

Report subject	<b>Seasonal Response Review 2022</b>
Meeting date	25 October 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole benefit from award winning beaches and beautiful open spaces which residents and visitors enjoy throughout the year. During the summer season, our tourism economy is boosted from being a busy resort area with increased visitor numbers.</p> <p>Council services in BCP have a strong track record of managing busy summer seasons as part of business as usual activity. However, to provide effective management of additional demands over the last 2 years, core services have been allocated additional funding and overall co-ordination through the Seasonal Response programme. This has provided co-ordination of multi-agency service and enhancement to services such as waste collections, traffic management and promotion of safety of open spaces. Following the success of the multi-agency delivery over Summer 2021, £1.69m of funding was allocated to continue the programme in 2022.</p> <p>Seasonal Response delivery ran from 9 April 2022 to 4 September 2022 with great success. The additional investment in services has delivered increased output across core services and has supported enhanced resort management and public safety.</p> <p>This report gives an overview of activity within the programme, considers the challenges presented and sets out future considerations.</p>
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b></p> <p><b>Members note and comment on the content of the report.</b></p>

Reason for recommendations	The additional investment in services has delivered increased output, enhanced resort management and contributed towards a successful summer season. A review of the summer season has been completed and challenges are being addressed in the development of actions to take place throughout the winter period in readiness for next summer.
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Wards	All wards

## Background Detail

1. As a leading visitor destination, BCP Council is used to successfully managing large numbers of visitors. However, over the pandemic summer of 2020 the resort was overwhelmed with visitors for a short period and a series of challenging behaviours since that time has become a consistent challenge during peak periods.

2. Following the success of the Seasonal Response co-ordination and service enhancements in Summer 2021, Cabinet resolved to sustain the programme this summer. Additional funding of £1.69m was allocated to deliver enhancements to core services aimed at maintaining public safety, mitigating established risks

associated with high visitor demand days and to support safe enjoyment of our open spaces and seafront locations during periods of peak demand.

3. Informed by a risk and impact assessment which considered pressure points and additional demands on services, a programme of investment was implemented to provide;

- Increased waste collections and the introduction of manual collections at peak times
- Increased security and enforcement of bylaws and anti-social behaviour
- Increased youth engagement outreach hours and diversionary activities programme
- Increased resourcing of the traffic control room to flow of the traffic network and enact temporary traffic restriction orders, including additional restriction orders for 2022.
- Increased presence of civil enforcement officers in key locations to issue penalty charge notices and supervise the towing of illegally parked vehicles
- Continuation of the park and ride service at Kings Park
- A designated data analyst to continuously assess visitor influx data including public transport usage figures, road network data, hotel booking data and car park capacity.
- Increased communications resource to live message social media platforms and engage with local and national media.
- Enhanced monitoring of new CCTV cameras in key locations to support water safety and public safety and additional staffing to support the monitoring of cameras in peak times
- Additional staffing to support public toilet and open spaces cleansing including clearance of sand
- Designated CCTV MACC staff
- Additional bylaw signage and communications.

4. The designated funding allowed for the continuation of a Multi-Agency Command Centre (MACC) and Seasonal Response Tactical Plan, taking a data led approach which allowed for the scaling up and co-ordination of relevant resources and a command structure to manage response. Core agencies such as Dorset Police, Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), HM Coastguard, Dorset Council and Dorset Wilshire Fire and Rescue Service, as well as key BCP Council directorates have worked together to deliver the Seasonal Response Plan throughout the summer season.

5. The Summer Seasonal Response ran from 9 April 2022 (Easter) until 4 September 2022 (Air Festival). The MACC went live from 27 May 2022.

6. In contrast to the summer 2021 season, this summer provided for plenty of sustained good weather and saw higher peak temperatures than in previous years. For the periods of 16 to 19 July 2022 and 10 to 14 August 2022 there were declared heatwaves, with severe weather warnings issued due to sustained heat.
7. This year, with pandemic restrictions long since lifted, visitors have been able to travel across the UK and abroad. In addition, there was an increase in large events scheduled both locally and nationally. Whilst visitor numbers remained high, there was an overall reduction in visitors to the BCP seafront this year from May to August 2022 (7.07 million, compared to 10.7 million in 2021). However, there were significant peaks in line with the good weather and the heatwaves in particular - and visitor numbers during these peak periods were comparable to the highest levels seen previously. Despite these significant peaks, the resort was well managed with no major issues or incidents.
8. This year has seen an unprecedented local labour market environment which has made seasonal recruitment challenging across the board. In particular, Seafront and Cleansing services struggled to recruit to short term positions. There have also been recruitment challenges within the CSAS Team and Dorset Police have reported similar difficulties in the Neighbourhood Policing Teams leading to longer response times to incidents. These challenges placed a greater emphasis on the need for strong co-ordination of resources and a proactive problem solving approach which positively addressed issues as they arose. Overall there were very few adverse issues compared to the positive management of peaks in demand and when issues occurred, swift action was taken to tackle them. The work of all of the staff involved in a very busy and successful season is to be commended.

