

Equality Impact Assessment: Report and EIA Action Plan

Purpose

What is being reviewed?	Bournemouth Towns Fund – Boscombe Master Plan Phase 1
Service Lead and Service Unit:	Jonathan Thornton. Investment and Development
People involved in EIA process:	Rebecca Whelan-Edmonds Martha Covell Peter Friend
Date/s EIA started and reviewed:	13.11.2024

Background

There is a robust evidence base set out in the Towns Investment Plan and the Boscombe Master Plan Business Case to support planned targeted investment in the Bournemouth Towns Fund regeneration area, which describes how parts of the area suffer from extreme deprivation and has been the focus of the Boscombe Regeneration Partnership (BRP) since 2009.

Boscombe was once a lively seaside spa town benefiting with a vibrant creative and employment environment. It has significant potential but has been in decline since the 1970s, being blighted by a series of socio-economic problems, particularly around anti-social behaviour including drug-taking. Data from the 2011 census indicates the deprivation in the Boscombe area, including high unemployment rates, low incomes, a high rate of early deaths¹, high levels of private renting and low car ownership. The gap between this most deprived part of Bournemouth and its surrounding areas is widening, with the heart of the ward, Boscombe Central, being one of the most deprived areas in the South West². More recent Public Health data also confirms relatively high rates of childhood obesity, adult alcohol dependency and frequent emergency and non-emergency hospital admissions. Unemployment is 9.5%³ versus 6.6% nationally, and while early years school attainment progress is good, it falls back at secondary level.

The Boscombe Strategic Area Assessment Refresh, June 2020, for the Bournemouth Towns Fund Area, illustrates the IMD 2019 within the Boscombe Area. There are nine LSOAs within the 20% most deprived in England. The Kings Park LSOA is located adjacent to the most deprived Boscombe Central, which is 528 in the 2019 IMD ranking placing it amongst the top 20% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally.

Over this decade, Dorset has mirrored the national trends both in the occurrences of more people achieving higher-level qualifications and fewer with no qualifications, which could be seen as a significant structural change over a relatively short space of time. Over the same period, although the proportion of those working-age people with no qualifications has fallen (by 2.3 percentage points) to 4.9% which is lower than the UK average of 7.7% - a fifth of the working age population (23%) in the Towns Fund area does not have a Level 2 qualification, which is regarded a benchmark for employability.

The Standardised Mortality Ratio (SMR) for deaths, all causes aged under 75 and all circulatory disease aged under 75 is significantly worse in Boscombe East and West than the rate for England. Life expectancy for Males born in Boscombe West is significantly lower than the national average in addition the healthy life expectancy for both males and females in MSOA 019 (Boscombe West) is lower than at the preceding authority level and nationally.

The population in the Towns Fund area, is less active than average across the UK. In the Littledown and Iford ward, 59% are Active (At least 150 minutes per week) and 29% are Inactive (less than 30 mins per week) compared with the Boscombe ward where 54.7% Active and 33.7% Inactive. The National Average is 63.3% Active and 24.6% In-active respectively.

Boscombe is one of the most ethnically diverse and deprived areas within the Southwest. Residents have the lowest life expectancy of all Bournemouth wards, the highest level of hospital admissions for self-harm, 15% of those living in Boscombe have no garden or outdoor space. Even when we compare people of similar age, social grade and living situation (similar area, with or without children), those of Black ethnicity are 2.4 times less likely than those of White ethnicity to have a private garden

There is great deal of research into the value of urban green space for health and wellbeing⁸ and how the characteristics of the environment impact on health and other inequalities. It is estimated that well-maintained parks and green spaces save the NHS £111 million per year based solely on a reduction in GP visits and excluding any additional savings from prescribing or referrals.

Research shows that good quality parks provide psychological relaxation and stress reduction, enhanced physical activity, and mitigation of exposure to air pollution, excessive heat, noise, as well as other harmful factors in the urban environment.¹⁰ A five-year MIND programme concluded that by introducing.

