

Notice of Cabinet

Date: Wednesday, 2 April 2025 at 10.15 am

Venue: HMS Phoebe, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY



Membership:

Chairman:

Cllr M Earl

Vice Chairman:

Cllr M Cox

Cllr D Brown
Cllr R Burton
Cllr A Hadley

Cllr J Hanna
Cllr R Herrett
Cllr A Martin

Cllr S Moore
Cllr K Wilson

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

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

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=6061>

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

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 118686 or email press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

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

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

25 March 2025

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app



Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

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

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



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

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

Bias Test

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

Predetermination Test

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

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

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

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

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

Objectivity

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

Accountability

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

Openness

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

Honesty & Integrity

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

Leadership

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

AGENDA

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

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2. Declarations of Interests

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

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 5 March 2025.

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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 mid-day on Thursday 27 March 2025 [mid-day 3 clear working days before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a statement is mid-day on Tuesday 1 April 2025 [mid-day the working day before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a petition is Tuesday 18 March 2025 [10 working days before the meeting].

5. Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

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

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

6. BCP Council Cemetery Rules and Regulations Amendment

21 - 56

To seek approval for a modification to the BCP Council's Cemetery Rules and Regulations approved by Cabinet in June 2022 with wider updates approved in April 2024.

Following notification by a religious faith group of a typing omission relating specifically to Regulation 3, Section 3.12 an amendment is proposed to ensure BCP Council adopts legally compliant and fair rules and regulations.

<p>7. Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defence Scheme – CIL Funding Proposal</p> <p>Poole town centre is at considerable flood risk which will increase over time with the effects of climate change. This Scheme is the preferred option from the approved Poole Bay, Poole Harbour and Wareham, Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2014). The strategy identified that within Central Poole Cell there were 573 properties at flood risk in the present day 1% AEP event, rising to over 2,000 properties at flood risk by 2110.</p> <p>Flood defence schemes have been completed from Baiter to Poole Bridge, delivered by the Environment Agency (EA) and Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC). However, the area remains at risk due to the ageing infrastructure between Poole Bridge and Hunger Hill. BCP Council is responsible for and leading on a proposal for tidal flood defences on the remaining frontage.</p> <p>The current policy of flood defence delivery through regeneration and private development has not provided the required level of investment and protection. Our proposal is to deliver via a single BCP Council led scheme, working in liaison with the various landowners.</p> <p>The costs to build the defences are estimated at circa £29m for delivery of all primary works in a single phase. The scheme has secured £15.95m of Flood defence Grant in Aid and has submitted a bid for a further £6.5m to the Environment Agency. Cabinet has considered the Strategic Prioritisation of CIL on 05 March 2025, of which this scheme is a principal project and £7.3m is being proposed from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).</p>	<p>57 - 64</p>
<p>8. Mid Point Review of the Housing Strategy Delivery Plan</p> <p>The BCP Housing Strategy was produced in 2021 and set priorities to be delivered over the following five years. Given the challenges in the economy and the housing market both locally and nationally, a mid-point review has been completed to consider delivery to date, key challenges, and what has changed since 2021. The review then considers how the Delivery Plan needs to adapt to ensure delivery against the strategy objectives is maximised.</p> <p>The proposed new Delivery Plan for 2025-2027 is appended to this report and Cabinet are asked to approve this.</p> <p>The report also proposes a new governance structure to improve oversight and programme management of the Plan in its final stages.</p>	<p>65 - 142</p>
<p>9. Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2024-25</p> <p>The Council has a statutory duty to provide working families of children aged 0-14 (18 with SEND) enough childcare places in its area, where reasonably practicable. Each year Research and Children's Services colleagues assess the position of the market, providing parents, councillors, schools and private business ward level information as a planning tool to support access or expansion of places, while highlighting areas of focus for the year ahead.</p> <p>With significant government expansion of early years childcare and</p>	<p>143 - 168</p>

wraparound care currently taking place, this information and data is vital for private businesses seeking to enter the market and help the Council fulfil its statutory duties.

The content of the assessment concludes that the Council is meeting its statutory duties. It is also important to highlight that, at the time of writing, the quality of our providers stands at 99.2% good or outstanding (compared to 97.8% in England).

In addition to a briefing report (appendix 1) the data that helped form the assessment is accessible [here](#).

10. Children and Young People's Partnership Plan 2025-2030

169 - 222

Having a Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) Plan is a statutory requirement of Children's Services. It is a high-level strategic plan that outlines how to support children and young people living in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole with the aim to improve outcomes for all children and young people. The current plan has come to an end, and this is the new plan covering 2025-2030.

It is an important statement of the partnership's commitment to BCP's children and young people. Not only does it set out the priorities for services that support children and young people, but it also defines how partners will work with each other to deliver those priorities effectively.

[PLEASE NOTE: Should the Cabinet wish to discuss the detail of the exempt Appendix at Appendix 2 it will be necessary to exclude the press and public and move into Confidential (Exempt) session]

11. Adult Social Care Strategy 2025-28

223 - 242

To provide background information on the development and consultation of the new Adult Social Care Strategy 2025-28.

12. Scrap metal licensing fee increase

243 - 254

On 13 March 2025, BCP Licensing Committee considered and approved changes to licensing fees that are not statutorily set, including those applicable to Scrap Metal Licences. Relevant fees were considered on a full cost recovery basis, increasing to reflect rises to national insurance, annual local government pay award and consumer price index.

The Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 allows the local authority to set fees to administer and issue site licences and collectors licences provided for under the legislation. Fees should be set on a cost recovery basis, in line with the statutory guidance and giving due regard to relevant case law.

The setting of fees in relation to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 is held as an executive function and therefore must be approved by BCP Cabinet. Licensing Committee have considered the fees pertaining to licences issued under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 and have recommended that Cabinet approve these fees..

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

The Chief Executive to report on any decisions taken under urgency provisions in accordance with the Constitution.

14. Cabinet Forward Plan

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

15. Date of the next meeting

Cabinet are asked to note the change of date of the next meeting which will now be held on Tuesday 13 May 2025 at 10.15am and not Wednesday 21 May 2025 as originally scheduled.

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

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of the Meeting held on 05 March 2025 at 10.15 am

Present:-

Cllr M Earl – Chairman

Cllr M Cox – Vice-Chairman (Present virtually)

Present: Cllr D Brown, Cllr R Burton, Cllr A Hadley, Cllr J Hanna,
Cllr R Herrett, Cllr A Martin and Cllr K Wilson

Also in attendance: Cllr S Bartlett (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board), Cllr P Canavan (Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee), Cllr G Farquhar, Cllr J Martin, Cllr A Keddie and Cllr O Walters

Also in attendance virtually: Cllr S Carr-Brown (Chair of the Childrens Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee), Cllr E Connolly, Cllr C Rigby (Chair of the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee) and Cllr T Slade

Apologies: Cllr S Moore

121. Declarations of Interests

Cabinet was advised that the Monitoring Officer had granted all BCP Councillors a dispensation to enable all to participate in the debate and vote on the Community Governance Review.

In relation to this Cabinet was advised that the granting of this dispensation would be reported to the next meeting of the Standards Committee.

Councillor Hanna advised for the interests of transparency that he was a member of the Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group.

122. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2025 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

123. Public Issues

Cabinet was advised that there had been no petitions or questions submitted by members of the public on this occasion, but that one statement had been received in relation to Agenda Item 9 (Our Place Environment: Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme 2025/26).

Public Statement from Luci Allen (BH Active Travel) on Agenda Item 9 – Our Place and Environment: Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme 2025/26

As Chair of campaign group BH Active Travel, I would like to thank the sustainable travel officers at BCP Council for their continued engagement with the DfT regarding successful funding applications and delivery of schemes on the ground, for the which the active travel community are grateful.

Following the visit of the two relevant Portfolio Holders to Christchurch last Friday, to join the Bike Bus and witness the safety issues around the Junior School, I trust that Cabinet will today approve the LTP budget and ensure that a substantial proportion of the Travel Safety Measures budget is allocated to the area surrounding the school.

Equally, we would welcome revised cycle infrastructure designs for Barrack Road and Fountain roundabout, developed in readiness for any future funding. Perhaps in the meantime some temporary schemes could be trialled.

124. Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Cabinet was advised that there were no additional recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees on items not otherwise indicated on the Cabinet agenda on this occasion, however the Chair of the Health and Adult Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee advised Cabinet that the Committee had made a recommendation to Cabinet at their last meeting which will be submitted to the next meeting of the Cabinet in April.

125. Community Governance Review - Draft Recommendations

The Chair of the Community Governance Task and Finish Group, Councillor Oliver Walters presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (Part 4) devolved power from the Secretary of State to principal councils to carry out community governance reviews and put in place or make changes to local community governance arrangements.

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that the Council had commenced a review following the Council decision in October 2024 at which the terms of reference and timetable were approved, and that Cabinet was now asked to consider the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group and to make a recommendation to Council.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, Councillor Bartlett addressed the Cabinet advising that the Board at their meeting the previous evening had had a complicated and thorough debate on this item following which the Board had agreed seven recommendations in respect of the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group, these being: -

1. *That the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to proposals for Burton and Winkton (A), Hurn (B), Highcliffe & Walkford (C) and Christchurch Town (D) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment.*

(Unanimous Decision)

2. *That the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to Broadstone (F) and Poole Town (J) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment.*

(Majority Decision)

3. *That the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to Bournemouth Town (K) **not be recommended** to Council for approval for publication and consultation.*

(Majority Decision)

4. *That the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to Southbourne (I)) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment.*

(Majority Decision)

5. *That the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to Boscombe and Pokesdown (H) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment.*

(Majority Decision)

6. *That the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to Throop and Holdenhurst (E) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment.*

(Majority Decision)

7. *That the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to Redhill and Northbourne (G) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment*

(Majority Decision)

Members addressed the Cabinet where the following comments were raised: -

- Support of the removal of (k) Bournemouth Town
- The importance of the consultation and of the need to ensure communications are balanced
- Expressions of concern in relation to the drawing of the boundaries particularly with regards to Southbourne and the surrounding areas

The Chair of the Task and Finish Group responded to the comments raised and highlighted in particular the work which will be carried out in regard to the communication of the consultation.

Cabinet members spoke in support of the recommendations as set out in the paper expressing thanks to the Chair of the Task and Finish Group, the members on the group and in particular the Head of Democratic Services for all their hard work on the Community Governance Review.

Further to this Cabinet members thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Board for their through debate on this item.

Cabinet members spoke of the benefit of Town and Parish Councils and highlighted examples in the Christchurch area where this had been demonstrated.

In addition to this Cabinet highlighted the importance of the consultation being carried out well and of communities being able to have their say.

With regards to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and in particular recommendation 3 Cabinet felt that it was important to consult on all areas including (k) Bournemouth Town and therefore supported the recommendations as set out by the task and finish group and did not support recommendation 3 as submitted by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

RECOMMENDED that: -

the Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group draft recommendations, as set out in the schedules within the attached report be approved for publication and consultation with interested parties.

Voting: Unanimous

Reason

The Task and Finish Group considered the representations received during the first stage of the review process which invited representations from local stakeholders and other interested parties. The views of these representations have helped shape the draft recommendations.

126. Quarter 3 - Corporate Performance Report

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

Cabinet was advised that BCP Council had adopted 'A shared vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 2024-28' in May 2024.

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that the shared vision is the corporate strategy which sets out the council's vision, priorities and ambitions as well as the principles which underpin the way the council works as it develops and delivers its services.

Cabinet was advised that incorporated in the vision is a set of measures of progress for achieving the vision, priorities and ambitions, and that this is the third quarterly performance monitoring report, presenting an update on the progress measures.

Cabinet was informed that the council's delivery against its priorities and ambitions can also be monitored through a [performance dashboard](#) which is available on the council's website providing up-to-date real time information on the progress measures.

RESOLVED that Cabinet: -

- (a) considered the quarter three performance; and**
- (b) noted that work continues to expand the data available on the interactive performance dashboard.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

Reason

Our shared vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole sets out the priorities and ambitions against which the council's performance will be judged, and as such is a vital component of the council's performance management framework.

An understanding of performance against targets, goals and objectives helps the council to assess and manage service delivery and identify emerging business risks.

127. Pay and Reward Progress Update

Cabinet was advised that it had been originally hoped that a report could be brought to this meeting of the Cabinet, but that this will be coming to a future meeting of the Cabinet at an agreed point in the Pay and Reward process.

In relation to this the Portfolio Holder advised that there was continued work going on in respect of negotiations with the Unions.

128. Our Place and Environment: Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme 2025/26

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

Cabinet was advised that the report sets out and seeks financial approval for investment of the 2025/26 Local Transport Plan (LTP) grant allocation (capital funding) from the Department for Transport (DfT) and Active Travel Fund 5 (ATF5) grant.

Cabinet was informed that the 2025/26 LTP Capital grant allocation is £10.58m comprising £3.102m of Integrated Transport Block (ITB) funding and £7.478m of Local Highway Maintenance funding.

Cabinet stressed the importance of this vital funding and spoke in support of the recommendations.

Cabinet was advised that the Transportation Advisory Group at their recent meeting had discussed the report in detail and whilst there had been no formal recommendations that they had submitted the following comments in respect of this item: -

1. *Concerns were raised with regards to ensuring that the provision of electric charging points meets the needs of all.*
2. *The Group emphasised the importance of ensuring potholes are dealt with swiftly, particularly those which are a danger to cyclists and those on two wheels.*
3. *The Group urged that officers ensure the effectiveness of different road surface treatments to ensure we are achieving long life and value for money.*

Cabinet was advised that Officers and the Portfolio Holder would be picking up the comments raised by the Transportation Advisory Group.

RECOMMENDED that Cabinet: -

- (a) **Recommends to Council approval of the 2025/26 Local Transport Plan Capital Programme as set out in Appendix A and delegates the delivery to the Director of Planning and Transport in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy and Portfolio Holder for Destination, Leisure & Commercial Operations**
- (b) **Delegates the delivery of the Active Travel Fund 5 grant to the Director of Planning and Transport in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy and Portfolio Holder for Destination, Leisure & Commercial Operations**
- (c) **Recommends to Council approval of the indicative 2026/27 and 2027/28 Highways Maintenance Programmes as set out in Appendix B**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Climate Response, Environment and Energy

Reason

Delegate delivery of the LTP Capital Programme and Active Travel Fund 5 grant in line with financial regulations. The purpose of approving indicative 2026/27 and 2027/28 Highways Maintenance programmes is to demonstrate forward planning to satisfy criteria associated with assessment of the incentive fund element.

129. Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

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

Cabinet was advised that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is collected from development and used to fund infrastructure necessary to support

planned growth set out by the Draft BCP Local Plan, and that CIL receipts are split into strategic, neighbourhood and administration components. We can only spend CIL once it is received.

Cabinet was informed that Strategic CIL spending governance was agreed by Cabinet in 2021, and that the Capital Briefing Board (CBB) assesses project bids for strategic CIL and recommends which projects receive spending, subject to following the necessary sign off procedures in accordance with the financial regulations.

Cabinet was advised Service providers have identified £121.8m infrastructure projects for CIL funding over the next 5 years which exceeds the projected uncommitted £29.3m Strategic CIL budget and so prioritisation is necessary, and that this paper asks Cabinet to recommend to Council the priorities for Strategic CIL spend enabling CBB to manage the process.

Cabinet was informed that the preferred approach to prioritisation is set out in Option 2 in the report, to put approximately 80% of Strategic CIL towards large infrastructure projects essential to support local plan growth, and that provision of Poole Town Centre flood defences and habitats sites mitigation are critical to enable the Council to grant planning permission.

In relation to this Cabinet was advised that approximately 20% of CIL remains for discretionary infrastructure projects, and that the annual Infrastructure Funding Statement reports all CIL spend.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, Councillor Bartlett addressed the Cabinet advising that at their meeting the previous evening the Board had discussed the report and unanimously supported the recommendations as set out in the report.

In addition, the Chair of the Board raised that the list should be revisited with members as their may be areas which are identified within individual wards.

Cabinet spoke in support of the report highlighting the importance and of the necessity to find funding for Phase 2.

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet recommends that Council: -

- (a) Agree the spending priorities for Strategic CIL set out in Option 2 over the period 2024/25 to 2029/30 provided CIL income is as forecast; and**
- (b) Annually update this report for Cabinet and Council.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

Reason

The infrastructure necessary to support or mitigate the planned growth set out in the Draft BCP Local Plan far exceeds the likely income. This report enables Cabinet to set the spending priorities to provide a clear steer to the Capital Briefing Board to manage the award of CIL to projects.

The meeting adjourned at 12.05pm

The meeting reconvened at 12.28pm

The Leader advised that Agenda Item 11 (Bournemouth Development Company LLP Business Plan) would be moved to the end of the meeting as there were ongoing discussions regarding the recommendations pertaining to the previous evenings Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting.

130. Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)

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

Cabinet was advised that the Council has been awarded a further £5.722m funding allocation by the Department for Transport (DfT) for 2025/26 to continue delivery of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that the purpose of this paper was to seek council approval to accept and invest the grant, noting progress to date made with the delivery of the initial £8.9m three-year BSIP allocation.

Further to this Cabinet was advised that the paper was also recommending approval of a full review of the subsidised bus service network to support the withdrawal of the council's Bus Subsidy Budget in accordance with the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

Cabinet was advised that the Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) at their recent meeting had discussed the report in detail and whilst there had been no formal recommendations that they had submitted the following comment in respect of this item: -

1. *the possibility of discounted children's bus passes being delivered outside of the app to negate the need for children to carry smart phones.*

Cabinet was advised that in relation to the comment from TAG that the Portfolio Holder and officers had met with the bus company immediately following the TAG meeting and had already raised this with them for their consideration.

Cabinet spoke in support of the recommendations and of the importance of the bus services for communities.

RECOMMENDED that: -

- (a) **Cabinet recommends to Council acceptance of the £5.722m Bus Service Improvement Plan funding for 2025/26 from the Department for Transport**
- (b) **Cabinet recommends to Council to Delegate delivery of the BSIP programme, developed in conjunction with the Enhanced Partnership Board, to the Service Director for Planning and Transport in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Mitigation, Energy and Environment**

- (c) **Cabinet agrees and recommends to Council a full review of all subsidised local bus service contracts ahead of the planned commencement of the withdrawal of the Bus Subsidy budget starting in 2026/27**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Climate Response, Environment and Energy

Reason

- (a) To inform Cabinet of the improvements introduced for the benefit of buses and bus passengers funded by the original BSIP grant award.
- (b) Approval is sought to accept the BSIP funding to support immediate investment in bus service improvements.
- (c) The investment of the BSIP funding is aligned with the Council's Corporate Strategy and the Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan.
- (d) To minimise the impact on bus passengers of the withdrawal of the council's Bus Subsidy budget.

131. Planning Reforms and new Local Development Scheme

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

Cabinet was advised that the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) had published its revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) on 12 December 2024, and that these changes in Government policy have implications for Local Plan production and decision-making on planning proposals.

In presenting the report the Leader advised that the council had this morning received a letter outlining their findings, and that there is a need for the council to respond.

Further to this the Leader proposed an amendment to recommendation (b) to insert the word 'draft' so that the recommendation read as follows:

- (b) *Agreed to the publication of a new **draft** Local Development Scheme as required by Government to a deadline of 6 March 2025;*

This amendment was supported by the seconder and agreed as the substantive recommendation.

Cabinet discussed the report and in particular issues surrounding the balance between the need to build houses and of ensuring that environmental aspects are considered.

RESOLVED that Cabinet: -

- (a) **Noted the Government's recent planning reforms;**
- (b) **Agreed to the publication of a new draft Local Development Scheme as required by Government to a deadline of 6 March 2025;**

- (c) **Delegated authority to the Director of Planning & Transport to prepare a PID (Planning Initiation Document) and notice to commence plan making immediately in Spring 2025; and**
- (d) **Delegated authority to the Director of Planning & Transport for a 'call for sites' to be commenced in Spring 2025.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

Reason

Government policy

132. Climate Action Annual Report 2023/24

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

Cabinet was advised that the report presented the fifth annual update to Cabinet on progress towards commitments made in the BCP Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration, made on the 16th of July 2019.

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that the 2023-24 progress against the main commitments was:

- Make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030 - scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions **reduced by 8.7%** from the 2019 baseline
- Work with the wider community to make the region carbon neutral before 2045 – according to data released in 2024, total area-wide emissions for 2022 had **reduced by 12%** from the 2019 baseline.

In relation to this Cabinet was advised that the report also introduced a new emissions dashboard to make progress transparent and presents draft Roadmaps that identify key decisions for consideration if targets are to be achieved.

Cabinet was advised that this report had been discussed at the previous meeting of the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee, where there had been an interesting debate and good challenge from the Committee.

Cabinet spoke in support of the report and in particular of the introduction of the dashboards.

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) **Cabinet noted the Climate Progress Report 2023-24, and the introduction of emissions dashboards;**
- (b) **Cabinet noted the draft Roadmap of climate actions to take the Council to its 2030 target, which will be approved within 12 months; and**

- (c) **Cabinet noted that a companion Roadmap to address the area-wide 2045 target is in preparation as part of the Local Area Energy Plan and will be presented for approval at Cabinet on 16 July 2025.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Climate Response, Environment and Energy

Reason

This report informs on progress made to date and proposes a draft Roadmap of climate actions that the Council can consider in order to deliver on the ambitions of a carbon neutral Council by 2030. These are clear and achievable but require resources and timely decision-making if significant emissions reductions are to be made. A similar roadmap to achieve a carbon neutral region by 2045 is in preparation as part of the Local Area Energy Plan project and will be presented to Cabinet in July 2025.

133. Children's Services Capital Strategy 2025/26-2027/28

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People, Education and Skills presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'I' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the report set out the Education and Skills Capital Programme for the period 2025/26 – 2027/28, and that it summarises available capital funding totalling £22.6 million and provides an indicative programme of investment of £21.4 million set against key budget headings aligned to improvement priorities across the service.

Cabinet was informed that the planned expenditure of available capital was set out in the report and showed a balanced budget.

Thanks were expressed to officers for all their hard working in preparing this paper.

In presenting the report the Portfolio Holder read out the comments raised by the Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee following their recent meeting where they had noted and agreed the paper, discussed alternative provision at some length and wrap around care and that had advised that they will be looking at further and alternative provision at a future meeting.

Councillor Bartlett addressed the Cabinet asking whether there was a possibility to use CIL for the provision of new schools or for converting schools to assist with SEND.

In relation to this the Leader advised that the 18% of discretionary CIL could be used for education purposes but that it was important that central government resolve the funding issues around SEND.

RECOMMENDED that Council agree the capital programme as set out in the report, including the budget allocations set against the capital funding available for the period 2025/26 – 2026/27.

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Children, Young People, Education and Skills

Reason

Utilising investment in the school estate to discharge the council's statutory duties to delivery good estate management and secure sufficiency of places aligned to the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, Wraparound and Expanded Entitlements Delivery Plan, SEND Sufficiency Strategy, Belonging and Improvement Strategy and DSG Recovery Plan.

134. Bournemouth Development Company LLP Business Plan

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

Cabinet was advised that Bournemouth Development Company LLP ("BDC") is a joint venture between the Council and Community Solutions for regeneration Bournemouth, a subsidiary of MUSE Developments Limited (itself a subsidiary of Morgan Sindall Group plc) which was established in 2011 and is currently due to expire in 2031.

Cabinet was informed that in March 2023, Cabinet approved a request to extend the Site Option Execution Date for Winter Gardens to September 2024, and that this date had passed and a further extension is required in order for BDC to continue working on a new scheme.

Cabinet was informed that a Strategy Day was held on 6 December to review and consider options for moving forward with the Winter Gardens site, and that following that meeting, Muse have committed funds to take forward new high-level design and capacity work for the site.

In relation to this Cabinet was advised that early indications show potential for a housing-led scheme with circa 500 homes, including a good proportion of affordable homes, along with some street level retail and commercial space.

Cabinet was advised that the purpose of this report was to update Cabinet on progress since the recent BDC Strategy Day, agree the proposed timetable for the new Partnership Business Plan and to update on the priority project, Winter Gardens, including the proposed strategy for bringing forward residential development on the site, which requires approval to extend the Site Option Execution date.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, Councillor Bartlett addressed the Cabinet advising that at their meeting the previous evening the Board had debated a number of issues relating to the paper in detail, and that the following recommendation had been agreed: -

1. *That a decision to extend the Winter Gardens site 'Option Execution Date' is deferred by Cabinet until the new BDC Partnerships Business Plan has been approved by Cabinet.*

(Equal decision, Chair used his casting vote)

Members addressed the Cabinet where the following comments were raised: -

- The need to invest in social and affordable housing
- Concern as to whether BDC still offers the council the scope to develop the site
- The building of housing needs to be balanced with the provision of car parking

The Leader advised that it had been an interesting debate at the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting the previous evening and that there was a lot to consider going forwards including exploring viability as there has been much change over the last 6 years.

In addition, the Leader advised that BDC now have a really strong relationship with Homes England.

Further to this and taking on board the recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Board the Leader proposed an amendment to recommendation (a) so that it would read as follows: -

- (a) *Agrees the principle of an extension of the Winter Gardens site "Option Execution Date", with details to be agreed to be delegated to the Chief Operations Officer acting in consultation with the Leader of the Council, or until Cabinet have had the opportunity to review a revised partnership business plan including the site development plan for the revised Winter Gardens scheme.*

This amendment was supported by the seconder and agreed as the substantive recommendation.

Cabinet spoke in support of the recommendations as amended and in relation to this welcomed the revised proposals and the new injection of passion and energy.

RESOLVED that Cabinet: -

- (a) **Agrees the principle of an extension of the Winter Gardens site "Option Execution Date", with details to be agreed to be delegated to the Chief Operations Officer acting in consultation with the Leader of the Council, or until Cabinet have had the opportunity to review a revised partnership business plan including the site development plan for the revised Winter Gardens scheme.**
- (b) **Instructs officers to explore the available funding options such that a funding strategy can be developed for the Winter Gardens project and be put forward at a future Cabinet meeting;**
- (c) **Notes the timetable for producing a new Partnership Business Plan for BDC and a Cabinet report later this year;**
- (d) **Notes the interdependency with the current work to review Shareholder Governance and that the composition of the BDC Board is under review.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holders: Leader of the Council
Housing and Regulatory Services

Reason

To contribute to the Council's Corporate Strategy, specifically helping to revitalise high streets and regenerate key sites to create new opportunities and to provide good quality homes that are accessible, sustainable and affordable for all.

The emerging Local Plan includes an allocation of 400 new homes in the Bournemouth Arc area. This project offers the potential to make a significant contribution to exceed this target.

The Council has reserved the right for Cabinet to approve Site Development Plans (SDP) and further approvals are necessary to vary terms.

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

Cabinet was advised that no urgent decisions had been taken in accordance with the Constitution since the last meeting of the Cabinet.

136. Cabinet Forward Plan

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

The meeting ended at 2.03 pm

CHAIRMAN

CABINET



Report subject	BCP Council Cemetery Rules and Regulations Amendment
Meeting date	2 April 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>To seek approval for a modification to the BCP Council's Cemetery Rules and Regulations approved by Cabinet in June 2022 with wider updates approved in April 2024.</p> <p>Following notification by a religious faith group of a typing omission relating specifically to Regulation 3, Section 3.12 an amendment is proposed to ensure BCP Council adopts legally compliant and fair rules and regulations.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>a) Cabinet approves the amendment to Regulation 3, Section 3.12 – Proposed Modification Single or bulk purchase of graves by funeral director s/arrangers or religious or non-religious faith group representatives to their group members or families they represent will <u>not</u> be permitted.</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>To provide correct and updated guidance to users of our cemeteries that align with legislative requirements and general industry practice.</p> <p>Cemetery Rules and Regulations are a statutory requirement governed by the Local Authority Cemetery Order (LACO) 1977, in which guidance on their content is issued on a regular basis. The adopted Cemetery Rules and Regulations with the proposed modification aim to remove some customs and practices that have developed over time that would not comply with current LACO guidance.</p>
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Sandra Moore, Portfolio Holder for Communities and Partnerships
Corporate Director	Glynn Barton, Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	<p>Kate Langdown, Director of Environment</p> <p>Ian Poultney, Head of Strategic Development</p>

Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For decision

Background

1. In June 2022 Cabinet approved the adoption of harmonised Cemeteries Rules and Regulations. Following notification by a religious faith group of a typing omission relating specifically to Regulation 3, Section 3.12 in April 2024 a further Cabinet report was presented recommending wider compliance updates and a modification to Section 3.12 presenting the report the then Deputy Leader proposed that recommendation (c) as below:

(c) Regulation 3, Section 3.12 – Single or bulk purchase of graves by funeral directors/arrangers or religious or non-religious faith group representatives to their group members or families they represent will not be permitted.

be deferred to enable consultation to take place with the faith groups to establish the impact this will have for them.

Legal review of proposed amendment

2. Ahead of meeting with representatives from those raising concern amongst impacted faith groups, Officers sought Kings Counsel advice on Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole ("BCP"), acting in its capacity of a burial authority, on whether it has the legal power to allow the multiple or "bulk" purchasing of grave spaces in its cemeteries by individuals or their representatives for future use.
3. Summarising the advice given, Officers have been advised by Kings Counsel that Article 10 of the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order does not permit BCP Council to grant more than one burial "right" to any single person. Consideration has also been given as to whether the general power of competency under Sections 1 and 2 Localism Act 2011 could apply, however this is not applicable in this instance due to the intention and restrictions contained within Article 10.
4. The conclusion reached being religious groups or others cannot lawfully bulk purchase grave spaces in a local authority cemetery for future use and that, the proposed amendment to paragraph 3.12 of BCP's Cemetery Rules and Regulations would, if adopted, be lawful.

Industry adopted approach

5. The service as a member of the Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management (ICCM) (trade industry association that governs good practice in the industry and is also a training provider for crematorium and cemetery operations) requested information

on what the standard practice was nationally amongst its burial authority members. An online survey was sent out to all 201 of its local authority members on 10 May 2024 and closed on 20 May 2024

6. The response rate from the 201 members was 100% of which 87.06% of respondents advised that they did not allow bulk purchases of graves with further detail provided being due to grave space running out within their cemeteries.

Engagement with representatives from impacted faith groups

7. Officers have since offered and undertaken meetings with interested representatives from impacted faith groups to hear their thoughts, concerns and share the findings from both the legal advice obtained and comparative standard practices operated nationally amongst burial authorities.
8. Meetings were positive and helpful to understand positions regarding bulk purchasing and more keenly the underlying concern from impacted faith groups regarding future allocation of designated grave space given that the Local Authority is running low on available burial space with all Poole's cemeteries and Christchurch Cemetery now closed to new virgin grave space and two of Bournemouth Cemeteries at critically low levels of new virgin grave space. Combined it is anticipated BCP Council has capacity to provide for the next 10 years burial need only.
9. Officers advised that any remaining space would be prioritised for the use aligned with the adopted Section 3 Burials paragraph 3.13 Prepurchase of Grave Space. However, this includes a commitment that designated maintained faith sections within cemeteries would be proportionally allocated additional space within the total available allocation once existing pre purchased unallocated plots have been exhausted with records accordingly shared with the Burial Authority, and when remaining unpurchased burial plot numbers within a designated area are reduced to a point to make this appropriate.
10. Officers confirmed that the proposal to amend the Cemetery Rules & Regulations to stop the practice of pre-purchasing of graves in Bournemouth is being made in support of fairness and equality for all local residents and to enable the Council to effectively manage their burial spaces in accordance with LACO ensuring that provision of burial services is sustainable for residents in the future years, as laid out in Appendix One.
11. The information shared was acknowledged and no further subsequent representation from impacted faith groups on the matter of bulk purchasing has been received.
12. It was furthermore agreed that regular liaison meetings between BCP Bereavement Care and representative faith groups would be undertaken on an ongoing basis..

Summary of financial implications

13. N/A

Summary of legal implications

14. The modification is required to protect the Council, faith groups and families against potential legal challenges being raised regarding legality of ownership. Previous practice of allowing the single and bulk pre-purchase of graves when ownership was recorded against a singular faith group representative on a number of graves which were then reallocated to faith group members led to inaccurate recording of correct ownership details.
15. Burial law dictates that written consent must be given by the legally registered owner of a grave prior to any burial taking place in or memorial work taking place on the grave. Burial law is also clear on the transferring of ownership from one owner to another with a legal process required to be followed. Allowing purchases of graves by a faith group to later assign to members is not legally compliant with legislation. Additional legal implications are contained within the body of this report.

Summary of human resources implications

16. N/A

Summary of sustainability impact

17. A full Decision Impact Assessment (ID: 419) was carried out in support of the original Cabinet Report for the June 2022 meeting. There is no requirement to update this DIA in view of this modification.

Summary of public health implications

18. N/A

Summary of equality implications

19. A full Equalities Impact Assessment report and action plan has been completed. Refer to Appendix Two.
20. As a public authority, BCP Council carry out our functions having due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate unlawful discrimination
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
 - foster or encourage good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
21. To allow the continuance of bulk pre-purchasing of graves within our cemeteries will lead to grave space being fully exhausted sooner than currently envisaged thus increasing the possibility of denying local residents of faith or non-faith persuasion the opportunity of a burial close to where they live.
22. Whilst the proposed new practice will impact the current operating practices adopted by certain faith groups that have chosen to purchase graves in bulk on behalf of others it does not impact individual followers of these faiths from purchasing burial space. Officers have taken steps to engage with representatives of these faiths to explain the reasons for the changes to those who raised concerns. We hope this will foster good relationships and ensure our services are both fair and respectful of their needs.

23. Assurances have been given that proportionate expansions of designated faith sections within the overall finite available burial spaces within cemeteries will be facilitated once existing pre purchased unallocated plots have been exhausted, records accordingly shared with the Burial Authority and when remaining available unpurchased burial plot numbers within a designated area are reduced to a point to make this appropriate.
24. Officers have furthermore offered future regular liaison meetings with faith group representatives to discuss general Bereavement Services matters.
25. Officers have considered other protected characteristics and have identified no known impacts
26. There is no evidence to support that the suspension of this practice is discriminatory or unlawful as detailed in this Impact Assessment and is being requested to ensure fairness and equity of access for all and aligns with national practice.

Summary of risk assessment

27. Having a clear and updated set of Rules and Regulations will ensure that a more efficient and effective cemetery service is provided that is compliant with regulation in all areas of its service delivery now and in the future and will lead to a reduced risk of challenges made to the Council.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft amendment to BCP Cemeteries Rules and Regulations

Appendix 2 Equalities Impact Assessment

Background papers

BCP Council Cemeteries Rules & Regulations Cabinet Report June 2022

BCP Council Cemeteries Rules & Regulations Amendment Cabinet Report April 2024

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BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE
COUNCIL

CEMETERY

RULES AND REGULATIONS

These Rules and Regulations are made by the Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP Council), acting as the Burial Authority for the proper management, regulation and control of its cemeteries.

BCP Bereavement Care Office

BCP Bereavement Care Office

BCP Council

North Cemetery

Bournemouth

Dorset

BH8 9HX

Tel: 01202 123111 / 01202 128111 Email: bereavementcare@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

www.bcpbereavementcare@bcpcouncil.gov.uk



<https://www.facebook.com/BCPBereavementCare>

The office is open to public enquiries:

Monday to Friday 11am – 3pm

The office is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

Cemetery Opening Times

Summer (1st April to 30th September)

Monday to Sunday

9am – 7pm

Winter (1st October to 31st March)

Monday to Sunday

9am – 5pm

All Cemeteries will be open to the public 365 days a year.

1 Interpretation of Terms

1. 'Cemetery' means any cemetery managed and controlled by BCP Council.
2. 'Cemetery Operative' means that person holding the office as appointed by BCP Council or the person who shall be acting for them in their absence and who is authorised to work within the Cemetery.
3. 'BCP Council' means the Council of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.
4. 'Burial Authority' means the Council of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.
5. 'The Office' shall, unless otherwise stated, be the office of BCP Bereavement Care, North Cemetery, Strouden Avenue, Bournemouth, Dorset BH8 9HX.
6. 'Exclusive Right of Burial' means the right granted to any person or persons approved for a burial to take place within a grave purchased for an agreed lease period.
7. 'Lease Period' means the length of time agreed on the Exclusive Right of Burial granted.
8. 'Public Grave' means a grave space wherein the Exclusive Right of Burial has not been granted and resides with the Burial Authority with no memorial or headstone in place.
9. 'Purchased Grave' means any earthen grave, the Exclusive Right of Burial wherein has (subject to these Regulations) been granted by BCP Council.
10. 'Unpurchased Grave' means any earthen grave, the Exclusive Right of Burial wherein resides with BCP Council.
11. 'Traditional Grave' means a grave located within the designated section of the cemetery allowing the installation of a kerbset in addition to any other memorial on a purchased grave.
12. 'Lawn Grave' means a grave located within the designated section of the cemetery allowing the installation of a single memorial on a purchased grave.
13. 'Memorial' means any approved memorial installed on a purchased grave, commissioned and paid for by the family.
14. 'Commemorative Memorial' means the purchase of a memorial offered by BCP Council on a contracted basis that complies with the listed terms and conditions of that contract.
15. 'Arranger(s)' means the person or persons such as a funeral director appointed by the family to make the arrangements for burial on behalf of the applicant for burial.

16. 'Burial' means the permanent final resting place of a deceased person as a full coffin burial or as a burial of cremated remains.
17. 'Exhumation' means the disturbance of buried human remains within a purchased or unpurchased grave subject to the appropriate legal licence being sanctioned.
18. 'Certificate of Disposal' means the green certificate provided to the person following the registration of death with the applicable Registrar of Births, Deaths & Marriages
19. 'Companion Grave' means a second grave purchased by the same grave owner located immediately adjacent to the first grave purchased to allow 'side by side' burials to take place.
20. 'Point of need burial' means the burial of a person who has recently died.
21. 'Expedient burial' means the burial within 24 hours where practical to do so due to religious reasons.

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2 Introduction

The municipal cemeteries located within the conurbation of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are managed in accordance with the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 under which burial authorities are responsible for maintaining statutory burial registers and grave plans, establishing rules and regulations relating to the management of the cemeteries and the memorials permitted with them and setting fees for burials and memorials. The regulations include the statutory requirements contained within the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 together with any other relevant legislation that governs this service.

The cemeteries covered by these regulations are:

Cemetery Name	Location
Branksome Cemetery	Upper Road, Branksome, Poole BH12 3EN
Broadstone Cemetery	Dunyeats Road, Broadstone, Poole BH18 8AF
Christchurch Cemetery	Jumpers Road, Christchurch BH23 2JU
East Cemetery	Gloucester Road, Bournemouth BH7 6JB
Kinson Cemetery	South Kinson Drive, Bournemouth BH11 8AA
North Cemetery	Strouden Avenue, Bournemouth BH8 9HX
Parkstone Cemetery	Elgin Road, Parkstone, Poole BH14 8RD
Poole Cemetery	Old Farm Road, Poole BH15 3LN
Wimborne Road Cemetery	Wimborne Road, Bournemouth BH3 7AB

3 Burials

3.1 Hours of burial

The hours during which burials may take place are as follows:

Monday to Friday 9.00am – 2.30pm

No burial can take place other than between these times, except with special permission of BCP Council.

Only burials where there is a religious expedient requirement can take place on a Saturday and Sunday if it is practical to do so.

During the summer months, burials may be permitted to take place outside of these times due to the longer daylight hours. Contact with the BCP Bereavement Care Office should be made where requests for summer burials outside of the permitted times is being made.

Burials will not be permitted to take place on Sundays, Christmas Day, Good Friday or Public Holidays.

3.2 Where burials are allowed

Burials will only be allowed in the ground laid out for burial as shown on the plan of the Cemetery.

3.3 Selection of grave space

The selection of any grave space for either an immediate interment or a reserved grave shall be subject to the approval of BCP Bereavement Care and shall be consistent with BCP Bereavement Care's general plan for the Cemetery, although the wishes of applicants will be met so far as is practicable.

3.4 Booking of burials

The initial booking will be accepted by telephone or online through the funeral director's online diary portal where a booking is being made by an appointed funeral arranger or funeral director where access has been provided. The Notice of Burial Form must be submitted to the Bereavement Care Office at least 3 clear working days prior to the burial taking place. The only exception to this rule will be the consideration of immediate burial for religious reasons where it is practical to facilitate.

3.5 Notice of Burial

All written Notices of Burial shall be delivered to the BCP Bereavement Care office during normal office hours and at least three working days prior to the burial taking place.

All Notices of Burial must be given in writing on the printed forms supplied by BCP Bereavement Care applicable at the time and the requirements must be clearly and completely stated on the form.

A Notice of Burial must contain the following particulars:

- The forename and surname, last place of resident, age, date and place of death of the person to be buried;
- The day, date and time of the intended burial;
- The Cemetery in which the burial is to take place and the grave number;
- The name and address of the person who is to officiate;
- The name and address of the funeral director, if one has been appointed;
- The name, address and signature of the legally registered grave owner(s) thus providing their consent for the burial to take place;
- The length, width and depth of the coffin or casket to be used for the burial, and the shape of the coffin;
- The name, address and contact telephone number/email of the applicant for burial and relationship to the person being buried.

BCP Bereavement Care will not accept responsibility for the accuracy of the details contained within the Notice of Burial.

3.6 Notice of burial of cremated remains

These Rules and Regulations shall apply to the intended burial of cremated remains in the Cemetery in the same way as they apply to burials.

Cremated remains are not permitted to be scattered on top of any purchased or unpurchased grave or within any part of the Cemetery. Cremated remains are permitted to be scattered under the turf of a purchased grave with the written consent of the grave owner. This will only be permitted in circumstances where the grave has reached full capacity or there is no intention for any further coffin or cremated remains burial to take place.

3.7 Certificate of disposal

The Certificate of Disposal issued by the Registrar of Births and Deaths or an Order of the Coroner must be delivered to the Bereavement Care Office at least 72 hours prior to the burial being allowed to take place. A written declaration made on the official form by the person arranging the funeral, that the certificate of the Registrar or an Order of the Coroner has been issued in respect of the deceased, can be provided subject to acceptance from the Registrar for Burials in order to permit the burial to proceed notwithstanding that the Certificate or Order has not been previously delivered to the Office. In the case of a still-born child, the Certificate or Order must be delivered to the Bereavement Care Office prior to the burial taking place. A written declaration will not be accepted in this instance.

3.8 Form 18

In the unlikely circumstance that the Certificate of Disposal is not provided then the funeral director will need to complete and sign a Form 18 prior to the burial being permitted to take place. The funeral director must ensure that the Certificate of Disposal is sent to the BCP Bereavement Care office as soon as practicably possible following the burial.

3.9 Payment of burial fees

All appropriate fees for burial shall be paid in full to BCP Council at the time the Notice of Burial is submitted.

The only exception to this rule will be for those 'arrangers' having a pre-approved account arrangement where the burial fee will be invoiced within 7 working days following the date on which the burial has taken place. Payment in these circumstances can be made by the arranger 7 days following receipt of a formal invoice by a BACS transfer, cheque or credit/debit card. Cash payment on invoice will not be accepted.

3.10 Resident and non-resident burial fees

Double fees will be charged for the interment of persons not normally resident within BCP Council and will apply to all other fees connected with the grave, with the exception of grave maintenance fees. Double fees will apply where any person who did not have their primary residency within Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole in the 5 years leading to their death.

3.11 Timings of burials

The time of the burial will mean the time when the funeral cortege shall arrive at the Cemetery Chapel (if booked) or the graveside for bookings where the coffin or casket is to be taken directly to the grave. No burial shall take place within 90 minutes of the time for which a separate burial booking has been arranged in any one of the Cemeteries.

3.12 Exclusive right of burial (grave purchase)

When purchasing the Exclusive Right of Burial in a grave space a Deed of Grant will be issued by the Bereavement Care Office to the person by whom the Exclusive Right of Burial is purchased and such person shall be registered by BCP Bereavement Care as the owner of the same. The Deed of Grant will grant the Exclusive Right of Burial in a grave space for a maximum period of 50 years. Wherever possible the Deed of Grant should be produced whenever a burial takes place. No grave in which the Exclusive Right of Burial has been purchased shall be opened without the written consent of the registered holder of the Exclusive Right of Burial or their legal representative.

Only individuals intending to use the grave for intended burial of their family members or friends or a legally appointed Executor can proceed with the purchase of Exclusive Right of Burial. Only single grave purchases will be permitted at any one time. No bulk purchasing of grave spaces will be permitted by individual persons or representatives. Single or bulk purchase of graves by funeral directors/arrangers or religious or non-religious faith group representatives for later allocation to their group members or families they represent will not be permitted.

3.13 Prepurchase of grave space

Where identified sufficient grave space is available within the Cemetery the pre-purchase of a new grave will be permitted. Where grave space is at a premium, no pre-purchase will be permitted within the Cemetery with purchases only permitted where burial is anticipated to take place within three weeks of a booking being made and confirmed.

3.14 Reclaimed grave

Reclaimed graves are offered (where available) for purchase in all Cemeteries and are subject to the conditions of regulation 2.10 above.

3.15 Rights of ownership

A transferred Rights of Ownership to a grave is only valid if it has been registered and agreed by the Bereavement Care Office. It is advisable that once the grave owner has been buried within the grave, the family or legal next of kin make arrangements for the legal transfer of ownership. This will avoid delays at point of need for burial and further distress being caused to the family. No further burial, burial of cremated remains, additional inscriptions on grave memorials or installation of new grave memorials will be permitted until entitled ownership has been established and a legal transfer of ownership has taken place with the new owner thus providing their written consent.

In cases where the original purchaser is deceased, the new owner must demonstrate entitlement to ownership of the grave by producing:

- A valid Will and Last Testament of the original purchaser;
- Registered Grant of Probate;
- Letters of Administration, or
- In the absence of the above, a completed Statutory Declaration witnessed by a Commissioner of Oaths or a Solicitor registered to do so.

A fee is charged for processing the transferred Rights of Ownership to a grave by BCP Bereavement Care which must be paid at the time the transfer of ownership is executed. All paperwork relating to the transfer of ownership will be retained by the Bereavement Care Office for the remaining lease period of the originally purchased Exclusive Right of Burial.

3.16 Extension of lease periods

Extension of remaining grave lease periods will be permitted. Extended periods can only be purchased by the registered purchaser or owner of the grave. Extensions will only be permitted up to a maximum of 50 years. For example, if 20 years have expired on the original purchased lease period, then a 'top up' of a maximum of 30 years will be permitted. Fees for the purchase of extended leases will be calculated on the published fee on a pro-rata basis.

3.17 Unpurchased or public graves

Unpurchased graves acquire no rights, all rights being vested in BCP Council. All unpurchased graves will be dug to accommodate two interments which may be of persons unrelated. No memorials are permitted on unpurchased grave spaces.

3.18 Fees and charges

All fees and charges are payable to BCP Council for burials and other Cemetery services and can be obtained by either downloading from the website: www.bcpbereavementcare.co.uk or by emailing the BCP Bereavement Care Office: bereavementcare@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

4 Burial Procedures

4.1 Digging of graves

No grave shall be dug, excavated or back-filled except by persons appointed or employed by BCP Council only.

4.2 Coffin construction and materials

Coffin construction and materials approved by the Funeral Furnishings Manufacturing Association (FFMA) are preferred and widely encouraged for burial within the Cemeteries. In view of the national and international focus being given to climate change and to safeguarding the environment, BCP Council encourage the use of biodegradable coffins which have less impact on the local environment and in some

cases a reduced carbon footprint in their manufacture. American-style full caskets are permitted but due to their size requiring a larger burial area than the standard allotted burial space, a double burial fee will be charged. Metal caskets will not be permitted within the Cemetery.

4.3 Number of burials in a grave

A grave space subject to the Exclusive Right of Burial may normally be expected to allow one (single depth), two (double depth) or three (triple depth) burials. However, soil or ground conditions may occasionally dictate otherwise in which case a lesser number of burials will be authorised. BCP Council will not accept liability or responsibility in any way should the number of burials authorised for a grave space be less than the number proposed or intended by the owner at the time of purchase.