## **Seasonal Response Overview**

### **Hotel Occupancy**

9. Positively for the tourism economy, hotel occupancy levels this summer saw peaks of 98-99% during the two heatwaves, compared to peaks in 2021 of 96% over a reduced period. These high levels of occupancy coupled with high room rates presented an additional challenge this year of increased overnight camping on beaches, in open spaces and in car parks. This is considered in paragraph 37 which outlines enforcement challenges.

### **Traffic and Parking**

10. A key aspect of the Seasonal Response Plan is the monitoring of the traffic network by the Network Management Team and by the Data Analyst working in the MACC. Advance data and intelligence has continued to inform the

direction of response to pressure points during peak periods. Key pressure points this summer were identified as Pier Approach, East Cliff, Boscombe Marina Drive, Sandbank's carpark and Shore Road.

11. During Jubilee weekend and during the events of Sandfest/Beach Polo, Banks Road was closed for emergency sewerage works which caused additional delays and congestion. This led to the implementation of additional traffic measures including deployment of CSAS (Traffic) Officers to reduce impact on the road networks. Working closely with Wessex Water measures were implemented to mitigate the pressure this may cause on traffic congestion. These measures were a success with positive feedback from the Sandbanks community group and residents.
12. Additional challenges relating to the road networks were experienced when on 12 August 2022 there was a major fire at Studland requiring evacuation of tourists and visitors and management of resulting traffic. Over the bank holiday weekend on 24 August, CSAS (Traffic) Officers were deployed to enforce a TTRO to address congestion in the Boscombe Undercliff/Overstand area. The officers were empowered to close Sea Road from the Marina/Sea Road junction should it be required to enable the diversion of cars trying to access the already full car parks away from the area and towards the Kings Park Park & Ride. This agile approach to the deployment of powers and resources demonstrates the successful problem-solving approach which is at the heart of the Seasonal Response.
13. Poor parking during peak demand periods was seen this summer. On 17 July 2022 this resulted in access issues on the East Cliff, in response to this a Temporary Traffic Restriction Order (TTRO) was put in place to prevent illegal parking causing road blockages and allowing for the safe movement of traffic during peak times. Additional preventative measures were also deployed to combat illegal parking including the placement of cones in high-risk areas, targeted deployment of Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO's) and placement of Tow vehicles in high-risk areas during peak periods.
14. 36,260 Penalty Charge Notices (PCN's) were issued between May and the end of August 2022, a 16.35% increase from the same period in 2021. The highest number of PCN's issued in a single day was on 17 July 2022 when 935 were issued in response to a spike in illegal parking. Following the introduction of the TTRO and application of additional preventative measures, the following peak period during the second heatwave saw a reduction in illegal parking and a reduced number of PCN's served.
15. Illegal parking across the conurbation during peak times created pinch points in key locations such as Sandbanks, Eastcliff and Boscombe resulting in additional TTRO's being implemented. This is an ongoing issue throughout

most summer seasons and there is a likelihood of this being a continued challenge. The option of permanent TROs for high-risk locations is under consideration.

16. Parking issues were most challenging around seafront locations throughout the summer. Meanwhile, car park locations such as Richmond Hill and Avenue Road had good availability even on the highest peak days, despite detailed information available through the Beach App on parking availability and promotion of these locations.
17. Between April and August, a total of 63 attempts were made to tow illegally parked vehicles away, with 35 successful extractions. This is a reduction from 42 successful extractions during the same period in 2021. Challenges relating to towing centred around contractor availability as well as safe access and exit points for towing during peak demand periods. This year also saw an increase in threatening and aggressive behaviour directed at contractors which resulted in a reluctance from the contractor to continue to provide the service. This was addressed; however, the removal of vehicles was impacted by this issue and the constraints noted.
18. In between April and August 2022, Beach Check App was downloaded over 13,000 times, while the BCP beach info has been looked at over 28,000 times and parking information has been searched for over 33,000 times. 905 People used driving directions straight from the App indicating far more visitors are now using the beach check app for parking and directive information.
19. Car park income figures are not currently available for the period, following the change to phone payment applications, however it was raised in intel briefings that external car parks were being more frequently used due to promotion on social media.

