

Notice of Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date: Wednesday, 26 February 2025 at 6.00 pm

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

Membership:

Chairman:

Cllr C Rigby

Vice Chairman:

Cllr D d'Orton-Gibson

Cllr J Bagwell
Cllr B Chick
Cllr J Clements

Cllr C Goodall
Cllr J Martin
Cllr L Northover

Cllr Dr F Rice
Cllr V Ricketts
Cllr G Wright

All Members of the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

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

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=6326>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Rebekah Rhodes or email rebekah.rhodes@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

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

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

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

18 February 2025

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app

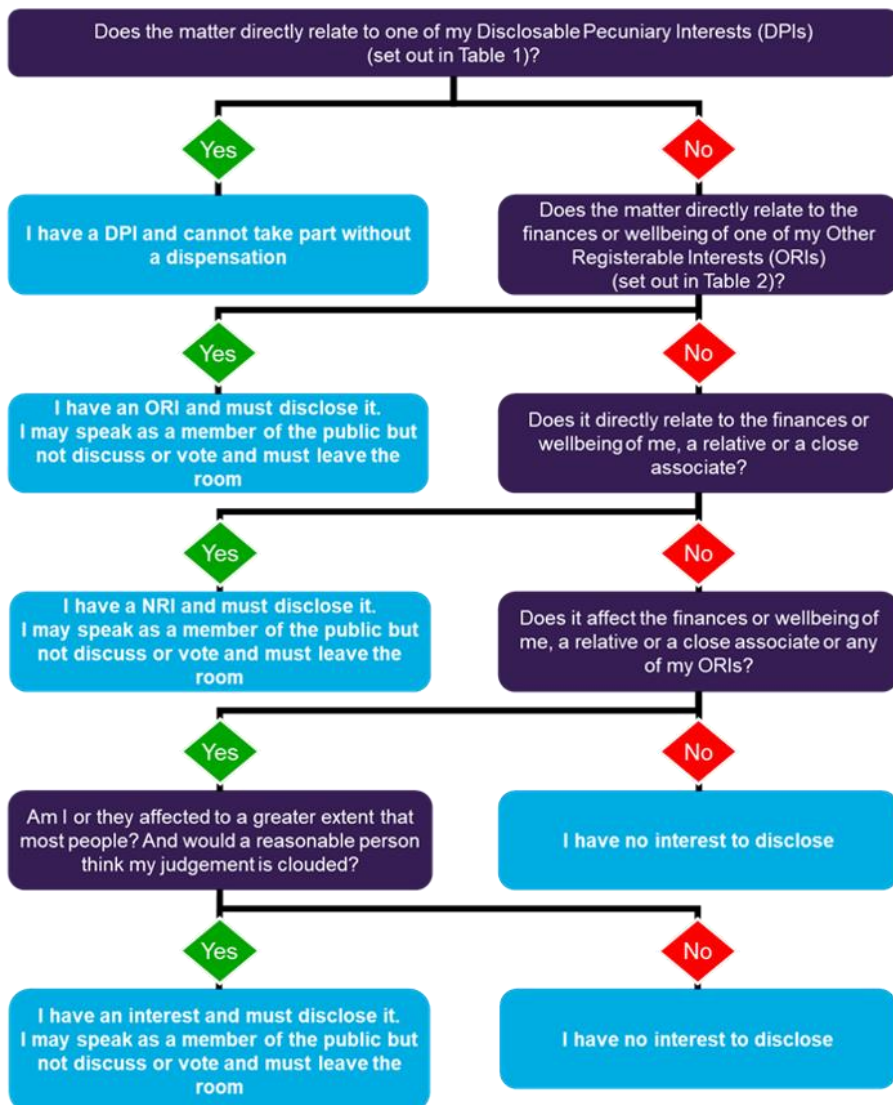


Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

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. Substitute Members

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

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

3. Declarations of Interests

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

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

5 - 10

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 20 November 2024.

5. Public Issues

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

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

The deadline for the submission of public questions is mid-day Thursday 20 February 3 clear working days before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday Tuesday 25 February the working day before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a petition is Tuesday 11 February 10 working days before the meeting.

6. Recommendations from Portfolio Holders, Cabinet or Council

11 - 20

The Council's constitution provides that Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committees may consider requests for work from a range of sources, including requests from Portfolio Holders, Cabinet and Council.

The O&S Committee is asked to consider two requests for scrutiny recently made by Council and one request for scrutiny from a Portfolio Holder, and to determine these requests in line with the associated constitution

procedure rules.

7. Responses from Cabinet to Recommendations of O&S Committees

21 - 22

To consider responses received from the Cabinet to recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

8. Climate Action Annual Report 2023/24

23 - 68

This report presents 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.

2023-24 progress against the main commitments is:

- Make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030 - scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions **reduced by 8.6%** 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 12.6%** from the 2019 baseline.

The report also introduces new emissions dashboards to make progress transparent and presents draft Roadmaps that identify key decisions for consideration if targets are to be achieved.

9. Housing Strategy Review

69 - 136

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 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.

This report outlines the proposed key changes to the Delivery Plan, which Cabinet is asked to approve. It also proposes a new Governance Structure to improve oversight and programme management of the Plan in its final stages.

10. Work Plan

137 - 182

The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee is asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan.

11. Future Meeting Dates

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 2nd April at 6pm.

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
ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 November 2024 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr C Rigby – Chairman

Cllr D d'Orton-Gibson – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr B Chick, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr J Martin, Cllr L Northover,
Cllr Dr F Rice and Cllr G Wright

Also in
attendance:

20. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr V Ricketts and Cllr J Clements. Cllr J Bagwell did not attend the meeting.

21. Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

22. Declarations of Interests

The Chair declared for transparency that he works for a community energy company. The declaration was made during item 9 BCP Plan for Play.

23. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 September 2024 were approved as a correct record.

24. Public Issues

There were no public issues.

25. Recommendation from Council – Safer Accommodation Strategy

The Overview and Scrutiny specialist outlined the process for the Committee to follow in consideration of this item on membership and the Committee's remit. The Chair then outlined the motion that was passed at Full Council. The proposer of the motion spoke to the motion and his speech is attached to these minutes. The proposer of the amendment to the motion then spoke to the motion and his speech is attached to these minutes.

The Housing Health and Social Care Manager then gave a presentation to the committee.

There was a suggestion that Woman's Aid would like to be involved and should be involved in the working group meetings.
It was agreed that the working group should be small and targeted and that other relevant groups can also be targeted in the consultation process.

The Chair outlined the following 3 themes for the working group to look at, which would be expanded upon during the first session these were as follows:

1. Levels of support provided through refuge/ housing provision for those fleeing domestic abuse - looking at this under previous, current and proposed future arrangements.
2. Examine the role of refuges and what they look like in a modern society.
3. Scrutinise the engagement and consultation plan that will be undertaken in developing the Safe Accommodation and Commissioning Strategy.

The Committee discussed the membership of the group and it was suggested that it be Cross-Party and include members from all Overview and Scrutiny bodies if possible.

RESOLVED that the item details would be decided under the Work Plan item. The Chair would contact the group leaders and ask for nominations for the working group and then confirm membership in consultation with the Vice-Chair. The working group would also agree their own leader.

Voting: Unanimous

26. Nutrient Neutrality

The Director of Planning and Transport 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. The Committee was informed that the report provided an Update on Nutrient Neutrality in respect to phosphates in the River Avon Special Area of Conservation.
It was reported that Local fish farms have an agreement to stop polluting by 2030. 1 fish farm will be closing and the other would change they way they work to make this possible.

RESOLVED that the report was noted

Voting: Unanimous

27. BCP Council Plan for Play

The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Partnerships presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.
The Committee was informed that the BCP Council Plan for Play brings forward a strategy that sets out how the Council's play infrastructure should

be managed, designed and improved. The key strategy directly aligns and supports many of the Council's key ambitions. The report highlighted the detail contained in the strategy, most notably how the stock of play facilities – play equipment, cycle and BMX facilities – was in severe decline and in need of significant investment.

The Plan for Play included an Improvement Plan that set out a phased approach to investing in the equipment that was crucial to young people and their physical and mental well-being. The investment could make an immediate impact that ensures play areas stayed open and create a pathway to work with communities, local business and funders to support play needs within BCP.

Adopting the Plan for Play sets out a vision and priorities for what future provision should look like across BCP and could be applied as funds became available or decisions were made.

A presentation was given by The Strategic Lead for Greenspace and Conservation on the strategy and play equipment. Full details were not given on the play sites that would benefit as there would be an all members briefing in the future that would outline those specific sites.

It was stated that a lot of sites are in need of replacement or repair. Site audits had been done to understand needs for each area.

It was stated that play was found to be the second most important thing for residents and was important for children's development.

The Plan for Play included a 5 phased approach which would include 2 new play spaces. Just over 10 million pounds in funding was received for the 5 phased approach. The 1st phase would commence from April 2025 if approved at Cabinet.

One of the 5 priorities was Play Streets and the active travel team were part of this.

It was noted that if play equipment was removed from an area it would become/ remain green space and there may be a small amount of funding available to put in a bench or something similar.

RESOLVED that Committee reviewed the Plan for Play presentation and relevant information as an update on previous presentations and as the strategy moves towards BCP Cabinet adoption.

Voting: Unanimous

28. Heathland Mitigation funding

The Portfolio Holder for the Environment 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. The Committee was advised that Heathland Mitigation is an important policy with a long-standing planning context that enables development across BCP, where nearly all development sites are within 5Km of internationally protected heathlands.

ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
20 November 2024

Examples of Heathland Infrastructure Projects were given that use developer contributions to mitigate the impact of housing on Dorset's lowland heaths.

Mitigation funding comes from CIL and is ringfenced. The Council can improve what was currently being done by increasing SANG provision to get an overview of where green space is. There will be balancing of who currently uses SANGS and who will use them. To be classed as a SANG the land needs to be 30 hectares or more. The Council were looking at innovative ways for people to travel to SANGS to cut down on car usage.

RESOLVED that Members review the information in the report.

Voting: Unanimous

29. Work Plan

The Senior Democratic and Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'D' to these Minutes in the Minute Book. The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee was asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan.

There was a scrutiny request received regarding active travel. In response to this, as there was already an existing Council working group, the Committee agreed to refer this issue directly to the working group and asked it to provide a response back to the Committee for it to consider.

Further to the budget scrutiny workshops held, the Overview and Scrutiny Board made the following recommendations to the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee which were all agreed by the Committee to add to the work programme:

1. The committee add to its work programme an officer report relating to the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP), when available, in order that the committee can understand and comment on the direction provided to the council and the steps that the council should take upon receipt of the LAEP.
2. The committee continue to explore ways in which it can contribute to and support the council in reaching its net zero targets by 2030, to be informed by the LAEP report. This may include deep dive scrutiny into a range of areas that will have the most impact on reaching the council's net zero targets, such as the council's fleet of vehicles, housing, energy supply and the council's procurement strategy.
3. The O&S committee add to its work programme a deep dive exploring options to progress community owned renewable energy working in partnership with the council.
4. The committee note that officers plan to develop a Temporary Accommodation Strategy and that the committee add this to its work plan to provide O&S engagement in the strategy at the appropriate time.

It was agreed by the Committee to hold an enquiry day regarding community owned renewable energy working in partnership with the Council and invite external bodies to participate.

Safer Accommodation Strategy – the Chair encouraged members of the Committee to put themselves forward for the working group. It was requested that members putting themselves forward were passionate about the topic. The group will be formed and will report back at a future meeting.

The Committee were informed that the Overview and Scrutiny Board did have the Local Transport Plan on their work plan but this has been transferred to Environment and Place and will be added to the work plan.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review, update and confirm its Work Plan.

Voting: Unanimous

30. Future Meeting Dates

Date of the next meeting is Wednesday 25 February 2025.

The meeting ended at 8.32 pm

CHAIRMAN

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ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	Recommendations from Portfolio Holders, Cabinet or Council
Meeting date	26 February 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The Council's constitution provides that Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committees may consider requests for work from a range of sources, including requests from Portfolio Holders, Cabinet and Council.</p> <p>The O&S Committee is asked to consider two requests for scrutiny recently made by Council and one request for scrutiny from a Portfolio Holder, and to determine these requests in line with the associated constitution procedure rules.</p>
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that the O&S committee considers and approves or rejects the three requests for scrutiny as set out in this report.
Reason for recommendations	To comply with the decision of Council and the requirements of the council's constitution.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable for this decision
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant
Report Authors	Lindsay Marshall, Overview and Scrutiny Specialist
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Process for consideration of scrutiny requests

1. This report relates to requests for scrutiny made to the O&S committee by a Portfolio Holder, Cabinet or Council. The process for determining requests to O&S Committees from these bodies is set out by the council's constitution procedure rules as follows:

- *Where Portfolio Holders, the Cabinet or Council request that O&S Committees undertake a specified piece of work, the relevant O&S Committee shall respond to the request as soon as it is possible to do so.*
 - *The Committee will assess the value to be added by the work suggested when determining whether to exercise its powers in this respect. Where it chooses to exercise its powers in relation to the request, it will report back its findings and any recommendations to Cabinet and/or Full Council.*
 - *Where the Committee chooses not to exercise its powers in relation to the request, it will provide reasons for this to the body that made the original request.*
2. In addition, the constitution requires that *no item of work shall join the work plan of any O&S Committee without an assessment of:*
 - *detail outlining the background to the issue suggested;*
 - *the proposed method of undertaking the work;*
 - *likely timescale associated with undertaking the work; and*
 - *the anticipated outcome and value to be added by the work proposed.'*
 3. The O&S Committee should follow these processes when determining requests for scrutiny.

Requests for consideration

Van Life – Community Pact

4. **Background** - At its 10 December 2024 meeting, the Council resolved to establish a Community Pact for all vehicle dwellers, and to ask the Environment & Place O&S Committee to consider the detail of this Pact.
5. **Scrutiny process and timescale** - this was not set out by Council, although debate at Council included the suggestion that the O&S Committee could assist in this matter by gathering views from relevant stakeholders to better understand the community needs that would underpin such a Community Pact. This matter may therefore be well suited to a working group or series of commissioned evidence sessions to inform the work.
6. **Anticipated outcome and value to be added by the work proposed** - this was not clearly stated by Council and requires further consideration by the Committee. Since the decision was made by Council further proposals for the scope of the work, including the anticipated outcome and value, have been provided by Councillor Peter Cooper who moved the motion at Council. This is attached at Appendix 2.
7. The full decision of Council is set out at Appendix 1.

Climate and Nature

8. **Background** - At its 10 December 2024 meeting, the Council resolved to ask the Environment & Place O&S Committee to support work relating to climate and nature by determining a scrutiny process focused on the relevant key priorities within the Corporate Plan, with an emphasis on protecting the most vulnerable in society from the effects of climate change.
9. **Scrutiny process and timescale** – this was not set out by Council and requires further consideration by this Committee.
10. **Anticipated outcome and value to be added by the work proposed** – the proposal for scrutiny asks that there be an emphasis on protecting the most vulnerable in society from the effects of climate change. This may be considered a broad anticipated outcome of the proposed scrutiny work. In addition, debate at Council included a discussion on the value that scrutiny could bring in supporting the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment & Energy to drive forward this important area of work through a target and objective setting approach. The committee may wish to give further consideration to the value and impact that it can have on this matter when scoping key lines of enquiry for this work.
11. The full decision of Council is set out at Appendix 1.

Cliff and Coastal Erosion Management

12. **Background** - Councillor Richard Herrett, the Cabinet member for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations has requested that, further to cliff slips in the BCP area over the last year, this O&S Committee consider scrutinising Cliff and Coastal Erosion Management with a focus on the following key lines of enquiry:
 - How BCP manages its coastal and cliff erosion now and into the future
 - What are the challenges?
 - How is this area of work funded and how will it be funded in the future?
 - How is this work communicated to residents and wider public?
13. **Scrutiny process and timescale** - The proposed method of scrutiny was not set out within the request. The Portfolio Holder requests that, if agreed by committee, this work be undertaken as soon as work programme capacity allows.
14. **Anticipated outcome and value to be added by the work proposed:** to ensure that the Council is doing everything it can in relation to coastal management and managing the impact on our residents, visitors and the area as a whole.
15. The full detail of the request is set out at Appendix 3.

Options Appraisal

16. The O&S Committee may choose to agree or reject the requests made. This decision should be made in line with the requirements of the constitution as set out above, particularly in relation to the anticipated value and outcome of proposed work and the resources available to undertake work.
17. If requests are agreed, the committee should determine methods and timescales for scrutiny, taking account of other priorities already established within the committee

work programme. This may be delegated to the Chair of the Committee to consider with officers and report back.

18. If requests are rejected, the Committee should provide reasons for this to the body making the request.

Summary of financial implications

19. There are no financial implications associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Summary of legal implications

20. There are no legal implications associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Summary of human resources implications

21. There are no human resources implications associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests

Summary of sustainability impact

22. There are no sustainability impacts associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Summary of public health implications

23. There are no public health implications associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Summary of equality implications

24. There are no equality implications associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Summary of risk assessment

25. There are no risks associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Background papers

Current Environment & Place O&S Committee work programme

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Extract Minute, Council 10 December 2024.

Appendix 2 – Van Life Community Pact, scoping proposals from Councillor P Cooper.

Appendix 3 – Scrutiny request from Portfolio Holder R Herrett.

Extract Minute of Council meeting held on 10 December 2024.

Minute 53, Van Life – Supporting All Communities

'To this end, the Council resolves to: develop a Community Pact, **requesting that the Place and Environment OSC consider the detail**, for all vehicle dwellers that will:

- (a) Outline a clear plan to establish designated safe parking areas with access to basic amenities for van dwellers that will provide both permanent and temporary sites for vehicle dwellers and ensure that they have secure and legal places to stay.
- (b) Meet anticipated future requirements and facilitate access to essential services such as healthcare, sanitation, and education, ensuring that all residents can live safely and healthily.
- (c) Set up an ongoing forum for dialogue between local communities and travellers as a safe space in which discussion can take place and issues can be resolved quickly.
- (d) Promote anti-discrimination policies that protect these communities from harassment and unfair treatment, whether by private individuals or public authorities, alongside the responsibility of all concerned to abide by existing laws and expectations.'

Minute 53, Climate and Nature

'BCP Council therefore resolves to:

1. Support the Climate and Nature Bill
2. Inform residents and local press/media of this decision
3. Write to the five MPs who represent our local area to inform them that this motion has been passed and to urge those who have not yet done so to support the Climate & Nature Bill
4. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross party campaign for the Climate & Nature Bill, expressing BCP Council's support
5. Pledge to work with our communities and partners to reverse the decline in biodiversity and protect our town from climate related issues, taking this into account in all decision making
6. Request that within the next 12 months the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment & Energy commission a review of all targets and objectives relating to the climate and nature crises within the BCP Corporate Plan, to ensure a) that they are SMART and b) that all aspects of these two critical issues over which the Council has influence are fully addressed within the Plan. Objectives should include building officer capacity and expertise to apply for funding for Climate Action, including for developing a conurbation-wide climate action plan involving all major stakeholders by way of a local citizens assembly, forum or similar. This should also include urgently developing a Climate Adaptation plan for the conurbation, which should support and extend the climate adaptation work already going on around flooding and coastal erosion.

7. Request that the Environment & Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee determines a scrutiny process focused on the relevant key priorities within the Corporate Plan, with an emphasis on protecting the most vulnerable in society from the effects of climate change.'

BCP Council - Van Life Community Pact

Scoping proposals from Councillor P Cooper

Headline outcomes and added value that could be brought by the Environment & Place O&S Committee's work, helping to focus its attention and ensure alignment with the motion's desired intentions.

1. Improved Community Cohesion

- **Outcome:** Reduced tensions between van dwellers and residents by fostering understanding and cooperation.
- **Value:** Builds stronger, more inclusive communities and minimises conflict, enhancing the overall quality of life for all stakeholders.

2. Balanced Use of Public Spaces

- **Outcome:** Fair and sustainable management of public car parks and beauty spots, ensuring they remain accessible and enjoyable for all.
- **Value:** Preserves community assets, supports tourism, and maintains environmental integrity while accommodating diverse needs.

3. Enhanced Support for Van Dwellers

- **Outcome:** Access to essential services (e.g., sanitation, waste disposal, safe parking) for individuals living in vans by necessity or choice.
- **Value:** Improves the health, safety, and dignity of van dwellers, reducing social inequalities and reliance on emergency services.

4. Informed Policy Recommendations

- **Outcome:** Evidence-based policies that address the root causes of van dwelling, such as housing affordability and economic insecurity.
- **Value:** Promotes long-term solutions, reducing the prevalence of van dwelling driven by necessity and fostering a more stable housing environment.

5. Environmental Protection

- **Outcome:** Mitigation of environmental harm caused by unmanaged van dwelling (e.g., waste, pollution, or damage to natural areas).
- **Value:** Protects local ecosystems and ensures sustainability of community spaces for future generations.

6. Cost-Effective Solutions

- **Outcome:** Proactive measures, such as designated safe parking areas and partnerships with charities, to minimize the financial burden on local authorities.

- **Value:** Reduces costs associated with enforcement, cleanup, and emergency services, while providing better outcomes for all.

7. Strengthened Local Reputation

- **Outcome:** Position the council as a compassionate, forward-thinking leader in addressing housing and mobility issues.
- **Value:** Enhances public trust, attracts tourism and investment, and boosts the council's reputation for innovation and inclusivity.

8. Clear Monitoring and Accountability

- **Outcome:** A framework for monitoring the effectiveness of implemented policies and actions, ensuring accountability and adaptability.
- **Value:** Demonstrates transparency and commitment to continuous improvement, reinforcing public confidence in local governance.

By focusing on these outcomes, the committee can align its work with tangible, measurable benefits, ensuring its efforts remain impactful and relevant to all stakeholders.

Potential engagement with stakeholders:

Kushti Bok – Gypsy and Traveller Liaison

Van Dweller contacts – Poole and Bournemouth

BCP Council

Residents Voice through Community Orgs

Request for consideration of an issue by Overview and Scrutiny

Guidance on the use of this form:

This form is for use by councillors and members of the public who want to request that an item joins an Overview and Scrutiny agenda. Any issue may be suggested, provided it affects the BCP area or the inhabitants of the area in some way. Scrutiny of the issue can only be requested once in a 12 month period.

The form may also be used for the reporting of a referral item to Overview and Scrutiny by another body of the council, such as Cabinet or Council.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee receiving the request will make an assessment of the issue using the detail provided in this form and determine whether to add it to its forward plan of work.

They may take a variety of steps to progress the issue, including requesting more information on it from officers of the council, asking for a member of the overview and scrutiny committee to 'champion' the issue and report back, or establishing a small working group of councillors to look at the issue in more detail.

If the Committee does not agree to progress the issue it will set out reasons for this and they will be provided to the person submitting this form.

More information can be found at Part 4.C of the BCP Council Constitution
<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

Please complete all sections as fully as possible

1. Issue requested for scrutiny

Cliff and Coastal Erosion Management. Suggestion raised by Councillor Richard Herrett, the Cabinet member for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations.

2. Desired outcome resulting from Overview and Scrutiny engagement, including the value to be added to the Council, the BCP area or its inhabitants.

A deep dive into the following lines of enquiry:

- How BCP manages its coastal and cliff erosion now and into the future
- What are the challenges?

- How is this area of work funded and how will it be funded in the future?
- How is this work communicated to residents and wider public?

3. Background to the issue

Scrutiny suggestion raised by the Portfolio Holder following cliff slips in the BCP area over the last year, with a view to ensuring that the council is doing everything it can in relation to coastal management and managing the impact on our residents, visitors and the area as a whole.

4. Proposed method of scrutiny - (for example, a committee report or a working group investigation)

To be determined by the O&S committee

5. Key dates and anticipated timescale for the scrutiny work

As soon as work programme capacity allows.

