

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Members of the Management Committee are invited to attend this meeting at Weymouth and Portland Borough Council Offices, Commercial Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8NG to consider the items listed on the following page.

Stuart Caundle  
Head of Paid Service

**Date:** Tuesday, 5 February 2019

**Time:** 9.30 am

**Venue:** Council Chamber

**Members of Committee:**

J Cant (Chair), R Kosior (Vice-Chair), M Byatt, C Huckle, R Nickinson, R Nowak, J Orrell, A Reed, G Taylor and K Wheller

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### USEFUL INFORMATION

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Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting with the exception of any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda. **Please note** that if you attend a committee meeting and make oral representations to the committee your name, together with a summary of your comments will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The minutes, which are the formal record of the meeting, will be available to view in electronic and paper format, as a matter of public record, for a minimum of 6 years following the date of the meeting



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### Recording, photographing and using social media at meetings

The council is committed to being open and transparent in the way it carries out its business whenever possible. Anyone can film, audio-record, take photographs, and use social media such as tweeting and blogging to report the meeting when it is open to the public, so long as they conform to the Council's protocol, a copy of which can be obtained from the Democratic Services Team.

# A G E N D A

Page No.

## 1 APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for absence.

## 2 MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2018.

## 3 CODE OF CONDUCT

Members are required to comply with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Code of Conduct regarding disclosable pecuniary and other interests.

- Check if there is an item of business on this agenda in which the member or other relevant person has a disclosable pecuniary or the disclosable interest.
- Check that the interest has been notified to the Monitoring Officer (in writing) and entered in the Register (if not this must be done within 28 days).
- Disclose the interest at the meeting (in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct) and in the absence of dispensation to speak and/or vote, withdraw from any consideration of the item where appropriate. If the interest is non-pecuniary you may be able to stay in the room, take part and vote.

## 4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

30 minutes will be set aside to allow members of the public to ask questions relating to the work of the Council. 3 minutes will be allowed per speaker. The order of speakers is at the discretion of the Chair and is normally taken in the order of agenda items, questions must relate to a report which is on the agenda for consideration. Notice is not required if you wish to speak at the meeting but if you require an answer to a question it is advisable to submit this in advance by contacting a member of the Democratic Services team or alternatively, by emailing [lwatson@dorset.gov.uk](mailto:lwatson@dorset.gov.uk).

**5 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS**

To receive questions from Councillors in accordance with procedure rule 12.

**6 QUARTER 3 BUSINESS REVIEW REPORT 5 - 76**

To receive a report of the Financial Performance Manager.

**7 REQUEST TO EXTEND WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND DOG-RELATED PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2016 77 - 90**

To consider a report of the Team Leader - Environmental Protection.

**8 ADOPTION OF DORSET AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019-2024 91 - 148**

To consider a report of the Corporate Manager, Planning (Community & Policy Development)

**9 APPLICATION FOR DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF 149 - 154**

To consider a report of the Head of Revenues and Benefits.

**10 COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODY 155 - 158**

To appoint a member to serve on Weymouth Pavilion Community Interest Company (CIC).

**11 PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL - TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS AND ASSETS 159 - 166**

To consider a report by the Head of Assets and Infrastructure.

**12 FORMER WPBC OFFICES, NORTH QUAY, WEYMOUTH 167 - 180**

To consider a report of the Head of Assets and Infrastructure.

**13 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN**

To receive a verbal update on the Management Committee Action Plan.

**14 URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any items of business which the Chair has had prior notification and considers to be urgent pursuant to section 100B (4) )b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The reason for the urgency shall be specified in the minutes.

**15 EXEMPT BUSINESS**

To move the exclusion of the press and the public for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

**16 WEYMOUTH HARBOUR WALL D STRENGTHENING -  
APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR - EXEMPT**

181 - 186

To consider a report of the Project Engineer.

## Management Committee

5<sup>th</sup> February 2019

## Business Review 2018/19 – For period ending 31st December 2018

### For Decision

#### Briefholder

Cllr Jeff Cant – Finance & Assets

#### Senior Leadership Team Contact:

J Vaughan, Strategic Director

#### Report Author:

Christian Evans – Financial Performance Manager

### Statutory Authority

Members have a responsibility under the Local Government Act to regularly review the Council's financial position and this report fulfils this requirement.

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To set out the Council's performance across all services. This is broken down into financial performance, key performance indicators, risks and service plan updates on a service by service basis.

### 2. Officer Recommendations

That members:-

- 2.1
- a) Note the predicted outturn for the 2018/19 revenue and capital budgets.
  - b) Note the KPI's for each service for the period and any actions being taken.
  - c) Note the Service Plan updates provided by Heads of Service / Corporate Managers.
  - d) Note the high risks for each service area and any actions being taken.

### 3. Reason for Decision

- 3.1 The report is the key accountability tool for the performance of all the Council services. The report contains the strategic position of the Council's finances combined with performance statistics and service risks.

## 4. Background and Reason Decision Needed

- 4.1 This report is considered by this Committee as they have the delegated responsibility in the Constitution from Full Council to monitor the budget. The Joint Advisory Scrutiny Committee also considers the report and will identify any areas that they wish to scrutinise in more detail.
- 4.2 The budgets shown in Appendix 1 are 'controllable costs'. This is expenditure / income where the Head of Service / Corporate Manager has influence. Capital charges (depreciation) and service recharges are not shown. The budget holder has then made an assessment of the likely outturn for the financial year, which has been compared to the budget to identify any potential outturn variances. If there is a projected variance, then the budget holder has to provide a comment explaining the reason and outline what corrective action is being taken.
- 4.3 Key Performance Indicators are measures of service performance that are monitored. They have been developed by each Head of Service / Corporate Manager in conjunction with relevant Briefholders / Portfolio holders and are standard across all three councils.
- 4.4 Each service maintains a service risk register and the summary of the number of risks in each category is included within the report. Where a risk is scored as high or very high, the full details of the risk and mitigating actions are detailed.

## 5. Report

- 5.1 The predicted year end outturn position on the revenue budget monitoring report is estimated to show a £79,960 favourable variance. This is a total variance of 1% against the 2018/19 budget requirement of £8,421,036.
- 5.2 The revenue predictions above do not include variances for the Harbour activities. The monitoring of the Harbour budget and any corrective action is the responsibility of the Harbour Board. The current predicted year-end position for the Harbour budget is £45,017 adverse.
- 5.3 Heads of Service and Corporate Managers produce a Service Plan every year for each of the 12 services. In Appendix 2 Managers have provided an update of achievements so far this year, as well as actions still to be completed.
- 5.4 Key Revenue / Performance issues to date
- Assets and Infrastructure have seen additional income from car parking due to the good weather over the summer.
  - Revenues & Benefits are predicting a large adverse variance. There is significant pressure on housing benefit expenditure for homeless accommodation costs which exceed the cap, therefore attracts nil subsidy. If the trend continues the year end adverse variance is likely to reach approximately £260,000.
  - Weymouth & Portland is marginally under the 5 year target for supply of housing. It currently shows 4.88% over target. Where there is no five-year

housing land supply, relevant local plan policies for the supply of housing should not be considered up to date, so cannot be given as much weight in decisions.

- Affordable Housing – At this stage, the predicted year end target is very likely to be exceeded which is positive news.
- Dorset Waste Partnership is not meeting performance targets in a number of areas.
- Average days lost to sickness per employee have risen above levels compared to this period in previous years.

## Capital

- 5.5 The predicted overall scheme variance showing on the Capital Budget Monitoring appendix 3 is £26,000 adverse, against a total scheme budget of £5,536,868

### Key Capital issues

- Weymouth Public Conveniences architect has been engaged and designs produced. Planning consent to be sought in early 2019. Works at Greenhill are due to be completed by the end March 2019.
- The Esplanade lighting scheme is expected to be completed in May 2019, weather dependant.
- Pavilion Improvements are progressing well and anticipated to be completed by end March 2019.

## 6. Corporate Plan

- 6.1 The service performance and targets reflects the current Corporate Plan.

## 7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 These are predictions based at the information available at 31st December 2018. Any variance at the end of the financial year will impact upon the level of General Reserves.

## 8. Risk Management (including Health & Safety)

- 8.1 High and very high risks are reported in detail in Appendix 2. Service risk registers can be found in the Councils performance system (QPR).
- 8.2 There is a risk the Council will overspend its budget for the year.

## 9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Graph showing the predicted outturn position of the 12 services  
Appendix 2 – Overall service reviews of the performance, Service Plan update & risk  
Appendix 3 – Capital budget monitoring position  
Appendix 4 – Treasury management update

## **10. Background Papers**

10.1 The Council's financial information system

10.2 The Council's corporate performance system (QPR)

## **11. Footnote**

11.1 Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

**Report Author:** Christian Evans – Financial Performance Manager

**Telephone:** 01305 838312

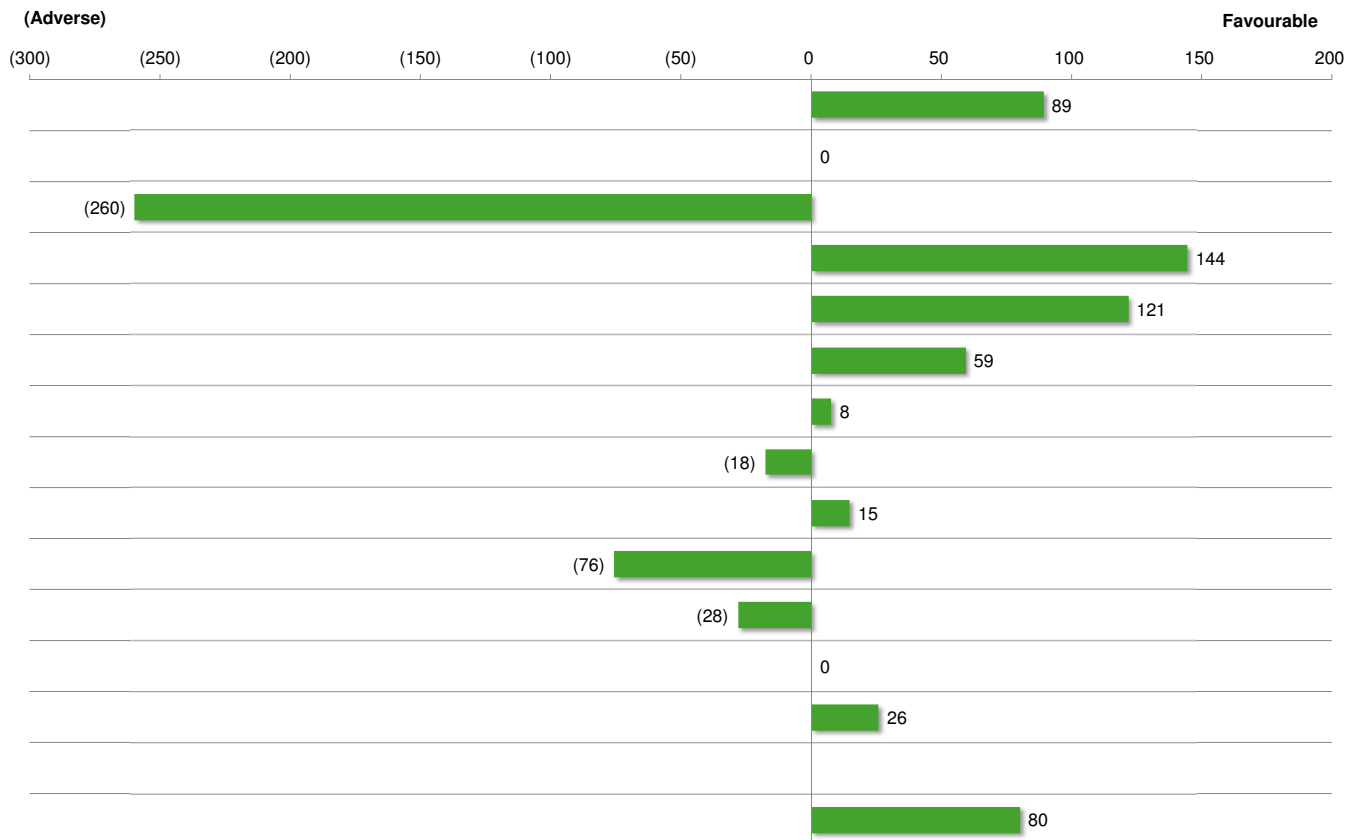
**Email:** [cevans@dorset.gov.uk](mailto:cevans@dorset.gov.uk)



WPBC Budget Monitoring - Quarter 3 2018/19

Appendix 1

Variances (£,000)



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# Business Review

Weymouth & Portland Borough Council

Period: **Quarter 3 (1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018)**

Service	Prediction (£)	Head of Service/ Corporate Manager
Financial Services	89,039 (F)	Julie Strange
Corporate Finance	0	Julie Strange
Revenues & Benefits	259,762 (A)	Stuart Dawson
Business Improvement	144,104 (F)	Penny Mell
Community Protection	121,425 (F)	Graham Duggan
Housing	59,000 (F)	Clive Milone
Planning Development Management & Building Control	7,500 (F)	Jean Marshall
Community & Policy Development	17,752 (A)	Hilary Jordan
Economy, Leisure & Tourism	14,633 (F)	Nick Thornley
Assets & Infrastructure	75,750 (A)	Sarah Cairns
Democratic Services & Elections	28,230 (A)	Jacqui Andrews
Human Resources & Organisational Development	0	Bobbie Bragg
Legal Services	25,753 (F)	Robert Firth

<b>Overall predicted variance</b>	<b>79,960 (F)</b>
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(F) = Favourable variance prediction

(A) = Adverse variance prediction

## Financial Services

Head of Service – Julie Strange

(Accountancy, Audit, Exchequer, Corporate Planning & Performance, Corporate Procurement, Risk Management and Insurance)

Lead Brief Holders – **Cllr Jeff Cant** (Finance & Assets), **Cllr Alison Reed** (Corporate Affairs & Continuous Improvement)

### Revenue summary – Financial Services

Subjective analysis	Full Year Current Budget 2018/19 (£)	Comments / actions
Employees	429,456	Savings achieved on new insurance premiums and not continuing order for system development pre Dorset Council.
Transport	2,475	
Supplies & Services	194,086	
Income	(3,075)	
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>622,942</b>	
<b>Q3 Predicted variance</b>	<b>89,039 (F)</b>	
Q2 Predicted variance	89,039 (F)	
Q1 Predicted variance	0	

### Revenue summary – Corporate Finance

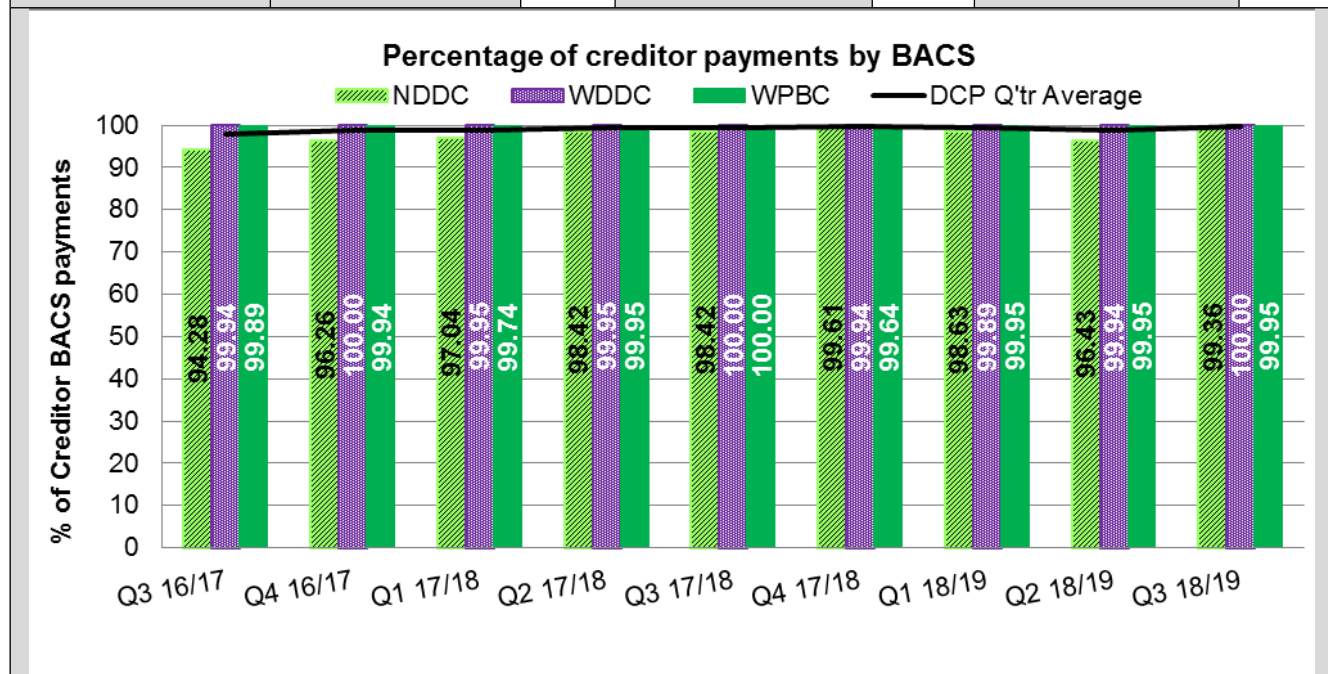
Subjective analysis	Full Year Current Budget 2018/19 (£)	Comments / action
Employees	1,138,254	This is predicted to be on budget
Premises	(268,730)	
Transport	(37,197)	
Supplies & Services	(804,491)	
Interest	(728,320)	
Income	(9,400)	
Grants	(8,987,465)	
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>(9,697,349)</b>	
<b>Q3 Predicted variance</b>	<b>0</b>	
Q2 Predicted variance	0	
Q1 Predicted variance	0	

Key performance data

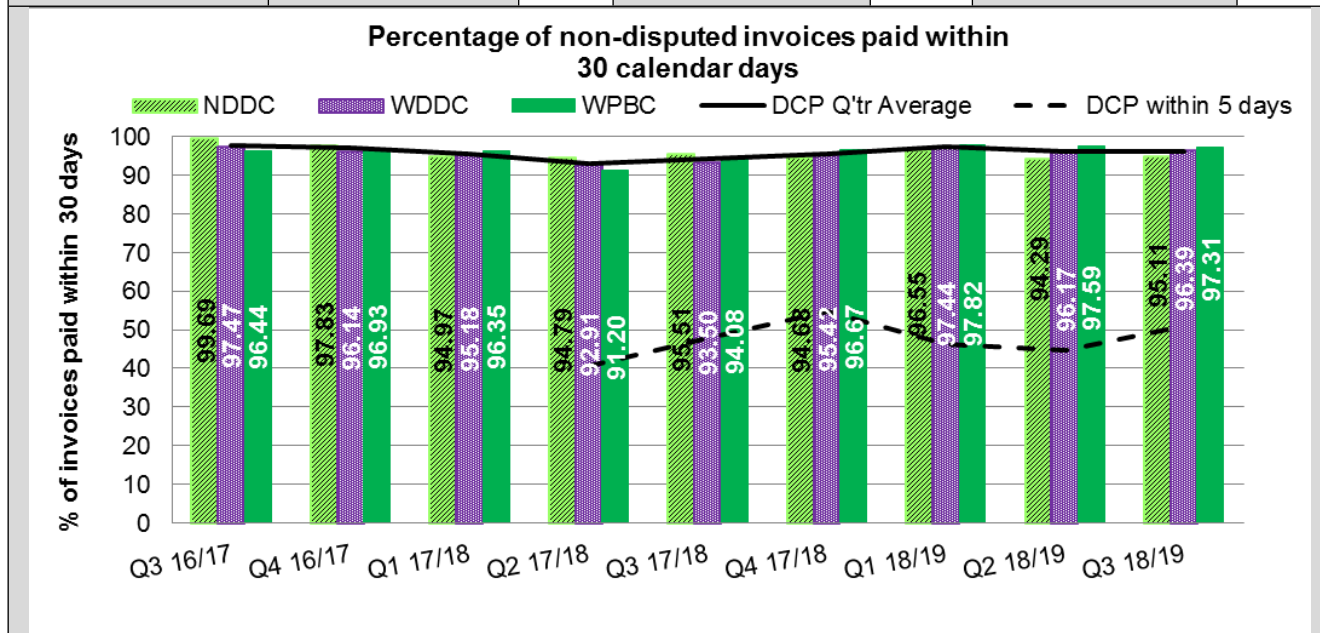
**Exception Report from Head of Service**

The number of non-disputed invoices paid within 5 days during quarter 3 was: NDDC 30%, WDDC 60%, WPBC 62%.

Percentage of creditor payments by BACS				Aim	↑
Corporate Plan Priority: Developing Successful Partnerships					
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland
Q3 2018/19 Actual	99.36%		100%		99.95%
Q3 2018/19 Target	95%	✓	95%	✓	95%
FY 2018/19 Target	95%		95%		95%
FY 2017/18 Actual	98.25%		99.96%		99.83%



Percentage of non-disputed invoices paid within 30 calendar days (creditor payments)				Aim	↑
Corporate Plan Priority: Building a Stronger Local Economy					
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland
Q3 2018/19 Actual	95.11%		96.39%		97.31%
Q3 2018/19 Target	95%	✓	95%	✓	95%
FY 2018/19 Target	95%		95%		95%
FY 2017/18 Actual	94.97%		94.21%		94.57%



Overall General Fund predicted variances per Quarter (Favourable/Adverse)			
Authority	North Dorset	West Dorset	Weymouth & Portland
Q3 2018/19 Actual	274,171 (F)	TBC	79,960 (F)

## Service Plan Update

### A Stronger Local Economy

The focussed work to improve the payment of invoices within 30 days has delivered improvements to the performance.

### Actions outside of Corporate Plan

Closedown has been completed and accounts have been approved with no issues. All closedown deadlines were met even though they were brought forward this year.

## Key risk areas

8 Service operational risks have been identified for Financial Services:-

Very High Risks	0
High Risks	0
Medium Risks	2
Low Risks	6

## Revenues & Benefits

Head of Service – **Stuart Dawson** (WDDC & WPBC),  
**Paul Hudson** (NDDC / SVPP)

(Council Tax, Business Rates, Housing Benefit, Fraud)

Lead Brief Holder – **Cllr Jeff Cant** (Finance & Assets)

### Revenue summary

Subjective analysis	Full Year Current Budget 2018/19 (£)	Comments / actions
Employees	937,565	Local Taxation - Budget scheduled to be on target at year end. Housing Benefit Admin - No variance expected. Income should match the budget at year end as Housing Benefit admin subsidy is known in advance - so budget should match income. Rent Allowances - Adverse variance of £259k expected. This is due to increasing homeless Housing Benefit expenditure on accommodation which does not attract any subsidy as it exceeds the cap.
Transport	9,020	
Supplies & Services	339,923	
Payments to clients	30,620,000	
Income	(31,799,881)	
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>106,627</b>	
<b>Q3 Predicted variance</b>	<b>259,762 (A)</b>	
Q2 Predicted variance	240,000 (A)	
Q1 Predicted variance	25,000 (A)	

### Key performance data

#### Exception Report from Head of Service

##### North Dorset (SVPP)

Processing of new benefit claims and changes in circumstances is in line with performance targets for the year. Channel Shift / Universal Credit continues to deliver a reduction in face-to-face and telephony demand. The percentage of Council Tax collected as at Q3 is recorded as 84%, this is lower than expected due to NDDC not posting any cash from 21/12/18 due to a change in their cash receipting system. If the cash had been posted (approx. £300,000) the figure would have been 85% (actual figures are 84.30% and 84.88%). In year income for Council Tax and Business Rates are expected to reach target.

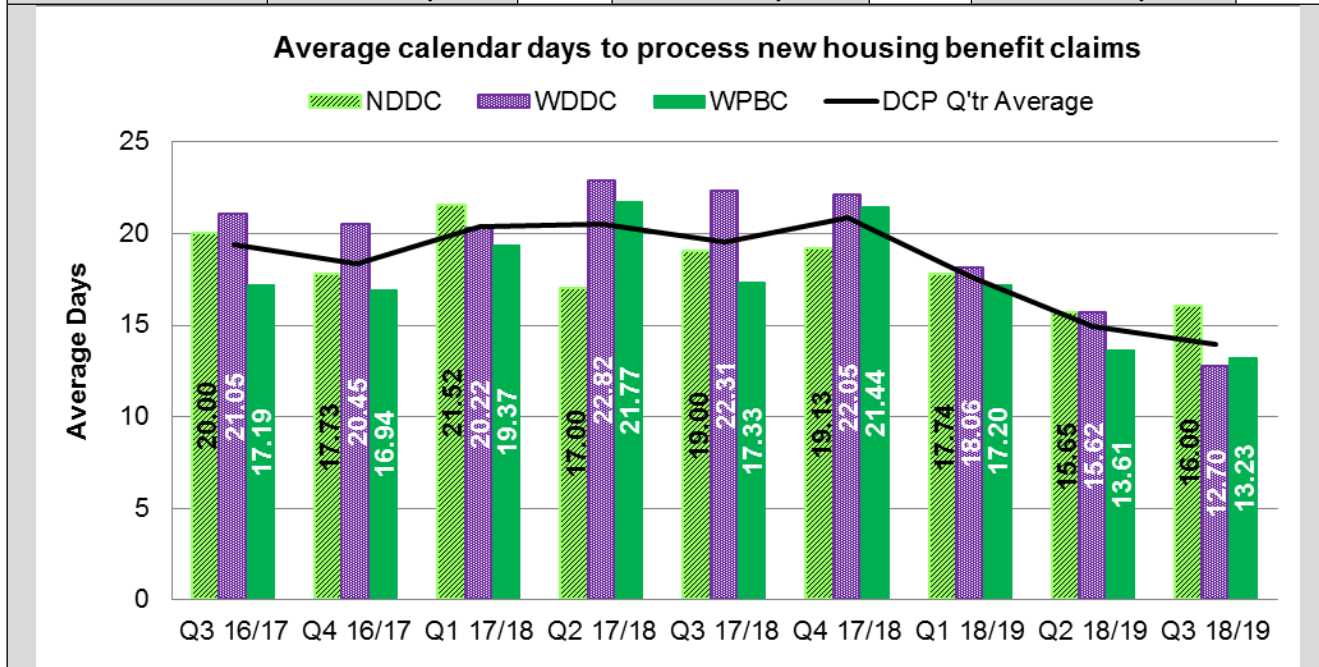
##### WDDC and WPBC

The volume of new benefit claims continues to be affected by the wider roll-out of Universal Credit. This, together with the impact of the Christmas close-down impacted on the number of claims processed in Q3.

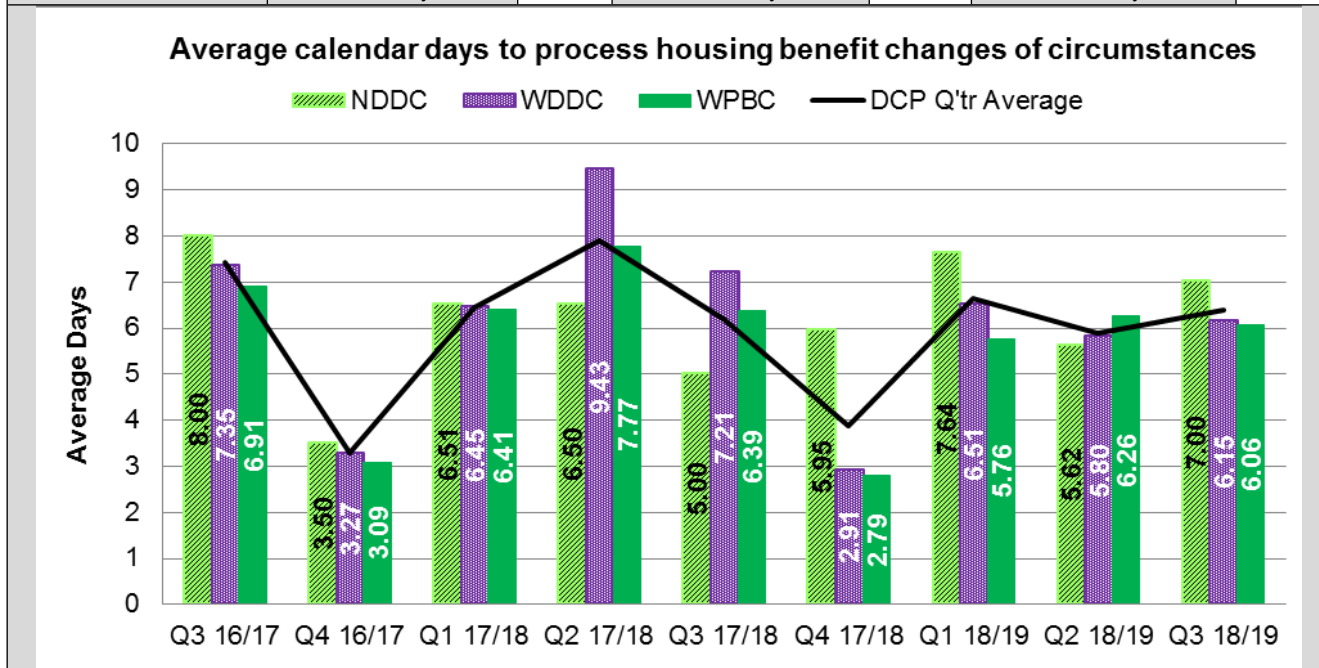
Q3 Benefits and Council Tax performance is in line with targets.

More and more Council Taxpayers and businesses are now spreading payment of their business rates over 12 months. This has impacted on our collection in Q3 for WPBC.

Average calendar days to process new housing benefit claims					Aim	↓
Corporate Plan Priority: Developing Successful Partnerships						
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland	
Q3 2018/19 Actual	16 days		13 days		13 days	
Q3 2018/19 Target	19 days		19 days		19 days	
FY 2018/19 Target	19 days		19 days		19 days	
FY 2017/18 Actual	18.90 days		21.84 days		19.73 days	



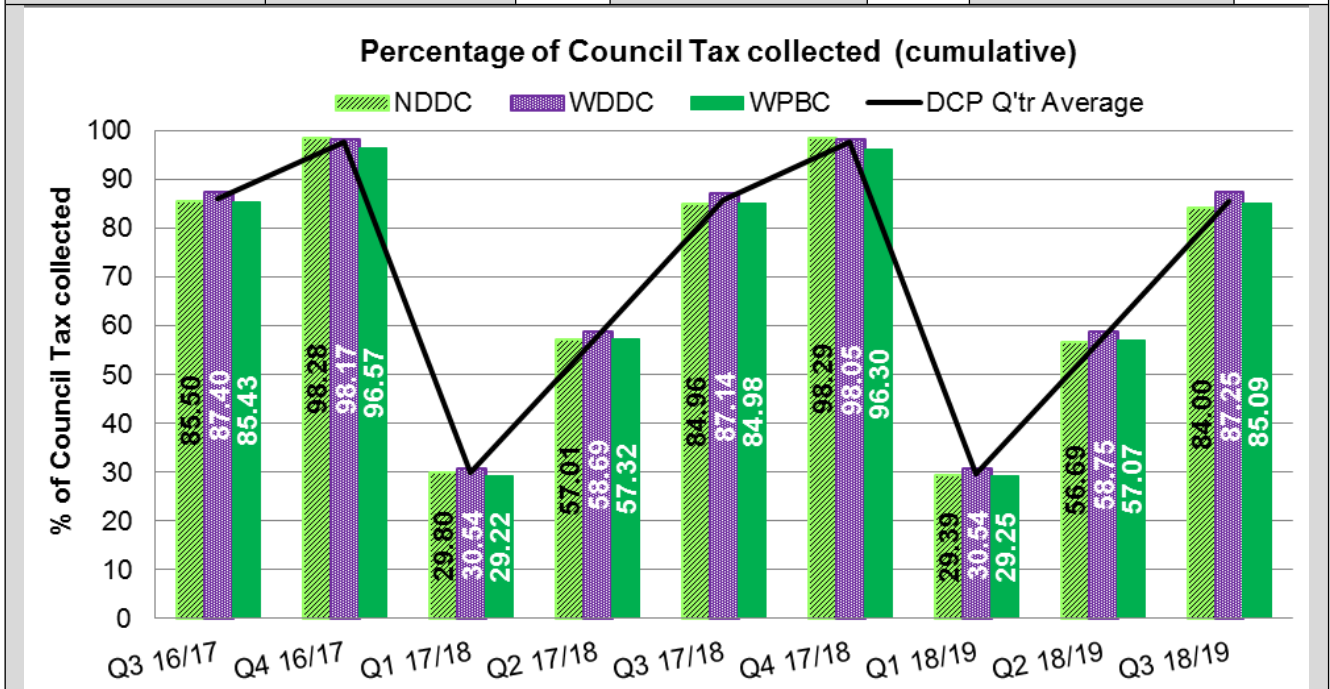
Average calendar days to process housing benefit changes of circumstances					Aim	↓
Corporate Plan Priority: Developing Successful Partnerships						
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland	
Q3 2018/19 Actual	7 days		6 days		6 days	
Q3 2018/19 Target	10 days		7 days		7 days	
FY 2018/19 Target	10 days		7 days		7 days	
FY 2017/18 Actual	5.65 days		4.53 days		5.30 days	



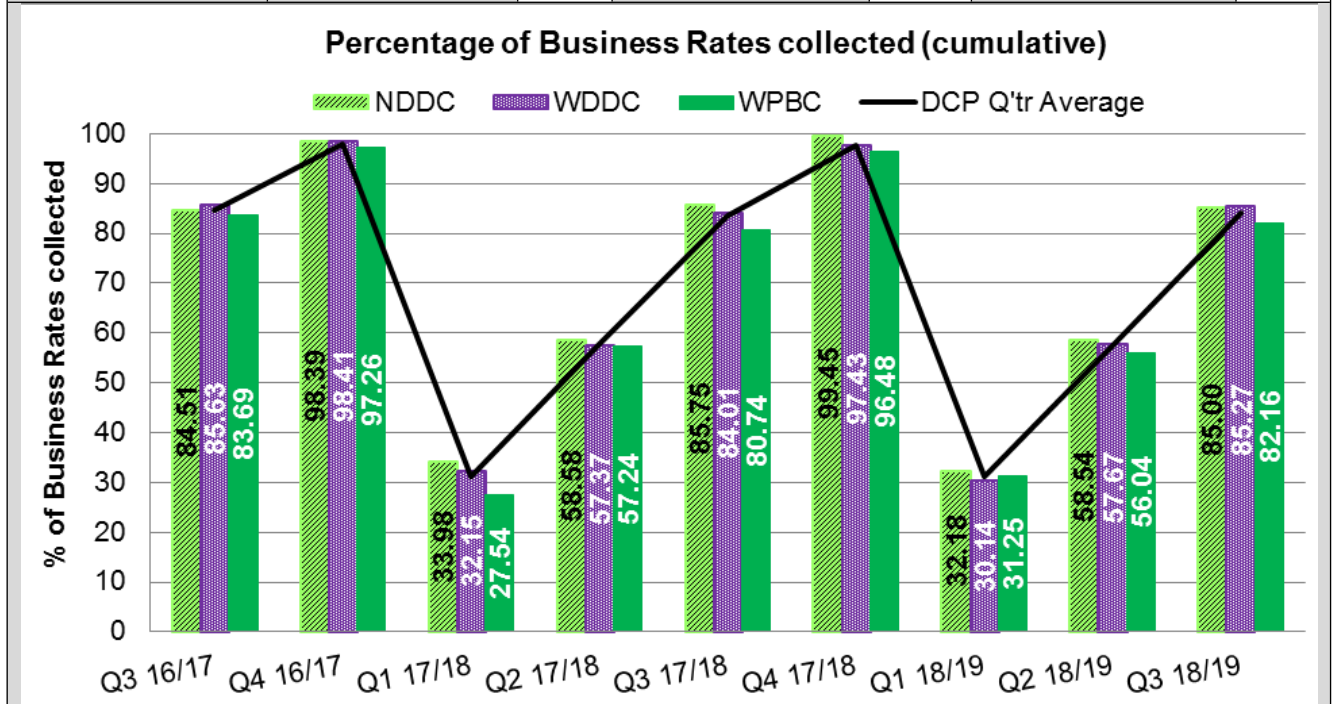


Number of Housing Benefit New Claims and Changes			
Authority	North Dorset	West Dorset	Weymouth & Portland
Q3 2018/19 Actual	3,115	1,596	1,856
Q2 2018/19 Actual	3,501	2,265	2,390
Q1 2018/19 Actual	4,030	3,024	3,368
Q4 2017/18 Actual	5,565	10,486	7,114
Q3 2017/18 Actual	3,568	2,743	3,086
Q2 2017/18 Actual	4,162	3,202	3,431
Q1 2017/18 Actual	5,095	4,136	5,605
Q4 2016/17 Actual	6,478	8,551	8,945
Q3 2016/17 Actual	3,606	2,834	3,396

Percentage of Council Tax collected (cumulative)				Aim	↑
Corporate Plan Priority: Developing Successful Partnerships					
Authority	North Dorset	West Dorset	Weymouth & Portland		
Q3 2018/19 Actual	84%	87%	85%		
Q3 2018/19 Target	85%	87%	87%	⚠	⚠
FY 2018/19 Target	98%	98%	96%	✓	⚠
FY 2017/18 Actual	98.00%	98.05%	96.30%		



Percentage of Business Rates collected (cumulative)				Aim	↑
Corporate Plan Priority: Developing Successful Partnerships					
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland
Q3 2018/19 Actual	85%	⚠	85%	✅	82%
Q3 2018/19 Target	86%		84%		84%
FY 2018/19 Target	98%		97%		96%
FY 2017/18 Actual	99.00%		97.43%		96.48%



## Service Plan Update

### A Stronger Local Economy

- Provided additional support, through the award of discretionary rate relief, to those businesses who were faced with large rates increases caused by the national rates revaluation in 2017.
- Ongoing review of information leaflets. Updated leaflets are edited to PEC standards (excludes NDDC as dealt with by SVPP).
- Supporting customers who are affected by the introduction of Universal Credit (funded Advisor posts with CAB designed to assist customers through the claim process).
- Continue to improve e-access to services (e.g. e-billing take up, txt messaging, etc.)

### Improving Quality of Life

- Ongoing review of information leaflets. Updated leaflets are edited to PEC standards (excludes NDDC as dealt with by SVPP).
- Supporting customers who are affected by the introduction of Universal Credit (funded Advisor posts with CAB designed to assist customers through the claim process). Also organised regular stakeholder workshops to share information, experiences, etc.
- Continue to improve e-access to services (e.g. e-billing take up, txt messaging, etc.).

### Actions outside of Corporate Plan

- Service was successful in achieving the Investors in People Silver level award in March 2018
- Service was successful in retaining the Customer Service Excellence accreditation in December 2018.
- Action to achieve efficiency savings is ongoing.

## Key risk areas

7 Service operational risks have been identified for Revenues & Benefits:-

Very High Risks	0
High Risks	0
Medium Risks	1
Low Risks	6

## Business Improvement

Head of Service – Penny Mell

(Change Management implementation, Business Transformation, Customer Services, Communications, dorsetforyou.com, Graphic design & Printing, Consultation, IT Support, IT Development)

Lead Brief Holders – **Cllr Alison Reed** (Corporate Affairs and Continuous Improvement), **Cllr Jon Orrell** (Social Inclusion)

### Revenue summary

Subjective analysis	Full Year Current Budget 2018/19 (£)	Comments / actions
Employees	813,253	Customer Services: There are vacancies within the establishment. This is off-setting expenditure on casual and agency staff which are required during peak demands, and also expenditure on additional training and equipment costs. Postage costs are reducing from services using Docmail. IT Services: All IT projects and future IT development such as roll out of Office 365 and cloud storage have stopped in order to concentrate on IT infrastructure for the new Dorset council. The majority of flexible/remote working devices have been completed. Communications & Printing: There are considerable employee cost savings with secondment of staff and not re-appointing on a temporary position. This will offset additional costs resulting from Hybrid Mail until budgets have been realigned and any additional staff cost associated with temporary posts within the Business Transformation Team if not met corporately.
Premises	31,845	
Transport	3,563	
Supplies & Services	665,576	
Income	(5,400)	
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>1,508,837</b>	
<b>Q3 Predicted variance</b>	<b>144,104 (F)</b>	
Q2 Predicted variance	74,670(F)	
Q1 Predicted variance	20,000(F)	

## Key performance data

### Exception Report from Head of Service

Achieving a fully recruited team in the previous quarter has positively impacted performance within the team. Against a target of 90%, 95% of calls were answered by the team, with calls being answered in an average of just 25 seconds.

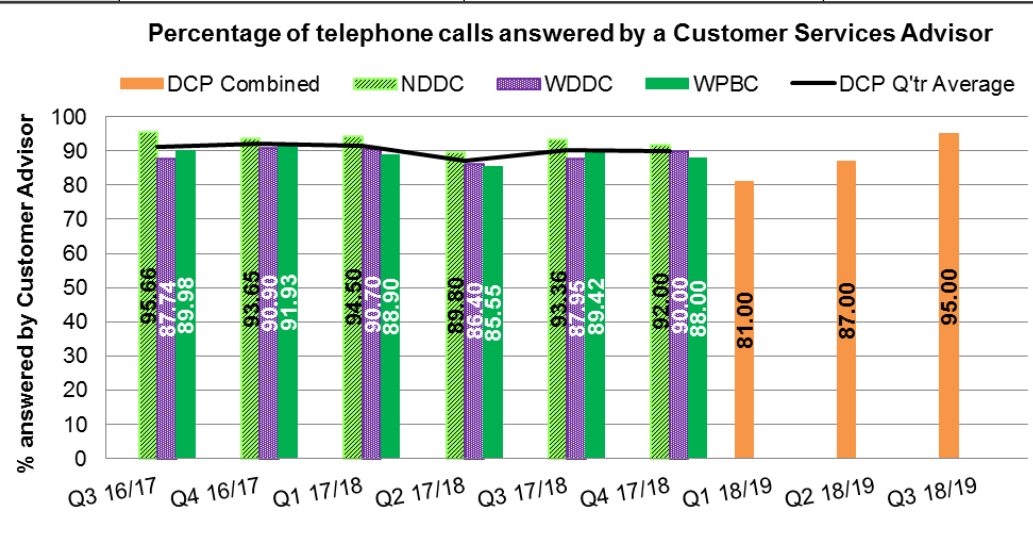
Against a target of 10% abandoned calls, only 5% of calls were abandoned this quarter. The average time at which a call was abandoned was 1 minute 56 seconds. Whilst performance has significantly improved this quarter, it is anticipated that achieving the same performance next quarter will be challenging reflecting changes in the team, service demands and changes for residents as we transition to Dorset Council.

Performance against target for complaint handling has shown significant improvement this quarter, however, there remains a performance challenge in some areas.

### Number of phone calls received by Customer Services

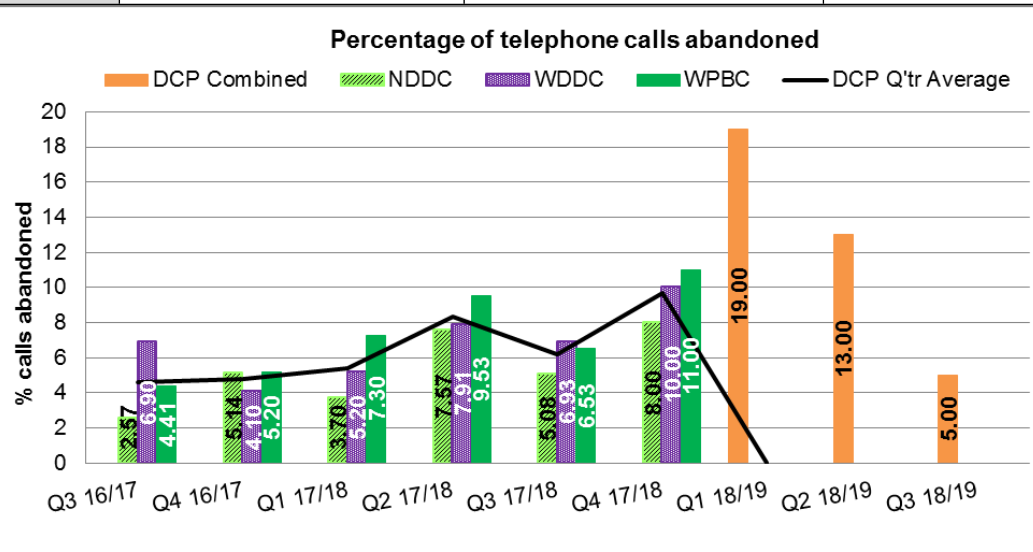
	Dorset Councils Partnership (DCP)
Q3 2018/19 Actual	<b>18,588</b>
Q2 2018/19 Actual	26,957
Q1 2018/19 Actual	24,136
Q4 2017/18 Actual	23,062
Q3 2017/18 Actual	22,708
Q2 2017/18 Actual	25,501
Q1 2017/18 Actual	25,351
Q4 2016/17 Actual	20,995
Q3 2016/17 Actual	19,464

Percentage of telephone calls answered by a Customer Services Advisor			Aim	↑
Corporate Plan Priority: Developing Successful Partnerships				
Authority	DCP Combined			
Q3 2018/19 Actual	95%			
Q3 2018/19 Target	90%			
FY 2018/19 Target	90%			
FY 2017/18 Actual	DCP N/A (see 'FY 2017/18 Actual' split by council below)			
	North Dorset	West Dorset	Weymouth & Portland	
FY 2017/18 Actual	94%	93%	91%	



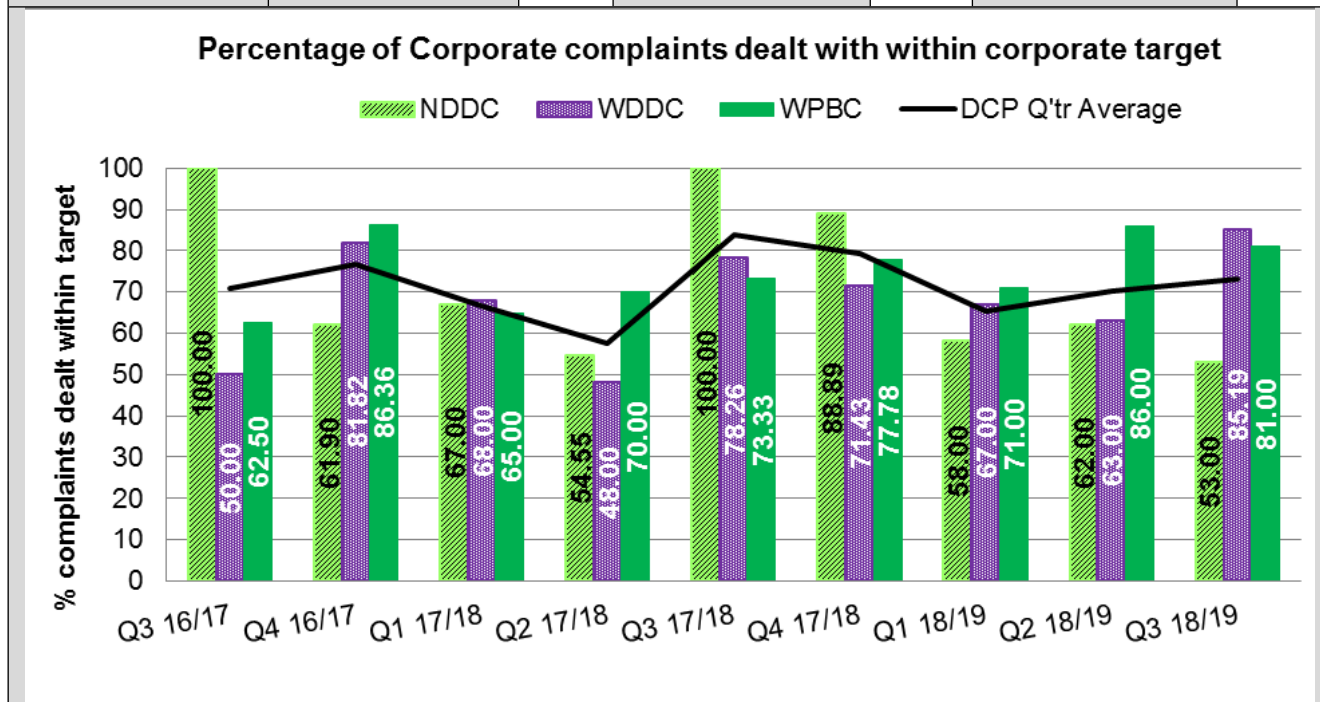
The average speed that a call was answered in the quarter was 25 seconds.

Percentage of telephone calls abandoned			Aim	↓
Corporate Plan Priority: Developing Successful Partnerships				
Authority	DCP Combined			
Q3 2018/19 Actual	5%			
Q3 2018/19 Target	10%			
FY 2018/19 Target	10%			
FY 2017/18 Actual	DCP N/A (see 'FY 2017/18 Actual' split by council below)			
	North Dorset	West Dorset	Weymouth & Portland	
FY 2017/18 Actual	6%	7%	9%	



The average abandoned time in the quarter was 1 minute 56 seconds.

Percentage of corporate complaints dealt with within corporate target (Stage One: 10 working days, Stage Two: 15 working days) Corporate Plan Priority: Empowering Thriving and Inclusive Communities				Aim	↑
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland
Q3 2018/19 Actual	53%		85%		81%
Q3 2018/19 Target	80%	✘	80%	✔	80%
FY 2018/19 Target	80%		80%		80%
FY 2017/18 Actual	79%		76%		75%



### Quarter 3 complaints base data:

#### North Dorset

21 items of feedback were received in Q3

- 1 was making a suggestion or improvement
- 5 were complimenting the Council or a Council employee
- 15 were making complaints. 8 of these were dealt with within the corporate time frame.
- Of the 15 complaints, 1 was a stage 2 complaint.