4.4 Depth of graves

Graves will be made level with the surrounding ground level and no raised mounds will be permitted. The first burial (with exception of Jewish graves and graves set aside for the burial of cremated remains or children's graves) shall be at a depth of not less than 2700mm (9ft). Subsequent burials shall be at a depth of not more than 2100mm (7ft) and 1500mm (5ft). Successive sets of cremated remains shall be at the same depth as each other to a maximum of 6 sets at each level in a full grave and a maximum of 4 sets in a cremated remains grave. When a grave has reached its capacity on coffin burials, cremated remains may be buried at a depth of 609mm (2ft). Whenever a burial has taken place, except in a vault, the surface shall be covered and grass-seeded unless approved planting is to be undertaken or a memorial is to be installed. BCP Council reserves the right to prune, cut down or dig up and remove any shrubs, plants or flowers at any time, when in their opinion, they have become unsightly, overgrown or necessary for the purpose of allowing the grave to be re-opened to receive a further burial, or to allow access to a nearby grave.

Whenever a burial has taken place, except in a vault, the surface shall be covered and grass-seeded unless approved planting is to be undertaken or a memorial is to be installed. BCP Council reserves the right to prune, cut down or dig up and remove any shrubs, plants or flowers at any time, when in their opinion, they have become unsightly, overgrown or necessary for the purpose of allowing the grave to be re-opened to receive a further burial, or to allow access to a nearby grave.

4.5 Burial of cremated remains – grave declaration

Once cremated remains have been buried at a depth of 609mm (2ft), no further burial of coffins will be permitted if there is coffin capacity remaining. In circumstances where cremated remains are being buried where coffin capacity remains, the grave owner will be required to sign a Grave Declaration prior to the interment taking place. Please refer to Section 4.7 below regarding the disturbance of human remains. The coffins in the grave must be separated by means of a layer of earth not less than six inches in thickness with no less than 3ft of earth below the level of any ground adjoining the grave.

4.6 Officiants

Burials may take place with or without a religious or non-religious service. It is the responsibility of the burial arranger to make any necessary arrangement for a religious or other person authorised to officiate at the burial.

4.7 Disturbance of human remains

Once a person has been buried it is unlawful to remove or disturb the body without lawful authority to do so (please refer to Regulation 5 on Exhumation). When any grave space is re-opened for the purpose of carrying out a further burial, no person shall disturb any human remains buried therein or remove from there any soil.

4.8 Grave re-instatement

When a burial has taken place it will take between six to 12 months for the ground to settle. During this time the grave will be levelled with top soil by BCP Council as and when required and re-seeded upon levelling. Following the back-filling of the grave, BCP Council will undertake a 10-day and 6-month grave check to ensure the grave is in good order prior to any memorial installation that may take place.

4.9 Burials in vaults or brick graves

Following the burial of a body in a vault, BCP Council shall ensure within a period of 2 hours that the coffin be wholly and permanently embedded in and covered with a layer or layers of good cement concrete, not less than 150mm in thickness or to be wholly and permanently enclosed in a separate cell or receptacle constructed of slate or stone flagging not less than 60mm in thickness, properly jointed in cement, or of good brickwork in cement.

Materials for vaults shall be conveyed into the Cemetery under the direction of BCP Council's Cemetery Team in order to reduce risk of damage to Cemetery property and injury to persons in line with the Construction (Design & Management Regulations) 2015.

No new vault or brick grave will be permitted within the Cemetery.

4.10 Shallow graves

A shallow grave will only be encountered at the time of reopening the grave for a further burial preventing compliance with the legally required depth of less than three feet below the level of the ground adjoining the grave. In instances where it is not possible to gain the required depth to facilitate a further burial in the grave and where the soil is suitable, a further burial can take place with the coffin being placed less than two feet below ground level subject to the requirements of the ICCM's Policy on Shallow Grave Depths.

5 Exhumation

5.1 Exhumation means "any disturbance" of buried human remains. Bodies may be exhumed for many reasons, including the lack of burial space, redevelopment of old cemeteries or crypts; archaeological reasons; individual requests for reburial, repatriation or cremation; criminal investigations or even to correct errors made ie. person was buried in the wrong grave.

5.2 Exhumation is governed by three key areas of legislation:

- [Burial Act 1857](#) (external site)
- [Health & Safety at Work Act 1974](#) (external site)
- [Public Health \(Control of Diseases\) Act 1984](#) (external site)

5.3 The need to exhume is not a common occurrence. However, when exhumation is required it must be done with dignity and respect and with all of the necessary legal licences and documentation in place together with the relevant written consents from the next of kin, close family members, the grave owner and the burial authority. It is unlawful to disturb any human remains (including cremated remains) without these permissions in place.

5.4 Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) appointed by the Burial Authority are required to review each exhumation case approved ahead of any arrangements being made for the exhumation to take place. EHOs are also required, where appropriate, to attend exhumations sanctioned under a Ministry of Justice licence, ecclesiastical Faculty or Coroner's Order to ensure the conditions set within the appropriate Licence or Faculty are met; and that safe working practices are adopted throughout to limit any risk to public safety. The EHO will also ensure that the dignity and respect of the deceased is maintained throughout the exhumation process.

5.5 A family making a request for exhumation for personal reasons should contact the BCP Bereavement Care office who will be able to offer advice and support regarding the necessary paperwork to be completed in relation to applying for the appropriate Licence or Faculty for exhumation and other permissions required.

5.6 A fee for the exhumation process to be carried out will be charged to the family making a request for exhumation. There is no fee associated with applying for a Ministry of Justice Licence. A fee will be charged directly to the family by the appropriate Diocese receiving the ecclesiastical Faculty application.

6 Memorials

6.1 Approval of memorials

No memorial shall be installed or placed on any grave within the Cemetery or any inscription or subsequent or additional inscription made without the Council's written approval. All applications must be made to the

Council on the appropriate memorial application form. The exact dimensions of the memorial and the proposed inscription is to be provided on the appropriate memorial application form. Any subsequent or additional inscription to an existing memorial must also be submitted for approval to the Council. All memorial applications will incur a memorial fee payable to BCP Council at the time of submission.

Memorial application forms can be obtained from the BCP Bereavement Care Office or downloaded from the BCP Bereavement Care website and once completed will contain details of:

- The name and address of the applicant for the memorial
- The name of the last person buried in the grave;
- The name of the cemetery and grave number;
- The written consent of a living registered grave owner or owners;
- The name and address of the appointed stonemason and/or fitter;
- The BRAMM/NAMM registration number of the appointed stonemason or fitter;
- A drawing of the proposed memorial containing all dimensions;
- The type of materials to be used for the proposed memorial;
- The full inscription to be used for the proposed memorial.

Memorials will only be approved and permitted by BCP Council on purchased graves once a burial has taken place within that grave and with the written consent of the registered grave owner.

The charge for a burial in a public grave does not include any right or privilege other than a right of burial in a public grave selected by the Council. No memorial of any kind will be allowed upon a public grave, and nothing shall be placed upon such a grave without the consent of the Council.

All memorials shall be of natural materials.

The installation of approved memorials will be under the direction of the Council and in accordance with British Standards 8415:2018 and any subsequent changes thereof for the fitting and installation of a memorial on a purchased grave.

Only a stonemason or fitter registered with the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM) or the National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) will be permitted to install a memorial within the Cemetery.

Once approved, and payment thereof received, a permit for installation will be issued by the Council to the appointed stonemason or fitter. Any memorial installed or any work executed without such permission or

which does not fully comply with the terms of the permit may be removed by the Council at its discretion and at the expense of the grave owner.

6.2 Inscribed names

The name as given on the Registrar's Certificate of Disposal or Coroner's Order for Burial will be permitted on the proposed memorial. Any other name by which a deceased person was generally known may be allowed in parenthesis subject to all applications being approved by the Council. Should any question arise on the appropriateness of any plan or inscription for any proposed memorial for the consecrated and/or faith group sections of the Cemetery, shall be referred to and determined by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese and other leading faith group leaders.

6.3 Traditional graves

Within each Cemetery is a designated Traditional section. Kerbing around or entombing of grave spaces will only be permitted on graves allocated to a traditional grave section within the Cemetery. Kerbing must include the whole site with dimensions being as outlined in the memorial application form approved. The same applies to a plot set aside for the burial of cremated remains. Crazy paving or wooden post fencing will not be used as kerbing for graves unless enclosed fully by appropriate kerbing in place. If crazy paving or wooden post fencing is in place this shall be removed by BCP Council without notice.

6.4 Lawn graves

Within each Cemetery is a designated Lawned section. It is an absolute requirement that no item other than a single approved memorial shall be placed upon the actual grave space located within a lawned section of the Cemetery. Additional items such as bedding plants, glass vases, flower bases, marble fonts, wooden crosses, kerbing or any other item that may denote the grave boundary or restrict the maintenance of the area will not be permitted. If any such item is placed upon the grave it will be removed by the Council without notice.

6.5 Landings

Landings will not be permitted above ground level on any grave within the Cemetery.

6.6 Markings on memorials

To comply with British Standards 8415:2018 all new memorials shall have a clearly indicated line across the front or back indicating the depth the memorial should be placed below the surface of the ground and is to include the grave number (and section) clearly and conspicuously engraved upon the base. All new memorials must have the stonemason's name clearly inscribed on it in letters no larger than ¾" in height at the base on the reverse of the memorial. Such markings are to be clearly shown on the drawings submitted in support of the memorial application form. The height of all memorials shall be taken from ground level.

6.7 Removal of memorials

No memorial shall be removed from any grave in the Cemetery without the permission of the registered owner or their legal representative and without BCP Council being informed as to the removal. When memorials are removed from graves to enable further burials to take place or additional inscriptions to be added, such memorials and their foundations shall be removed and re-installed by the appointed stonemason or fixer and at the expense of the registered owner of the grave. Re-installation of the

memorial on the grave shall take place between six and twelve months from the date of removal. Following a period of 12 months, a new memorial permit application will need to be submitted and the applicable fee paid for.

6.8 Condition of memorials

It is the responsibility of the registered grave owner or their legal representative to ensure their grave and memorial is kept in good repair. BCP Council reserves the right to remove any memorials which shall have become in a dilapidated or unsafe condition.

Any memorial subject to the terms and conditions of a BCP memorial cleaning contract will be kept clean by BCP Council on the payment of the appropriate annual price for the agreed fixed period of years.

Any external party appointed by the registered owner or their legal representative to clean a memorial in place must ensure that they have the appropriate public liability insurance in place and comply with the requirements of Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) when it comes to natural stone cleaning chemicals. BCP Council will not accept any liability for any damage caused or injury sustained by privately appointed individuals while carrying out memorial cleaning work within the Cemetery.

6.9 Marker tablets

The use of Marker Tablets on Hebrew and Muslim graves will be permitted and must bear the name and date of death of the deceased only. The Tablet must not exceed 300mm x 200mm and are to be placed flat on top of the grave, slightly below turf level. Memorial stonemasons must submit all applications for the installation of marker tablets to BCP Bereavement Care for approval.

6.10 Temporary markers

The use of temporary markers on graves is permitted only where a memorial is being installed. The full name and date of death of the deceased is to be shown on the temporary marker and shall be removed on the installation of the permanent memorial by the appointed stonemason. The temporary marker must not exceed 300mm x 200mm in dimension.

6.11 Damage to memorials

BCP Council will not accept liability for any damage caused to private memorials within the Cemetery by vandalism, ordinary wear and tear, extreme weather events or any other circumstances beyond their control. Repair or replacement work will be at the cost of the registered owner or their legal representative in circumstances where memorial damage is sustained in these circumstances. Any memorial rendered unsafe will be removed by BCP Council.

6.12 Working on memorials in the cemetery

All memorials must be completely worked before they are admitted to the Cemetery for installation. No work of any kind other than fixing, lettering and cleaning shall be allowed in the grounds of the Cemetery. Materials for memorials shall be conveyed into the Cemetery in such a manner, under the direction of the Cemetery Team, as to avoid injury to property and personnel as per the requirements of The Construction (Design & Management Regulations) 2015.

The work of fixing or removing memorials must be carried out during the published opening hours of the Cemetery and shall not interfere with the work of the Cemetery Team or any funeral or burial service that may be taking place.

6.13 Expiration of exclusive right of burial

On the expiration of the agreed lease period on the grave, BCP Council may remove and dispose of any memorial installed on the grave subject to BCP Council:

- Giving notice in writing of the proposed removal to the last known person entitled to the grant of right of burial by letter sent to the last known address of such person;
- Not remove any memorial if the person entitled to the grant of right of burial offers to purchase and BCP Council is willing to issue a grant for a further fixed period;
- Not dispose of any memorial so removed for a period of one year from the date of removal during which time the owner of the memorial or their legal representative may remove it from the Cemetery.

BCP Council will not be required to pay any monetary compensation to the owner for any memorial so removed.

6.14 Vases and commemorative plaques

Free standing memorial vases on unpurchased graves will be permitted. Vases must not exceed 200mm in height, 250mm in width, and 250mm in depth and bearing the name of the deceased and a short inscription. The memorial vase must be placed at the head of the grave.

Memorial plaques on unpurchased graves will be permitted. Plaques must not exceed 150mm x 75mm and must be of natural material. The plaque shall be inscribed with the grave number, name or names of the deceased, date(s) of death and a short inscription. The plaque must be firmly attached to a metal leg 225mm in height and placed at the head of the grave.

The approval of BCP Council must be obtained before flower containers, other than vases or commemorative plaques of the permitted size, are placed on the graves.

6.15 Grave maintenance

Grave maintenance packages are available for purchase from BCP Council on any purchased grave within the Cemetery. Agreements can be taken out for 1, 5 and 10 years as per the pricing schedule in place. Only staff employed or appointed by BCP Council will be permitted to carry out grave maintenance work commissioned under the terms and conditions of any grave maintenance package taken out.

7 General

7.1 Offences

Attention is drawn to The Local Authorities' Cemeteries order 1977 and any amendments thereto.

The Order provides that no person shall:

- Wilfully create any disturbance in a Cemetery;
- Commit any nuisance in a Cemetery;
- Wilfully interfere with any burial taking place in a Cemetery;
- Wilfully interfere with any grave or vault, any tombstone or other memorial, or any flowers or plants placed on a grave or within the grounds of the Cemetery.

Any person who contravenes any of the prohibition specified in this section shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £100 and in the case of a continuing offence to a fine not exceeding £10 for each day the offence continues after conviction. The level of these fines are subject to future variation.

7.2 Exclusion of persons from the cemetery

All persons visiting the Cemetery must conform in all respects with these Rules and Regulations. BCP Council may at their discretion exclude from the Cemetery any member of the public or any person who infringes these Rules and Regulations in any way.

7.3 Unruly behaviour in the cemetery

No person shall in the Cemetery by any violent, indecent or drunken behaviour prevent, interrupt or delay the decent and solemn interment of any body. No person shall play at any game or sport or discharge any firearms, save at a military funeral, or create or commit a nuisance within the Cemetery. All persons visiting the Cemetery shall conduct themselves in a quiet, orderly and decorous manner. Any person who wilfully damages, defaces or destroys any property or causes any nuisance with the Cemetery will be liable to prosecution as outlined in section 5.1 above.

7.4 Commercial activity

No person shall be allowed to sell, or offer or display for sale for monetary or commercial gain without the written consent of BCP Council.

7.5 Environmental sustainability

Wherever possible, any persons visiting the Cemetery to place floral or remembrance items on a grave are asked to place locally sourced and ethical floral tributes on graves that will natural degrade without causing harm to the local environment and wildlife. No artificial wreaths, artificial flowers, plastic-wrapped flowers, glass or plastic jars or bottles is permitted on graves. Items placed on graves in the Cemetery that do not

comply will be removed by BCP Council and where possible stored for up to six months. Items removed will be disposed of by BCP Council if not claimed for or collected during the 6-month holding period.

7.6 Control of vehicles

No vehicle of any nature must be driven at a speed greater than 10 mph within the Cemetery. No vehicle is permitted to park or drive on any grassed areas within the Cemetery. BCP Council have the authority to prevent vehicles from entering the Cemetery during maintenance work or during unplanned events that may potentially pose a risk to health and safety of driver, occupants and vehicle. No animal shall be left within a vehicle for any reason whatsoever without a responsible person in charge.

7.7 Children

Children under the age of 12 years will not be permitted in the Cemetery except under the care of a responsible person.

7.8 Control of dogs

A person shall not allow any dog belonging to them or in their charge to enter or remain in the Cemetery unless on a lead. All dogs are to be kept under strict control at all times and are to be kept to the footpaths at all times. Any dog mess in the Cemetery is to be collected immediately and disposed of by the owner or the person in charge.

7.9 Photographs and filming

No photographs or filming shall take place in the Cemetery for commercial or educational purposes without the written consent of BCP Council. Where any application for commercial or educational filming is made, details of the filming arrangements and the filming script is to be provided at least 48 hours prior to the requested date of filming. Any commercial or educational photography or filming will be subject to the General Data Protection Regulations 2018. The only exception to this will be taking of photographs or filming undertaken by a family member or friend of the person buried in the grave therein.

7.10 Litter

No person shall drop, throw or otherwise deposit or leave in the Cemetery any waste paper or refuse of any kind, except in the receptacles provided for that purpose.

7.11 Soliciting orders

No memorial stonemason or other person shall solicit orders in any manner or on any pretext whatsoever within the Cemetery.

No person within the employment of BCP Council shall solicit or undertake any private work within the Cemetery for financial reward or otherwise. Corporate disciplinary procedures will be followed in such instances.

Any person whom BCP Council considers to be in breach of this regulation may, at the discretion of BCP Council be excluded from the Cemetery for a defined period and formally written to.

7.12 Demonstrations

No demonstration of any kind shall be allowed within the Cemetery nor any religious service at the time of interment, without the prior consent of BCP Council.

7.13 The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)

There are a number of registered CWGC war graves commemorating the lives of those men and women who served the commonwealth and fought and died during the First and Second World Wars. Each Cemetery having GWGC graves listed within will have the appropriate GWGC Commonwealth War Graves sign displayed at the entrance to the Cemetery. The GWGC war graves are maintained and cared for by volunteers of the CWGC in addition to the work carried out in the management and operation of the Cemetery by BCP Council. All War Graves are subject to these rules and regulations.

7.14 Power to make alterations to the regulations

BCP Council reserves to itself the right from time to time to make alterations or additions to the specified rules, regulations, charges and fees.

7.15 Extent of regulations

Various fees are chargeable in addition to those mentioned in these regulations. For particulars thereof reference should be made to BCP Council's Crematorium & Cemetery price list.

The Regulations of His Majesty's Secretary of State, under the Burial Acts, are applicable to the Cemetery and must be considered as incorporated herewith.

If there is any inconsistency between the Regulations of His Majesty's Secretary of State (in particular the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977) and these Cemetery Rules and Regulations the effect of the former shall always take precedence in so far as any mandatory requirements are concerned.

Equality Impact Assessment: Report and EIA Action Plan

, Purpose

What is being reviewed?	<p>Section 3.12 BCP Bereavement Care Cemeteries Rules and Regulations</p> <p>Removal of the practice allowing the single or bulk purchase of graves by funeral directors/arrangers or religious or non-religious faith group representatives to their group members or families within BCP by faith and non-faith groups.</p> <p>The modification is required to protect the Council, faith groups and families against potential legal challenges being raised regarding legality of ownership. Previous practice of allowing the single and bulk pre-purchase of graves when ownership was recorded against a singular faith group representative on a number of graves which were then reallocated to faith group members led to inaccurate recording of correct ownership details.</p>
Service Lead and Service Unit:	<p>Kate Langdown Director for Environment Ian Poultney – Head of Strategic Development</p>
People involved in EIA process:	<p>Ian Poultney – Head of Strategic Development & Bereavement Services Nicola Lynch – Bereavement Care Manager Vicky Edmonds – Policy & Performance Officer Gail Scholes – Interim Head of Policy, Community & Inclusion Kate Langdown – Director of Environment Liz Hall, Bereavement, Coroners & Mortuary Manager (left organisation during period of EIA review) Sam Johnson – Policy & Performance Manager (left organisation during period of EIA review)</p>
Date/s EIA started and reviewed:	<p>10 April 2024, 25 April 2024, 08 May 2024, 21 May 2024 14 Feb 2025, 18 March 2025</p>

Background

Reserving of Exclusive Rights of Burial is a purely discretionary service. The Rights do not have be offered in reserve and the decision to purchase in reserve is completely optional and is at the discretion of the burial authority/purchaser.

The management, regulation and control of cemeteries owned by BCP Council is governed in law by the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 (LACO) with general powers awarded under this piece of legislation to the burial authority to “*do all such things as they consider necessary or desirable for the proper management, regulation and control of a cemetery.*” subject to the provisions of the Order.

Whilst burial has declined in popularity in the last 10 years, with cremation the preferred choice, there still remains a demand for full coffin burials due to religious or cultural beliefs.

Equality Impact Assessment: Report and EIA Action Plan

In 2010 under legacy Bournemouth Borough Council it was agreed to implement a policy of allowing the bulk pre-purchase of graves to members of the Wessex Liberal Community, Chabad of Bournemouth, the Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation, the Bournemouth Reform Synagogue and the Bournemouth Islamic Centre & Central Mosque. The arrangement was also extended to the Romany travelling community. The pre-purchase of more than 3 graves at a time was permitted by these groups. This was permitted at a time when available new grave space was at more than 30% in Bournemouth providing approximately 50 years' burial capacity within the four Bournemouth Cemeteries.

There are currently maintained faith sections within our Kinson and Boscombe East Cemetery for the Jewish Reform, Jewish Orthodox, Chabad of Bournemouth and Muslim faith groups with Jewish and Muslim sections within North Cemetery. Pre-purchase of graves by individuals was permitted in all four cemeteries from this time up until its suspension on 01 September 2022.

In legacy Poole, the practice of allowing pre-purchasing of graves (both individual and bulk) was stopped in 2010 in view of limited new grave space availability. All Poole's four cemeteries are now closed to new full grave purchases with only limited capacity on cremated remains graves and reclaimed grave space available for purchase at point of need.

In legacy Christchurch, the practice of pre-purchasing of grave space continued up until 2020 when the practice was removed following the lack of identified new virgin burial space.

Clause 10 of LACO details the provisions for the granting of exclusive right of burial, to erect memorials and agreements for the maintenance of graves and memorials. This clause further confirms that the granting of exclusive rights on graves within a cemetery should be to a person. The owner of the exclusive right is further described as "*a relative of a person buried in the grave or vault, or is acting at the request of such relative.*". There is no clear provision advising that the granting of exclusive rights of burial can be given to a group or groups of representatives nor is there any clear provision on the bulk purchasing of graves in the Order.

BCP Council are critically low in grave space with approximately 10 years' of available grave space remaining in its cemeteries with new virgin full grave space limited to Bournemouth cemeteries only. Allowing the practice of pre-purchase will ensure that space will run out even more quickly than the 10 years envisaged with no current plan in place to extend or purchase additional land for cemetery provision. Additionally, the previous allocation of pre-purchased graves to faith groups within their designated cemetery sections has led to many of these graves remaining unallocated or not buried in. Despite this, the faith groups in question continue to request additional grave space in the designated areas which we are presently unable to agree to in view of the critical shortage of graves available for other faith or non-faith groups in the area who prefer burial and place them at a disadvantage.

Findings

The practice of allowing bulk pre-purchase of graves allowed for ad hoc bulk purchasing by some faith groups however most frequently involved faith representatives bulk purchasing the exclusive right of burial and then allocating the graves to their faith group members who pay a subscription to that faith group in agreement between the faith group and that member. By law the burial authority is required to register the name of the grave owner in the formal grave purchase register. This is required to be in the name of an individual who is intending to use the grave for the burial of a family member or members or is acting on behalf of the family.

The legacy practice has led to a number of graves purchased, being unallocated in our register with a Deed of Grant confirming the owner as that of the faith group and not the individual who is intending to use the grave. There is also concern/risk that the faith groups who have purchased the graves may be exercising rights not recognised in LACO to determine which of its members are granted a grave space for burial and

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which are not. As an example if a member has, in good faith, paid for a grave and have paid their fees directly to the faith group, they should then receive a Deed of Grant for that grave confirming them as the legally registered owner of that grave. The Deed of Grant is a legally recognised document and is required to be issued to the owner or person purchasing the grave and then recorded in the formal register of grave purchase. If that member is then no longer accepted as a member of that faith group, they are then prevented from using the grave space as they intended to exercise their right to burial. This is unlawful. With the legacy practice in place, this could be permitting such an unlawful act to take place with the full knowledge of the burial authority. Additionally, there is no measures in place to ensure that what is being charged by the faith group to its members of the grave purchase is at the level published in our price list. This can therefore provide an opportunity for over inflating the cost of the grave purchase to the faith group member with the faith group profiteering from the transaction. The service have no evidence of this happening, but the opportunity is there within the legacy practice for those who wish to exploit it.

At the time this practice was suspended, it is recognised that the legacy practice of allowing bulk pre-purchases within the Bournemouth cemeteries was not only outdated but potentially unlawful a position now shared by obtained Kings Counsel legal advice (Aug 2024). Summarising the advice given, Officers have been advised by Kings Counsel that Article 10 of the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order does not permit BCP Council to grant more than one burial "right" to any single person. Consideration has also been given as to whether the general power of competency under Sections 1 and 2 Localism Act 2011 could apply, however this is not applicable in this instance due to the intention and restrictions contained within Article 10.

The conclusion reached being religious groups or others cannot lawfully bulk purchase grave spaces in a local authority cemetery for future use and that, the proposed amendment to paragraph 3.12 of BCP's Cemetery Rules and Regulations would, if adopted, be lawful.

No other protected characteristics such as Age, Disability, Sex, Gender reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Ethnicity and Race, Sexual Orientation or Care Experience would be impacted by the proposed change as there is no restriction on who can purchase an individual grave, so there is no impact identified. Whilst the proposed amendment would necessitate a change to current purchasing arrangements by some faith groups, however grave purchasing would remain available within the wider set adopted Rules and Regulations to all individuals regardless of faith or non-faith.

The proposal for the harmonised Cemetery Rules & Regulations to stop the practice of pre-purchasing of graves is made in support of fairness and equality for all local residents and to enable the Council to effectively manage their burial spaces in accordance with LACO ensuring that provision of burial services is sustainable for residents in the future years.

As a member of the Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management (ICCM) (trade industry association that governs good practice in the industry and is also a training provider for crematorium and cemetery operations) Information was requested on what the standard practice was nationally amongst its burial authority members. An online survey was sent out to all 201 of its local authority members on 10 May 2024 and closed on 20 May 2024. 3 questions were included in the survey asking the following:

- Q1. Do you charge a resident and non-resident fee for burials, grave purchases and memorial permit applications?
- Q2. Do you permit the bulk purchasing or pre-purchasing of graves by faith and non-faith groups?
- Q3. If you answer Yes to Q1 and No to Q2, can you confirm if a full equality impact assessment (EQIA) was completed by your authority in relation to this? If yes, are you willing to share a copy of the completed EQIA?

The response rate was 100% With regards to Q2 – 87.06% of respondents advised that they did not allow bulk purchases of graves with further detail provided being due to grave space running out within their cemeteries.

Conclusion

Summary of Equality Implications

As a public authority, BCP Council carry out their functions having due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- foster or encourage good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

To allow the continuance of bulk pre-purchasing of graves within our cemeteries will lead to BCP Council applying practices both outside of the legal advice obtained and that of practices largely applied across the industry and contribute to grave space being fully exhausted sooner than currently envisaged thus increasing the possibility of denying local residents of faith or non-faith persuasion the opportunity of a burial close to where they live.

The change to our practices is being carried out to eliminate unlawful practice. Whilst the proposed new practice will impact the current operating practices adopted by certain faith groups that have chosen to purchase graves in bulk on behalf of others it does not impact individual followers of these faiths from purchasing burial space. Officers have taken steps to engage with representatives of these faiths and explain the reasons for the changes to those who raised concerns. We hope this will foster good relationships and ensure our services are both fair and respectful of their needs.

Assurances have been given that proportionate expansions of designated faith sections within the overall finite available burial spaces within cemeteries will be facilitated once existing pre purchased unallocated plots have been exhausted and records accordingly shared with the Burial Authority and when remaining available unpurchased plot numbers within a designated area are reduced to a point to make this appropriate.

Officers have furthermore offered future regular liaison meetings with faith group representatives to discuss Bereavement Services matters.

Officers have considered other protected characteristics and have identified no known impacts

There is no evidence to support that the suspension of this practice is discriminatory or unlawful as detailed in this Impact Assessment though both confirmed national industry standard practices across cemetery providers and the legal advice obtained and is being requested to ensure fairness and equity of access for all.

Equality Impact Assessment: Report and EIA Action Plan

Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan

Please complete this Action Plan for any negative or unknown impacts identified above. Use the table from the Capturing Evidence form to assist.

Issue identified	Action required to reduce impact	Timescale	Responsible officer
Reputation of the Council following change in legacy arrangement applied and now withdrawn if decision made to remove practice of allowing the bulk pre-purchasing of graves by faith and non-faith groups.	<p>Meet with faith group representatives to clearly explain the reasons for the removal and assess the impact of removal of this practice to ensure transparency and provide detailed guidance on what is required to ensure each grave purchase is recorded appropriately ensuring BCP Council comply with all requirements of LACO.</p> <p>Meetings have been undertaken with representatives of the Jewish and Muslim community representatives whom previously expressed concern including a site visit to evaluate future grave capacity and to summarise the Kings Counsel advice received and wider obtained national practice data. Both faiths expressed an understanding of the Councils position and acknowledged there is sufficient available space for the foreseeable future. The Bereavement Team have now undertaken to hold regular meetings with faith group representatives to support ongoing positive engagement and user satisfaction. Since sessions were undertaken no further representation has been received.</p>	<p>2024/25</p> <p>Dec 2024 & Feb 2025</p>	<p>Head of Strategic Development</p> <p>Bereavement Services Manager</p>

Equality Impact Assessment: Report and EIA Action Plan

Increased pressure on the Council in ensuring provision of burial services is economically sustainable for residents of BCP in future years if decision is made to support legacy arrangement.	<p>Assurances have been given that proportionate expansions of designated faith sections within the overall current finite available burial spaces within cemeteries will be facilitated once existing pre purchased unallocated plots have been exhausted and records accordingly updated.</p> <p>Scoping business case for additional land for future cemetery provision, noting there is no statutory duty on a local authority to provide burial facilities, but if they do so, the management is governed by the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977</p>	2026/27	Director of Environment Head of Strategic Development

CABINET



Report subject	Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defence Scheme – CIL Funding Proposal
Meeting date	2 April 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Poole town centre is at considerable flood risk which will increase over time with the effects of climate change. This Scheme is the preferred option from the approved Poole Bay, Poole Harbour and Wareham, Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2014). The strategy identified that within Central Poole Cell there were 573 properties at flood risk in the present day 1% AEP event, rising to over 2,000 properties at flood risk by 2110.</p> <p>Flood defence schemes have been completed from Baiter to Poole Bridge, delivered by the Environment Agency (EA) and Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC). However, the area remains at risk due to the ageing infrastructure between Poole Bridge and Hunger Hill. BCP Council is responsible for and leading on a proposal for tidal flood defences on the remaining frontage.</p> <p>The current policy of flood defence delivery through regeneration and private development has not provided the required level of investment and protection. Our proposal is to deliver via a single BCP Council led scheme, working in liaison with the various landowners.</p> <p>The costs to build the defences are estimated at circa £29m for delivery of all primary works in a single phase. The scheme has secured £15.95m of Flood defence Grant in Aid and has submitted a bid for a further £6.5m to the Environment Agency. Cabinet has considered the Strategic Prioritisation of CIL on 05 March 2025, of which this scheme is a principal project and £7.3m is being proposed from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet recommend to Council:</p> <p>a) Approval of the allocation of £7.3m to the Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defence Scheme from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for the Financial Year 2025/26.</p>
Reason for recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delivers on our commitment through the approved business case to meet Defra targets to protect households from flooding. 2. Reduces the flood risk for West Quay Road, Old Town and parts of the Town Centre in Poole

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Essential for progressing future development in the Twin Sails Regeneration Area, contributing to delivery of the Local Plan. 4. Positive public realm, sustainable transport, and place shaping consistency across the central area of the Poole. 5. Ease viability issues, unlocking land for much needed housing, contributing to council targets. 6. Present day value of damages in a 'do-nothing' scenario is £161m and with a proposed scheme cost of around £29m, the cost-benefit ratio is over 5.5 to 1.
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Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Andy Hadley
Corporate Director	Glynn Barton – Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	Peter Christie – Capital Projects Manager, FCERM Rob Thomas – Senior Engineer, FCERM
Wards	Poole Town
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. In 2014, the former authorities implemented the Poole Bay, Poole Harbour and Wareham, Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy ('the Strategy'). The Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defence Scheme ('the Scheme') implements the preferred option from the Strategy.
2. The Scheme will protect 573 properties at flood risk in the present day 1% AEP event, rising to over 2,000 properties at flood risk by 2110.
3. In 2020, BCP Council's Cabinet approved the submission of the business case to the Environment Agency's Large Projects Review Group to seek £12.397m Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (grant funding) to construct tidal flood defences (Appendix 1).
4. The business case was subsequently assured and the funding approved in writing to Graham Farrant on 11 February 2021 (Appendix 1).
5. The approved business case has three key objectives:
6. **Flood risk mitigation:** Implement the preferred option of the Strategy, thereby mitigating the increasing risk of flooding to people and property in light of the impacts of climate change.
 - a. **Regeneration.** To help unlock land for future development, provide the potential for public realm improvement and contribute positively to BCP Council's sustainability agenda.
 - b. **Environment.** Have full regard for the special environmental sensitivities of the location, seeking to maintain and enhance where possible the condition or integrity of the designated sites.

Description of the issue

7. The Scheme's business case was written in 2019-20 prior to significant change and inflation. Rising costs of construction and complexity in delivering a unified scheme adjacent to existing businesses and landowners has increased the costs above the forecasted contingency allocated.
8. The cost of the scheme has increased from an outline business case estimate of £12.397m in 2019 to a full business case cost of £29.405m in 2025.
9. The project team has submitted the Planning Application (following extensive pre-application advice), a Marine Licence application, completed detailed design and has a contractor on-board with pricing and programme agreed in principle. The stakeholder engagement has been extensive, including public consultation and BCP Council are discussing Heads of Terms and construction planning with directly impacted stakeholders. In effect, the Scheme is almost ready to commence construction and the funding issue has become critical path for the delivery to programme.
10. The Scheme is critical to the Local Plan to enable planned regeneration in Poole Town Centre. Allocations within the new Local Plan rely on this flood defence being built within the next one to two years. There are 868 more planned homes within the Poole Town area between 2024 – 2029. Without the Scheme, these homes (and the subsequent regeneration) will be subject to various flood risk mitigation issues and an incoherent quay frontage, making connected places, sustainable travel and the Local Plan aspirations harder to obtain.

Options and Analysis

Do Nothing:

11. Do nothing means that we rely on developments to come on board and our planning policy to enforce consistent development and flood protection. We hand back grant funding and do not deliver on the assured business case.
12. The CIL level for this frontage currently stands at 0% which has only incentivised one development in 15 – 20 years. We keep properties and infrastructure at risk of flooding for the foreseeable future, undermine the BCP Local Plan and potentially realise the forecast economic damages of £161 million over 100 years.

Do Less:

13. Deliver part of the flood defence or reduce the height. The business case provides a 1 in 200 year flood defence for 100 years' time. Any reduction or removal of defence levels could be met with a reduction in homes protected, which directly impacts the economics and would highly likely mean a reduction in grant funding available.
14. The Scheme is part of a series of interventions governed by the Strategy. For Poole Town Centre to be successfully defended over a 100 year period, other interventions will be needed, and planning requires that new developments are safe for their lifetime up to the 1 in 200 year flood event. Hence doing less now may make gaining planning approval for further homes more difficult and / or mean that further work (to bring the defence up to the currently planned standard) will be needed in the future.

Do Something:

15. Secure the funding for the unified scheme through additional grant in aid and CIL spend and implement the expected standard of protection as per the business case.

Summary of financial implications

16. In response to the funding issue, BCP Council bid for additional £3.5m in grant in aid and was successful. This was [announced in February 2025](#) and picked up by national and local media. This totals £15.75m secured in funding from the Environment Agency (EA) and Local Levy.
17. Since approval in 2020, capital fund has been expensed to carry out pre-construction activities. This is forecast to be £4m. There will be financial implications if we are unable to fully deliver this scheme.

18. BCP Council reviewed the Environment Agency's inflation guidance and have assessed our capacity to seek further grant in aid due to inflation, of approximately £6.531m. This brings the potential total Grant in Aid from the EA to £22.105m for this project – significant investment for Poole Town.
19. The additional inflation grant bid has been submitted to the Environment Agency for review in February 2025 and should be eligible for the 2026-27 financial year, subject to assurance by the EA's Large Projects Review Group. The Environment Agency regional team have advised that they support our additional bid of £6,351m, however, those funds may not be available in financial year 2025-26 and could be profiled for financial year 2026-27, meaning that the CIL bid is imperative to securing the funds to commence works in financial year 2025-26.
20. No further funding from the Environment Agency will be available as we have reached 100% on our partnership funding score for the scheme. If we were to drop below 100% then we would not be eligible for any of the funding.
21. It is proposed that this CIL be provided to the project in the second 2 quarters of financial year 2025-26. Obtaining this £7.3m from CIL, gives much greater chance of securing the full £22.1m of grant funding from the Environment Agency for Poole Town and meeting the construction programme. The economics of the scheme are only viable under the Environment Agency partnership funding with this CIL bid.

22. CIL Forecast

Quarter	Amount
Q3 25-26	£3.3m
Q4 25-26	£4m

23. Costs to deliver the scheme have increased from £12.397m to £29.405m, an increase of £17.008m. As noted in the table below, this has been for many reasons, most notably the rise in construction costs and materials. There are also other factors that were not accounted for at the Outline Business Case (OBC) stage, including potential compensation claims for business loss, the time it would take to deliver the scheme therefore increasing our lead-in costs, and an increase in the amount of site investigation and survey the design would require.

	Task	Current Forecast	OBC	Difference
	BCP Council, Consultant Staff and Site Supervision	£3,473,987.00	£753,000.00	£2,720,987.00
	Site investigation and survey	£450,000.00	£50,000.00	£400,000.00
	Construction	£23,969,001.00	£7,827,000.00	£16,142,001.00
	Land matters & potential compensation	£1,440,000.00	£0.00	£1,440,000.00
	Other (Contract Manager, Consultation)	£143,000.00	£143,000.00	£0.00

Optimism Bias (@40%)	£0	£3,542,000.00	-£3,542,000.00
Total	£29,405,997.00	£12,397,000.00	£17,008,997.00

24. Budget Financial Table

Budget Figure	Budget Secured	Comments
£12,397,000	Yes	Secured via Environment Agency Large Project Review Group
£3,557,043	Yes	Secured via Environment Agency (additional GiA)
£6,151,000	No (planned spring 25)	Submitted as a variation to the EA Large Projects Review Group (with support of local EA team). We cannot secure anymore grant following this.
£7,300,000	This paper	Proposed CIL contribution
Total: £29.405m		

Summary of legal implications

25. Community Infrastructure Levy can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure, including transport, flood defences, schools, hospitals, and other health and social care facilities (for further details, see section 216(2) of the Planning Act 2008, and regulation 59, as amended by the 2012 and 2013 Regulations).
26. This flexibility gives local areas the opportunity to choose what infrastructure they need to deliver their relevant plan (the Development Plan and the London Plan in London). Local authorities must spend the levy on infrastructure needed to support the development of their area.

Summary of human resources implications

27. No implications identified.

Summary of sustainability impact

28. The proposed flood defences provide a long-term, sustainable, adaptive approach to implementing coastal flood risk management that is technically, environmentally and economically viable, considering future projections of climate change and sea level rise.
29. The scheme has full regard for the special environmental sensitivities of the location (SSSI, SPA, Ramsar) and requires licence and consents as required for defence works of this nature through the Crown Estate, Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Natural England and BCP Council as the Planning Authority.
30. Construction delivery will be strictly administered to minimise carbon footprint. This is embedded in all Flood Defence Grant in Aid schemes and the EA's carbon calculator will be utilised throughout the detailed design stage.
31. Flood and erosion risk is a key factor when considering sustainability of any proposals within BCP Council and forms part of the new Decision Impact Assessment. The fact this

project will mitigate such risk over the whole Poole Town Centre area will ensure an extremely positive 'sustainability impact' is delivered

Summary of public health implications

32. The delivery of the flood defences from Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill will provide significant reduction to the risk of flooding to people and property, which emerging research demonstrates will give considerable public health and well-being benefits. The business case benefits realisation had a large proportion of its value derived from people related benefits (47%), thus demonstrating that the project will deliver a significant positive impact.
33. To put this in another context, if BCP Council does not deliver the required flood defences, there will be considerable negative health implications in future years, both from the mental/emotional impact of flooding as well as a risk to life.
34. The work also involves extensive stakeholder engagement, providing an opportunity to share information and educate local communities about the future risks of flooding and the benefits that flood protection schemes can bring.
35. Additional benefits to communities can be considered to improve public realm as well as provide flood and erosion risk management. The proposed scheme will help deliver the regeneration aims of a continuous seafront access route from the Town Quay to Holes Bay, significantly improving the ability for public leisure / exercise and reducing the volume of traffic in the town centre.

Summary of equality implications

36. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Screening has been completed. The EqIA Panel assessed the EqIA screening report on 15 December 2022 and outlined a positive impact on the community.

Summary of risk assessment

37. The key risks are outlined in this report.
38. If the required funding contributions are not secured, as the climate changes and sea levels rise, an ever-growing number of properties, roads, footpaths and areas of public realm will be at increasing risk of flooding and erosion over the next 100 years.

Background papers

Not applicable.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill - FCERM2 Approval Letter LDW42886

Mr G Farrant
Chief Executive
BCP Council
Town Hall
St Stephens Road
Bournemouth
BH2 6EB

Our ref: LDW 42886
Your ref:
Date: 11th February 2021

Dear Mr Farrant,

The Flood & Water Management Act 2010

Approval of Application

Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defences

I refer to your application for Flood and Coastal Risk Management Capital Grant for the above scheme. I am pleased to advise you that your submission has been approved with a total project value of £12,397,000 and a total approved funding allocation of £12,397,000. The approval of the application is subject to the terms and conditions of the Grant Memorandum 2016.

The specific grant scheme number issued for this project is LDW 42886 and should be quoted in all future correspondence.

The approved sum is calculated as follows:

Project Summary	Estimated cost £
Total Project Value	£12,397,000
Less Partnership Funding Contributions	£0
Total approved funding allocation	£12,397,000

Funded by:	Cost £
FCERM Capital Grant	£12,397,000
Local Levy	£0

In line with Defra's Investment Plan "reducing the risks of flooding and coastal erosion" https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389789/fcerm-investment-plan-201412.pdf we would like to draw your attention to the 6-year plan allocation conditions which require FCERM GiA projects to attract 15% partnership funding contributions, realise 10% efficiency savings and contribute towards the 300,000 houses target over those six years. Please refer to your local FCERM contact for more information.

Environment Agency, Wessex Area

Rivers House, Sunrise Business Park, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 8ST
Tel: 02030 259389
Email: ron.curtis@environment-agency.gov.uk

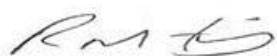
The allocation for the project is to be claimed in accordance with the Grant Memorandum 2016. The approved business case contained estimates of possible contingency; this is not allocated but is managed centrally by the Environment Agency. This enables more schemes to be funded. If you need to call down sums from the contingency included within the above project value, please do so by submitting an FCERM 4 – Variation Order to your local Area Manager. In the first instance you are expected to take into account any efficiency savings released in order to meet the 10% condition of funding before claiming the contingency for the project.

To help us manage capital grant payments, we need to understand the amount of grant that all authorities will be claiming. At the start of each financial year, you will have to fill in an FCERM 6 form, which sets out proposed claim dates and their expected values for all your projects. If these dates or amounts change within a financial year by more than £100,000, you must send us an amended FCERM6 as soon as possible. When you send us an FCERM4, you should also send an updated claim profile with it.

From time to time we could ask for information on the position on the progress of the work, such as estimated dates the work will be completed and estimates of grant claims, dates and values, to help our financial and other planning.

Please note that to draw down approved grant you should send FCERM 3 interim grant claim form(s) to the Grant Administration Team laidbfinance@environment-agency.gov.uk. Once the project is completed please send an FCERM 8 – project closure report. You must also fill in an FCERM 5 -final statement of account within 2 years of the end of the project.

Yours sincerely



Ron Curtis
Area Flood & Coastal Risk Manager, Wessex East

cc: Matt Hosey

CABINET REPORT



Report subject	Mid Point Review of the Housing Strategy Delivery Plan
Meeting date	2 April 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The BCP Housing Strategy was produced in 2021 and set priorities to be delivered over the following five years. Given the challenges in the economy and the housing market both locally and nationally, a mid-point review has been completed to consider delivery to date, key challenges, and what has changed since 2021. The review then considers how the Delivery Plan needs to adapt to ensure delivery against the strategy objectives is maximised.</p> <p>The proposed new Delivery Plan for 2025-2027 is appended to this report and Cabinet are asked to approve this.</p> <p>The report also proposes a new governance structure to improve oversight and programme management of the Plan in its final stages.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that [Cabinet]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Approve the Revised Housing Strategy Delivery Plan at appendix B. (b) Approve the extension of the current Housing Strategy Period to 2027. (c) Approve the governance structure as set out in paragraphs 7-11 of the report.
Reason for recommendations	To enable the Council to maximise delivery against the Housing Strategy Vision; to provide a safe, secure and sustainable home where it is needed and thereby enabling people the opportunity to live well.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Kieron Wilson, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director	Jillian Kay, Corporate Director of Wellbeing
Report Authors	Kelly Deane – Director of Housing & Communities Rachel Stewart, Housing Strategy and Compliance Manager
Wards	All
Classification	Public

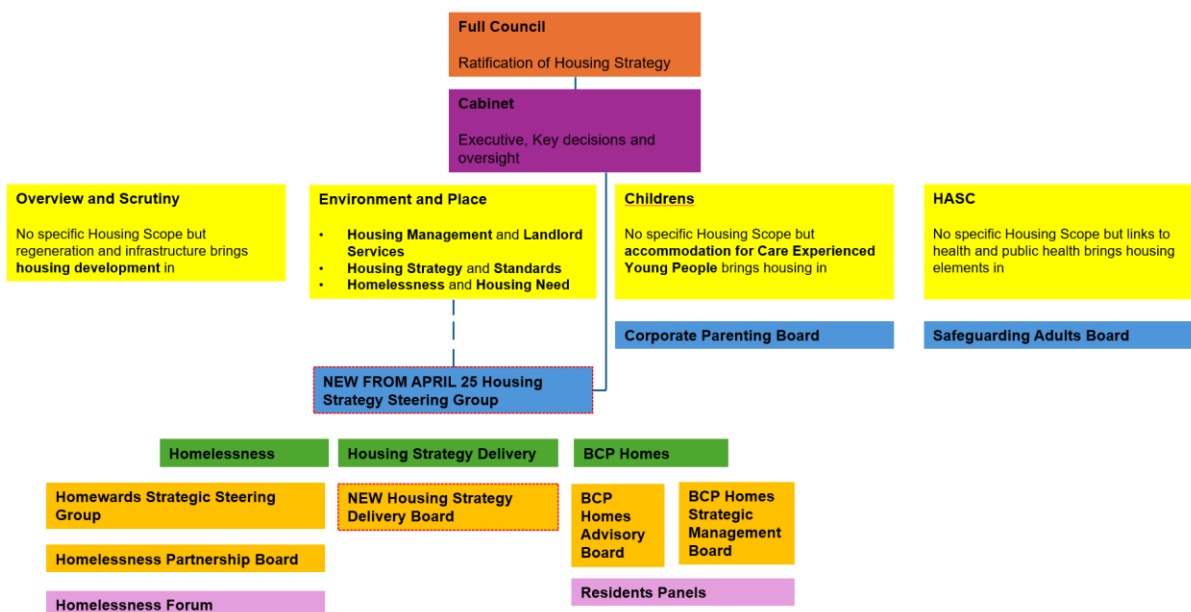
Background

1. The BCP Housing and Homelessness Strategies were produced in 2021 and set priorities to be delivered over the following 5 years. Given the challenges in the economy and the housing market both locally and nationally as well as the change in Government, a review has been completed to consider delivery to date, key challenges and critically, what has changed since 2021. The review then considers how the Delivery Plan for the final stages of the strategy needs to adapt to provide clear focus accounting for current circumstances and challenges.
2. There have been many significant legislative, regulatory and political changes which impacts the work of housing and planning authorities and their relevant partners since the 2021 strategy was adopted and key forthcoming changes to legislation. Appendix a sets out a summary of these and the review has considered the implications as they are understood at the time of writing.
3. The five priorities within the Housing Strategy are;
 - Meeting future growth needs
 - Preventing homelessness and rough sleeping
 - Improving housing options, opportunities and choice for all
 - Empowering and co-creating neighbourhoods where residents wish to live and be part of the community
 - Improving safety and sustainability across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole's housing
4. The related Homelessness Strategy was also adopted in 2021 and set out a vision of 'ending homelessness in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole by ensuring everyone has a safe place to live that they can call home.' The delivery plan associated with this strategy is a live document which has extensive partnership input and oversight. It includes significant detail and has been reviewed on an annual basis by the Homelessness Partnership Board. The strategy holds three core aims;

- Early and effective upstream prevention: reducing homelessness by intervening and educating prior to occurrence
 - Reducing and stopping the cycle of homelessness: where this does occur, work at making it a one-off event
 - Ongoing improvement, development and sustainability
5. This review has focused on the Housing Strategy Delivery Plan and adopting an approach of improved oversight/active programme delivery. To support this, it is proposed that a new governance structure is implemented alongside the new delivery plan. This is outlined from paragraph 7 below.
 6. The proposed delivery plan at appendix b sets out an extensive programme of work over the next two years. It is therefore recommended that the Housing Strategy period is extended by 12 months to 2027, to allow the pursuit of these priorities whilst allowing sufficient time and capacity to develop a new Housing Strategy throughout 2026, reporting to Cabinet in December 2026. The Homelessness Strategy is a statutory requirement and a new 5 year new Strategy will be completed by March 2026.