6. Notes/ additional guidance

Note from Overview and Scrutiny Specialist - this suggestion is raised by the Portfolio Holder to a scrutiny committee in line with the Council Constitution (O&S Procedure Rule 4.2)

Document last reviewed – January 2022

Contact – democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Responses of the Cabinet on reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Board	
Meeting date	26 February 2025
Status	Briefing Note
Summary	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Board made recommendations to Cabinet at its meeting on 18 November 2024 in relation to the <u>O&S Budget Working Groups – findings and recommendations report</u>. These recommendations were taken to the Cabinet meeting held on 10 December 2024. In accordance with the Constitution the Portfolio Holder has provided a response regarding the action which Cabinet intends to take in response to these recommendations. The recommendations and responses are outlined below.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the responses from Cabinet.</p>

1. **That, to support work around the Temporary Accommodation Efficiency Review Themes, Officers be asked to explore the benefits of using co-production tools to answer difficult policy questions, such as the approach to be taken to releasing empty homes. The working group suggested that one such tool may be a Citizens Assembly or Citizens Survey.**

The approach to tackling empty homes is a key focus for our refreshed Housing Strategy Delivery Plan, which we will bring to Cabinet in March. This carries an action to develop an Empty Homes Plan by March 2026 and co-production opportunities will be considered as part of this work.

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ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	Climate Action Annual Report 2023/24
Meeting date	26 February 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This report presents 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.</p> <p>2023-24 progress against the main commitments is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>The report also introduces new emissions dashboards to make progress transparent and presents draft Roadmaps that identify key decisions for consideration if targets are to be achieved.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cabinet notes the Climate Progress Report 2023-24, and the introduction of emissions dashboards b) Cabinet notes the draft Roadmap of climate actions to take the Council to its 2030 target, which will be approved within 12 months c) Cabinet notes 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.
Reason for recommendations	<p>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</p>

	be presented to Cabinet in July 2025.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Andy Hadley, Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy
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Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Recommendation

Background

1. On 16th July 2019, BCP Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency and committed to becoming carbon neutral across Council operations by 2030 and to work with partners to set a target date for when the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole region can be made carbon neutral, ahead of the UK target of 2050. An annual report is required to update on progress towards achieving these targets. This is provided at Appendix 1, with an Action Plan update at Appendix 2.

Progress Report 2023-24 Summary

2. The Council has continued its progress to meet the commitment for a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 in reducing scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions by 8.7% since 2019 and the Council remains committed to making further reductions. Disappointingly, the reduction is slightly less than last year's figure of 9.9%, but this reflects that although some sectors (e.g. gas use) are progressing well, there are unavoidable increases in others (e.g. electricity use) where some of the increase is due to an increased reliance on this form of energy for charging electric vehicles, new traffic signals and a small number of heat pumps in buildings. Additionally, data is becoming more readily available, which allows calculation of increasingly accurate emission totals, as in the case of the leased-out buildings sector of the Council's Scope 3.
3. The commitment for a carbon neutral area before 2045 (revised from 2050 due to the Council's adoption of the UK100 Pledge) has seen further steady progress made. Latest data shows a 12% reduction since 2019, improving on the previous year's 8.3%. As before, whilst the trend is in the desired direction, the pace needs to be accelerated if the Council and wider area are going to meet their ambitions. The main gains area-wide have been a 13.7% drop in emissions from gas and electricity use in homes. This will be due to a range of interventions and pressures including improving energy efficiency (helped by national and local grant schemes, such as the Home Upgrade Grant and Healthy Homes Dorset),

continued decarbonisation of the national electricity grid, increased energy-efficiency of household items, the move away from gas central heating boilers to heat pumps and other alternatives, greater awareness of the effects of climate change and the rise in energy costs forcing households to limit their energy use.

4. Our ability to track discreet projects within BCP through to these figures is in some cases limited by available localised data or national tracking. Sharing good practice, and encouraging collaboration is important in making progress.
5. The recommendations in the last annual report agreed by Cabinet have been actioned as follows:
 - The Council joined the UK100 initiative, and in doing so adopted the Net Zero by 2045 pledge as our area-wide target
 - The Annual Report document at Appendix 1 contains interim reduction targets for elements of the Council owned estate, specifically the priority emission sources of Council buildings and energy supply. In addition, the Local Area Energy Plan for the wider Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area, to be published in 2025, will include similarly detailed targets for energy use in homes and road transport reduction
 - A £1m reserve has been established for energy improvements in Council-owned buildings, emissions-reduction activities and ecological projects, and funding from other sources has been successfully obtained for low-carbon projects
 - A Carbon Neutral Steering Group has been established and is bringing services together to actively find solutions to carbon reduction challenges across the corporate estate
 - The Council renewed work with external partners towards the area-wide commitment to Net Zero with a stakeholder meeting in Summer 2024, and activity will continue in 2025
 - Interactive web-based dashboards have been created to replace the traditional Annual Report format. These allow instant access to Council and area-wide emissions data, highlight targets and progress towards the internal and area-wide goals
 - Funded carbon literacy training for officers, members and the business community has commenced, which will empower decision making to meet carbon neutral targets.
6. As a result of the introduction of the emission dashboards, the Climate Action Annual Report document presented at Appendix 1 is greatly reduced in size from previous reports and serves largely as an introduction to the new emissions dashboards. The interactive dashboards will be publicly available on the Council website to allow emissions data to be accessible and downloadable, and the Council and area-wide progress to be visible at all times.
7. The Annual Report introduces new 'Roadmaps to 2030', which set out key choices the Council can make between now and 2030 to reduce emissions. These are presented in draft and serve to illustrate how individual decisions could shape progress. All technologies included are currently available and emission reductions are based on methodologies used by recognised bodies, such as APSE, or Council data. Some decisions are already in the process of being brought before Cabinet, while others must be further investigated to assess operational and financial suitability.

Options Appraisal

8. Option 1: Cabinet notes the Climate Progress Report, emissions dashboards and agrees the draft Roadmaps for approval within 12 months, in line with the Environment & Place Overview & Scrutiny Panel resolution of 10 December 2024, to take forward the Council's climate activity.
9. Option 2: Cabinet rejects the Climate Progress Report and the proposals, which will impact the momentum of the Climate Programme and risk the Council not meeting its 2030 carbon neutral target.

Summary of financial implications

10. There will be financial implications to the individual proposals contained within this report and appendix. These will be identified as projects are developed and considered on a case-by-case basis in the decision-making process. Early engagement with the Council's Financial Services will be sought. The Council's 2025/26 Budget Report states: 'The budget continues to protect the staffing resources associated with climate change and ecological emergency activity. In addition, as at the 31 March 2024 £1.239m was available in an earmarked reserve to support project activity.'
11. An Environment & Place Overview & Scrutiny Budget Working Group in the Autumn of 2024 set out that based on current understanding that £64m may be required to meet the council's net zero targets by 2030 although a proportion of this would be delivered through strategic partnerships and securing external funding. The ongoing challenge to the council will be bridging the gap between the resources needed and the £1.239m available in the earmarked reserve.
12. In addition to the environmental and social impacts of climate change, there is also a risk to BCP Council of significant financial consequences if it fails to meet its declared climate targets. Council has pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030 as an organisation and lead the area to become net zero carbon ahead of the 2045 UK100 target. Based on forecasts from the London School of Economics the council would have to incur costs of over £3m per annum to purchase the necessary offsetting carbon credits to meet the carbon neutral pledge in 2030. Clearly this cost will act as an incentive to the council to prioritise the activity and investment necessary to meet this priority.'

Summary of legal implications

13. Legal implications in delivery of any projects referenced within this report or appendix will be considered on a case-by-case basis and early engagement with the Council's Legal Team will be sought.

Summary of human resources implications

14. The human resources implications of any projects developed as a result of this report or appendix will be considered on a case-by-case basis when individual projects are assessed for approval.

Summary of sustainability impact

15. To establish impact on sustainability and other Corporate Plan objectives, Decision Impact Assessment ref. 702 has been completed and the report

proposals have achieved a low carbon footprint, as they support the climate agenda.

Summary of public health implications

16. Climate change will result in increasing heatwaves, extreme weather events, floods, disease, and increased cancer risk. The measures proposed to reduce climate change will help to mitigate against these dangers and additional benefits from those actions can also have a direct positive health effect (e.g., increased fitness from walking or cycling and better air quality from reducing car journeys).

Summary of equality implications

17. An EIA conversation/screening document has been completed. It concludes that the Annual Report itself has no negative equalities implications but potentially some positive outcomes, for example addressing health inequalities or protecting older people from extreme temperatures. Resulting actions may require individual assessments to be carried out before commencement.

Summary of risk assessment

18. We must further our and public knowledge of Climate Vulnerability and Risk of the possible effects of climate change on our area. Failing to achieve the Climate and Ecological Emergency declaration commitments will contribute to an increasingly hostile global and local environment. Not achieving targets will result in the Council failing to meet its commitments under the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration and therefore not helping global efforts to keep climate warming below 1.5°C to avoid further environmental damage, population displacement, biodiversity loss and risk to life.
19. The Council could also face reputational damage from negative publicity (locally, nationally, and internationally). However, if we act in a timely manner, many of the actions to tackle climate change will contribute to social, economic, and environmental benefits, reducing the likelihood of actual and perceived risks. Risk assessments will be carried out for individual Climate Action projects as required, on a case-by-case basis.

Background papers

BCP Council Emissions Dashboards – these are publicly accessible here: [BCP Emissions Dashboard](https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/environment/sustainability-and-carbon-reduction/our-climate-actions-and-achievements-so-far) and on the Council website at: <https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/environment/sustainability-and-carbon-reduction/our-climate-actions-and-achievements-so-far>

Appendices

Appendix 1: Climate Action Annual Report 2023/24

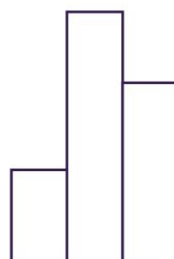
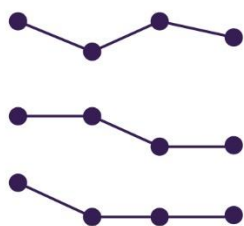
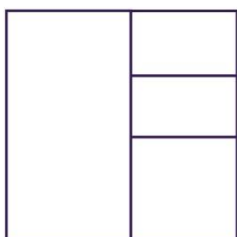
Appendix 2: Progress Update on Interim Climate Action Plan 2023-25

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Climate Action

Annual Report 2023-24



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Executive Summary

BCP Council's leadership is characterised by ambitious governance and direction. The Council's published documents, including its Corporate Strategy and Climate Action Annual Reports, illustrate a consistent "golden thread" from the declaration of the climate and ecological emergency through to concrete actions. The Leader has appointed a Portfolio Holder with expertise in renewable energy and climate adaptation to champion the agenda.

This report is the fifth annual update to Cabinet on progress towards commitments made in the BCP Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration, made in 2019.

Progress made during 2023-24 against the main commitments is:

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

This report looks back on progress made to date and looks forward at the new Corporate Strategy ambitions and a draft Roadmap of climate actions that the Council will need to adopt in order to deliver a carbon neutral Council by 2030. 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 considered by Cabinet later in 2025.

The recommendations in the last annual report agreed by Cabinet have been actioned, including joining the UK100 initiative, adopting the Net Zero by 2045 pledge as our area-wide target and creating interactive web-based dashboards to replace the traditional Annual Report format. These allow instant access to Council and area-wide emissions data, highlight targets and progress towards the corporate and area-wide goals.

As a result of the introduction of the emission dashboards, this more concise Climate Action Annual Report document has a page count 75% smaller than last year's report. The interactive dashboards will be publicly available on the Council website to allow emissions data to be accessible and downloadable, and the Council and area-wide progress to be visible as soon as it is updated.

Introduction

This is my second Climate Action Annual Report as Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, and it marks the change I asked for a year ago. Then I spoke of the urgency to decarbonise, and that more rapid progress was needed. The priorities I set for the following year included identifying clear actions to accelerate progress, setting interim milestones and preparing funding proposals, as well as creating dashboards to make our progress transparent, enabling people to find out in detail how we are performing in a far more dynamic way. I am pleased that this report introduces all of those improvements and hope that it places us in the strongest possible position to make the choices required to achieve significant inroads towards our targets.

As well as these activities, and efforts to revitalise the work to make the Council more effective, decarbonisation projects have continued to bring about emission reductions on the Council estate and wider area. However, the financial pressures on the Council mean that any funding decision must be scrutinised to ensure it supports Council priorities and offers value for money. This report identifies measures that the team have identified could be taken to significantly reduce corporate emissions, but these must be developed to ensure they are financially sound, or with other compelling benefits. Technologies included are proven and available now but require sound business cases if they are to receive funding.

In the intervening year, we have done much to push this agenda forward, including securing funding for a study of geothermal energy opportunities, showing that for the right scheme outside investment can be found. Investigations are underway to identify a direct renewable energy supply for the future, and the creation of a Local Area Energy Plan will have far-reaching effects on the BCP area energy system that we all rely on. The Council's performance in reducing emissions from buildings and vehicles is also a Key Performance Indicator in our new Corporate Strategy, meaning climate action is monitored at the highest level. Part of our progress and journey to net zero is taking people with us and I'm pleased to report that we secured funding during 2024 to take officers and Councillors through Carbon Literacy training. This and other actions are illustrated on the following pages.

We cannot afford to lose focus because of international tensions, and particularly the contrast between the unprecedented wildfires in California, and the new regime in the White House. The local impacts of weather change are significant and building pace.

I look forward to the next year as one where this Council makes the key decisions set out in the roadmaps presented here, and shows real progress on climate action, to move us swiftly to a decarbonised future.



Councillor Andy Hadley
Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy

Emissions reduction initiatives 2023 – 25

2030 target: Council operations



100 new council eco-homes built with triple glazing, solar panels, and ground source heat pumps



Decarbonisation of 2Riversmeet Leisure Centre heating including £157,000 Sport England grant for solar panels



Council operational buildings made **energy efficient** with £2m Govt grant



Over 213,000 users have hopped on a Beryl bike, e-bike or e-scooter



BCP heathland benefits from £750,000 Govt grant to Dorset Peat Partnership to restore degraded sites



E-cargo bikes supported with Govt funding to reduce vehicle pollution



Signed up to the **UK100 Network** for ambitious climate leaders



Carbon Literacy Training for Councillors and staff launched with funds from the SW Net Zero Hub



Winton Recreation Ground **Sustainable Urban Drainage scheme** reduces flooding pressure downstream

Emissions reduction initiatives 2023 – 25

2045 target: Working with partners



Coastal strategy aims to protect 1,600 properties from erosion risk and 2,200 properties from coastal flood risk



Bus Service Improvement Plan increases services: one route has seen 134% passenger increase



BCP Local Area Energy Plan gives local stakeholders a say in mapping out the area's future energy system



Transforming Cities Fund grants install bike racks, shelters and showers in local businesses



Healthy Homes Dorset **insulation scheme** saves £658k on household bills & 620 tonnes CO₂ each year



4 more schools benefit from **cleaner air** after 'School Streets' traffic restriction scheme is made permanent



Port of Poole Decarbonisation Plan funded by Innovate UK to reduce emissions and share good practice with others

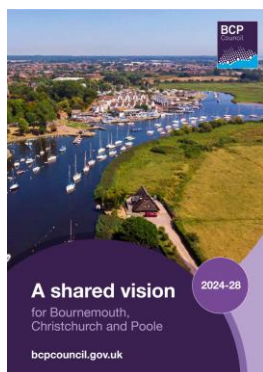


30 local stakeholders met to discuss the area's climate goals and ideas for **partnership working**



Council constructs new **pedestrian and cycling** bridges at Glenferness Avenue, Bournemouth

A new Corporate Strategy



In 2024, BCP Council produced its new Corporate Strategy, which included a renewed commitment at the highest level to tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

Titled **‘A shared vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 2024-2028’**, the new Corporate Strategy has the overarching vision for our area to be a place: **‘Where people, nature, coast and towns come together in sustainable, safe and healthy communities.’**

Developing this further, the top level priority for ‘Our place and environment’ is for – **‘Vibrant places, where people and nature flourish, with a thriving economy in a healthy, natural environment.’**

This leads on to the Council’s ambition when it comes to climate change, which is that: **‘Climate change is tackled through sustainable policies and practice’**

The Focus Areas where activity will be concentrated are to:

- Deliver a carbon neutral council by 2030, area wide by 2045
- De-centralise energy networks by 2028, locating energy production closer to energy demand in our homes and buildings
- Increase the amount of renewable electricity generated across the BCP area
- Mitigate effects of climate change on key sites
- Ensure the BCP area has sufficient fit-for purpose waste infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces
- Tackle the effects of climate change with our partners

And the measures of progress that we will be using are to:

- Reduce the tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions from our vehicles and buildings
- Increase the total number of sustainable passenger trips in the BCP area per year
- Increase the number of publicly available Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points
- Increase the percentage of waste diverted from landfill

Setting out in this way how our climate commitments sit at the centre of the organisation and where we intend to direct resources and measure progress makes our plans and performance transparent to all. As a direct result, this Annual Report document introduces new developments in the form of our web-based Emissions Dashboard and draft roadmaps that further display our ambitions to play our part in dealing with the climate crisis.

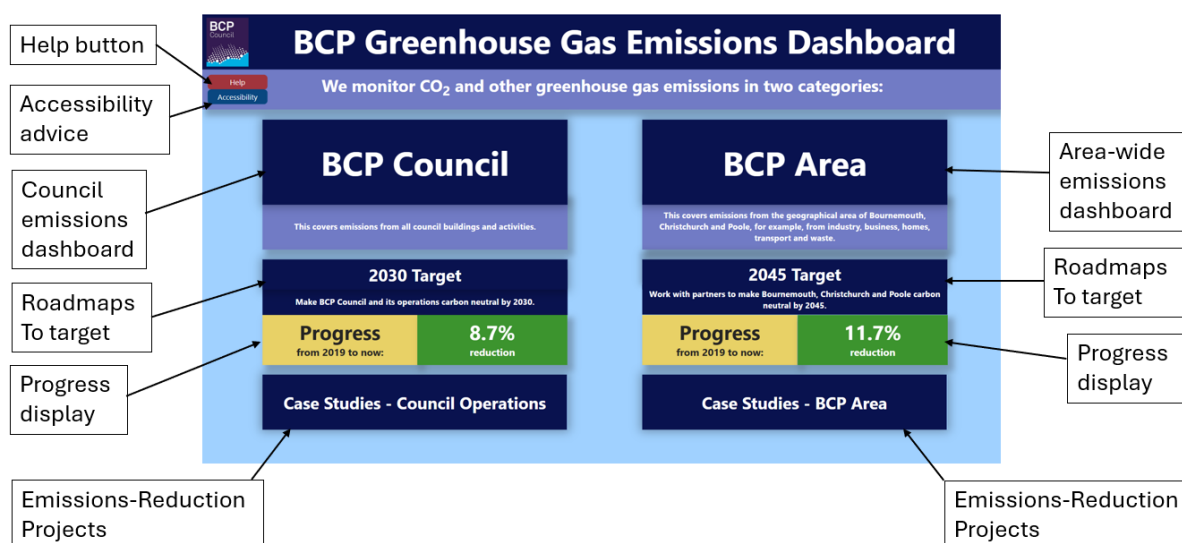
A New Way of Reporting

The Council's new operating model is driving a data-led approach to reporting, and we have responded to this by developing an in-house climate dashboard. As a result, this Climate Action Annual report for 2023/24 represents a major change in the way the Council reports its progress on the Climate and Ecological Emergency targets. It is much more concise than previously, containing only selected key information, as last year we committed to making the full breadth of emissions data available in a more accessible way.

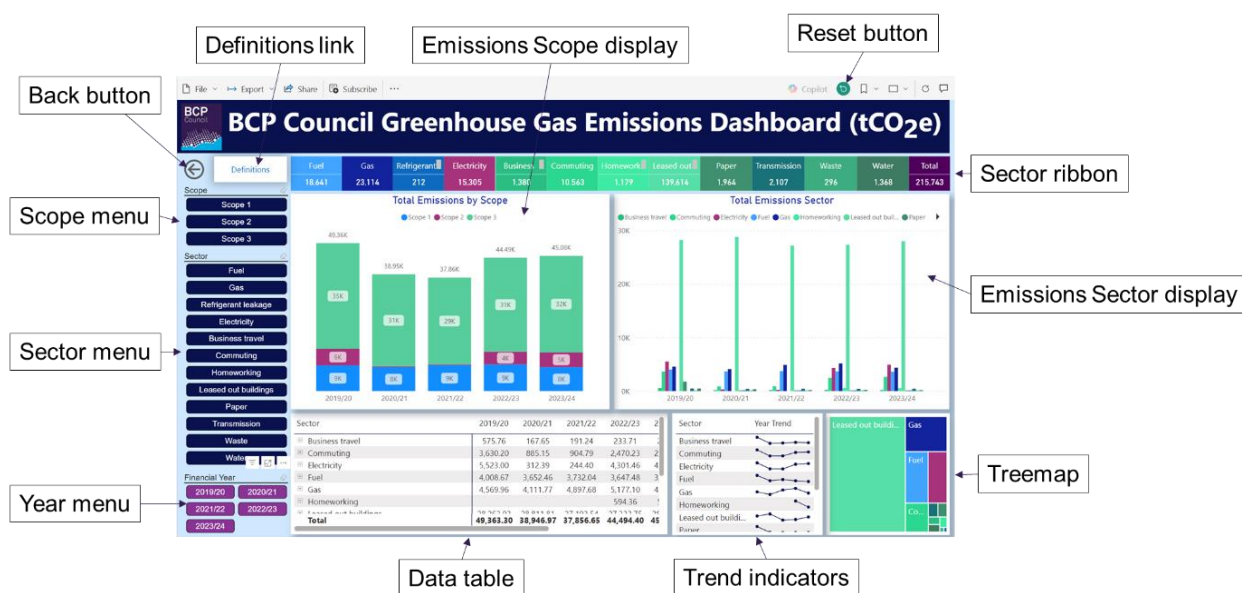
Constructed to make finding information easier and to allow data to be displayed in various ways and downloaded, the BCP Council Emissions Dashboards have been launched along with this report. Providing more information than traditional Annual Reports, the dashboards can be accessed at any time and contain data from 2019 to present (or as recent as possible), as well as further information on Council climate action. The advantage of the dashboards, which have been constructed in Power BI, is that they are not set in time, as printed reports are, but can be constantly refined and updated to improve the user experience, and this is our intention moving forward.

Emissions Dashboards: Key Features

Home Page – the Emissions Dashboard Home Page is split into two sections, one taking users to the BCP Council emissions dashboard, with information on our activities towards our target of becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030. The other side takes users to emissions data for the wider BCP Area and progress towards the area-wide target of working to be carbon neutral by 2045. This area-wide target was revised last year, following the Council's declaration to the UK100's 2045 net zero target. The Dashboard Home Page shown below also displays the % progress figures towards targets so users can see immediately how well we are doing at a glance, as well as access to selected Case Studies and featured activities.



BCP Council Emissions Dashboard – selecting this option takes the user to the dashboard displaying all the emissions data relating to BCP Council operations. The main features are shown below.