#### West Dorset

53 items of feedback were received in Q3

- 2 were giving an opinion or feedback
- 3 were making a suggestion on or improvement
- 21 were complimenting the Council or a Council employee
- 27 were making a complaint. 23 were dealt with within the corporate time frame.
- Of the 27 complaints 2 were stage 2 complaints.

#### Weymouth & Portland

40 items of feedback were received in Q3

- 4 was giving an opinion or feedback
- 7 were making a suggestion or improvement
- 13 were complimenting the Council or a Council employee
- 16 were making a complaint. 13 were dealt with within the corporate time frame

## Service Plan Update

### Developing Successful Partnerships

Business Improvement has continued to deliver a number of key priorities this quarter.

**Business Transformation.** The Business Transformation team are continuing to deliver priority programmes and projects, as well as concluding activities for each of the Councils and those which will be of importance and benefit to Dorset Council. As is the case across Business Improvement, increasingly time is being spent supporting projects associated with the setting up of Weymouth Town Council and Shaping Dorset Council, in particular the People and OD programme. However, during the last quarter, the following projects have been successfully delivered:

- Digital Academy - worked closely with the HR&OD Service to provide the Digital Academy. 322 people registered interest for the courses across all the councils for the eight sessions;
- Filming project – providing a co-ordinated approach through the Communications team to develop and implement an on-line application process;
- Parking Services - Software upgrade, data management and reporting solutions project has been fulfilled.

**Communications.** The Communications team are heavily involved in supporting the creation of Dorset Council and Weymouth Town Council. Graphic Designers have worked closely with Communications Teams in partner councils to develop and introduce the new logo for Dorset Council. Over the coming months, the team will be working with partners on campaigns to introduce the new councils to residents and stakeholders. This will involve promoting any direct changes where required as well as encouraging sign-up to new communication channels.

Away from Shaping Dorset Council, the team continue to work on business as usual projects. Weymouth's Peninsula Development, Dorchester Town Centre Masterplan consultation, Heat Melcombe Regis and Opening Doors are a number of projects the team are supporting. In December, having worked with Business Transformation and IT we also introduced a new filming application process. The process will help promote filming activity in our areas and generate income.

**Dorset For You.** Ready for the transition to [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) the Digital Team has contacted all services with web content and has started working with them to make the changes they need for 1 April. We are working with the [Christchurch.gov.uk](http://Christchurch.gov.uk) project team as well as our online forms supplier and staff at Gov.uk to try and ensure smooth customer journeys through the website from Day 1. As part of this we have worked with the DCC GIS team to develop and test an address lookup widget which we can use to direct citizens quickly.

The team has also been preparing information and workshops to support staff to make sure their web content complies with the new EU accessibility regulations, which came into force on 23 September 2018. We have also completed some user research on the new-look website. This shows people are completing tasks more successfully, and 2-3 minutes quicker than they were before the rebuild. The new look website also had its renewal approved for the Internet Crystal Mark for Plain English who stated "in summary: a well laid out site, whose options are clear."

**Customer access.** As well as day to day operations, the Customer Services team are trialing an improved way to assist customers to access online services, whilst seeking to refer those who require further assistance to the Digital Champions colleague at Superfast Dorset. The work is evolving, but the aim is for customers to feel confident and comfortable accessing our online services making the most of our Dorsetforyou.com pages.

Work has taken place around Complaints and Freedom of Information Requests to improve response performance across the Partnership. This work continues into the fourth quarter of the year. Both Complaints and Freedom of information have an active workstream within Shaping Dorset Council with an aim to align policies for day 1.

The team continue to participate in the Customer Access workstream within Shaping Dorset Council and the creation of Weymouth Town Council. Taking part in this work is seen as critical to ensuring the continuity of access to services as the new councils form.



**IT.** As well as delivering day to day services, IT service teams are continuing to deliver a number of key projects. A significant area of focus is Shaping Dorset Council. This includes working with partner councils to provide IT services which support teams to work effectively from day 1. As well as services to support collaboration, the team have also been working on the provision of a number of day 1 business line applications. Other local projects successfully delivered include a new system to enable customers to apply online to join Weymouth, Lyme Regis and Bridport harbours.

Our work in information governance continues. This includes supporting the Information Governance workstream as part of Shaping Dorset Council as well as more recently having conducted an internal campaign to raise awareness of the Payment Card Industry Regulations for employees within the Partnership that have a responsibility for taking payments.

**Future Issues**

Within the service, managers and team leaders are working flexibly with the support of the teams to continue to deliver day to day priorities whilst the focus continues to shift to Shaping Dorset Council. Balancing these two priorities continues to challenge the resources available. Looking ahead, the focus will necessarily involve supporting teams through transition to the new organisational structures and new ways of working within Dorset Council.

**Key risk areas**

9 Service operational risks have been identified for Business Improvement:-

Very High Risks	0
High Risks	1
Medium Risks	6
Low Risks	2

Loss or disruption or interception of electronic data or non-electronic data				
CURRENT SCORE		Planned risk reduction initiatives	TARGET SCORE	
Impact	<b>5</b>		Implement appropriate controls across the Partnership. Implement information governance programme including protocol for employees to follow.	Impact
Likelihood	<b>2</b>	Likelihood		2
Risk Score	<b>10</b>	Risk Score		8
Risk Rating	<b>HIGH</b>	Risk Rating		<b>MEDIUM</b>

## Community Protection

Head of Service – **Graham Duggan**

(Environmental Health, Licensing, Community Safety, CCTV, Parks & Open Spaces, Bereavement Services, Waste & Cleansing – Client role)

Lead Brief Holders – **Cllr Mike Byatt** (Community Safety), **Cllr Ray Nowak** (Environment and Sustainability),

**Cllr Kate Wheller** (Community Facilities), **Cllr Colin Huckle** (Transport & Infrastructure), **Cllr Jon Orrell** (Social Inclusion)

### Revenue summary

Subjective analysis	Full Year Current Budget 2018/19 (£)	Comments / actions
Employees	1,680,031	Salary savings from 2 vacant posts being held contributing to the favourable position. Income in Licensing higher than expected.
Premises	406,096	
Transport	250,888	
Supplies & Services	3,541,661	Greenspace & Bereavement Services currently within budget but additional maintenance in parks & gardens may affect this. Will be offset by savings elsewhere.
Payments to clients	32,249	
Income	(1,838,022)	
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>4,072,903</b>	Recycling, Waste & Cleansing (DWP) - favourable outturn due to budget given for the year being greater than monthly fixed payments to DWP.
<b>Q3 Predicted variance</b>	<b>121,425 (F)</b>	
Q2 Predicted variance	0	
Q1 Predicted variance	0	

### Key performance data

<p><b>Exception Report from Head of Service</b></p> <p><b>Food Safety (all councils)</b> KPI's on target</p> <p><b>Environmental Protection (all councils)</b> KPI's on target</p> <p><b>Dorset Waste Partnership (please note data is for Q2).</b></p> <p><b>North Dorset – comments from DWP</b> Residual waste per household has gone up which follows the trend across the majority of the DWP area. No specific reasons for this, due to more consumption by residents and waste increasing and is being tackled by our waste prevention campaigns, such as Love Food Hate Waste, home composting, promoting real nappies etc.</p> <p>Also, DWP do not collect from district &amp; borough boundary areas, they collect from depot areas. Therefore these figures aren't accurate for district boundaries as North Dorset's figures include over 1,000 properties data from East Dorset.</p> <p>The majority of the residual waste collected by DWP is now sent for treatment rather than landfill.</p> <p>The higher number of missed bins in North Dorset reflects the difficulty the depot has been having with vehicle breakdowns.</p> <p>Whilst it is disappointing that targets have been missed, the above comments should be taken in to account. Nationally, DWP rate highly on performance measures, especially recycling, but it is clear that more focused campaign work needs to be done (Head of Service).</p>
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**West Dorset**

KPI's on track

**Weymouth & Portland – comments from DWP**

Residual waste per household has gone up which follows the trend across the majority of the DWP area. No specific reasons for this, due to more consumption by residents and waste increasing and is being tackled by our waste prevention campaigns, such as Love Food Hate Waste, home composting, promoting real nappies etc.

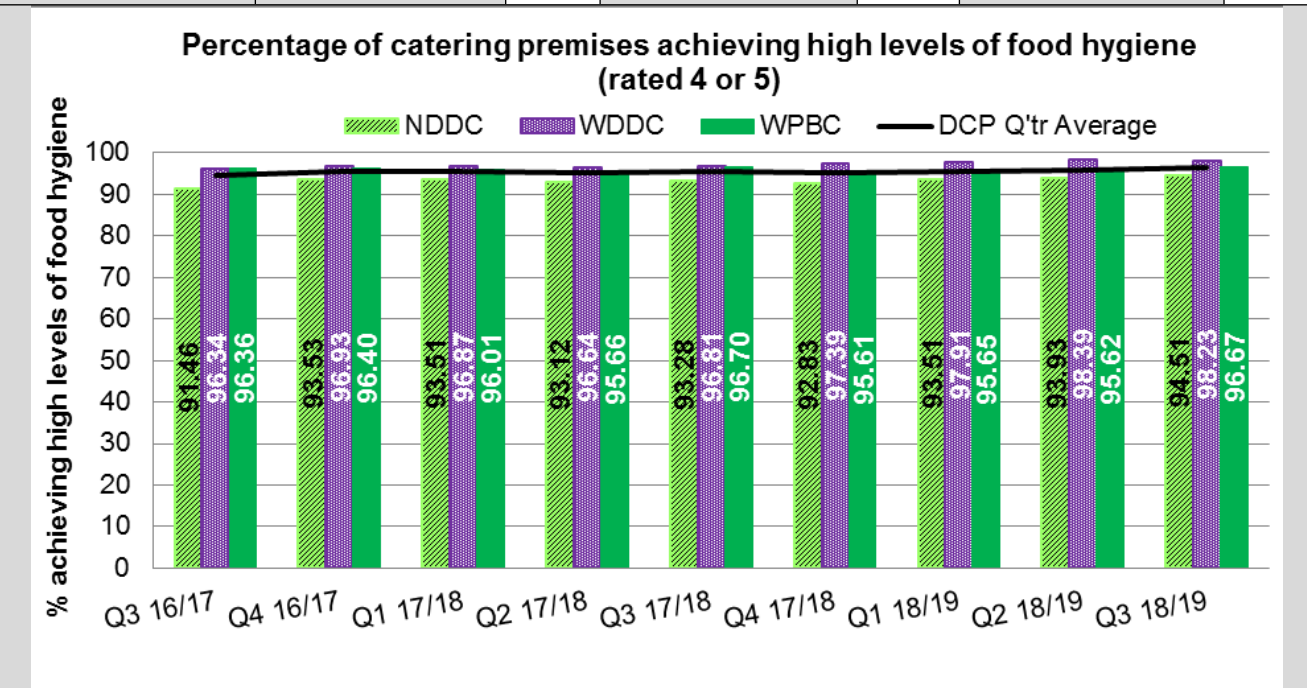
Also, DWP do not collect from district & borough boundary areas, they collect from depot areas. Therefore these figures are not fully accurate as for example, data includes areas of West Dorset that is serviced by the Crookhill depot, such as Chickerell.

The majority of the kerbside residual waste collected by DWP is now sent to treatment rather than landfill.

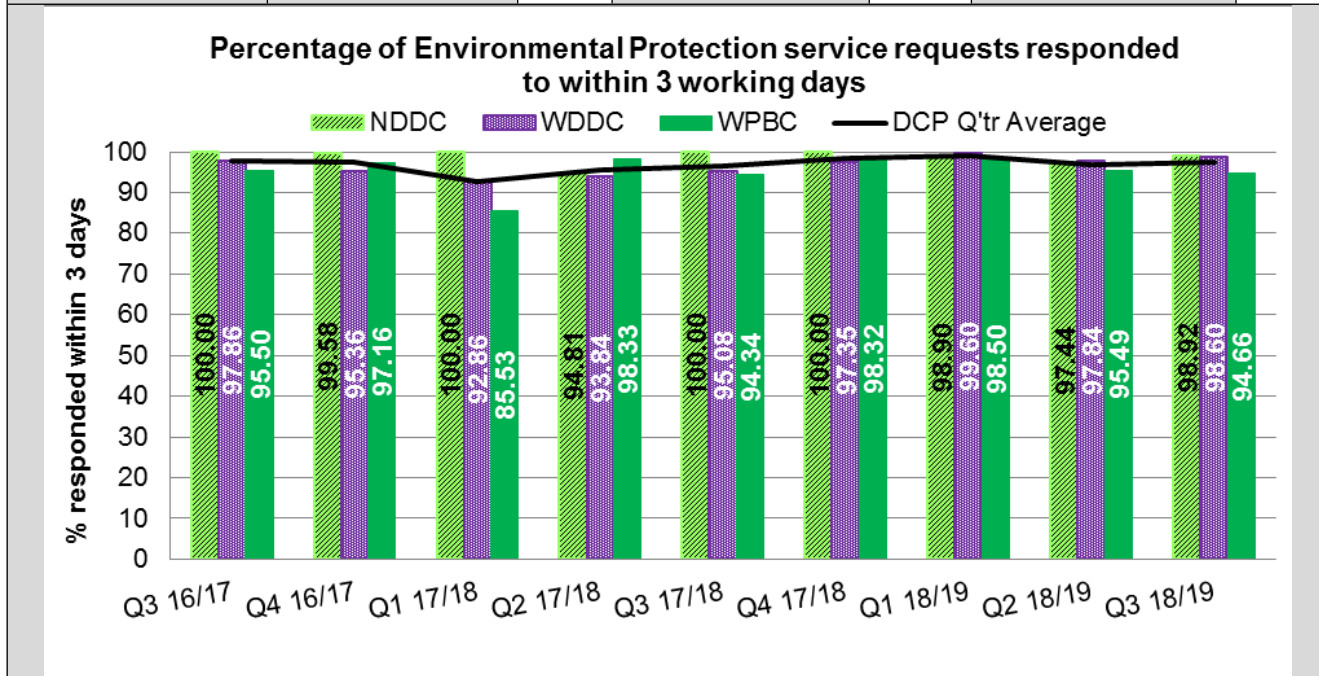
The recycling rate may have been affected by lower than expected garden waste tonnages in April and June; however, without detailed analysis of the figures we can't be sure. Rate generally in line with previous years.

Whilst it is disappointing that targets have been missed, the above comments should be taken in to account. Nationally, DWP rate highly on performance measures, especially recycling, but it is clear that more focused campaign work needs to be done (Head of Service).

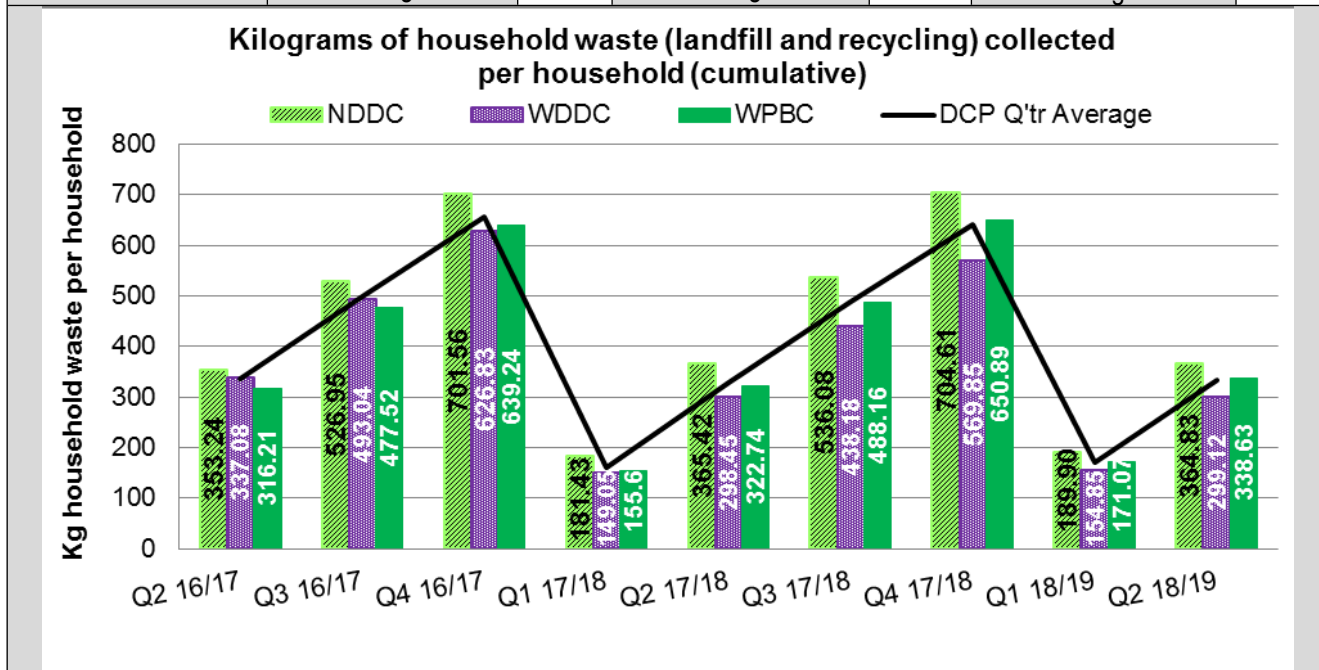
Percentage of catering premises achieving high levels of food hygiene (rated 4 or 5)				Aim	↑
Corporate Plan Priority: Building a Stronger Local Economy					
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland
Q3 2018/19 Actual	94.51%		98.23%		96.67%
Q3 2018/19 Target	90%	✓	90%	✓	90%
FY 2018/19 Target	90%		90%		90%
FY 2017/18 Actual	93.2%		96.9%		96.0%



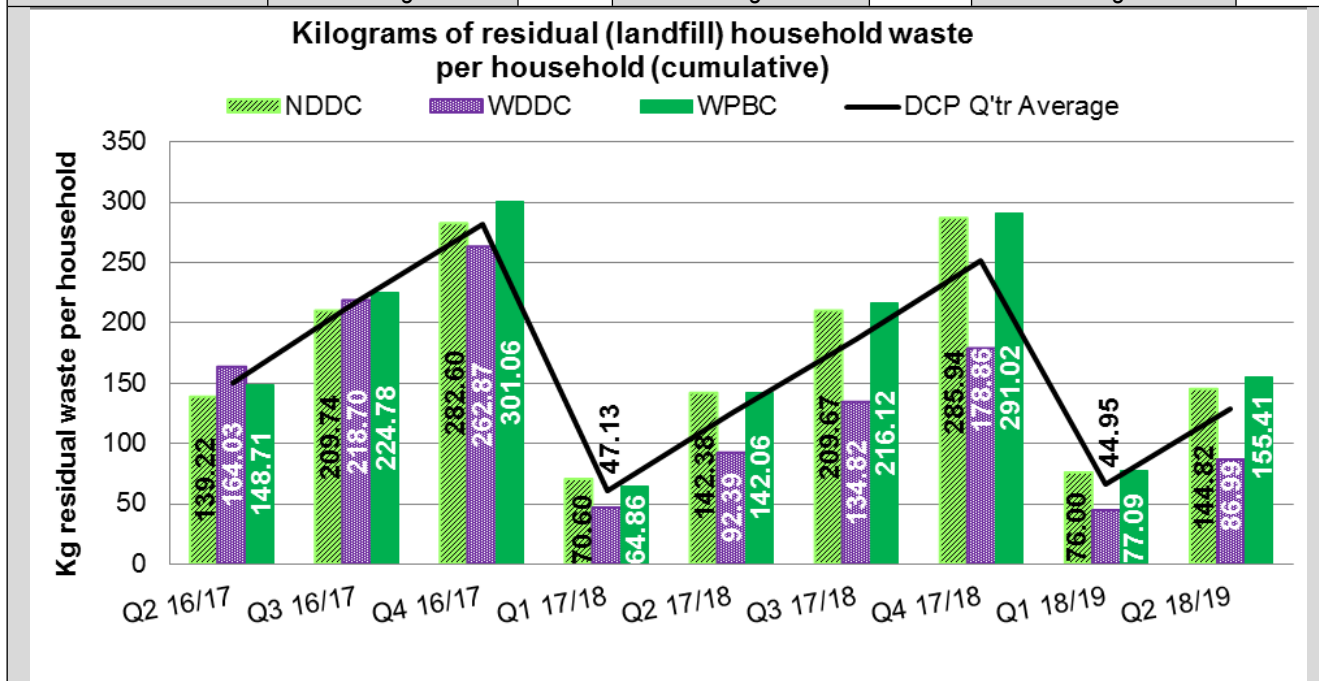
Percentage of Environmental Protection service requests responded to within 3 working days					Aim	↑
Corporate Plan Priority: Improving Quality of Life						
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland	
Q3 2018/19 Actual	98.92%	✔	98.60%	✔	94.66%	
Q3 2018/19 Target	95%		95%		95%	
FY 2018/19 Target	95%		95%		95%	
FY 2017/18 Actual	98%		96%		93%	



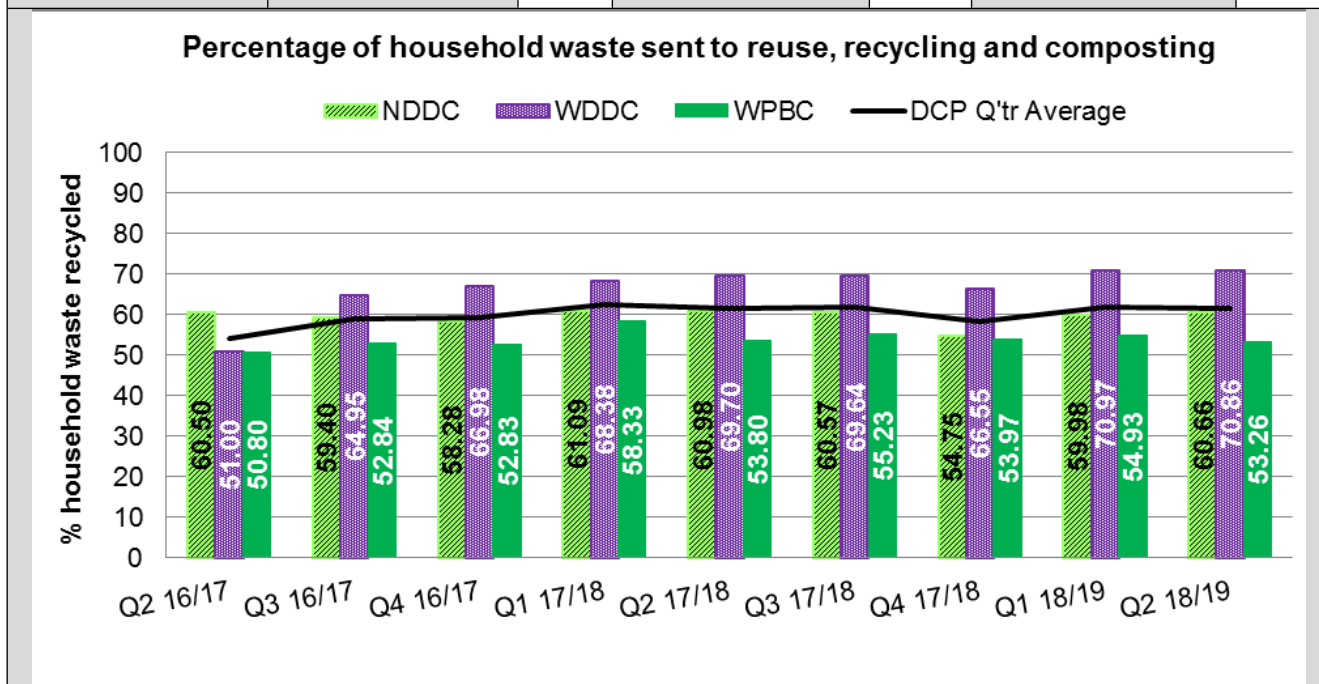
Kilograms of household waste (landfill and recycling) collected per household (cumulative)					Aim	↓
Corporate Plan Priority: Improving Quality of Life						
<b>Latest available data is quarter two 2018/19</b>						
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland	
Q2 2018/19 Actual	365 Kg/hh	✔	299 Kg/hh	✔	339 Kg/hh	
Q2 2018/19 Target	365 Kg/hh		299 Kg/hh		299 Kg/hh	
FY 2017/18 Actual	705 Kg/hh		570 Kg/hh		651 Kg/hh	



Kilograms of residual (landfill) household waste per household (cumulative)					Aim	↓
Corporate Plan Priority: Improving Quality of Life						
Latest available data is quarter two 2018/19						
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland	
Q2 2018/19 Actual	144.82 Kg/hh	✘	86.99 Kg/hh	✔	155.41 Kg/hh	✘
Q2 2018/19 Target	92 Kg/hh		92 Kg/hh		92 Kg/hh	
FY 2017/18 Actual	286 Kg/hh		179 Kg/hh		291 Kg/hh	



Percentage of household waste sent to re-use, recycling and composting					Aim	↑
Corporate Plan Priority: Improving Quality of Life						
Latest available data is quarter two 2018/19						
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland	
Q2 2018/19 Actual	60.66%	✔	70.86%	✔	53.26%	✘
Q2 2018/19 Target	60%		60%		60%	
FY 2017/18 Actual	55%		67%		54%	



<b>Number of (justified) missed household waste collections (absolute number)</b>				Aim	↓
Corporate Plan Priority: Improving Quality of Life					
Authority	North Dorset	West Dorset	Weymouth & Portland		
Q3 2018/19 Actual	721	599	811		
Q2 2018/19 Actual	1,030	828	1,171		
Q1 2018/19 Actual	1,384	790	835		
Q4 2017/18 Actual	1,190	801	865		
Q3 2017/18 Actual	918	672	936		
Q2 2017/18 Actual	968	667	1,152		
Q1 2017/18 Actual	926	733	856		
Q4 2016/17 Actual	1,090	873	963		
Q3 2016/17 Actual	911	789	1,120		
Q2 2016/17 Actual	916	1,058	1,406		
Q1 2016/17 Actual	750	1,076	1,216		
Q4 2015/16 Actual	642	1,208	1,485		
Q3 2015/16 Actual	579	1,660	1,517		

<b>Justified missed bin collections as a proportion of all collections – Q3 2018/19</b>			
Corporate Plan Priority: Improving Quality of Life			
Authority	Number of Justified missed household waste collections	Total Collections	Percentage of missed collections
North Dorset	721	1,109,193	0.07%
West Dorset	599	1,613,862	0.04%
Weymouth & Portland	811	1,156,883	0.07%

## Service Plan Update

### A Stronger Local Economy

- Licensing IT being consolidated and improved to give enhanced self-service for customers saving time and money and improved data protection
- Purple Flag accreditation for Weymouth has been achieved in recognition of a successful night-time economy. Multi-agency application coordinated by the town centre manager. An action plan is being developed from the assessment process to further improve and promote Weymouth as a great night out.

### Thriving and Inclusive Communities

- West Dorset Health & Wellbeing Locality Officer is developing community projects. North Dorset part-funded a CCG Locality Officer who is developing health initiatives. Janet Moore continues work in Weymouth & Portland. Public Health Dorset has also allocated officers to support community based health and wellbeing initiatives. This all contributes to the 'prevention at scale' agenda, helping people to keep physically and mentally well.
- Melcombe Regis Board/Housing Service has progressed work to introduce a selective licensing scheme for the private rented sector which if approved, will bring benefits to tenants and landlords alike and improve community cohesion. Out to consultation in New Year. Community Safety Accreditation Scheme launched in Weymouth town centre providing uniformed officers with police and council powers to tackle ASB.
- Following Groundwork South's withdrawal from the Tumbledown Farm project (Weymouth), DCC Coast & Countryside service has partnered up and a draft project plan has been produced. The project will provide an experiential environment for those with mental health and learning disabilities and accessible greenspace for local communities.

### Improving Quality of Life

- Successful stage 1 Heritage Lottery Fund bid announced in December 2017 for the development of a £1.4M investment in Radipole Park Gardens, Weymouth. The stage 2 (final stage) is now being progressed to ensure that this investment comes to Weymouth.
- ASB Public Space Protection Orders now approved for West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland. Dog-related PSPO for North Dorset now approved.

### Developing Successful Partnerships

- Dorset Police; Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner; Dorset County Council and WPBC delivering project to re-locate and upgrade CCTV service and help release the Peninsula for re-development. Completion due in February 2019.
- Mentioned above but the health and wellbeing work is very much delivered through partnership working with communities; Public Health Dorset; Clinical Commissioning Group and Dorset County Council.

## Future Issues

- Dorset Waste Partnership – Budget pressures continue due to changes in the international market for recyclates; household growth and fuel costs. Will be considered as part of budget setting by Shadow Dorset Council.
- Local Government Re-organisation – Work will continue to ensure that service continuity is maintained through the transitions to Dorset Council and Weymouth & Portland Town Councils.

## Key risk areas

11 Service operational risks have been identified for Community Protection:-

Very High Risks	0
High Risks	1
Medium Risks	4
Low Risks	6

Increase in DWP disposal costs				
CURRENT SCORE		Planned risk reduction initiatives	TARGET SCORE	
Impact	<b>3</b>		Due to China's restrictions on quality of raw recycle. Cost control measures in place and monitored through DWP Risk Register and Joint Committee.	Impact
Likelihood	<b>5</b>	Likelihood		4
Risk Score	<b>15</b>	Risk Score		12
Risk Rating	<b>HIGH</b>	Risk Rating		<b>MEDIUM</b>



## Housing

Head of Service – Clive Milone

(Strategic Housing, Homelessness Prevention, Housing Advice & Support, Housing Allocation, Private Sector Housing, Empty Homes, Home Improvement Agency, Supported Housing)

Lead Brief Holder – Cllr Gill Taylor (Housing)

### Revenue summary

Subjective analysis	Full Year Current Budget 2018/19 (£)	Comments / actions
Employees	481,700	<p>An unpaid £8,000 Rent Repayment Order debt is due to the council from a prosecuted private rented sector landlord, which is not likely to be repaid prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April. Fewer bed and breakfast write-offs have been executed, and this budget will be underspent by £15,000 at year end. Income from repaid rent deposit/rent in advance loans is ahead of new loans, and any surplus goes into the Housing Reserve at year end. Write-offs of unpaid rent deposit/rent in advance is less than anticipated, and this budget will be underspent at year end by £36,000. Demands on the council for homeless prevention input has been greater than anticipated, largely due to the impact of the new Homelessness Reduction Act in 2018, and this budget is expected to be overspent by £9,000 at year end, though funded by reserves. The total capital cost of purchasing the first of two properties in Weymouth for use as an alternative to expensive Bed and Breakfast accommodation came in £11,500 above budget, but this is being adjusted as the property was cheap to buy but required some internal alterations to make it usable. Lessons have been learned from this, and a second property is now under offer, which is immediately usable without significant works being required. The overall £450,000 agreed for the two purchases will not be breached.</p>
Premises	365,090	
Transport	7,069	
Supplies & Services	535,476	
Income	(636,494)	
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>752,841</b>	
<b>Q3 Predicted variance</b>	<b>59,000 (F)</b>	
Q2 Predicted variance	0	
Q1 Predicted variance	0	

## Key performance data

### Exception Report from Head of Service

#### **Average number of working days to process Housing Register applications**

Following a period of rising processing times due to serious staffing shortages, average times are coming back under control across all three areas. Staffing shortages are still affecting this team, but a focus on improving processing times coupled with a strenuous effort from team members is starting to pay dividends, and it is hoped that we will be back on target by the end of Q4.

#### **Total number of households on the Housing Register**

In Q3 there was a small increase in the number on the Housing Register in Q3 in NDDC & WDDC and a small decrease in WPBC.

#### **Total number of households housed in Housing Association stock**

Q3 has seen a sharp rise in the number of households housed in NDDC with a slight decrease in both WDDC and WPBC. The councils do not have any control over the number of re-let properties that become available.

#### **Total number of new applications to the Housing Register**

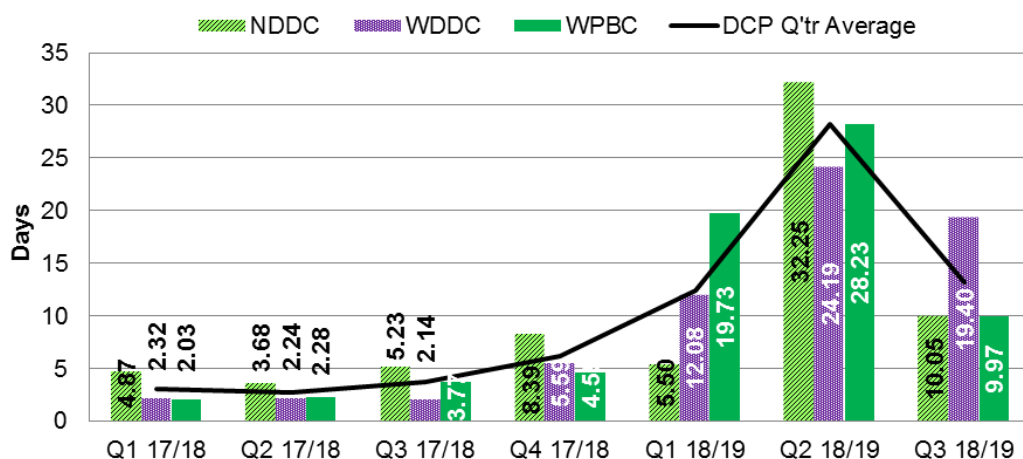
The number of new applications in Q3 has fallen in all three councils.

#### **Number of homelessness ACCEPTED decisions made**

The number of homeless decisions taken during Q3 remained steady and, crucially, it is now possible to record accurate figures through the HCLIC government reporting system.

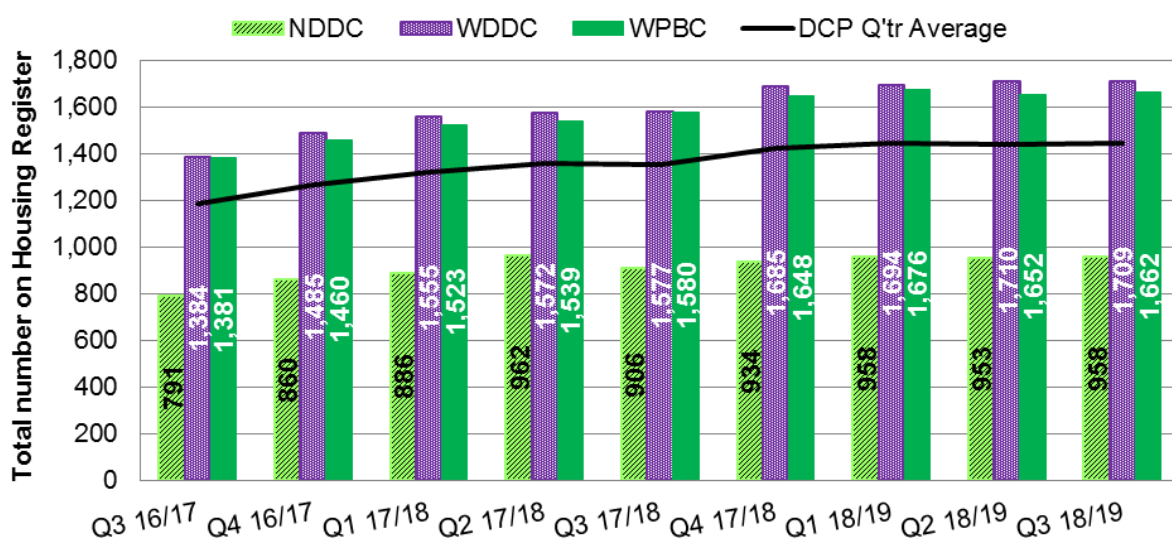
Average number of working days to initially inform housing applicants what supporting proofs they are required to submit			Aim	↓
Corporate Plan Priority: Empowering Thriving and Inclusive Communities				
Authority	North Dorset	West Dorset	Weymouth & Portland	
Q3 2018/19 Actual	10 days	19 days	10 days	⚠
Q3 2018/19 Target	9 days	9 days	9 days	
FY 2018/19 Target	9 days	9 days	9 days	
FY 2017/18 Actual	5.83 days	3.23 days	3.13 days	

Average number of working days to initially inform housing applicants what supporting proofs they are required to submit

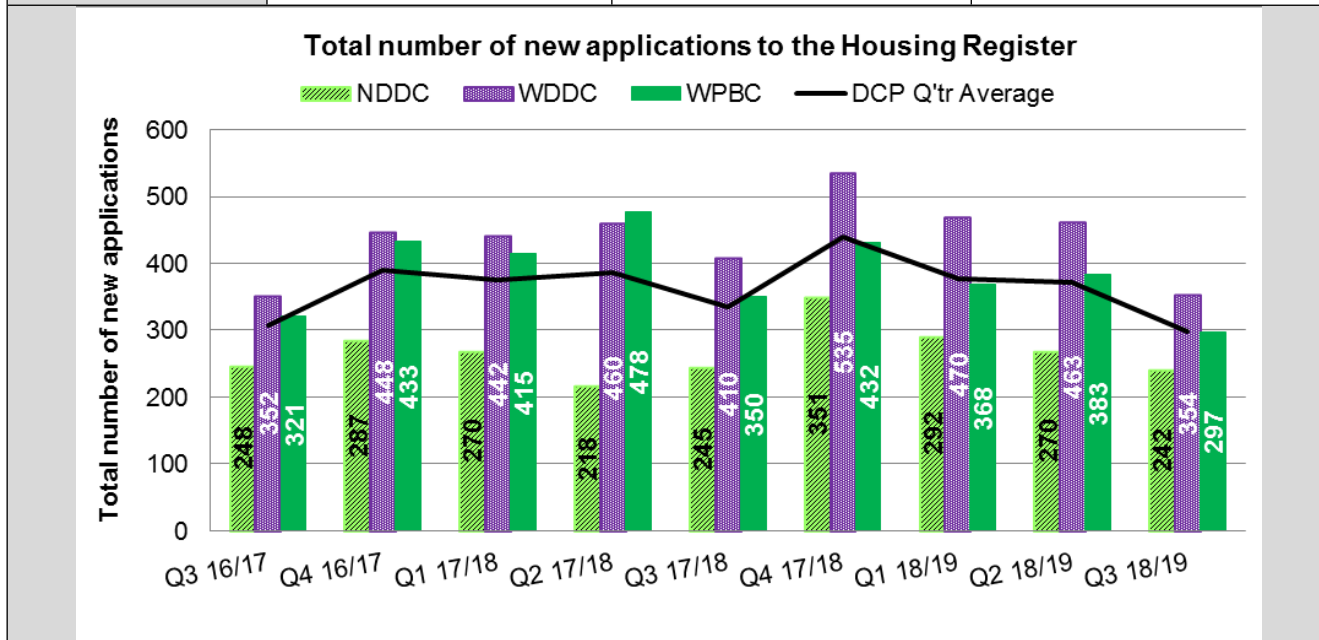


Total number of households on the Housing Register			
Corporate Plan Priority: Empowering Thriving and Inclusive Communities			
Authority	North Dorset	West Dorset	Weymouth & Portland
Q3 2018/19 Actual	958	1,709	1,662
Q2 2018/19 Actual	953	1,710	1,652
Q1 2018/19 Actual	958	1,694	1,676
Q4 2017/18 Actual	934	1,685	1,648
Q3 2017/18 Actual	906	1,577	1,580

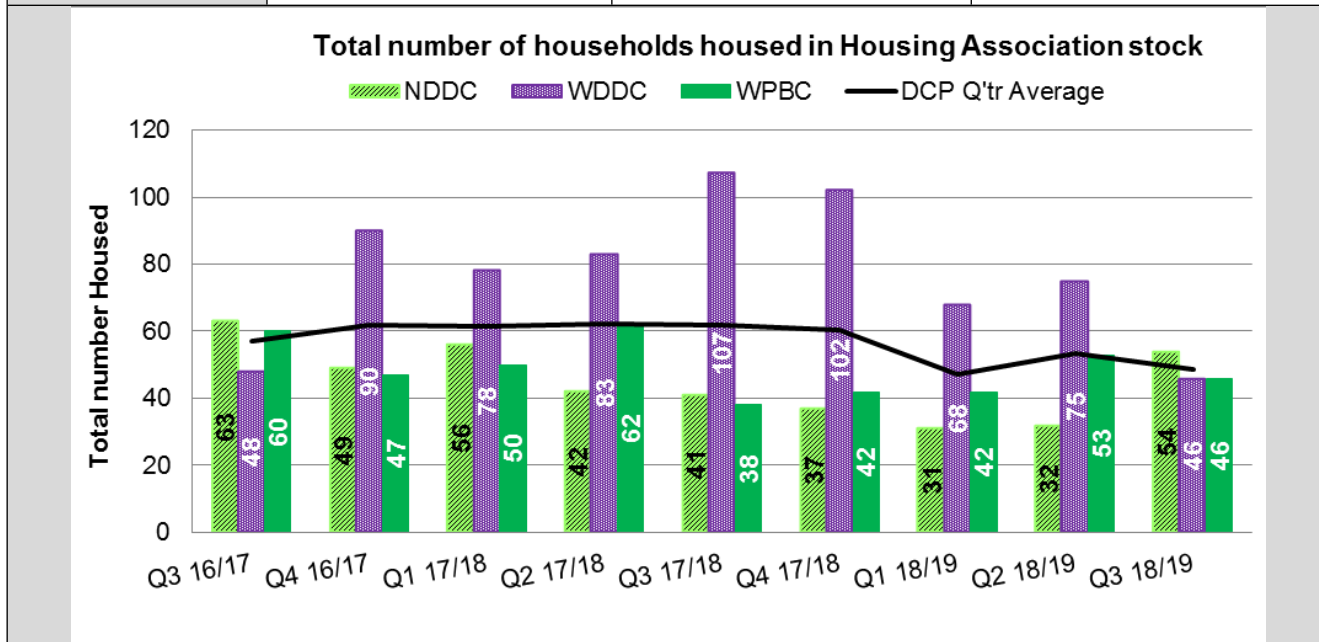
Total number of households on the Housing Register



<b>Total number of new applications to the Housing Register</b>			
Corporate Plan Priority: Empowering Thriving and Inclusive Communities			
Authority	North Dorset	West Dorset	Weymouth & Portland
Q3 2018/19 Actual	242	354	297
Q2 2018/19 Actual	270	463	383
Q1 2018/19 Actual	292	470	368
Q4 2017/18 Actual	351	535	432
Q3 2017/18 Actual	245	410	350



<b>Total number of households housed in Housing Association stock</b>			
Corporate Plan Priority: Empowering Thriving and Inclusive Communities			
Authority	North Dorset	West Dorset	Weymouth & Portland
Q3 2018/19 Actual	54	46	46
Q2 2018/19 Actual	32	75	53
Q1 2018/19 Actual	31	68	42
Q4 2017/18 Actual	37	102	42
Q3 2017/18 Actual	41	107	38



Due to the Homelessness Reduction Act legislation coming into effect in April 2018 there are significant differences regarding the number of decisions made on applicant's homeless case. The reason for this is that prior to April 2018 an applicant would be notified of one of the following decision categories:

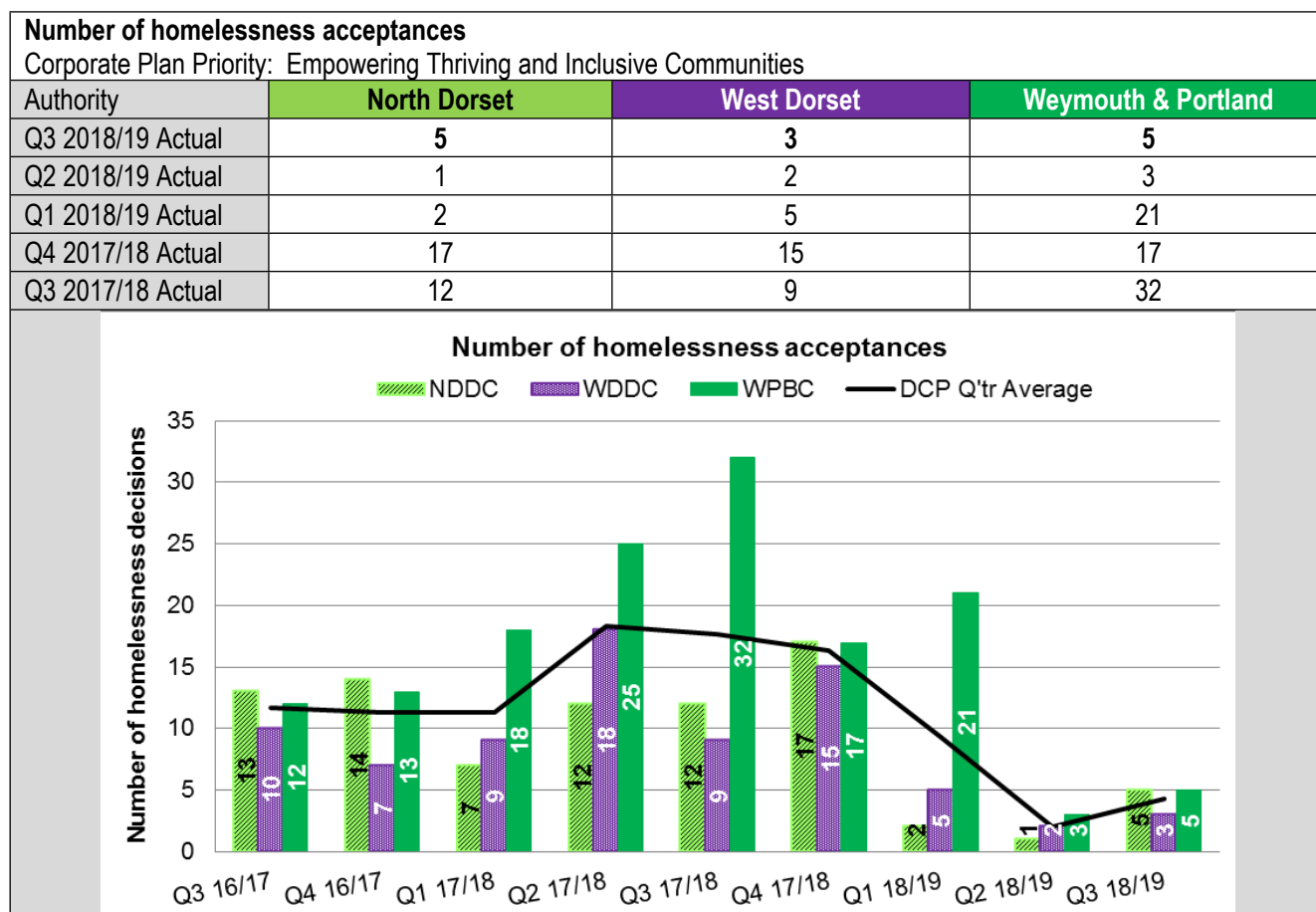
- Ineligible
- Not homeless
- Not in priority need
- Intentionally homeless
- Main homeless duty owed

Since 2018 a decision could be reached in more than one of the following decision categories:

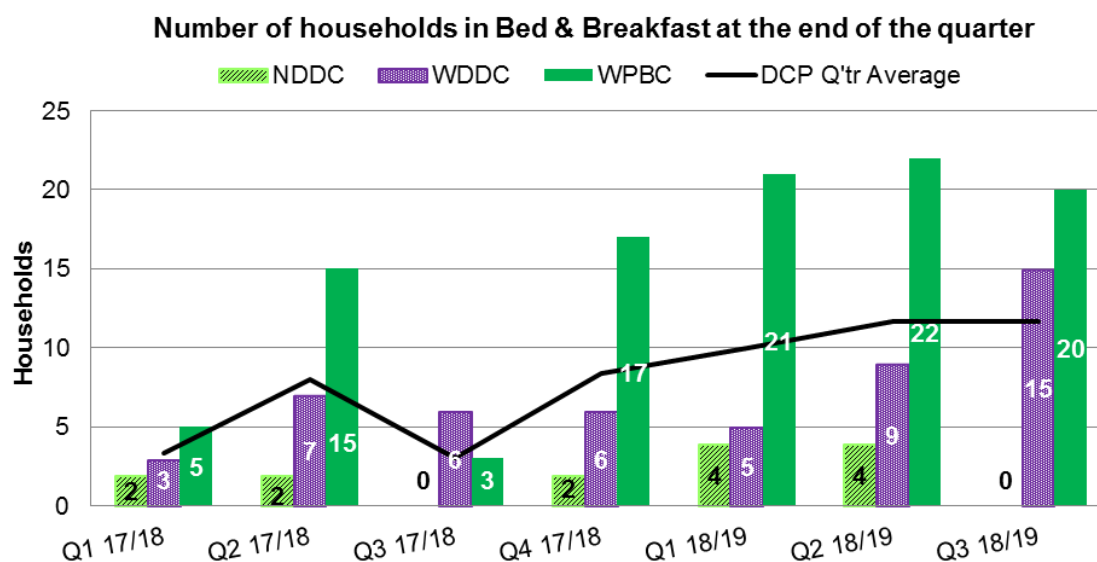
- Ineligible
- Not homeless
- Prevention duty owed
- Relief duty owed
- Final decision duty including main homeless duty.

In theory therefore since April 2018 the same applicant could now be notified as to three distinct duties under the legislation, prevention, relief and final duty.

