

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

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

The Council must have due regard to the need to -

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Date/s EIA started and reviewed:

Start date August 2021

Review date September 2024

5. Executive Summary of Equality Implications

Housing Strategy 2021-2026

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

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

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

Impact to date:

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

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

NEW initiatives on key strategic objectives for the Housing Strategy

1. Future Growth Needs

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

2. Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

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

3. Improving Housing Options, Opportunities and Choice for all

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

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

September 2024 EIA midway Review

Background

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

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

DAK - Scope out relevant feedback from members day.

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

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

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

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

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

5. Improving safety and sustainability across BCPs housing

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What has changed since the start of the Housing Strategy?

Research and evidence since EIA Screening document 2021

- New government
- Growing population

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

Key demographic statistics

BCP Population growth:

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

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

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

[BCP Mid-2023 Population Estimates Briefing Paper \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.bcp-council.gov.uk/media/1014/BCP-Mid-2023-Population-Estimates-Briefing-Paper.pdf)

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

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

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

DAK - Add BCP population protected characteristic experiences.

Changes since the start of the Housing Strategy 2021

National Context

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

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

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

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

Key manifesto points of the newly elected Labour Government are:

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

Local Context

BCP Demographic Figures 2021-24

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

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

Current homelessness figure

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

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

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

Pressure on the Housing Register

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

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

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

Cost of living effects

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

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

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

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

BCP Refuge cohorts needs / expectations:

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

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

Current TA pressure:

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

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

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

DAK - Add DA BCP region stats 21 to 24

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

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

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

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

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

1. Homes England Affordable Homes Programme (AHP) summary

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

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

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

2. First Homes Scheme

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

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

3. Home Energy Performance Retrofit

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

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

- Economic resilience and green jobs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New paragraphs added to template:

Mitigation

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

Summary

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

Does the summary provide the following?

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

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

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

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

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

The Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

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

Social Care White Paper (2021)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix B

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

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

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

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

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

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