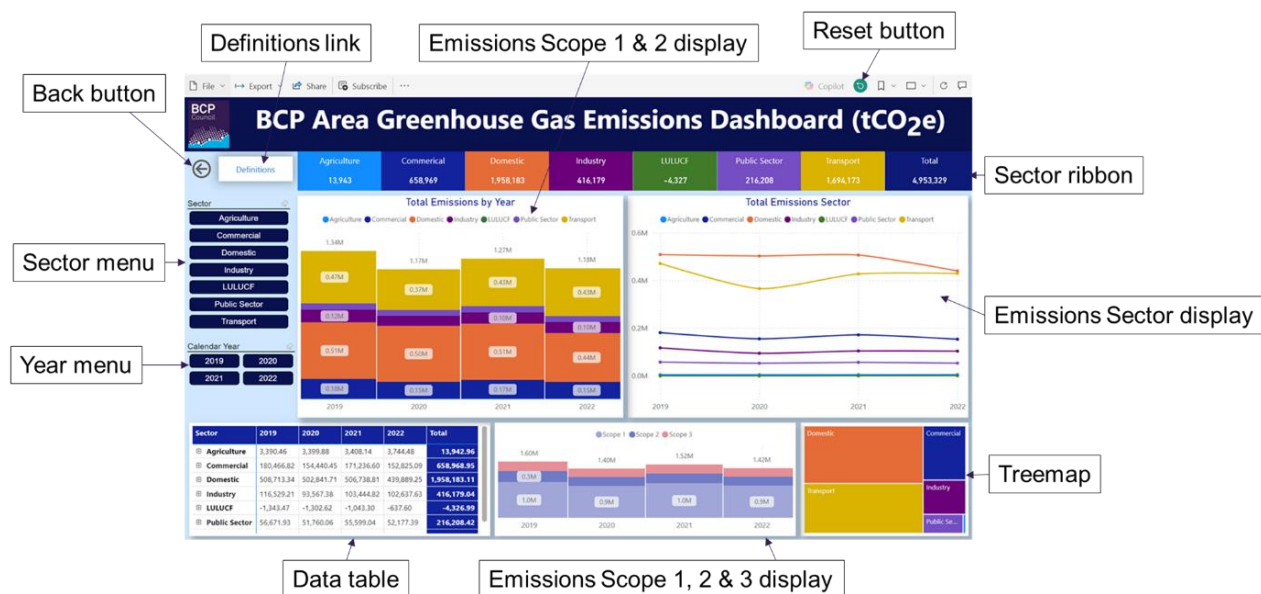
Main features are:

- Emissions Scope display – shows total annual emissions split into scopes 1, 2 and 3
- Emissions Sector display – shows total annual emissions split into sectors
- Scope menu – select to display any combination of emissions split into scope(s)
- Sector menu – select to display any combination of emissions split into sector(s)
- Year menu – select the year(s) for which you want to view emissions data
- Sector ribbon – current display of emission data for the sectors selected
- Data table – current data selected in table form
- Trend indicators – trend lines for at-a-glance view of direction of travel
- Treemap – visual display of current data selected shows relative size(s) of sectors
- Definitions link – information on scopes and sectors
- Back button – returns user to previous page
- Reset button – cancels selections and resets dashboard to original view

Any combination of scope, sector and year data can be selected, and all areas of the dashboard will change to only feature this selection. The reset button can be used to return the dashboard to its original complete display. Graphs and data tables can be downloaded by users.

Data displayed on the dashboard is collated and calculated by BCP Council using recognised environmental reporting methodology. As additional information becomes available it will be included in future versions of the dashboard.

Area-wide Emissions Dashboard – selecting this option takes the user to the dashboard displaying all the emissions data relating to the BCP area. The main features are shown below.



Main features are:

- Emissions Scope 1 & 2 display – shows annual scope 1 & 2 emissions by sector
- Emissions Sector display – shows annual trends of scope 1 & 2 emissions by sector
- Sector menu – select to display any combination of emissions split into sector(s)
- Year menu – select the year(s) for which you want to view emissions data
- Sector ribbon – current display of emission data for the sectors selected
- Data table – current data selected in table form
- Emissions Scope 1, 2 & 3 display – shows annual scope 1 & 2 emissions with estimated scope 3
- Treemap – visual display of current data selected shows relative size(s) of sectors
- Definitions link – information on scopes and sectors
- Back button – returns user to previous page
- Reset button – cancels selections and resets dashboard to original view

This Area-wide Emissions dashboard works in exactly the same way as the companion BCP Council Emissions Dashboard but displays slightly different data. The data displayed is provided by UK Government and consists mainly of scope 1 & 2 emissions split into sectors without a full scope 3 due to the complexity of calculation. We have chosen to display the information made publicly available, however for completeness, adding a display that contains an estimated scope 3 based on previous work by the SCATTER project. These Emissions Dashboards serve to replace the detail in previous Annual Reports by displaying all previous data and more, including information on projects and initiatives to reduce emissions, and are publicly accessible here: [BCP Emissions Dashboard](https://www.bpcouncil.gov.uk/environment/sustainability-and-carbon-reduction/our-climate-actions-and-achievements-so-far) and on the Council website at: <https://www.bpcouncil.gov.uk/environment/sustainability-and-carbon-reduction/our-climate-actions-and-achievements-so-far>

The remainder of this report provides a concise update on the Council's progress towards its Climate and Ecological Emergency targets. Data used is available on the Emissions Dashboards.

Performance Overview: Delivering on the recommendations

The recommendations in the last annual report agreed by Cabinet on 6 March 2024 have been actioned as follows:

- The Council joined the UK100 initiative, and in doing so adopted the Net Zero by 2045 pledge as our area-wide target
- This Annual Report document contains Roadmaps with interim reduction targets for elements of the Council owned estate, specifically the priority emission sources of Council buildings and energy supply. In addition, the Local Area Energy Plan for the wider Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area, to be published in 2025, will include similarly detailed targets for energy use in homes and road transport reduction
- A £1m reserve has been established for energy improvements in Council-owned buildings, emissions-reduction activities and ecological projects, and funding from other sources has been successfully obtained for low-carbon projects
- A Carbon Neutral Steering Group has been established and is bringing services together to actively find solutions to carbon reduction challenges across the corporate estate
- The Council renewed work with external partners towards the area-wide commitment to Net Zero with a stakeholder meeting in Summer 2024, and activity will continue in 2025
- Interactive web-based dashboards have been created to replace the traditional Annual Report format
- Funded carbon literacy training for officers, members and the business community has commenced, which will empower decision making to meet carbon neutral targets.

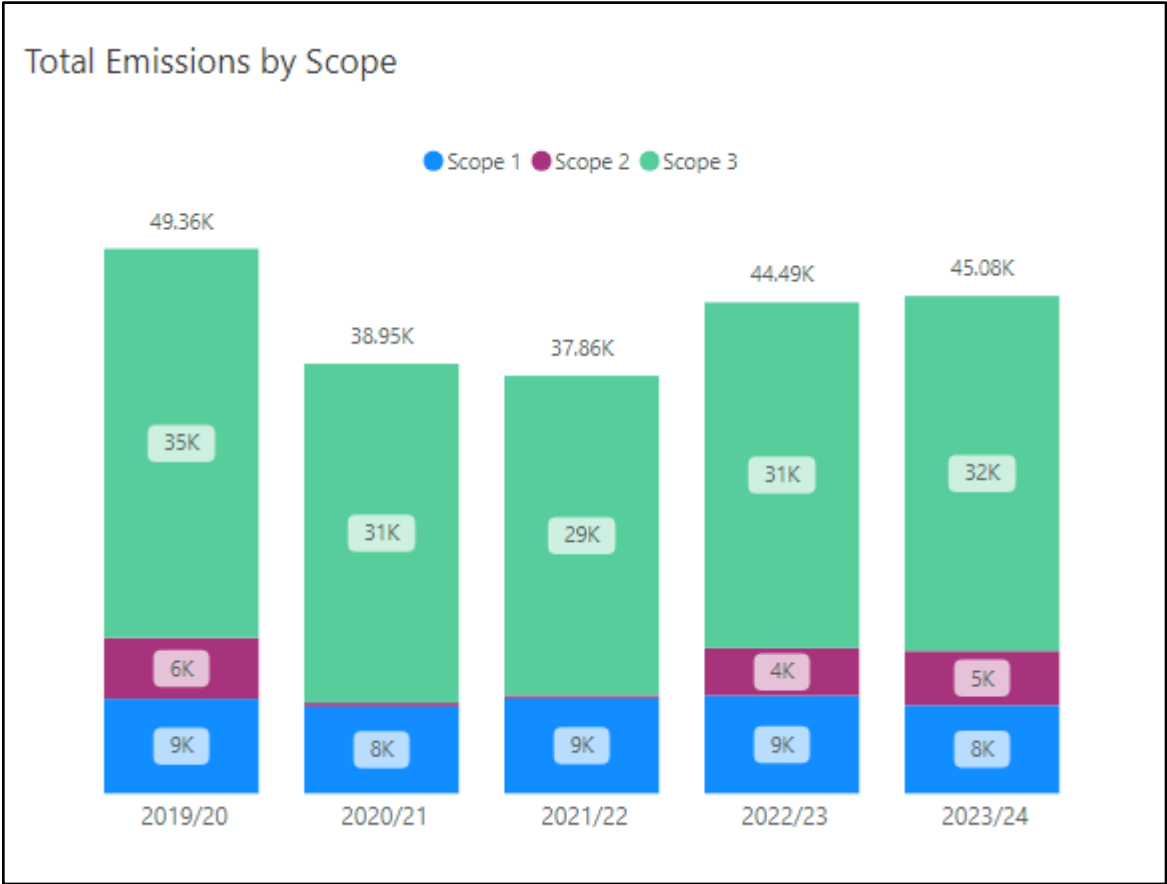
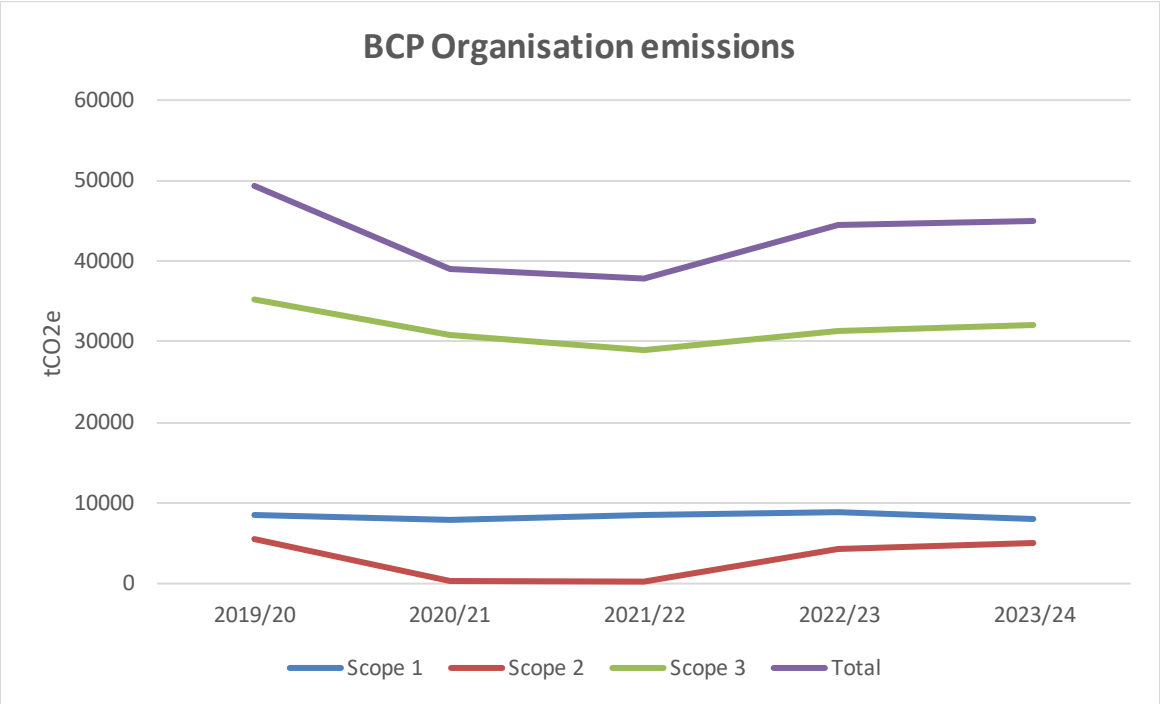
Performance Overview: 2030 target

Make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030.

What is overall progress for this target?

The overall trend for the Council's emissions as an organisation continues on a downwards trajectory. In 2023/24, total recorded emissions had **decreased by 8.7%** since the baseline year of 2019. However, emissions rose by 1.4% from the previous year. This is illustrated in the graphs below. The Council has continued to pursue the commitment for a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 in reducing scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions by 8.7% since 2019. However, the reduction is slightly less than last year's figure of 9.9% reflects that although some sectors (e.g. gas use) are progressing well, there are unavoidable increases in others (e.g. electricity use) where some of the increase is due to an increased reliance on this form of energy for charging electric vehicles, new traffic signals and a small number of heat pumps in buildings. Additionally, data is becoming more readily available, which allows calculation

of increasingly accurate emission totals, as in the case of the leased-out buildings sector of the Council's Scope 3. A more detailed examination of these sectors follows.



[Open in Power BI](#)

Emissions Dashboard

Data as of 22/01/25, 05:02

How have emissions reduced per sector, and which is the largest emitter?

Sector	Scope 1, 2 or 3	Trend from baseline (2019/20)* (% change)	% share of total emissions in 2023/24 (largest highlighted)
Natural gas usage	1	4.7% decrease	9.7
Refrigerant leakage	1	78.7% decrease	0.1
Vehicle fuel	1	10.2% decrease	8.0
Electricity consumption	2	10.9% decrease	10.9
Water	3	61.7% decrease	0.4
Paper	3	98.5% decrease	0.1
Energy lost in transmission	3	9.1% decrease	0.9
Waste	3	37.5% decrease	0.1
Business travel	3	63.3% decrease	0.5
Staff commuting	3	26.4% decrease	5.9
Home working	3	1.6% decrease	1.3
Leased out property	3	0.7% decrease	62.1
	TOTAL	8.7% decrease	

*Or most recent year with data.

Where do we have the most influence on emissions?

The council has the most influence and control over its Scope 1 and 2 emissions, namely the following three sectors:

- Gas use
- Vehicle fuel use
- Electricity use



If leased out buildings are not considered, then each of these sectors contributes about a quarter of total emissions each.

Leased out buildings contributed 62% of total emissions in 2023/24. Council housing forms 94% of this category and the council is limited in the impact it can have in reducing emissions from this.



Why have emissions changed within each sector in the last year?

Below the reasons for increases and decreases in emissions per sector are explained.



Gas

2023/24 data	4,357 tCO ₂ e 9.7 % of total emissions 25.5% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)		
Change from previous year 2022/3	 15.8% decrease	Change from baseline year 2019	 4.7% decrease
Reason	Reduction in the number of council assets – 5 disposed of during 2023/24, two of which were industrial areas with more than one building. Poole Crematorium heat pumps came online in September 2023 thereby replacing all gas use for space and water heating. COVID advice of keeping windows open in winter (and thereby losing heat) no longer in action.		
Current work	Plans for Leisure Centres to switch from Gas to Solar power and Heat-pumps for space and pool heating. Two Riversmeet work is nearing completion, Rossmore and Dolphin Leisure Centres plans underway.		



Refrigerant

2023/24 data	29 tCO ₂ e 0.1% of total emissions 0.2% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)		
Change from previous year 2022/3	 25.5% decrease	Change from baseline year 2019	 78.7% decrease
Reason	Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions are a result of leaks in refrigerant due to unpredictable faults so no trend can be allocated. All air conditioning systems are subject to 6 or 12-month routine inspections as required to guard against the likelihood of leakage.		
Current work	Annual inspections continue.		



Vehicle fuel

2023/24 data	3,601 tCO2e 8.0% of total emissions 21.1% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)										
Change from previous year	<div> 1.2% decrease</div>	Change from baseline year	<div> 10.2% decrease</div>								
Reason	<div>Increase in number of electric vehicles. An additional 24 EVs purchased in 2023/24.</div> <table><tr><th>Financial year</th><th>No. of electric vehicles purchased</th></tr><tr><td>2021/22</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>2022/23</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>2023/24</td><td>24</td></tr></table>			Financial year	No. of electric vehicles purchased	2021/22	9	2022/23	21	2023/24	24
Financial year	No. of electric vehicles purchased										
2021/22	9										
2022/23	21										
2023/24	24										
Current work	Sustainable Fleet Replacement Strategy Phase 2 to be approved – will add 101 EVs. Additional charger capacity at Hatchpond depot. Review of charging at remote sites.										



Electricity

2023/24 data	4,923 tCO ₂ e 10.9% of total emissions 28.8% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)		
Change from previous year	 14.5% increase	Change from baseline year	 10.9% decrease
Reason	Streetlighting unmetered electricity increased very slightly from 2022/23 to 2023/24 by 0.4% due to inventory update to include new traffic signals. Poole crematorium heat pumps came online in September 2023. The pumping element of the heat pumps uses electricity. 24 new EVs were purchased in 2023/24 adding electricity consumption.		
Current work	Procurement of a fully renewable energy agreement, which should see a significant decrease in this measure.		



Energy lost in transmission

2023/24 data	426 tCO ₂ e 0.9% of total emissions 2.5% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)		
Change from previous year	 8.3% increase	Change from baseline year	 9.1% decrease
Reason	This is the energy loss that occurs in getting the electricity from the power plant to the point of use. These emissions increase and decrease in line with electricity usage.		
Current work	Figure is based on national supply. Renewable energy procurement, and real-world calculation could see this significantly decreased.		

Water



2023/24 data	175 tCO ₂ e 0.4% of total emissions 1.0% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)		
Change from previous year	 21% decrease	Change from baseline year	 61.7% decrease
Reason	Water consumption has decreased by 13%.		
Current work	Utilities Manager now oversees corporate water contract, with a view to bringing about further improvements and access data to better monitor usage.		

Paper



2023/24 data	27 tCO ₂ e 0.1% of total emissions 0.2% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)		
Change from previous year	 6.8% decrease	Change from baseline year	 98.5% decrease
Reason	Paper use continues to decrease as IT systems increasingly remove the need for printing.		

	New Multi Function Devices (MFDs) record a 60% rate for duplex printing which is above sector average. MFDs also save paper by deleting print jobs that have not been released after a set time period.
Current work	Work with our MFD supplier to obtain energy and emissions data annually.

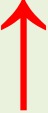

Waste



2023/24 data	63 tCO ₂ e 0.1% of total emissions 0.4% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)		
Change from previous year	 24.4% increase	Change from baseline year	 37.5% decrease
Reason	The government emission factor for landfill is very high and increased by a further 11%, whilst the other waste treatment emission factors remained constant, so a small diversion of waste to landfill can have a large impact. Our residual waste contractors sent slightly more waste to landfill than normal due to logistical/contractual reasons.		
Current work	Maintenance and capacity issues downstream hopefully now resolved. In rebalancing rounds, and renegotiating Waste Contracts, vehicle movements handling waste are anticipated to be reduced.		

Business travel



2023/24 data	212 tCO ₂ e 0.5% of total emissions 1.2% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)		
Change from previous year	 9.5% decrease	Change from baseline year	 63.3% decrease
Reason	Use of IT for meetings so reduced need to travel.		
Current work	Facilitate/encourage further use of IT for meetings.		

Staff commuting

2023/24 data	2,672 tCO2e 5.9% of total emissions 15.7% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)																																
Change from previous year	 8.2% increase	Change from baseline year	 26.4% decrease																														
Reason	The estimated number of employees travelling by different modes of transport has not changed since 2022/23 as GHG emissions are based on the 2022 staff travel survey for this year. The estimated GHG emissions have, however, increased due to an increase in the average national commute which is used in the calculations. Next year's GHG emissions will make calculations based on the 2024 Staff Travel Survey; an improved survey that asks about the distance travelled by staff rather than relying on national statistics.																																
	<table><tr><th>Mode of travel</th><th>2022 survey data (% of respondents)</th><th>Estimated no. employees in total workforce</th></tr><tr><td>Drive car/van/BCP vehicle alone</td><td>54.50</td><td>2,199</td></tr><tr><td>Work from home</td><td>25.18</td><td>1,016</td></tr><tr><td>Bike</td><td>6.14</td><td>248</td></tr><tr><td>Walk</td><td>6.00</td><td>242</td></tr><tr><td>Bus</td><td>4.09</td><td>165</td></tr><tr><td>Car share</td><td>2.00</td><td>81</td></tr><tr><td>Motorbike</td><td>1.00</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>E bike/E scooter</td><td>1.08</td><td>44</td></tr><tr><td>Invalid survey result</td><td>0.09</td><td>4</td></tr></table>			Mode of travel	2022 survey data (% of respondents)	Estimated no. employees in total workforce	Drive car/van/BCP vehicle alone	54.50	2,199	Work from home	25.18	1,016	Bike	6.14	248	Walk	6.00	242	Bus	4.09	165	Car share	2.00	81	Motorbike	1.00	40	E bike/E scooter	1.08	44	Invalid survey result	0.09	4
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	E bike/E scooter	1.08	44																														
	Invalid survey result	0.09	4																														
Current work	The accommodation and business transformation programmes underlying the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) will make the council more environmentally friendly through a reduced estate and different ways of working, including the continued ability for staff to work effectively from home.																																

2023/24 data	585 tCO ₂ e 1.3% of total emissions 3.4% of total emissions (excluding leased out buildings)		
Change from previous year	 1.6% decrease	Change from baseline year	 1.6% decrease
Reason	The decrease continues as the government emission factor for this metric has been decreased for 2024.		
Current work	The accommodation and business transformation programmes underlying the MTFP will make the council more environmentally friendly through a reduced estate and different ways of working, including the continued ability for staff to work effectively from home.		

Leased out property

2023/24 data	28,011 tCO2e 62.1% of total emissions												
Change from previous year	<div>2.6% increase</div>	Change from baseline year	<div>0.7% decrease</div>										
Reason	<p>The increase in estimated GHG emissions is not due to any material change in the housing stock but the result of a data cleansing exercise carried out in 2024 to improve accuracy.</p> <table><tr><th>Sector</th><th>2023/24 emissions contribution</th></tr><tr><td>Bournemouth Housing</td><td>52%</td></tr><tr><td>Poole Housing</td><td>34%</td></tr><tr><td>Leisure</td><td>10%</td></tr><tr><td>Other</td><td>4%</td></tr></table>			Sector	2023/24 emissions contribution	Bournemouth Housing	52%	Poole Housing	34%	Leisure	10%	Other	4%
Sector	2023/24 emissions contribution												
Bournemouth Housing	52%												
Poole Housing	34%												
Leisure	10%												
Other	4%												
Current Work	EPC Assessment and ratings are being refreshed and reviewed.												