There have been other changes to the legislation such as stating that a person served with a valid S21 notice is to be regarded as threatened with homelessness. This will have also contributed to the increase in the number of decisions being issued in recent months. The 'decisions made' data for quarter 2 and 3 are currently being validated.



<b>Number of households in Bed &amp; Breakfast at the end of the quarter</b>			
Corporate Plan Priority: Empowering Thriving and Inclusive Communities			
Authority	North Dorset	West Dorset	Weymouth & Portland
Q3 2017/18 Actual	0	15	20
Q2 2017/18 Actual	4	9	22
Q1 2018/19 Actual	4	5	21
Q4 2017/18 Actual	2	6	17
Q3 2017/18 Actual	0	6	3



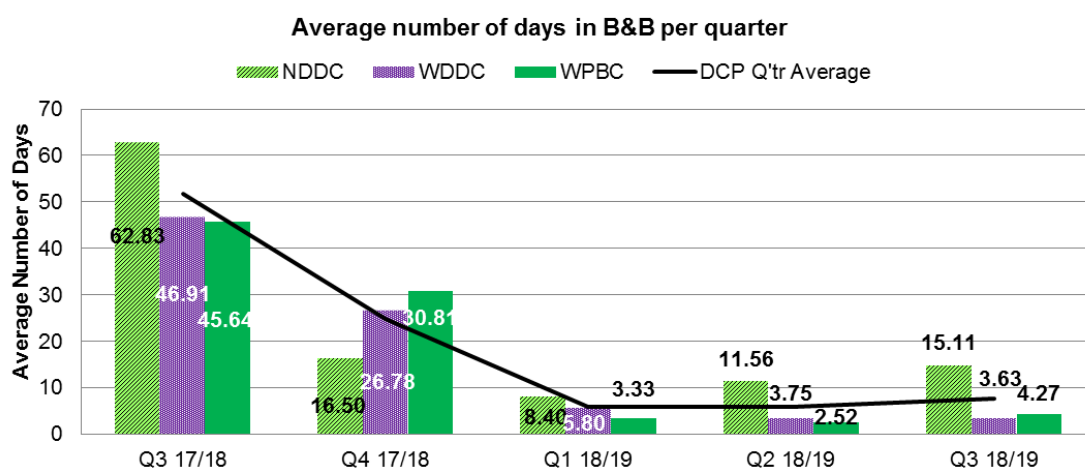
<b>Number of households placed in B&amp;B during each month</b>			
Corporate Plan Priority: Empowering Thriving and Inclusive Communities			
Authority	North Dorset	West Dorset	Weymouth & Portland
December 2018	0	6	5
November 2018	3	11	16
October 2018	2	5	8
September 2018	1	11	18
August 2018	2	4	16
July 2018	2	6	11
June 2018	5	3	6
May 2018	1	4	10
April 2018	4	4	20
March 2018	1	5	11
February 2018	0	1	4
January 2018	3	1	9

**Average number of days in B&B per month**

Corporate Plan Priority: Empowering Thriving and Inclusive Communities

Calculation method: total calendar days in B&amp;B of those households leaving within the month, divided by the total number of households leaving within the month = Average stay in B&amp;B of leavers per month

Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland	
	Average Days	Leavers	Average Days	Leavers	Average Days	Leavers
December 2018	22	2	3	7	8	6
November 2018	7	4	3	9	3	19
October 2018	22	3	4	8	4	16
September 2018	7	3	4	8	5	10
August 2018	11	3	7	7	2	24
July 2018	16	3	1	9	2	18
June 2018	2	3	6	2	3	20
May 2018	9	2	3	5	5	11
April 2018	NA/ no leavers	0	11	3	3	14
March 2018	NA/ no leavers	0	18	4	15	10
February 2018	0	1	49	1	22	9
January 2018	11	1	30	4	44	18
December 2017	8	1	30	5	71	10
November 2017	93	3	62	3	25	6
October 2017	45	2	60	3	24	6



## Service Plan Update

### A Stronger Local Economy

- A DCP-wide service has been created that enables more homes to be brought back into use, thus adding to and enhancing the local housing stock. This is funded through to 2019.

### Thriving and Inclusive Communities

- Develop and evaluate options for driving up standards in the private rented sector in the Park District, within the overall Melcombe Regis improvement project. A selective licensing scheme for Melcombe Regis has been developed. The Melcombe Regis Board has agreed that this should now go to the WPBC for preliminary approval, followed by public consultation.
- Implement a revised mandatory licensing scheme for HMOs. A compliant HMO licensing process and fees scheme has been developed, covering a wide range of properties within the private rented sector.

### Improving Quality of Life

- Increase our stock of directly-managed temporary accommodation across the DCP area. At a time of rising homelessness, this can both help us to provide good quality short term housing for often vulnerable people, while delivering better value for money than traditional solutions such as bed and breakfast. The purchase of one home to be used as an alternative to B&B has been completed in WPBC, and another one will follow in the coming months.

### Developing Successful Partnerships

- Deliver an effective customer focused housing service across the partnership. This will provide DCP with a Housing team that focuses on performance excellence, and which uses smart and agile working methods.
- Implementation of the Housing Reduction Act from April 2018 gives the councils a range of new duties to local people, ensuring that homelessness prevention lies at the heart of what we do. The new Duty to Refer has come into effect on 1 October 2018, and is expected to increase the number of homelessness cases coming to all three councils.
- As the move to the new Dorset Council proceeds, ensure that a new Housing service is designed that meets the needs of local people. By working closely with colleagues across the existing councils, we will design a new fully integrated Housing service that can be implemented as soon as possible after the new council is created.
- Review the Dorset Accessible Homes policy. We will devise a common Dorset-wide policy that matches demand with available resources.

## Future Issues

The transition necessary to implement the Homelessness Reduction Act is the single most important deliverable for Housing during 2018/19, and this has continued to develop with the implementation of the Duty to Refer on 1 October 2018.

It is anticipated that workloads will grow significantly now all the provisions of the new legislation have come into effect.

Staff have shown great flexibility by adopting markedly different ways of working, and this is going well. Elected members and the general public can be confident that Housing has prepared for these changes in a positive, detailed and measured way.



## Key risk areas

15 Service operational risks have been identified for Housing:-

Very High Risks	0
High Risks	1
Medium Risks	7
Low Risks	7

Loss of homelessness prevention funding				
CURRENT SCORE		Planned risk reduction initiatives  Homelessness prevention funding has been mainstreamed in NDDC. In WDDC and WPBC, members are asked annually to approve a sum of money from reserves to fund prevention work. If this is not possible, for whatever reason, certain highly valuable and effective prevention initiatives would have to cease.	TARGET SCORE	
Impact	<b>4</b>		Impact	4
Likelihood	<b>4</b>		Likelihood	3
Risk Score	<b>16</b>		Risk Score	12
Risk Rating	<b>HIGH</b>		Risk Rating	<b>MEDIUM</b>

**Planning Development Management & Building Control**Head of Service – **Jean Marshall**

(Major Projects &amp; Developments, Listed Building and Conservation, Trees, Planning Enforcement, Building Control)

Lead Brief Holder – **Cllr Ray Nowak** (Environment and Sustainability)**Revenue summary**

<b>Subjective analysis</b>	<b>Full Year Current Budget 2018/19 (£)</b>	<b>Comments / actions</b>
Employees	562,960	<p>Planning - Income up on predictions but planning fees are variable throughout the year and no guarantee that this will be sustained. Limited new major development proposed within the area and thus pre-app fees are well below predictions. No major applications or enquiries are anticipated in Q4. The impact of Brexit could have a detrimental impact on the number of applications and income being received in the last quarter. Salary savings have been offset by agency staff but some of this is also spend on the 20% of fee income agreed that government expect to be reinvested in planning services through dedicated staff working on major projects. (2 agency working across DCP). There will be some increase in staff costs due to the business support restructure (December). Likely to be more or less on budget.</p> <p>Building Control - The service is showing an excellent response to private competition which has resulted in the current favourable position. Competition still remains a threat with local providers continually trying to lure away core and key customers. The use of agency staff still continues due to the inability to recruit suitable permanent replacements. There will also be an increased agency provision due to the change from casual employed surveyors to agency which is being driven by the formation of the new Dorset Council.</p> <p>There is a non fee earning provision of the service and this will be monitored to achieve the minimum cost provision, estimated to carry a small deficit.</p> <p>The impact of Brexit could have a detrimental impact on the number of applications and income being received in the last quarter.</p>
Transport	9,150	
Supplies & Services	21,551	
Income	(463,330)	
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>130,331</b>	
<b>Q3 Predicted variance</b>	<b>7,500 (F)</b>	
Q2 Predicted variance	0	
Q1 Predicted variance	5,000(A)	

## Key performance data

### Exception Report from Head of Service

The number of applications remains steady with a noticeable increase in October and November from previous months and then a dip in December due largely to the Christmas period and shutdown. The increase in numbers can be accounted for in part by the reduction in the validation backlog and although this has pushed the workload through into the number of applications being handled per officer in the planning team this has not affected teams in meeting the required government targets. Staff vacancies in the planning team have been reduced to a single post which is being covered on a temporary basis (maternity cover) and the restructure of the Business Support team will allow for better support both for officers and the customer. There remains an urgent need to provide a single ICT system which is moving towards its test phase but more staff are beginning to work across the various residual 3 systems providing greater resilience, albeit this is time consuming moving between various systems as they cannot all be opened at the same time.

The new Business Support team are now largely in post and this has already made a difference in how the overall team functions and operates with clearer definition between roles and responsibilities and an alignment of posts across the 3 council areas. Vacancies remain high in Building Control with a difficulty in recruitment even of agency staff due to a national shortage of skills in this field. One additional career grade post has been created from a BC Surveyor post which has not been filled through normal recruitment to seek to develop someone from a lower level of current qualification through to surveyor level but the full training can be up to 7 years.

There are currently two outstanding Public Inquiries in WDDC area at Charminster and Cerne Abbas and the Charminster case, due to be heard in March is taking considerable resource in terms of time despite being dealt with externally, which is also an added cost. There are also some ongoing large scale enforcement actions taking place across the 3 areas which need staff resource. As the number of appeals is very low, by comparison to the overall number of applications determined this has not been reported as none of the authorities are in danger of exceeding the government performance target of 10% appeals allowed as a total of all applications. Each of the authorities is below 1% measured against this target at present.

In terms of budget all three authorities' incomes are currently favourable although predictions at end of year show WPBC and WDDC to be generally on budget due to levels of costs likely in WDDC for the public inquiry and the lower levels of applications being received in WPBC. NDDC income is favourable at present, possibly due to the absence of a 5 year land supply and speculative applications as a result and is likely to remain well above predictions for end of year. However, like WDDC, costs associated with the public inquiry at Gillingham will have some impact. All budgets will, to some extent, be affected by the Business Support restructure which took place in December but these are reflected in end of year predictions.

### Exception Report from Building Control Manager

Percentage of completion certificates dispatched within 7 days of inspection:

The reduction in performance can be attributed to key staff members becoming more involved within the service ICT project, coupled with the effects of staff leave through the summer months. This performance could further decline in the next couple of quarters due to further resources being required to implement the project and system down time to allow for data migration from the current system to the new one. **Quarter 3 completion certificate data:-**

#### WDDC

Issued Within 7 days of Inspection: (as a proportion of); Total Completed

Oct: 43 44

Nov: 53 55

Dec: 33 34

Total: 133 129

% = 97.00

#### WPBC

Issued Within 7 days of Inspection: (as a proportion of); Total Completed

Oct: 36 36

Nov: 41 41

Dec: 28 28

Total 105 105

% = 100.00

Nationally Local Authority Building Control retains a market share of around 67% with local figures ranging from those similar to DCP right down to around 35% of market share. It is totally dependent upon the competition from Approved Inspectors and the types of development being undertaken and, in many cases, the level of service received from other council departments.

Dorset has a locally poor road network without any motorway links which makes the area less attractive for the competition coupled with the lack of large high fee earning schemes, although recently private providers have started to set up local offices within towns such as Weymouth, Blandford and Bridport to service clients which is having an impact upon the percentage of retained work.

The service also benefits from a large number of repeat customers especially local builders which is a key market to retain, coupled with a realistic approach to fee setting and the flexible and helpful approach of all staff concerned with the service. This can be demonstrated by the number of partnership applications in the tables.

Locally there has been a recent slow down of the building industry which can be attributed to the current economic climate as well as confidence due to Brexit. Competitors are also, in some cases, heavily discounting in order to gain work and market share, which is not permissible for a Local Authority to do, although it should be noted that generally market share remains healthy particularly within Weymouth and Portland which retains an excellent 80.00. West Dorset has slightly fallen to 69% share and overall figures compare very well with national averages. The North Dorset share of 65% has risen by 10% within this quarter and has to be attributed to the staff winning back many long standing clients by providing a good reliable trustworthy service. The staff working within the NDDC area are still having to deal with some of the legacy issues arising from a former employee. This is taking more time than would be expected to resolve and is likely to continue for the immediate future.

The Local Authority are also unable to refuse to take any application submitted to us unlike the private providers who can chose their clients and this is leading to an increased workload regarding unauthorised works and complaints arising from the use of private providers.

The current ICT Building Control system at NDDC is unable to provide accurate KPI data due to limited staff capacity and technical issues.

A new ICT system is being procured and implemented for all 3 authorities, so the data in respect of the KPI's will be available and it is hoped that this will be introduced in March 2019. The team are needing to input significantly to the work in preparing for this new system and thus performance figures are likely to decrease in Q3/4 as a result of competing priorities but longer term the new system will allow for a fully functioning service and better and more accurate reporting.

## Planning Development Management

Please note application numbers in tables below include minor alterations to Q2 figures due to corrected reporting.

Number of valid applications received – by application type – North Dorset					
Month	Major	Minor	Other	Misc*	TOTAL
December 2018	2	19	56	13	90
November 2018	2	44	117	58	221
October 2018	4	32	96	45	177
September 2018	3	17	34	82	136
August 2018	1	26	37	109	173
July 2018	3	25	47	92	166
June 2018	6	24	46	82	158
May 2018	4	30	4	99	137
April 2018	7	20	33	89	149
March 2018	4	20	21	91	136
February 2018	1	30	37	88	156
January 2018	12	49	43	100	204

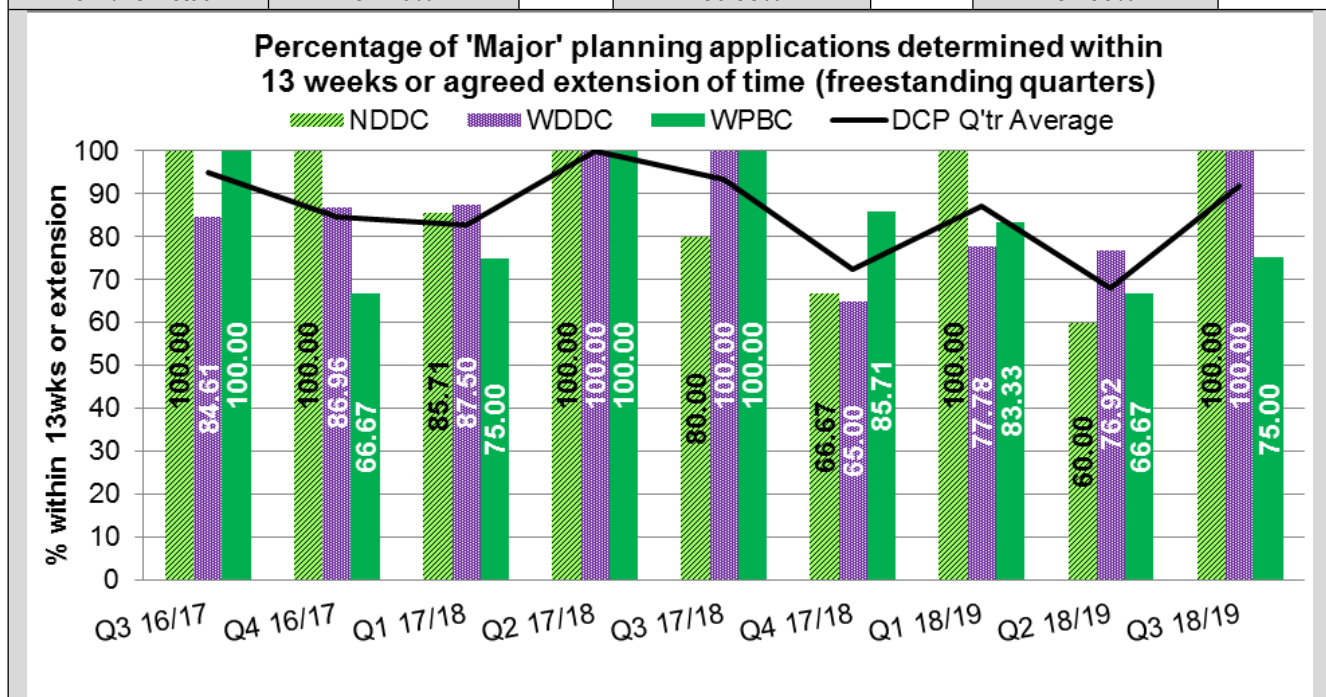
Number of valid applications received – by application type – West Dorset					
Month	Major	Minor	Other	Misc*	TOTAL
December 2018	1	6	16	82	105
November 2018	4	49	70	137	260
October 2018	1	37	103	149	290
September 2018	6	31	65	109	211
August 2018	3	33	91	123	250
July 2018	7	53	94	119	273
June 2018	8	39	87	116	250
May 2018	2	36	95	110	244
April 2018	4	29	94	81	208
March 2018	5	31	97	84	217
February 2018	3	32	89	84	208
January 2018	6	16	80	79	181

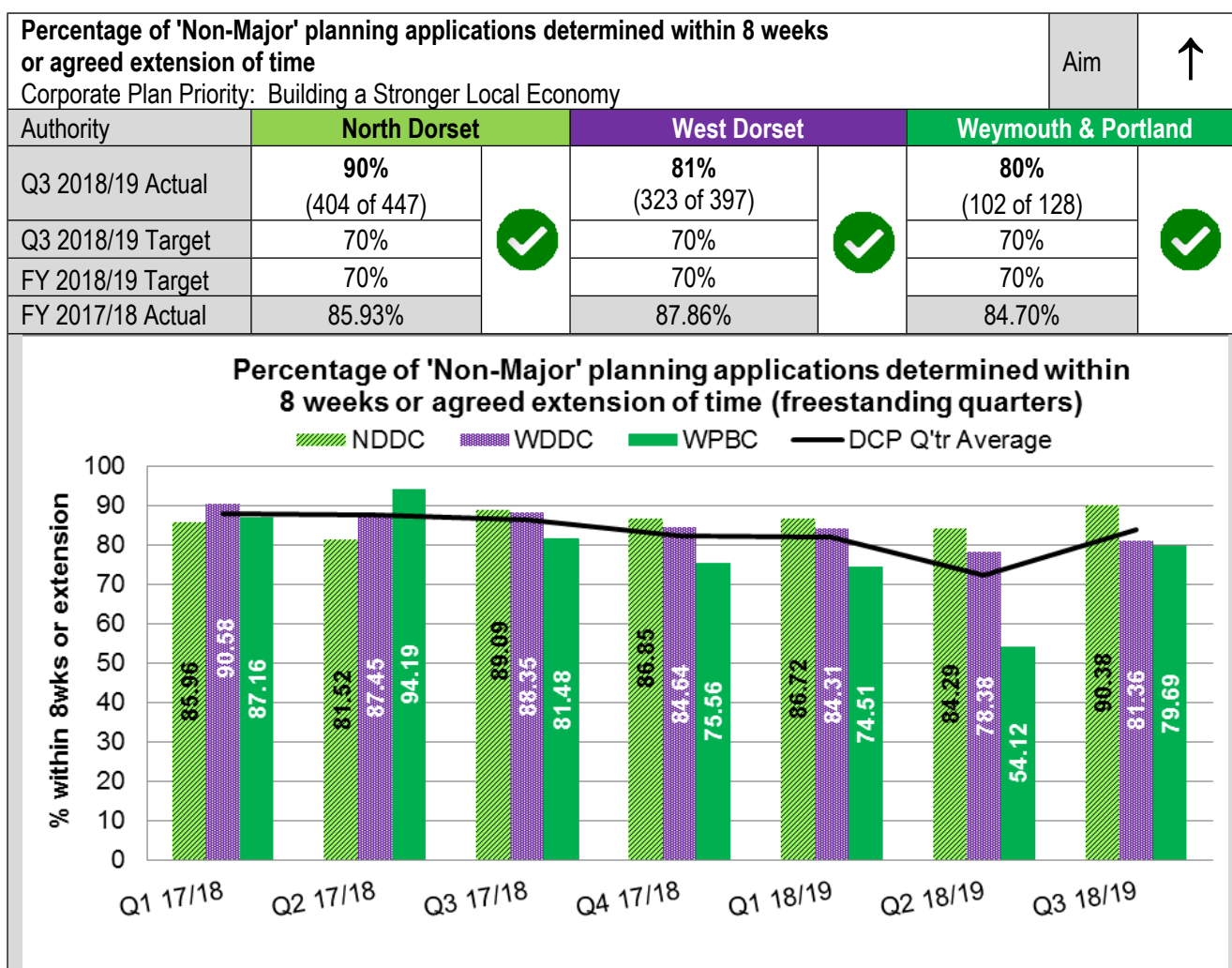
Number of valid applications received – by application type – Weymouth & Portland					
Month	Major	Minor	Other	Misc*	TOTAL
December 2018	0	5	6	25	36
November 2018	1	23	30	53	107
October 2018	1	9	29	53	92
September 2018	2	11	21	31	65
August 2018	2	17	22	43	84
July 2018	2	13	27	34	76
June 2018	4	18	37	42	101
May 2018	3	12	34	44	93
April 2018	1	12	32	20	65
March 2018	3	9	35	23	70
February 2018	2	7	36	33	78
January 2018	3	19	22	33	77

- Misc includes Prior those applications types which do not fall within defined government categories and includes discharge of conditions, prior notification and other notifications

<b>Fee Income Q3</b>			
Corporate Plan Priority: Developing Successful Partnerships			
Type of Fee	North Dorset	West Dorset	Weymouth & Portland
Condition Fee	£3,534	£3,650	£680
Non Material Amendment	£906	£2,208	£302
Permitted Development Case Fee	£0	£1,204	£453.60
Planning applications	£248,325	£215,162.50	£71319
Pre-App	£4,162.49	£12,977	£2,964
Enforcement Case Appeals / Fees	£0	£0	£0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£256,927.49</b>	<b>£235,201.50</b>	<b>£75,718.60</b>

<b>Percentage of 'Major' planning applications determined within 13 weeks or agreed extension of time</b>					Aim	↑
Corporate Plan Priority: Building a Stronger Local Economy						
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland	
Q3 2018/19 Actual	100% (12 of 12)		100% (14 of 14)		75% (3 of 4)	
Q3 2018/19 Target	60%		60%		60%	
FY 2018/19 Target	60%		60%		60%	
FY 2017/18 Actual	82.76%		80.95%		87.50%	





Total number of appeals submitted			
Corporate Plan Priority: Empowering Thriving and Inclusive Communities			
Authority	North Dorset	West Dorset	Weymouth & Portland
Q3 2018/19 Actual	5	1	2
Q2 2018/19 Actual	7	9	2
Q1 2018/19 Actual	10	9	3
Q4 2017/18 Actual	4	7	4
Q3 2017/18 Actual	8	5	3

<b>Enforcement – Number of new live cases</b>									
Corporate Plan Priority: Improving Quality of Life									
Authority	North Dorset			West Dorset			Weymouth & Portland		
Enforcement Level	Priority	Urgent	Non-Urgent	Priority	Urgent	Non-Urgent	Priority	Urgent	Non-Urgent
Q3 2018/19 Actual <b>ADV</b>	0	0	2	0	0	6	0	0	0
Q3 2018/19 Actual <b>DEV</b>	2	9	7	0	10	7	0	1	8
Q3 2018/19 Actual <b>BOC</b>	2	10	1	0	1	2	0	0	1
Q3 2018/19 Actual <b>COU</b>	0	7	2	0	4	3	0	0	1
Q3 2018/19 Actual <b>LBW</b>	6	0	1	1	7	1	1	2	0
Q3 2018/19 Actual <b>SEC</b>	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	15	1
Q3 2018/19 Actual <b>HH</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q3 2018/19 Actual <b>TRE</b>	2	2	0	1	2	1	0	0	0
<b>SUB TOTALS</b>	13	28	15	2	24	20	1	18	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56</b>			<b>46</b>			<b>30</b>		

**Key:**  
 ADV: Unauthorised advertisements  
 DEV: Development  
 BOC: Breach of Condition  
 COU: Change of Use  
 LBW: Unauthorised works to Listed Building  
 SEC: Section 215 - Untidy Land or buildings  
 HH: High Hedges  
 TRE: Tree complaints

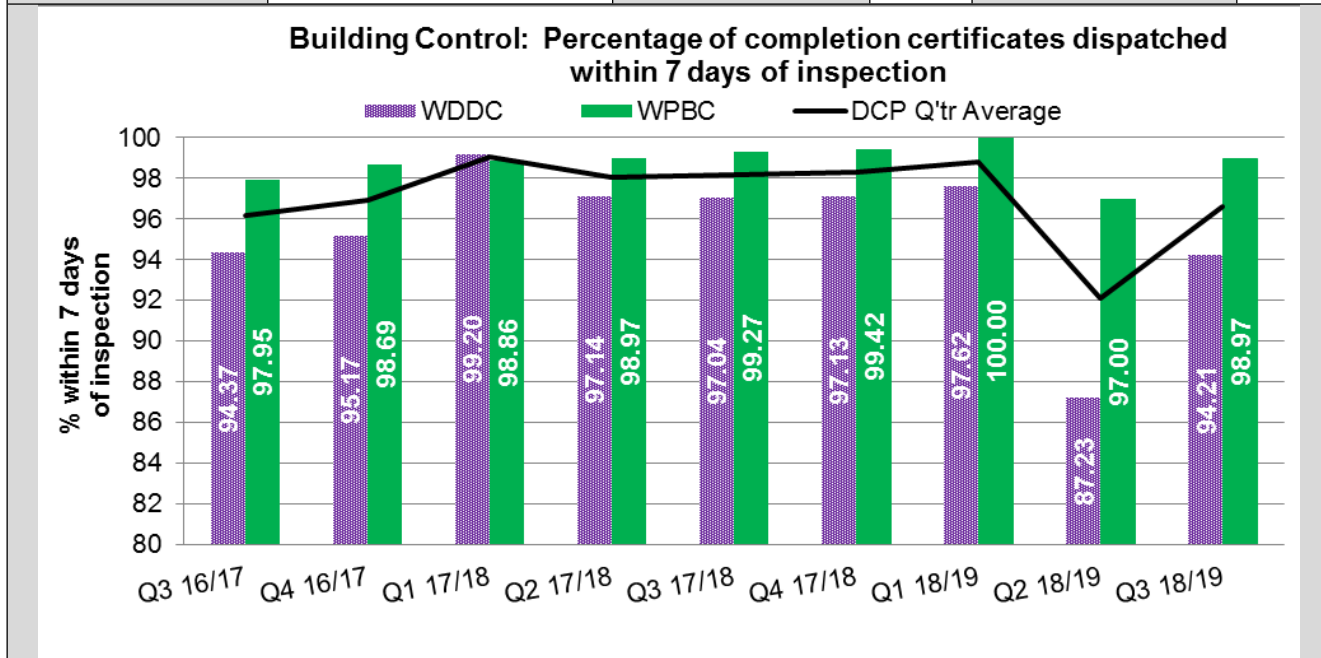
This data is a quarterly update on the number of new live cases per quarter for each of the 8 enforcement categories.

## Building Control

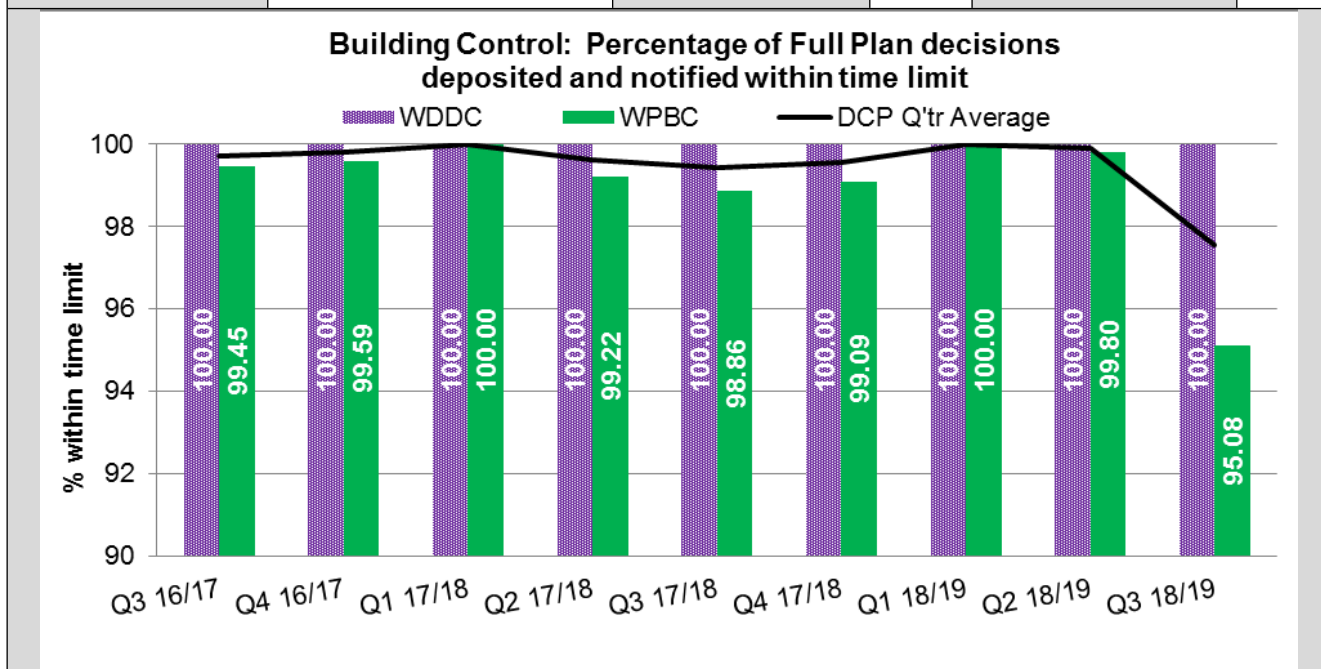
<b>Building Control Market Share (as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018)</b>			
Corporate Plan Priority: Developing Successful Partnerships			
Authority	North Dorset	West Dorset	Weymouth & Portland
Full Plans	40	35	20
Building Notice	38	61	32
Partnership	5	49	36
Regularisation	5	5	7
Privately Certified	48	66	24
<b>MARKET SHARE</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>80%</b>



Building Control: Percentage of completion certificates dispatched within 7 days of inspection				Aim	↑
Corporate Plan Priority: Developing Successful Partnerships					
Authority	North Dorset	West Dorset	Weymouth & Portland		
Q3 2018/19 Actual	Currently unable to report data for North. IT system is being developed to enable this.	94%	⚠	99%	
Q3 2018/19 Target		98%		97%	
FY 2018/19 Target		98%		97%	
FY 2017/18 Actual		97.13%		99.42%	



Building Control: Percentage of Full Plan decisions deposited and notified within time limit				Aim	↑
Corporate Plan Priority: Developing Successful Partnerships					
Authority	North Dorset	West Dorset	Weymouth & Portland		
Q3 2018/19 Actual	Currently unable to report data for North. IT system is being developed to enable this.	100%	✓	95%	
Q3 2018/19 Target		100%		100%	
FY 2018/19 Target		100%		100%	
FY 2017/18 Actual		100%		99.09%	



## Service Plan Update

### **A Stronger Local Economy**

The Business Support team restructure is now complete with the news teams and roles beginning to embed which will provide better resilience for staff and more dedicated service to customer particularly for data enquiries which are a substantial part of the workload. Vacancies resulting from the restructure have been filled although new starters are not yet in post. There remain some delays within the planning application process as a result of reducing the validation timescale delays and this pushing through into the main planning team and with the changes occurring with staff taking on new roles within the Business support team. Cross training on the various ICT systems is ongoing so that better resilience will be in place shortly allowing for validation times to improve as these are just outside national targets at present (partly also due to the Christmas closure). Development Management (DM) are continuing to work alongside Policy and Implementation officers on the Accelerated Home Building programme and a number of key sites have been determined.

### **Thriving and Inclusive Communities**

The proposed new DM ICT system is moving forwards with an agreed contract with Idox to provide a single ICT uniform system (same system as NDDC but a new version) which will lead to greater efficiencies both within the service and in terms of enabling better public access to view and comment on planning applications. There have been some delays in moving this project forwards due to sickness of the Idox project manager but progress is being made and provision being put into place for the running of existing and new systems in parallel to ensure the new system is robust prior to switching over. This does mean some additional work on current systems to allow for continued working post April 1<sup>st</sup> on the old systems as all the templates will need to be configured for the new authority. The Dorset wide Development Managers are seeking to align the critical 1<sup>st</sup> April processes to ensure the customer has minimal differences in approach as far as systems will allow for the new authority. Recent further advice on planning and GDPR does have an impact on the amount of historic data which can be put into the public domain directly but the new Business Support team does include dedicated resources to data which should provide a better service for the customer until such time as historic data can be made publically available.

### **Improving Quality of Life**

All planning decisions take into account relevant policy matters from national policy to neighbourhood plans where adopted. Several major applications on Local Plan allocated sites have come forwards in the last 2 years with provision for the associated infrastructure in accordance with policy provisions. The DM team have also assisted with the revisions to the Local Plans which are currently being progressed. The New NPPF has been published which has some subtle but significant changes particularly to affordable housing thresholds and new legislation in Building Regulations post Grenfell is still awaited although the report itself has made clear the intention to put more regulations back into the Local Authority remit.

### **Developing Successful Partnerships**

DM and BC teams work closely alongside colleagues in other authorities to ensure that processes, where systems allow are aligned across Dorset with a focus on ensuring those key areas which need to be aligned prior to the new Council are in place through the LGR work-streams. There are established good working relationships with all Statutory Bodies who interact with the planning system and regular Town and Parish Council training has regularly been undertaken in DCP but as yet no further sessions for the new Dorset Council Parish and Town Councils has been planned. As can be seen from the BC Manager report, there are many successful partnerships between the LA BC team and local building firms particularly in WDWP area.

### **Actions outside of Corporate Plan**

Ongoing process review work is continuing although focussing at present on those processes which will need to be changed as a result of the new ICT system and for the new Council. There is a major project for improving the quality of the data held both in current electronic form and for digitising existing microfiche as part of a joint project with Land Charges. This is necessary for providing quality data to transfer to the new ICT system and to enable easier search facilities for users of the planning data, both internally (Land Charges and Planning) and those wishing to research planning history externally although there are some initial issues with the publication of this data and the impact of GDPR. Work is also continuing to ensure current data is compliant with the provisions of the GDPR and the Business Support restructure will allow for greater emphasis to be placed on data quality through the provision of dedicated officers (appointed but not yet in post).

## Future Issues

There will be inevitable changes in how planning works as systems and procedures are aligned for 1st April and the new Council. Certain matters need to be legally in place for the new Council to determine Planning and Building regulations matters beyond April and a major focus is being put on these critical areas of work in addition to those which are needed ready for the single ICT system which is planned to become operational early in 2019. Although operational it is not intended to switch from the current operating systems until after April 1st to allow for proper testing by running the new and legacy systems in parallel for a period. This will have some impact on staff but none on the public as the legacy systems will remain the public interface.

The introduction of the new system is shortly to enter test stages which will result in the majority of staff being required at times to test the emerging new system to ensure it is fit for purpose. Some of this has already commenced on elements of the new system and as the implementation moves closer there will be further impact on the processing of planning applications whilst staff are involved in training and testing and whilst the new and legacy systems are being run in parallel but there is little that can be done to mitigate for this as testing is a necessary part of ensuring the future success of the single system. There will be disrupted access and times when the system will not be “live”, either for staff or customers, particularly during data migration from current 3 systems to the new system will result in there being some possible disruption to the current public access to the service and when dates are clearer as to when this will occur there will need to be clear communication of this to members and customers. At present this is unlikely to be before 1st April. The process of testing the new system and in transferring the operation to the new single system will also result in some delays in planning applications whilst consultee responses are awaited and whilst staff are training and data being transferred to the new system. There is no mitigation for this nor way to avoid this occurring at some stage and is solely due to the large quantities of data which need to be moved although we are seeking to deal with this on a phased basis for the 3 authorities if possible. Longer term the new system will allow for far more data to be available electronically to the public allowing for more self service through digital means and a single more effective way for staff and customers to work across the 3 Council areas seamlessly.

## Key risk areas

10 Service operational risks have been identified for Planning Development & Building Control:-

Very High Risks	1
High Risks	2
Medium Risks	4
Low Risks	3

Reduced performance during implementation of new ICT system					
CURRENT SCORE		Planned risk reduction initiatives	TARGET SCORE		
Impact	4		Important for sufficient dedicated resource to be given to this project and that time is given to allow for full testing prior to go live. ICT project team in place but secondments due to end prior to the current predicted "live" dates. A separate risk assessment for the ICT project is in place. Now proposed to run both existing and new system for a short period of time during transition	Impact	4
Likelihood	5			Likelihood	3
Risk Score	16			Risk Score	12
Risk Rating	<b>VERY HIGH</b>		Risk Rating	<b>MEDIUM</b>	

Technical Systems failure					
CURRENT SCORE		Planned risk reduction initiatives	TARGET SCORE		
Impact	4		The ICT project has included the formation of a project team of "super-users" of 4 staff who work within the department. This will give greater resilience with the new system but loss of existing knowledge remains high for the current 3 systems. New posts are being created within the admin restructure to look at the technical and data needs of the service but those appointed have yet to take up the roles. There are no posts of this nature either in DM or IT teams with expertise at present. There needs to be resilience within the service itself given that there no intention to create any dedicated support within the ICT team.	Impact	4
Likelihood	4			Likelihood	3
Risk Score	16			Risk Score	12
Risk Rating	<b>HIGH</b>		Risk Rating	<b>MEDIUM</b>	

Service Implementation Plan					
CURRENT SCORE		Planned risk reduction initiatives	TARGET SCORE		
Impact	4		Provision of adequate dedicated staff resources to ICT project is now a real issue as staff have dropped back into their substantive roles in August 2018. Contractor resources are coming to the end of their tenure and there is significant risk of them leaving before project implementation. Detailed risk assessment undertaken separately for this ICT project.	Impact	4
Likelihood	4			Likelihood	3
Risk Score	16			Risk Score	12
Risk Rating	<b>HIGH</b>		Risk Rating	<b>MEDIUM</b>	

## Community & Policy Development

Corporate Manager – Hilary Jordan

(Spatial planning, Urban design, Landscape & Sustainability, Community Planning, Community Development, Housing Enabling, Planning Obligations)

Lead Brief Holders – **Cllr Ray Nowak** (Environment and Sustainability), **Cllr Jon Orrell** (Social Inclusion)

### Revenue summary

Subjective analysis	Full Year Current Budget 2018/19 (£)	Comments / actions
Employees	316,985	<p>There have been savings in the housing enabling and community development salary budgets. The community development service has been responsible for overseeing the administration of one-off grants agreed by the Budget Working Group and interim s151 officer: there has been an overspend of £6,096 in this area which after projected underspend on other budgets will be £3,600.</p> <p>Development plan budgets have been overspent as a result of spending on the evidence base for the local plan. There are reserves in place to cover this if required, and it will also be partially offset by additional planning grant income that is likely to be received.</p>
Premises	1,049	
Transport	1,601	
Supplies & Services	110,799	
Payments to Clients	68,168	
Income	(51,000)	
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>447,602</b>	
<b>Q3 Predicted variance</b>	<b>17,752 (A)</b>	
Q2 Predicted variance	2,500(F)	
Q1 Predicted variance	5,167(F)	

### Key performance data

#### Exception Report from Head of Service

##### Affordable Housing:

In this quarter there were 35 new affordable homes completed: 3 in North Dorset, 28 in West Dorset and 4 in Weymouth & Portland.

The 3 completions in North Dorset were on the Corner Close site at Marnhull. It is expected that further affordable homes will be completed by the end of the financial year at Gillingham (17 through the redevelopment of garage sites by Sovereign) and Shaftesbury (17 on the Mampitts site).

The 28 completions in West Dorset include 24 at Putton Lane in Chickerell (both rented and shared ownership) and 4 social rented homes completed by Magna in Portesham. Sites under construction include Barton Farm in Sherborne, Poundbury, 24 homes in Charminster and 8 at Powerstock. Stonewater area also developing all-affordable housing schemes in Mosterton and Winterbourne Abbas and some of these should be completed before the year-end.

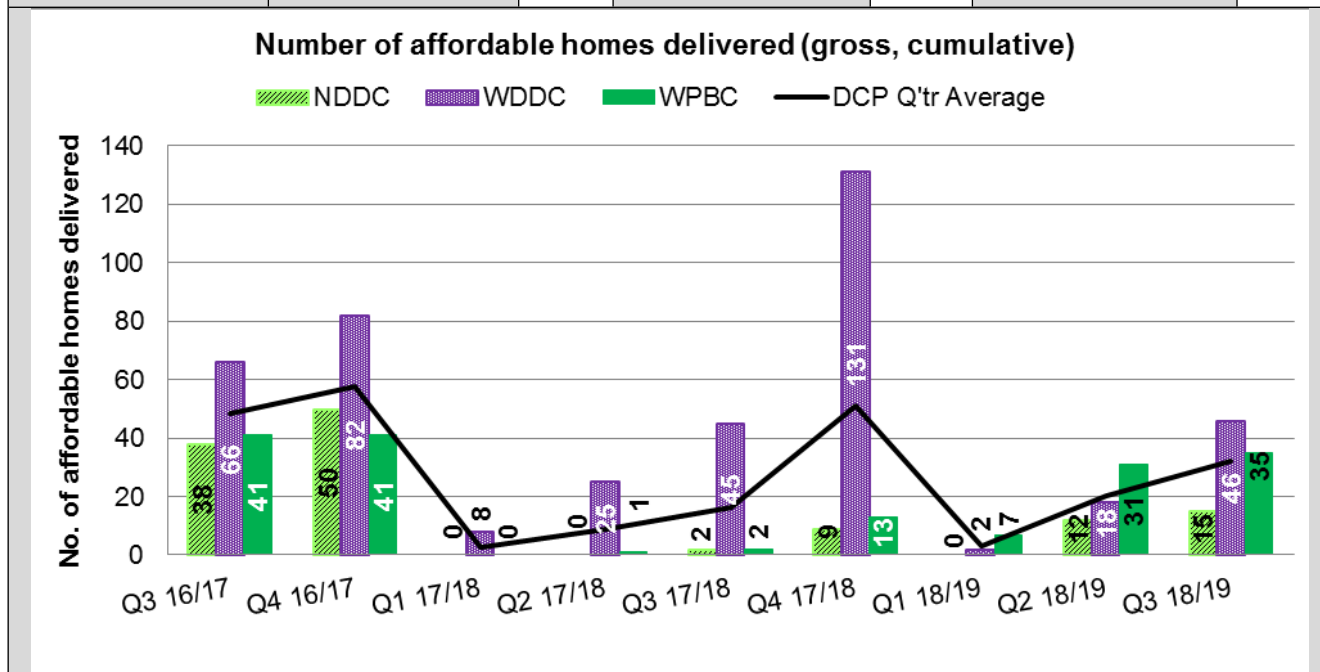
The 4 new affordable homes in Weymouth & Portland were acquisitions rather than new builds: these were open market homes acquired for rented affordable housing by the developer of the Lorton Lane site in Weymouth, as required by the section 106 agreement. Other homes in Weymouth and Portland that are currently being constructed are 21 shared ownership homes on Osprey Quay, 7 shared ownership at Curtis Field and the final 3 homes on the Pemberley site.

##### Housing Land Supply:

At April 2018, none of the councils had the required five-year housing land supply. North Dorset had 3.3 years' supply and West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland (which have a joint target) had 4.88 years' supply. The lack of five-year land supply is continuing to result in a significant number of speculative planning applications, as where there is no five-year housing land supply, relevant local plan policies for the supply of housing should not be considered up to date and so cannot be given as much weight in decisions.

The government's definition of what constitutes a deliverable housing site (i.e. one that can be included in the five year housing land supply) has changed this year and the figures above have been calculated using this new tighter definition. The first published results of the new Housing Delivery Test are still awaited. If these result in changes to the figures, they will be amended in the next quarterly report.

Number of affordable homes (gross) delivered (cumulative)				Aim	↑
Corporate Plan Priority: Building a Stronger Local Economy					
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland
Q3 2018/19 Actual	15		46		35
Projected Year End	49		82		58
FY 2018/19 Target (Range)	50-68	⚠	70-100	✓	50-65
FY 2017/18 Actual	9		131		13



### Five Year Supply of Housing

Corporate Plan Priority: Building a Stronger Local Economy

This is a national requirement that has a significant impact on planning decisions. The formula for calculating it includes adjustments relating to shortfalls from previous years, so the target is adjusted each time the supply is assessed.

West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland calculate the five-year land supply on a joint basis, as they have a joint local plan with joint targets.

The base date is 1 April each year, when a full survey is undertaken, however there is a time lag due to the processing involved to calculate the target and outturn, so the latest figures are not available until a few months later.

April 2018-based figures for all areas are:

	Target	Actual
North Dorset	2,370	1,567 (3.3 years – target not met)
West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland Combined	5,612	5,479 (4.88 years – target not met)

Currently, neither North Dorset nor the West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland joint local plan area has a five-year housing land supply.

## Service Plan Update

### A Stronger Local Economy

- The 'Preferred Options' document for the West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan was published for public consultation on 13 August, with a closing date of 15 October. This includes proposals for significant new development allocations including land north of Dorchester. Responses are being summarised and will be published in the new year but it is not intended to progress to the next stage (pre-submission publication) before the new council is in place.
- It is not intended to take the North Dorset Local Plan to the next 'preferred options' consultation stage prior to the establishment of the new council, but work on the evidence base is continuing, including the appointment of consultants to undertake a strategic landscape and heritage study.
- The business plan for the new Local Authority Trading Company for West Dorset has been agreed.
- Due diligence work is continuing with Homes England to enable the Housing Infrastructure Fund commitments at Gillingham, Chickerell and Portland to be released. The Growth and Housing Fund bid for the improvements to the Miles Cross junction at Bridport, necessary for the development of the Vearse Farm site, has unfortunately not been successful.
- Consultation has taken place to inform the preparation of a Dorchester Town Centre Masterplan.

### Thriving and Inclusive Communities

- There has been further progress with Neighbourhood Plans: the revised Blandford+ plan has been published for consultation; the Fontmell Magna plan was made in November; Pimperne, Hazelbury Bryan and Sturminster Newton are all going to referendum in the new year; and Askerswill's plan will be made in January.
- The 'Working With You' action plans for the more deprived areas of Weymouth & Portland have been updated in 2018 and continue to be implemented and similar community capacity-building work is also being carried out in the Skilling and Court Orchard areas of Bridport.

### Improving Quality of Life

- Implementation of the Dorset and Cranborne Chase AONB Management Plans is continuing; reviews of both plans (as required every five years) are taking place and these are due to be brought to the councils for adoption prior to April. The AONB Partnership Boards are responding to the 'Glover Review' of protected landscape designations that is currently under way.

## Future Issues

The revised National Planning Policy Framework was published in July and is being taken into account in the emerging local plan reviews. The revised document introduces a new standard methodology for determining housing requirements and a housing 'delivery test' in addition to the current requirement for a five-year supply of land for housing. The first Housing Delivery Test results are due to be published by Government very shortly.

The introduction of the housing delivery test will increase the risk of local planning policies needing to be regarded as 'out of date' and given less weight in planning decisions.. Currently none of the three councils has a five year housing land supply.

There is also a new requirement for 'statements of common ground' to be prepared by groups of local planning authorities to demonstrate cooperation: the first one for Dorset has been developed jointly by the Dorset authorities working together through the Strategic Planning Forum, and has been considered by committees in December.

Decisions about how local plans are to be taken forward by the new council will be critical, and work on resource planning is taking place.