### **Public Transport**

20. Transport links were monitored throughout the summer season and from May to September, the Seasonal Response team were provided with advance booking information and top booking locations in order to inform planning and response. Data was provided by National Rail, National Express, More Bus, Southwestern Railway and Cross-Country Rail. Top 10 origin data was used for targeted social media comms messaging. Most visitors using public transport travelled through London Waterloo, allowing targeted messaging to be directed to this location in order to reach visitors prior to arriving.
21. Up to date transportation figures were supplied on a Thursday ahead of a weekend and supported in an accurate predication of expected visitors where resource was scaled accordingly.

## **Park and Ride**

22. The Council operated a Park and Ride service from Kings Park to Boscombe Pier from 28 May to 5 September 2022, which was used by 7,199 riders throughout the period, an increase of 7.5% on 2021 usage over the same period. The service was heavily promoted on BCP social media, and the location was pinned to google maps to allow visitors to find the service with ease. The increase in users is likely due to the continued presence of the service, the enhanced promotion and repeat visitors to the conurbation.
23. Although the service ran daily from 28 May through to the Air Festival (14 weeks), 83% of the usage took place between 16 July 2022 and the Air Festival (7 weeks). Therefore, in future years it may be appropriate to consider operation only at peak demand periods which would reduce costs and improve efficiency of operation.

## **Litter and Cleansing**

24. In 2021 an additional 400 euro-bins were placed in seafront locations as part of the summer readiness plans as well as over 100 additional in open spaces. This investment benefitted Seasonal Response 2022 where daily collections were increased to two / three times a day at peak times. In 2021, 283 tonnes of waste were collected from the beach itself with a further 754 tonnes collected from the promenade and wider nearby public land. 2022 has, between April and July, seen 643 tonnes of waste collected excluding figures for litter left on the beach itself. The volume of waste collected from the beach, seafront bins and throughout the wider nearby public land was not available at the time of writing this report, but is expected to be similar to 2021. final data of overall waste volumes collected from the beach, seafront bins and throughout the wider nearby public land is currently unavailable, however it is believed that levels will be broadly comparable to last year.
25. Teams work hard to ensure each day starts with our award-winning beaches welcoming our visitors. Even on our busiest days, beaches were cleared and ready to accept new visitors by 10am each day this summer. Council services have and continue to be affected by the unprecedented challenging local labour market environment currently being experienced. This has resulted in difficulties in attracting and retaining frontline operational staff to support Summer Response activities. It became necessary to place growing reliance on temporary agency employees to fill roles which at times due to lack of availability resulted in reduced staffing resource to respond to demands placing increased pressure on remaining resources, this despite applying a temporary labour market supplement to these positions to support recruitment efforts. This was a particularly high impact issue in Waste and Cleansing.

- 26.25. In July during the first heatwave around 50 tonnes of litter were removed from the beaches. Staff were also handing out bin bags to visitors which was well received although not always placed in the bin, it made clearance and collection significantly easier. 30 tonnes were left in the August heatwave despite our highest hotel bookings, increased pre bookings and increased use of the park and ride. Approximately 60-65 tonnes of waste/litter were removed from the Bournemouth Air Festival site.
27. During peak temperatures there is a consistent increase in rubbish left on the beaches. The Sort It Out campaign was successful in the decrease of these issues in 2021, however, late implementation in 2022 led to limited impact. Future planning will require early consideration of pro-active communication campaigns. Further challenges to be considered for 23/24 season is the growing number of overnight car park camping activity resulting in increased anti-social environmental behaviour in particular additional morning cleansing demands on resources.
28. Although littering is a criminal offence which allows for a fixed penalty notice to be issued in lieu of a prosecution, in practice this is extremely difficult to enforce. Many visitors to the beach put litter next to them and take it with them when they leave, others however, do not. In order to issue an FPN officers must witness the litter being left and must obtain the offending person's name and address which is prohibitively resource intensive.
29. Throughout the summer period public toilets are subject to a significant escalation in use above that which is normally experienced and planned for. As a result, additional funding was made available via the Summer response budget to provide additional cleaning schedules for visitor servicing toilets. In addition, it funded the reopening of an otherwise closed Changing Places Toilet in the Central Lower Gardens (Bournemouth) This area alone receives an estimated additional 30,000 footfall per day on and above that which is typically experienced during the rest of the of the year.