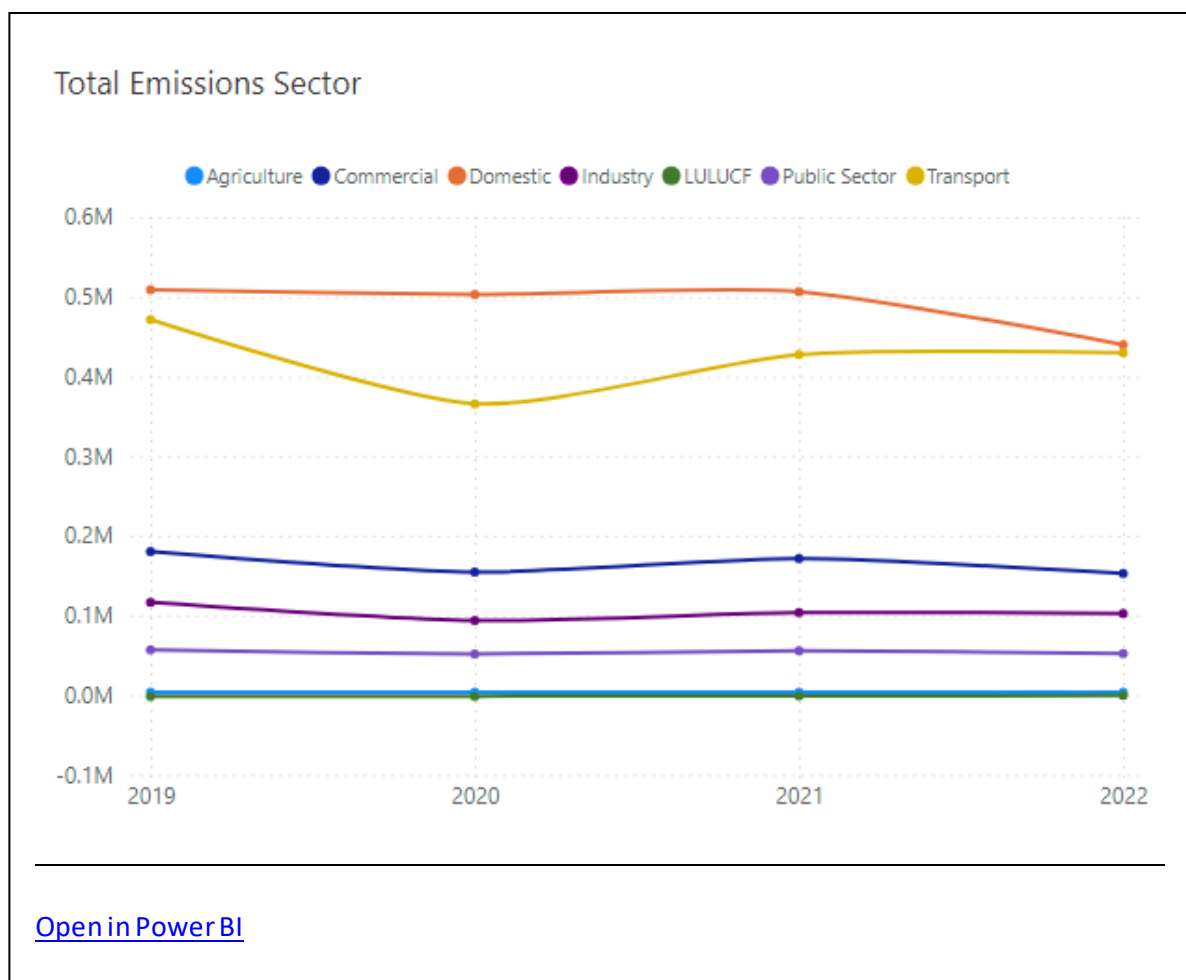
Performance overview: 2045 target

Work with partners to make Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole carbon neutral by 2045.

The overall trend of greenhouse gas emissions for the BCP area remains on a decreasing trajectory. Total recorded emissions have **reduced by 12%** since the baseline year of 2019.

Data is the most recent available from the UK Government but features a two-year delay. Despite this time lag there is now sufficient data available to illustrate area-wide progress from 2019 to 2022. UK Government data consists mainly of scope 1 & 2 emissions split into sectors without a full scope 3 due to the complexity of calculation. We have chosen to display the information made publicly available, however for completeness our Emissions Dashboard contains an estimated scope 3 based on previous work by the SCATTER project.

Emissions since baseline (tCO₂e) estimated Scope 3 not included



The commitment for a carbon neutral area before 2045 (revised from 2050 due to the Council's adoption of the UK100 Pledge) sees the trend continue in the desired direction. However, the pace needs to be accelerated if the Council and wider area are going to meet their ambitions. The main gains area-wide have been a 13.7% drop in emissions from gas and electricity use in homes. This will be due to a range of interventions and pressures including improving energy efficiency (helped by national and local grant schemes, such as the Home Upgrade Grant and Healthy Homes Dorset), continued decarbonisation of the national electricity grid, increased energy-efficiency of household items, the move away from gas central heating boilers to heat pumps and other alternatives, greater awareness of the effects of climate change and the rise in energy costs forcing households to limit their energy use. The increasing trend in Transport emissions from motor vehicles has levelled off, a contributing factor is likely to be the improved walking and cycling provision made possible by the Transforming Cities Fund and increased availability of Beryl bikes and e-scooters, which are proving very popular.

Roadmaps to 2030 – Scope 1 and 2

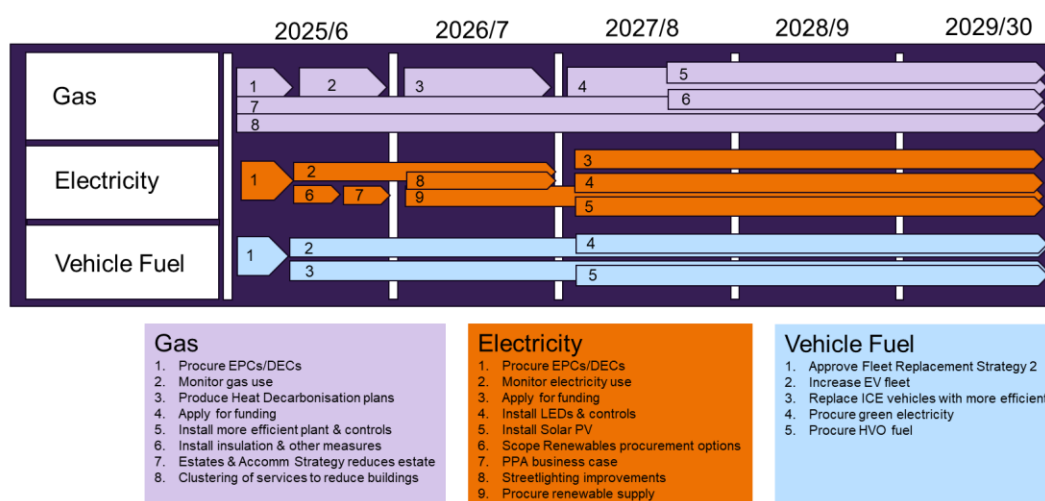
The last Annual Report acknowledged that a clear path to our targets was needed in order to show the steps required to reach them. In response, we have produced Roadmaps incorporating interim reduction targets for elements of the Council owned estate. These will guide us in seeing clearly the areas that are most significant and where actions within our control can make a real difference towards our 2030 target. To this end, a roadmap has been produced for the Council's Scope 1 & 2 emissions sources, since these are all significant in terms of size and their improvement is completely within our control. This includes the gas, electricity and vehicle fuel used by Council operations. To further embed Scope 1 & 2 emissions within Council performance monitoring, this has been made a Key Performance Indicator in the new Corporate Strategy and will be regularly reviewed.

A roadmap has also been produced for the Council's Scope 3 emissions sources. This includes our largest emissions source, but one over which we do not have complete control - leased-out buildings, as well as much smaller sources contributing as little as 0.1% to our total emissions.

To address our 2045 area-wide target, the Local Area Energy Plan for the wider Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area (to be published in 2025) will include similarly detailed roadmaps, actions and targets.

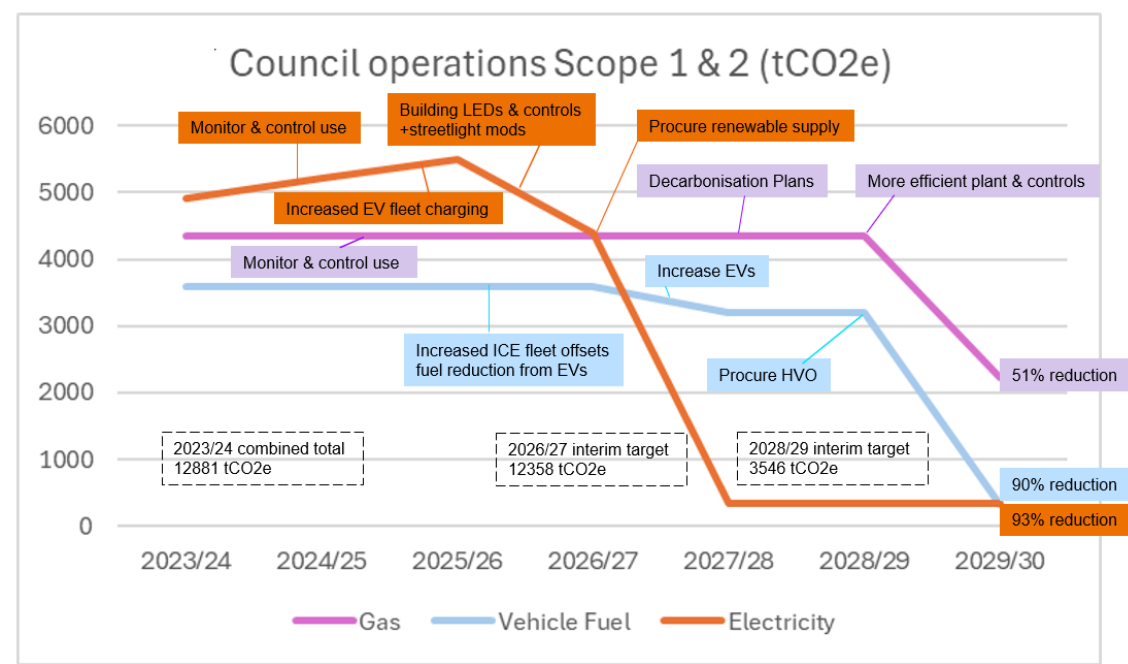
The graphic below illustrates the sequence of actions that could be undertaken to reduce the Council's Scope 1 & 2 emissions. Action 1 in each sequence is underway at the time of writing. However, the roadmaps are presented in draft and serve to illustrate how individual decisions could shape progress. All technologies included are currently available and emission reductions are based on methodologies used by recognised bodies, such as APSE, or Council data. The Council's Carbon Neutral Steering Group is in the process of discussing these draft roadmaps and if Cabinet approves this report, will continue in earnest to take forward these proposals to assess their operational and financial suitability.

Roadmap to 2030 (Scope 1 & 2)



How the interventions will reduce Scope 1 & 2 emissions

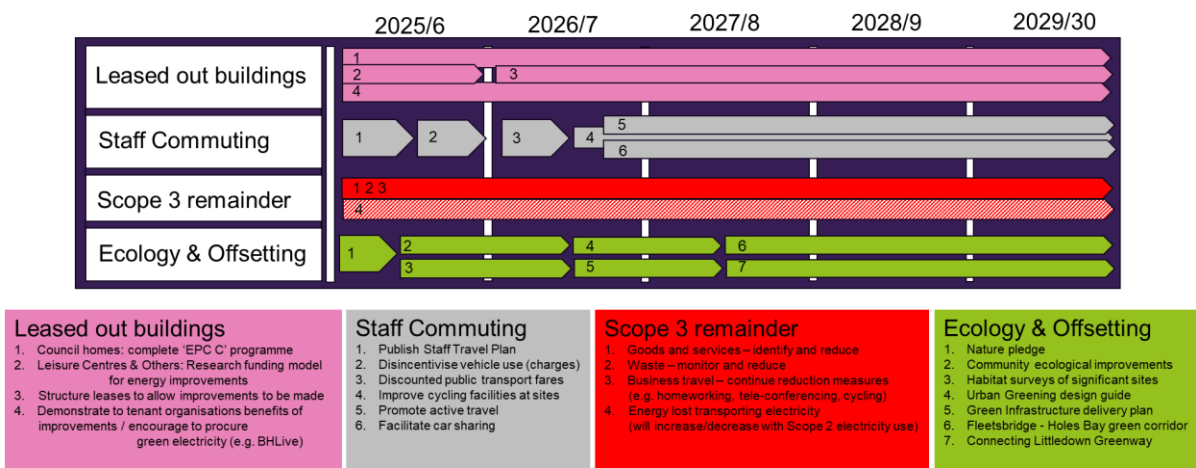
Roadmap to 2030 (Scope 1 & 2)



Roadmaps to 2030 – Scope 3

As outlined elsewhere in this report, scope 3 emissions are less straightforward to reduce. However one Scope 3 source is the largest of the Council's sources that can currently be estimated – leased-out buildings – so must be addressed. The vast majority of the Council's leased-out buildings are Council homes and there is a programme of works to improve the energy efficiency of these and ensure they reach EPC C rating. This involves installation of insulation and modern heating measures. However choosing energy suppliers and the day-to-day use of energy is controlled by tenants.

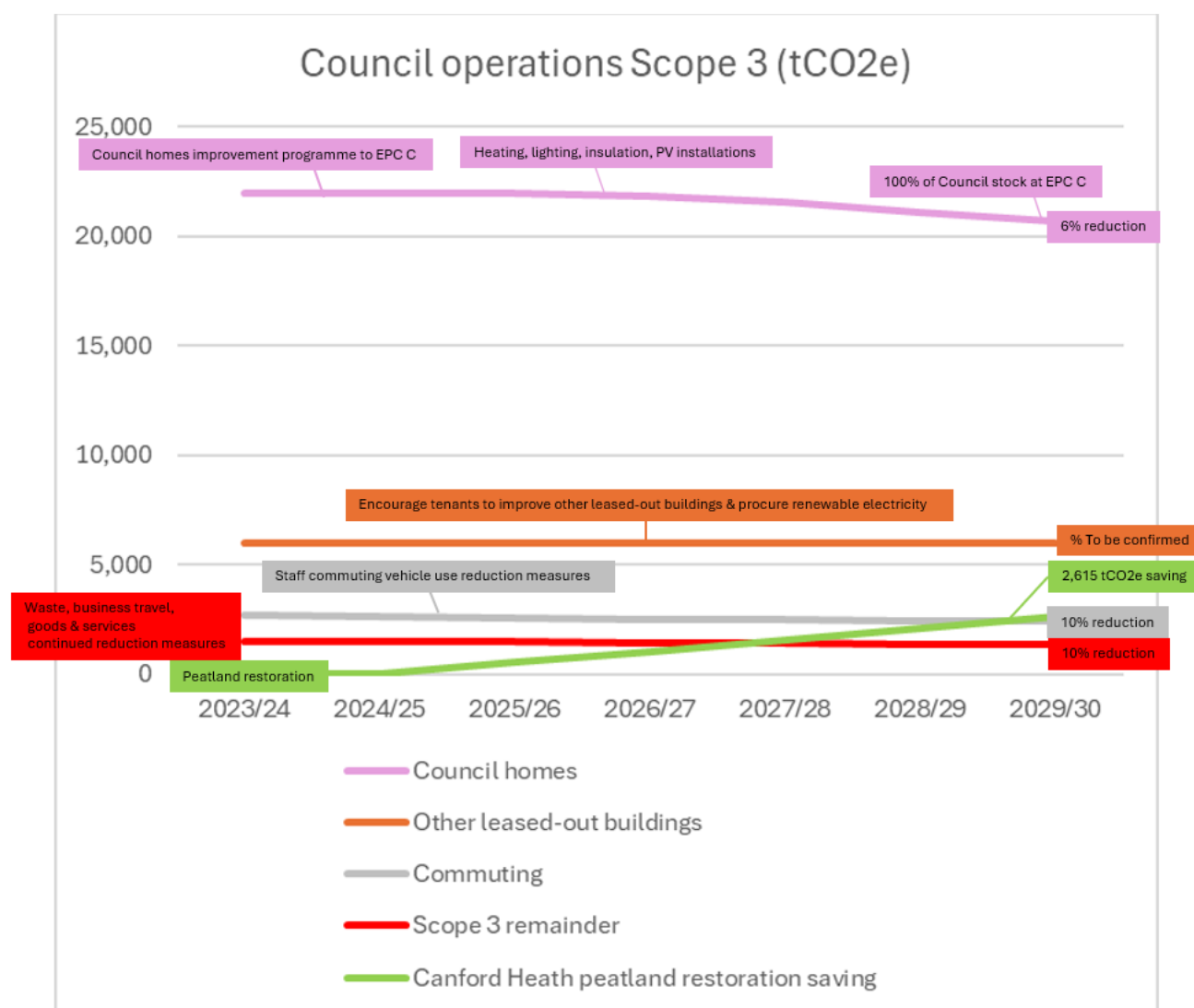
Roadmap to 2030 (Scope 3)



Other tenants of Council leased-out buildings, such as those operating leisure centres, have demonstrated that they are willing to take action to reduce emissions. In the case of BHLive, they have chosen to procure zero emissions electricity to cut their, and in turn the Council's emissions. It is also acknowledged that a certain amount of emissions will remain after all steps have been taken and will have to be offset. This is where both aspects of the Climate and Ecological Emergency combine to best effect as increasing biodiversity and the resilience of nature can in turn reduce and store carbon. In recognition of this, Ecology and Offsetting is included in the roadmap graphic above, along with a list of proposed projects. To illustrate the benefits of improving ecosystems, one current project is illustrated in the graph below. Peatland restoration on Canford Heath is projected to have stored 2,615 tCO₂e by 2050. Further work to estimate the emissions removal potential of future projects needs to be undertaken.

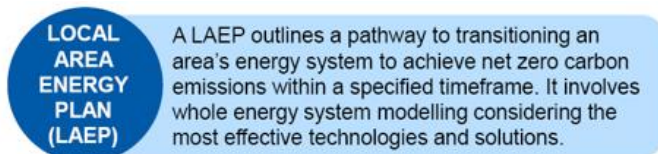
How the interventions will reduce Scope 3 emissions

Roadmap to 2030 (Scope 3)



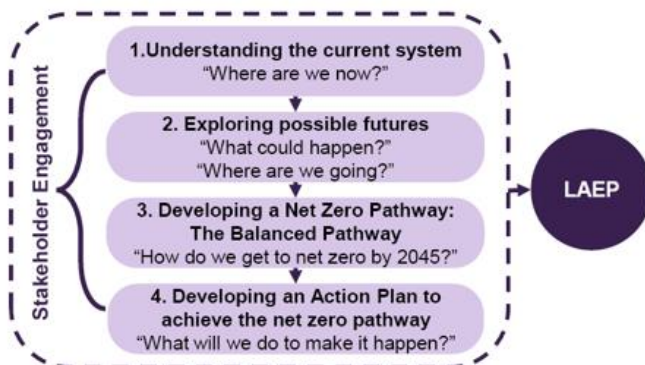
Roadmaps to 2045

Roadmaps similar to those above, but to achieve the area-wide target of a carbon neutral area by 2045, are in preparation as part of our Local Area Energy Plan project and will be presented to Cabinet later in 2025. The latter stage of the process leading to the roadmap creation is outlined below.



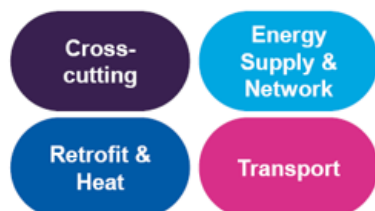
The LAEP Process

We began by assessing the baseline system, and subsequently developed and tested two exploratory scenarios modelled to net zero by 2050. Following this, we co-developed and refined the chosen pathway – the Balanced Pathway – which is designed to enable net zero by 2045. We are now progressing the action planning stage.



Action Planning

The action planning process began with the co-development of a long-list of actions through three action development workshops, attended by a range of BCP Council representatives and external stakeholders from across the area. These actions were then prioritised and refined based on feedback from a range of key BCP Council teams, resulting in a short list of the 15 highest priority actions across four key sectors:



Each action will undergo detailed development, including defining the delivery timeframes, implementation steps, co-benefits and KPIs. These details will be reviewed and refined during the three upcoming Focus Groups, enabling in-depth discussion with key stakeholders.

Following this, we will develop the Action Roadmap and write-up the actions into the final LAEP reports. The Action Plan write-up will provide a comprehensive overview of the 15 priority actions to achieve the milestone targets set out in the Net Zero Pathway.

Strategy Development: Key achievements and future milestones

2023-2024

BCP Council draft Local Plan published setting out the ambitious strategy for development across the region until 2039 – public consultation launched

Flood and Coastal Erosion Management Strategy published covering Hengistbury Head to Hurst Spit, encompassing Christchurch Harbour

Public consultation on the draft BCP Council Urban Forest Strategy, created to maximise the benefits trees and woodlands provide to our environment and communities

Electric vehicle charging survey helps inform and create a reliable and accessible charging infrastructure for residents, businesses and visitors

2024-2025

New BCP Council Corporate Strategy published – renewing climate change commitments

Public consultation on a new flood defence scheme from Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill to reduce significant tidal flood risk to properties

BCP Council submits Local Plan to Secretary of State for independent examination

BCP Council Cabinet approves introducing food waste collections for Poole in 2026

BCP Council joins the UK100 Network of local authorities acting to tackle climate change

BCP Council Trees and Woodland Strategy adopted

Biodiversity Net Gain requirement is included in the forthcoming Local Plan

2025-2026

Adopt the BCP Council Sustainable Fleet Replacement Strategy Phase 2

Publish a final BCP Council Climate Action Strategy

Publish the BCP Council Local Area Energy Plan

Have a new 15-year BCP Council Local Plan in place

Publish plan for the management and maintenance of BCP Council housing stock

Adopt the Local Transport Plan

Delivery of the BCP Council Public Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy

Publish the BCP Council Urban Greening Design Guide

Publish the pan-Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Seek BCP Council Cabinet approval to set up habit banking vehicle



Progress Update on Interim Climate Action Plan 2023-25

Progress Update on Interim Climate Action Plan 2023-25

Introduction

In the intervening period between the Council's 2019 Action Plan (reported in the previous Annual Report) and the decision in 2024 to refocus activity with a new Corporate Strategy and commission a Local Area Energy Plan, Cabinet approved an interim Action Plan to maintain positive momentum towards our climate commitments. This has been active during the last two years and the resulting update on the outcome of activities is presented below.