## Key risk areas

10 Service operational risks have been identified for Planning Community & Policy Development:-

Very High Risks	1
High Risks	0
Medium Risks	5
Low Risks	4

Inadequate development land supply				
CURRENT SCORE		Planned risk reduction initiatives	TARGET SCORE	
Impact	4		Five year land supply is monitored annually and falling below target is always a risk if development sites fail to come forward. If we are without a five-year supply (or, in future, if our record of housing delivery is below standard) then decisions must be based on national policy and we will have less local control. This will potentially increase the supply. In the longer term the local plan reviews provide an opportunity to increase supply. We are also taking a proactive approach to increasing delivery through the 'Accelerating Home Building' programmes agreed by all three councils.	Impact
Likelihood	5	Likelihood		2
Risk Score	20	Risk Score		8
Risk Rating	<b>VERY HIGH</b>		Risk Rating	<b>MEDIUM</b>



## Economy, Leisure & Tourism

Head of Service – Nick Thornley

(Economic Regeneration, Business Support, Tourism & Visitor management, Leisure & Cultural Development and Facilities, Events Management, Beach Management, Harbour Management)

Lead Brief Holders – Cllr Richard Kosior (Tourism and Culture and Harbour), Cllr Kate Wheller (Community Facilities),

Cllr Richard Nickinson (Economic Development)

### Revenue summary (Excluding Harbour budget & prediction)

Subjective analysis	Full Year Current Budget 2018/19 (£)	Comments / actions
Employees	535,207	<p>Economic Regeneration – Favourable variance expected on salary costs but this will off set the small adverse on Transport. Development Promotion will be on budget.</p> <p>Weymouth Town Centre Manager is a fixed term post, budget and function to August 2019. Any End of Year surplus is anticipated to be transferred to Weymouth Town Council.</p> <p>Leisure &amp; Commissioning – No variances are predicted. The available budget for Weymouth Swimming Pool will be spent on the installation of car park bollards.</p> <p>Tourism &amp; Events - Some savings on Deck Chairs as no further agency spend anticipated this FY but there will be an agreed £5k overspend for investment in new and replacement deck chairs.</p> <p>Adverse variance on Beach &amp; Esplanade expected due to the need to cover key vacancy with agency staff. Rates are adverse as budget has never reflected the correct value of this statutory charge and the inflationary increase set by Government annually. Legal/Consultancy costs will be adverse as legal charges/consultancy costs incurred resulting from court action. However, there is a favourable variance expected on income largely due to invoicing this FY for RPI that had not been done in previous years.</p> <p>Rates on Advertising Drums will be adverse, maintenance is also expected to be adverse as they require bespoke components to be manufactured when damaged by weather and public. Income is likely to be approximately £19k adverse but it is planned to offset some of this adverse variance with savings made elsewhere in the ELT budgets.</p> <p>Supplies &amp; services for Tourism &amp; Development is expected to be favourable, and within Festivals and Events there will be a saving on agency because Easter 2018 (March 18) was in the 2017/18 FY. It is predicted that income will be adverse as some event organisers did not run events in 2018/19 that have run in previous years.</p> <p>A small saving is predicted on Visitor Information but this will help offset the adverse on Advertising Drums.</p>
Premises	84,806	
Transport	2,417	
Supplies & Services	539,311	
Income	(463,268)	
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>698,473</b>	
<b>Q3 Predicted variance</b>	<b>14,633 (F)</b>	
Q2 Predicted variance	900(A)	
Q1 Predicted variance	20,500(A)	

## Revenue summary (Weymouth Harbour) – Reference only

Subjective analysis	Full Year Current Budget 2018/19 (£)	Comments / actions
Employees	416,519	<p>An expected pay award was built into the salary budget but the pay award was higher than expected for positions that fall within the lower end of the Partnerships payscale, for the harbour this includes all seasonal staff. NI and Pension costs are expected to be lower than the original budget expectation. There are increased costs regarding some Legal expenses and rates assessments.</p> <p>Costs for Insurance are expected to be under budget.</p> <p>There is increased income in the following areas: continued efforts to recharge all end users for energy, increased number of visiting fishing vessels, increased income from the Slipway, Commercial Area being used for refurbishment works on the Lifeboat pontoon.</p> <p>The following also applies: budget expectations not likely to be met for visiting yachts as the number of visitors is slightly down on previous years, occupancy rates at the Marina are lower than in previous years.</p>
Premises	256,349	
Transport	1,094	
Supplies & Services	156,502	
Income	(1,171,957)	
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>(341,493)</b>	
<b>Q3 Predicted variance</b>	<b>45,017 (A)</b>	
Q2 Predicted variance	59,510(A)	
Q1 Predicted variance	0	

## Key performance data

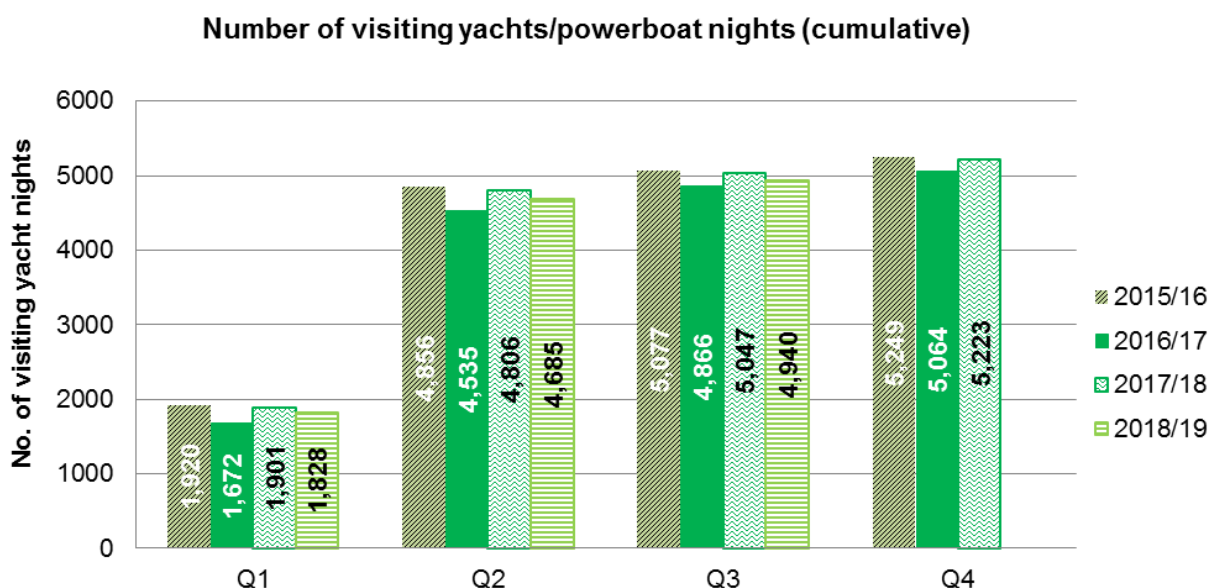
Exception Report from Head of Service
<p><b>Weymouth harbour</b> Slow start to the season – berth occupancy and number of visiting boats lower than usual.</p> <p><b>Visit Dorset</b> Website continues to perform well - a partnership involving 6 councils and approximately 500 businesses.</p>

Weymouth Harbour - Percentage of berth occupancy				Aim	↑
Corporate Plan Priority: Building a Stronger Local Economy					
Authority	Weymouth & Portland				
Type of Berth	Inner Harbour Marinas	Commercial Berths	Chain and Sinker Moorings		
Q3 2018/19 Actual	61%	85%	100%		
Q3 2018/19 Target	80%	80%	80%		
FY 2018/19 Target	80%	80%	80%		
FY 2017/18 Actual	64.63%	82.69%	100%		

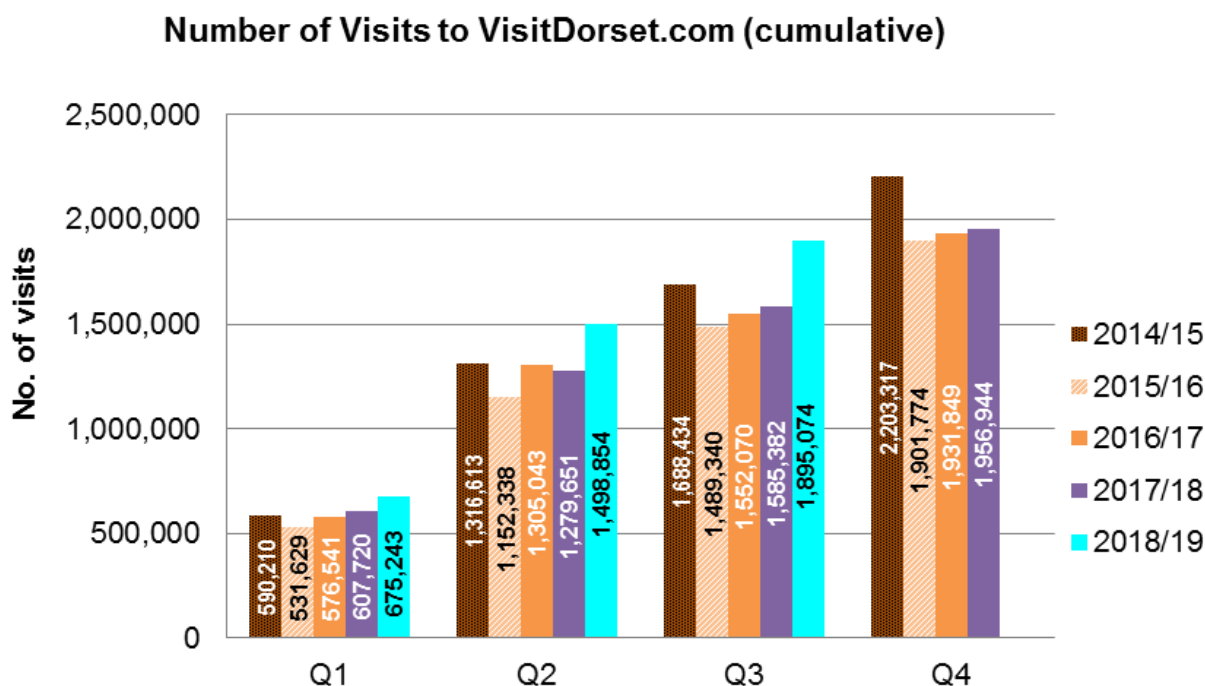
  

Weymouth Harbour - Percentage berth of occupancy			
	Inner Harbour	Commercial	Chain and Sinker
Q3 16/17	64.96	86.46	93.33
Q4 16/17	68.95	82.83	90.00
Q1 17/18	75.55	84.85	100.00
Q2 17/18	76.77	87.13	100.00
Q3 17/18	67.07	88.12	100.00
Q4 17/18	64.63	82.69	100.00
Q1 18/19	68.13	82.86	100.00
Q2 18/19	66.18	81.90	100.00
Q3 18/19	60.83	84.76	100.00

<b>Number of visiting yachts/powerboat nights (cumulative)</b>		Aim	↑
Corporate Plan Priority: Building a Stronger Local Economy			
Authority	Weymouth & Portland		
Q3 2018/19 Actual	4,940		
FY 2017/18 Actual	5,223		



<b>Number of visits to VisitDorset.com (cumulative)</b>		Aim	↑
Corporate Plan Priority: Building a Stronger Local Economy			
Authority	Dorset Council's Partnership (DCP)		
Q3 2018/19 Actual	1,895,074		
Q3 2018/19 Target	1,550,000		
FY 2018/19 Target	2,000,000		
FY 2017/18 Actual	1,956,944		



## Service Plan Update

### A Stronger Local Economy

- Performance against new strategic plan for 4 councils promoting economic growth being monitored. Supported by Dorset LEP. Regular meetings of DCC and DCP officers to monitor progress.
- Visit Dorset tourism partnership progressing well as partnership of 6 rural/western local authorities and businesses, integrating with the Dorset LEP/Dorset Tourism Association.
- New ways of working for 2 of the 4 West Dorset TIC in place. Lyme and Sherborne being progressed.
- Strong partnership working with local business groups and coastal community teams. Coastal Communities bid submitted (£1 million plus)
- New developments at Weymouth Harbour being planned in conjunction with Peninsula development.

### Thriving and Inclusive Communities

- Sports centre management arrangements under review in partnership with other Dorset Councils.
- Improvements carried out at Dorchester Sports Centre by operator 1610
- Museum development projects supported in Dorchester. Support being given to support Weymouth Museum.
- Weymouth Seafront and Esplanade service continues to achieve national and European recognition for the management and maintenance of the seafront and received the 2018 Blue Flag Award, Seaside Award and TripAdvisor Beach Award. New Esplanade lighting and Sculpture trail projects being progressed in Weymouth.

### Improving Quality of Life

- Plans to improve Weymouth Harbour based on the Fisher report being progressed.
- Weymouth Town Centre Manager – application for Purple Flag accreditation successful, signing project being prepared.
- Work has started on an extension to Lyme Regis harbour office.

### Developing Successful Partnerships

- Successful working with Planning Policy team on distribution of section 106 funding to support new facilities, particularly in Dorchester.  
Strong partnerships with businesses and local education facilities promoting local career and job opportunities through career fairs, networking and young enterprise initiatives.

## Key risk areas

11 Service operational risks have been identified for Economy, Leisure & Tourism:-

Very High Risks	0
High Risks	0
Medium Risks	3
Low Risks	8

## Assets & Infrastructure

Head of Service – Sarah Cairns

(Harbour & Coastal Infrastructure, Land Drainage, Emergency Planning, Capital Works, Property Development, Property & Facilities Management, Parking, Transport & Fleet Management)

Lead Brief Holders – **Cllr Colin Huckle** (Transport and Infrastructure), **Cllr Ray Nowak** (Environment and Sustainability),

**Cllr Jeff Cant** (Finance and Assets)

### Revenue summary

Subjective analysis	Full Year Current Budget 2018/19 (£)	Comments / actions
Employees	835,828	<p>Hotels: Spending on planned maintenance works stalled due to a vacancy but a Surveyor now recruited to work specifically in this area and planned maintenance works budget is expected to be spent in the financial year</p> <p>Commercial Assets: Rental income expected to exceed budget and could be uncommitted maintenance budget at end of year, likely to spend £15,000 for Sand Modeller Display repairs.</p> <p>Commercial Road: Security costs likely to be £40k this. Also additional £7,800 rates liability.</p> <p>Market: Change in rental contract will result in less income.</p> <p>Beach Bungalows and Chalets: More income than budgeted and additional rates rebate received resulting in favourable variance.</p> <p>Public Conveniences: Additional planned maintenance works taking place prior to transfer to the town council - an additional £25,000 expenditure. Rent costs likely to be incurred on temporary toilets on the Esplanade although partially offset by rates savings.</p> <p>Crookhill Depot: Saving in rates costs partially offset by additional spend on maintenance. Agreed to write off a rental invoice to DWP (£79,000 A).</p> <p>Property Services Staff: Likely to overspend on staff and agency costs though has reduced significantly. Use of agency staff likely to cease as posts are now filled.</p> <p>Operational Assets: Costs likely to be spent on North Quay £96,500 on rates and £40,000 on premises security. Additional maintenance requirement will result in reduced security costs.</p> <p>Car Parks: Increased use of car parks will result in a large favourable variance though this is unlikely to be as high as originally thought in previous quarter.</p> <p>Peninsula Development overspend will be addressed from Capital Fund. Otherwise Engineering Infrastructure will be on track as spending on projects is increased in Q4.</p>
Premises	2,111,484	
Transport	37,099	
Supplies & Services	306,341	
Income	(4,200,076)	
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>(909,324)</b>	
<b>Q3 Predicted variance</b>	<b>75,750 (A)</b>	
Q2 Predicted variance	182,599(F)	
Q1 Predicted variance	94,330(F)	

Key performance data

**Exception Report from Head of Service**

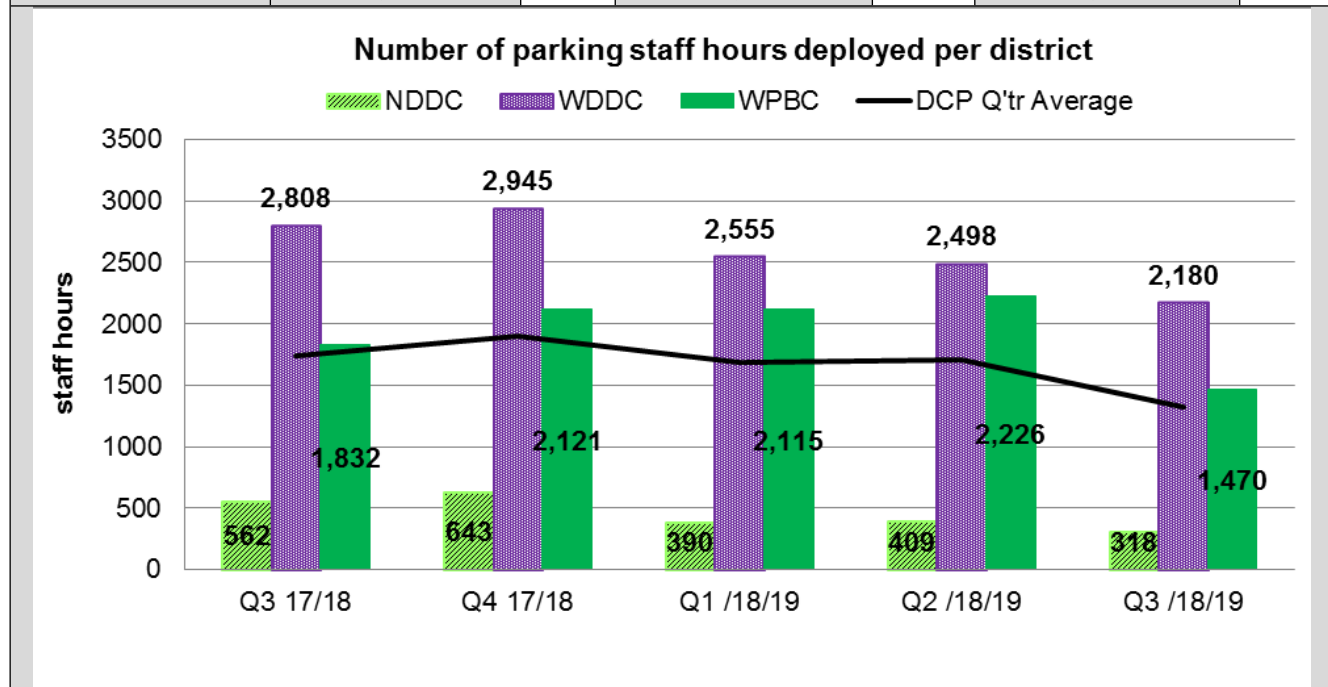
**Parking**

There have been several episodes of sickness absence within the enforcement team during quarter 3. We have reduced the required hours to accommodate the Christmas Parking concessions in the different areas.

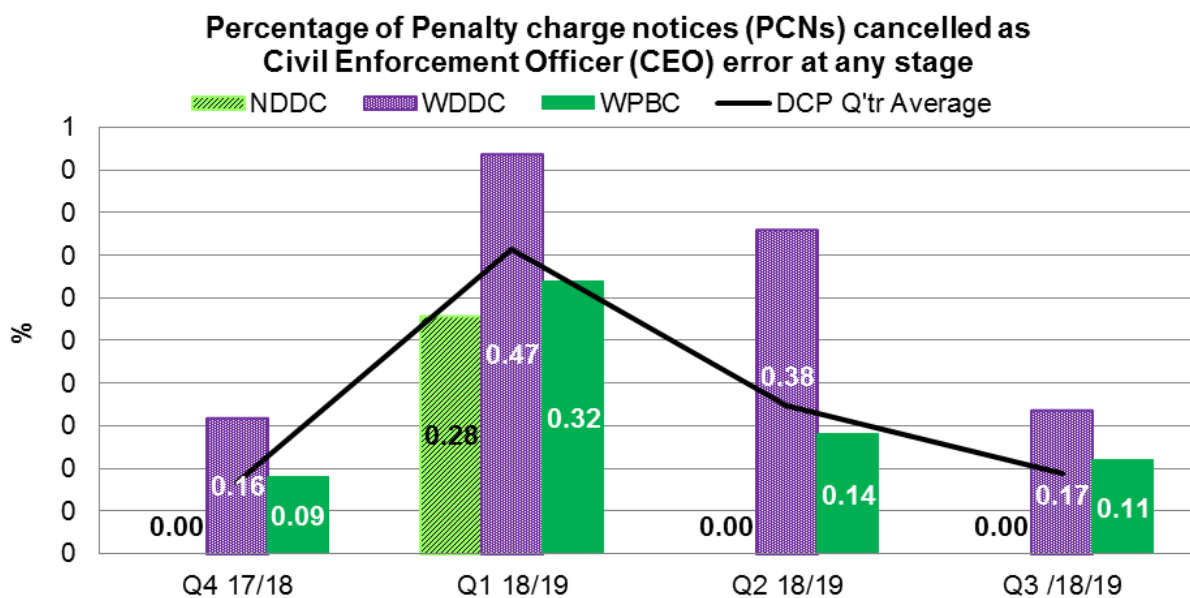
We have successfully recruited two parking appeals officers who started at the beginning of December. This has had a positive effect on our response times to informal challenges however the extended Christmas break lead to a number of challenges being answered slightly in excess of the 10 day target.

Parking

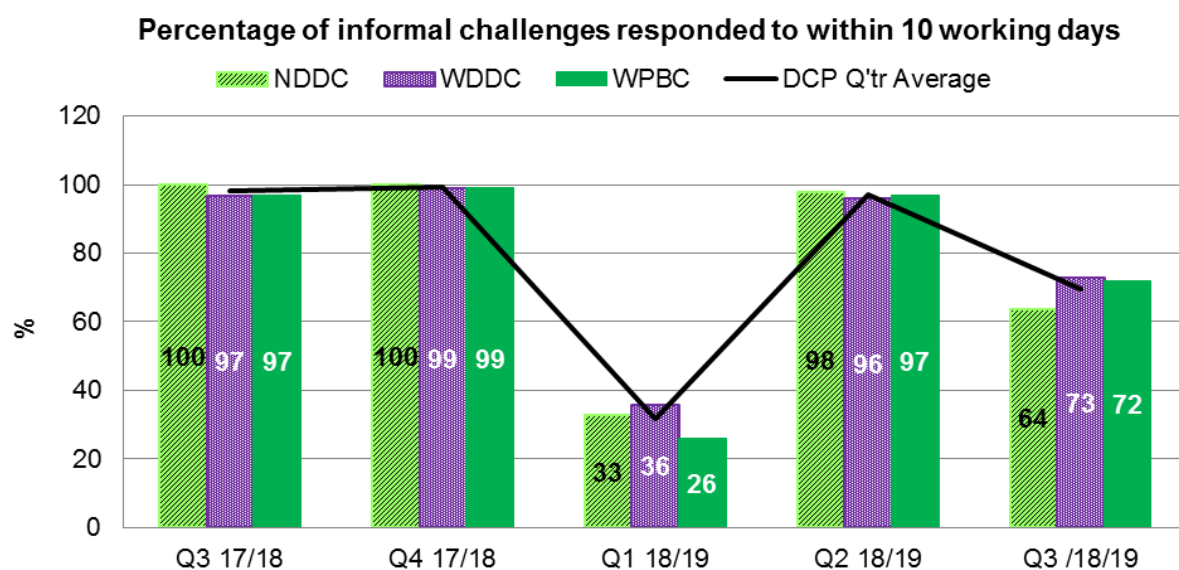
Number of parking staff hours deployed across the district					Aim	↑
Corporate Plan Priority: Developing Successful Partnerships						
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland	
Q3 2018/19 Actual	318		2,180		1,470	
Q3 2018/19 Target	473	✘	2,335	✘	1,613	✘
FY 2018/19 Target	2,200		11,300		7,300	
FY 2017/18 Actual	2,200		11,300		7,300	



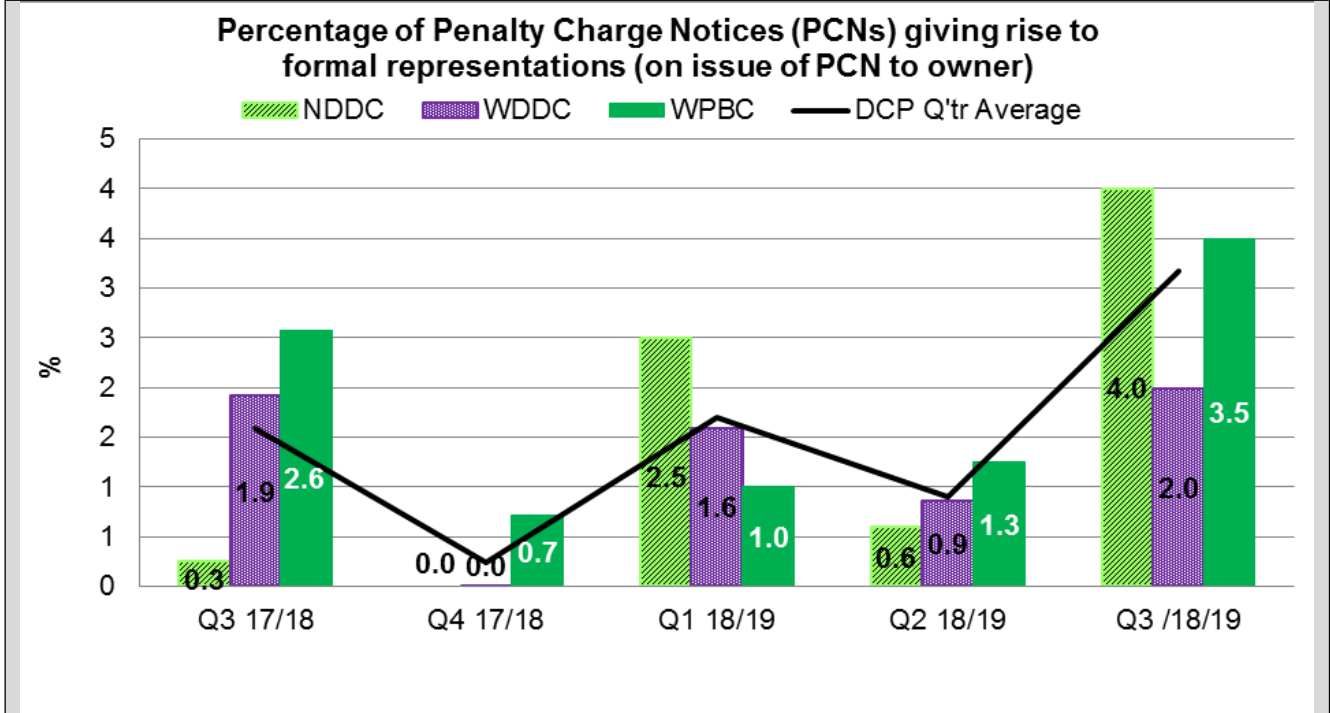
Percentage of penalty charge notices cancelled as Civil Enforcement Officer error at any stage					Aim	↓
Corporate Plan Priority: Developing Successful Partnerships						
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland	
Q3 2018/19 Actual	0%	✔	0.17%	✔	0.11%	✔
Q3 2018/19 Target	1%		1%		1%	
FY 2018/19 Target	1%		1%		1%	
FY 2017/18 Actual	0.72%		0.37%		0.40%	



Percentage of informal challenges responded to within 10 working days					Aim	↑
Corporate Plan Priority: Developing Successful Partnerships						
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland	
Q3 2018/19 Actual	64%	✘	73%	⚠	72%	⚠
Q3 2018/19 Target	75%		75%		75%	
FY 2018/19 Target	75%		75%		75%	
FY 2017/18 Actual	63%		62%		64%	



Percentage of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) giving rise to formal representations						Aim	↓
Corporate Plan Priority: Developing Successful Partnerships							
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland		
Q3 2018/19 Actual	4%	✔	2%	✔	3.5%	✔	
Q3 2018/19 Target	5%		5%		5%		
FY 2018/19 Target	5%		5%		5%		
FY 2017/18 Actual	0.90%		1.77%		2.17%		





## Service Plan Update

### A Stronger Local Economy

The Peninsula development submitted an outline planning application in May 2018 – this work involves the preparation of layout designs and consultation with key stakeholders. As the sale of North Quay was not completed we are looking at alternatives for the site which remains a key site for regeneration as part of the Weymouth Town Centre Masterplan. Work continues across all 3 council areas with PSP to release sites for housing or capital receipts. We are also looking at under used car parks that are not performing well financially. Resurfacing of car parks in West Bay is now complete. The works to the Lyme Regis harbour masters office have been tendered with the chosen contractor mobilising.

### Thriving and Inclusive Communities

Community sandbag stores have been replenished following winter. The out of hours response (Bronze, silver and gold) continues to be managed by A&I along with dealing with any emergency incidents either in or out of hours including keeping up to date operational response plans for flooding, coastal pollution and landslips. We have also chaired Safety Advisory Groups for larger events. Work has taken place to transfer the Greenhill chalets to a user group but is still to complete.

### Improving Quality of Life

Work is nearing completion on the asset register for all three councils that will identify all costs and all income for each individual asset. This will be of particular use when considering transfer of assets to town and parish councils. Works at Verne Common to introduce grazing by goats took place late summer 2018. Discussions have taken place with EA regarding a strategy for Weymouth Harbour walls; the coastal process study report has been delivered. Repairs to Wall D in Weymouth Harbour are awaiting planning decision.

### Developing Successful Partnerships

The generator from Nordon has been moved to Crookhill as part of our business continuity planning and live testing took place successfully in September. Each of the 3 councils now has an approved parking policy in place. Asset condition surveys along with bathymetric and laser surveys have been carried out on The Cobb with a professional partner stakeholder event to discuss the approach to be taken with repairing the Grade 1 listed structure.

### Actions outside of Corporate Plan

Work has begun on discussions regarding transfer of assets to Town and Parish Councils in general. A&I continue to inspect and maintain all 3 councils assets including our operational buildings, industrial units, catering and retail outlets, car parks, coastal defences, harbours, bridges, tunnels, drainage, hotels, public conveniences, land etc. We are working in partnership with the EA to deliver a comprehensive flood alleviation scheme at West Bay.

## Key risk areas

13 Service operational risks have been identified for Assets & Infrastructure:-

Very High Risks	0
High Risks	0
Medium Risks	8
Low Risks	5

## Democratic Services & Elections

Corporate Manager – Jacqui Andrews

(Democratic Support, Electoral Registration &amp; Elections)

Lead Brief Holder – Cllr Alison Reed (Corporate Affairs and Continuous Improvement)

### Revenue summary

Subjective analysis	Full Year Current Budget 2018/19 (£)	Comments / actions
Employees	189,915	<p>Democratic Services: Overspend of £13,473 due to Weymouth Community Governance Review. Overspend on various staff budgets, including staff training. Overspend on hire of Weymouth Pavilion for the Planning Committee but offset by saving on printing due to paperless meetings.</p> <p>Elector Services: Whilst there is no intention to recruit to the vacant Electoral Services Manager post, it is the intention to appoint a Casual Business Support Officer to assist in the preparations for the May 2019 Elections. This post will be filled from 1 March 2019. It is difficult to estimate future printing and postage costs but the figures have been based on a typical period and are predicting an overspend. If a snap Parliamentary Election or National Referendum is called this will be significantly higher.</p> <p>Parliamentary Elections is under budget as Electoral Claims Unit paid more than what was accrued.</p> <p>Member Services: Overspend on national insurance and also on member allowances due to increase in SRA's. Additional meetings resulted in overspend on car allowances.</p> <p>Overspend on Mayors Budget for purchase of Honorary Aldermen badges, however this is offset by savings on advertising and public transport due to reduction in use of taxis for mayoral transport.</p>
Transport	11,036	
Supplies & Services	380,699	
Income	(23,083)	
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>558,567</b>	
<b>Q3 Predicted variance</b>	<b>28,230 (A)</b>	
Q2 Predicted variance	17,800(A)	
Q1 Predicted variance	4,751(A)	

### Key performance data

Democratic Services & Elections currently have no Business Review performance measures.

### Service Plan Update

- With the creation of the new Dorset Council, it has been decided that it will not be mandatory for all report-writing officers to be trained to use the ModGov workflow process. However, training will be made available for those officers that wish to use the workflow that assists with report clearance and scheduling processes.
- Promoting digital electoral registration – the Team has promoted digital electoral registration in all communications with residents and included an incentive with the annual canvass to encourage a digital response. The annual canvass is now complete with return rates as follows: North Dorset District Council 95.96%, West Dorset District Council 94.45% and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council 93.05%.

## Future Issues

Together with all other Services, the Team will be involved in the work to achieve successful local government reorganisation. To date, the Team has been involved in preparing a submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in respect of the Boundary Review being undertaken by them establishing Wards for the new Unitary Councils. The Team has also been involved in the administration of the Shadow Dorset Council and Shadow Executive meetings, and is currently involved in preparation for the Elections in May 2019 and developing a governance structure for the new Dorset Council.

## Key risk areas

7 Service operational risks have been identified for Democratic Services & Elections:-

Very High Risks	0
High Risks	0
Medium Risks	2
Low Risks	5

## Human Resources & Organisational Development

Corporate Manager – **Bobbie Bragg**

(HR Policy, Recruitment, Workforce Planning, Staff Performance, Health &amp; Safety)

Lead Brief Holder – **Cllr Alison Reed** (Corporate Affairs and Continuous Improvement)

### Revenue summary

Subjective analysis	Full Year Current Budget 2018/19 (£)	Comments / actions
Employees	229,101	There may be a small saving on salaries at year end, but current underspends on corporate training and workforce development are likely to increase and the majority of these budgets are predicted to be spent at year end.
Transport	1,707	
Supplies & Services	24,074	
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>254,882</b>	
<b>Q3 Predicted variance</b>	<b>0</b>	
Q2 Predicted variance	0	
Q1 Predicted variance	0	

### Key performance data

#### Exception Report from Head of Service


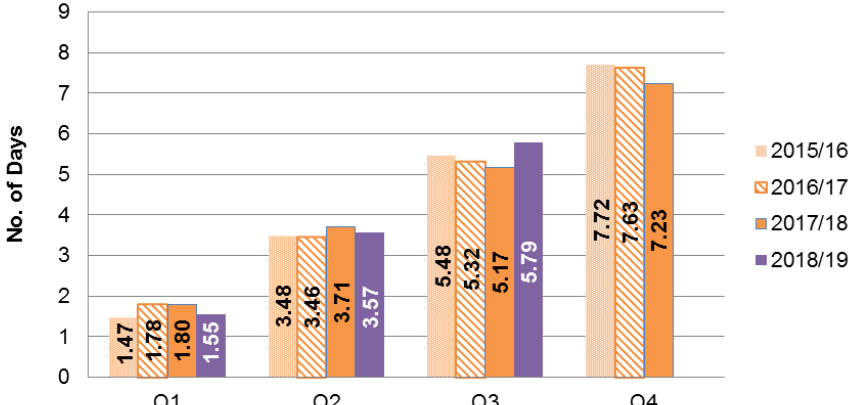
The average FTE figure is based on a comparison of data supplied for the ONS quarterly surveys as at March 2018 and December 2018. The Q3 figure of 5.79 days per FTE employee compares with a corresponding figure of 5.17 days for last year.

Total days lost for the period was 1,236 (800 days in Q3 last year).

The number of absence periods was 303 (245 last year).

Long term absence amounted to 34% of all absence (50% last year).

14 employees had a long term absence (16 last year). As at the end of Q3, 4 had fully returned, 2 were on phased returns, 6 were still off work and 2 had left their employment.

Average number of working days lost to sickness per employee (cumulative)		Aim	↓
Corporate Plan Priority: Developing Successful Partnerships			
Authority	<b>Dorset Council's Partnership (DCP)</b>		
Q3 2018/19 Actual	<b>5.79 days</b>		
Q3 2018/19 Target	5.25 days		
FY 2018/19 Target	7 days		
FY 2017/18 Actual	7.23 days		
<b>Average number of working days lost to sickness per DCP employee (cumulative)</b>			
			

## Service Plan Update

- **LGR HR & OD work stream** – members of the DCP HR team are working collaboratively with our future partner organisations on all elements of the LGR HR&OD work stream & HR&OD programme

## Key risk areas

6 Service operational risks have been identified for Human Resources & Organisational Development:-

Very High Risks	0
High Risks	1
Medium Risks	2
Low Risks	3

HR has insufficient capacity to support DCP HR Business as usual LGR HR & OD delivery plan				
CURRENT SCORE		Planned risk reduction initiatives  Redesign HR; implement Business Partner model.	TARGET SCORE	
Impact	<b>4</b>		Impact	4
Likelihood	<b>4</b>		Likelihood	1
Risk Score	<b>16</b>		Risk Score	4
Risk Rating	<b>HIGH</b>		Risk Rating	<b>LOW</b>

## Legal Services

Corporate Manager – Robert Firth

(Legal, Deputy Monitoring Officer, Land Charges)

Lead Brief Holder – Cllr Alison Reed (Corporate Affairs and Continuous Improvement)

### Revenue summary

Subjective analysis	Full Year Current Budget 2018/19 (£)	Comments / actions
Employees	319,950	<p>Legal Services: There is currently a favourable employee cost saving due to vacancies but a locum will need to be employed to cover a further vacancy resulting in an estimated year end overspend of approximately £3,000. Additional work income is likely to be offset by various small additional operational costs. Land Charges: There is likely to be a £15,000 underspend relating to the on-going single IT project at year end. This project will roll into the following financial year. A provision might be required in the new financial year for those costs that will be incurred after the year end. Income is currently estimated to be circa £20,000 higher than originally budgeted; this will largely be offset by £15,000 of additional search fee costs. A one off additional section 31 grant receipt of £8,753 has also been received.</p>
Transport	788	
Supplies & Services	90,086	
Income	(151,714)	
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>259,110</b>	
<b>Q3 Predicted variance</b>	<b>25,753 (F)</b>	
Q2 Predicted variance	0	
Q1 Predicted variance	0	

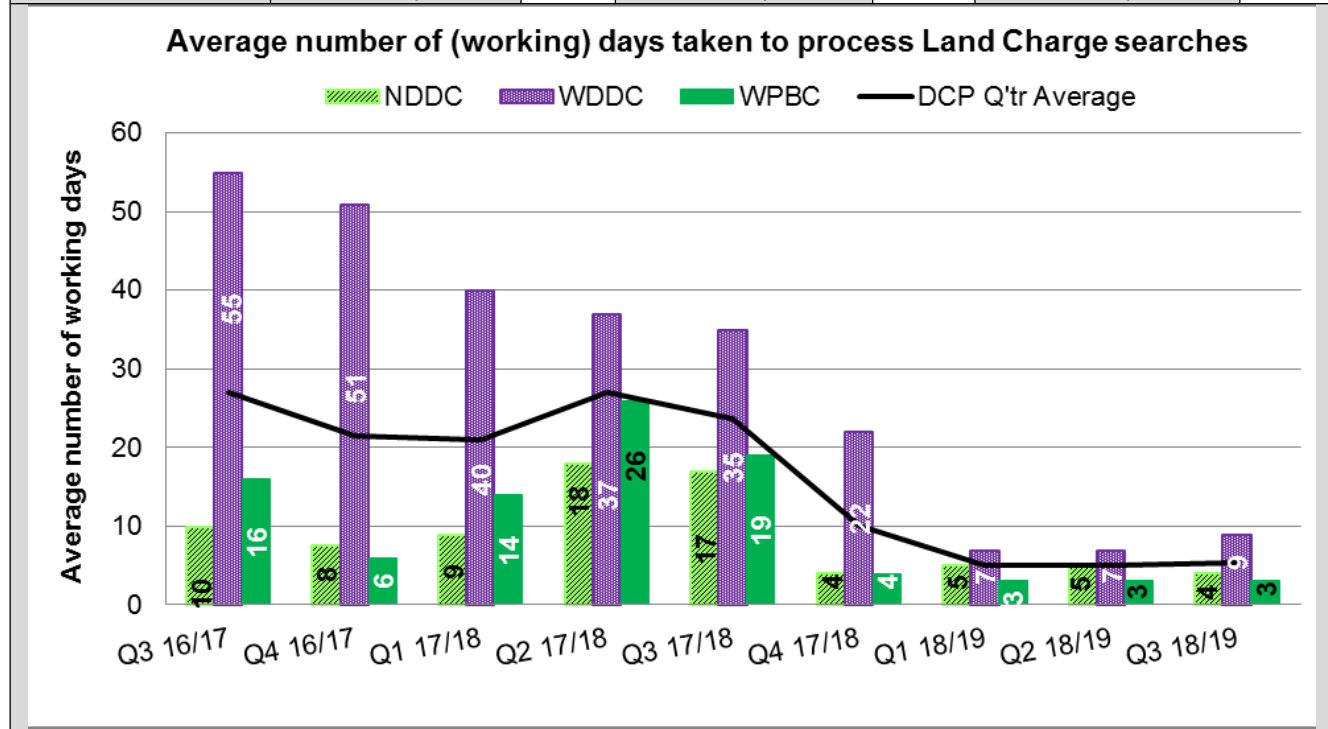
Key performance data

**Exception Report from Head of Service**

Targets remain on track despite unseasonably high search numbers particularly for West Dorset. Q4 figures may be adversely impacted by close down periods particularly attributable to pending IT changes.

The number of land charge searches during quarter 3 was: NDDC 354, WDDC 627, WPBC 437

Average days to process Land Charge searches (working days)					Aim	↓
Corporate Plan Priority: Developing Successful Partnerships						
Authority	North Dorset		West Dorset		Weymouth & Portland	
Q3 2018/19 Actual	4 days		9 days		3 days	
Q3 2018/19 Target	15 days		15 days		15 days	
FY 2018/19 Target	15 days		15 days		15 days	
FY 2017/18 Actual	12 days		33 days		17 days	



## Service Plan Update

### **Maintain adequate support and assistance to the Councils' property activities**

Resources remain under pressure particularly as a result of ongoing increased project work arising as a consequence of LGR. Temporary resources remain in place and if necessary consideration will have to be given to outsourcing discreet pieces of work that cannot be delivered in-house.

### **Maintain initiatives to secure the delivery of an effective Land Charges Service**

As at the previous quarter, work on securing the delivery of a resilient and effective land charges services continues in a variety of ways including acquisition of a single IT system, an on-going action plan for West Dorset and a project to deliver improved data. All Councils are still operating within target times.

### **Provide support and assistance to the development of reorganisation initiatives**

The Legal Services Unit is contributing to work streams supporting the introduction of the new unitary council. The volume of work in this area continues to increase and is impacting on capacity.

### **Explore opportunities to develop improving working relationships with other Councils**

Various work streams are on-going both in relation to legal services and land charges to identify issues relevant to securing an effective transition following go live.

## Future Issues

Workloads arising as a result of the Securing Dorset Council project continue to impact upon the legal service and to a lesser degree, land charges. Actions are in place that assess such impacts and seek to secure measures to minimise any adverse impacts.

## Key risk areas

7 Service operational risks have been identified for Legal Services:-

Very High Risks	0
High Risks	0
Medium Risks	3
Low Risks	4



**Weymouth & Portland Borough Council - Capital Update - quarter 3**

Appendix 3

Overall scheme budget					Current year budget			Commentary
Scheme	Budget Holder	Total Scheme Budget	Predicted Total Expenditure	Estimated Scheme Variance	2018/19 Budget	Actual As At 7/12/18	Forecast Year End Variance	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	
<b>Environment and Sustainability - Cllr R Nowak</b>								
Weymouth Harbour Walls Remediation Project	S Cairns	1,955,000	1,955,000	0	84,000	81,053	( 11,000)	Tenders for Wall D to be returned 20 December 2018 for construction commencing October 2019. Wall C will be a separate contract. Predicted 2018/19 total £95,000.
Weymouth Beach Management Study	S Cairns	60,000	60,000	0	50,000	11,576	0	Flood and coastal erosion risk management plan for Weymouth sea front between the harbour entrance and Greenhill groyne. 100% funded by The Environment Agency. Flood and coastal erosion risk management plan for Weymouth sea front between the harbour entrance and Greenhill groyne. 100% funded by the Environment Agency. Study has been commissioned due for delivery in July 2019.
Weymouth Breach Analysis & Wave Overtopping Study	S Cairns	25,000	20,000	5,000	25,000	13,591	0	Modelling that will contribute toward the economic assessment for the outline business case for the Phase 1a harbour scheme. 100% funded by DEFRA FDGiA. Study has been commissioned and due for delivery in January 2019.
Weymouth Harbour Tidal Defence Scheme PH1a	S Cairns	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	4,755	50,000	In investigatory phase of scheme with preparatory studies underway. Looking to submit EA LPRG outline business case in Summer 2019.
Weymouth Harbour Walls Condition Survey 2018 19	S Cairns	60,000	41,000	19,000	60,000	0		Update of assessment of harbour wall condition that will also provide data for Phase 1a scheme and future schemes. Initial budget comes from the PH1a budget line but Defra funding applied for in order to reimburse funds. Study had been tendered and awarded. As of 12/12/18 in start up phase. Extra budget is for contingency and probable compensation events and Staff costs. We envision the survey to be completed by April 2019. Costs are currently fund via s106 and hope to be 100% reimbursed via the DEFRA FDGiA/EA
Chesil Sea Wall Study	S Cairns	110,000	160,000	-50,000	56,000	0	7,000	Match funding for larger EA joint funded scheme, the intention was to spend £49,000 in 17/18 and then £7,000 per annum for next three financial years. The project has been slightly delayed, with only £15,270 being spent in 17/18. A shortfall has been forecast due to a significant increase in the cost of proposed ground investigation works but this may be covered by additional Local Levy. The intention is to spend £80k within the next 6 months - there may be a small requirement to increase the council contribution from the current £10k to £20k but this could be covered by existing maintenance budgets if required.

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**Weymouth & Portland Borough Council - Capital Update - quarter 3**

Appendix 3

Overall scheme budget					2018/19 Budget	Actual As At 7/12/18	Forecast Year End Variance	Commentary
Scheme	Budget Holder	Total Scheme Budget	Predicted Total Expenditure	Estimated Scheme Variance				
		£	£	£	£		£	
Weymouth Public Conveniences	S Cairns	504,000	504,000		49,000	3,405	0	Architect has now been engaged and designs produced for central toilet block. Planning consent sought early 2019. Construction due to commence October 2019. Works at Greenhill will complete by end of March 2019
<b>Corporate Affairs &amp; Continuous Improvement - Cllr A Reed, Finance &amp; Assets - Cllr J Cant</b>								
North Quay Redevelopment / Relocation	D Brown	1,072,868	1,072,868		62,591	0	0	Management Committee have agreed to proceed with a JV arrangement with Magna Housing, in conjunction with seeking a grant from Homes England. The budget will be required to work up the legal and other necessary site and planning issues
High Street, Portland, Redevelopment	S Cairns	250,000	250,000		127,760	0	110,000	Openly marketed towards end of 2018 and no satisfactory offers received. Housing Enabling team formulating a proposal. Additional capital may be needed to deliver this proposal
<b>Housing - Cllr G Taylor</b>								
Local Housing Need Scheme	C Milone	450,000	450,000	0	450,000	185,000	0	The first property purchased is now fully occupied. A second property is currently under offer, and completion is anticipated early in 2019.
<b>Tourism, Culture and Harbours - Cllr R Kosior</b>								
Esplanade Lighting Scheme	S Cairns	200,000	200,000	0	200,000	15,674	50,000	Esplanade lighting received planning consent on 12 December 2018 and installation tenders are out to market. The completion of the project is expected in May 2019, weather dependant.
Pavilion Improvements Grant	N Thornley	250,000	250,000	0	250,000	192,928	0	Work is progressing well and it is anticipated the budget will be fully spent by 31st March 2019
<b>Tourism, Culture and Harbours - Cllr R Kosior, Economic Development - Cllr R Nickinson, Finance and Assets - Cllr J Cant</b>								
Peninsula Development	D Brown	500,000	500,000	0	500,000	0	0	Outline planning application approved. Approval from WPBC and Shadow Exec to take forward phase 1 of the Peninsula Regeneration scheme. Applying for grant from Coastal Communities Fund. Preparing procurement documents for next stage.
<b>WPBC Totals</b>		<b>5,536,868</b>	<b>5,562,868</b>	<b>-26,000</b>	<b>2,014,351</b>	<b>507,982</b>	<b>206,000</b>	

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30 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018	Average Rate (%)	Current Portfolio	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2018	Average Rate (%)
£		<b>Debt</b>	£	
17,000,000	4.46	LOBO (Lenders Option Borrowers Option)	11,000,000	4.59
10,000,000	4.79	Fixed Rate Loan (converted LOBO)	10,000,000	4.79
27,000,000	4.58	<b>Total Debt</b>	21,000,000	4.69
		<b>Current Investments</b>		
		<b>Property Funds</b>		
5,000,000	5.54	CCLA Property Fund	5,000,000	5.44
		<b>Unit Funds</b>		
500,000	4.63	HC Charteris Premium Income Fund	500,000	4.60
3,000,000	0.84	Payden Sterling Reserve Fund	3,000,000	0.85
2,500,000	3.85	UBS Multi Asset Income Fund	2,500,000	3.81
1,000,000	5.65	City Financial Diversified Fixed Interest Fd	1,000,000	6.33
2,500,000	7.31	Schroders Income Maximiser Fund	2,500,000	8.21
2,500,000	4.82	M&G Global Dividend Fund	2,500,000	4.45
1,000,000	3.81	CCLA Diversified Income Fund	1,000,000	3.52
1,500,000	3.48	M&G Strategic Corporate Bond Fund	1,500,000	3.52
2,500,000	3.89	City Financial Multi Asset Diversified Fund	2,500,000	3.50
2,500,000	4.05	Investec Diversified Income Fund	2,500,000	4.27
1,000,000	1.55	Royal London Enhanced Cash Plus Fund	1,000,000	1.50
2,500,000	3.12	Threadneedle Strategic Bond Fund	2,500,000	3.09
2,500,000	4.00	Threadneedle UK Equity Income Fund	2,500,000	4.01
		Threadneedle Sterling		
1,000,000	1.83	Short-Dated Corporate Bond Fund	1,000,000	1.83
		<b>Covered Bonds</b>		
2,226,844	2.12	Leeds Build. Society 4.25% (17/12/18)	-	-
2,003,000	1.01	Leeds Build. Society FRN (01/10/19)	2,003,000	1.03
		<b>Deposits</b>		
445,000	0.40	HSBC Call Account	1,000	0.40
1,500,000	0.10	Handelsbanken liquidity account	-	-
6,000,000	0.51	Debt Management Office (DMO)	6,000,000	0.51
1,500,000	0.50	Lloyds Monthly Bonus call account	1,500,000	0.50
		<b>Money Market Funds</b>		
1,282,000	0.60	Standard Life MMF (now Aberdeen Standard)	-	-
1,282,000	0.59	Deutsche Bank MMF	1,719,000	0.65
1,282,000	0.59	Blackrock MMF	2,004,000	0.63
1,282,000	0.55	Aberdeen Standard MMF	2,004,000	0.83
1,282,000	0.68	Federated Investors MMF	1,719,000	0.74
51,584,844		<b>Total Investments</b>	48,450,000	
24,584,844		<b>Net (Debt)/Investments</b>	27,450,000	

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## **Management Committee**

**5 February 2019**

## **Time extension of the Weymouth and Portland Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order 2016**

### **For Decision**

#### **Briefholder**

Cllr M Byatt

#### **Senior Leadership Team Contact:**

S Hill, Strategic Director

#### **Report Author:**

Jane Williams, Team Leader - Environmental Protection (West)

#### **Statutory Authority**

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To propose a time extension of the Weymouth and Portland Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order ('PSPO') for a period of up to 12 months.

