

CABINET



Report subject	Designation of Neighbourhood Forum and Area
Meeting date	16 July 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Neighbourhood forums are organisations empowered to lead on the preparation of a neighbourhood plan within a defined area.</p> <p>Neighbourhood planning involves the local community in developing a shared vision to help shape the future development and growth of their local area. A neighbourhood plan must proceed through several statutory stages before it can be formally 'made' (adopted) by the Council.</p> <p>BCP Council has received two applications for designation of a neighbourhood forum and area within (i) the East Cliff and (ii) East Cliff and Springbourne Ward. Both applications extend into a small part of Bournemouth Town Centre ward. Each application was subject to a statutory public consultation inviting representations. The consultations ran in tandem between 24 February and 7 April 2025.</p> <p>A prospective forum can determine what area is most suitable to plan for. However, the Local Planning Authority must first formally designate the forum (as a 'qualifying body') and designate the neighbourhood area, having regard to a range of factors including comments received from consultation.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</p> <p>Cabinet is asked to consider each proposal for neighbourhood forum and area designation together with consultation responses, and make a determination on one of the following options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Designate East Cliff Neighbourhood Forum and Area. 2. Designate East Cliff and Springbourne Neighbourhood Forum and Area. 3. Make no designation.
Reason for recommendations	To meet the statutory obligations including provisions set out in (i) the Localism Act 2011 (ii) the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017) and (iii) the

	Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended).
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Millie Earl – Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning
Corporate Director	Glynn Barton, Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	Rebecca Landman, Strategic Planning Officer
Wards	East Cliff and Springbourne, Bournemouth Central
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. Brought in under the Localism Act 2011, the neighbourhood planning regime allows communities to play a stronger role in shaping the areas where they live and work by developing a neighbourhood plan for their area, containing a local vision, objectives and planning policies.
2. A neighbourhood forum is an organisation (in unparished areas) empowered to lead on the preparation of a neighbourhood plan for their area with the express purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area.
3. Once approved by the council, a neighbourhood forum has the legal status as a 'qualifying body' for five years to develop a neighbourhood plan within a designated area. No other organisation may be designated to exercise neighbourhood planning powers for that area, until the designation expires or is withdrawn.
4. There are six main stages in the neighbourhood planning process (shown below).

The decision to designate the forum and the area forms the first formal stage and is the subject of this report.

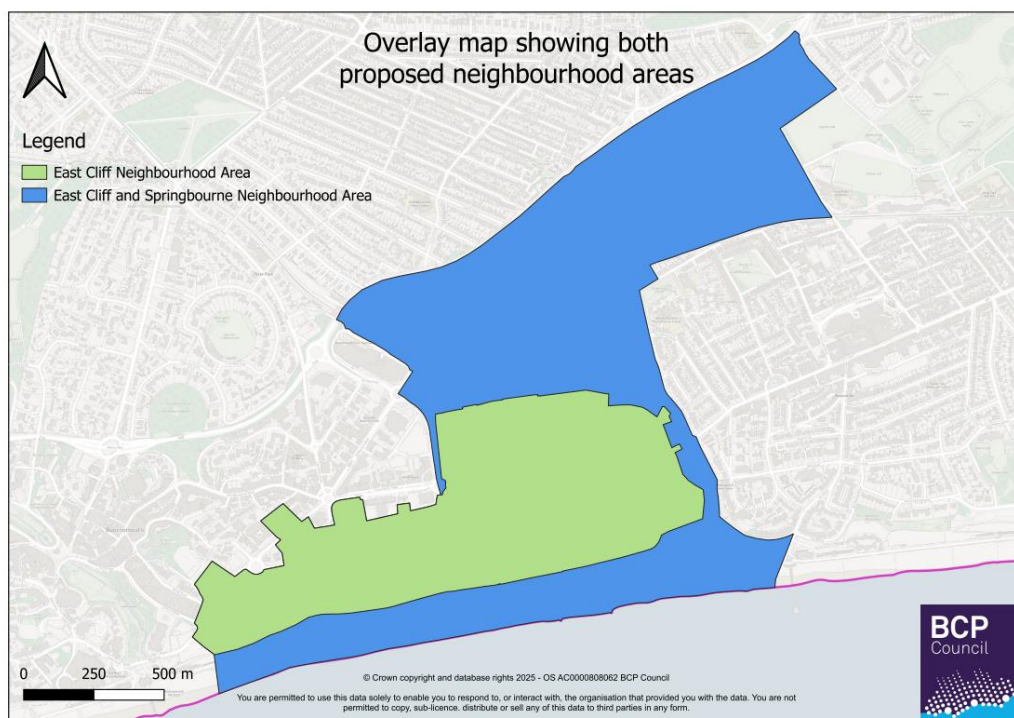
- i. Designation of neighbourhood forum as 'qualifying body' and designation of neighbourhood area by the Local Planning Authority (LPA).
- ii. Preparation of a draft neighbourhood plan, evidence gathering and effective community engagement by the qualifying body.
- iii. Publicity and statutory consultation on the draft pre-submission plan by the qualifying body.
- iv. Submission of the draft plan by the qualifying body to the LPA including further statutory consultation by the LPA.
- v. Independent examination to determine whether the neighbourhood plan meets basic conditions and other legal tests together with consideration of responses from the consultation, and production of a report by the independent examiner.
- vi. Referendum held. If more than 50% of voters are in favour of the neighbourhood plan, it becomes part of the statutory development plan for