1. People & Communities

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Launch refreshed internal Climate Action Network model across directorates.	Existing group maintained, but relaunch on hold awaiting staff resource	Amber	Sustainability
Continue to build on all-staff and councillor training on the council's climate action plan and carbon literacy	Funded carbon literacy training for officers, members and the business community has commenced	Green	Sustainability
Develop and implement an internal communications plan to keep staff updated on climate action work, including useful advice and guidance on how to incorporate climate action into projects and programmes	On hold awaiting staff resource in March 2025	Paused	Sustainability
Incorporate climate action opportunities within council volunteering scheme for staff	Volunteering opportunities currently offered in parks and countryside locations and the Council's 'new to You' reuse shop.	Green	Environment
Develop & implement an external communications plan which shares updates on the climate action work undertaken by the council, and advice and guidance to residents, businesses and the voluntary and community sector on reducing carbon emissions.	On hold awaiting staff resource in March 2025	Paused	Sustainability
Identify areas in our community that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change to ensure they are	The Flood & Coastal Team has helped develop flooding and coastal change policies included in the draft BCP local plan.	Amber	FCERM

supported and protected to promote wider community wellbeing	Planned future work includes community education and awareness regarding flooding and coastal erosion.		
Expand the Schools Environment Award - 7 environmental focused topics with activities to complete to attain a bronze, silver or gold award	Since 2023, 22 schools have participated in the School's Environment Award, with 3 network meetings held each year.	Green	Environment
Inclusion of 'Drought' to the BCP Council Emergency Plan	Drought is included within the BCP Council severe weather emergency response plan	Green	Emergency Planning and Resilience
Work with partner agencies to help residents and businesses adapt and plan for climate risks	Joint working with public sector organisations on adaptation is in early stages with meetings held	Green	Sustainability
Produce an Event Sustainability Policy to support transition to making event management carbon neutral integrating learning already in place with Arts by the Sea.	An Events Sustainability Policy has been developed to promote sustainable initiatives to event organisers. This is reviewed annually and will be accessible to organisers on a new BCP events webpage as a part of a wider events framework by Spring/Summer.	Green	Commercial Operations

2. Business & Economy

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Deliver Climate Essentials allowing 250 businesses within BCP area to sign up and set up carbon pledges and work towards net zero.	Contract ongoing with free access to platform and support. 33 decarbonisation plans created in 23/24 and 24/25 (via UKSPF). 13 decarbonisation plans created in first campaign in 22/23.	Amber	Growth & Infrastructure
Identifying effective ways for all business, irrespective of size and sector, to improve resource efficiency and minimise carbon use, including logistics, production and processes.	Carbon Literacy accreditation gained, and free training (and certification) offered to BCP SMEs. Free access and support with Climate Essentials platform and 20 low carbon grants issued to implement measures to reduce carbon impact (in line with their decarbonisation plan)	Green	Growth & Infrastructure
Unlock new business opportunities in the clean growth economy.	General business support and grant schemes for BCP based	Green	Growth & Infrastructure

	businesses - including those in the clean growth economy.		
Use UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) to achieve sustainability interventions, including community measures to reduce the cost of living, improve energy efficiency, combat fuel poverty and climate change; supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy; green skills courses ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero ambitions.	<p>The Communities team (through UKSPF) sourced Ridgewater Energy to provide domestic energy efficiency advice and grants to implement these measures. To date, 953 household have been supported to take up measures.</p> <p>Green Skills delivered by BPC as part of the UKSPF programme.</p>	Green	Growth & Infrastructure

3. Digital & Smart Places

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Lead on the acceleration of the deployment of affordable gigabit fibre for effective videoconferencing/ working from home	An Expression of Interest of co-funding investment was received in January 2024 to deploy gigabit fibre in Boscombe to support Towns Fund Digital Connectivity programme. Awaiting proof of funds from investor and legal contract to be signed to enable investment.	Amber	Smart Places
Seek funding for wide-scale roll-out of remote monitoring technologies	Towns Fund Digital Connectivity Programme has delivered pilot projects for remote monitoring water quality in Boscombe. A remote monitoring air quality project is due to launch in April in Boscombe. If successful, business cases for scale up will be developed with service units.	Green	Smart Places
Linking local businesses more effectively into the supply chain to help to reduce emissions associated with deliveries	Other projects within Towns Fund have had to be prioritised to support delivery of committed outcomes.	Paused	Smart Places
Explore how enabling digital technology can support the roll-out of a local energy network	Meetings with the Sustainability team to explore how digital technology can support solar PV on car parks in Boscombe as part of the Towns Fund. No projects initiated as yet due to funding.	Paused	Smart Places

4. Transport & Travel

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Continue investment in adopted Sustainable fleet replacement strategy and develop strategy refresh for 2025	Sustainable Fleet Replacement Strategy Report to be presented to Cabinet in February 2025, proposing a further increase in the Council EV fleet.	Green	Environment
Maximise agile working opportunities to reduce avoidable commuting	The accommodation and business transformation programmes underlying the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan will cut Council emissions through a reduced estate and different ways of working, including the continued ability for staff to work effectively from home.	Green	Growth & Infrastructure
Integrate decarbonisation of the transport system into Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4)	The LTP4 strategy is currently in development. The draft strategy includes a core policy aimed at reducing transport carbon emissions on a pathway compatible with national, regional and local budgets and net zero commitments. To quantify the decarbonisation associated with the policies contained within the LTP4 all schemes included for development and delivery within a supporting implementation plan will undergo a quantified carbon reduction assessment (QCR4).	Green	Growth & Infrastructure
Continue to bid for, and deliver on, Active Travel England funding to deliver improved public infrastructure for walking, wheeling and cycling.	<p>Total Active Travel England funding awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023 - £3,923,500 2024 - £763,971 <p>(Note we have consistently secured all of, or in excess of, our indicative allocations. Total funding available varies from year to year)</p>	Green	Growth & Infrastructure
Work towards transition to Zero carbon highway infrastructure construction	A Carbon Assessment toolkit has been procured to calculate a carbon baseline for highway improvement and maintenance works. This can be updated annually to track changes in emissions and effects of changes in material selections. A training	Green	Growth & Infrastructure

	programme is in place to develop an internal modelling capability.		
Commence development of future adaptation plans to manage extreme weather events and long-term strains on network	Spring 2024 public consultation on the Local Transport Plan 4 established that: 'People are concerned about environmental impacts on transport such as flooding, and do not want these threats to worsen. Interventions must aim to reduce these threats or increase resilience of local transport systems.' This will be addressed in the Plan.	Amber	Growth & Infrastructure
Deliver £8.9m of Government funding secured to support the delivery of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) with the local bus network continuing to be developed under an Enhanced Partnership between the Council and bus operators.	Bus patronage increased to 24.85 million in 2024 calendar year compared to 22.96 in 2023. Updated BSIP published June 2024. Enhanced Partnership progressing well with many measures and facilities delivered and others at advanced planning stage. Further funding secured for 2025/6 to allow continuation of many existing initiatives with new proposals proposed.	Green	Growth & Infrastructure
Work with the Council's highways partner, WSP, who have globally committed to reducing the embodied carbon of their designs and advice by 50% by 2030.	WSP has made progress towards their commitment to halve carbon in their designs and advice in the decade up to 2030, alongside maintaining accreditation with the new PAS2080:2023 carbon management standard. Through the BCP engineering services contract, WSP has provided carbon reduction advice on two Transforming Cities Fund schemes, C2-3 Glenferness and S5-234 Ringwood Road. Baseline carbon assessments were completed for both schemes and workshops with the chosen contractors were held to identify carbon reduction opportunities. In the case of C2-3 Glenferness, the advised reduction opportunities had the potential to achieve up to a 22% reduction.	Green	Growth & Infrastructure
Monitor the 'School Streets' pilot scheme operating at four schools, closing the road directly outside to help reduce road danger and improve air quality locally and	Number of schools benefitting from permanent School Streets – 7 Number of schools currently trialling School Streets – 3	Green	Growth & Infrastructure

expand School Streets programme to include further locations			
Pending a successful bid for government Local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) funding implement phase 3 of the EV Charging Programme on-street facilities	The Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) funding of 1.47 million has been delayed due to OZEV moving away from the original broader specification to a tighter lower charging on-street remit only. Funding is due to be available from the end of January 2025, we will then go out to tender, then finally move into the delivery phase.	Amber	Growth & Infrastructure
Continue to promote sustainable transport offers both to employees, public and business	Staff travel survey carried out in 2022 and 2024 In 2022 – 71% of respondents regularly drove a car to work, and 26% regularly travelled actively. In 2024 – 72% of respondents regularly drove a car to work, and 29% regularly travelled actively.	Amber	Growth & Infrastructure

5. Water Resources & Flooding

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Commence work to support BCP Area is adapted and 'Climate Safe' in line with risk profiles	The Flood & Coastal Erosion Management (FCERM) team has helped develop flooding and coastal change policies included in the draft BCP local plan.	Green	FCERM
Develop a local climate change risk assessment and adaptation plan	On hold awaiting staff resource in March 2025	Paused	Sustainability
Develop a new BCP-wide cliff management strategy	The work to develop a new BCP Cliff Management Strategy is ongoing. However, a consequence of the work completed to date is that we are developing a comprehensive understanding of the risks cliff instability along the BCP sea cliffs and chine's pose, and the challenges of how they can be managed in future, which will require significant investment by BCP. To support the work of addressing issues being identified in an integrated way, a new Cliff Management Working Group of senior officers has been	Amber	FCERM

	established to improve co-ordination across the various teams within BCP that have a role in this.		
Develop a new BCP-wide Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to consider all sources of flooding and how they are addressed	FCERM have focused efforts on Strategic Flood Risk Assessments to support the Local Plan. Recruitment of in-house modelling expertise has allowed this to progress, and the new BCP wide flood model will provide the foundation for renewing our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). Legacy LFRMS's remain in force and scoping work for Surface Water Management Plans are being progressed, with a bid for funding already submitted.	Green	FCERM
Create Strategies and Action Plans to engage all sectors in adaptation work	The Christchurch Bay & Harbour FCERM Strategy has been approved and adopted by BCP Council in October 2024. It is in the process of being approved by the Environment Agency. Once that occurs, we will have an adaptive plan for how we manage coastal flood and erosion risks in this area over the next 100 years. A key action in the immediate term will be developing a funding strategy to identify how the significant funding contributions needed to implement the preferred pathway options can be achieved.	Green	FCERM

6. Energy Generation & Use

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Development of the Local Climate Partnership (LCP). Stakeholders coming together to work on a net zero vision for the BCP and Dorset area.	Partnership established – first meeting 11 July 2024	Green	Sustainability
Production of a Local Area Energy Plan to support the development of the Local Plan	LAEP commissioned – draft publication March 2025	Green	Sustainability

Develop a strategic energy partnership with a leading energy industry to help achieve 2030 and 2050 targets to provide significant acceleration to achieve net-zero targets	Awaiting publication of the LAEP	Paused	Sustainability
Assess 8 large Council sites identified where solar PV could be installed for self-consumption	Assessments found 3 viable sites. Outline Business Cases prepared for consideration	Amber	Sustainability
Develop and agree a science-based emission reduction pathway for the BCP area as part of the LEAP	LAEP commissioned – draft publication March 2025	Green	Sustainability
Explore options for a Geothermal energy network to provide a cost-effective, carbon-free district heating infrastructure for 35+ years	Funding for study obtained from South West Net Zero Hub – to commence in 2025	Green	Sustainability
Commence development a local offsetting scheme for area-wide emissions remaining at 2050	Scheme to be discussed by newly formed LCP	Amber	Sustainability

7. Buildings & Homes

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Develop a renewable energy and energy efficiency capital works programme for council buildings and estates Including opportunities to retrofit energy efficiency, water efficiency, and renewable energy generation across the estate on completion of the Asset Review	Asset Management Plan in preparation. Carbon Neutral Steering Group developing a renewable energy and energy efficiency capital works programme beginning with the top 25 gas and electricity using sites.	Amber	Estates/ Sustainability/ Facilities Management
Ensure we realise opportunities to catalyse low carbon developments through the Local Plan and Big Plan	The new draft BCP Local Plan includes the objective: 'Achieve carbon neutrality ahead of 2050 and take action to combat and adapt to the climate and ecological emergency' which is developed in 'Strategic Policy S1: Addressing the climate and ecological emergency'	Green	Planning
Work with partners to maximise funding opportunities for retrofitting homes	Work with Dorset Council, SW Net Zero Hub and other partners has leveraged funding from the Home Upgrade Grant, ECO, Shared	Green	Climate

	Prosperity Fund and Household Support Fund to retrofit resident's homes.		
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8. Resources & Waste

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Develop business case for a new operational depot within the BCP area that supports core universal service delivery for our communities whilst greening our operational service delivery.	The project is progressing, awaiting a report on site options in order to drill down to the preferred choice. A formal pre-planning discussion will follow.	Green	Environment
Harmonise waste disposal infrastructure and sites across the BCP area to improve service provision	Hurn Transfer Station & Wilverley Road Recycling Centre were successfully brought in-house in August 2024 to harmonise recycling centre provision	Green	Environment
Continue to respond to consultations relating to the Resources & Waste Strategy for England	Officers have continued to respond to various consultations including consistency (simpler recycling), statutory guidance, packaging, WEEE directly regarding the UK's waste reforms	Green	Environment
Implement changes to waste & recycling collection to meet the 2021 Environment Bill requirements	Cabinet in May 2024 approved the introduction of food waste collections for outstanding BCP households from March 2026 and commercial food waste collections from March 2025 as required by the Environment Act 2021. 6% increase in recycling rate is modelled from BCP wide food waste collections.	Green	Environment
Target communications to reduce contamination and enhance recycling efforts.	Communications such as stickers, bin hangers, leaflets and social media engagement have taken place. However, national recycling levels have plateaued, hence the simpler recycling reforms to boost recycling rates.	Amber	Environment
Model implementation of underground bin infrastructure at residential properties, town centres, seafront, and parks	Modelling currently underway of underground bin network for Bournemouth & Poole Town	Amber	Environment

	Centre areas with a business case anticipated later in 2025.		
Support the implementation of the national Deposit Return Scheme to enhance recycling of drinks packaging	Delayed nationally until October 2027	Amber	Environment
Promote and grow the BCP New to You facility which promotes and facilitates upcycling, resale, reuse and recycling of good rather than landfill	2024 – gross annual income £126k, up £23k previous year.	Green	Environment

9. Environment & Place

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Development & adoption of a Trees and Woodland Strategy including Identifying sites for new tree planting and wilding opportunities on our land or through partnership opportunities on privately owned land to support natural carbon capture	Trees and Woodland Strategy adopted by Cabinet. In the process of setting up a working group across services to liaise with communities and investigate funding opportunities	Green	Environment
Produce an Urban Greening Design Guide and associated example interventions	Urban Greening Design Guide to be published at end of March 2025 and then included in pan-Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Green	Environment
Develop the Biodiversity Net Gain requirement to measurably improve the natural environment into a sensible, practical and commensurate arrangement	Biodiversity Net Gain requirement is included in the forthcoming Local Plan and is mandated by Government on most applications	Green	Environment
Develop understanding of Green Finance investment models and apply them within BCP, linking with Biodiversity Net Gain to create mechanisms to invest in our natural environment.	Sought Cabinet approval to set up habit banking vehicle. Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund work successfully completed and second NEIRF bid successful to work with farmers in Stour Valley	Green	Environment

Deliver master plan for Harbourside Park (Whitecliff and Baiter) including renovation of the sluice channel to ensure Poole Park Lagoon remains a wildlife haven.	Master Plan published on Council website and sluice channel project is out to tender	Green	Environment
Development of a pan-Dorset Local Nature Recovery (LNRF) Strategy.	Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy will undergo public consultation in April 2025 before formal adoption	Green	Environment
Expand Green Heart Parks model so that parks are at the centre of our communities, providing opportunities to engage with nature, volunteering and create health and well-being benefits	There are 14 Green Heart Parks actively worked on and engaging with hard-to-reach communities	Green	Environment
Formalise grounds maintenance operations to enhance biodiversity incl. move to perennial planting and tree cover including considering the need for mowing, opportunities to allow for wilding, and reducing the use of pesticides and herbicides where possible	Site maps prepared for public and grounds maintenance teams. Wilder areas are mapped so teams can follow and explain to public when asked about changes (e.g. wilding, space for nature, biodiversity). The majority of annual bedding has been removed and moved to perennial planting in parks	Green	Environment
Explore adaptation opportunities for sites to accommodate extreme weather events Opportunities for use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) and natural features for water attenuation	Winton Recreation Ground SUDS has been introduced to alleviate flooding. Ongoing work planned to further address this issue in ward-based plans	Green	Environment
Embed Green Infrastructure strategy in housing development alongside emerging Urban Greening work	Work taken forward with BCP Homes and input to planning applications	Green	Environment
Ensure the Big Plan, Local Plan, & Asset Management Plans together with revisions to the Corporate Strategy are underpinned by sustainability and develop a BCP sustainability policy	The new Corporate Strategy includes the ambition 'Climate change is tackled through sustainable policies and practice', with Focus Areas and measurements to report on activity. The draft BCP Local Plan includes 'Strategic Policy S1: addressing the climate and ecological emergency'. A	Amber	Policy Sustainability Planning

	sustainability Policy is due to be developed during 2025.		
Protect the marine environment from pollution originating from beach-users through education and behaviour change	Bathing beaches are cleaned each day in high season to remove litter. Toy libraries are in place to enable re-use of discarded beach items. Water refill points along the coast encourage use of refillable water bottles.	Amber	Commercial Operations

Key to action RAG status

Green	Activity completed/progressing well
Amber	Activity maintained/partially complete
Red	Activity stopped
Paused	Activity awaiting decision/resources/funding

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ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	Housing Strategy Review
Meeting date	26 February 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 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>This report outlines the proposed key changes to the Delivery Plan, which Cabinet is asked to approve. It 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 a. (b) Approve the extension of the Housing Strategy Period to 2027. (c) Approve the governance structure as set out in section 8 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

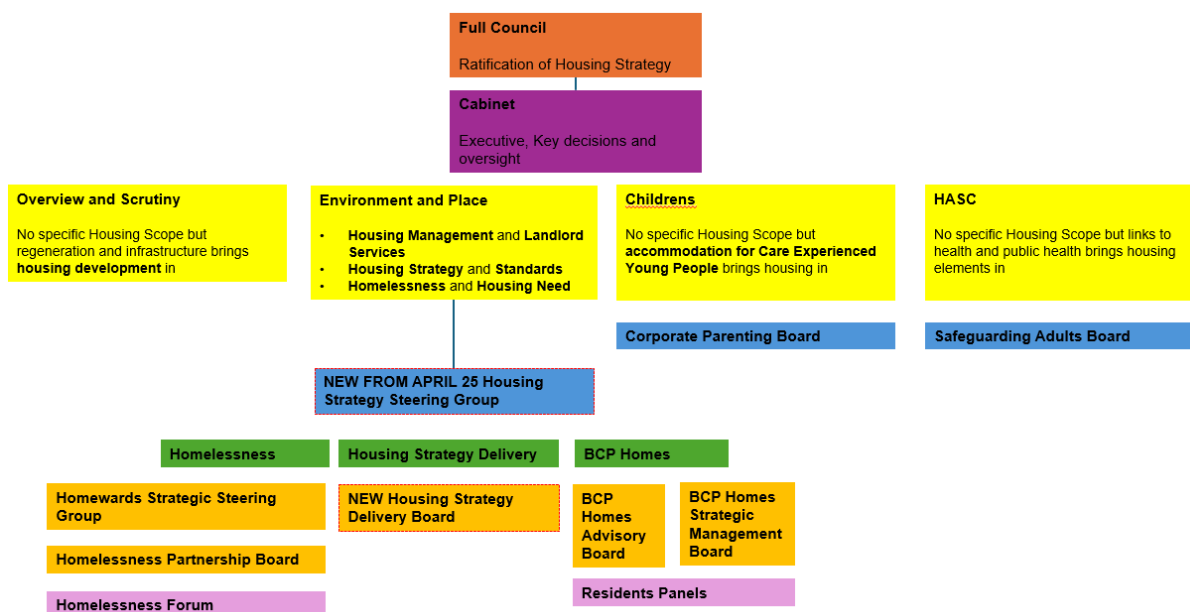
Background

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 B 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 at paragraph 12.
 6. The proposed delivery plan 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.
 7. The Housing Strategy Delivery Plan at appendix a outlines progress to date, key challenges, and proposes future actions related to housing priorities in BCP.

New Housing Strategy Governance Structure

8. In order to improve oversight of delivery against the Housing Strategy Delivery Plan it is proposed that a Housing Strategy Steering Group is implemented. This Group will be Chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulation and will sit within the scrutiny remit of the Environment and Place (E&P) Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It is proposed that an annual delivery update is provided to Cabinet and made available for scrutiny by the E&P O&S Committee. 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 Communities, 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	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

maintained.		
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.	New affordable housing policy has been proposed as part of the new Local Plan and will be tested as part of examination. It reduces the Poole and Bournemouth town centre locations and wider locations on Brownfield sites to a 10% requirement and 40% on Greenfield sites. There is also a tariff table that could significantly contribute finances towards the council delivering its own housing programme.	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 to maximise delivery	1.5

	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	New Government housing announcements will increase local housing targets. Benefits of new local plan in affordable housing terms will be clearer following examination in public and understanding of local	1.6

reviewing.	impact of government policy changes.	
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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.

Summary of financial implications

18. Programmes within the Delivery Plan will require exploration and confirmation of potentially complex financial arrangements on a case by case basis.
19. 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

20. 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

21. None.

Summary of sustainability impact

22. 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

23. 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

24. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) screening of the Strategy Review has taken place and was assessed by the EIA panel on 18th 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.

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.

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

25. Risks associated with delivery of the Housing Strategy will be managed though 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 – Revised Housing Strategy Delivery Plan 2025-2027
- Appendix B – Legislative and Political changes since 2021
- Appendix C – EIA Housing Strategy 21-26 EIA Report and Action Plan
- Appendix D – Glossary of terms and reference document



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

↗

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.

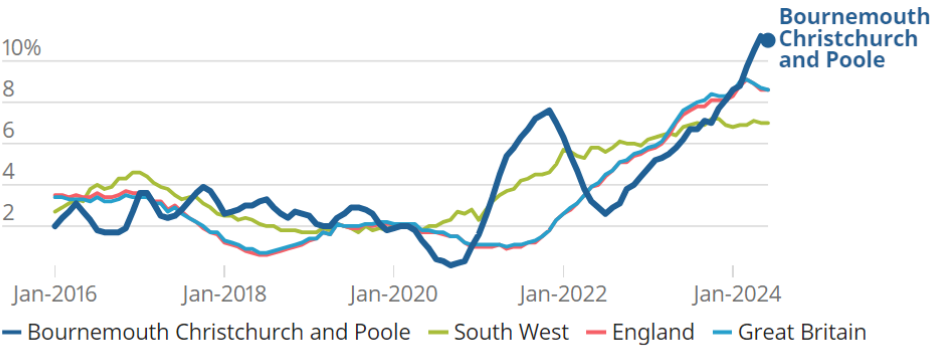
The average private sector rent in BCP is £1,500 a month, meaning that for those earning the average household income, their rent alone represents 68% of their salary. For those claiming Local Housing Allowance (LHA) the picture is equally as challenging despite an uplift in April 2024.

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

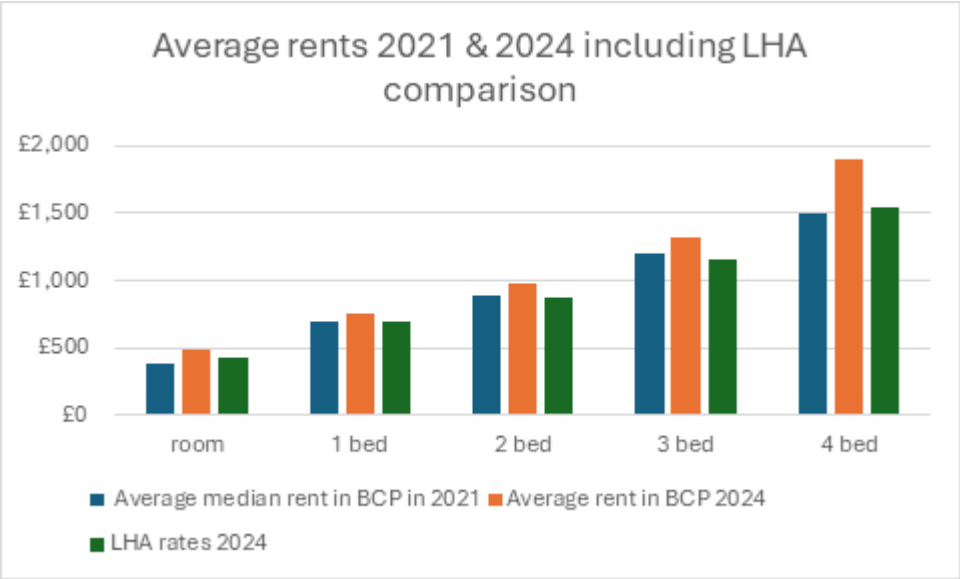
The reliance on the private rented sector, which accounts for 23% of all of BCP’s housing stock, has become a key challenge in recent years. Additional regulation and requirements of landlords, increased interest rates and increased tax has resulted in many landlords exiting the market. Eviction from 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</p> <p>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>