#### **Recommendations**

2. That the committee agree to a 12 month time extension to the current Weymouth and Portland Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order 2016.

#### **Reason for Decision**

3. The current Order will expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019.
4. Owing to the timing and the transfer of functions to the new Dorset Council, followed by elections, it is considered expedient to seek an extension to the existing Order so that any new Order can be considered by Dorset Council.
5. Should an extension not be agreed, the extant Order will lapse and the various requirements it contains, including the requirements to have dogs on leads in prescribed areas, the requirement to clear up fouling and the prohibition of dogs from much of Weymouth beach during the summer, will not be enforceable.

## Background and Reason Decision Needed

6. PSPO's are life-limited to 3 years after which a review must be undertaken in order to determine whether the requirements continue to be necessary, or should be changed or abandoned. The review procedure involves a 12-week public consultation to gather stakeholders' views and the entire process can take around 8 months to complete through the committee process.
7. If an extension to the existing Order is agreed, this would provide a suitable window of opportunity to undertake the necessary public consultation, and enable Weymouth Town Council to contribute to the consultation, once that council is elected.
8. In order to consider an extension to an existing PSPO, the legislation requires the local authority "*to satisfy itself on reasonable grounds that doing so is necessary to prevent:*
  - (a) *occurrence or recurrence after that time of the activities identified in the order, or*
  - (b) *an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.*"

In order to fulfil this requirement, a number of local and national stakeholders were consulted on the proposal – See Appendix 1 for list of consultees and responses received.

9. While there was some resistance to the suggestion to extend the existing requirements, particularly in relation to the prohibition of dogs from part of Weymouth beach during summer months, it can be seen that this proposal is generally supported. Therefore, rather than have a period when PSPO restrictions will be absent, it is considered appropriate to propose the continuation of the existing requirements for a period of up to 12 months. This will provide continuity of measures until the new PSPO is established.
10. It should also be borne in mind that the existing signs along the beach which refer to the dog prohibition period, would become obsolete and would require removal and, potentially, later replacement. Extending the existing order would avoid incurring unnecessary costs.
11. Should the extant Order lapse, it would not be possible to undertake enforcement action in respect of failure to clear up dog fouling. Such a situation would be considered untenable and not meet public expectations.

## Implications

### Corporate Plan

Ensuring safe and thriving communities with respect for each other.  
Facilitating sustainable leisure, culture and community activities  
Protecting and enhancing the built and natural environment.

### Financial

To be met in existing budgets.

### **Equalities**

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for assistance dogs and the impact this Order has on them. <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/your-council/equality-and-diversity/pdfs/eais/nddc/dog-related-public-space-protection-orders-2018.pdf>

All officers authorised to serve FPN's will receive safeguarding and equalities training.

### **Environmental**

Keeping land free from dog fouling is a high resident priority, as is the safe use of parks and open spaces by all.

Dog faeces can carry the disease toxocaritis which can lead to permanent blindness in children if accidentally consumed, as well as being odourous and unpleasant when picked up on shoes, clothing or bike/pushchair wheels.

Having adequate control over a dog by placing it on a lead will ensure that the owner can see the dog foul as well as control its activities in particular environments for example when in crowded areas, where there is a need to respect land (e.g. cemeteries or formal gardens) or where sports activities may excite a dog to get involved which may cause fear to those engaged in the activity.

For animal welfare reasons as well as the lifestyle choice and well-being of dog owners it is equally as important to provide exercise areas for dogs off of the lead.

### **Economic Development**

Maintaining a pleasant and healthy environment helps to promote the economic well-being of a tourist area.

### **Risk Management (including Health & Safety)**

Risk of reputational damage if the Council fails to continue to prohibit dogs from Weymouth pleasure beach during the summer months, this would be exacerbated by the existing signs which express this prohibition.

Failure to clear up dog fouling is considered particularly unpleasant and the inability to enforce against this anti-social activity would be poorly perceived by the wider public.

### **Human Resources**

To be met in existing budgets

### **Consultation and Engagement**

Key internal and external Stakeholders were consulted; their responses are attached as Appendix A. This included the Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner as stipulated in the statutory guidance.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – stakeholders consultation responses

## Background Papers

Dog related Public Spaces Protection Orders can be found on West Dorset's and Weymouth and Portland's dog warden pages for reference.

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/environmental-health/documents/weymouth-public-space-protection-order.pdf>

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: reform of Anti-social behaviours. Statutory Guidance for front line professionals; Home Office, July 2014, updated December 2017.

Dealing with irresponsible dog ownership, Practitioners Manual and Annexes – D, DEFRA, October 2014.

## Footnote

Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

**Report Author:** Jane Williams, Environmental Protection Team Leader

**Telephone:** 01305 252472

**Email:** [jwilliams@dorset.gov.uk](mailto:jwilliams@dorset.gov.uk)

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019



## **Appendix 1**

### **Consultees:**

#### Statutory Consultees:

Dorset Police  
Dorset Office of Crime and Police Commissioner

#### Local Consultees:

Portland Town Council  
Beach Office  
Parks Department and the 'Friends' of' groups  
Margret Green Animal Sanctuary  
Dorset County Council (inc Highways)  
Councillors of Weymouth and Portland Borough Council  
Weymouth bid  
RSPCA – Dorset Branch  
MP  
Dog Friendly ( Weymouth)

#### National Consultees:

Dorset Blind Association  
Dorset Association of the Disabled  
Dogs Trust  
Kennel Club  
Natural England  
National Trust  
RSPB

### **Consultation responses:**

#### **Beach Office (internal)**

With reference to your e mail and the proposed way forward to extend the current Dog related PSPO by 12 months, I have had a discussion internally and I agree that your reasoning is the most practical and pragmatic approach.

This will allow for a WTC to be fully consulted, once established, and to be able to comment on the future of the PSPO following the 12 months extension.

Thanks

Kevin Good  
Beach Manager

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**Friends of Lodmoor Country Park**

This is a submission on behalf of The Friends of Lodmoor Country Park.

The Dog-Related PSPO which applies to the children's play area / Green Gm Station 3 in Lodmoor Country Park is essential for the safety & well-being of park-users.

As the play area is unfenced, the PSPO is a compromise, with dogs allowed if on leads and under close control.

The majority of dog owners respect this, but a significant minority still profess to be ignorant of the law, despite the efforts of the Friends of Lodmoor Country Park & the council to make the restrictions clear in a friendly manner (our wooden dog signs & maps & information in noticeboards)

Members of the committee and the Friends continue to encourage responsible behaviour on the part of dog walkers, and being able to refer to & rely on the PSPO is vital. The restrictions are much appreciated by families using the play area and its surroundings, including the access to St John's Primary School.

Any gap in the coverage due to lapsing of the Order would be very detrimental, and so we are in favour of an extension to the Dog-Related Public Space Protection Order which applies to Lodmoor Country Park.

Best wishes,  
Dinah Ellis  
Chairman, Friends of Lodmoor Country Park

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### **Friends of Nothe Gardens**

I have no objection to an extension to the existing controls

Kind Regards  
Roger Genge  
for Friends of Nothe Gardens

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Thank you for making us aware of the need to extend this order. The friends of Radipole Park and Gardens fully support the current Protection Order, and fully support its continuation.

Best Regards,  
Mike Goulden  
Chair

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## **Dogs Trust**

Thank you for getting in touch with Dogs Trust to seek our opinion on the Public Space Protection Orders proposals in your area. As the UK's largest dog welfare charity, we would like to make some comments for consideration below.

### Dogs Trust's Comments

#### 1. Re; Fouling of Land by Dogs Order:

- Dogs Trust consider 'scooping the poop' to be an integral element of responsible dog ownership and would fully support a well-implemented order on fouling. We urge the Council to enforce any such order rigorously. In order to maximise compliance we urge the council to consider whether an adequate number of disposal points have been provided for responsible owners to use, to consider providing free disposal bags and to ensure that there is sufficient signage in place.
- We question the effectiveness of issuing on-the-spot fines for not being in possession of a poo bag and whether this is practical to enforce.

#### 2. Re; Dog Exclusion Order:

- Dogs Trust accepts that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be excluded, such as children's play areas, however we would recommend that exclusion areas are kept to a minimum and that, for enforcement reasons, they are restricted to enclosed areas. We would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries.
- Dogs Trust would highlight the need to provide plenty of signage to direct owners to alternative areas nearby in which to exercise dogs.

#### 3. Re; Dog Exclusion Order and beaches:

- With phone calls often being made to the RSPCA and Police alerting to dogs being left in hot cars in coastal areas, we would urge you to consider the danger animals may be put in, and the difficult decisions owners have to make, by not being allowed to take their dogs onto the beach.
- If the Council does choose to implement this order, Dogs Trust would encourage looking into a compromise between beach goers and dog owners, e.g. allowing dogs onto the beach in the evenings or early mornings, or having dog friendly sections on the beaches.
- Strict dog exclusion restrictions can also lead to a decrease in dog friendly tourism for businesses along the coast, which in turn could have a negative impact on the local economy.

#### 4. Re; Dog Exclusion and sport pitches

- Excluding dogs from areas that are not enclosed could pose enforcement problems - we would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries.
- We feel that exclusion zones should be kept to a minimum, and that excluding dogs from all sports pitches for long stretches of the year is unnecessary. In some cases sports pitches may account for a large part of the open space available in a public park, and therefore excluding dogs could significantly reduce available dog walking space for owners.
- We would urge the council to consider focusing its efforts on reducing dog fouling in these areas, rather than excluding dogs entirely, with adequate provision of bins and provision of free disposal bags

5. Re; Dogs on Leads Order:

- Dogs Trust accept that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be kept on a lead.
- Dogs Trust would urge the Council to consider the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 requirements (the 'duty of care') that include the dog's need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns – this includes the need for sufficient exercise including the need to run off lead in appropriate areas. Dog Control Orders should not restrict the ability of dog keepers to comply with the requirements of this Act.
- The Council should ensure that there is an adequate number, and a variety of, well sign-posted areas locally for owners to exercise their dog off-lead.

6. Re; Dogs on Lead by Direction Order:

- Dogs Trust enthusiastically support Dogs on Leads by Direction orders (for dogs that are considered to be out of control or causing alarm or distress to members of the public to be put on and kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised official).
- We consider that this order is by far the most useful, other than the fouling order, because it allows enforcement officers to target the owners of dogs that are allowing them to cause a nuisance without restricting the responsible owner and their dog. As none of the other orders, less fouling, are likely to be effective without proper enforcement we would be content if the others were dropped in favour of this order.

The PDSA's ['Paw Report 2018'](#) found that 89% of veterinary professionals believe that the welfare of dogs will suffer if owners are banned from walking their dogs in public spaces such as parks and beaches, or if dogs are required to be kept on leads in these spaces. Their report also states that 78% of owners rely on these types of spaces to walk their dog.

I would also like to bring your attention to the similar recommendations stated in the Government's ['Anti-social behaviour powers -Statutory guidance for frontline professionals'](#) document, pages 52/53.

We believe that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible, and that the majority of dogs are well behaved. In recognition of this, we would encourage local authorities to exercise its power to issue Community Protection Notices, targeting irresponsible owners and proactively addressing anti-social behaviours.

Dogs Trust works with local authorities across the UK to help promote responsible dog ownership. If you are interested, I can send you a copy of our Services Guide, a document

listing the ways in which we may be able to help with promoting responsible dog ownership in your community. Please do not hesitate to contact should you wish to discuss this matter.

We would be very grateful if you could inform us of the consultation outcome and subsequent decisions made in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.

Yours faithfully,

Jess Hutton  
Campaigns Assistant

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### **Dog friendly (Weymouth)**

I represent a group called Dog friendly (Weymouth) I also have a popular page called dogfriendly.social

Through both the page and group we've met thousands of locals and visitors since 2016. Each sharing their opinion of the extended ban.

We've asked for figures for dog fouling fines since the introduction of this ban. We are actively promoting Weymouth and Portland as a dog friendly place to visit and stay. We have over 200 business who display our sticker.

Over the Christmas and New Year period we have photographic evidence of the dog walkers who visited used our businesses and increased the foot fall.

We understand the concerns expressed by people who dislike dogs, we are active in promoting good dog ownership. Another concern is dog fouling. We challenge people who don't clear up, send positive messages regarding the unacceptable behaviour of a few.

We are active in cleaning our beach with our dog walkers clearing marine litter and nappies from the beach throughout the year. We are proactive in asking people to contact the dog warden office if there is a problem with dog fouling. I have taken responsibility for the area I live in and people understand this is unacceptable. Since 2016 I monitor the area and keep it free from dog litter and also litter dropped by people.

Unfortunately although disability access was accessed after this ban came into force, we feel the source used to predict the amount of disabled people visiting with dogs falls way below the amount of disable people, their families and carers who visit.

Being disabled myself I cannot access the beach from the Groyne at Preston Beach to Overcome corner. It's a constantly moving shingle bank which is 6ft high due to it forming part of the sea defence. There are no disabled access points to the waters edge along the whole length of this section. I suffer from incontinence so walking this area is completely out of the question. Due to accessing facilities, Families who bring the dog with them, cost of kennels are expensive, we have so many people who stay in Hotels Guest Houses Caravan Parks and touring sites. I spoke to many families who use the small areas next to the Pavilion, they explain if their children want to use any of the beach amusements they cannot with a dog. If you have a dog with you and you are disabled you cannot enjoy joining your family at the waters edge due to the ramp being situated against a wall, the plastic ramp is often used by visitors who don't want to sit on the sand. The wheel chairs supplied by The

Lions are sited in front of the beach office and unable if you want to use them on the dog area.

The signage has proved to be confusing and on some occasions out of date until we notified them. Web sites carried out of date information, and many of our caravan parks continued to give out maps until we contacted them in 2018 to advise them the information could lead to their visitors being fined for walking on the beach.

We have been asked to give our opinion by today of the proposed extension. We feel this is too important for just a letter from the stakeholders.

I welcome your response to this email, any advice you can offer would be appropriate.

Linda Stevenson

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### **Kennel Club**

Please find attached our consultation response to the Weymouth and Portland proposed PSPO.

If you have questions or need clarification, please do let us know and we would be happy to provide more information.

### **Issy Cooke**

Public Affairs Assistant  
The Kennel Club

Submitted on 7 January 2019 by: The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London W1J 8AB, tel: 020 7518 1020, email: [kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk)

The Kennel Club is the largest organisation in the UK devoted to dog health, welfare and training, whose main objective is to ensure that dogs live healthy, happy lives with responsible owners. As part of its External Affairs activities, the Kennel Club runs a dog owners group KC Dog which was established to monitor and keep dog owners up to date about dog related issues, including Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) being introduced across the country.

As a general principle, we would like to highlight the importance for all PSPOs to be necessary and proportionate responses to problems caused by dogs and irresponsible owners. It is also important that authorities balance the interests of dog owners with the interests of other access users.

### **Dog fouling**

The Kennel Club strongly promotes responsible dog ownership, and believes that dog owners should always pick up after their dogs wherever they are, including fields and woods in the wider countryside, and especially where farm animals graze to reduce the risk of passing Neospora and Sarcocystosis to cattle and sheep respectively. The exception to this is when there is a clear indication from the landowner to the contrary.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage the local authority to employ further proactive measures to help promote responsible dog ownership throughout the local area in addition to introducing Orders in this respect.

These proactive measures can include: increasing the number of bins available for dog owners to use; communicating to local dog owners that bagged dog poo can be disposed of in normal litter bins; running responsible ownership and training events; or using poster campaigns to encourage dog owners to pick up after their dog.

## **Dog access**

The Kennel Club does not normally oppose dog exclusion or dog on lead orders in playgrounds or in enclosed recreational facilities such as tennis courts or skate parks, as long as alternative provisions are made for dog walkers in the vicinity. We would also point out that children and dogs should be able to socialise together quite safely under adult supervision, and that having a child in the home is the biggest predictor for a family owning a dog.

The Kennel Club can support reasonable “dogs on lead” orders, which can - when used in a proportionate and evidenced-based way – include areas such as cemeteries, picnic areas, or on pavements in proximity to cars and other road traffic. However, we will oppose PSPOs which introduce blanket restrictions on dog walkers accessing public open spaces without specific and reasonable justification. Dog owners are required to provide their dogs with appropriate daily exercise, including “regular opportunities to walk and run”, which in most cases will be off lead while still under control.

Their ability to meet this requirement is greatly affected by the amount of publicly accessible parks and other public places in their area where dogs can exercise without restrictions. This section of the Animal Welfare Act was included in the statutory guidance produced for local authorities by the Home Office on the use of PSPOs.

Accordingly, the underlying principle we seek to see applied is that dog controls should be the least restrictive to achieve a given defined and measurable outcome; this is the approach used by Natural England. In many cases, a seasonal or time of day restriction will be effective and the least restrictive approach, rather than a blanket year-round restriction.

With regards to playing fields, we ask local authorities to consider whether or not access restrictions are absolutely necessary. If they are deemed to be needed, whether time/season limited restrictions would be more appropriate than a continuous exclusion order. We are aware in many areas, dog walkers do allow their dogs to exercise on playing fields when they are not in use.

Of course, we understand the safety reasons behind a restriction while in use. It is also worth noting that compliance with such an order can be difficult for a dog walker if there are no boundaries around the playing field as when exercising their dogs off lead, dogs will not recognise the difference between playing fields and other grassed areas.

The Government provided clear instructions to local authorities that they must provide restriction free sites for dog walkers to exercise their dogs. This message was contained in the guidance document for DCOs, and has been retained in both the Defra/Welsh Government and Home Office PSPO guidance documents, with the Defra guidance for PSPOs stating ‘local authorities should ensure there are suitable alternatives for dogs to be exercised without restrictions’.

A common unintended consequence of restrictions is displacement onto other pieces of land, resulting in new conflicts being created. It can be difficult to predict the effects of displacement, and so the council should consider whether alternative sites for dog walkers are suitable and can support an increase in the number of dog walkers using them.



### **Seasonal Exclusion**

With regard to the proposed dog exclusion orders on Weymouth beach, the Kennel Club believes that the dates should be 1st May – 30th September as this coincides with the current bathing season of 15th May to 30th September. We oppose restrictions which commence on Good Friday (or dates linked to Easter) and continue to a set date in the autumn. Over the course of the next three years, Easter varies by up to 17 days.

Taking the example of the proposed restriction from Wonderland Groyne to Cleethorpes Leisure Centre, walking your dog would be perfectly legal on the beach before 19 April 2019, but would be an illegal activity, with a potential £1,000 fine, on the same date for the following two years.

We are not aware of any evidence that the Easter break is an annual trigger for ongoing anti-social behaviour, which calls into question the need for restrictions to run from Easter to a set date in the autumn. We would question whether such a range in start dates for a PSPO meets the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act's defined legal test.

If there is evidence of a spike in detrimental activity over the Easter weekend due to increased usage of recreation spots, then a restriction for the busy Easter period would be justified. A separate restriction could then be introduced to address the busier summer months.

### **Dogs on lead by direction**

The Kennel Club strongly welcomes 'dogs on lead by direction' orders, as these allow responsible dog owners to exercise their dogs off lead without restriction providing their dogs are under control, whilst allowing the local authority powers to restrict dogs not under control.

We would recommend that the authorised officer enforcing the order is familiar with dog behaviour in order to determine whether restraint is necessary. There is a danger that, through no fault of its own, a dog could be a 'nuisance' or 'annoyance' to another person who simply does not like dogs.

We would also recommend local authorities make use of the other more flexible and targeted measures at their disposal such as Acceptable Behavioural Contracts and Community Protection Notices. Kennel Club Good Citizen Training Clubs and our accredited trainers can also help those people whose dogs run out of control due to them not having the ability to train a reliable recall.

### **Assistance dogs**

We welcome the intent to include exemptions for assistance dogs from dog fouling, however we would suggest further consideration of the wording contained within the draft Order, specifically with reference to "prescribed charity".

Assistance Dogs UK currently have eight member organisations which can be viewed here - <http://www.assistancedogs.org.uk/>. However, the membership of Assistance Dogs UK is not a definitive list of all UK assistance dog organisations, and may change during the currency of the PSPO, it also does not provide for owner trained assistance dogs. We would therefore encourage the Council to allow some flexibility when considering whether a disabled person's dog is acting as an assistance dog. We would also urge the Council to review the Equality and Human Rights Commission guidance for businesses and service providers –

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/assistance-dogs-a-guide-for-all-businesses.pdf>

The Council could consider adopting the definitions of assistance dogs as used by Mole Valley District Council which can be found on page 4 of this document - [https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/media/pdf/1/b/83072\\_-\\_Completed\\_PSPO.pdf](https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/media/pdf/1/b/83072_-_Completed_PSPO.pdf)

### **Appropriate signage**

It is important to note that in relation to PSPOs the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (Publication of Public Spaces Protection Orders) Regulations 2014 make it a legal requirement for local authorities to –

“cause to be erected on or adjacent to the public place to which the order relates such notice (or notices) as it considers sufficient to draw the attention of any member of the public using that place to –

(i) the fact that the order has been made, extended or varied (as the case may be);  
and

(ii) the effect of that order being made, extended or varied (as the case may be).”

While all dog walkers should be aware of the requirement to pick up after their dog, signage should be erected for the PSPO to be compliant with the legislation

## **Management Committee**

**5 February 2019**

## **Adoption of the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019-2024**

### **For Recommendation To Council**

#### **Briefholder**

Cllr Ray Nowak, Environment and Sustainability

#### **Senior Leadership Team Contact:**

S Hill, Strategic Director

#### **Report Author:**

H Jordan, Corporate Manager, Planning (Community & Policy Development)

#### **Statutory Authority**

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

#### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 To enable the statutory review of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan to be completed

#### **Recommendations**

- 2 That the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019-2024, included as Appendix 1 of this report, be adopted

#### **Reason for Decision**

- 3 To ensure that the statutory responsibilities in relation to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are met.

#### **Background and Reason Decision Needed**

- 4 The preparation and review of a Management Plan for each Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a statutory requirement for local authorities. Plans must be reviewed every five years and this is the fourth edition of the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan. The Plan is the key governance document for the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, steering the work of the staff team and partner organisations and helping to support bids for external funding.

- 5 The revised Plan was approved by the Partnership Board on 15 November 2018 but must be taken to all the constituent local authorities for formal adoption.
- 6 The review process, originally agreed by the Board in May 2017, has taken twelve months and has included engagement with expert stakeholders, partner organisations, community representatives and members of the public. The process began with a series of workshops with 'expert review groups', involving over 50 people, followed by the AONB Forum which was attended largely by parish and town councils and other community groups and partnerships. This was followed by a twelve-week formal consultation period which was widely advertised online and through social media channels. All county, district and borough councillors in the area were directly informed, as were all parish clerks. Copies of the document were available in public libraries and at council offices.
- 7 During the formal consultation period there were 174 responses to the online questionnaire and 31 detailed responses making around 350 separate points of support, comment or proposed amendment. The responses demonstrated a large degree of support for the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and also included a range of suggested changes many of which have been made to the final draft document. These changes included strengthening the definition of 'natural beauty'; giving greater emphasis in the Chairman's foreword to the scale of the challenge of conserving and enhancing this landscape; including a list of key partners in each policy section; and setting out the Partnership's priorities for action over the lifetime of this management plan.
- 8 The final plan now needs to be adopted by the full Councils of all five local authorities covering the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: Dorset County Council; North Dorset District Council; Purbeck District Council; West Dorset District Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council.

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan**

The Management Plan contributes towards the Corporate Plan objective of improving quality of life, including enhancing the quality of life of people living and working in the borough, and safeguarding and providing opportunities to enjoy the natural and built environment now and in the future.

### **Financial**

The Management Plan has been prepared by the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Team, which is overseen by a Partnership Board including member representatives of all the councils. Over 75% of the funding for the staff unit is from Defra: the remainder comes from the five local authorities. Weymouth & Portland currently contributes £1,118 annually. From the 2019/20 financial year, the local authority proportion will come entirely from the new Dorset Council.

£10,000 of the AONB Partnership budget was made available to fund the development and publication of the revised plan.

The plan has the potential to be used as the key support document for attracting funds for AONB management: the 2014-19 Management Plan has helped to achieve over £7.5 million value of delivery coordinated by the AONB Partnership to date.

### **Equalities**

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken during the preparation of the management plan, and amendments made as a result.

### **Environmental**

The plan sets out policies and proposals to protect and enhance the environmental quality of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, including its natural beauty, biodiversity and heritage.

### **Economic Development**

The plan encourages appropriate rural economic development and helps to promote the area, which is of benefit for tourism and other rural businesses. Local research has shown the significant economic benefit of the designation, and projects such as the Dorset Food and Drink initiative help to support and promote local businesses.

### **Risk Management (including Health & Safety)**

Reputational risk if the management plan is not adopted in the required timescale, as preparing and reviewing the management plan is part of the council's statutory duties.

### **Human Resources**

The plan has been prepared by the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Team, which is funded by Defra and the local councils, as referred to above. A member and an officer attend the Partnership Board meetings to represent this Council. Officers have also contributed to the Management Plan Review Group and Annual Forum.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

The Plan has been subject to public and stakeholder consultation, overseen by an appointed Management Plan Review Group, and has been approved by the Partnership Board.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Final Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan, as agreed by the Partnership Board.

### **Background Papers**

The final Management Plan and consultation responses are available to download at <https://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/the-dorset-aonb/management-plan>

### **Footnote**

Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

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**Date:** 4 January 2019

# Management Plan 2019-2024





## OUR SHARED LANDSCAPE

# Our vision

The Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership is working towards a future in which the management of the landscape and designation is the best example of how protected landscapes can stimulate truly sustainable development and land management.

### For the environment of the AONB:

- the AONB is stunningly beautiful, tranquil and healthy
- there are large tracts of well linked, high quality habitats within a landscape capable of supporting resilient populations of a wide range of species
- the AONB is regarded as a store of natural capital which is conserved and managed to maximise the benefits available from it (clean water, clean air, productive soils, geological resources, etc)

### For the community of the AONB:

- sustainable rural communities are thriving and housed affordably, enjoying a range of health and wellbeing benefits afforded by a wonderful environment
- there is a range of active travel options and wide access to the countryside
- the landscape's natural and cultural heritage is the basis for a wide range of education, learning and volunteering opportunities for all ages; it inspires ongoing research and artistic endeavour

### The economy of that community offers great employment for all ages in:

- well-rewarded sensitive farming, forestry and fishing businesses and the conservation sector alongside which they work
- the production of superb local products and a tourism industry that rewards host communities and contributes to landscape management
- the local building industry which is a leader in low energy construction employing local timber
- a world-class creative industry and the wider green economy inspired by the landscape





**Lord Gardiner  
of Kimble**  
Parliamentary Under  
Secretary of State for Rural  
Affairs and Biosecurity

I am fortunate that England's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are part of my Ministerial responsibilities. Whether it be rolling hills, sweeping coastline or a tranquil village, spending time in an AONB can stir the heart and lift the spirit.

This is a pivotal moment for all AONBs. The Government has set its ambition in the 25 Year Environment Plan which states clearly the importance of natural beauty as part of our green future, while AONBs retain the highest status of protection for landscape through national planning policy. Leaving the EU brings with it an opportunity to develop a better system for supporting our farmers and land managers, who play such a vital role as stewards of the landscape. And the Review of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty led by Julian Glover - the first of its kind for generations - will make recommendations to make sure our designated landscapes can flourish in the years ahead.

In my visits to AONBs around the country, I have been struck by the passion of many people - farmers, volunteers, and hard-working staff - for the beautiful places they live and work. In this spirit I am delighted to welcome publication of this Statutory Management Plan for Dorset AONB. It is significant that this plan will be delivered in partnership by those who value Dorset AONB. I would like to thank all those involved in preparation of this document, and wish you the best of success in bringing it to fruition.



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## Jim White MBE

### Chairman of the Dorset AONB Partnership

It is my pleasure to present this fourth edition of the management plan for the landscape of the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It's an area I love deeply; a landscape of international and national significance for its natural beauty and all that this includes: wildlife, geology, archaeology, built heritage and cultural links. Recognition for this area is not new; this plan comes into effect in the 60th anniversary year of the Dorset AONB designation.

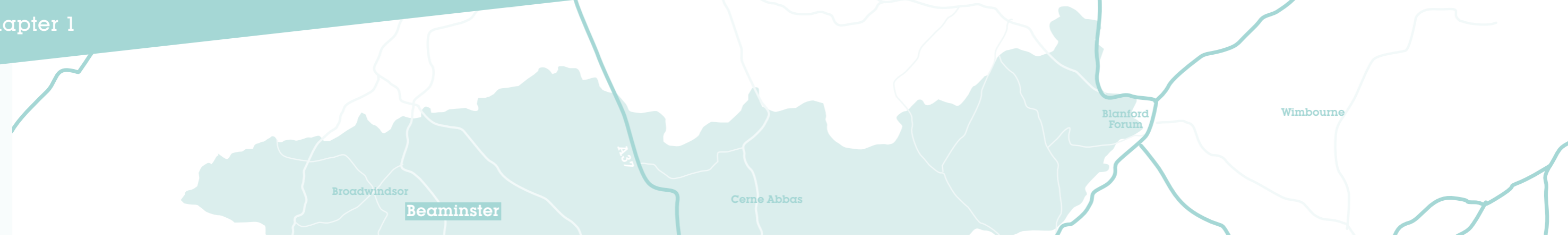
Previous AONB Management Plans have achieved lots of positive action, enabled better conservation management of large areas of land and numbers of monuments, and inspired and enabled projects which have engaged great numbers of people. It has also helped shape development and other change within the landscape for the better. Significant pressures and threats remain: globally we are witnessing widescale biodiversity decline and extinction and climate breakdown. Locally, there is huge pressure on land for large numbers of dwellings both within and around the AONB. The natural environment

is stretched; natural systems are dealing with past decades of insensitive or unenlightened practice in built development and agriculture, and in general our lifestyles have a damaging environmental footprint.

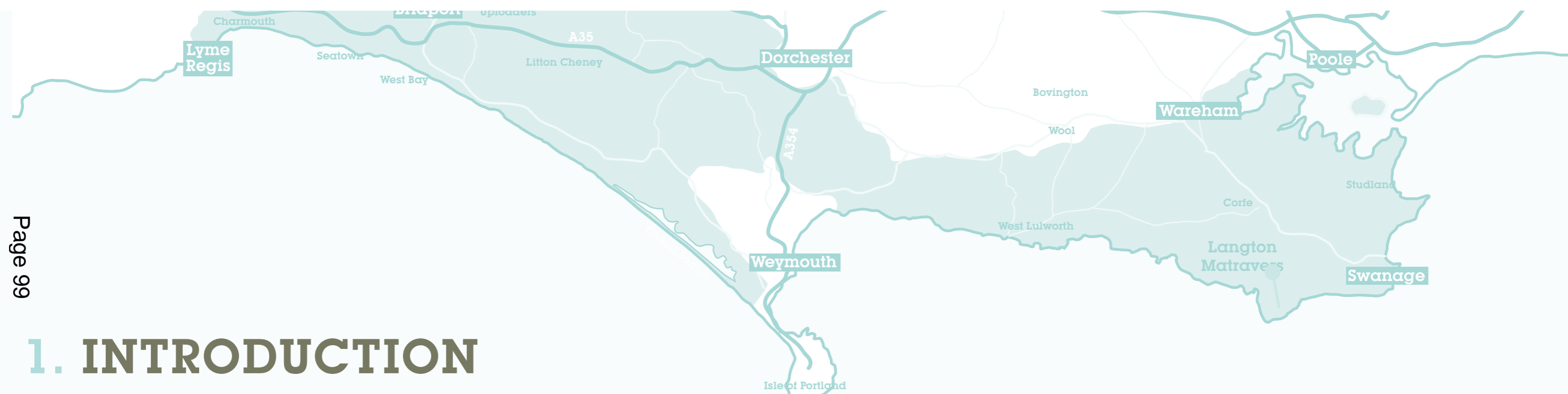
The time this plan takes effect is one of great flux: Brexit on a national scale and Dorset's nine Local Authorities becoming two Unitary Authorities. Now, however, the policy background for the natural environment is stronger than it has been for years as outlined in the Minister's Foreword. We look forward to the outcomes of the Glover Review of England's designated landscapes, which will make recommendations on funding, governance, priorities and designation coverage.

The AONB Partnership has limited resources for delivery; it always amazes me how so much is achieved with so little. We have a core team of 6 (4.5 FTE) which works to coordinate the making of this plan and overseeing its implementation. The Partnership will continue to make the case for increased resources and influence to support the conservation and enhancement of this area's natural beauty, particularly through the Glover Review. Indeed, the aims of this plan would be delivered more deeply and widely across the AONB with a significant uplift in funds and influence for the Partnership and its team.

Notwithstanding the resources at the disposal of the AONB Partnership, achieving the vision and meeting the objectives of this plan requires more than an adherence to the statutory duty by local authorities, agencies and utility companies. It requires buy-in and effort from the very widest of partnerships: all people, agencies, land managers and other businesses with an interest or a stake in this very special place.



**\* ALL maps to be updated for PB meeting on 15th November**



# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Dorset AONB is a landscape of national and international significance for its natural and cultural heritage assets. It is a landscape rich in natural beauty which has been shaped by millennia of human occupation. Natural beauty and landscape quality goes beyond the look of the landscape: it includes the elements which comprise the view (topography, geology, hydrology, wildlife, archaeology and other built heritage and the cultural heritage made in response to it). This management plan sets out the legal basis and background of this landscape and articulates a policy framework for the conservation and enhancement of its natural beauty.

Now in its fourth edition, this management plan builds on previous iterations; it is for the landscape of the Dorset AONB, not for one organisation or partnership. It fulfils a legal requirement and is derived through local consensus. It sets out an approach to conserving and enhancing the AONB's natural beauty (which itself is further defined). It is for all people and organisations engaged in activities which have implications for the area's natural beauty, such as strategic planning, development management, land management, conservation, celebration and education.

It is one of a group of documents which describe the policies, landscape condition and implementation strategy. The others in this set are:

- Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) which describes the various landscape types and character areas of the AONB, their characteristic features and the landscape condition.
- Strategic Environmental Assessment which was delivered alongside this Management Plan to test the policies in this plan; it also includes a baseline assessment of various socioeconomic subjects for the AONB.

- Delivery Plan which will be constructed following the public consultation period on this plan and annually thereafter. This describes how these policies will be implemented and translated into practice; it will describe one year's activity in detail with a view towards the timespan of this plan.

This plan has been developed and reviewed with the input and involvement of a wide range of stakeholders. Through this process, local people and organisations have provided extensive input in identifying the local actions and priorities that will conserve and enhance this nationally important landscape.

## 2. AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are nationally important protected landscapes. Dorset is one of 46 AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Together with the 13 National Parks, these make up our finest countryside and are protected in the national interest for future generations.

AONBs are also recognised internationally by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as part of the global family of protected areas.

### Protected landscapes in the UK



#### Key

##### England and Wales

- National Park
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

##### Scotland

- National Park
- National Scenic Area
- Regional Park

##### Northern Ireland

- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

## 2.1

### Purposes and Duties: the legal basis

AONBs are designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside (NPAC) Act 1949. The purposes of the AONB designation were updated and confirmed by the Countryside Commission in 1991 as follows:

- The primary purpose of the designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.
- In pursuing the primary purpose, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.
- Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 confirmed the significance of AONBs and created improved arrangements for their management. There are three key sections of the Act for AONBs:

- Section 85 places a statutory duty on all 'relevant authorities' to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty when discharging any function affecting land in AONBs.
- Section 89 places a statutory duty on local planning authorities to act jointly to produce a Management Plan for each AONB in their administrative area.
- Section 90 describes the notification required during the AONB Management Plan-making process.

AONBs are defined as areas not in a National Park but considered to be of such outstanding natural beauty that it is desirable to protect them. Government has confirmed that the landscape qualities of National Parks and AONBs are equivalent and current guidance makes it clear that the practical application of the natural beauty criterion is identical for both National Parks and AONBs, as is their equivalent importance and protection.



## 2.2

### Natural beauty

Natural beauty remains largely undefined in legislation, despite being central to the NPAC Act 1949. Since then, qualifications and amendments to the legislation make it clear that natural beauty includes wildlife, geological features and cultural heritage while not being restricted to them.

Government guidance relating to AONBs provides a useful non-technical definition: 'Natural beauty is not just the look of the landscape, but includes landform and geology, plants and animals, landscape features and the rich history of human settlement over the centuries'. More recently the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 clarified that land used for agriculture, woodlands, parkland or with physiographical features partly the product of human intervention in the landscape, is not prevented from being treated as an area of 'natural beauty'.

Landscape beauty is not limited to the visual character but includes all aspects which underpin and contribute to that character. Therefore, the conservation and enhancement of wildlife, built heritage and cultural heritage is integral to the conservation of landscape and its natural beauty.

## 2.3

### The Dorset AONB

The Dorset AONB was designated in 1959 and is the fifth largest AONB. It covers 1,129 square kilometres, approximately 42% of the county. The AONB stretches from Lyme Regis in the west, along the coast to Poole Harbour in the east, and north to Hambledon Hill near Blandford Forum. It covers over half of Poole Harbour, including Brownsea and the smaller islands. Outside of Poole Harbour and the Fleet, the designated area ends at mean low water, but with a significant extent of coastline the seaward setting and adjacent marine environment is important to the AONB's condition. The Dorset AONB also includes small areas in Somerset and Devon.

The Dorset AONB has approximately 74,600 people living within it and 2.15 million people living within 40 miles of the boundary. A number of market and coastal towns lie within the AONB, including Lyme Regis, Bridport, Beaminster and Swanage.

## 2.4

### Context of the Dorset AONB

The Dorset AONB is connected to land, ecosystems, people and business beyond its boundaries. The Dorset AONB lies within an area known for its outstanding environmental quality. To the east are the internationally important urban heaths around Poole and Bournemouth and the New Forest National Park. To the northeast, the Dorset AONB shares a boundary with the Cranborne Chase AONB near Blandford. To the west lie the Blackdown Hills AONB and the East Devon AONB which meets the Dorset AONB at Lyme Regis and includes the western section of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site.

Much of the surrounding countryside in Dorset, while not being covered by landscape designations, is still of extremely high quality. To the north lies the Blackmore Vale, to the south the Isle of Portland and separating the AONB's northern downs from the Isle of Purbeck are the lower Frome and Piddle valleys. Significant and growing urban populations adjacent to the AONB at Dorchester, Weymouth, Yeovil, Taunton and the Poole-Bournemouth conurbation look to the AONB as an area for leisure and recreation.

As a coastal protected landscape, management of the Dorset AONB must also take into account its links to the marine environment. Harbour and saline lagoons lie within the boundary in Poole Harbour and the Fleet.

Outside these areas the AONB boundary is at Mean Low Water. Activities within the marine elements of the AONB as well as out at sea can have significant implications for the character and qualities of the AONB, and a high quality marine environment is just as crucial to the AONB's integrity as a high quality terrestrial environment.

## 2.5

### Managing the Dorset AONB

Most of the Dorset AONB is in private ownership and actively farmed (over 70%). The Dorset AONB Partnership has influence over the landscape through the planning process, by shaping grants and other incentives, and through guidance and advice. There are many decisions affecting the landscape over which the Partnership has no direct influence, however it seeks to improve understanding of the designation to enable better decisions to be taken.

Delivery of the Dorset AONB Management Plan is coordinated by the Dorset AONB Partnership, which brings together local authorities,



statutory agencies, local community and landowner representatives (key partners are listed in chapter 9). The Partnership has a dedicated staff team which delivers a wide range of projects and advises on activities and initiatives in the AONB. Core activity is funded by Defra and the local authorities which have responsibility for parts of the AONB; significant additional funds are raised for Partnership projects.

The Partnership also works closely with a wide range of organisations, communities and landowners across the area, notably Dorset Coast Forum, Jurassic Coast Trust, Dorset Wildlife Trust, National Trust, RSPB, Natural England, Dorset Countryside, Arts Development Company, Dorset Food & Drink, plus many others. The success of the Partnership is dependent on its close working relations with these organisations and those who farm, live and work here.

The AONB Partnership also works with the Dorset Health & Wellbeing Board, Dorset Local Enterprise and Dorset Local Nature Partnerships, Catchment Partnerships and the Local Access Forum, raising issues and promoting opportunities afforded by the AONB landscape.

## 2.6

### Working beyond the Dorset AONB boundary

The Dorset AONB Partnership is a member of the National Association for AONBs, the South West Protected Landscapes Forum and Europarc, which bring together the family of protected landscapes at regional, national and European levels. Through membership of these bodies, the Dorset AONBs.

Partnership develops joint initiatives, shares experience, influences policy and lobbies for greater recognition and protection for AONBs. Many of the principles of this Management Plan can be applied to landscapes outside the AONB boundary. Where appropriate, the Dorset AONB Partnership works with partners to deliver projects across the county of Dorset rather than just within the AONB, ensuring that the context of the AONB is recognised. Many projects also operate collaboratively to make best use of available resources.

### 3. THIS MANAGEMENT PLAN

This chapter sets out this plan's purposes, intended audiences and how it relates to other strategies. It also gives some examples of how previous plans have been used for positive action.



INSPIRE  
ACTION

## 3.1

### What is the Plan for?

This plan is for guiding and inspiring action that will bring us closer to achieving the vision. It meets the statutory requirement on local authorities to produce a Management Plan but goes beyond that requirement by:

- Bringing together partners to target or vision for this protected landscape.
- Promoting collaboration in action for best results.
- Helping to prioritise public investment, for example agri-environment or rural development grant.
- Providing a policy framework within which the AONB Partnership can bring partners together to design, resource and implement programmes of action.

The plan places a focus on how the primary purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty will be delivered; social and economic issues are covered in terms of their relationship to that primary purpose.

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### Who is the Plan for?

The AONB Management Plan is just that – a plan for the AONB area. It provides a framework that can help guide all activities that might affect the AONB. Its audiences include:

- AONB Partnership organisations – these organisations will have a key role in delivering and championing the Management Plan.
- Relevant authorities – all public bodies and statutory undertakers have a duty to have regard to the primary purpose of the AONB; this Management Plan will guide them in fulfilling their statutory duties.
- The Dorset Local Nature Partnership and Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership.
- Landowners and managers – those who own and manage land in the AONB have a vital role to play; the plan aims to guide, support and attract resources for sensitive management of the AONB.
- Local communities – all of us that live and work in the AONB can play an active role in caring for the Dorset AONB; the plan identifies some of the priorities for action and ways to get involved.



## 3.3

### How does it relate to other plans, strategies and processes?

This plan should be used to guide and inform all other plans and activities developed by public bodies and statutory undertakers that may affect the AONB, in line with their duty of regard for the primary purpose of the AONB. It should also be used for other people and organisations in and around the AONB so that they may contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB.

- This plan will help promote and support local delivery of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan including development of a Local Natural Capital Plan
- Public investment strategies: it can guide the targeting and prioritising of land management grants and other rural industry grants or loans via the Local Enterprise Partnership and community-led local investment strategies (e.g. Local Action Groups); it can provide evidence for the Local Industrial Strategy
- Local & spatial plans: it provides part of the evidence base for local plans including those for transport, waste and minerals.
- Marine plans: provides part of the evidence base for the Marine Plan (South).
- Development management: local planning authorities and the Marine Management Organisation have a statutory duty of regard for the AONB when making planning decisions. In making these decisions the relevant authority should seek the advice of Natural England, the statutory agency responsible for AONBs. In addition, this Management Plan is a material consideration in the planning process. Planning authorities seek advice from the AONB Team under the Dorset AONB planning protocol.
- Health and wellbeing plans: it can guide the implementation of the 'Prevention at Scale' priority of the Dorset Sustainability and Transformation Plan.
- Catchment plans: it provides part of the evidence base for the partnership catchment management plans within the AONB (currently the Poole Harbour and Stour Catchments Plans).
- Community planning: it can help inform neighbourhood and parish plans and community strategies.
- The Dorset & East Devon World Heritage Site Management Plan: this plan outlines the statutory landscape protections for the site and its setting in the collective interests of all humanity.
- Cultural strategies: it can add context and local distinctiveness to enhance implementation.



## What have previous plans helped to achieve?

Earlier editions of the plan have underpinned the work of the Dorset AONB Partnership and a wide range of contributors. The last 5-year management plan helped attract over £7.5M investment over the last 5 years through the AONB Partnership alone for conservation, access, understanding and celebration activities. It also influenced considerably more investment through agri-environment schemes. The following four examples highlight the ways in which the AONB Partnership operate:

- Development management and planning gain: the policies and detail within the plan has helped limit harmful development within the AONB and enabled a framework for mitigation and compensation where residual significant impacts remain at the approval of certain proposals. The two key examples of compensation for landscape impacts are the Weymouth Relief Road Environment Fund (£200,000 which enabled greater investment – see below) and the Wytch Farm Landscape and Access Enhancement Fund (£1.7M currently being disbursed to positive projects).  
The South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership was a wide-ranging 5-year programme of work substantially funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, matched by compensation funds from the Weymouth Relief Road construction. This landscape area is nationally important for its concentration of prehistoric monuments, and the programme enabled the survey of 410 monuments (and subsequent restoration of 25) alongside further built heritage restoration, natural heritage conservation, celebration, interpretation, education and skills development. In all over 28,000 hours of volunteer time were committed, 10,600 schoolchildren were engaged in Ridgeway-related learning, 500 metres of stone walls were rebuilt and tens of hectares of priority habitat were improved.
- Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area: one of the initial 12 NIAs following the Lawton Review, a suite of conservation, awareness and engagement projects received funding support from Natural England which led to a step-change in delivery. In an area in which there is a long history of effective partnership working, this landscape-scale approach helped ‘fast forward’



through a desired conservation programme which included land acquisition (124 ha purchased by conservation organisations), land management change (including 467 ha heathland restored), community and education effort (reaching over 13% of the area’s population) and inspiring over 20,000 hours of volunteer time.

- Stepping into Nature: with significant funding from Big Lottery, this project has developed and resourced numerous nature and arts-based activities targeted at older people, particularly those living with dementia, and their carers. It has also trained many staff in the conservation sector so they are better able to deliver activities for that key audience, and funded dementia-friendly improvements to accessible greenspaces. The project is working with Public Health Dorset to improve both the evidence and narrative for using our natural environment to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and mitigate the impact of growing numbers of people living with dementia on the Dorset health and care system, as part of Dorset’s “prevention at Scale” portfolio.
- Sustainable Development Fund: nearly £100k from the AONB Partnership’s small grants fund went to 59 projects with a total value of nearly £500,000. Each project was conceived in the community or among wider partners. The fund remains popular.

## 4. KEY ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

The policies at Chapter 9 provide a framework in which the following threats may be mitigated and the opportunities developed. An action plan, to be developed annually, will give detail of method and location.



## 4.1 Political



### Brexit

This plan was prepared as negotiations continued to remove the UK from the European Union (EU) and establish a new trading relationship with it. This has significant implications for the UK's rural areas and their management, particularly regarding:

- Investment in agriculture, fisheries the environment and rural communities to replace those arising from Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies. These are partially addressed in an Agriculture Bill at the time of writing.
- National legislation for environmental protection to replace those agreed at EU level, to come in an Environment Bill.
- Agreements for international trade with the EU and beyond, and the potential for future cross-Channel co-operation.

At the time of writing, it is impossible to predict where the threats and opportunities lie with any precision. The situation will clarify over the coming months and during any transition period to EU withdrawal.

### Austerity

While National Parks and AONBs have been cushioned to some extent, at the time of writing there have been 8 years of consistent funding reductions to large parts of the public sector, with knock-on effects in terms of:

- Increased competition for available funds for AONB management
- Capacity to engage in AONB management by local authority, statutory agency staff, schools, youth groups, arts organisations etc.
- Reductions in public service provision (e.g. loss of rural bus routes, fewer tourist information staff/offices).
- Increased wealth and health inequality (see 4.2)

### National environmental policy

National environmental policy direction is being framed within the Government's 25-year environment plan "A green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment". This plan has been warmly welcomed by the AONB Partnership and provides high-level support for environmental conservation and enhancement. The plan underlines the importance for much of the AONB Partnership's work.

Actions under the following headlines are particularly relevant:

- Using and managing land sustainably
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes
- Connecting people to the environment to improve health and wellbeing
- Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste
- Securing clean, healthy, productive and biologically-diverse seas and oceans

Through this plan, a review of protected landscapes has been instigated which will make recommendations to government in 2019 on the purposes, funding, governance and coverage of England's National Parks and AONBs. A pre-existing campaign to create a National Park in Dorset and East Devon sees this as an opportunity for change.

Policy direction also supports natural capital and the potential for innovative funding solutions, such as Wessex Water's Entrade which facilitates efficient spending on catchment-related issues for water quality improvements.