the neighbourhood area, alongside the Local Plan. It is then subsequently 'made' (adopted) by the Council.

5. When the designation of the forum and area is agreed, stage (ii) can begin. BCP Council as the LPA, has a statutory duty in accordance with Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 to review, advise and support neighbourhood forums through the procedural process of preparing their neighbourhood plans.
6. Going forward, the scope and complexity of the neighbourhood plan and its focus on specific topic areas is for the local community to decide upon, based upon their aspirations, the nature of the area, economic conditions, expected levels of growth, including choosing whether or not to contain policies and allocations to meet its identified housing requirement. A neighbourhood plan may be wide-ranging or deal with one or two issues only, it can be detailed or set general principles for development. However in all cases, it must be in general conformity with, and plan positively to support the strategic policies of the Development Plan in force (e.g. the Bournemouth Core Strategy 2012).
7. To meet basic conditions, a neighbourhood plan must have regard to the National Planning Policy Framework and guidance, contribute to achieving sustainable development, be compatible with human rights obligations and not breach the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations.

Prospective forum/area boundaries

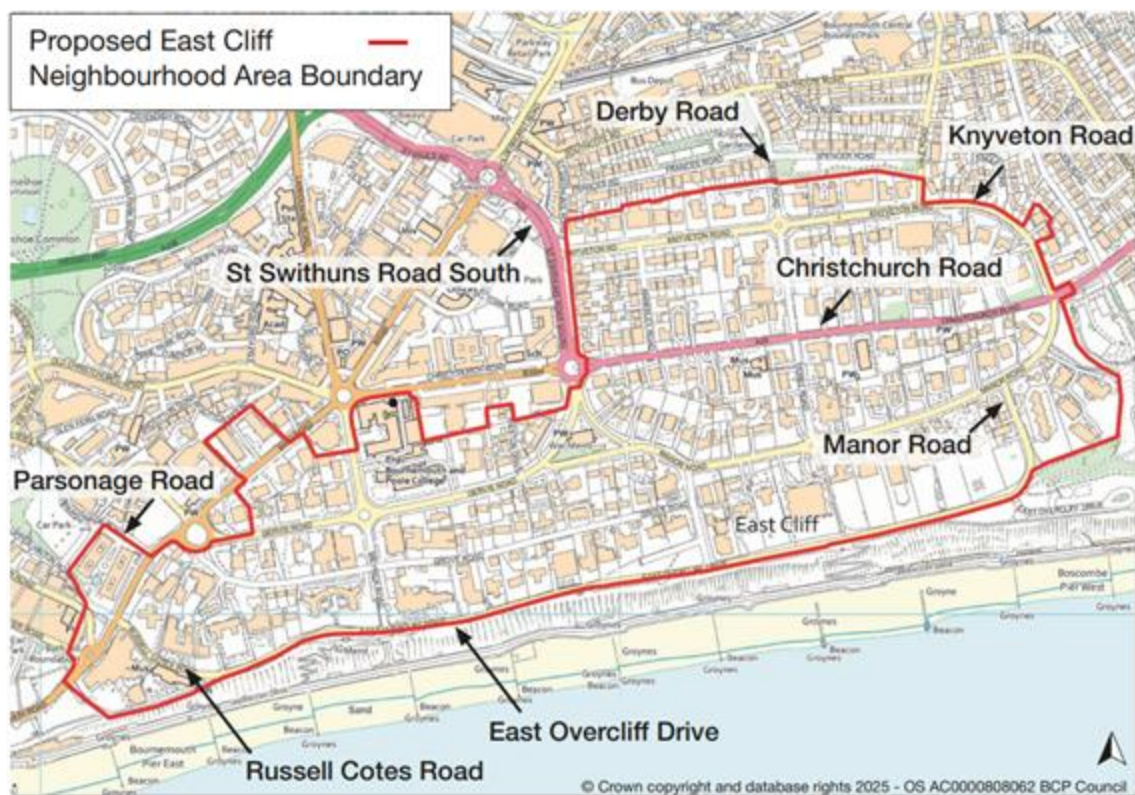
8. BCP Council received two separate applications for forum and area designation proposing different neighbourhood areas, but which overlap one another contained within the East Cliff and Springbourne ward and a small part of Bournemouth Central ward. For context, a map of the proposed areas is shown below:



9. When an application for neighbourhood plan forum and area designation is submitted to the LPA, it must ensure that it complies with relevant statutory requirements. If these are met, it must publish (as soon as possible) the application and prescribed documents in accordance with Regulations 5 and 8 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended).
10. Both applications were supported by prescribed documents and were fully compliant with the regulations, as such they were both accepted by the LPA.

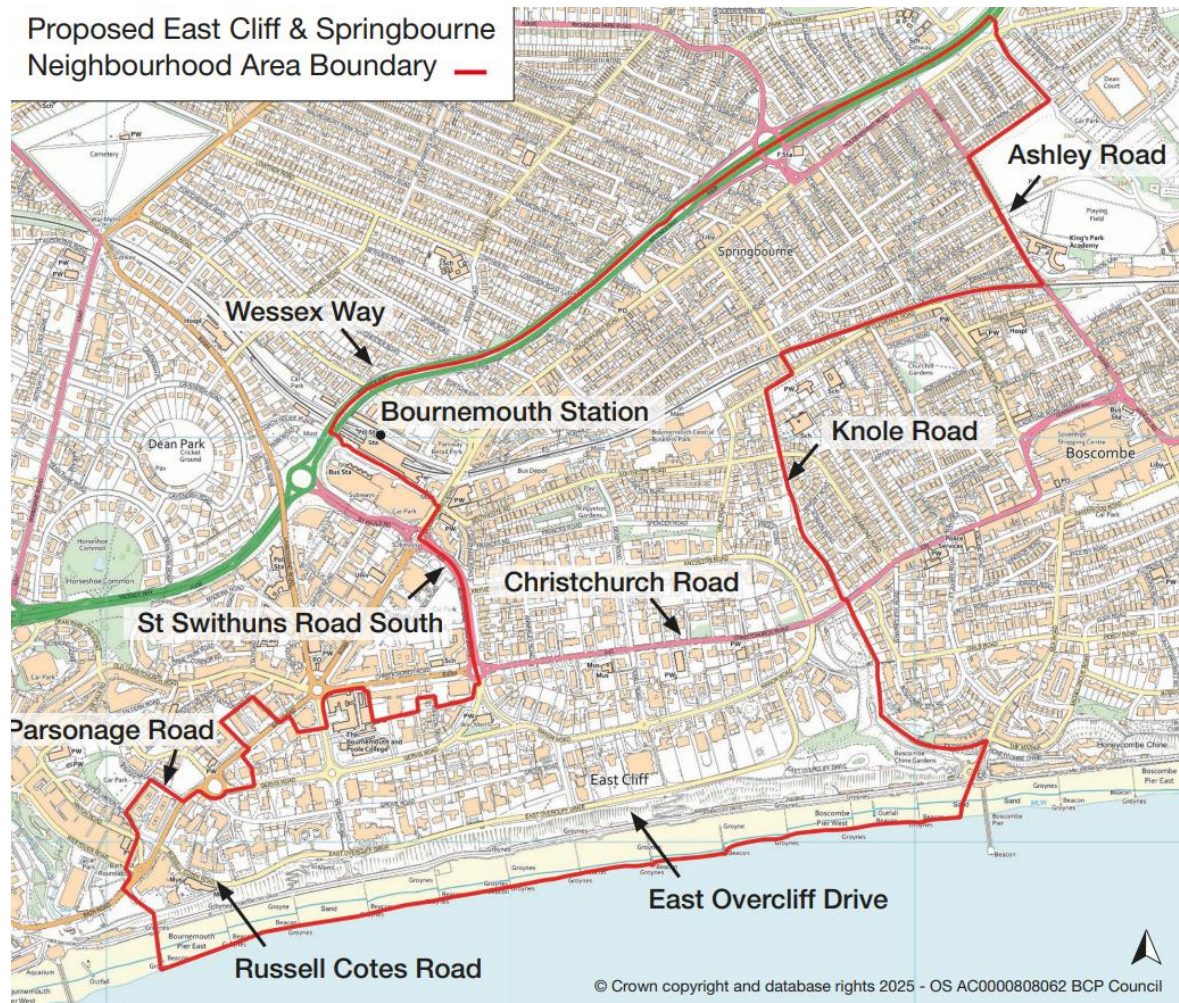
The East Cliff Neighbourhood Area

11. The area boundary covers the existing East Cliff Conservation Area, which includes some of the coastal/cliff top within the East Cliff and Springbourne ward area and a small area of the eastern end of the Bournemouth Central ward. There are 3,620 residents on the electoral roll within the proposed boundary. The proposed neighbourhood area covers approximately 80.1 hectares.



The East Cliff and Springbourne Neighbourhood Area

12. The area boundary covers the existing East Cliff and Springbourne ward (minus an area north of the Wessex Way which forms part of the designated Queens Park and Charminster Neighbourhood Area. It also takes in the East Cliff Conservation Area boundary, extending to the beach and a small area to the East within the Bournemouth Central ward. There are 10,494 residents on the electoral roll within the proposed boundary. The proposed neighbourhood area covers approximately 218.6 hectares.



Publication Consultation: 24 February – 7 April 2025

13. Consultations were launched and representations invited for 6 weeks on each proposal put forward by the East Cliff Neighbourhood Forum and the East Cliff & Springbourne Forum.
14. The Regulations state that the LPA must publish the area and forum applications on the website and in such other manner as they consider is likely to bring the application to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the area to which the application relates.
15. The LPA hosted the consultations on Engagement HQ, providing all application documentation online with digital surveys. It sent emails to all consultees on the planning policy database with details on how to respond to the consultations, provided paper copies of documentation in local libraries, erected posters across the area, issued a press release and used its social media platforms to notify users of the consultations and inviting representations.