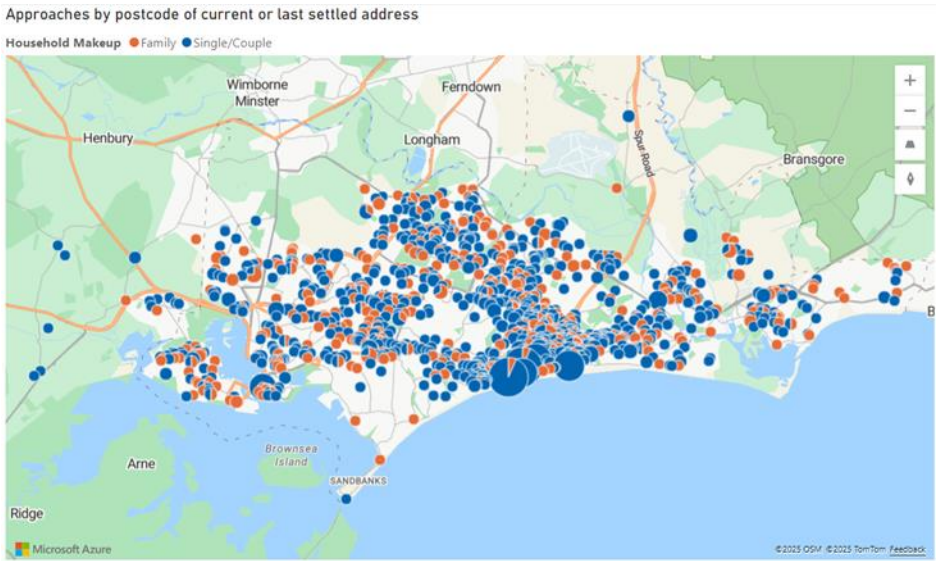
<p>1.6 Develop new Local Plan including new affordable housing policy</p>	<p>Proposed Local Plan submitted June 2024.</p> <p>Two planning inspectors appointed and the 1st phase examination in public to take place January 2025. This will be a high-level strategic assessment of the plan to check if it should proceed to the full examination in public.</p> <p>New affordable housing policy has been proposed and will be tested as part of the examination. It reduces the Poole and Bournemouth town centre locations and wider locations on Brownfield sites to a 10% requirement and 40% on Greenfield sites. There is also a tariff table that could significantly contribute finances towards the council delivering its own housing programme.</p>	<p>New Government housing announcements will increase local housing targets. Benefits of new local plan in affordable housing terms will be clearer following examination in public and understanding of local impact of government policy changes.</p> <p>The affordable housing policy set out in the local plan could provide more certainty for developers in terms of adopting the proposed tariff table which in turn provide the council with a more certain funding stream to support our own development programme</p> <p>The current 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>Work is already underway to address some of those changes that will be necessary even though our plan should be reviewed under the old NPPF which was in place when it was submitted June 2024.</p> <p>The work that is being looked at is jointly with Dorset council and includes a review of greenbelt land and an update of Housing Needs data.</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>The target for the Local Plan to be adopted is early 2026 subject to examination in public which will be in 2 phases Phase 1 21st – 23rd Jan 2025 Phase 2 after Easter, dates to be confirmed if phase 1 is successful.</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>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</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 	<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>MERGED AND AMENDED</p> <p>Bring more empty homes back in to use.</p>	<p>issues such as insecure entry points leading to squatting, untidy sites, rodents and waste. 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perceived problems associated with letting of properties Unwillingness or capacity to bring property into use <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</p> <p>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>

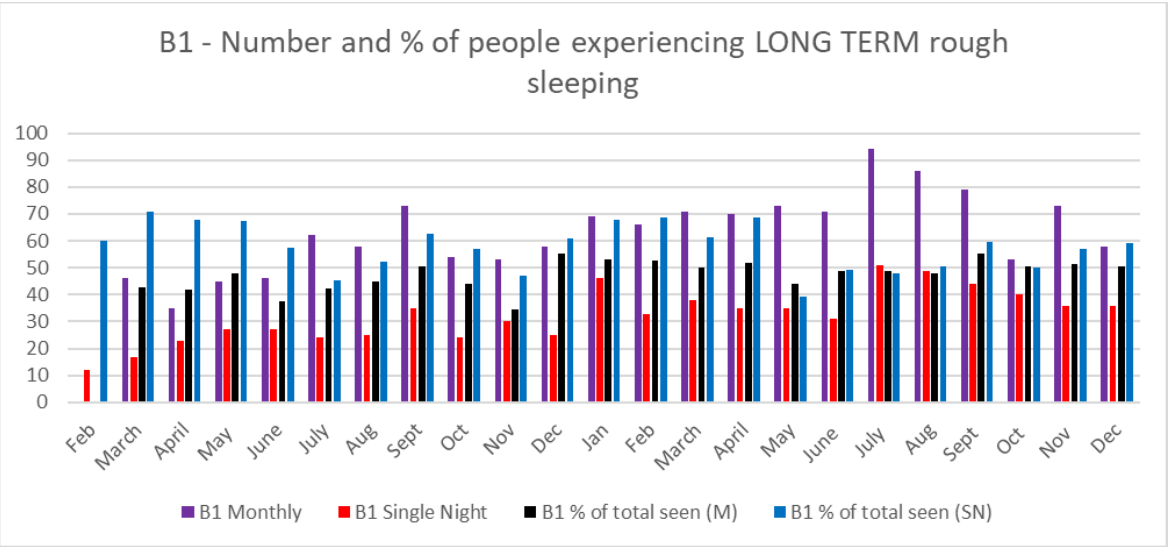
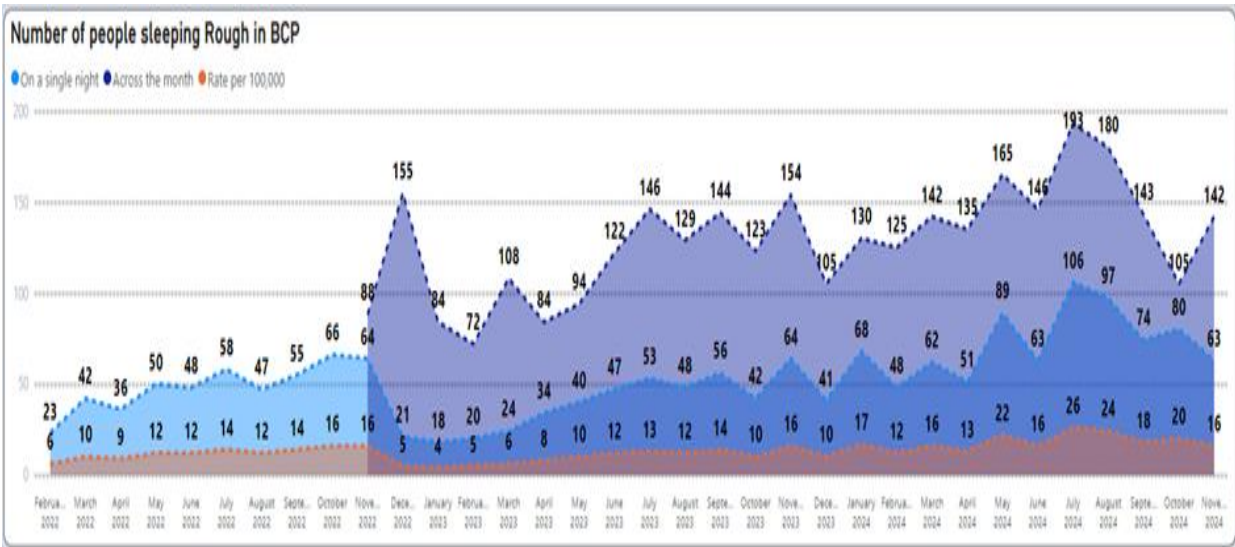
Priority 2 - Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

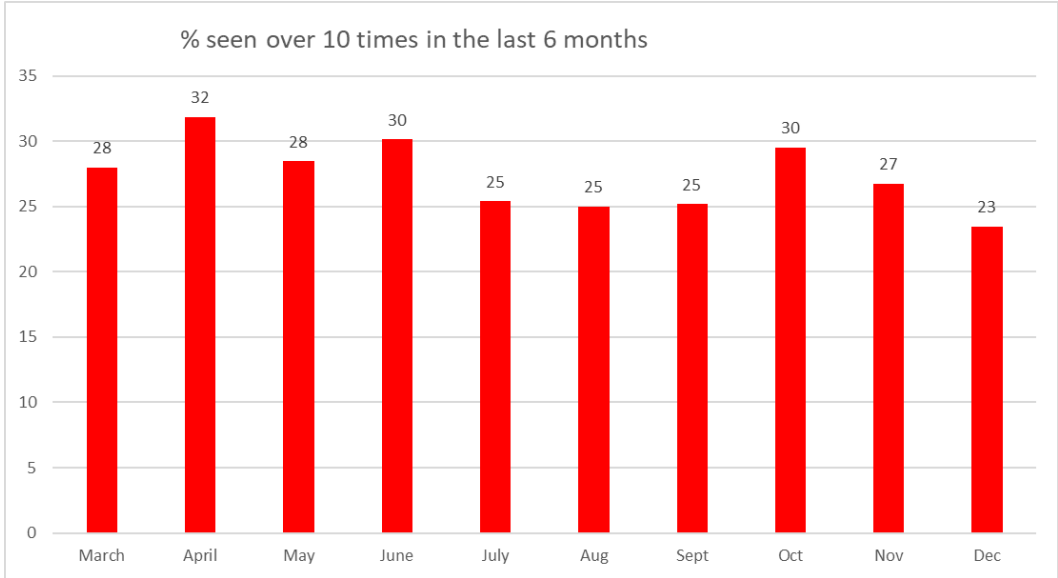
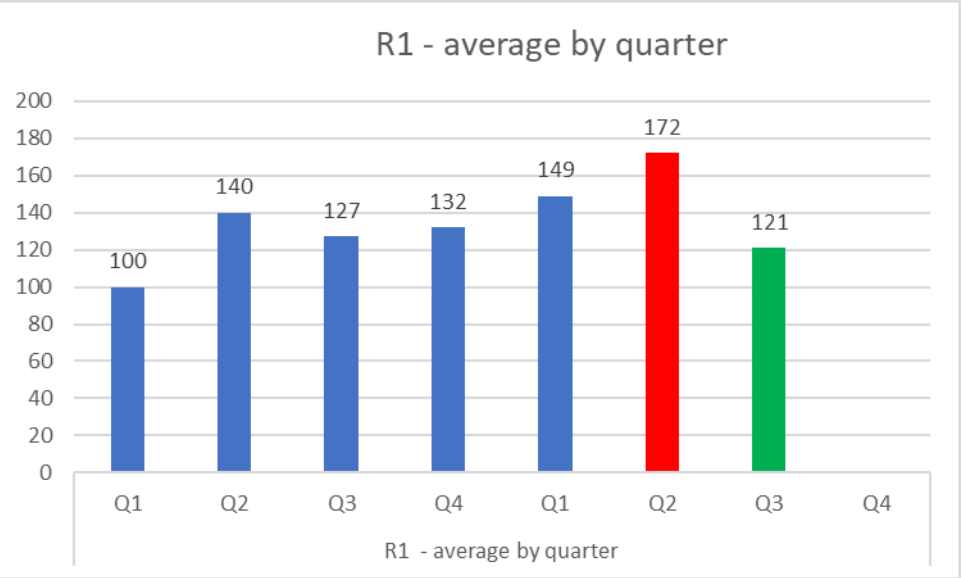
BCP has seen a rise in the number of homelessness presentations post pandemic, and this is a national trend with statistics published indicating that in October 2024 the number of households facing homelessness exceeded 320,000, an 8% rise on the previous year. In the first three quarters of this year 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 Joint working with Adult and Childrens Social Care colleagues 	<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 Key-worker 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 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. 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	Lead Officer
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4.1 Provide an enforcement service which targets rogue landlords and related anti-social behaviour (ASB)	<p>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> <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>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>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>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> <p>Delivery a multi-agency ASB strategy by March 2026.</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>Renters Rights Bill due to receive royal assent in Spring/Summer 2025.</p>	<p>Head of Public Protection</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.				
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)					
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</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>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>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 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>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>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>			
4.4 Increase engagement with local landlords	<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</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>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>	Officer time Landlord support and engagement.	Head of Strategic Housing and Partnerships, Head of Public Protection

	<p>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 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).</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>	Develop a Registered Provider Neighbourhood Management Forum by June 2025.		
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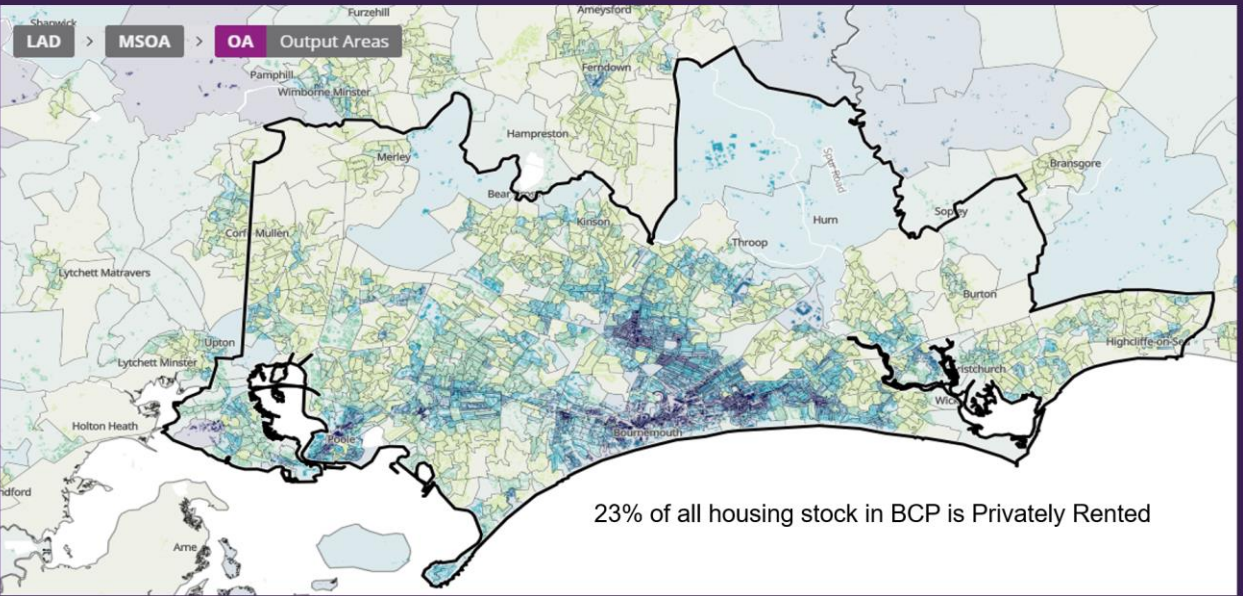
Priority 5 - Improving safety and sustainability across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole's housing

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.

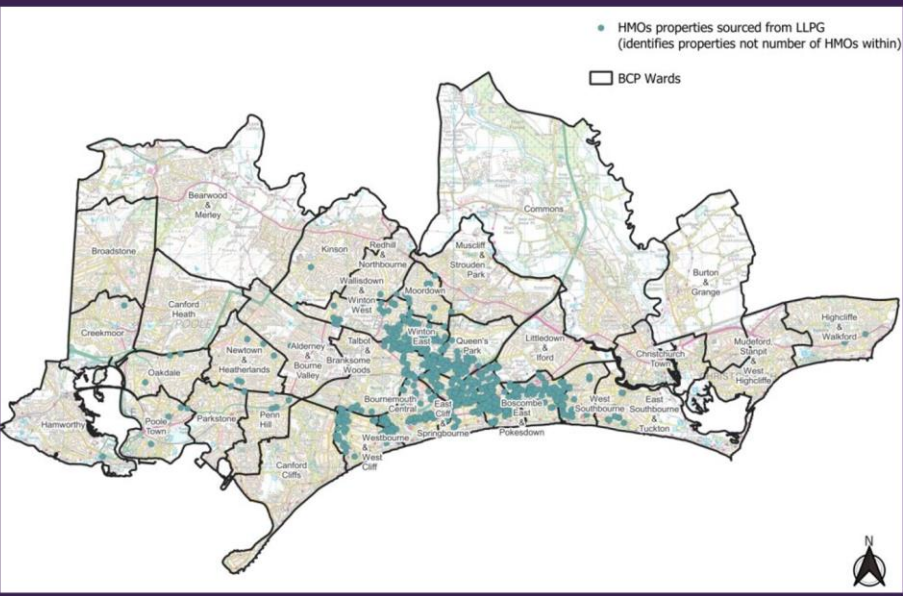
The private rented sector in BCP is larger than the national average, accounting for 23% of all housing stock held – this compares to 19% as the national average. The level of PRS stock varies significantly across the conurbation, with some Wards holding up to 67%. Issues relating to poor condition and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

Private Rented Sector in BCP



Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO's)



- 1314 Licensed HMO's
- Previous Discretionary Licensing data (2020) estimated between 3000-8000 non Mandatory Licensable HMOs (small student HMO and s257 HMO)

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 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>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.</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>Ensure that all actions from the High-Rise Resident Engagement Strategy have been implemented and that residents are provided with relevant information about 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</p>	<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 an additional duty for Council.</p>	Head of BCP Homes, Head of Assurance and Compliance Head of Public Protection

		<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>	18m+ buildings as outlined by Central Government.		
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>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>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 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</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 Discretionary Licensing subject to resources.</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>Renters Rights Bill due to receive royal assent in Spring/Summer 2025.</p>	Head of Public Protection, Director of Housing and Communities.

		<p>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>			
<p>5.3 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 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</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 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</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 Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of C.</p> <p>Report non-decent homes to BCP Advisory board quarterly.</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, Head of Assurance and Compliance, Director of Housing and Public Protection</p>

	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.	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.			
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>	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.	Analysis of performance of Registered Providers across BCP by June 2025.		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 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>	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>Damp and Mould Improvement Programme in place by April 25</p> <p>Programme for the Household Support Fund and UK 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>	Household Support Fund and UKSPF plus staff resources in the Communities Team to administer the plans/funds.	<p>Head of Assurance and Compliance,</p> <p>Community Initiatives Manager</p>

	The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) has supported 1,114 households supported to take energy efficiency measures.				
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>	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.	MEES will continue to be considered at each inspection in response to complaints.	Additional resource required to carry out proactive work. Opportunity presented by Discretionary Licensing as outlined at 5.3 needs to be explored.	Head of Public Protection

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.

<p>Corporate ambitions impacted by the Housing Strategy (existing dashboard)</p> <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• 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

Priority 2

- 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

Priority 3

- 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

Priority 4

- 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 blow 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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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 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 ongoing delivery of the Housing Strategy doesn't intend to have any future negative impacts however, there could be impacts that may have underlining impacts on residents with protected characteristics in the future.

Impacts 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

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 and will mitigate any possible negative impacts.

New Initiatives on key strategic objectives for the Housing Strategy:

Future Growth Needs

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

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.

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 midway progress consultation workshop was held with Elected Members 3rd Sept 2024, alongside engagement with council officers to ensure key housing issues across all services were understood and reflected in the future delivery of the strategic vision priorities and taking onboard the data and insights research within the below link.

<https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/About-the-council/Research-reports/Documents/State-of-BCP-2023.pdf>

Relevant feedback from members day and wider consultation:

- Revised strategic delivery plans 2024 to 26
- New Governance cross party representation structure to be embedded
- Continuous Scrutiny and engagement with MP's

Key issues, challenges and opportunities raised through consultation:

- Regeneration of key sites in BCP
- Affordability challenges compounded since 2021
- Inward Investment & Financing
- Making Best Use of Housing Stock
- New Local Plan and Affordable Housing Policy
- Partnership Working
- Safety and sustainability of the housing stock
- Housing as a wider determinant of health
- Improving quality management and sustainability of the Private Rented Sector PRS
- Making best use of stock

Further ongoing consultation and performance monitoring is happening and there are regular meetings with the Extract Care Steering Group and the Homeless Forum who consider the needs of a diverse range of people, communities and partners across BCP to enable ongoing development of the strategies objectives.

To date the strategy 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 local data analysis, research and proactive consultation since the start of the strategy back in 2021.

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 covered in the National and Local Context sections of this EIA.

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 December 2024.

This report will be published alongside the midway EIA.

What has changed since the start of the Housing Strategy?

- 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

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://bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

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

BCP Demographic Figures 2021-24

- Population BCP Council area as of 30th June 2023 was 404,050.
- Increase of (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

BCP website: [Statistics, data and census | BCP \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

Changes since 2021 National and Local Context

National Context

Several key challenges due to recent/future legislative changes that may impact across BCP and nationally. Also, 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 legislation that relates to the Housing sector which will be monitored throughout the duration of this strategy.

Continues to be an acute shortage of social and genuinely affordable owner occupier or private rented housing, leading to growing issues of overcrowding and homelessness.

Local Context

'Cost of Living Crisis' has had an 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). Pressure on the Housing Register as the number of housing register applicants doubled in 2 years and general needs lets reduced by 35% but let's to sheltered reduced by a lesser 14%

Current BCP Council homelessness figure 2023/24 accepted 2846 homeless duties who may have specific protected characteristic's increased 20% since 2021/22 and a further predicted 10% increase in demand in the year ahead.

Number of Domestic Abuse (DA) cases fleeing within the BCP region figures 2021/22 peaked at 154 then increased 2022/23 to 220, decreased again in 2023/24 216 and a further decrease in 2024 to 163.

DA incidents reported in 2023 mainly involving women has reduced, as the DA Act 21 hopes to have driven further positive change and impacts.

A private rented sector (PRS) stock condition survey 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 and are out-of-date.

Current temporary accommodation (TA) 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.

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.

Annual Count Details:

21/22	29 (following Everyone In)
22/23	64
23/24	64
24/25	Pending

Positive - Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Action Plan updated June 2024:

- Annual Ending Rough Sleeping Action Plan agreed with DLUHC. March 2024
- Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Action Plan Updated June 2024.
- Providing timely housing options planning and support advice to targeted groups more likely to be impacted by homelessness
- All POA 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.

Summary Positive Impacts across the 5 priorities:

Area	Background	Who will this impact
Temporary Accommodation (TA)	During 2023/24 - 27 households including care leavers were provided TA through the Council's stock HRA.	Positive on all protected characteristic groups
Prevention/Tenancy sustainability	Council tenants have access services to sustain tenancies to prevent evictions, 2023/24, 5 evictions of council tenants less than 1 per cent of all council tenancies.	Positive on all protected characteristic groups
Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation (DAHA)	DAHA improved our response to DA cases due to an established set of standards - aim to achieve the accreditation by 2024/25	Positive on all protected characteristic groups
The New Tenancy Strategy for Registered Providers of Social Housing	In place sets out the council's preferred approach to use lifetime tenancies for new Social Housing tenants	Positive on all protected characteristic groups
Transfer Enablement policy	Single approach to downsizing incentives encourages best use of existing Social Housing stock.	Positive on all protected characteristic groups
Specialist Housing needs work	Council homes made available for care experienced young people who are ready for independent living -14 rehoused 2023/24.	Positive on all protected characteristic groups
Implementation of transformed care technology service	Care Tech Transformation developing operating model for a new Care Tech team with a trusted assessor approach.	Positive on all protected characteristic groups
National Mandatory Housing Qualifications	Senior housing staff and competency standards/qualifications for housing staff a regulatory requirement.	Positive on all protected characteristic groups

Complaints and Ombudsman	Housing Ombudsman statutory requirement, Social Housing providers to learn from the outcomes of its own complaints and from across the wider housing sector.	Positive on all protected characteristic groups
Regulatory standards	New Regulatory Standards for Registered Providers ensure best use of council homes support people to remain independent.	Positive on all protected characteristic groups
The Tenancy Standard	Council allocates its homes in a fair and transparent way that considers needs of existing and prospective tenants supports tenants to sustain their tenancies.	Positive on all protected characteristic groups
Empowering and co-creating neighbourhoods where residents wish to live and be part of the community	New Regulatory Standards to demonstrate transparency, Influence and accountability. Council tenants can easily access services, raise complaints, influence decision making and hold the council to account	
Private Rented Sector PRS	Landlords that consistently provide poor accommodation and do not work with the PSH team are always considered for Banning Orders.	Positive on all protected characteristic groups
Additional focus around damp and mould PRS	Additional training/tools provided to officers, improved recording of cases where damp and mould is present	Positive on all protected characteristic groups
Costs of living / energy crisis effects on PRS	Ridgewater Energy provide advice on improving cost efficiency for tenants and small landlords on how to effectively heat properties an reduce condensation, damp and mould.	Positive on all protected characteristic groups
Fire safety regulations and any further evidence to support	Working with Dorset Fire and Rescue with fire safety in Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO). All properties visited risk-assessed on Housing Health and Safety Rating System works requested using enforcement notices where hazard is deemed significant.	Positive on all protected characteristic groups
EPC Standards and Expectations	Rental properties to be minimum EPC rating D, likely to raise to rating C by 2030.	Positive on all protected characteristic groups
BCP Homes fires safety position	Council high-rise blocks registered with the Building Safety Regulator. Cladding improvement works two blocks completed July 2024. The remaining blocks will have cladding works completed March 2025.	Positive on all protected characteristic groups

EIA Chart

Protected Characteristic Impact	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Comments	Action
Age	X			Has no adverse impact.	Positive - Care Tech team.