New Housing Strategy Governance Structure

7. In order to improve oversight of delivery against the Housing Strategy Delivery Plan it is proposed that a Cross Party Housing Strategy Steering Group is implemented. This Group will be Chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulation and report to Cabinet. It will sit within the scrutiny remit of the Environment and Place (E&P) Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Draft Terms of Reference for the group can be found at appendix c.
8. It is proposed that an annual delivery update is provided to Cabinet and made available for scrutiny by the E&P O&S Committee. Composition of the Working Group will be one Member per Group plus one unaligned Member. Expressions of interest for inclusion in this group will be requested by the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulation in April 2025.
9. A dashboard of measures and key performance indicators will be developed prior to the commencement of the Board and will link in with Corporate Strategy monitoring.
10. In addition to the oversight of the delivery of the Plan, the Board will also support the development of the delivery of the new Housing Strategy for 2027 - 2032 which will commence in 26/27.
11. The chart below illustrates the full proposed governance structure relating to housing and includes reference to all Overview and Scrutiny Committees as housing touches on their scope in most cases. The new Steering Group is shown as well as a Delivery Board to complement it. Chaired by the Director of Housing and Public Protection, this Board will bring officers together to ensure this varied and complex programme remains on track and that issues are actively tackled.



BCP Member Engagement

12. In July 2024 a Motion was passed at Council which proposed that a number of aspects relating to housing in BCP were considered within this review. The table below summarises the Motion and how each matter has/is being considered;

This Council acknowledges that there is a housing crisis across the country, including within BCP. There are a variety of factors that have led to this, however, as a Local Authority, we could begin to tackle this by agreeing to use the forthcoming review of the Housing Strategy to explore:

HOUSING MOTION JULY 2024	ACTION	DELIVERY PLAN REFERENCE
Enhancing the 'Housing First' approach to tackling homelessness at BCP Council so that no-one has to sleep rough and that the standard of available accommodation is assessed and maintained.	Housing First is a key part of our homelessness response and is an essential part of the council's response to rough sleeping. The continued and extended use of the model will be considered within the review of the Eradicating Rough Sleeping Plan.	2.1

The existing arrangements in order to make empty properties become available more quickly.	Included in revised delivery plan.	1.10
Lobby central government for a new definition of affordable housing that accurately reflects people's ability to pay, with some discretion to allow for local pay and housing costs.	Continue to lobby and engage with the Government as they consult on their Rent Policy for Social Housing to ensure that long term investment requirements within Housing Revenue Accounts (HRA) are addressed whilst protecting affordable rent levels.	5.5
Reviewing, in consultation other appropriate bodies, the viability assessment methodology used for housing developers and ways in which existing rules can be applied or amended to increase the number of affordable homes.	<p>New affordable housing policy had been proposed as part of the new Local Plan. It reduced the Poole and Bournemouth town centre locations and wider locations on Brownfield sites to a 10% requirement and 40% on Greenfield sites.</p> <p>Following the rejection of the draft Local Plan by the examiners in March 2025; the delivery of the prescribed number of affordable homes will now require further review.</p>	1.6
the possibility of supporting Local Authority built homes in the BCP area by developing an inward investment strategy to seek investment from external investors such as Dorset Pension Fund.	The Council is developing a "Place" bid for securing private and public investment which will help to focus on the growth opportunities of circa 3000 homes over the next ten years, a strong demand for all tenures, a well established build to rent market and continued supply of affordable housing which could offer opportunities for investor-led contractors. Consideration of an inward investment strategy including institutional investment opportunities and alternative funding vehicles, mechanisms etc	1.5

	to maximise delivery options.	
Co-produce a Tenants' Charter with local residents to influence housing and tenancy standards across BCP.	This will be considered as part of the options appraisal for use of further regulatory powers.	5.3
The licensing of all private sector rented housing and adding its voice to local and national calls for a ban on 'no fault' (Section 21) evictions.	Evidence base and options appraisal considering further regulatory powers subject to resources.	5.3
The existing mandatory licensing of HMOs and if additional measures are required to ensure consistent standards are applied and whether existing enforcement measures are adequate.	Evidence base and options appraisal considering further regulatory powers subject to resources.	5.3
What measures are required to regulate Airbnbs and holiday lets in BCP.	<p>Further exploration of the issues is required to define the potential response. There are legislative powers already available to the council to respond to issues of nuisance if there is a negative impact on the local community.</p> <p>In terms of regulating the number of Air B&B's and holiday lets there are no powers currently available to the council.</p>	-
Whether, given the announcements by the new Government, the house building targets in the Local Plan need reviewing.	New Government housing announcements have increased local housing targets which will be reviewed in the Local Plan urgently	1.6

13. In September 2024 an all Member workshop was facilitated to provide an update on the delivery of the strategy, discuss the key challenges and to offer the opportunity for comment and input into the review and further actions. This was attended by over 40 Members. A further session on 23 January 2025 was undertaken to provide further feedback, share the headline proposed delivery plan and to discuss the proposed new Governance Structure.

Overall Summary

14. The revised plan sets an ambitious programme across the next two years which includes delivery of new homes, the pursuit of improved housing standards and several housing initiatives which will improve outcomes for our residents. It also prioritises important foundational work which will support assessment of need and allow longer term plans and strategies to be developed and delivered.
15. The Housing Strategy is a key area of work for the Council in a geographical area which is experiencing significant and complex housing challenges. The new approach to delivery and oversight will ensure dynamic consideration of issues and development of responses - and will facilitate greater input and collaborative working into this most critical of areas.

Consultation

16. As this is a mid-point review of the strategy delivery plan, no public consultation is required. Consultation has taken place with registered providers and other stakeholders such as health partners as part of the review.
17. There has been extensive input from several council services including Housing & Communities, Investment and Development, Planning, Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Customer Arts and Property and Finance.
18. A workshop session was held at Directors Strategy Group in February 2025.

Summary of financial implications

19. Programmes within the Delivery Plan will require exploration and confirmation of potentially complex financial arrangements on a case by case basis.
20. Facilitating suitable, affordable accommodation for BCP residents has a wide reaching impact on the cost to the council, other public sector and health services.

Summary of legal implications

21. There are no specific legal implications. Any implications relating to specific programmes or actions will be considered on a case by case basis in consultation with legal services.

Summary of human resources implications

22. None.

Summary of sustainability impact

23. The delivery plan contributes positively to sustainability by pursuing improved quality of housing and supporting the development of energy efficient housing standards and solutions.

Summary of public health implications

24. There are wide ranging positive contributions across the delivery plan including specific programmes which will improve health outcomes through better housing. In addition, the plan seeks to work with a range of partners to pursue an improved understanding of housing as a wider determinant of health to inform future strategic plans.

Summary of equality implications

25. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) screening of the Strategy Review has taken place and was assessed by the EIA panel on 18 September 2024, feedback provided by the panel included that the EIA needed to show more clearly what the equality impacts were and what the mitigations would be. It was noted that while the EIA contained a lot of information that was drawn upon, it was deemed a general synopsis and lacking in detail specific to individual protected characteristics.
26. The EIA screening that took place in 2021 when the Housing Strategy was launched was rated adequate. It was considered appropriate that protected characteristic and negative impacts would be drawn out at a project level.
27. It has been agreed the EIA for the Review does not need to return to panel, and an action plan within the EIA is will be monitored alongside the Delivery Plan.

Summary of Risk Assessment

28. Risks associated with delivery of the Housing Strategy will be managed through the Council's usual risk management framework.

Background papers

Published works relating to Housing Strategy:

- Housing Strategy 2021 [housing-strategy](#)
- Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021 [Homelessness-Rough-Sleeping-Strategy](#)
- CNHAS Strategy 2021 updated 2024 [Council Newbuild Housing & Acquisition Strategy \(CNHAS\) 2023-2028 \(Cabinet 13 December 2023\)](#)

Appendices

- Appendix A – Legislative and Political changes since 2021
- Appendix B - Revised Housing Strategy Delivery Plan 2025-2027
- Appendix C – Housing Strategy Steering Group Draft Terms of Reference
- Appendix D - EIA Housing Strategy 21-26 EIA Report and Action Plan
- Appendix E – Glossary of terms and reference document

Appendix B

National Context and Legislative Changes since 2021

Since the 2021 strategy was adopted, there have been significant legislative, regulatory and political changes which impact the work of housing and planning authorities and their relevant partners.

National Context

- It is widely recognised that there is an acute shortage of social and genuinely affordable owner occupier or private rented housing, leading to issues of overcrowding and homelessness. There is also an increasing focus on improving the quality and sustainability of housing stock across all tenures.
- The UK is still experiencing a 'cost of living crisis' which refers to a fall in 'real' disposable incomes (adjusted for inflation and after taxes and benefits) that the UK has experienced since late 2021. In part, caused by high inflation outstripping wage and benefit increases. While all people are affected by rising prices, the impact has been felt most by those with low incomes who spend a greater share on energy and food.
- An unfavourable economic climate in the UK, particularly since the Autumn of 2022 has impacted the Housing sector significantly. The cost of borrowing to mortgage a home has risen as has the cost to deliver new housing supply. Costs to private landlords have been passed on in the form of rent increases and many landlords have chosen to exit the market, which further compounds the issues around availability and affordability.
- There have been increased numbers of individuals seeking asylum in the UK since 2022, and it continues to be the case that there are people arriving by 'irregular' means such as small boats via the English Channel. As the UK government has a statutory duty to accommodate asylum seekers pending a decision on their application, an estate of contingency (hotel) accommodation has been stood up. When an asylum application is concluded, if the person/s are granted leave to remain then they have to leave Home Office accommodation and most often require housing advice and assistance from the local authority in which they reside. BCP has been a locality in which the Home Office have secured this type of accommodation.

Revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The Government published its revised NPPF in December 2024 which includes;

- Reintroduction of Mandatory Housing Targets for local authorities
- Restoration of Five-Year Land Supply rules
- A new Standard Method (0.8% of existing stock as the baseline for growth)
- Affordability requirements in the Standard Method (aimed at reducing numbers needed in more affordable local authorities)
- Revision of Grey Belt definition (guidance expected Jan 2025)
- Golden Rules for Green Belt development
- Measures to ensure developers cannot bank land and must deliver on agreed sites
- Intentions to localise planning fees, pursuing a model that enables variation from national default fee

- Funding to support the delivery of Local Plans (direct contribution to LAS at an advanced stage of their plan and changes to the NPPF will impact Local Housing Need figures)

October 2024 UK Government Spending Review

The key opportunities from the October 2024 announcements for the sector include;

- An additional £500m into the Affordable Homes Programme to enable delivery into 2026
- £50m for planning departments to recruit 300 new planners
- 5-year rent settlement of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) plus 1% for social providers
- Right to Buy discounts to be reduced and local authorities allowed to keep the full receipts of Right To Buy sales
- £233m additional funding for homelessness prevention
- Extensions to March 2025 of the Household Support Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments
- £1b to remove dangerous cladding (may not be accessible for social landlords)
- £3.4b towards decarbonisation through the Warm Homes Plan (includes fuel poverty schemes, Boiler Upgrade Scheme and also to grow heat pump manufacturing supply chain).
- £3b support in guarantees to boost the supply of homes and support Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME) house builders and the build to rent sector.
- £86m increase to the Disabled Facilities Grant to support adaptations for those with social care needs
- The discount on the Housing Revenue Account rate for the Public Works Loan Board extended to March 2026
- An increase on the Stamp Duty Land Tax for 2nd homes or buy to let properties

Right to Buy

The UK government is proposing to reduce the maximum discounts available through the Right to Buy scheme, and to extend eligibility to housing association tenants. The government is also considering other changes to the scheme. Proposed changes;

Discounts - The maximum discount will be reduced from £102,400 outside of London and £136,400 in London to £16,000 in London as of November 21, 2024.

Eligibility - The government is considering increasing the eligibility requirement from three years to a longer period.

Exemptions - The UK government is proposing to reduce the maximum discounts available through the Right to Buy scheme, and to extend eligibility to housing association tenants. The government is also considering other changes to the scheme.

Repayment - The government is considering increasing the time period in which the council can ask for repayment of all or part of the discount.

Receipts - The government is considering whether new build homes should be exempt from the Right to Buy for a period of time.

Housing Revenue Account Rent Policy

The Government are proposing to set a rent policy for social housing that would:

- Remain in place for at least 5 years, from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031. It is the government's intention to set a further 5 year settlement for the period beyond this. However, consultation has taken place seeking views on possible variations to this approach that could potentially improve the stability of rent policy – such as confirming policy for a longer period (e.g. 10 years) or on a rolling basis; and
- Generally permit social housing rents to increase each year by up to CPI plus 1 percentage point ('CPI+1%'), applying both to Social Rent and Affordable Rent.

Legislative changes during the strategy period

There are several recent/future legislative changes that impact across BCP and nationally;

Building Safety Act 2022.

In April 2022, the Building Safety Act became law. It aims to improve the safety of high-rise buildings by:

- a new regulatory regime for building safety
- a new Building Safety Regulator
- a new system for managing safety risks in high-rise buildings
- ensuring that new high-rise buildings are constructed to the highest safety standards.

The Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023

The act was implemented in April 2024 and aims to enhance regulatory powers and improve housing conditions for tenants. It does this by holding poor performing landlords to account. The Act supports these aims by:

- giving more power to the Regulator of Social Housing including increased inspections and issuing fines for non compliance
- giving more power to the Housing Ombudsman including publishing best practice guidance to landlords following investigations into tenant complaints
- setting strict time limits for social landlords to address hazards. For example, damp and mould
- setting new qualification requirements for social housing managers.
- introducing stronger economic powers to follow inappropriate money transactions outside of the sector, such as money laundering

The Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023

The Act came into force on 29 August 2023. The Act plans to introduce new standards for supported exempt accommodation and make changes to how this type of accommodation is regulated. It allows the government to create new National Supported Housing Standards and introduce licensing regulations. It also sets out how a new Supported Housing Advisory Panel will work and makes changes to the rules on intentional

homelessness when a person leaves accommodation which does not meet national standards.

The Act provides a legal framework for introducing regulation, but the impact will depend on the regulations published by the government, and ongoing enforcement.

The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023

This Act became law in October 2023 and aims to support the government's commitment to reducing geographical disparities between different parts of the UK by spreading opportunity more equally. The Act is intended to "speed up the planning system, hold developers to account, cut bureaucracy, and encourage more councils to put in place plans to enable the building of new homes."

The bill will also require the government to report annually on its progress, support the devolution of powers in England and create a framework for the delivery of green homes.

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced a statutory definition for domestic abuse for the first time and placed a duty on local authorities in England to provide safe accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children. The Act amended homelessness legislation so that all eligible victims of domestic abuse that are homeless because of domestic abuse are regarded as being in priority need under the Housing Act 1996 and Homelessness Act 2002.

Social Care White Paper (2021)

In 2021, the government published their 10-year vision for adult social care in England. The Health and Social Care White Paper highlights the importance of an integrated approach to meeting people's day-to-day health and social care needs and the government's aims and proposals regarding, amongst other things, housing adaptations and the Disabled Facilities grant (DFG). The principles of the paper of "Providing the Right Care, in the Right Place at the Right Time" provides for individuals to have choice over their housing arrangements which play a crucial role for achieving positive outcomes. This could be in the form of a new home or their existing home, purpose designed or not to meet their needs and have access to technologies and adaptations.

Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022

In September 2022 the government published a refreshed rough sleeping strategy "Ending rough sleeping for good". The strategy has four key themes to end rough sleeping which are prevention, intervention, recovery and a transparent and joined up system. This was also accompanied with a further £2billion investment over a three-year period into policy and schemes to end rough sleeping such as Housing First and the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme.

Renters Rights Bill

This Bill has passed second reading in parliament and is due to become law by the summer of 2025. It intends to make substantial changes to the private rented sector. It includes the proposed abolition of Section 21 'no fault' evictions, restrictions on rent increases, prevention of discrimination (against those with pets, families or in receipt of benefits), application of the Decent Homes Standard in private rented properties, and a Private Rented Sector Database which all landlords of assured and regulated

tenancies must register with. The bill is widely welcomed by tenants who hope it will make the Private Rented Sector more fair and secure, however increased regulation leads to a hypothesis amongst sector specialists that the sector will further contract as landlords exit the market.

Health and Care Act 2022

This Act established Integrated Care Systems across the UK. The ICS is the system that brings together the health and care organisations in a particular local area, to work together more closely. There are 42 ICSs across England and they were formally established as legal entities in July 2022. Each integrated care system is responsible for planning health and care services in the area it covers. Each one is made up of an Integrated Care Board (ICB) and an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), which work in tandem to meet the needs of their population. Working alongside our partners in Health and Social care is of vital strategic importance, recognising that housing is a wider determinant of health and the development of the Dorset ICS is a great opportunity in this regard.

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Housing Strategy Delivery Plan 2021 – 2026

Revised Delivery Plan November 2025-2027

We have systematically assessed our progress, identifying both achievements and areas requiring additional focus. The following sections provide a detailed breakdown of our priorities, actions undertaken to date, challenges encountered, and targeted actions for the future.

Priority 1 - Meeting future growth needs

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The need for affordable housing continues to grow both nationally and within Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP). Wages locally are below the national average at £31,700.

Meanwhile house prices are higher than the national average and have increased significantly in the last 10 years. The average house price in BCP is £417,500.

Affordability ratios have increased since 2021 from 9.76 average household income, to 13. This results in a heavy reliance on the local private rented sector which has also seen a significant upward trend in rental levels.

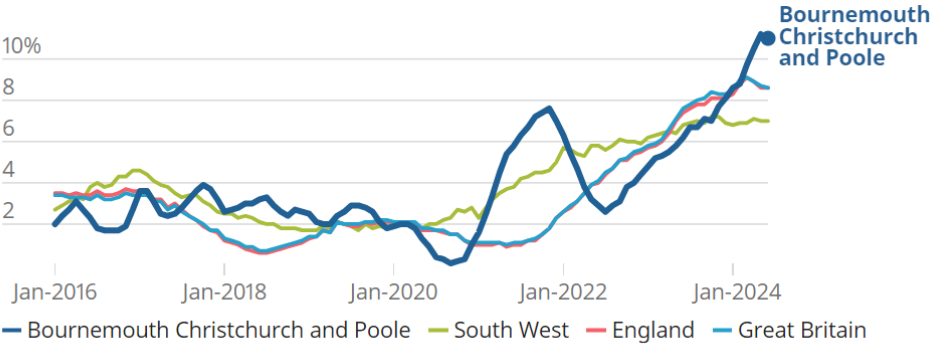
The average private sector rent in BCP is £1,500 a month, meaning that for those earning the average household income, their rent alone represents 68% of their salary. For those claiming Local Housing Allowance (LHA) the picture is equally as challenging despite an uplift in April 2024.

Accommodation Type	Monthly Local Housing Allowance Rate
Shared Accommodation	£426.31
1 Bedroom	£695.02
2 Bedrooms	£875.00
3 Bedrooms	£1,150.01
4 Bedrooms	£1,549.99

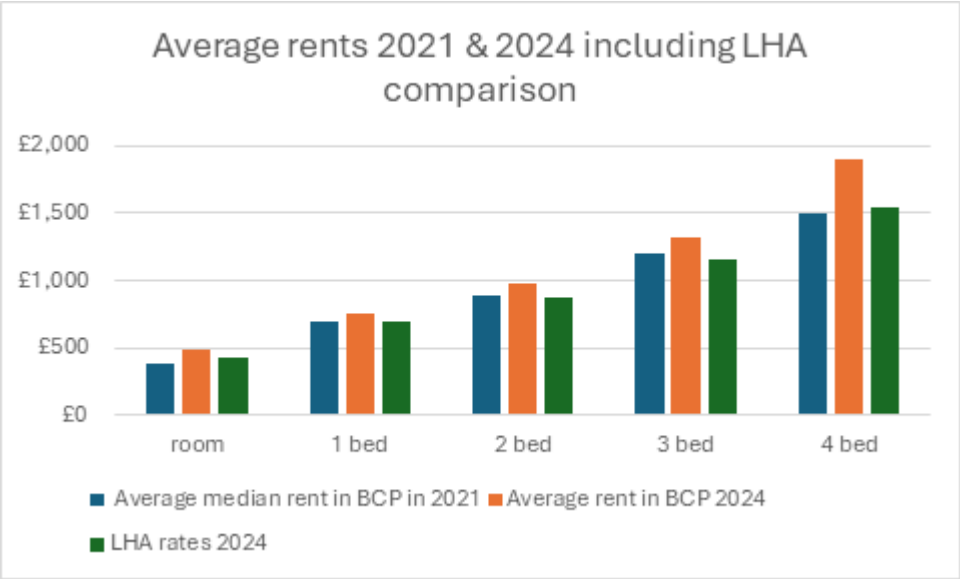
The reliance on the private rented sector, which accounts for 23% of all of BCP’s housing stock, has become a key challenge in recent years. Additional regulation and requirements of landlords, increased interest rates and increased tax has resulted in many landlords exiting the market. Eviction from private sector tenancy has been the main reason for homelessness in BCP for some time, but this significantly increased over the last 3 years – and with a smaller number of private rented sector lettings as well as affordability issues to tackle, this has placed an additional reliance on the council to provide alternative solutions.

Annual change in rents in Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole

Private rental price annual inflation, Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole, January 2016 to June 2024



Source: Price Index of Private Rents from the Office for National Statistics



Since 2021 these factors have resulted in a 20% increase in homeless applications which has created significant pressure and resulted in the largest number of households placed into emergency accommodation the council has ever experienced.

This peaked at 645 households in temporary accommodation (TA) in October 23, 259 of whom were placed in bed and breakfast (B&B) (129 of these families). However, work to reduce this number through earlier prevention and acquisition of new temporary accommodation has successfully achieved a 22% reduction in TA occupancy in spite of the increased demand. As at January 2025 there are 506 placements, including 45 households in B&B (none of whom are family households).

Delivery Plan Actions (2021-2026)	Delivery to date	Key issues	Target actions for 2025/26 - 2026/27 following review	Resources required/factors for additional consideration	Lead Officers
1.1 Increase Housing supply through Council Newbuild Housing and Acquisition Strategy (CNHAS) Programme	<p>Delivery has been below the target set in 2021 of 1000 homes over 5 years on Council owned land. 419 homes have been completed to date (Dec 2024) and 14 projected to March 25. This includes acquisitions as well as new build homes.</p> <p>Acquisitions delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) - 34 homes at Affordable Rent	<p>Programme has been significantly impacted by inflation and interest rates affecting the housing development supply chain. Viability of sites has been challenging and as a result, some sites have stalled, and delivery is behind schedule.</p> <p>The council has also depleted any reserves held through Right to Buy Receipts and Section106 (s106) money in lieu of affordable housing on-site. This is due to the fact that many schemes need exceptional levels of cross subsidy to provide acceptable viable schemes.</p> <p>The supply of housing depends on a range of factors including government policy, broader macroeconomic conditions, the planning system and how well it functions and natural constraints such as the quantum of developable</p>	<p>Target delivering 100 homes by March 2026.</p> <p>Development of a long-term investment strategy for CNHAS as part of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30 Year Business Plan by June 2025.</p> <p>Reset the CNHAS Programme following capacity check within the 30-year HRA business plan.</p>	<p>Officer resources.</p> <p>Member engagement.</p> <p>Opportunities arising from new government focus on stalled sites need to be maximised.</p> <p>Additional grant resources to be from Homes England to support the depleted funding available from s106 contributions and Right to Buy Receipts.</p>	<p>Head of Housing Delivery, Director of Investment and Development, Head of Strategic Housing, Director of Housing and Public Protection</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single Homeless Accommodation Programme (SHAP)/Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) - 87 homes at Affordable rent • PRS - 35 homes at Market rent • Temp Accom - 111 homes at Affordable rent • General needs HRA - 15 homes <p>Newbuild delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social rent - 22 homes • Affordable rent - 109 homes • Shared ownership - 6 homes <p>Inbuild:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social rent - 97 homes • Affordable rent - 4 homes • Shared Ownership - 40 homes 	<p>land in places where people want to live. To tackle this, a range of models is needed to deliver in a difficult housing and build cost environment. A review of the CNHAS Programme was concluded in December 2024 and established the council's position on direct delivery (council commissioned and built) acquisitions of land, newbuild or street properties and disposals to generate income and or enable new supply delivered in partnership such as affordable housing providers.</p> <p>In December 2024, Cabinet approved a new set of key aims for the CNHAS Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver place-based regeneration which maximises the full potential of sites and connects communities to make BCP a destination of choice for future generations • Through a programme of active investment in affordable housing delivery, capitalise on the urban environment and tackle underutilised or surplus assets • Exploration of a range of delivery models and investors, from direct delivery to partnerships, to contribute to meeting the wider housing needs and unlock the regeneration of Council owned land for predominantly residential use • To provide a choice of good quality housing for residents at all stages of life, increasing tenure diversity through affordable rent, shared ownership, private rent, market sale and later living accommodation • To collaborate with members and Council client services in Homes and Wellbeing and Operational Services to design and enable place based social and physical regeneration outcomes • Establish strategic and bold partnerships with Homes England, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and public and private investors to position BCP as a place with ambition and ability to deliver inclusive growth <p>Key to the longer-term delivery of new affordable housing by the Council is the establishment of a 30-year Housing Revenue Account Business Plan, currently in development. The plan will need to balance the longer-term management and maintenance requirements for the council's 10,000 homes and consider investment requirements to improve energy efficiency as well as the continued provision of new homes. There are some significant challenges to be addressed in the development of this Plan and prioritisation of resources will be required.</p>		<p>Additional Borrowing will be required on all development activity, including newbuild and acquisitions.</p> <p>Confirmation of a HRA 30-year business plan to support any funding resource from the HRA.</p> <p>Reset of the CNHAS Programme.</p>	
1.2	35 PRS homes delivered.	Within CNHAS, the PRS Programme targeted the provision of 250 homes. This included Market rent and key worker homes, but excluded homes provided by other regeneration	Review the PRS delivery programme and consider new delivery as part of Seascope	Officer time. Member engagement.	Head of Housing Delivery,

Scaling up delivery of new private rented homes	<p>121 homes delivered through various government funding programmes for temporary and settled accommodation - £21.565 capital grant funding secured.</p> <p>111 homes delivered as temporary accommodation to reduce bed and breakfast pressures.</p>	<p>departments with BCP. The PRS Programme is on hold to provide focus to acquisitions supporting the provision of various forms of temporary and settled accommodation.</p> <p>PRS homes are leased to Seascope Homes and Property Ltd, a company wholly owned by the Council. This supports the ability to provide Assured Shorthold Tenancies which the council cannot otherwise directly provide. There are currently 93 homes within this portfolio.</p> <p>The longer-term requirements for Temporary Accommodation are currently under review and will be detailed in a strategic plan by March 2026. This is covered in section 2.2 of this revised delivery plan.</p>	<p>Group new Delivery Plan for the next 5 years by March 2026.</p>	<p>Reset of the CNHAS Programme.</p> <p>Establishment of the Temporary Accommodation Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>Director of Investment and Development, Head of Strategic Housing, Director of Housing and Public Protection</p>
1.3 Regeneration of Key Sites in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	<p>Future Places dissolved and new Investment and Development directorate created. Housing Delivery team is integrated within this model.</p>	<p>The Administration has prioritised key sites for regeneration priorities which have the potential to deliver c1,500 homes. This includes the former Power Station site Holes Bay, Winter Gardens, land adjacent to the Dolphin Leisure Centre. Bournemouth Development Company are actively mobilised via the development partner Muse to prioritise sites for delivery and maximise affordable housing in Bournemouth Town Centre. Feasibility work is underway to support modelling for how many homes can be delivered at the Winter Gardens site. Scale of opportunity will require significant funding, affordable housing grant and a mixed private and public approach to delivery of place-based regeneration maximising potential of sites and communities.</p> <p>Collaborate with members and Council client services to design and enable place-based regeneration outcomes.</p>	<p>New Partnership Business Plan for Bournemouth Development Company (2025)</p> <p>Winter Gardens c500 New Site Development Plan for (2025/26)</p> <p>Planning consent for new Winter Gardens Scheme (2026/27)</p> <p>Holes Bay Road c 900 Development brief work in progress</p> <p>Secure development partner 2025/2026</p>	<p>Holes Bay Road c900 Officer time and funding to support the disposal / partnership arrangements</p> <p>Winter Gardens Officer time to support progress</p> <p>Estimated pre-construction costs to get to Planning Consent</p> <p>Officer time</p> <p>Condition surveys and other work to support a disposal process</p> <p>Ongoing negotiations around BIC regeneration options</p>	<p>Head of Housing Delivery, Director of Investment and Development</p>
1.4 Partner Registered Providers to increase supply of affordable housing	<p>259 homes have been delivered by Registered Providers (RP's) to date, including 80 by planning gain/under s106 and 179 as 100% affordable homes sites.</p>	<p>Regular liaison meetings between BCP, RP's, Homes England and Planning Policy officers take place to discuss housing delivery across BCP. These sessions explore funding opportunities and discuss development issues. However, since the CNHAS strategy was formed, RP engagement in delivery of new homes in BCP has been limited given the focus of use of sites for Council new build. RP's are engaged mainly in s106 site opportunities rather than proactively working to identify and deliver new schemes.</p> <p>RP's present a significant opportunity in the delivery of additional affordable homes. Historically, development of affordable housing has been successfully achieved by transferring land to RP's using development agreements,</p>	<p>A further 309 Homes will be delivered by RP's by March 2026, 216 as planning gain under s106 and 93 as 100% affordable homes sites.</p> <p>194 further homes are forecast for delivery by RP's in 26/27</p> <p>Reset of CNHAS Programme to include exploring a range of delivery models and investors including direct delivery and partnerships by JV or with</p>	<p>Officer time.</p> <p>Member engagement.</p> <p>Councils have an obligation to secure best consideration when disposing of land. This is set out in S123 Local Government Act 1972 (The "s123 duty"). However, there is discretion to dispose of assets at an undervalue where the purpose of disposal will</p>	<p>Head of Housing Delivery, Director of Investment and Development</p>

		<p>protecting the council's asset by not transferring the freehold until the scheme is completed. Nomination rights are then secured in perpetuity as part of the final transfer to ensure properties are allocated through the BCP Housing Register.</p> <p>A key decision as part of this midpoint review is how the Council wishes to re-engage RP's, particularly when considering use of our own land. It is proposed that a portfolio of sites is established for marketing based on 100% affordable housing provision. This would require a robust criteria and process for site selection and disposal. An example of an approach taken by other Local Authorities is Southampton City Council's approach of an Affordable Housing Framework. This sets out a strategy for delivering affordable homes across the city of various tenures and typology to meet its housing needs. A criterion for the selection of partners was established before opening the opportunity to the market. This model is being reviewed to consider its suitability as an approach within BCP.</p> <p>There is a clear need to accelerate the delivery of new affordable homes, and a mix of approaches is required to maximise output and could result in multiple successful outcomes by making best use of our land and assets.</p> <p>There is also a need to establish how new Government targets and funding will incentivise RP development while there is still significant challenge in addressing current stock conditions requiring the same careful analysis and longer-term investment strategy as the BCP HRA.</p>	<p>Registered Provider site disposals.</p> <p>Develop proposals to package up sites for disposal through a framework or similar mechanism, to allow sites to be advertised to market primarily for provision of affordable housing by a RP, by 2026</p>	<p>promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the area and the difference in value is less than "2 million. If the difference exceeds £2 million consent would be required from the Secretary of State.</p>	
<p>1.5 Attract inward investment</p>	<p>£55.8m capital grant secured.</p> <p>Homes England - £40m (£11m completed schemes £29m pipeline)</p> <p>MHCLG temporary/settled accommodation programmes - £15.8m</p> <p>Strategic meeting held for priority housing sites in October 2023 with Homes England representatives. Follow up meetings with different Homes England and One Public Estate (OPE) teams continues with a view to securing strategic partnerships to support the delivery of key strategic sites across BCP.</p>	<p>The Council is developing a "Place" bid for securing private and public investment which will help to focus on the growth opportunities of circa 3000 homes over the next ten years, a strong demand for all tenures, a well-established build to rent market and continued supply of affordable housing which could offer opportunities for investor-led contractors. Consideration of an inward investment strategy including institutional investment opportunities and alternative funding vehicles, mechanisms etc to maximise delivery options.</p> <p>We are expecting Homes England to announce a new funding programme to be announced in Spring 2025 which should open for bidding in Autumn 2025. This will enable to council to renew bidding opportunities to support the current programme.</p>	<p>Options appraisal within the reset CNHAS programme will set active investment in affordable housing delivery as a key aim.</p> <p>Reprofiling of the CNHAS programme over the 2025-2028 MTFP, increasing borrowing but not overall investment level.</p>	<p>Officer time.</p> <p>Member engagement.</p>	<p>Head of Housing Delivery, Director of Investment and Development</p>

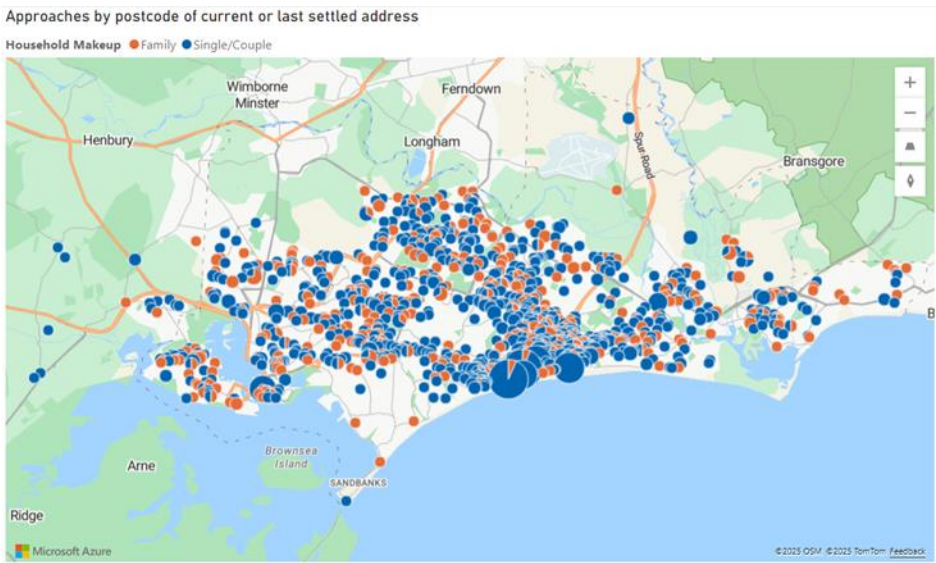
<p>1.6 Develop new Local Plan including new affordable housing policy</p>	<p>Proposed new BCP Local Plan was submitted June 2024.</p> <p>In March 2025 the council have been informed that the Government appointed Planning Inspectors do not support the plan at Stage 1 of the examination.</p> <p>New affordable housing policy had been proposed within the draft plan. It reduced the Poole and Bournemouth town centre locations and wider locations on Brownfield sites to a 10% requirement and 40% on Greenfield sites. There was also a tariff table that could significantly contribute finances towards the council delivering its own housing programme.</p>	<p>The Government have introduced changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which not only changes the formulaic approach to housing target number for each authority but introduces several other changes.</p> <p>Further work is now urgently required to review BCP housing needs and revisions to the plan which will include the increased target of homes to be delivered annually and how many of these are required to be classed as affordable.</p>	<p>Enablement of the I&D Directorate to deliver the priorities set out in the emerging Local Plan and renewed emphasis of the new Government to increase housing.</p> <p>Without agreement at Stage 1 of the examination as anticipated, the target for 2025 is to review the Local Plan in response to the findings of the examiners. New target dates for adoption of a new Local Plan TBC.</p>	<p>Officer time</p>	<p>Enabling Manager, Director of Planning and Transport</p>
<p>1.7 Pursue Modern Methods of Construction (MMC)</p>	<p>Investigations with modular suppliers has taken place for temporary and general needs accommodation on several sites, including meanwhile use until permanent housing can be established. However, costs are challenging.</p>	<p>Costs relating to Methods of Modern Construction (MMC) are challenging (full volumetric solutions) compared to traditional methods, and success in acquiring additional temporary accommodation has reduced the need for consideration of meanwhile use. Most suppliers will not provide quotes for delivery of less than 50 units (which could be 25+homes).</p> <p>It is proposed that the pursuit of MMC is removed as a target within the time period of current strategy to allow focus on other priorities. The opportunity and potential future use of MMC on major BCP sites will then be reviewed and reset within the next Housing Strategy.</p>	<p>Remove.</p>	<p>Future consideration of opportunities for procurement frameworks and site options to be considered as part of future housing strategy development.</p>	<p>Head of Housing Delivery, Director of Investment and Development</p>
<p>1.8 Increase choice of housing in town centres</p>	<p>Considering acquisitions as part of CNHAS that may fit the criteria of accommodation that could get a change of use.</p> <p>Acquisitions within CNHAS has continued across BCP in all areas. Part of the acquisition programme has included change of use of commercial property to residential.</p>	<p>Establish opportunities within town centres or other retail/employment locality areas that may not be utilising all available accommodation. Place making approach required with particular focus on Bournemouth Town Centre.</p>	<p>Sites to be considered within reset CNHAS programme</p>	<p>Officer time.</p> <p>Identification of opportunities.</p> <p>Refresh of CNHAS and funding strategy.</p>	<p>Head of Housing Delivery, Director of Investment and Development</p>

<p>1.9 Release under occupied homes</p>	<p>94 underoccupied social housing properties have been released since 2021. A single policy has been agreed across the council's stock which offers a high level of support (37 hours provision) for tenants of council and some qualifying housing association properties that provides practical and financial assistance. As well as to proactively identify a wider cohort of residents that are under occupying and would benefit from moving.</p> <p>A targeted under-occupation priority scheme has released some additional larger homes for homeless families in temporary accommodation in 2024.</p>	<p>To increase the release of underoccupied homes requires focused consideration of the options for available to incentivise people to move. It is proposed that the approach focuses in the first instance on releasing social housing homes before moving on to consider owner occupation as part of a longer-term strategy. At present there are just 134 households on the housing register who are under-occupying their homes. These households receive gold band status or emergency band status when moving from a 3 or 4 bed property to a 1 bed in order to secure an allocation as soon as possible, but the reality is that although the level of movement has increased from quarter 2 onwards of 2024, there is more targeted work required to increase demand for this service. Implementation of aligned policies such as disabled adaptations approach, where the focus is on efficient use of housing stock and supporting tenants to move to more suitable housing as opposed to undertaking expensive adaptation is likely to have an impact to increase demand. Experience to date tells us that financial incentives are not the key driver for under-occupying tenants – the key issue is the lack of choice of suitable alternative homes in relevant areas.</p> <p>Development of a greater understanding of the extent of under occupation within council and RP homes is needed followed by consultation to inform what incentives would work and what alternative accommodation is required. This will then inform our future affordable housing programmes and potentially, the BCP Homes Asset Management Strategy which will consider development of sites surplus to requirements such as garages.</p> <p>The second aspect of this work is to focus on those owner-occupiers who may be trapped in an 'equity rich cash poor' position, compounded by increasing costs of living which present risks of fuel poverty, isolation and health impacts. We will work with health and adult social care colleagues to identify need and explore solutions which will inform a full Under-Occupation Plan.</p>	<p>Tenancy Audit and Consultation of under-occupied council and RP Homes by March 2026</p> <p>Phase 1 Under-occupation (social housing) complete by March 2026.</p> <p>Needs assessment of owner occupied under occupation requirements by March 2026.</p> <p>Develop an Under-Occupation Plan by March 2027.</p>	<p>Officer time.</p> <p>Data analysis.</p> <p>Support from Health and Adult Social Care colleagues.</p> <p>Future consideration of new build development focused on releasing under-occupied homes.</p>	<p>Head of BCP Homes, Head of Strategic Housing and Partnerships</p>
<p>1.10 Seek additional resources for tackling Empty Homes (Growth proposal) AND 5.4</p> <p>Ensure empty homes are not detrimental to our communities</p> <p>MERGED AND AMENDED</p>	<p>No additional resources have been secured to support proactive work on empty homes.</p> <p>Problematic empty premises are investigated and enforced by the Environmental Protection Service.131 premises have been investigated since 2021 for issues such as insecure entry points leading to squatting, untidy sites, rodents and waste.</p>	<p>The total number of empty homes in BCP is 5635, with 2056 having been empty for more than 2 years. This long-term number has remained consistent since 2021. The reason a property is left empty may vary to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues with inheritance / or probate • Lack of finance to carry out necessary repairs and or refurbishment • Perceived problems associated with letting of properties • Unwillingness or capacity to bring property into use 	<p>Identify funding options to resource at least one officer post for empty homes in 2025/26.</p> <p>Pursue allocation of resources to support consideration of acquisitions within the Housing Delivery Team.</p>	<p>Officer time and new resource.</p> <p>Data analysis and physical surveying.</p> <p>Understanding changes to CPO powers following government consultation.</p>	<p>Head of Public Protection,</p>

<p>Bring more empty homes back in to use.</p>	<p>24 formal actions taken with the rest being dealt with informally.</p> <p>Council tax premiums for empty and second homes implemented in April 2024, to incentivise usage.</p>	<p>The current approach to empty properties in BCP is to address problems where the condition of the property is detrimental to the local area and is responsive only. A proactive approach requires dedicated officer resource to identify properties and address barriers to bringing homes back in to use. Identifying and liaising with homeowners is time intensive as are applications for Empty Dwelling Management Orders, Enforced Sale, or Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO), however, the benefit of bringing homes back in to use cannot be understated both regarding the potential use for meeting housing need, and the positive benefit on the local area and community.</p> <p>Previous efforts to bring empty homes back in to use have relied on support by one officer to address the issues on a case-by-case basis, supporting the owner to overcome these. There has never been a proactive strategy within BCP to apply a more robust approach. It is therefore proposed that in addition to the committal of officer resources, an approach ranging from acquisitions to proactive pursuit of Enforced Sales and CPO's is developed.</p>	<p>Development of a longer-term Empty Homes Plan by March 2026.</p>		
<p>1.11 Relocated from 4.6 Extend programme of acquisitions to address homelessness, care experienced young people and supported housing requirements – replace with Develop a Temporary Accommodation Strategic Plan for the next 5 years.</p>	<p>144 homes delivered through various government funding programmes for temporary accommodation - £15.8m grant funding secured.</p> <p>90 homes delivered as temporary accommodation to reduce bed and breakfast pressures.</p> <p>xx% reduction in B&B placements achieved.</p>	<p>There has been a significant uplift in new acquisitions since 2021 as outlined above – and this has been key to the successful reduction of numbers of households placed into B&B accommodation.</p> <p>In response to the growing challenge of increasing homelessness demand, the council has developed a number of solutions over the last 10 years. The Council's temporary accommodation portfolio now comprises of 447 homes including self-contained, shared provision and hostels. The longer-term requirements for Temporary Accommodation now require review, both from the perspective of setting targets for new and existing requirements – and in relation to current and future maintenance. It is also critical that funding models are reviewed to ensure they continue to offer value for money and that all costs associated with the provision are met and planned for.</p> <p>A review of the portfolio is underway, and a Temporary Accommodation Strategic Plan will be in place by September 2025. As well as baseline requirements this will also consider opportunities for disposal, reconfiguration and refurbishment.</p>	<p>Temporary Accommodation Strategic Plan 2025-2030 in place by September 2025.</p>	<p>Officer time</p> <p>Cross service engagement</p> <p>Renegotiation of arrangements with external partners if required.</p> <p>Asset Management and Investment Strategy will be required including potential for additional borrowing to support capital investment.</p> <p>Option to convert to social housing managed within BCP Homes using grant to be considered.</p>	<p>Head of Strategic Housing and Partnerships</p>

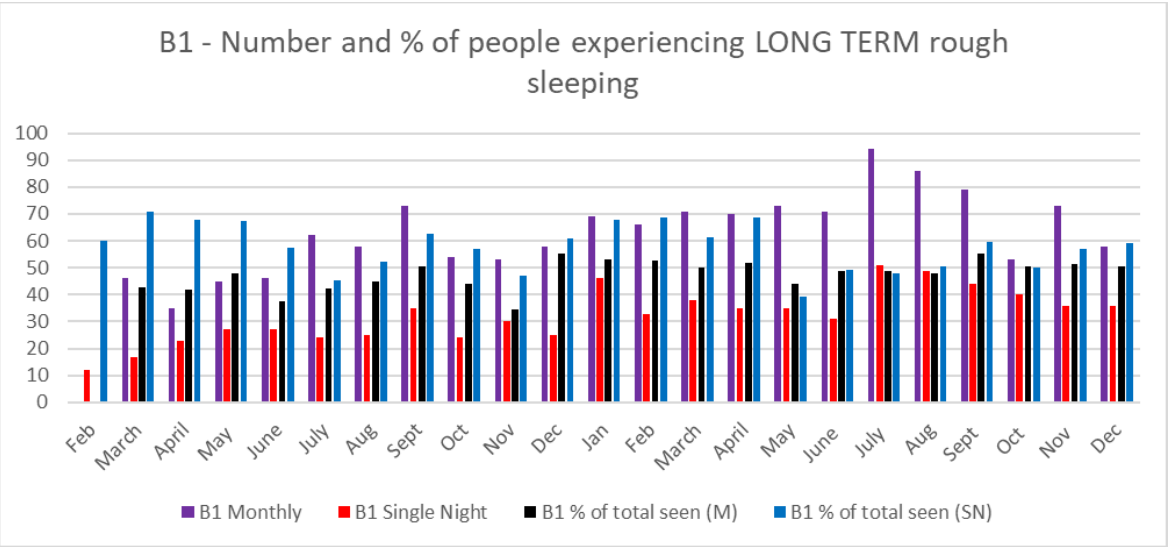
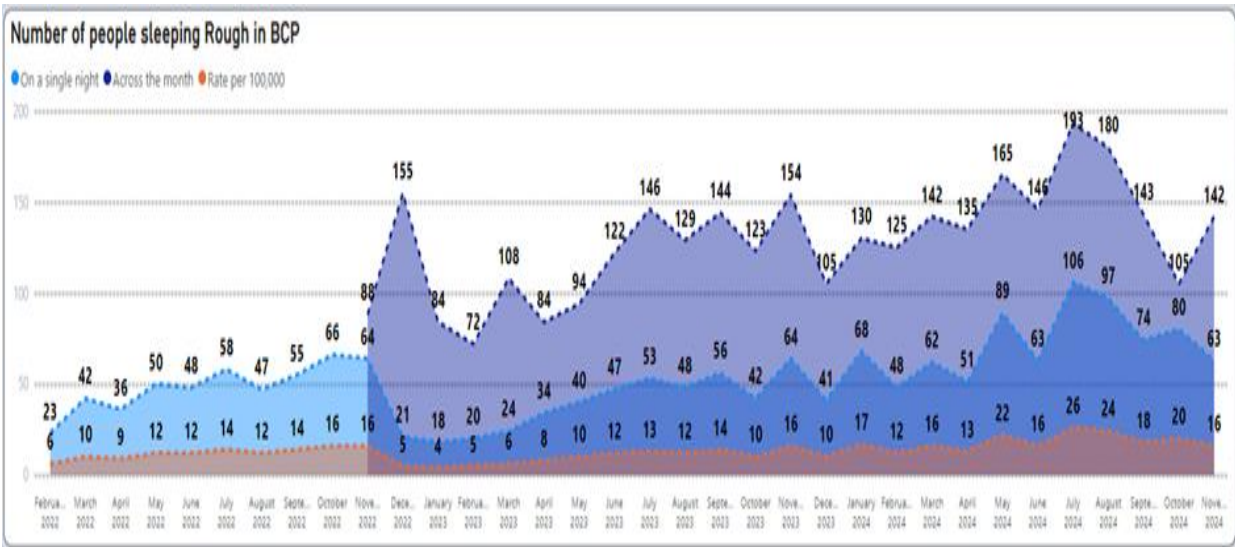
Priority 2 - Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

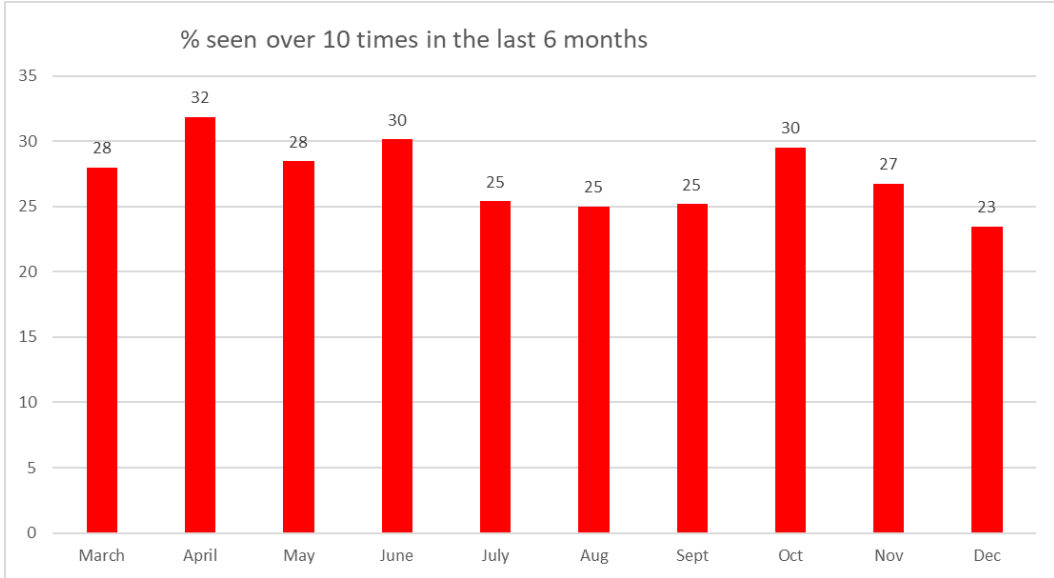
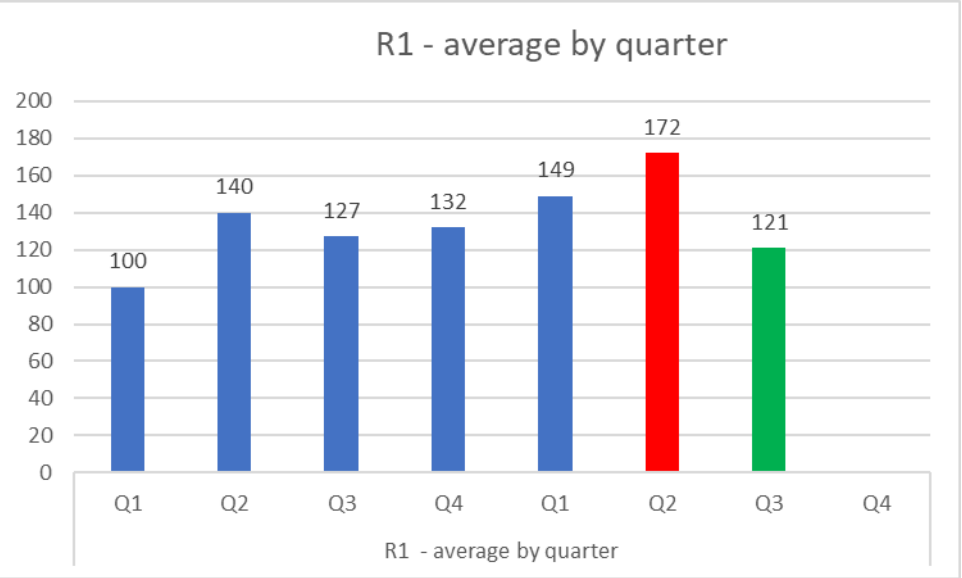
BCP has seen a rise in the number of homelessness presentations post pandemic, and this is a national trend with statistics published indicating that in October 2024 the number of households facing homelessness exceeded 320,000, an 8% rise on the previous year. In the first three quarters of this year the council has assessed around 2800 households presenting as homeless or threatened with homelessness across the conurbation. Across all 4 quarters of the previous year 2863 assessments had been carried out.