East Cliff Neighbourhood Forum and Area Consultation responses received via online engagement platform.

16. 68 online survey forms responses were received (this was a multi-select question where some people selected more than one option, hence 75 responses given from 68 respondents):

- 50 responses from people living within the boundary
- 13 responses from people living outside the boundary
- *One response from a developer/landowner/agent*
- *One response from statutory/non statutory consultees*
- *One response from an agent on behalf of a client*
- *Including four responses from BCP Councillors*
- *One response from a town/parish councillor*
- *Four responses on behalf of organisations*

17. **A full breakdown of all responses received from the online survey are set out in the Consultation Report at Appendix 1:**

- 77% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed that the East Cliff Neighbourhood Forum should be designated.
- 21% of respondents disagreed/strongly disagreed with the designation.

East Cliff Neighbourhood Forum and Area Consultation responses received by email/post:

18. 16 responses received by email/post from:

- Nine people living within the boundary including business owners and a community group.
- Four people living outside the boundary including 1 BCP Councillor
- Three statutory consultees (Environment Agency, National Highways, Natural England) – no concerns raised.
- Split: 50% female/male respondents
- Split: 3 under 44 years, 7 over 45 years.
- All white British

19. **Key messages from responses received by email/post:**

- **Nine respondents expressed strong support for the East Cliff proposal.** Respondents' additional comments are summarised as follows.
- *'The East Cliff area is very specific in its needs and those would be unrecognised if the East Cliff residents were amalgamated with Springbourne. Since 1980, I have watched the two areas become distinct entities, very different from one another. They need two completely separate forums to address each area's needs.'*