Related statutes are being developed within the Agriculture Bill (currently before Parliament) and an Environment Bill (yet to be drafted). The above, alongside the Government's Clean Growth Strategy, recognises our interdependence on the natural environment

## National housing policy

At the time of writing, government policy supports a huge uplift in house-building. To facilitate this, government policy includes a presumption in favour of sustainable development. This presents challenges to the AONB's landscape in terms of:

- Land-take for building with associated potential impacts on the landscape (its visual character as well as its component elements and overall function).
- Increased nutrients being introduced to sensitive river catchments. There is a need for all new developments in the Poole Harbour catchment to be nutrient-neutral, which may necessitate off-setting measures affecting agricultural land use and operations.
- Increased recreational pressure from a growing population. While many areas of the AONB are robust and afford ample opportunities for outdoor recreation, some are particularly sensitive to such disturbance.

## Local government reorganisation

At the time of writing Dorset's 9 local authorities are merging to form two unitary authorities, to conclude in 2019. The Dorset AONB will be entirely within the Dorset Council area (excepting those small areas in Devon and Somerset). This change is efficiency-driven: the new Dorset Council will be smaller than the sum of its original parts.

This may present challenge to AONB management through reduced capacity and expertise across planning and community support services; increased consistency in policy application and clearer lines of communication may present opportunities.



## Deprivation and inequality

Inequalities have deepened over the past 8 years among the country's population. There are pockets of deprivation in the Dorset AONB and areas of low skills provision and attainment. Social mobility is low. This has implications for the local economy's potential as well as for the community's health and wellbeing. Levels of obesity and other lifestyle-related conditions are higher among those living in deprivation.

## Housing affordability

According to the National Housing Federation, the average house price in Dorset increased to £311,426 in 2018, which is 13 times the average salary of £24,288. Many young people and those on wages associated with land management are being effectively priced out of the countryside. Alongside this, there is a shortage of truly affordable and social housing. This national trend is exacerbated by Dorset's desirability as a retirement, second home and holiday destination.

## Ageing population

Over the next ten years, the percentage of Dorset residents aged 65+ is expected to grow by 1% per annum. That's an increase of 20,500 people, with a fifth of these (3,700) aged 85+. While this reflects national trends, in Dorset 28% of the population is aged 65+, compared with 18% in England & Wales.

This growing number of older people will increase demand for health and social care services, leading to more family members finding themselves acting as informal carers. In 2011 the Census identified 49,300 unpaid carers in Dorset, an increase of 17% since 2001, with 11,400 people aged 65+ living with dementia by 2025 in Dorset, it is likely that an additional 3,000 carers will be needed to cope with this increase.

Health and wellbeing influences - and can be influenced by - most aspects of our lives including how and where we live, our behaviours, our work and our leisure activities. Health behaviours impact on both physical and mental health - and many people may be affected by more than one health behaviour.

## 4.2 Socio-economical (continued)

Healthy populations live longer, are more productive and save more thus contributing to economic progress as well as maintaining personal wellbeing.

The AONB's landscape and its management presents opportunities for this sector of the population, for example by enabling, maintaining or increasing social outdoor activity. There are also opportunities for the conservation sector to harness a retired population's expertise and willingness for volunteering.

## Environmental awareness

There has been a surge in environmental awareness, known recently as the Blue Planet effect. This relates particularly to the volume of single-use plastic now found in the seas and oceans but is a gateway to wider engagement about the way our lifestyles and consumption choices affect the local and global environment. Alongside this, there is a continued interest in food provenance and the impact of food production methods.

## Water quality issues

The AONB's water resources are subject to significant nutrient loading from agriculture and sewage, both current and historical (especially the Poole Harbour catchment). A significant challenge facing the rivers, streams and tidal water within the AONB and its marine setting relates to the impact of nutrients and eutrophication.

The AONB management plan can support the move towards nitrogen (and other nutrient) neutrality in development and efforts to reduce inputs of nutrients from the agricultural sector and other diffuse sources of sediment and phosphate.

## Mass extinction and biodiversity declines

Across the planet there is a sixth mass extinction of plants and animals – the sixth wave of extinctions in the past 500 million years. Currently there is the most rapid rate of species die-offs since the loss of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. Although there is a natural “background” rate of extinction (about one to five species per year), scientists estimate current species loss to be 1,000 to 10,000 times the background rate. The vast majority is related to human impact, including climate change, habitat destruction and pest and disease introduction.

Recent research is assigning much of the cause of globally declining invertebrate populations to changes in climate. As invertebrates are the bottom of the food chain, the impacts, especially on mammals and birds, will continue to amplify more local pressures. It is likely that soil biology is also adversely affected with potential impacts on soil function for sustained productivity and ecological services (such as water purification). Additionally, introduced or advancing pests and diseases could have significant landscape effects (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) both in terms of appearance and landscape function.



## Climate breakdown

Since 1990, global surface temperatures have warmed at a rate of about 0.15°C per decade and are projected to increase to around 0.2°C for the next few decades. This is linked to atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and aerosols, a significant proportion of which originates from human industrial and agricultural activity. Fundamental changes in human activity are required to limit global temperature increases to

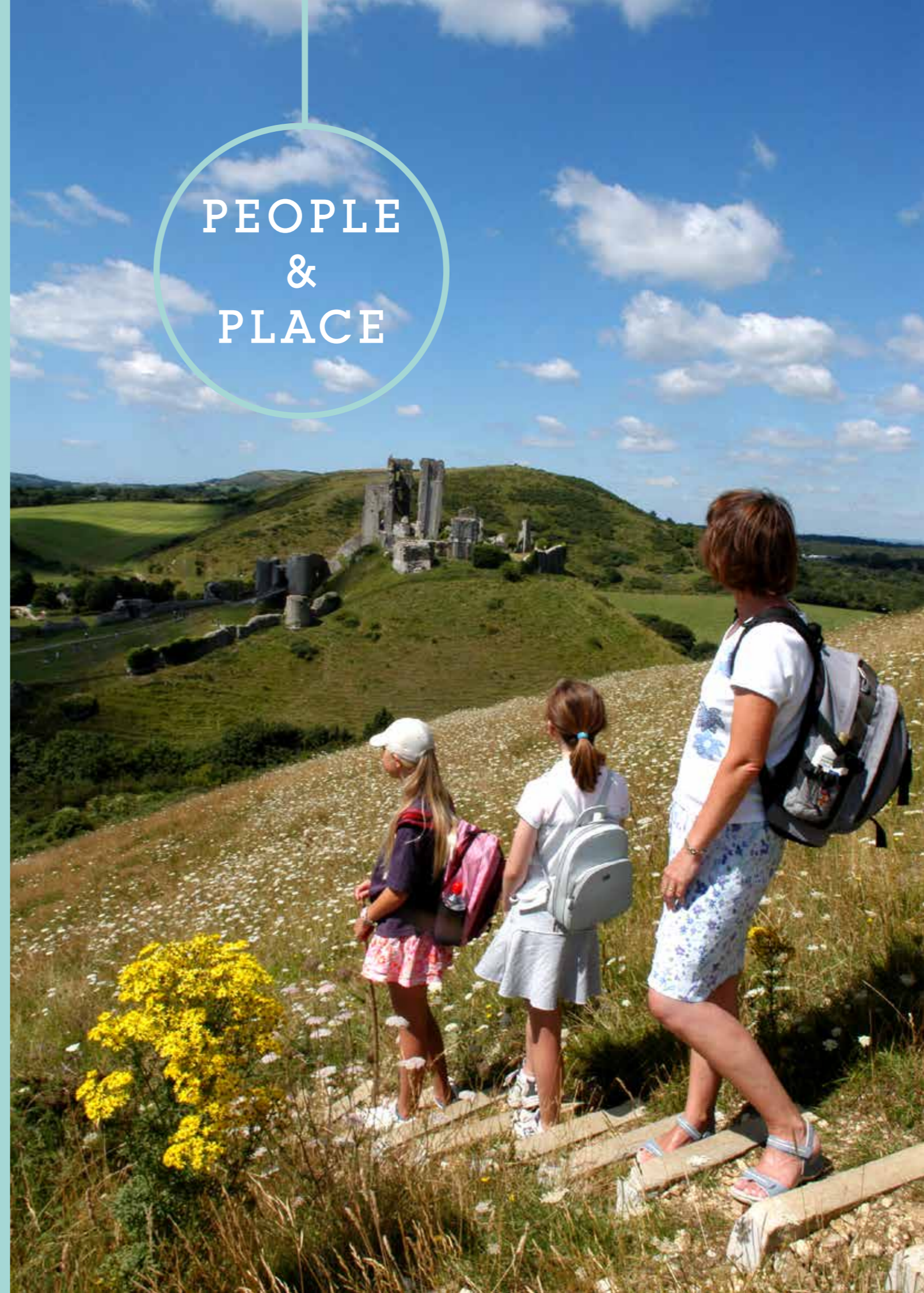
1.5°C to 2°C. Around the world, habitats are changing at an unprecedented rate, sea levels are rising and extreme weather events are more frequent.

While there are some potential local positives around staycationing and new agricultural crops, most local effects are overwhelmingly negative including increased storminess with associated erosion and damage and increased drought/wildfire likelihood.

PEOPLE  
&  
PLACE

# 5. KEY CONCEPTS WITHIN THIS PLAN

The key concepts that underpin our approach to managing the AONB are sustainable development, the ecosystem approach and the landscape approach.



## 5.1 Sustainable development

This Management Plan is underpinned by, and contributes towards delivery of, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

- No poverty
- Zero hunger
- Good health and wellbeing
- Quality education
- Gender equality
- Clean water and sanitation
- Affordable and clean energy
- Decent work and economic growth
- Resilient infrastructure; sustainable and inclusive industrialisation; innovation
- Reduced inequalities
- Sustainable cities and communities
- Responsible consumption and production
- Climate action
- Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources
- Life on land
- Peace justice and strong institutions
- Partnerships for the goals

## 5.2 Natural Capital & the ecosystem approach

By bringing together three core principles of the ecosystem approach, we can ensure that the threats to the Dorset AONB are adapted to or mitigated against and that the benefits we derive from the natural environment (ecosystem services) are safeguarded and enhanced. The principles are:

- The natural systems that operate within the AONB are complex and dynamic, and their healthy functioning should not be taken for granted.
- Those that live, work and visit the AONB benefit from services provided by the natural environment. These services underpin social and economic wellbeing and have a value – both monetary and non-monetary.
- Those that benefit from the services provided by the AONB and those who are involved in the management of them should play a central role in making decisions about them.

Natural and cultural capital and their relation to natural beauty is more fully discussed in Chapter 8.

Using the Ecosystem Approach means that the Dorset AONB Partnership is helping deliver the aspirations of Biodiversity 2020, the Government's commitment to the delivery of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The mission for Biodiversity 2020 is "to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people".

## 5.3 Landscape approach

The landscape approach and an understanding of landscape character guide the AONB Partnership's work. This fits well with the ecosystems approach as both encourage consideration of the links between various elements of the landscape in their management.

The European Landscape Convention (ELC) promotes the protection, planning and management of landscapes and seascapes and reinforces the approach to landscape character assessment. In line with the convention and the principles of sustainable development, this Management Plan uses an understanding of landscape character to help guide local activity and ensure that planning decisions and management practices conserve and enhance the distinct character and quality of the AONB's landscapes.

### Using landscape as a guide

The ELC applies to all landscapes; it includes open countryside and urban areas, as well as the coastal and marine environment. Landscape character assessment recognises the holistic nature of the landscape, defined as "part of the land, as perceived by local people or visitors, which evolves through time as a result of being acted upon by natural forces and human beings." Landscape character goes beyond landscape and scenic beauty - it is about the interaction of people and place over time, encompassing a suite of perceptual and aesthetic qualities and historical, cultural, ecological and economic aspects.

Conservation and enhancement of the character and quality of the AONB landscape lie at the heart of all the chapters in this Management Plan. There are four landscape management strategies that can be used:

- **Conserve** - for landscapes in good condition with strong character where the emphasis is on protecting the key characteristics of the area.
- **Enhance** - for landscapes where some features have fallen into decline. Management should aim to reintroduce features, improve their management and remove features that detract from the overall character.
- **Restore** - for landscapes where features have been lost or are in a severe state of decline. Management should aim to repair and re-establish characteristic features.
- **Create** - for landscapes where condition is poor and character weak beyond repair. Management should consider creation of a new landscape.

In taking forward these approaches, AONB management tends to focus on large or 'landscape scale' initiatives rather than small sites. Initiatives also tend to be integrated to include many different interests. decisions and management practices conserve and enhance the distinct character and quality of the AONB's landscapes.



## THE NEXT CHAPTERS

The following 3 chapters take differing but related approaches to describing the landscape assets of the Dorset AONB.

Chapter 6 Statement of Significance describes the area's Special Qualities: landscape elements which make the Dorset AONB particularly special and underpin its natural beauty.

Chapter 7 describes the AONB's landscape and seascape character, based on assessments following a generally standard methodology. This outlines the characteristics of individual sub-compartments of the AONB, more fully described in the AONB Landscape Character Assessment 2018.

Chapter 8 describes what Natural Capital is and how that concept can be applied to the elements of the AONB's landscape.



## 6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

AONBs are designated for their outstanding natural beauty. Natural beauty goes beyond the visual appearance of the landscape, including flora, fauna, geological and physiographical features, manmade, historic and cultural associations and our sensory perceptions of it. The combination of these factors in each area gives a unique sense of place and helps underpin our quality of life.

The natural beauty of this AONB is described in a suite of special qualities that together make it unique and outstanding, underpinning its designation as a nationally important protected landscape. These are the elements we need to conserve and enhance for the future and they should be considered in all decisions affecting the AONB. This Statement of Significance is based on the 1993 Assessment of the Dorset AONB produced by the Countryside Commission.

The special qualities of the Dorset AONB are...



NATURAL  
BEAUTY

## 6.1

# Contrast and diversity – a microcosm of England’s finest landscapes...

The AONB is much more than one fine landscape – it is a collection of fine landscapes, each with its own characteristics and sense of place, including different landforms, soils and wildlife habitats. Contrasting and complex geology gives rise to the chalk downland, limestone country, greensand ridges and clay vales that occur in the Dorset AONB; they are often closely juxtaposed to create striking sequences of beautiful countryside that are unique in Britain. The transitions between the component landscapes of the mosaic are often particularly attractive, with strong contrasts in some areas and a gentle transition of character in others.

The ridge tops of and chalk escarpments add an extra dimension to the Dorset AONB landscape by providing stark contrasts of landform that serve to increase and emphasise its diversity. These areas of higher ground also allow the observer uninterrupted panoramic views to appreciate the complex pattern and textures of the surrounding landscapes.

Nowhere is the contrast and diversity of this rich assemblage of landscapes more graphically illustrated than in the Isle of Purbeck. Here, many of the characteristic landscapes of the Dorset AONB are represented on a miniature scale to create scenery of spectacular beauty and contrasts, which mirrors that of the whole AONB.

Within this overall context, there are numerous individual landmarks, such as hilltop earthworks, monuments and tree clumps that help to contribute an individuality and sense of place at a local scale.

In addition to its outstanding scenic qualities, the AONB retains a sense of tranquillity and remoteness that is an integral part of these landscapes. It retains dark night skies and an undeveloped rural character. The AONB’s Landscape Character Assessment, ‘Conserving Character’, adds further understanding of the contrast and diversity of the AONB landscapes and their management requirements.



## 6.1.1

### Landscape character

The area’s diverse landform and striking changes in topography are dictated by the AONB’s varied geology, upon which subsequent erosion has occurred. This ‘land-shape’ has then been inhabited, built upon and in some places modified by several thousand years of population.

### Landscape and natural beauty

Landscape is a framework which encompasses geological, hydrological, biological, anthropological and perceptual qualities. The Dorset AONB’s Landscape Character Assessment describes these features and qualities in more detail, by subdividing the area into character types and character areas.

Running throughout each character area are qualities that make the AONB inspiring and special, such as the sense of tranquillity and remoteness and sweeping views across diverse landscapes. The variety of landscape types found within the area is a defining feature of the AONB underpinned by diverse geology, with dramatic changes from high chalk and greensand ridges to low undulating vales or open heaths. It is often the transition from one landscape type to another that creates drama and scenic quality. At the local level, individual landmark features and boundaries add to character.

Under this aspect of the AONB’s special qualities and natural beauty, however, the main consideration is for the characteristics and qualities of the landscape, such as the undeveloped rural character, tranquillity and remoteness, dark night skies and panoramic views. Through the main modes of interaction with the place, this plan considers some of the broad issues that can affect them. Landscape character and condition are more fully described in Chapter 7.

## Wildlife of national and international significance...

The contrast and diversity of the AONB is reflected in its wildlife. The range of habitats and associated species is unusually rich, including 83% of all British mammal species, 48% of bird species and 70% of butterfly species. The UK's richest grid squares for vascular plants and mammals are both found in the Dorset AONB. The AONB's southern location and relatively warm climate make it hospitable to many species unable to survive further north and home to species new to Britain, naturally expanding their ranges with the changing climate. The AONB includes many areas of international significance, including Poole Harbour and the Fleet which are key sites for breeding and overwintering birds, lowland heath areas in the east, calcareous grasslands in the Cerne and Sydling Valleys and Purbeck Coast, ancient woodlands at Bracketts Coppice and the West Dorset alder woods, and important cliff and maritime habitats along significant sections of the coast. Two marine SACs are adjacent to significant lengths of the AONB's coastline; there are two candidate marine SPAs and three Marine Conservation zones adjacent to the AONB boundary. Further coastal and marine areas are proposed for protection.

Many other areas are important at the national level and are supported by a large number of locally significant sites.

The quality of the wider AONB landscape offers high potential to rebuild extensive mosaics of wildlife habitat and to improve the linkages between them.

### 6.2.1

#### Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants, and the natural systems that support them.

Biodiversity matters because it supports the vital services we get from the natural environment. It contributes to our economy, our health and wellbeing and it enriches our lives. Dorset has an exceptional wealth of biodiversity and this plan addresses the issues and opportunities for the species, habitats and natural systems in the Dorset AONB. There has been a long history of partnership working to deliver biodiversity conservation in the county, and this plan seeks to complement this.



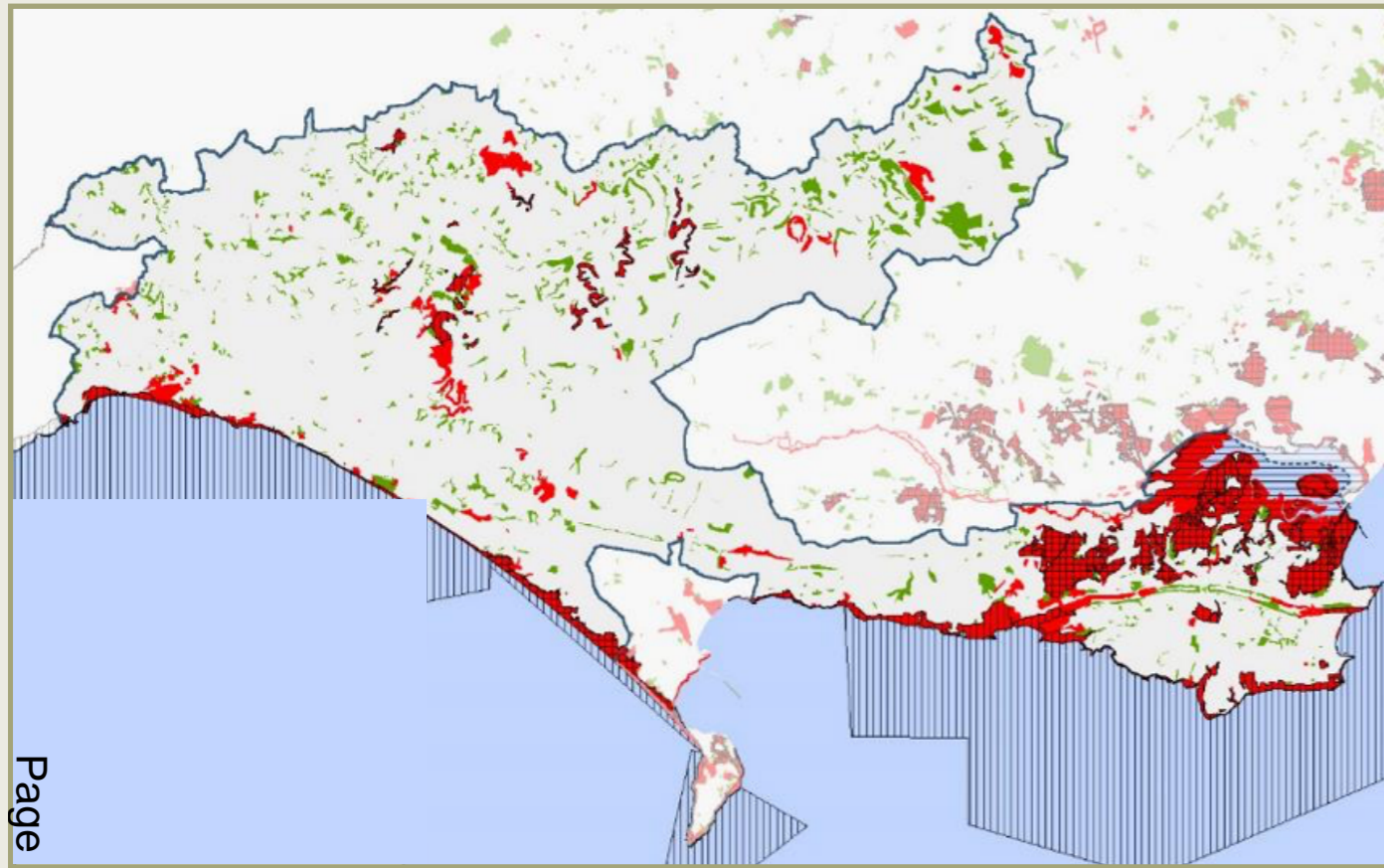
#### Biodiversity and natural beauty

Biodiversity is a fundamental element of natural beauty. The AONB's wealth of wildlife, from the common and widespread to the globally rare, is one of the outstanding qualities that underpin its designation. The biodiversity of the AONB is shaped by the underlying geology and its influence on soils and hydrology. It is also influenced by the social, cultural and economic activities of past and present land use, which biodiversity supports by providing resources such as food, timber, clean water and crop pollination amongst others. Biodiversity also provides us with opportunities for recreation, relaxation and inspiration and a range of associated tourism opportunities.

Dorset is particularly rich in some habitats and species. For example, lowland heathland and the characteristic species associated with it form a recognisable landscape across southern England, but in Dorset there is a concentration of species such as sand lizards and smooth snakes that do not occur in such numbers anywhere else in the country. The same could be said of the coastal habitats of Poole Harbour and the Fleet within the boundary and the marine SACs on its southern boundary. Since 1945, the landscape has changed markedly in response to changes in economic, agricultural and forestry policies. For example, some of our most cherished wildlife areas have become degraded over time through habitat loss and fragmentation associated with agricultural intensification and increasing development pressures. Current and future pressures and competing land uses will continue to have impacts, including agricultural policy, climate change, invasive species (new pests and diseases).

A step-change in our approach to nature conservation is required to ensure that natural systems are repaired and rebuilt, creating a more resilient natural environment for the benefit of wildlife and ourselves. "Biodiversity 2020", Defra's strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services, will guide this step change, in conjunction with local data on functioning ecological networks and habitat restoration opportunities.

## Nature conservation designations



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### Key

-  AONB boundary
-  Special Protections Areas (SPA)
-  Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
-  Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)

## Description of the resource

The Dorset AONB encompasses a breadth of biodiversity – chalk and limestone grassland which is found across the AONB and along the coast; lowland heathland concentrated in the eastern part of the AONB; ancient meadows and woodlands scattered throughout; the coastal habitats of Poole Harbour and the Fleet; and maritime coast and cliff along much of the Jurassic Coast. This is reflected through a number of nature conservation designations:

- Three Ramsar Sites; wetlands of global importance: Chesil Beach and the Fleet, Poole Harbour and Dorset Heaths.
- Nine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) of international importance for habitats and species: Cerne and Sydling Downs; West Dorset Alder Woods; Brackett's Coppice; Chesil and the Fleet; Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes; Dorset Heaths; Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs; St. Aldhelm's Head to Durlston Head; and Sidmouth to West Bay.
- Three Special Protection Areas (SPAs) of international importance for birds: Poole Harbour; Dorset Heathlands; and Chesil and the Fleet. Together, SACs and SPAs form a network of 'Natura 2000' sites - European sites of the highest value for rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats and species.
- Nine National Nature Reserves (NNRs) lie wholly within the AONB: Stoborough Heath, Hartland Moor, Studland and Godlingstone Heath, Arne Reedbeds, Hambledon Hill, Hog Cliff, Horn Park Quarry, Durlston and the Valley of the Stones.
- 67 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), of national importance for their wildlife and/or geological interest, which cover 7% of the AONB.

- 646 Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs) covering nearly 5.5% of the AONB.
- 1,581 hectares of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland.
- Five Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). These are for people and wildlife, their designation reflecting the special value of wildlife and greenspaces to a local community: Jellyfields, Walditch, Bothenhampton Nature Reserve, Hilfield Hill and Woolland Hill.

The AONB includes 25 of the 65 England Priority Terrestrial and Maritime Habitats, along with 281 of the 639 Priority Species, including early gentian, southern damselfly, Bechstein's bat, marsh fritillary, sand lizard and nightjar. The majority of the land-based habitats are under agricultural or forestry management and in private ownership.

Much of the biodiversity is linked to a range of habitats across the AONB, which, whilst previously much more extensive, remain as a core of high biodiversity and the basis of a functioning ecological network. Strengthening the network will enable the landscape to tolerate environmental change and will also greatly contribute to the aesthetic quality. Hedges, stone walls, streams, ancient trees, copses, rough grassland, scrub, small quarries, ponds, fallow fields and uncultivated margins; all these are valuable assets to the AONB's biodiversity, landscape character and cultural heritage.

## 6.3

### A living textbook and historical record of rural England...

The Dorset AONB boasts an unrivalled expression of the interaction of geology, human influence and natural processes in the landscape.

In particular, the Dorset AONB has an exceptional undeveloped coastline, renowned for its spectacular scenery, geological and ecological interest and unique coastal features including Chesil Beach and the Fleet Lagoon, Lulworth Cove and the Fossil Forest, Durdle Door and Old Harry Rocks. The unique sequential nature of the rock formations along the Dorset and East Devon's Jurassic Coast tells the story of 185 million years of earth history. The significance and value of this to our understanding of evolution is reflected in the designation of the coast as a World Heritage Site. The dynamic nature of the coast means that it is constantly changing and new geological discoveries are constantly being made, emphasising the importance of natural coastal processes.

With relatively little large-scale development, the Dorset AONB retains a strong sense of continuity with the past, supporting a rich historic and built heritage. This is expressed throughout the landscape, as generations have successively shaped the area. It can be seen in field and settlement patterns and their associated hedges, banks and stone walls, the wealth of listed historic buildings and the multitude of archaeological sites and features. The South Dorset Ridgeway is a fine example of this, with a concentration of prehistoric barrows and henges to rival that at Stonehenge and Avebury giving a focus to this ancient landscape.

Industrial activity has also left its mark. Examples of our industrial heritage include traditional stone quarrying in Purbeck, and the thousand-year-old rope industry around Bridport which have shaped the landscape, local architecture and town design.



### 6.3.1 Geodiversity

Geodiversity can be defined as the variety of geological processes that make and move those landscapes, rocks, minerals, fossils and soils which provide the framework for life on Earth.

The geology of the Dorset AONB spans some 200 million years of Earth history. Much of West Dorset is formed from Jurassic sediments that record changing marine conditions and contain an exceptional fossil record. Cretaceous chalk and sands lie across the central swathe of the AONB covering the Jurassic beds. In the east more recent deposits from the Cenozoic – sands, gravels and clays – overlie the Cretaceous rocks, giving rise to important heathland habitats. In addition to the geology and fossils, the Dorset coast is renowned for its geomorphology and active erosion processes. Key sites and features include Chesil Beach, one of the world’s finest barrier beaches; West Dorset’s coastal landslides; Horn Park Quarry National Nature Reserve; the fossil forest and dinosaur footprints in Purbeck and the Weymouth anticline and the Purbeck monocline structures.

Many of the rocks and mineral resources are important for the extraction industries; the variety of building stones found in the AONB is a major contributor to the local distinctiveness of our settlements.

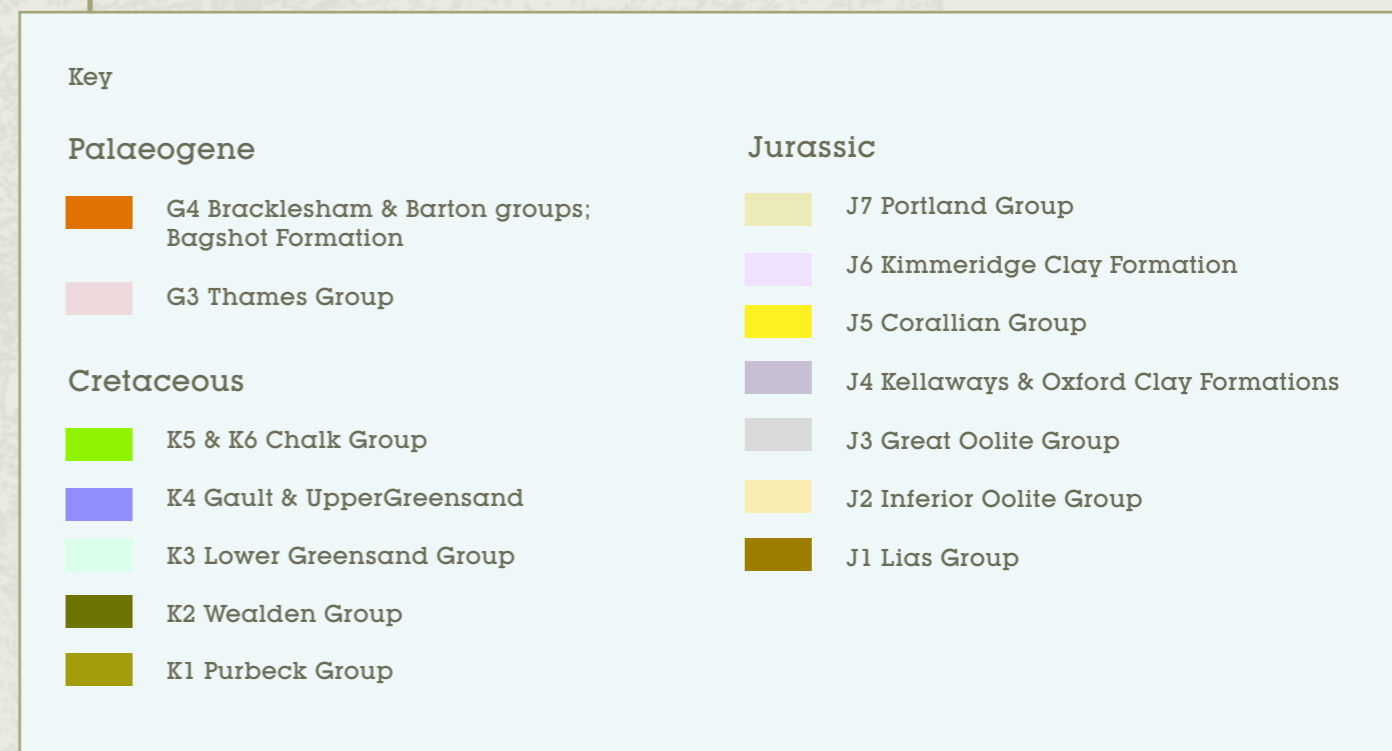
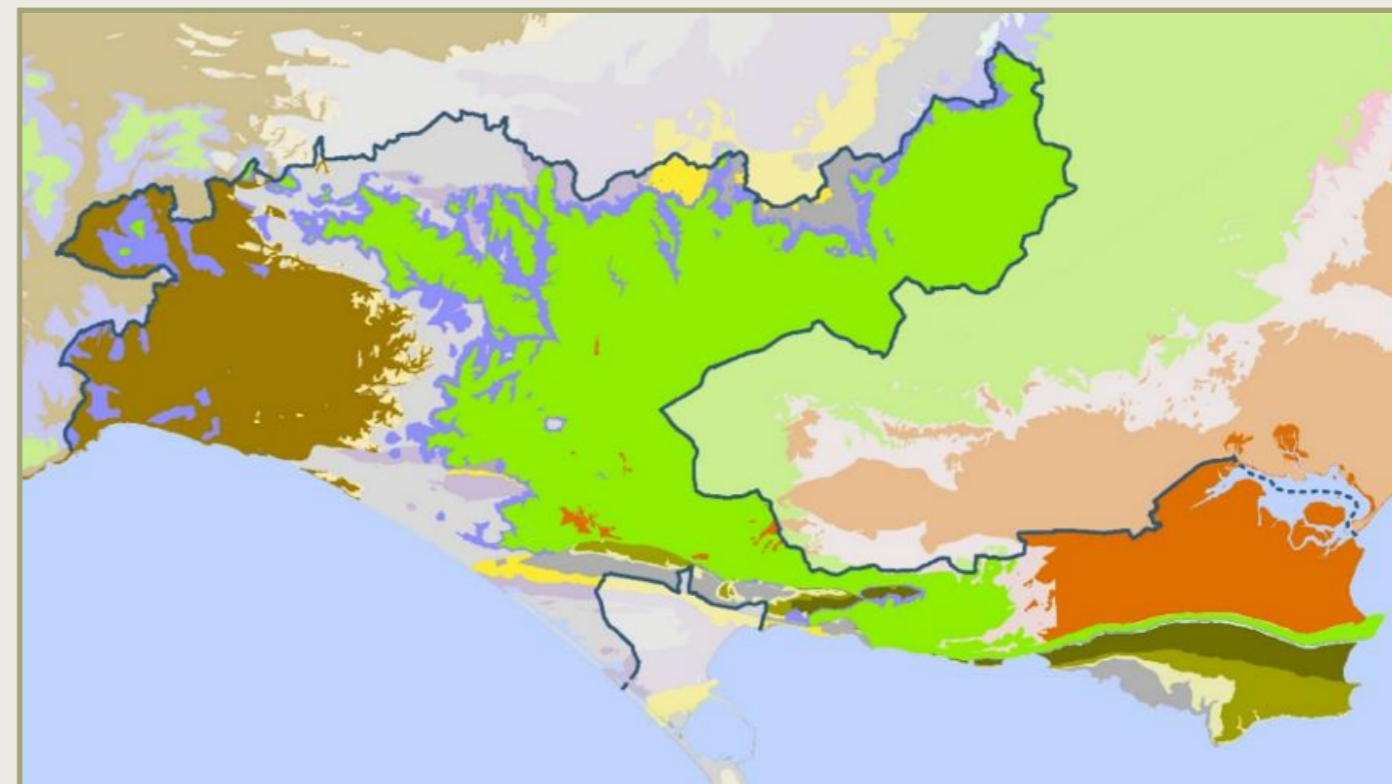
### Geodiversity and natural beauty

Geodiversity underpins the natural beauty for which the AONB is designated. The diverse underlying geology and geological/geomorphological (i.e. landform-related) processes are intrinsic to ecosystem service delivery, influencing soils and hydrology, wildlife habitats, landform, land use and architecture

that make up the character and distinctiveness of the landscape. Dorset has an extremely rich geodiversity, most notably recognised through the designation of the coast as part of England’s first natural World Heritage Site (WHS). The Dorset and East Devon Coast WHS was selected for its unique exposure of a sequential record through Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods; this diversity is reflected throughout the Dorset AONB. The network of inland geological and geomorphological sites represents a valuable but less well-known scientific record of the geology and environmental history of the area and often link to the local stone industry.

Geodiversity contributes to the cultural life of the AONB: the Jurassic Coast is a key part of the AONB’s ‘living textbook’ special quality, and the qualities of stone for building have long influenced the area’s villages, towns and field boundaries.

### Solid Geology in the Dorset AONB



## 6.3.2 Coast & Sea

The AONB includes approximately 120 miles of coastline, much of which is covered by nature conservation designations. Key marine habitats in the AONB are at Chesil Beach and the Fleet, which is the UK's largest tidal lagoon and a marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC); Poole Harbour, the UK's largest lowland natural harbour and a Special Protection Area (SPA) for birds; Kimmeridge where there is a voluntary marine reserve and the subtidal rocky reefs adjacent to the coast between Swanage and Portland which have been designated as Marine SACs. Many important wildlife species depend on both marine and terrestrial habitats for their survival, emphasising the need for integrated management.

Being a coastal AONB, Dorset also supports a range of maritime industries and a rich coastal and marine heritage. The main ports along the coast are at Poole and Portland, both just outside the AONB boundary. Fishing harbours and anchorages that support the inshore fishing community are located at Lyme, West Bay, Weymouth, Lulworth, Kimmeridge and Chapman's Pool. Coastal resorts provide a link between land and sea where people live, come to visit and carry out the increasing trend of water-based recreation. The South West Coast Path National Trail (to be succeeded by the England Coast Path) is a significant recreational resource.

The AONB's coastline also has significant marine archaeology (see 6.3.3).

### Coast, sea and natural beauty

There are unique qualities and challenges associated with the coast and marine environments and activities both within and integrally linked to the Dorset AONB. While there is considerable cross over with other special qualities in relation to wildlife, geodiversity, heritage, access and local products, the nature of the AONB's coast merits a specific consideration. The coast and marine environments of the AONB are among its most popular and defining characteristics. Our unique World Heritage Site is globally significant, but also one of the most dynamic and changing parts of the AONB.

Over half of Poole Harbour lies within the AONB boundary and habitats along the coast are particularly special due to the maritime influence. Much of the coastline is within the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site; the AONB designation provides the statutory landscape protection for its setting and presentation. There are also two Heritage Coasts within the AONB – West Dorset and Purbeck. Heritage Coasts are stretches of largely undeveloped coastline of exceptional or very good scenic quality. While not a statutory designation, they are a material consideration in planning terms and are defined with the aim of protecting their special qualities from development and other pressures. Their statutory protection is delivered through the AONB designation where they overlap.



### 6.3.3

## Historic & built environment

The Dorset AONB has an exceptional wealth of heritage, in particular nationally important prehistoric features that reveal the evolution of the landscape and human history during this period. Its transport, settlement patterns and administrative boundaries have Roman and Saxon origins and its villages and hamlets contain fine historic churches and houses. Underpinned by a complex and diverse geology, the AONB contains a wealth of traditional building materials that have helped develop a unique sense of place and time depth to our villages and towns. The settlement patterns are constrained by the surrounding landscape and, along with a range of rural industries such as coppicing and water meadows, have further strengthened the sense of place.

The Dorset AONB boasts some of the finest visible archaeological remains in the country, such as Maiden Castle and the extensive Neolithic / Bronze Age ceremonial landscape of the South Dorset Ridgeway. Significant features span all ages, from the Neolithic to the present day, and are visible in the AONB's landscape; there is even some evidence of earlier human activity. The Dorset AONB has 547 Scheduled Monuments totalling over 1100 ha. Also within the AONB are 18 registered parks and gardens covering over 2400 ha (1 Grade I, 9 Grade II\*), 17 locally important parks and gardens, 82 conservation areas, and nearly 4000 listed buildings (113 Grade I, 2221 Grade II\*).

The Dorset AONB also has one of the highest proportions of listed buildings in the country, many of which are thatched, lending a local distinctiveness to most of its settlements. Offshore, there are 1,727 reported shipwrecks between Lyme Regis and the mouth of Poole Harbour, 270 of which have been located on the

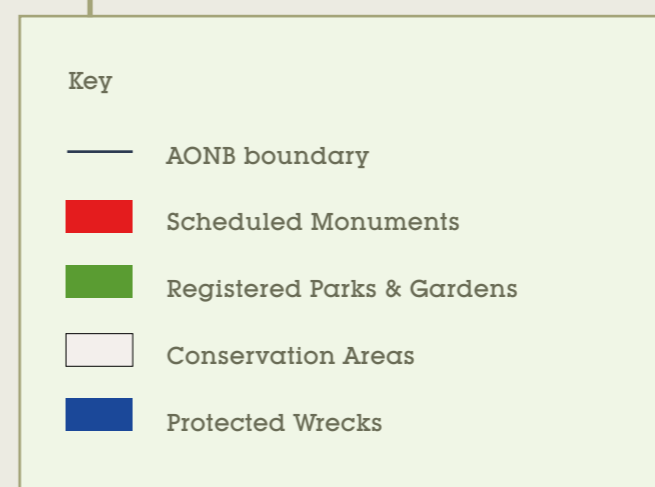
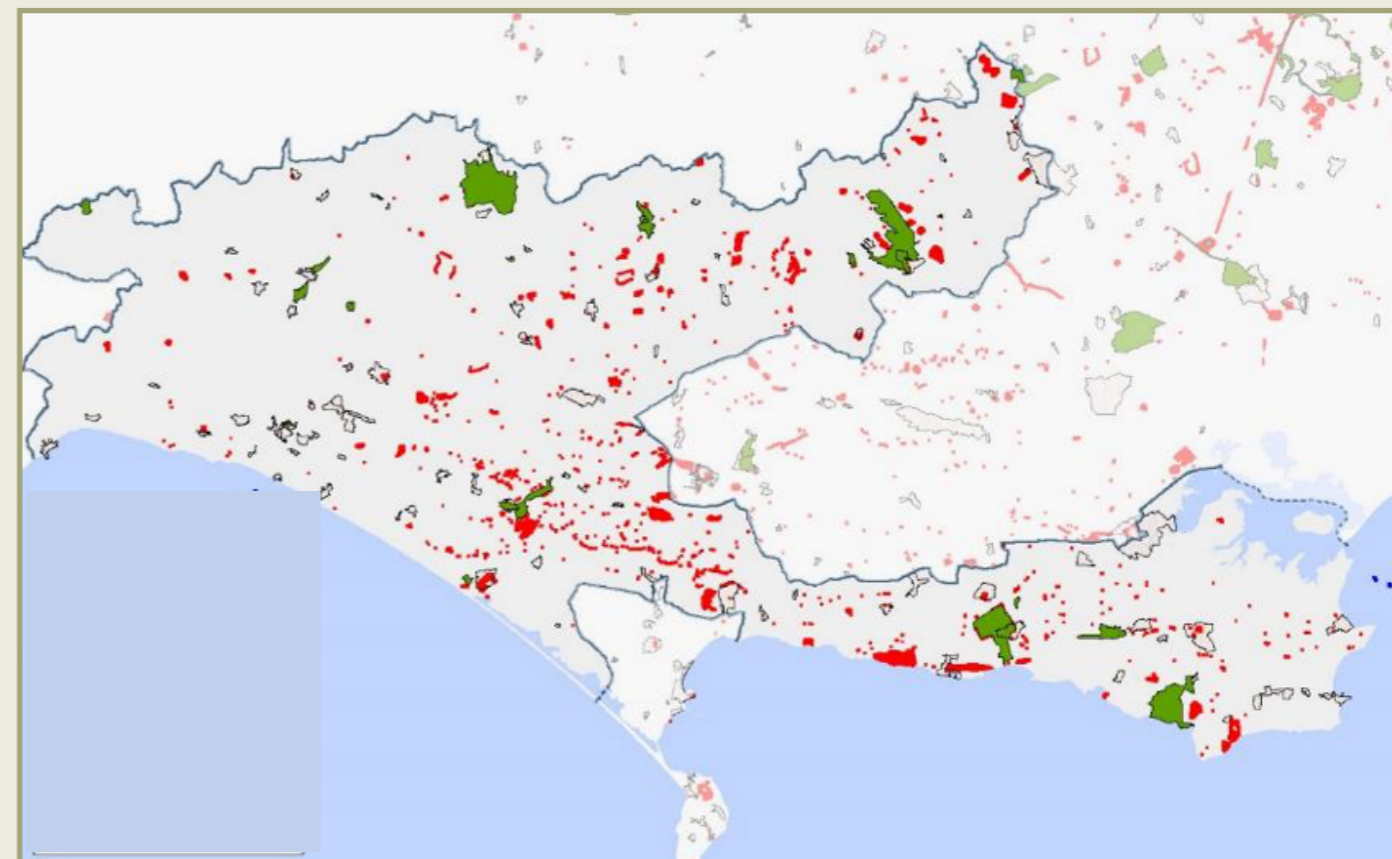
seabed. Of these, three are protected wrecks and there are 7 sites designated under the Protection of Military Remains Act (of only 56 such sites in British waters).

Archaeology is under-recorded in the AONB, both for specific features, such as historic agricultural buildings and rural industries, and geographically, such as the vales in the west of the area. Woodland archaeology is also under-recorded, both in terms of archaeology beneath woodlands which is hard to survey and archaeology relating to past woodland management, such as sawpits and wood banks.

## Historic and built environment and natural beauty

The marks of human occupation are integral components of the 'natural' landscape; a record of how people have used the environment and the resources it provides over time. Alongside giving an insight into the lives of previous occupiers of the landscape, they provide a sense of time depth and contribute to uniqueness in a sense of place.

## Historic and built environment conservation designations





## 6.4

### A rich legacy of cultural associations...

Over the centuries, Dorset's landscapes have inspired poets, authors, scientists and artists, many of whom have left a rich legacy of cultural associations. The best known of these is Thomas Hardy whose wonderfully evocative descriptions bring an extra dimension and depth of understanding to our appreciation of the Dorset landscape. Other literary figures inspired by Dorset's landscapes include William Barnes, Jane Austen, John Fowles and Kenneth Allsop. Turner, Constable and Paul Nash are just a few of the many artists associated with Dorset, while Gustav Holst captured the character of the Dorset heathlands in his work 'Egdon Heath'. Such cultural associations past, present and future, offer a source of inspiration to us all and may help develop new ways of understanding and managing the AONB.

#### 6.4.1

### Cultural landscape

Dorset AONB's landscape quality has inspired numerous renowned visual artists who lived or visited the area in the past. It was in the 19th century with new connections by rail that Dorset began to attract a wealth of artistic talent with JMW Turner and John Constable visiting. Into the 20th century Paul Nash and members of the Bloomsbury group were amongst those producing an abundance of work during this time. There remains a strong body of visual art representing the landscape; the distinctive topography and structure of the landscape unifying very diverse styles of representation as it did with past artists.

There is also a rich heritage of writing inspired by the landscape. Perhaps the best known is the work of Thomas Hardy, who embedded the landscape deeply in his work not only depicting its qualities but also how it shaped the lives of people who lived here. Reverend William Barnes also captured the essence of the Dorset landscape and dialect in his works, as well as the traditions of rural life. Other writers include Jane Austin, Daniel Defoe, John Fowles and Kenneth Allsop.

Musical inspiration can be heard in the work of Gustav Holst in his Egdon Heath work and music was a central part of rural life – Thomas Hardy took part in the West Gallery musical tradition here. Materials from the AONB landscape have made a significant contribution to artistic work around the world. For example, Purbeck stone was crafted into celebrated decorative



work in St Paul's Cathedral and Blenheim Palace by Sir James Thornhill. High profile architectural advances continue at Hooke Park promote contemporary use of natural materials derived from the AONB landscape.

The Dorset landscape continues to attract artists, writers and musicians to visit and live, with over 3% employment in the creative industries in Dorset. The landscape provides inspiration and a backdrop for renowned artists and cultural organisations including PJ Harvey, Cape Farewell, Common Ground and John Makepeace. Over 600 artists open their studios during Dorset Art Weeks with Purbeck Art Weeks and other open studio events also very popular. There are also 7 National Portfolio Organisations funded by the Arts Council in Dorset (Activate, Artsreach, Bridport Art Centre, B-Side, Diverse City, Dorchester Arts and Walford Mill) which form a backbone for visual art and performance activity and strive to provide a rich cultural programme for people who live, work and visit the AONB. They have exemplary experience of delivering high quality engaging arts project in the landscape, and these organisations and artists represent a network for partnership projects between artists, producers and the AONB.

### Cultural landscape and natural beauty

The rich legacy of landscape-inspired work by writers, artists and musicians of the past has been recognised as one of the special qualities of the Dorset AONB. The work created by these nationally and internationally renowned figures not only depict landscapes of the past but help us understand more about how people lived and how both landscape and lives have changed over time.

Artistic responses to landscape also help us interact with and be sensitive towards natural beauty in ways which scientific, reductive approaches cannot. It is essential that this experiential element of landscape is recognised, and access to it is enhanced for the benefits it can bring to people's lives. The creative exploration of place, through music, painting, written and spoken word, and dance opens up the experience of landscape beyond the world of science and policy and helps us better understand our place in the world. With better understanding comes better choices and better stewardship; the basis of a more sustainable future.

## 7. LANDSCAPE & SEASCAPE CHARACTER

The AONB's special landscapes and seascapes are described by character areas, each with a coherent sense of place. Understanding the landscape as a set of individual areas helps tailor action and gives focus to areas of need.



SENSE OF  
PLACE

## 7.1 National Character Areas

At a national level, England is divided into 159 National Character Areas (NCAs), large areas that share similar landscape characteristics. The Dorset AONB covers NCAs 136 South Purbeck and 139 Marshwood and Powerstock Vales in their entirety, and a significant area of 134 Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase and 138 Weymouth Lowlands. Towards the boundary, the designation overlaps smaller areas of 133 Blackmoor Vale and the Vale of Wardour, 135 Dorset Heaths, 140 Yeovil Scarplands and 147 Blackdowns.

