

Equality Impact Assessment: Report and EIA Action Plan

Purpose

Policy/Service under development/review:	BCP Council Summer Tactical Plan 2021
Service Lead and Service Unit:	Kelly Ansell, Director for Communities
People involved in EIA process:	Cat McMillan, Head of Community Engagement. Sophie Ricketts, operational lead for summer planning. Chris Saunders, Seafront services CI Alan Setchell, Dorset Police Wilbert Smith, SUEC for Communities
Date EIA conversation started:	March 2021

Background

Following on from the experiences of Summer 2020, which saw a huge influx of visitors to the BCP area, detailed planning has been taking place to ensure we are able to cope better across the resort with the anticipated surge in demand when the lockdown arrangements ease.

The purpose of this plan is to set out the BCP Council tactical response to the anticipated busy Summer 2021 period, including definition of clear command structures and resource requirements.

With foreign holidays potentially less likely, certainly until later in the season, and the public desperate for some respite, UK based holidays, short breaks and day trips will be extremely popular. Even at this early stage some travel companies are reporting a very high number of enquiries. The likely need to continue with some social distancing and COVID safety measures will only serve to increase pressure still further.

The plan sets out the framework which we will work to in ensuring effective planning is in place and that the response to the challenges presented by a busy summer period for the Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole area, is clear and co-ordinated. It is not intended to be an emergency planning protocol, but a tactical plan which responds to exceptional demand as part of the business as usual activity of the council and other key partners, across the summer season.

The plan seeks to implement a command and control approach to managing times of peak demand during a time when COVID-19 restrictions may vary. It also lays out the framework for effective communication and community engagement. Trigger points are identified for varying scale of response required.

Lessons learnt from the busy summer of 2020 and the Major Incident in Bournemouth have been considered in its development.

Findings

How does your decision affect those of:

- **Different Ages-** the service makes use of an 'app' to enable visitors to obtain real time data on beach and car park capacity. However, as we are aware that some older visitors may not be digitally enabled and therefore information will also be relayed in a number of different formats so that it is accessible to all.
- **Current/Previous members of the Armed Forces-** there are no perceived impacts upon current or previous members of the Armed Forces through this service.

- **Those with caring responsibilities-** there are no perceived impacts upon those with caring responsibilities through this service.
- **Those with physical disabilities** – we have identified that a busy summer may mean that people with physical disabilities may have to change their plans if the beaches, town centres or car parks are busy. However, the provision of real time information will enable people to make informed choices and plan their visit accordingly.
- **Those with mental disabilities** – we have identified that individuals with a learning disability may require additional support to understand the restrictions and guidance. As part of the communication plan an Easy Read guide will be developed to support people in understanding the guidance and restrictions and staff will be available to provide assistance as required.

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- **Different ages-** the service makes use of an 'app' to enable visitors to obtain real time data on beach and car park capacity. However, as we are aware that some older visitors may not be digitally enabled and therefore information will also be relayed in a number of different formats so that it is accessible to all. Youth engagement staff will be deployed to work with young people in the evenings to ensure they are safe and supported. Lost child zones and protocols will be in place to ensure that young children are protected.
- **Different sexes/genders-** There are no perceived impacts upon gender as a result of this service, they will still be able to visit our beaches, town centres and car parks but will be encouraged to go to locations which have more capacity for visitors to avoid over-crowding .
- **Those who identify as trans-** there are no perceived impacts upon those who identify as trans as a result of this service, they will still be able to visit our beaches, town centres and car parks but will be encouraged to go to locations which have more capacity for visitors to avoid over-crowding .
- **Those who are pregnant/on maternity-** if the beaches are busy, pregnant or on maternity individuals may have to go to a different section of the beach to avoid over crowding and maintain social distancing, however use of the beach app and monitoring of the live time messaging around beach and car park capacity should enable them to plan the visit in advance.
- **Those who are married/in a civil partnership-** there are no perceived impacts upon those who are married/in a civil partnership, they will still be able to visit our beaches, town centres and car parks but will be encouraged to go to locations which have more capacity for visitors to avoid over-crowding.
- **People from different ethnic groups-** we have identified that individuals who do not speak English or who have a limited grasp of the language may struggle to understand the guidelines and restrictions. We will therefore arrange for translation posters of the seven most prevalent languages to be created as part of the communication plan for display at train stations and key locations and for distribution through our local networks.
- **People with different religions or beliefs-** There are no perceived impacts upon those with different religions or beliefs, they will still be able to visit our beaches, town centres and car parks but will be encouraged to go to locations which have more capacity for visitors to avoid over-crowding.
- **People with different sexual orientations-** there are no perceived impacts upon people with different sexual orientations, they will still be able to visit our beaches, town centres and car parks but will be encouraged to go to locations which have more capacity for visitors to avoid over-crowding.
- **People in different socio-economic groups-** there are no perceived impacts on different socio-economic groups, they will still be able to visit our beaches, town centres and car parks but will be encouraged to go to locations which have more capacity for visitors to avoid over-crowding.
- **People's human rights-** if the beaches, town centres and car parks reach capacity we may need to restrict people's access to certain public spaces to ensure that social distancing legislation can be maintained. Some might perceive this to be depriving them of their human rights to freedom and free travel, however this may be required to ensure public safety and public order and would be a decision made by the tactical group made up of representation from the council, police and other partners. Where this decision is taken it will be for ensuring the best interests of the public to ensure their safety.