- *'The needs of the East Cliff area do not necessarily align with those of Springbourne, and I will not be supporting the plans that would include the Springbourne area alongside East Cliff. East Cliff and the coastal area are unique in their own right and the neighbourhood plan should focus on these rather than be watered down to incorporate Springbourne. Would be prepared to invest my time to assisting the East Cliff Proposal.'*
- *'The area is unloved and run-down. The pavements aren't cleaned and a hazard to walk on. There is no kerbside appeal for visitors. Properties are left run down and are an eyesore. There is no sense of community with residents and business owners. No wish to align with Springbourne. A lot of people to this area when they use the beach. It is scruffy and unappealing and nothing to be proud of and needs to be cleaned up with derelict properties brought back into use.'*
- *'East Cliff is a defined area with nothing in common with Springbourne.'*
- *'East Cliff should be separate to Springbourne.'*
- *'East Cliff Forum would be beneficial to the area as there were areas and buildings which need discussion that hopefully would improve the East Cliff area.'*
- *'It makes common sense to cover small areas due to familiarity of the area, shorter meetings, more personal interest. Coverage of a larger area would not be of interest to me.'*
- **Five respondents expressed strong objection to the East Cliff proposal** who provided the following additional comments.
 - *'(The East Cliff Forum) is not community led, not in the spirit of Localism Act, as led by landowner and businesses, doesn't include all of the Conservation Area, excludes too many residents especially those in deprived areas, lacks whole community support and not supported by ward councillors.'*
 - *'It is not community led and has too many business interests, doesn't cover all of the Conservation Area and excludes vital amenities e.g. green spaces, cliffs and cliff lift and beach. Not sustainable and too small an area, lacks strategic support and excludes residents in deprived areas.'*
 - *'East Cliff and Springbourne belong together.'*
 - *'It is divisive to separate areas of the ward and deprive certain access to apply for funding and resources that could be hugely beneficial.'*
 - *As a resident of East Cliff, I am passionate about our area. The whole of East Cliff has been left to severely decline over the years. The landowners have invested nothing, from the demolished Cliff End Hotel to the Mon Bijou & Hinton Firs Hotels, three run-down hotels in a premier position on the cliff top continuing on into Gervis Rd. The partially demolished fire ravaged Orchid Hotel are all detrimental to the area. The landowners have invested nothing and no enforcement action from the council has been implemented, therefore I wholeheartedly oppose the intention to set up the East Cliff Neighbourhood Forum. I see no benefit from allowing the powers to be governed by wealthy landowners who have no desire to invest in the community, or to enhance the lives of residents to create a community of likeminded people.'*

East Cliff and Springbourne Neighbourhood Forum and Area Consultation responses received via online engagement platform.

20. 73 online forms were received from:

- 63 people living within the boundary
- Nine people living outside the boundary
- *Including five BCP Councillors*
- *Including one person on behalf of an organisation*

21. **A full breakdown of all responses received from the online survey are set out in the Consultation Report at Appendix 2.**

- 83% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed that the East Cliff and Springbourne Neighbourhood Forum should be designated.
- 12% of respondents disagreed/strongly disagreed with the designation.

East Cliff and Springbourne Neighbourhood Forum and Area Consultation responses received by email/post:

22. 34 responses received by email/post from:

- 18 people living within the boundary.
- 12 people living outside the boundary including 1 BCP Councillor
- Four statutory consultees (including Environment Agency, Historic England, National Highways, Natural England) – no concerns raised.
- Split roughly 50% female/male respondents
- Split 7 under 44 years, 17 over 45 years, 10 did not provide their age.
- All those who provided their ethnic group were white British/Irish

23. **Key messages from the responses received by email/post:**

- **25 respondents expressed strong support for the East Cliff & Springbourne Proposal.** Respondents' additional comments are summarised as follows.
- *'The autonomy of the area given the funding limitations for the whole of the BCP area is paramount, I wish each area had one.'*
- *'I support the full area of the neighbourhood plan, including Springbourne as it is much more inclusive of the voting area. Having the larger area means that there is better scope for planning and overview. A (neighbourhood) plan should not be managed by the people that own a large proportion of the land. There is a risk that if that was the case decisions would not be taken that benefit the whole community. Love the idea that the East Cliff lift is included in the larger plan. Need better provision for people who are less physically able. Helps that additional business is brought to beachside cafes rather than people having to travel*

further. Advantage of choosing the more inclusive plan is there is already a functioning forum, very ably led by Mark.'