Natural England has authored the NCA profiles; each has a description of the natural and cultural features that shape the landscape and outline the ecosystem services it provides and the key drivers for change. These inform Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEOs) designed to achieve sustainable growth and a more secure environmental future. The NCA profiles can be viewed at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

## Page 2 Dorset AONB Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment

A Landscape Character Assessment for the Dorset AONB – Conserving Character – was published in 2008 and revised in 2018 (available at [www.dorsetaonb.org.uk](http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk)). The Dorset Coast Landscape & Seascape Character Assessment was published in September 2010 (also available via the Dorset AONB website).

These documents provide an understanding of:

- The qualities and features that make the landscape/seascape special
- How these features combine in different ways in different places to give each area its own unique character
- The strength and condition of these features and how they are changing.

In this section we have summarised the key characteristics of the different landscape and seascape types. This provides a spatial framework for AONB management.



The Dorset AONB landscape character assessment identifies 14 landscape types, such as open chalk downland, clay vales, limestone hills and rolling wooded pasture. These landscape types share common combinations of geology, topography, vegetation and human influence but are not specific to a particular location. The landscape character assessment breaks these landscape types into individual and unique geographical areas called landscape character areas, such as the Upper Piddle Valley or Marshwood Vale. The assessment identifies 35 landscape character areas in the AONB.

The character and quality of the land and sea interface is an important aspect of the AONB, however the coastline is constantly changing, subject to powerful coastal and hydrological processes. The Dorset Coast Landscape and Seascape Assessment is a valuable tool, promoting an integrated approach to decision making in this transitional area. The assessment reflects the terrestrial landscape character types identified in Conserving Character, plus it identifies 11 seascape character types of coast and sea.

It is important to identify and recognise the landscape and seascape character types/areas that lie outside the AONB boundary as they contribute to the setting of the AONB.

# Landscape character types

The following descriptions give a summary of the character or the key characteristics of the landscape and the seascape types that are within or contiguous with the AONB boundary as they contribute to the setting of the AONB.

## Map of Landscape Type

(by colour); individual Landscape Character Areas are labelled



Page 124

### Landscape type

- |  |                         |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|
|  | Chalk Ridge/Escarpment  |  | Open Chalk Downland     |
|  | Chalk Valley & Downland |  | Ridge & Vale            |
|  | Clay Vale               |  | Rolling Wooden Pasture  |
|  | Clay Valley             |  | Shingle Beach           |
|  | Coastal Grassland       |  | Tidal Water             |
|  | Limestone Hills         |  | Undulating River Valley |
|  | Limestone Plateau       |  | Valley Pasture          |
|  | Lowland Heathland       |  | Wooded Hills            |

## Chalk Downland



The open chalk uplands of the Chaldon Downs, Dorchester Downs and South Dorset Downs form significant areas of the AONB. They are the AONB's largest-scale landscapes of simple, rolling open hills and dry valleys with large agricultural estates mainly under arable production. Partly circled by a narrow face of steep escarpments, the open uplands provide the setting for a series of intimate chalk river valleys. There are strong cultural associations with Thomas Hardy.

generally have a settled rural character with coastal influences. A patchwork of rolling pastures and scattered woodlands have been shaped by centuries of woodland clearance and agricultural improvement. Small farmsteads and nucleated villages with landmark churches are dotted throughout the landscape.

## Lowland Heathland



The internationally important lowland heathland landscape of the South Purbeck Heaths, similar to many other heathland landscapes around the Poole Basin, is a complex and diverse mosaic of open dry and wet heath and wooded scrubby heath.

A range of land uses affect condition, with the fragile heaths under constant pressures. Remaining heathland patches, many of which are internationally important habitats, are fragmented by significant conifer plantations, with a variety of land uses including mineral extraction and planned farms.

## Chalk Ridge / Escarpment



The North, West and South Escarpments and the Purbeck Ridge form dramatic backdrops to, and give views of, much of the surrounding AONB. With an undeveloped and open character, this landscape type with its steep sides supports important patches of chalk grasslands and hanging woodlands.

## Valley Pasture



The valley pasture landscape type is found along the Rivers Stour and Frome, formed from alluvial deposits. They have wide, open meandering floodplains that historically support transport routes and market towns around the fringes. A series of wet woodlands, large pastures and water meadows are typical of this landscape type.

## Chalk Valley & Downland



The distinctive, secluded chalk valleys of the AONB drain the surrounding open chalk downlands. Flowing southwards into the larger Stour, Piddle and Frome rivers, each valley has its own unique character and sense of place, with a diversity of important habitats and cultural features. With traces of old water meadows, distinctive church spires, country houses and characteristic settlements of stone, brick and flint, the chalk valleys display a rich rural cultural heritage.

## Clay Valley



The sweeping landscapes of the Kimmeridge Coast, Corfe, and Bride Valleys each have a unique identity. Enclosed by surrounding escarpments and ridges, they

## Limestone Plateau



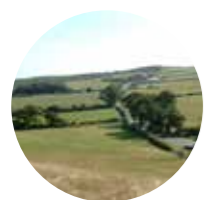
The Purbeck Plateau is the only limestone plateau in Dorset. It has a simple but striking character represented by its exposed and treeless appearance. A long tradition of stone extraction has left its mark, shaping a near continuous network of stone walls, extraction routes and small quarries dotted across the area. Limestone villages and open grasslands add to the character of this distinct landscape type.

## Ridge & Vale



The ridge and vale landscape type covers two character areas to the east and west of Weymouth. Backed by the South Dorset Escarpment, these types are characterised by low lying limestone ridges running east to west, with undulating clay vales of mixed farming and nucleated villages.

## Rolling Wooded Pasture



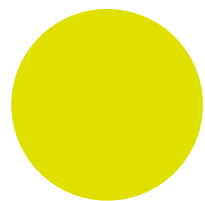
The rolling wooded pasture landscape type is found around the margins of the Dorset Heaths. Although land cover varies, the areas are unified by remnant heathy patches within a well wooded landscape of pastures and dense hedgerows, shaping an intimate and rural landscape. Rempstone has a more agricultural character; towards Lulworth the area has strong parkland character.

## Coastal Grassland



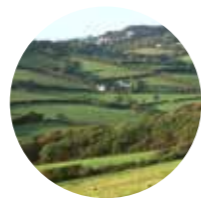
Coastal grasslands as habitat are found along much of the immediate coastline. It becomes a landscape type where the characteristic coarse grasses, exposed by the full force of the coast, are backed by the southern escarpment and divide it from the inland landscapes. A lack of development and the sweeping coastal views underpin a natural appearance.

## Clay Vale



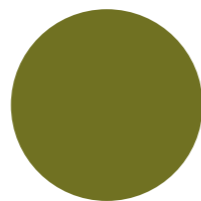
The clay vale landscape type is represented by the intimate and rural Marshwood, Halstock and Blackmore Vales. They have predominantly small pastoral fields with trimmed hedgerows and hedgerow oaks, patterns of medieval settlement and clearance and a long tradition of dairy farming. Scattered farmsteads underpin the largely undeveloped and tranquil character.

## Wooded Hills



Significant areas of the western end of the AONB form the intimate wooded hills landscape type, with several clusters of conical shaped hills formed around the Marshwood Vale. Typically, woodland is found on the valley sides with a network of dense hedgerows, holloways, winding lanes and small clustered settlements dotted throughout the pastoral landscape. The market and coastal towns in and around the area support a long tradition of artistic interpretation of the landscape and local cultural traditions.

## Limestone Hills



Although found elsewhere around the northern part of the county, the only limestone hill landscape within the AONB is found at Melbury Park. Much of the area is dominated by the designed parkland at Melbury with its distinctive, sweeping landscape. Elsewhere, a series of low, rounded limestone hills with dense wooded sides contrast to the broad, clay valleys of pastures, arable fields, winding lanes and springs.

## Undulating River Valley



The undulating river valleys of the Brit and Axe are centred on the floodplains and associated surrounding branching valleys and undulating hills. They have a diverse character ranging from open countryside to market towns and villages dotted along the upper terraces. Characteristic features include damp pastures, linear wet woodlands along the valley floor with small broadleaved woodlands dotted around the surrounding hills.



## Landscape condition

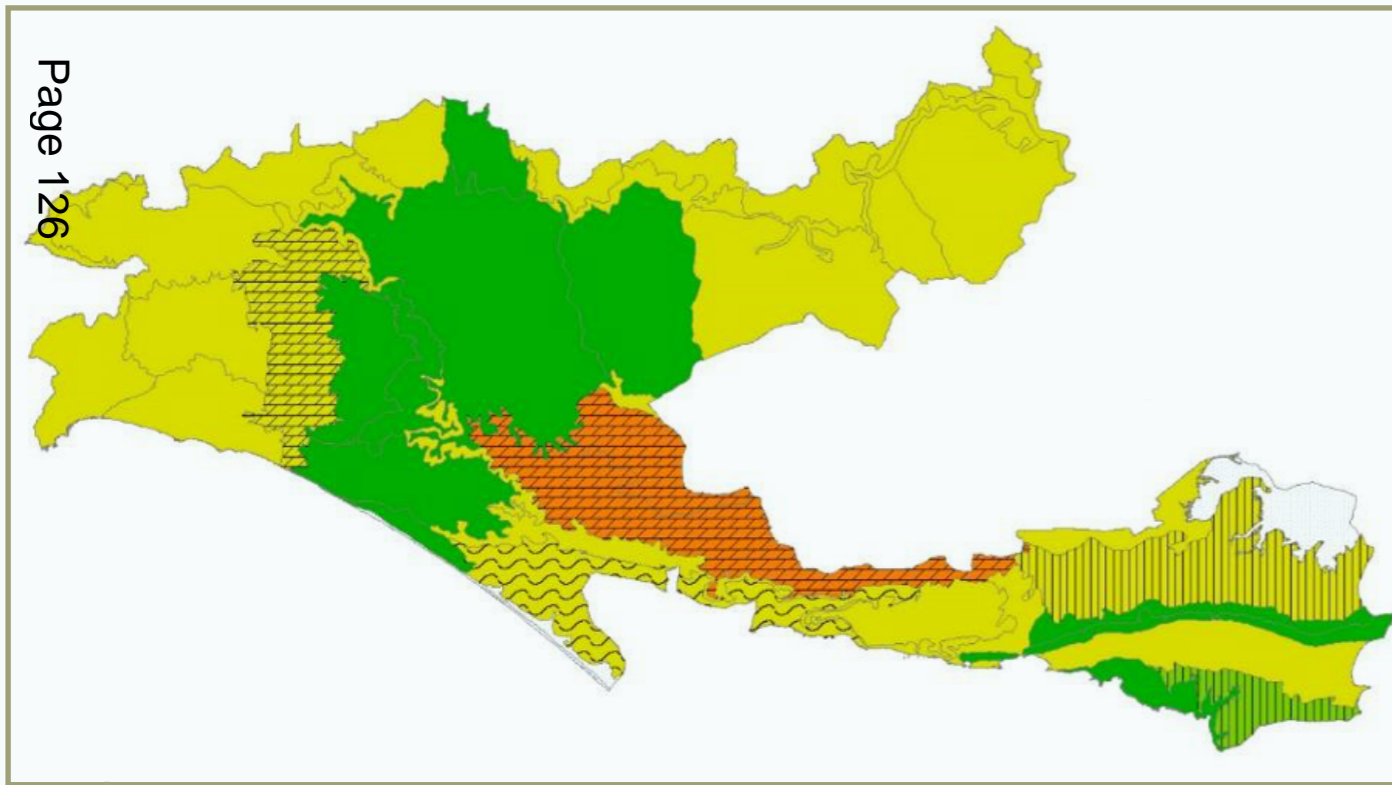
Each landscape character area has been assessed in 2018 for its condition and the direction of travel. This assessment helps to prioritise action geographically. More detail can be found in the Dorset AONB Landscape Character Assessment.

Application of the Management and Planning Guidelines for each character type in the Landscape Character Area will help address character weaknesses and reverse declining quality. These are particularly supported by the Dorset AONB Partnership through the following activity:

Two Ridge & Vale and two Open Chalk Downland landscape character areas showing declining quality are to see improvement through the National Grid's priorities for investment from National Grid's project to put underground 8km of high voltage transmission lines. They are also candidates for investment from the National Grid's related Landscape Enhancement Fund, aimed at improving landscape character around transmission lines that are to remain.

The declining Brit Valley character area and the neighbouring Marshwood Vale are where the AONB Partnership is developing a new landscape-scale multi-objective conservation project. This project requires new external funds.

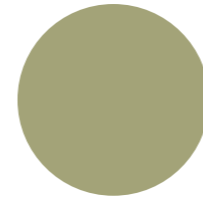
### Map of Landscape Condition



Key	
Landscape condition	Direction of change
Good	Improving
Moderate-good	Stable
Moderate	Stable-declining
Moderate-weak	Declining

## Transition to the sea: character types

### Sandy Beaches



These predominantly sandy beaches are generally not associated with extensive sand dune systems, except at Studland. They are

important recreational beaches, have warm sea temperatures and are important for marine and coastal biodiversity. Coastal defences are present on some beaches.

### Shingle Beaches and Spits



Chesil Beach is an impressive example of this type due to its height and extent and is a unique feature on the Dorset coast.

These areas have large, often raised shingle beaches and spits. Dominated by shingle, the grain size varies from very fine to large shingle and sometimes mixed with sand. They are often important for protection of cliff bases.

### Slumped Cliffs



These are softer rock cliffs, susceptible to erosion and landslips although may be stable for long periods. The softer substrate provides habitat for

colonisation of cliffs with vegetation over time. Beaches, usually shingle, protect cliff bases. Significant fossils are often present and they are an important cliff type within the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site.

### Hard Rock Cliffs



These hard cliffs are variously made of sandstone, chalk or limestone with vertical or near vertical faces and ledges. They are often dramatic,

with pinnacles and pillars, and are often highly visible from long distances - conversely, they

also provide significant panoramic viewpoints. They are generally un-vegetated with ledges important for nesting seabirds. While still mobile, in comparison to the slumped cliffs seascape type they are more stable and resistant to erosion. They are also an important cliff type within the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site.

### Intertidal Rock Ledges



These horizontal rock ledges within the intertidal zone include loose rocks and boulders and experience varying levels of inundation depending on tides

and location. They often include important intertidal habitats and are frequently in remote, inaccessible locations.

### Natural Harbour



This is the type for Poole Harbour (the world's largest natural harbour), the majority of which lies within the AONB boundary. With a distinctive mix of tidal mudflats,

marshland, reed bed, open water and shingle bank it has indented and shallow shorelines to the harbour which resemble large lakes. Characterised by a large scale, open, tranquil and generally unspoilt landscape it is of significant conservation value and offers important vistas and views of historic and cultural importance.

### Saline Lagoon



The Fleet is the tidal water impounded by Chesil Bank; open to the sea through Portland Harbour. Described as the finest example of a lagoon

of its type, it includes a distinctive mix of tidal mudflats, marshland, reed bed, open water and shingle bank, has an indented and shallow shoreline and is of a large scale: open, tranquil and generally unspoilt. As with Poole Harbour, it is internationally important for wildlife and has important vistas and views of historic and cultural importance particularly related to Abbotsbury and the ancient Swannery.

## 8. NATURAL CAPITAL

The natural capital approach helps us understand how nature and natural systems support human health and wellbeing.



LIFE  
SUPPORT

## 8.1

# Why this is relevant to the Dorset AONB

Natural capital and the elements of natural beauty have a natural overlap: largely they are ways of categorising the landscape and some of the benefits we derive from it.

Understanding natural capital underlines the AONB commitment to delivering the Government's 'Biodiversity 2020 A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services'. This identifies a series of 'desired outcomes' including that "by 2020, at least 17% of land and inland water, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, [will be] conserved through effective, integrated and joined up approaches to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services including through management of our existing systems of protected areas and the establishment of nature improvement areas."

## 8.2 Definitions

Many of the elements which make up the natural beauty of the Dorset AONB can be described in terms of natural and cultural capital. Natural capital refers to both the living (e.g. fish stocks, forests) and non-living (e.g. minerals, energy resources) aspects of nature which produce value to people, both directly and indirectly. It is this capital that underpins all other capital in our economy and society, including cultural capital which is the historic environment and cultural landscape (as described in chapter 6). Cultural capital is increasingly being seen as a 'missing element' of a purely 'natural' approach to this way of categorising and defining the environment.

Natural and cultural assets are the actual stock: living and non-living parts. From these assets we derive a flow of benefits known as ecosystem services. Essentially, natural capital is about nature's assets, while ecosystem services relate to the goods and services derived from those assets.

The landscape of the Dorset AONB provides a lot to those that live, work and visit here, from the quantifiable benefits of fresh food and clean water to those that are harder to define such as mental health benefits from contact with the natural environment. These benefits can be defined



as 'ecosystem services', all critical to maintaining human health and wellbeing. They are categorised into four:

- Provisioning services: the products we gain and use from the AONB, such as food, energy, and water.
- Regulating services: a well-functioning landscape helps purify air and water, alleviate flooding, and pollination.
- Cultural services: non-material benefits derived from interaction with the AONB, such as inspiration, education and spiritual connection.
- Supporting services: the foundations for all other services – primary production, the formation of soil, nutrient cycling and water cycling.

Some ecosystem services have related economic markets, some do not. Those that don't can be considered public goods (see 8.4).

## 8.3 Natural capital and valuation

Using the natural capital concept's division of assets and flows, a monetary value can be placed on some elements of the natural system. For instance, an experimental Defra pilot study for the Dorset AONB, reporting in 2015, calculated that the AONB's woodlands delivered an annual value of over £26.7 million (2013 prices). Most of this value was calculated as reduced healthcare costs due to woodland-derived air quality benefits (£20.4M). While the accuracy of these figures can be disputed, they help to underline the importance of an ecosystem asset ('stock') to society. It is critical in undertaking any valuation exercise that intrinsic and incalculable value delivered by ecosystem and cultural assets are recognised. A balanced approach to natural beauty and its conservation and enhancement cannot be fully economically valued, so cannot be fairly weighed against developments which would destroy or damage those ecosystem stocks in simple economic terms.

Such valuation is not a reflection of the economic impact of designation, but this is worth consideration. A high-quality landscape (of rich natural and cultural heritage) delivers wide economic benefits. An economic study in 2015 reported that total economic activity (annual output) within the Dorset AONB equates to around £1.65 billion: approximately a third of Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole's economic output. In addition, the AONB's green economy had an output of almost £200 million. The AONB designation and the work of its partnership were also estimated to influence around £70 million annual output.



## 8.4 Public goods

Some ecosystem goods and services that flow from the landscape's natural and cultural assets have a market which rewards the producer: farming and forestry, frequently not high return enterprises, are nonetheless producing goods for a functional marketplace. Likewise, wild fisheries for brown trout on the AONB's chalk streams and rivers have a market: fishing rights and permits are bought and sold; some of that investment is returned to conserving fish stocks.

However, some goods and services do not have a fully functional marketplace. Although niche markets exist for conservation grade meat products (private value), farmers who maintain species-rich grasslands are not rewarded by the market for the external value of that work. This includes the intrinsic value of biodiversity conservation and maintaining the fabric of natural beauty in the landscape. Additionally, they include maintaining populations of pollinating insects which benefit crop production elsewhere and allowing clean water to infiltrate into the underlying aquifer. The former are 'public goods', the latter quasi-public goods. The definition of true public goods is that they are non-excludable (i.e. no-one can be stopped from benefiting from that good) and nonrival (one person's enjoyment does not preclude another's).

Private markets may develop for some of these goods in the future, but while they do not exist public investment should be made to adequately reward the conservation of natural assets for their own sake as well as for their fundamental contribution to human health and wellbeing.

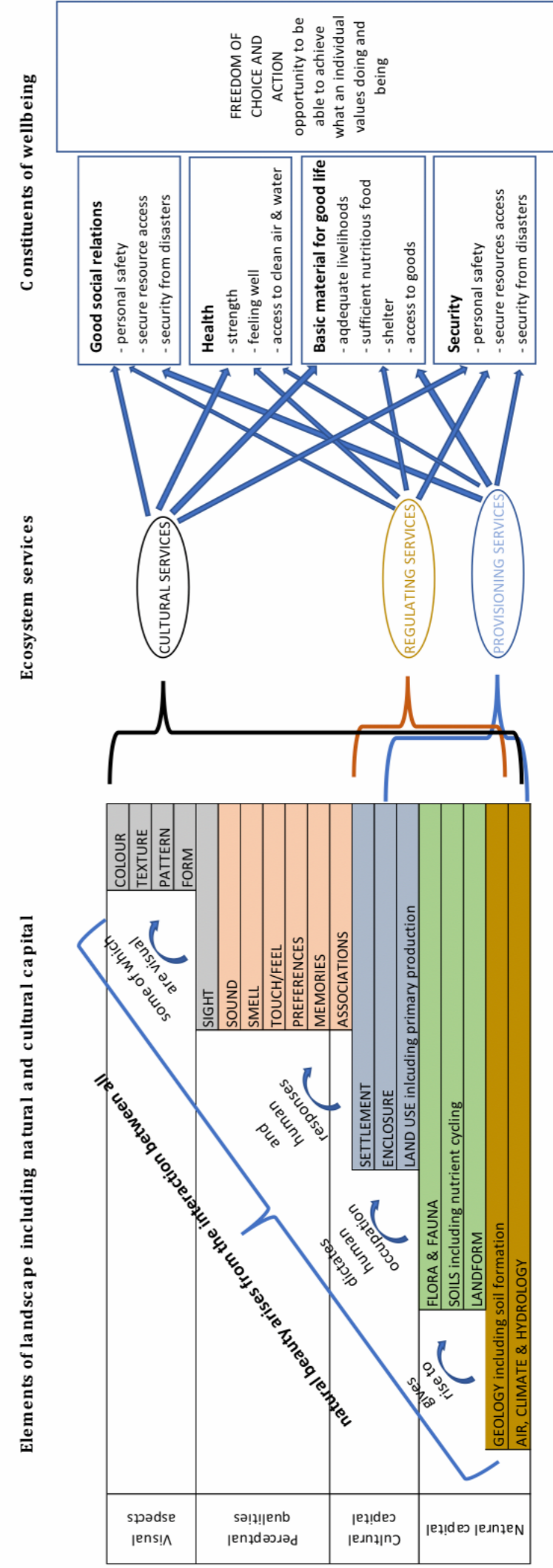
Public goods for the Dorset AONB can be considered to include:

- Conservation of biodiversity.
- Conservation of built heritage.
- Maintenance of characteristic landscape features such as stone walls, hedges and tree clumps (these will vary by landscape character area).
- Providing clean air and water by taking uneconomic land management choices to reduce pollution (e.g. stopping fertiliser applications).
- Maintaining rights of way.
- Providing educational access.

### Elements of landscape including natural and cultural capital

This diagram seeks to show the connection between the natural capital and the elements of landscape that contribute to the AONB's natural beauty, ecosystem services provided by them and their contribution to human health and wellbeing. Natural beauty arises from natural capital, other landscape elements arising from it and our perceptual responses to it. Together these contribute to ecosystem services which support our health and wellbeing.

\*Diagram to be updated for PB meeting on 15th November



## 9. POLICY FRAMEWORK

This Policy Framework sets out our objectives (what we want to achieve) and policies (broadly how we will meet the objectives) for managing the AONB to achieve the Vision. The policy framework concentrates on three key areas of interaction with natural beauty and the AONB's landscape.



POLICIES  
&  
OBJECTIVES

The policy framework concentrates on three key areas of interaction with natural beauty and the AONB's landscape:

### The working landscape

covering farming, forestry, fishing and conservation land management within the AONB.

### Exploring, understanding and engaging

covering access, tourism, recreation and educational use of the AONB.

### Planning for landscape quality

covering forward planning, development management and infrastructure.

In addition, there are objectives and policies which refer to the methods by which the conservation and enhancement of the AONB's natural beauty will be best achieved.

This is called:

### Ways of working



Each chapter includes background information to describe the topic, its significance to the AONB and its purposes, and a description of the current pressures and opportunities that relate to the topic.

There is also a description of the organisations with which the AONB Partnership works on each topic: this list is not exclusive, and all parties interested in delivery are welcomed.

### Policy context

This Management Plan sets out the priorities specifically for the Dorset AONB in relation to the purposes of the AONB designation. Delivery of the plan will need to address several key challenges which have implications for the AONB in coming years, described in Chapter 4.

There are many other plans, strategies and policies that affect the management of the AONB. These are presented in the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the AONB Management Plan and are not repeated within this document.

### Action planning

Annual, rolling action plans are drawn up by the AONB team. These concentrate on delivery directly by the team and its immediate partners and are available on the AONB website. 'Offers' of delivery are welcomed and should be made directly to the AONB team manager.

## 9.1 The working landscape

This chapter is largely focussed on land management, fishing, and the products that come from them. While this is largely farming and forestry for producing agricultural or woodland products, this chapter also encompasses land management for conservation and/or recreational uses. On some sites, these are the primary aims, but even sites managed intensively for food/wood production support a range of wildlife and other ecosystem services.

This chapter also considers fishing as an industry – primarily commercial sea fishing but also freshwater fishing interests; recreational uses are considered in chapter 9.2. The fishing industry holds an important place in the community and identity of coastal parts of the AONB.

All these activities are, or have traditionally been, about providing food, drink, wood and fibre and biomass. There is also important public investment in conservation ‘products’ such as increased farmland bird populations or enhanced grassland flora which can provide an important income stream to support sensitive forms of these activities. These products are considered here, particularly as people’s consumption choices can influence forms and styles of production.

The AONB is largely a farmed landscape with farming occupying 77% and forestry 11% (unchanged since 2013). The number of land holdings in the AONB is 1,057 (up from 984 in 2013) and the number of registered fishing boats operating from ports within and adjacent to the AONB is 83 (down from 125 in 2013).

There are many businesses which operate in the AONB which are beneficial for its economy, particularly the green economy. There are relevant policies throughout this plan which should encourage those enterprises.

### 9.1.1 Significance

Natural beauty and the AONB’s special qualities:

#### Landscape & landform

Many of the landscape features of today are the result of land management practices over the last 8,000 years, including the extent and type of woodlands and hedgerows, the presence of grasslands, heathlands, downlands and arable land. The ongoing management and existence of those features most frequently depends on viable land management businesses. In 2017 **48%** of the AONB was covered by environmental stewardship and **58%** of woodlands were managed.

#### Wildlife

Relatively continuous land management practices for hundreds, even thousands of years, has created the AONB’s main valued terrestrial habitats. Agricultural intensification (and in some cases, abandonment) over the last century has caused the loss or shrinkage of these. There is a significant area of biodiversity designations in **9 Special Areas of Conservation** and **3 Special Protection Areas** in the AONB plus two Marine SACs on its boundary. Together with **67 Sites of Special Scientific Interest** and **646 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance**, they form the building blocks of a wildlife-rich landscape.

#### Living Textbook

The AONB’s history of agricultural occupation has left significant marks in the landscape, from ‘Celtic’ field systems to vernacular farm buildings and related structures. Many of the AONB’s villages’ historic buildings also relate to an agricultural background. In 2017, there were: **4,009 listed buildings** (7 at risk); **543 scheduled monuments** (117 at risk); **18 registered parks and gardens**; a World Heritage Site and **9 National Nature Reserves**.

#### Cultural legacy

Over the centuries, Dorset’s landscapes and their management have inspired poets, authors, scientists and artists, many of whom have left a rich legacy of cultural associations. Their output is part of the record of rural life, as well as a collection of emotional and artistic responses to the place. Some of Dorset’s strong current cultural sector have engaged with land management, in some cases raising questions or making provocations about sustainability, the origins of our food and the artistry inherent in managing the land.

## Opportunities

- Delivery of the Government's 25-year plan to improve the environment, including
  - The review of designated landscapes, scheduled for completion in 2019.
  - Delivery of Environmental Land Management Schemes: their design and resourcing are critical to achieving much of the following policy
  - Delivery of a new Sustainable Fisheries Policy
  - Planting new woodlands at appropriate locations that deliver multiple environmental benefits.
  - Natural Flood Management in high-risk catchments to collectively reduce the impacts of flooding events.
  - The proposed Nature Recovery Network
  - New Marine Conservation Zone designations
- Opportunities arising from our exit from the Common Agricultural Policy, particularly the concept of public payments for public goods and the transition from the Basic Payments Scheme to the Environmental Land Management Scheme.
- Expanding forestry and woodland product markets alongside strong markets for organic and/or locally-produced food.
- Effective Catchment Partnerships and farmer clusters, exist; the AONB team leads a delivery pilot in the West Dorset Rivers & Coastal Streams Catchment.
- Beneficial landscape character and quality change could be delivered by measures to reduce nutrient loading in the AONB's watercourses
- Forest Design Plans and the Forestry Commission's Open Habitats Policy are key to heathland restoration in the South Purbeck Heaths.
- Increased recognition of the natural assets and ecosystem services that benefit people in and surrounding the Dorset AONB and the adoption of a Natural Capital approach. This can facilitate the emerging markets for Payments for Ecosystem Services and Nutrient Offsetting to help improve the condition of landscape and the water environment. It could also facilitate habitat management for carbon sequestration, for example.
- Developing focus on air quality, particularly with regard to agricultural emissions of ammonia and nitrogen, alongside an existing focus on water quality and the catchment-based approach.

## Pressures

- Climate Change, will lead to:
  - Shifts in species ranges, with more cold-loving species moving northwards and new species arriving.
  - Reduced species diversity and abundance, with the forecast changes favouring species that can tolerate a range of conditions rather than those that have specialised.
  - Increased pests & diseases, exacerbated by global trade.
  - Changing growing conditions requiring land managers to change what they grow and how they grow it;
  - Sea-level rise, with particular impacts in low-lying areas such as the shores of Poole Harbour.
- Market failure, where global economic forces result in decreased returns for agricultural products may lead to:
  - Inappropriate or lack of management that will favour generic species and habitats, rather than specialists.
  - Land abandonment (which may be harmful to the landscape in some areas)
  - Homogenisation of the landscape as land management practices become more intensive and uniform.
- Adoption of more damaging practices to extract maximum productivity at the expense of natural assets.
- Biodiversity, natural assets and ecosystem services being undervalued in decision making
- Poor succession planning in farming businesses will lead to fewer, larger agri-businesses and reduced opportunities for new entrants
- The phase-out of the Basic Payment Scheme will affect the profitability of many farms, particularly smaller farms. This may lead to land being managed in larger holdings with fewer workers per unit area which limits the ability to engage in standard operations in a timely manner to avoid environmental damage, or in conservation activities.
- Agricultural infrastructure needs (livestock sheds, slurry lagoons, etc.)
- Loss of traditional skills from land management businesses
- Recreation & traffic pressure, from both residents and visitors, is impacting rural road and footpath networks, particularly along the coast.
- Lack of current data and regular monitoring does not allow effective planning.

## Organisations important to delivery

Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Historic England, farmers and landowners and their representatives, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group SW, National Trust, RSPB, Local Authorities, Dorset Food & Drink, Kingston Maurward College

## 9.1.4 Objectives and policies

A1

### MANAGEMENT OF LAND AND SEA CONSERVES & ENHANCES NATURAL HERITAGE, NATURAL ASSETS, ECOSYSTEM FLOWS AND THE SERVICES THEY PROVIDE

The Dorset AONB Partnership will work with agencies, organisations, businesses and individuals to promote and support management activities that conserve & enhance the special qualities and natural assets of the AONB, from which flow the ecosystem services that we all benefit from. This includes the geodiversity that exists within the AONB. Examples include supporting action to mitigate Climate Change and programmes that work with land managers to adopt best practice, such as Environmental Land Management Schemes and Catchment Sensitive Farming. It also includes creation and restoration of local landmarks, such as tree clumps and hedgerows. The Partnership will also support incentives, advice and alternatives which promote the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and its constituent elements, alongside regulation and enforcement that discourages adoption of practices that are harmful to it.

- a. Safeguard existing priority habitats and the species they support
- b. Restore lost or declining habitats and their associated species
- c. Provide targeted, integrated advice and support on best-practice management of the AONBs natural assets, ecosystem flows and the services they provide.
- d. Develop and support measures and activities which conserve and enhance the AONB's natural assets including priority habitats and species, ecosystem flows and the services they provide.
- e. Develop and support measures and activities which connect and expand ecological networks.
- f. Develop and support measures and activities which conserve and enhance the coastal and marine environment, including the creation of Marine Protected Areas at appropriate locations.
- g. Discourage practices which are harmful to the AONB's natural assets and the services they provide.

A2

### MANAGEMENT OF LAND AND SEA CONSERVES & ENHANCES THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

The Dorset AONB Partnership will work with agencies, organisations, businesses and individuals to promote and support management activities that conserve & enhance the various components that make up the historic environment, from the Neolithic through to present day. This will include addressing the Heritage at Risk register, utilising Historic Landscape Characterisation and promoting the Monument Management approach. The

- Partnership will also support advice, alternatives, regulation and enforcement that discourages adoption of practices that are harmful to the historic environment.
- a. Provide targeted, integrated advice and support on best-practice management of the AONB's historic environment.
  - b. Develop and support measures and activities which conserve and enhance the AONB's historic environment.
  - c. Discourage practices which are harmful to the AONBs historic environment.

A3

### MANAGEMENT OF LAND AND SEA SUPPORTS NATURAL PROCESSES AND ALLOWS EVOLUTION WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

The Dorset AONB Partnership will work with agencies, organisations, businesses and individuals to promote and support activities that improve environmental resilience in the face of a changing environment, including climate change adaptation, natural coastal management, water quality improvements and the control of pests and disease.

- a. Ensure environmental resilience and adaptation to change at a landscape scale.
- b. Support coastal management which promotes natural processes.
- c. Discourage practices that do not support natural processes or allow evolution with environmental change.

A4

### SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT AND THE GREEN ECONOMY ARE FOSTERED

To ensure the required knowledge and skills to conserve & enhance the special qualities of the AONB are maintained and its green economy is thriving, the Dorset AONB Partnership will work with training providers and education establishments alongside agencies, organisations, businesses and individuals to ensure that relevant opportunities are created, promoted and supported. Support will be

- for primary producers, those working within the supply chain that deliver sustainably produced goods to market, and those in the area's green economy.
- a. Maintain and develop appropriate skills in sustainable management of land and sea.
  - b. Maintain and develop appropriate skills required for the AONB's green economy
  - c. Promote training in, and use of, natural and historic environment conservation skills to protect the special qualities of the AONB.

A5

### MARKETS FOR SUSTAINABLY PRODUCED GOODS ARE PROMOTED AND SUPPORTED

The Dorset AONB Partnership will work with Dorset Food & Drink, and other relevant organisations, to ensure that sustainably produced goods are produced, distributed and available to all.

- a. Promote production, distribution and use of products that deliver positive economic, environmental and social outcomes for the AONB.
- b. Promote the use of local woodland products, including wood fuel and timber for construction, that are economically, socially and environmentally sensitive for the AONB.

## 9.2

# Exploring, Understanding, Engaging

This chapter focuses on how the Dorset AONB supports local people and visitors to explore, understand and engage with the landscape in a positive way.

The coast and countryside of the Dorset AONB is a popular area for recreation and leisure. Our remit is to manage the demand for recreation within the context of the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses. In 2016, there were estimated to be 12.6 million day trips to the AONB and 1.8 million staying trips. The landscape underpins our tourism-based economy and supports local services. Tourism supports nearly 13,000 full time equivalent jobs in the AONB districts (West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland, North Dorset and Purbeck), with visitor spend contributing nearly £860 million to the local economy (2016 figures). The impact of visitors needs to be carefully managed to ensure that the AONB can continue to sustain these benefits for generations to come, while retaining its natural beauty.

The AONB's high quality landscape and heritage makes a substantial contribution to people's physical health and mental wellbeing, providing opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, relaxation and inspiration. Dorset has an extensive public rights of way network of 2,383 miles of footpaths, bridleways and byways. The AONB includes 71 miles of the South West Coast Path National Trail (this includes the first section of the England Coast Path which will eventually succeed the SWCP) and a number of other promoted long-distance walking and cycling routes. Walking is the most popular recreational activity nationally and it is the main activity of leisure trips. Nearly 75,000 people live within the AONB boundary, making it one of the most heavily populated AONBs in the country – though as the fifth largest AONB, it remains sparsely populated in many areas. Local communities have a fundamental role in safeguarding its future; the more people enjoy, understand and appreciate the importance of the area the greater their support and involvement in its protection and sense of pride of place.

## 9.2.1

# Significance

### Landscape & landform

The varied landscape offers a range of experiences for recreation and learning, both inland and along the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. The AONB includes coastal and market towns, attractive villages and a wide range of natural and cultural heritage assets, with key sites such as Corfe Castle, Studland, Maiden Castle and Durdle Door. Away from these key 'honey-pot' sites, visitors and local communities can experience tranquillity in less well known but equally beautiful countryside and coastal locations.

### Wildlife

The sites managed for wildlife by the National Trust, Natural England, Dorset Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Dorset Countryside and others often provide accessible countryside for visitors through provision of car parking, links to public transport and other visitor facilities. Wildlife also provides an inspiration for people to explore and help conserve the landscape. Additionally, there are 5,461 hectares of open, accessible countryside in the AONB.

### Living textbook

The AONB offers a 'living textbook' for people of all ages to experience, spanning geology, wildlife, human influence and natural processes in the landscape and adjoining marine environment. The landscape is firmly embedded in many educational initiatives in Dorset e.g. a strong Forest Schools network, outdoor education centres and Kingston Maurward College. There are also established networks of adult learning for the large population of active retired such as U3A, village societies and the WI.

### Cultural legacy

The legacy of landscape inspired work by authors, poets, scientists and artists is an important resource that can galvanise an appreciation of landscape and landscape change. The AONB today remains a source of inspiration and has a vibrant contemporary arts community, which together with a rich cultural tradition, adds to the quality of life of residents and draws many visitors. The landscape is used effectively as a venue for cultural performance - such as the Inside Out Dorset festivals as well as many smaller scale local productions. The strong arts community in Dorset also provides a creative way to engage hard to reach audiences and communicating complex issues.

## Opportunities

- Dorset AONB provides outstanding health and wellbeing opportunities through the natural landscape and its heritage assets and has a key role to play in social prescribing.
- The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan – recognising the value of the natural environment for health and wellbeing and setting some 'targets' around use of green space for health services, getting children close to nature and encouraging young people to take action to improve the environment.
- Dorset's NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan is innovative in its prioritisation of 'prevention at scale'. This underlines the importance of active recreation and nature connection and provides a mechanism to attract resources to facilitate it.

A growing active retired community offers a potential resource, and the opportunity to reduce health problems through active engagement with the landscape.

Engaging communities, local businesses and cultural organisations to develop joined up tourism offer inland. A year-round, high-quality cultural or wildlife tourism offer would help extend the season, reduce pressure at peak times and spread economic benefits throughout the year.

- Promote and encourage festivals which celebrate the natural beauty of the area to attract people in shoulder seasons.
- Brexit may further increase the popularity of the 'staycation'.
- Voluntary codes of conducts developed to reduce conflict and pressure e.g. Fossil collecting, coasteering.
- Promotion of inland walking (e.g. Wessex Ridgeway) and cycling routes to spread visitor economic benefits inland and reduce the pressure on the coast, though better maintenance and waymarking of some inland routes is required.

- An increased awareness of environmental issues ('the Blue Planet effect') amongst the general public offers opportunity to communicate issues at a local level, including climate and coastal change, and the impact on landscape and communities. This heightened awareness may lead to opportunities for behavioural change, working with and learning from organisations such as Litter Free Coast & Sea and Litter Free Dorset, and engaging visitors in contributing to the management of rural and coastal areas.
- Better promotion of existing public transport, including links to walks. Community transport could be further developed and promoted to provide better access to the countryside.
- Dorset Countryside are developing support for parishes to manage and prioritise maintenance of their own Public Rights of Way (PROW), including monitoring user impact on routes through fixed point photography.
- Artist-led approaches to improving the public realm, visitor welcome and experience in consultation with local communities.
- Further development of well-established volunteer base, working with partners such as NT, DWT, JCT and Parish Councils.
- Rationalisation and improved quality of landscape interpretation, using JCT interpretation framework for coastal initiatives. There are also opportunities for artist-led approaches including temporary, site specific and permanent interpretative materials.
- High quality, engaging on-line content, including virtual experiences for those unable to visit the countryside.
- Help coordinate and sustain the development of 'models of good practice' to support schools, Higher and Further education establishments and lifelong learning groups to embed learning about the landscape and increase educational visits.
- Promote the landscape within Public Health Dorset's 'Whole School Approach'; an integrated strategy for pupil health and wellbeing in schools.

## Pressures

- High visitor numbers, particularly along the coast in summer and public holidays; conversely a lack of visitors and the associated economic benefits in many parts of inland Dorset. Some areas experience great recreational pressure in excess of a carrying capacity with impacts on wildlife and rural character; careful visitor management is required.
- Majority of visitors use their car to get around, impacting significantly on the AONB's landscape and environment. Public transport provision has declined for many locations, especially in more rural areas. Where there are reliable bus services, a high level of bus-pass impacts upon the economic sustainability of services while highlighting the importance of bus travel for that demographic.
- Intensive pressure on some areas, e.g. an increasing number of organised long-distance runs, walks and rides with very high numbers of participants can be detrimental to the landscape and the visitor experience. Group visits from cruise ships also exacerbate capacity issues at some locations.
- Marine and beach litter as well as road litter and fly tipping continue to be an issue.
- Climate and coastal change means an increase in rockfalls and landslips, posing potential danger to people visiting the coast. Engaging people in understanding the hazards is challenging; warning signs are regularly ignored. The plethora of warning signs in some locations impacts negatively on the landscape.
- A significant number of people don't visit or have access to the AONB due to poverty, rural isolation, exacerbated by lack of public transport or lack of easy access to public rights of way.
- In many places the rights of way network is fragmented often forcing walkers and riders on to country roads, often alongside traffic travelling at the national speed limit.
- There is limited awareness about the AONB and the work of the AONB Partnership amongst visitors and local people.
- Ongoing budget constraints and increasing pressure on funding sources which may be exacerbated post Brexit.
- Organisational and curriculum changes in schools and budgetary constraints make it difficult to sustain engagement and support for landscape focussed learning with schools.
- Second homes and relatively wealthy incomers driving costs of housing up and impacting on viability of communities.

## 9.2.3

### Organisations important to delivery

National Trust, Natural England, South West Coast Path Association, Jurassic Coast Trust, Local Highways Authority, Local Authority Ranger Service, Dorset Coast Forum, Litter Free Coast & Sea, Litter Free Dorset, Dorset Tourism Association, Visit Dorset, Arts Development Company and other cultural partners, educational institutions, Dorset Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Public Health Dorset and East Devon AONB.



## 9.2.4 Objectives and policies

B1

### OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPERIENCE AND ACCESS THE LANDSCAPE FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING BENEFITS ARE PLENTIFUL

a. Support and develop activities that increase health and wellbeing by establishing and strengthening connections to the landscape and nature.

- b. Develop and support measures to improve accessibility to the coast & countryside for all where compatible with the purposes of AONB designation.
- c. Develop and support measures to enable people to experience the landscape remotely.

B2

### HIGH QUALITY SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND ACCESS IS WIDELY AVAILABLE

- a. Develop and support inland visitor experiences compatible with the purposes of AONB designation to spread economic benefits and reduce pressure on the coast.
- b. Develop and support measures to engage communities, cultural organisations and tourism businesses to create and promote sustainable visitor experiences, including use of assets such as local food and drink.

- c. Support measures to improve connectivity and functionality of the public rights of way network, including long distance routes, to meet local and visitor needs.
- d. Develop, support and promote integrated sustainable access and travel options in the AONB.
- e. Support and promote measures to reduce litter, including marine and beach litter, and encourage safe and considerate use of the coast and countryside.

B3

### THERE IS WIDE AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE DORSET AONB LANDSCAPE, ITS SPECIAL QUALITIES AND MANAGEMENT

- a. Support and develop a wide variety of visitor experiences to showcase and celebrate the special qualities of the AONB.
- b. Rationalise and improve interpretation to enhance visitor experience, reduce clutter in the landscape and inform the public about the landscape and safety

- c. Support initiatives for children and young people to understand more about the Dorset AONB and its special qualities through learning outside the classroom, curricular and extra-curricular activities.
- d. Support lifelong learning opportunities in the Dorset AONB.
- e. Develop understanding of a dynamic landscape and changing climate.
- f. Promote the significance of the AONB designation and the work of the Dorset AONB partnership and the wider family of protected landscapes.

B4

### LOCAL PEOPLE ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE AONB, ITS SPECIAL QUALITIES, NATURAL PROCESSES AND ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS

a. Support and encourage opportunities for parish and town councils, community groups, businesses and individuals to conserve and enhance the AONB

- b. Support volunteer activity that contributes to the conservation and enhancement of the Dorset AONB landscape.
- c. Promote sustainable living among communities in the AONB to reduce impacts on the local environment and increase access to environmental benefits.
- d. Involve local people in monitoring and recording landscape change.
- e. Promote and support the celebration and conservation of local distinctiveness

## 9.3 Planning for landscape quality

The high quality of Dorset's AONBs landscapes must be conserved and enhanced. To achieve this the national importance of the AONB needs to be recognised and reinforced, thereby ensuring that changes within the AONB meet the highest standards of sustainability, design and quality.

Development affecting the AONB should be compatible with the character and appearance of the AONB and we should also aim to achieve landscape gain from development, wherever possible. This chapter contains objectives and policies that support sustainable development that conserves and enhances the natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB, while minimising impacts to natural processes and ecosystem flows. The National Planning Policy Framework 2018 confirmed that the whole purpose of planning is to help achieve sustainable development, and its paragraph 172 states that great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and natural beauty in AONBs. In defining sustainable development, national policy acknowledges the diverse role of the environment, contributing to the protection and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, habitats and species, and the reduction of pollution.

The AONB is a living and constantly evolving landscape, the result of human interaction with the natural environment. Sensitively sited and designed development can make a positive contribution to the AONB, not only in the way it appears in the landscape but how it contributes to sustaining local communities and the landscape itself. However, inappropriate development is one of the greatest threats to the AONB, if its scale, siting and design is unsympathetic to the landscape, has a negative impact on character or affects the ability of residents and visitors to enjoy the landscape. Most planning decisions in the AONB are made by a local planning authority who, under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, has a statutory duty of regard for the primary purpose of the AONB to conserve and enhance natural beauty when discharging this and other functions. As the Government's statutory advisor on landscape, Natural England may provide advice on landscape matters, particularly in response to larger proposals. The AONB Team also provides landscape advice through an agreed planning protocol.

### 9.3.1 Significance

#### Landscape & landform

The physical and perceptual characteristics of a landscape are what makes a place. The AONB is valued for its special qualities, which include its undeveloped rural character, exceptional undeveloped coastline, tranquillity and dark night skies. Such landscape attributes need to be maintained for the future and this is best achieved through development that respects the pattern and character of the places in which it is located.

#### Wildlife

When development impacts upon the wildlife of its environs, the planning system must ensure that these effects are dealt with appropriately. Ranging from locally important features to internationally significant sites, all habitats within the AONB make some form of contribution to a supporting structure of the area's natural beauty. Securing mitigation and enhancement measures that are appropriate to site specific considerations is a key output of positive landscape planning.

#### Living Textbook

The AONB contains highly important natural and manmade landscape features that tell us about the past, including our natural history and civilization. Planning has the potential to both safeguard historical assets and reveal their significance. The ongoing appreciation of these assets relies on their conservation and ongoing positive management, as well as measures that improve our interpretation and understanding of them.

#### Cultural legacy

Changes to culturally significant landscapes can often evoke deep feelings from those who value them. The planning system has a key role to play in delivering sensitive change in areas with strong cultural identities, by safeguarding assets and better revealing their significance.

## Opportunities

- New development and planning gain may provide opportunities to conserve, enhance restore and create valued landscape features. Established compensatory mechanisms (such as that related to Wytch Farm) provide a functional model for ameliorating landscape impacts that cannot be avoided or directly mitigated.
- NPPF 2018 reinforces the net gain principle in development for establishing coherent ecological networks.
- The requirement for developments in the Poole Harbour catchment to be nutrient neutral creates opportunities for beneficial landscape change).  
The popularity of Dorset as a destination to live and work and the resultant development pressure will create opportunities for securing planning gain, including landscape enhancement and biodiversity measures, such as those that can be achieved through the Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal process.
- There are opportunities to enhance the sustainability and vitality of communities through increased provision of affordable housing in response to recognised local need.
- Emerging techniques in remote sensing and tranquillity modelling provide opportunities for monitoring landscape condition.
- Neighbourhood planning provides a tool through which communities can direct growth toward locations that conserve and enhance local character.
- Investment in landscape enhancement by major infrastructure providers, being led and exemplified by National Grid through the Visual Impact Provision.
- There are opportunities to soften the impact of traffic management schemes within villages through sensitive design measures, such as those contained within the traffic in villages toolkit.
- There are opportunities to improve sustainability through the implementation of small scale-renewable energy projects and community energy initiatives. Published Dorset AONB guidance on wind energy development provides spatially-relevant context and detail.
- Changes in agriculture may result in opportunities for the redevelopment of brownfield countryside sites that can serve emerging purposes.
- Continued growth in demand for camping, particularly glamping, can provide good diversification opportunities if sensitively designed and situated.
- Advances in communication technology has the potential to diversify the traditional nature of the rural economy
- Partnerships with artists and cultural organisations provide a creative approach to enhancements the public realm.
- Longevity and value-for-money in development can be achieved with high quality design and good materials.

## Pressures

- Demographic changes:
  - An increase in population brings a need for wider infrastructure and service upgrades;
  - Housing stock not well aligned with demand;
  - An increasing number of second homes distorts the housing market;
  - An ageing population affects the sustainability of some community facilities and services.
- Visitors and recreation:
  - The ability of popular areas to absorb further visitor pressure is finite and requires careful management;
  - Changes to recreational uses within the countryside, including increased activity, affect landscape character;
  - Overprovision of visitor accommodation affects levels of residential housing stock;
  - The popularity of some areas, particularly along the coast, brings significant pressure for expansion of camping and caravanning sites in sensitive locations;
  - Glamping can introduce semi-permanent features in sensitive areas;
  - Incremental changes are affecting rural roads, including signage, traffic management and road improvement initiatives.
  - Ongoing interest in oil and gas extraction within parts of the AONB
  - Changes to farming practices include a trend toward an increasing scale of operations with associated landscape and visual effects from farms;
  - Coastal change and management will result in pressure to defend and/or relocate assets.

## 9.3.3 Organisations important to delivery

Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Historic England, farmers and landowners and their representatives, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group SW, National Trust, RSPB, Local Authorities, Dorset Food & Drink, Kingston Maurward College

## 9.3.4 Objectives and policies

C1

### THE AONB AND ITS SETTING IS CONSERVED AND ENHANCED BY GOOD PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- a. Support development that conserves and enhances the AONB, ensuring sensitive siting and design respects local character. Development that does not conserve and enhance the AONB will only be supported if it is necessary and in the public interest. Major development decisions need to include detailed consideration of relevant exceptional circumstances.
- b. The conservation, enhancement and creation/restoration of appropriate landscape features such as landmarks, artworks, boundary features, tree clumps etc, will be regarded favourably. There should be a net gain in terms of the landscape and its constituent elements.
- c. High quality design, materials and standards of workmanship are required of developments within the AONB. Good design and material use does not have to be a cost burden, however where this requirement affects development viability consideration will be given to the balance between the public benefits of a proposal and the significance of its landscape and visual effects. When the landscape and visual effects of a development cannot be fully addressed through primary design measures, appropriate and robust secondary mitigation measures that can be delivered, enforced and maintained will be required.
- d. Developments will be required to make a positive contribution to the overall green infrastructure and ecological networks. All aspects of green infrastructure, e.g. sustainable drainage, also require good design that respects local character and must also make an appropriate contribution to landscape ecology. The net result of these contributions should be landscape gain.
- e. Full consideration of geodiversity conservation is required in plans and strategies affecting the AONB, e.g. local plans, mineral plans and shoreline management plans. The close links between geodiversity conservation, extraction industries, landscape and built environment conservation should be recognised.
- f. The AONB's coast will be conserved and enhanced and significant weight will be given to maintaining its undeveloped and tranquil nature. The importance of the AONB's coastal areas as the setting for the World Heritage Site (WHS) will be recognised and the presentation and visitor experience of this asset will be protected from both individual developments and cumulative effects of incremental change.
- g. Approaches to coastal management that promote natural processes will be adopted wherever possible and the objectives of coastal change management areas will be implemented.
- h. The landward and seaward setting of the AONB will be planned and managed in a manner that conserves and enhances the character and appearance of the AONB. Views into and out of the AONB and non-visual effects, such as noise and wider environmental impacts, will be appropriately assessed.
- i. Within the seaward setting of the AONB, support will be given to the conservation and enhancement of the coastal and marine environment. Support will be given to sustainable management, including the creation of Marine Protected Areas at appropriate locations.

C2

### LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT & MONITORING IS EFFECTIVE AND SUPPORTS GOOD DECISION-MAKING

- a. Proposals affecting the AONB will be assessed to a high standard.
- b. Landscape and seascape character assessment will be used to consider the effects of proposals on the character and appearance of the AONB.
- c. Local and Neighbourhood Plans must be supported by a robust landscape evidence base.
- d. The key test of a proposal against the statutory purpose of the AONB will be its ability to demonstrate that the proposed change would conserve and enhance landscape and scenic beauty.
- e. The conservation and enhancement of the AONB's special qualities will be a significant consideration in the planning balance.
- f. Proposals that are harmful to the character and appearance of the area will not be permitted unless there are benefits that clearly outweigh the significant protection afforded to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB. Where impacts cannot be mitigated, planning gain and compensatory measures will be considered.
- g. Changes in landscape condition will be monitored and assessed to inform appropriate action.

C3

### NECESSARY DEVELOPMENT IS SUPPORTED

- a. Support appropriate farm diversification schemes, particularly where these contribute to the conservation, enhancement and sustainable development of the AONB.
- b. Support affordable housing within appropriate rural exception sites that meet proven local need. Good, locally-sensitive design should be pursued.
- c. Support restoration of traditional barns, buildings and other structures that maintains or enhances landscape character quality, ensuring diversification benefits are not outweighed by adverse effects on the environment.
- d. Support the working of minerals sites at an appropriate scale and density in the AONB for the supply of building materials to conserve and enhance local character. Secure appropriate and high-quality restoration of minerals sites to benefit landscape, biodiversity and access.
- e. Support measures to increase energy efficiency.
- f. Support renewable energy production where compatible with the objectives of AONB designation.
- g. Support well designed projects that reduce the impact of traffic in the AONB.
- h. Support woodland planting and management proposals that are appropriate to landscape character and deliver clear enhancements for biodiversity, habitat connectivity and public amenity.

**DEVELOPMENT WHICH HAS NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE AONB, ITS SPECIAL QUALITIES, ECOSYSTEM FLOWS AND NATURAL PROCESSES IS AVOIDED**

- a.** Remove existing and avoid creating new features which are detrimental to landscape character, tranquillity, and the AONB's special qualities.
- b.** Require the use of previously developed land where this will limit the expansion of built development into sensitive undeveloped countryside.
- c.** Protect and where possible enhance the quality of views into, within and out of the AONB.
- d.** Protect the pattern of landscape features, including settlements, that underpin local identity.
- e.** Avoid and reduce the impacts of development on biodiversity. Require development to follow the hierarchy of avoid, mitigate and compensate and to achieve a net gain for biodiversity.
- f.** Avoid and reduce cumulative effects that erode landscape character and quality.

- g.** Protect the AONB from an overprovision of visitor accommodation including camping, caravanning and glamping sites particularly where existing development weakens the character and appearance of the countryside. Changes in landscape condition will be monitored and assessed to inform appropriate action.

Avoid large scale and/or high density housing and employment development at settlement edges when such development weakens the character and appearance of the countryside.

- h.** Discourage growth in the number of second homes within the AONB.
- i.** Resist proliferation of masts and other vertical structures, requiring the sharing of infrastructure by service providers.
- j.** Ensure coastal and flood defences, as well as aquaculture and fishery development, are compatible with the AONB's exceptional undeveloped coastline
- k.** Require further permanent oil and gas infrastructure to reuse/augment existing areas of development and contribute to restoration of the wider landscape.
- l.** Avoid urbanisation and other negative impacts of highway management.



## 9.4 Ways of working

This chapter sets out principles by which the AONB Partnership operates. Abiding by these principles will encourage coherent, coordinated activity to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the

### 9.4.1 Significance

This chapter relates to the community and organisational environment in and around the Dorset AONB, rather than directly to its special qualities and natural beauty.

## 9.4.2 Opportunities & pressures

### Opportunities

- The Dorset AONB is home to over 75,000 people: this is a considerable potential resource for activity which contributes towards the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty.
- Provision, curation and development of environmental data and information is supported by strong organisations in Dorset.
- The AONB Partnership occupies a position of trust and can act as an 'honest broker' bringing various interests together for project development or information provision.
- The AONB Partnership has a strong track record in managing collaborative projects in practical delivery and engagement.
- There exist some exemplar partnerships working in and across the AONB facilitating the delivery of the aims within this management plan. These include Dorset Coast Forum, Dorset Food & Drink, Dorset Cultural Partnership, Dorset Tourism Association, Wild Purbeck Partnership and the Dorset Local Nature Partnership.

- Local Government Review could potentially result in more consistent application of related policy across the AONB

### Pressures

- Many people experience barriers to getting involved in activities related to their local environment. Barriers are both real and perceptual, ranging from a sense that 'the countryside is not for me', to a lack of either time or resources to engage.
- Local Government Review could potentially result in fewer local authority staff covering a larger area; alongside an inevitable loss of skills and experience there may be reduced capacity for engaging in new initiatives.
- Financial pressures on the wider delivery partnership have meant that there is reduced capacity to engage in new partnerships or initiatives; there is also reduced capacity to effectively engage community stakeholders.

### 9.4.3 Organisations important to delivery

Local Authorities, Town and Parish Councils (including the Association for Town and Parish Councils), Catchment Partnerships, Community Partnerships, Dorset Environmental Record Centre, Dorset History Centre, Kingston Maurward College, Natural England, National Trust, Jurassic Coast Trust, arts and culture partners.

## 9.4.4 Objectives and policies

D1

### LOCAL PEOPLE ARE ENGAGED IN KEY DECISIONS RELATING TO THEIR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTS IN THE AONB

Achieving sustainable change in the AONB requires the participation of large numbers of people, through organisations or individually. In seeking to achieve the aims of this management plan and the purposes of AONB designation, it is important that this participation is fostered and encouraged.

The plan will not succeed if it is widely felt that conservation is something that is imposed upon communities, individuals and organisations as opposed to something done with their knowledge, understanding and support.

- a. Carry out effective engagement and consultation in plan-making and project development

D2

### DECISION-MAKING IS SUPPORTED BY THE BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION, UNDERSTANDING, GOOD PRACTICE, TOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS

- a. Promote research and deeper understanding of the AONB its special qualities, landscape elements and neighbouring marine environment
- b. Promote the use of landscape and seascape character assessment to shape decisions affecting the AONB and assist planning for positive change

- c. Promote understanding and application of conservation resources and tools for the natural and historic environment
- d. Promote the training in, and use of, conservation skills to conserve and enhance landscape character including the natural, historic and cultural environment
- e. Support the development and use of key information resources, repositories and their managing organisations. This includes, but is not limited to, Dorset Environmental Record Centre, Dorset Historic Environment Record (HER), Dorset History Centre, Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England (SHINE) and the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS)

D3

### MONITORING INFORMS AND ENABLES ADAPTATION TO ACHIEVE BEST OUTCOMES

The principle of adaptive management requires ongoing monitoring to ensure desired aims and outcomes are being achieved. With effective monitoring, when progress towards desired outcomes slows or stalls, the methods can be changed. The AONB Partnership works with a wide range of bodies to gather, hold and share data relevant to AONB management. The AONB

Partnership is responsible for monitoring landscape condition, a full assessment of which should be undertaken every management plan period.

- a. Promote monitoring of key habitats, indicator species, geological and historic assets, and perceptual qualities of the AONB
- b. Promote observation of landscape condition to prioritise changes in management
- c. Promote understanding of which people are affected by this plan's policy and related actions, and how

D4

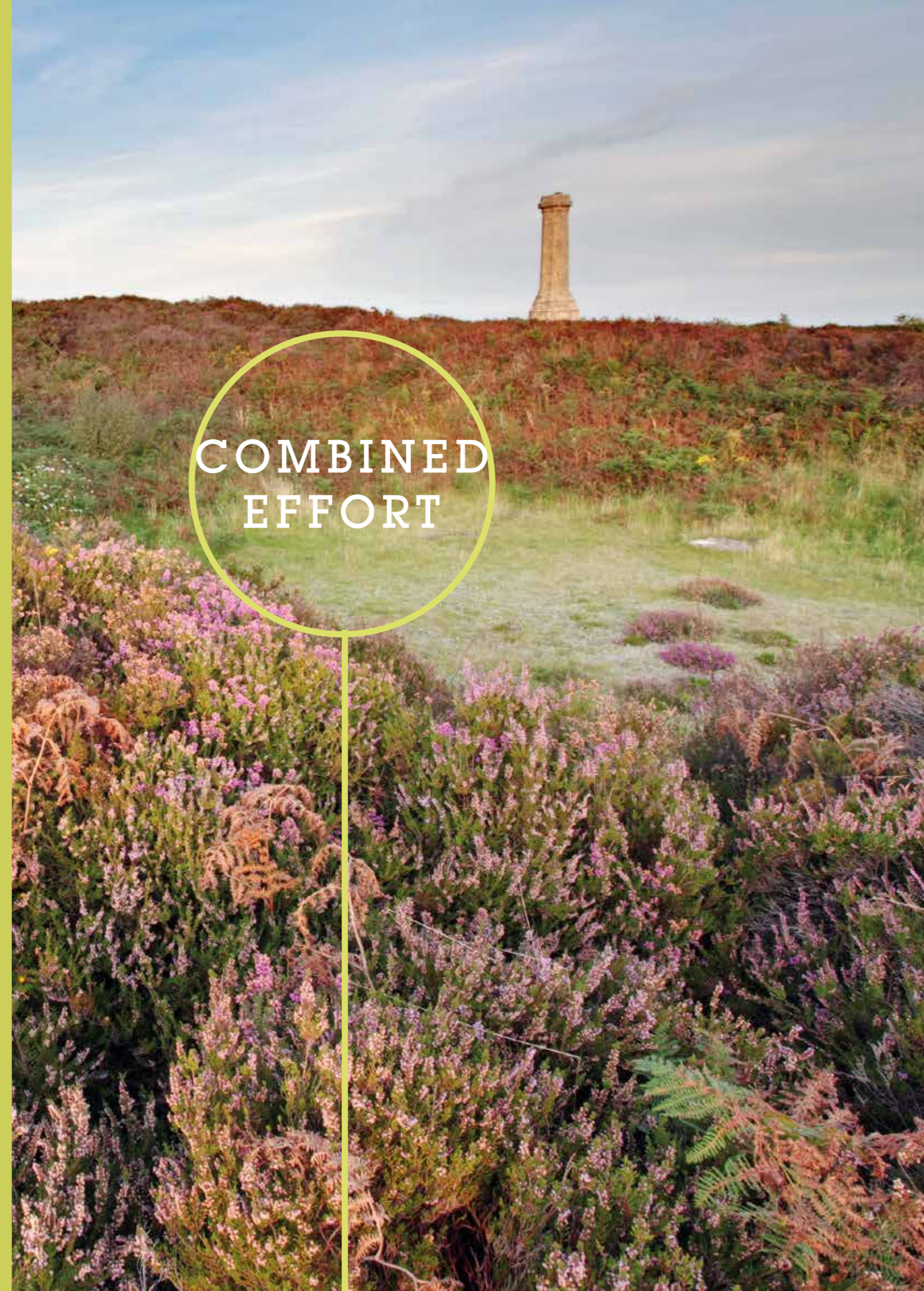
### COLLABORATIVE WORKING IS DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Support key partnerships and initiatives which bring organisations and individuals together to deliver AONB objectives. Wide partnerships can deliver on many fronts and achieve greater output and to a wider audience than could be done individually. Learning and trust built between organisations and individuals also aids future delivery.

- a. Promote links between organisations where this will help achieve AONB Management Plan aims
- b. Management decisions are integrated across the land/sea boundary
- c. Cultural initiatives, opportunities and organisations are embedded in delivery

## 10. DELIVERY

This is an aspirational plan which requires the combined effort and resources of a wide range of partners. The AONB Partnership acknowledge that this is not a central remit for many of these partners but assert that investment in delivery has returns for the environment, the community and for sustainable businesses.



COMBINED  
EFFORT



Over the next 5 years, the AONB Partnership will produce an annual business plan with a time horizon beyond the year of the plan to ensure multi-year activities are supported. This will be primarily for those resources within its direct control. However, where partners view the value of their work's endorsement by inclusion within this annual plan, it will be welcomed.

At the time of writing the Partnership's annual income from Defra and its local authority partners is around £290,000. This is cut to provide for the core team of 6 (4.5 FTE), support its largely externally-funded projects and provide a Sustainable Development Fund to enable community implementation of this plan.

The Partnership's team will prioritise its core responsibilities:

Provision of high-quality advice on strategic planning, development management and agri-environment delivery.

Securing additional resources to implement programmes of delivery which meet the objectives of this plan.

Promoting this plan, its vision and objectives to secure support for delivery



In addition to its core roles, the AONB Partnership's team will prioritise the following areas of project activity:

## Area-based

- A landscape-scale project conserving natural and cultural landscape heritage in the Marshwood Vale and Brit Valleys. This should provide opportunities for local people to increase their understanding of and engagement with the landscape heritage and develop a skills base for its ongoing management. It will also explore the future of farming in the area and develop models for modern sustainable land use.
- Landscape enhancements in the South Dorset Ridgeway as a legacy of the South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership and support for National Grid in its endeavours to place underground 8km of high voltage electricity transmission line.
- Landscape enhancements across the Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area by convening and chairing its partnership, and by promoting and administrating the Wytch Farm Landscape and Access Enhancement Fund.
- Visitor management and visitor experience enhancement across the Jurassic Coast and using that expertise to develop greater inland opportunities.

## Thematic

- The development, implementation and rollout of a new agri-environment scheme.
- Promotion of local food and drink products, particularly those that are related to the beneficial management of the AONB's landscape.
- Activities which connect people with nature and the natural landscape, particularly younger people, older people, those living with dementia and their carers and anyone isolated by rurality. There is a strong role for developing cultural activities to support this aim.
- Promotion of landscape management skills.

The Partnership will remain flexible enough to support, shape or lead relevant opportunities to deliver this policy framework where they arise.

## 11. ORGANISATIONS ENDORISING THIS PLAN

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This Management Plan will be officially endorsed by the AONB Partnership before adoption by the relevant local authorities. The many of these partners but assert that investment in delivery has returns for the environment, the community and for sustainable businesses.



WORKING  
TOGETHER

The AONB Partnership Board includes representation from:

- Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils
- Dorset County Council
- Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership
- Dorset Local Nature Partnership
- Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society
- Dorset Country Land & Business Association
- Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership
- Devon County Council
- East Devon District Council
- Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Jurassic Coast Trust
- National Farmers Union
- National Trust
- Natural England
- North Dorset District Council
- Purbeck District Council
- Purbeck Heritage Network
- Somerset County Council
- South Somerset District Council
- West Dorset District Council
- Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
- [The Board is seeking a sector representative to replace the Dorset Cultural Partnership]

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In addition, we are seeking endorsement from a wide range of organisations with whom the AONB Partnership works on delivery. They will be listed here.

**Logos and  
delivery list to  
be updated for PB  
meeting on 15th  
November**

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## **Management Committee 5 February 2019 Application for Discretionary Rate Relief**

### **For Decision**

#### **Briefholder(s)**

Cllr J Cant - Finance & Assets

#### **Senior Leadership Team Contact:**

J Vaughan, Strategic Director

#### **Report Author:**

S Dawson, Head of Revenues and Benefits

#### **Statutory Authority**

Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended)

#### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 To consider the application received for Discretionary Rate Relief.

#### **Officer Recommendations**

- 2 That Committee considers the application for Discretionary Rate Relief listed at Appendix 2.

#### **Reason for Decision**

- 3 That the application for relief is considered having regard to its individual merits.

#### **Background and Reason Decision Needed**

- 4 Under the Local Government Finance Act 1988, registered charities are entitled to apply for 80% Mandatory Rate Relief in respect of charges due. Councils have the discretion to top-up any relief awarded to a registered charity up to 100% of the rates payable. Following arrangements introduced in 2012, Councils also have the discretion to award up to 100% rates relief to all ratepayers. Under these new arrangements, the Council is required to meet 40% of the cost of awards made with the balance being met by government (50%) and the County (10%).
- 5 Where a Council grants Discretionary Rate Relief, the award can be made for a specific period or can be a period where the end date is not specified.

- 6 Committee has agreed guidelines which are to be used when considering an application for Discretionary Rate Relief. A copy of the guidelines is attached at Appendix 1.
- 7 An application for Discretionary Rate Relief has been received from the ratepayer listed at Appendix 2. As the Council is required to meet 40% Committee will want to satisfy itself that it is in the interests of the Council Taxpayer to award any relief.
- 8 Committee is asked to consider the application for rate relief received, having regard to the merits of the case.

## **Implications**

- 14 **Financial implications**  
As set out in the report appendices.
- 15 **Risk Management (including Health & Safety)**  
As the guidelines require that applications are considered on their individual merit, the risk of challenge should be reduced

## **Appendices**

- 16 Appendix 1 – Discretionary Rate Relief guidelines  
Appendix 2 – Applications for Discretionary Rate Relief

## **Footnote**

Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

**Report Author:** Stuart Dawson  
**Telephone:** 01305 211925  
**Email:** s.c.dawson@westwey.gov.uk

## Appendix 1

### Guidelines for determining applications for Discretionary Rate Relief

These guidelines are to be used when considering an application for Discretionary Rate Relief. It should be remembered that each application should be considered on its own individual merits and that these guidelines should only be used to help ensure consistency in decision making.

All applications for Discretionary Rate Relief must be submitted in writing and should include a copy of the Organisations Memorandum or Articles of Association together with accounts for the last two years. If the applicant is a national organisation, it should provide the local and national accounts (where possible).

In determining an application the following guidelines should be considered.

- If the organisation already receives 80% Mandatory Rate Relief, no top-up of Discretionary Rate Relief should be awarded unless Committee consider the applicant's circumstances are exceptional and warrant the additional relief. In such cases, up to 20% relief may be awarded.
- The organisation should be open to all sections of the community. Membership fees should be reasonable and not be at a level where it restricts membership.
- Preference will be given to applicants who provide recreational and/or sporting facilities for the benefit of those living within the Borough.
- Does the organisation actively encourage membership from particular groups (e.g. the young, elderly, disabled, the disadvantaged etc)?
- Does the organisation allow their facilities to be used by people other than members (e.g. schools, casual public sessions)?
- Discretionary Rate relief will normally be awarded up to 80% of the rates charged (unless Committee consider the applicant's circumstances to be exceptional).
- When determining an application, Committee will have regard to the funds held by the organisation. Any profit earned should be reinvested into the organisation.
- If the organisation provides a bar for its members, Committee will consider the main purpose of the organisation. In making its decision Committee will have regard to the balance between playing and non-playing members and whether the prices charged for drinks are significantly lower than those charged by commercial organisations.
- Does the organisation provide training or education for its members?
- Does the organisation provide facilities which indirectly relieve the Authority of the need to do so, or enhance and supplement those which it does provide?

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## Applications for Discretionary Rate Relief

<b>Name of applicant</b>	Weymouth Area Development Trust CIC
<b>Address of property concerned</b>	Building A, Custom House Quay, Weymouth
<b>What are the aims and objectives of the organisation?</b>	To carry on activities which benefit the public through urban or rural regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation and in particular the community in Weymouth and surrounding areas.  The organisation is a Community Interest Company and is not established or conducted for profit.
<b>Is membership open to all sections of the community? How much is the membership fee?</b>	Yes  No fee is charged
<b>Does the organisation provide training and education to its members? Are its facilities open to non members?</b>	Yes
<b>How does the organisation raise income? What funds are held?</b>	Grant bids, fundraising and social enterprise  The accounts for the period 25/03/17 to 31/03/18 show that income totalled £18,190 and expenditure was also £18,190. The organisation has no reserves.

**What would be the cost to the Council if relief was awarded**

The applicant took over responsibility for the premises on 11 December 2017. The rates charges due to 31/03/18 total £2,372.33 and £11,352.00 in respect of 2018/19.

The applicant has asked that 100% Discretionary Rate Relief be awarded covering the above charges. Technically, Discretionary Rate Relief can, in this particular case, only be awarded for 2018/19. If Committee were mindful to award relief in respect of this amount, the cost to the Council would be £4,540.80 (i.e. 40% of £11,352.00). As relief cannot be awarded in respect of the 2017/18 rates (£2,372.33), the applicant has asked the Council to consider using its powers to waive these charges.

## **Management Committee 5 February 2019 Councillor Appointment to Outside Body**

### **For Decision**

#### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 To appoint a member to serve on Weymouth Pavilion Community Interest Company (CIC).

#### **Recommendations**

- 2 To appoint a member to serve on Weymouth Pavilion Community Interest Company (CIC).

#### **Reason for Decision**

- 3 To ensure representation by Weymouth & Portland Borough Council on this group which is one of the council's outside bodies.

#### **Portfolio Holder(s)/ Briefholder**

Cllr Alison Reed,

#### **Senior Leadership Team Contact:**

S Caundle, Head of Paid Service

#### **Report Author:**

Hayley Caves, Councillor Development and Support Officer

#### **Statutory Authority**

Local Government Act 1972

#### **Background and Reason Decision Needed**

- 4 As part of the lease arrangements between Weymouth Pavilion CIC and the council, the council is required to appoint one member to serve on Weymouth Pavilion CIC board meetings in the role of an observer.
- 5 The member will have no executive authority at the meetings and will be required to report back to the council.
- 6 All members of council were invited to apply to be the council's representative on this board. One application was received from Cllr C Page-Nash which is appended to this report.

## **Implications**

### **Financial**

There are no financial implications arising from the process of making appointments to internal working groups or outside bodies.

### **Equalities**

All members of WPBC were invited to apply for this vacancy

### **Environmental**

All WPBC councillors were notified of the vacancy

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Application received for the position of observer on Weymouth Pavilion Community Interest Company Board Meetings

## **Footnote**

Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

**Report Author:** Hayley Caves

**Telephone:** 01305 252394

**Email:** [hcaves@dorset.gov.uk](mailto:hcaves@dorset.gov.uk)

**Date:** 25 January 2019

## REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES - APPLICATION FORM

1. Name: Cathy Page-Nash
2. Outside Body: Weymouth Pavilion CIC
3. Do you have a specific skill or area of expertise relevant to the organisation?  
Please state:

I have wide knowledge of the entertainment business having trained at London Guildhall School of Music and new Era Academy in Stage Technique. I have travelled widely in repertory before deciding to give up “living out of a suitcase” and took a teaching course in Drama, English & Speech Therapy, gaining a Diploma and Gold Medal. Together with a partner I ran a successful Drama School for several years gaining communication and business skills.

4. Do you have an interest and motivation for the subject? Please state:

I have worked at the Pavilion Theatre in many guises both on stage and back stage/front of House and am passionate about the arts in Weymouth which has a wealth of talent to be explored and implemented.

When approached by the then Councillor Ray Banham in 2011 as the Pavilion was in some financial difficulty, I suggested forming Friends of Weymouth Pavilion which was agreed in September 2012. I formed a committee and was discussing ideas for the way forward when I was informed that the Council had decided to close the Pavilion and possibly demolish it. My committee started a petition to save the theatre and was then approached by Phil Say to ask for our help in his bid to manage the complex. This we agreed to do.

5. Can you demonstrate your commitment to the aims of the organisation and how these connect to the priorities of the council? Please state:

The Friends provided volunteers to do various duties at the theatre and I myself, drew up the rota for ushers and those serving in the kiosk. I myself, still do various duties although having taken on the role of Borough Councillor I resigned my position as Chairman of the Friends and I no longer make up the rota. I am delighted at the success of the Pavilion Theatre and complex but still feel that there is a lot of untapped potential.

6. Please indicate that you have considered whether you have the time to accommodate the level of representation required.  Y

7. Please indicate your commitment to submitting an annual report on the activities of the organisation.  Y

Signature

Date 25/01/2019

**Management Committee**  
**5<sup>th</sup> February 2019**  
**Portland Town Council – Transfer of**  
**Functions and Assets**

**For Decision**

**Portfolio Holder(s)/ Briefholder**

Cllr Jeff Cant –Assets & Finance Briefholder

**Senior Leadership Team Contact:**

S Caundle, Assistant Chief Executive

**Report Author:**

David Brown, Head of Assets & Infrastructure

**Statutory Authority**

Local Government Act 1972

**Purpose of Report**

- 1 To provide an update on the requests from Portland Town Council (PTC) for the transfer of functions and assets to that council.
- 2 To consider and agree an interim arrangement now for the utilisation by PTC of some of those assets with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

**Recommendations**

- 3 Members are recommended to
  - a. Note and agree the current position with regard to asset transfers from WPBC to PTC
  - b. Agree to the grant of a licence for appropriate assets as included in Appendix 1 (or subsequently deemed appropriate) to PTC from WPBC for a period expiring on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.
  - c. To delegate to the Head of Paid Service authority to determine and agree the terms of the licence referred to in recommendation 2 above including the actual extent of assets (as currently identified in Appendix 1) to be included in the licence.

**Background**

- 4 Members considered a report at the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Management Committee dealing with the request from Portland Town Council (PTC) for a transfer of assets and services.

- 5 Members approved the transfer of functions and assets subject to physical inspections of the assets, and that officers negotiated with PTC to ensure that the assets transferred are in appropriate condition.
- 6 Subsequent to the November committee meeting that report was considered by the Shadow Executive Dorset Council at their meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019, and the request for the transfer of assets and services was supported by them.
- 7 While the principles were accepted the report identified that there was a different process that would need to be followed with regards to assets being transferred to PTC as compared to Weymouth Town Council (WTC).
- 8 PTC asset transfers require a formal valuation for each asset following legal title review, and then agreement to the collective asset total value being disposed of at a less than best value. At the time of the earlier reports no detailed consideration of the implications of each of the assets being requested for transfer had been undertaken by either the WPBC officer team or PTC members. This may affect the final list of assets transferred.

## **Current position**

- 9 Ongoing discussions and an initial review of assets have now taken place between PTC members, the Town Clerk and officers of WPBC. Both the list of assets and the processes have been considered, but at an overview level only.
- 10 Attached as Appendix 1 is the revised asset list that PTC members have indicated that they would like to consider for transfer, albeit there may be others that they would also wish to include moving forward. These assets are held as a mixture of freehold and leasehold sites, and any transfers would be subject to the limitations of each site title.
- 11 The process for the transfers has also been reviewed. This has demonstrated that the asset transfers and services will not be quick, simple or necessarily straight forward process. Further with limited staff resources and other priorities it will not be possible to properly undertake asset reviews and transfers in the short period remaining before Dorset Council comes into being.
- 12 Transfer of relevant cemeteries and greenspace services are still under discussion but it is believed that satisfactory arrangements will be reached for PTC to operate these services or have operating agreements in place with Dorset Council for 1 April 2019.

## **Interim proposals**

- 13 While the legal title of all assets will be moved to Dorset Council (DC) as at 1<sup>st</sup> April there is still an opportunity for PTC to be involved in the management of some of these assets before any formal asset transfers from DC to PTC eventually take place.



- 14 Assets which are primarily unoccupied or not leased could be made available to PTC while the more detailed work to permanently transfer them is undertaken. This would be on a licence granted for a temporary period up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 so that PTC could undertake appropriate management of these.
- 15 The licence/s would be granted now from WPBC to PTC at a peppercorn rent for assets as are appropriate and these licence/s would remain in place when the assets transfer from WPBC to DC take place on 1st April 2019. The cost of management and public liability indemnity insurance for such assets would be met by PTC.

### **Permanent Asset Transfers**

- 16 The above temporary management arrangement would be for a limited period up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. This would allow the more detailed asset investigations, site visits, legal title, valuations and cost and revenue implications to both DC and PTC to be considered and agreed.
- 17 Finally with agreement of both councils and the respective committee authority being given, with disposal at less than best agreed, then the assets could permanently be transferred from DC to PTC.

### **Implications**

- 18 **Corporate Plan**  
None directly from this report.
- 19 **Financial**  
As set out in the report.
- 20 **Equalities**  
None directly from this report
- 21 **Human Resources**  
Not directly considered in this report

### **Appendices**

- 22 Appendix 1 – List of assets

### **Background Papers**

- 23 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Management committee PTC-Transfer of Assets and Functions

### **Footnote**

24 Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

**Report Author:** David Brown, Head of Assets & Infrastructure

**Telephone:** 01305 252297

**Email:** dbrown@dorset.gov.uk

**Date:** 25/01/19

## Appendix 1: Portland Asset List

Site Name	Asset Type	TF Ref Number
Grove Road Allotments	Allotments	WPBC-ALL005-01
Easton Car Park	Car Parks (Council Owned)	WPBC-CAR005-01
Fortuneswell Car Park	Car Parks (Council Owned)	WPBC-CAR006-01
Hambro Car Park	Car Parks (Council Owned)	WPBC-CAR009-01
Lord Clyde Car Park	Car Parks (Council Owned)	WPBC-CAR013-01
Masonic Car Park	Car Parks (Council Owned)	WPBC-CAR015-01
New Ground Car Park	Car Parks (Council Owned)	WPBC-CAR032-06
Telescope located on land opp Portland Heights Hotel	Catering & Retail	WPBC-CAT011-01
St Johns Church Clock, Portland - NOT OWNED BY WPBC	Clocks & Monuments	WPBC-CAM017-01
Easton Gardens Clock	Clocks & Monuments	WPBC-PAR001-03
War Memorial, Victoria Gardens	Clocks & Monuments	WPBC-PAR006-08
Portland Cenotaph Yeates Road	Clocks & Monuments	WPBC-VAC047-02
Sidon War Memorial Yeates Road	Clocks & Monuments	WPBC-VAC047-03
Olympic Rings Yeates Road	Clocks & Monuments	WPBC-VAC047-04
Hardy House, Castle Road, Portland	Commercial	WPBC-COM007-01
Portland Cemetery, Weston Road	Crematorium & Cemeteries	WPBC-CEM006-01
Strangers Cemetery, Victory Road, Portland	Crematorium & Cemeteries	WPBC-CEM007-01
Fishermens Hut to the rear of 119 Chiswell, Portland	Garages & Stores	WPBC-STO006-01
Fishing Hut to rear of Dolphin Cottage, 131 Brandy Row, Chiswell	Garages & Stores	WPBC-STO007-01
Store Huts adj 173 Chiswell & end of Brandy Row, Portland	Garages & Stores	WPBC-STO008
Islanders Club for Young People, East Weare Road, Portland	Halls	WPBC-HAL005-01
Access Road to 9 & 31 Court Barton, 9 Sharpitts, 10 & 16 Croft Road, Land adjacent 2 Court Barton	Infrastructure	WPBC-INF052-01
Land to the front of 41 Chiswell, Portland	Land Let/Licensed	WPBC-LET001-01
Land between 27 & 30 Artist Row, Portland	Land Let/Licensed	WPBC-LET015-01
Land adjoining Portland Scout & Guide Headquarters, Weston Road	Land Let/Licensed	WPBC-LET002-01
Land at the rear of 2 New Road, Portland	Land Let/Licensed	WPBC-LET013-01
Strip of Land opposite 151 Chiswell, Portland	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC007-01

Land adjacent 2 Beach Cottages, Chiswell, Portland	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC008-01
Strip of Land between The Esplanade and Shingle Beach, Chiswell	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC010-01
Land at the end of Pebble Lane, Rear of 41-51 Chiswell	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC011-01
Land on the corner of Big Ope & The Esplanade, Chiswell	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC012-01
Triangle of land adjacent walkway between Cove Cottages & Brandy Row, Portland	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC013-01
Land to the Rear of 51-57 Chiswell, Portland	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC014-01
Land to the rear of 119 Chiswell, Portland	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC016-01
Land to the Rear of Rantner Lodge & Dead House, Off Chiswell	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC017-01
Land adjacent 173 Chiswell, Portland	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC020-01
Land at the front of 118A Fortuneswell, Portland	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC023-01
Land at the end of Leet Close & Beel Close, Portland	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC027-01
Strip of land adjacent and to the rear of 31 St Martin`s Road, Portland	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC028-01
Land to the South of & Intersecting New Road, Portland	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC035-01
Land adjacent Priory Road & up to cliff edge	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC036-01
Land adjacent 26 Tradecroft Industrial Estate (Part of track)	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC038-01
Land adjacent 9-11 Rufus Way, 21 Rufus Way & 18-40 Rufus Way, Portland	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC039-01
Land between 82 & 84 Croft Road, Portland	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC041-01
Land to the rear of 2-50 Amelia Close, Portland	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC042-01
Land adjacent to 22 & 23 Fancy`s Close, Portland	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC043-01
Track and land at the end of Victoria Place, Rear of 8-12 Fancy`s Close	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC044-01
Land at the rear of 19-39 Cheyne Close, adjacent 68 Reap Lane & Adjacent 49 Sweet Hill Lane	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC045-01

Land at Long Acre, Off New Street, Portland	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC046-01
Land adjacent Yeates Road, Portland	Land Vacant	WPBC-VAC047-01
Portland Skate Park, Portland Beach Road	Leisure & Tourism	WPBC-SPF010-01
Car Parking Spaces at Bakers Ground, Off Chiswell	Licensed & Unlicensed Parking Spaces	WPBC-LPS001-01
Car Parking Spaces 131 & 132A Chiswell, Portland	Licensed & Unlicensed Parking Spaces	WPBC-LPS002-01
Portland Museum	Museums	WPBC-MUS001-01
Victoria Gardens	Parks & Gardens	WPBC-PAR006-07
Easton Gardens, Portland	Parks & Gardens	WPBC-PAR001-01
Grangecroft Road, Play Area	Play Areas, Open Space & Community Use	WPBC-PLA005-01
Fortuneswell Play Area, Hambro Road	Play Areas, Open Space & Community Use	WPBC-PLA004-01
Church Lane, Southwell, Play Area	Play Areas, Open Space & Community Use	WPBC-PLA003-01
Sweet Hill Lane, Play Area & Recreational Ground	Play Areas, Open Space & Community Use	WPBC-PLA009-01
Weston Green, Portland	Play Areas, Open Space & Community Use	WPBC-PLA011-01
West Weares Play Area, Killicks Hill	Play Areas, Open Space & Community Use	WPBC-PLA018-01
Community Garden at the rear of 57-93 Verne Common Road, Portland	Play Areas, Open Space & Community Use	WPBC-PLA019-01
Yeates Road Open Spaces	Play Areas, Open Space & Community Use	WPBC-PLA023-01
Officers Field, Portland	Play Areas, Open Space & Community Use	WPBC-PLA024
Fortuneswell Toilets	Public Conveniences	WPBC-CON007-01
Yeates Road Toilets (Seasonal)	Public Conveniences	WPBC-CON013-01
Easton Gardens, Public Toilets	Public Conveniences	WPBC-CON001-02
Chiswell Toilets, Lord Clyde Car Park	Public Conveniences	WPBC-CON018-01
Grove Road Recreation Ground	Sports Facilities	WPBC-SPF002-01
Tennis Courts and Bowls Club, Victoria Gardens	Sports Facilities	WPBC-SPF012-03

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## **Management Committee 5th February 2019 Former WPBC offices, North Quay, Weymouth.**

*Appendix 3-Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A, Part 1 of The Local Government Act 1972, as amended. The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.*

### **For Decision**

#### **Briefholder**

Cllr Jeff Cant, Assets and Finance Briefholder  
Cllr Gill Taylor, Housing Briefholder

#### **Senior Leadership Team Contact:**

S Caundle, Assistant Chief Executive

#### **Report Author:**

D.Brown, Head of Assets & Infrastructure.

#### **Statutory Authority**

Sections 123 and 111 Local Government Act 1972

### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 To allow members to consider and comment on a series of site layouts and scheme mixes that Magna Housing Association (Magna) have utilised to consult on with the public, as per Appendix 1
- 2 To review the initial schemes utilised by Magna and to consider the public response to these, as per Appendix 2
- 3 To agree support to an appropriate initial scheme design so as to allow a more detailed design and planning application to then be submitted by Magna.
- 4 To agree as set out in confidential Appendix 3 the requirements of Homes England grant and that this is signed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.
- 5 To agree to sign a joint venture agreement with Magna Housing Association but acknowledging that this may follow the Homes England grant.

### **Recommendations**

- 6 Members agree to:-
  - i) Support one of the initial scheme designs in Appendix 1 as is presented or with additional comment.
  - ii) Proceed to enter into the grant agreement with Homes England accepting that this may be in advance of the signing of the joint venture agreement between Magna and the Council.

- iii) Enter into the joint venture agreement with Magna Housing Association
- iv) Agree to delegate to the Head of Paid Services or any successor level officer authority to conclude the necessary legal agreements and also to procure the works identified as part of the Homes England grant agreement.
- v) Seek support from the Shadow Executive Dorset Council to the above recommendations.

## **REASON FOR DECISION**

7

- i) To enable members to progress their strategy for the disposal and re-development of North Quay site, taking into account comment received from the public consultation.
- ii) To secure the Homes England grant but acknowledging that in doing so there is potentially some risk in not having a simultaneously signed joint venture agreement with Magna.
- iii) To thus allowing demolition of the current building and permit a redevelopment of the site with an appropriate range of good quality affordable and other residential units, plus other facilities suitable for the location.
- iv) To ensure continuity of the project to seek support from Shadow Dorset Council since Dorset Council will be the body that will be taking forward this redevelopment post 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

## **BACKGROUND**

- 8 Members received a report to Management Committee on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018 considering a range of options for the progression and redevelopment of the North Quay site.
- 9 These options included a stand-alone council partnership regeneration offering, and alternatives including agreeing to market the site on an outright site disposal either conditionally or unconditionally, and subject to planning or not, with all these being to the open market. It was identified that there was still market interest in the site from a variety of potential purchasers and there was the opportunity to still achieve a significant capital receipt with a sale on this basis. Members acknowledged this but determined that none of these options delivered an optimum solution for their wider aspirations.
- 10 Members then considered offers from a range of Registered Social Landlords/Housing Associations, all of whom had been invited to submit bids and initial scheme proposals. Of those invited to bid a number chose not to do so but three bids were received and these were considered by members. It was agreed that the council would work with Magna Housing Association to take forward a joint venture scheme with them based upon their offer. This approach was supported by the Shadow Executive Dorset Council.



- 11 In addition members also noted that discussions had been ongoing with Homes England, and that there was the potential for a grant agreement up to circa £3m to fund abnormal site costs but that there is a Homes England requirement that any grant agreement had to be signed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

## **CURRENT POSITION**

### **Homes England Grant**

- 12 The Homes England grant can greatly assist the site redevelopment but the grant agreement can only be with the council and so the delivery elements etc. need to be considered and accepted by members.
- 13 The grant agreement is a lengthy document with a lot of conditionality and the details and implications of this are considered in more detail in confidential Appendix 3.

### **Magna Housing Association**

- 14 A series of initial site layout options have been produced and these are included in Appendix 1. These provided a range of different site layout schemes, with a mix of different components which were used as a base for the public consultations. In addition a range of questions were asked, and these and the overall public responses are indicated in Appendix 2. These are from not only the public who attended in person, but also who responded on line etc.
- 15 Magna will be developing their plans using their expertise and following significant public consultation, along with member comment, with the aim of submitting a planning application, at their own risk and cost but in accordance with their initial offer as developed and planning guidance.
- 16 In parallel to site layout consultations meetings have also taken place to consider the basis of the intended joint venture which will be used to bring forward the site. The details of this is considered in more detail in confidential Appendix 3.
- 17 As part of this the Council will be responsible for procuring the demolition of the existing Building on the site, site clearance and enabling works in accordance with its procurement rules and if agreed by members the council will be in receipt of Homes England grant funding to deliver these works. Timing of the enabling works will be driven by the Council's receipt of Homes England grant.

## **Implications**

### **Financial**

- 18 Interim funding is being utilised from existing budgets to allow an appropriate review of the Homes England grant agreement, and to assist with progression of necessary legal and other planning initial investigations.

## **Legal Issues**

19 As indicated in confidential Appendix 3

## **Equalities**

20 None directly arising from this report.

## **Environmental**

21 None directly arising from this report.

## **Economic Development**

22 Utilising the Homes England grant funds that are potentially available will enable this brownfield site to be brought into beneficial use.

## **Risk Management (including Health & Safety)**

23 This report addresses the risks associated with the current offer in relation to the North Quay disposal.

## **Human Resources**

24 None directly arising from this report.

## **Consultation and Engagement**

25 None directly arising from this report.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Proposed Scheme Options

Appendix 2 – Summary of Consultation

Appendix 3 – Confidential Appendix

## **Background Papers**

11<sup>th</sup> December 2018 Management Committee Report

## **Footnote**

Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

**Report Author:** David Brown, Head of Assets & Infrastructure

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# North Quay

Weymouth

## Site Approach 1

'Historic Street'



- What does it show?**
- Homes for older persons
  - Homes for families couples & single people
  - 3, 4 and 5 storey buildings
  - Parking some basement parking and some parking courts
  - Potential for community facing commercial space

- Some Benefits and Challenges**
- Re- instatement of the historic road across the site
  - Consideration of narrower road along North Quay
  - Can enhancement to historic locations in cliffside be made?
  - Some basement parking within flood zone
  - Outline approval of similar urban design layout already achieved



# North Quay

Weymouth

## Site Approach 2 'Harbour Views'



### Some Benefits and Challenges

#### What does it show?

- Homes for older persons
- Homes for families, couples and single people
- Parking mainly in ground floor/ basement under residential
- 4 and 5 storeys
- Potential for community facing commercial space

- Townhouses to reflect angle of neighbouring listed buildings
- No change to North Quay highway alignment
- Older person scheme could better relate to Kingdom hall
- South facing gardens for residential development
- South facing or harbour view accommodation



whitedesign

# North Quay

Weymouth

## Site Approach 3 'Finger Blocks'



### Some Benefits and Challenges

#### What does it show?

- Homes for older persons
- Homes for families, couples and single people
- Parking mainly in ground floor/ basement under residential
- 4, 5 and 6 storey buildings
- Potential for community facing commercial space

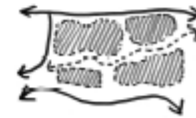
- Views through the site retained and improved
- No change to North Quay highway alignment
- Is 6 storeys acceptable to some buildings?
- Some basement parking within flood zone
- All rooms have access to potential views of harbour
- Can routes through to historic locations in cliffside be made?



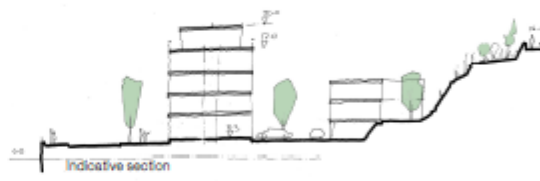
# North Quay

Weymouth

## Site Approach 4 'Pedestrian Street'



- Older persons accommodation
- 1 bed homes
- 2 bed homes
- 3 bed homes
- Listed Buildings, i.e those of historic value
- Place or point of focus, e.g enhanced landscape
- Possible access to covered parking area



### What does it show?

- Homes for older persons
- Homes for families, couples and single people
- Parking ground floor/ basement under residential and on street
- 3, 4, and 5 storey buildings
- Potential for community facing commercial space

### Some Benefits and Challenges

- Acknowledgement of existing historic street with pedestrian route created
- No change to North Quay highway alignment
- Existing road entrance retained to access new parking below front block
- Parking numbers harder to achieve
- Some buildings to rear of site protruding into the hillside - is this possible?



white design

# North Quay Consultation

Welcome to our consultation for North Quay, Weymouth. We have information around the room and staff available to talk to. We are now consulting with you to see how our bid proposals work from the community perspective.

Magna Housing is a not for profit organisation that aims to help people meet their housing needs. A bid proposal from Magna comprising of 75 homes for rent and shared ownership and 50 homes exclusively for older people has been selected by Weymouth and Portland Borough Council to develop the site of the former council offices at North Quay. The bid retains some parking for the wider community and a community facing commercial space associated with the older person housing.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form which will help us decide what happens next.

## Do you like Magna's proposal?

Yes	129 (66.8%)
No	64 (33.2%)

## Do you think the mix of shared ownership and rented homes is about right?

Yes	117 (61.2%)
No	74 (38.7%)

## Do you think these homes will be affordable to local people?

Yes	107 (62.2%)
No	65 (37.8%)

## Do you think some space open to the community to use would be good here?

Yes	145(76.7%)
No	44 (23.3%)

## Would you like to see the following?

	Yes	No
Cafe	135 (69.6%)	59 (30.4%)
Leisure facilities	102 (55.4%)	82 (44.6%)
Retail units (shops)	101 (55.2%)	82 (44.8%)

## Do you have any other suggestions for a community space?

108

**We are aware of the local interest in archaeology, road network, design options, flood risk and parking. Please could you rank these in order of importance to you. Select '1' for your most important issue, '2' for the next and so on. Select '5' for the least important issue to you. Please only select each number once.**

	1	2	3	4	5
Archaeology	59 (27.2%)	30 (13.8%)	29 (13.4%)	39 (17.9%)	42 (19.4%)
Road Network	25 (11.5%)	54 (24.9%)	56 (25.8%)	41 (18.8%)	21 (9.7%)
Design Options	72 (33.2%)	58 (26.7%)	26 (11.9%)	19 (8.8%)	23 (10.6%)
Flood risk	30 (13.8%)	34 (15.7%)	28 (12.9%)	50 (23.0%)	51 (23.5%)
Parking	45 (20.7%)	26 (12.0%)	46 (21.2%)	36 (16.6%)	46 (21.2%)

## Do you have any other concerns about the proposal?

**Which site approach do you prefer (please select 1)?**

Site approach 1	56 (53.8%)
Site approach 2	16 (15.4%)
Site approach 3	9 (8.7%)
Site approach 4	23 (22.1%)

**Site approach 1:**

What do you like most?	96
What do you like least?	79

**Site approach 2:**

What do you like most?	63
What do you like least?	67

**Site approach 3:**

What do you like most?	57
What do you like least?	63

**Site approach 4:**

What do you like most?	66
What do you like least?	65

**Do you have any other comments?**

77

**What age group are you in?**

Under 18	0 (0.0%)
18-24	7 (3.5%)
25-34	9 (4.5%)
35-44	15 (7.6%)
45-54	23 (11.6%)
55-64	63 (31.8%)
65+	81 (40.9%)

**What is your postcode?**

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