While the main reason for homelessness in BCP remains loss of a private rented sector tenancy, it also serves as the main tool used to prevent or relieve homelessness due to the lack of available social rented properties. Half of cases owed a statutory duty are for those ‘threatened with homelessness’ -households receive support to retain a tenancy or to access alternative private rented accommodation that is suitable and affordable.

As with almost all other local authorities, BCP continues to have unacceptable number of people experiencing street homelessness and sleeping rough. Efforts to prevent and relieve rough sleeping have been robust, with a strengthened partnership delivery and offer of support to those experiencing rough sleeping, as well as central government funding to provide off the street accommodation and more long-term homes for those who have been street homeless. However, the swell of demand has continued to outstrip supply, and our notable challenge is in helping those individuals who have been sleeping rough long term. This definition refers to people who have been seen rough sleeping in 3 or more of the previous 12 months. This includes people who have been accommodated but have lost their accommodation in the short term at least once during this period. As part of the Rough Sleeping Data Framework the number of people who have been seen rough sleeping on ten or more occasions in the last 6 months is also measured. This has reduced percentage wise over the last six months, with December seeing the lowest rates yet both numerically and as a percentage of all cases.





Delivery Plan Actions (2021-2026)	Delivery to date	Key issues	Target actions for 2025-27 following review	Resources required/factors for additional consideration	Lead Officers
<p>2.1 Ensure no one sleeps rough or lives in places which are not designed as a home</p>	<p>Rough Sleeping Initiative grant £2m received to support the prevention of rough sleeping, support move-on accommodation and recovery support.</p> <p>Annual & bi-monthly counts in place with Long Term Rough Sleeping cases the largest group</p>	<p>Rise in demand locally and nationally, particularly in 2024 which saw highest ever numbers in BCP, though this has since reduced. The annual verified street count was 63 (Nov 2024), consistent with 2022 and 2023 numbers. The most recent count in Jan 2025 was 38, a 40% reduction on the Nov figure and a 65% reduction on the peak last July. However, snapshots <i>in isolation</i> are of limited value. Aggregate monthly figures of all those seen rough sleeping is another indicator. In Q1 the average monthly number was 149. This rose to 172 in Q2 (highest ever BCP figures) before reducing significantly to 121 in Q3.</p> <p>At least 50% of these are people who are long-term rough sleeping on a consistent basis, considerably higher than the regional figures of around 35%.</p> <p>New cases (those never previously not seen rough sleeping) consistently account for around 30% of all cases.</p> <p>Returners (those returning to the street having not been seen for at least six months) have consistently accounted for 10% or less of all</p>	<p>Review Eradicating Rough Sleeping Plan within Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy by April 2025.</p> <p>Review the allocation of the Rough Sleeping Prevention & Recovery Grant for 2025/26.</p>	<p>Officer time</p> <p>Cross sector partner involvement</p> <p>Member engagement</p> <p>Use of grant funding</p>	<p>Head of Strategic Housing and Partnerships</p>

		<p>monthly cases, although these has been a slight rise in the last quarter (mean 12%)</p> <p>Rising figures for rough sleeping are commonly attributed to issues around affordability, inadequate housing support, a lack of housing & support for those leaving prison and an unregulated and supported housing sector. BCP supported housing is silted up with around 40% of occupants awaiting move-on.</p> <p>Funding programmes from central Government have provided invaluable long solutions for many people sleeping rough. Longer term revenue settlements are expected from 2026.</p> <p>Member engagement is required on the accommodation offer to people who are rough sleeping including those not 'priority need' or with local connections. Discussion with Members has resulted in an agreement to lobby Government on the issue and include in consultation feedback on National Strategy in 2025.</p>			
<p>2.2 That anyone staying in emergency or temporary accommodation has a rapid rehousing plan specifying their appropriate move-on housing</p>	<p>B&B use reduced by 90% from October 2023 – December 2024.</p> <p>All those Accommodated in B&B have move on plans and allocated support.</p> <p>CHNAS programme delivering more suitable temporary housing through acquisitions.</p>	<p>Funding secured for additional stock and associated support.</p> <p>Project required to positively move on significant number of single people into a range of long-term housing settings in the private rented sector, specialist and support housing and social housing sectors.</p>	<p>New Homelessness Partnership governance structure agreed, with strategic coalition and partnership delivery board to oversee progress April 2025</p> <p>New Temporary Accommodation Plan to be in place Sep 2025 which will prioritise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reducing the dependency on inappropriate B&B accommodation – Reducing the number of households requiring emergency/TA investing in Prevention resources – Reducing length of residency in emergency/TA, 	<p>Officer time</p> <p>Capital delivery of temporary accommodation acquisitions</p> <p>Investment in Prevention</p> <p>Participation in Homewards Coalition</p>	<p>Head of Strategic Housing and Partnerships</p>

			specifically 6 weeks for any household		
2.3 Everyone threatened with homelessness is provided with the advice, assistance and support they need to prevent their homelessness	<p>Homelessness Partnership Action Groups in partnership with Homewards targeting focused action for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing Youth Homelessness • Enhancing Data & Insight • Developing Meaningful Occupation approaches • Communications & Co-production • Private Landlords Forum 	<p>Early intervention and partnership work is robust with 30% improvement in homelessness prevention outcomes for residents.</p> <p>However, demand/level of resource is still unbalanced as many cases still presenting at crisis point requires cross service systemic change.</p> <p>An uplift in Homelessness Prevention Grant has been awarded for 2025/26, with a requirement to re-focus resources towards averting the need for temporary accommodation placements extending what works to keep people in their homes.</p> <p>Areas of success include additional support for families preventing family breakdown, targeted support for households in temporary accommodation due to Domestic Abuse, increase in step-down beds and reablement support for people leaving hospital, improved planned housing pathways for care leavers and help for landlords and tenants in the private rented sector.</p> <p>Additional focus is required to support household in financial crises, those leaving the criminal justice system and access to housing related support for high-risk groups such as Veterans, people with substance misuse issues and young people with and without care experiences.</p>	<p>–</p> <p>New Quality Assessment Framework for Strategic Housing Sep 2025</p> <p>Complete an independent systems review of key housing pathways June 2025</p> <p>Develop a specialist and supported housing strategy Dec 2025</p> <p>Review the existing homelessness strategy and specifically the impact of existing prevention initiatives. Dec 2025</p> <p>Embed a workforce development plan for all frontline workers Sep 2025</p> <p>Launch a co-production framework for Homelessness & Rough Sleeping services Dec 2025</p> <p>Support the delivery of the Homewards Action Plan (ongoing)</p>	<p>Officer time</p> <p>Cross service engagement</p> <p>Participation in Homewards Coalition</p> <p>Government Grant funding and focused resources on prevention.</p>	Head of Strategic Housing and Partnerships

Priority 3 - Improving housing options, opportunities, and choice for all

BCP has an ageing population. By 2028, 24% of the local population will be aged 65+. There are 86,900 people aged 65 and over living in BCP area. This equates to 22% of the local population and compares to a national figure of 19%. There are certain areas within BCP with a higher number of over 65 year-olds; Highcliffe & Walkford, Canford Cliffs, and Mudeford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe have a large number and a significant percentage of over 65s. Bearwood and Merley also have a larger number of over 65s, but they make up a smaller percentage of the population. This is interesting to note when considering future plans for older persons accommodation. 4,236 patients were on GP Dementia registers in the BCP area in 2020, with a recorded Dementia Prevalence Rate (65+) of 4.4%. This compares to a national rate of 4.0%.

Mental Health is as significant issue in BCP, predominantly affecting working age individuals. Mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety, were the leading cause of disability in those aged 15-49 in the last census, accounting for around a fifth of disability in this age group in the BCP area. Estimates suggest there were almost 54,000 people with a mental health condition aged 16+ in the BCP area in 2017. The prevalence of depression was 12.5%, slightly lower than the national rate (12.7%) (2020/21). The rate of suicide for 2019-21 in the BCP area (12.7 per 100,000) is significantly higher than the rates for England (10.4) and the South West (12.0).

A key consideration in the latter part of this Strategy is the provision of Specialist Housing. We know that there is a need for additional accommodation for residents with learning disabilities, mental health conditions and complex needs. The type of accommodation likely to be required will range from hub and spoke models, bungalow clusters, general needs one-bedroom flats and 2-bedroom self-contained flats for supported living. The success of the Housing First provision in BCP is not to be understated and will likely require extension as part of the plans for reducing rough sleeping. The requirements for meeting specialist housing need are complex and a longer-term strategy is critical to achieving the right provision. From commissioning of support services to our new build and asset management strategies, it is imperative that we gain a strong understanding of need in order to maximise delivery.

In addition to commissioned accommodation and support, there is a focus on increasing the regulation of exempt accommodation through the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023. The Act sets out to introduce changes to how supported exempt accommodation is regulated and plans to introduce new standards for supported exempt accommodation and make changes to how this type of accommodation is regulated. It allows the government to create new National Supported Housing Standards and introduce licensing regulations. It also sets out how a new Supported Housing Advisory Panel will work and makes changes to the rules on intentional homelessness when a person leaves accommodation which does not meet national standards. The Act provides a legal framework for introducing regulation, but the impact will depend on the regulations published by the government, and ongoing enforcement. One of the requirements of local authorities within the Act is to ensure we have a strong understanding of the need for supported housing locally.

In regard to helping people to remain in their current homes, Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG’s) continue to provide funding to improve accessibility and enable people to remain living independently. It is a means tested (adults only), mandatory grant administered by the Local Authority to meet or contribute towards the cost of ‘relevant’ adaptations that are ‘necessary and appropriate’ and ‘reasonable and practicable’ to meet the needs of a disabled adult or child. In BCP 164 grants were approved in 2023/24, with 148 works completed, enabling people to remain in their homes. Grants values totalled Circa £2m during this year (resources for which are ringfenced from the Better Care Fund).

To date in 2024/25 123 DFG works have been completed. Analysis of tenure shows that the vast majority of DFG assistance is provided in social rented and owner-occupied homes.

	Housing Association	Private Tenant	Owner Occupier
2020-21	37.04	10.19	46.3
2021-22	42.86	5.44	46.26
2022-23	41.94	8.6	38.71
2023-24	42.69	9.36	39.77
2024-25 (so far)	43.97	6.9	31.9

Key worker housing is usually specifically allocated to defined roles typically within the NHS, Police, teachers etc. Recruitment and retention of staff within these typical key worker roles remains a key challenge across BCP and the wider Dorset area. Local Authorities are also facing unprecedented recruitment and retention challenges for roles such as social workers, planning officers and environmental health officers which often requires the commissioning of expensive agency staffing options.

Delivery Plan Actions (2021-2026)	Delivery to date	Key issues	Target actions for 2025/26 - 2026/27 following review	Resources required/factors for additional consideration	Lead Officers
3.1 Implement new Tenancy Strategy	A new Tenancy Strategy for BCP is in place. The strategy sets out the matters to which registered providers of social housing and BCP Homes are to have regard to when formulating policies relating to: (a) the kinds of tenancies they grant, (b) the circumstances in which they will grant a tenancy of a particular kind, (c) where they grant tenancies for a term certain, the lengths of the terms, and (d) the circumstances in which they will grant a further tenancy on the coming to an end of an existing tenancy	None	None	Refresh of Tenancy Strategy required during new Housing Strategy period.	Head of BCP Homes
3.2 Identify unmet specialist and/or complex housing needs and work to secure additional housing options	<p>Specialist housing needs group in place to oversee this work, linking Housing, Adult Social Care and Childrens Social Care.</p> <p>Independent needs assessment commissioned to inform new build, acquisition, and remodelling plans, will report in Spring 2025.</p> <p>Some targeted successful new delivery of 70 new homes for Young People, including those with care experience and former homeless people with complex needs via the Single Homeless Accommodation Programme</p> <p>Introduction of new post achieved – Specialist Housing Programme Lead which has strategic oversight of -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – New needs analysis – Delivery of Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A needs assessment was completed in 2021 and is being refreshed by April 2025. The intention is to develop a Commissioning and Delivery Programme for all specialist groups to include; • Learning Disabilities and Autism • Mental Ill health • People with a range of complex needs and multiple disadvantage due to their housing histories, often includes some people who are rough sleeping or those institutionalised. • Young people & those with Care Experience • Older People with care needs • Older People with no care needs • Extra Care • Domestic abuse victims • Neurodiversity • Under-occupation/best use of stock • Substance misuse <p>A new Specialist and Supported Housing Strategy will detail our local priorities.</p> <p>A new Safe Accommodation strategy will set out how BCP Council will meet the objectives of the overarching Prevention of Domestic Abuse Strategy around safe accommodation that meets the needs of people fleeing domestic abuse. Safe accommodation is determined as self-contained accommodation provided with specialist domestic abuse support. The priorities of the strategy include prevention and early identification, access to housing and support services, support to remain or return to the home and move on and</p>	<p>Delivery of a Specialist & Supported Housing Strategy in Spring 2025.</p> <p>Delivery of a Safe Accommodation Strategy & Commissioning Plan that provides housing and support to survivors of Domestic Abuse in Spring 2025 with services and accommodation commissioned by April 2026.</p> <p>Recommissioning plan of Housing Related Support by April 2026.</p>	<p>Officer time.</p> <p>Cross service engagement.</p> <p>Specialist Housing Needs Assessment completion.</p> <p>Allocation of additional resources to support the Housing Related Support Programme due to inflationary increases.</p> <p>Continuation of Domestic Abuse Grant provision from MHCLG.</p>	Head of Strategic Housing and Partnerships

		<p>Relationships and Partnerships. This work will be supported by the Overview & Scrutiny Safe Accommodation Strategy Working Group and a public consultation exercise.</p> <p>It is important to ensure we have clearly defined needs to inform target setting, consideration of our existing assets and to inform our future commissioning plans. This is a priority for the final stages of this housing strategy.</p> <p>The council commissions £4.6m of housing related support services. Following the conclusion of the Specialist & Supported Housing Strategy a universal recommissioning exercise will take place in relation to this programme. This is the first opportunity since the formation of BCP Council to take a wholesale review of these commissioned services.</p>			
3.3 Previous action re training of staff removed as considered an operational objective and will be addressed within Priority 2 in regard to governance and workforce development					
3.4 Ensure there is an appropriate range and scale of housing options for the area's older population	<p>BCP Council's Extra Care Housing Strategy established in 2022 setting out a requirement for 1312 extra care homes by 2030. The strategy also seeks to maximise the benefit of existing provision and to consider the longer-term suitability and viability of existing stock. An Extra Care Steering Group is in place to oversee delivery; however, progress has been limited overall.</p> <p>Sites under the Council's ownership have been identified and are under consideration. Discussions have started with partner agencies/developers and one scheme is in planning stages led by the Council's Housing Delivery team.</p>	<p>There is a risk of delays in delivery of the Extra Care Housing Strategy as a result of capacity issues and complexities of the sites identified. A clearly defined and balanced delivery programme is required in order to maximise output - and the assumed reliance on delivery of sites by the Council needs to be reviewed. There may well be other partners who are better placed both in terms of experience and financial capacity, to deliver against the sites identified. In addition, work to review existing provision needs to be completed so that the delivery plan can include decisions on the future of existing schemes. Updated needs analysis which takes account of the options for redesignation of existing provision needs to inform an overall review of targets.</p> <p>It is proposed that an interim review of the strategy is undertaken as part of the wider consideration of an Older Persons Housing Strategy in 2026. There will remain a need for a specific Extra Care Strategy as the provision can be used to support a range of needs including younger age groups. However, the focus of the demand being older people, it would be beneficial to consider a broader strategy which considers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved choice of affordable housing options (including links to the proposed Under-occupation Strategy) • Living well at home for longer • Earlier planning for future • Supporting complex needs 	<p>Updated specialist housing needs assessment will provide clarity on unmet housing needs for older people by June 2025.</p> <p>Review of Extra Care Housing Strategy by March 2026.</p> <p>Older Persons Housing Strategy delivered by March 2027.</p>	<p>Officer time/Identification of additional resources to support this work</p> <p>Cross service engagement.</p> <p>Specialist Housing Needs Assessment completion.</p>	<p>Head of Strategic Housing and Partnerships, Director of Housing and Public Protection, Head of BCP Homes, Director of Adult Social Care, Director of Commissioning</p>

Previous actions 3.5 & 3.6 Completed regarding transformation of Care Technology Offer and the Integration of our Disabled Facilities Grant activities into one streamlined team					
<p>PROPOSED NEW TARGET</p> <p>3.5 Ensure Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) applications are delivered in line with best practice timescales and work towards an improved service which supports prevention and improves the ability of people to live independently.</p>	<p>To support improvement, an Adaptations Manager resource has recently been appointed to lead the strategic and operational delivery of the Council's adaptations programme. The priority is to tackle the backlog of DFG applications and works and to devise systems for sustained improvement.</p> <p>In addition, an Adaptations Senior has been recruited, further staffing is being recruited to build up the team.</p> <p>Foundations were commissioned in 2024 to write a new streamlined process for DFG adaptations which has now been in place for around 8 months.</p> <p>A new simplified DFG application Form is about to be trialled which meets good practice guidance.</p> <p>A data dashboard has been implemented which now provides stats – by officer, against national timescales at every stage of the process, to inform team and service performance.</p> <p>In August 2024 referrals were 9 months behind. As of January 2025, they are 4 months behind and continuing to reduce.</p> <p>BCP Homes has implemented an Adaptations Strategy which sets out the level of investment in adaptations within the Housing Revenue Account and the criteria for approval. Harmonised the service delivery across Bournemouth and Poole neighbourhoods. Now running a triage service to prevent waiting times for ineligible referrals.</p>	<p>In addition to the DFG application and works back log there is a delay on assessments within Adult Social Care (Stage 0 of the National Guidance.)</p> <p>Changes in staffing and training of new staff has impacted delays.</p> <p>National Government. timescales are unrealistic and don't take into account the number of variables within the process.</p> <p>Discretionary cases which are often complex take time and prior to the new policy would not have been considered as the limit was up to £30k only.</p>	<p>Plan to address waiting list/times is in place to be cross service reviewed in August 2025.</p> <p>To develop relationships with registered providers to maximise allocation and management of suitable housing and gain commitment around investment by April 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officer time Allocation of the DFG Potentially additional investment of staff <p>Joint working with Adult and Childrens Social Care colleagues</p>	<p>Head of Strategic Housing and Partnerships, Director of Housing and Public Protection, Head of BCP Homes, Director of Adult Social Care, Director of Commissioning</p>
	<p>BCP are due to sell land at Wessex Fields to the NHS. While the transaction is unconditional it is believed there</p>	<p>Key worker housing is specifically allocated to defined roles typically within the NHS, Police, teachers etc. Recruitment and retention of staff within these typical key worker roles remains a key challenge across BCP and</p>	<p>Key Worker housing needs analysis by March 2026.</p>	<p>Contribution towards the cost of needs assessment.</p>	<p>Director of Housing and Public Protection</p>

	is an intention to build 500 keyworker homes	<p>the wider Dorset area. Local Authorities are also facing unprecedented recruitment and retention challenges for roles such as social workers, planning officers and environmental health officers which often requires the commissioning of expensive agency staffing options.</p> <p>Ongoing discussions have been taking place with Dorset Council, Health, Police and other public sector organisations with a view to co-producing a wider Keyworker Strategy for the whole of Dorset. It is proposed that a needs assessment is completed to inform this work going forward.</p>		<p>Continued partnership oversight and coproduction.</p> <p>Opportunity of public sector land assets.</p> <p>Development of strategy post 2026.</p>	
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Priority 4 - Empowering and co-creating neighbourhoods where residents wish to live and be part of the community

In the 2023 BCP Resident Survey, 78% of respondents were satisfied with their local area as a place to live, a decrease on the 2021 resident survey of 6%. 53% of people said they felt safe after dark, a decrease of 13%. Meanwhile 89% of people said they felt safe in the day, a decrease of 5%. 15% of people have a high perception of ASB, which has increased by 3%. Meanwhile, incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) across BCP have reduced by 6% since 22/23.

Tenant Satisfaction Measures are reported to the Regulator of Social Housing by all social housing landlords. BCP Council’s performance against these measures illustrates a good standard of service for our 10,000 tenants and the satisfaction levels are helpful in building a picture of how residents feel about our neighbourhoods.

- 56% of council tenants were satisfied with the council’s approach to handling of anti-social behaviour, slightly below the national average
- 67% of council tenants are satisfied that the council listens to their views and acts on these
- 73% of council tenants are satisfied that the council keeps them informed about things that matter to them
- 84% of council tenants are satisfied that the council treats them fairly and with respect
- 66% of council tenants are satisfied that the council makes a positive contribution to their neighbourhood

In 2022, the Health and Care Act was introduced. The act sets out the statutory requirements for formalised integrated care systems, to join up services and remove barriers The Health and Social Care White Paper highlights the importance of an integrated approach to meeting people’s day-to-day health and social care needs and the government’s aims and proposals regarding, amongst other things, housing adaptations and the DFG. The principles of the paper of “Providing the Right Care, in the Right Place at the Right Time” provides for individuals to have choice over there housing arrangements which play a crucial role for achieving positive outcomes. This could be in the form of a new home or their existing home, purpose designed or not to meet their needs and have access to technologies and adaptations. As such, guidance for Local Authorities was published in 2022 to advise on how to effectively and efficiently deliver DFG funded adaptations. It did not make changes in policy, instead it brought together existing policy frameworks, legislative duties/powers, and recommended best practice.

Overall health and wellbeing indicators in BCP are as good as or better than the national average. Both life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are higher in the BCP area than nationally. However, the difference between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy indicates people in the area may live on average 15-18 years in poor health. Housing is a crucial factor among the wider determinants of health, which include a range of social, economic, and environmental factors that influence people’s well-being. Quality of Housing is key - good housing conditions can directly promote better physical and mental health. Poor housing on the other hand, can lead to respiratory issues, cardiovascular problems and mental health challenges. The availability and affordability of housing are significant contributors to the wider determinants of health. High housing costs can lead to financial stress, which negatively impacts health. Conversely, affordable housing can provide stability and reduce stress. The quality of the surrounding environment, including access to green spaces and low crime rates, also plays a role in health outcomes. Safe and pleasant neighbourhoods contribute to better mental and physical health. Understanding these connections can help in developing policies and interventions that address housing as a public health issue, aiming to improve overall health outcomes for communities.

Delivery Plan Actions (2021-2026)	Delivery to date	Key issues	Target actions for 2025/26 - 2026/27 following review	Resources required/factors for additional consideration	Lead Officer
4.1 Provide an enforcement service which targets rogue landlords and related anti-social behaviour (ASB)	Progression of this objective has been very limited due to a lack of resources. There are however, strong links to the Police which supports enforcement against criminal landlords on a multi-agency level. This includes 23 residential closure orders, 2 business closure orders, 1 banning order and 34 Civil Penalties issued since 2021 in relation to housing repair offences. Multi agency work including environmental health, private sector housing, planning enforcement and anti-social behaviour is ongoing on target premises including illegal Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) and properties with significant criminality.	<p>Lack of resource is a key issue and any progression to a proactive approach will require this to be addressed. In addition, recruitment challenges relating to private sector housing enforcement roles is a national issue with very limited trained/qualified officers available.</p> <p>A decision is needed on whether the Council wishes to pursue options such as Discretionary Licensing, which would provide additional resources to tackle private sector housing conditions, rogue landlord behaviour, improve housing management practice and reduce ASB. However, there are strict conditions which must be met before any final decision can be taken. Given the resource challenges for the service, additional funding would be required to support progression of this.</p>	<p>Private Sector Housing Stock Condition Survey complete by May 2025.</p> <p>Deliver the BCP Homes Improvement Plan by June 2025.</p> <p>Set up an ASB working group with multi sector landlords to share best practice, training and guidance on tackling ASB by March 2025.</p>	An estimated £125,000 budget would be required for consideration of Discretionary Licensing - £60,000 of which would be at risk of write off should a scheme not progress to consultation. £125,000 would at risk should scheme not progress	Head of Public Protection

	<p>The BCP Council ASB service works closely with a range of partners including private sector landlords, Registered Providers and statutory agencies as required. However, this is a largely reactive service with little opportunity for preventative working. Despite a reduction in ASB of 6% across BCP from 2022-2023, 15% of respondents to the 2023 residents survey say they have a high perception of ASB, an increase of 3% since 2021. Residents have a negative perception of the frequency of issues such as noisy neighbours (10%) rubbish (23%) vandalism and graffiti (18%) drug dealing (28%).</p> <p>BCP Homes as a social landlord with 10,000 homes has an important role to play in the management of ASB, but 56% of our tenants tell us they are not satisfied with how we respond to issues when they are reported. A new ASB Improvement Plan is being developed to ensure the service is improved which will include the review of policies and procedures as well as consultation with tenants to ensure an informed and codesigned approach.</p> <p>The BCP Community Safety Partnership are pursuing a Preventing Anti-Social Behaviour Strategic Plan in 25/26 which will look to maximise the value of partnership resources to tackle ASB issues across the area.</p> <p>A Private Sector Stock Condition survey has commenced which will give further information on ASB hotspots in rented accommodation and will report by Spring 2025.</p>	<p>We await the development of the new Government's position on the private rented sector, particularly the Renters Right Bill and the development of options for improving standards.</p> <p>This is further considered under 5.3 below.</p>	<p>Delivery a multi-agency ASB strategy by March 2026.</p>	<p>beyond consultation.</p> <p>Renters Rights Bill due to receive royal assent in Spring/Summer 2025.</p>	
<p>Previous action 4.2 Removed as this strategic aim is integral to the new Governance structure proposed (Ensure that BCP Council housing delivery is joined up working closely with colleagues outside of housing, including environment, communities and planning to achieve sustainable new developments)</p>					

4.2 Improve links to health and social care	<p>Significant progress has been made in improving links across housing, health and social care. From improved practice regarding hospital discharge, to increased preventative prison release activities, to early help housing workers dedicated to working with families - much has been done to improve operational links and outcomes.</p>	<p>Ongoing discussions with the Integrated Care Partnership are taking place which seek to agree joint objectives where housing can have a positive contribution as a wider determinant of health. This will likely focus on improving housing standards, homelessness, meeting specialist housing need and supporting hospital discharge.</p>	<p>Review Opportunities for greater integration of Housing to Social Care and Health Transformation</p> <p>Exploration of co-funded roles to extend multi-disciplinary working.</p> <p>Establishing shared workforce development opportunities.</p> <p>Develop improved data sharing and analysis.</p>	<p>Priorities and associated programme still to be agreed.</p> <p>Several actions within this delivery plan rely on joint working across housing and social care and will strengthen understanding and support the foundations of future strategic work.</p>	<p>Head of Strategic Housing and Partnerships, Director of Housing and Public Protection.</p>
4.3 Deliver an excellent service to our 10,000 council tenants ensuring our service is compliant with Social Housing Regulatory standards	<p>Single service implemented for the management of council homes in July 2022 under BCP Homes. This triggered a comprehensive programme of harmonisation across BCP Homes which will complete by Summer 2025.</p> <p>In August 2024 responsive repairs, gas and electric safety and adaptations for all council tenants were moved in to a single service delivery model, providing consistency of service, improved quality of delivery and greater assurance in relation to compliance against prescribed standards.</p> <p>A key harmonisation requirement is the implementation of a single housing management IT system which is making good progress and is on track to deliver on time.</p> <p>An initial self-assessment has been carried out against the new Social Housing Regulatory Consumer Standards. External housing consultants HQN have been commissioned to support a full assessment and development of an Improvement Plan early in 2025.</p> <p>As part of the regulatory requirements, the council submitted its results for the first annual Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM's) for 2023/24. The Regulator of Social Housing has now published the results for all</p>	<p>Aligning policy and procedures has been challenging and with such a significant harmonisation programme requirement, this has been the focus. The conclusion of this work will be a significant milestone.</p> <p>Meeting regulatory standards and inspection by the Regulator of Social Housing is a key risk area which is driving an improvement programme relating to consumer standards within BCP Homes to ensure we are meeting the highest possible levels of performance.</p> <p>Part of meeting regulatory standards is to undertake a Tenant Satisfaction Measures survey. Overall satisfaction with the council as a landlord was 78% for 2023/24. Satisfaction with the repairs service was particularly high at 83%. There are areas for improvement such as complaint handling and management of anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Residents (council tenants and leaseholders) from across Bournemouth and Poole are regularly consulted and involved in shaping services through formal committees and panels that focus on key areas such as Homes and Safety. An Advisory Board is also in place to support the work of BCP Homes and the council in delivering services to residents. Board membership is made up of residents, independent housing experts and councillors.</p> <p>The Improvement Plan, informed by the independent assessment work of HQN, will provide a clear plan for areas that the council needs to address. This work will build on the extensive change work already taking place and will include continued focus on compliance, standards, response to damp and mould, asset management, performance, ASB response and response to complaints. To support the improvement journey, we will be ensuring wider engagement and involvement from council tenants and leaseholders including the development of a Resident Engagement Strategy.</p>	<p>BCP Homes Improvement Plan in place by March 2025.</p> <p>Resident Engagement Strategy in place by April 2025.</p> <p>Develop a five-year strategic plan for BCP Homes by April 2025.</p> <p>Asset Management Strategy in place by May 2025.</p> <p>HRA 30 Year Business Plan in place by June 2025.</p>	<p>Additional resources required to deliver against this objective have been allocated within the Housing Revenue Account.</p>	<p>Head of BCP Homes, Head of Asset Management and Compliance, Director of Housing and Public Protection</p>

	<p>social landlords in England. The council's performance is good and above the average in most areas. Poor performance in some areas of compliance have been resolved.</p> <p>Resident panels and Committees are in place to ensure resident involvement, oversight and scrutiny with residents also sitting on the BCP Homes Advisory Board.</p>	<p>There has been a significant shift in regulation and focus on compliance, quality and safety of social housing homes in recent years. We are focused on ensuring compliance with all of the required standards and there are some capacity and performance challenges which are currently being addressed through additional investment within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).</p> <p>Where there have been concerns about meeting the regulatory standards there has been positive engagement with the Regulator.</p> <p>Key to the long-term success of the management and maintenance of our 10,000 homes is the development of a 30-year Business Plan for the HRA. The plan will need to balance the longer-term management and maintenance requirements as well as investment requirements to improve energy efficiency and the continued provision of new homes. There are some significant challenges to be addressed in the development of this Plan and prioritisation of resources will be required. These priorities will be explored as part of the development of the Asset Management Strategy and BCP Homes Strategic Plan both of which will be delivered by the end of this Strategy period.</p>			
<p>4.4 Increase engagement with local landlords</p>	<p>Engagement with local landlords has improved significantly since 2021. A landlord newsletter is provided monthly to provide news on regulatory requirements, best practice and updates from the Council's perspective.</p> <p>The Private Sector Housing Enforcement team regularly attend local National Residential Landlords Association (NRLA) meetings to network, engage and provide advice, guidance and training.</p> <p>A landlord led Private Sector Landlord forum was launched in 2023, with engagement from housing staff. This has improved links, relationships and understanding of respective pressures. It also provides a point of engagement when discussing forthcoming legislative changes and the position of the market.</p> <p>Increased discounts have been implemented for accredited landlords for HMO Licenses and the Housing Options service offers a Landlord Incentive Programme for landlords who are able to accept referrals.</p> <p>When tackling issues relating to housing standards and conditions, the Private Sector</p>	<p>A key issue over the coming year for private sector landlords will be the Renters Rights Bill, which is expected to achieve Royal Assent in Spring 2025. The Bill will abolish no fault Section 21 evictions, introduce measures to improve the fairness of possession grounds, give greater rights to tenants around pets and seeks to end rental bidding. A critical step will be the introduction of requirements for dealing with damp and mould and a new Decent Homes Standard for the PRS. In addition, all landlords will be required to sign up to a new PRS Ombudsman service and register on a national database. There will also be new enforcement tools available to local authorities including increased penalties and investigatory powers.</p> <p>This act marks a powerful step change in the position for private sector tenants, but there are risks that landlords will exit the market as more and more regulation build requirements of them and increases their costs. This is a major risk for the council in terms of managing homelessness demand.</p> <p>Ongoing discussions through the landlord forum are taking place to explore the issues for local landlords and to consider strategies for working together as the new Act is implemented.</p> <p>Whilst private sector landlord engagement has improved, the engagement between Registered Providers is limited. There would be significant benefit to bringing together a forum which focuses on sharing best practice and considering how social landlords can work together to improve local neighbourhood management, community development and resident engagement. This is planned for 2025.</p>	<p>Support the delivery of a Private Sector Landlords Conference in Feb 2025</p> <p>Continue to engage and network with landlords to consider the opportunities and the risks relating to the Renters Rights Bill, ensuring a Communications Strategy is in place upon Royal Assent in May 2025.</p> <p>Further promote the Councils improved relational best practice support offer to Landlords.</p> <p>Develop a Registered Provider Neighbourhood Management Forum by June 2025.</p>	<p>Officer time</p> <p>Landlord support and engagement.</p>	<p>Head of Strategic Housing and Partnerships, Head of Public Protection</p>

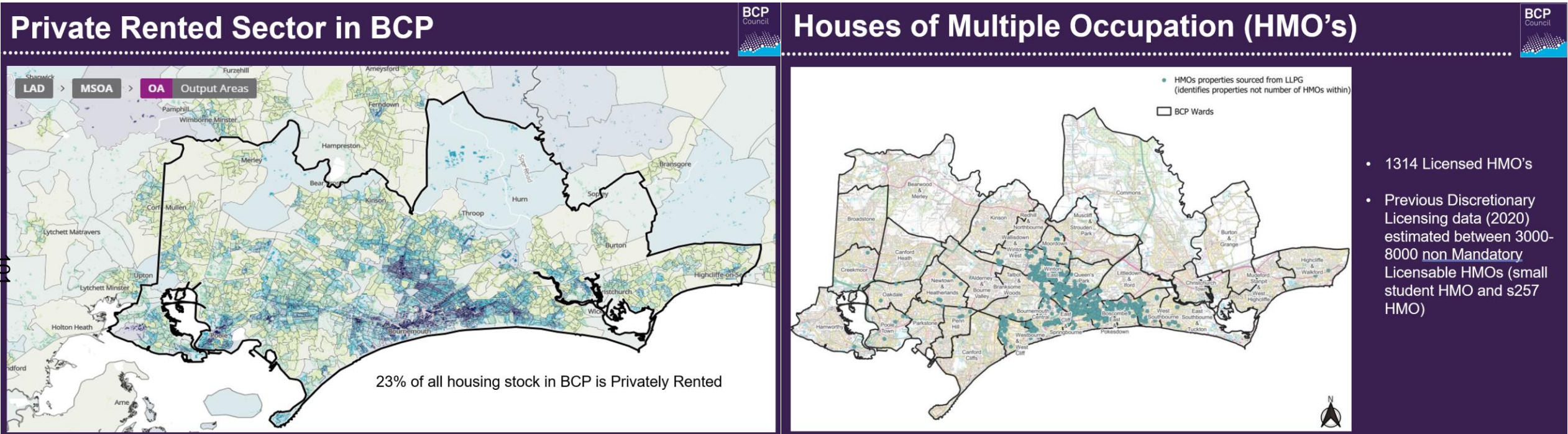
	Housing Team take an engagement first approach unless there are exceptional risks which require enforcement as first action. Since 2021 91% of complaints have been resolved without formal action. (1769 closed cases with engagement or informal actions,179 closed cases after formal action).				
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Priority 5 - Improving safety and sustainability across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole’s housing

11.4% of households in the BCP area, and 13.2% in England, are estimated to be experiencing Fuel Poverty. Fuel poverty is measured using the Low-Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) indicator that considers the energy efficiency of a dwelling and the household disposable income and whether it falls below the poverty line. There is evidence that living in cold homes leads to increased levels of morbidity and mortality across all age groups.

The private rented sector in BCP is larger than the national average, accounting for 23% of all housing stock held – this compares to 19% as the national average. The level of PRS stock varies significantly across the conurbation, with some Wards holding up to 67%. Issues relating to poor condition and management of the PRS are therefore more compounded in some areas of BCP.

In addition to a significant proportion of private rented accommodation, there are 1314 Mandatory Licensed HMO’s (property with shared facilities such as kitchens or bathrooms and houses five or more people from two or more households) in BCP and between 3000-8000 currently non-Mandatory Licensable HMO’s typically of smaller size. In the last 3 years we have received 192 standards complaints relating to licenced HMOs across BCP.



Delivery Plan Actions (2021-2026)	Delivery to date	Key issues	Target actions for 2025/26 - 2026/27 following review	Resources required/factors for additional consideration	Lead Officer
5.1 Ensure fire safety requirements are met across all tenures	<p>All council owned high-rise buildings have been registered with the Building Safety Regulator and the approach to completing Fire Risk Assessments across BCP Homes has been aligned and improved. Cladding has been replaced at Sterte Court, Poole and all council owned high-rise (18 + metres) domestic buildings have been fitted with sprinkler systems.</p> <p>Our Private Sector Housing team work closely with MHCLG to address risks and pursue remediation of fire risks on residential buildings over 18+ metres. Full</p>	Demonstrating compliance with all new requirements with a significant shift in legislation and associated regulation is a challenge in terms of additional resource for BCP Homes. This is being addressed by improving systems, performance data, assurance and reporting. An annual report is provided to Cabinet to outline performance of BCP Homes in respect of all Compliance requirements. Meanwhile, issues of capacity the need for additional resources have been identified and are included within the 25/26 HRA budget.	Ensure that all actions from the High-Rise Resident Engagement Strategy have been implemented and that residents are provided with relevant information about	<p>Resolve officer capacity issues in the PSHE team.</p> <p>Continue to monitor potential future changes relating to 11m+ buildings and lobby for new burdens support should this become</p>	Head of BCP Homes, Head of Assurance and Compliance Head of Public Protection

	<p>remediation of 18 high risk buildings has been completed with some remaining works required across a defined programme. All Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding on private sector blocks has been remediated. Quarterly partner meetings with Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue supports enforcement action on relevant premises/responsible parties.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement and enforcement will continue on 13 buildings still requiring remediation.</p>	<p>Lack of qualified resource in private sector housing enforcement presents a challenge when dealing with the complex and technical issues of high-rise residential properties. In addition, previous funding support from government has ceased and no further funding is being provided, leaving the council to pick up significant costs. Wider fire risks are typically identified for these properties, increasing capacity challenges.</p> <p>It is unclear what expectations are on the Council regarding high-risk buildings over 11m but funding for developers is now available. No additional resources for Council and expectation of involvement will be clearer post-Spring 2025.</p> <p>13 buildings still require remediation. Private Sector Housing are currently recruiting to support resourcing as well as exploring contractors, career graded posts and apprentices to improve the capacity in this area. The highest risk premises are complete, with 0.5 full time equivalent senior resource supporting High Rise Residential Buildings (HRRB) premises of high risk. Regular work between building control and the fire service is undertaken, with all agencies holding enforcement powers to support remediation.</p>	<p>fire safety by April 2026.</p> <p>Remediate remaining 13 high rise private buildings with fire risks through engagement and enforcement of landlords and property owners - 2029 deadline for complete remediation of 18m+ buildings as outlined by Central Government.</p>	<p>an additional duty for Council.</p>	
5.2 Previous action - To ensure the council's own housing stock continues to meet fire safety requirements as the Accountable Persons merged and updated within Action 5.1					
<p>5.2</p> <p>Ensure that private sector housing is maintained and managed to a high standard (including licensing of HMO's)</p>	<p>The council's private sector housing enforcement team are responsible for ensuring private sector housing standards and compliance requirements of landlords are met.</p> <p>An average of 490 complaints about private sector housing conditions have been received per year since 2021, with 98% responded to within 3 days. Of those complaints, 36% are resolved with intervention and just 8% require formal action to be taken. The remainder are remediated informally through initial landlord engagement, showing the ongoing positive relationships and management of private accommodation by landlords.</p> <p>Where issues were not resolved at triage stage, 580 complaint inspections were undertaken. 223 Category 1 hazards were identified and removed with PSH intervention. 115 enforcement notices were served.</p> <p>1,236 Licensable HMO inspections have been undertaken since April 2021. 1,323 Licences have been issued in that time.</p>	<p>Capacity in the private sector housing team is a key issue in moving forward on proactive work in relation to housing standards. There is a strong response to complaints received and efforts have been made to raise awareness of damp and mould issues for landlords and tenants. In addition, there is regular engagement with local landlords, this has improved since 2021. HMO Licensing is resource intensive and 2024 is a year of significant renewals under the 5-year programme, adding further pressure to resource challenges. Fees and charges have been fully reviewed to ensure that the council is able to recover its costs as permitted in legislation, but the resource challenges remain and shortage of skilled staff in this area is a key risk.</p> <p>Key to managing housing standards in the private sector in the coming 12 months is the Renters Rights Bill, which is expected to achieve Royal Assent in Spring 2025. As well as measures to enhance security of tenure for tenants, the new Act will introduce requirements for dealing with damp and mould and a new Decent Homes Standard for the PRS. In addition, all landlords will be required to sign up to a new PRS Ombudsman service and register on a national database. There will also be new enforcement tools</p>	<p>Continue to engage with landlords to understand pressures on the sector.</p> <p>Private Sector Housing Stock Condition Survey complete by May 2025 to detail areas of concern and likelihood of hazards. Will inform further discussions on enforcement regimes.</p> <p>Evidence base and options appraisal considering</p>	<p>Understanding new legislative requirements and availability of new burdens.</p> <p>An estimated £125,000 budget would be required for consideration of Discretionary Licensing - £60,000 of which would be at risk of write off should a scheme not progress to consultation. £125,000 would at risk should scheme not progress beyond consultation.</p>	<p>Head of Public Protection, Director of Housing and Communities.</p>

	<p>A damp and mould leaflet specifically for tenants and one for landlords was developed and distributed in 2024.</p> <p>The first Private Sector Housing Stock Condition Survey for many years is underway and will report in Spring 2025.</p>	<p>available to local authorities including increased penalties and investigatory powers. This act marks a powerful step change in the position for private sector tenants and it is important that the Council lobbies for additional resources to come with new expectations of greater enforcement of new regulations.</p> <p>A matter of consideration for some time locally has been Discretionary Licensing which allows for enhanced regulation of the private rented sector where specified conditions prescribed by legislation are met and demonstrated. Discretionary licensing can either apply to all private rented properties within a specific area or increase the definition of HMO's across the housing authority area to expand on those held within the Mandatory Licensing regime. In order for the council to consider whether to pursue Discretionary Licensing, there are some key steps to be considered including the conclusion of the Private Sector Housing Stock Condition Survey and understanding the implications of the Renters Rights Act and what additional powers, tools and potentially, resources, this could support.</p> <p>There is also a balance to be achieved in regulation of the private rented sector against homelessness demands.</p> <p>Any consideration of Discretionary Licensing will require the development of an evidence base, an options appraisal to define the proposed scheme objectives and benefits, as well as an extensive consultation exercise. To support this, additional resources would need to be allocated, some of which could be recovered should a scheme be implemented. However, if the evidence base and options appraisal concludes the council should not proceed, there would be significant abortive costs to take account of.</p>	Discretionary Licensing subject to resources.	Renters Rights Bill due to receive royal assent in Spring/Summer 2025.	
<p>5.3</p> <p>Lead by example on provision of energy efficient and sustainable homes</p>	<p>New build homes built to be energy efficient including triple glazing, airtight construction, high levels of insulation and air source heat pumps</p> <p>Since BCP Homes was formed in 2022 there has been a focus on harmonisation of operating models from the former Poole and Bournemouth neighbourhoods. This has required extensive work including bringing the council's understanding of our housing stock to an equivalent standard. Stock condition surveys on all stock will have been completed within the last 5 years by the Spring of 2025.</p> <p>The BCP Homes stock is generally in good condition and less than 1% of our homes do not meet the Decent Homes Standard. Non decent properties are managed</p>	<p>The new HRA 30-year Business Plan will need to balance the longer term management and maintenance requirements for the council's 10,000 homes and consider investment requirements to improve energy efficiency as well as the continued provision of new homes. There are some significant challenges to be addressed in the development of this Plan and prioritisation of resources will be required.</p> <p>These priorities will be explored as part of the development of the Asset Management Strategy and BCP Homes Strategic Plan both of which will be delivered by the end of this Strategy period.</p> <p>The Government is currently consulting on changes to its Rent Policy which aims to give longer term certainty to</p>	<p>Develop a five-year strategic plan for BCP Homes by April 2025.</p> <p>Asset Management Strategy in place by May 2025.</p> <p>Development of a long term HRA 30 Year Business Plan by June 2025.</p> <p>Survey of all properties below an</p>	<p>Officer time.</p> <p>External advice.</p> <p>Continued lobbying.</p> <p>Additional borrowing within the HRA and extensive capital programme.</p> <p>Explore external grant funding options.</p>	<p>Head of Housing Delivery,</p> <p>Head of Assurance and Compliance,</p> <p>Director of Housing and Public Protection</p>

	<p>by our Asset Manager who controls the programme of works required to ensure decent homes levels are mitigated to a minimum.</p> <p>The stock condition work completed in 2024/25 will inform our Asset Management Strategy which will be a key part of our 30 Year Business Plan for the HRA and will determine the level of investment available for improvements in the efficiency of our homes.</p> <p>BCP Council has signed up to Securing the Future of Social Housing which includes over 100 local authority landlords coming together to lobby the government to improve the fiscal position for Housing Revenue Accounts by providing a longer term Rent Policy position, allowing greater local flexibility in rent setting and calling for the allocation of additional resources to meet the significant additional demands placed on social landlords in recent years. The ability to invest in improving the efficiency of social housing is a key element of this debate.</p>	<p>support HRA's. There is a strong challenge from the social housing sector lobbying the government to rectify issues created by previous short term policy positions which restrict income. The 30-year business plan may be set prior to the conclusion of this important position from the Government but will remain a live document and an update will be completed following announcements. Regular reporting on the HRA Budget in the short term has been completed since BCP Homes was formed and this will include reporting on the longer-term position once the Plan is in place.</p> <p>A key priority for BCP Homes stock is to invest in order to achieve an EPC rating of C on 100% of homes over the next 5 years. This will be included in the new Asset Management Strategy and will likely require investment to the value of £7 to £10 million pounds which will be funded through the HRA. It is the decarbonization of the stock which presents the most significant issue given the extensive costs involved as well as the fact that a proportion of the stock simply cannot reach net zero. The government target is to achieve this by 2050.</p>	<p>Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of C.</p> <p>Report non-decent homes to BCP Advisory board quarterly.</p>		
5.4 Previous action - To ensure empty properties are not detrimental to communities has been merged and incorporated in new Action 1.10					
5.4 Work with registered providers to ensure maintenance and management continues to meet required standards	<p>Quarterly meetings take place with major stock holding RP's on issues such as damp and mould and complaints relating to conditions. Pro-active monitoring of complaints regarding conditions in RP takes place to ensure prompt action.</p> <p>Since the strategy was completed in 2021, there has been a major shift across the sector with increased Regulation by the Social Housing Regulator now in place. This requires all social housing providers to work to a set of standards to include performance measures which are reported to the Regulator and published. This allows benchmarking but also the monitoring of performance of our BCP Social Landlords and give assurance on compliance.</p>	<p>Given the significant work included in this delivery plan and the fact that there is substantial national regulation of the social housing sector, it is proposed that an analysis of the performance of local landlords is completed for information only.</p>	<p>Analysis of performance of Registered Providers across BCP by June 2025.</p>		Head of BCP Homes
5.5 Continue to support delivery on free energy advice and grant support for BCP residents	<p>Close work with Ridgewater Energy has taken place to ensure occupants are signposted for free energy advice and receive information on any grants available.</p> <p>Joint working complete on tenant and landlord leaflets regarding fuel efficiency and damp and mould prevention.</p> <p>Self-assessment against the Housing Ombudsman spotlight report on damp and mould completed by BCP</p>	<p>Both the Household Support Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) have been confirmed for the 2025/6 financial year. Subject to any changes in the guidance relating to these funding streams we will continue to fund programmes to support both energy efficiency measures and approaches to 'keeping warm'.</p>	<p>Damp and Mould Improvement Programme in place by April 25</p> <p>Programme for the Household Support Fund and UK</p>	<p>Household Support Fund and UKSPF plus staff resources</p>	<p>Head of Assurance and Compliance,</p> <p>Community Initiatives Manager</p>

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	<p>Homes to ensure approach is aligned to requirements. A focused Improvement Programme is underway to ensure that the council's response to damp and mould issues is as efficient as possible.</p> <p>The Household Support Fund currently supports installation loft and/or cavity wall insulation, Energy Advice home visits, boiler replacements and repair, provision of new energy efficient white goods to vulnerable households in addition to energy and food support through a range of delivery methods.</p> <p>The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) has supported 1,114 households supported to take energy efficiency measures.</p>		<p>Shared Prosperity Fund will be developed and agreed with the Cabinet Member and Lead Member for Cost of Living once the funding and guidance is confirmed ready for implementation in the 2025/6 financial year.</p>	<p>in the Communities Team to administer the plans/funds.</p>	
5.6 Implement minimum energy performance certificate requirements of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES)	<p>Reduction in resources within the Public Protection service has impacted pro-active work capacity including Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES). However, a publicity campaign has been completed to educate and raise awareness of the requirements to both landlords and tenants.</p> <p>EPC standards are considered and action taken to ensure compliance for all housing conditions complaints received. There have been 2,071 EPC checks since 2021, with 22 compliance notices issued and complied.</p> <p>Approximately 1,500 rented properties listed in BCP having EPC rating below E, however this data is very old. A Private Sector Housing Stock Condition Survey is currently underway which will improve the data available around compliance and will support the targeting of premises.</p>	<p>Reduction in resource to services has reduced capacity for trading standards and private sector housing enforcement. Proactive work to tackle this can only be achieved with additional resources.</p>	<p>MEES will continue to be considered at each inspection in response to complaints.</p>	<p>Additional resource required to carry out proactive work.</p> <p>Opportunity presented by Discretionary Licensing as outlined at 5.3 needs to be explored.</p>	<p>Head of Public Protection</p>

Monitoring Delivery of the Housing Strategy

A dashboard is in development which will provide an overview of the priorities, corporate and service level targets included within the delivery plan which will be reviewed and shared quarterly at the new Housing Strategy Programme Board withing the proposed new governance structure.

Corporate ambitions impacted by the Housing Strategy (existing dashboard) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase the percentage of residents who are satisfied with their local area as a place to live• Reduce the tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions from our vehicles and buildings• Increase the number of people with mental health issues living independently in settled accommodation• Increase the number of people with learning disability living independently in settled accommodation• Increase the percentage of residents who feel safe in their area after dark• Increase the percentage of residents who feel safe in their area during the day• Increase the number of both completed new affordable and social rented homes• Reduce the number of homeless households in B&B
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the number of people rough sleeping
	<p>Service level targets for quarterly reporting (Key Performance Indicators highlighted and additional work will be included in briefs)</p> <p>Priority 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of new homes delivered against target• Production of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30-year business plan• Production of the Temporary Accommodation plan• Delivery of 1500 homes across 4 key regeneration sites against target• Number of homes delivered by Registered Providers against target• Delivery of the Council Newbuild Housing and Acquisitions Strategy (CNHAS) programme as agreed Dec 2024• Progress of the Local Plan• Production of Under-Occupation Plan/reduce number of under-occupied homes• Production of an Empty Homes Plan/reduce number of Empty Homes• Number of Temporary Accommodation properties• Production of Temporary Accommodation plan <p>Priority 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy• Produce new quality assessment framework for Strategic Housing• Implement a new workforce development plan• Reduce number of people sleeping rough• Reduce number of people requiring temporary accommodation• Reduce length of stay in temporary accommodation <p>Priority 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produce Specialist/Supported Housing Strategies• Produce Safer Accommodation Strategy and Commissioning Plan• Review Extra Care Housing Strategy• Cross service review of Plan to address Disabled Facilities Grant delivery• Produce analysis of keyworker housing needs <p>Priority 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produce Private Sector Housing Stock Conditions survey• Deliver the BCP Homes Improvement Plan• Review opportunities for integration of Housing to Social Care and Health Transformation• Produce Resident Engagement Strategy• Produce BCP Homes five-year Strategic Plan• Produce Asset Management Strategy• Produce HRA 30-year Business Plan• Develop a Registered Provider Neighbourhood Management Forum

Priority 5

- Remediate remaining high rise private buildings with fire risks
- Delivery of actions from the High-Rise Resident Engagement Strategy
- Production of Options Appraisal for consideration of Discretionary Licensing
- Survey of all properties below an Energy Performance Certificate rating of C
- Produce analysis of the performance of Registered Providers across BCP
- Produce Damp and Mould Improvement Plan

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CROSS-PARTY WORKING GROUP: HOUSING STRATEGY STEERING GROUP
TERMS OF REFERENCE
April 2025

In April 2025, Cabinet approved the establishment of a cross-party Councillor Working Group to oversee delivery of the Housing Strategy Delivery Plan 2025-2027 as well as the development of the new Housing Strategy for 2027-2032.

Scope of the Working Group

Included in the scope will be;

- Oversight of progress of priority objectives within the Housing Strategy Delivery Plan 2025-2027
- Development of a forward plan of deep dive areas for further consideration
- Oversight of the development of the new Housing Strategy to be developed during 2026/27 to include;
 - Evidence base
 - Issues and Options
 - Consultation
 - Housing Strategy objectives and priorities for the 2027-2032 period
 - Final draft prior to release to Cabinet
 - Delivery Plan 2027-2032

This group will not be a decision-making group but will make recommendations to the appropriate decision-making bodies.

Members*

Name	Party
	Liberal Democrat Group
	Conservative Group
	Labour Group
	Christchurch Independents Group
	Green Group
	Independents Group
	Poole People Group
	Poole Engage Group
	None (unaligned)

***All group leaders were invited and membership above is based upon responses.**

Resources and timetable:

The first meeting should be held as soon as possible subject to capacity and availability. At this meeting, the Working Group will elect a chair and vice chair. Members will be asked to work with officers at the meeting to agree the timetable for future meetings, considering resource implications.

Timescales

It is anticipated that this work will be ongoing and reviewed at appropriate periods. It is anticipated that the Working Group will make recommendations to relevant committees or other forums. An annual report will be made to Cabinet with input from the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Cabinet or Council may be required.

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Housing Strategy 2021-26 Equality Impact Assessment and Action Plan Review.

The Council is legally required by the Equality Act 2010 to evidence how it has considered its equality duties in its decision-making process.

The Council must have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to -

- (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

A link to the full text of [s149 of the Equality Act 2010](#) which must be considered when making decisions.

1. What is being reviewed?
Housing Strategy 2021 to 2026
2. Service Lead and Service Unit:
Kelly Deane Director of Housing Housing and Communities
3. People involved in EIA process:
Housing Enabling Manager Head of Housing Delivery

Head of Housing Options
 Head of BCP Homes
 Portfolio Holder for Housing & Regulatory Services
 Portfolio Holder for Communities
 Portfolio Holder for Equality

4. Date/s EIA started and reviewed:

Start date August 2021

Review date September 2024

5. Executive Summary of Equality Implications

Housing Strategy 2021-2026

The housing strategy carries a vision of ‘providing a safe, secure and sustainable home where it is needed and thereby enabling people the opportunity to live well.’ the following priorities are:

1. Meeting future growth needs.
2. Preventing homelessness and rough sleeping.
3. Improving housing options, opportunities and choice for all.
4. Empowering and co-creating neighbourhoods where residents wish to live and be part of the community.
5. Improving safety and sustainability across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole’s housing.

The intentions of the ongoing delivery of the Housing Strategy doesn’t intend to introduce any negative impacts however, there have been noted impacts within this EIA review that can have an underlining impact on residents with protected characteristics.

Impact to date:

- Inflationary cost impact
- Cost of Living pressures
- Urban Regeneration Company (URC) no longer exists - how the new directorate plan will impact on this objective
- New Local Plan – what is the impact - Increasing housing choice in town centers and use of retail space new local plan policies – what is the opportunity for us

The listed **NEW initiatives** will help to eliminate any risk of discrimination, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the Equality Act 2010 and to advance equality for persons who share and not share a protected characteristic.

NEW initiatives on key strategic objectives for the Housing Strategy

1. Future Growth Needs

- Exploring opportunities for Keyworkers
- Pressure for Temp Accommodation supported
- Strategic approach with New Local Plan

2. Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

- B&B pressures reduced
- Recommissioning services.
- Homewards (The Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales initiative)
- Three housing sites identified as having potential to be included within the Homeward programme.

3. Improving Housing Options, Opportunities and Choice for all

Transformation opportunities - agreed new solutions will foster the core domains of the Equality Human Rights Commission and measurement framework:

- Education
- Work
- Living standards
- Health
- Justice and personal security

September 2024 EIA midway Review

Background

The Housing Strategy 2021 – 26 has reached midway and there is now a need to review the EIA screening document.

A Housing Strategy consultation workshop was held with Elected Members 3rd Sept 2024, this was to inform the progress of the Housing Strategy, alongside with engagement with Council officers to ensure key housing issues across all services were understood and reflected in the future delivery of the strategic vision and priorities.

DAK - Scope out relevant feedback from members day.

DAK Add paragraph referring to ongoing consultation and quarterly performance reviews.

Mention Extra Care Steering Group, H.L Forum etc.

Panel notes - Consulted but didn't represent this enough in report. Had lots of general information – specific to our population and communities

Strategy vision “**To provide a safe, secure and sustainable home where it is needed and thereby enabling people the opportunity to live well.**” aligned to the 5 priorities:

1. Meeting future growth need
2. Preventing homelessness and rough sleeping (which has its own strategy and EIA report)
3. Improving housing options, opportunities and choice for all
4. Empowering and co-creating neighbourhoods where residents wish to live in and be part of the community

5. Improving safety and sustainability across BCPs housing

To date the delivery plan has included actions to address poverty and other deprivations whilst implementing robust strategies that have strived to increase growth, improve health and wellbeing, safety, and reduce inequalities across BCP.

The strategy has focused on growing and nurturing a healthy, functioning local housing market that provides high quality decent homes of all tenures to support communities, including commitments to ensuring that housing standards overall are met, and to supporting people who have specific needs such as mobility, homelessness, inadequate housing, care provisions etc.

This strategy is led across several working groups comprising of senior managers from across the council, but particularly housing, planning, regeneration, communities and social care, including children's services. Activities will continue to be supported by an evolving equalities impact assessment to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the local community.

The strategy has been continuously developed around ongoing data analysis, research and proactive consultation since the start of the strategy back in 2021.

The 2021 EIA Screening document identified for each future intervention/project resulting from the strategy there will be a need for further EIA overviews at project levels- this is ongoing.

This EIA overview considers the negative outcomes and agreed solutions to date and showcases the positive outcomes already achieved.

An action plan has been developed, with a named officer to lead on each action, with an identified timetable for milestones and completion. This plan has been continuously monitored and updated responding to any emerging trends including changes in the housing market and levels of housing need which is covered in the National and Local Context sections of this EIA.

A Housing Strategy consultation workshop was held with Elected Members the 3rd of Sept 2024, this was to inform the progress of the Housing Strategy, alongside with engagement with Council officers to ensure key housing issues across all services were understood and reflected in the future delivery of the strategic vision and priorities.

Also, the Director of Housing on a regular basis provides formal updates on the delivery of the Housing Strategy to the respective Portfolio Holders who are:

- Portfolio Holder for Housing & Regulatory Services
- Portfolio Holder for Communities
- Portfolio Holder for Equality

A progress report is due to be presented to Cabinet in November 2024.

The progress report presented to the Cabinet will be published alongside the midway EIA.

What has changed since the start of the Housing Strategy?

Research and evidence since EIA Screening document 2021

- New government
- Growing population

- Ageing population
- Increasing levels of disability/mobility problems
- Wages below the national average
- House prices increased and average earnings remain unchanged
- Affordability challenges in the PRS
- Local economy and job market/keyworker challenge

Key demographic statistics

BCP Population growth:

- Population mid- 2021 approx. 400,200
- Population latest figure for 2023 approx. 404,100

Over the last decade the population in BCP has grown by 4.8% compared with 8.1% growth in the Southwest and 7% across England.

Mid-2023 21% of the BCP population were aged 66+ comparable with the Southwest region and higher than the England figure 18%

[BCP Mid-2023 Population Estimates Briefing Paper \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.bcp-council.gov.uk/Assets/Document%20Library/BCP%20Mid-2023%20Population%20Estimates%20Briefing%20Paper.pdf)

Projected changes to population with a range of disabilities, unfortunately the only 2021 data available projection in the Campbell Tickell report and ONS also suggest that disability in 2011 was 10.2% of the population and in 2021 it's now 10.5%

Figures in the census refer to those who describe themselves as disabled whose day-to-day activities are limited a little. However, for those who describe themselves as disabled with their day-to-day activities limited a lot fell from 8.1% 2011 to 7.3% in 2021 (age standardised figure according to the ONS report).

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E06000058/>

DAK - Add BCP population protected characteristic experiences.

Changes since the start of the Housing Strategy 2021

National Context

It is widely recognised that there is still an acute shortage of social and genuinely affordable owner occupier or private rented housing, leading to issues of overcrowding and homelessness.

There are several key challenges in the national context to be aware of as well as recent/future legislative changes that impact across BCP and nationally.

Also, while conducting this Housing Strategy Review EIA there has been a General Election and a significant change to the political landscape.

The change of Government is likely to have a significant impact on the legislation that relates to the Housing sector.

Key manifesto points of the newly elected Labour Government are:

- Build 1.5 million new homes over the next parliament
- Re-instate mandatory housing targets, strengthen presumptions in favour of sustainable development and fund additional planning officers, paid for by increasing the rate of the stamp duty surcharge paid by non-UK residents
- Prioritise the release of supposedly lower quality green belt land, termed “grey belt”
- Prioritise the building of new social rented homes and better protect existing stock by reviewing the increased right to buy discounts introduced in 2012 and increasing protections on newly built social housing
- Build a new generation of new towns and to reform compulsory purchase compensation rules relating to hope value
- New planning powers and housing grant funding flexibilities for combined authorities
- Make changes to the Affordable Homes Programme “to ensure that it delivers more homes from existing funding” develop a 10-year infrastructure strategy, to give the private sector “certainty about project pipeline”
- Invest an extra £6.6bn as part of its Warm Homes Plan to upgrade five million homes
- Secure a mutual recognition agreement for professional qualifications to help open up markets for UK service exporters.

Local Context

BCP Demographic Figures 2021-24

- Population BCP Council area as of 30th June 2023 was 404,050.
- Increase of 0.4% (1,491 more residents) since mid-2022.
- The mid-2023 figure represents a slightly larger population in the 2018-based sub-national population projections, the projection has a figure of 399,740 for mid-2023
- The mid- 2022 population estimate has been revised upwards to 402,559 estimates has been revised to 402,559.

BCP website: [Statistics, data and census | BCP \(bcpCouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.bcp-council.gov.uk/statistics-data-and-census/)

Current homelessness figure

- In 2023/24 BCP accepted 2846 homeless duties, an increase of 20% since 2021/22.
- Predicted 10% increase in demand in the year ahead.

Equality/Diversity data who's becoming H/L and who's fleeing DA trends that have formed since the start of the Housing Strategy 2021

https://app.powerbi.com/links/KO_gjj7xYC?ctid=c9463313-35e1-40e4-944a-dd798ec9e488&pbi_source=linkShare

Pressure on the Housing Register

- Number of housing register applicants doubled in 2 years.
- Number of general needs lets reduced by 35%, lets to sheltered reduced by a lesser 14%
- Number of DA cases fleeing similar figures to 2021

The following equality/diversity data shows who's becoming H/L and who's fleeing DA – and shows the trends that have formed since previous EIA 2021 to present:

https://app.powerbi.com/links/KO_gjj7xYC?ctid=c9463313-35e1-40e4-944a-dd798ec9e488&pbi_source=linkShare

Cost of living effects

Since late 2021 the 'Cost of Living Crisis' has had a negative impact. In part, caused by high inflation outstripping wage and benefit increases.

While all people are affected by rising prices, **the impact has been felt most by those with low incomes who spend a greater share on energy and food** (Public Health Dorset May 2024).

BCP stats show 32% increase in households being evicted from Private Rented properties since 2022, mainly due to rising rent costs when landlords increase rents as their own costs inflate. And pressure on household incomes causing rent arrears. Landlords are selling their properties due to increased regulations and costs, which is being monitored

Currently out to tender for a private rented sector stock condition survey which will provide current figures on how many properties are rented in BCP. This will be the first such survey in BCP as legacy surveys were carried out many years ago.

BCP Refuge cohorts needs / expectations:

- Afghan refugees resettling via ARAP/ACRS pathways
- Hong Kong BNO (British Nationals Overseas)
- Ukrainian refugees (Ukraine Sponsorship, Ukraine Family, Ukraine Extension schemes).
- Refugees granted asylum

	HKBNO	Afghan ARAP/ACRS	Ukrainian schemes	Former asylum seekers
	0	23	65	193

Current TA pressure:

- Currently 601 households in placement across all TA provisions
- 185 B&B placements, 96 of whom are family households.
- CNHAS delivery set to positively impact TA provision and reduce nightly let requirement.

While the work of the refugee resettlement team has proven effective in helping former asylum seeker customers to access PRS options, we now anticipate further family homelessness from

those who are resettling in BCP and applying for family reunion visas to have their families join them in the UK.

DAK - Add DA BCP region stats 21 to 24

Summary of Positive Impacts across the 5 priorities- ASK Sophie re Equalities lens

Area	Background	Who will this impact
Temporary Accommodation (TA)	<p>Council homes used to provide TA and to support young people leaving care - to reduce reliance on expensive options.</p> <p>Council homes used and people leaving hospital who require interim accommodation.</p> <p>During 2023/24 - 27 households were provided TA through the Council's stock HRA.</p>	All protected characteristic groups
Prevention/Tenancy sustainability	<p>Council tenants have access services to sustain tenancies to prevent evictions.</p> <p>Support Referrals are made to other services where appropriate.</p> <p>During 2023/24, 5 evictions of Council tenants took place representing less than 1 per cent of all council tenancies.</p>	All Council Tenants - All protected characteristic groups
Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation (DAHA)	<p>The DAHA improves our response to DA through the introduction and adoption of an established set of standards will achieve the accreditation 2024/25</p>	<p>191 number of domestic abuse incidents were reported last year mainly involving – women reduced from 21/22 when the figure was 248, the DAHA/DA Act 21 will drive further positive impacts.</p> <p>All protected characteristic groups</p>
The New Tenancy Strategy for Registered Providers of Social Housing	<p>Is now in place which sets out the council's preferred approach to use lifetime tenancies for new social housing tenants</p>	<p>Long- term positive impact on all protected characteristics groups for new Lifelong tenancies.</p> <p>All protected characteristic groups</p>
Transfer Enablement policy	<p>Single approach to downsizing incentives and encourages best use of existing Social Housing stock.</p>	<p>Applicants waiting for housing and existing Social Housing tenants.</p>

	<p>Support now in place for Council tenants who want to move.</p> <p>A further review will be carried out during 2024/25 to ensure that the policy is effective and meets good practice.</p>	<p>Incentives can be provided to other Registered Provider tenants who meet the stated criteria.</p> <p>All protected characteristic groups</p>
Specialist Housing needs work	<p>Council homes made available for care experienced young people who are ready for independent living and 14 were rehoused in 2023/24. Measures are in place to provide floor coverings etc to support affordability.</p> <p>Training housing staff in specialist areas such as dementia, mental health, trauma informed care and safeguarding</p>	<p>Positive – Care Leavers</p> <p>Six specific Council homes designated to help prepare young people for independent living.</p> <p>Staff trained</p>
Implementation of transformed care technology service	Care Technology Transformation and developing the operating model for a new Care Tech team with a trusted assessor approach”.	All protected characteristics within the care environment.
National Mandatory Housing Qualifications	For senior housing staff and competency standards for other housing staff will now become a regulatory requirement.	All protected characteristic groups
Complaints and Ombudsman	The Housing Ombudsman carries out investigations of complaints relating to services provided to residents by Registered Providers of Social Housing. There is a statutory requirement for providers to learn from the outcomes of its own complaints and from complaints across the wider housing sector.	<p>Better staff training in relation to learning from complaints.</p> <p>Positive impact on all protected characteristics groups.</p>
Regulatory standards	New Regulatory Standards for Registered Providers 1st of April 24 aims to ensure best use of Council homes. Support people to remain independent particularly sheltered housing in conjunction with care technology.	All protected characteristics groups e.g. Age and Disabled.
The Tenancy Standard	Council to demonstrate it allocates its homes in a fair and transparent way that considers the needs of existing and prospective tenants. It also requires the Council to demonstrate	The 2024 New Tenancy showcases and aligns the need to support all protected characteristic groups

	how it supports tenants to sustain their tenancies.	
Empowering and co-creating neighbourhoods where residents wish to live and be part of the community	Compliance within the new Regulatory Standards to demonstrate transparency, Influence and accountability. To ensure that Council tenants can easily access services, raise complaints, influence decision making and hold the Council to account	All Council Tenants. All protected characteristic groups.
Private Rented Sector PRS	Landlords that consistently provide poor accommodation and do not work with the PSH team will always be considered for Banning Orders.	All protected characteristics groups.
Additional focus around damp and mould PRS	Additional training and tools provided to officers, improved recording of cases where damp and mould is present is helping to gather a more accurate reflective picture of the conditions	All protected characteristics Landlords that consistently provide poor accommodation and do not work with the PSH team are now considered for Banning Orders.
Costs of living / energy crisis effects on private sector standards and management	Common theme excess cold, damp and mould reports during colder months, tenants struggling to heat their properties due to increased fuel costs and a higher cost of living.	Ridgewater Energy provide an advice on improving cost efficiency for tenants and small landlords on how to effectively heat properties and reduce condensation, damp and mould. All protected characteristics
Fire safety regulations and any further evidence to support	Work closely with Dorset Fire and Rescue in relation to fire safety in Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs). All properties visited are risk-assessed based on the Housing Health and Safety Rating System and necessary works are requested using enforcement notices where the hazard is significant, or co-operation is not forthcoming.	All protected characteristic groups across BCP region.
EPC Standards and Expectations	Rental properties should be a minimum of EPC rating D, and it is likely to raise to rating C by 2030 at the latest. .	All protected characteristic groups
BCP Homes fires safety position	All Council high-rise blocks registered with the Building Safety Regulator. Cladding improvement works two blocks completed July 2024. The	All protected characteristic groups

	remaining blocks will have works completed October 2024.	
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Future positive Impacts for all protected characteristic groups:

1. Homes England Affordable Homes Programme (AHP) summary

The government announced a new, larger, £11.5bn [Affordable Homes Programme 2021-26](#) (AHP), including funding for social rent, supported housing, and a renewed commitment to delivering homes using modern methods of construction (MMC). The AHP plans to deliver up to 180,000 new homes including:

- 50% of homes at discounted rent, including affordable rent and social rent in areas of high affordability challenge.
- 50% of affordable home ownership including a majority of shared ownership.
- 10% of homes to provide supported housing.
- 10% of homes in rural areas.
- 25% of homes delivered through Strategic Partnerships using MMC.

The current funding programme can include homes that are acquired or built prior to March 2026. Information on a subsequent grant funding programme has yet to be announced.

2. First Homes Scheme

The 'First Homes scheme', was launched in 2021. It provides a discount of 30%-50% on the market value of a home for first-time buyers. The scheme aims to make home ownership more accessible for first-time buyers.

The scheme was developed in response to a 2019 manifesto commitment to "...offer more homes to local families, enabling councils to use developers' contributions via the planning process to discount homes in perpetuity by a third for local people who cannot otherwise afford to buy in their area."

3. Home Energy Performance Retrofit

The Government has a goal for housing to be zero carbon by 2050. They recognise that this means significant investment to achieve this within existing homes. Funding has been made available to Local Authorities and Registered Providers via the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and Sustainable Warmth initiatives. This funding supports further positive impacts for all protected characteristics across BCP:

- Energy efficient homes
- Smart technologies
- Moving to low-carbon heat
- Homes that are thermally comfortable
- Tackling fuel poverty by reducing energy bills

- Economic resilience and green jobs

Needs and experiences - Have all the protected groups been considered. **Panel notes** - *Some indication of evidence but examples not used, needs to relate back to the protected characteristics e.g. care leavers, all protected characteristics is too general, everyone has at least one, need to be more specific Need more of an equality lens when looking at this.*

Evidence Panel notes - Haven't looked at specifics or where have identified haven't given enough information.

Panel notes state - So much information given and drawn upon but need to bring in some information specific to the BCP Council area

EIA Chart - Positive and Negative impacts and what mitigating actions will you be taken.

DAK take out cost of living – fuel payment etc mark at neutral

Protected Characteristic Impact	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Comments	Action
Age	X	X	X	Has no adverse impact Positive - Care Tech team.	Action Plan outcome Appendix B Woven into Cost-of-Living impact and recent loss of winter fuel payment (monitor)
Disability	X	X	X	Has no adverse impact. Positive - Care Tech team.	Action Plan outcome Appendix B Woven into Cost-of-Living impact and recent loss of winter fuel payment (monitor)
Sex		X		Has no adverse impact.	
Gender Reassignment		X		Has no adverse impact.	
Pregnancy and Maternity		X		Has no adverse impact.	
Mariage and Civil Partnership		X		Has no adverse impact.	

Race	X		X	Has no adverse impact. Limited Affordable Hsg	Action Plan outcome Appendix B Positive delivery of Refugee programmes
Religion or Belief		X		Has no adverse impact.	
Sexual Orientation		X		Has no adverse impact.	
Military and Veterans		X		Has no adverse impact.	
Carers		X		Has no adverse impact.	
Children in Care or Care experienced young people	X			Has no adverse impact.	Positive - Training and implemented new ways of working
Socio Economic Status (incl of Vulnerability, H/Less and fleeing DA)		X	X	Has no adverse impact.	Action Plan outcome Appendix B Woven into Cost-of-Living impact and the recent loss of winter fuel payment (monitor)
Local businesses or community groups		X	X	Has no adverse impact.	Action Plan outcome Appendix B Restricted funding available.

Negative Impact - Panel notes Misinterpreted, not about the national impacts but the impacts of the housing strategy delivery and implementation

New paragraphs added to template:

Mitigation

Panel notes - *This wasn't drawn upon, need to be much clearer about what the negative impacts are, if there are any and what the mitigating actions are. For example, are there risks to certain groups missing out because of impacts to strategy delivery. E.g. how are you mitigating the changes to winter fuel allowance? Just a simple sentence to explain this.*

Summary

Panel notes - Didn't summarise the equality considerations, was more of a general synopsis

Does the summary provide the following?

- *An overview of equality considerations both positive and negative*
- *The rationale for drawing these conclusions*
- *Detail required mitigating actions.*

Any mitigating and negative impacts or unknown impacts highlighted in Appendix B

Appendix A When reviewing the EIA, legislative changes since 2021 have been considered -

Building Safety Act 2022 - In April 2022, the Building Safety Act became law. It aims to improve the safety of high-rise buildings by:

- a new regulatory regime for building safety
- a new Building Safety Regulator
- a new system for managing safety risks in high-rise buildings
- ensuring that new high-rise buildings are constructed to the highest safety standards.

The Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023

The act was implemented in April 2024 and aims to enhance regulatory powers and improve housing conditions for tenants. It will do this by holding poor performing landlords to account. The Act supports these aims by:

- giving more power to the Regulator of Social Housing including increased inspections and issuing fines
- giving more power to the Housing Ombudsman including publishing best practice guidance to landlords following investigations into tenant complaints
- setting strict time limits for social landlords to address hazards. For example, damp and mould
- setting new qualification requirements for social housing managers.
- introducing stronger economic powers to follow inappropriate money transactions outside of the sector, such as money laundering

The Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 - The act came into force on 29 August 2023. The Act sets out to introduce changes to how supported exempt accommodation is regulated. The Act plans to introduce new standards for supported exempt accommodation and make changes to how this type of accommodation is regulated. It allows the government to create new National Supported Housing Standards and introduce licensing regulations. It also sets out how a new Supported Housing Advisory Panel will work and makes changes to the rules on intentional homelessness when a person leaves accommodation which does not meet national standards.

The Act provides a legal framework for introducing regulation, but the impact will depend on the regulations published by the government, and ongoing enforcement.

The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 - This Act became law in October 2023 and aims to support the government's commitment to reducing geographical disparities between different parts of the UK by spreading opportunity more equally. The Act is intended to "speed up the planning system, hold developers to account, cut bureaucracy, and encourage more councils to put in place plans to enable the building of new homes."

The bill will also require the government to report annually on its progress, support the devolution of powers in England and create a framework for the delivery of green homes.

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced a statutory definition for domestic abuse for the first time and placed a duty on local authorities in England to provide safe accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children. The Act amended homelessness legislation so that all eligible victims of domestic abuse that are homeless because of domestic abuse are regarded as being in priority need under the Housing Act 1996 and Homelessness Act 2002.

Social Care White Paper (2021)

In 2021, the government published their 10-year vision for adult social care in England. The Health and Social Care White Paper highlights the importance of an integrated approach to meeting people's day-to-day health and social care needs and the government's aims and proposals regarding, amongst other things, housing adaptations and the Disabled Facilities grant (DFG). The principles of the paper of "Providing the Right Care, in the Right Place at the Right Time" provides for individuals to have choice over their housing arrangements which play a crucial role for achieving positive outcomes. This could be in the form of a new home or their existing home, purpose designed or not to meet their needs and have access to technologies and adaptations.

Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 - In September 2022 the government published a refreshed rough sleeping strategy "Ending rough sleeping for good". The strategy has four key themes to end rough sleeping which are prevention, intervention, recovery and a transparent and joined up system. This was also accompanied with a further £2billion investment over a three-year period into policy and schemes to end rough sleeping such as Housing First and the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme.

The Victims and Prisoners Bill 2024 - Received Royal Assent and became an Act of Parliament following its final stages in the House of Lords on Thursday 23 and Friday 24 May. The Victims and Prisoners Bill aims to improve the support and guidance offered to victims of crime and major incidents, and those suffering bereavement, including through the appointment of specialist advocates.

The bill will also implement planned government reforms of the parole system, including preventing life-term inmates from marrying and greater ministerial oversight of the Parole Board and the early release of dangerous offenders.

Legislative reform is the proposed Renters Reform Bill - This Bill was at its second reading in the House of Lords before parliament was dissolved ahead of the election.

It proposes changes to the private rented sector and centres around:

- ending fixed term tenancies
- increasing notice periods for rent increases
- increasing tenants' right in relation to pets
- a new ombudsman to cover all private landlords
- considering the removal of Section 21 'no fault' evictions
- requirement for all rented properties to meet the decent homes standard
- removal of 'no benefits' or 'no children' adverts

It is not yet clear how the newly elected Government will proceed with this bill, though it has been made clear that there is a keenness to reform the private rented sector.

Appendix B

Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan			
Issue identified	Action required to reduce impact	Timescale	Responsible officer
<p>Priority 1 - Meeting Future growth</p> <p>Housing supply, including additional extra care accommodation. Strategy programme is currently significantly impacted by inflation, interest rates affecting the housing development supply chain.</p> <p>Housing Delivery Team support the work generated from the council's Urban Regeneration Company who are tasked with development on complex regeneration sites across the area.</p> <p>Develop a new affordable housing policy with supporting guidance, taking a more equitable approach to viability. Develop a new affordable housing policy with supporting guidance, taking a more equitable approach to viability.</p>	<p>Through a formal council decision, Future Places has now been brought in-house. They are now part of I&D Directorate.</p> <p>Team integration and support of staff continues through 2024, including shared programme management resources.</p> <p>Housing Delivery Steering Group.</p> <p>Active consultation sessions with planning colleagues</p> <p>Through a formal council decision, Future Places has now been brought in-house.</p> <p>Now part of I&D Directorate. Team integration and support of staff continues through 2024, including shared programme management resources.</p>	<p>The programme covers a 5-year period from the end of 2021 through to the end of 2026/27</p> <p>Throughout the period of this strategy (5-year plan)</p> <p>New AH SPD in place by 2025</p> <p>Throughout the period of this strategy (5-year plan)</p> <p>New AH SPD in place by 2025</p> <p>Work on this can only begin once the new Local Plan has been through the examination in public and the plan is determined as sound</p>	<p>Amena Matin, Director of Investment and Development</p>

<p>Priority 2 - Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping</p> <p>Annual & bi-monthly counts continue to fluctuate with Long Term Rough Sleepers the largest group</p> <p>Ensure no one sleeps rough or lives in places which are not designed as a home, such as tents, vehicles, squats or non-residential buildings.</p>	<p>Reduction in rough sleeping of all kinds including first time cases. No one rough sleeping for more than one night. Significant reduction in long term cases of rough sleeping. Homelessness Partnership Action Groups in partnership with Homewards targeting focused action for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Preventing Youth Homelessness- Enhancing Data & Insight- Developing Meaningful Occupation approaches- Communications & Co-production- Private Landlords Forum <p>Established teams in place for Hospital & Prison Discharge; Care Experienced Young People; Providing employment / training offers; Communications strategies</p> <p>Increasing focus on prevention, with upstream prevention being one of 3 Core Aims of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. 21/22 Rough Sleeper count 29 over the next 2 years leading to the count in 23/24 count has increased to 69. Annual & bi-monthly counts continue to fluctuate with Long Term Rough Sleepers the largest group.</p> <p>Annual Count</p> <table><tr><td>21/22</td><td>29 (following Everyone In)</td></tr><tr><td>22/23</td><td>64</td></tr></table>	21/22	29 (following Everyone In)	22/23	64	<p>Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Action Plan updated June 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Annual Ending Rough Sleeping Action Plan agreed with DLUHC. March 2024- Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Action Plan Updated June 2024.- Provide timely housing options planning and support advice to targeted groups more likely to be impacted by homelessness- All care leavers and other relevant under 19-year-olds- Specialist Officers (prison outreach and liaison, hospital liaison), Prevention team and landlord liaison, floating support, Financial Resilience Action Group.- Funds to help prevent evictions due to arrears. <p>Rough Sleeping Initiative grant £2m received to support the prevention of rough sleeping, support move-on accommodation and recovery support.</p> <p>Provide flexible targeted support and intervention to all those who are at greater risk of homelessness - Core Objective in the Homelessness Strategy 2020-24</p>	<p>Ben Tomlin, Head of Strategy Housing & Partnerships. Housing and Communities</p>
21/22	29 (following Everyone In)						
22/23	64						

	<table><tr><td>23/24</td><td>64</td></tr><tr><td>24/25</td><td></td></tr></table>	23/24	64	24/25		Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Action Plan updated June 2024	
23/24	64						
24/25							
Priority 3 - Improving Housing Options Working groups to explore both current unmet need and future needs for all specialist housing needs groups. Establish needs assessment 2022. Commissioning Plan to be agreed 2024 To work proactively with internal and external partners to identify unmet specialist and/or complex housing needs on an ongoing and structured basis and work to secure additional housing options to meet those needs, working with housing providers and developers. Ensure there is an appropriate range and scale of housing options for the area's older population which promotes independence and minimises the need for costly residential and nursing care.	Specialist housing needs group in place; independent needs assessment commissioned to inform new build, acquisition, and remodelling plans Some targeted successful new delivery for Care Experienced Young People & Homeless. Programme required for other specialist groups, including existing asset strategy. Extra Care Steering Group in place. Sites being identified within Council's ownership and discussed started with partner agencies/developers. Discussions currently taking place internally to try and secure additional resources that focuses on site development options. Group structure currently being reviewed to establish an improved strategic overview for Extra Care delivery Specialist housing needs group in place; independent needs assessment commissioned to inform new build, acquisition, and remodelling plans	Establish needs assessment 2022. Commissioning Plan to be agreed mid - 2024 BCP now has an adopted Extra Care Strategy which sets out a requirement for 1,312 extra care units by 2030 Establish needs assessment 2022. Commissioning Plan to be agreed 2024 BCP now has an adopted Extra Care Strategy which sets out a requirement for 1,312 extra care units by 2030 One team now in place 2024. One BCP DFG policy approved. Commercial Lead recruited who will be developing a growth strategy for seascape DFG work.	Ben Tomlin, Head of Strategy Housing & Partnerships Seamus Doran Head of BCP Homes Housing and Communities				

<p>This includes delivering the outcomes set out in the Extra Care Housing Commissioning Strategy which include the intentions for an extra care village and other related additional type homes.</p> <p>Integrate our Disabled Facilities Grant activity into one streamlined team, offering the wholly owned company Seascope South Limited as the contractor of choice to customers.</p>	<p>Some targeted successful new delivery for Care Experienced Young People & Homeless. Programme required for other specialist groups, including existing asset strategy</p> <p>Extra Care Steering Group in place. Sites being identified within Council's ownership and discussed started with partner agencies/developers. Discussions currently taking place internally to try and secure additional resources that focuses on site development options.</p> <p>Group structure currently being reviewed to establish an improved strategic overview for Extra Care delivery. Continued successful outcomes under the new service with reduced turnaround times on DFGs. Seascope South to increase their capacity across the work available</p> <p>New restricted service in place 2023</p>		
<p>Priority 4 - Empowering and Co- Creating Neighbourhoods where residents wish to live.</p> <p>Encourage sustainable and resilient communities by having an enforcement service that seeks to target</p>	<p>Investigate all reports of unlicensed HMOs in a timely fashion and discuss with tenants how we can assist them.</p> <p>Encourage responsible landlords to join an approved accreditation scheme and inform them of how they can assist with tackling anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>1,500-2,000 additional HMOs Licensed which is approximate number of predicted unlicensed HMOs.</p> <p>Intervention and support for landlords to help deal with tenants committing</p>	<p>Sophie Sajic Head of Public Protection Housing and Communities</p>

<p>rogue landlords and address related anti-social behaviour issues.</p>	<p>Investigate anti-social behaviour reports with Police and other partners and refer any suspicions of unlicensed and unauthorised HMOs to PSHE</p> <p>PSH Team attend Project Spotlight to share and benefit from intelligence</p> <p>More robust process and resource required to identify and tackle unlicensed HMOs as significant lack of engagement by occupants meaning evidence threshold is difficult to obtain.</p> <p>Exploring additional resources such as NAFN, Experian and IDB for additional intelligence.</p> <p>Recruitment ongoing but significant challenges across the country with this job market.</p> <p>Enhanced multi-agency work with key enforcement partners around rogue landlords.</p> <p>12 Closure orders obtained for anti-social behaviour in private rented accommodation between 2021-2024</p>	<p>anti-social behaviour. Ideally keeping tenants within their accommodation</p>	<p>Matthew King Enforcement Manager, Housing and Communities</p> <p>Claire Seymour ASB and Nuisance Lead Housing and Communities</p>
<p>Priority 5 - Improving Safety and Sustainability across BCP Housing</p>	<p>Developing 30-year business plan based on costs implied by stock energy data.</p>	<p>To agree a strategy in 22/23 and implement a programme of identified work by 2025</p>	<p>Seamus Doran</p>

<p>To lead by example on our new housing developments for sustainability by having a robust policy for design and approach. Also, agreeing our approach to retrofitting the council's own housing stock.</p> <p>To implement a minimum standard of Energy Performance certificates to achieve E and private rented homes across the area. Organise an educational and publicity campaign</p> <p>Enforce on private landlords where there has been a change of tenancy or where the landlord has not taken any action. Trading Standards will engage with Letting agents and property managers to ensure that they are compliant with MEES Regulation</p>	<p>Complete set of data is not yet available to inform the development of a sustainability strategy and 30-year Housing Revenue Account Business plan.</p> <p>Measures identified to retrofit existing housing stock and improve energy efficiency. Costs of work required to housing stock identified and feed this into the 30-year Business Plan. Measures identified to ensure new homes are energy efficient.</p> <p>Work still to be done on data capture (due Apr 2024) for where properties fail to meet minimum and capture when improved. Recruitment if successful will assist this work but target has not been met although publicity campaign completed in 2022.</p> <p>Information sharing protocol between Trading Standards and Private Sector Housing Enforcement. All properties inspected by PSHE Team checked for minimum standard and improvement works required through enforcement where necessary</p>	<p>Existing staff from the council and Poole Housing Partnership</p> <p>External support for 30-year Housing Revenue Account Business Plan</p>	<p>Head of BCP Homes, Housing and Communities</p> <p>Sophie Sajic Head of Public Protection Housing and Communities</p> <p>Matthew King Enforcement Manager, Housing and Communities</p>
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Housing Strategy Action Plan Review 2021 to 2026 - Glossary of terms and further guidance

Term	Anacronym	Further guidance/resources
Aluminium Composite Material	ACM	Aluminium Composite Material consists of two aluminium sheets sandwiching a rigid polyethylene core, a building material used to clad buildings. Aluminium composite material cladding - GOV.UK
Compulsory Purchase Orders	CPO	Allow public bodies to force homeowners to sell up if their property obstructs a regeneration project or it's for the "greater public good" Compulsory purchase and compensation: guide 1 - procedure - GOV.UK
Council Newbuild Housing and Acquisition Strategy	CNHAS	The purpose of the strategy will be to set out the council's intentions and ambitions for developing new housing at pace and scale on its own surplus land assets. The CNHAS strategy will develop using surplus council-owned land and acquire additional land and properties where appropriate. It sets out the need for a wide variety of tenures and property types – general needs housing, supported and specialist, for young and older people.
Disabled Facilities Grants	DFG	Aims to help eligible older and disabled people to make changes to their home so they can access and use all essential facilities. Disabled Facilities Grants: Overview - GOV.UK
Discretionary Licensing		Local authorities can add discretionary conditions that relate to the management, use and occupation of a house of multiple occupancy (HMO), and its condition and contents

		Selective licensing in the private rented sector: a guide for local authorities - GOV.UK
Empty Dwelling Management Orders	EDMO	<p>A process which allows Council's to take over the management of empty private residential properties with a view to agreeing with the owner a plan to bring them back into occupation</p> <p>Empty Dwelling Management Orders: guidance - GOV.UK</p>
Energy Performance Certificate	EPC	<p>An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) tells you how energy efficient a property is.</p> <p>Energy Performance Certificates BCP</p>
Enforced Sale		<p>The Enforced Sale Procedure is a process by which the Council brings about the sale of a privately-owned property. It is used as a means to bring problematic long-term vacant property (being residential/commercial or land) back into use, in circumstances where the present owner is either unwilling or unable to comply with legal notices issued by the Council, or the ownership is unknown. By enforcing the sale, it is anticipated that a new owner will be more willing and able to invest in the property, and ensure its likely reoccupation, upkeep, and proper use.</p> <p>The process of Enforced Sale is a method that can be utilised for the recovery of debt owing to the Council and could be used to recover debts where the owner of a property has made no attempt to make payment in respect of problematic property.</p>
Homelessness Partnership BCP	HPBCP	<p>The Homelessness Partnership BCP brings together more than 40 local organisations to end homelessness in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole by ensuring everyone has a safe place to call home</p> <p>Homelessness Partnership BCP</p>

High Rise Residential Buildings	HRRB	<p>A high-rise residential building has at least: 7 storeys or is at least 18 metres high 2 residential units The building must be registered before people live there. These buildings are known as higher-risk buildings under the Building Safety Act 2022.</p> <p>Managing high-rise residential buildings - GOV.UK</p>
Homes England		<p>Non-departmental public body that funds new affordable housing in England. It was founded on 1 January 2018 to replace the Homes and Communities Agency.</p> <p>Homes England - GOV.UK About us - Homes England - GOV.UK</p>
Homewards		<p>A project aimed at ending homelessness in the UK launched by The Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales</p> <p>Homepage - The Royal Foundation - Homewards</p>
House of Multiple Occupancy	HMO	<p>A home is a house in multiple occupation (HMO) if both of the following apply: at least 3 tenants live there, forming more than 1 household. And they share toilet, bathroom or kitchen facilities with the other tenants.</p> <p>Private renting: Houses in multiple occupation - GOV.UK</p>
Household Support Fund	HSF	<p>A fund designed to provide short-term financial support to vulnerable households struggling to afford household essentials</p> <p>Get help with the cost of living from your local council - GOV.UK Household Support Fund (HSF) BCP</p>

Housing Ombudsman		<p>The Housing Ombudsman Service (HOS) looks at complaints about registered providers of social housing, for example housing associations, and other landlords, managers and agents</p> <p>Damp and mould - Housing Ombudsman</p>
Housing Revenue Account	HRA	<p>Intended to record expenditure and income on running a council's own housing stock and closely related services or facilities, which are provided primarily for the benefit of the council's own tenants.</p> <p>Housing Revenue Account - GOV.UK</p>
Housing Revenue Account 30-year Business Plan	HRA 30-year plan	<p>This HRA Business Plan sets a strategic plan for managing and maintaining social housing stock.</p> <p>It sets out in detail short to medium term plans and priorities for the housing and asset management services (5 years) and provides a long term (30 year) forecast on stock investment and financial planning.</p>
Integrated Care Partnership		<p>The Integrated Care Board (ICB), Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP) and Dorset Council have established a joint committee in accordance with section 116ZA of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to be known as the Dorset Integrated Care Partnership (ICP).</p> <p>Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) – NHS Dorset</p>
Key Worker		<p>A key worker is a public sector employee who is considered to provide an essential service.</p>

Local Government Act 1972 section 123	S123	<p>The purpose of s.123 is to ensure, so far as reasonably possible, that public assets are not sold by public authorities at an undervalue, save, if at all, with the consent, general or specific, of the Secretary of State</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972</p>
Local Housing Allowance	LHA	<p>Rates used to calculate the level of Housing Benefit and Universal Credit Housing Element for tenants renting from private landlords</p> <p>Local Housing Allowance - GOV.UK</p>
Local Authority Housing Fund	LAHF	<p>Capital fund that supports local authorities in England to obtain housing for those on resettlement schemes who are unable to find settled accommodation</p> <p>Local Authority Housing Fund - GOV.UK</p>
Low-Income Low Energy Efficiency	LILEE	<p>Fuel poverty in England is measured using the Low-Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) indicator</p> <p>Fuel poverty statistics - GOV.UK</p>
Methods of Modern Construction	MMC	<p>Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) is a wide term, covering a range of offsite and onsite techniques. MMC provides alternatives to traditional building methods and has the potential to deliver significant improvements in productivity, efficiency and quality for both the construction industry and public sector</p>

		Modern methods of construction in the housing industry - House of Lords Library
Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard	MEES	<p>Regulations that set a minimum energy efficiency level for domestic private rented properties in England and Wales</p> <p>Domestic private rented property: minimum energy efficiency standard - landlord guidance - GOV.UK</p>
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government	MHCLG	<p>Ministerial department of the Government of the United Kingdom. It is responsible for housing, communities, and local government in England</p> <p>Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - GOV.UK</p> <p>About us - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - GOV.UK</p>
National Planning Policy Framework	NPPF	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework sets out government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK</p>
One Public Estate	OPE	<p>One Public Estate is an initiative delivered in partnership by the Cabinet Office Government Property Unit (GPU) and the Local Government Association (LGA). It provides practical and technical support and funding to councils to deliver property-focused programmes in collaboration with central government and other public sector partners</p>

		One Public Estate Local Government Association
National Residential Landlords Association	NRLA	The United Kingdom's largest association for private landlords NRLA - The Home For Landlords
Registered Providers	RP's	Housing associations (also known as Registered Providers (RPs) are organisations that are run independently from councils. They are the main developers of new homes in the social housing sector and provide housing for people.
Regulatory Standards		Regulatory standards that define the outcomes that social landlords must deliver using our under the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 Regulatory standards for landlords - GOV.UK
Renters Right Bill		Bill to improve the current system for private renters and landlords in England. Aims to give renters greater security and stability and avoid homelessness. Guide to the Renters' Rights Bill - GOV.UK
Ridgewater Energy		Provide advice and assistance to homeowners, landlords and private tenants in assessing and sourcing funding and quotations for insulation, heating and renewable energy upgrades in the South of England Ridgewater Energy Leaders in the energy efficiency

Right to Buy	RTB	Allows council tenants to buy their council home at a discount Right to Buy: buying your council home: Overview - GOV.UK
Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme	RSAP	Funding to support rough sleepers into longer term accommodation Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme 2021-24 - GOV.UK
Section 106	S106	A legally binding agreement or “planning obligation” between a local planning authority, and a property owner. The purpose of a S106 agreement is to mitigate the impact of the development on the local community and infrastructure. Planning obligations - GOV.UK
Single Homeless Accommodation Programme	SHAP	Funding to provide supported housing, Housing First and housing-led accommodation for two target groups: adults experiencing multiple disadvantage who may have a history of rough sleeping and require high levels of support, and young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness or rough sleeping. Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme - GOV.UK
Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023		The Act is aimed at improving conditions in exempt supported housing. It came into force on 29 August 2023 Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023
Tenant Satisfaction Measures	TSM	System for assessing how well social housing landlords in England are performing on delivering good quality homes and services. Includes a set of tenant satisfaction measures that social housing landlords must report on.

		Tenant Satisfaction Measures - Summary of RSH requirements (accessible) - GOV.UK
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	UKSPF	<p>Fund aiming to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the United Kingdom, investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills</p> <p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund - GOV.UK</p>

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CABINET



Report subject	Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2024-25
Meeting date	2 April 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The Council has a statutory duty to provide working families of children aged 0-14 (18 with SEND) enough childcare places in its area, where reasonably practicable. Each year Research and Children's Services colleagues assess the position of the market, providing parents, councillors, schools and private business ward level information as a planning tool to support access or expansion of places, while highlighting areas of focus for the year ahead.</p> <p>With significant government expansion of early years childcare and wraparound care currently taking place, this information and data is vital for private businesses seeking to enter the market and help the Council fulfil its statutory duties.</p> <p>The content of the assessment concludes that the Council is meeting its statutory duties. It is also important to highlight that, at the time of writing, the quality of our providers stands at 99.2% good or outstanding (compared to 97.8% in England).</p> <p>In addition to a briefing report (appendix 1) the data that helped form the assessment is accessible here.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Cabinet approves the content of the review and the priorities (areas of focus) as set out in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2024-25 Briefing Report.</p>
Reason for recommendations	To fulfil the Council's statutory duty to annually assess its childcare market.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Richard Burton, Children and Young People
Corporate Director	Cathi Hadley, Corporate Director for Children's Services
Report Authors	Sharon Muldoon, Interim Director of Education and Skills Tanya Smith, Head of Inclusion, Places, Admissions and Capital Darren Buckley, Senior Childcare Sufficiency and Funding Officer
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Recommendation

Background

1. Local Authorities are required to report to elected council members on how they are meeting the duty to secure sufficient childcare before making the assessment available and accessible to parents, schools and businesses.
2. The annual review has proved to be a useful planning tool for Children's Services and potential new providers have given feedback that the data within the assessment has been invaluable in helping them to plan for sustainable new business.
3. Local Authorities are required by legislation to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). There is also a duty to ensure enough government funded early education places are available for all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 9 month to 2 year olds.

The annual sufficiency assessment

4. Local Authorities are required by statutory guidance to determine the appropriate level of detail in their assessment (including geographical division and date of publication). The information in the assessment is organised to match ward level data.
5. The assessment has been designed so that it can be reviewed and updated to inform the planning and development of early years services and to help existing and new providers to plan for expansion or new provision, which will be vital as extended government entitlements were introduced in 2024 and are set to expand further in 2025. Forecasts and projections presented within this assessment are supplied, ordinarily, by the Office for National Statistics or Department for Education.
6. Several factors have been considered within this review including:
 - The state of the local childcare market/supply and demand
 - The state of the labour market
 - The quality and capacity of childcare providers
 - The number of funded early education places required
 - The number of school aged children
 - The needs of disabled children

- The demand for school holiday care for children
 - The demand for 30 hours extended entitlement for eligible children
7. Overall, BCP Council is meeting its statutory duty to ensure there are enough suitable early education and childcare places available. There is a good choice of childcare facilities available to families delivered through the private, voluntary, independent and schools' sector across the conurbation. We have also improved our Early Years Pupil Premium take-up to 16% (up from 6% in 2020), reaching our most disadvantaged children (there are no published statistics to measure EYPP performance, however).
 8. Developments since 2023-24:
 - 8.1 At the time of writing the assessment, there were a total of 292 childcare providers in the BCP Council area, offering a maximum of 7,696 places. This is a fall of 15 providers, or 5% (11 of which were childminders) and 96 places, or 1.5%, since summer 2023.
 - 8.2 While some group providers closed, other providers were supported by Children's Services, where possible, in acquiring those sites to protect availability of those places for their community.
 - 8.3 New group provision has opened in Kinson, Bournemouth Central and Redhill and Northbourne, supplying a combined 130 new early years places.
 - 8.4 In summer 2024, 396 early years children were recorded as receiving additional SEND Support. This is a decrease of 10% in the last 12 months. A total of 7,325 primary and secondary school children received SEN support, 228 extra children, or 3%, than in January 2023.
 - 8.5 The latest occupancy figures, at the busiest point of the year, show occupancy rates at childminders was 93%, PVI settings was 90% and school nursery settings was 89%. Each sector having a small increase in occupancy year on year.
 - 8.6 Overall, the number of registered out-of-school provision has increased by 1 in the last 12 months.
 9. Areas of focus for 2025:
 - 9.1 **Childminders:** Nationally childminder numbers have halved in the past 10 years and locally, since the pandemic began in 2020, BCP Council has lost a third of registered childminders (approximately 70). An ageing cohort of childminders and a falling number of providers registering with Ofsted mean that the childminding profession is not being replenished at a sufficient rate to sustain itself. Childminders are only one part of the sector, but they give parents choice and flexibility. Their current contribution and that towards the government's expanded childcare and wraparound offer is invaluable. The council and the DfE are promoting working in childcare through the 'Do something big...' campaign, and newly registered childminders had been able to access a £600 grant to support their start-up costs. Some encouraging changes have happened at government level including the creation of a new category of childminder called 'childminders without domestic premises'. This is for childminders who will work solely from somewhere other than a home, such as a community or village hall. An increase in the total number of people (including childminders and assistants) who can work together under a childminder's registration from 3 to 4 and childminders are also given more flexibility to operate outside of their home (or someone else's) for more of their time. This will remove the

requirement that at least 50% of the childcare must be provided in a home. The profession still, however, needs ongoing local and national support to reverse the trend of falling Ofsted registrations.

- 9.2 **Day nurseries and preschools:** Our current providers tell us that recruitment and retention of staff is the biggest barrier to expanding their places, or in some cases even meeting their current Ofsted registered maximum places. Although currently sufficient, the retention of our existing providers carries even greater weight with the increased expanded entitlements from 2025. The number of group settings that have closed and not been reopened under new ownership is small but still has an impact on each local community. The council continues to work with those who are wishing to close, signposting to providers seeking new or further premises. This protects the childcare places and staff and will continue to ensure statutory duties are met. The government is currently promoting childminding as a profession as well as working in childcare through a 'Do something big... work with small children' campaign and the Council continues to promote childcare as a profession working with professional partners including the DWP/Jobcentre Plus. If providers cannot staff their businesses adequately, this impacts on the number of childcare places available for working families.
- 9.3 **Bearwood and Merley:** This area continues to undergo significant housing planning and development, raising critical concerns about the adequacy of childcare availability. Currently, Merley lacks the capacity to provide year-round childcare support for working parents. To address this shortfall, developer contributions should be included in the infrastructure package to accommodate the increased demand for early years care brought by the proposed developments. With housing developments in mind, childcare providers should consider Bearwood and Merley as an area with potential.
- 9.4 **Boscombe West:** This ward is highlighted as few families stay within their ward for 2, 3-and 4-year-old funded childcare, which is likely due to a combination of ongoing lack of provision in the area but also the proximity of other provision in neighbouring wards. It is considered an area where new provision is encouraged as, with a current estimated 521 resident 0–4-year-old children, there are no longer any childminders and no preschool provision, whilst three day nurseries currently serve the area. The lack of childminders here, and overall, is particularly concerning.
- 9.5 **Expanded Entitlements for 9 month to 2 year olds:** Children's Services is confident that there are currently sufficient places for the 15 hours expanded entitlement for 2-year-olds and the first term of entitlement for 9-month-old children should be considered a success with no known unplaced children, despite some concerns raised when the entitlements were first announced in 2023. The next challenge for BCP Council and nationally is the expansion of entitlement from 15 hours per week to 30 hours per week from September 2025. The latest forecast information from the DfE suggests that there may be a sufficiency gap of 368 places at that point, with Hamworthy and Newtown & Heatherlands wards having the largest forecast shortfall. The Council, however, are currently in the process of allocating capital funding to providers to increase their places, in readiness for September 2025 with funding for **276 new places** already approved to date. Progress and outcomes can be viewed through [this](#) dedicated webpage with the expectation that several hundred new 1- and 2-year-old places can be funded. In addition, the DfE themselves are offering up to 3,000 schools the opportunity to make use of unused

classrooms to introduce early years education onsite (school or privately run), with several BCP primary schools applying in the first phase of funding. It is vital that the leadership and planning officers support the need for new and expanding provision and that every opportunity with capital funding is used to effectively increase the number of places available for working families. that capital funding is distributed fairly and with the best outcomes possible in mind.

The following table shows the current and forthcoming entitlements, based on a 38 week year.

	9 month old (working)	2 year old (working)	2 year old (disadvantaged)	3&4 year old (all)	3&4 year old (working)
Currently	15hrs	15hrs	15hrs	15hrs	30hrs
Sept 2025	30hrs	30hrs	15hrs	15hrs	30hrs

- 9.6 **Wraparound Provision:** Increasing the 8am to 6pm wraparound places offered to working families is a key local and national priority. While BCP Council has a healthy before school offer, there are gaps in the after school offers for parents. Over the next two years, with the use of the DfE's Wraparound Care Programme Delivery Fund, the council will be working with all schools and private providers to ensure that a term-time 8am to 6pm offer is in place at every primary school, where needed, as well as increasing capacity. Capital funding from the DfE will also be available to enable this. The 2025-26 childcare sufficiency review is expected to fully report on a successful increase in 8am to 6pm places in BCP Council.

At the time of writing the Council are underway with two phases of funding that schools and providers can apply for. The intention is that all funding allocated to BCP Council will be committed to the sector by the end of March 2025, with agreed funding being paid in stages through to the end of the government's funding programme, March 31 2026. The application and allocation process is ongoing however, at the time of writing, over **600 new places**, or places that will extend to 6pm, have been approved. Ongoing progress and outcomes can be viewed through [this](#) dedicated webpage.

10. The childcare sector has had a difficult time since the pandemic. Their funding rate has been low and their ability to recruit and retain staff on a wage commensurate with the responsibility of educating children is therefore impacted. As places have slowly fallen this has, to date, been mitigated by a falling birthrate. There has been some positive movement with government funding, insofar as the rate paid for 9 month to 2 year olds is not competitive with existing private rates and in many cases over and above a providers rate, however the funding rate for 3 and 4 year olds (where children are universally entitled) remains a sticking point
11. Whilst the Council is currently sufficient, 2025 and beyond is expected to bring some challenges as the Council aims to fulfil its duty to provide its residents enough places. Government have indicated the number of places that may be lacking in BCP from September 2025 however the Council have sought to mitigate that through distribution of capital funding, which continues at the time of writing.
12. Councillors should be aware that the childcare sector may seek political support for planning applications or leasing of council owned property. Providers may also continue to lobby for business rates relief.

Options Appraisal

13. None

Summary of financial implications

14. Local authorities are required, by statutory guidance, to maximise families' take up of government funded early education. The government introduced, from April 2024, a new 15 hours per week entitlement for some working families of 2 year olds. Expanding that to 9 month old children from September 2024 and doubling the entitlement to 30 hours per week from September 2025. This may have a financial impact on existing provision as many eligible parents will move from paying privately at a provider set rate to receiving funded entitlement at a local authority rate. It should be noted however that the local authority funding rate for 9 month to 2 year olds is often higher than that charged privately by providers.

Summary of legal implications

15. The Local Authority has a duty to secure sufficient childcare for working parents, parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children) (Childcare Act 2006). An annual review and reporting on the local picture enable us to fulfil this requirement.

Summary of human resources implications

16. None

Summary of sustainability impact

17. None

Summary of public health implications

18. None

Summary of equality implications

19. Through this assessment the Council are providing private businesses the tools and publicly available datasets to determine where they might choose to expand or create new provision. As Children's Services is not directly involved with private business decisions and that childcare funding for families follows DfE led criteria (no discretion), an EIA has not been created.

Summary of risk assessment

20. The Council need to work proactively to ensure that parent demand in both early years and school aged wraparound is met by private business and school provision. With demand unmet parents may not be able to work or work the hours that they would like. All ages and groups are important, but Children's Services will be emphasising the needs of disadvantaged 2 year olds and children with SEND when working with providers on expansion.

Background papers

21. This report is produced using the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2024-25 Briefing Report, which is attached as an appendix. The source data (an interactive PowerBI) cannot be formed as an appendix, but is available [here](#) and will be

published on the Council's Childcare Sufficiency webpage, along with the briefing paper, upon conclusion of this democratic process.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2024-25 Briefing Report

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RESEARCH Briefing report



Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2024/2025

January 2025

Summary Headline Data

- Mid-Year Estimates 2023 show the number of 0-4-year-olds have fallen in the last 12 months from 18,463 (2022 revised) to 18,185 (2023). The number of 5-14-year-olds, however, has increased from 43,089 (2022 revised) to 43,258 (2023).
- Over the next decade BCP's population is projected to increase by 7,800 (2%), from 395,800 in 2018 to 403,600 in 2028. Population growth will be concentrated among those aged 65+ with migration driving population growth. More people are arriving than leaving the area.
- The latest population projections show that the number of births in BCP Council is projected to fall.
- There is a total of 292 childcare providers in the BCP Council area, offering a maximum of 7,697 places at any one time. This is a fall of 15 providers overall since summer 2023.
- Overall, the number of early years places has fallen by 95 in the last 12 months. This drop in places is, however, mitigated by the falling birthrate.
- The latest occupancy figures show occupancy rates at childminders was 93%, PVI settings was 90% and school nursery settings was 89%.
- BCP funded 5,506 3 and 4-year-olds in the summer term 2024. This is a fall on the 2023 figure of 5,525, and 5,737 in 2022. This is likely due to a fall in the age cohort.
- Funded Early Education (FEE) changes came into effect from 1 April 2024 with the expansion of the 2-year-old FEE to working families. BCP funded 2,209 2-year-old children in summer term 2024. 597 (27%) of these were under the disadvantaged eligibility and 1,612 (73%) was under the working families eligibility. The government earlier forecast the number of eligible 2-year-olds could be in the region of 2,370.
- From 1 September 2024 15 hours per week of working family entitlement expanded to include 9 month-1-year-olds. BCP funded 1,444 children in this age group in autumn term 2024. The government forecast the number of eligible 9 month-1-year olds could be in the region of 1,460.
- Considering forecasts and take-up data BCP Council currently has a sufficient number of early years childcare places.
- From 1 September 2025, eligible working parents of children aged 9 months to 2-years-old will see an increase in their entitlement to 30 hours (over 38 weeks a year). In BCP the DfE estimate that 368 places will need to be created by September 2025. This relates to a 10% increase in supply of childcare hours for this age group.
- DfE capital funding is being used to create additional 9 month – 2-years-old places in BCP Council. It is an ongoing piece of work, but at the time of writing capital funding applications have so far been approved that will create 276 new places, by September 2025.
- In Summer 2024, 396 children were recorded as receiving additional SEND Support. 79 Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) were issued in the Early Years sector.
- In January 2024 the schools census recorded 1,084 EHCPs for primary schools and 1,194 for secondary schools. A total of 7,325 primary and secondary school children received SEN support, 228 extra children than in January 2023.
- Average prices per hour across all setting types have increased from £5.46 to £6.01 per hour (summer 2023-summer 2024). This is an increase of 10% in the last 12 months.
- There has been little change in the number of out of school provision in the BCP area in the last 12 months, however DfE funding to increase wraparound places is being distributed.

Focus Areas

The 2024 childcare sufficiency analysis and the broader understanding of the sector has highlighted several areas of focus. These are highlighted below.

Bearwood and Merley

This area continues to undergo significant housing planning and development, raising critical concerns about the adequacy of childcare availability. Currently, Merley lacks the capacity to provide year-round childcare support for working parents. To address this shortfall, developer contributions should be included in the infrastructure package to accommodate the increased demand for early years care brought by the proposed developments. All year-round provision has increased in Bearwood and is welcome. With housing developments in mind, childcare providers should consider Bearwood and Merley as an area with potential.

Wraparound Provision

Increasing the 8am to 6pm wraparound places offered to working families is a key local and national priority. While BCP Council has a healthy before school offer, there are gaps in the after school offers for parents. Over the next two years, with the use of the DfE's Wraparound Care Programme Delivery Fund, the council will be working with all schools and private providers to ensure that a term-time 8am to 6pm offer is in place at every primary school, where needed, as well as increasing capacity. Capital funding from the DfE will also be available to enable this. The 2025/26 childcare sufficiency review is expected to report on a successful increase in 8am to 6pm places in BCP Council.

Boscombe West

This ward is highlighted as few families stay within their ward for 2,3-and 4-year-old funded childcare, which is likely due to a combination of ongoing lack of provision in the area but also the proximity of other provision in neighbouring wards. It is considered an area where new provision is encouraged as, with a current estimated 521 resident 0–4-year-old children, there are no longer any childminders and no preschool provision, whilst three day nurseries currently serve the area. The lack of childminders here, and overall, is particularly concerning.

Day Nurseries and Preschools

Our current providers tell us that recruitment and retention of staff is the biggest barrier to expanding their places, or in some cases even meeting their current Ofsted registered maximum places. Although currently sufficient, the retention of our existing providers carries even greater weight with the increased expanded entitlements from 2025. The number of group settings that have closed and not been reopened under new ownership is small, but still has an impact on each local community. The council continues to work with those who are wishing to close, signposting to providers seeking new or further premises. This protects the childcare places and staff, and will continue to ensure statutory duties are met. The government is currently promoting childminding as a profession as well as working in childcare through a 'Do something big... work with small children' campaign and the Council continues to promote childcare as a profession working with professional partners including the DWP/Jobcentre Plus. If providers cannot staff their businesses adequately, this impacts on the number of childcare places available for working families.

Childminders

Nationally childminder numbers have halved in the past 10 years and locally, since the pandemic began in 2020, BCP Council has lost a third of registered childminders (approximately 70). An ageing cohort of childminders and a falling number of providers registering with Ofsted mean that the childminding profession is not being replenished at a sufficient rate to sustain itself.

Childminders are only one part of the sector, but they give parents choice and flexibility. Their current contribution and that towards the governments expanded childcare and wraparound offer is invaluable. The council and the DfE are promoting working in childcare through the 'Do something big...' campaign, and newly registered childminders had been able to access a £600 grant to support their start-up costs. Some encouraging changes have happened at government level including the creation of a new category of childminder called 'childminders without domestic premises'. This is for childminders who will work solely from somewhere other than a home, such as a community or village hall. An increase in the total number of people (including childminders and assistants) who can work together under a childminder's registration from 3 to 4 and childminders are also given more flexibility to operate outside of their home (or someone else's) for more of their time. This will remove the requirement that at least 50% of the childcare must be provided in a home. The profession still, however, needs ongoing local and national support to reverse the trend of falling Ofsted registrations.

Expanded Entitlements for 9-month to 2-year-olds

Children's Services is confident that there are currently sufficient places for the 15 hours expanded entitlement for 2-year-olds and the first term of entitlement for 9-month-old children should be considered a success with no known unplaced children, despite some concerns raised when the entitlements were first announced in 2023. The next challenge for BCP Council and nationally is the expansion of entitlement from 15 hours per week to 30 hours per week from September 2025. The latest forecast information from the DfE suggests that there may be a sufficiency gap of 368 places at that point, with Hamworthy and Newtown & Heatherlands wards having the largest forecast shortfall. The Council, however, are currently in the process of allocating capital funding to providers to increase their places, in readiness for September 2025 with funding for 276 new places already approved to date. Progress and outcomes can be viewed through [this](#) dedicated webpage with the expectation that several hundred new 1- and 2-year-old places can be funded. In addition, the DfE themselves are offering up to 3,000 schools the opportunity to make use of unused classrooms to introduce early years education onsite (school or privately run), with several BCP primary schools applying in the first phase of funding. It is vital that the leadership and planning officers support the need for new and expanding provision and that every opportunity with capital funding is used to effectively increase the number of places available for working families. that capital funding is distributed fairly and with the best outcomes possible in mind.

Demographic Summary

- The population for BCP Council area as at 30th June 2023 was 404,050¹.
- This represents an increase of 0.4% (1,491 more residents) since mid-2022. The population of England grew by 1.0% over the same period.
- The mid-2023 figure represents a slightly larger population than projected in the 2018-based sub-national population projections, the projection has a figure of 399,740 for mid-2023. The latest mid-year estimate is accepted as the more reliable figure to use when available.
- Mid-Year Estimates 2023 show the number of 0-4-year-olds have fallen in the last 12 months from 18,463 (2022 revised) to 18,185 (2023). The number of 5-14-year-olds, however, has increased from 43,089 (2022 revised) to 43,258 (2023). 5-9-year-olds number saw a fall in the last 12 months, however the number of 10-14-year-olds has increased by 263.
- The latest 2023 live birth rates figure show a fall to 3,109 from 3,332 in 2022 and 3,668 in 2021. The number of residents over 65 years continues to increase.
- The 2021 Census results for BCP give a resident population of 400,300 in March 2021. This is an increase of 5.7% compared with the 2011 Census. The age groups showing the biggest increase in BCP include 70–79-year-olds, 50–59-year-olds and 5–14-year-olds. Age groups experiencing the biggest fall in numbers since 2011 include 0–4-year-olds (-9.4%), 25–29-year-olds and 45–49-year-olds.
- Wards with the highest population of 0-4 year-olds continue to be Newtown & Heatherlands, Kinson and Muscliff & Strouden Park².
- Wards with the fewest number of 0-4 year-olds are Highcliffe & Walkford, Canford Cliffs and Broadstone.³
- Over the next decade BCP's population is projected to increase by 7,800 (2%), from 395,800 in 2018 to 403,600 in 2028⁴. Population growth will be concentrated among those aged 65+ with migration driving population growth. More people are arriving than leaving the area.
- BCP's national IMD ranking is 160th out of 317 English authorities (where 1 is the most deprived)⁵

Population 0-14

Table 1: Mid-Year Estimates 2019-2023 and Census 2011 & 2021 (0–14-year-olds)

Mid-Year Estimates	0-4	5-14	Census	0-4	5-14
2020	19,750	44,613	2011	20,868	36,543
2021	18,799	42,587	2021	18,881	42,552
2022 (revised)	18,463	43,089			
2023	18,185	43,258			

¹ Mid-Year Estimates 2023

² Mid-Year Estimates 2023

³ Mid-Year Estimates 2023

⁴ 2018 based sub-national population projections for BCP, published on 25 March 2020

⁵ Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019

Figure 1: Population 0-14 (Mid-Year-Estimates)

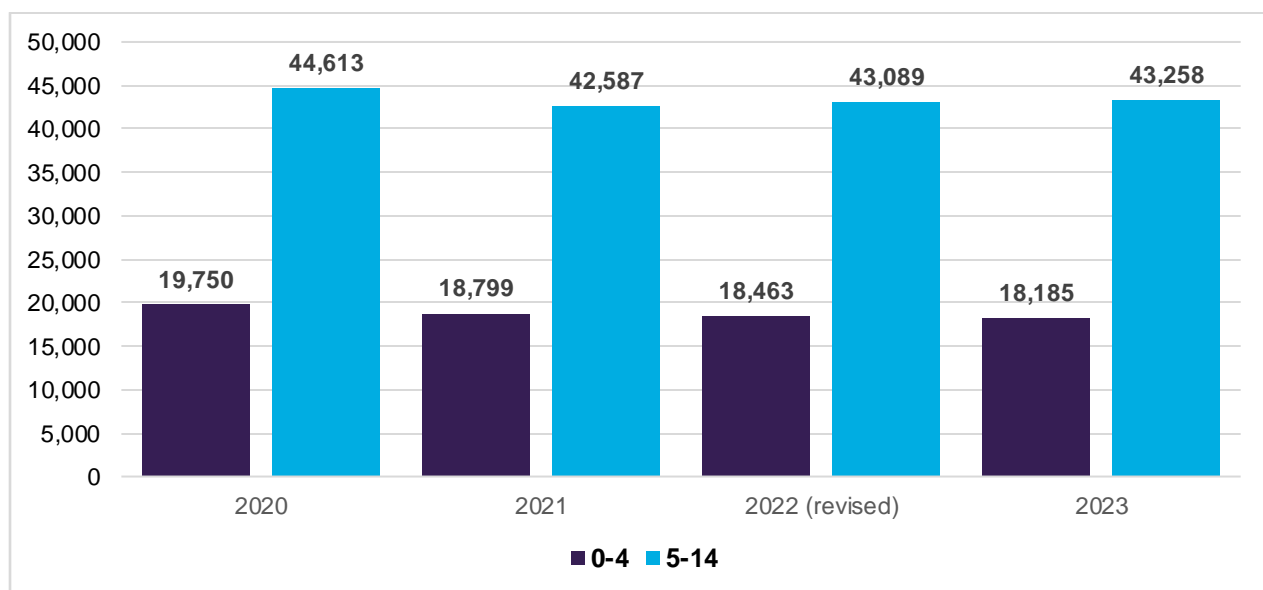
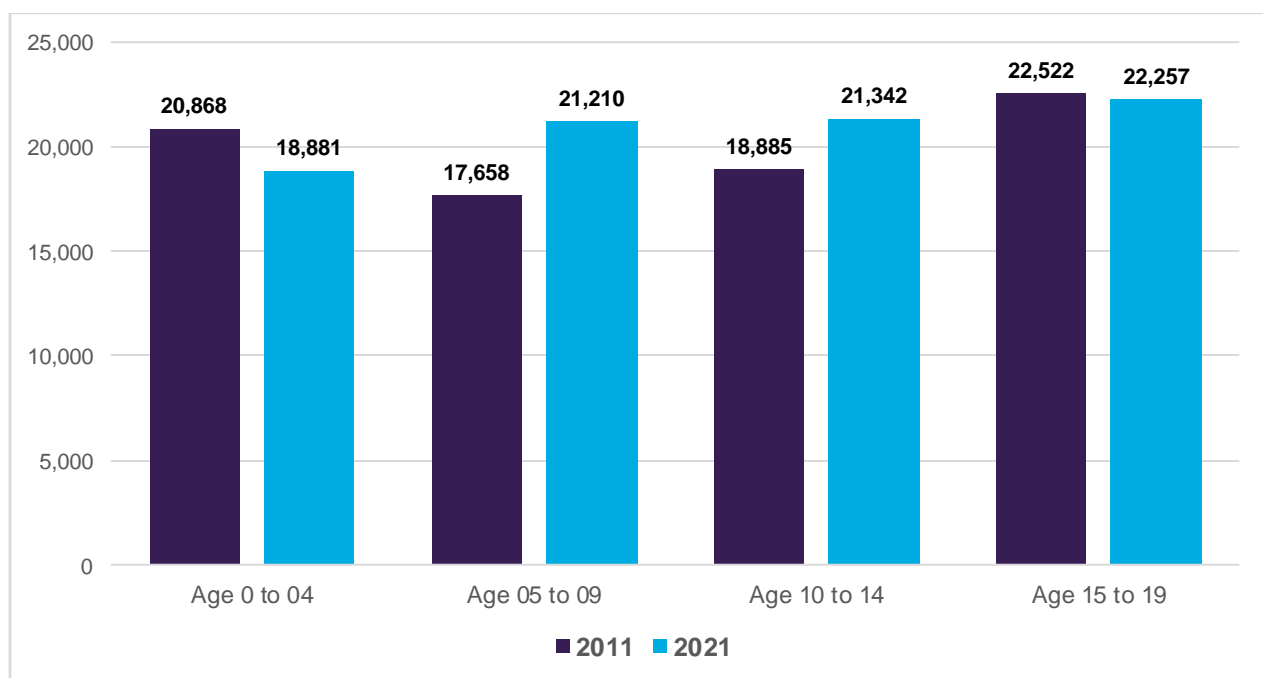
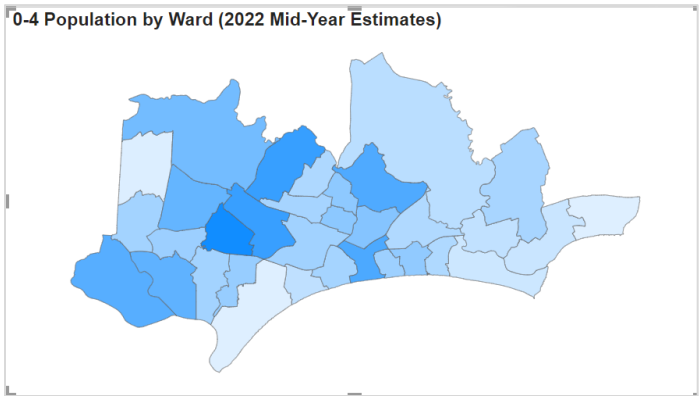


Figure 2: Population 0-19 (Census 2011 & 2021)

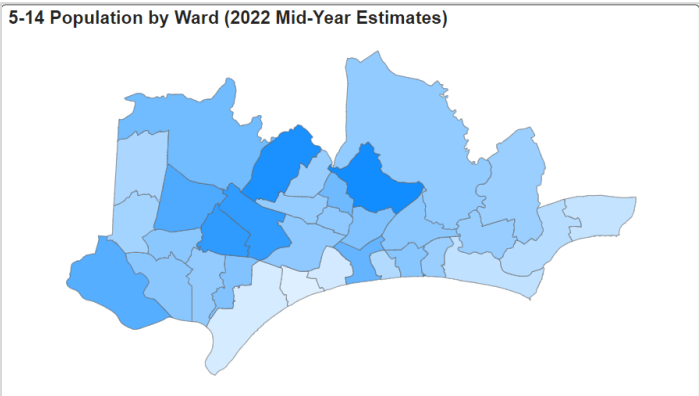


The following maps shows the distribution of 0–4-year-olds and 5–14-year-olds by ward. The darker colour the ward, the higher number of 0-4/5-14-year-olds.

Map 1: 0-4 Population by ward



Map 2: 5-14 Population by ward



The latest population data by ward (2022 Mid-year estimates) show the greatest number of 5-14 year-olds can be found in Muscliff & Strouden Park (2,421), Kinson (2,340) and Newtown & Heatherlands (2,145).

Population Projections

The latest population projections were published in March 2020. The next sub-national set of population projections from ONS will be 2022-based. It is anticipated that these will not be released until April/May 2025, therefore the 2018-based projections are the latest available locally.

Projected birth rate

Fall 1-2%

per year

Projected 3–4-year-olds

Year on Year

Fall (1,500 by 2028)

Projected 5–9-year-olds

Fall by 3,500 in

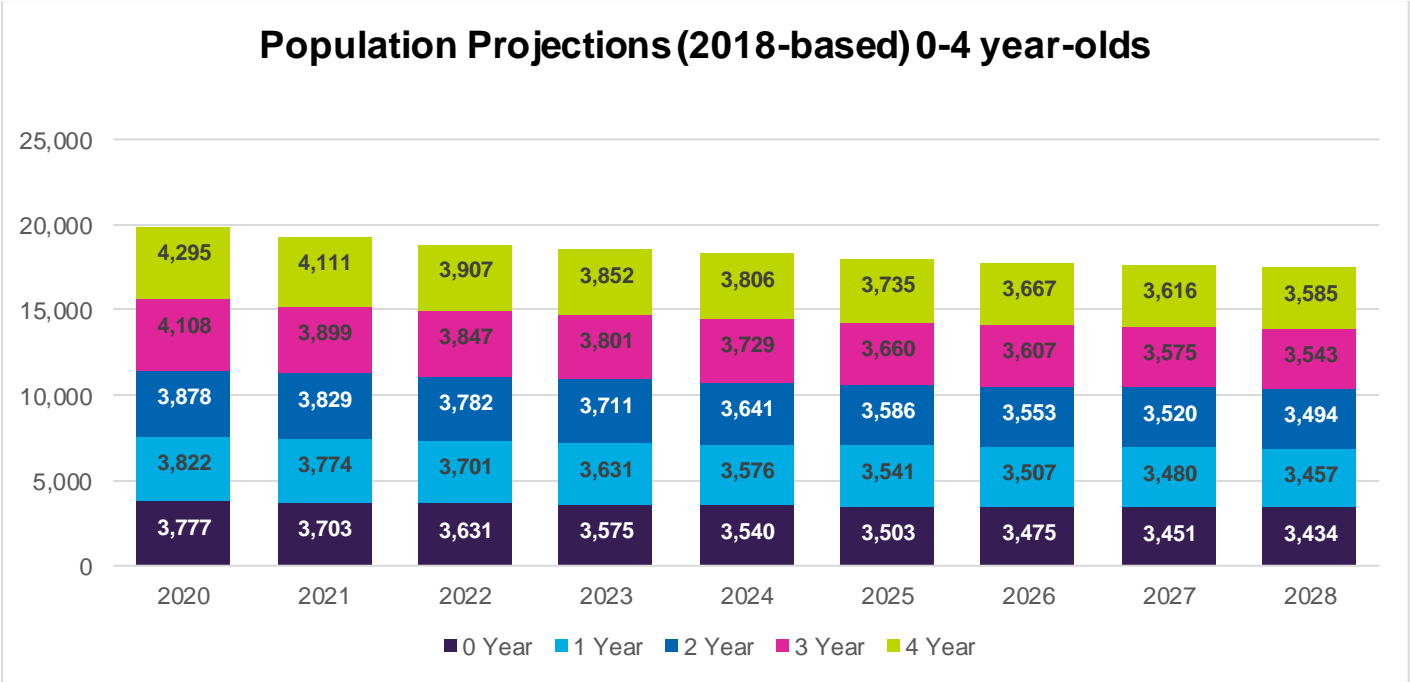
next 10 years

Projected 10–14-year-olds

to **INCREASE** By

7% (1,420) by 2028

Figure 3: Population Projections

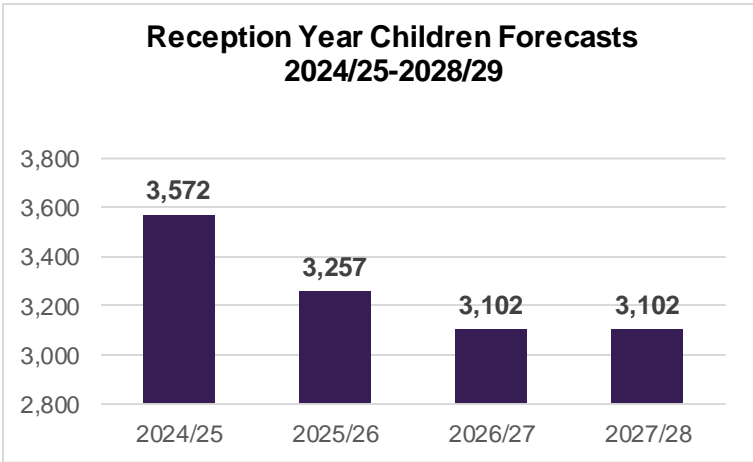


BCP is experiencing significant changes in the number and distribution of its school age population and the demand for school places. Following a decade of rising numbers, from 2020/21 there has been a fall in the demand for overall Primary places (Reception to Year 6), and this trend is likely to continue to 2028/29 at least. This is due to the 28% decline in the number of births across the BCP area since 2012/13 and the subsequent reduced demand for Reception places from 2017/18.

- Levels of surplus places in Reception will increase from 16% in 2023/24 to around 21% by 2028, but with a small temporary rebound in 2025/26.
- Between 2024/25 and 2027/28 the number of Reception year pupils is forecast to fall by around 470 (15%), from around 3,572 to 3,102.
- Between 2024/25 and 2027/28 the overall number of primary school children (reception to year 6) is forecast to fall by nearly 2,140 children (9%)

Figure 4: Reception year forecasts

Table 2: Reception-year 6 forecasts



Forecast Year	Reception-Year 6
2024/25	26,223
2025/26	25,620
2026/27	24,791
2027/28	24,084

- Overall, the 0-4-year age group in BCP is projected to fall. This may have an impact on the number of preschool, day nursery and childminder places which are sustainable.
- The number of 5-9-year-olds is set to fall by 3,500 children in the next 10 years to 2028. The 10-14-year-old population is expected to increase by around 7% in the same period (1,420).

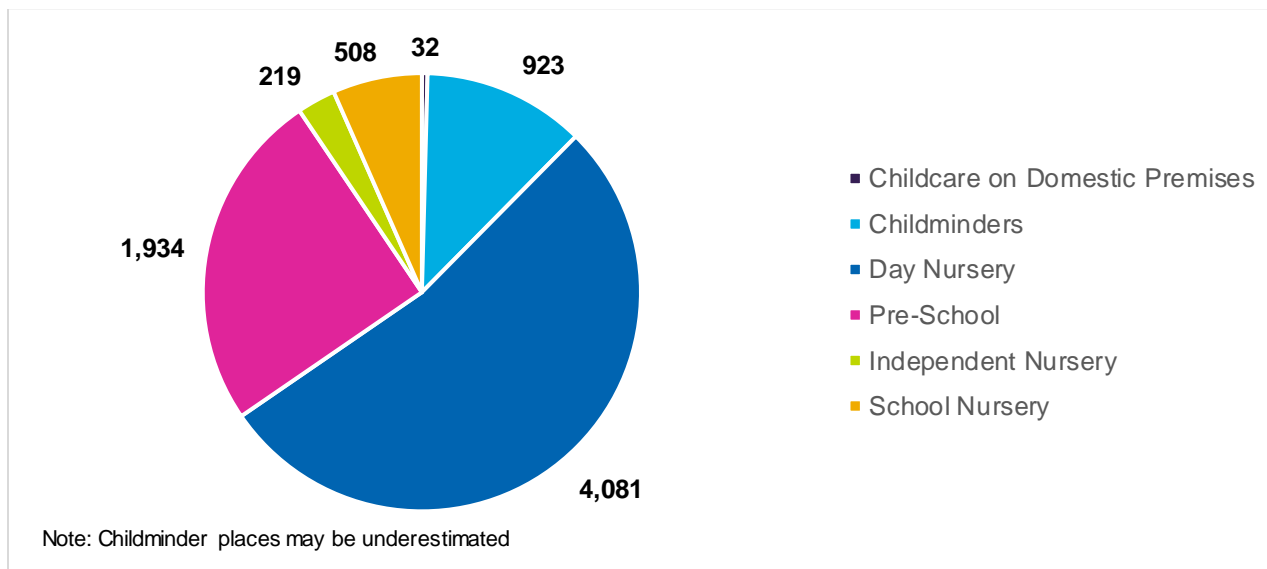
Childcare Provision

292 registered childcare providers offering maximum **7,697** places at any one time

Active registered **childminders** have **fallen by 11** in the last 12 months

Day Nursery places have **risen** and **Pre School** places have **fallen** since the 2023 analysis

Figure 5: Registered Early Years Childcare Places



There is a total of 292 childcare providers in the BCP Council area, offering a maximum of 7,697 places at any one time⁶. This is a fall of 15 providers overall since summer 2023, 11 of which were childminders. Overall, the number of childminders has fallen by 45 since the 2021 analysis. 53% (4,081) of places are in Day Nursery settings, 25% (1,934) of places are in Pre School settings and 12% (923) of places are at Childminders. There are 219 Independent Nursery setting places and 508 places at School Nurseries.

- There are registered childcare places in all wards in BCP Council; however, the number of childcare places in each ward and in each type of setting varies immensely.
- There are no childminders in Boscombe West, Canford Cliffs or East Southbourne & Tuckton wards.
- There is no day nursery provision in Mudeford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe.
- The fewest number of childcare places are in Commons (86), Winton East (88) and Highcliffe & Walkford (95).
- 4% of early years settings and childminders open before 7am. A further 37% open before 8.00am.

Changes 2023-2024

- Overall, the number of places has fallen by 95 in the last 12 months.
- Pre-school places have fallen by 63 overall. There have been 103 new places, however 166 places have closed.
- Day nursery places have increased by 49.
- There were 12 fewer childminders 2022-2023 and a further 11 fewer childminders 2023-2024 (a total of 23 fewer childminders since 2022. This has resulted in 81 fewer childminder places in the last 12 months.
- School Nurseries have seen no change in places.
- Alderney & Bourne Valley ward and Parkstone ward has seen the greatest fall in places.
- Bournemouth Central ward has seen the greatest increase in places.

⁶ Note that data is at 1 September 2024, this can fluctuate throughout the year with provision closing and new providers opening. Some settings may also change their status type thus affecting the individual provider type figures. Comparisons are made with September 2023 figures to show consistency.

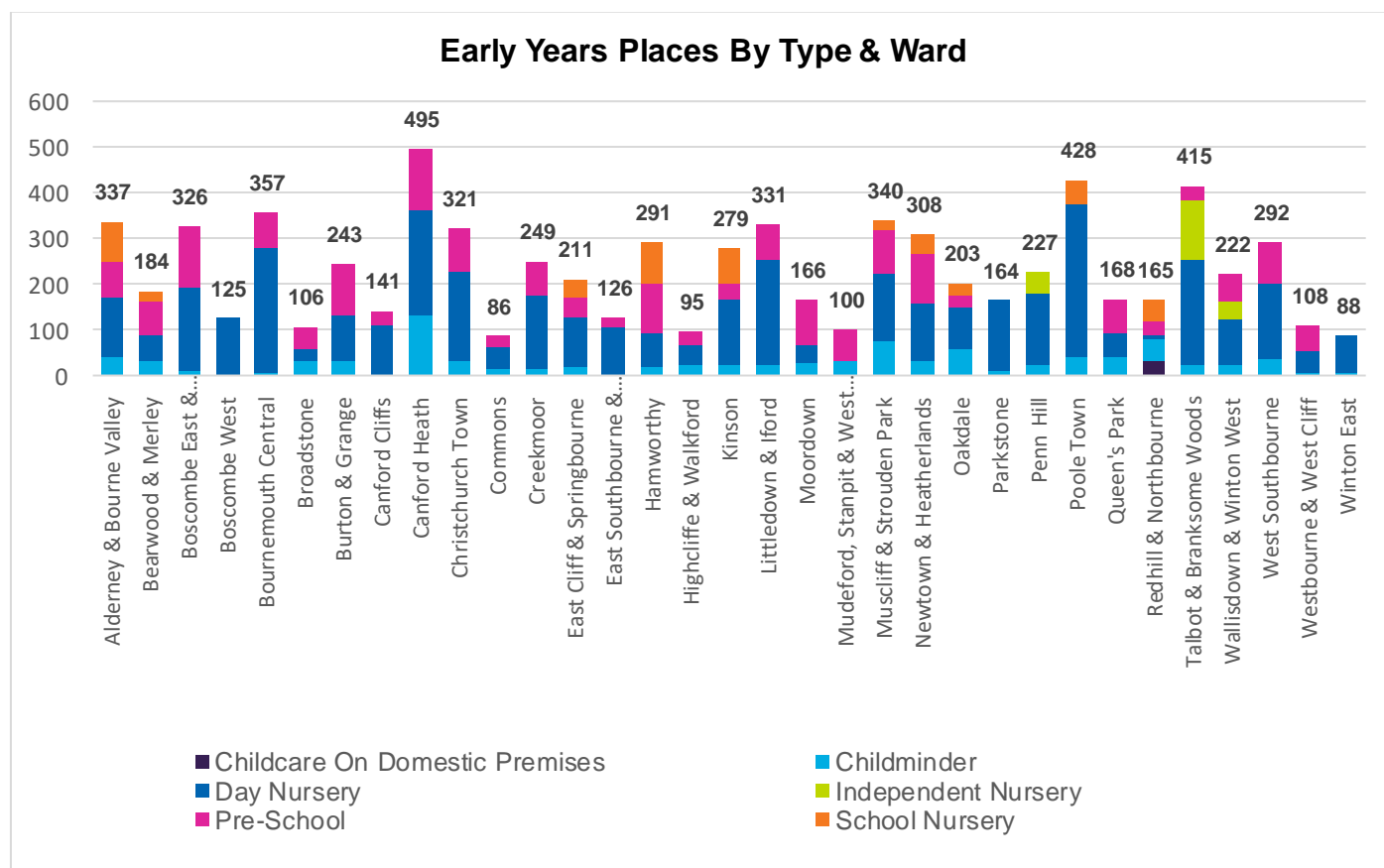
The latest **occupancy figures** available are for Summer 2024 (67% response rate to survey).