- 'It is very important that we have a say in our area.'
- 'It is very important our area is included in the neighbourhood forum.'
- 'Working for all of the area, it is important to include and improve the cliff top.'
- 'As a relative newcomer to the area, I am disappointed that the local parks and clifftop are neglected and poorly maintained. I would like to add my voice to those other residents that would like to see improvements and proper maintenance of our local outdoor spaces.'
- 'As a long-time resident, I feel being included in the neighbourhood forum will give me a voice on future plans in the area I have lived in all my life.'
- 'This area includes all the East Cliff. We need to have the power to decide what goes on within our area, look after our neighbourhood and plan positively.'
- 'Community led, politically neutral and best way forward to address decline across the East Cliff that is also affecting Springbourne. It has the backing of all three ward councillors and the MP. More residents will benefit, includes all of the important amenities such as the beach, the cliff, the library, the college etc that a community needs to thrive. The other application is dominated by business interests.'
- 'Community led and includes all the amenities necessary for a sustainable neighbourhood, has strategic support e.g. ward councillors and MP, addresses the equalities impacts, is inclusive – no postcode lotteries and more residents benefit.'
- 'I think that the entire area of East Cliff and Springbourne should be included in the Forum. It's one ward and will be stronger together, and the whole ward should have the opportunity to apply for funding, especially the areas that would benefit the most.'
- 'Do not separate East Cliff from Springbourne.'
- 'Good luck to the local residents on formulating a neighbourhood plan that serves the needs of our impacted communities.'
- 'The Springbourne and East Cliff group have worked very hard to establish support and offer informative communication for residents and moving forward with continuous development and increased awareness which the Group advocates would be far more beneficial for the community and its residents. I am therefore very much in favour of establishing the East Cliff and Springbourne Neighbourhood Forum.'
- 'I think both areas should have an equal opportunity to apply for funding to benefit both areas and not be separated out.'
- 'I live in East Cliff, and I want East Cliff and Springbourne to thrive together. I am writing to you as MP for Bournemouth East to support a neighbourhood forum, development of a neighbourhood plan with geography covered to include East Cliff and Springbourne. There are two public consultations – only

one is supported and all three ward councillors representing three political parties. This proposal includes all conservation areas and could lead to the regeneration of the East Cliff lift, reduced anti-social behaviour, more support for health and educational opportunities, and a real strategic economic approach. I know the instinct of local resident is to hold together. We should not be creating artificial differences between parts of our community, especially when this may result in one part becoming more prosperous while next door falls behind, denied the same opportunities to get ahead. The success of the forum and plan will depend on investment, and the role of the new Labour Government will be pivotal here. As a Labour MP, I will be advocating for investment and support to meet the shared needs of East Cliff and Springbourne, and I believe the neighbourhood plan should enable this. This is an initiative by the residents, for the residents. I hope for a plan that excludes nobody and gives everyone the support they need.'

- **Three respondents expressed strong objection to the East Cliff and Springbourne Proposal.** Respondents' additional comments are summarised as follows.
- *'I have lived and worked in the BCP area all my life. My work for 44 years was front line emergency care for the NHS. I know the areas well and the needs of the community. The two areas are so different. I believe East Cliff and Springbourne should have separate (neighbourhood) forums.'*
- *'East Cliff and Springbourne are two different areas and have to be treated as such. I have lived in Bournemouth all my life and was born here. I have seen much more decline in Springbourne, it now has a different demographic and different needs. Let's not try to please everyone, or we will end up pleasing no one'*
- *'The area covered by this application is too large to ensure that the views of the residents in any specific area will be adequately represented. The views of those living to the west of the area covered may well not reflect those of the residents living in the east, particularly as the proposed area covers both Boscombe and Bournemouth'*

Considerations

24. The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 require that the LPA must make a decision on whether to designate a neighbourhood forum and area within 13 weeks from the date of publication of the consultation, but this time period is disapplied if the LPA is considering another neighbourhood forum application which includes some or all of the same area, as is the case here where the two applications had been submitted and neither had yet been determined.