The Aims of the Bournemouth Town Investment Plan is:

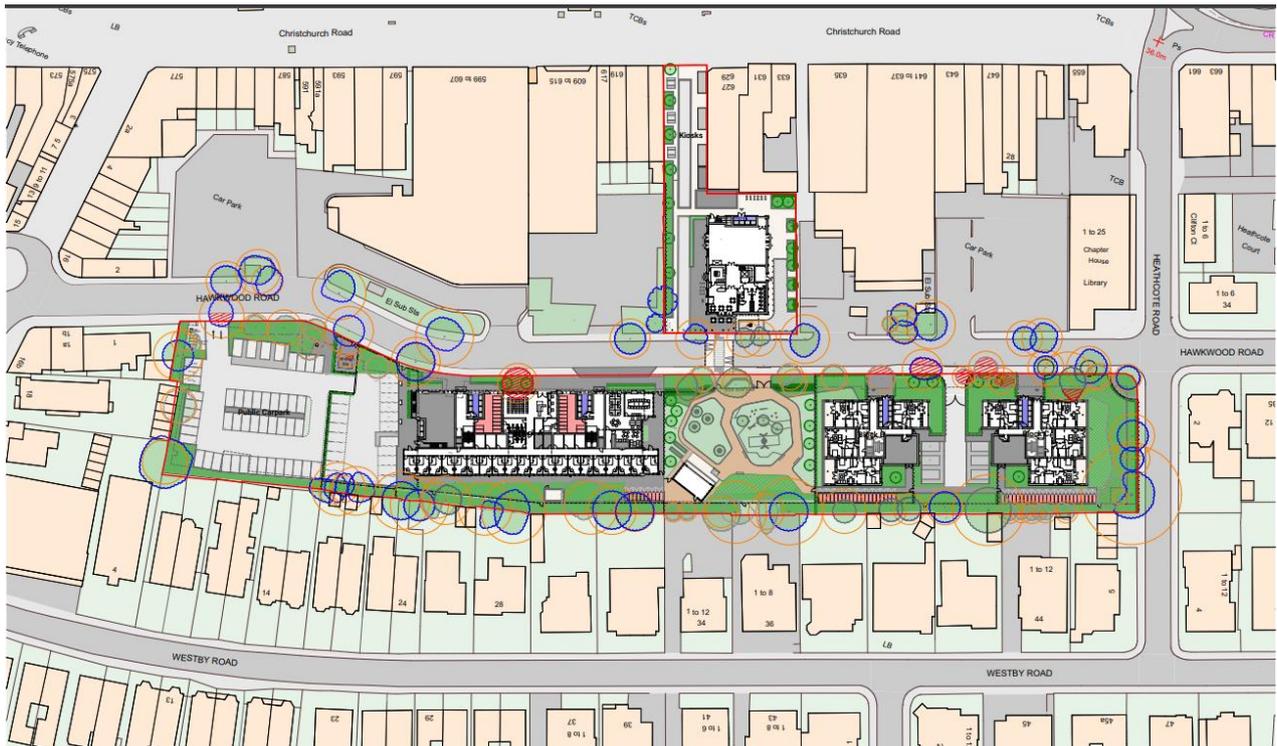
- To attract inward investment and deliver economic regeneration including new jobs and training opportunities focused on Boscombe Town Centre.
- To deliver high quality zero carbon homes in a vibrant mixed-use neighbourhood.
- To develop a beautiful, healthy and green place that enhances Boscombe's Victorian Heritage.
- To achieve better virtually and physically connected communities and foster active travel.
- To provide enhanced space and support for Boscombe rich arts and music scene celebrate its diverse cultures and bring the community together through festivals and events.

The Aims of the Project:

- Towns Investment Funds will be used to implement Phase 1 of the Boscombe Master Plan.
- The site relates to land in the ownership of BCP Council to the south of Christchurch Road, either side of Hawkwood Road, and is primarily formed of the Hawkwood Road surface carpark site.
- Third party land, the former WH Smith building, was purchased in June 2024. This building will be demolished in 2025 to facilitate the construction of a pedestrian link with Christchurch Road.