### **Seafront Rangers**

30. From the 1 April until the 31 August the Seafront Ranger Team dealt with 282 incidents ranging from minor first aid and bin fires though to altercations. Together with the Kidzone Team they located and reunited 349 missing persons with their guardians, with 33 reported on 17 July alone. Police, CSAS and Seafront teams have reported the significant demands created by this issue.
31. For the majority of the season the Ranger Team was operating at a staffing level of approximately 60% due to recruitment issues and pandemic related sicknesses. At peak times, Seafront Rangers extended their hours to address the issues of overnight camping on the beaches. 122 eviction notices were



issued and the details of 8 individuals who failed to comply with the notice were taken to face prosecution.

## **Security and Enforcement**

32. To support enforcement and manage the safety of residents and visitors on seafronts, security contractors supported our BCP teams this summer. Security provisions started on 27 May 2022 to 5 June for Jubilee Weekend and Half Term, then restarted from 1 July 2022 to 4 September 2022. This included daytime patrols focused on key areas - namely the Lower Gardens, Bournemouth Pier, Boscombe Pier and Sandbanks. Evening patrols covered 7pm to 3am to monitor identified hot spots where core BCP resource was reduced at those times.
33. Security provision was tailored specifically to address the needs of the resort, with feedback stating visitors felt “welcomed and safe” and “security was far more visible this year compared to previous”. Despite deploying fewer security officers, this tailored provision proved to be a success. The security provision was also used in an agile way, responding to new challenges and issues as they arose. This included moving to cover later hours in the day due to most incidents taking place from 2pm onwards and adapting coverage times to support the cleansing of beaches in the mornings to allow tractors to complete cleansing faster and without any hostility from overnight campers.
34. BCP Community Safety Accredited Scheme Officers (CSAS) were also drafted into the Seasonal Response Plan at peak times specifically when amber and red triggers were hit in order to support Seafront staff in the eviction of campers and enforcement of breaches of bylaws.
35. CSAS also provided a visual patrolling presence across the bay and linked in with the Bournemouth and Sandbanks staff throughout the summer season. CSAS also supported the Kidzone and were stationed in key locations between 8am and 12pm to catch visitors on their way to the beach to issue wristbands. CSAS put a social media post out on the Dorset Police Instagram and Facebook page to further promote this ahead of busy weekends. The neighbourhood policing team at Bournemouth also supported in the delivery of this.
36. A total of 143 warnings were issued for breach of bylaws across the Seafront during the summer. This included 139 tent eviction notices for overnight camping on the beaches, 3 cyclists received formal warnings for cycling along the promenade and 1 warning was issued for pier jumping.

37. There were a number of challenges faced by security, CSAS, Civil Enforcement Officers and Seafront staff whilst taking enforcement action to address those who do not comply with bylaws and other enforcement issues. These include;

- The growing number of overnight car park camping activity resulting in increased anti-social environmental behaviour and additional morning cleansing placed demands on resources
- The need to obtain accurate names and addresses as only the Police and CSAS officers can legally demand this information. Security and seafront officers cannot take any action if individuals refuse to provide their details. As action is often taken at night or in the early hours of the morning to tackle sleeping and camping on the beach it is not always possible to obtain Police or CSAS attendance.
- The bylaws relating to camping on beaches only relate to those sleeping in enclosed tents. As such, if people are awake when officers attend there is no breach of the bylaw. Similarly, if the tent is open and not enclosed the bylaw cannot be enforced.
- Early morning patrols by officers can lead to tensions with those who come to the beach very early for a swim or to miss the rush, if they have already set up their tent/enclosure ready for the day.

38. Evidence is currently being collated and assessed as part of the consideration of a potential Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for our seafront and open spaces. As noted throughout this report, there are limitations at present in the ability to provide real time enforcement to successfully bring about the cessation of unlawful activity. In addition, there has been a behaviour shift since the Covid pandemic which presents new challenges to be addressed. A PSPO could potentially support the management of visitor behaviour and enforcement of unlawful activity and will provide a framework which would include immediate Fixed Penalty Notices and powers of arrest if necessary.

39. Behaviours which could be managed through such an Order could include;

- Pollution - littering, dog fouling, urinating/defecating in public, noise pollution
- Vehicle related anti social behaviour – either within defined car parks or taking vehicles outside of defined parking areas
- Lighting of fires or barbecues
- Taking a dog in to a dog exclusion zone, or allowing its behaviour to cause alarm, distress or annoyance to another person
- Overnight stays in tents, motorhomes or caravans without permission from the Council

40. Application of any PSPO must follow careful consideration of the evidence regarding these behaviours, which must be persistent in nature and of detriment. In addition, a public consultation will be required prior to any determination. A report will be presented to Cabinet in December 2022 which will set out the available evidence and consider whether to progress with a public consultation. Should this consultation proceed, a period of 6 weeks would be recommended with a further report to Cabinet to determine the way forward in March 2023.

### **Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour**

41. Data has been obtained from the Police recording system NICHE of reports from members of the public in the open spaces of Bournemouth Square, Central Gardens, Lower Gardens, Pier Approach and Seafront which confirms that there has been a decrease in the number of reported crimes in open spaces when compared to 2021. When comparing reported crime rates across the peak summer seasons from April 21 to August 21 and then April 22 to August 22, there was a 25.59% reduction during the summer 22 season. There is anecdotal evidence to support that the presence of proactive patrols by security, CSAS and Police in key areas acted as a strong deterrent. A similar reduction was seen in ASB reports this year. When comparing April 21 – August 21 to the same period in 2022, there was a 23.64% reduction in reported ASB despite a peak in July 2022 which is attributed to high footfall and influx of visitors as a result of the extremely warm weather over that period.
42. Whilst crime and ASB overall was reduced this summer, there was an increase in hostility towards resort staff at peak demand, with security attending various incidents across the bay and the ongoing challenges of police resource availability at peak times this proved to be challenging.
43. Taking a data led approach, a request for additional policing resource was planned in to support the seafront ahead of need. This proved a success over the Summer with Dorset Police scaling up and down resource in accordance to the evidence provided. However, there have been times when unforeseen problems have arisen, and the Police have been unable to support due to demand prioritisation reflecting their assessment of threat risk and harm and resource pressures.
44. Anti-social behaviour under Bournemouth Pier was particularly challenging this season with police being called on several occasions to attend. Due to the location clear visual imaging through CCTV was not always possible. Options for additional CCTV coverage as well as fencing around the pier during peak times are being explored as a means of further mitigation.

45. Dorset Police linked in with the MACC daily whilst in operation and showed a presence on red weekends to support Seasonal Response. Following the first heatwave a designated policing resource at sergeant level as a minimum was allocated to support the MACC through the second heatwave period, which was hugely beneficial. During this high demand period, Police parked a marked vehicle in the prime location for visibility and deterrence and showed a visible patrolling presence across the four days of the second heatwave. The feedback across the resort was positive and that the hostility and anti-social behaviour felt from the previous heatwave was not present in the second.

## **Communications**

46. Social media was the main area of focus for key messaging this summer, with a wide established reach. Total figures show a significant proportion of media views came from BCP Council Facebook posts;

- Published posts: 123
- Total impressions: 1,224,455
- Total reach: 615,027
- Total engagements: 87,333

47. The MACC and BCP Comms Team continued to work closely together throughout the summer, with constant communication between the two proving invaluable to ensure the deployment of resources where they were needed in real time. Data was supplied to the comms team to identify the origin of visitors which resulted in targeted messaging being put on social media to reach further afield.

## **Key Successes**

48. The Seasonal Response for summer 2022 was delivered with great success. Key successes are;

- Overall approach was responsive to data enabling the agile allocation and co-ordination of resources
- Increased parking enforcement, tow trucks in locations a visual deterrent and security at hot spots
- Temporary TTRO's put in place which addressed traffic congestion and poor parking
- Use of traffic CSAS to deal with keeping the traffic networks moving
- Visible security presence together with Police presence and CSAS Officers provided safety and comfort to visitors and was a deterrent against poor behaviour.
- Significant reductions in crime and ASB when compared to previous years

- Well managed beach cleansing and waste clearance
- Security patrols over night to disrupt overnight camping on beaches
- Early morning patrols of beaches to rouse and move on anyone found to have remained camping
- Beach Check App included real time car park capacity information for visitors
- MACC was successful, and the placement of an officer from Dorset Police ensured wider deployment of police resources as issues emerged

## Conclusion and Future Considerations

49. Overall, the delivery of the Seasonal Response has been a substantial success with improvements seen in the maintenance of the environment, safety of residents and visitors, ability to efficiently respond to visitor influx, and an increase in relevant enforcement. Partners and residents have provided positive feedback on how safe the resort felt and how well co-ordinated public resources were. Other local authorities visited the MACC during the season and the approach continues to be considered as best practice.

50. No summer season is without its challenges, but this year peak demand periods presented issues which benefited from the overall co-ordination of response and enhancement of services.

51. A review of summer activity has resulted in consideration of the challenges faced and actions are being pursued to support future seasonal resort management. This is included in a development plan for completion over winter 2022, summarised below;

Issue	Action
Overnight camping and sleeping in vehicles	Legislative options are being considered including use of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) and broader options including opportunities to tackle this through review of TRO's relating to both car parks and on street parking areas.
Illegal parking	Adjustment of some existing TROs and the implementation of new TROs.  Continued lobbying of government for increased Parking Charge Notice fines.

Underuse of alternative car parks	<p>Increase in comms to ensure up to date information is available.</p> <p>Signposting on the Beach Check App in real time to quieter car parks with pop up banners to those car parks could be developed in App.</p> <p>Installation of additional variable message signs.</p>
Tow away	Increase capacity to tow away by procurement of additional providers.
Litter on beaches and litter enforcement	<p>Early promotion of the Sort it Out campaign proved successful in 2021 but was implemented late in 2022, which led to reduced impacts. Early proactive communications are important to address this behaviour.</p> <p>Consideration of targeted options for enforcement of littering is underway and options are being presented to Cabinet in November 22. In addition, the use of a PSPO in managing this behaviour is also under consideration as outlined in paragraphs 37 and 38 of this report.</p>
Policing availability	Partnership working will need to be maintained to ensure the necessary policing is available at peak demand times, ensuring police commitment to a presence within the MACC particularly at red and amber trigger levels. This will be necessary to secure agile deployment of police as issues emerge.
Hostility towards staff	It will be necessary to maintain a visible presence of uniformed security officers in key locations on the seafront and known ASB hotspots to deter such hostility towards staff.

Missing Children	Investigate the potential for the implementation of a kid zone wrist band which includes a tracking chip, where an individual code for the wrist band is provided to its user (parents / carers etc). This technology is currently utilised in marathons and trilithon races to keep track of participants. Potentially, this could be manufactured at minimal cost, promoted, and sold for resort profit. If successful, the application of such wristbands could be explored as a method of safeguarding high-risk vulnerable individuals in wider settings
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### **Summary of Financial Implications**

- 52.Total funding allocated to the Seasonal Response delivery was £1.69m.
- 53.Across the summer season a total of £1.2m was spent. The remaining allocation is under review and consideration of extending the approach throughout the winter period this year is underway.
- 54.Future Seasonal Response demands and resource requirements are under consideration.

### **Summary of Human Resources Implications**

- 55.The delivery of Seasonal Response requires an uplift in staff and resources to ensure the agile and enhanced delivery of services based on evidenced need at peak times.
- 56.Without the necessary staffing available there will be reduction in the response to demands which may lead to increased litter, antisocial behaviour and camping on the beaches and in cars.
- 57.The labour market issues experienced this year will be a key risk and consideration in future planning.

### **Summary of public health implications**

- 58.Contact with the natural environment and urban greenspace has positive impacts on health in a variety of ways; DEFRA's Evidence Statement on

the links between natural environments and human health (2017) concluded that:

- a. living in greener environments is associated with reduced mortality
- b. there is strong and consistent evidence for mental health and wellbeing benefits from exposure to natural environments
- c. use of accessible, better quality natural environments is associated with a higher likelihood and rate of physical activity

59. There is obvious potential for greenspaces to deliver health benefits at scale. From trips to beaches, parks and nature reserves to a moment of calm on a tree lined commute to work we encounter it every day.

60. The Seasonal Response has ensured that public areas including parks and beaches are maintained, cleaned and available for the safe enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

### **Summary of equality implications**

61. A full Equality Impact Assessment was completed for the creation of Seasonal Response in 2021. Delivery in 2022 has seen continuation of the approach therefore no additional EIA has been required. There have been no negative impacts to protected characteristics through the Seasonal Response delivery.

### **Summary of risk assessment**

62. A detailed Risk and Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the planning and development of the Seasonal Response Tactical Plan during each year of operation. Risks such as illegal parking, increased anti-social behaviour, increased negative behaviours and increased litter were all considered and mitigated through the seasonal response enhancements, with some challenges remaining as noted within the report.

63. Regular liaison with local resilience forum partners ensured a multi-agency response and forward look for emerging risks. As such, no critical incidents or major incidents were experienced this summer.