Designation of the neighbourhood forum

25. A prospective group can apply for an area to be designated even if it is not yet a designated forum, providing that it can demonstrate that it is capable of becoming a forum for the area being applied for.
26. The LPA must, in determining whether to designate an organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum in accordance with section 61(F)(5) consider whether it meets the conditions by demonstrating that:

- It is established for the purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of a prospective neighbourhood area.
 - Its membership is open to individuals to live and work in the area including elected councillors
 - Its membership includes a minimum of 21 individuals live, work or are elected councillors in the area.
 - It has a written Constitution.
 - Such other conditions as may be prescribed.
27. The Town and Country Planning Act section 61(F)(7) further clarifies that the LPA must have regard to the desirability of such designation and whether:
- the organisation has secured or taken reasonable steps to attempt to secure membership from at least 21 individuals from who live, work and carry on business and elected members of the council whose area falls within the area concerned.
 - Its membership is drawn from different places in the neighbourhood area and from different sections of the community in that area, and
 - Its purpose of the organisation (in general terms) which should reflect the character of that area.
28. Both prospective neighbourhood forums have met the requirements for submission set out in Section 8 of the Regulations. The East Cliff Forum proposal emerged following the original proposal submitted by the prospective East Cliff and Springbourne Neighbourhood Forum. Due to the committee timetable and lead-in times, the East Cliff Forum submitted their proposal before the East Cliff & Springbourne application had been determined.
29. The East Cliff and Springbourne proposal have secured the requisite number of forum members, mostly from residents, three of which are business owners/workers and three of which are local councillors. For the East Cliff proposal, just under half of its forum members are hotel business owners/workers, with six people representing one hotel, and four members representing other hotels. There are nine other forum members who are residents of the area and two local councillors. One of the councillors sits on both forums. The membership of both forums is representative of the neighbourhood areas they propose.

Designation of the neighbourhood area

30. The power for the LPA to designate a Neighbourhood area is exercisable under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
31. An LPA must designate a neighbourhood area if it receives a valid application in accordance with Section 8 of the Regulations and some or all of the area has not yet been designated. However, it can also refuse to designate the area if it considers the area is not appropriate and must give reasons for doing so.
32. Neighbourhood areas cannot overlap. Once designated, no other neighbourhood area/forum can be designated in the same area. This is because the neighbourhood forum has a legal status as a 'qualifying body' for five years to develop a neighbourhood plan within the designated area. This does not affect the existence

or creation of other community groups e.g., residents' groups, in the area. Neighbourhood Forums expire after five years or can be withdrawn before that time.

33. Electoral ward boundaries can be a useful starting point on the appropriate size of a neighbourhood area; these have an average population of about 5,500 residents, although forums can choose not to follow an administrative boundary. Unlike parish council areas, the LPA cannot consider the desirability of maintaining the existing boundaries of neighbourhood areas. Therefore, it must consider practical implications.
34. In appraising the options for the preferred forum and area, regard should be had in the decision to designate a neighbourhood area, which goes beyond the ward, or only forms part of a ward, due to the additional complexity for the LPA in terms of providing the forum with an indicative housing requirement and for managing a referendum.
35. National guidance sets out key factors which should be considered when deciding whether the neighbourhood area is consistent with its settlement boundary reflecting areas of any planned expansion, catchments for walking to local services – shops, primary schools, GP surgeries, parks and other facilities, areas where networks of community groups operate, physical characteristics of the neighbourhood, buildings which may be a consistent scale or style, whether the area forms part of a coherent estate for businesses or residents, whether infrastructure or physical features define a natural boundary (e.g. major road), natural setting or features of the area, and the size of population in the area.
36. The area can be viewed as appropriate to be designated if it is inclusive and coherent in character and supported by the consultation feedback.

Options Appraisal

37. There are three options open to the Council:

38. **Option 1: Designate the East Cliff Neighbourhood Forum and Area**

- **Discrete character:** Focuses on an area with a discrete character and covers the whole of the East Cliff Conservation Area where its location, historic nature/features, setting and topography positively contribute to the character and appearance of the area. Whilst the Conservation Area is protected under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, carefully managing change in this area is important, to ensure its heritage assets are preserved or enhanced.
- **Consultation feedback:** Positive feedback was received to designating the area.
- However, the area forms a very limited part of the East Cliff & Springbourne and part of Bournemouth Central ward which would result in complexity for the LPA in providing information and managing a referendum.
- Further, separating one area within a ward from another, particularly where this results in an area of deprivation being excluded could be perceived as discriminatory towards those with protected characteristics.