Conclusion

Summary of Equality Implications: the intention on the Summer Tactical Plan 2021 is to ensure that people can enjoy our beaches, town centres and car parks in a safe way, following on from the situations we saw during the summer of 2020 when our beaches were at full capacity. The plans contained within the Summer Tactical Plan includes a multi-agency escalation process which responds to real time data regarding visitor numbers. The purpose is to ensure that visitors can enjoy our public spaces in a safe way whilst adhering to social distancing measures. We have identified that there may be potential negative impacts on non-English speaking visitors, visitors with learning disabilities, pregnant/maternity visitors and older visitors. These impacts can be mitigated through clear communication methods which will be incorporated into the communications plan and are listed as actions below. The Service will also have significant positive impacts for all individuals with protected characteristics and other visitors who visit our open spaces through a well-managed tactical plan which seeks to ensure people are able to safely enjoy our public spaces during the summer.

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Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan

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

Issue identified	Action required to reduce impact	Timescale	Responsible officer
The service may negatively impact upon older visitors or people who are not able to use smart phones for the use of the beach app.	the service makes use of an 'app' to enable visitors to obtain real time data on beach and car park capacity. However, as we are aware that some older visitors may not be digitally enabled and therefore information will also be relayed in a number of different formats so that it is accessible to all. A communications plan will seek to ensure that people planning a visit are aware of the plans that we are putting in place and how they can access live time data in order to inform their visit.	March 2021 onwards	Georgia Turner, Director for Communications Carly Hoyle, Corporate Communications Officer
The service may negatively impact upon young people by moving them to locations that are unfamiliar.	Lost child zones and protocols will be in place to ensure that young children are protected.	April 2021 onwards	Andrew Brown, Head of Seafront Service
Teenagers and 'older children' may gather in locations that they would not normally use and are therefore unfamiliar to them.	Youth engagement staff will be deployed to work with young people in the evenings to ensure they are safe and supported.	This is instigated as part of the escalation tiering as required.	Geraint Griffiths, Early help Manager

Pregnant/maternity visitors may need to change their planned visit and occupy a different public space than their intended one. This could involve longer journeys or walking in summer temperatures.	if the beaches are busy, pregnant or on maternity individuals may have to go to a different section of the beach to avoid overcrowding and maintain social distancing, however use of the beach app and monitoring of the live time messaging around beach and car park capacity should enable them to plan the visit in advance. A communications plan will seek to ensure that people planning a visit are aware of the plans that we are putting in place and how they can access live time data in order to inform their visit.	April 2021 onwards	Georgia Turner, Director for Communications Carly Hoyle, Corporate Communications Officer
We have identified that individuals who do not speak English or who have a limited grasp of the language may struggle to understand the guidelines and restrictions.	We will arrange for translation posters of the seven most prevalent languages to be created as part of the communication plan for display at train stations and key locations and for distribution through our local networks.	April 2021 onwards	Georgia Turner, Director for Communications Carly Hoyle, Corporate Communications Officer
we have identified that a busy summer may mean that people with physical disabilities may have to change their plans if the beaches, town centres or car parks are busy. This could include longer journeys or moving further away to a less busy public space.	A communications plan will seek to ensure that people planning a visit are aware of the plans that we are putting in place and how they can access live time data in order to inform their visit.	April 2021 onwards	Georgia Turner, Director for Communications Carly Hoyle, Corporate Communications Officer
We have identified that individuals with a learning disability may require additional support to understand the restrictions and guidance.	As part of the communication plan an Easy Read guide will be developed to support people in understanding the guidance and restrictions and staff will be available to provide assistance as required.	April 2021 onwards	Georgia Turner, Director for Communications Carly Hoyle, Corporate Communications Officer

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