Occupancy rates at **childminders was 93%**

Occupancy rates at **PVI settings was 90%**

Occupancy rates at **school nursery settings was 89%**

Figure 6: Early years places by type and ward



Population 0-4-Year-Olds and Registered Early Years Places 2022-2024

In 2022 the number of reported registered early years childcare providers was 320, offering a maximum of 7,982 places, at any one time. The number of registered early years childcare providers has fallen in 2024 to 292, offering a maximum of 7,697 places at any one time. The population of 0-4-year-olds have also fallen in this time period. Mid-year estimates 2021 figure reports 18,799 0-4-year-olds, the latest 2023 figure reports 18,185 children aged 0-4.

98% of childminders, preschools and day nursery settings have signed up for tax-free childcare. This is the highest number in the last 5 years.

In the last 12 months, day nursery and preschool sign up has **increased to 100%** (where known) and childminders has increased to 97%

The number of families who have used tax free accounts has **increased** year on year. The number of families who have used tax free accounts between 2023-24 has increased by 14% in England, 15% in the South West and 16% in BCP.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Early Years

From summer 2024 the new SEND criteria and Tiers were introduced - 2 year-old disadvantaged or working family criteria and 3 tiers of funding.

49 2-year-old children received additional SEND funding support in a BCP provider (Summer 2024)

347 3 & 4-year-old children received additional SEND funding support in a BCP provider (Summer 2024)

There were **79 EHCP's** in the Early Years Sector (Summer 2024)

In Summer 2024, 396 children were recorded as receiving additional SEND Support. 79 Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) were issued in the Early Years sector, an increase on the summer 2023 figure of 70. As this is the first year with new SEND criteria and Tiers, comparisons, aside from total children funded under SEND, are not possible.

49 2-year-old children received additional SEND funding support in a BCP provider in summer 2024. 36 were from disadvantaged families and 13 from working families.

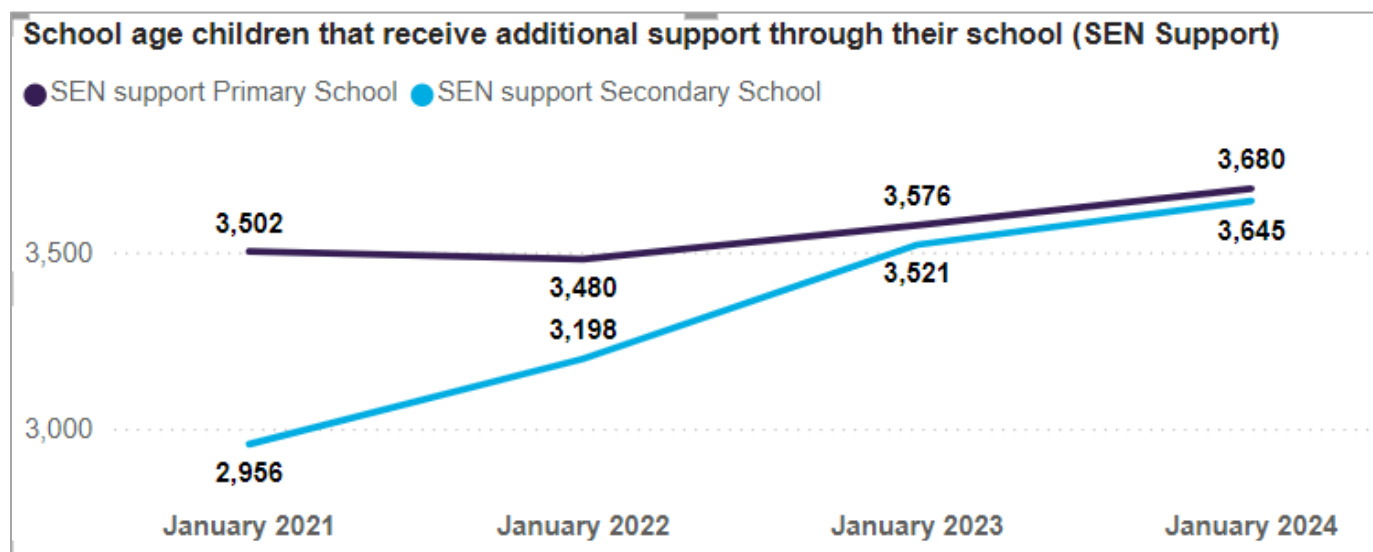
There were 347 SEND funded 3 and 4-year-olds (Summer 2024):

- 133 receive Extended Entitlement (**38%** ~All Child Average = 55%)
- 106 receive EYPP (**30%**, up from 29% in 2023 ~ All Child Average = 16%)
- 203 receive Deprivation Supplement (**58%** down from 60% in 2023 ~ All Child Average = 27%)

School Age Children

In January 2024 the schools census recorded 1,084 EHCPs for primary schools and 1,194 for secondary schools. A total of 7,325 primary and secondary school children received SEN support, 228 extra children than in January 2023.

Figure 7: School age children that receive additional SEN support



Quality of Provision

The percentage of P&V* settings who have a quality rating of “good” or “outstanding” has **increased**

ALL childminders have a quality rating of “good” or “outstanding”

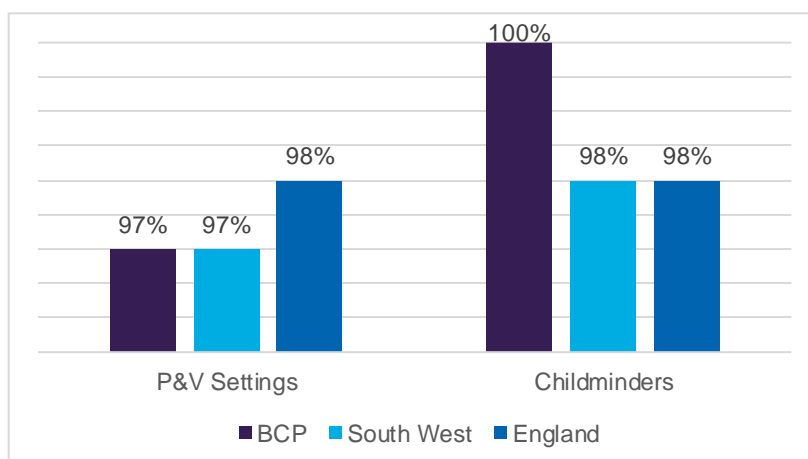
The % of P&V* settings and childminders with a rating of ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ in BCP is **slightly lower** than the National average

* P&V – Private and Voluntary

Figure 8: Ofsted rating ‘good or outstanding’ (Summer 2024)

97% of private and voluntary settings have a quality rating of ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ (those with an Ofsted rating), compared to 96% in 2023.

- ALL childminders in the Local Authority who have a quality rating are rated as ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’.
- BCP figures are similar to the national and regional averages for P&V settings but above for childminders.
- BCP has around 27 group providers and childminders operating ‘awaiting their first inspection’.
- Providers of care for school age children do not need to be inspected by Ofsted, although provision at some schools is considered within the full school inspection. The latest quality data at schools (where we have data) show 89% school-based breakfast clubs and ALL school-based after school clubs have an Ofsted rating of ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’.



Fees Charged

The average price per hour is

£7.19 at a day nursery

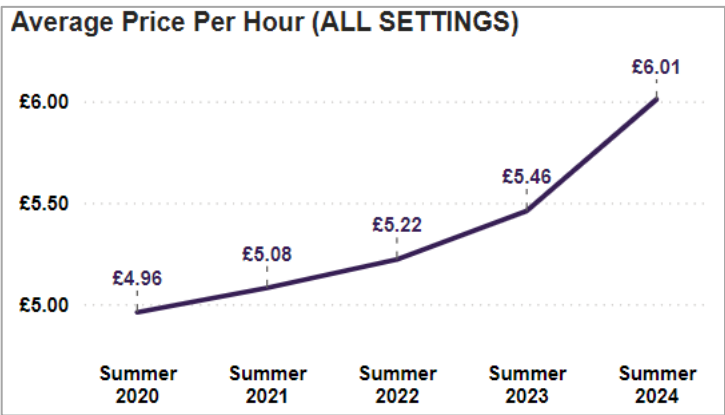
£6.23 at a pre-school

£5.70 at a childminder

- Average prices per hour across all setting types have increased from £5.46 to £6.01 per hour (summer 2023-summer 2024). This is an increase of 10% in the last 12 months.
- The most significant increase has been amongst day nursery settings with an average increase of £1.41 (24.5%) per hour since 2000

Figure 9: Average Price Per Hour (All Settings)

- The average price per hour at a day nursery is £7.19. The most expensive settings are in Westbourne & West Cliff ward and Commons ward.
- Charges at pre-schools average £6.23 per hour. This is 65 pence more per hour than reported in 2023. The most expensive pre-schools are in Newtown & Heatherlands and East Southbourne & Tuckton ward.
- The average price per hour at a childminder is £5.70, a 20% increase since 2020.



The average price of 25 hours per week childcare for 3&4 year-olds (paying for 10 additional hours above the Universal Entitlement) Coram 2024 Childcare Survey

£63.54 ENGLAND

£74.28 SOUTH WEST

£58.90 BCP

Funded Early Education for 2, 3 and 4-Year-Olds

In the spring budget of 2023, the Chancellor announced that funded childcare hours would be extended to children of eligible working parents in England from 9 months old to support increased parental engagement in the labour market. These changes came into effect from 1 April 2024 with the expansion of the 2-year-old funded early education (FEE) to working families. From the 1 September 2024, the 15 hours FEE is extended for eligible parents of children aged 9 months - 2 years and will be further expanded in September 2025 extending this to 30 hours per week.

From 1 April 2024, 15 hours government funding is available for 2- year-old children of working families, in addition to the existing funding for disadvantaged 2-year-olds.

From 1 September 2024, the 15 hours FEE entitlement is extended for eligible working parents of children aged 9 months - 2 years of age

From 1 September 2025, eligible working parents of children aged 9 months and above will be able to access 30 hours (over 38 weeks a year)

2-Year-Olds

BCP funded 597 2-year-old children (disadvantaged entitlement) and 1,612 2-year-old children (working families entitlement). This totalled 2,209 2-year-olds accessing FEE in summer 2024. 5,506 3&4-year-olds took some FEE in PVI settings, childminders and school nursery classes in summer 2024. 3,028 3 and 4-year-olds also accessed some Extended Entitlement.

2-year-old take up
(Summer 2024)

2,209

2-year-old children could be eligible for FEE under working family or disadvantaged eligibility, there are children that will be eligible for both, but the parent applies for their funding under working family entitlement. This inevitably reduces the percentage take-up.

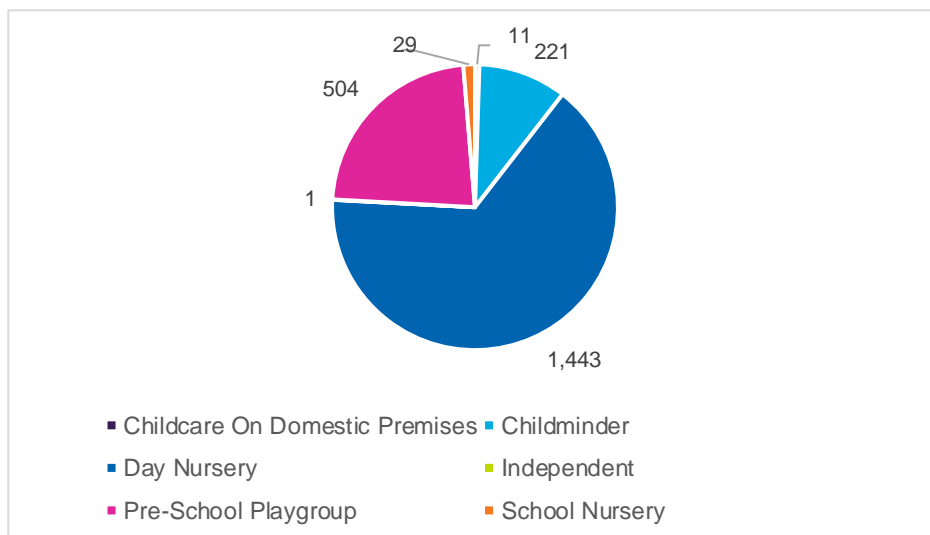
2-year-old
predicted eligibility
(Summer 2024)

2.370

The DfE predicted in Summer 2023 (for Summer 2024) the number of eligible 2-year-olds under the working families eligibility would be 1,626. This, added to the DWP figure for disadvantaged eligibility of 744, totals a predicted 2-year-old eligibility figure for funded early education of 2,370.

Figure 10: Take Up of 2-year-old FEE by setting type

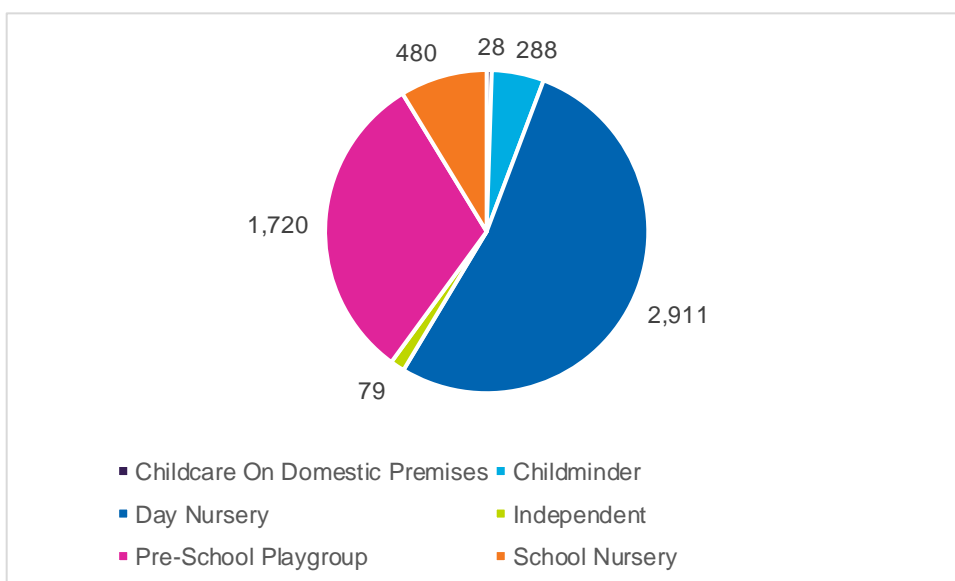
- BCP funded 2,209 2- year-old children in summer term 2024. 597 (27%) of these were under the disadvantaged eligibility and 1,612 (73%) was under the working families eligibility. The government predicted the number of eligible 2- year-olds was 2,370.
- When comparing the local, regional and national take up of funded early education for 2-year-olds, BCP take up was reported as 86%, South West was 80% and England was 75% (published figured July 2024). Last year reported 78% of 2-year-olds are benefiting from funded early years provision in the South West, and nationally the figure shows 74%.
- 35% of 2-year-old children are accessing funded early education in the ward in which they live, compared to 41% last summer.
- 65 % of Funded Early Education for 2-year-olds was taken at Day Nursery Settings.
- 93% of 2-year old children are accessing their Funded Early Education at a setting rated as 'good or outstanding'.



3 and 4-Year-Olds

Figure 11: Take Up of 3 and 4-year-old FEE by setting type

- BCP funded 5,506 3 and 4- year-olds in the summer term 2024. This is a fall on the 2023 figure of 5,525, and 5,737 in 2022. This is likely due to a fall in the age cohort.
- According to the nationally produced data 'Education Provision Children under 5 years of age 2023 (DfE)'Nationally the 2024 figure shows 95% of 3 and 4-year-olds are benefiting from funded early years provision. The South West figure shows a 95% take up, compared to 94% in BCP (summer 2024). Last year reported nationally 94% of 3 and 4-year-olds are benefiting from funded early years provision. The South West figure showed a 96% take up, compared to 91% in BCP.
- In summer 2024 there were 3,028 children accessing extended entitlement in BCP settings (55%). This is an increase on the summer 2023 figure (54%) and summer 2022 (49%).
- 41% of 3 and 4-year-old children are accessing funded early education in the ward in which they live (BCP children). This is the same percentage as reported in summer 2023.
- 53 % of Funded Early Education for 3 and 4-year-olds was taken at Day Nursery Settings.
- 89% of 3 and 4-year old children are accessing their Funded Early Education at a setting rated as 'good or outstanding'.



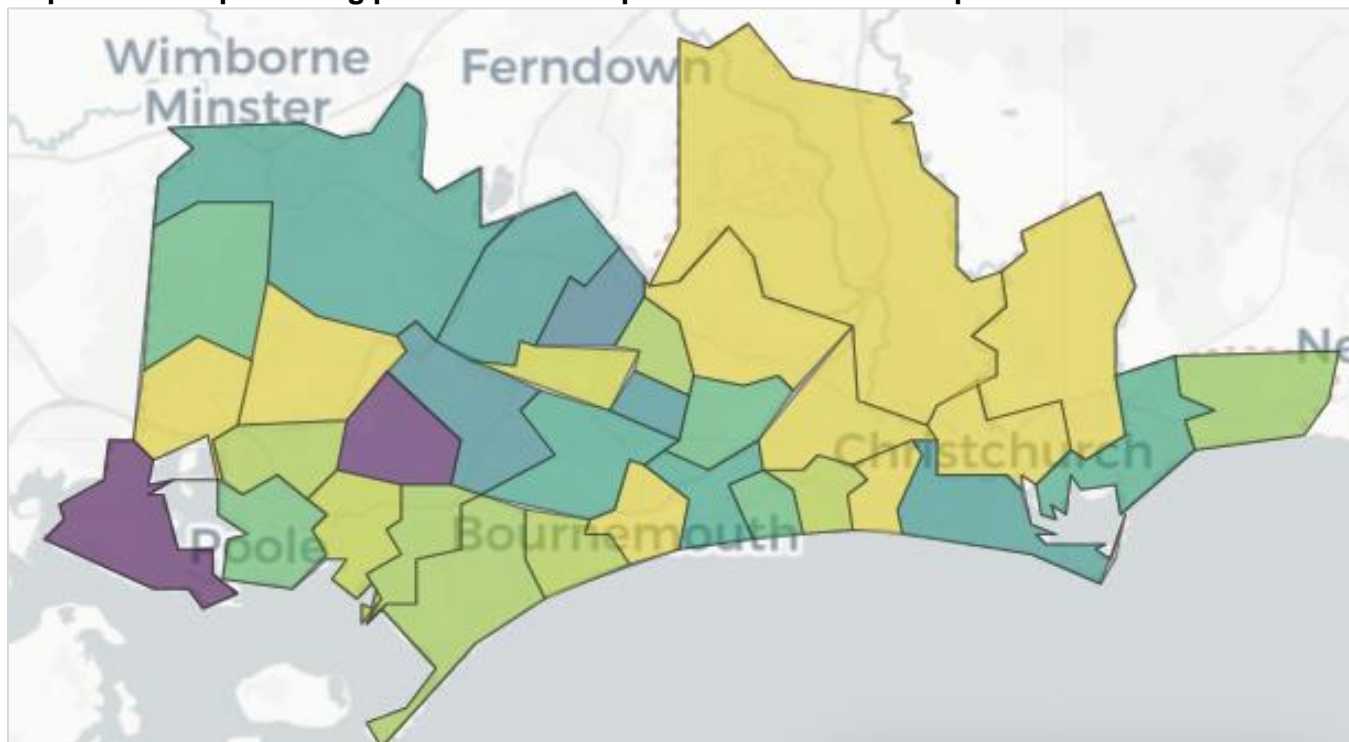
September 2025 – Local Authority Readiness



In November 2024 the DfE produced its latest 'Local Authority Readiness' document detailing self assessment data for the expanded early years entitlements for 9 month – 2 year olds. In Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole the DfE estimate that 368 places will need to be created by September 2025. This relates to a 10% increase in supply of childcare hours for this age group.

Supply and demand for early years provision is very moveable dependent on parents' willingness or choice to travel. As part of the DfE's support, heat map 3 was supplied, offering an indication of where some pressures may be for the new expanded entitlements. The darker areas suggest more pressure for 9 month – 2-year-old places. As always, new and expanding providers should contact earlyeducation.fundingteam@bcpcouncil.gov.uk if data support is required regarding potential new sites.

Map 3: Heat map showing possible areas of pressure for the new expanded entitlements



The DfE supplied the council with capital funding to create new places. The provider application and allocation process continues at the time of writing however, to date, funding has been approved to create 276 new 9 month – 2 year old places by September 2025.

In May-July 2024 BCP Council undertook a survey of early education and childcare providers, sharing their current position and a view on government changes to the early education and childcare funding entitlements.

- 2 of our school nurseries are considering lowering their age range to accept 2-year-olds in anticipation of the 30-hour entitlement for working families.
- Some settings are considering expanding to include 1-year-olds

Figure 12: ‘Of those EY settings that don’t, are you thinking of expanding to include 1-year-olds from 2025?’

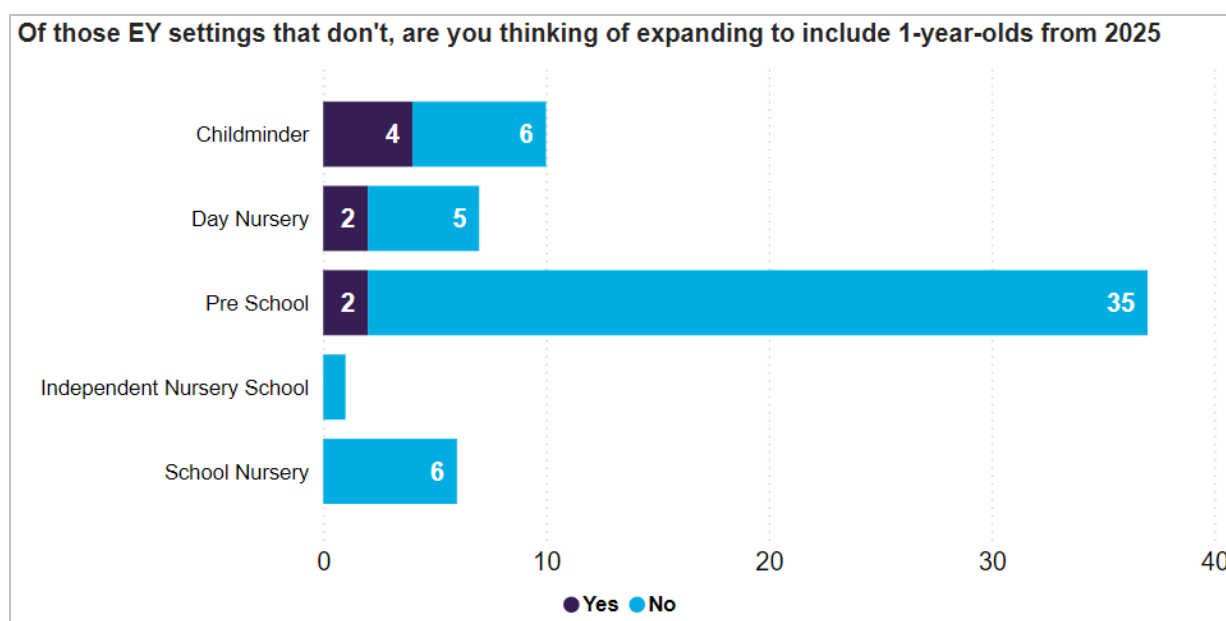
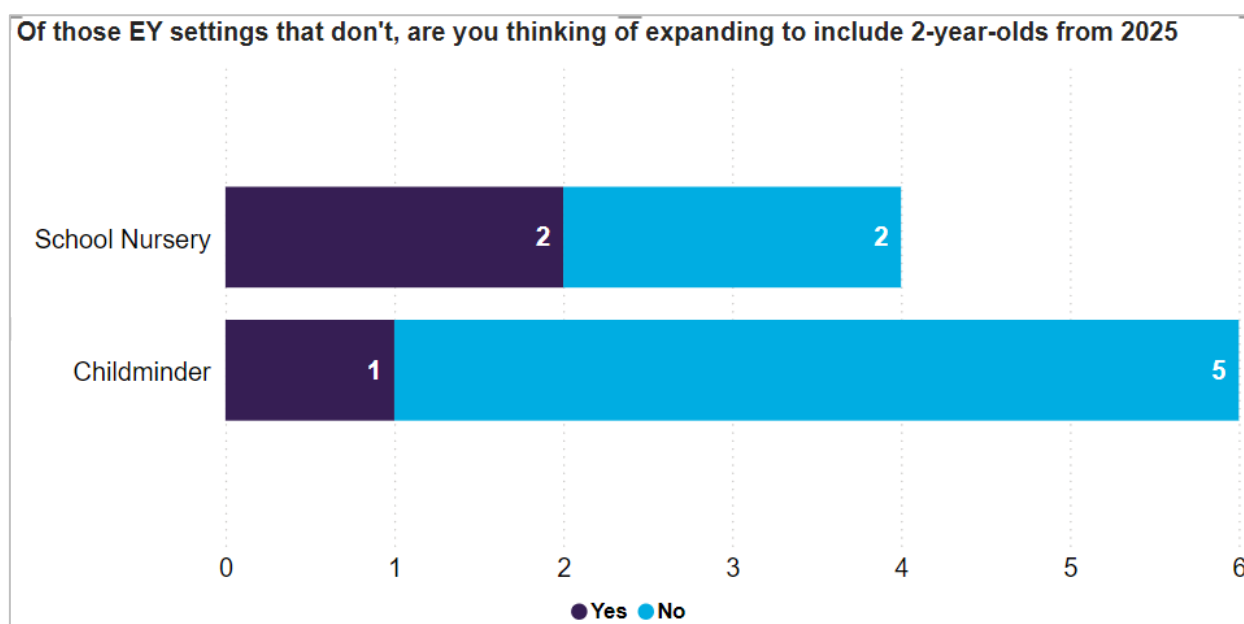


Figure 13: ‘Of those EY settings that don’t, are you thinking of expanding to include 2-year-olds from 2025?’



Out of School Provision

In the PVI Sector there are

22 Breakfast Clubs &
40 After School Clubs

There are additional school-run clubs

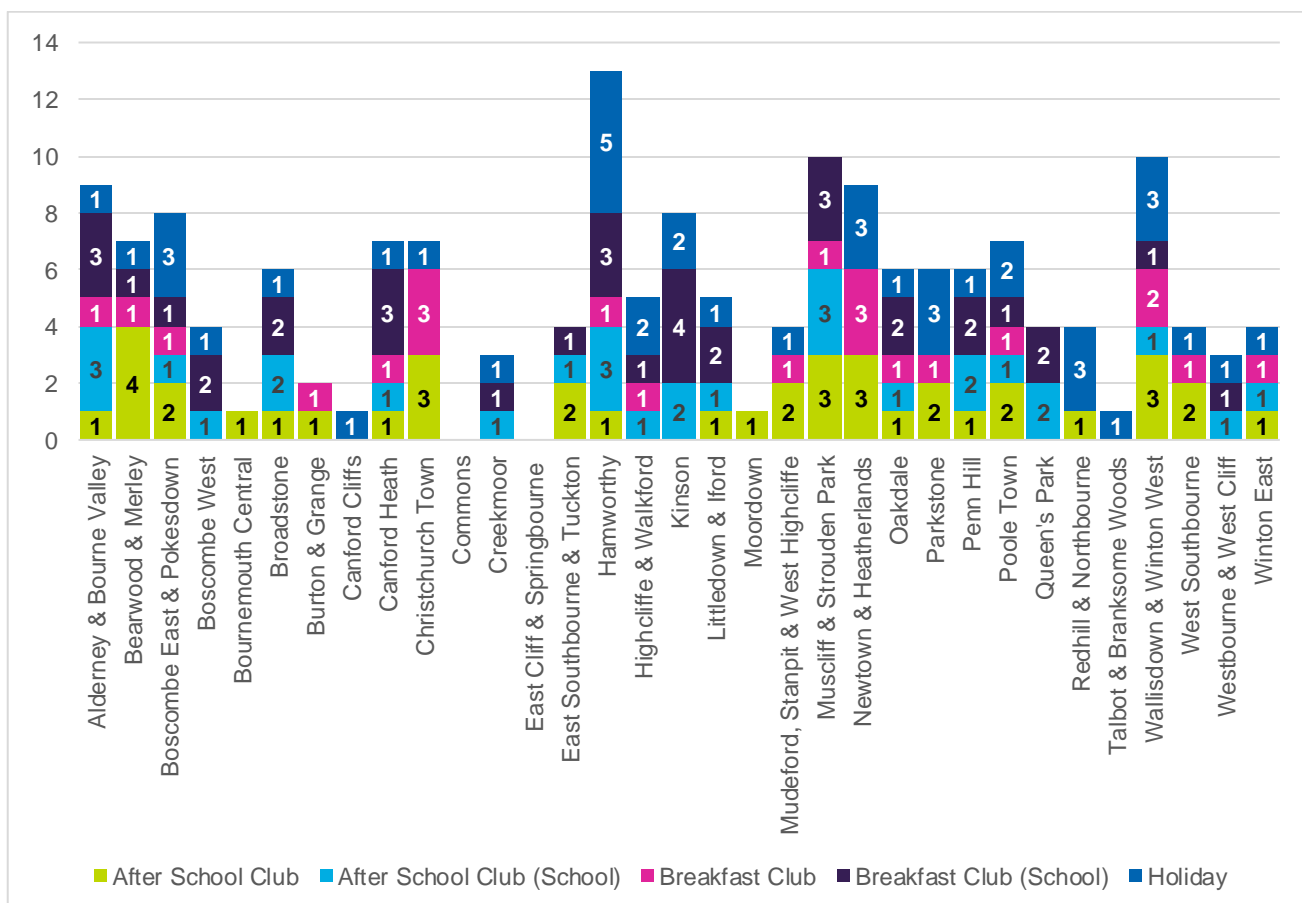
36 Breakfast Clubs &
29 After School Clubs

There are **42** Registered
Holiday Schemes

Throughout the Local Authority several providers, including schools, offer a variety of childcare services and activities outside of normal school hours which support working families. The Local Authority continues to encourage schools to offer wrap around childcare services 8am-6pm where possible to support working families. This is of increasing importance as working families take advantage of 30 hours of funded early education requiring out of school care for other children in the household between 8am and 6pm.

- Overall, there are 58 breakfast clubs and 69 after school clubs. There are also 42 registered holiday schemes.
- Childminders will continue to play an important role for older children in the area.
- There is **no** out of school provision in Commons ward or Eastcliff & Springbourne ward.
- There has been little change in the number of out of school provision in the BCP area in the last 12 months.

Figure 14: Out of School Clubs by Ward



Expansion of Wraparound Care Places

In March 2023 the government set out it's ambition that, by September 2026, all councils must ensure parents of primary school aged children have access to an affordable term-time wraparound place between 8am and 6pm, if needed, supplying [schools](#) and [local authorities](#) guidance on the programme.

Wraparound childcare is funded solely through private fees and parents can meet some of the cost of a before school or afterschool club through benefits, such as Tax-free childcare and Universal Credit.

To support the expansion of places the council received both capital funding and a Wraparound Care Programme Delivery Fund. The purpose of this grant includes dispersal of funding to schools and childcare providers (including childminders) to contribute to start up/expansion and running costs, or used to cover costs including staffing, training, and transport costs such as minibus hire, as well as resources. It can also be used to contribute to running costs whilst demand builds, to remove any financial risk to providers of offering additional places before demand is guaranteed. Funding can also be used to pay for training for wraparound staff, including specialist training for staff to ensure they feel equipped to support children with additional needs.

The current wraparound childcare sufficiency position in the Council is positive with all primary schools having a before school club and all but one having some form of afterschool activities, however several schools are running at capacity and work is needed to ensure clubs are operational between 8am and 6pm and that childcare is provided as opposed to access to activities which generally end around 4.30pm. Work with schools and PVI's is required to ensure that any expanded offer will remain sustainable beyond the life of the funding.

Work is also required with regard to understanding wraparound offers in place in special schools and ensuring appropriate arrangements are in place to support working families of children with SEND in mainstream settings, which has always been a local and national challenge.

At the time of writing the Council are underway with two phases of funding that schools and providers can apply for. The intention is that all funding allocated to BCP Council will be committed to the sector by the end of March 2025, with agreed funding being paid in stages through to the end of the governments funding programme, March 31 2026. The application and allocation process is ongoing however, at the time of writing, over 600 new places, or places that will extend to 6pm, have been approved. Progress and outcomes can be viewed through [this](#) dedicated webpage.

Glossary of Terms

BCP	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (Council)
DfE	Department for Education
EHCP	Education Health Care Plan
EY	Early Years
FEE	Funded Early Education
HAF	Holiday Activities and Food Programme
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area
OfSTED	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
PVI	Private, Voluntary and Independent Early Years Settings
P&V	Private and Voluntary Early Years Settings

Further information

For further information regarding this report please contact the [Research & Consultation Team](#), BCP Council

CABINET



Report subject	Children and Young People's Partnership Plan 2025-2030
Meeting date	2 April 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Having a Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) Plan is a statutory requirement of Children's Services. It is a high-level strategic plan that outlines how to support children and young people living in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole with the aim to improve outcomes for all children and young people. The current plan has come to an end, and this is the new plan covering 2025-2030.</p> <p>It is an important statement of the partnership's commitment to BCP's children and young people. Not only does it set out the priorities for services that support children and young people, but it also defines how partners will work with each other to deliver those priorities effectively.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>It is recommended that Members note the final content and design of the plan.</p>
Reason for recommendations	To be reviewed in advance of the final launch at the end of April.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Richard Burton, Lead Portfolio Holder for Children & Young People, Education and Skills
Corporate Director	Cathi Hadley, Director for Children's Services
Report Authors	Stefanie Gehrig Clark, Interim Head of Performance
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Information.

Background

1. Having a Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) Plan is a statutory requirement of Children's Services. It is a high-level strategic plan that outlines how to support children and young people living in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole with the aim to improve outcomes for all children and young people. The current plan has come to an end, and this is the new plan covering 2025-2030.
2. It is an important statement of the partnership's commitment to BCP's children and young people. Not only does it set out the priorities for services that support children and young people, but it also defines how partners will work with each other to deliver those priorities effectively.
3. The CYPP plan is the result of extensive consultations with key stakeholders including representatives from charities, the police, health services (including the NHS), social care, as well as members of the wider council, elected officials and in particular children and young people, ensuring it reflects the community's needs. Examples of engagement are:
 - Children and young people workshops, engagement sessions, roadshow and survey
 - Partnership workshop and survey
 - Parent/carer and professional consultation
 - Children's services staff engagement sessions and survey
 - Voluntary sector workshop
4. In addition, the CYPP Plan also drew on existing plans and strategies to ensure strategic alignment and these are referenced in the plan. This included for example, the Integrated Care Partnership Strategy and the council's 'A shared vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole', a partnership and community vision for the three towns, developed in 2023-2024 following extensive stakeholder engagement.
5. All this information was translated into priorities and outcomes and our five partnership priorities for 2025-2030 are:
 - *Feeling happy*
 - *Being safe*
 - *Feeling supported*
 - *Being included*
 - *Feeling fulfilled*
6. The CYPP plan itself was written in as simple and clear language as possible to communicate the plan in an accessible way, aimed at a reading age of 9 which is the average reading level across the UK (including adults).
7. A new children and young people's partnership board will be set up to monitor the delivery of this plan and to make sure it makes a real difference to children and young people. Individual organisational strategies and plans will reflect the agreed priorities and objectives, so that they will be firmly embed in all our work.

8. Next Steps are as follows: The final design will be signed off by 20 March 2025 to go to cabinet on 2 April. The CYPP plan will be formally launched end of April 2025.

Options Appraisal

9. None.

Summary of financial implications

10. None.

Summary of legal implications

11. None.

Summary of human resources implications

12. None.

Summary of sustainability impact

13. None.

Summary of public health implications

14. None.

Summary of equality implications

15. See appendix 1.

Summary of risk assessment

16. None.

Background papers

None.

Appendices

1. EIA Screening Tool
2. CYPP Plan Summary

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Equality Impact Assessment: Conversation Screening Tool

1	What is being reviewed?	Children and Young People's Partnership Plan 2025-30
2	What changes are being made?	<p>Having a Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) Plan is a statutory requirement of Children's Services. It is a high level strategic plan that outlines how to support children and young people living in BCP Council with the aim to improve outcomes for all children and young people. It sets out the priorities for services that support children and young people and how partners will cooperate with each other and how they will deliver those priorities.</p> <p>The current plan has come to an end, and this is the new plan covering 2025-2030. We have achieved a lot since 2021 including improving our approach to working together, and we have worked hard to put the needs of children and young people at the heart of what we do.</p> <p>The CYPP plan 2025-2030 is driven by a recognition of the evolving challenges faced by children and young people within Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole (BCP), particularly in light of the ongoing cost of living crisis which has had a profound impact on families and the broader community.</p> <p>This plan is an important statement of the partnership's commitment to BCP's children and young people; what we want to achieve for them, and it provides clarity about what partners will be delivering over the next few years.</p> <p>We want to deliver on our vision for children and young people across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole which states that <i>BCP is a great place to live, where all children and young people have the best possible opportunities in life and are supported by the community to flourish and grow in order to succeed.</i></p> <p>We have developed five priorities in consultation with children and young people. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Feeling happy</i> • <i>Being safe</i> • <i>Feeling supported</i> • <i>Being included</i> • <i>Feeling fulfilled</i>
3	Service Unit:	Children's Services
4	Participants in the conversation:	<p>A comprehensive consultation process was undertaken through multiple channels to gather input and feedback from children, young people, and key stakeholders. Critical and constructive challenge was welcomed in the formation of the plan, to ensure robustness.</p> <p>Children and young people are at the heart of this plan, and they have been instrumental in its development. We have worked with groups of young people to make sure that</p>

		<p>their goals and aspirations are reflected in our priorities and to bring to life the future they want for themselves, for their friends and for their families. We reached out to a variety of different groups to reflect the broad needs and experiences of children and young people which included unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and young people. Despite all efforts, there were barriers in getting the views of some children and young people (UASC). Their needs and experiences were considered in the development of the plan and priorities and consider to be thought of in the implementation.</p> <p>The 'Make Your Mark' ballot, a national youth consultation initiative designed to capture young people's views on key issues, was conducted in February 2024. This ballot successfully engaged 7,459 respondents. In addition to this, feedback was collected from students at Bournemouth & Poole College, where 121 responses were received from BCP College students. Further input was gathered from targeted youth groups, including children in care and care-experienced young people through the UNITE and INSIGHT groups, as well as participants of various sessions facilitated through the BCP Youth Forum. Broader engagement was also achieved by reaching out to young people across the community, both within and outside of school settings. Opportunities were provided for them to share their views in person and online to ensure inclusivity and accessibility.</p> <p>Moreover, in addition to the local authority, other services who work closely with children, young people and families, including representatives from charities, the police, health services (including the NHS), social care, as well as members of the wider council and elected officials, were actively involved in the consultation process.</p> <p>We have undertaken a considerable amount of engagement with all stakeholders to develop this plan using feedback from a range of sources and activities. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Parent/carer and professional consultation</i> • <i>Children and young people workshops and engagement sessions</i> • <i>Partnership workshops and survey</i> • <i>Children and young people survey and roadshow</i> • <i>Children's Services staff engagement and survey</i> • <i>Voluntary sector workshop</i>
5	Conversation date/s:	2/10/2024, 4/11/2024, 09/01/2025
6	Do you know your current or potential client base? Who are the key stakeholders?	<p>The CYPP plan covers all children and young people who live in the BCP area and outlines how services working with this cohort on all levels will work together effectively.</p> <p>There are currently 74,000 children and young people up to the age of 18 living in BCP council which makes up 18% of the total population. 49% of those are female and 51%</p>

		<p>are male and under 1% are gender diverse. 11% of all children live in absolute low-income families.</p> <p>74% of all pupils who attend BCP schools are White British. 20% are eligible for free school meals, 14% receive SEN support and 5% have an EHC plan.</p> <p>As of August 2024, there were 535 children in care, 44 UASCs, and 634 care experienced young people.</p>
7	<p>Do different groups have different needs or experiences? age (young/old), disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, members of the armed forces community, any other factors/groups e.g. socioeconomic status, carers, human rights.</p>	<p>The plan is designed to support a wide range of groups, ensuring that services are accessible, non-discriminatory, and tailored to the unique needs of each individual. All protected characteristics and additional locally observed equality groups were considered, and no equality impacts were identified.</p> <p>The CYPP plan has a positive impact on all 6 domains as outlined by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) which are Education, Work, Living standards, Health, Justice and personal security, and Participation.</p> <p>The plan emphasises the rights of all children and young people to safety, education, health, and inclusion. By addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, the plan seeks to protect and promote the human rights of individuals from diverse backgrounds and ensure equality of opportunity.</p>
8	<p>Will this change affect any service users?</p>	<p>This is a plan to actively promote inclusivity, ensuring services are designed to meet the needs of all, regardless of gender, race, socio-economic status, or disability.</p> <p>It is high level strategy and as such the priorities are kept broad and overarching to outline the partnership's overall direction. The focus is on the key goals rather than specific details.</p>
9	<p>What are the benefits or positive equality impacts of the change on current or potential users?</p>	<p>The plan is specifically designed to support Children and Young People's well-being, education, and inclusion. It addresses key challenges such as mental health, safety, and opportunities for development and growth. It seeks to support parents, grandparents, and carers by ensuring access to resources and support for the younger generation, which can relieve caregiving pressures.</p> <p>Mental well-being is a key focus of the plan, with a focus on reducing waiting times for mental health services, providing early intervention, and supporting families in managing mental health challenges.</p> <p>Another significant focus of the plan is on reducing socio-economic disparities, particularly for children from low-income families. This includes improving access to nutritious food, education, and safe housing, as well as providing mental health support to tackle issues exacerbated by economic hardship.</p> <p>The plan emphasises inclusivity and respect for all, ensuring that support services are accessible and sensitive to the needs of transgender, non-binary and gender-diverse young people.</p>

		<p>The plan includes support for young parents and those expecting children, ensuring access to health services, education about parenting, and assistance in guaranteeing their children have a strong start in life.</p> <p>The plan addresses the importance of provisions for supporting stable family environments, which will benefit young people from married or civil partnership households, particularly those facing economic or social challenges as well as children in care.</p> <p>The plan promotes inclusivity across ethnic groups by ensuring that services are tailored to meet the diverse cultural and linguistic needs of BCP's young population, aiming to reduce disparities in education and health outcomes for minority groups. This includes Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in our care and those who are care experienced.</p>
10	What are the negative impacts of the change on current or potential users?	<p>There are no negative impacts due to the delivery of this plan. The plan aims to create an inclusive environment that addresses the needs of all children and young people in BCP, where partners are working together to help children and young people live their best lives.</p>
11	Will the change affect employees?	<p>Not applicable – this is a high level strategy and as such the priorities are kept broad and overarching to outline the partnership's overall direction. The focus is on the key goals rather than specific details.</p>
12	Will the change affect the wider community?	<p><i>The key expected outcomes include:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved Well-being: Children and young people will experience enhanced physical and mental health through increased access to activity programs, nutritious food, mental health resources, and safe environments. 2. Enhanced Safety: The plan aims to ensure children have stable and secure home environments, are protected from exploitation and harm (both online and offline), and feel safer in their communities. 3. Stronger Support Networks: Families will receive timely support to address challenges such as mental health issues, neglect, and domestic abuse, with children and young people gaining access to services that meet their individual needs. 4. Increased Participation and Inclusion: By removing financial and social barriers, more children and young people will engage in community activities, education, and volunteer opportunities, fostering a sense of belonging and purpose. 5. Educational Success and Fulfilment: Children will be better prepared for educational and employment opportunities, with an emphasis on reducing the number of young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET) and supporting care-experienced young people in their educational pursuits.

13	What mitigating actions are planned or already in place for those negatively affected by this change?	There are no negative impacts due to the delivery of this plan.
14	Summary of Equality Implications:	<p>The Children and Young People's Partnership Plan 2025–2030 outlines a comprehensive strategy to improve outcomes for children and young people across Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole (BCP). It focuses on enhancing well-being, safety, inclusion, and opportunities, particularly for vulnerable groups. The plan is the result of extensive consultations with key stakeholders in particular children and young people, ensuring it reflects the community's needs.</p> <p>All protected characteristics and locally-observed equality groups were considered, and no negative equality impacts were identified. This is a partnership plan to improve the lives of children and young across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole by focusing on priorities developed with children and young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Feeling happy</i> • <i>Being safe</i> • <i>Feeling supported</i> • <i>Being included</i> • <i>Feeling fulfilled</i> <p>As a result of implementing the plan, there will be positive equality impacts for children, young people and their families, touching on all protected characteristics. The primary outcomes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Well-being • Enhanced Safety • Stronger Support Networks • Increased Participation and Inclusion • Educational Success and Fulfilment. <p>Consideration was also given to the equality aspects of implementing the plan. The CYPP plan itself was written in as simple and clear language as possible to communicate the plan in an accessible way, aimed at a reading age of 9 which is the average reading level across the UK (including adults). It has also been designed to bring the words to life making it easier to understand and there will also be an easy read version of the plan. It will be launched in April for all partners including children and young people.</p>

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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	Adult Social Care Strategy 2025-28
Meeting date	02 April 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	To provide background information on the development and consultation of the new Adult Social Care Strategy 2025-28.
Recommendation	<p>The new ASC Strategy 2025-28 is linked to the Corporate Vision and supports corporate priorities under ‘Our People and Communities.’</p> <p>This report is to seek final agreement and approval of the strategy.</p>
Reason for recommendation	Adult Social Care require a clear public facing strategy that encompasses our vision and ambitions for the next 4 years. Having consulted within the Directorate and completed a public consultation, we are assured that this is the right strategic approach for ASC.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr David Brown, Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing
Corporate Director	Jillian Kay, Corporate Director for Wellbeing Betty Butlin, Director of Adult Social Care
Report Author	Lead: Nicky Mitchell – Head of Transformation & Integration ASC Services & Commissioning Senior Management Team
Wards	All
Classification	For Information & Approval

Background

1. The current Adult Social Care can be found here - [ASC Strategy](#) – and will end in March 2025.
2. The new Strategy has been linked to the Corporate Vision and supports the corporate priorities under 'Our People and Communities'.
3. The new ASC Areas of Focus have been aligned to the priority areas within the Fulfilled Lives Transformation Programme -

Putting people, carers and families first

- We will listen and build good relationships with people, so we understand what matters to them.

Living in a place called home

- We will help people to connect with their family, friends and community, in a place where they feel safe and at home.