- A large proportion of forum members are business owners/workers, rather than residents. Whilst individuals in businesses can take the lead in neighbourhood planning, this should be done in areas wholly or predominantly business in nature and they should ask the LPA to consider designating the neighbourhood area as such.
39. If this option was taken forward, there are some human resource implications as a result of the council's statutory duty to advise, support and respond at key stages of the neighbourhood planning process. No financial implications, public health, equalities, or sustainability implications have been identified at this stage. However, there may be some legal impacts that need to be considered should a decision be taken not to designate the forum and area.
40. **Option 2: Designate the East Cliff and Springbourne Neighbourhood Forum and Area**
- **Whole ward approach:** Covers a comprehensive area, and a larger population. Includes sustainable neighbourhoods where a high proportion of shops, facilities, green spaces and several potential site allocations, local opportunity areas and streets are located, hence presents opportunities for a greater impact on social, environmental and economic benefits for the area.
 - **Community led:** Forum led by residents, for the community, with the support of BCP Ward Councillors.
 - **Inclusive:** In the indices of multiple deprivation, East Cliff & Springbourne is one of nine areas within the BCP area, at the greatest level of deprivation, and in an area with the highest crime, with significant levels of health deprivation and disability. The benefits of a neighbourhood plan covering the whole ward could identify and prioritise improvements and fund initiatives and create more opportunities for local people to have a say in their community, helping them to live a more fulfilled life.
 - **Consultation feedback:** Positive feedback was received to designating the area.
 - However, the area forms the East Cliff & Springbourne and part of Bournemouth Central ward which would also result in complexity for the LPA in providing information and managing a referendum.
 - Further, the ward contains different character areas which may experience different issues.
41. If this option was taken forward, there are some financial and human resource implications as a result of the council's statutory duty to advise, support and respond to neighbourhood forums at key stages of the neighbourhood planning process. At this stage, there are no identified public health or sustainability implications for the Council. However, the scope of the neighbourhood plan may include objectives and policies to address/improve public health and sustainability issues, and these would be matters for the neighbourhood forum to take forward in developing the neighbourhood plan. There may be some legal impacts that need to be considered should a decision be taken not to designate the forum and area.

42. Option 3: Do not designate a forum and area

43. There may be legal impacts if robust reasons are not given for designating either neighbourhood forum and area.

Summary of financial implications

44. As part of its statutory duty to support neighbourhood planning groups, there are implications for officer time in the planning policy team to enable attendance at meetings, responding to emails and requests, making appropriate legal and planning issues checks, responding to consultations, publishing the neighbourhood plan for consultation, planning for independent examination and referendum. Whilst the costs of officer time are included in existing budgets, the cost of the examination and referendum need to be met by the Council.
45. There is financial support available for Local Planning Authorities from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to meet the cost of the referendum. LPA's can claim £20,000 when they issue a decision statement detailing their intention to send the plan to referendum (as set out under Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012).
46. When a Neighbourhood Plan is 'Made' (adopted by the Council), the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Neighbourhood Portion rises from 15% to 25%.

Summary of legal implications

47. The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) set out the statutory requirements placed on LPAs to assess applications to designate a planning forum.
48. Part 2 of the Regulations makes provision in relation to the procedure for designating a neighbourhood area, including the content of the application and what the LPA must do to publicise such an application (Regulations 5 and 6).
49. Part 3 of the Regulations makes provision in relation to the procedure for designating an organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum, which authorises them to act in relation to the neighbourhood area. In particular, provision is made as to the content of an application and what the LPA must do to publicise an application and publicising any designation of a neighbourhood forum (Regulations 8-12).

Summary of human resources implications

50. Work involved with supporting and advising neighbourhood planning groups can be resourced within the planning policy team and within existing budgets. Managing a referendum will also need additional resource from electoral services officers.

Summary of sustainability impact

51. None.

Summary of public health implications

52. None.

Summary of equality implications

53. The written constitution of both Neighbourhood Forums sets out how they will be inclusive to all residents, businesses, organisations, stakeholders, and elected Members within the Neighborhood Plan Area to ensure engagement and involvement with all sections of the community.
54. An Equalities Impact Screening Assessment was undertaken and considered by an EIA panel on 4 June 2025. The panel rated the screening as 'green – approved' as shown in Appendix 3, demonstrating that the council's public sector equality duty had been met.

Summary of risk assessment

55. Any delay in making a decision on the neighbourhood forum and area designation without clear reasons could cause reputational harm to the Council.

Background papers – published works

[Haveyoursay webpage-East Cliff proposal](#)

[Haveyoursay webpage-East Cliff and Springbourne proposal](#)

Appendices

- 1 – East Cliff Consultation Report - captured from online survey.
- 2 – East Cliff and Springbourne Consultation Report - captured from online survey.
- 3 – EIA Panel outcome form.