Disability	X			Has no adverse impact.	Positive - Care Tech team.
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			Has no adverse impact.	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 implemented new ways of working
Socio Economic Status (incl of Vulnerability, H/Less and fleeing DA)		X		Has no adverse impact.	
Local businesses or community groups		X		Has no adverse impact.	Action Plan outcome Appendix B

Summary of Equality Implications

The Housing Strategy continues to set out the council's equality objectives to pay due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (subsection (1) of section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010). There are ambitions, focus areas and measures that align to each of the EHRC domains: Education, Work, Living Standards, Health, Justice and Personal Security and Participation and this is reflected in the continuous performance monitoring regime.

The needs of people with different protected characteristics and those locally observed by BCP Council as detailed in the Equality and Diversity Policy - December 2022 (bcpcouncil.gov.uk) have been taken into consideration as part of further ongoing development of the action plan and within the drafting of the midway EIA 2024.

The future success of the Housing Strategy has been highlighted in the midway EIA review and further attention has been given to enhance the lives of all residents which will improve outcomes. This automatically positively impacts on BCP residents with protected characteristics as no immediate negative impacts have been identified at this midway review.

The individual impacts of specific actions within the delivery plan of the 5 priorities are being addressed through individual specific EIA's. The primary actions required are to ensure that an ongoing consultation is had with members, residents and partners in the ongoing delivery of the Housing Strategy and that the needs of all protected characteristic groups are considered at every stage.

The Action Plan (Appendix B) outlines and sets out primary actions for all protected characteristics which has been accrued from evidence sought from ongoing Housing Strategy consultation, alongside quantitative data resources. All elements of the action plan align to the Public Sector Equality Duty; and areas of the Equality Human Rights Commission measurement framework, whom should be positively impacted by the implementation of actions across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

The following Legislative changes since 2021 have been considered Appendix A:

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
Priority 1 Meeting Future growth Housing supply, including additional extra care accommodation. currently significantly impacted by inflation, interest rates affecting housing development supply chain. Housing Delivery Team support the council's Urban Regeneration Company tasked with development on complex regeneration sites across BCP. Develop a new affordable housing policy, taking a more equitable approach to viability.	Future Places now in-house and part of I&D Directorate. Team integration through 2024, including shared programme management resources. Housing Delivery Steering Group. Ongoing active consultation sessions with planning colleagues.	Programme covers 5-year period from 2021 to the end of 2026/27 but currently being reviewed New Local Plan currently going through the examination in public. Stage 1 Jan 21 st – 23 rd Stage 2 subject to outcome of stage 1 will be after Easter AH SDP can only be developed once the Local Plan position is established	Amena Matin, Director of Investment and Development
Priority 2 Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Annual & bi-monthly counts continue to fluctuate with Long Term Rough Sleepers the largest group. Ensure no one sleeps rough or lives in places which are not designed as	Significant reduction in long term cases of rough sleeping. Homelessness Partnership Action Groups in partnership with Homewards action for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preventing Youth Homelessness - Enhancing Data & Insight - Developing Meaningful Occupation approaches - Communications & Co- 	Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Action Plan updated June 202. Rough Sleeping Initiative grant £2m received to support the prevention of rough sleeping, support move-on accommodation and recovery support.	Ben Tomlin, Head of Strategy Housing & Partnerships. Housing and Communities

<p>a home, such as tents, vehicles, squats or non-residential buildings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 3 Core Aims of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.</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>Priority 3</p> <p>Improving Housing Options</p> <p>Working groups explore current unmet need and future needs for all specialist housing needs groups. Establish needs assessment 2022.</p> <p>Commissioning Plan to be agreed 2024</p> <p>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.</p> <p>An appropriate range and scale of housing options for the older population which promotes independence and minimises the need for costly residential and nursing care. Extra Care Housing</p>	<p>Specialist housing needs group in place; independent needs assessment commissioned to inform new build, acquisition, and remodelling plans.</p> <p>New delivery for Care Experienced Young People & Homeless launched.</p> <p>Extra Care Steering Group in place. Sites being identified within Council's ownership and discussed started with partner agencies/developers.</p> <p>Specialist housing needs group in place; independent needs assessment commissioned to inform new build, acquisition, and remodelling plans</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>Establish needs assessment 2022. Commissioning Plan to be agreed mid - 2024</p> <p>BCP has adopted Extra Care Strategy which sets out a requirement for 1,312 extra care units by 2030</p> <p>Establish needs assessment 2022. Commissioning Plan to be agreed 2024</p> <p>BCP has an adopted Extra Care Strategy which sets out a requirement for 1,312 extra care units by 2030.</p> <p>BCP DFG policy approved. Commercial Lead developing a growth strategy for seascope DFG.</p>	<p>Ben Tomlin, Head of Strategy Housing & Partnerships</p> <p>Seamus Doran Head of BCP Homes Housing and Communities</p>

Commissioning Strategy which includes the intentions for an extra care village and other related additional type homes.	<p>New restricted service in place from 2023</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>Priority 4</p> <p>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 rogue landlords and address related anti-social behaviour issues.</p>	<p>Investigate all unlicensed HMOs.</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>Robust process and resource to identify and tackle unlicensed HMOs.</p> <p>Exploring additional resources such as NAFN, Experian and IDB for additional intelligence.</p> <p>Enhanced multi-agency work with key enforcement partners around rogue landlords. 12 Closure orders obtained for anti-social behaviour in private rented accommodation between 2021-2024</p>	<p>1,500-2,000 additional HMOs Licensed which is approximate number of predicted unlicensed HMOs.</p> <p>Ongoing intervention and support for landlords to help deal with tenants committing anti-social behaviour. Ideally keeping tenants within their accommodation</p>	<p>Sophie Sajic Head of Public Protection Housing and Communities</p> <p>Matthew King Enforcement Manager, Housing and Communities</p> <p>Claire Seymour ASB and Nuisance Lead Housing and Communities</p>
<p>Priority 5</p> <p>Improving Safety and Sustainability across BCP Housing</p> <p>Lead on our new housing developments for sustainability by</p>	<p>Complete set of data not yet available to inform the development of a sustainability strategy and 30-year Housing Revenue Account Business plan.</p>	<p>To agree a strategy in 22/23 and implement a programme of identified work by 2025</p> <p>Existing staff from the council and Poole Housing Partnership</p>	<p>Seamus Doran Head of BCP Homes, Housing and Communities</p>

<p>having a robust policy for design and approach. Agree approach to retrofitting the council's own housing stock.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Measures identified to retrofit existing housing stock and improve energy efficiency. Work still to be done on data capture (due Apr 2024)</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>External support for 30-year Housing Revenue Account Business Plan</p> <p>Trading Standards will engage with Letting agents and property managers to ensure that they are compliant with MEES Regulation</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	Regulations that set a minimum energy efficiency level for domestic private rented properties in England and Wales Domestic private rented property: minimum energy efficiency standard - landlord guidance - GOV.UK
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government	MHCLG	Ministerial department of the Government of the United Kingdom. It is responsible for housing, communities, and local government in England Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - GOV.UK About us - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - GOV.UK
National Planning Policy Framework	NPPF	The National Planning Policy Framework sets out government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK
One Public Estate	OPE	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

		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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ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	Work Plan
Meeting date	26 February 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee is asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan.
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review, update and confirm its Work Plan, including the request for scrutiny submitted by a councillor at Appendix F.</p>
Reason for recommendations	The Council's Constitution requires all Overview and Scrutiny Committees to set out proposed work in a Work Plan which will be published with each agenda

Portfolio Holder(s):	N/A – O&S is a non-executive function
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Lindsay Marshall, Overview and Scrutiny Specialist
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background –

1. All Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) bodies are required by the Constitution to consider work priorities and set these out in a Work Plan. When approved, this should be published with each agenda.
2. It is good practice for the Work Plan to be kept under regular review by the Committee. Between meetings O&S Chairs and Vice Chairs, in consultation with officers, suggest updates to the Work Plan to ensure proposed topics remain timely, fit for purpose and allow sufficient time for report preparation as appropriate. The Committee is now asked to review, update and/ or confirm the latest Work Plan update. See the Work Plan attached at Appendix B to this report.
3. This Work Plan report includes a request for scrutiny submitted by Councillor Felicity Rice on the topic of Play Streets. The Committee is asked to consider the request and determine whether to add the matter to its Work Plan. See Appendix F.
4. Requests for items to be added to the Committee's Work Plan have also been made by Council and a Portfolio Holder. In line with the requirements of the constitution, these are included within this meeting agenda as a separate report.
5. The current Work Plan is based on annual work programming activity undertaken by the Committee in Winter 2023. Through this work, which was supported by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS), the Committee agreed a [framework](#) which outlines how scrutiny work will be selected and approached. This is based on good practice. The framework outlines that scrutiny work will be divided into three categories of:
 - Proactive scrutiny
 - Reactive scrutiny
 - Pre-decision scrutiny.

Information only items should be received in other ways, reserving committee and working group capacity for value-added scrutiny. The Committee's current Work Plan is structured to reflect this.

4. O&S statutory guidance recommends that a 'lens' or key set of priorities be established by O&S committees, to clearly communicate their role and how they will add value to the work of the organisation. The statements also clarify the role of the committee to the public. Through annual work programming activity, the Committee agreed the following lens and supporting statement:

The **Environment & Place O&S Committee** will approach work through a lens of **SUSTAINABILITY**, with a specific focus on the following priorities, drawn from the Corporate Strategy:

- **Climate change** is tackled through sustainable policies and practice
- Our **green spaces flourish** and support the wellbeing of being people and nature
- Our communities have pride in our **streets, neighbourhoods and public spaces**
- **Good quality homes are** accessible, sustainable and affordable for all

5. Established lenses provide a tool to assist O&S members in work programming, to sift suggestions for work into a realistic annual plan for each committee and to provide an angle by which to approach scrutiny topics. The lens should be referred to throughout the year as arising suggestions for work are made. The establishment of a lens does not preclude the Committee from using the full extent of its scrutiny powers where appropriate.

Principles of Good Scrutiny

6. The Constitution requires that the Work Plan of O&S committees shall consist of work aligned to the principles of the function. The BCP Council O&S function is based upon six principles:
 - Contributes to sound decision making in a timely way by holding decision makers to account as a 'critical friend';
 - A member led and owned function – seeks to continuously improve through self-reflection and development;
 - Enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard and reflected in the Council's decision-making process;
 - Engages in decision making and policy development at an appropriate time to be able to have influence;
 - Contributes to and reflects the vision and priorities of the Council;
 - Agility – able to respond to changing and emerging priorities at the right time with flexible working methods.

Process for agreeing Work Plan items

7. An O&S committee may take suggestions from a variety of sources to form its Work Plan. This may include suggestions from members of the public, officers of the Council, Portfolio Holders, the Cabinet and Council, members of the O&S Committee, and other Councillors who are not on the Committee.
8. The Constitution requires that all suggestions for O&S work will be accompanied by detail outlining the background to the issue suggested, the proposed method of undertaking the work and likely timescale associated, and the anticipated outcome and value to be added by the work proposed. No item of work shall join the Work Plan of the O&S Committee without an assessment of this information.

9. Any councillor may request that an item of business be considered by an O&S Committee. Councillors are asked to complete a form outlining the request, which is appended to this report at Appendix C. The same process will apply to requests for scrutiny from members of the public.
10. A copy of the most recent Cabinet Forward Plan will be supplied to O&S Committees at each meeting for reference when determining items of pre-decision scrutiny. The latest version is supplied as Appendix D to this report.

Resources to support O&S work

11. The Constitution requires that the O&S Committees take into account the resources available to support their proposals for O&S work. This includes consideration of councillor availability, officer time and financial resources. Careful and regular assessment of resources will ensure that there is appropriate resource available to support work across the whole O&S function, and that any work established can be carried out in sufficient depth and completed in a timely way to enable effective outcomes.
12. It is good practice for O&S Committees to agree a maximum of two/ three substantive agenda items per meeting. This will provide sufficient time for Committees to take a 'deep dive' approach to scrutiny work, which is likely to provide more valuable outcomes. A large amount of agenda items can lead to a 'light touch' approach to all items of business, and also limit the officer and councillor resource available to plan for effective scrutiny of selected items.
13. O&S Committees are advised to carefully select their working methods to ensure that O&S resource is maximised. A variety of methods are available for O&S Committees to undertake work and are not limited to the receipt of reports at Committee meetings. These may include:
 - Working Groups;
 - Sub-Committees;
 - Tak and finish groups;
 - Inquiry Days;
 - Rapporteurs (scrutiny member champions);
 - Consideration of information outside of meetings – including report circulation/ briefing workshops/ briefing notes.

Further detail on O&S working methods are set out in the Constitution and in Appendix A – Terms of Reference for O&S Committees.

Options Appraisal

14. The O&S Committee is asked to review, update and confirm its Work Plan, taking account of the supporting documents provided and including the determination of any new requests for scrutiny. This will ensure member ownership of the Work Plan and that reports can be prepared in a timely way. Should the Committee not confirm its forthcoming priorities, reports may not be able to be prepared in a timely way and best use of the meeting resource may not be made.

Summary of financial implications

15. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. The Committee should note that when establishing a Work Plan, the Constitution requires that account be taken of the resources available to support proposals for O&S work. Advice on maximising the resource available to O&S Committees is set out in paragraphs 11 to 13 above.

Summary of legal implications

16. The Council's Constitution requires that all O&S bodies set out proposed work in a Work Plan which will be published with each agenda. The recommendation proposed in this report will fulfil this requirement.

Summary of human resources implications

17. There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

Summary of sustainability impact

18. There are no sustainability resources implications arising from this report.

Summary of public health implications

19. There are no public health implications arising from this report.

Summary of equality implications

20. There are no equality implications arising from this report. Any councillor and any member of the public may make suggestions for overview and scrutiny work. Further detail on this process is included within Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

Summary of risk assessment

21. There is a risk of challenge to the Council if the Constitutional requirement to establish and publish a Work Plan is not met.

Background papers

None.

Appendices

Appendix A – Overview and Scrutiny Committees Terms of Reference

Appendix B - Current Environment & Place O&S Committee Work Plan

Appendix C – Request for consideration of an issue by Overview and Scrutiny

Appendix D – Current Cabinet Forward Plan

Appendix E – O&S Framework

Appendix F – Scrutiny Request

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BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD / COMMITTEES TERMS OF REFERENCE

Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) is a statutory role fulfilled by Councillors who are not members of the Cabinet in an authority operating a Leader and Cabinet model. The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Committees is to help develop policy, to carry out reviews of Council and other local services, and to hold decision makers to account.

PRINCIPLES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Overview and Scrutiny function is based upon six principles:

1. Contributes to sound decision making in a timely way by holding decision makers to account as a 'critical friend'.
2. A member led and owned function – seeks to continuously improve through self-reflection and development.
3. Enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard and reflected in the Council's decision-making process.
4. Engages in decision making and policy development at an appropriate time to be able to have influence.
5. Contributes to and reflects the vision and priorities of the Council.
6. Agile – able to respond to changing and emerging priorities at the right time with flexible working methods.

MEETINGS

There are four Overview and Scrutiny bodies at BCP Council:

- Overview and Scrutiny Board
- Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Each Committee meets 5 times during the municipal year, except for the Overview and Scrutiny Board which meets monthly to enable the Board to make recommendations to Cabinet. The date and time of meetings will be set by full Council and may only be changed by the Chairman of the relevant Committee in consultation with the Monitoring Officer. Members will adhere to the agreed principles of the Council's Code of Conduct.

Decisions shall be taken by consensus. Where it is not possible to reach consensus, a decision will be reached by a simple majority of those present at the meeting. Where there are equal votes the Chair of the meeting will have the casting vote.

MEMBERSHIP

The Overview and Scrutiny Board and Committees are appointed by full Council. Each Committee has 11 members and the Board has 13 members. No member of the Cabinet may be a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees or Board, or any group established by them. Lead Members of the Cabinet may not be a member of Overview and Scrutiny Committees or Board. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee may not be a member of any Overview and Scrutiny Committees or Board.

The quorum of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Board shall be one third of the total membership (excluding voting and non-voting co-optees).

No member may be involved in scrutinising a decision in which they been directly involved. If a member is unable to attend a meeting their Group may arrange for a substitute to attend in their place in accordance with the procedures as set out in the Council's Constitution.

Members of the public can be invited to attend and contribute to meetings as required, to provide insight to a matter under discussion. This may include but is not limited to subject experts with relevant specialist knowledge or expertise, representatives of stakeholder groups or service users. Members of the public will not have voting rights.

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee - The Committee must statutorily include two church and two parent governor representatives as voting members (on matters related to education) in addition to Councillor members. Parent governor membership shall extend to a maximum period of four years and no less than two years. The Committee may also co-opt one representative from the Academy Trusts within the local authority area, to attend meetings and vote on matters relating to education.

The Committee may also co-opt two representatives of The Youth Parliament and, although they will not be entitled to vote, will ensure that their significant contribution to the work of the Committee is recognised and valued.

Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee - The Committee may co-opt two independent non-voting members. The selection and recruitment process shall be determined by the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

FUNCTIONS OF THE O&S COMMITTEES AND O&S BOARD

Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee (including the Overview and Scrutiny Board) has responsibility for:

- Scrutinising decisions of the Cabinet, offering advice or making recommendations
- Offering any views or advice to the Cabinet or Council in relation to any matter referred to the Committee for consideration
- General policy reviews, and making recommendations to the Council or the Cabinet to assist in the development of future policies and strategies
- Assisting the Council in the development of the Budget and Policy Framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues
- Monitoring the implementation of decisions to examine their effect and outcomes
- Referring to full Council, the Cabinet or appropriate Committee/Sub-Committee any matter which, following scrutiny a Committee determines should be brought to the attention of the Council, Cabinet or other appropriate Committee
- Preparation, review and monitoring of a work programme
- Establishing such commissioned work as appropriate after taking into account the availability of resources, the work programme and the matter under review

In addition, the Overview and Scrutiny Board has responsibility for:

- Considering decisions that have been called-in
- Undertaking scrutiny of the Council's budget processes
- Carrying out the Council's scrutiny functions relating to crime and disorder, and discharging any other statutory duty for which the O&S function is responsible, other than those that relate to Flood Risk Management, Health, Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education
- Overseeing the Council's overall O&S function including oversight of the work plans and use of resource across all O&S bodies
- Keeping the O&S function under review, suggesting changes as appropriate to ensure that it remains fit for purpose
- Reporting annually to Full Council on the output of the O&S function
- Maintaining oversight of the training needs of the whole O&S function.

Figure 1 below provides an outline of the responsibilities of each Committee.

The remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Committees is based on the division of Portfolio Holder responsibilities. Portfolio Holders may report to more than one Overview and Scrutiny body.

Portfolio Holder responsibilities are changeable and from time to time it may be necessary to modify the designation of functions across the four Overview and Scrutiny bodies.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Structure

OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL CALL-IN PLUS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FUNCTION OVERSIGHT, DEVELOPMENT AND REPORTING

Overview and Scrutiny Board

13 Members, 12 meetings per year



CRITICAL FRIEND FOR PORTFOLIO AREAS:

Leader (partial) - Political priority delivery, BCP Council policy, Strategic partnerships, Devolution, Community governance, Regeneration & infrastructure

Deputy Leader & Finance (full) - Finance, Budget setting, Financial controls, Financial Services, Revenue & Benefits, Audit & management, Estates

Transformation, Resources & Governance (full) - General procurement, Transformation, IT, data & programmes, People & culture, Law & governance, Elections BCP, Council Constitution and controls, Equalities, diversity & inclusion.

Customer, Communications & Culture (full) - Communications, marketing & brand, Consultation, Customer services & contact, Website, Emergency Planning & Response, Libraries, Culture and museums, Cultural activities.

Communities & Partnerships (partial) - Community involvement & Voluntary Sector, Lived experience & engagement, Bereavement & Coroner Services

Destination, Leisure & Commercial Operations (partial) - Economic development, Destination & high streets, Tourism & events, Seafront, Sport & leisure, Commercial Operations, Car parking.

Housing & Regulatory (partial) - Environmental health, Community safety, Trading standards, Anti-social behaviour enforcement, Liaison with Dorset Police & Fire Service, Licensing policy

Plus Statutory Crime and Disorder Scrutiny

Environment & Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 Members, 5 meetings per year



CRITICAL FRIEND FOR PORTFOLIO AREAS:

Leader (partial)
Planning & **Local Plan**

Climate Response, Environment & Energy (full)
Climate, Environmental services, Refuse collection & waste disposal, Street cleansing, Grounds maintenance, Parks & gardens, Highways maintenance, Sustainable travel, **Local Transport Plan**, **Strategic transport and Western Gateway**, Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM)

Communities & Partnerships (partial)
Play Strategy

Destination, Leisure & Commercial Operations (partial)
Road safety

Housing & Regulatory (partial)
Housing management & landlord services, Housing strategy & standards, Homelessness & housing need

Plus Statutory Flood Risk Management Scrutiny

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 Members, 5 meetings per year



CRITICAL FRIEND FOR PORTFOLIO AREAS:

Children, Young People, Education & Skills (full)
Children's social care, Education & SEND, Liaison with Ofsted and DfE, Liaison with schools, universities and colleges, Liaison with children & young people, Children's transformation programme

Plus to act as the Council's Statutory Education Committee

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 Members, 5 meetings per year



CRITICAL FRIEND FOR PORTFOLIO AREAS:

Health & Wellbeing (full)
Public Health, Adult social care, Adult commissioning, Relationship with NHS & Integrated Care System

Communities & Partnerships (partial)
Carers, Integrated Neighbourhood Teams

Plus Statutory Health Scrutiny

CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS MEET REGULARLY TO ASSIST THE BOARD WITH MAINTAINING OVERSIGHT OF THE FUNCTION

COMMISSIONED WORK

In addition to Committee meetings, the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Committees may commission work to be undertaken as they consider necessary after taking into account the availability of resources, the work programme and the matter under review.

Each O&S body is limited to one commission at a time to ensure availability of resources.

a) **Working Groups** – a small group of Councillors and Officers gathered to consider a specific issue and report back to the full Board/ Committee, or make recommendations to Cabinet or Council within a limited timescale. Working Groups usually meet once or twice, and are often non-public;

b) **Sub-Committees** – a group of Councillors delegated a specific aspect of the main Board/ Committee's work for ongoing, in-depth monitoring. May be time limited or be required as a long-standing Committee. Sub-Committees are often well suited to considering performance-based matters that require scrutiny oversight. Sub-Committees usually meet in public;

c) **Task and finish groups** – a small group of Councillors tasked with investigating a particular issue and making recommendations on this issue, with the aim of influencing wider Council policy. The area of investigation will be carefully scoped and will culminate in a final report, usually with recommendations to Cabinet or Council. Task and finish groups may work over the course of a number of months and take account of a wide variety of evidence, which can be resource intensive. For this reason, the number of these groups must be carefully prioritised by scrutiny members to ensure the work can progress at an appropriate pace for the final outcome to have influence;

d) **Inquiry Days** – with a similar purpose to task and finish groups, inquiry days seek to understand and make recommendations on an issue by talking to a wide range of stakeholders and considering evidence relating to that issue, within one or two days. Inquiry days have similarities to the work of Government Select Committees. Inquiry days are highly resource intensive but can lead to swift, meaningful outcomes and recommendations that can make a difference to Council policy; and

e) **Rapporteurs or scrutiny member champions** - individual Councillors or pairs of Councillors tasked with investigating or maintaining oversight of a particular issue and reporting back to the main Board/ Committee on its findings. A main Committee can use these reports to facilitate its work prioritisation. Rapporteurs will undertake informal work to understand an issue – such as discussions with Officers and Portfolio Holders, research and data analysis. Rapporteur work enables scrutiny members to collectively stay informed of a wide range of Council activity. This approach to the provision of information to scrutiny members also avoids valuable

Committee time being taken up with briefings in favour of more outcome-based scrutiny taking place at Committee.

These terms of reference should be read in conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules outlined in Part 4C of the Council's Constitution.