Phase 1 consists of:

- 1,740m² Community Space including a community centre, 795.65m². Community pavilion 48.01m². A medical facility, 896m².
- 49 public parking Spaces
- 20 parking spaces for the medical facility
- 6 accessible residential parking spaces
- A Public Park
- A mix of 1, 2 and 3 bed energy efficient flats, totalling 68
- A new pedestrian link between Hawkwood Road and Christchurch Road



The scheme is designed to benefit:

- Local resident's & their families
- Local Business
- Visitors to the area
- New homeowners & people wanting to move to the area.
- Local community groups and clubs
- People with health conditions

Findings

- Different Ages
- Current/Previous members of the Armed Forces
- Those with caring responsibilities
- Those with physical disabilities
- Those with mental disabilities
- Different ages
- Different sexes/genders
- Those who identify as trans
- Those who are pregnant/on maternity
- Those who are married/in a civil partnership
- People from different ethnic groups
- People with different religions or beliefs
- People with different sexual orientations
- People in different socio-economic groups
- People's human rights

Additional identified groups are:

- Lower income people
- People with health conditions mobility

Form Version 1.2 Prepared by: Rebecca Whelan-Edmonds

Date: 11.05.22

Conclusion

Summary of Equality Implications

This is one of Ten projects which will be delivered through the Bournemouth Towns Fund and Investment Plan, approved by the MHCLG in March 2021 with the total investment of £22.7 million. This project is designed to benefit residents on the Bournemouth Towns Fund Area. This project involves the redevelopment of Hawkwood Road Car Park to increase and improve accessibility to residents and visitors to Boscombe High St. To improve the visit experience to the area. To increase availability of affordable homes and open green space to the area. Improving community engagement and involvement within the new community centre and medical facility. The impact of this project has been assessed in relation to Age, disability, sex, Gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race religion or belief, sexual orientation and will have considerable benefit to families. The project will have the most benefit to other groups identified which include low-income households, people with health conditions. There are numerous positive outcomes anticipated which include:

- Increased access to services offering support advice & guidance within the Community Centre setting.
- Increased access to services aimed at improving physical and emotional health and wellbeing through the medical facility
- Increased access to open green space
- Increase access to homes, including affordable homes
- Better accessibility to Boscombe High Street through improvements to the pedestrian access routes.

In 2020 Dots Disability were commissioned by BCP to undertake a user led/co-produced consultation on the Boscombe Master Plan. The aim being to identify issues that would need to be given due regard as the area is redeveloped in order to design in and or maintain an inclusive environment. Dots have made recommendations against the wider Master Plan and The Project team will continue to work with Dots focusing on Phase 1 as the project develops focusing on accessibility to the High St via Hawkwood Road and the Easter Junction of Christchurch Road.

Equality Impact Assessment: Report and EIA Action Plan

[This action plan provides a summary of any negative impacts and relevant mitigating actions]

Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan

Please complete this Action Plan for any positive, 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
Reduction in parking within Hawkwood Road Main Car Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Good publication of proposals to enable people to make alternative parking arrangements before closures take place; (2) Good sign posting to alternative car parks, in wider area, to save people having increased journey times; (3) Ongoing discussions with the Traders Group regarding the decrease of parking and alternative arrangements. 	Mainly in 2025 (from 2022 with Traders Group)	Martha Covell/TBC
Accessibility of different user groups- to shops and services on Boscombe High Street, during and after construction as a result of building works and reduction in car parking.	Work with stakeholders and colleagues in housing, environment and transport to ensure that accessibility for less mobile is at the forefront at planning stage.	2026- 2028	Martha Covell/TBC

Potential impact on accessibility and noise whilst construction works undertaken	Clauses will be included within the construction contract to minimise any disruption to access and noise and these will be implemented during the construction phase.	In advance of and during the course of the construction contract.	Peter Friend