Developing how we work

- We are creative and innovative with solutions and resources. We understand and measure the impact we are having.
4. ASC Services and Commissioning staff consulted on Strategy at directorate engagement event and feedback provided.
 5. As part of preparing our draft Adult Social Care Strategy 2025-28 'Supporting People to Live a Fulfilled Life', we ran a consultation from 18 November 2024 to 5 January 2025 asking for opinions and feedback on our proposed vision, areas of focus and ambitions, as well as other comments and suggestions about the strategy.
 6. The consultation was available at haveyoursay.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/fulfilled-lives. The consultation information and surveys were available online and in paper format. Information was displayed and available in libraries and promoted through council contacts. In addition, Easy Read information and surveys were available in paper and online. Large print versions were also available.
 7. There were 11 face to face public engagement events across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.
 8. Engagement highlights included -
 - a. 302 surveys were completed (23 of which were Easy Read)
 - b. 1212 views of the consultation page
 - c. 33000 people reached by social media

9. The Portfolio Holder and Council Leaders were also engaged via our Performance and Quality Improvement Board meetings.
10. The Strategies Vision and Areas of Focus were greatly supported and 84% of people agreed with Our Vision - ***Supporting people to achieve a fulfilled life, in the way that they choose, and in a place where they feel safe.***
11. Changes have been made to the strategy document to reflect the feedback received from the public and staff to ensure it is understood and accessible for all.
12. We have adapted our language to make ourselves clearly understood and accountable.
13. We have increased the representation and mention of our carers, aligning their importance to the people we support, as people felt they were not mentioned enough.
14. Strategic Delivery Plans will now be formulated to ensure the directorate progress the strategy.
15. The Strategy has been provided as an appendix to this report.

Summary of legal implications

16. The Care Act 2014 establishes the statutory duty to provide information and advice. The main reference is in section 4: (1) A local authority must establish and maintain a service for providing people in its area with information and advice relating to care and support for adults and support for carers.
17. This ASC Strategy demonstrates our commitment to this duty.

Summary of financial implications

18. The ASC Strategy will be delivered within budgetary constraints. The gross ASC budget for 2022/23 was £190.6m and the gross budget for 2024/25 is £244.5m

Summary of environmental impact

19. None

Summary of equality implications

20. None

Summary of risk assessment

21. None

Background papers

22. None

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Adult Social Care Strategy 2025-28
- Appendix 2: Consultation Summary

Our Adult Social Care Strategy



2025-



BCP Council Adult Social Care

‘Supporting People to Live Fulfilled Lives’

Welcome to our BCP Council Adult Social Care Strategy 2025-28.

This strategy sets out our direction for Adult Social Care over the next four years, outlining an ambitious plan where we will work to transform the services we provide.

We will work in collaboration with partner organisations including health, housing, the voluntary and community sector and our independent care providers, as well as people and carers who currently use services, their families and communities.

[BCP Councils strategy](#) (right) sets out the council’s direction, focusing on ‘Our Place and Environment’ and ‘Our People and Communities’. This Adult Social Care Strategy builds upon this and focuses on what we want to achieve for the people, carers and families we support.



Our areas for focus have been widely influenced by national changes. Evidence from our quality assurance and performance work has highlighted the areas where we need to improve. We have also consulted with residents, stakeholders and our staff to understand their views.

The vision, areas of focus and ambitions of the strategy were shared with the public as part of its consultation and the vast majority of people supported our vision and agreed with our areas of focus.

ASC is responsible for carrying out duties under legislation such as the Care Act 2014 and we are inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Specific action plans will ensure we deliver the outcomes set out in this document and it is further supported by other strategic plans such as the ASC Workforce Development Strategy, Carers Strategy and Our Strategic Approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

Co-production in action: A key ambition in this strategy is to enlist the support of the community, including those we work with, to achieve our vision through our areas of focus. Through a series of engagement events, we have sought views of people involved in various projects, stakeholder groups and forums, to help shape our strategy and deliver on our ambitions.

ASC Strategy Consultation – You Said, We Did!

We have adapted our language to make ourselves clearly understood and accountable. We have increased the representation of informal carers, so their voice is heard equally alongside the people we support. We have also recognised the importance of choice to people and carers. These changes are reflected in our areas of focus and ambitions and will be continuously considered in our delivery plans. 228



Our Vision

Supporting people to achieve a fulfilled life, in the way that they choose, and in a place where they feel safe.

What does a fulfilled life mean to people?

A fulfilled life is different for everyone. It may mean being able to live independently in your own home, building social connections or getting access to support. How this is achieved is different for everyone too. It might be help with dressing, supporting to feel safe at home, being introduced to local groups or more structured support like residential care.

Our teams utilise a 'strength based' approach with people and carers to understand what is important to them, what a fulfilled life looks like for them and how we can support them to achieve that.



Our Values & Behaviours

Putting it into practice

Our Values

Respect

We actively listen, and people are at the heart of everything we do

Passion

We will understand our communities, the people, and partners within them, to ensure diversity and deliver inclusion.

Integrity

We are honest and open about our challenges and successes

Innovation

We continuously learn and find effective, sustainable solutions to improve

Pride

We take pride in our work, celebrating our journey and the people involved along the way.



You Said...

"She promoted my strengths, made me feel capable and stronger. She was very positive"

Our Areas of Focus

How we will achieve the vision

Our Journey So Far



We have already started to transform our services and develop the way we work with people to improve the way we meet outcomes, and this will allow us to work within the budget we have been allocated.

We are embedding strength and relationship based practice by completing the implementation of the 3 Conversations approach, focusing on prevention.

We are improving community access to reablement services, ensuring anyone with reablement goals has the best possible chance to achieve and maximise their independence.

We want more people to have control of their own support by increasing the range of community based options accessed by the creative use of Direct Payments or Individual Service Funds.



Putting people, carers and families first

We will listen and build good relationships with people, so we understand what matters to them.



Living in a place called home

We will help people to connect with their family, friends and community, in a place where they feel safe and at home.



Developing how we work.

We are creative and innovative with solutions and resources. We understand and measure the impact we are having.

Your Voice Network

We have established our 'Your Voice Network' so people can be involved in work we do and ensure we understand what is important to them. We know that people's views, experiences and ideas are vital to continuously improve the work we do and the difference we can make.

As well as being kept up to date with ASC news, the network:

- join adult social care engagement and consultation activities
- co-design and review adult social care information factsheets
- join interview panels to ensure that we choose the right person for the role
- drive policy changes
- co-produce adult social care projects such as the recent care technology project.



You Said...

"I have found the service caring, professional and thorough. The intent continues to be a partnership approach with my daughter's positive quality of life being at the heart of how we engage"

Our Ambitions

Putting Our Areas of Focus to Work



Putting people, carers and their families first

1. We help people and carers to make their own decisions and create support that works best for them
2. We have a strong focus on prevention to help people and carers maintain their health and wellbeing for longer
3. We keep young people and adults safe from harm
4. We have a skilled care provider market and people have more choice and control over their support
5. We understand our communities and we support them to shape the adult social care services that matter to them.



Living in a place called home

1. We will continue to invest in valuing and supporting carers, and deliver the outcomes from our Carers Strategy
2. We work with our partners to ensure everyone has a safe place they can call home (corporate strategy)
3. We will understand and provide the support at home that people, carers and families want in the future
4. Reablement services will be led by skilled therapists and be focused on promoting wellbeing, confidence, and independence
5. We support people to better understand and embrace self-directed support to encourage independence where appropriate.



Developing how we work

1. We have the right staff with the right skills, working with people at the right time.
2. We offer helpful information and advice that is easy to find, including those that fund their own care
3. We work closely with our Integrated Care System partners to support emergency care and hospital discharge
4. We listen, respect and work closely with community groups and use learning to shape our work
5. We have a positive workplace culture
6. Technology is used to deliver effective and efficient ways of working and people are supported to use it
7. Good quality data and feedback supports us to continuously improve.



You Said...

*“Thank you for all your help, you have made our lives
so much more manageable”*

Our Measures of Success

Understanding the impact of our work



Peoples Views



ASCOF



Performance Data



Compliments &
Complaints



Workforce Data /
Feedback

Success comes in many forms and looks different to all individuals being supported by, working with or working within Adult Social Care. We measure our success using several resources to ensure that we are meeting our legislative duty as well as ensuring the people we support, their carers, our stakeholders and our staff are satisfied with the way we work.

The Care Quality Commission assess Adult Social Care against their duties under the Care Act.

Peoples views and feedback are integral in understanding how we are performing, and we use several methods to obtain these.

The Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) measures how well our care and support services achieve the outcomes that matter most to people. We report into the ASCOF to provide transparency and accountability and can track our progress against other local authorities in the South-West and nationally.

We use internal performance data and analytics to give real time information on our performance. This information enables us to identify potential issues and put measures in place to rectify them, as well as work on continuous improvement.

We complete internal audits to further analyse the quality of our services and share the findings with all staff to harbour best practice ways of working.

We gratefully receive compliments and complaints as a way of understanding quality and driving change.

Workforce data and staff satisfaction measures help us understand our workforce and ensure they are supported to do their work.

We are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion within adult social care. We will continue to actively seek feedback during the duration of the strategy from a diverse range of people, including, people of all ages, D/deaf people, people with disabilities and carers. This will ensure everybody is fairly represented.

How we will deliver the strategy

What does good look like?



INCREASE

the proportion of people who report risks have reduced as a result of a safeguarding enquiry.



INCREASE

the proportion of adults who say they find it easy to access information and advice about services.



INCREASE

the proportion of adults who use social care services and say that they have control over their daily life.



INCREASE

the proportion of adults who are extremely satisfied or very satisfied with their care and support.



INCREASE

the overall satisfaction of carers with social services



INCREASE

the proportion of new clients who received short-term services, where no further request was made for ongoing support

The strategy sets out our plans for continuous improvement and transformation of our services over the next four years. Sitting behind this document is a detailed delivery plan setting out how we will achieve our strategic vision, areas of focus and ambitions. This delivery plan is monitored, and updates will be shared.

We strive to improve our ASCOF measures and performance is released annually.

www.lginform.local.gov.uk

We hope you find the Adult Social Care Strategy useful, interesting and informative and would welcome and questions or comments that you may have.

We would also be interested to hear about your experience of service or what you would like to see improved. To let us know e-mail comments.adultsocialcare@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

This information is issued by BCP Council

Contact us: nicky.mitchell@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Nicky Mitchell
BCP Council
Bourne Avenue
Bournemouth
BH2 6DY

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Fulfilled Lives Consultation Summary Report

1. Introduction

As part of preparing our draft Adult Social Care Strategy 2025-28 'Supporting People to Live a Fulfilled Life', we ran a consultation from 18 November 2024 to 5 January 2025 asking for opinions and feedback on our proposed vision, areas of focus and ambitions, as well as other comments and suggestions about the strategy.

2. Methodology

The consultation was available at haveyoursay.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/fulfilled-lives. The consultation information and surveys were available online and in paper format. Information and all formats displayed and available in libraries and promoted through council contacts. In addition, Easy Read information and surveys were available in paper and online. Large print versions were also available.


BCP Council

Back to our Homepage Q Search Site Admin

Have your say

Adult Social Care Strategy Consultation

Share your thoughts on our vision, areas of focus and ambitions



Home / Fulfilled Lives - Shaping our Adult Social Care Strategy

Fulfilled Lives - Shaping our Adult Social Care Strategy

We are preparing our draft Adult Social Care Strategy 2025-28 'Supporting People to Live a Fulfilled Life'. This sets out our direction over the next four years, where we will continuously develop the services we provide.


Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council's Adult Social Care service support vulnerable young people and adults, people with disabilities, their carers, and a growing number of older people across our communities.

We would really appreciate your opinions and feedback on our proposed vision, areas of focus and ambitions, so please take the time to give your views.

We have been working with [Social Care Future](#) to develop our vision for adult social care and we want to support people to achieve a fulfilled life, in the way that they choose and, in a place where they feel safe.

Our areas for focus have been widely influenced by national adult social care changes. Evidence from our quality improvement work has highlighted the areas where we need to do things differently. We have also engaged with residents, stakeholders and our staff to understand their views.

To achieve our ambitions, we will work in collaboration with partner organisations including health, housing, the voluntary and community sector and our independent care providers, as well as people and carers who currently use services, their families and communities.



Have your say


[Complete our online survey](#)

Key Dates

[Consultation starts](#)
18 November 2024

[Consultation ends](#)
05 January 2025

Easy Read



3. Meetings

DOTs Disability held two meetings to get in depth views from disabled people from across the impairment groups with various experiences of and/or access to Adult Social Care. A separate report has been prepared by DOTs Disability.

The strategy was discussed at a People First Forum meeting with people with learning disabilities in January. The group completed some questions from the Easy Read Survey using show cards. The feedback from the People First Forum has been combined with the Easy Survey results in a separate report.

4. Communication

The consultation was promoted widely through a variety of channels including council's e-newsletters, social media channels, posters and information in all libraries, staff newsletters, Councillors and local media coverage.

Adult social care colleagues promoted the consultation and shared resources to Integrated Care System colleagues, community and voluntary sector partners, people who use adult social care services, members of the public as well as Adult Social Care networks and groups.

5. Drop ins

To promote the consultation and offer people the opportunity to speak to adult social care colleagues, drop-in sessions were held at 12 BCP Council libraries and Tricuro day centres. A stand was also set up at two Covid drop ins at the Spire in Poole in December 2024, where people had an opportunity to talk to staff about the consultation.

6. The Survey

The survey asked for respondent's views about the Vision, the Areas of Focus and Ambitions. Personal questions were also asked to understand the profile of respondents and its representativeness.

The survey included several open-ended questions which allowed respondents to provide free-text responses to explain their answers. All free-text responses were read and thematically analysed. Any proposed changes to the strategy have been reported in the survey report. The full set of comments has been provided to Adult Social Care to use in the development of the Strategy and Action Plan, as well as any lesson learned for service planning and delivery.

7. Response

302 people completed an online or paper survey. Of these, 94% responded as individuals and 6% responded on behalf of an organisation.

Of the individuals, 81% are BCP Council residents, 30% are a carer or family member of someone who receives Adult Social Care, 12% work in the BCP Council area, 11% work for BCP Council and 10% use Adult Social Care Services.

In addition, 23 Easy Read forms were completed. Some of these were completed at the People First Forum meeting in January 2025.

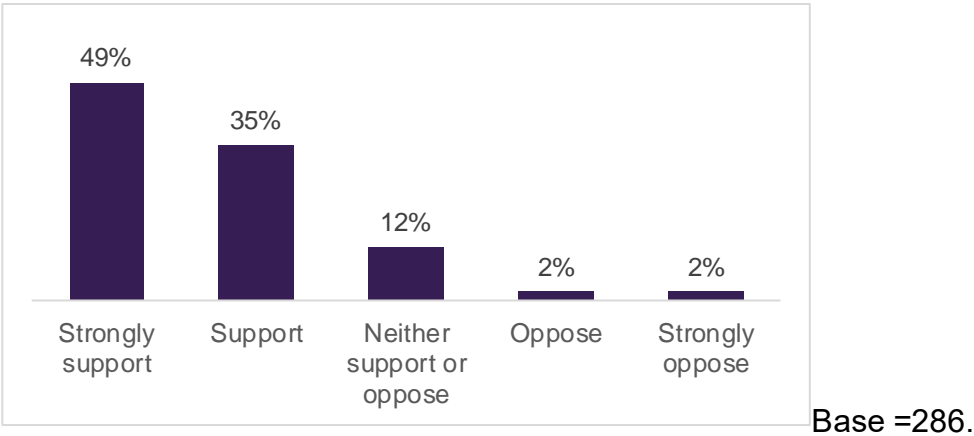
8. Respondent profile

Those aged over 55, females, those living with a disability and those of White British heritage are overrepresented in the consultation when compared to 2021 census figures for BCP. 75% in the survey are aged 55 or over compared to 41%, 67% are female compared to 52%, 34% are living with a disability compared to 21% and 95% are White British compared to 83%.

9. The Vision

‘Supporting people to achieve a fulfilled life, in the way that they choose and in a place where they feel safe.’

There is strong support for the vision, with 84% of respondents strongly supporting or supporting the vision. 4% oppose the vision, with 2% opposing it strongly.

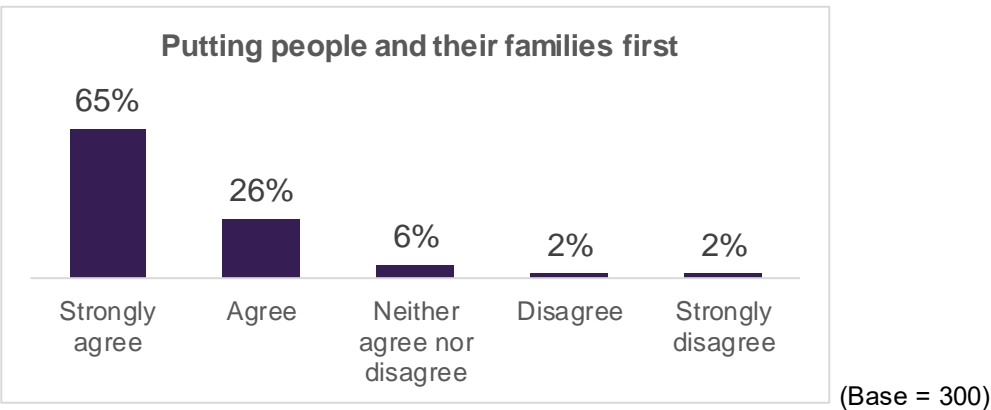


Comments about the vision included suggested wording changes, more mention of carers in the strategy, concerns about the implementation of the vision, which also links with financial and resource concerns. Suggestions were also made, including changes to services, complaints, working with partners and monitoring the strategy.

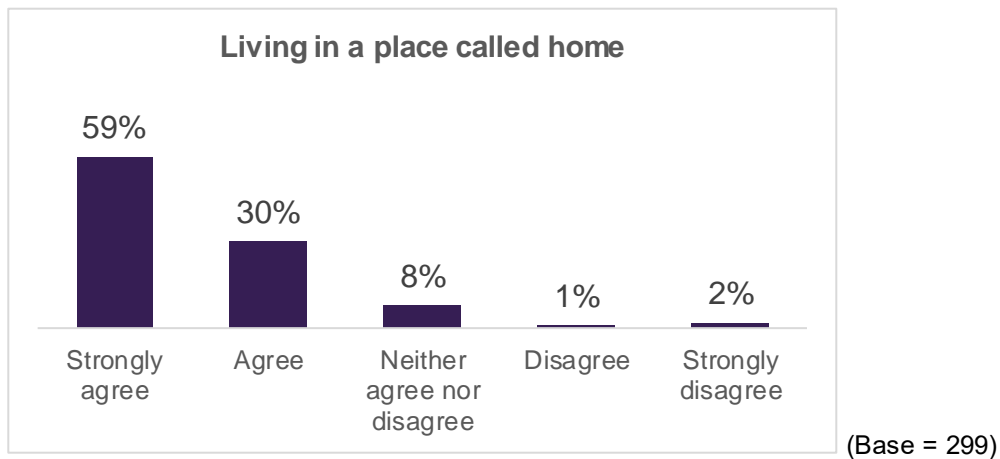
10. Areas of Focus

There are high levels of agreement with our proposed areas of focus:

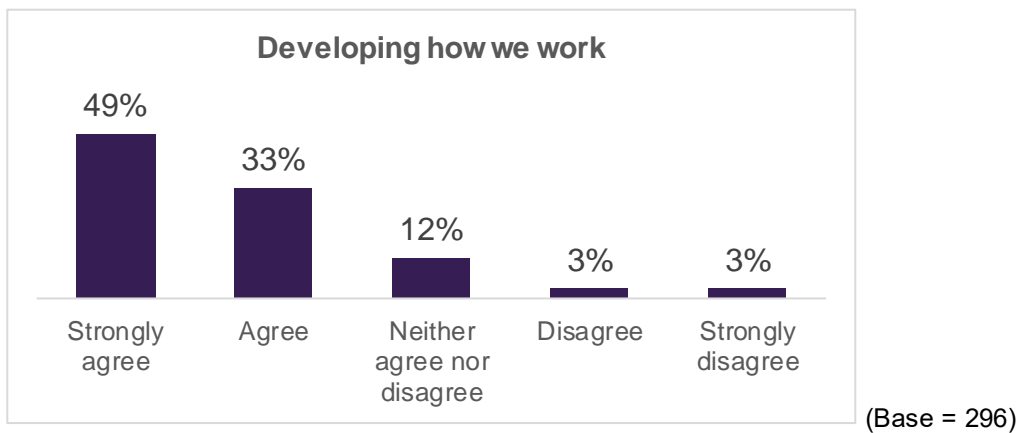
- 91% agree with ‘Putting people and their families first’, with 4% disagreeing.



- 89% agree with '*Living in a place called home*'. 3% disagree.



- 82% agree with '*Developing how we work*'. 6% disagree.



Respondents made comments on the areas of focus. These have been included in the Consultation Report and shared with Adult Social Care.

11. Comments

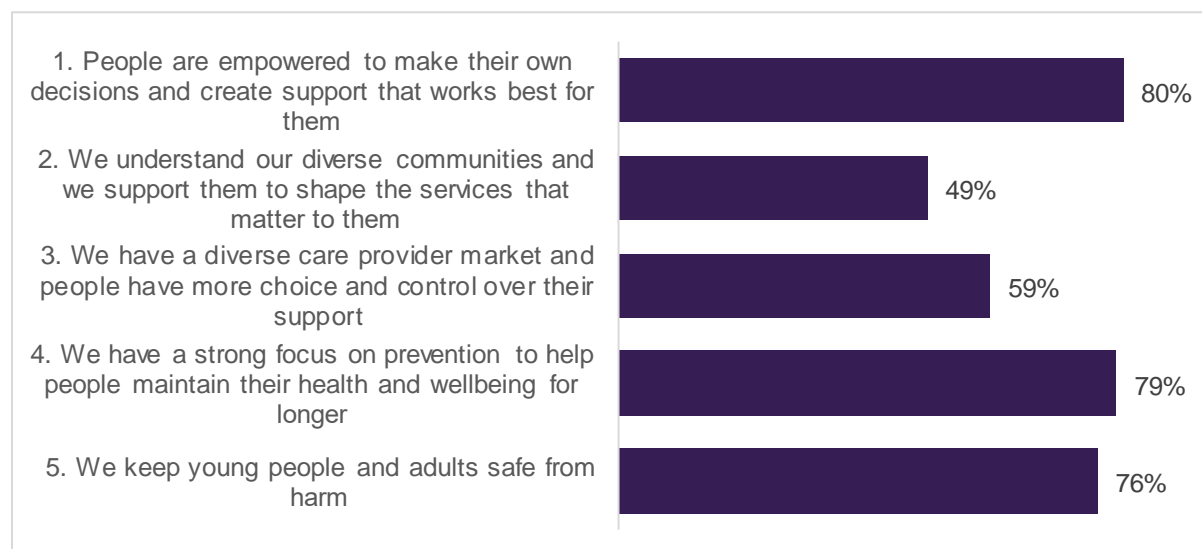
112 respondents wrote a comment about the Areas of Focus. The comments were coded into the three areas of focus and comments that were related to the draft strategy were included in the presentation, some of these included suggested changes to the wording for the areas of focus. A few comments related to monitoring the strategy. The other comments (89) have been provided to Adult Social Care in a separate document for review.

12. Ambitions

Respondents were asked to select which of the ambitions they felt were important under each of the three Areas of Focus. They could also tell us whether they think anything needs adding, changing or deleting from the ambitions. The survey report summarises the suggestions respondents made.

Putting people and their families first

The importance of ambitions under *'Putting people and their families first'* range between 49% and 80%, with *'People are empowered to make their own decisions and create support that works best for them'* receiving the highest importance (80%), followed by *'We have a strong focus on prevention to help people maintain their health and wellbeing for longer'* (79%).



(Base = 294)

Living in a place called home

The importance of ambitions under *'Living in a place called home'* range from 59% to 77%, with 77% of respondents rating *'We will continue to invest in valuing and supporting carers, and to deliver the outcomes from our Carers Strategy'* as important.



(Base = 293)

Developing how we work

'We have the right staff with the right skills, working with people at the right time' was rated the most important (86%) under *'Developing how we work'*. This was followed by *'We offer people helpful information and advice that is easy to find, including those that fund their own care'* (77%).



(Base = 288)

13. Other comments

Respondents were asked to tell us anything else they would like to share about Supporting People to Live a Fulfilled Life, including any suggestions about what actions are needed to achieve our ambitions.

142 respondents wrote a comment. The comments were coded and sorted into themes. Many of these comments more general. These comments have been provided in a separate report for Adult Social Care Services to review for use in the Strategy Fulfilled Lives Action Plan and for service improvements.

14. How did you find out about the consultation?

41% of respondents found out from an email, 28% from BCP Council newsletter and 8% from council social media. BCP Council employees (5%), BCP Council website (5%), libraries (6%) and other social media (4%) were also sources.

15. Information about Your Voice

37% would like to be sent information about 'Your Voice' and how they can get involved in Adult Social Care. 95 people provided an email address and will be sent information.

16. Consultation reports

The following reports will be available at haveyoursay.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/fulfilled-lives:

- Consultation Report
- Easy Read Survey Report (including feedback from representatives of People First Forum)
- DOTs Disability Report

In addition, all the comments have been made available to Adult Social Care Services for use in the development of the Fulfilled Lives Strategy Action Plan and to review for service improvements and lessons learned.

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CABINET



Report subject	Scrap metal licensing fee increase
Meeting date	2 April 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>On 13 March 2025, BCP Licensing Committee considered and approved changes to licensing fees that are not statutorily set, including those applicable to Scrap Metal Licences. Relevant fees were considered on a full cost recovery basis, increasing to reflect rises to national insurance, annual local government pay award and consumer price index.</p> <p>The Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 allows the local authority to set fees to administer and issue site licences and collectors licences provided for under the legislation. Fees should be set on a cost recovery basis, in line with the statutory guidance and giving due regard to relevant case law.</p> <p>The setting of fees in relation to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 is held as an executive function and therefore must be approved by BCP Cabinet.</p> <p>Licensing Committee have considered the fees pertaining to licences issued under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 and have recommended that Cabinet approve these fees..</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</p> <p>i) Approve the fees for scrap metal licensing as recommended by the Licensing Committee</p>
Reason for recommendations	Fees are set in line with a cost recovery basis, ensuring the fees are reflective of the actual cost of administration and compliance. Fees are increasing in line with national insurance and annual local government pay award.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Kieron Wilson - Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director	Jillian Kay- Corporate Director for Wellbeing

Report Authors	Sophie Sajic- Head of Public Protection, Housing and Communities
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Recommendation

Background

1. The Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 requires any person carrying on business as a scrap metal dealer to be authorised by a scrap metal licence. A site licence authorises the licensee to carry on business at any site in the Local Authority area and a collector's licence authorises the licensee to carry on business as a mobile collector in the Local Authority area. The legislation provides local authorities with the ability to regulate scrap metal industries by providing a power to grant, refuse and revoke licences as appropriate and in accordance with the legislation. The legislation allows a Local Authority to set an application fee. Statutory guidance details the fee must be determined by the local authority based on the actual cost.
2. The guidance advises "the costs of a licence should reflect the time spent assessing and administering applications, processing them, having experienced licensing officers review them, storing them, consulting on the suitability of an applicant, reviewing relevant offences, the decision on whether to issue a licence, as well as the cost of issuing licences in a format that can be displayed. Consulting the local authority's enforcement records to determine the suitability of the applicant is chargeable within the licence fee costs, as are costs associated with contested licence applications."
3. There are two types of licence issued, that last for 3 years unless revoked or surrendered:
 - 3.1 Site Licence - This requires all sites at which the licensee carries on business as a scrap metal dealer within the local authority area to be identified; and requires a site manager to be named for each site. They are permitted to operate from those sites as a scrap metal dealer, including transporting scrap metal to and from those sites from any local authority area.
 - 3.2 Collector's Licence - This authorises the licensee to operate as a mobile collector in the area of the issuing local authority, permitting them to collect any scrap metal as appropriate. This includes commercial as well as domestic scrap metal.
4. There are currently 14 site licences and 14 collector's licences issued by BCP Council.
5. The fees set by the authority to administer and issue licences under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 are held as an executive function, as defined within the legislation and Council's constitution, and therefore must be approved by BCP Cabinet before being implemented.
6. On 13 March 2025, BCP Licensing Committee considered the report in Appendix A, which outlined all locally set fee changes for 2025-2026. Fees are set in line with the legislation, relevant statutory guidance and case law principles as detailed within the report.
7. An increase of 5% has been applied to licences issued under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013, which reflects increases to national insurance rates and increases to staff costs due to the annual pay award.

8. BCP Licensing Committee approved the report and made a recommendation to Cabinet to approve the fees for licences issued under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013.
9. Cabinet, as the executive function, must make the decision on the fee increase.

Summary of financial implications

10. Fees are set in line with an assessment of the functions undertaken by the authority to administer and comply licences. Fees have been approved by finance within the initial licensing report.

Summary of legal implications

11. Failure to comply with the statutory guidance and case law around fee setting could leave the Council open to judicial review. The fees have been reviewed by legal services in the creation of the initial report. Fees are on a cost recovery basis.

Summary of human resources implications

12. There are no human resources implications.

Summary of environmental impact

13. The licensing of Scrap Metal sites and collectors ensures regulations are adhered to and that businesses operate in a safe and environmentally suitable manner.

Summary of public health implications

14. There are no public health implications in relation to the setting of licence fees.

Summary of equality implications

15. A equalities impact assessment screening tool has been undertaken, within Appendix A.
16. The local authority is legally required to ensure fees are set on a cost recovery basis.
17. There is no mitigation to any negative impact on all fee setting, as it is a legal requirement.

Summary of risk assessment

18. A risk assessment has been undertaken. If fees are not calculated appropriately the service will not recover sufficient income to cover costs.
19. Risk is mitigated by the setting of fees as recommended within this report.

Appendices

Appendix A- Licensing Committee Report “Licensing Fees and Charges for 2025-2026”

Background Reading

[\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Licensing Committee, 13/03/2025 10:00](#)

Report subject	Licensing fees and charges for 2025-2026
Meeting date	13 March 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The purpose of this report is to establish the licensing fees and charges that should apply from 1 April 2025 for those licensing activities where the Council has discretion to do so.</p> <p>The statutory principle in relation to the setting of fees is that they should be reasonable and should relate to the costs of performing the function, including staffing, administration, testing, inspections, hearings, regulation and appeals.</p> <p>Inflationary increases to staff salaries mean that costs to provide the service have increased. A 5% uplift in fees has been applied to reflect these increased salary costs.</p> <p>The fee regimes under review are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrap Metal Dealers • Pleasure Boats • Sexual Establishments • Taxi and Private Hire
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Members consider the proposed fees in respect of each function and either</p> <p>a) Agree the proposed fees as stated or</p> <p>b) Agree amended fees following consideration</p> <p>c) Maintaining the current fee structure is not recommended as this would mean the service is not able to operate on a cost recovery basis</p> <p>The decision agreed in respect to Scrap Metal Fees should then be recommended to Cabinet</p>
Reason for recommendations	Increases in Officer salaries mean that fees need to be reviewed and increased in line with increased costs.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Kieron Wilson Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities
Corporate Director	Jillian Kay – Corporate Director for Wellbeing
Report Authors	Nananka Randle, Licensing and Trading Standards Manager
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. Councils are responsible for administering a range of licences and for the majority of these regimes the costs are recovered through fees set by each council and paid by the licence applicant. It is an accepted principle in relation to these schemes that those who benefit from the system (licence holders) should cover the cost of it. Locally set fees are a vital means of ensuring that full costs can be recovered, reducing the risk of a subsidy from local taxpayers and that businesses do not pay more than they should.
2. Legislation permits the Council to recover all or part of the costs of providing the licensing service, including its administration and control (i.e. enforcement or supervision). It does not permit the Council to profit from its fees and charges, thus ring-fencing the income to the licensing service. Surpluses must be carried forward and deficits may be carried forward to future years within each ring-fenced licensing budget.
3. The finance officers undertake an annual review to ensure our fees meet this requirement.
4. In calculating these fees officers have taken into account the Supreme Courts rulings in the Hemming case which dealt with the setting of fees on a cost recovery basis. R (on the application of Hemming (t/a Simply Pleasure Ltd) and others) (Respondents) v Westminster City Council (Appellant) (supremecourt.uk) which concluded that the amount of fee set by the local authority precludes it from making a profit from the licensing regime.
5. The proposed fees as set out in Appendix 1 reflect an increase of 5% calculated to reflect the staff pay award and changes to National Insurance.

Scrap Metal Site and Collector Licences

6. The Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 provides local authorities with the power to regulate these industries by providing a power to refuse to grant a licence and revoke licences if the dealer is considered 'unsuitable'. There are two types of licence issued.
7. Site Licence - This requires all sites at which the licensee carries on business as a scrap metal dealer within the local authority area to be identified; and requires a site manager to be named for each site. They are permitted to operate from those sites as a scrap metal dealer, including transporting scrap metal to and from those sites from any local authority area.

8. Collector's Licence - This authorises the licensee to operate as a mobile collector in the area of the issuing local authority, permitting them to collect any scrap metal as appropriate. This includes commercial as well as domestic scrap metal.
9. Licences last for 3 years unless revoked or surrendered. Licence numbers are as follows:-

	2024	2025
Site Licence	14	14
Collectors Licence	14	14

Pleasure Craft (Class B and C) and Boatperson Licences

10. Section 94 of the Public Health Act 1907 and section 18 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 empowers Local Authorities to licence and charge such annual fee as appears to them to be appropriate for each of the following types of licence. Pleasure boats and pleasure vessels to be let for hire (Class C); or to be used for the carrying of passengers for hire (Class B) and to the persons in charge of or navigating such boats and vessels.
11. The legislation covers any boat or craft with the capacity of up to 12 persons which operate on inland waters only.
12. Licences last for 1 year unless revoked or surrendered. Licence numbers are as follows

	2023	2024
Class B Pleasure craft	27	22
Class C Pleasure craft	8	8
Boatperson	3	4

Sex Establishment and Sexual Entertainment Venues Licences

13. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Schedule 3, as amended by s.27 of The Policing and Crime Act 2009 sets out the statutory provisions for setting Sex Establishment fees
14. A Sex Establishment is defined as a Sex Shop, Sex Cinema or Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) (primarily lap dancing clubs).
15. A premises is not a Sexual Entertainment Venue if any relevant entertainment is only provided on eleven or less occasions during a twelve-month period and, each of the occasions are at least one month apart.
16. Licences are valid for 12 months from the date of grant unless surrendered or revoked. A process similar to the granting of a new licence is to be followed for each renewal including consultation.

17. Licence numbers are as follows:-

	2023	2024
Sex Shop	3	2
Sexual Entertainment Venue	3	3

Taxi and Private Hire Licences

18. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the local authority to charge fees on a cost recovery basis only. The proposed changes to the fees include the cost of administration, compliance checks and the issuing of licences, and plates.
19. Hackney Carriage licensing fees also includes recharges for the upkeep of taxi ranks and the requirement to undertake an unmet needs survey every three years. Whilst it is recognised that the current policy is under review and there is a proposal to remove the need for an unmet needs survey, this has currently not been approved, and we cannot predetermine if this proposal will be supported by the public consultation. The fees will be amended to reflect any changes once the policy review is complete and implemented and any unnecessary costs will be removed when the fees are reviewed in 2026.
20. These fees also include a 1.7% increase applied to any supplies and services to reflect the current level of the Consumer Prices Index.
21. Driver licences are issued for 3 years and the fees proposed will be implemented as of 1 April 2025.
22. Private Hire Operator licences are issued for 5 years, and vehicle licences are issued for 1 year.
23. Licence numbers are as follows: -

	2023	2024
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver	12277	1171
Hackney and Private Hire Vehicle	924	822
Private Hire Operator	93	94

24. Appendix 2 provides benchmarking with fees from neighbouring authorities for information.

Consultation on Taxi and Private Hire Licences

25. There is a statutory requirement to advertise a change in fees for Private Hire Operators and for vehicle licences.
26. A notice must be published in a local paper advising of the variation in fees and set out the consultation period which shall be no less than 28 days. In addition, the notice must be displayed in the Civic Offices for a minimum 28-day period.

27. If no objections are received the new fees will come into force on the date specified.
28. If there are objections which are not withdrawn, then a further Committee meeting will be required to consider the matter further. This meeting must take place within 2 months of the expiry of the consultation

Options Appraisal

29. Members are asked to consider the fees as proposed and
- a) Agree the proposed fees; or
 - b) Agree amended fees following consideration; or
 - c) Maintain the current fees.
 - d) Recommend the decision made in relation to Scrap Metal Fees to Cabinet.
30. Once the fees are agreed if there is an increase or variation members are asked to approve publishing the necessary notices for the taxi and private hire vehicle and private hire operator fees.

Summary of financial implications

31. The costs have been calculated taking into account increased costs incurred in the administration of the service which include proposed salary costs increases.
32. It is predicted that staff salaries will increase by 2.8% and we have also factored in the increase to National Insurance contributions of 1.2%. As well as this the National Insurance threshold is changing from £9,100 to £5,000, we have not calculated this as an increase for each officer as such we have applied an overall increase of 5% to cover staff costs. We recognise that this is an estimate, but this will represent cost recovery pending a full fee review in the coming year.
33. Failure to review the fees will result in an increase in the gap between income and the costs incurred by the Authority which is not in line with cost recovery as set out in the legislation.

Summary of legal implications

34. The fees are required to meet the costs of the services and must be set in accordance with the legislation on a cost recovery basis. If the fees are set incorrectly this can result in judicial review.

Summary of human resources implications

35. The delivery of the service will remain within existing staffing levels

Summary of sustainability impact

36. There are no sustainability impacts.

Summary of public health implications

37. There are no public health implications.

Summary of equality implications

- 38. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) screening documents have been completed.
- 39. There is a legislative and corporate requirement to ensure fees cover rising staff costs and overheads.
- 40. The legislation allows councils to set the fees to recover the costs incurred. As such there is no option but to increase costs.
- 41. There is no mitigation to any negative impacts.
- 42. Overall, there are no positive equality impacts from the change in fees.

Summary of risk assessment

- 43. If fees are not calculated appropriately the service will not recover sufficient income to cover costs.
- 44. If fees are increased this can lead to licence holders seeking licences in other local authority areas with lower fees. With cross border hiring permitting these vehicles to still work within the BCP Council area. With a reduction in licence numbers and income the risk will be that the number of officers delivering the service will need to be reduced.

Background papers

Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013: guidance on licence fee charges

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scrap-metal-dealer-act-2013-licence-fee-charges>

Public Health Act 1907

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Edw7/7/53/section/94>

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1976/57>

Supreme Court ruling on the Hemmings Case

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2013-0146a-judgment.pdf>

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Current and proposed fees

Appendix 2 – Taxi fare benchmarking

Scrap Metal Fees

	Current Fees	Proposed Fees
Collectors	£473.00	£497.00
Site	£645.00	£677.00
Variation	£130.00	£137.00
Replacement licence	£104.00	£109.00
Pre app advice	£135.00	£142.00

Pleasure Boat Fees⁴	Current Fees	Proposed Fees
Class B	£99.00	£103.00
Class C (up to 5 boats)	£109.00	£114.00
Each additional 5 boats	£40.00	£42.00
Water person	£104.00	£109.00

Sexual Establishment Fees

Sexual Entertainment Venues	Current Fees	Proposed Fees
New Application	£3167.00	£3325.00
Renewal	£1524.00	£1600.00
Variation/Transfer	£984.00	£1033.00
Minor Variation	£286.00	£300.00
Sex shops		
New Application	£3167.00	£3325.00
Renewal	£1524.00	£1600.00
Variation/Transfer	£984.00	£1033.00
Minor Variation	£286.00	£300.00

Taxi and Private Hire

	Current Fees	Proposed Fees
VEHICLES		
New/Replacement Private Hire Vehicle application fee	£109.00	£118.00
New/Replacement Hackney Carriage Vehicle application fee	£156.00	£163.00
Private Hire Vehicle Licence	£182.00	£192.00
Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence	£234.00	£243.00
Transfer of vehicle licence	£94.00	£99.00
Temporary Replacement authorisation and plate	£83.00	£87.00

Replacement plate	£68.00	£71.00
Replacement door insignia	£52.00	£54.00
DRIVERS		
New drivers application including knowledge test	£182.00	£190.00
Knowledge test resit	£78.00	£82.00
Driver Issue/reissue of licence 3 year	£364.00	£379.00
Change of details/replace licence	£31.00	£33.00
Dual Licence	£52.00	£55.00
OPERATORS		
Application for new operator's licence (non-returnable)	£73.00	£77.00
Issue/reissue application for up to 10 vehicles (5 year)	£317.00	£333.00
For each additional 10 vehicle	£31.00	£33.00

CABINET FORWARD PLAN – 1 APRIL 2025 TO 31 JULY 2025

(PUBLICATION DATE – 25 March 2025)



What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Cemetery Rules and Regulations Amendment	To bring back Cabinet a recommended position on section 3.12 of BCP Council's Cemetery Rules and Regulations Exclusive right of burial (grave purchase).	No	Cabinet 2 Apr 2025	All Wards			Kate Langdown, Ian Poultney	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defence Scheme – CIL Funding Proposal	For cabinet to approve the award of £7.3m to the Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defence Scheme from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) bid. The Strategic CIL paper was previously approved by cabinet on 5 March 2025.	Yes	Cabinet 2 Apr 2025	Poole Town	Landowners and developers (West Quay Road) Public bodies including Crown Estate, Environment Agency and Poole Harbour Commissioners Internal service areas - Planning, Legal Councillor FCERM Panel	A planning application is being considered.	Rob Thomas	Open
Housing Strategy Review	To outline the proposed key changes to the Delivery Plan for the Strategy as well as the new Governance Structure to improve oversight and programme management of the Plan in it's final stages	No	Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee 26 Feb 2025 Cabinet 2 Apr 2025	All Wards			Rachel Stewart	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2024-25	The Briefing is for review and approval to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to annually assess it's childcare market.	No	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee 11 Mar 2025 Cabinet 2 Apr 2025	All Wards			Tanya Smith	Open
Children and Young People Partnership Plan 2024-2028	To present the new Children and Young People Partnership Plan for cabinet approval.	No	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee 11 Mar 2025 Cabinet 2 Apr 2025	All Wards	Children and young people Partner agencies Parent Carers Voluntary Sector		Rachel Gravett	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Adult Social Care Strategy 2025-28	The new ASC Strategy 2025-28 is linked to the Corporate Vision and supports corporate priorities under 'Our People and Communities.' This report is to seek approval of the strategy.	No	Cabinet 2 Apr 2025	All Wards			Nicky Mitchell	Open
Scrap metal licensing fee increase	To consider the recommendation from the Licensing Committee held on 13 March 2025 and to approve the scrap metal licensing fee increase	No	Cabinet 2 Apr 2025	All Wards			Sophie Sajic	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Bournemouth Air Festival	This report provides an update on the progress of the agreed options from the report presented to Cabinet on 2 October 2024, to seek external support to deliver and fund an Air Festival from 2026 onwards and recommends a way forward in relation to the future delivery of the Air Festival.	Yes	Cabinet 13 May 2025 <i>(Note: meeting date changed from 21 May 2025)</i>	All Wards			Amanda Barrie, Helen Wildman	Open
BCP Local Plan next steps, updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) and Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	To consider the next steps for the draft BCP Local Plan following receipt of the post examination hearing Stage 1 Inspectors' letter. Also to consider a proposed revised timetable for the Local Plan (LDS).	Yes	Cabinet 13 May 2025 <i>(Note: meeting date changed from 21 May 2025)</i>	All Wards	No public consultation required. Internal only.	n/a	Caroline Peach	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Our Place and Environment: Consolidated Active Travel Fund 2025/26	The Council has been allocated and accepted £1.459m Consolidated Active Travel Fund (CATF) grant. This report recommends how the grant award should be invested and seeks delegation to facilitate delivery.	Yes	Cabinet 13 May 2025 <i>(Note: meeting date changed from 21 May 2025)</i>	Alderney & Bourne Valley; Christchurch Town; Commons; Mudford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe; Poole Town; Queen's Park			Wendy Lane, Richard Pincroft	Open
Corporate Performance Report - Q4	Progress update on performance against key measures in the Corporate Strategy.	No	Cabinet 18 Jun 2025	All Wards	n/a	n/a	Isla Reynolds	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Investment & Development Directorate - Regeneration Programme	To provide a bi-annual update on the progress of the Council's regeneration programme	No	Overview and Scrutiny Board 9 Jun 2025 Cabinet 18 Jun 2025	All Wards			Amena Matin, Jonathan Thornton	Open
BCP Council Libraries – Proposed Library Strategy	To present the key elements of the new draft Library Strategy ahead of a second stage consultation process.	Yes	Overview and Scrutiny Board 9 Jun 2025 Cabinet 18 Jun 2025	All Wards			Lynda Anderson, Matti Raudsepp	Open
Bournemouth Development Company - Winter Gardens project	To provide Cabinet with an assessment of the options for funding the pre-construction work on a new Winter Gardens development project through the Bournemouth Development Company joint venture.	Yes	Overview and Scrutiny Board 9 Jun 2025 Cabinet 18 Jun 2025 Council 22 Jul 2025	Bournemouth Central	s151 Officer Cabinet Member for Finance BCP members of BDC board		Rob Dunford, Amena Matin	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
BCP Homes Tenant Satisfaction Measures and Housing Regulatory Compliance Update	To ensure that Cabinet has assurance that the outcomes of the Regulatory Consumer Standards are being delivered.	No	Cabinet 18 Jun 2025	All Wards			Kelly Deane	Open
Hawkwood Road Phase 2 Update	To update the tenure mix associated borrowing level for the delivery of Phase 2.	No	Cabinet 18 Jun 2025 Council 22 Jul 2025	Boscombe West	Housing, Legal, Finance and Estates		Remi Oshibanjo	Open
Fulfilled Lives programme		No	Cabinet 16 Jul 2025				Jillian Kay	

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Corporate Performance Report - Q1	Progress update on performance against key measures in the Corporate Strategy.	No	Cabinet 3 Sep 2025	All Wards	n/a	n/a	Isla Reynolds	Open
Community Governance Review - Final Recommendations	To consider the proposals of the Task and Finish Group and to recommend to Council the final recommendations for the review of community governance for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	Yes	Cabinet 1 Oct 2025 Council 14 Oct 2025	All Wards	Existing parish and town councils, local representatives, local community and residents' groups, residents within the areas proposed for any new local councils	This is defined as stage 3 of the process and will include a 12 week consultation period for any interested party to respond using both online and paper forms.	Janie Berry, Richard Jones	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
BCP Homes Annual Complaints Performance and Service Improvement Report	To provide an overview of complaint handling performance, lessons learned and compliance against the Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code.	No	Cabinet 1 Oct 2025	All Wards	BCP Homes residents will have been provided with regular information on complaint handling performance through published information and resident panels.		Seamus Doran	Open
Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4)	To present outputs from Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) consultation and to present proposed LTP4 Policy Document complete with Implementation Plan for approval/adoption.	Yes	Overview and Scrutiny Board 17 Nov 2025 Cabinet 26 Nov 2025 Council 9 Dec 2025	All Wards	Residents (BCP and neighbouring authorities), partners, organisations and businesses that operate/exist in BCP area and are impacted by transport.	Exact dates tbc, but 6 to 8 week public consultation required, note: LTP4 engagement was facilitated in Spring 2024.	Wendy Lane, Richard Pincroft	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Corporate Performance Report - Q2	Progress update on performance against key measures in the Corporate Strategy.	No	Cabinet 26 Nov 2025	All Wards	n/a	n/a	Isla Reynolds	Open
Waste Strategy for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	To approve the ambitions, principles and a delivery framework to manage waste produced from homes and businesses across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole for the next 10 years.	Yes	Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee 19 Nov 2025 Cabinet 26 Nov 2025 Council 9 Dec 2025	All Wards	Residents, businesses, special interest groups,		Georgina Fry	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Corporate Performance Report - Q3	Progress update on performance against key measures in the Corporate Strategy.	No	Cabinet 4 Mar 2026	All Wards	n/a	n/a	Isla Reynolds	Open
Junction Road Development	To seek approval to develop a section of green space and garage area to provide 4 new affordable rent homes as part of BCP Homes housing stock	Yes	Cabinet Council Dates to be confirmed	Hamworthy			Jonathan Thornton	Open
DfE SEND review next steps	To consider the DfE review next steps	No	Cabinet Date to be confirmed				Rachel Gravett, Shirley McGillick, Sharon Muldoon	Fully exempt

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Children's Services Early Help Offer	Summary of findings and recommendations from an ongoing review of our current Early Help services	No	Cabinet Date to be confirmed	All Wards			Zafer Yilkan	Open

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