

- Quantitative Review of Current Cremation Facilities
- An overview of the latest Government guidance on air quality, emissions, and controls
- The potential of installing gas cremators, their financial costs, and their greenhouse emissions
- The potential of installing electric cremators, their financial costs, and their greenhouse emissions
- A review of alternative cremator technology (subject to a Non Disclosure Agreement).
- A review of local electrical power supplies to ensure sufficient power is available to support electric cremators
- A review of structural alterations to the building that may be required to install new cremators
- Architectural review for the installation of either gas or electric cremators
- Full cost analysis of the various options against a business case analysis
- Cost for the removal existing cremator equipment and any potential cost recovery
- A summary review and breakdown of new technology
- SWOT analysis for the installation gas or electric cremators, including long term risks and financial costs.

43. The report concluded that Poole crematorium

a. Is likely to complete 1463 cremations per annum, using 45-minute service slots
b. That the most suitable number of cremators would be two
c. That either gas or electric cremators could be installed

d. That electric cremation is the lowest carbon option for cremation on the current market, although they require an initial higher capital outlay
e. That electric cremators are the only technology available in the UK market which would allow the council to meet their carbon emissions targets
f. That a newer generation of electric cremators are due to be released to the UK market in July 2024, which will be less disruptive to install at Poole crematorium and financially advantageous, requiring less capital outlay
g. Once installed a significant public relations campaign should occur.

44. The report acknowledges that whilst Poole crematorium could complete 1,463 cremations per annum. This would largely compromise of the existing ceremonial services currently being undertaken at Poole being cremated at Poole, rather than being conveyed to Bournemouth for cremation.

45. The impact on market share by installing cremators at Poole is outlined below:

    a. Drive Time Analysis shows that two nearest competitors to Poole Crematorium are Bournemouth Crematorium (BCP Council) & Purbeck Crematorium (Harbour View)

    b. Poole Halo Ceremony Venue has undertaken **2790** ceremonial funeral services since April 2020, during its 28 months (Close March 2022 to Sept 2022) opening period to December 2022. This is an average **99.64** services per month and equates to circa **1195** services per annum, with the deceased being conveyed to Bournemouth for cremation.

    c. This is reflected in the graph shown in item 18, figure 1.

    d. It is reasonable to conclude that any installation of cremators at Poole, would correspond in a reduction in cremations at Bournemouth Crematorium of circa **1200** cremations per annum.

    e. This will reduce cremations at Bournemouth crematorium to circa 2500 cremations per annum, meaning it will then be operating at 30% capacity

    f. There is therefore potential scope for BCP Bereavement Care to attract an additional market share of circa 200-500 cremations per annum to be won through open market competition, bringing Poole Crematorium back to funeral and cremations numbers recorded in 2019 prior to Poole ceasing cremations in April 2020.

    g. It must be noted that the impact of New Milton Crematorium opening in April 2022 is beginning to be understood, with cremation numbers dropping at Bournemouth from 4500 to 3730 cremations per annum in the last 12 months.

    h. It is anticipated long term that consideration as to the number of cremators required at Bournemouth Crematorium (Currently 4) will be needed to reflect the reduced service demand at the point of their planned replacement in 2027/28.

46. Thus in conclusion the report suggests only a relatively small number of additional cremations could be attracted to Poole, which would have a limited impact on the overall market share held by BCP Council, Bereavement Care Services if cremators are installed at Poole crematorium, with limited financial gain.

47. Option One: To continue to promote & market as a ceremonial venue only, conveying to Bournemouth for cremation

Benefits

41. This is the current position and has been operational since April 2022. Following the completion of the current investment programme the site provides an enhanced ceremonial facility for bereaved families with conveyancing of the deceased to Bournemouth Crematorium for an unattended cremation offered by BCP Bereavement Care

48. Is realisable within existing MTFP funding whilst long term capital reinvestment allocations are yet to be determined when Bournemouth cremators reach the end of their economic life.

Impacts

49. Non reinstatement of a cremation facility at the location will result in a level of local community and Funeral Director disappointment and dissatisfaction in the loss of a valued asset as evidenced through the public petition and local press articles.

50. A decision to formally adopt this option would require BCP Council to:

    a. Cease using the name 'Poole Crematorium' and rename the facility to comply with the 2008 Regulations.

    b. Decommission the old cremator equipment to comply with health and safety, remove hazardous materials and comply with environmental legislation and the 2008 Regulations and enable the space to be alternatively utilised.

    c. Formally serve notice of closure of the site as a Crematorium pursuant to the 2008 Regulations.

The Benefits of reinstating cremators to Poole Crematorium for Options 2, 3 & 4

51. Provides assurances to members of the public, members and other stakeholders of a future commitment to review reintroducing cremators at Poole.

52. Would allow for the reinstatement of cremation facility at the site, providing Poole and wider North & East Dorset residents with another local and valued asset.

53. Would increase local cremator capacity by 1463 cremations per annum and increase overall BCP service resilience.

54. Would reduce demand on Bournemouth crematorium allowing for an expansion in and greater variation in funeral service time spans thus reducing any perceived pressure on bereaved families to leave the site to allow for the next service during peak demand.

55. Would provide the greatest service resilience to maintenance scheduling, breakdowns, and overall service resilience.

56. Would remove the need for conveyancing resources to Bournemouth crematorium.

Option 2: Reinstate now as a crematorium with two gas cremators

57. CDS Consultancy SWOT Analysis of Natural Gas Cremators

Strengths	Weaknesses
Existing technology used for cremation at Bournemouth Crematorium which is operated by BCP; minimal staff training required.	High CO_2 emissions from gas combustion, which would mean that the council missed their carbon emission targets.
Cremation time is consistent and takes 90 minutes.	High NO_x emissions from gas combustion.
The capital cost of the machines is estimated between £500,000 to £575,000.	Maintenance costs for the machines can be costly over time.
Opportunities	**Threats**
Short lead time from purchase to installation.	Uncertainty regarding the future of global gas supply.
Potential to switch to either Hydrogen or Bio LPG as an alternative fuel source on the same cremators in the future.	Uncertainty regarding the future of national gas prices.
There may be potential to retain some of the existing infrastructure from the existing gas cremators, which may lower the cost of the installation.	Threat of future carbon taxes (from national government) on industry's that use natural gas to promote electrification.

Option Three: Reinstate now as a crematorium with two electric cremators

58. CDS Consultancy SWOT Analysis of Electric Cremators

Strengths	Weaknesses
Electric cremation on a green energy tariff reduces CO_2 emissions by 80%. Electric cremation releases 33% less NO_x emissions.	Electric cremators have a higher capital cost.
Based on the energy unit prices that Poole operate on electric cremation would be approximately £17 cheaper per cremation than a gas cremation.	Electric cremators require more space due to the requirement for the separate filters and fans and abatement system.
Because of the combustion technique, there is a smaller risk of fires due to the operation of the machine.	The length of cremation times is longer, approximately average 2 hours.
If future legislation is to change where all crematoria must switch away from gas or switch to a greener gas, then Poole would have already overcome this issue by switching to electric.	**The lead times for purchasing electric cremators are estimated to be >9 months.**
Maintenance costs of electric cremators are thought to be lower in the long term due to the reduction in heat fluctuation which reduces stress on the refractory lining of the brickwork.	Less effective for heat recovery systems to be used in heating the building or heating other buildings due to the efficiency of the electric cremators in retaining heat.
Opportunities	**Threats**
The future UK gas prices are expected to increase due to the reduced availability of gas in global markets. Gas prices are increasing at a higher rate than electricity.	A STATS upgrade may be required, which may require the digging up of roads, causing disruption. The upgrade may also come at a high financial cost – which is currently unknown.
To the knowledge of CDS no crematoria in Dorset offers electric cremation, therefore if marketed suitably to funeral directors, Poole could claim to offer the 'greenest' cremation process in Dorset. This would mean that Poole has a competitive advantage over other crematoria in the area.	Due to the weight of the electric cremators, the foundations of the building may need to be reinforced to withstand the additional weight of the electric cremators.

59. **Option Four: Commit to bringing forward the reinstatement of electric cremators at Poole Crematorium, subject to a review of new technology and emerging green technologies being made available to the UK market in Summer 2024**.

60. In conclusion the identified new electric cremators would be the most appropriate electric cremator for installation at Poole crematorium as:

    a. The cremators could be installed part by part inside the crematory; therefore, no alterations would be required to the existing roof or doorways.

    b. Utilise waste heat to provide hot water to the site.

    c. Provide a cremator that was manufactured in the UK and therefore wouldn't be subject to international import tariffs or changes to exchange rates.

Summary of Financial Implications

61. Bereavement Care Services was budgeted to generate a surplus of £2.3m in 21/22 with the Crematorium & Cemeteries operations delivering a net income of £1.8m. Since the creation of BCP Council there has been an under-recovery of £602,911 this is due to an historically profiled expected income budget which has not been realigned following Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in April 2019. In 21/22 this pressure was in part offset by savings of £93,276 achieved on expenditure.

62. The increasing cost of electric and gas supplies will also put an added pressure on the current budget with current forecasts shown as £214k (as at 05/09/2022).

63. Staffing revenue budgets post LGR appear to have been historically short of actual need with the service currently £200k more than budgeted. To reintroduce an operational crematorium site at Poole a further £105k of staffing budget would be needed to compliantly operate the site, further impacting surpluses to support the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

64. The Bereavement Services Business Plan 2020-2026 recognised:

    a. That BCP Council had lost a considerable market share within the cremation market because of new burial and cremation facilities at Harbour View located at Lytchett Minster.

    b. It recognised the potential new challenge to its existing market share because of the opening of new crematoria facilities, New Forest Cremation at New Milton

    c. It recognised the growth of direct/unattended cremations by providers outside of BCP Council, Dorset & West Hampshire.

    d. It recognised the need to stabilise the current market held by BCP Council

    e. It did not anticipate the accelerated growth of direct/unattended cremations due to the global pandemic.

65. It is therefore unlikely that the reintroduction of cremators at Poole at this time, would significantly increase BCP Bereavement Care's market share within a very competitive and already established market.

66. There is consequently limited scope with the increase in overheads, which would apply to increase income within the current cremation market in the short to medium term.

67. Options 2, 3, and 4 are not part of the current capital programme. Although it is known that the Bournemouth cremators will reach the end of their economic life in about 7 years, the costs of replacement at this point are not known and a full business case is yet to be developed. The option appraisal considerations do not show the cost of any future investment decisions at Bournemouth.

68. With option 2, 3 and 4 all four current cremators at Bournemouth would continue to operate until end of economic life. Option 2, 3 and 4 requires capital investment in Poole now, with investment decisions in Bournemouth to be made in the future.

69. Option 4 does not require any capital investment now. With ongoing evaluation of the marketplace position, monitoring development of emerging technologies and the preferred future location(s) and appropriate timeframe for this investment to be determined, post July 2024.

70. Strategic Community infrastructure Levy can be used for the maintenance and improvement of infrastructure. A crematorium would be considered as infrastructure to support any successful place and also to support growth, that the increase in people arising from such growth will need to be catered for.

71. A business case would need to be approved by the Future Infrastructure Programme Board that oversees the allocation of strategic CIL. However there are competing demands for this fund from all forms of infrastructure across the BCP area including flood defences, schools, transport schemes, open space, leisure and cultural projects. CIL is a provided from new development but since the pandemic build rates have slowed reducing CIL income. The amount of CIL available and competing infrastructure projects will therefore be a risk to securing funding.

72. A business case had not been submitted prior to this report due to the consultation report on the feasibility of replacing cremators at Poole, was not being received until the 27 January 2023. The report highlighting the various options available to BCP Council, and the various levels of financial resources required to replace the cremators at Poole. The final decision on which option to progress being made by Cabinet through this report.

73. Any funds allocated via CIL could reduce the remaining capital spend that would need to funded by additional prudential borrowing. This reduction in borrowing would reduce any future repayments reducing the long-term revenue pressures on the service and thus the Councils Medium Term Financial Plan.

74. Even if fully funded through CIL, there will remain a long-term additional revenue pressure on the service, due to increased staffing, long term maintenance liabilities and increased utility costs of between £250K and £275k per annum.

75. Unless alternative funding sources are identified, capital investment for options 2, 3 and 4 (although for option 4 timelines are not yet determined) would still need to be funded from additional prudential borrowing.

76. Borrowing repayment costs would create additional revenue pressures within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) (excluding the one of decommissioning costs of £100k) would total annual revenue costs ranging from £569k in option 2 to £699k for option 3. The revenue costs for option 4 will need to be accurately calculated at the time of forming a decision.

77. Excluding the repayment of prudential borrowing, the revenue implications of options 2, 3 & 4 would be between £ 250 & 275k.There is no provision in the current MTFP for these additional costs and they would therefore have to be added to the budget pressures currently being identified.

78. The annual prudential borrowing repayments would also need to be added to the MTFP as a pressure for options 2, 3 & 4 these are expected to be between £294k and £449k per annum. As interest rates are currently rising this estimate could increase prior to the scheme being finalised.

79. Following advice from accountancy, decommission cost & fees cannot be capitalised as the CIPFA code of practice confirms in Module 4 that Assets decommissioned should be written off to the Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of gain or loss on disposal. There is no provision within current revenue budgets to absorb the one-off cost of decommissioning the cremators & associated fees.

80. Cremation services are exempt from VAT which means that a replacement of a cremator will directly impact the Council's partial exemption position. Based on the current projection it is certain that the 5% limit would be breached if the project is delivered within one financial year. This would result in an additional cost of nearly £2.2m representing irrecoverable VAT that the Council would need to repay back to HMRC as a consequence of going over the statutory threshold.

81. In order to mitigate the risk it is recommended that the timeline for construction phase is reviewed and the costing is equally profited over two accounting periods.

82. Further analysis will be undertaken to evaluate other options which includes a 7-year average approach. In order to mitigate the risk of breaching the de-minimis limit it is recommended that the timeline for construction phase is reviewed and the costing is equally profited over two accounting periods.

83. Options 2 is currently proposed to be delivered within one financial year (2023/24).

84. Options 3 would be delivered within the financial year 24/25, with Option 4 being delivered in late 24/25 financial year.

85. With regards to option 4 a detailed VAT analysis would need to be undertaken closer to the time. It is likely that a reduction in public spending and organisational changes would, in the long term, push the Council closer to the 5% threshold. As a result, the replacement of the cremators would either need to be spread over 3 financial years or the Council would need to adopt a 7-year average approach to avoid the resultant cost of irrecoverable VAT.

86. All cremator equipment and maintenance costs have been derived by obtaining quotations from CDS limited, who are a market leader in the United Kingdom for the development of crematorium and cemeteries operating in the UK. Depending on which option is adopted, a full procurement tendering exercise will be undertaken to seek best value and confirm costings.

87. The table below summarises the breakdown of cost(s) for the options tabled for consideration:

Summary of legal implications

88. There is no statutory duty on a local authority to provide burial or cremation facilities, but if they do so, the management is governed by the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 and the 2008 Regulations. Local authorities are defined as burial authorities and/or cremation authorities and given the power to provide services by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972.

89. The Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008, state that the cremation authority must ensure that a crematorium is:

    a. maintained in good working order

    b. provided with a sufficient number of attendants

    c. kept in a clean and orderly condition.

90. If the site does not remain a crematorium and in order to comply with the 2008 Regulations, the Council must serve notice that it no longer remains a crematorium. It can continue to market the location for services and committals only, with deceased convey to Bournemouth Crematorium for cremation.

91. The Council should if a decision to defer an investment decision is taken undertake the necessary steps to formally change the operating status of the site pursuant to the Regulations (Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008 to include the publication of required notices and notification to the secretary of state. The Council can at a future date apply to reintroduce the cremation facility through the same Regulations

Summary of human resources implications

92. An individual crematorium must be certified and licenced as a stand-alone facility for the cremation and disposal of human remains in compliance with the Cremation England and Wales) Regulations 2008.

93. As such the site must be provided with sufficiently trained, and competent staff who must be present when active cremations are being undertaken.

94. The two crematorium sites managed by BCP Council could therefore not be operated under a single licence, but the sharing of resources, IT systems and ancillary services would be possible, with an uplift in staffing resources to facilitate the management of two separate facilities.

95. It is anticipated this would require an additional:

    - 1 x Site Responsible Officer
    - 2 x Crematorium Technicians
    - 2 x Ceremonial Attendants

96. It is anticipated that if all conveyancing from Poole Crematorium ceases, members of staff currently undertaking this role, could be redeployed to 2 of the roles highlighted above. This has been reflected in the financial modelling.

Summary of sustainability impact

97. A full Decision Impact Assessment has been undertaken, ID 412 resulting in the identification of two major negative impacts.

98. Every cremation produces NOx due to the coffin materials used by manufacturers – both nitrogen monoxide and nitrogen dioxide – the same air polluting chemicals released by diesel cars. The latest figures published in Pharos, the cremation industry's house magazine, show that just one cremation emits approximately 500g of NOx gas.

99. An electric cremator produces 50-80% less CO2 emissions than the gas cremator, the range is dependent on the number of cremations processed per day and energy tariff used and produces 33% less NOx emissions. Alternative fuels, such as hydrogen blend and biogas may be feasible in reducing emissions in certain cases, however, they are not viable solutions for the UK industry at this time.

Summary of public health implications

100. This report continues to support the work that Bereavement Care Services undertakes within the community in delivering a range of services, which provides the appropriate closure at a time of heightened emotional distress and supports a healthier grief recovery process.

Summary of equality implications

101. An Equality Impact Conversational Tool has been completed and reviewed by the Equality Panel. The options presented in this report either seek to maintain service levels as they are or increase provision. There are no significant negative equality impacts on protected characteristics that have been identified with service users retaining access to both local authority and private sector marketplace providers delivering local and national facilities.

Summary of risk assessment

102. Current live potential non-compliance with Crematorium Regulations 2008 by continuing to use the name 'Crematorium' when signposting to the Poole facility when no working equipment is in operation at the site currently.

103. Remain open to legal challenge by market competitor as to the use of the term "Crematorium" at Poole.

104. Any investment decision at this time would result in an increase in unsupported revenue spend and impact of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan.

105. The public petition shows that a proportion (3,394 as at 16/01/2023) of BCP residents and the wider population have expressed a keen interest in reinvestment in the facility as a working crematorium, a decision to await a wider BCP conurbation review or not invest may result in reputational impacts and a potential element of future loss of customer base if, as a result potential service users chose to use other marketplace providers that offer onsite cremation.

Background papers

Bereavement Services Business Plan 2020

Appendices

1. Decision Impact Assessment Final Report DIA412
2. EIA Conversation Screening Tool
3. CDS Feasibility Report into Cremator Replacement at Poole

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Table of Options and implications

(note: financial implications are those additional to any already agreed)

	Option 1, Current (remain as is)	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Description	**To continue to promote and market the Poole site as a ceremonial venue only**	**Install two gas cremators at Poole now**	**Install two electric cremators at Poole now**	**Commit to bringing forward the reinstatement of electric cremators at Poole Crematorium, subject to a review of new technology and emerging green technologies being made available to the UK market in July**
Timeline	**Immediate**	Commence & complete 23/24	Commence (order March 2023) complete Spring 24/25	Commence Summer 2023 & complete late 24/25
Benefits	**In place, improvements completed, within current budget**	Reinstates cremator facility at Poole. Potential for greater variation in funeral slot times	Reinstate cremator facility at Poole. Potential for greater variation in funeral slot times. Improved CO2 emissions. Expected reduction in utility costs.	Allows time to re-evaluate the market to determine longer term impact, greatest future commitment to CO2 reduction, defers increasing pressure on MTFP.
Impacts	**Permanent change of name required, decommissioning of old cremators**	Capital investment needed now, additional operating costs without guarantee of increased income. Greater resilience.	Capital investment needed now, additional operating costs without guarantee of increased income. Improved CO2 emissions. Still relatively new technology.	Capital investment deferred to 2024, additional operating costs without guarantee of increased income. Improved CO2 emissions. Still relatively new technology. Local FDs and community dissatisfaction. Temporary/interim renaming of facility required, decommissioning of old cremators required.
Capital Investment (CDS report)		**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Demolishment of existing cremators	100	40,000	40,000	40,000
STATS upgrade			196,500	196,500
Installation & Rebuild of walls to install creators		60,000	60,000	60,000
Main contractor OHP		16,125	45,600	45,600
Project Management		7,500	7,500	7,500
Cremators X 2		1,075,000	1,600,000	1,300,000
M & E works		40,000	80,000	80,000
Internal structural changes		60,000	60,000	60,000
Main contractor construction works (15 Weeks)		120,000	234,000	120,000
Main contractor construction works (26 Weeks)				.
Professional Fees (Architects, planning, SE, PM, QS)		65,000	98,900	65,000
off site Staff Allowances		11,000	15,000	11,000
Sub-Total		**1,494,625**	**2,437,500**	**1,985,600**
Capital Investment (refurbisment & crematrium equipment)				
UPS Generator		100,000	100,000	100,000
Additional upgrades to subsidory crematorium equipment		140,000	140,000	140,000
Redecortaion & refurbishments		60,000	60,000	60,000
Sub-total	**100**	**300,000**	**300,000**	**300,000**
Total Capital Investment		**1,794,625**	**2,737,500**	**2,285,600**
20% Contingency	120	358,925	547,500	457,120
Total capital costs	**120**	**2,153,550**	**3,285,000**	**2,742,720**
Revenue Implications				
Employee costs		105,000	105,000	105,000
Utility costs		125,000	100,200	100,200
Maintenance/servicing		45,000	45,000	45,000
Prudential Borrowing Repayments*		294,300	449,000	374,800
Total annual revenue costs (year 2 onwards)		**569,300**	**699,200**	**625,000**
One off cost to ddecommison existing cremators	120			
Total year 1 revenue costs (excl Prudential borrowing repayments)		275,000	250,200	250,200
*cost of borrowing at 'medium' invest to save risk rate (7%) over a 15 year term on a maturity basis.				

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Equality Impact Assessment: Conversation Screening Tool

What is being reviewed?	The current operating status of Poole site commonly known as Poole Crematorium.
What changes are being made?	A decision on the current operating status of the site. There is no statutory duty on a local authority to provide burial or cremation facilities. The bereavement industry and in particular cremation services are offered to the public marketplace through a mixed provision model of both Local Authority and Private Sector providers. Poole Crematorium stopped cremating in April 2020 due to the age of the equipment and associated safety concerns. A pre-planned contingency arrangement was implemented involving the conveyancing of deceased following services at Poole to Bournemouth Crematorium for cremation. This enabled the Council to continue offering Poole as a choice venue for families to arrange their final goodbye moment. The arrangement in Poole has continued to operate to date with local funeral directors continuing to make bookings for services at the site with in-house conveyancing undertaken. Options tabled: • **Option 1** continue to operate as a ceremonial venue only. Undertaking the necessary steps to change the operating status of the site as a ceremonial only venue pursuant to the Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008 • **Options 2, 3 & 4** invest now in reinstating cremator(s) at the Poole site thereby enabling the site to once again provide cremations to service users on site and in accordance with the Regulations to continue to legally use the name 'Poole Crematorium'
Service Unit:	Environment / Bereavement Services
Participants in the conversation:	Kate Langdown – Director of Environment; Andy McDonald – Head of Parks & Bereavement Services; Liz Hall – Bereavement, Coroners & Mortuary Manager
Conversation date/s:	02 July 2022, 25 August 2022 & 02 September 2022. 06 February 2023
Do you know your current or potential client base? Who are the key stakeholders?	Citizens of Bournemouth, Christchurch, and in particular Poole including neighbouring areas. Funeral Directors Religious Groups Religious Funeral Celebrants

Do different groups have different needs or experiences?	Through BCP Bereavement Care individuals and families can: • decide the form of any ceremony they choose to have • choose a religious, humanist or civil ceremony • choose a ceremony that reflects any religious beliefs or multicultural traditions BCP Council have a responsibility under Section 46 of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 to plan and pay for Public Health Funerals when there are no known relatives or friends willing or able to make the funeral arrangements. This could lead to an increase in 'demand' for Council Public Health funerals. Residents on low incomes can find funding funerals difficult and will borrow or loan funds to pay for funeral services that they can ill afford. This in turn can lead to increased levels of 'Funeral Poverty'. Families that are claiming certain benefits or tax credits can apply for a Funeral Expenses Payment which will help towards some, not all, of the cost of a funeral. BCP Bereavement Care offers a range of advice and packages including Direct Cremations to support families during their time of loss. Historically the purpose of most religious funerals was to aid the deceased in their passage to the next life, and this remains an important factor for many religious groups with certain protocols or rites being carried out prior to the actual funeral taking place, during and after. In more recent times, and in more secular funerals, the emphasis has shifted towards providing comfort and support for the bereaved. However, there are primary faith groups within our communities that remain committed to the rites of their particular faith group and as a bereavement service we work in tandem with faith group leaders to ensure their faith groups feel supported within the community when experiencing bereavement. Some faith groups prefer burial over cremation and vice-versa with members of the certain faith groups preferring expedient burial following a death of a faith member. The faith groups that we currently support include: • Christian and Protestant Church • Roman Catholic & Orthodox Church • Islam • Judaism (Chabbad, Orthodox, Liberals & Reform) • Hinduism • Sikhism

	• Buddhism These arrangements and ongoing support would not change as a result of any of the options being considered.
Will this change affect any service users?	The decision to install or not to install new cremators at Poole now or in the future will have no negative impact on any protected characteristics. Including: • age • gender reassignment • being married or in a civil partnership • being pregnant or on maternity leave • disability • race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin • religion or belief • sex • sexual orientation • armed forces community • human rights As stated earlier, Funeral Poverty could impact on those with low income/socio economic status, however this can be mitigated through Funeral Expenses Payment, less costly options for services such as a direct or unattended cremation or through a referral made for a Public Health Funeral. A decision to take forward Option 1 could negatively impact Funeral Directors and Celebrants whose potential customers may choose to use alternative providers such as Harbour View if cremators are not reinstated at Poole in the medium term. Individual mental health can be impacted during a period of bereavement and grief including the responsibilities of overseeing funeral arrangements. Clear guidance and support is made available to all experiencing a bereavement with signposting to support agencies where appropriate. Death needs to be discussed more openly and we are encouraging communities to talk more openly about death, grief and the various support mechanisms in place to alleviate the isolating impact grief can have on mental and emotional wellbeing.
What are the benefits or positive impacts of the change on current or potential users?	The decision to install cremators if made will deliver benefits that are not linked to the protected characteristics but may support individual or family choice and local funeral director

	businesses who may have potentially been losing a % of customers to other providers.
What are the negative impacts of the change on current or potential users?	None of options presented have negative impacts on a protected characteristic group. If the decision is made not to install or to continue evaluating installation decisions the current operational arrangement with in-house conveyancing will continue to be offered which is a service that has been in place for 2 years. The marketplace is subject to a changing environment and increased competition for which long term impacts are yet to be fully understood. For example increase in direct cremation market and associated pricing. A number of written complaints and comments from certain community groups regarding the non-cremating status of the Poole site have been received. The local National Association of Funeral Directors have made a number of representations on the installation of new cremators at Poole together with the local Churches Together Association with a limited number of personal written comments received by local residents. The essence of the complaints focuses on the committal and cremation together at the same site ie. rite of committal followed by cremation onsite without the need to transport the deceased to Bournemouth Crematorium for cremation. There is no legislation prohibiting this and the deceased is treated with respect and dignity at all times when conveyancing arrangements are undertaken. A public 'Save Poole Crematorium' online petition has been set up which has been led by a local retired businessman which is supported by the local funeral director, F C Douch & Sons. This arrangement in no way impacts negatively on the protected characteristics but is one of personal opinion and belief. Funeral Directors are the first point of contact for most families experiencing a bereavement, and our service relies on the information imparted to grieving families at this point. This includes information regarding the operating status of the site. Residents are still given the choice to select the Poole site to hold their 'final goodbye moment' or 'celebration of life' services. We rely on funeral directors to advise families choosing Poole for their service to notify them that their loved one will not be cremated onsite at Poole. All supporting documentation required to be completed by the family clearly advises the coffin conveyancing arrangement in place which should be further emphasised by the funeral director.

Will the change affect employees?	Additional staff would need to be recruited in order to operate two sites as a crematorium compliantly under current legislation and according to the ICCM's Code of Cremation Practice.
Will the change affect the wider community?	**Option 1** may result in fewer families choosing Poole as a venue of choice, impacting local funeral directors however numbers over the last two years indicate demand as a ceremonial facility remains evident. **Option 2, 3 & 4** may result in more families choosing Poole as a venue of choice if the cremation takes place onsite without the need for conveyancing , but will be subject to wider marketplace competition.
What mitigating actions are planned or already in place for those negatively affected by this change?	No negative impacts have been identified on the protected characteristics therefore there are no mitigating actions required. BCP Bereavement Care Services is one of a number of marketplace providers. BCP currently operating a crematorium facility (with 4 cremators) located at Bournemouth and the current ceremonial facility at Poole with conveyancing arrangement to Bournemouth. Together comfortably serving the level of market demand experienced. The wider market provides individuals and families with further choice of facilities including nearby privately operated Harbour View, New Milton and Local Authority run facilities at Weymouth, Southampton and Salisbury.
Summary of Equality Implications:	In summary there is no statutory requirement for BCP Council to provide Crematorium facilities within the conurbation. At present BCP Council provides an operating crematorium facility (with 4 cremators) located at Bournemouth and the current ceremonial facility at Poole with conveyancing arrangement to Bournemouth. Option 1 would see a continuation of current operating practice and would not see any impact to any protected characteristic group. It may negatively impact some local marketplace funeral directors customer base. Option 2, 3 & 4 would not see any impact to any protected characteristic group and may increase the number of individuals and families opting to use the facility and in turn local funeral director businesses, however this not guaranteed and would be subject to wider marketplace competition.

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C
D
S

A Feasibility Review of Cremator Replacement at Poole Crematorium

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council

Date: January 2023

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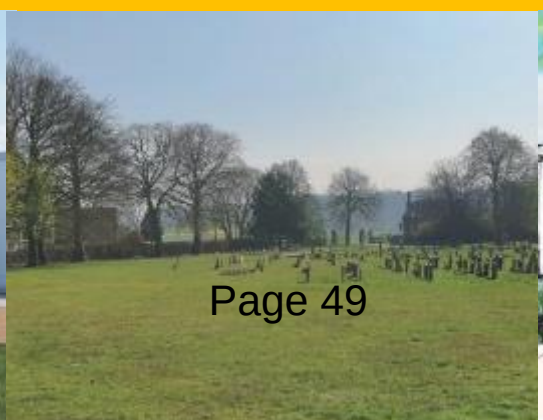


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1) Introduction and Location

Following a request for a feasibility review on behalf of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council, which manage Poole Crematorium, the CDS Group have the pleasure of presenting a feasibility report exploring various cremation technologies for cremator replacement at Poole Crematorium.

As outlined in the proposal CDS delivered to BCP, the feasibility study will review the following:

- A quantitative review of cremations at Poole Crematorium.
- The installation of new natural gas cremators at Poole Crematorium.
- The installation of new electric cremators at Poole Crematorium.
- A business case and costings analysis for both natural gas and electric cremator installation. (Calculations presented in the accompanying spreadsheet)
- A summary review and breakdown of new cremation technology. (Document attached separately. An NDA needs to be signed to view this document).
- A SWOT analysis of cremator replacement.

Poole Crematorium is located to the north of Poole, Canford Heath Nature Reserve is located to the east of the site. The red line boundary of the site can be found below in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Site Boundary of Poole Crematorium

Poole Crematorium stopped completing cremations in April 2020 at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, due to the age of the gas cremators at the site. Over time the cremators had become uneconomical to repair, due to obsolete replacement parts and mounting concerns regarding the safety of the equipment. Since the decision to discontinue the use of the cremators, Poole Crematorium has been operating as a ceremonial and memorial location only (with a location on site for the scattering or interring of cremated remains within its memorial grounds). Since April 2020 funeral services that have taken place at Poole Crematorium have been conveyed by the Bereavement Care Team at BCP to Bournemouth Crematorium for cremation. As a result, Bournemouth Crematorium completed the second highest number of cremations in the UK (out of all crematoria) in 2021 with a total of 4,446 cremations completed according to the Directory of Crematoria.

The Poole Crematorium site suspended all operations in March 2022 to undertake a refurbishment in the ceremony hall, waiting room and renovation of the office, amongst other works on site. These works were in line with Phase 1 of the Bereavement Services Business Plan. The site re-opened for services at the end of September 2022.

Due to traditions and technology connected to bereavement, the sector has been slow to move towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with cremation. However, the Local Government Association (LGA) state that in order to achieve net zero, decarbonisation has to occur across every economic sector, household and community. To provide some context on emissions associated with bereavement, the amount of CO_2 produced if a gas cremator was completing four cremations per day excluding the cadaver and coffin is approximately 96kg. Therefore, decarbonisation in the bereavement sector is as important as decarbonising other infrastructure that local or national governments operate. Some of the factors that are driving decarbonisation in the sector include: social awareness of the environmental impacts of traditional gas cremation, the advancement in technology to alternative methods of cremation, self-regulation and regulation changes in the industry and economic factors altering the cost of cremation. This feasibility study will address how the industry is evolving whilst providing BCP information on the options available for cremation at Poole Crematorium.

2) A Quantitative Review of Cremations at Poole Crematorium

2.1) A Demographic Analysis of Poole and Dorset

To understand the demographic profile of Poole and the wider Dorset area and to begin to interpret the need for cremator replacement at Poole Crematorium, a review of current and future demographic data has been undertaken.

There are two main sources of population data, the 10-yearly National Census and the annual mid-year population estimates, produced by the ONS. The majority of the data from the March 2021 Census has been published in stages throughout 2022 but some data is still undergoing the process of analysis and ratification and therefore is not yet fully published.

According to data from the ONS Census 2021, the population of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole was 400,300 in 2021. This is an increase of approximately 21,400 (5.7%) since the 2011 Census, equating to an increase of approximately 2,140 per year (0.56% increase per annum). In nearby districts over the same time period the New Forest's population shrank by 0.4% and Dorset's population grew by 4%. The average increase in population in the south west region of England was 7.8% which was higher than increase in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area. The area is now the 14th largest local authority in England by population rank.

According to the Public Health Outcomes Framework 2018 to 2020 the average life expectancy for Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole is 82[1]. Male life expectancy at birth is 80.3 years compared to female life expectancy at birth at 83.7 years, both these life expectancies are above the average for England.

Table 1 on the page below shows the number of BCP residents split into age bands. This data shows the predominant age band is Age 20 to 24 which represents 6.73% of the total district population. The data for England and Wales is also provided for comparison purposes; the most predominant age band is Age 30 to 34 with 6.96% of the population. The percentage of the population aged 65 and above in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole is 21.59% and for England and Wales is 18.57%; this implies that the BCP area has an older age profile than England and Wales.

Figure 2 visually represents the population in the BCP district where the ageing profile of the population can be seen in comparison to the population distribution of England and Wales, this is more equally distributed across the age bands. The higher ageing population in BCP is likely to increase the pressure on the capacity of local crematoria.

[1] Public Health Outcomes Framework 2018 to 2020. Available From: Public Health Outcomes Framework

Table 1. Age Bands for Residents of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and England and Wales

Age Band	BCP	% of Population	England & Wales	% of Population
0-4	18,881	4.72	3,232,100	5.42
5-9	21,210	5.30	3,524,600	5.91
10-14	21,342	5.33	3,595,900	6.03
15-19	22,257	5.56	3,394,600	5.70
20-24	26,928	6.73	3,602,100	6.04
25-29	23,842	5.96	3,901,800	6.55
30-34	26,161	6.54	4,148,800	6.96
35-39	26,224	6.55	3,981,600	6.68
40-44	25,414	6.35	3,755,700	6.30
45-49	24,723	6.18	3,788,700	6.36
50-54	26,885	6.72	4,123,400	6.92
55-59	26,526	6.63	4,029,100	6.76
60-64	23,406	5.85	3,455,700	5.80
65-69	20,818	5.20	2,945,100	4.94
70-74	22,596	5.65	2,978,000	5.00
75-79	17,093	4.27	2,170,300	3.64
80-84	12,206	3.05	1,517,000	2.55
85-89	8,261	2.06	925,100	1.55
90+	5,455	1.36	527,900	0.89
Total	**400,196**	**N/A**	**59,597,500**	**N/A**

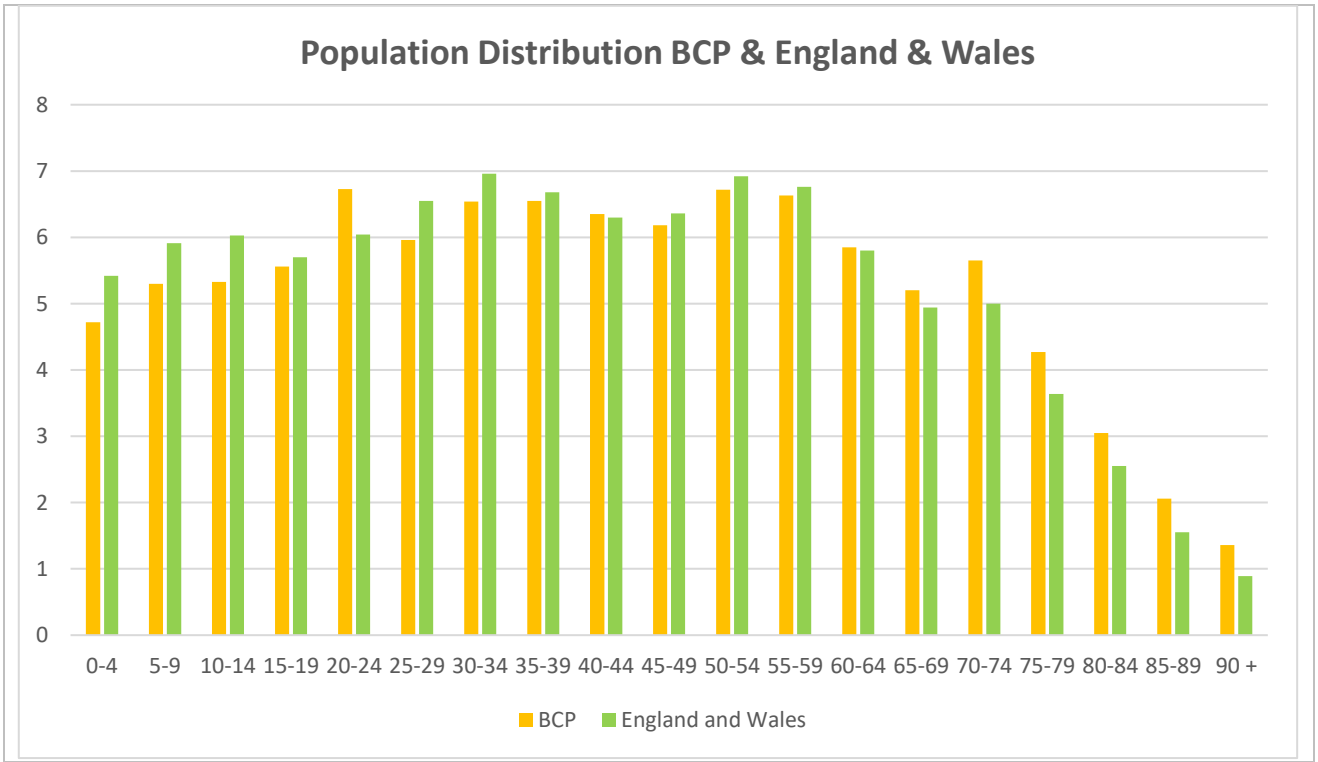


Figure 2. Population Distribution BCP & England & Wales

Table 2. Actual death rates in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

	Basis for average values				For information only	
Location	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Population	394,009	395,638	395,784	395,331	396,989	400,300
Total deaths recorded	4,340	4,403	4,298	4,195	4,632	4,766
Death rate	1.101%	1.113%	1.086%	1.061%	1.167%	1.191%
Deaths between age 45-54	143	147	137	138	157	158
Deaths between age 55-64	275	275	293	249	320	300
Deaths between age 65-74	587	605	577	550	630	685
Deaths between age 75-84	1,128	1,150	1,029	1,180	1,225	1,245
Deaths age 85+	2,080	2,115	2,150	1,971	2,205	2,266

The table above demonstrates that the death rate in the BCP area fluctuates yearly across the period between 2016 and 2021. The number of deaths from 2020 and 2021 is higher than previous years as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The pre-covid (2016 to 2019) average death rate in BCP is 1.09% and on average the number of total deaths recorded per annum (2016 to 2019) was 4,309.

The data generally suggests that there is an increasing amount of people and deaths in the BCP area, including amongst the elderly population. An increasingly ageing population is intrinsically linked to increasing death rates due to a larger proportion of deaths occurring. Therefore, regional and national death rates are expected to rise in the future, along with the need for burials and cremations.

2.1.1 Future Population Growth

The data in Table 3 below, was taken from the ONS to show predicted population growth over time in BCP.

Table 3. Population Projections (ONS 2018-2043)

Population predictions				
Location	2018	2028	2038	2043
BCP	395,784	403,611	407,063	408,951
England	55,977,178	58,751,651	60,766,253	61,744,000

Future predictions on population growth can be relevant in relation to need, the catchment population is predicted to rise over the next 20 years, a trend, which can be paralleled by the predicted increase of total deaths, this increase can be seen in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Mortality Rate Predictions Based on Population Projections (2018-2043)

Mortality rate predictions (at 1.09% of population for BCP and 0.9% for England):				
Location	2018	2028	2038	2043
BCP	4,298	4,399	4,437	4,457
England	503,794	528,765	546,896	555,696

The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) publish a Directory of Crematoria each year which states the rate of cremation in England and Wales each year, in 2021 the rate of cremation was 80.93%. The Bereavement Services Manager for BCP stated in the Business Plan Phase One Update Report presented to BCP Council under paragraph 22 that the regional cremation rate for Dorset and West Hampshire is 90% of all deaths in 21/22, this cremation rate will be used to analyse cremations in the region, as it is more accurate to use regional data where available.

Table 5. Cremation Rate Predictions Based on Mortality Predictions

Cremation Rate Predictions (at 90% of mortality rate for BCP and 80% for England)					
Year	2018	2028	2038	2043	Total Increase
BCP					
Cremations	3,868	3,959	3,993	4,011	143
% Increase	N/A	2.35%	0.86%	0.45%	3.7%
England					
Cremations	403,035	423,012	437,517	444,557	41,522
% Increase	N/A	5.0%	3.4%	1.6%	10.3%

The CDS Group acknowledge that there is a difference between the mortality rate in the BCP authority area and the actual number of cremations completed at Poole and Bournemouth Crematorium (in 2018 5281 cremations were completed by Bournemouth and Poole Crematorium). This is higher than the number of deaths in the BCP area, which was 4,298 deaths in 2018, therefore this suggests that people from neighbouring districts travel to Bournemouth and Poole in order to be cremated.

2.2) A Review of Possible Future Pandemics

A pandemic is defined as “an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people”.

The Spanish Flu of 1918-1919 claimed 228,000 lives in the UK alone and 30-50 million people worldwide. The Spanish Flu had a high mortality rate of around 10%. The 1918 flu also had a high infection rate, with a reproduction number between 2 and 3, this is due to the contribution of World War 1 and negligence of governmental control.

On the 31st of December 2019, the World Health Organisation declared several cases of unusual pneumonia in Wuhan in China, the disease was named COVID-19. By August 2020 over 21,500,000

people were reported to have been infected and over 750,000 deaths had been recorded worldwide. The UK has experienced over 177,977 deaths within 28 days of a positive test by date of death as a result of COVID-19 and the pandemic is ongoing (December 2022)[2].

Pandemics such as COVID-19 cause excess deaths in short periods of time and therefore increase stress on the bereavement industry, especially in worst affected areas. In April 2020, the deaths within that month doubled compared to the previous year. As cremation accounts for approximately 80% of UK deaths, crematoria nationwide have been put under serious pressure (Table 6).

Table 6. Deaths by Week in the UK (Apr-19/Apr-20) Coronavirus (ONS 2020)

Week 2019	05-Apr-19	12-Apr-19	19-Apr-19	26-Apr-19	Apr-19 Total	Apr-19 Weekly Average
Deaths	10,126	10,291	9,025	10,059	39,501	**9,875**
Week 2020	**03-Apr-20**	**10-Apr-20**	**17-Apr-20**	**24-Apr-20**	**Apr-20 Total**	**Apr-20 Weekly Average**
Deaths	16,387	18,516	22,351	21,997	79,251	**19,813**

In Table 6 above, the data represents how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the number of deaths weekly in the UK.

In Table 7 below, based on assumptions at the average amount of cremations per day at the average crematorium, there is an estimated 140% increase in cremations in a single day. A pandemic is an unusual event and therefore cannot be used to base practical capacity off, however if crematoria within the area are working above practical capacity in a normal year, a pandemic can have serious effects on crematoria capacity to cope.

Table 7. Pandemic Impacts on Cremation Numbers in the UK

Week Commencing	19-Apr-19	17-Apr-20
Deaths	9,025	22,351
Cremations (80%)	7,220	17,880
Cremations per day (5 days per week)	1,444	3,576
Average cremations per crematorium, per day	**5**	**12**

There is significant potential for further pandemics to occur in the future, as evidenced by both the historical record and recent research in the field of epidemiology. One of the primary drivers of pandemics is the emergence of new infectious diseases. The globalization of trade and travel has

[2] Gov.UK Available Via: https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/deaths

greatly increased the potential for the spread of infectious diseases, as pathogens can easily be transported to new regions where they may not have previously been present. Pandemics can also be caused by the re-emergence of diseases that were previously controlled or eradicated. This can occur due to a variety of factors, such as the development of drug resistance in pathogens or changes in the environment that allow previously controlled diseases to re-emerge. For example, the recent COVID-19 pandemic was caused by the re-emergence of a previously known coronavirus that had not caused a pandemic in the past.

Overall, the potential for further pandemics is a significant concern, given the significant impact that these events can have on practical capacity at crematoria.

2.3) A Drive Time Analysis (DTA) of Poole Crematorium

2.3.1) DTA Methodology

Drive Time Analysis (DTA) is a quantitative method that can be undertaken using software to estimate the total annual cremations at Poole Crematorium. When assessing the need for a crematorium for planning purposes, drive time catchments are set to 30 minutes at cortege speed (0.6 average driving speed) which is the rule of thumb within the industry and is the methodology which has been used in many successful planning applications. Whilst Poole Crematorium is not a new facility, DTA provides a quantitative methodology to analyse the number of cremations expected at the crematorium, this in turn will help to determine the number of cremators required for installation at Poole.

The population data used in a DTA is derived from two distinct catchments to decipher the population served by a facility. The first is the 'Unique' catchment which is the population/area that is outside of the catchments of alternative facilities but within the catchment of Poole Crematorium. The other is the 'Minimum Drive-time Catchment' (MDC) which is the catchment area based on drive times that would identify Poole Crematorium as its closest crematorium; the drive time influence tool is used to calculate this. Defining the MDC allows for more accurate predictions as to which crematorium people may attend, as areas closer to the site than any other facility, can be ascertained and considered. As a result, this allows for accurate conservative estimations to be made on the total area/population that a given facility serves.

The population data analysed in this section of the report incorporates the latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates from 2020. This is because the census data from 2021 is still yet to be fully adopted by third parties like the providers of DTA software.

2020 was a pandemic year associated with coronavirus (COVID-19). As the population estimates are mid-year, the 2020 dataset considers the deaths that were recorded within the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic[3]. It is also important to note that in the year leading to mid-2020, fewer births were recorded (the lowest number since 2003) whilst international immigration was higher and international emigration was lower.

[3] Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2020. Available from: Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

COVID-19 pandemic years largely include 2020 and 2021 due to the roll out of various vaccinations in the UK. To reduce the forcing of the pandemic in this assessment, pre COVID-19 data will be used for the regional death rate and the regional cremation rate confirmed by BCP Council to calculate predicted cremations.

The average regional death rate for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole District is approximately 1.09% based on ONS data from 2016-2019 (calculated from Table 2). Approximately 90% of deaths per year resulted in cremations in the Dorset and West Hampshire region. If the population of an area is 10,000 for example, the death rate of this population is approximately 109 per year and approximately 98 of these would be cremations: (10,000 x 0.0109) x 0.90.

2.3.2) Results of the DTA

The maps in Figures 3 to 5 demonstrate the existing catchment, unique catchment and MDC catchments to Poole Crematorium with consideration to all other crematoria in the region. A summary table of the population and derived cremation data follows these figures.

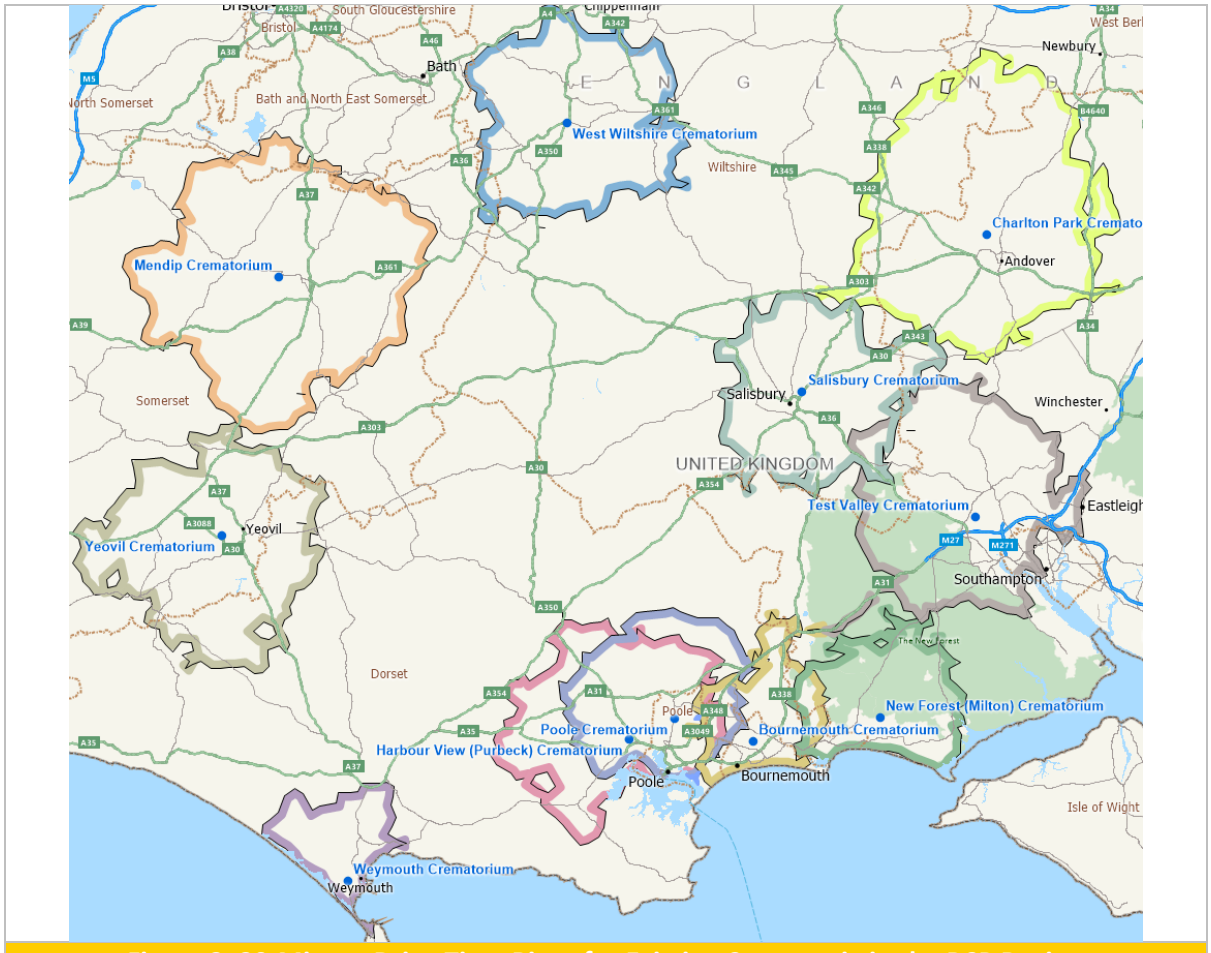


Figure 3. 30-Minute Drive Time Rings for Existing Crematoria in the BCP Region

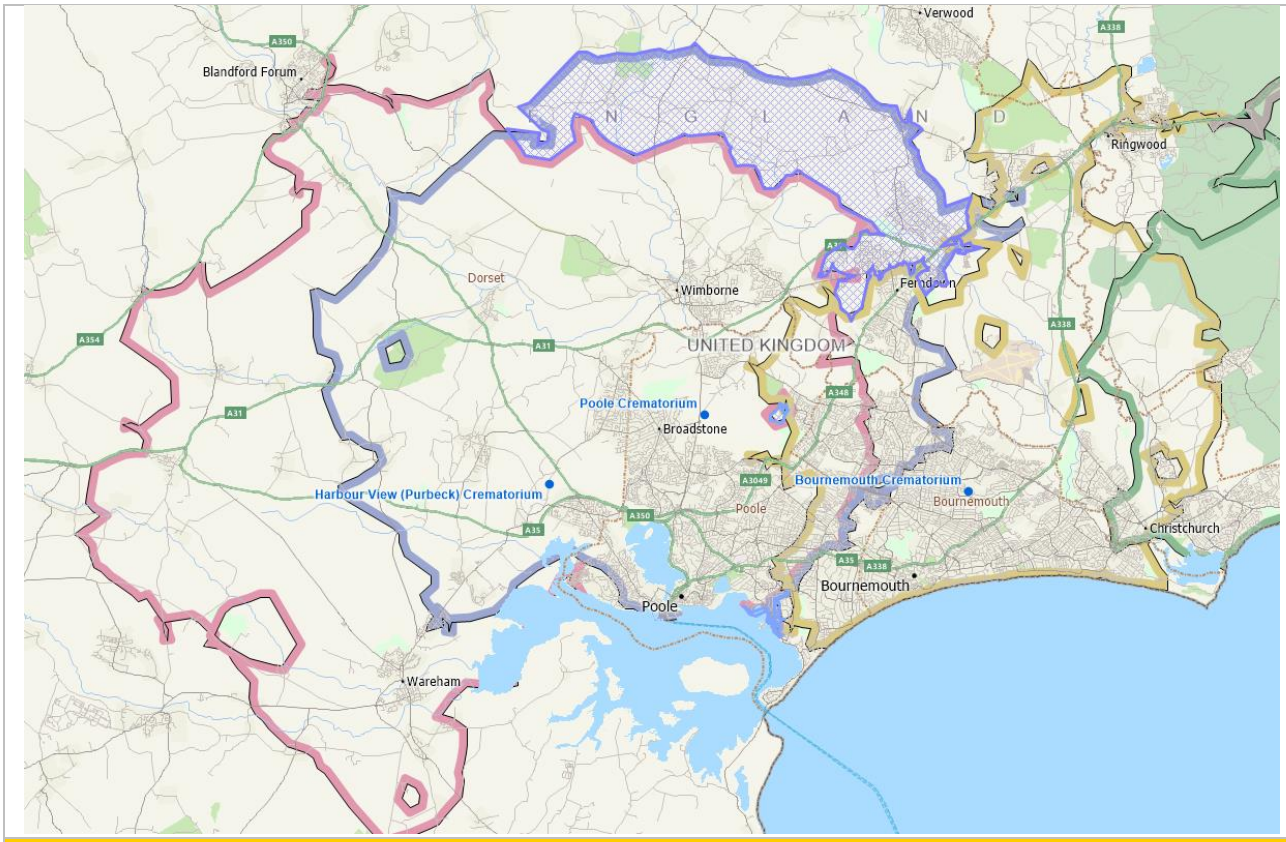


Figure 4. Unique Catchment of Poole Crematorium (Highlighted in Purple Cross-hatch)

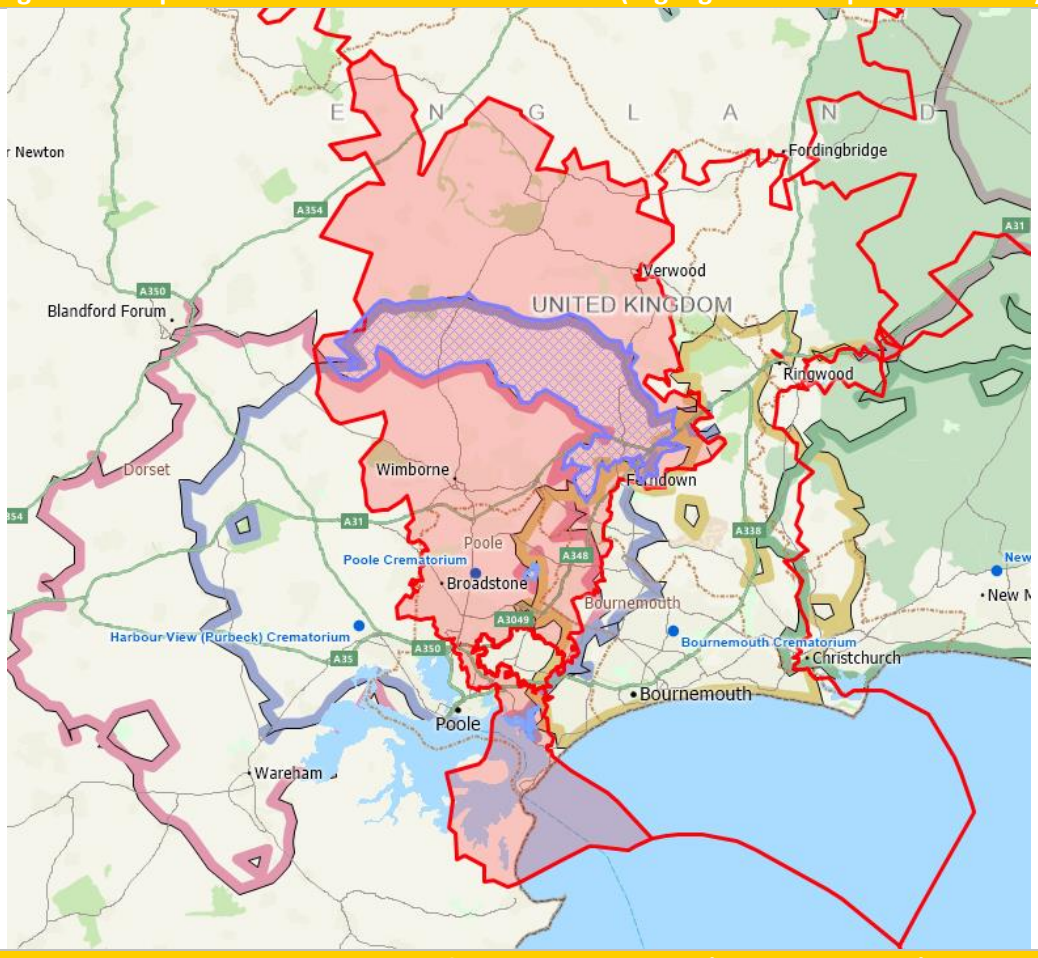


Figure 5. MDC Catchment of Poole Crematorium (Shaded Pale Red)

The DTA shows that there are 3 separate unique catchment areas, which are located within the 30-minute cortege speed catchment of Poole Crematorium but outside of the catchment of alternative facilities. The 3 unique catchment areas are highlighted in purple cross-hatch, with the largest area to the north of Wimborne Minster and Ferndown, the population of these areas is 262 + 14,890 + 751 which totals 15,903. This total can then be multiplied by the regional death rate and the regional cremation rate to get the total number of unique cremations which totals **156 cremations per annum**.

The MDC catchment of Poole Crematorium is shown in Figure 5 highlighted in red, this is the population of the area based on drive times that would identify Poole Crematorium as its closest crematorium. This is calculated by taking the total population of the MDC and then subtracting the unique population (15,903) as to avoid the duplication of people within this area, therefore the MDC Population for Poole Crematorium totals 133,186. By multiplying this figure by the death rate of the region and the cremation rate of the region, this comes to **1307 cremation per annum.**

By adding the calculated unique cremations to the MDC cremations, the DTA methodology calculates that **1,463** cremations would be completed per annum at Poole Crematorium.

The data above is summarised in Table 8.

Table 8. Population Data and Derived Cremations for Drive Time at Poole Crematorium

Location	Unique Population	Calculated Unique Cremations	MDC Population	Calculated MDC Cremations	Total Population	Total Cremations (Per Annum)
Poole Crematorium	15,903	156	133,186	1,307	149,089	**1,463**

According to actual recorded data, Poole Crematorium undertook 2,126 cremations in 2018 and 1,762 cremations in 2019 (the last two years where the cremators were fully operational across the year), an average for the two years is 1,944 cremations. This figure is higher than what is deduced by the quantitative DTA of 1,463 by approximately 481 cremations. This suggests that there are qualitative factors which influence the current performance at Poole Crematorium. This could include the following:

- People currently travel over a 30-minute drive time at cortege speed to use the facility.
- People choose to use the site because of positive attributes such as the appeal of the facility, offering (service times) or experience etc.
- Family allegiance – people use the site to be consistent with family traditions.

In addition, it is important to note that Purbeck Crematorium opened in 2017. Due to the proximity of Purbeck Crematorium to Poole Crematorium, this is likely to reduce the number of total cremations at Poole over time. This is especially relevant as Poole Crematorium was not offering services for a period of time in 2022 due to the refurbishment of the chapel meaning those who would have normally used Poole may have used Purbeck as a closer/ available alternative. This could ultimately lead to permanent loss of those originally with family allegiance to Poole should they have had a positive service experience at Purbeck during this time.

The DTA indicates that 1,463 cremations will be completed per annum at Poole Crematorium, this total largely comprises of the existing services completed at Poole Crematorium. Therefore, this

report suggests there would be a redistribution of the cremations from Bournemouth Crematorium to Poole. If cremators are installed at Poole this may persuade bereaved families and or relatives to return to Poole instead of going to Purbeck crematorium, therefore CDS expect a small increase in Poole Crematorium's market share if cremators are installed at the crematorium.

2.3.3) A Review of Planning Applications in Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire for New Crematoria

If a new crematorium was to open in Dorset, Wiltshire or Hampshire this would affect the DTA calculations shown above as the catchment areas for each crematorium would change slightly depending on the location of the new crematorium. Therefore, CDS have completed a review of the planning portals in these areas to understand if there are any new applications that are undergoing review in the planning process. The following planning portals were searched on 16th December 2022:

- Dorset Council.
- New Forest Council.
- Test Valley Council.
- Wiltshire Council.

These searches returned no new results. However, in the future if a new crematorium opens in the region the number of cremations completed at Poole or Bournemouth Crematorium is likely to drop depending on the location of a new crematorium.

2.4) A Practical Capacity Analysis of Poole Crematorium

The Theoretical Capacity of a crematorium is seen as the number of cremation services it could perform if open Monday to Friday throughout the year, excluding bank holidays (giving 252 "Cremation Days") and held cremations from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (cremations completed on the site on Saturday's are referenced later in this section). Each cremation service would occupy a period of time known as a "slot". The number of cremation services that could theoretically be held each day is therefore dependant on the length of the slot.

In calculating the capacity of a crematorium, we have worked on the basis of 45-minute "slots" as the ICCM recommend this amount of time for a service. Based on a slot length of 45 minutes, a crematorium (with a single chapel) would theoretically be able to fit 11 services between 09:00 and 17:00. However, several of these slots would require the family and friends to travel at inconvenient times, during rush hour, when trying to keep a cortege intact would be stressful. Therefore, it is "Core Hours" which need to be considered when assessing crematorium capacity. This is based on normal operational experiences of crematoria in the UK as in reality funerals are concentrated in the middle of the day, starting between 10:30 and 15:30, rather than between 09:00 and 17:00. There are good reasons for this pattern:

- Funeral Directors need a certain amount of preparation time on the day of the funeral before the cortege can embark on its journey;
- Extended family and other mourners may be travelling from outside the area and will need time to get to the crematorium, especially if it is a journey with which they are not familiar;
- Mourners usually gather afterwards to hold a funeral tea or wake and so need the funeral to take place in the middle part of the day; and

- It would be inappropriate for a funeral cortege to be held up for long periods in rush hour traffic.

Applying these restrictions, the number of cremations that could practically be held a day in a single chapel crematorium is eight, based on 45-minute slots. See table below.

Table 9. Operating Hours and Practical Capacity of a Single Chapel Crematorium

Hours		45 Minute Slots
Non-Core Hours		9:00
		9:45
Core hours		10:30
		11:15
		12:00
		12:45
		13:30
		14:15
		15:00
		15:45
Non-Core hours		16:30
A single chapel crematorium capacity	**Per day**	**Per annum**
Theoretical Capacity	11	2,772
Core-hour Capacity	8	2,016
Practical Capacity	80%	1,613

The relevance of these core hours has been recognised by numerous planning inspectors when considering crematorium capacity, in particular, the appeals at Halstead, Cambourne and Swanwick are pertinent. The appeal inspector in Appeal, APP/M1005/A/2188880 (Swanwick) states the following:

"The four existing crematoria have technical capacity when looking at their operation over any particular year but the fact that Chesterfield crematorium, for example, has plenty of availability in the summer months, or at 16:30 hours on a winter's afternoon is of little comfort or use to those needing to book a funeral at the busiest time of the year at a time of day that would actually allow friends and family to attend. The technical capacity of the 4 crematoria does not bring people who currently live beyond a reasonable distance to a crematorium any closer to that crematorium. Plainly, there is a quantitative and qualitative need in this case."

Further, in appeal case APP/G2245/A/13/2210128 (Halstead) the Inspector states: **"I see no reason to discount the evidence of local funeral directors and clergy who refer to the long waiting times which can be experienced at times, nor the inconvenience and anxiety occasioned by the need for relatives and mourners to travel a considerable distance."**

Memoria's experience (private operator of 11 crematoriums across England and Wales) shows that 90% of funerals occur within the Core Hours. The Core Hour Capacity of a crematorium can be calculated by multiplying the number of Cremation Days by the number of Core Hour Slots i.e. 2,016. However, crematoria cannot work at 100% of their annual Core Hour Capacity because it is impractical to fill every slot in the core hours, every day of the week and every week of the year. Partly, this is because it is difficult to co-ordinate family, funeral director, celebrant and crematorium availability in such a way to fill each slot. In addition, deaths are not spread out uniformly across the year and in winter months can be as much as 40% higher than the average.

This concept has been recognised in a number of appeal hearings and was more recently noted by Mrs Justice Patterson when considering a claim for Judicial Review of permission for a crematorium in Gedling, Nottinghamshire. The judgement confirmed the correct approach taken by planning officers in applying an annualised figure based on a peak month where demand was 20% higher: ***"103 …As the claimant recognises the capacity of a crematorium is fixed. To provide for sufficient capacity in the peak month or months the crematorium required will have the same capacity throughout the year. The use of an uplift figure was appropriate for the reasons set out above. If a figure for a month of lesser demand is used, then there will be insufficient capacity for the peak month of January."***

As such it is recognised that the "Practical Capacity" of a crematorium is around 80% of its Core Hour Capacity. For a single chapel crematorium operating with 45-minute slots this would be 1,613 cremations per annum. The impact of insufficient crematorium capacity could be experienced by the bereaved where crematoria seek to meet needs by:

- Reducing slot lengths – with the consequence that the bereaved may feel rushed, and part of a "conveyor belt" as they see other funeral parties on their arrival or departure; and/or
- Operating outside Core Hours – whilst this may be appropriate for a small number of families, holding well attended funerals outside Core Hours can cause extra distress given the conflict with peak hour traffic; and/or
- Allowing backlogs – delaying funerals during periods of high demand can cause additional distress to the bereaved, who may feel "in limbo" and unable to continue the grieving process whilst waiting two, three or even four weeks for a slot to become available.
- The bereaved may have gathered from long distances to support family members immediately after the death. If the funeral is delayed, they may not be able to stay away from home or work, and therefore miss the funeral, or may have to travel those long distances again.
- Those with cultural or religious needs for a cremation to take place soon after the death may not be met in peak times, resulting in further distress to the bereaved.

Crematoria should not be criticised for having to adjust to the high level of cremation need by taking one or more of the actions listed above. In seeking to serve their communities, they have no choice but to do so. Where such measures are being taken, it is simply a sign that the current provision of cremation is insufficient to serve the local population.

With an ageing population, the number of deaths in the UK is climbing, as is the cremation rate. Combined, these will exert even more pressure on crematoria with a consequential and detrimental increase in impact.

Table 10. Cremations/ Services Completed Per Year

Year	Poole Crematorium	Percentage Change (Year on Year)	Purbeck Crematorium (Opened Sep 2017)	Percentage Change (Year on Year)
2015	2,682	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	2,610	-2.76%	N/A	N/A
2017	2,408	-8.39%	137	N/A
2018	2,126	-13.26%	755	551.09%
2019	1,762	-20.66%	992	31.39%
2020	1,259*[1]	-28.55%	1,401	41.23%
2021	1,121*[2]	-10.96%	1,414	0.93%

[1] 451 cremations were completed between 1st January and 9th April 2020, after this the cremators were decommissioned, therefore 808 services were completed after 9th April 2020.

[2] No cremations were completed at Poole Crematorium in 2021.

The table above uses data provided by the Cremation Society of Great Britain to show how the number of cremations at Poole Crematorium has reduced over time. This is largely as a result of the opening of Purbeck Crematorium in 2017, which is located only 4.1 miles from Poole Crematorium, other factors such as the decommissioning of the cremators at Poole are likely to have reduced the number of cremations completed.

Table 11. Practical Capacity at Poole Crematorium

Operated by	BCP Council
Built in	1985
Number of chapels	1
Service slot length	45 Minutes
Car park capacity	110
Chapel capacity	120 seats
Practical Capacity	1,613
2016 Cremation Numbers	2,610
2017 Cremation Numbers	2,408
2018 Cremation Numbers	2,126
2019 Cremation Numbers	1,762
Average Cremation Numbers (16-19)	2,227
Practical Capacity Usage Based on Avg Cremation Numbers (16-19)	138%
DTA Calculated Cremations	**1,463**
Practical Capacity Usage Based on DTA	**90.7%**

Comments:

From consultation with the Bereavement, Coroners & Mortuary Manager at BCP it can be confirmed that from April 2023 (if approved) it is likely the crematorium will offer a total of 7, 45-minute services per day between Monday and Friday, additionally a further 3 direct cremations may occur before services commenced. The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) suggest that a crematorium should operate services that are at least 45 minutes, to ensure the bereaved relatives have adequate time to grieve, therefore from April 2023 Poole Crematorium will be innkeeping with these guidelines.

Purbeck Crematorium has led to the reduction in the number of cremations at Poole Crematorium since September 2017 due to the proximity between the two sites, this is demonstrated in Table 10. Based on the calculations above and considering Purbeck Crematorium is likely to continue to affect the annual cremation numbers at Poole, Poole crematorium is likely to be operating under its practical capacity in the future at 90.7% in line with the results of the DTA. It is inaccurate to use the higher practical capacity of 138% as this uses an average of annual cremations between 2016 and 2019 which are trending downwards given Purbeck.

2.4.1) Seasonal Variation Effect on Capacity

Capacity is not only specified over a period of time. It should also be noted that crematoria are particularly busy in winter time. Excess winter deaths cause a heightened need for cremations in a short period of time, local crematoria must have the capacity to cope with this increased need.

Analysis was completed using deaths registered sourced from ONS, see below. The average monthly death rate for the BCP area has been calculated for the months of December, January and February (winter months) from 2013 to 2019, and these numbers have been averaged to provide the average winter monthly death rate which is compared to the average monthly death rate for each calendar year period.

Table 12. Average Monthly Deaths in BCP

Average Monthly Death Rates				
Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Winter 2013-2014	Cal Year 2013
355	427	366	383	357
Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Winter 2014-2015	Cal Year 2014
470	568	409	482	349
Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Winter 2015-2016	Cal Year 2015
349	361	397	369	377
Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Winter 2016-2017	Cal Year 2016
344	490	417	417	362
Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Winter 2017-2018	Cal Year 2017
375	510	405	430	367
Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Winter 2018-2019	Cal Year 2018
295	443	342	360	358

In 83% of the years analysed, the average monthly winter death rate is higher than the monthly average for the calendar year. Between 2013 and 2019, the monthly winter deaths rates averaged at 407 per month compared to 362 deaths per month for the calendar year; demonstrating that winter deaths are approximately 12.4% higher than the calendar year averages. The data suggests that there are more deaths in the winter months, therefore crematoria need to be able to keep abreast of requirements during the winter season, in particular in January, which is typically the busiest month.

Using data from Poole Crematorium in 2020 and 2021 the number of cremations and or services completed over the winter months averaged at 121 per month. Across the 24-month period the average monthly cremations and or services totalled 99 per month, therefore during the winter months there is approximately a 22.2% increase in the number of cremations/ services required and in the future cremations required at the site. The years analysed are Covid years and therefore this total should be taken as a worst-case estimate.

2.4.2) Cremator Requirement

Electric cremators have a longer operating time of 2 hours on average, therefore the likely cremating hours required must be calculated against the existing operational hours. For gas cremations, the typical average time is 1.5 hours per cremation.

As established from the DTA and subsequent analysis, 1,463 cremations are expected to take place yearly at Poole Crematorium. By using the calculation of 252 working days in a year, this means that **6 cremations would be completed per day** on average. By analysing the two most practical sources

of cremation namely electric and gas, the cremator requirement can be analysed to calculate the most efficient possible. Table 13 below is based on the assumption that at least 6 cremations are required to be completed per day. Whilst, Table 14 below is based on the assumption that **7 cremations need to be completed during the busiest possible period** (within the winter months 22.2% higher number of services).

Cremations at Poole could operate across core hours with the possibility of having 3 direct cremations before services began each day, therefore approximately operating between 8:00 and 17:00 which would be across a 9-hour period per day. As the cremators are not currently operational, the operational hours of the cremators could be reviewed once the electric cremators were installed. However, this may be dependent on whether the existing employment contracts of the operators at Bournemouth crematorium could be extended or altered. Tables 13 & 14 demonstrate the number of cremating hours required depending on a range of maximum cremations per day.

The possibility of utilising 'hold over' cremations, where cremations are completed the day after the service is likely to be a cost-effective way of managing cremations during particularly busy periods. The report assumes that any holdover cremations would be completed during the direct cremation slots on the subsequent day.

Electric cremation operation differs from gas cremation in the context that they are 'hot inserts', whereby the electric cremator operates consistently, and the body fuels the cremation, therefore the more cremations processed the less overall energy consumption. This must be considered when considering the number of cremators to install. Practical capacity is the most important consideration as it allows for 15 minutes between each cremation for removal and insertion of the next cremation, which the theoretical capacity does not account for. Theoretical capacity can be calculated by dividing the cremating hours per cremator by the operational hours of the cremator (in this case 9). Similarly, to calculate the practical capacity percentage the cremating hours (practical) is divided by the operational hours of the cremator (9).

The following table represents the estimated cremation capacity based on the operating time of electric cremators and gas cremators, theoretical capacity is the maximum that can be achieved theoretically, whereas practical capacity factors in time for raking out and processing the next cremation (15 minutes):

Table 13. Cremator Capacity at Poole (Annual Average)

Cremators	Maximum Cremations / Day / Cremator	Cremating Hours/ Cremator	Cremating Hours (Practical)	Theoretical Capacity	Practical Capacity
1 Electric	6	12	13.5	133.3%	**150%**
2 Electric	3	6	6.75	66.7%	**75%**
3 Electric	2	4	4.5	44.4%	**50%**
1 Gas	6	9	10.5	100%	**116.7%**
2 Gas	3	4.5	5.25	50%	**58.3%**
3 Gas	2	3	3.5	33.3%	**38.9%**

Table 14. Cremator Capacity at Poole (Winter Average)

Cremators	Maximum Cremations / Day / Cremator	Cremating Hours/ Cremator	Cremating Hours (Practical)	Theoretical Capacity	Practical Capacity
1 Electric	7	14	15.75	155.6%	**175%**
2 Electric	4	8	9	88.9%	**100%**
3 Electric	3	6	6.75	66.7%	**75%**
1 Gas	7	10.5	12.25	116.7%	**136.1%**
2 Gas	4	6	7	66.7%	**77.8%**
3 Gas	3	4.5	5.25	50%	**58.3%**

Table 14 above analyses the cremator capacity in the winter, this is key for analysing the number of cremators required, as in the winter months it is predicted that approximately 7 cremations will be completed at the site per day. Operational risks must be considered in conjunction with the tables above – such as cremator maintenance and how this would reduce the sites practical capacity in the short term. Due to the variance in the number of deaths that occur throughout the year in the BCP region, it would be advisable for any planned maintenance to take place during the summer months (quieter periods).

With the predicted cremator operating hours (9 hours) in the peak winter months the most practical configuration of cremators is:

- 2 electric cremators which would operate for 9 hours to complete 7 cremations.
- 2 gas cremations which would operate for 7 hours to complete 7 cremations.

If the bereavement team were to consider extending their cremating operational hours to 15 hours and 45 minutes per day during the winter months, then a single electric cremator would be feasible on the site. However, to operate the cremators in such a way would be an operational risk, especially if maintenance is required or in the event of a pandemic or inflation in excess winter deaths.

The CDS Group would conclude that based on the DTA completed and a review of the site's capacity over the winter months, 2 **electric cremators would be required to cope suitably with need, especially in peak periods and to allow for maintenance.** Alternatively**, 2 gas cremators would be feasible.**

As Poole crematorium has not had operational cremators in place at the site since April 2020, other crematoria that are competing are now established in the cremation market in the wider BCP area. Therefore, CDS would suggest that once cremators are installed at Poole, a significant public relations campaign occurs to increase public awareness that the site is now 'fully operational' and completing cremations once again. CDS also suggest that BCP build a rapport with the funeral directors in the region to communicate that new cremators have been installed.

2.4.3 A Practical Capacity Analysis of Bournemouth Crematorium

The Bereavement, Coroners & Mortuary Manager at BCP council has stated that the existing gas cremators at Bournemouth Crematorium have a remaining lifespan of approximately 10 years. The

council wish to review the feasibility of installing 2 electric cremators at Bournemouth crematorium to replace the existing 4 gas cremators. These 2 cremators would work with the 2 cremators in place at Poole crematorium to cover current and meet any increases in future demand.

DTA has been completed to understand the population catchment of Bournemouth crematorium, this analysis has been completed using the same methodology as Poole crematorium as explained in chapter 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 of the report.

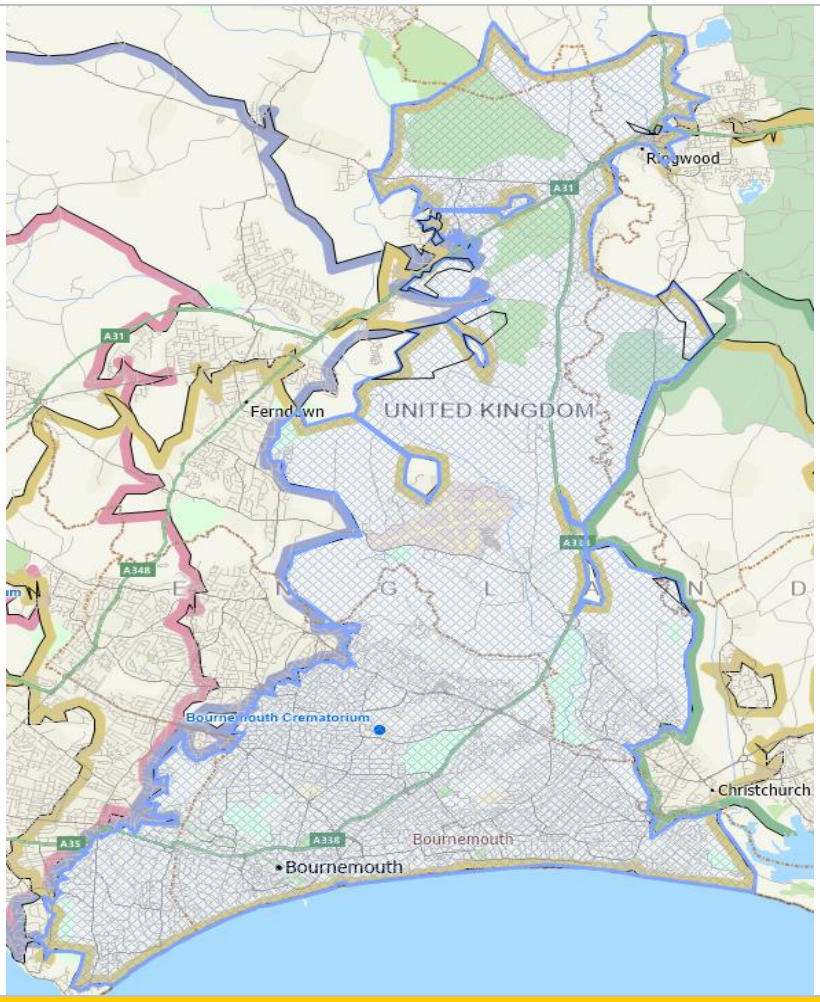


Figure 6. Unique Catchment of Bournemouth Crematorium (Highlighted in Purple Cross-hatch)

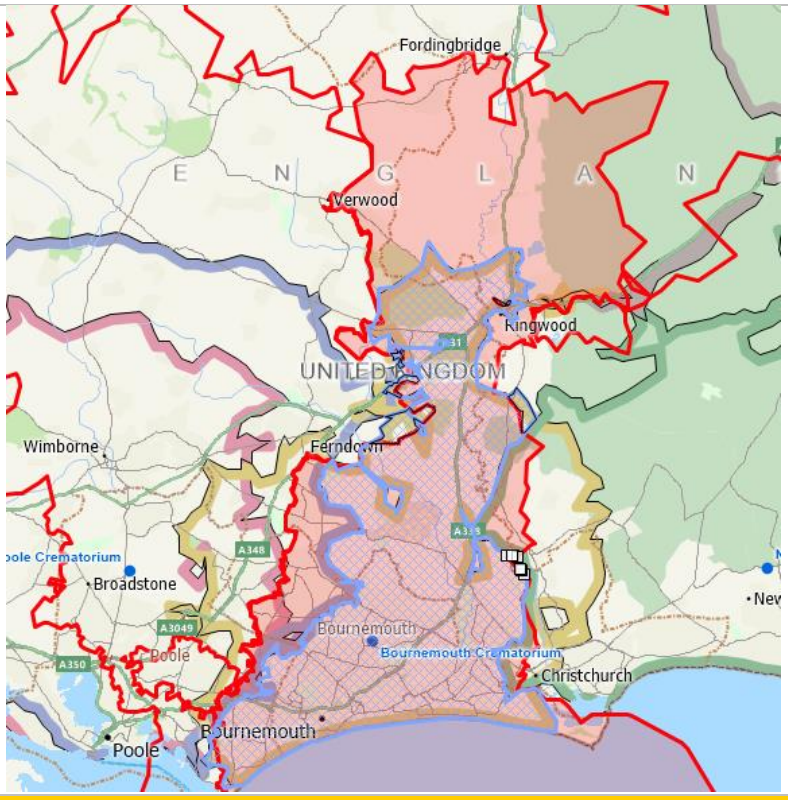


Figure 7. MDC Catchment of Bournemouth Crematorium (Shaded Pale Red)

Table 15. Population Data and Derived Cremations for Drive Time at Bournemouth Crematorium

Location	Unique Population	Calculated Unique Cremations	MDC Population	Calculated MDC Cremations	Total Population	Total Cremations (Per Annum)
Bournemouth Crematorium	187,607	1,840	65,583	643	253,190	**2,483**

By combining the total cremations calculated in table 15 (for Bournemouth crematorium) and table 8 (for Poole crematorium), the DTA estimates that a total of 3,946 cremations will be completed across the two sites. Although Bournemouth is a busier facility (as the site has 2 chapels) than Poole it can be assumed that cremations would be split evenly across the two sites. Therefore, each cremator in theory would be completing 986 cremations per annum. Using this assumption on **average 8 cremations would be completed per day at Bournemouth**. In the winter months at peak times the number of cremations completed per day at Bournemouth would rise to **9 cremations per day.**

Currently on average the cremators at Bournemouth crematorium operate between the hours of 8:30 and 18:30, therefore this means the cremators are operational for a total of 10 hours per day. In peak times in the winter months the cremators can operate for up to 12 hours (between 7:00 and 19:00). However, as this analysis assumes that cremations will be spread evenly across Bournemouth and Poole crematorium it is assumed the cremators will be operational for 10 hours. The tables below demonstrate the theoretical and practical capacity of the cremators based on the opening hours of the site.

The following tables demonstrate that with cremations evenly split across Poole and Bournemouth, on average the site would operate under it's practical capacity with all the configurations of cremators shown in Table 16. However, in the winter months when more cremations are completed per day (9 per day), the site would be operating over its practical capacity by 12.5%. Therefore, to operate successfully in the peak winter months the cremators at Bournemouth would have to be operational for at least 11 hours and 15 minutes.

Table 16. Cremator Capacity at Bournemouth (Annual Average)

Cremators	Maximum Cremations / Day / Cremator	Cremating Hours/ Cremator	Cremating Hours (Practical)	Theoretical Capacity	Practical Capacity
2 Electric	4	8	9	80%	90%
3 Electric	3	6	6.75	60%	67.5%
2 Gas	4	6	7	60%	70%
3 Gas	3	4.5	5.25	45%	52.5%

Table 17. Cremator Capacity at Bournemouth (Winter Average)

Cremators	Maximum Cremations / Day / Cremator	Cremating Hours/ Cremator	Cremating Hours (Practical)	Theoretical Capacity	Practical Capacity
2 Electric	5	10	11.25	100%	112.5%
3 Electric	3	6	6.75	60%	67.5%
2 Gas	5	7.5	8.75	75%	87.5%
3 Gas	3	4.5	5.25	45%	52.5%

The cremator capacity data calculated in the table above requires further investigation to confirm the variation in cremations at Bournemouth crematorium in the winter months, amongst other factors. CDS would be able to provide BCP council with a more in-depth breakdown of expected cremator capacity upon request.

2.5) A Planning Risk Review of Removing and Installing Cremators at Poole Crematorium

Presuming that the electric cremators discussed in section A.11 of the report were installed, it would mean that there would be minimal alterations to the exterior of the building and therefore the cremator installation would have a low planning risk. Changes to any external facia would require planning permission but given the sustainable benefits of electric cremators the planning risk is low. If electric cremators were installed there is potential to explore a reduction in the height of the chimney due to the dispersion of emissions being lower, this would help to reduce the visual impact of the site. Although from a review of satellite imagery the site appears to have some screening from a series of established trees which border the site.

In February 2022 an 'Asbestos Refurbishment/Demolition Survey' reported that asbestos was present in several locations of the building. The Property Services Manager for BCP Council stated that "All Gaskets and Sink Pads were removed as part of the refurbishment project so the only asbestos left is in the Artex in all ceilings (even if they appear to plastered) with the exception of

the new toilets (recently installed new ceiling) also there is Asbestos in the bitumen within the brick damp course."

Therefore, the building should have an asbestos risk register in line with the control of asbestos regulations that were formed in 2012.

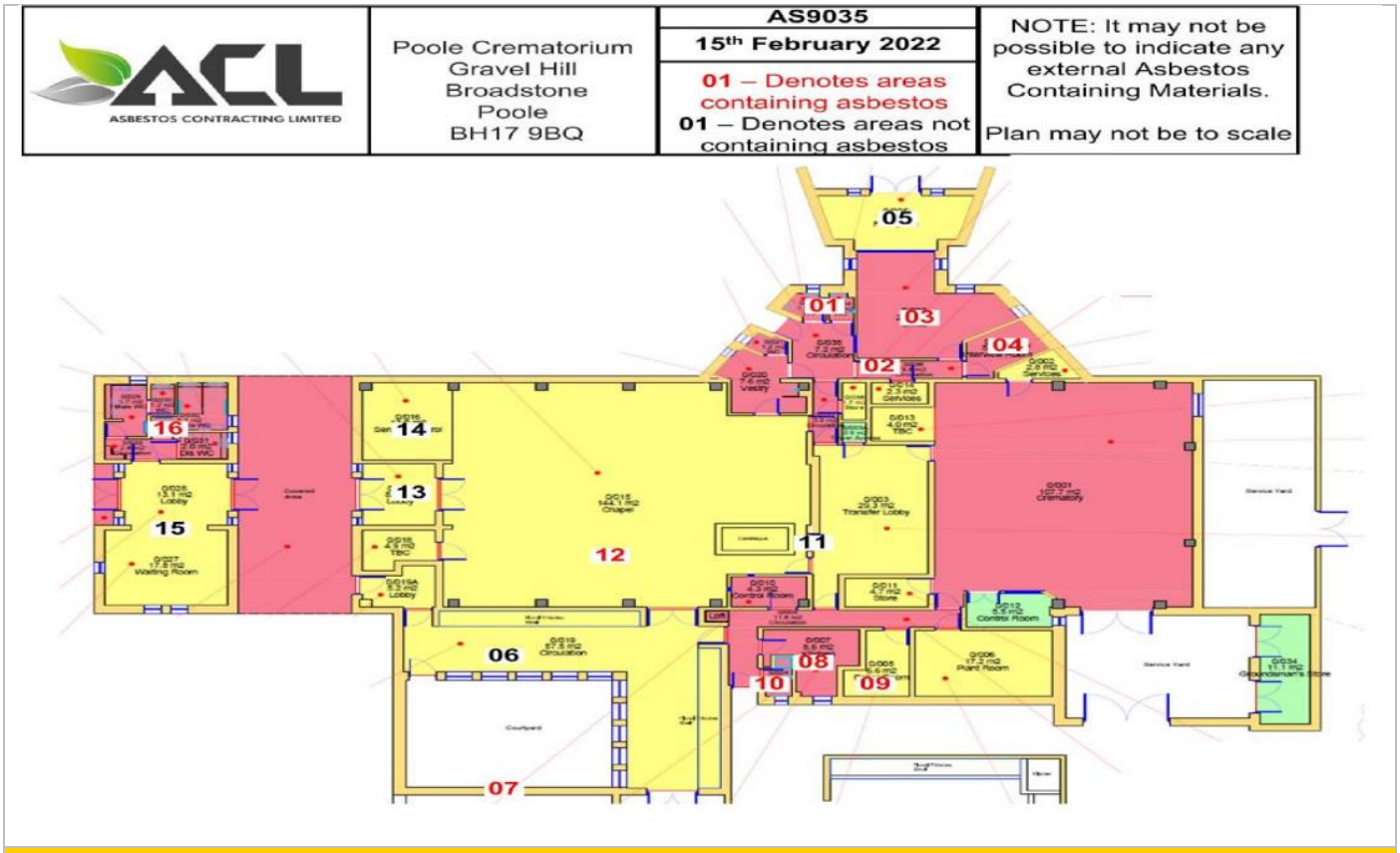


Figure 8. Asbestos Survey of Poole Crematorium

3) Gas Cremator Installation (Natural gas)

3.1) An Outline of the Technology

The current cremators at Poole Crematorium (when operational) utilised natural gas to complete cremations. Gas cremation is used by >95% of existing crematoria in the UK, primarily sourced by natural gas but some crematoria are sourced by LPG tanks due to lack of natural gas supply in the area. Across all the available fuel sources and technologies on the market gas cremation produces the quickest cremation times.

Gas cremation requires a continuous supply of natural gas throughout a cremation, the highest consumption of gas is used at the beginning of each day (when the cremators are turned on) when the machines require higher levels of energy to reach their most efficient temperatures. The most efficient way to run a gas cremator is to reduce the time in between each cremation to reduce the heat loss. If there is consistently a long period of time between cremations, higher maintenance costs can be expected due to the contraction and expansion in the brickwork. This chapter of the report will presume that 1,463 cremations will be completed per year at Poole with 6 cremations completed per day on average.

In the future the government are looking to add hydrogen to the existing gas network, this won't have a considerable effect on cremations, or the time taken to cremate. The table below highlights some of the key considerations for new gas cremators.

Table 18. An Outline of the Latest Gas Cremators Produced

Variable	Result
Capital Cost (Average)	£500,000-£575,000 *(dependant on package and manufacturer, prices of cremators have risen sharply in the last year with higher rates of inflation and supply chain shortages caused by the Covid-19 pandemic) (Average price of £537,500 used in sectionA.9 of this report)*
Maintenance Costs (Average)	£45,000 per 2 cremators per annum
Lifetime	15-20 years
Cremation Time	90 minutes
Lead times from purchase	1-3 months
Manufacturers	Facultatieve Technologies (FT), DFW Europe, IFZW and Matthews Environmental Ltd.

3.2) Financial Cost Implication of Gas Cremators

Several companies manufacture gas cremators in the UK including Facultatieve Technologies and Mathews Environmental Solutions amongst other companies. Although the global market for gas has been in fluctuation in recent months, there is still good availability of natural gas, but the price of natural gas has increased notably since the beginning of 2022. Currently there isn't legislation from the UK government on emissions produced from cremation and therefore the use of the technology would be feasible at Poole Crematorium. The remainder of this chapter will review the costs, consumption and emissions of gas cremators amongst other factors.

If the council choose to install new natural gas cremators the costs outlined in this section are likely to increase in the future due to inflation.

3.2.1) Capital Costs

On average gas cremators cost £500,000-£575,000, the cost is dependent on package and manufacture.

There may be an opportunity to reuse some of the infrastructure already in place at Poole, depending on the age and quality of the infrastructure. Likewise, it may be possible to sell some of the existing equipment for its scrap metal value, which could then offset some of the cost of the new cremators. A full survey of the existing equipment in place would be required to determine the value of the existing equipment.

3.2.2) Operational Costs

The average cost for the maintenance of a gas cremator is approximately £22,500, but this is largely dependent on: its level of use, the breaking of parts and operational difficulties such as complications with the cremation process. CDS would estimate that the cost to maintain 2 new gas cremators per year would be approximately £45,000. Over time the cost to maintain the gas cremators is likely to rise to approximately £60,000 per year (as the cremators reach their operational lifespan).

The Property Services Manager at BCP Council confirmed that the gas supply rate at Poole is 12.495 pence per kWh and as gas cremators use electricity mainly for the control panels, the cost of electricity at the site in Poole is 40 pence per kWh. With 2 natural gas cremators completing a total of 6 cremations per day (3 cremations each), in energy costs, two gas cremators would cost approximately £514.03 per day (a single cremation would cost £85.67). Therefore, in energy costs, two gas cremator on green electricity would cost approximately **£125,337.84 annually** (using 1,463 as the number of expected cremations per annum).

The efficiency of gas cremators is highlighted in the table below, this dataset shows that the more cremations completed per cremator per day the more cost effective the cremation process becomes.

Table 19. Cost per Day and Energy Use for Gas Cremators

Cremations Per Day	Gas Per Cremation (kWh)	Electricity Consumption Per Cremation [inc. rest] (kWh)	Cost per Cremation (to the nearest pound)
1	1359	77	**£201**
2	763	47	**£114**
3	564	38	**£86**
4	483	33	**£74**
5	424	30	**£65**
6	348	28	**£55**

Table 20. Operational Cost per Annum for Gas Cremators (inc. Maintenance)

	Cost Per Annum (£)
2 Gas Cremators	£170,337.84

3.3) The Emissions and Environmental Implications of Natural Gas Cremators

CO_2 emissions from gas cremators are noticeably higher than those from electric cremators. CDS have derived the gas and electricity consumption of gas cremators provided by 2 manufacturers and then this was averaged with consideration to CO_2 production. The data in the table below has been calculated by using the estimated electrical energy usage during use at 12 kWh/hr and during rest at 1.8 kWh/hr. Also, the amount of CO_2 released from the combustion of the body totals 26.9kg. The Carbon intensity values used to work out CO_2 per cremation for natural gas was 0.184kg whilst for electricity 0.231kg was used. Presuming 6 cremations were completed per day at Poole (and evenly split across two cremators), a total of **839.4kg of CO_2 would be released per day**. Over the course of a year **211.5288 tonnes of CO_2** would be produced by the site (including the carbon emissions released by the cadaver and coffin).

Table 21. CO_2 Per Cremation for Gas Cremators

Cremations Per Day	CO_2/Cremation (Inc. Body and Coffin)
1	**294.9kg**
2	**177.9kg**
3	**139.9kg**
4	**122.9kg**
5	**111.9kg**
6	**97.9kg**

NO_x emissions are also a factor when considering the environmental implications of natural gas cremators, Nitrogen Oxide is 300 times more potent than Carbon Dioxide and therefore emissions of this gas must be reduced to meet greenhouse gas emission targets. There are three types of NO_x emissions during combustion (US EPA 1999):

1. Fuel NO_x - resulting from organically bound nitrogen in the fuel (not relevant for natural gas or electricity).

2. Prompt NO_x - resulting from excess air during combustion (negligible for cremation).

3. Thermal NO_x - resulting from high oxygen concentration, high temperatures, and high residence times in the combustion zone (relevant during cremation). High levels of thermal NO_x are dependent on flue gas [oxygen] flow during cremation. Gas flow for a gas cremation is typically 2000mg/m_3 and 1000mg/m_3 for electric cremation; to calculate NO_x concentrations, the length of the cremation process must be considered. The cremation process is a non-homogenous procedure with fluctuating flow values, however, an average value based on typical flow regimes exists.

NO_x emissions have a considerable impact on the environment, the particulates can deplete the ozone causing an increase in ultraviolet radiation at the earth's surface. There is an option for both crematortypes to install selective non-catalytic reduction (SNCR), otherwise known as DeNO_x, this process requires ammonia to react with the flue gases to convert the NO_x into water vapour. There are challenges associated with SNCR, ammonia is considered a toxic gas and can harm the environment. The rapid application of urea-water solutions requires an on-site tank, which may not be possible with restricted urban space. Nevertheless, NO_x emissions should be zero, and SNCR should be considered. The electric cremator reduces NO_x emissions by c. 33%, without selective non-catalytic reduction (SNCR).

3.4) Additional Considerations

3.4.1) Green Gas Tariff

The green gas market is only in its infancy. It's difficult and expensive to generate gas from renewable sources, but some suppliers do offer some sort of green gas - this is often made through bio-methane, decaying food, plants and animal waste. It is all but impossible to be "eco-friendly" and use gas. That is why over the long term, the best way to reduce the carbon footprint of our energy supply is by using less and switching from gas to electricity. There is currently insufficient capacity in the UK to supply all of our homes, supply is based around 15 per cent of green gas with the rest offset. The price of green gas is approximately 16% higher than the price of natural gas[4].

[4] Ofgem 2022 Available Via: https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-and-social-schemes/green-gas-support-scheme-and-green-gas-levy/applicants

3.4.2) International Gas Supply

The international energy supply of natural gas has been the topic of news bulletins across Europe since February 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine. In 2021 the European Union imported approximately 41 percent of its total natural gas consumption from Russia [5]. Since the conflict began, European countries are no longer buying natural gas from Russia, which has significantly reduced the supply of natural gas to the European market. As the demand for natural gas has stayed constant and is particularly high in the winter months and the aggregate supply of the volume of natural gas has fallen this has led to cost push inflation across the energy sector. In 2021 only 4% of natural gas used in the UK was imported from Russia, but the value of all gas the UK imported in 2021 reached £19.6 billion[6]. The majority of this gas was imported from Norway at 74% and Qatar with 8%. European countries are now purchasing greater levels of natural gas from Norway and Qatar which increases the cost of gas in the UK as well.

According to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy non domestic natural gas prices have risen on average by 98%[7] between 2021 quarter 2 and 2022 quarter 2. Because of the reduction in international gas supply the National Grid have warned that British households may face power shortages for hours at a time this winter. This may apply to non-domestic industries such as the cremation industry.

In preparation for the winter, the supply of gas in Germany has somewhat been rationed to ensure there is enough gas for key industrial processes and domestic use. To ration the supply industries have been categorised into various categories depending on their necessity to the German economy and society. Crematoria have been classified in the B category and therefore have not been categorised under the highest priority category. This means that if Germany was to experience a shortage of natural gas, then crematoria across the country would not be at the highest priority level and may not be able to operate (depending on the severity of the rationing). Although the UK is more energy secure than Germany, if the conflict in Ukraine and the subsequent banning of natural gas from Russia continues into 2023, 2024 and 2025 crematoria in the UK may face some rationing of natural gas supply in the future.

[5] Eurostat, accessed via: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_imports_of_energy_products_-_recent_developments

[6] Research Briefing to the House of Commons, accessed via: https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9523/CBP-9523.pdf

[7] Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, accessed via: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1107499/quarterly_energy_prices_uk_september_2022.pdf

3.5) SWOT Analysis of Natural Gas Cremation

The following table analyses the suitability of the cremation technology.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Existing technology used for cremation at Bournemouth Crematorium which is operated by BCP; minimal staff training required.	High CO_2 emissions from gas combustion, which would mean that the council missed their carbon emission targets.
Cremation time is consistent and takes 90 minutes.	High NO_x emissions from gas combustion.
The capital cost of the machines is estimated between £500,000 to £575,000.	Maintenance costs for the machines can be costly over time.
Opportunities	**Threats**
Short lead time from purchase to installation.	Uncertainty regarding the future of global gas supply.
Potential to switch to either Hydrogen or Bio LPG as an alternative fuel source on the same cremators in the future.	Uncertainty regarding the future of national gas prices.
There may be potential to retain some of the existing infrastructure from the existing gas cremators, which may lower the cost of the installation.	Threat of future carbon taxes (from national government) on industry's that use natural gas to promote electrification.

4) Electric Cremator Installation

4.1) An Outline of the Technology

European manufacturers (DFW Europe and IFZW) have developed new types of electric cremation plants that remove the requirement for a gas connection and the technology has the potential to decarbonise the cremation industry and reduce Nitrogen Oxide emissions. Cremation equipment has a longevity of 15-20 years; therefore, it is significantly important that the council choose the correct method of cremation as this is a medium to long term investment. Across the UK, there are three crematoria with electric cremators in operation (North Oxfordshire Memorial Park, Huntingdon and Hambleton). CDS have worked on two new-build crematoriums (Huntingdon and Hambleton) and have recently taken a third crematorium successfully through the planning process (construction is beginning in the next few months). By the end of 2022, over 20 electric cremators would have been installed by DFW in Europe.

Research completed by The CDS Group has calculated that electric cremation produces 50-80% less CO_2 emissions than gas, this range is controlled by the energy tariff and number of cremations per day. The electric cremator reduces NO_x emissions by c. 33%, without selective non-catalytic reduction (SNCR). An electric cremator, on a green energy tariff, with SCR installed, would reduce CO_2 emissions by c. 80% and NO_x emissions by >99%. Electric cremation operation differs from gas cremation in the context that they are 'hot inserts', whereby the electric cremator operates consistently, and the body fuels the cremation, therefore the more cremations processed the less overall energy consumption. The electric cremators are larger in size compared to the natural gas cremators, the DFW Electric single ended cremator measures 4.285 x 2.48 x 3.3 meters (lxwxh). The DFW double-end cremator measures 4.185 x 2.5 x 3.3 meters (lxwxh). Additionally, the electric cremators are heavier than gas cremators with the single ended machine from DFW weighing 19,500kg and the double ended cremator weighs 22,000 kg.

This chapter of the report will presume that 1,463 cremations will be completed per year at Poole with 6 cremations completed per day on average.

CDS are aware of new generation technology with electric cremators, this new generation of cremators will focus on the size, installation method and performance of the cremator.

Table 22. An Outline of the Latest Electric Cremators Produced

Variable	Result
Capital Cost (Average)	£800,000 (As of October 2022)
Maintenance Costs (Average)	£45,000 per 2 cremators per annum (estimated)
Lifetime	15-20 years
Cremation Time	120 minutes
Lead times from purchase	9-12 months
Manufacturers	DFW Europe

4.2) The Green Agenda

4.2.1) Green Electricity Tariff

Energy companies have started to offer a 'green' electricity tariff in the UK by:

1) Investing in renewable energy projects such as wind turbines and solar farms. By pumping renewable energy into the grid equivalent to that consumed by green customers, suppliers can legitimately claim they are making a tangible, positive impact on the UK's energy mix.
2) Signing contracts with renewable energy producers, agreeing to buy the power they produce.
3) The suppliers purchase certificates in recognition of renewable energy produced somewhere at some point in the UK. It is this strategy which experts are most critical of.

Certificates, known as Regos (Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin), are issued every time a unit of renewable energy is produced. One Rego is worth one megawatt-hour of energy. Producers can sell these certificates to anyone. Suppliers buy them to match the energy consumed by their customers on green tariffs. That way, they can say that while their customers may be using non-green energy, they are supporting renewable energy production. Suppliers with green tariffs backed purely by Regos include Outfox the Market and Utility Warehouse. A news article published on BCP Council's website states that all electricity used in council owned buildings is powered on 100% renewable energy as of September 2019[8]. The electricity procured is supplied by energy company Npower and it is a fully audited Renewable Energy Guarantees Origin (REGO) certified product, the energy is generated from wind and hydro sources.

[8] BCP 2019 Available from: https://www.bcpcouncil.gov.uk/News/News-Features/Climate-and-Ecological-Emergency/BCP-Council-electricity-is-going-green.aspx

4.2.2) The Climate Emergency

On 16th July 2019, BCP Council declared a 'climate and ecological emergency' which pledged to make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030. This pledge takes into account the council's production and consumption emissions, which is particularly relevant to the operations of a natural gas or electric cremator. The plan states that BCP Council will 'Procure all Council electricity from zero-carbon renewable sources' by 2030.

4.3) Emissions

4.3.1) Carbon Dioxide Emissions

As most types of cremation involve the process of combustion (except Resomation) the process of cremation inherently produces greenhouse gases. Combustion results in a number of products: in the case of organic combustion carbon dioxide, water and energy. Therefore, in this analysis emissions resulting from the combustion of the body and coffin are also included. Emissions are dependent on the size of the body and coffin, with an average of 26.9kg CO_2 released during cremation, as highlighted in Table 19 below. The emissions data includes all variables of energy consumption, for gas, this includes the start-up process of the machine to reach the required cremation temperature (RCT), for electric cremation this includes all energy consumption as the machine uses energy even when non-operational as they maintain their levels of heat. For both cremator types, the more cremations processed per day, the lower the relative CO_2 emissions per cremation.

Research completed by the CDS Group has calculated that electric cremation produces 50-80% less CO_2 emissions than gas, this range is controlled by the energy tariff and number of cremations per day. Additionally, this produces 33% less NO_x emissions without selective catalytic reduction (SCR).

Table 23. CO_2 Emissions for an Average Cadaver and Chipboard Coffin

Source	Average Weight	Carbon Content	Total CO_2 Emissions
Cadaver	76.5kg	18% of Average Body	12.6kg
Chipboard Coffin	35kg	409g CO_2 e/kg	14.3kg
Total	n/a	n/a	**26.9kg**

CO_2 emissions from electric cremators are noticeably lower than those from gas cremators. CDS have derived the electricity consumption of electric cremators provided by DFW and then this was averaged with consideration to CO_2 production. The data in the table below has been calculated by using the estimated electrical energy Carbon intensity of 0.231kg. Also, the amount of CO_2 released from the combustion of the body totals 26.9kg. From the BCP Council website we know that all electrical energy used in BCP buildings is purchased on a Green Electricity Tariff and therefore the only carbon emissions from each cremation is from the cadaver and the coffin. In the future Poole crematorium and BCP Council could reduce emissions further by working with local funeral directors and coffin suppliers to invest in coffin's which are more environmentally friendly

Table 24. DFW Electric Cremator Estimated CO_2 per Cremation

Cremations Per Day	kWh Per Hour	CO2 Per Cremation (Grid Electricity, inc. Body and Coffin)	CO2 Per Cremation (Green Electricity Tariff, inc. Body and Coffin)
1	20	**137.9kg**	**26.9kg**
2	18	**76.9kg**	**26.9kg**
3	15	**54.9kg**	**26.9kg**
4	14	**45.9kg**	**26.9kg**
5	13	**40.9kg**	**26.9kg**
6	12	**37.9kg**	**26.9kg**

The table above is a theoretical demonstration that as the number of cremations completed per cremator a day increases, the rate of CO_2 produced through the cremation process is significantly reduced for electric cremators. By using an electric cremator which operates on a green energy tariff the amount of CO_2 released stays at a constant rate at 26.9kg as this is the amount of CO_2 released when burning an average cadaver and standard chipboard coffin, no additional CO_2 is produced from the burning of the fuel source. The energy used in the kWh Per Hour column above are much lower those for the gas cremators. But as the machines are always on and kept operational for 24 hours a day, there any energy use per day can be multiplied by a factor of 24.

As the fuel mix for electricity becomes 'greener' due to the prevalence of sustainable technologies such as solar and wind power, there will be a further 44% reduction in CO_2 emissions from an electric cremator connected to the national electricity grid between 2020 and 2050. Fuels, such as hydrogen blend and biogas may be feasible in reducing emissions in certain cases, however, they are not viable solutions for the UK industry due to the number of cremations completed in the country.

Theoretically if 2 gas cremators were fuelled by natural gas and completing 3 cremations per day, this would generate approximately **839.4 of CO_2 per operational day** (inc. cadaver and coffin). Whereas if 2 electric cremators fuelled by green electricity used were completing 3 cremations per day, this would generate approximately **161.4kg of CO_2 per operational day** (inc. cadaver and coffin). **Per working day, a natural gas cremator would release 678kg more CO_2 than a green tariff electric cremator.** If electric cremators were installed on a green tariff this would reduce carbon emissions by **170.86 tonnes annually.**

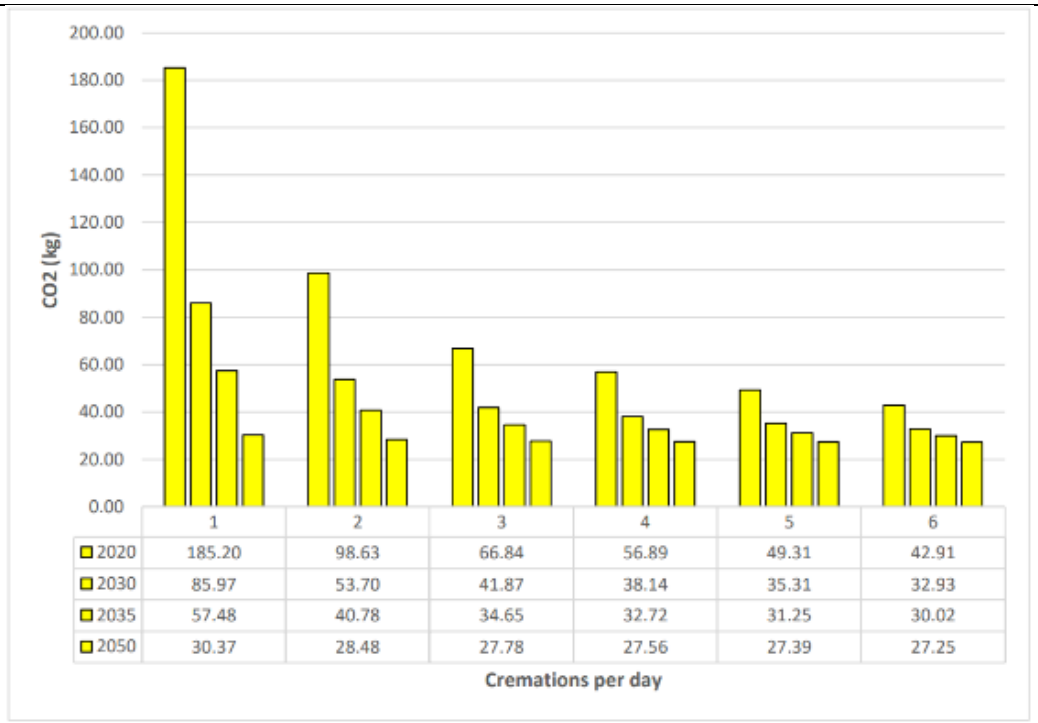
An electric cremator operating on a green energy tariff emits the same amount of CO_2 per cremation regardless of the number of cremations per day. The assertion of '100% renewable electricity' from green electricity tariffs is contested, however, there are energy companies that do generate renewable energy funded by consumer energy tariffs initiating contracts to kickstart new renewable generation, such as Ecotricity and Good Energy (Which 2019).

4.3.2) Future Carbon Dioxide Emissions for Electricity

The Climate Change Committee (2020) determine electrification as a key response required to reach net-zero by 2050 and highlight that low-carbon electricity is now lower-cost than fossil-fuel generated electricity. Furthermore, the UK government, with this focus on a zero-carbon economy, has also banned the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2030 (BEIS 2020). Cremation plants last

15-20 years, they have fewer limitations when compared to the electrification of transport, i.e., battery life and charging points.

The carbon intensity of grid electricity is projected to decrease to 44gCO_2/kWh [by 2035], with the further uptake of renewable energy and a reduction in gas generation (BEIS 2018). The carbon intensity from electricity in 2050 may be 5gCO_2/kWh, based on a flexible system including carbon capture, nuclear energy, and green hydrogen power (BEIS 2020). If a crematorium was to install an electric cremator, operating on grid electricity, they should expect, at current projections, for CO_2 emissions to decrease by 1.84% per year.



	1	2	3	4	5	6
2020	185.20	98.63	66.84	56.89	49.31	42.91
2030	85.97	53.70	41.87	38.14	35.31	32.93
2035	57.48	40.78	34.65	32.72	31.25	30.02
2050	30.37	28.48	27.78	27.56	27.39	27.25

Figure 9. Projection of Electric Cremation Emissions [cremations per day] (kg)

As BCP Council utilise a green electricity tariff the 'greening' of grid electricity will mean in time that the price of green electricity tariffs will fall.

4.3.3) Nitrogen Oxide Emissions

The switch to electric cremators also leads to a reduction in nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions. The measurement of NO_x emissions is complex as there is not a single conversion factor available to measure NO_x from fuel use. There are three types of NO_x emissions during combustion (US EPA 1999):

1. Prompt NO_x - resulting from excess air during combustion (negligible for cremation).

2. Thermal NO_x - resulting from high oxygen concentration, high temperatures, and high residence times in the combustion zone (relevant during cremation). High levels of thermal NO_x are dependent on flue gas [oxygen] flow during cremation. Gas flow for a gas cremation is typically 2000mg/m_3 and 1000mg/m_3 for electric cremation; to calculate NO_x concentrations, the length of the cremation

process must be considered. The cremation process is a non-homogenous procedure with fluctuating flow values, however, an average value based on typical flow regimes exists.

NO_x emissions have a considerable impact on the environment, the particulates can deplete the ozone causing an increase in ultraviolet radiation at the earth's surface. The electric cremator produces a third-less NO_x than gas; however, a reduced cremation time would also lower NO_x emissions. There is an option for both cremator types to install selective non-catalytic reduction (SNCR), otherwise known as $DeNO_x$, this process requires ammonia to react with the flue gases to convert the NO_x into water vapour. There are challenges associated with SNCR, ammonia is considered a toxic gas and can harm the environment. The rapid application of urea-water solutions requires an on-site tank, which may not be possible with restricted urban space. Nevertheless, NO_x emissions should be zero, and SNCR should be considered.

4.4) Financial Cost Implication of Electric Cremators

4.4.1) Capital Costs

The financial cost of electrification is a critical element in the transition to lower emissions, and levelised cost is an important measure as renewables increase. Thus, it is prudent to analyse the running costs of electric cremators using current business energy costs.

Capital costs are important in decision making, electric cremators are available from two European suppliers [DFW Europe and IFZW] at present (an additional third supplier is discussed under section A.11 of the report). The IFZW cremators were not considered for this report due to the size of the cremators, these cremators are largely used in Europe where cremations are completed off site usually in industrial warehouses (legislation under the 1902 cremation act makes developments like this in the UK more challenging).

The most recent price quoted by DFW for an electric cremator, to The CDS Group's knowledge, was in October 2022 for £800,000. Therefore, the capital cost of an electric cremator is approximately £225,000 to £300,000 more expensive than a gas cremator.

The price of cremators is likely to increase, in the near future, with inflation due to the number of components required to build an electric cremator. Additionally, as a result of supply chain shortages caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit, some of the parts required to construct the electric cremators are taking additional time to source. Therefore, currently the lead times for an electric cremator from purchase to installation is approximately 9 months to a year for a DFW electric cremator.

4.4.2) Operational and Maintenance Costs

The Property Service Manager was able to provide the current cost of electricity at Poole, which is 40 pence per kWh during standard hours and a night tariff of 38 pence per kWh. The electricity supplied to Poole Crematorium is on a green electricity tariff, therefore to provide a comparison to BCP Council for the cost of grid electricity, a quote was sought to offer a direct comparison of cost per cremation (date of quote was 9/1/2023). The quote shown in the figure below was provided by

E.O.N and was based solely on the postcode of Poole Crematorium and the estimated amount of energy required per annum to operate the cremators to complete 1,463 cremations per annum. The unit rate quoted was 34.28 pence per kWh.

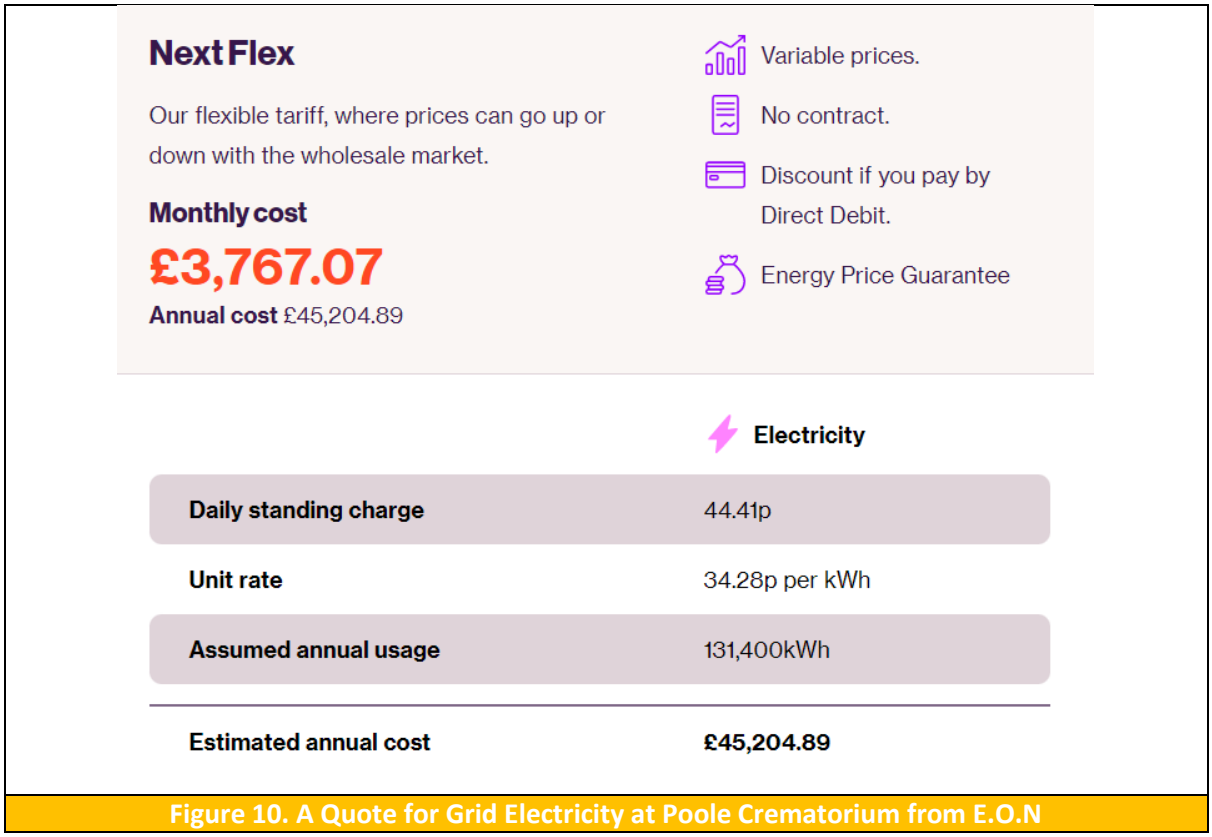


Figure 10. A Quote for Grid Electricity at Poole Crematorium from E.O.N

Table 25. Cost per Cremation for Electric Cremators

Cremations Per Day	kWh/hr	Costs Per Cremation* (Grid Electricity) To the Nearest £	Costs Per Cremation* (Green Electricity) To the Nearest £
1	20	**£238**	**£274**
2	18	**£107**	**£123**
3	15	**£60**	**£69**
4	14	**£42**	**£48**
5	13	**£31**	**£36**
6	12	**£24**	**£27**

The costs provided in the table above are estimated costs, as multiple factors affect the efficiency of electric cremators (based off data provided by DFW and other crematoria in the UK).

The cost of electricity in the table above is analysed by the cost per cremation for both grid and green electricity to highlight the difference in price between grid and green electricity. The cost for the grid electricity is calculated by multiplying kWh per hour (15) by the number of hours in a day and then by the number of days in a year (15 x 24 x 365) as the electric cremators are always active. This total is then divided by the number of working days per year (252) multiplied by the number of

cremations per day (252 x 3), which is then multiplied by the price of the electricity (34.28 pence). The cost of the grid electricity as referenced above is based on a quote provided by E.O.N.

With the green electricity tariff which is used by Poole crematorium, the cost of electricity differs throughout the day, with electricity priced at 40 pence per kWh between 07:00 and 00:00. Between 00:00 and 07:00 a 'Night Tariff', is applied and therefore the cost of the energy is slightly lower at 38 pence per kWh. Therefore, in the column highlighted in green, the difference in price has been factored in and therefore the 40 pence price has been multiplied by 17 hours whilst the 'Night Tariff' has been charged for 7 hours, then multiplied by 365 and divided by the number of cremations and multiplied by the price of the electricity. These totals are then added together to produce the values in the table.

Table 22 shows that the cost effectiveness of electric cremators increases as the number of cremations they perform per day increases. As the number of cremations performed per day increases, the required kWh per hour decreases due to the coffin assisting in fuelling the cremation process, resulting in the need for less electrical energy to maintain the necessary temperature for cremation. Thus, based on the current energy unit prices at Poole crematorium, the cost of each cremation for a cremator performing 3 cremations per day is:

- Natural Gas Cremator – **£85.6718 per cremation**.
- Electric Cremator (Grid Electricity) - **£59.5819 per cremation.**
- Electric Cremator (Green Electricity) – **£68.5099 per cremation**.

These calculations show, if 2 electric cremators (on Poole's existing electricity tariff) would be more cost effective than natural gas cremators by approximately **£17.16** per cremation.

With 1,463 cremations calculated to be completed per annum at Poole, it means that the operational cost of the cremators is:

- Natural Gas Cremator - **£125,338.**
- Electric Cremator (Grid Tariff) **- £87,168.**
- Electric Cremator (Green Tariff) - **£100,230.**

Therefore, on the **current tariff** it is estimated that an electric cremator would be approximately **£25,108** cheaper per annum. CDS estimate for the life span of an electric cremator to be 20 years, therefore a cost saving of approximately **£502,157 is estimated over the cremator's lifetime (for two electric cremators).**

As the electric cremators are always operational there is less fluctuation in the temperature of the brickwork inside the cremator and therefore CDS expect the maintenance costs to be lower compared to the gas cremator. CDS have estimated the annual maintenance cost to maintain two electric cremators is £45,000 per annum.

Table 26. Estimated Operational Cost per Annum for Electric Cremators on a Green Tariff (inc. Maintenance)

	Cost Per Annum (£)
2 Electric Cremators (Green)	£145,230

In conclusion due to the infancy of the electric cremator technology, in the medium to long term, the financial cost savings of this technology compared to traditional natural gas cremation are somewhat unknown.

4.5) External and Indirect Considerations

4.5.1) Structural

Each electrical cremator weighs approximately 20,000kg, where the existing gas cremators are estimated to weigh 17,000kg. Suitable foundations would be required to ensure the electric cremators would be structurally supported by the building. The Property Services Manager at BCP has recommended that if electric cremators were to be installed an intrusive investigation into the ground slab would be advised.

4.5.2) Summary Plant Requirements

The estimated plant requirements to allow for the installation of the proposed electric cremators are as follows:

- New segregated exhaust system for each cremator with new chimneys.
- New mechanical ventilation system providing approx. 30,000m^3/h supply air to cremator hall
- New segregated external condenser for each cremator.
- New incoming electrical supply of 630A TP&N/350kVA with a new local substation rated 500kVA required.
- New 630A TP&N MCCB electrical switchboard with 200A TP&N outgoing supplies to each cremator.

Further:

- Plant space for electric cremators is based on Specialist advice and is assumed as 4000mm long x 2300mm wide x 3400mm high.
- The weight of the electric cremators has been confirmed by specialists to be 20,000kg.
- The chimney and ventilation requirements for the cremator plant have been based on the manufacturer's information and specialist advice and as such no additional requirement other than those identified will be required.

4.5.3) Heat Recovery

As Poole does not use gas in the existing building, The CDS Group have presumed that the crematorium uses electricity for its central heating. As electric cremators are always operational, they are more efficient than gas cremators and therefore less energy can be recovered from the cremation process as less heat is lost between cremations. Gas cremators can recover approximately 250kW of heat per process, whereas electric cremators gather around 150-200kW per process. Although CDS have worked with Huntingdon Crematorium, who operate two electric DFW cremators, to utilise a heat recovery system from their electric cremators to heat two large glasshouses which the Town Council use to grow plants for the town. The opportunity to harness heat recovery technology can be explored at the council's request.

4.5.4) Staff Training for Electric Cremators

The manufacturers of electric cremators would provide the staff with training on all machinery on-site, this includes training for both existing and new staff members. All the relevant health and safety certification still applies for electric cremation, the same as gas cremation. Electric cremation does not require a shutdown the same as gas, as electric cremators operate all the time.

4.5.5) STATS Upgrade Cost

To provide a formal quotation for STATS upgrades for electric cremators, on-site surveys to determine the suitability of sub-stations and viable cable routes, would be required. The location of the nearest substation is unknown, it is unlikely that the existing substation would provide the electrical capacity required to operate the cremators.

CDS have undertaken specialist STATS upgrade surveys for other councils and would be able to complete a survey for Poole Crematorium, once a decision on cremator types has been made.

For two electric cremators a 500kVA sub-station will need to be installed to provide the required 350kVA supply. There will be a requirement to provide a new local transformer and new incoming electrical supply to the building. A new 630A TP&N 12-way switchboard shall be required, also it is recommended electrical distribution equipment that is past its economic life expectancy is replaced with new equipment as part of the upgrade.

For another site which CDS has worked on whom required **two electric cremators for 1,500 cremations a year**, based on existing electrical infrastructure a budget quotation of **£145,000.00** was provided by the local DNO for the installation of the new proposed sub-station. This quote included:

- Offsite works.
- All on and off-site excavation & reinstatement of trenches.
- Provision of HV & LV cabling.
- Provision of sub-station (GRP).
- Provision of sub-station plinth.

Also, additional elements of works were required in this case to permit the upgrade which were completed by the Main and Electrical Contractor. These works included:

- Ducted entry from sub-station to Cremator Hall.
- Modification to ramp between sub-station and Cremator Hall.
- Incoming main MCCB device with CT Chamber.
- New 630A TP&N rated switchboard and associated cabling connections for incoming and outgoing.

Based on a high-level estimation the above works were expected to be in the region of £45,000.00.

Therefore, the estimated allowance for the works required to be completed are:

WPD Budget Estimation - £145,000.00

Contractor Works - £45,000.00

Contingency 10% - £25,000.00

Total - £225,000.00 plus VAT

The cost for electrical infrastructure upgrades is totally dependent on distances for ducting and the capacity of the local network. These calculations were based on prices from the last quarter of 2021 at an alternative site, therefore further consultation will be required with The CDS Group and our Electrical Engineering team to determine updated costs.

4.6) SWOT Analysis of Electric Cremators

Strengths	Weaknesses
Electric cremation on a green energy tariff reduces CO_2 emissions by 80%. Electric cremation releases 33% less NO_x emissions.	Electric cremators have a higher capital cost.
Based on the energy unit prices that Poole operate on electric cremation would be approximately £17 cheaper per cremation than a gas cremation.	Electric cremators require more space due to the requirement for the separate filters and fans and abatement system.
Because of the combustion technique, there is a smaller risk of fires due to the operation of the machine.	The length of cremation times is longer, approximately average 2 hours.
If future legislation is to change where all crematoria must switch away from gas or switch to a greener gas, then Poole would have already overcome this issue by switching to electric.	The lead times for purchasing electric cremators are estimated to be >9 months.
Maintenance costs of electric cremators are thought to be lower in the long term due to the reduction in heat fluctuation which reduces stress on the refractory lining of the brickwork.	Less effective for heat recovery systems to be used in heating the building or heating other buildings due to the efficiency of the electric cremators in retaining heat.
Opportunities	**Threats**
The future UK gas prices are expected to increase due to the reduced availability of gas in global markets. Gas prices are increasing at a higher rate than electricity.	A STATS upgrade may be required, which may require the digging up of roads, causing disruption. The upgrade may also come at a high financial cost – which is currently unknown.
To the knowledge of CDS no crematoria in Dorset offers electric cremation, therefore if marketed suitably to funeral directors, Poole could claim to offer the 'greenest' cremation process in Dorset. This would mean that Poole has a competitive advantage over other crematoria in the area.	Due to the weight of the electric cremators, the foundations of the building may need to be reinforced to withstand the additional weight of the electric cremators.

5) Cost Management Analysis

The following chapter provides BCP Council with a full breakdown of the costs associated with the installation (and operation) of new electric or gas cremators.

After completing the practical capacity calculations and determining the difference in time it takes for a natural gas and electric cremation to be completed, it was determined that the cremator technicians wouldn't be required to work additional hours or complete shift work (at peak periods in the winter months or if nearby facilities cannot complete cremations this may change). Therefore the cremator technician salary wasn't included as part of this cost management analysis.

The energy price tariffs used throughout the report are based on the existing gas and electricity tariff which Poole Crematorium operates on. Therefore the cost of green electricity is 40p per kWh during the day and 38p per kWh between 00:00 and 7:00. The cost of grid electricity would be approximately 34.28p per kWh – this was ascertained by a price E.O.N quoted to CDS. The cost of gas is 12.495p per kWh.

Whilst the options for the development works remain undecided in the detail of the design, the subsequent phasing of works can be structured into the general approach described below.

5.1) Cremator Replacement Costs

5.1.1) Contextual Information

It is the Client's aspiration that the crematorium remains in operation throughout the proposed works, this means that services will still be occurring at Poole. The proposed works would as a minimum, require the existing gas cremators to be decommissioned and removed to allow for a new install of the electric cremators. The logistics of working hours, safe working practices, interfacing with proposed ceremonial services, noise issues, and planned shut down for existing plant alterations/infrastructure upgrade shall need to be agreed with both Contractors and Client. As the width of the doorway to the crematory measures under 3 meters, CDS would recommend that the council ascertain that the existing gas cremators can be removed through this doorway. If the existing gas cremators cannot be removed through this doorway a section of the roof would be required to be removed or a cavity in the wall would need to be created to remove the cremators safely.

5.1.2) Sequence of Works

This section outlines the suggested sequence of works if electrical systems are installed that are deemed to be the least impact on the site and allow for the continued operation of the site.

- Phase 1 – completion of building works to facilitate removal of cremators.
- Phase 2 – decommission and removal of existing gas cremators including removal of gas supplies and any required chimney connections to head end if required. The removal of gas

connection to redundant cremator would require gas isolation until safety is removed and capped.

- Phase 3 – Undertaking of all internal refurbishments works that can be concluded before reinstallation of 2 electric (or 2 gas) cremators.
- Phase 4 – installation of 2 electric (or gas) cremators including new chimneys per cremator, electrical cabling, and 200A TP&N isolator, the connection of new and/or existing associated equipment.
- Phase 5 – installation of new required mechanical ventilation systems.
- Phase 6 – removal of the external condenser and replace for 2 no. smaller units serving each cremator.
- Phase 7 – installation of new 500kVA substation and 630A/350kVA incoming electrical supply from new local sub-station and associated switchboard and metering.
- Phase 8 – test and commission 2 no. new electric cremators for operation once complete.

5.1.3) Initial Structural Review

A structural engineer would be required in the first instance to undertake a detailed review of all elements of the proposed options to determine the extent of any modifications or structural changes that would need to be considered before any installation being undertaken. The Cremator Specialist has confirmed that each electrical cremator weighs approximately 20,000kg, where the existing gas cremators are estimated to weigh 17,000kg. The Structural Engineer will confirm if the proposed plant replacement strategy is feasible and if any structural reinforcement works are required.

5.1.4) Quantifying Downtime

Quantifying downtime is subject to whether the chapel is kept in operation during the refurbishment. Disruption to chapel services could occur on some occasions however proper management could mean that majority of works take place out of service hours.

To complete the entire replacement, The CDS Group predicts the construction period will last an estimated 3-4 months.

5.2) A Breakdown of Cremator Replacement Costs (2-Electric Cremators)

Table 27. A Breakdown of Cremator Replacement (2-Electric Cremators)

Group Elemental Breakdown		Totals
Main Contract Works		
Demolishment of existing cremators		£40,000.00
STATS upgrade		Approx. £196,511.00
Installation and re-build of walls to install cremators		£60,000.00
Attendances / Coordination / Management etc. of Electric Cremator Installations		£7,500.00
Main Contractor OHP @ 15% on above		£45,601.00
Subtotal facilitating		**£349,612.00**
Cremators (elec x 2) inc abatement etc. (based on DFW machines)		£1,600,000.00
Internal structural changes estimate		Approx. £60,000.00
M&E works		£80,000.00
Subtotal facilitating and building works		**£2,089,612.00**
Main Contractor Preliminaries (say 26-week programme)		£234,000.00
Total building works est.		**£2,323,612.00**
Other development costs		
Professional fees inc architect, planning, SE, PM, QS, etc		£98,904.00
Off-site staff allowance		£15,000.00
Construction cost estimate		**£2,437,516.00**
Client Contingency / Risk allowance (12%)		£292,501.92
Inflation allowance (5%)*		£121,875.80
Estimated total project cost		**£2,851,893.72**

5.3) A Breakdown of Cremator Replacement Costs (2-Gas Cremators)

Table 28. A Breakdown of Cremator Replacement (2-Gas Cremators)

Group Elemental Breakdown		Totals
Main Contract Works		
Demolishment of existing cremators		£40,000.00
Installation and re-build of walls to install cremators		£60,000.00
Attendances / Coordination / Management etc. of gas Cremator Installations		£7,500.00
Main Contractor OHP @ 15% on above		£16,125.00
Subtotal facilitating		**£123,625.00**
Cremators (gas x 2) inc abatement etc. (based on Mathews/DFW machines)		£1,075,000.00
M&E works		£40,000.00
Internal structural changes estimate		Approx. £60,000.00
Subtotal facilitating and building works		**£1,298,625.00**
Main Contractor Preliminaries (say 15-week programme)		£120,000.00
Total building works est.		**£1,418,625.00**
Other development costs		
Professional fees inc architect, planning, SE, PM, QS, etc		£65,000.00
Off-site staff allowance		£11,000.00
Construction cost estimate		**£1,494,625.00**
Client Contingency / Risk allowance (12%)		£179,355.00
Inflation allowance (5%)*		£74,731.25
Estimated total project cost		**£1,748,711.25**

*In table 27 and table 28 listed above, CDS have included an inflation allowance to account for inflationary pressures at 5%. For this costing analysis CDS have assumed that the procurement for the electric or gas cremators will occur by January 2024. If the procurement of the cremators occurs after this date a further contingency should be added to the estimated total project cost.

5.4) Cremator Cost Comparison Across Cremator Lifespan

This chapter of the report will draw on information presented in the excel spreadsheet provided to BCP Council in the pack of information submitted to the Bereavement, Coroners & Mortuary Manager.

The calculations presented throughout this report are based on the current tariff price for both natural gas and electricity at Poole Crematorium. To calculate the cost of utility prices in the future The CDS Group have presumed that the unit price per kWh for both gas and electricity will increase by 2% year on year. Table 28 and Figure 11 below do not include the cost of a STATS upgrade that is likely to be required at the site in order to provide the electric cremators with sufficient capacity to operate effectively. Furthermore, this analysis does not include the cost to maintain the cremators.

The high-level costing analysis completed indicates that after **18 years 2 electric cremators are more cost effective than 2 gas cremators** based upon the cumulative capital and operational cost of the cremators.

Table 29. Cumulative Capital and Operational Cost Combined

Cumulative Capital and Utility Cost Combined	2 Gas Cremators	2 Electric Cremators
Year 1	£1,200,338	£1,700,230
Year 2	£1,328,182	£1,802,465
Year 3	£1,458,584	£1,906,744
Year 4	£1,591,593	£2,013,109
Year 5	£1,727,263	£2,121,601
Year 6	£1,865,646	£2,232,263
Year 7	£2,006,797	£2,345,138
Year 8	£2,150,771	£2,460,271
Year 9	£2,297,624	£2,577,707
Year 10	£2,447,414	£2,697,491
Year 11	£2,600,201	£2,819,671
Year 12	£2,756,042	£2,944,294
Year 13	£2,915,001	£3,071,410
Year 14	£3,077,139	£3,201,068
Year 15	£3,242,520	£3,333,319
Year 16	£3,411,208	£3,468,216
Year 17	£3,583,270	£3,605,810
Year 18	**£3,758,773**	**£3,746,156**
Year 19	£3,937,786	£3,889,310
Year 20	£4,120,380	£4,035,326

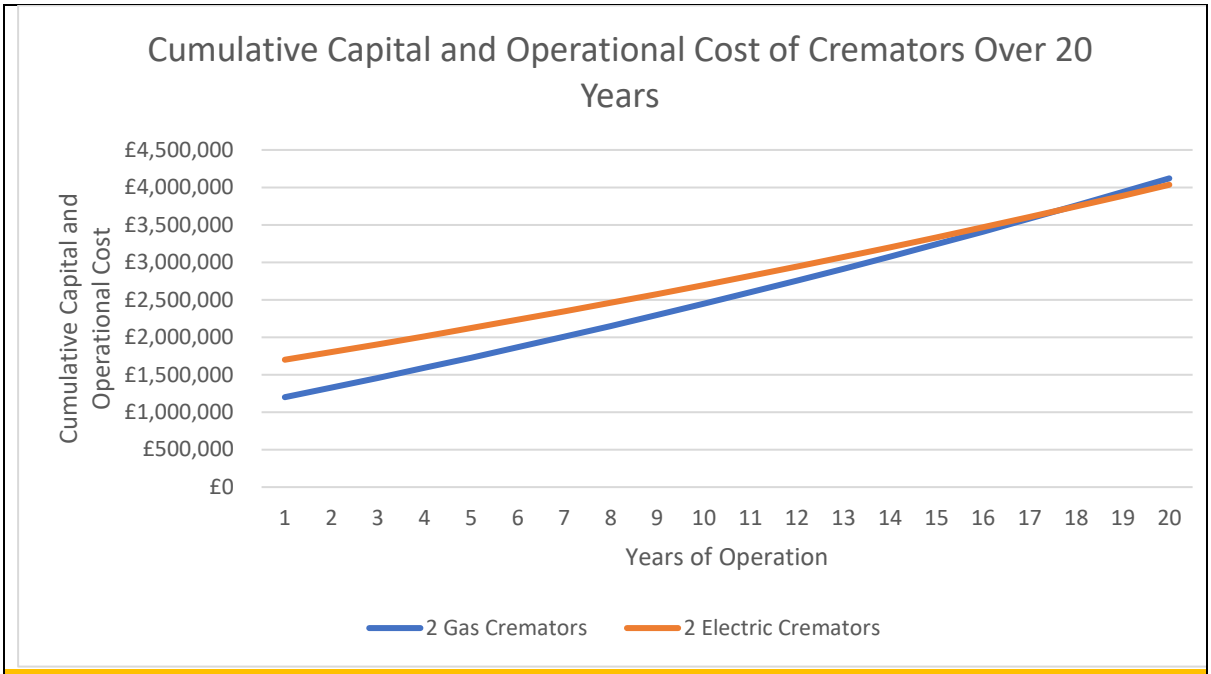


Figure 11. Cumulative Capital and Operational Cost of Cremators Over 20 Years

6) SWOT Analysis of Cremator Replacement

The information in this table has been scored according to the impact of installing cremators at Poole Crematorium. The scoring range for this table is between +3 and -3, with -3 a significant weakness or threat and +3 a significant strength or opportunity. The installation of electric cremators is highlighted in the strengths and opportunities column and the installation of gas cremators is highlighted in the weaknesses and threats column.

Table 30. SWOT Analysis of Installing Electric Cremators

Strengths		Weaknesses	
Electric cremation on a green energy tariff reduces CO_2 emissions by 80%. Electric cremation releases 33% less NO_x emissions.	+3	Existing technology used for cremation at Bournemouth Crematorium is gas which is operated by BCP; minimal staff training required.	-1
Based on the energy unit prices that Poole operate on electric cremation would be approximately £17 cheaper per cremation than a gas cremation.	+3	Cremation time for gas is consistent and takes 90 minutes.	-3
Because of the combustion technique, there is a smaller risk of fires due to the operation of the machine.	+1	The capital cost of the gas cremators is estimated between £500,000 to £575,000.	-3
If future legislation is to change where all crematoria must switch away from gas or switch to a greener gas, then Poole would have already overcome this issue by switching to electric.	+1	Downtime is limited in maintenance periods of gas cremators.	-1
Maintenance costs of electric cremators are thought to be lower in the long term due to the reduction in heat fluctuation which reduces stress on the refractory lining of the brickwork.	+2		
Subtotal	+10	**Subtotal**	-8

Opportunities		Threats	
The future UK gas prices are expected to increase due to the reduced availability of gas in global markets. Gas prices are increasing at a higher rate than electricity.	+2	Short lead time from purchase to installation for gas cremators	-1
To the knowledge of CDS no crematoria in Dorset offers electric cremation, therefore if marketed suitably to funeral directors, Poole could claim to offer the 'greenest' cremation process in Dorset. This would mean that Poole has a competitive advantage over other crematoria in the area.	+3	Potential to switch to either Hydrogen or Bio LPG as an alternative fuel source on the same cremators in the future.	-1
		There may be potential to retain some of the existing infrastructure from the existing gas cremators, which may lower the cost of the installation.	-1
Subtotal	+5	**Subtotal**	-3
Total Strengths and Opportunities	+15	**Total Weaknesses and Threats**	-11
Total SWOT			**+4**

7) Conclusion

CDS have conducted a comprehensive feasibility review of the replacement of the existing gas cremators at Poole crematorium. The opportunity to install electric or gas cremators in the crematory at Poole has been explored in detail.

Practical Capacity

To understand the number of cremators required at Poole crematorium, a comprehensive Drive Time Analysis (DTA) has been completed using industry standard methods. The results state that Poole crematorium is likely to complete 1,463 cremations per annum. This total largely compromises of the existing services completed at Poole Crematorium. Therefore, this report suggests there would be a redistribution of the cremations from Bournemouth Crematorium to Poole. If cremators are installed at Poole this may persuade bereaved families and or relatives to return to Poole instead of going to Purbeck crematorium, therefore CDS expect a small increase in Poole Crematorium's market share if cremators are installed at the crematorium.

With consideration to the time of services at Poole and accounting for a higher rate of deaths in the winter months, the most suitable number of cremators would be two. By assuming there are 252 working days in a year this means that both cremators combined would complete six cremations per day on average and during peak periods seven cremations would be completed per day across the two cremators.

As Poole crematorium has not had operational cremators in place at the site since April 2020, other crematoria that are competing are now established in the cremation market in the wider BCP area. Therefore, CDS would suggest that once cremators are installed at Poole, a significant public relations campaign occurs to increase public awareness that the site is now 'fully operational' and completing cremations once again. CDS also suggest that BCP build a rapport with the funeral directors in the region to communicate that new cremators have been installed.

Natural Gas Cremation

Natural Gas Cremation is proportionately the most popular cremation technology in the UK, with over 95% of UK cremators being fed by natural gas. The capital cost of a gas cremator is approximately £500,000 to £575,000 per cremator. CDS estimate the operational cost of two gas cremators to be £125,337 annually and maintenance to be approximately £45,000 per annum for two gas cremators. There are many benefits to gas cremation, with the largest benefit being its speed of cremation coupled with its consistency. Over the course of a year, 211.5288 tonnes of CO_2 would be produced by two gas cremators (including the carbon emissions released by the cadaver and coffin).

Electric Cremation

The cost of the current generation of a DFW electric cremator is approximately £800,000 which includes the abatement infrastructure required for the electric cremators to operate according to all relevant legislation in the UK. In the coming years CDS are aware that future generations of the electric cremators will be available on the market, the subsequent generations of electric cremators are likely to be able to built inside the crematory and complete cremations on average in under 2 hours.

Electric cremation operation differs from gas cremation in the context that they are 'hot inserts', whereby the electric cremator operates consistently, and the body fuels the cremation, therefore the more cremations processed the less overall energy consumption. CDS estimate the operational cost of 2 electric cremators to be £100,230 annually and the maintenance cost is likely to be lower than the cost to maintain gas cremators. On the current tariffs this means that two electric cremators would be approximately £25,108 cheaper than two gas cremators per annum. On a green electricity tariff only 40.67 tonnes of CO_2 would be released per annum (these emissions would be solely from the cadaver and coffin). **The installation of electric cremators would reduce the councils carbon emissions by 170.86 tonnes annually.**

Conclusion

This report concludes that electric cremation is currently the lowest carbon option for cremation available on the market. BCP Council have declared a 'climate and ecological emergency' in July 2019, which pledged to make the council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030. This pledge takes into account the council's production and consumption emissions, which is particularly relevant to the operations of a cremator.

In conclusion both environmental and economic factors need to be considered when reviewing the technology used for the cremator replacement at Poole. Although electric cremators have a higher initial capital cost, by operating the electric cremators efficiently they can become more cost effective than natural gas cremators (over an 18-year period). The electric cremator is the only technology available on the UK market that would allow the council to meet their carbon emissions targets.

CDS conducted a SWOT analysis in section seven of this report which weighed in the favour of electric cremation at this site by four points, through a semi-qualitative approach. The council could use this as a metric in decision making.

PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report subject	**Climate Programme**
Meeting date	1 March 2023
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note that the Climate Programme Cabinet report is yet to be finalised. Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider and comment on the three drafted supporting appendices: • Annual Report 2021/22 • Draft Climate Strategy 2023 – 2028 • Draft Action Plan 2023 - 2025
Recommendations	**Scrutiny are asked to acknowledge the proposal to bring forward the Climate Annual Report and Action plan to Cabinet in March with the following draft recommendations:** **Cabinet endorses the Climate Action Annual Report 2021/22 and Action Plan 2023/24 – 2024/25.** **Cabinet notes that a BCP Council Climate Strategy will be forthcoming to a future Cabinet meeting.**
Reason for recommendations	To enable the Council to work towards meeting its commitments under the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration and help global efforts to keep climate warming below 1.5°C to avoid further environmental damage, population displacement, biodiversity loss and risk to life.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Mike Greene, Portfolio Holder for Transport & Sustainability
Corporate Director	Jess Gibbons, Chief Operating Officer
Report Authors	Matthew Montgomery, Head of Climate Action Neil Short, Sustainability Manager
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Summary of financial implications

1. The Climate Action Team has a committed allocated revenue budget which has been increased to ensure it is sufficient to fund core staffing requirements, key studies, and document preparation where it is required. In addition to core funding the team are actively looking to increase funds available through bids and grant applications and through other external sources, such as private finance.
2. To deliver significant improvements to the Council estate and operations, the Green Futures Fund - a Public Works Loan Board funding source, has been agreed and secured for use in delivering the infrastructure and assets required to transition BCP area and the Council to a 'climate safe' operating space. The fund is to the value of £20M available over the next 4 years to be spent on capital projects. It can be accessed through the Infrastructure Programme Board with Cabinet/ Full Council approval of spend.

Summary of legal implications

3. There are potential legal implications in delivery of some projects referenced within the Climate Programme. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis and early engagement with the Council's Legal Team will be sought.
4. The Council is obliged to sufficiently take account of the Climate and Ecological Emergency in the development of the new Local Plan, or risk legal challenge.

Summary of human resources implications

5. The team is continuing to be developed with new roles planned during 2023/24 to support delivery of our ambitions.

Summary of sustainability impact

6. Decision Impact Assessment ref. 510 has been completed and the proposal has achieved a low carbon footprint, as the activities included support the climate agenda.

Summary of public health implications

7. Climate change will result in increasing heatwaves, extreme weather events, floods, disease, and increased cancer risk. The measures proposed to reduce climate change will limit the dangers and those activities can also have direct positive health effects (e.g., increased fitness from cycling and better air quality from reducing car journeys).

Summary of equality implications

8. An EIA conversation/screening document has been completed. It concludes that the Annual Report itself has no equalities implications but that individual actions in the Strategy and Action Plan will require individual assessments to be carried out before commencement.

Summary of risk assessment

9. The Climate Vulnerability and Risk assessment conducted this year broadens our knowledge base on the possible effects of climate change on our area. We must build upon this in the coming year to further extend our understanding, as failing to achieve the Climate and Ecological Emergency declaration commitments will contribute to an increasingly hostile global environment.

10. Non-achievement of targets will result in reputational damage from negative publicity (locally, nationally, and internationally). However, if we act in a timely manner, many of the actions in the Climate Action Plan will contribute to social, economic, and environmental benefits, reducing the likelihood of actual and perceived risks. Risk assessments will be carried out for individual Climate Action projects as required, on a case-by-case basis.

Background papers

GHG Inventory at https://scattercities.com

Appendices

Appendix A: BCP Council & Area Climate Action Programme - Annual Report 2021/22
Appendix B: Climate Action Programme – Draft Climate Action Strategy 2023 – 2028
Appendix C: Climate Action Programme - Action Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25 (live document)

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BCP Council & Area Climate Action Programme

Annual Report 2021/22

Contents

1. Introduction

On 16 July 2019, BCP Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency. The headline commitments of this were to:

- **make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030**
- **work with partners to set a target date for when the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area can be made carbon neutral, ahead of the UK target of 2050**

By formally declaring the emergency, we indicated that the work that we are all doing to tackle climate change needs to grow and speed up. Communities, councils, businesses, and the government need to stop harmful emissions as soon as possible, together.

Our efforts to tackle the climate and ecological emergency are a key objective towards a sustainable environment - one of the priorities of our Corporate Strategy.

The production of an annual report was agreed, to provide a summary update on progress towards achieving our targets. This paper provides an update on the activities being undertaken to support our ongoing progress towards reducing carbon emissions

Following a significant refresh of the Climate Action Team in 2022, this report introduces an enhanced approach to tackling our Climate and Ecological Emergency. The Climate Programme presents:

- The Annual Report for 2021/22, updating on progress to date
- A draft Climate Action Strategy setting out how we intend to accelerate progress
- A two-year Action Plan of next steps.

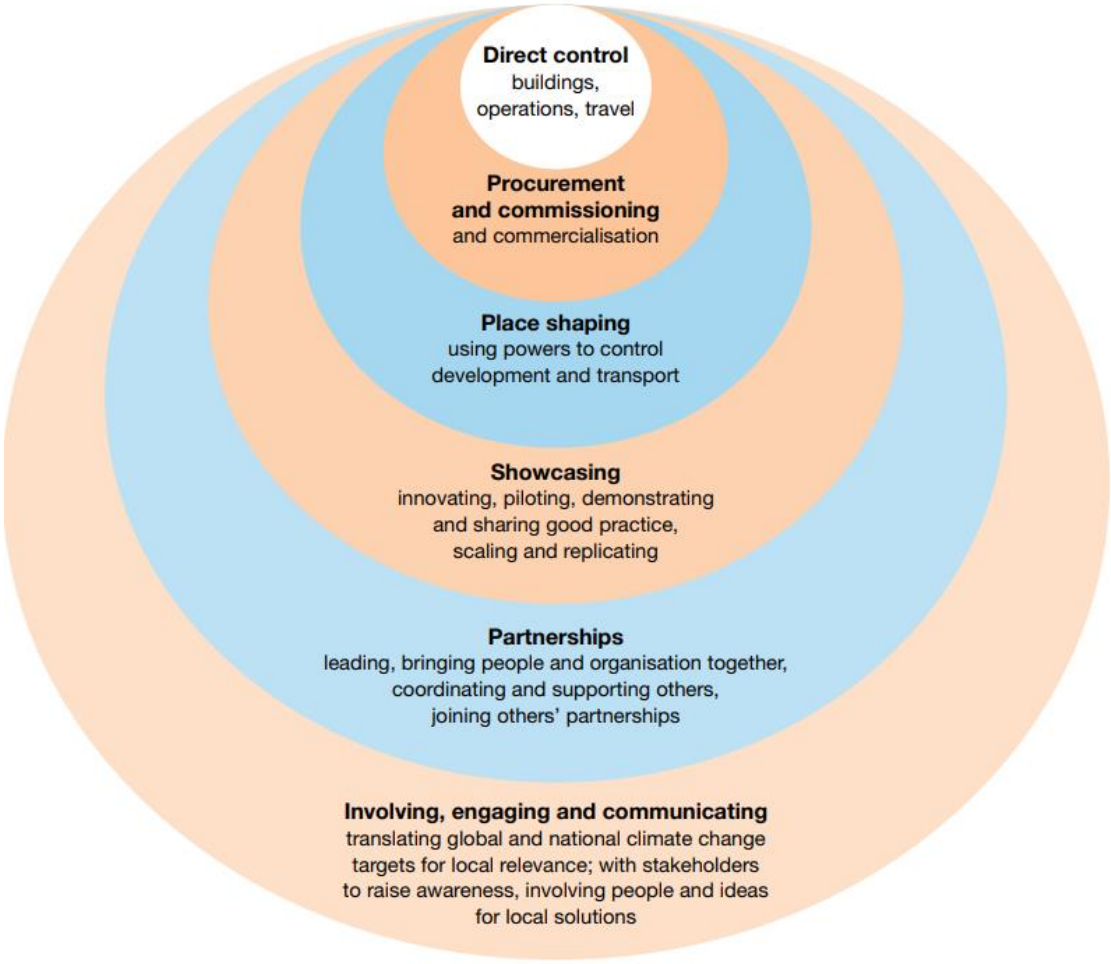
2. Council Performance 2021/22: Headline Strategic Aims

The Annual Report headline for Strategic Aim 1, is that the Council is currently on track to meet its 2030 Goal for a carbon neutral organisation, and has **reduced scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions by 22% since 2019**.

Carbon emissions from our own operations only account for around 1-2% of the BCP area-wide footprint, but the council has direct control over these emissions, and it is critical that we show leadership in this area. This has therefore been a key focus of our activities to date. See Annual Report: Emissions Update section for further analysis.

The Annual Report headline for Strategic Aim 2, working with partners towards a carbon neutral area before 2050, is that according to most recent data, released in 2022, emissions in 2020 rose by 0.7%, but were still **3% below the 2017 baseline**. See Annual Report: Emissions Update section for further analysis.

The work required to meet these challenges is unprecedented in scale and complexity and will require action from all sectors of society. The Council has a critical systems leadership role to work with others to meet these challenges and the diagram below highlights the spheres of influence we have.

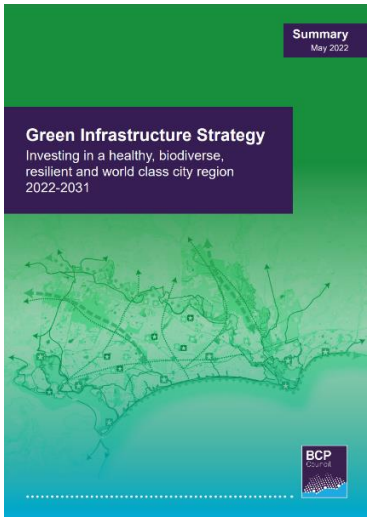


Annual Report Highlights

To strengthen our commitment and response to the Climate emergency a **£20 million Green Futures Fund** was developed in Jan 2021and implemented in April 2022 to tackle the climate agenda head on and spearhead plans to reach the council's goal for carbon neutrality by 2030.Available over the next 4 years to be spent on capital projects. It can be accessed through the Councils Infrastructure Board with Cabinet/ Full Council approval of spend.

The Green Futures Fund will be used to ensure:

- our critical infrastructure systems (energy, food, buildings, industry, materials) are fit for purpose now and into the future
- that they are resilient to our changing world, and
- that they provide significant opportunities for regional sustainable development



Publication of the **BCP Council Green Infrastructure Strategy,** which sets out its ambitions for investing in green infrastructure across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole over the next 10 years. The strategy aims to encourage healthy living and wellbeing; strengthen resilience to climate change; support nature and biodiversity; and support economic recovery, prosperity and place making. The Council launched a survey in December 2022, asking for residents' views on where and how our urban areas can be improved by urban greening. The survey considers the effects of climate change and the support that BCP Council could provide homeowners in the future to help make where we live greener.

A new **food and health community project based at Boscombe's Churchill Gardens** opened in 2022. The building forms a key part of BCP Council's ASPIRE programme, which aims to help people focus on their wellbeing and the focus on local food growing will help the climate-friendly goals of reduced food transportation and food waste.

The **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan** was approved in May and provides a long-term strategic approach for the walking and cycling infrastructure, which is required across the BCP area. It aims to help reduce the number of journeys residents and visitors choose to make by car, thus helping to reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions in the conurbation, tackling climate change, improving our air quality and lowering the impact on our environment.

Nine brand-new council homes were completed in 2022 at **Luckham Road, 'Passivhaus' construction standard,** to use about 90 per cent less energy than standard UK buildings. The homes make use of ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) and pipes buried in the garden to extract heat from the earth. This energy is then used to warm radiators and generate hot water in the properties.

Our commitment and progress in the number of **electric vehicles (EVs)** in Council operational service has seen the number over the past three years rise from six to thirty, with a further 10 on order. EV use has resulted in a carbon saving of 107 tonnes CO2e in the year 2021/22. To support the corporate transition to EV fleet, we have also invested in the installation of 52 electric charging facilities in council operating centres across the conurbation.

The **Poole Museum** redevelopment included reducing the building's carbon footprint by 25%, sympathetically installing 360 solar roof slates for sustainable power, improving energy efficiency with 60 new windows, secondary glazing and new insulation. £1.9m of Government-funded energy improvements were also made to other Council buildings, including 2Riversmeet Leisure Centre, BCP Council Civic Centre, Wallisdown Heights, Highcliffe Castle, Poole Library, Bournemouth and Poole Crematoria.

3. Climate Action Programme: Overview

During 2022, in recognition of the importance of this programme and our organisational commitment to it, a Head of Climate Action role was created and appointed to. The Head of Climate Action will lead the development of an enhanced strategic approach to the Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency response, resulting in growth in team resource and refocussing of the Climate Action Programme. Our overarching aim is to reduce carbon emissions in the region and make Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole resilient to the inevitable effects of Climate Change. Our programme has refreshed and is now being built around 3 Strategic Aims:

STRATEGIC AIM 1: To make the organisation and its services carbon neutral by 2030

Our immediate focus is to act on the Local Authority estate, assets, and operations across BCP, reducing its overall carbon footprint in the short term. The ability to act and affect a positive change lies directly within the gift of the Council. To meet this aim, significant investment, along with a comprehensive and ongoing review of how and where services are delivered, how staff travel to work and travel in work for business purposes, and what is purchased, and from where, is needed to identify where the carbon savings can be made.

STRATEGIC AIM 2: To work towards making BCP a carbon neutral conurbation by 2050

A medium to long-term aim, with the ambition to have delivered this by 2050 or sooner to address the pressing need for rapid action on Climate Change. There are significant challenges to the BCP area achieving this target, and we all must collectively take ownership. Achieving this goal will require a strong commitment from our communities, our businesses, our partners, and our residents. We have a key role in both leading and supporting others to act, but success will rely on significant national and local policy change and the commitment of others to act and rapidly adopt significant changes to existing lifestyles and behaviours.

STRATEGIC AIM 3: To help the BCP area reverse the ecological decline, be prepared for, and resilient to, the impacts of Climate Change

Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history and studies suggest we are heading to the Earth's sixth mass extinction event. This aim seeks to ensure that the BCP area is prepared for, and builds resilience to, the likely impacts of future Climate Change and supports nature recovery.

This requires action across all sectors and communities. Our biodiversity is already in decline and our natural environment will be impacted, growing seasons will change, pests and disease could become more prevalent, and our soils and vegetation will be at risk from extreme events such as drought and flood. More of our land needs to be prioritised for nature and existing nature reserves protected. Action will need to be taken to adapt or 'future proof' the homes we live in, the places we work, our transport and communication networks and how goods and services are provided and delivered across the area. It requires focusing on providing more green infrastructure to adapt the built environment (homes, offices, industrial buildings, roads, and railways) where possible, to protect against rising temperatures, changing patterns of rainfall, sea level rise and extreme weather events (heatwaves and flooding).

The Climate Action team have taken opportunities to provide briefings to staff at various internal meetings across the authority to help shape priorities to achieve these aims. The Team will effectively support activities throughout the organisation and through our Transformation programme, to provide a clear pathway forward that can be communicated, tracked, and reported upon, with the creation of 'product ready' business cases that can be used to gain external funding when available.

These activities will support both the prevention of new emissions from being generated, and the transition of existing council operations to align with the requirements of the declaration. We will do this by grouping council operations work and developing programmes that can increase the pace and scale of delivery. For example, the BCP Corporate Estates Capital Works Programme will seek to ensure we have fit for purpose buildings, reduce surplus assets and transition where practicable all our retained buildings to net zero. We will work with the Services to identify service-specific emissions, climate risks and ecological recovery opportunities, ensuring they have the awareness, capacity, capability, and responsibility for delivery of activities that fall within their subject matter domains.

Externally, we are developing a 'local climate/ sustainability partnership' of strategic and significant organisations who can work together to achieve the Aims of the Climate Action (and Ecological Recovery) Programme. The Programme has refined the original action headings into a set of themes that better reflect how activity is required across numerous spheres of influence: People & Communities, Business & Economy, Digital & Smart Places, Transport & Travel, Water Resources & Flooding, Energy Generation & Use, Buildings & Homes, Resources & Waste and Environment & Place.

The Environment Act introduces a requirement for Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) for England to be prepared and published, this requires the production of a pan-Dorset strategy with BCP & Dorset Councils working in partnership and collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders in its preparation. The Strategies will identify the opportunities and priorities for enhancing biodiversity and supporting wider objectives such as mitigating or adapting to climate change in an area. The strategies will have a key role in the land use planning system and be an important source of evidence for the planning authority to use in the preparation of our Local Plan alongside mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain. They are also intended to support the delivery of wider

environmental objectives and each LNRS will map specific opportunities for taking priority action for nature recovery and the use of “nature-based solutions”.

4. Climate Vulnerability and Risk

In 2022, BCP Council commissioned a Local Climate Change Risk Assessment to better understand the type, severity, and timing of climate change induced risks to the BCP Area across a number of themes. The largest percentages of risks identified manifest across our priority themes in the built and natural environments as risks to:

- Transport & Infrastructure - 20% of risks
- Buildings - 25% of risks
- Biodiversity - 20% of risks

This is largely due to overheating, road melt, flooding, drought, and ecosystem change. Risks to health & wellbeing result from overheating in buildings, increased storminess and extreme events including flooding. The timing of risks is important to consider. As time passes from 2030 to 2050, so does the frequency of the High-risk ratings from 25% to 69%. However, 67% of risks in 2030 are rated Medium. These two findings stress the need to start adapting our systems now to short term risks and to get started for High risks in advance to prevent the worst of the impacts from being realised. It is important to note that risks are not the same as impacts. Our next task is to help our Service Areas to analyse these risks in the context of our local systems, to understand and quantify impacts so that we can identify and prioritise adaptation measures.

5. Local Opportunities and Co-benefits of Climate Action

Acting on climate change can assist with achieving other corporate priorities. By realising financial benefits sooner, organisations and people can benefit from cumulative cost reductions, sustaining the local economy. As investment is required in the transition, and people and organisations are required to make the products and deliver the services, further local benefits can be realised and captured through training, reskilling, and supply chain development. As local supply chains develop, they can create products and services to sell to other economies, creating a virtuous cycle of green, sustainable economic development for the BCP area.

BCP Council’s vision for the area is to offer the best quality of life available anywhere in the UK, delivering the highest levels of wellbeing for our residents and the right environment for the sustainable operation of their communities and organisations. To continue providing such a wonderful place to live, a responsible and accountable organisation must look to the future to understand the difficulties that must be managed and prepare to realise the benefits and opportunities it provides. Climatic and ecological breakdown are current and future challenges that provide significant and unprecedented risks to the continuation of life and society across the world. Managing these risks is therefore critical to the sustainable continuation of the lives we currently lead in the BCP area.

6. Global Climate Change Trends

Global temperatures have risen by 1.3^{o}C already and are expected to rise to 4^{o}C above pre-industrial averages (IPCC, 2022; UKCRA, 2022). This jump in global temperatures represents a very serious and sharp anomaly in the context of the last 500 million years

of global temperature change. The effects are expected to be just as significant and serious.

As the global climatic system becomes more volatile and dynamic, we are anticipating an increase in storminess (as witnessed in the UK in 2022 by the close frequency and intensity of storms Dennis, Eunice, and Franklin). Also, a disruption to normal levels of precipitation and temperature variation (as witnessed globally in 2022 by wildfires, droughts, and floods) and population swings of pests (as witnessed in locust swarms in South Africa in 2022, and mice in Australia in 2021). We must act now to protect our residents and our natural environment.

In the last 50 years alone, we have lost up to 60% of global biodiversity (WWF Living Planet Report 2020). Latin America & the Caribbean have seen the most substantive collapses since 1970, however this is because in Europe and North America significant reductions in biodiversity had already occurred prior to 1970, i.e., the state of the environment is far worse. The significance of these reductions cannot be overstated: no bees and insects mean no crop pollination, resulting in no food for human populations. In short, if we damage our ecosystems, we damage our ability to live healthy, productive lives, and risk the ability for life to exist at all. The ecological emergency is just as urgent and significant, if not more so, than the climate emergency. We must act now.

Unfortunately, there are impacts that we probably cannot avoid. It would seem highly likely that global food production will be affected, along with the stability and certainty that typically characterise global supply chains and logistics. We anticipate that a greater move towards localism will be required as the globalised systems become less productive, more costly, and more uncertain. This requires us to build local capacity to generate energy and food, to manage resource flows, and to produce goods and services. This will involve investment in local infrastructure, in the skills and experience to design, construct and operate it, and the support to communities and organisations to integrate these new ways of working and being into 'our new normal'. By establishing effective collaborations and partnerships between people, communities, and local organisations, we can equitably identify and share the resources that we need locally to make the transitions affordably.

References

IPCC: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/

DEFRA: UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2022

WWF: Living Planet Report 2020 https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-09/LPR20_Full_report.pdf

SCATTER: https://scattercities.com/

7. Annual Report: Emissions update 2021/22

Strategic Aim 1. Carbon neutral organisation by 2030

The Annual Report headline for Strategic Aim 1 is that **the Council is currently on track to meet its 2030 Goal for a carbon neutral organisation**, and has reduced scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions by 22% since 2019. See trajectory illustration at Fig. 1 and inventory table at Fig 2.

In some areas, notably Electricity Consumption (-96%), Staff Commuting (-75%) and Business Travel (-67%) there have been significant declines. Maintaining this progress in the face of the cost-of-living crisis will be challenging; much of the gain in electricity use has been made due to the purchasing of a green tariff from our electricity provider which in 2022 cost an additional £10,000. The current estimates for this Tarif have gone up ten-fold to £112,000. As a result, we are looking at further opportunities to generate our own electricity for our buildings.

Emissions from corporate Travel and Commuting have fallen, along with water and sewage waste primarily due to staff working from home and utilising video conferencing. As the energy crisis has quadrupled the cost of gas, there will be an incentive for individuals to return to the office and so these gains are likely to rebound.

Natural gas usage for heating has increased by 7%. It is anticipated that this is due primarily to the increased requirement for ventilation within our buildings due to Covid response needing air to be refreshed more frequently. In building stock such as the Civic Centre Annex there is no mechanical ventilation and so windows must be physically opened to allow ventilation, allowing heat to escape. This reinforces the need for a Capital Works Programme across our estate to remediate these issues, an Asset Management Policy that will prevent us from acquiring these types of buildings again in the future, and a Strategy to dispose of those that cannot be remediated.

Leased-out Buildings (BCP Homes, Community Buildings, Leisure, and Care facilities) remain the largest contributor to our total, generating 71% of our emissions. This highlights the need to prioritise our Leased-out buildings in the coming years.

Council progress during 2021/22 towards the 2030 target is illustrated at Fig 1 and emissions inventory at Fig 2 below:

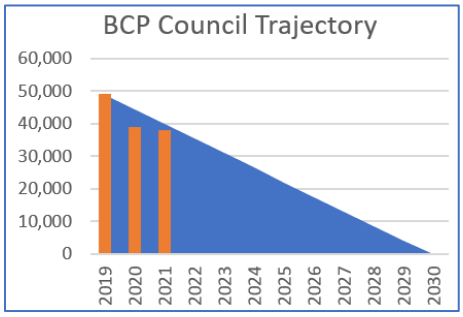


Fig 1.

BCP Greenhouse gas emissions inventory 2019-2022

GHG Emissions (tonnes CO_2e)	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	% Change vs 2019
Natural gas usage (kWh)	4,570	4,112	4,898	+7%
Refrigerant leakage	138	138	6	-95%
Diesel (litres)	3,706	3,717	3,854	+4%
HVO fuel (hydrotreated vegetable oil)	0	0	2	+200%
Electricity consumption (with reduction for green energy procurement)	5,524	312	244	-96%
Water supply (cubic meters)	155	112	66	-57%
Waste sewerage	303	220	115	-62%
Energy lost in transmission (kWh)	469	397	421	-10%
Copier paper	1,690	102	48	-97%
Paper towels	74	9	6	-91%
Waste	110	33	60	-55%
Business travel	576	168	191	-67%
Staff commuting	3,630	885	905	-75%
Leased out property	28,264	28,812	27,194	-4%
TOTAL (with reduction for green energy procurement)	**49,209**	**39,017**	**38,009**	-22%
TOTAL (illustrating if green energy had not been procured)	**49,209**	**43,281**	**42,527**	-13%

Fig 2.

Strategic Aim 2. Work with partners towards achieving a carbon neutral area before 2050

The Annual Report headline for Strategic Aim 2 is that according to most recent data **emissions in 2020 rose by 0.7%, due to a change in methodology, but remain 3% below the 2017 baseline.** Though the Council is directly responsible for between 1-2% of the total area-wide emissions, it can influence much more through its activities, partnerships, and regulation. The latest area-wide data available is unavoidably subject to a 2-year lag, so does not fully account for emissions reductions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Data indicates that greenhouse gas emissions, having fallen by 3.7% between 2017 and 2019, increased slightly in 2020, making the overall fall between 2017 and 2020 just 3%.

The methodology used to calculate area-wide emissions from various sources must rely on certain estimates and assumptions, which must be acknowledged. Also, methodology and 'emission factors' used in the calculations sometimes change as information becomes available. Fig 3 illustrates the comparison between 2019 and 2020 figures,

showing that most sub-sectors demonstrated a decrease during this time, notably transport (possibly because of the pandemic). However, these are offset by a large decrease in the 'Land use' sub-sector – the ability of land types to either produce or sequester (remove and store) carbon. Upon examination, the difference has shown to be caused by a change in the calculation methodology. This illustrates that, while extremely useful, this type of data is best viewed as a 'snapshot' rather than a reliable gauge of progress over time, as if newer methodologies were to be applied to historical baseline figures, they too would be subject to change.

Data on area-wide emissions (including scopes 1, 2 and 3) is produced by SCATTER, a government-funded initiative hosted by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Research at the University of Manchester. The inventory is presented according to the Global Covenant of Mayors' Common Reporting Framework. The key guidance used to calculate the emissions inventory is The Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC). The GPC report is based on the Accounting and Reporting Standard developed by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories.

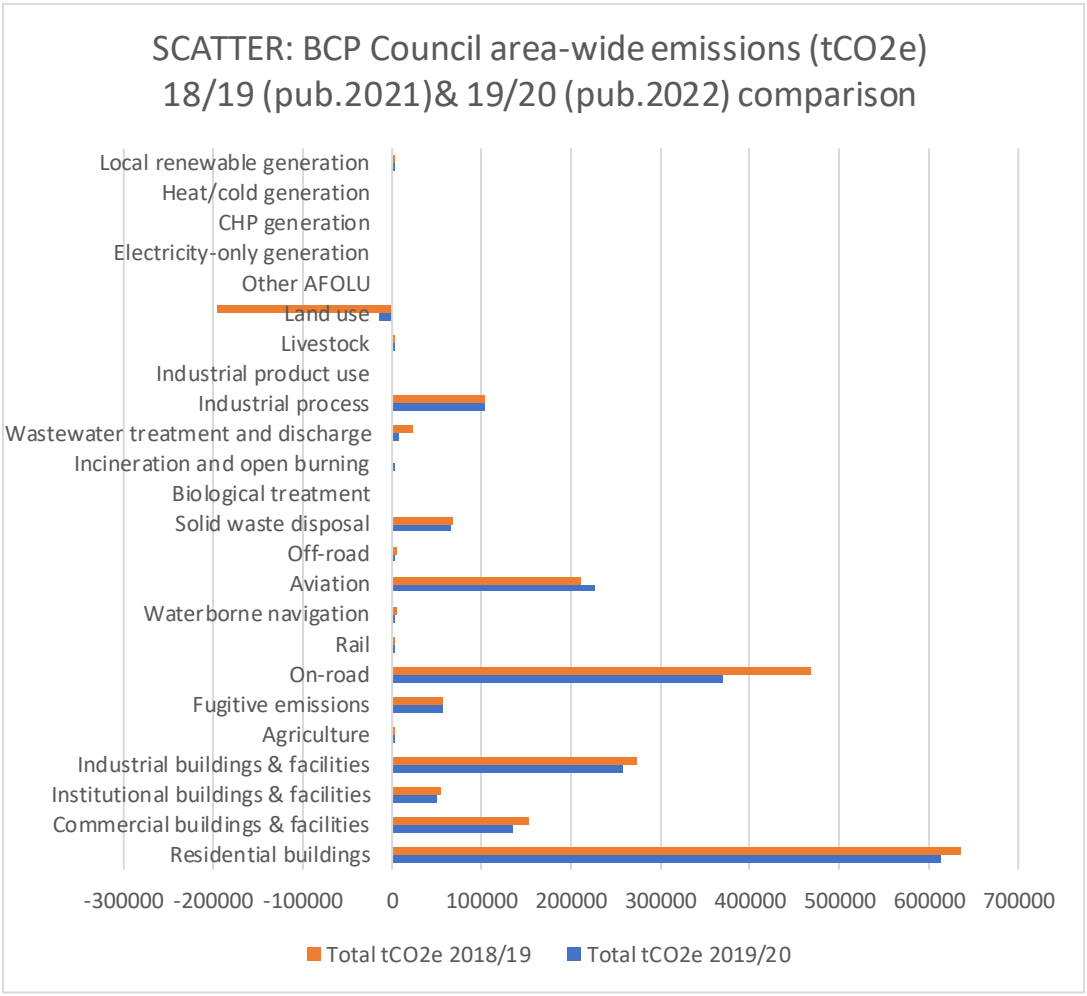


Fig 3.

The Inventories produced for all UK local authorities cover activities taking place within an area that generate greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) that occur inside the area

boundary as well as outside. To distinguish among them, emissions are grouped into three categories based on where they occur: Scope 1 (Direct emissions) GHG emissions from sources located within the area boundary, Scope 2 (Indirect emissions) GHG emissions occurring as a consequence of the use of grid-supplied electricity, heat, steam and/or cooling within the area boundary, and Scope 3 - All other GHG emissions that occur outside the area boundary as a result of activities taking place within the area boundary. The 2020 GHG Inventory is shown at Fig 4 and illustrated at Fig 5.

Summary Greenhouse Gas emissions (tonnes CO2e)

Sector	Sub-sector	Scope 1 Total tCO2e DIRECT	Scope 2 Total tCO2e INDIRECT	Scope 3 Total tCO2e OTHER	Total tCO2e TOTAL
Stationary energy	Residential buildings	373,422.96	164,016.15	76,565.16	614,004.27
	Commercial buildings & facilities	30,270.18	87,239.29	17,201.08	134,710.55
	Institutional buildings & facilities	24,469.29	18,941.98	6,057.49	49,468.76
	Industrial buildings & facilities	112,938.47	106,273.54	38,151.38	257,363.40
	Agriculture	1,259.64	0.14	299.82	1,559.60
	Fugitive emissions	56,185.58	-	NE	56,185.58
Transportation	On-road	368,881.61	IE	IE	368,881.61
	Rail	1,415.21	IE	336.82	1,752.03
	Waterborne navigation	4,204.20	IE	IE	4,204.20
	Aviation	7,741.88	IE	219,605.82	227,347.71
	Off-road	3,682.64	IE	NE	3,682.64
Waste	Solid waste disposal	66,619.17	-	IE	66,619.17
	Biological treatment	NO	-	IE	-
	Incineration and open burning	1,224.00	-	IE	1,224.00
	Wastewater treatment and discharge	7,218.75	-	NO	7,218.75
IPPU	Industrial process	103,358.80	-	NE	103,358.80
	Industrial product use	0.00	-	NE	0.00
AFOLU	Livestock	3,557.66	-	NE	3,557.66
	Land use	- 15,461.20	-	NE	- 15,461.20
	Other AFOLU	NE	-	NE	-
Generation of grid-supplied energy	Electricity-only generation	NO	-	NO	-
	CHP generation	NO	-	NO	-
	Heat/cold generation	NO	-	NO	-
	Local renewable generation	164.01	NO	NO	164.01

Notation keys:
Not Occuring
Integrated Elsewhere
Not Estimated
Confidential
Combination of notation keys
N/A
Required
Optional

Fig 4.

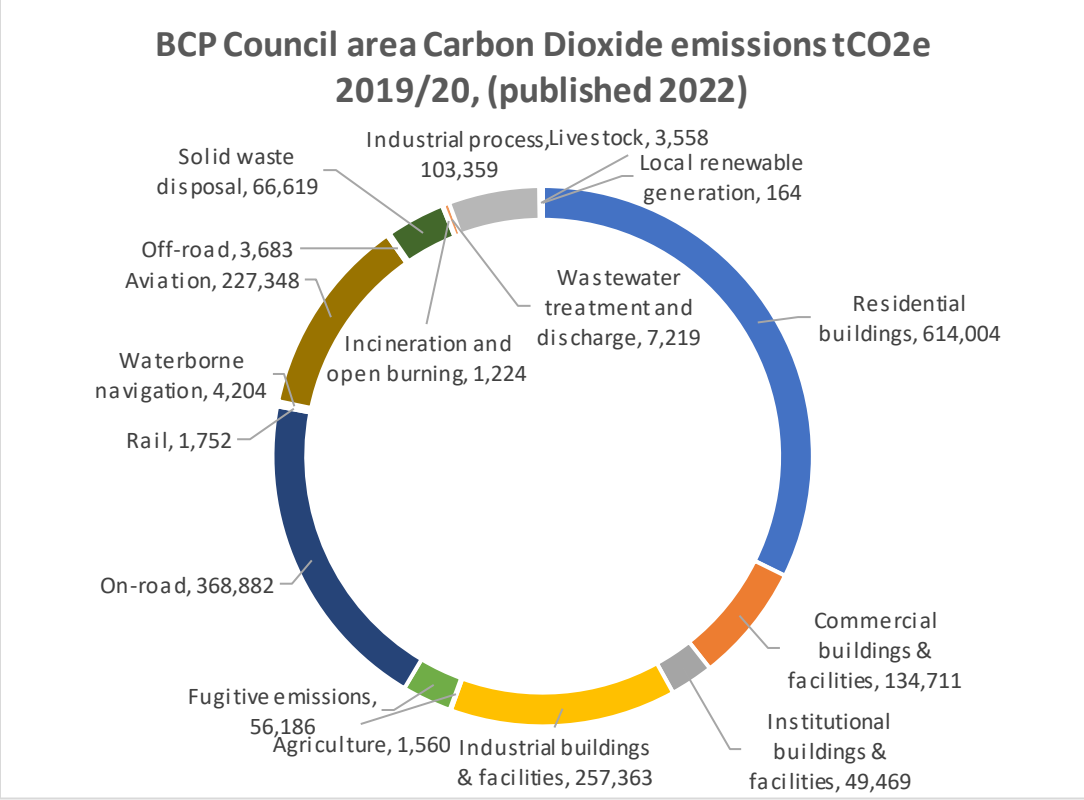


Fig 5.

8. Progress update and Action Plan by Themes

Activities undertaken or commenced during 2021/22 in support of Climate Action include:

Theme: People & Communities

What we have done during 2021/22:

- BCP Schools Environment Award was launched in 2022 and is intended to give students in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole the opportunity to learn about and develop environmentally conscious behaviours. These behaviours can also help reduce costs for the school and families at home, for example by reducing energy, waste, and water, and in doing so, help achieve our climate commitments
- The Council led a partnership of statutory and third sector organisations to deliver the £2.6 million Household Support Fund to vulnerable residents during the winter period. Help included grants for food and fuel, as well as energy-saving measures that will reduce emissions, such as home insulation
- A new food and health community project based at Boscombe's Churchill Gardens opened in 2022. The building forms a key part of BCP Council's ASPIRE programme, which aims to help people boost their self-esteem and focus on their wellbeing by supporting them towards employability and healthier, more active lifestyles. The focus on local food growing will help the climate-friendly goals of reduced food transportation and food waste
- A community steering group has formed with the aim of achieving Fairtrade status for the BCP area. Members include representatives from environmental groups, Higher Education, faith groups, the Council, and others. The promotion of Fairtrade helps the wider climate agenda, enabling residents to support producers in southern countries farm in more sustainable ways and ensure the continued supply of produce, whilst reducing emissions
- The Highcliffe & Walkford Neighbourhood Plan has been 'made' by the Council in conjunction with the community, and forms part of the statutory development plan. The vision includes climate-friendly aims related to green spaces, travel, and energy efficiency
- We have initiated a pilot of the Climate Action Network to test the approach of passing responsibility for the development of roadmaps, milestones, trajectories and ideation of projects and programmes to Service Areas
- The risk of 'extreme heat' was added to the multi-agency and BCP Council severe weather response plan in response to the 2022 heatwave
- We have initiated the Local Climate Partnership with significant and strategic organisations and will launch it formally in 2023.

Theme: Business & Economy

What we have done during 2021/22:

- In April 2022, funding was obtained to allow 250 businesses within the BCP area to sign up to Climate Essentials, a programme which helps businesses set up carbon pledges and work towards net zero
- The Council has been allocated almost £4.2m under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which will enable us to provide better green spaces and community facilities, improved education and skills and business start-up and growth support. Each Investment Priority includes a sustainability intervention.

Theme: Digital & Smart Places

What we have done during 2021/22:

- The Smart Place programme is leading on the acceleration of the deployment of affordable gigabit fibre through the Neutral Host Operator initiative. This connectivity is necessary for effective videoconferencing making working from home more attractive which is having a profound beneficial impact upon reducing Council staff and wider business commuting
- The 'MyBoscombe' app includes a section on sustainable transport, helping to promote walking, cycling and bus travel. More is planned for the app, to further encourage sustainable travel as well as recycling and use of cleaner energy. The intention is to roll out the app to other neighbourhoods across the BCP area
- The Council's Beach Check app was developed in response to the overcrowding of beaches when the first pandemic lockdown was lifted. The app enables users to check on which of its beaches are the least congested, with a traffic light system to warn visitors away from crowded sections and information on lifeguard status, whether toilets are open and the byelaws for cycling and walking dogs along the promenade. This in turn will make it easier for beach-users to avoid creating congestion and pollution in traffic jams and make better choices about their destination. The app is to be rolled out nationally with the support of funding from Government

Theme: Transport & Travel

What we have done during 2021/22:

- The Council is continuing to deliver the Transforming Cities Fund of over £100M investment in sustainable and active travel infrastructure. This will give people safe, fast, reliable, and healthy travel options, particularly for shorter journeys. The new infrastructure will help reduce carbon emissions and provide improved air quality benefits
- The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan was approved in May and provides a long-term strategic approach for the walking and cycling infrastructure,

which is required across the BCP area, plus it puts the council in a strong position when bidding for Active Travel funding

- The number of electric vehicles (EVs) in service has risen over the past three years from six to thirty, and a further 10 are on order. EV use has resulted in a carbon saving of 107 tonnes CO2e in the year 2021/22
- BCP Council has been trialling the use of HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) fuel since February 2021 with three refuse vehicles and one large mechanical sweeper
- Videoconferencing has impacted on business travel and staff commuting as many employees find that it is effective and advantageous to work from home
- The 75% reduction in emissions from all modes of staff commuting caused by the pandemic has remained unchanged in 2021/22
- A Staff Travel Survey took place in 2022, to find out staff attitudes and practices around their commute
- Staff parking charges have been introduced, which did not previously exist in some of the three legacy authorities
- Cycle facilities have been improved at main Council offices
- 1.4 million trips have been made on beryl bikes and e-scooters – 30% of which would have been made by car
- Poole streetlights have been dimmed to bring them into line with the Bournemouth regime, which are dimmed to 75% between 8pm and midnight and 50% between midnight and 6am. Some road signs have been de-illuminated where the regulations no longer require it and those that are lit have been changed to LED lanterns
- Poole Hill and Mannings Heath roundabouts have been resurfaced by Miles Macadam with more sustainable road surfacing, achieving a 37% carbon saving over conventional materials
- Wallisdown Road resurfacing works recycled existing aggregates in the construction, with carbon emission savings of approximately 30% by reducing production and movement of new material.

Theme: Water Resources & Flooding

What we have done during 2021/22:

- Coast protection projects which received funding or have been delivered in recent years include: Renourishing seven depleted beach areas from Southbourne to Poole in a £7.5million scheme with 350,000m³ of beach material pumped ashore, Renewing timber groynes as part of a two-year, £1.9 million programme from the boundary of Poole/Bournemouth, A £2.5m cliff stabilisation scheme at Canford Cliffs following a cliff slip in 2017, £12.4m funding for new defences along Back Water Channel to help protect Poole Town Centre and the Old Town from tidal flooding, £525k for the development of the Christchurch Bay and Harbour Strategy which could lead to further funding for project delivery

- £300k has been secured to develop a new BCP-wide Cliff Management Strategy, to be delivered in 2025
- Currently, BCP Council and New Forest District Council are consulting the public on a proposed shortlist of flood and erosion risk management measures. These are for the coastal frontage from Hengistbury Head Long Groyne to Hurst Spit, encompassing Christchurch Harbour.

Theme: Energy Generation & Use

What we have done during 2021/22:

- A Corporate Energy Taskforce was convened, including the Head of Climate Action, Directors and Heads of Service with responsibilities for procurement, financing and reducing use of gas and electricity. The Taskforce was able to take swift and decisive action in response to the recent price increases
- A desk-top study was commissioned to ascertain which Council sites with large energy consumption could be suitable to have local renewable energy generation for on-site consumption to reduce overall energy costs
- An energy efficiency framework was accessed with Cambridgeshire County Council to have prominent engineering firms with net zero expertise to offer outline business cases and investment proposals with guaranteed energy savings
- A pre-feasibility study for geothermal energy was procured to look into the possibility of using this energy for heat networks in the local authority. There is currently interest by various stakeholders to pursue a feasibility study
- £1.9m Government-funded energy improvements have been made to Council buildings, including Poole Museum, 2Riversmeet Leisure Centre, BCP Council Civic Centre, Wallisdown Heights, Highcliffe Castle, Poole Library, Bournemouth and Poole Crematoria
- A new Welcome Centre with an anticipated 'very good' BREEAM rating is under construction at Upton Country Park.

Theme: Buildings & Homes

What we have done during 2021/22:

- Nine brand-new council homes were completed in 2022 at Luckham Road, constructed to the 'Passivhaus' standard, to use about 90% less energy than standard UK buildings. The homes make use of ground source heat pumps and pipes buried in the garden to extract heat from the earth. This energy is then used to warm radiators and heat water in the properties
- Project level energy solutions are in development for the Council's biggest energy-using buildings. Land assets around the corporate estate are also being inspected and business cases developed to identify preferred solutions, costs, and benefits.

- A draft Housing Sustainability Strategy has been developed and lessons from this will inform the wider sustainability strategy development process
- We have initiated the formation of energy-efficiency programmes across the Corporate Estate, for our Leased Buildings, for our Homes, and for the delivery of the Local Area Energy Plan
- The Local Energy Advice Partnership carried out 436 home visits to advise residents how to save energy and keep warm. These visits, and the free energy-saving equipment installed will save householders a total of £238,000 on energy costs and reduce carbon emissions from the domestic sector. And the Council's support for home energy projects, including our own enhanced insulation scheme and others, have delivered 289 Insulation & heating grants to reduce residents' future bills by £2.4m.

Theme: Resources & Waste

What we have done during 2021/22:

- 199,145 tonnes of municipal waste were collected and sent for treatment in 2021/22: 47.4% of household waste was recycled and 86.6% was diverted from landfill
- Four new electric refuse collection vehicles are each saving between 30-40 tonnes of CO2 annually, whilst reducing noise and improving air quality
- A pilot scheme used drone-based technology to tackle the issue of litter, with intelligence gathered to inform the future placement of bins, street cleansing schedules and campaigns to encourage visitors to dispose of litter responsibly
- The BCP Tip Check mobile app launched to help residents plan their use of local recycling centres, providing a traffic light system with live information on how busy a centre is, so people can avoid queues when it is busy
- A Waste Compositional Analysis identified and measured 65 waste types in our recycling and refuse kerbside collections, providing a better understanding of BCP's waste streams, allowing effective future service planning and targeted communications to residents to improve recycling quality and reduce contamination
- We launched the Your Waste, Your Duty campaign to tackle fly tipping in the community and raise awareness of the risks and penalties. Between September 2021 and July 2022, BCP Council and its partners at Waste Investigation Support and Enforcement (WISE), responded to over 1700 cases of fly tipping, resulting in around 320 fines being issued. They also carried out around 826 business inspections, serving 305 fixed penalty notices to make sure correct waste agreements were implemented.

Theme: Environment & Place

What we have done during 2021/22:

- The Green Infrastructure Strategy sets out how the Council will maintain and improve the network of green and blue spaces for the benefit of people and the environment
- The Seafront Strategy aims to improve the natural environment and biodiversity along our coastline
- The Cleaner, Greener, Safer campaign focuses on bringing pride to our rural and urban areas through initiatives to improve street cleansing, increase tree planting and reduce anti-social behaviour
- Future Places, the Council's wholly owned urban regeneration company, launched in 2021 and aims to deliver high quality places to live and work that benefit healthy communities and the environment
- At Upton Country Park approximately 10,000 native trees have been planted, while veteran oak trees are now being managed by haloing to prolong their lifespan and enable them to continue to support up to 300 species
- Throop Nature Park was granted planning approval. The park will help alleviate the pressure on the internationally sensitive Dorset heathlands, provide semi-natural space for residents to enjoy and help improve biodiversity in the local area
- Work began on the creation of Stour Valley Park with the aim of creating a world class landscape of interconnected, accessible spaces that enables wildlife to thrive, restores ecosystem health and benefits the health and well-being of visitors
- Poole Museum redevelopment included reducing the building's carbon footprint by 25%, sympathetically installing 360 solar roof slates for sustainable power, improving energy efficiency with new windows, secondary glazing, and insulation
- The Bournemouth Air Festival sustainable action plan includes support for; the Leave only Footprints campaign, staff refill reusable water bottles from taps along the seafront, traders cut down on plastic waste, running a 'park and ride' scheme, promote cycling, buses and use of trains, generators brought onto site by the Council run on HVO ('green diesel') and traders are encouraged to do the same
- Arts by the Sea Festival promotes Waste Reduction, Water Refill and Sustainable Travel each year, through initiatives such as money off bus travel and bike tagging. The Festival Green Hub is an area focused on spreading sustainable messages and giving local partners a platform to engage with the audience
- The Durley Environment Hub is nearing completion and will meet energy-efficient passivhaus construction standards with solar panels, green sedum roof and recycled timber cladding
- Water bottle refill stations have been launched along the seafront, with water use during July 2022 equating to a reduction of 19 thousand plastic single-use water bottles. Other initiatives include a switch to LED lighting, PVC-free signage, returnable hot drinks cups, beach toy library, broken toys used in a recycling research project.

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Climate Action Strategy 2023 to 2028

DRAFT

BCP Council

Contents

Foreword

The impact of climate change is the biggest challenge facing the global community right now. In 2019, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council recognised this threat and declared a climate and ecological emergency. Our organisation is committed to being carbon neutral by 2030, and the BCP area to be carbon neutral, prior to central government's national target of 2050.

We recognise that our journey to meet our targets will be challenging, but the challenge comes with great benefits and opportunities that we want to recognise, embrace and promote. Importantly, the objectives in our Corporate Strategy are firmly reflected in this Climate Strategy. We need to lead our communities towards a cleaner and sustainable future, that preserves our unique environment and provides an outstanding quality of life, where everyone plays an active role.

We have taken an evidence-based approach, building on national data and our own research and studies to tackle local impacts of climate change. Our strategy sets a framework for reducing emissions across the BCP area over the next five years. It has to be challenging and ambitious, but achievable and realistic, and will be supported by a series of Action Plans, produced each year, to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

This strategy will influence all future decisions by the council, including the preparation of the new BCP Local Plan, the updated Local Transport Plan (LTP4) and the implementation of the new BCP Green Infrastructure Strategy (2022-2031).

Tackling climate change means that we all need to make changes to how we live our lives, but we recognise the challenges that doing things differently can bring. Emerging technologies and modern infrastructure will make it easier for us all to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improve air quality and minimise our impact on the special environment we live in. There are many social co-benefits of living a more sustainable and eco-conscious life, including less waste, lower living costs and improved mental health. I'm proud that our council is leading by example and championing these benefits as we encourage our communities to make choices which improve our local environment and everyone's wellbeing.

Councillor Mike Greene

Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport

Graham Farrant, Chief Executive:

BCP Council does not underestimate the scale of the challenge we face, and we recognise that we have a duty to do all we can to help minimise our impact on the environment and protect local nature and biodiversity. We are working hard, and at pace, to ensure we meet the council's target to be net zero by 2030. Momentum continues to build, as we discover new opportunities and realise the benefits, on our journey to become a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly organisation.

Global position - why we need to act

Climate breakdown is real

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), report that since 1860, average global temperatures have risen by 1.3ºC and are expected to increase to 4ºC by 2100, compared to pre-industrial levels of global warming. A jump in global temperatures represents a very serious and sharp rise in the context of the last 500 million years of global temperature change, and the effects are expected to be significant and serious for the planet.

As temperatures increase, we are anticipating;

- an increase in coastal and river flooding from sea level rise
- an increase in surface water flooding and inundating natural and main drainage systems
- an increase storms and severe rain events, as witnessed in the UK in 2022 by the close frequency and intensity of storms Dennis, Eunice and Franklin
- a disruption to normal levels of precipitation and temperature variation, as demonstrated in 2022 by wildfires, droughts and floods
- an increase in the harm to biodiversity and growth in the population of pests and disease, such as demonstrated in 2022.

Ecological collapse is real

In the last 50 years alone, we have lost up to 60% of global biodiversity, as confirmed in the World Wildlife Fund, Living Planet Report 2020. Since 1970, Latin America and the Caribbean have seen the most substantive collapses, however this may be because Europe and North America already experienced significant reductions prior to 1970, so the state of the environment is far worse in these regions than the report would suggest. The significance of these reductions cannot be overstated:

No bees and insects = no crop pollination = no food.

If we damage our eco-systems, we damage our ability to live healthy, productive lives, and risk the ability for life to exist at all.

Unfortunately there are impacts that we probably can no longer avoid. It would seem highly likely that global food production will be affected, along with the stability and certainty of global supply chains and logistics. A greater move towards localism will be required as the globalised systems become less productive, more costly and more uncertain. This will require us to build local capacity to generate decentralised energy and to produce food, goods and services. This will involve investment in local infrastructure, in the skills and experience to design, construct and operate it, whilst supporting local communities, businesses and organisations to integrate new ways of working as we move towards adapting our environment to meet the environmental challenges.

Local position - BCP Council and area-wide emissions

Strategic aim 1

To make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030

We are currently on track to meet our 2030 Net Zero carbon goal and have reduced scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions* by 22% since 2019. Although we are currently on the correct trajectory, we need to ensure that the gains during the pandemic are maintained and recognise that progress will get increasingly difficult as we move towards carbon neutrality in 2030.

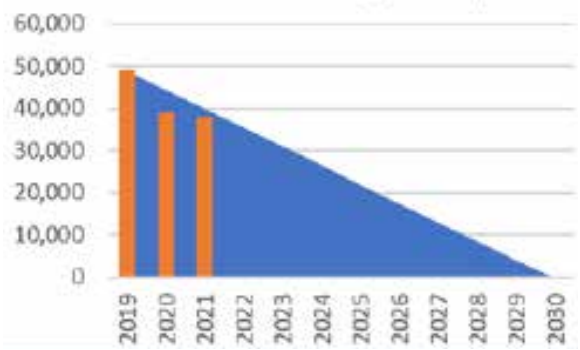
2021/22 BCP Council total emissions = 38,010 tCO_2e

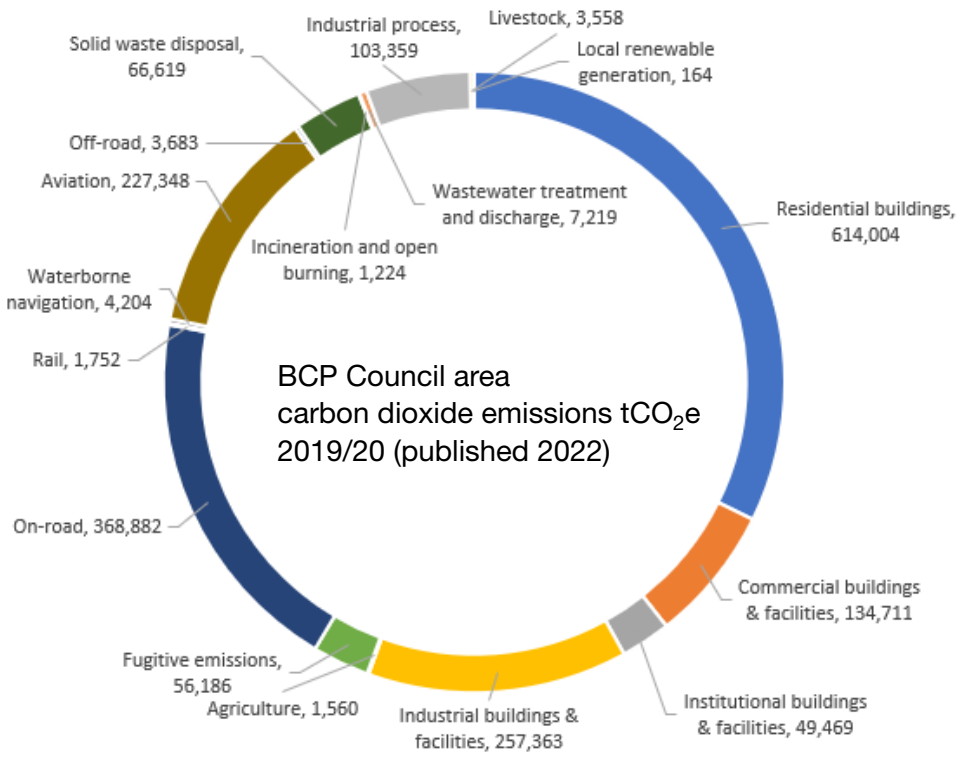
Strategic aim 2

To work with the wider community to make the region carbon neutral before the UK target of 2050

Data published in 2022 estimate area-wide emissions in 2020 to be 1,885,844 tCO_2e.

BCP Council trajectory





Note:

Data on area-wide emissions (including scopes 1, 2 and 3) is produced by SCATTER, a government-funded initiative hosted by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Research at the University of Manchester.

* **Scope 1** (Direct emissions) are GreenHouse Gas (GHG) emissions from sources located within the area boundary

Scope 2 (Indirect emissions) are GHG emissions occurring as a consequence of the use of grid-supplied electricity, heat, steam and/or cooling within the area boundary

Scope 3 are all other GHG emissions that occur outside the city boundary as a result of activities taking place within the city boundary

CO2e (carbon dioxide equivalent) is a metric measure that is used to compare emissions from various greenhouse gases on the basis of their Global Warming Potential by converting amounts of other gases to the equivalent amount of CO_2. This way, CO_2e accounts for carbon dioxide and all the other greenhouse gases GHG) as well: methane, nitrous oxide, and others.

Climate and ecological emergency declaration

Our Declaration

In 2019, in response to the overwhelming international evidence, and growing concern from local communities and residents, BCP Council declared a climate and ecological emergency.

Our declaration recognised the significance of the threat and some of the consequences if we did not act decisively and successfully, by providing:

Clear acknowledgement of the science: "…that climate change is a serious risk to Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole's future."

And clarification of a measure of success: "…help global efforts to keep climate warming below 1.5ºC to avoid further environmental damage, population displacement, biodiversity loss and risk to life."

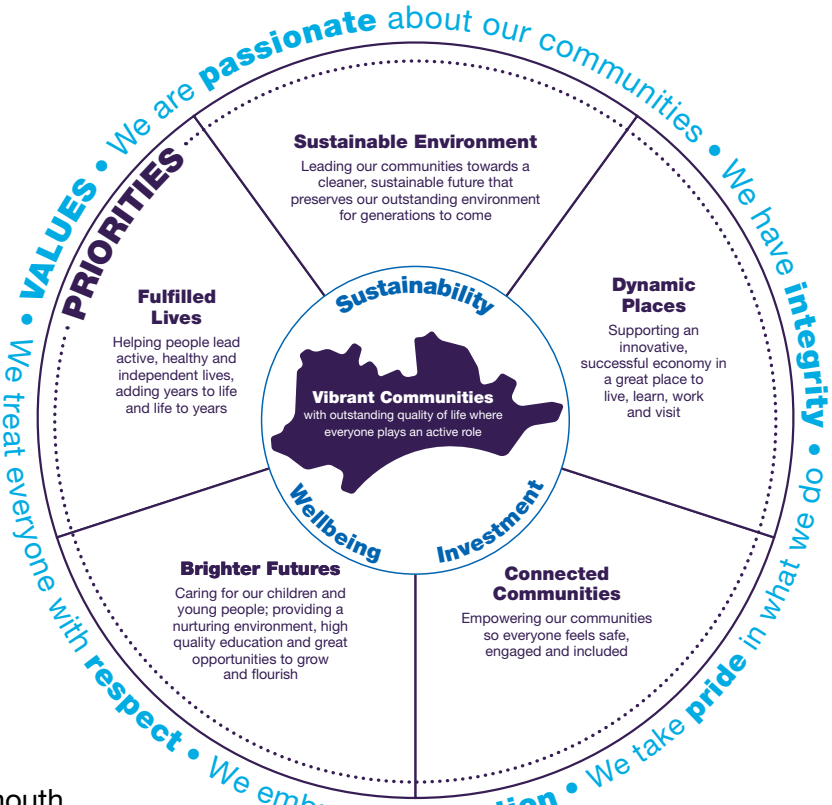
How the declaration supports our Corporate Strategy

To ensure sustainability, wellbeing andinvestment will deliver "Vibrant communities with outstanding quality of life where everyone plays an active role".

The climate and ecological emergency declaration directly aligns with the priorities in our Corporate Strategy, ensuring public health, a sustainable natural environment, opportunities for all, adaptive and dynamic places and fulfilled lives.

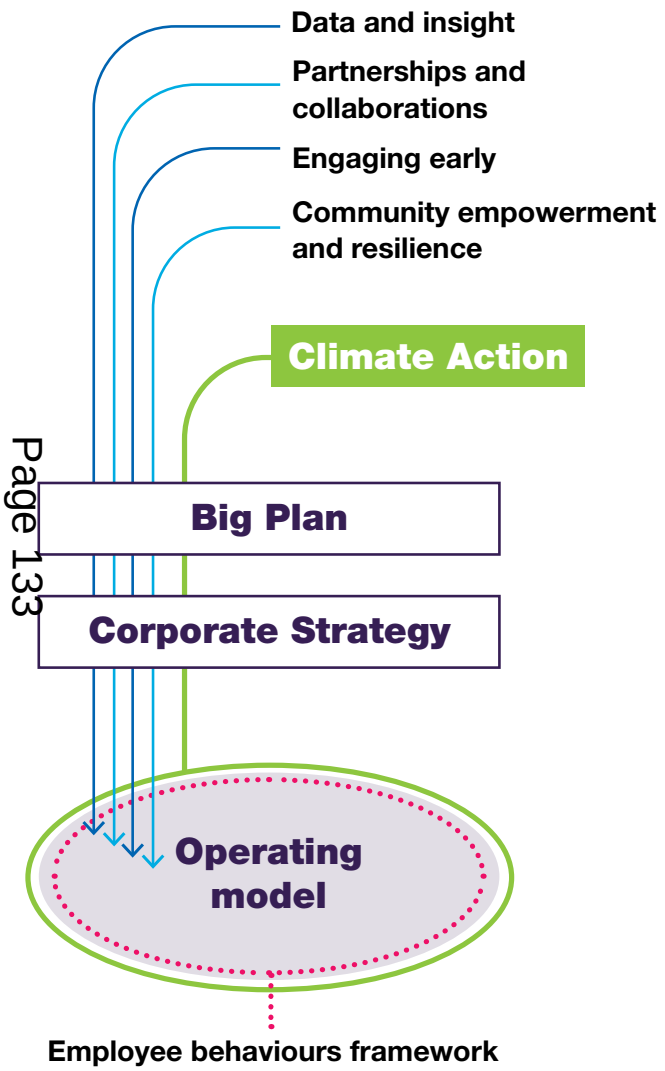
The BCP Climate Vision

"To deliver adaptation and mitigation measures to enable a climate safe, ecologically rich and resilient Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole that will be the foundation of the wellbeing capital of the UK".



The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality and climate change. The council has adopted them to help report on the impacts of our Corporate Strategy.

Embedding climate action throughout the organisation



We have a unique opportunity now

We are delivering a significant internal transformation programme, as well as a single consolidated Local Plan for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

This provides us with an opportunity to integrate the requirements for the climate and ecological emergencies through both of these processes:

- ensure sustainability is embedded at the heart of our policy and strategy development activities to enable good decision making
- ensure new development in the area aligns with our goals by developing policies, through the preparation of a new BCP Local Plan
- insert sustainability requirements for service delivery through development of the council's new Centres of Excellence and back-office functions
- reconfigure the 'Themes' to align with the council's Operating Model and Organisational Redesign to ensure they align with the new governance structures and physical systems we can influence
- ensure our IT systems and service redesign take into account and capture relevant climate data for reporting and monitoring purposes.

Our Climate Strategy

The overarching aim of our strategy is to meet climate change head on by putting into place measures to actively reduce carbon emissions in the area to help Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole adapt to the inevitable effects of global warming. We recognise the plan to reach our aims is complicated, and that some of the actions will change over time because they need to be informed by those closest to the actions. This climate strategy represents the best picture we have right now, but one that we want to change and develop as more information and solutions become available and more stakeholders are engaged.

The strategy is built around the following three strategic aims:

Strategic Aim 1

To make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030

Our immediate focus is to act on the local authority estate, assets and operations across the BCP area, reducing its overall carbon footprint in the short term. The ability to act and effect a positive change lies directly within the gift of the council. In order to meet this aim, significant investment, along with a comprehensive review of how services are delivered, how staff travel and work and what is purchased, is needed to identify where carbon savings can be made.

Strategic Aim 2

Work with the wider community to make the area carbon-neutral before the UK target of 2050

This is a medium to long-term aim with the ambition to have delivered many of the actions by 2050 or sooner. We all must collectively take ownership. We recognise that achieving this goal will require a strong commitment from our communities, our businesses, our partners and our residents. We must identify clear pathways by which carbon emissions from all sectors within and beyond the BCP area can be directly reduced, avoided or mitigated against. We have a key role in both leading and supporting othersto act on climate change. but our success will rely on significant national and local policy change and the commitment of others to act and rapidly adopt significant changes to existing lifestyles and behaviours.

Strategic Aim 3

To help our area reverse the ecological decline, and be prepared for, and resilient to, the impacts of climate change

This aim will ensure that the BCP area is prepared for, the impacts of climate change and supports nature recovery.

This requires action across all sectors and communities. The biodiversity of our natural environment is already in decline.

As growing seasons change, pests and disease could become more prevalent, and our soils and vegetation will be at risk from extreme climate change effects such as more frequent or longer periods of drought and flood events. More of our land needs to be prioritised for nature and existing nature reserves protected unless there are suitable mitigation measures which result in a clear net biodiversity gain.

Action will need to be taken to adapt or ‘future proof’ the homes we live in, the places we work, our transport and communication networks and how goods and services are provided and delivered across the area. This requires focusing on providing more green infrastructure and flood defences to enable our built environment to adapt to rising temperatures, changing patterns of rainfall, sea level rise as well as extreme weather events.

Smart Goals

As our programme and process matures, we will develop theme roadmaps setting milestones for delivery to help establish annual carbon reduction targets which can enable transparency and accountability of progress against the aims.

Within our Strategic Aims, we have reviewed and refreshed the goals to make them more specific, measurable, accurate, realistic and timely (SMART) where BCP Council has direct control.

We have aligned our local goals to the scientifically agreed national goals identified through the 2022 IPCC report, the various COP agreements since the Paris Climate Agreement (COP21) in 2015, and the eight risk areas for action in the 2022 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment.

For regional activity we will seek to work with the Local Climate Partnership (see page 29) and others to collectively determine further SMART Goals, as more data emerges.

Climate Mitigation

(GHG emissions reduction)

We will help ensure global efforts are successful to limit emissions to stay within the Paris Accord of 1.5ºC of global warming above pre-industrial levels.

This requires that:

CM1: BCP Council (corporate and service areas) reach 'net zero carbon' by 2030

CM2: the BCP area to reach net zero by 2050, or sooner

Climate Adaptation

(managing climate risks to our environment)

We will help ensure sufficient adaptation measures are in place for the current predicted temperature rise of 4ºC as per the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment's recommendation:

CA1: To ensure the corporate estate and services are adapted and 'climate safe' in line with identified risks

CA2: Work with partners to make the BCP area as adapted and 'climate safe' as reasonably practicable in line with identified risks

CA3: Start adaptation measures immediately as our local systems are vulnerable

Ecological Recovery and Restoration

The ecological emergency required greater definition in our corporate declaration. We have revisited and revised our goals to reflect the current evidence. As we gather further understanding of the emergency and what our responsibilities are to address it, more urgent actions may be required. This will be, in part, informed by the UN Biodiversity Conference taking place in Montreal 2023.

We will:

ERR1: Seek to reverse the decline of local sensitive habitats and species at risk by 2040

ERR2: Ensure that local habitats and species are in favourable conditions by 2050

ERR3: where practicable council procures products and services that do not exacerbate local and global ecological collapse

ERR4: Discourage production and consumption of products and services in the area that are known to exacerbate local and global ecological collapse

Strategy themes

The Environment Act 2021 brings into UK law the target of reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050. It also creates a wider framework for environmental governance, including a new direction for resource and waste management. It embeds the principle of biodiversity net gain and air quality improvement by requiring the Government to set new more ambitious targets. It sets into law the principles of the Government's 25-year environment strategy that was published in 2018. This has guided the development of this strategy and the actions it contains.

We understand that the aims set are ambitious and will be challenging to deliver. We are clear of our intention to lead the way by cutting emissions from our own operations to 'Net Zero Carbon' by 2030 and where practicable, ensure services are 'future-proofed' from the impacts of climate change.

We will lobby the UK Government for policy changes and further funding, and work with other organisations across the region to drive change. It is recognised that funding and resources of local authorities are limited. We can't do it alone and we need commitment from organisations, businesses, communities and residents in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole if we are to meet all of our strategic aims.

A number of themes have emerged through the development of this strategy and engagement with our communities. Each theme has key priorities that will support the delivery of our overall objectives.

We have developed nine key delivery themes to achieve the three strategic aims.

People & Communities

Business & Economy

Digital & Smart Places

Transport & Travel

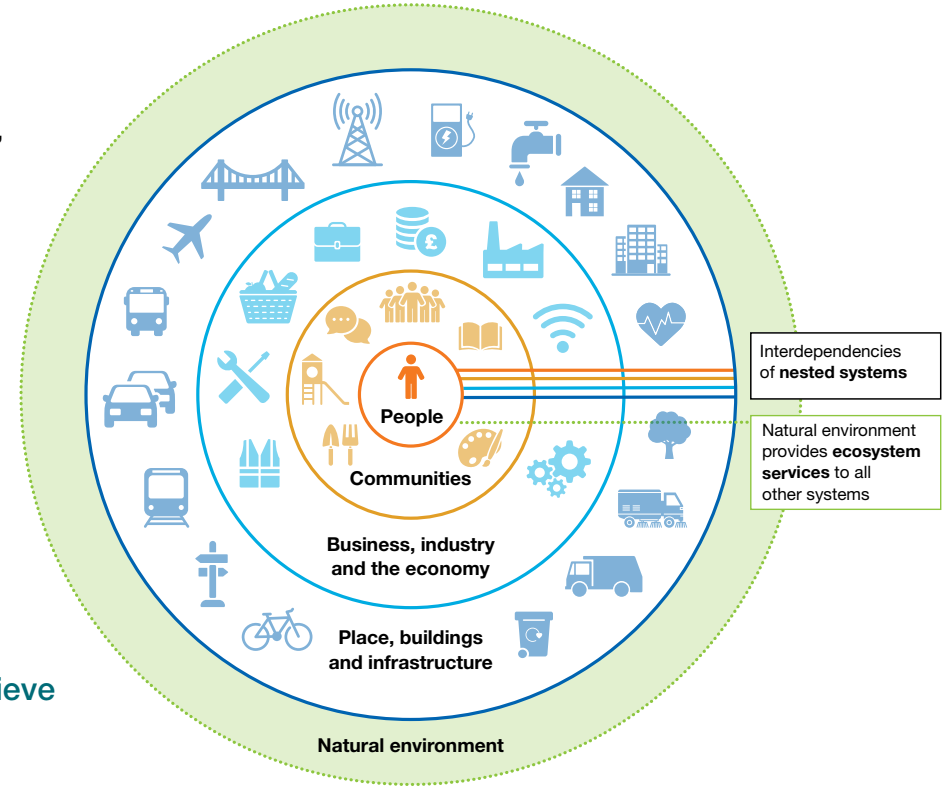
Water Resources & Flooding

Energy Generation & Use

Buildings & Homes

Resources & Waste

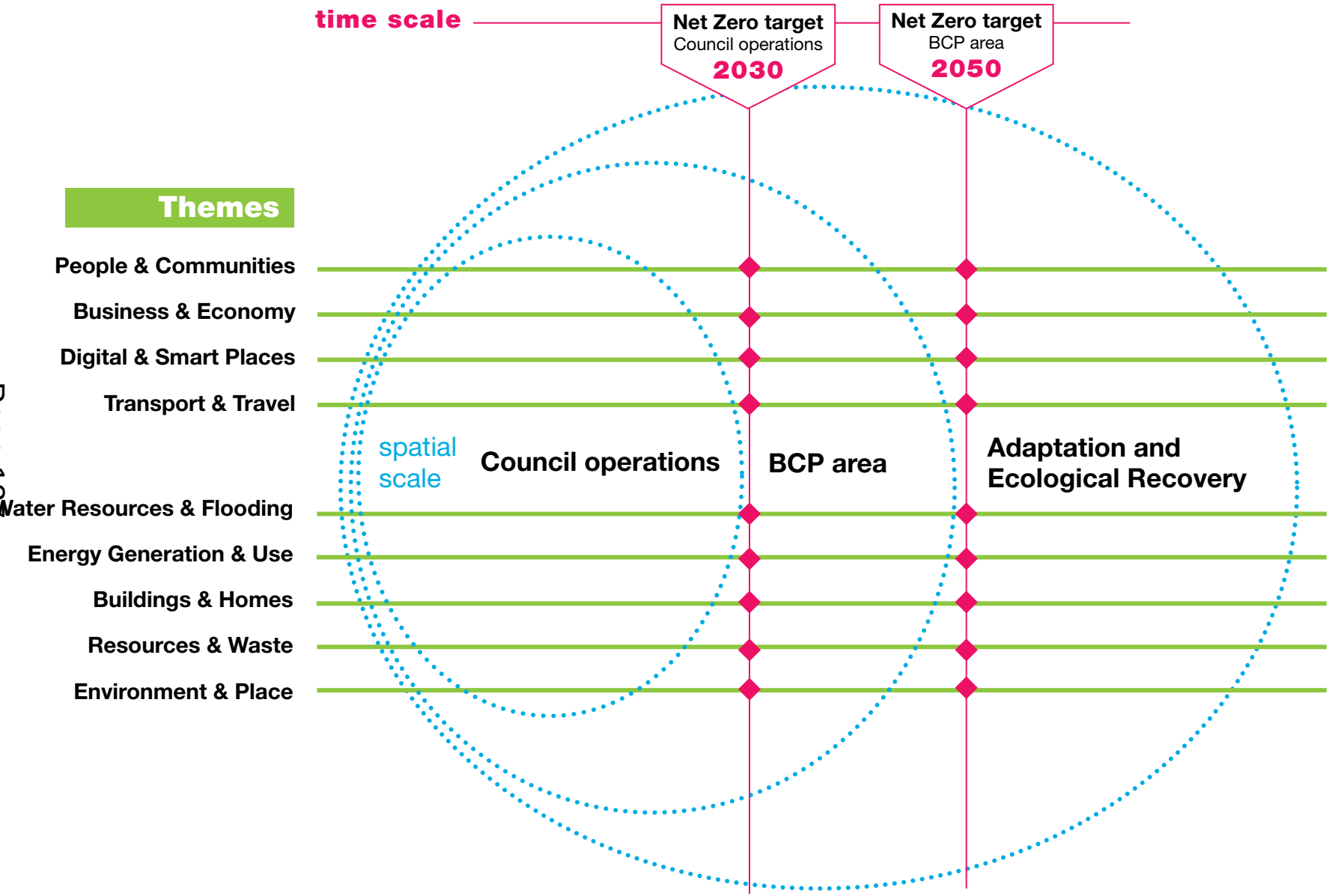
Environment & Place



Actions within the themes that require large resource or financial commitment will be prioritised through an assessment of:

- impact on carbon emissions
- costs versus outcomes
- funding source available
- resources and capacity
- risk of certainty of outcome

Themes - time and spatial scale



Theme summaries

People & Communities

Engaging with our residents to enable us all to make life choices which reduce our impact on the environment locally, nationally and globally. Communities are at risk from climate change and action must be taken to adapt accordingly. Community led responses are recognised as having the potential to contribute significantly to reducing CO_2 emissions from the smallest rural community to the centres of our big cities.

Business & Economy

The priority for business is the creation of a resilient green growth economy. There is a need to develop and grow skills, products, new technologies and innovation to combat climate change. The commitment to net zero will increase demand for low carbon environmental goods and services, both within the BCP area and beyond. The council has an essential role in creating the conditions for growth and attracting sustainable, environmentally responsible low carbon businesses and skilled workers to the area. The Government's Net Zero Strategy sets out to reduce emissions from manufacturing and construction by around 70% by 2035.

The Government's Net Zero Strategy sets out to reduce emissions from manufacturing and construction by around 70% by 2035.

Digital & Smart Places

Changing technology is identified as a key driver for change across the BCP area. Digitalisation is the underlying theme that cuts across all our activities. Technology is at the heart of new solutions that will make a green shift possible. Connectivity and use of data triggers innovation, new knowledge, broaden skills and new ways of operating. It is an enabler that could deliver a significant step change towards a low carbon, resilient BCP area. It is therefore recognised as a key theme in this strategy and that the council will actively prioritise the development and delivery of innovation and digital to support the climate change agenda.

Transport & Travel

Currently 32% of BCP area's carbon emissions are transport related – 20% being due to on-road vehicles. The number of vehicles on the roads needs to reduce, with more people using public transport, walking and cycling instead of using private cars. Modal shift change positively impact peoples' health and provides an opportunity to minimise emissions, reduce congestion and improve local air quality.

In 2022, the Government reported that transport produced 24% of the UK's total emissions in 2020 and remains the largest emitting sector in the UK. The majority (91%) of emissions from domestic transport came from road vehicles (89 $MtCO_2e$).

Water Resources & Flooding

Climate change affects the availability of water – at times making it scarce, and at others placing too much in the wrong place at the wrong time. How we limit climate change to influence this, whilst adapting to the already occurring droughts, floods and storms, is vital to our continued survival, health and prosperity.

The Government has committed £5.2 billion to address flooding through the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Investment Programme which runs from April 2021 to March 2027, and in doing so, better protect 336,000 homes and non-residential properties from flood.

Energy Generation & Use

The energy we use has a significant impact on our environment. Fossil fuels are non-renewable and the burning of fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide and other gases into the air. This causes visible issues such as pollution as well as contributing towards global warming. Energy conservation is something that everyone can contribute to by limiting the amount of energy that they use as well as ensuring that as much of that energy as possible is derived from local renewable sources.

The UK Climate Change Committee reported that electricity supply accounted for 11% of UK green house gas emissions in 2021.
The Net Zero Strategy has an objective for the energy supply to be fully decarbonised by 2035.

Buildings & Homes

Reducing the carbon impact of our buildings and homes and ensuring that future developments are sustainable will be a major contributor to the reduction of our impact on the climate, whilst creating a good place to live and improving the health and wellbeing of residents.

The UK Climate Change Committee notes that direct emissions from buildings (i.e. excluding emissions from construction and the electricity used in buildings) contributed nearly 20% of UK emissions in 2021.

Resources & Waste

We must reduce our impact on the world's natural resources, and how we handle and treat our waste.

To drive, enable and deliver a reduction in waste and increased reuse, repair, and recycling rates whilst developing and implementing low carbon solutions to waste collection and disposal. The priority for waste will be to work with government and partners to actively drive a reduction the waste generated and promote a circular economy approach across all parts of society from household waste to commercial. This will be delivered through increased producer and consumer responsibility and through behaviour insights, education, technology, and innovation.

According to the UK Climate Change Committee, waste emissions were 65% below 1990 levels and contributed 6% of total UK emissions in 2020. The Government's Net Zero Strategy requires emissions from waste to be reduced by 44% compared to 2019 levels by 2035.

Environment & Place

To protect, enhance, improve and develop the natural environment maximising the opportunity to manage and increase habitats, landscapes, and biodiversity which in turn support carbon sequestration and climate resilience. The priority for this theme will be to work with partners to understand and develop the value of the area's natural capital, as well as the risks to it from climate change and foster sustainable practices that will support carbon sequestration as well as mitigate the impacts of climate change. Protecting the natural environment is a priority that will not only deliver benefits for climate change but will also impact positively on the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of our residents. Access to green open spaces has been continually identified by our residents as one of their key priorities in making the BCP area a good place to live.

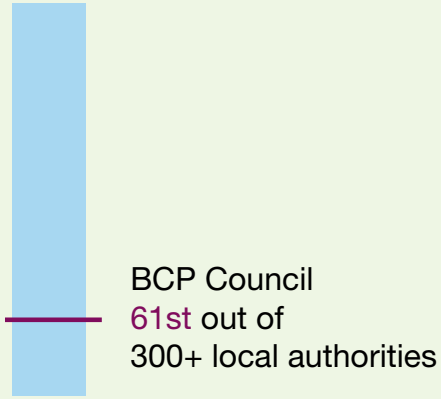
Bird populations provide a good indication of the broad state of wildlife in general and recent statistics from DEFRA show a decrease in the combined all-species bird index for 2019 to 10% below the 1970 value.

Theme People & Communities

Our future: Will have healthy and empowered communities creating sustainable, inclusive and thriving places that are net zero and climate resilient.

Latest BCP area performance

The SCATTER 2019/20 scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions total for the BCP Council area is 1,885844 tCO_2e. Apportioned amongst the 2021 Census population figure of 400,300 individuals, this gives the greenhouse gas contribution made by each person as 4.7 tCO_2e. Other studies only taking account of scopes 1 and 2 place the BCP area in the top 20% of local authority areas, with a per person amount of 3.3 tCO_2e. The 2021 BCP Council climate public consultation revealed respondents' strong support for the realisation that the climate is changing (95%) and that they were most worried about loss of wildlife and habitats (91%) and the impact on future generations (90%).



BCP Council
61st out of
300+ local authorities

Recent highlights from our journey so far:

- The BCP Schools Environment Award gives students the opportunity to learn about and develop environmentally conscious behaviours and help achieve our climate commitments.
- The council led a partnership of statutory and third sector organisations to deliver the £2.6 million Household Support Fund to vulnerable residents during the winter period. Help included grants for food and fuel, as well as energy-saving measures that will reduce emissions.
- A new food and health community project based at Boscombe's Churchill Gardens opened in 2022. The focus on local food growing will help the climate-friendly goals of reduced food transportation and food waste.
- A community steering group has formed with the aim of achieving Fairtrade status for the BCP area. Promotion of Fairtrade helps the wider climate agenda, enabling residents to support sustainable farming.
- The Highcliffe & Walkford Neighbourhood Plan has been 'made' by BCP Council and forms part of the statutory development plan. The vision includes climate-friendly aims related to green spaces, travel and energy efficiency.
- We have initiated a pilot of the Climate Action Network to test the approach to passing responsibility for the development of roadmaps, milestones, trajectories and ideation of projects and programmes to Services.
- The risk of 'extreme heat' was added to the multi-agency and BCP Council severe weather response plan in response to the 2022 heatwave.
- We have initiated the Local Climate Partnership with significant and strategic organisations and it will be formally launched in 2023.

People & Communities continued ...

What each of us can do:

- Volunteer for an environment or community organisation
- Apply for a LEAP visit or grant to make your home energy-efficient
- Reduce your waste and recycle at home
- Encourage biodiversity in outdoor spaces.
- Ask your school to take part in the council's Schools Environment Award
- Tell friends and neighbours about ways you are helping climate change
- Use and promote Fairtrade products
- Grow your own food
- Take part in community engagement activities.

→ Priorities for the People & Communities roadmap

- engage with communities to help understanding of climate risks
- support communities to improve resilience to climate change
- support actions to prevent the impacts of climate change disproportionately harming the most vulnerable residents
- maintain responsive emergency plans for the BCP area to react quickly to climate change events

→ How we will adapt

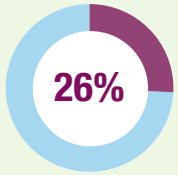
Engage with communities to help understanding of climate risks

Theme Business & Economy

Our future: The BCP area is a green economy leader, attracting sustainable, environmentally responsible low carbon businesses and skilled workers to the area who share our vision of a carbon neutral area.

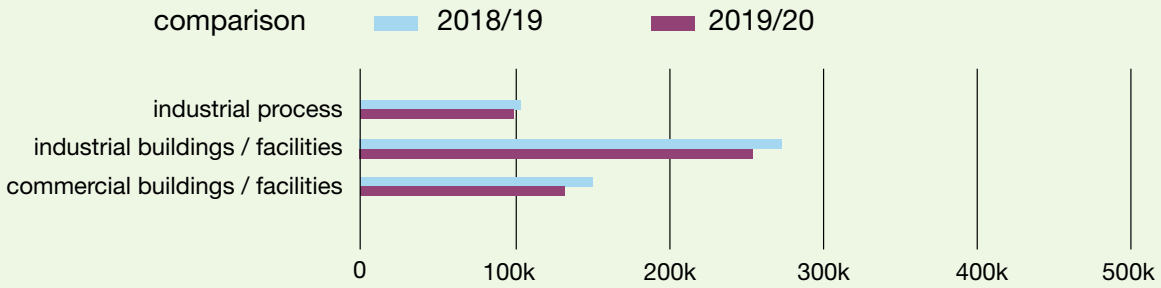
Latest BCP area performance

The SCATTER 2019/20 comparison of tCO_2e emissions from commercial and industrial buildings and processes in the BCP Council area shows they account for 26% of the area emissions - a 7% decrease from 531,546 tCO2e to 495,433 tCO_2e.



Area emissions from this theme

BCP Council area-wide emissions total tCO_2e



Recent highlights from our journey so far:

- The council's Economic Development strategy includes the intention to respond effectively to the climate emergency and transition to a net zero economy by at least 2050
- In April 2022 funding obtained to allow 250 businesses within BCP area to sign up to Climate Essentials which helps them set up carbon pledges and work towards net zero
- The council has been allocated nearly £4.2m under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which will enable us to provide better green spaces and community facilities, improved education and skills and business start-up and growth support. Each Investment Priority includes a sustainability intervention.

What each of us can do:

- Commute sustainably to your workplace, by walking, cycling, public transport, car sharing
- Be a 'Green Champion' in your workplace, forming a group and promoting turning off equipment, recycling waste and other climate-friendly actions that save money
- Ask if your organisation buys green energy or generates energy renewably.

→ Priorities for the Business & Economy roadmap

- develop our green economy
- support green skills growth
- encourage businesses to reduce waste
- encourage businesses to reduce energy use
- encourage businesses to build resilience

→ How we will adapt

Work with the Environment Agency to help residents and businesses adapt and plan for climate risks

Theme Digital & Smart Places

Our future: Changing technology is identified as a key driver for change across the region. Technology is an enabler that could deliver a significant step change towards a low carbon, resilient BCP area. It is therefore recognised as a key theme in this strategy and that the council will actively prioritise the development and delivery of innovation and digital to support the climate change agenda.

Recent highlights from our journey so far:

- Acceleration of Gigabit Fibre: The Smart Place programme is leading on the acceleration of the deployment of affordable gigabit fibre through the Neutral Host Operator initiative. This connectivity is necessary for effective videoconferencing making working from home more attractive which is having a profound beneficial impact upon reducing council staff and wider business commuting.
- The 'MyBoscombe' app includes a section on sustainable transport, helping to promote walking, cycling and bus travel. More is planned for the app, to further encourage sustainable travel as well as recycling and use of cleaner energy. The intention is to roll out the app to other neighbourhoods across the BCP area.
- The council's Beach Check app was developed in response to the overcrowding of beaches after the first pandemic lockdown. It enables users to check which beaches are the least congested, with a traffic light system to warn visitors away from crowded sections and the byelaws for cycling and walking dogs along the promenade. This in turn will make it easier for beach-users to avoid creating congestion and pollution in traffic jams and make better choices about their destination. The app is to be rolled out nationally with the support of funding from government.

What each of us can do:

- Make use of the apps that we have created to help you reduce emissions
- Find out the size of your own carbon footprint and how to reduce it at: www.footprint.wwf.org.uk

→ Priorities for the Digital & Smart Places roadmap

- build and maintain data sets to track and report on target performance
- develop performance measures for mitigation and resilience action covering both outputs (what is delivered through actions) and outcomes (the difference made by the outputs)
- improve digital connectivity to reduce travel demand, increase information share
- supporting new 'ways of working' – maximising digital connectivity and reimaging our towns

→ How we will adapt

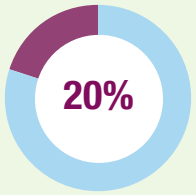
Use Smart Place technologies for monitoring climate impacts and helping to identify adaptation solutions.

Theme Transport & Travel

Our future: People will be healthier as a result of more active travel and cleaner air. Walking and cycling will be widely accessible and become the default choice for most local journeys. All vehicle including public transport will be electric or use other low carbon fuels.

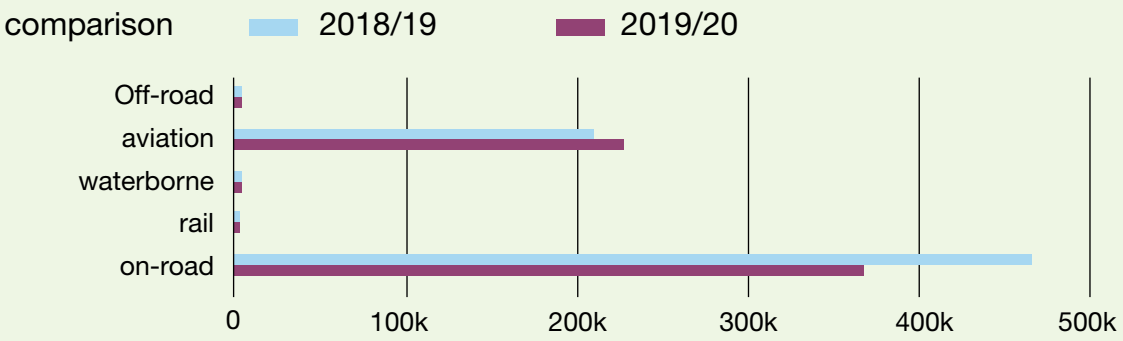
Latest BCP area performance

Currently 32% of the BCP area carbon emissions are transport related – 20% being due to on-road vehicles. The number of vehicles on the roads needs to reduce, with more people using public transport, walking and cycling instead of using private cars.



Area emissions from this theme

BCP Council area-wide emissions total tCO_2e



Recent highlights from our journey so far:

- The council is continuing to deliver the Transforming Cities Fund of over £100M investment in sustainable and active travel infrastructure. This will give people safe, fast, reliable and healthy travel options, particularly for shorter journeys. The new infrastructure will help reduce carbon emissions and provide improved air quality benefits. Over £200k of grants have been given for better school travel facilities and grants are also available for local businesses.
- The number of electric vehicles (EVs) in the council's fleet has risen over the past three years from six to thirty, and a further 10 are on order. EV use has resulted in a carbon saving of 107 tonnes CO_2e in the year 2021/22.
- A new network of 130 rapid electric vehicle charging points (EVCPs) is expanding to over 30 car parks during 2022/23 and the third phase of the EV Charging Programme will include on-street facilities, pending a successful bid for government LEVI funding in 2023.

Transport & Travel continued ...

- The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (May 2022) provides a long-term strategic approach for the walking and cycling infrastructure, which is required across the BCP area.
- £8.9m of Government funding has been secured to support the delivery of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to 2025, and the local bus network will continue to be developed under an Enhanced Partnership between the council and bus operators.
- Beryl bike and e-scooter riders have clocked up over 1.4 million journeys and more than 176,000 users. 30% of trips would otherwise have been by car. We have also extended Beryl into Christchurch and adjoining Dorset Council areas and introduced e-bikes which are being used well across the whole of our network. We plan for many more e-bikes and e-scooters (pending results of a Government trial) and aim to mainstream micromobility as the natural choice given the low journey length for car based trips in the BCP area.
- A 'School Streets' pilot scheme is operating at four schools, closing the road directly outside to help reduce road danger and improve air quality locally. 92% of parents at the schools want their School Street to be made permanent.
- Poole Hill and Mannings Heath roundabouts have been resurfaced by Miles Macadam with more sustainable road surfacing, achieving a 37% carbon saving over conventional materials.
- BCP Council's Interim Travel Plan was produced in response to the transformation of working arrangements for council staff, to encourage sustainable commuting and business journeys. Beryl bike discounts and bus concessions are available to facilitate the staff shift to active travel.
- We have secured a Government Air Quality Grant for £120k to continue the roll-out of our Clean Air Schools project and provide e-cargo bikes for the seafront operations team. A school clean air behaviour change campaign will teach children and their families about air pollution - the causes and how it can be reduced.
- The council sustainable travel team continued to promote active travel to schools, including: the Bikeability programme, Living Streets Walking to School outreach project, the STEPS pedestrian training programme and the School Streets programme.

What each of us can do:

- Walk, cycle or scoot short distances – use Beryl bikes and scooters
- Replace business travel with video-conferencing – save time and be more productive.
- Avoid air travel wherever possible.

→ Priorities for the Transport & Travel roadmap

- increase cycling and walking across the conurbation
- grow electric vehicle charging network and infrastructure
- delivery of the Bus Service Improvement Plan to 2025
- encourage greener transport choices, such as: vehicle sharing and micromobility (cycles and scooters)

→ How we will adapt

Identify and quantify climate impacts, especially the impact of flooding to the transport network, and the number of roads at risk of roadmelt

Theme Water Resources & Flooding

Our future: The BCP area has a plentiful supply of clean, safe water and the ecosystems providing it are in excellent condition to support biodiversity. Conversely the water-related risks of climate change, such as sea-level rise, coastal erosion and surface water flooding are assessed, known and adaptations carried out to protect people and property.

Recent highlights from our journey so far:

Coast protection projects which received funding or have been delivered in recent years include:

1. Renourishing seven depleted beach areas from Southbourne to Poole in a £7.5million scheme with 350,000m³ of beach material pumped ashore
2. Renewing timber groynes as part of a two-year, £1.9 million programme from the boundary of Poole/Bournemouth
3. A £2.5m cliff stabilisation scheme at Canford Cliffs following a cliff slip in 2017
4. £12.4m funding for new defences along Back Water Channel to help protect Poole Town Centre and the Old Town from tidal flooding
5. £525k for the development of the Christchurch Bay and Harbour Strategy which could lead to further funding for project delivery
6. £300k has been secured to develop a new BCP-wide Cliff Management Strategy – aiming to completed in 2025.

What each of us can do:

- Only run the washing machine and dishwasher when they're full
- Don't fill the kettle if you only want one cup
- Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth
- Take 4-minute showers instead of baths
- Bournemouth Water has gadgets to help you save water – check their website
- Have your say on consultations about proposed flood prevention measures.

→ Priorities for the Water Resources & Flooding roadmap

- improve flood alleviation for community areas that flood
- seek to ensure that via communication, communities and sectors are aware of future risks, pre-emptive actions and how to mitigate
- ensure BCP area is adapted and 'climate safe' in line with risk profiles
- develop a new BCP-wide cliff management strategy
- develop a new BCP-wide Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

→ How we will adapt

Create Strategies and Action Plans to engage all sectors in adaptation work

Theme Energy Generation & Use

Our future is for increased renewable energy generation across both BCP estate and the wider area, including community and business renewable energy generation opportunities, resulting in reduced fossil fuel usage and a reduction in associated emissions in line with our net zero 2030 and 2050 targets.

Latest BCP area performance

The total electricity consumption in the BCP area in 2021 was 1,353.6 GWh, of which 106,123 MWh of electricity was generated locally from renewable sources – mainly solar. The proportion of 2021 electricity consumption generated by renewables is 7.8% - enough to power 29,225 BCP households with average demand.

Government data for 2019/20 ranks the BCP area 61st out of 398, for lowest tCO_2e emissions per capita from energy and fuel use (electricity, gas and transport fuel only). During the same period, there was 140 MW of installed renewable energy capacity in the BCP area. The SCATTER comparison of tCO_2e emissions from all buildings between 2018/19 and 2019/20, shows a decrease across all sub-sectors.

Recent highlights from our journey so far:

- Carried out a study to see which council sites with large energy consumption could be suitable for renewable energy generation for council use.
- Used a local authority energy efficiency framework of engineering firms with net zero expertise to offer outline business cases and investment proposals with guaranteed energy savings for council buildings.
- Commissioned a pre-feasibility study for geo-thermal energy to ascertain the possibility of using this energy for heat networks in the local authority.
- £1.9m Government-funded energy improvements were made to council buildings, including Poole Museum, 2Riversmeet Leisure Centre, BCP Council Civic Centre, Wallisdown Heights, Highcliffe Castle, Poole Library, Bournemouth and Poole Crematoria.

What each of us can do:

- Buy renewable electricity by signing up to a green tariff with your supplier.
- Think about investing in solar panels to make your own electricity from the sun.
- Ask your supplier to install smart meters to help you monitor your energy use.

→ Priorities for the Energy Generation & Use roadmap

- develop and deliver an Energy Plan
- explore options for a geothermal energy network
- reduce energy use and improve energy efficient infrastructure
- increase proportion of energy from renewable sources
- improve energy performance of existing buildings and housing

→ How we will adapt

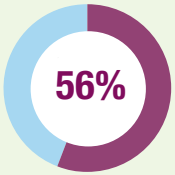
Our Local Area Energy Plan will include actions to help increase the resilience of communities to risk

Theme Buildings & Homes

Our future: Residents and businesses will have much lower energy bills because homes will be retrofitted were possible to be more energy efficient and will store and generate low carbon energy. Natural gas heating will be replaced by low carbon alternatives. All new developments will be net-zero carbon, sustainable and adapted to the effects of climate change.

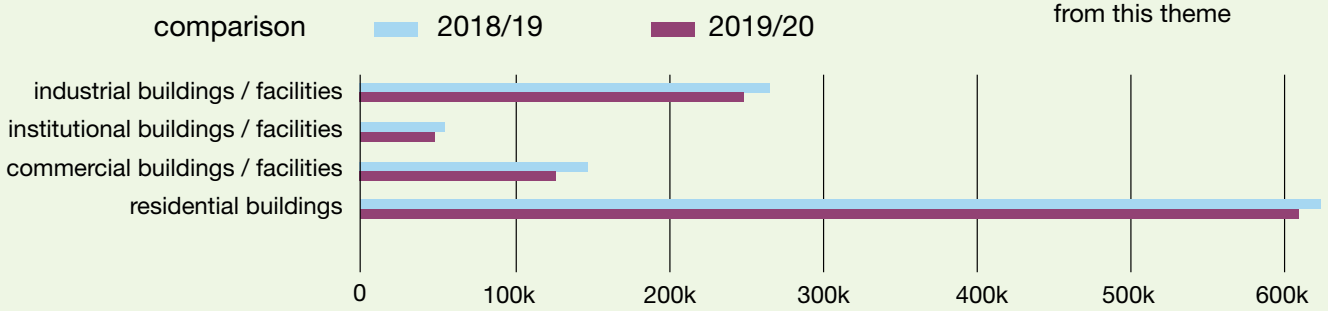
Latest BCP area performance

Emissions from buildings and homes account for 56% of the BCP area total. The SCATTER comparison of tCO_2e emissions from all buildings between 2018/19 and 2019/20, shows a decrease across all sub-sectors. This can largely be attributed to decarbonisation of the electricity grid, and to a smaller extent the increased efficiency of appliances and continued drive to insulate homes. Homes with a higher energy rating of A, B or C are estimated to make up approximately 40% of the BCP area-wide stock. The remaining lower-rated homes will be consuming an estimated 50% more energy. This must be reduced in order to achieve net zero by 2050 and also to address fuel poverty – 10% of BCP households were thought to be at risk of fuel poverty in 2019, a figure that will be higher now given the cost of living crisis. The council works with partners to deliver assistance and grants to households to reduce energy use.



Area emissions
from this theme

BCP Council area-wide emissions total tCO_2e



Recent highlights from our journey so far:

- Nine brand-new council homes were completed in 2022 at Luckham Road, constructed to the 'Passivhaus' standard, to use about 90 per cent less energy than standard UK buildings. The homes make use of ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) and pipes buried in the garden to extract heat from the earth. This energy is then used to warm radiators and generate hot water in the properties.
- Project level solutions are in development for the council's biggest energy using buildings and land assets (e.g. car parks) and business cases developed to identify energy-saving costs and benefits.
- A draft Housing Sustainability Strategy has been developed and lessons from this will inform the wider sustainability strategy development process.
- We have initiated the formation of programmes across the corporate estate, for our leased buildings, for our homes, and for the delivery of the Local Area Energy Plan.

Buildings & Homes continued ...

- Local Energy Advice Partnership: In 2021/22, the LEAP scheme carried out 436 home visits to advise residents how to save energy and keep warm. These visits, and the free energy-saving equipment installed will save householders a total of £238,000 on energy costs and reduce carbon emissions from the domestic sector.
- £1.9m Government Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding was secured for energy improvements to Council buildings, including Poole Museum, 2Riversmeet Leisure Centre, BCP Council Civic Centre, Wallisdown Heights, Highcliffe Castle, Poole Library, Bournemouth and Poole Crematoria. Improvements to Poole Museum will reduce the building's carbon footprint by 25%, sympathetically installing 360 solar roof slates for sustainable power, improving energy efficiency with 60 new windows, secondary glazing and new insulation.
- The Durley Environment Hub is nearing completion and will meet energy-efficient passivhaus construction standards with solar panels, green sedum roof and recycled timber cladding. The Hub aims to deliver a venue that models environmentally positive behaviour and systems.
- The council piloted a ground-breaking grant scheme offering fully-funded or reduced cost insulation to all homes with low energy ratings. Since the declaration of the Climate and Ecological Emergency, direct local authority involvement in schemes like this assisting householders save energy has resulted in an estimated £8m of lifetime energy bill savings and over 10,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions avoided.

What each of us can do:

- Turn down radiators in rooms you aren't using or use less could save you up to £70 a year
- Turn appliances off at the socket could save you up to £70 a year
- Wash clothes at a lower temperature could save you up to £40 a year
- Use your tumble dryer less could save you £70 a year
- Close all your curtains and blinds at night

→ Priorities for the Buildings & Homes roadmap

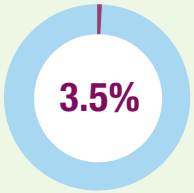
- include net zero carbon policies for new developments in the forthcoming Local Plan
- reduce the carbon impact and improve biodiversity of new developments
- reduce energy use in existing buildings and housing by retrofitting energy efficiency measures
- finalise the Housing Sustainability Strategy
- develop more grant and loan schemes to improve insulation and heating in homes

→ How we will adapt

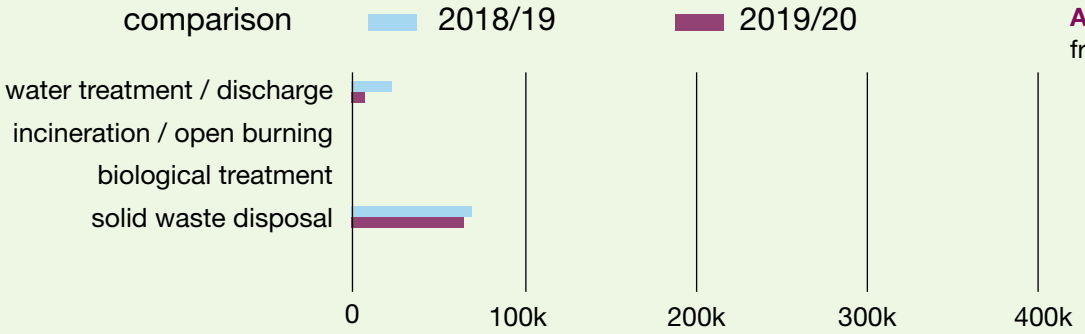
Develop a local climate change risk assessment and adaptation plan

Theme Resources & Waste

Our future: Reduced waste volumes, increased reduce, repair and recycling rates moving towards a circular economy across all parts of society from household waste to commercial.



Area emissions
from this theme



Recent highlights from our journey so far:

- We are a high achieving council (in top third overall) as a very much urban authority we do not benefit as some councils in rural areas from far higher composting rate due to larger gardens, and less flats. 199,145 tonnes of municipal waste were collected and sent for treatment in 2021/22: 47.4% of household waste was recycled and 86.6% was diverted from landfill.
- Four new electric refuse collection vehicles are each saving between 30-40 tonnes of CO_2 annually, whilst reducing noise and improving air quality.
- A pilot scheme used drone-based technology to tackle the issue of litter, with intelligence gathered to inform the future placement of bins, street cleansing schedules and campaigns to encourage visitors to dispose of litter responsibly.
- The BCP Tip Check mobile app launched to help residents plan their use of local recycling centres, providing a traffic light system with live information on how busy a centre is so people can avoid queues when it is bus.y
- A waste compositional analysis identified and measured 65 waste types in our recycling and refuse kerbside collections, providing a better understanding of BCP area's waste streams, allowing effective future service planning and targeted communications to residents to improve recycling quality and reduce contamination.
- Grown the BCP 'New to You' reuse facility that make the most efficient use of resources by supporting disadvantaged local people in need of essential items to set up a home and for day to day living, whilst improving environmental performance by diverting material from landfill and increasing reuse.

Resources & Waste continued ...

What each of us can do:

- Recycle Right – refresh yourself on what can and cannot be recycled in your kerbside bin bcpcouncil.gov.uk/recycling
  Items for recycling should be clean, dry and empty
- Visit our recycling centres to reuse or recycle items that you can't recycle at the kerbside
- Think about ways to reduce your waste in the first place, such as buying less, selecting reusable items and repairing where possible.

→ Priorities for the Resources & Waste roadmap

- reduce waste, increase recycling
- reduce use of non renewable materials
- harmonise waste disposal infrastructure and sites across the BCP area to improve recycling performance
- publish a strategy to set out how the council will manage municipal waste across the conurbation for the next 10 years, aligning with the government's agenda

→ How we will adapt

Adapt waste sites and operational procedures to better cope with storms, floods and heatwaves

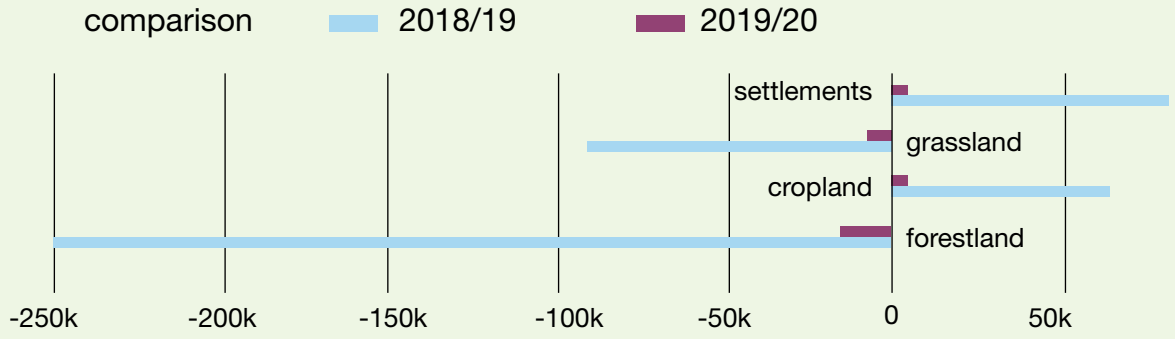
Theme Environment & Place

Our future: The BCP area will have more trees vegetation and green corridors to enjoy. Town centres and residential areas that feel cooler, be less prone to flooding and have cleaner air. Communities will feel more ownership of public green spaces and have an improved sense of wellbeing.

Latest BCP area performance

A change in methodology has resulted in higher emissions in this theme that were not in previous years' reported figures. The SCATTER 2019/20 comparison shows a marked decrease in the amount of carbon previously thought to be stored in the natural environment. The methodology used to calculate area-wide emissions from various sources sometimes changes as new information becomes available and upon examination, the difference has shown to be caused by a change in the calculation methodology. Nevertheless, this decrease will result in the BCP area having a larger emissions footprint than would have previously been the case. Improvements in other sub-sectors will ensure the total remains below the 2017 data baseline.

BCP Council area-wide emissions total tCO_2e



Recent highlights from our journey so far:

- An ambitious Green Infrastructure Strategy, adopted in September 2022, sets out how the council will maintain and improve our network of green and blue spaces for the benefit of people and the environment.
- Secured extension funding for an Urban Greening Design code and related work to implement Green Infrastructure, 2023-24.
- The Seafront Strategy, endorsed in April 2022, aims to improve the natural environment and biodiversity along our coastline.
- The Cleaner, Greener, Safer campaign, launched in 2021, focuses on bringing pride to our rural and urban areas to build a sustainable future for all.
- Future Places, the council's wholly owned urban regeneration company launched in 2021 and aims to deliver high quality places to live and work that benefit healthy communities and the environment.
- Throop Nature Park was granted planning approval. The park will help alleviate the pressure on the internationally sensitive Dorset heathlands, provide semi-natural space for residents to enjoy and help improve biodiversity in the local area.

Environment & Place continued ...

- Completed the £3.7m National Lottery Heritage Funded project Poole Park Life, with park quality greatly enhanced with spaces for wildlife and people created and over 100 trees planted.
- The Parks Foundation received £224,000 from the Green Recovery Challenge Fund for the Nature Recovery Project: 550 nature-based activities have been held in 11 parks with an attendance of 5851 people.
- Poole Museum redevelopment included reducing the building's carbon footprint by 25%, sympathetically installing 360 solar roof slates for sustainable power, improving energy efficiency with 60 new windows, secondary glazing and new insulation.
- Arts by the Sea Festival promotes three key messages each year - reduce waste, water refill and sustainable travel,
- The Durley Environment Hub is nearing completion and will meet energy-efficient passivhaus construction standards with solar panels, green sedum roof and recycled timber cladding. The Hub aims to deliver a venue that models environmentally positive behaviour and systems.

What each of us can do:

- Help butterflies, moths and other pollinators by adding a container of nectar plants, such as buddleia, lavender or marjoram to your doorstep, balcony or back garden this spring.
- Keep your garden or greenspace chemical free – pesticides also kill helpful wildlife that prey on the pests you are trying to get rid of.
- Don't use peat – left alone, it stores vast amounts of greenhouse gases and once harvested dries quickly so is of limited benefit to your soil. Better to make your own compost instead.
- Do not use plastic grass surfacing that reduces biodiversity in gardens and minimise sealed hard surfacing that increases water run off
- Dig a pond or make a wild space
- Volunteer for a wildlife or environmental organisation.

→ Priorities for the Environment & Place roadmap

- improve biodiversity and green spaces
- reverse habitat land species loss
- improve water quality, flood resilience and habitat
- increase tree and perennial planting

→ How we will adapt

Green our urban areas and towns to reduce the urban heat island effect and grow the green network to benefit biodiversity

Working together

To ensure that we can make the maximum impact, we all need to work together.
We will need to deliver our own actions, whilst engaging at a local level with residents, businesses, community groups and others to ensure that they feel empowered and able to play their part.
At the same time, we will all need to influence others at a local and national level to create the right laws, policies and programmes that support this.

Internal

Climate Action Network

Purpose

- To connect the top down and bottom up approaches to BCP Climate Action ensuring that the climate goals can be achieved within directorates and across the organisation

Aims

- To work collaboratively with the Climate Action & Sustainability Team in achieving the climate and ecological goals
- To help coordinate the development and implementation of the Service Area Net Zero Roadmap
- To help coordinate the development and implementation of the Service Area Adaptation Plan
- To own theme climate goals, the roadmaps and plans, projects and programmes and ensure their successful delivery
- To report on progress as appropriate

External

Local Climate Partnership

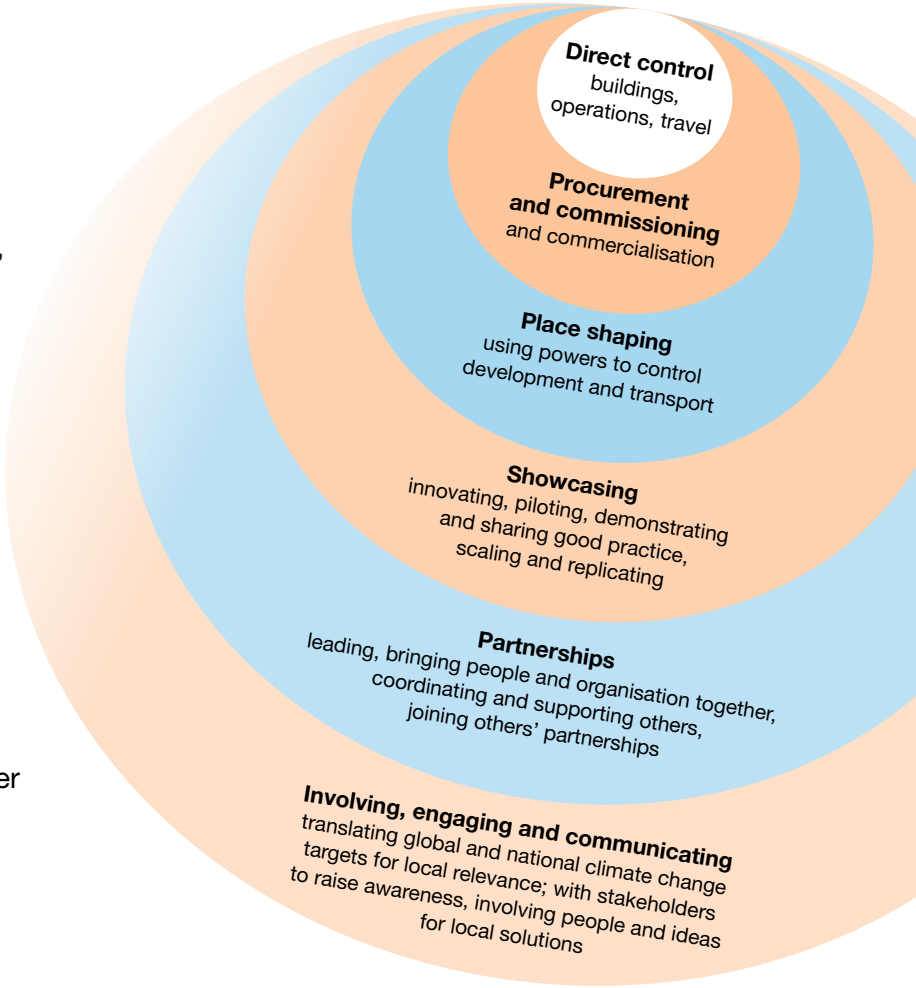
Purpose

- To bring together organisations from the areas public, private, community, education and academic sectors that share the common goal to ensure that the region of BCP and Dorset develops and successfully implements a net zero strategy aligned with the latest science and built on the views of the areas stakeholders.

Aims

- Take urgent action within the scope of their own activities, and
- Work collaboratively though the partnership to help others in the wider area community and economy to take action to reduce emissions and protect against climate risks

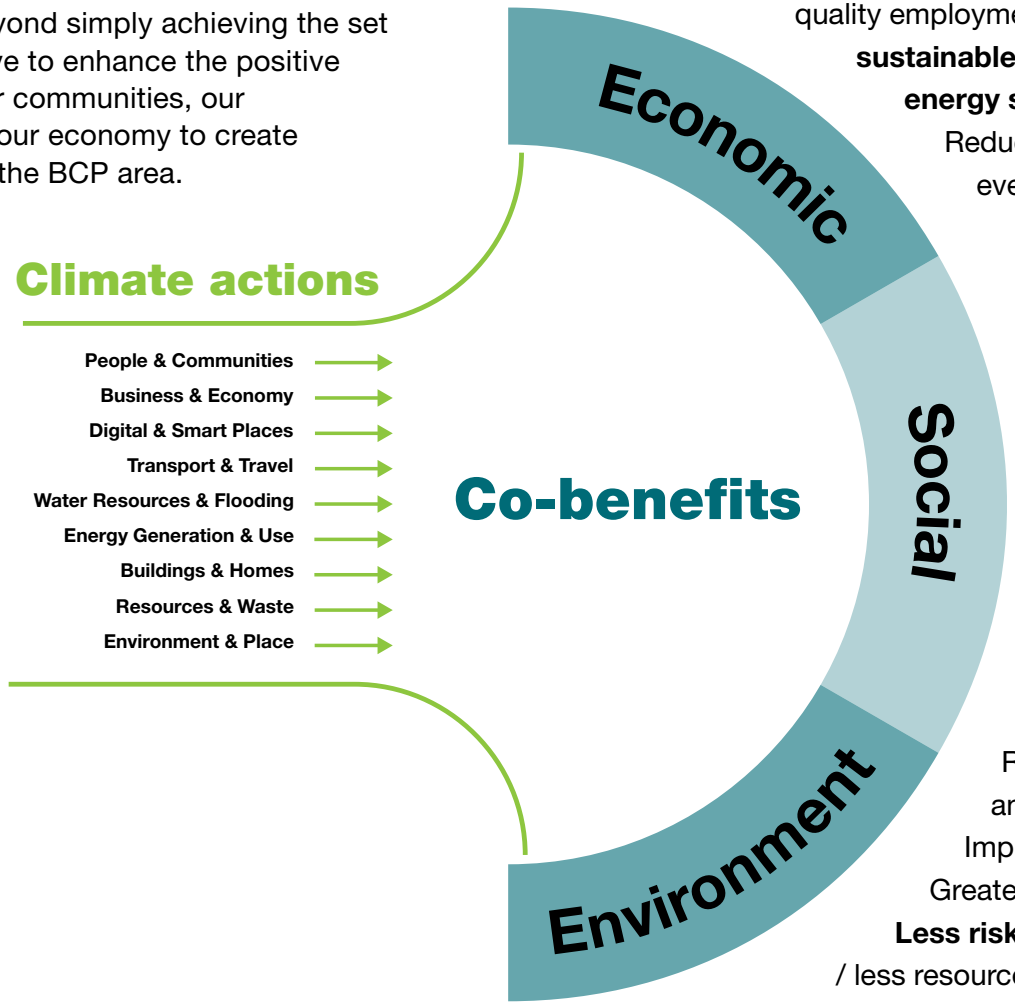
The Climate Change Committee has identified six '**spheres of influence'** that councils have over carbon emissions that bridge the gap between internal and external impacts.



Co-benefits realisation

Co-benefits are additional positive outcomes from actions which expand beyond the main focus of an activity. Co-benefits from climate action can create new opportunities which benefit both people and planet.

We will seek to maximise the positive co-benefits in all our Action Plan actions. This means we will work to go beyond simply achieving the set actions as we strive to enhance the positive impacts felt by our communities, our environment, and our economy to create a better future for the BCP area.

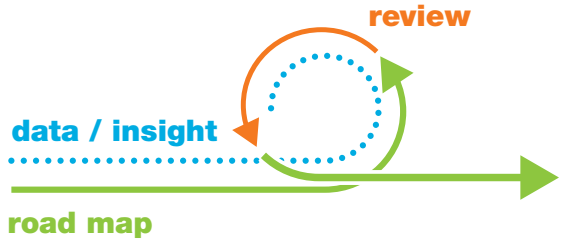


Clean and **inclusive growth** in the economy . Low carbon technologies . High quality employment . Improved productivity . Diversification to more **sustainable markets** . Reduced heat and energy costs . Increased **energy security** . Reduced imported fuels and materials . Reduced congestion . Reduced costs from flood and extreme events . Reduced waste . **Circular economy**

Improved air quality . Lower living costs . **More active**, outdoor lifestyles . Healthier diets . Fuel poverty alleviated . Less demand on health services . **Improved mental health** . Fewer work and school days missed . Less premature deaths . Warmer, healthier homes . Quieter, safer streets . Improved **community cohesion** . Better work/life balance . Less waste

Reduced flood risk . **Improved access** to greenspace and nature . **Improved biodiversity** and habitats . Improved land management . Cleaner air . Cleaner water . Greater **water security** . **Carbon sequestration** in all habitats . **Less risk** of heatwaves and extreme weather events . Less waste / less resource use . Reduced / reverse species decline

Monitoring, evaluating and reporting



Once finalised, the strategy will be reviewed every five years, with a new action plan produced each year. It will consider opportunities to accelerate delivery, ensure that the focus of the priorities is valid and that any new risks are taken into account for resilience.

The supporting action plan will be reviewed annually. The climate action plan is based on our understanding of the best available evidence. Our collective understanding of this complex area is changing fast. Many innovative ideas that could offer major solutions are being trialled. So whilst the high-level actions are unlikely to change greatly, the delivery of the actions will. To ensure that the action plan continues to identify and prioritise the most cost-effective approaches, a delivery plan will serve to track detailed actions and be adapted on a regular basis to ensure the plan continues to respond to new circumstances. An agile delivery plan requires careful monitoring.

Strategic Aim 1

To make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030

This strategy will be delivered through services across the council, co-ordinated through our climate action team working with groups and organisations in different sectors. An annual monitoring report will be prepared. We will use this to track progress towards our net zero target and to inform the actions we need to collectively take to make progress. We will publish progress on an annual basis. Publishing progress will demonstrate transparency so that residents can ensure we are delivering against our commitments.

A decision-making tool has been developed and implemented for all key council decisions to assess the positive or negative impact on climate change mitigation and resilience. This will be applicable to all key decisions within the council.

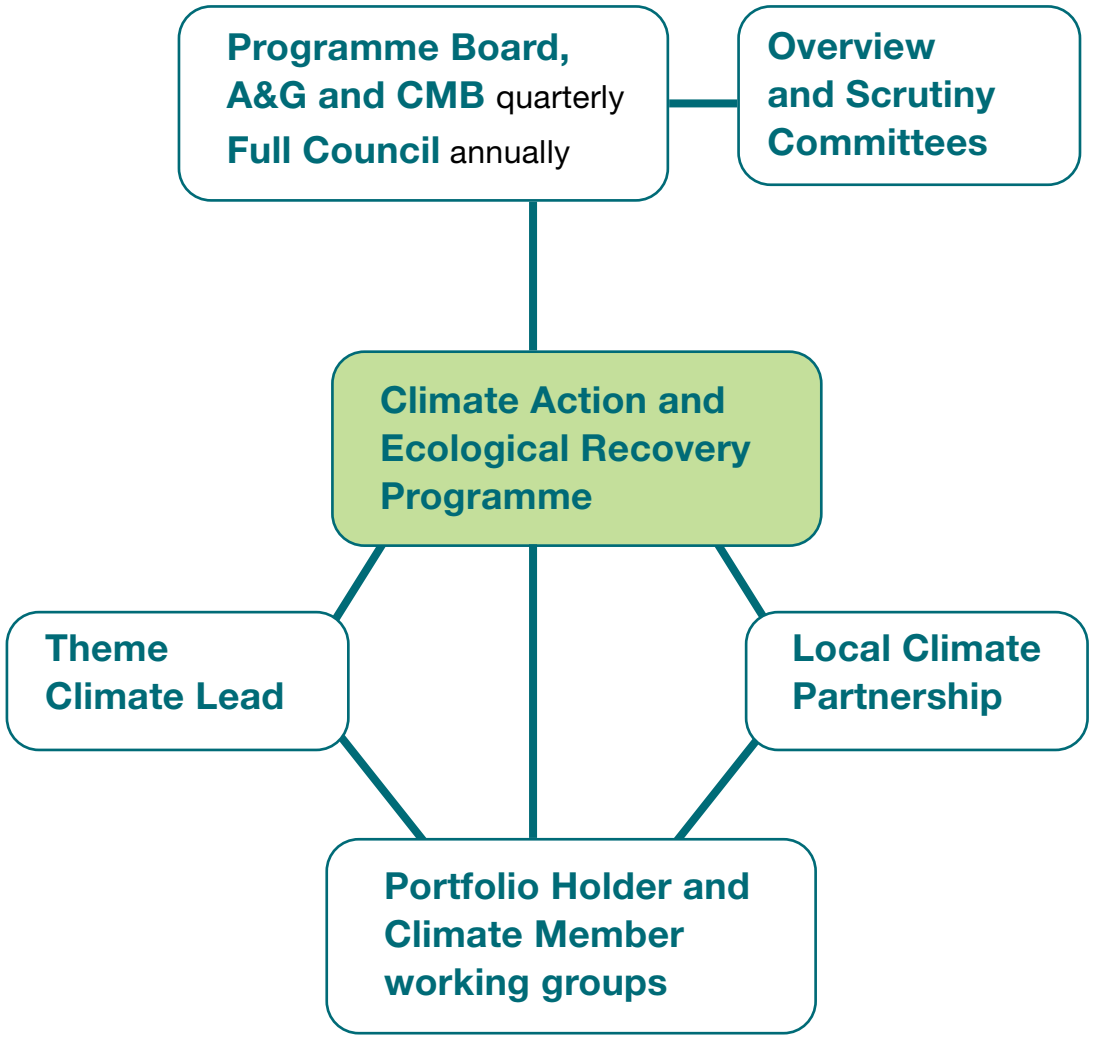
Strategic Aim 2

Work with the wider community to make the area carbon-neutral before the UK target of 2050

We will continue to deliver through existing working groups, partnerships and the emerging Local Climate Partnership.
Convening and contributing to working groups as a springboard for collaboration, showcasing, providing leadership and a catalyst for action on climate change.

Delivery will require working with organisations, residents, businesses and the entire community of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.
Many of the actions will need to be delivered in partnership with stakeholders in a delivery or an advisory capacity and these will include the (Councillor) Member Climate Working Groups, BCP Local Climate Partnership, partners, businesses, community organisations as well as individual residents. The council will explore effective ways of engaging with partners and stakeholders and look for ways to encourage and support delivery of this strategy through local initiatives.

Governance



Diversity and social inclusion

Climate change is inherently unequal.

Countries that have historically been the cause of today's changing climate are not necessarily the ones that are feeling the worst effects, and their populations not the most able to readily adapt to new conditions. This strategy has been assessed for equality and sustainability impacts and individual projects will also be subject to these checks to ensure that any adverse effects are minimised. Some inequalities to consider in project design and delivery are; older people are at most risk of extreme heat and cold, people living in deprived areas have less access to green space and are more likely to experience the urban heat island effect, tenants are less able to change their homes to adapt to climate change, Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities are disproportionately affected by air pollution. Young people will be more affected by climate change, so we will seek to involve them to ensure they help shape the world they will grow old in and give them the tools to be resilient in a less climate-stable future.

Funding and resourcing

To achieve the objectives of this strategy, substantial investment will be needed at an international, national and local level, particularly in relation to infrastructure projects and long term programmes, such as the move away from fossil fuel heating systems and investment in sustainable transport solutions.

The UK Government's target for national carbon neutrality by 2050 means at this time funding for initiatives in part remains unclear.. With limited resources available for local authorities to deliver projects and infrastructure change, prioritising resource allocation is essential. BCP Council has finite and limited funds, and a significant proportion of this money is already allocated. We must ensure we gain optimal benefits and emissions reductions from all our investments. Whilst there is a role for in-depth analysis and longer-term planning, it should not prevent us from taking immediate action in areas that already have a strong evidence base.

Core base budget funding

A core council climate budget has been established and doubled in 2021 to provide the foundations to fund resources to support climate action progress

External funding

We are actively seeking resources from wherever aligns with the intent and timing of our programme. This includes EU sources and central government, through local partnering and pro-bono support, through new business models, philanthropy and impact investment.

Private finance

In some circumstances it will be appropriate to enable private investment in infrastructure and the development and provision of new products and services. Where this is sought, normal council procurement rules will be utilised, but also we will consider the source and implications of the funding so as to ensure sustainable, balanced outcomes can be achieved. We will not seek external funding from sources that do not align with the principles of sustainable development and the outcomes demanded by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

The Green Futures Fund

In 2022 a Public Works Loan Board funding source was agreed and secured for use in delivering the infrastructure and assets required to transition BCP and the council to a climate safe operating space.

The fund is to the value of £20M available over the next 4 years to be spend on capital projects. It can accessed through the Infrastructure Board with Cabinet/ Full Council approval of spend.

The purpose of the fund:
To deliver infrastructure system and asset modernisation: mitigating the causes and adapting to the risks of a more hostile and disrupted future to ensure our continued and improved quality of life and wellbeing

The aims of the fund:
We must use the Green Futures Fund to ensure:

- our critical infrastructure systems (energy, food, buildings, industry, materials) are fit for purpose now and into the future
- that they are resilient to our changing world
- that they provide significant opportunities for regional sustainable development.

This strategy is produced by BCP Council's Environment Directorate

Draft February 2023

References

IPCC: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability
https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/

DEFRA: UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2022

WWF: Living Planet Report 2020_
https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-09/LPR20_Full_report.pdf

SCATTER: https://scattercities.com/

Appendix C

Climate Action Programme

Action Plan 2023/24 – 2024/25

Climate Action Programme - Action Plan 2023/24 – 2024/25

Contents **Page**

Introduction

The aim of the BCP Climate Action Strategy will be to reduce carbon emissions in the area and make Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole resilient to the inevitable effects of Climate Change, highlighting key areas that we will focus on in the next few years as we work towards achieving our declaration commitments.

Our Climate Strategy will be built around the following 3 STRATEGIC AIMS:

STRATEGIC AIM 1: To make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030

Our immediate focus is to act on the local authority estate, assets and operations across the BCP area, reducing its overall carbon footprint in the short term. The ability to act and effect a positive change lies directly within the gift of the council. In order to meet this aim, significant investment, along with a comprehensive review of how and where services are delivered, how staff travel and what is purchased, is needed to identify where the carbon savings can be made.

STRATEGIC AIM 2: To work with the wider community to make the region carbon-neutral before the national UK target of 2050

This is a medium to long-term aim with the ambition to have delivered many of the actions by 2050 or sooner. We all must collectively take ownership. We recognise that achieving this goal will require a strong commitment from our communities, our businesses, our partners and our residents, identifying clear pathways by which carbon emissions from all sectors within and beyond the BCP area can be directly reduced, avoided or mitigated against. We have a key role in both leading and supporting others to act on climate change, but success will rely on significant national and local policy change and the commitment of others to act and rapidly adopt significant changes to existing lifestyles and behaviours

STRATEGIC AIM 3: To help our area reverse the ecological decline, be prepared for, and resilient to, the impacts of climate change

This aim will ensure that the BCP area is prepared for the impacts of climate change and supports nature recovery. This requires action across all sectors and communities. The biodiversity of our natural environment is already in decline. As growing seasons change, pests and disease could become more prevalent, and our soils and vegetation will be at risk from extreme climate change effects such as more frequent or longer periods of drought and flood events. More of our land needs to be prioritised for nature and existing nature reserves protected.

Action will need to be taken to adapt or 'future proof' the homes we live in, the places we work, our transport and communication networks and how goods and services are provided and delivered across the area. This requires focusing on providing more green infrastructure and flood defences to enable our built environment to adapt to rising temperatures, changing patterns of rainfall, sea level rise as well as extreme weather events.

We understand that these aims are ambitious and will be challenging to deliver. We are clear of our intention to lead the way by cutting emissions from our own operations to 'Net Zero' by 2030 and, where practicable, work towards ensuring services are 'futureproofed' for the impacts of Climate Change.

We will lobby the UK Government for policy changes and further funding, and work with other organisations across the region to drive change. It is recognised that the funding and resources of Local Authorities are limited. We can't do it alone and we need commitment from every organisation, business, community and resident of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole if we are to achieve the Aims.

We have developed 9 key delivery themes to achieve the 3 aims:

1. People & Communities
2. Business & Economy
3. Digital & Smart Places
4. Transport & Travel
5. Water Resources & Flooding
6. Energy Generation & Use
7. Buildings & Homes
8. Resources & Waste
9. Environment & Place

It is recognised that there will necessarily be several actions which are cross-cutting, affecting and being carried out within more than one theme. The Action Plan identifies both the lead theme and the Service(s) which is expected to lead on each Action item, but also records the other themes expected to be involved.

The Action Plan also records whether each Action is designed to advance Strategic Aim 1 (Council Operations), Strategic Aim 2 (BCP Area) or both.

For each Action, at least one Quantitative Measure is planned. Future iterations of the Action Plan may include absolute numbers and dates for those Quantitative Measures, which should be selected to ensure alignment with the Carbon targets contained within the Climate Strategy Roadmaps.

Actions within the themes that require significant financial or other resource commitment will be prioritised through an assessment of:

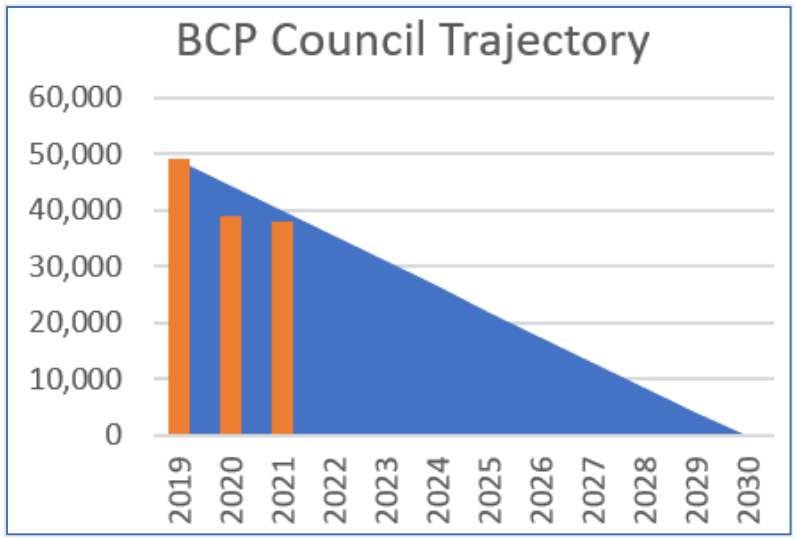
- impact on carbon
- costs v outcomes
- funding availability
- personnel resources and capacity
- risk of certainty of outcome

This Action Plan is a live, iterative document and subject to change in response to legislation, Government grants, local needs and other factors.

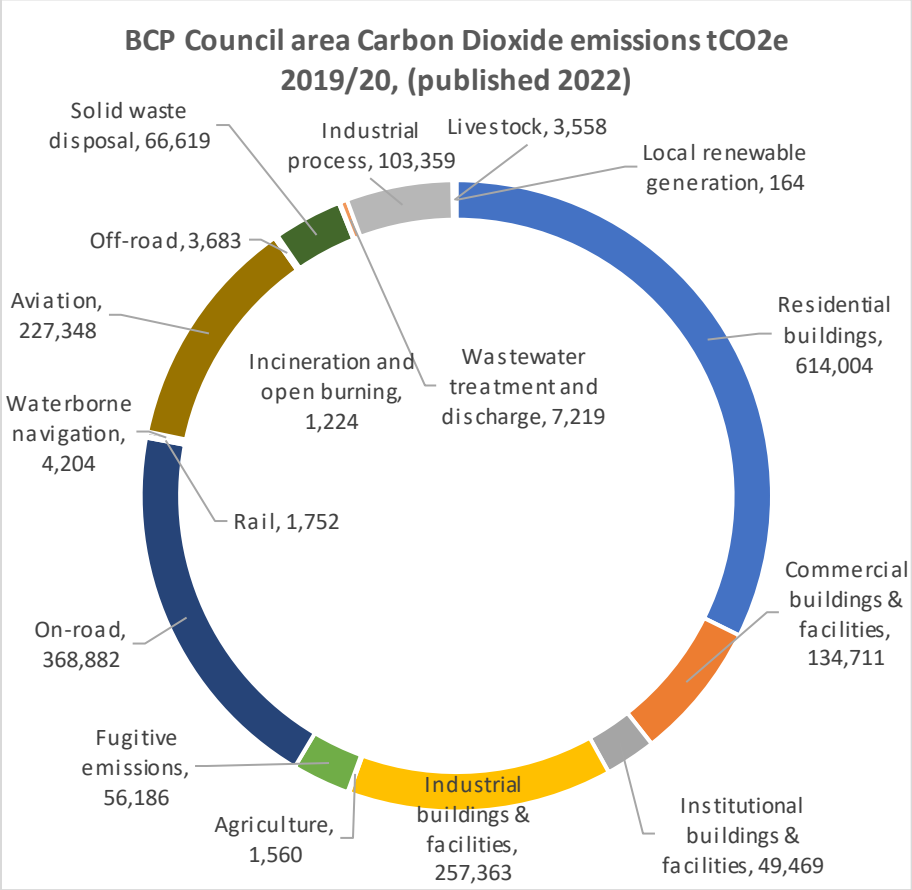
Progress against Strategic Aims: 2019 – 2022

Strategic Aim 1: Make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030 - BCP Council is currently on track to meet its 2030 Net Zero Goal and has **reduced scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions by 22%** since 2019.
2021/22 BCP Council total emissions = 38,010 tCO2e

Strategic Aim 2: Work with the wider community to make the region carbon neutral before the UK target of 2050 – emissions in 2020 were **estimated to be 3% below the 2017 baseline** published in the year our Climate and Ecological Emergency was declared.
2020 BCP area-wide total emissions = 1,885,844 tCO2e



BCP Council (2023)
Note: Full details and analysis can be found in the Climate Action Annual Report 2021/22



SCATTER/BCP Council (2023)

Note: Full details and analysis can be found in the Climate Action Annual Report 2021/22

Climate Action Programme - Action Plan 2023/24 – 2024/25 by Theme

Theme: People & Communities				
Action	**Impact** **Council Operations/ BCP Area**	**Theme Co-benefits**	**Reporting measure qualitative/narrative**	**Lead Service**
Launch refreshed internal Climate Action Network model across directorates.	Council operations	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes Business & Economy	Production of group Terms of Reference. Regular planned meetings, sharing of updates, learning and examples of best practice	Climate
Continue to build on all-staff and councillor training on the council's climate action plan and carbon literacy	Council operations BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes	Data on percentage of elected members and staff that have taken the climate action strategy training and narrative on how staff have integrated the training into their work, using case studies	Climate

		Business & Economy		
Develop and implement an internal communications plan to keep staff updated on climate action work, including useful advice and guidance on how to incorporate climate action into projects and programmes	Council operations BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes Business & Economy	Production of communication plan with updates on deliverables	Climate Communications
Incorporate climate action opportunities within council volunteering scheme for staff	Council Operations BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes Business & Economy	Data on the number of climate action opportunities within council volunteering scheme; case studies from staff on how they have engaged with this opportunity	Climate Human resources
Develop & implement an external communications plan which shares updates on the climate action work undertaken by the council, and advice and guidance to residents, businesses and the voluntary and community sector on reducing carbon emissions.	BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel	Narrative update on the influencing work undertaken to support and encourage local businesses relating to climate change and nature recovery	Climate Communications

		Buildings & Homes Business & Economy		
Identify areas in our community that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change to ensure they are supported and protected to promote wider community wellbeing	BCP area	Environment & Place Transport & Travel Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes	Update on the identification of areas most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and how the council plans to and has supported them to adapt to these changes, including through initiatives	Communities Housing Emergency planning Environment FCERM
Expand the Schools Environment Award 7 environmental focused topics with activities to complete to attain a bronze, silver or gold award	BCP area	Environment & Place Transport & Travel Water Resources & Flooding Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes	No of schools participating 3 network meetings throughout the year to support and share ideas	Environment Climate
Inclusion of 'Drought' to the BCP Council Emergency Plan	BCP area	Water Resources & Flooding	Updated emergency business continuity and response plan	Emergency Planning
Work with partner agencies to help residents and businesses adapt and plan for climate risks	BCP area	Environment & Place Water Resources & Flooding Buildings & Home Business & Economy	Communications produced	Climate FCERM

Theme: Business & Economy				
Action	**Impact Council Operations BCP Area**	**Theme Co- Benefits**	**Reporting measure qualitative/narrative**	**Lead Service**
Deliver Climate Essentials allowing 250 businesses within BCP area to sign up and set up carbon pledges and work towards net zero. The platform will allow the Council to gain an overview of the businesses current carbon emissions and the reductions being made as well as opportunities to bid for funding based on real business demand, to reduce our area-wide carbon footprint.	BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes Business & Economy	No of business sign ups and carbon reduction performance data achieved	Economic Development
Identifying effective ways for all business, irrespective of size and sector, to improve resource efficiency and minimise carbon use, including logistics, production and processes.	BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes Business & Economy	Launch of the UK Shared Prosperity Funding programme in the BCP area, supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy	Economic Development

Unlock new business opportunities in the clean growth economy.	BCP area	Travel and transport Environment and Place Business & Economy	Number of new opportunities	Economic Development
Continue the Circular Economy Project for Engineering and Manufacturing Businesses, focussing on energy use, product life cycle and supply chain issues in relation to net zero. Sharing best practice from industry leaders and working with Bournemouth University to further research and produce short films to share stories.	BCP area	Resource and waste Environment and place Travel and transport.	Best practice case studies/films produced and shared	Economic Development
Use UK Shared Prosperity Funding to achieve sustainability interventions, including community measures to reduce the cost of living, improve energy efficiency, combat fuel poverty and climate change; supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy; green skills courses ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero ambitions.	BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Number of interventions and the learning from those interventions delivered.	Economic Development, Communities Skills and Learning

Theme: Digital & Smart Places

Action	Impact Council Operations BCP Area	Theme Co- Benefits	Reporting measure qualitative/narrative	Lead Service
Lead on the acceleration of the deployment of affordable gigabit fibre for effective videoconferencing/ working from home	Area wide	Environment & Place Transport & Travel Business & Economy People & Communities	% of residents with gigabit fibre	Smart Places
Seek funding for wide-scale roll-out of remote monitoring technologies	Area wide	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Secure a minimum of £25m seed funding	Smart Places
Linking local businesses more effectively into the supply chain to help to reduce emissions associated with deliveries	Area wide	Environment & Place Transport & Travel Business & Economy	Technology put in place to help local trade	Smart Places
Explore how enabling digital technology can support the roll-out of a local energy network	Area wide	Energy Generation & Use Environment & Place Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Report on potential support	Smart Places

Theme: Transport & Travel				
Action	**Impact Council Operations BCP Area**	**Theme Co- benefits**	**Reporting measure qualitative/narrative**	**Lead Service**
Continue investment in adopted Sustainable fleet replacement strategy and develop strategy refresh for 2025	Council operations	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Energy & Fuel People & Communities	Produce strategy refresh 2025	Environment Finance
Maximise agile working opportunities to reduce avoidable commuting	Council operations	Environment & Place Energy & Fuel People & Communities	Reduction in staff commuting by car/using car parks	Human resources
Integrate decarbonisation of the transport system into Local Transport Plan 4	BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Production of LTP 4	Transport & Travel
Continue to bid for, and deliver on, Active Travel England funding to deliver improved public infrastructure for walking, wheeling and cycling.	Council operations BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Amount of funding awarded	Transport

Work towards transition to Zero carbon highway infrastructure construction	Council operations BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste	No. of and success of trial materials to inform future suitable procurement options	Transport Environment
Commence development of future adaptation plans to manage extreme weather events and long-term strains on network	Council operations BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Business & economy Water Resources & Flooding People & Communities	Plans drafted	Transport
Deliver £8.9m of Government funding secured to support the delivery of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP with the local bus network continuing to be developed under an Enhanced Partnership between the Council and bus operators. Switching journeys from car to bus, is a key way to reduce carbon emissions and help mitigate climate change. It is also an investment in our local community, economy and environment	BCP area	Environment & Place Business & Economy People & Communities	No of passenger journeys	Transport
Work with the Council's highways partner, WSP, who have globally committed to reducing the embodied carbon of their designs and advice by 50% by 2030.	Council operations & BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Water Resources & Flooding Business & Economy People & Communities	% carbon reduction achieved	Transport & Environment

Monitor the 'School Streets' pilot scheme operating at four schools, closing the road directly outside to help reduce road danger and improve air quality locally Expand School Streets programme to include further locations	BCP area	Environment & Place Buildings & Homes People & Communities	Learning from Pilots Decision to formalise implementation of School Streets model Number of schools with successfully operating School Streets	Transport Schools
Pending a successful bid for government LEVI funding implement phase 3 of the EV Charging Programme on-street facilities	BCP area	Environment & Place Business & Economy People & Communities	Number of public EV charging facilities installed	Transport
Continue to promote sustainable transport offers both to employees, public and business	Council operations BCP area	Environment & Place Business & Economy People & Communities	Travel mode data Increase in the number of active travel journeys	Transport Communications

Theme: Water Resources & Flooding				
Action	**Impact** **Council Operations/ BCP Area**	**Theme Co-benefits**	**Reporting measure qualitative/narrative**	**Lead Service**
Commence work to support BCP Area is adapted and 'Climate Safe' in line with risk profiles	BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Input to Local Plan development to ensure it captures policies related to present and future risks of flooding and coastal change.	Climate FCERM
Develop a local climate change risk assessment and adaptation plan	Council operations BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Production of assessment and adaptation plan to inform future actions	Climate FCERM
Develop a new BCP-wide cliff management strategy	Council Operations BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Digital & Smart Places Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Adoption and implementation of action plan for BCP Cliff Management Strategy	FCERM
Develop a new BCP-wide Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to consider all sources of flooding and how they are addressed	BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes Business & Economy	Strategy document produced	FCERM

		People & Communities		
Create Strategies and Action Plans to engage all sectors in adaptation work	BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Digital & Smart Places Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	FCERM strategies and schemes driven by them to address risk of flooding and coastal change in place / in development; this is ongoing work with a programme of projects over decades.	Climate/ FCERM
Seek to ensure that via communication, communities and sectors are aware of future risks, pre-emptive actions and how to mitigate	BCP area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Communications released and acted upon	Climate/ FCERM Communications

Theme: Energy Generation & Use				
Action	**Impact Council Operations BCP Area**	**Theme Co Benefits**	**Reporting measure qualitative/narrative**	**Lead Service**
Development of the Local Climate Partnership (LCP). Stakeholders coming together to work on a net zero vision for the BCP and Dorset area.	BCP Area	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Sharing net zero resources, priorities and plans. Development of bid ready initiatives	Climate
Production of a Local Area Energy Plan to support the development of the Local Plan	BCP Area	Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Appointment of energy partner	Climate Planning
Develop a strategic energy partnership with a leading energy industry to help achieve 2030 and 2050 targets to provide significant acceleration to achieve net-zero targets	BCP Area	Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Development of strategy	Climate
Assess 8 large Council sites identified where solar PV could be installed for self-consumption	Council Operations	Buildings & Homes	Outline Business Cases to be submitted for selection of projects to Infrastructure Fund	Climate
Develop and agree a science-based emission reduction pathway for the BCP area as part of the LEAP	BCP Area Strategy, part of the LAEP	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Scheme developed and agreed by LCP	Climate
Explore options for a Geothermal energy network to provide a cost-effective, carbon-	BCP Area	Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Production of a feasibility study	Climate

free district heating infrastructure for 35+ years				
Commence development a local offsetting scheme for area-wide emissions remaining at 2050	BCP Area Strategy, part of the LAEP	Environment & Place Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Scheme developed and ratified by LCP	Climate

Theme: Buildings & Homes				
Action	**Impact Council Operations BCP Area**	**Theme Co benefits**	**Reporting measure qualitative/narrative**	**Lead Service**
Develop a renewable energy and energy efficiency capital works programme for council buildings and estates Including opportunities to retrofit energy efficiency, water efficiency, and renewable energy generation across the estate on completion of the Asset Review	Council Operations	Environment & Place Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Business & Economy People & Communities	Increase in the proportion of locally produced renewable energy	Corporate Landlord
Ensure we realise opportunities to catalyse low carbon developments through the Local Plan and Big Plan	BCP Area	Environment & Place Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Business & Economy People & Communities	Local Plan policies and Big Plan projects support zero carbon developments	Climate Planning
Work with partners to maximise funding opportunities for retrofitting homes	BCP Area	Environment & Place Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel	Number of homes retrofitted/CO2 avoided	Climate

		People & Communities		
Embed Green Infrastructure strategy in housing development alongside emerging Urban Greening work	BCP Area	Environment & Place Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Business & Economy People & Communities	Incorporating green roofs/walls, greener streets/ public realm into developments	Environment Planning

Theme: Resources & Waste				
Action	**Impact** **Council Operations/ BCP Area**	**Theme Co-benefits**	**Reporting measure qualitative/narrative**	**Lead Service**
Develop business case for a new operational depot within the BCP area that supports core universal service delivery for our communities whilst greening our operational service delivery.	Council operations	Environment & Place Business & Economy People & Communities	Developed business case to cabinet/council	Estates & Facilities Management
Harmonise waste disposal infrastructure and sites across the BCP area to improve service provision	Council operations BCP area	Environment & Place People & Communities	Successful internalisation of contracted waste disposal facilities at Hurn & Wilverley Road	Environment
Continue to respond to consultations relating to the Resources & Waste Strategy for England	Council operations BCP area	Environment & Place People & Communities	Responses through professional bodies ADEPT, LARAC, APSE and direct as appropriate	Environment
Implement changes to waste & recycling collection to meet the 2021 Environment Bill requirements	Council operations BCP area	Environment & Place People & Communities	Adoption of strategy, implementation and % improvement in recycling performance % reduction in refuse	Environment
Target communications to reduce contamination and enhance recycling efforts.	BCP area	Environment & Place People & Communities	% improvement in recycling performance % reduction in refuse %	Environment Communications
Model implementation of underground bin infrastructure at residential properties town centres, seafront and parks	Council operations BCP area	Environment & Place Business & economy People & Communities	Developed business case to achieve transition towards infrastructure shift	Environment Planning

Support the implementation of the national Deposit Return Scheme to enhance recycling of drinks packaging	Council operations BCP area	Environment & Place Business & economy People & Communities	Implementation achieved in accordance with government/Defra requirements which continue to be defined	Environment
Promote and grow the BCP New to You facility which promotes and facilitates upcycling, resale, reuse and recycling of good rather than landfill	Council operations BCP area	Environment & Place People & Communities	Increased visitor numbers and sales	Environment Communications

Environment & Place				
Action	**Impact** **Council Operations/ BCP Area**	**Theme Co-benefits**	**Reporting measure qualitative/narrative**	**Lead Service**
Ensure the Big Plan, Local Plan, & Asset Management Plans together with revisions to the Corporate Strategy are underpinned by sustainability	Council operations & area wide	Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Adoption of public strategies and policies	Climate CMB Cabinet Planning
Develop a BCP sustainability policy	Council operations	Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Public policy	Climate

Review the land attached to each council building asset to establish opportunities to improve biodiversity and staff involvement	Council operations & area wide	People & communities	Number of sites with developed biodiversity improvement plans	Corporate landlord & Environment
Develop a Sustainable Construction Policy for corporate buildings	Council operations	Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes	Policy produced	Corporate Landlord Facilities Management
Development & adoption of a Trees and Woodland Strategy including Identifying sites for new tree planting and wilding opportunities on our land or through partnership opportunities on privately owned land to support natural carbon capture	Council operations & area wide	People & communities Water resources & flooding Buildings & homes	Adoption of Tree & Woodland strategy	Environment & Planning
Produce an Urban Greening Design Guide and associated example interventions	Council operations & area wide	Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Water Resources & Flooding Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Adoption of Urban Design Guide	Environment Planning
Develop the Biodiversity Net Gain requirement to measurably improve the natural environment into a sensible, practical and commensurate arrangement	Council operations & BCP area	Resources & Waste Transport & Travel Water Resources & Flooding Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Identify thresholds for planning applications over which this requirement is appropriate and reasonable. Establish appropriate requirements for various types and sizes of	Environment Planning

			developments which are proportionate and practical.	
Develop understanding of Green Finance investment models and apply them within BCP, linking with Biodiversity Net Gain to create mechanisms to invest in our natural environment.	Council operations & BCP area	Resources & Waste Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Report outcomes via NEIRF National Urban Nature Fund programme	Environment / Planning
Where practicable continue to retrofit existing buildings to be energy efficient, use renewables so to withstand predicted future climate conditions	Council operations	Resources & Waste Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Energy & Fuel Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Number of buildings with investment programmes % reduction of estate energy usage	Estates & Facilities Management
Deliver master plan for Harbourside Park (Whitecliff and Baiter) including renovation of the sluice channel to ensure Poole Park Lagoon remains a wildlife haven.	Council operations & BCP area	People & Communities	Publication of Master plan & delivery of sluice gate project	Environment FCERM
Development of a pan-Dorset Local Nature Recovery (LNRF) Strategy.	Council operations & BCP area	Resources & Waste Water Resources & Flooding Buildings & Homes Business & Economy People & Communities	Adoption of Pan Dorset LNRF strategy	Local Nature Partnership Environment Planning

Expand Green Heart Parks model so that parks are at the centre of our communities, providing opportunities to engage with nature, volunteering and create health and well-being benefits	Council operations & BCP area	People & Communities Buildings & Homes	Number of parks developed as Green Heart Parks	Environment The Parks Foundation
Produce an Event Sustainability Policy to support transition to making event management carbon neutral integrating learning already in place with Arts by the Sea.	Council operations & BCP area	Resources & Waste Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Business & Economy People & Communities	Adoption and implementation of Events Sustainability Policy	Destination & Culture
Formalise grounds maintenance operations to enhance biodiversity incl. move to perennial planting and tree cover including considering the need for mowing, opportunities to allow for wilding, and reducing the use of pesticides and herbicides where possible	Council Operations BCP area	People & Communities	Formalised operational delivery plans	Environment
Explore adaptation opportunities for sites to accommodate extreme weather events Opportunities for use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) and natural features for water attenuation	BCP area	Resources & Waste Water Resources & Flooding Digital & Smart Places Business & Economy People & Communities	Opportunities identified and assessed	Environment Planning FCERM
Protect the marine environment from pollution originating from beach-users through education and behaviour change	BCP Operations BCP area	Resources & Waste Digital & Smart Places People & Communities	Communications plan Education & enforcement action taken	Destination Communications

CABINET

Report subject	**Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: Reforms to National Planning Policy and Implications for the emerging Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Plan**
Meeting date	8 February 2023
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	Government is currently consulting on changes to national planning policy to incentivise the preparation of local plans as the means to deliver more homes to meet its national targets. Government is aware that local plans delayed by contentious issues such as housing targets and allocations within the Green Belt are delaying plan making and resulting in less homes being built. The implications for the emerging Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Plan are significant. The proposals strengthen the Council's position in demonstrating that the government's standard methodology figure of 2,800 homes per year is not achievable. The proposed changes to national policy suggest that a lower housing target can be found sound at examination, where local constraints and circumstances are considered. This allows the Council to prepare a draft plan without having to release Green Belt for housing development or plan for densities out of character with the current built environment. In accordance with the Local Development Scheme the intention remains to publish a draft local plan in Autumn 2023, test it through examination and adopt it in late 2024. There is new emphasis too on place making and protecting the character of places. An up-to-date local plan will provide greater protections to residential areas at risk from speculative high density flatted development as the Council will not be required to demonstrate a five-year land supply.
Recommendations	**It is RECOMMENDED that:** **Cabinet supports the consultation response set out in Appendix 1 to this report and delegates authority to the Director of Planning to submit it to government subject to minor changes.**
Reason for	It is important the Council responds to the consultation. The constitution through the Scheme of Delegation to Officers,

recommendations	delegates to each Chief Officer authority "To determine whether and how to respond on behalf of the Council to any local, county, sub-regional, regional or national consultation on matters affecting the Council subject to prior consultation with an Executive Member where it relates to an Executive function". The Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration requested this consultation response be a matter for Cabinet approval.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Philip Broadhead - Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration
Corporate Director	Jess Gibbons, Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	Steve Dring, Interim Planning Policy Manager
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Plan is being produced to set a new overarching and cohesive development strategy for the area. It will set out how much, where and what type of development will take place across the area, giving the Council control over development decisions. The Local Plan will be critical in helping to deliver the Council's Big Plan and will help raise the quality of development. In July 2022 Cabinet agreed the timetable for Local Plan preparation. Work is on target to meet this timetable and publish a draft of the local plan in Autumn 2023.
2. On 22 December 2022 the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DHLUC) launched a consultation on its latest Planning Policy Reforms, which runs to 2 March 2023. The consultation seeks views on government's proposed approach to:
    i. updating the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);
    ii. preparation of National Development Management Policies;
    iii. developing policy to support levelling up; and
    iv. how national planning policy is currently accessed by users.
3. There are 58 questions in the consultation. The proposed BCP Council response is at Appendix 1. Officers recommend Cabinet supports most of the proposed changes, with some clarification sought on various technical aspects.
4. The government is clear that it intends to make the proposed changes to the NPPF in Spring 2023, almost immediately after the consultation ends, so there is a strong likelihood many of the current proposed changes will go ahead unaltered. Some of the other proposals such as the national set of development

management policies will take longer to materialise through changes to planning legislation in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill that is currently being considered by Parliament.

5. The proposed changes to the NPPF are aimed at encouraging local authorities to prepare a local plan. Government analysis has showed an up-to-date local plan coincides with higher housing delivery, and that too many local authorities are underdelivering housing due to difficulties in preparing local plans. Government therefore have proposed a series of changes to smooth the way to prepare and submit plans for examination under the current planning system by June 2025. Even the examination process will be less rigorous.

6. The proposed changes also place a greater emphasis on the quality of development giving local authorities more power to refuse development. There are new rewards in the housing delivery test for local authorities that grant many permissions, such as BCP Council, but where the market has failed to deliver. There are also penalties for developers who do not have a good track record of building out planning permissions. For example, on 1 April 2021 there were 6,991 homes (net) with planning permission but not yet built in the BCP Council area. Of these 1,658 homes were under construction. However, by 1 April 2022 only 696 homes were completed against a combined current local plan target of 1,689 homes for 2021/22. There was a similar position in the previous year. Whilst the Council continues to grant permissions, delivery from the private sector lags behind. The role of BCP Future Places will be important in improving delivery of homes on some major sites over the next few years.

7. The consultation also proposes that local authorities will no longer have to demonstrate a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites provided there is an up-to-date local plan (less than 5 years old). This is an important change as it will give the public greater confidence that new development will be plan led and remove the speculative nature of development proposals seen in recent times. More support is also proposed to communities preparing neighbourhood plans so that these plans will provide greater protections from speculative development for longer.

8. With such a strong emphasis on plan making, the proposals have some significant positive implications for the emerging Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Plan.

Implications for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Plan

9. The amended NPPF will come into place in Spring 2023, and this will not cause delay to the timetable for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Plan. The next stage in the Local Plan process is to publish the publication version (draft plan) in Autumn 2023. Following this we plan to submit the local plan for examination throughout 2024 and adopt the plan at the end of 2024.

10. There are three proposed changes that provide officers greater confidence to prepare, publish and submit the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Plan for examination. Firstly, is greater clarification that the standard methodology for identifying housing need is only the starting point for setting a housing target, and more detail will be provided as to the circumstance where a locally derived housing target will be accepted. Secondly, the government proposes that local authorities do not have to review Green Belt boundaries to release land to meet housing or other development need. Thirdly, it will no longer be necessary to plan

to meet housing needs by building at densities which would be significantly out-of-character with the existing area.

11. As set out in the response to Question 7 of the consultation, the standard methodology which is used to calculate housing needs sets a figure of 2,800 homes per annum for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area. This is extremely challenging to meet given the land available. Officers also remain concerned that the methodology used to calculate the figure for our area is based on historic data when abnormally high international migration levels were apparent in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area. The Office of National Statistics (ONS) have subsequently amended predictions related to migration data, but this is not reflected in the standard method calculation.
12. Whilst waiting for the government announcements the Planning Policy Team spent the autumn reviewing available sites and preparing three development options to address the areas housing needs. These options are:
    - Option 1 Urban intensification
    - Option 2 Urban intensification with some settlement extensions
    - Option 3 Urban intensification with extensive settlement extensions
13. Through the internal governance arrangements, the Local Plan Advisory Group and the Local Plan Delivery Board have provided a clear direction of travel for officers preparing the draft local plan. In light of these government proposals both groups have advised officers to focus the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Plan on Option 1 and not consider the release of Green Belt to meet housing needs.
14. With an urban focus and protection of the Green Belt, the challenge for the local plan will be to set policy that protects existing family homes within the urban area and provides new family homes or family friendly apartments. The government consultation provides greater emphasis on placemaking and protecting the existing character of the urban area. This will provide the Council with greater flexibility to protect streets of family houses with a strong character, and to focus higher density flats in potential areas of change where the urban form has a less strong character.
15. Officers will continue to prepare the plan to timetable. This will include continuing with some informal public engagement during 2023 to ensure the draft plan has community support.

Options Appraisal

16. There are no options to discuss, this is a consultation response.

Summary of financial implications

17. There are no financial implications.

Summary of legal implications

18. There are no legal implications.

Summary of human resources implications

19. There are no human resource implications.

Summary of sustainability impact

20. There is no sustainability impact of this consultation response. The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Plan will be assessed for its sustainability impact when it comes before Cabinet.

Summary of public health implications

21. There are no public health implications.

Summary of equality implications

22. There are no equality implications.

Summary of risk assessment

23. There are no risks associated with a consultation response.

Background papers

The government consultation paper that the consultation response is based upon is at https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy

Appendices

Appendix 1: BCP Council Consultation Response

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report subject	**Work Plan**
Meeting date	1 March 2023
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Place O&S Committee have worked with Officers to identify the priority areas of work for the Committee with contributions from the Committee members. The work priorities of the Committee have been developed on the basis of risk. The proposed Work Plan is attached at Appendix A. The Committee is asked to consider the proposals contained in the Work Plan and approve or amend the contents. A link to the current published Cabinet Forward Plan is included within the report to aid the Committee in deciding on its priorities for scrutiny.
Recommendations	**It is RECOMMENDED that the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee amend as appropriate and then approve the Work Plan attached at Appendix A to this report.**
Reason for recommendations	The Council's Constitution requires all Overview and Scrutiny bodies to set out proposed work in a Work Plan which will be published with each agenda.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Contributors	Lindsay Marshall, Overview and Scrutiny Specialist
Wards	N/A
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. All Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) bodies are required by the Constitution to consider work priorities and set these out in a Work Plan. When approved, this should be published with each agenda.
2. The Constitution requires that the Work Plan of O&S bodies shall consist of work aligned to the principles of the function. The BCP Council O&S function is based upon six principles:
    1. Contributes to sound decision making in a timely way by holding decision makers to account as a 'critical friend'.
    2. A member led and owned function – seeks to continuously improve through self-reflection and development. Enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard and reflected in the Council's decision-making process.
    3. Engages in decision making and policy development at an appropriate time to be able to have influence.
    4. Contributes to and reflects the vision and priorities of the council.
    5. Agile – able to respond to changing and emerging priorities at the right time with flexible working methods.
3. The O&S Committee may take suggestions from a variety of sources to form its Work Plan. This may include suggestions from members of the public, Officers of the Council, Portfolio Holders, the Cabinet and Council, members of the Committee, and other Councillors who are not on the Committee.
4. The Constitution requires that all suggestions for O&S work will be accompanied by detail outlining the background to the issue suggested, the proposed method of undertaking the work and likely timescale associated, and the anticipated outcome and value to be added by the work proposed. No item of work shall join the Work Plan of the O&S Committee without an assessment of this information.

Summary of financial implications

5. When establishing a Work Plan, the Constitution requires the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to take into account the resources, including Councillor

availability, Officer and financial resources, available to support their proposals. The Committee may wish to consider the Cabinet Forward Plan to aid in planning its work: BCP Council – Democracy

6. To ensure sufficient resource availability across all O&S bodies, Officer advice is that, in addition to agenda items, one additional item of scrutiny inquiry work may be commissioned by an Overview and Scrutiny body at any one time. This may take the form of a working group or task and finish group, for example. Bodies commissioned by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may have conferred upon them the power to act on behalf of the parent body in considering issues within the remit of the parent body and making recommendations directly to Portfolio Holders, Cabinet, Council or other bodies or people within the Council or externally as appropriate.

Summary of legal implications

7. The Council's Constitution requires all Overview and Scrutiny bodies to set out proposed work in a Work Plan which will be published with each agenda.

Summary of human resources implications

8. N/A to this decision

Summary of environmental impact

9. N/A to this decision

Summary of public health implications

10. N/A to this decision

Summary of equality implications

11. Any member of the public may make suggestions for Overview and Scrutiny work. Further detail on this process is included with Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

Summary of risk assessment

12. N/A to this decision.

Background papers

None

Appendices

Appendix A – Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee proposed Work Plan
Appendix B – O&S Item request form

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Work Plan – BCP Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The following work plan items are suggested as early priorities to the Place O&S Committee by the Chair and Vice Chair, following consultation with officers.

Meeting Date: Wednesday 1 March 2023					
1	**Poole Crematorium: Detailed Options for the replacement of cremators** To consider an update on this since decisions were taken by Cabinet in September 2022.	To enable the Committee to maintain an oversight of this issue as it progresses.	Cabinet report	PH – Environment and Place	Contact Democratic Services for further information.
2	**Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: Reforms to National Planning Policy and Implications for the emerging Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Plan**	To enable the Committee to receive an update and maintain an oversight on issues concerning the BCP Local Plan	Cabinet report	PH – Development, Growth and Regeneration	Contact Democratic Services for further information.
3	**Climate Programme** Annual report – to consider the Council's work in response to the Climate Emergency	To enable the Committee to monitor this issue and target scrutiny as required.	Cabinet report	PH – Transport and Sustainability	Contact Democratic Services for further information. Deferred from November meeting to allow annual report and action plan to be merged.
DATE to be allocated					
1.	**Strategic Transport Plan** To consider an update on progress and timescales for	To enable the Committee to consider any proposals before consultation	Committee – Briefing note	PH – Transport and Sustainability	Contact Democratic Services for further information. Deferred

	the Strategic Transport Plan.				from November meeting following a delay in government announcements
2.	**Flooding and FCERM** To consider a report providing an annual update on this issue	To enable the Committee to maintain oversight of this issue and target scrutiny as required.	Committee Report or information only paper	PH – Environment and Place	Contact Democratic Services for further information.
3.	**Play Strategy** To consider the Council's play strategy once developed.	To enable the committee to maintain an oversight of this issue and contribute as appropriate.	Committee report	PH – Environment and Place	Update requested by the Committee at its meeting in May 2022.
4.	**Local Plan** To consider the future plans and current progress on this issue.	To enable the committee to maintain an oversight of this issue and contribute as appropriate.	Committee Report or Information only paper	PH – Development, Growth and Regeneration	Update on this issue is included within the Levelling up report being taken to the Committee in March
Commissioned Work Work commissioned by the Committee (for example task and finish groups and working groups) is listed below: Note – to provide sufficient resource for effective scrutiny, no more than 2 items of commissioned work will run at a time. Further commissioned work can commence upon completion of previous work.					
	Tree Strategy Working Group To consider and feed into the developing Tree Strategy for BCP	To ensure that there is an overview on this issue and member engagement as the strategy develops	Task and Finish Group	PH – Environment and Place	
Update Items The following items of information have been requested as updates to the Committee. The Committee may wish to receive these in an alternative to format to Committee updates (e.g. by emailed briefing note outside					

of the Committee) to reserve capacity in Committee meetings for items of value-added scrutiny.					
	Flooding and FCERM To consider a report providing an annual update on this issue. Place O&S is the statutory body to consider.	To enable the Committee to maintain oversight of this issue and target scrutiny as required.	Committee Report or information only paper	PH – Environment and Place	Contact Democratic Services for further information.
Annual Reports					
	Climate Plan Annual report – to consider the Council's work in response to the Climate Emergency	To enable the Committee to monitor this issue and target scrutiny as required.	Committee Report		

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Request for consideration of an issue by Overview and Scrutiny

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Guidance on the use of this form:

This form is for use by councillors and members of the public who want to request that an item joins an Overview and Scrutiny agenda. Any issue may be suggested, provided it affects the BCP area or the inhabitants of the area in some way. Scrutiny of the issue can only be requested once in a 12 month period.

The form may also be used for the reporting of a referral item to Overview and Scrutiny by another body of the council, such as Cabinet or Council.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee receiving the request will make an assessment of the issue using the detail provided in this form and determine whether to add it to its forward plan of work.

They may take a variety of steps to progress the issue, including requesting more information on it from officers of the council, asking for a member of the overview and scrutiny committee to 'champion' the issue and report back, or establishing a small working group of councillors to look at the issue in more detail.

If the Committee does not agree to progress the issue it will set out reasons for this and they will be provided to the person submitting this form.

More information can be found at Part 4.C of the BCP Council Constitution, under procedure rules 2.4-2.9
https://democracy.bcpcouncil.gov.uk/documents/s25674/Part%204%20-%20Procedure%20Rules.pdf

Please complete all sections as fully as possible

1. **Issue requested for scrutiny**

2. **Desired outcome resulting from Overview and Scrutiny engagement, including the value to be added to the Council, the BCP area or its inhabitants.**

3. **Background to the issue**

4. **Proposed method of scrutiny - (for example, a committee report or a working group investigation)**

5. **Key dates and anticipated timescale for the scrutiny work**

6. **Notes/ additional guidance**