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BCP Council Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Plan. Updated 13.02.25

Guidance notes:

- 2/3 items per committee meeting is the recommended maximum for effective scrutiny.
- The Environment and Place O&S Committee will approach work through a lens of **SUSTAINABILITY**
- Items requiring further scoping are identified and should be scoped using the Key Lines of Enquiry tool.

Meeting Date: 26 February 2025				
1	Housing Strategy To receive the Housing Strategy report.	Scrutiny of Cabinet report prior to Cabinet consideration	Director of Communities Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulatory Services	Follows an all member workshop on the housing strategy refresh, planned for September 2024.
2	Climate Action Plan Annual Report	Committee Report	Climate Team	
3				
Meeting Date: 2 April 2025 – Additional meeting				
1	Planning Service Improvement - scrutiny To monitor improvements to the planning service, 1 year on from previous scrutiny. Requested by officers.	Committee Report	Head of Planning	
2	Safer Accommodation Strategy Working Group findings	Committee Report		
Meeting Date: 14 May 2025				

Key: Pre-decision or reactive scrutiny item Proactive Scrutiny item

1	Reserved for pre-decision or reactive scrutiny decision or reactive scrutiny (awaiting Cabinet FP update)			
2	Item to be selected from Pro-Active Scrutiny topic list			
3	Item to be selected from Pro-Active Scrutiny topic list			
Items with Dates to be allocated				
	Plant Based food options			
	Printing retention			
Working Groups				
1	Safer Accommodation Strategy	Working group established		
Item suggestions for Briefing Sessions				

Key: Pre-decision or reactive scrutiny item Proactive Scrutiny item

	Chemicals Scrutiny – Information session requested for this at May 2024 meeting.	Informal Briefing		This requires further scoping – KLOE document
	Informal Briefing on Climate Action Plan Dashboard. Suggested by the Portfolio Holder at May 2024 meeting.	Informal Briefing	Portfolio Holder for Environment/ Director of Environment	The purpose of the briefing is for the committee to establish how it will monitor progress against Climate Action Plan targets.
	Planning Service Improvement – Potential briefing to monitor this improvement journey.	Informal Briefing	Head of Planning	Committee to consider holding interim briefings, to provide 6 monthly updates between formal committee reporting on this topic.

Key:  Pre-decision or reactive scrutiny item  Proactive Scrutiny item

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Request for consideration of an issue by Overview and Scrutiny

Guidance on the use of this form:

This form is for use by councillors and members of the public who want to request that an item joins an Overview and Scrutiny agenda. Any issue may be suggested, provided it affects the BCP area or the inhabitants of the area in some way. Scrutiny of the issue can only be requested once in a 12 month period.

The form may also be used for the reporting of a referral item to Overview and Scrutiny by another body of the council, such as Cabinet or Council.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee receiving the request will make an assessment of the issue using the detail provided in this form and determine whether to add it to its forward plan of work.

They may take a variety of steps to progress the issue, including requesting more information on it from officers of the council, asking for a member of the overview and scrutiny committee to 'champion' the issue and report back, or establishing a small working group of councillors to look at the issue in more detail.

If the Committee does not agree to progress the issue it will set out reasons for this and they will be provided to the person submitting this form.

More information can be found at Part 4.C of the BCP Council Constitution, under procedure rules 2.4-2.9

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/documents/s25674/Part%204%20-%20Procedure%20Rules.pdf>

Please complete all sections as fully as possible

1. Issue requested for scrutiny

2. Desired outcome resulting from Overview and Scrutiny engagement, including the value to be added to the Council, the BCP area or its inhabitants.

3. Background to the issue

4. Proposed method of scrutiny - (for example, a committee report or a working group investigation)

5. Key dates and anticipated timescale for the scrutiny work

6. Notes/ additional guidance

Document last reviewed – January 2022

Contact – democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

CABINET FORWARD PLAN – 1 FEBRUARY 2025 TO 31 MAY 2025

(PUBLICATION DATE – 4 February 2025)



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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)?
Budget 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Plan	To set out for Cabinet's consideration and recommendation to Council the proposed 2025/26 budget and council tax.	No	Cabinet 5 Feb 2025	All Wards			Adam Richens	Open
Council Budget Monitoring 2024/25 Quarter Three	Budget monitoring	No	Cabinet 5 Feb 2025 Council 25 Feb 2025	All Wards	n/a	n/a	Adam Richens	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)?
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Setting 2025/26	To set out the proposal for charges to council tenants and leaseholders and expenditure on council homes and services.	No	Cabinet 5 Feb 2025	All Wards	Council tenants and leaseholders BCP Homes Advisory Board Cabinet Member for Housing and Regulatory Services	Consultation will be through existing meetings with residents and Advisory Board.	Kelly Deane	Open
Review of the approach to Environmental Crime and Environmental Crime Policy	To consider the review of the approach to Environmental Crime and Environmental Crime Policy	No	Cabinet 5 Feb 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)?
Corporate Fleet Replacement Programme - Phase 2	The report seeks ongoing endorsement of Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole Council's Fleet replacement Strategy that will continue to support the council wide Fleet Management De Carbonising and Replacement Programme for the next 3 years, 2025 - 2028 that proposes to continue with the investment in vehicle replacements to ensure a pathway approach that will help to ensure that BCP Council has fit for purpose, safe, reliable, cost effective and carbon reduced vehicles, plant and associated equipment assets, in the right place at the right time and at the right cost to support the strategic, corporate and service objectives of the Council.	No	Cabinet 5 Feb 2025	All Wards			Kate Langdown	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)?
Mainstream Schools Formula 2025/26	To agree the mainstream schools formula funded by the dedicated schools grant	No	Cabinet 5 Feb 2025 Council 25 Feb 2025	All Wards	Schools and Schools Forum in January 2025	January 2025	Nicola Webb	Open
School Admission Arrangements 2026/27	For determination of the arrangements which is an annual requirement of the School Admissions Code.	No	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee 28 Jan 2025 Cabinet 5 Feb 2025	All Wards			Sharon Muldoon, Tanya Smith	Open
Public health update	To provide an update to Cabinet on the disaggregation of the public health shared service and plans to establish an embedded public health function.	No	Cabinet 5 Feb 2025	All Wards			Jillian Kay	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)?
Community Governance Review - Draft Recommendations	To consider the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group and to make a recommendation to Council	Yes	Cabinet 5 Mar 2025 Council 25 Mar 2025	All Wards	Key stakeholders include existing parish and town councils, local community and residents' groups, local representatives and any other interested party.	Any interested party is invited to make submissions as part of Stage 1 of the Community Governance Review process. Participants may make submissions online through the Council's have your say portal, or in paper form through forms available at local libraries, hubs or upon request.	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)?
Corporate Performance Report - Q3	Progress update on performance against key measures in the Corporate Strategy	No	Cabinet 5 Mar 2025	All Wards	n/a	n/a	Isla Reynolds	Open
Local Transport Plan Capital Programme 2025/26	Present recommended investment of Department for Transport (DfT) annual Local Transport Plan (LTP) capital grant for transport improvements and maintenance, and to present recommended delegation(s) to facilitate delivery of any approved spend. Intent is to inform recommendation from Cabinet to Council for approval of the recommendations.	Yes	Cabinet 5 Mar 2025	All Wards			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)?
Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	To consider priorities and future spend of CIL.	Yes	Cabinet 5 Mar 2025	All Wards			Steve Dring	Open
Bournemouth Development Company LLP Business Plan	To seek approval for the Bournemouth Development Company Business Plan, extend some contractual "Option Execution Dates" in relation to specific sites and provide an update in relation to the independent Local Partnerships Review.	No	Cabinet 5 Mar 2025	Bournemouth Central			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)?
Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)	To provide an update on the delivery of the current BSIP programme; to accept the £5.7m Bus Service Improvement Plan funding for 2025/26 from the Department for Transport; and to delegate delivery of the Bus Service Improvement Plan 2025/26 funding to the Service Director for Planning and Transport in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Mitigation, Energy and Environment.	Yes	Cabinet 5 Mar 2025	All Wards			John McVey	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)?
Climate Action Annual Report 2023/24	To inform Cabinet of progress made towards the Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency commitments.	No	Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee 26 Feb 2025 Cabinet 5 Mar 2025	All Wards	CMB, Environment & Place Overview & Scrutiny Panel		Neil Short	Open
Planning Reforms and new Local Development Scheme	* To brief members on some changes to Government planning policy * To agree an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) as required by the Deputy Prime Minister within 12 weeks of the publication of the NPPF, i.e. by no later than 6 March 2025.	No	Cabinet 5 Mar 2025				Wendy Lane	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)?
Children's Services Capital Strategy 2025/26-2027/28	To set out the spending priorities for the Children's Services Capital Programme for the next 3 years and seek financial approval for the proposed schemes.	Yes	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee 28 Jan 2025 Cabinet 5 Mar 2025	All Wards			Sharon Muldoon	Open
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)?
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 2 Apr 2025	All Wards			Amanda Barrie, Helen Wildman	Open
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 24 Mar 2025 Cabinet 21 May 2025	All Wards			Amena Matin, Jonathan Thornton	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 - 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
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

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)?
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
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
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

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)?
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
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

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 Business Case	Adult Social Care services locally and nationally have faced significant challenges in recent years, and as a result the Council is holding significant risk in relation to the ability of the Council to deliver its statutory responsibilities to adults that require support within the available budget. The nature of these challenges means that long term, sustainable change is needed to ensure that BCP Council Adult Social Care services (ASCS) are modern, fit for the future and affordable. This business case sets out a proposal for initial investment in Adult Social Care transformation that will lead to improved outcomes for adults that draw on support in BCP and support the Council to deliver this within the available financial envelope.	Yes	Cabinet Date to be confirmed	All Wards				Open

1. Development of this framework and its application by O&S Committees

Workshops were held with members of O&S committees across December 2023- February 2024, supported by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS). The aim of the workshops was to develop an approach to work programming at BCP for 2024/25 and beyond that is based on good practice and addresses improvements already identified for O&S as set out in [Assurance Review Action Plan](#) and the [O&S Action Plan](#). One output of this work is the framework set out below.

During 2024, the O&S Board and Environment and Place O&S Committee have been following the principles set out in this framework. The same good practices will be rolled out to all O&S committees in 2024 and used to support future annual work programming.

2. Using a lens to select and approach scrutiny topics

O&S statutory guidance recommends that a 'lens' or key set of priorities be established by O&S committees, to clearly communicate their role and how they will add value to the work of the organisation. The statements also clarify the role of the committee to the public.

Established lenses provide a tool to assist O&S members in work programming, to sift suggestions for work into a realistic annual work programme for each committee and should be referred to throughout the year as arising suggestions for work are made.

O&S Board and Environment and Place O&S Committees agreed lenses in 2024. Children's Services and Health and Adult Social Care O&S Committees have not yet considered the application of lenses to their work. Lenses are set out below. It is suggested that these lenses be reviewed annually to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

The **O&S Board** will approach work through a lens of **RESIDENT IMPACT AND EXPERIENCE**, such as considering:

- benefits that could be brought to residents by **delivering services** in different ways
- how the areas of highest **financial risk** for the council may impact on residents
- the council's **relationship with the public** and work that can be done to strengthen this.

The **Environment & Place O&S Committee** will approach work through a lens of **SUSTAINABILITY**, with a specific focus on the following priorities, drawn from the Corporate Strategy:

- **Climate change** is tackled through sustainable policies and practice
- Our **green spaces flourish** and support the wellbeing of being people and nature
- Our communities have pride in our **streets, neighbourhoods and public spaces**
- **Good quality homes are** accessible, sustainable and affordable for all

The **Children's Services O&S Committee** will approach work through a lens ofTBC

The **Health and Adult Social Care O&S Committee** will approach work through a lens ofTBC

3. Using a framework to structure O&S activity:

A framework for supporting different types of scrutiny work is set out in the table below. Scrutiny is split out into **proactive work**, **reactive work** and **pre-decision scrutiny**. When developing this framework, O&S councillors gave a clear steer that they wish to continue to undertake all these elements of scrutiny through their work programmes.

As with the lenses outlined at 2 above, the scrutiny framework will also be used to communicate the role and intentions of the committees to the wider council and the public. It is suggested that the framework be reviewed annually to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

Proactive Scrutiny

What is it?

- Early policy work - work focused on policy development and exploring options for the future. Also described as 'overview work' in BCP.
- Framed as a series of questions or 'key lines of enquiry', to which O&S seeks answers. These are found through the gathering of evidence, with a view to informing future policy.
- Driven by the O&S committee itself, or may be in response to a suggestion from councillors, community or decision makers.
- Less likely to directly align to another piece of work already underway in the council, eg. a cabinet report.
- Fulfils BCP principles of good scrutiny:

'O&S engages in decision making and policy development at an appropriate time to be able to have influence'

'O&S is a member led and owned function'

'O&S enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard and reflected in the Council's decision-making process'

Examples

Cllr suggestions based on their understanding of local needs, eg:

- What more can we do to meet local people's housing needs?
- To what extent do we as a council as a community understand the likely challenges of climate change, and what action do we need to take?

Method for undertaking scrutiny:

- Either "in committee", as a whole-meeting challenge session followed up by agreement of recommendations at the next meeting, or a short and sharp working group with a group meeting two or three times between meetings.
- Outcomes are unlikely to be met by an officer report – proactive scrutiny relies on councillors scoping and directing the work and asking for specific data, information and evidence to be brought by relevant stakeholders.
- Recommendations are made, usually to Cabinet or Portfolio Holders. They must respond to these recommendations.

Pros and Cons

- ✓ Potential to add significantly more value than other work by using powers to gather evidence from stakeholders, investigate an issue in depth and find solutions. These may be used to inform policy in a significant and meaningful way.
- ✓ Potential to select and scope topics to have maximum positive impact on the communities of BCP.
- ✓ Can generate a clearer set of recommendations that can be communicated in the council and to the public.
- ✓ Easier for O&S to own the programme of work and not be affected by other factors (eg. movement of decisions on the Cabinet Forward Plan).
- ✗ Resource intensive for officers and councillors.
- ✗ May require committee to work more flexibly to find capacity for the depth of work, eg. swapping committee meetings to undertake working group meetings instead.

Method for selection of proactive scrutiny topics:

- Invite suggestions from councillors annually (through work programming workshops)
- Invite suggestions from decision makers for O&S to contribute to developing policies/ decisions.
- Invite suggestions from the public annually (consider how to incorporate into methodology for 2025 work programming)
- Sift suggestions according to the priorities of lenses as set out above ('resident impact and experience' / 'sustainability')
- Agree, scope and plan topics to add maximum value.
- Plan all proactive work on an annual basis to ensure it can be undertaken by an appropriate time to add value and in within resources available.

Pre-decision Scrutiny

What is it?:

- Scrutiny of a report close to the point of decision making – eg. a Cabinet report.
- Predominantly driven by the Cabinet Forward Plan.
- Sits between 'proactive' and 'reactive' scrutiny. Some councils undertake a minimal level of pre-decision scrutiny in favour of greater levels of deep dive investigations. BCP councillors have said that pre-decision scrutiny is an important part of the scrutiny process which they are keen to see stay in place.
- Fulfils BCP principle of good scrutiny:

'O&S contributes to sound decision making in a timely way by holding decision makers to account as a 'critical friend'.

Examples

Scrutiny of Cabinet reports on:

- BCP Local Plan
- BCP 2024/25 budget scrutiny & MTFP update reports
- Various policies prior to Cabinet/ Council decision

Method for undertaking scrutiny:

- In committee, consideration of a report already written for Cabinet. Report considered approximately 10 working days prior to the Cabinet meeting.
- Any recommendations or comments made on the report are formally passed to the next Cabinet meeting.
- The O&S Chairman will attend the Cabinet meeting to report recommendations and/or give a summary of comments made at O&S.
- Cabinet must consider any **formal recommendations** made and respond.

Pros and Cons

- ✓ Publicly demonstrates that decision makers are held to account.
- ✓ Less resource intensive – reports already written for Cabinet.
- ✗ Reactive – hard to plan agendas and relies on a well populated Cabinet Forward Plan to timetable work.
- ✗ Limited impact vs time spent. O&S is unlikely to be able to have much influence on fully developed policy and decisions.
- ✗ Potential to establish a ‘shadow cabinet’ and for meetings to become political, which must be managed effectively by O&S Chairs.
- ✗ Potential for Cabinet scrutiny to overwhelm agendas - can lead to additional/ long meetings which can limit effectiveness of scrutiny.
- ✗ Potential to duplicate other scrutiny opportunities – eg. full council debate.

Method for selection of pre-decision scrutiny topics:

- Establish a programme of informal, Teams based briefing sessions at a frequency which can be accommodated by O&S members and support officers. Schedule briefings to provide O&S with information on the key aspects of developing decisions. Aim to hold these as early as possible and at least 3 months prior to the decision to be made. Chairs and Vice Chairs take the lead in this, using the Cabinet Forward Plan and informal discussions with decision makers.
- Using the information provided at briefings and the agreed O&S lenses to determine which forthcoming Cabinet decisions will benefit from a councillor maintaining a watching brief and reporting back (rapporteur) or ultimately pre-decision scrutiny at committee.
- Give notice as early as possible of those items required for pre-decision scrutiny, to enable report authors to work to the relevant O&S timescales.
- Provide regular reporting on out of committee activity into a committee meeting via Chair, to maintain transparency of O&S activity.
- Note – this framework for selecting pre-decision scrutiny is expected to significantly reduce the number of Cabinet reports being considered by O&S committees but will require a commitment from decision makers to share information with O&S in a different way that is both open and timely. The proposed format will also provide decision makers with the opportunity to surface issues with the wider membership of the council prior to decision making and to gather informal input to shape direction of policy.

Reactive Scrutiny

What is it?:

- Emerging issues that arise throughout the year and can't easily be planned for in advance.
- Usually a significant issue of concern or risk to the council, residents or external bodies (eg. Ofsted or Government department)
- Fulfils BCP principles of good scrutiny:

*'O&S contributes to sound decision making in a timely way by holding decision makers to account as a 'critical friend';
 'O&S is agile – able to respond to changing and emerging priorities at the right time with flexible working methods'
 'O&S Contributes to and reflects the vision and priorities of the council';*

Examples

- Targeted scrutiny on council finances at the end of 2022 following concerns about in-year budget
- Safety valve scrutiny at Children's O&S Committee
- Best Value and Assurance Review reports.
- Decisions 'called in' by O&S

Method for undertaking scrutiny

- O&S Councillors review a suite of information regularly outside of the committee space – eg. corporate performance reports, medium term financial plan updates, complaints data or resident surveys.
- 'Red flags' are elevated to committee for more formal scrutiny to take place. Usually, a report is requested from officers.
- Any recommendations or comments made on the report are formally passed to the relevant decision maker, usually Cabinet/ Council.
- Cabinet/ Council must consider the recommendations made and respond.
- O&S may ask to receive regular updates outside of committee, to maintain a closer eye on the matter until it is resolved.

Pros and Cons

- ✓ Important governance mechanism to assist the council in resolving issues of concern.
- ✓ Provides public demonstration of scrutiny on issues that may be causing press interest or community concern and gives opportunity for public to engage.
- ✗ Limited impact vs time spent. O&S may ask decision makers to reconsider an issue or make recommendations expressing concerns but cannot change a decision.
- ✗ Can disrupt workplans owing to the need to scrutinise a matter quickly.
- ✗ Potential to duplicate other scrutiny opportunities – eg. full council debate.

Method for selection of reactive scrutiny topics:

- Committee members 'horizon scan' by reviewing a suite of information on a regular basis in their own time. These are provided by email or in a designated webspace. Rapporteurs may be established to monitor designated areas of interest, sharing the load across the committee.
- Emerging trends or red flags are raised by committee members informally to the Chair & Vice Chair.
- Chair and Vice Chair take the lead in raising concerns with relevant decision makers and seeking more information. Using this information and the lenses established by committees, they determine which matters warrant elevating to committee.
- In all cases, O&S will prioritise work where it can have the most value and will avoid duplicating efforts underway elsewhere in the council to resolve arising issues. Priority will therefore be given either to those areas of highest concern and which are generating significant public and media attention; where data trends indicate that concerns are at risk of becoming embedded, or where attempts to find solutions by Cabinet or service areas have not worked.

- For these matters, a report is requested to the next available committee meeting for more formal and forensic scrutiny to take place. Work plans may be adjusted to make room for this arising work within existing resources.
- Following formal scrutiny, O&S may ask to receive regular updates outside of committee, to maintain a closer eye on the matter until it is resolved.
- Nb. 'Call-in' decisions will follow a separate process as outlined in the constitution.

4. Next steps

- The O&S Board and Environment and Place O&S Committees have adopted this framework and agreed lenses for their work.
- In 2024, all remaining O&S committees will be asked to adopt this framework and establish lenses or a limited set of high-level priorities.
- The framework will accompany all work programme reports to committee and should be referred to as a structure to underpin ongoing work programming activity.
- The framework will be reviewed annually by O&S Chairs, and lenses reviewed annually by O&S Committees in annual work programming, to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

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Request for consideration of an issue by Overview and Scrutiny

Guidance on the use of this form:

This form is for use by councillors and members of the public who want to request that an item joins an Overview and Scrutiny agenda. Any issue may be suggested, provided it affects the BCP area or the inhabitants of the area in some way. Scrutiny of the issue can only be requested once in a 12 month period.

The form may also be used for the reporting of a referral item to Overview and Scrutiny by another body of the council, such as Cabinet or Council.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee receiving the request will make an assessment of the issue using the detail provided in this form and determine whether to add it to its forward plan of work.

They may take a variety of steps to progress the issue, including requesting more information on it from officers of the council, asking for a member of the overview and scrutiny committee to 'champion' the issue and report back, or establishing a small working group of councillors to look at the issue in more detail.

If the Committee does not agree to progress the issue it will set out reasons for this and they will be provided to the person submitting this form.

More information can be found at Part 4.C of the BCP Council Constitution
<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

Please complete all sections as fully as possible

1. Issue requested for scrutiny

Play Streets Policy, requested by Councillor Felicity Rice.

Please can the council update us on establishing a simple Play Streets Policy to BCP?

2. Desired outcome resulting from Overview and Scrutiny engagement, including the value to be added to the Council, the BCP area or its inhabitants.

Playing out is vital for children's physical and mental wellbeing. Having ample time and space to play is widely recognised as fundamental to every child's health, happiness and development. So much so that it is actually a human right, as set out in the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#). Unlike organised or

paid-for activities, playing outside near home – where it is safe and possible – is cost-free and open to all children, regardless of background.

But children in the UK and many other countries around the world are far less able to play out than previous generations. Children haven't changed – they still desperately want and need to play out with friends – but the world around them has. National and local decisions around traffic, housing, planning and education have not considered children, pushing them out of streets and public space. We can change this, together, with a simple step being that BCP council can set up a BCP Play Streets Policy. A Play Streets Policy has been adopted by over 100 councils in the UK and the government sent a letter to all highway authorities encouraging them to support play streets.

3. Background to the issue

A resident who specialises in community play contacted the council in 2020 with 12 residents that were keen to run play streets in their local street, if the council could introduce a play streets policy. Since then I have been enquiring about when a play streets policy would be ready. There has been the pandemic, and there has been the reorganisation of the BCP council, however, I now see this as an urgent matter to be actioned given the level of play opportunities that are being missed out on due to the lack of a play street policy in the BCP area.

4. Proposed method of scrutiny - (for example, a committee report or a working group investigation)

A simple email/verbal update is enough – no need for significant report writing, I would prefer the time to be spent on getting a play street policy in place.

5. Key dates and anticipated timescale for the scrutiny work

It could be added to the next E&P overview and scrutiny meeting.

6. Notes/ additional guidance

www.playingout.net has all the relevant policy information that can be utilised by any council, free of charge. There is also the relevant information for housing providers/residents/community groups to start setting up play opportunities once the council has a policy in place.

Document last reviewed – January 2022

Contact – democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk