

# Core Strategy

## 14 Community Issues Key Issue Paper

Options for Consideration Consultation  
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Prepared by Christchurch Borough Council and  
East Dorset District Council as part of the Local Development Framework

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## 1 Introduction

**1.1** This paper has been prepared as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) to inform the development of the spatial strategy for matters relating to the provision of community infrastructure. The preferred strategy will be set out in the Christchurch and East Dorset Core Strategy. This paper is one of a number of thematic background papers which address distinct spatial issues affecting Christchurch and East Dorset. These issues have been identified from the local policy, local development framework evidence base and the Community Plans of Christchurch and East Dorset. This document sets out the process of how the spatial strategy for community infrastructure has been refined toward the development of a preferred strategy following Issues and Options work undertaken for the Core Strategy in spring 2008. This paper sets out the critical issues, problems and challenges to be considered in planning for community infrastructure. The Core Strategy will contain the overarching approach towards the principle of provision of services and facilities with the detailed proposals and programme being contained in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The development of a preferred spatial strategy to address these issues has been informed by the following:

- National and local policy
- Objectives of other relevant plans and programmes (National to local)
- Sustainability Appraisal
- Core Strategy Issues and Options Stakeholder Engagement
- Evidence studies undertaken by the Council and key stakeholders.

**1.2** There are a number of community facilities / infrastructure requirements relevant to both Christchurch and East Dorset which can be categorised under the following headings:

- - Community Services and Access to jobs, health, housing, education, leisure and community facilities
  - Cultural activities
  - Health and care
  - Facilities and services for older people
  - Education, facilities and services for children and young people
  - Crime and disorder

**1.3** Other facilities such as play areas and open space, tourism and town centre facilities are addressed within the Sports and Leisure, Tourism and Town Centre Vitality Key Issue Papers.

**1.4** The communities of both areas have similar age profiles with a large proportion of elderly residents and much of the requirements for community facilities relate to this group. There are also significant requirements for children and young people.

**1.5** Population distribution is also an influential factor for community issues. Christchurch and the southern part of East Dorset are more urban with larger settlements whereas the northern part of East Dorset is a much more rural area and therefore has some different community related issues. Both Christchurch and East Dorset are fairly affluent areas, but this masks pockets of deprivation where the social and community issues can be quite varied to that of the majority of other areas. Access to services, especially for the more rural parts of East Dorset is also an issue.

## 2 Baseline

### Sustainability Appraisal Baseline Information

**2.1** The Christchurch and East Dorset Sustainability Appraisal Draft Scoping Report (August 2008) sets out baseline information and identifies sustainability issues, those relevant to this paper are set out below.

#### Environmental Baseline Issues

**2.2** The environment of Christchurch and East Dorset is of high quality and both authorities boast a rich archaeological and built heritage within an attractive landscape setting. This makes the two areas attractive to people from other areas, in particular but not exclusively those of retirement age. The consequent ageing population leads to a high demand for health services, for specific provision of facilities such as daytime Adult Education classes and exercise classes. Whilst crime levels are low and continue to fall, the fear of crime remains a concern to residents, particularly older ones

#### **2.3** *Climate change*

**2.4** Climate change has the potential, not only to affect the environment, but also the social and economic aspects of life in Christchurch and East Dorset. Flooding is a bigger issue in Christchurch due to its coastal location and the fact that the Rivers Stour and Avon meet here. The Core Strategy will seek to minimise the impact of the provision of community facilities on factors contributing to climate change and minimise the vulnerability of community facilities to floodrisk.

#### **2.5** *Biodiversity and Countryside*

**2.6** The districts contain some of the most rare and precious nature conservation assets in the Country. These are under threat from urban pressures, including disturbance and damage from recreational use. The Core Strategy will need to provide activities and facilities which draw people away from the heathlands.

#### Social Baseline and Issues

**2.7** Social issues are extremely relevant to this paper as it focuses on community issues.

#### **2.8** *Population*

**2.9** Christchurch has a population of 45,824 (ONS Mid Year Estimates 2008) of which 24,131 are females and 21,693 males. The authority has the second smallest population in the County but, because of its limited area, has the second highest population density, at 875 per square kilometre. The age structure of the population demonstrates a higher proportion of elderly persons in the Borough compared to national averages (34% retirement age compared to 19% in England & Wales). The residents of Christchurch are predominantly monotypic, being mostly white British citizens who constitute 96.83% of the population (The State of Christchurch 2008). East Dorset has a population of 85,913 (ONS Mid Year Population Estimates 2008) and around two thirds of the population live in the south and eastern area of the district. There are a high proportion of people of retirement age – 32% compared

with 19% nationally. The age structure of the district has undergone significant changes in recent years which has had an impact on social provision. Since 1991, the number of people aged 50-59 years has increased by 49% whilst those in age band 20-29 years have fallen by 29%. East Dorset has the smallest black and ethnic minority population in the County at only 2.8%. Long term projections suggest that the population may grow to 91,500 in East Dorset and to 48,300 in Christchurch by 2024 (Dorset County Council statistic based on 2006 population projections). These projections show a small increase in the number of children in 5 to 9 age group for Christchurch and similar increases in the numbers of those in their late twenties and early thirties in both areas. Whilst the numbers of those in their forties goes up over the time period, it drops towards the end of the projection, 2024. There is a large increase in the number those 50 and over. The picture is different for East Dorset where there is an increase in those in their twenties but a reduction over the period in the 35 to 49 age group. There is a similar increase in the over fifty age groups as in Christchurch. The ageing population leads to a high demand for health services, for specific provision of facilities such as daytime Adult Education classes, volunteering opportunities and exercise classes for the active over 50s. It may also mean that the two areas show a higher fear of crime than actual crime. Many people moving into the area have a small support network which again places strain on the formal provision of care. In East Dorset, the predictions for lower numbers of people in the 30 to 50 year range may put more strain on the provision of health care due to lower numbers in the economically active age ranges. Conversely, many organisations benefit from the numbers of active retired who volunteer and therefore provide services. The Priests House Museum, the Tivoli and National Trust properties all provide volunteering opportunities. The projected increase in the numbers of children in Christchurch and decrease in East Dorset will require the County Council as education provider to examine the capacity of existing schools and to determine the location of any alteration to schools provision.

**2.10** The Core Strategy will examine how and where facilities and services are needed to support the existing population as well as the growth in population numbers and changes in the age ranges of the population and to provide a strategy for the delivery of these facilities.

### **2.11** Housing

**2.12** In 2001, Christchurch had around 21,769 dwellings of which 31.7% were single households (21.7% one-pensioner and 10% single non-pensioner households). The numbers of people living alone may impact on the need for community support, particularly for the pensioner households. (DSP). Around 3% of housing stock is second residencies or holiday homes compared with the average for England and Wales of 0.7% (2001 Census, The Dorset Data Book 2008). In comparison, the percentage of second homes in East Dorset is 0.6%, under the national average, although some parishes have high numbers of holiday homes. The top ones are Moor Crichel (7.4%), Gussage All Saints (4.1%) and Pamphill (3.6%). The number of second homes is high in comparison to the national average and their lack of occupancy as a main home leads to less community cohesion and less use of facilities, in particular schools.

### **2.13** Health

**2.14** Overall the health of Christchurch Borough's residents is good, with life expectancy for the period 2004/2006 being 80.3 years for men and 84.4 years for women (The Dorset Data Book 2008). Although teenage pregnancies in the Borough are relatively low compared with national averages, with 33.3% per 1,000 women aged 15-17 in 2004-2006, this masks considerable differences between wards. Life expectancy in East Dorset is higher than the national average, being 84.7 for females and 84.1 for males for the period 2004-2006. Rates of teenage pregnancies in East Dorset were 25% per 1,000

females aged 15-17. Whilst life expectancy is long, the elderly population of both districts means that demands on the health service and for support can be higher than elsewhere. At the same time, it is important that the needs of young people are not forgotten and that information on health and access to facilities is provided for them.

### 2.15 Social Inclusion and Deprivation

**2.16** Christchurch is generally perceived as an attractive, tranquil and affluent borough. Whilst this may be a reality for the majority there are pockets of deprivation such as Somerford East and West which rank as 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> most deprived areas (super output areas) in the County (from a total of 247) and within the 25% most deprived areas in the Country. In contrast, Mudeford is amongst the 20% least deprived areas in the Country (The Christchurch AMR 2008). A range of local initiatives have been introduced to address issues of deprivation including provision of a youth advisory centre 'Ladders', parenting courses, support for carers and a recent successful joint application by the Grange School and Somerford Primary School for 'full service extended school' status. East Dorset is the least deprived of all the Dorset authorities. There are however, pockets of deprivation, with the Super Output Area of Ferndown Tricketts Cross East (Heatherlands) falling within the ten percent most deprived areas in Dorset, whilst Wimborne Leigh Park, Verwood, Potterne and Woolsbridge and Allen Valley fall within the 25 percent most deprived Super Output Areas in Dorset (East Dorset, A profile of the economy and labour market 2008). The Core Strategy will need to consider any requirement for additional support and facilities in these deprived areas.

### 2.17 Crime

**2.18** The crime rate in Christchurch is 58 crimes per 1,000 people. (Dorset police, 2008/2009) The Grange ward is identified as experiencing the highest increases in crime in the Borough. Evidence drawn from the Community Safety Survey in 2008 shows that in Christchurch, 99% of respondents report they feel safe living in their local area (ie within a 15 minute walk of where they live) but that 17% of respondents feel that crime has gone up in their local area compared to 12 months earlier. The crime rate has however fallen from 71 crimes per thousand population to 58 crimes per thousand. The crime rate in East Dorset is very low, indeed the lowest in the County and one of the lowest of any local authority in England and Wales, at 37.34 crimes per 1,000 population (Dorset police 2008/2009). The numbers of older people living in the area may reflect the higher levels of fear of crime and low levels of actual crime.

### 2.19 Education

**2.20** In 2008 55.2% of Christchurch students achieved 5 or more grades A - C in GCSEs including English and Maths. This is higher than the Dorset average (53.3% and England average (47.6%) (Source: Dept for Children, Schools and Families). In contrast, Christchurch has the highest proportion of people with poor basic literacy and numeracy skills in the County. The 2001 Census showed that 28% of people aged 16-74 have no qualifications, compared with 29.1% in England and Wales. This figure may be indicative of the proportion of elderly in the population, since research has shown that the number of people leaving education without qualifications has decreased steadily over time. In 2008 55.1% of East Dorset students achieved 5 or more grades A-C in GCSE's including English and Maths, above Dorset and national averages. Dorset Adult Education Service provides courses for life long learning with centres in Christchurch, Wimborne and Ferndown. It is predicted that there will continue to be an increase in the population for both districts (ONS) and this will be further increased by proposals for urban extensions and other development. This development will put pressure on some education facilities in Wimborne in particular, although some schools, such as those in the Ferndown area and in parts of Christchurch may have sufficient capacity.



However, as a result of the proposed urban extension in Christchurch it is likely that Highcliffe Comprehensive may have capacity issues due to current parental preference for this school. Other schools such as Lockyers Middle School, Corfe Mullen may need to be replaced. Dorset County Council plan to roll forward the change from a three tier system of schooling to a two tier system and this will affect the existing establishments.

### **2.21** Culture, Leisure and Recreation

**2.22** Christchurch has a range of cultural, leisure and recreational facilities which are used by both residents and visitors to the town. They include the Red House Museum and Gardens, the Electricity Museum, the Aviation Museum, Highcliffe Castle and the Regent Centre. The latter is a venue for professional and local amateur companies providing a diverse programme of around 400 events each year.

**2.23** East Dorset also has a wide range of cultural, leisure and recreational facilities. This includes the Priests House Museum and garden, the Tivoli Theatre, Kingston Lacy House and gardens, which houses a major art collection, and several other country houses of note that open to the public during the year.

**2.24** The Joint Retail Study by Nathaniel Litchfield and Partners shows that there is a limited selection of cultural, leisure and recreational facilities in both areas but these adequately serve the area. Larger and more varied facilities are to be found in the surrounding, larger settlements and the proximity to these centres will limit potential for any additional facilities.

**2.25** All leisure activities contribute to the quality of life of residents of all ages, providing amenity and opportunities for enhancing intellectual, spiritual and physical well being. Additionally, cultural and leisure facilities represent a tourism asset and their provision can result in economic benefits to the Borough and District. This subject is also included in the Sports and Leisure Key Issue Paper.

## **Economic Baseline and Considerations**

### **2.26** Economy

**2.27** The economies of both areas have impacts on their cultural vibrancy. A good economy is better placed to support increasing cultural and other community facilities and economy can help with the social cohesion of communities. Good educational and community facilities and services are important to making the area an attractive place to live. This will have an impact on attracting skilled employees which will have a positive effect on the economy.

### **2.28** Shopping

**2.29** Shopping facilities exist at district centres, local centres and local shopping parades throughout the Borough of Christchurch in addition to retail outlets in the town centre. There are two main centres within East Dorset at Wimborne Minster and Ferndown. Additionally, there are smaller centres at Verwood, West Moors and a scatter of shops throughout Corfe Mullen. The town centres provide the hub of community life. Many rural communities have lost their shops, which means that residents have to rely on provision within towns which may have an effect on community life in the villages. More detailed information regarding shopping and the economy can be found in the Town Centre Vitality Key Issue Paper and the Economy Key Issue Paper.

### **2.30** Tourism

**2.31** Tourism is important to the economy of Christchurch but even more significant for East Dorset. The rich historic and cultural heritage of Christchurch is an important factor in defining the character of the town for both residents and visitors with, for example, the 11<sup>th</sup> century Priory Church attracting almost 70,000 visitors per annum. Other heritage attractions include The Castle and Constable's House (Scheduled Monuments), Highcliffe Castle and the Red House Museum and Gardens.

**2.32** In East Dorset, Moors Valley Country Park is the second most popular attraction in Dorset, with Avon Heath Country Park being third (English Tourism Council). Other significant attractions in the District include Kingston Lacy House and Wimborne Minster. The smaller facilities such as the Priest's House Museum and its garden are also important to the town. Whilst tourism is covered in its own paper, it is important to note that such attractions are used throughout the year by residents and many offer the opportunity to perform or to volunteer, both of which are aspirations of the regional, county and district and borough cultural strategies, giving those taking part a greater feeling of community and self worth. Both are important to mental health.

### **2.33** Transport

**2.34** The town of Christchurch is located close to Bournemouth with easy access to the A338 which runs to the north of the Borough, providing links to primary routes to the east and west. The Borough has 2 railway stations providing a two hour link to London and the South East. Bournemouth Airport, lying in the north-east of the Borough, provides scheduled and charter flights to a range of national and international destinations. The Airport is in reasonable proximity to the trunk road network, being a mile from the A338 Bournemouth Spur Road which connects to the A31. There is no rail connection with the nearest station at Christchurch, 4km away. Car ownership in Christchurch is relatively high at 1.21 cars per household. Christchurch is served by two main bus companies which provide direct journeys to a number of destinations within and outside the Borough, although public transport to Bournemouth Hospital is poor. A 'Dial-a-Bus' service operates for residents of the Borough. East Dorset is poorly served by public transport. There are no railways and bus services are sporadic, with many suburban and rural areas having no service at all. The District consequently has the highest level of car ownership in the Country at 88% of households having access to a car in the 2001 Census. Parts of the district have low proximity to a range of services including GP surgeries, schools, shops and libraries. These areas are those in the north and west of the district which are further from the conurbation of Poole and Bournemouth and Salisbury, such as Gussage St Michael and Sixpenny Handley. It is important that the Core Strategy examines how facilities can be accessed, in particular using public transport other than standard service buses, and if necessary, services taken to residents. Transport is dealt with in more detail in the Transport and Access Key Issue Paper.

### **Core Strategic Messages**

- Levels of car ownership are high, in particular in East Dorset which is poorly served by public transport. However, 11.6% of households in the district do not own a car. It is important that the Core Strategy examines how facilities can be accessed or how services can be taken to residents.
- Good educational provision and high quality community facilities help to attract skilled employees which facilitates a strong local economy.
- The ageing population leads to a high demand for facilities and services to support and provide for them. Such facilities and services include adult learning classes and meeting rooms for groups such as University for the Third Age and other organisations. Accessibility to facilities may be an issue for those in rural or suburban areas.
- Volunteering opportunities are needed with those over retirement age making up most of the "staff" for museums, theatres such as the Tivoli and National Trust properties. There is a wide range of facilities in the two districts with the surrounding larger centres providing the larger venues for a wider variety of larger scale services.

- The quality of the environment across Christchurch and East Dorset attracts people to live in the local area, particularly those of retirement age. Their numbers boost an already ageing population. The long life expectancy and the high numbers of older people create demands on the health and support services. However, the health of the population is generally good. Rates of teenage pregnancy are low, though there are differences between wards.
- Whilst older people place high demands on facilities and services including healthcare, their standard of health is high. They also support the local area through voluntary work. Access to facilities and services can be poor especially if they do not own a car. Accessibility is recognised as an issue which affects this age group particularly as well as other sectors of the population.
- Whilst the increase in the projected population levels of the area is less than the projected increase in that of retirement age group, there is a need to examine the capacity of schools. Some schools have capacity, for example in Ferndown and parts of Christchurch but others, in Wimborne for example, may be affected by the growth in the population.
- The children of the areas achieve high grades at GCSEs, East Dorset being above national average and Christchurch being above Dorset average
- Crime rates are low but the elderly population are likely to contribute to responses which show the fear of crime is high.
- Whilst the two areas are generally perceived as affluent, there are pockets of deprivation to be found in both. Six areas, (Super Output areas) fall within the 25% most deprived Super Output areas in Dorset.

## Policy Background

### Community Services and Facilities (Access to jobs, health, housing, education, leisure and community facilities)

Planning Policy Statement 1 Delivering Sustainable Development 2005

Planning Policy Statement Consultation Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate 2010

Planning Policy Statement 4 Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth (2009)

Planning Policy Guidance Note 13 Transport 2001

Rural Services Review 2006

Rural Strategy, DEFRA 2004

Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities, A New Agenda- Commission for Rural Communities 2007

Future of Transport White Paper 2004

Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities, Communities and Local Government 2008

Culture and Creativity in 2009, Department of Culture, Media and Sport

Knitting together: planning and our ageing population PAS 2009

Multi –Area Agreement for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole (MAA) 2008

Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008-2011

East Dorset Local Plan 2002

Christchurch Local Plan 2001

East Dorset Corporate Plan 2010-2016

Leigh Park Community Centre Feasibility Study Report August 2008

National Indicators 2007

### Analysis

- PPS1 requires improved access to facilities, focusing development in existing areas
- The Consultation on PPS Planning of a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate puts forward, amongst requirements for sites to be examined for their potential to provide for decentralised energy, the need to consider the impact of travel demand and whether there is a realistic choice of access and opportunities for the use of low carbon transport.
- PPS4 supports the provision of small scale facilities to meet community needs to be provided outside identified local service centres. The retention of local facilities is supported.
- The Rural Services Review promotes rural services and access to them, looking for local responses to issues.
- The Rural Strategy (DEFRA) has ‘tackling rural exclusion and providing access for all’ as one of its priorities. It looks for innovative ways to deliver cost effective services through partnership working.
- Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities: A New Agenda suggests that there needs to be an examination of provision of services in edge of town areas as well as rural areas as both are a distance from town centres. This has implications for the location of development and the spatial strategy contained in the Core Strategy.
- PPG13 promotes accessibility to facilities by public transport, walking and cycling.
- Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous communities requires bodies and local authorities to work together through the local Strategic Partnership to determine priorities and achieve consensus.
- Culture and Creativity in 2009 emphasises the rapidly growing importance of culture to peoples’ lives and the expectation that this will carry on.
- Knitting Together discusses the need to develop good local centres which provide a mixed retail offer and services close to where people live. There is also a need to facilitate more cultural activities and improve the self containment of smaller communities by offering a wider range of services.

- The LAA has a target for increasing the number of people engaged in the arts.
- The current Local Plan for East Dorset has a policy to restrict proposals which would result in the loss of facilities unless the use is unviable or there are adequate facilities available locally and to promote some new facilities which were required in areas of the district where there had been some growth. Some of these, such as a community centre at Verwood have been provided.
- Christchurch Local Plan does not have a policy covering the protection of community facilities however in the supporting text in the Leisure and Community Needs chapter it states that 'it is important to protect the existing community use of sites by resisting their change to another use. Pressure could arise for redevelopment of school sites or other community uses and in the interests of the community it is essential that they are not lost unless the developer proposes to provide equivalent facilities elsewhere in the locality. Planning permission will not be granted for the redevelopment of, or change of use of buildings or land used to provide community facilities unless it can be proved that there is no need for their retention or the developer provides acceptable alternative community facilities elsewhere in the locality'.
- The Christchurch Local Plan also has policies on promoting access to facilities and encouraging use of recreational facilities
- East Dorset Corporate Plan sets out the need to access facilities, particularly for young people
- The Leigh Park Study showed that a centre was required for the area, providing a facility for residents. Whilst there are facilities in the surrounding area, these do not necessarily provide the services required by residents and such facilities may not be accessed by them due to lack of confidence, for example. This centre is now under construction.
- NI6 participation in regular volunteering
- NI7 environment for a thriving third sector
- NI9 use of public libraries
- NI10 visits to museums and galleries
- NI11 engagement in the arts

### Core Strategic Messages

All the documents have concerns over rural exclusion and difficulties in accessing facilities.

Whilst some strategies emphasise the need for facilities to be located in larger settlements and for preference to be given to access by public transport, cycling and walking, there is a need for facilities provision in smaller settlements as supported by PPS7, and Defra's Rural Strategy

The Core Strategy needs to address the balance of facilities provision between larger settlements and the provision of limited local facilities in smaller settlements or on the edge of larger settlements to facilitate access and to consider the feasibility of using low carbon transport to access facilities

### Cultural Activities

DCMS , Leading the Good Life: Guidance on Integrating Cultural and Community Strategies 2004

Our Creative Talent: The Voluntary and Amateur Arts in England. DCMS, ACE, 2008

Planning Policy Statement 1 “Delivering Sustainable Development” 2005

Knitting together: planning and our ageing population PAS 2009

Just Connect, An Integrated Regional Strategy for the South West 2004

In search of Chunky Dunsters, A Cultural Strategy for the South West-Culture South West 2001

A Better Place to be –Culture and the South-West of England 2008

People, Places and Spaces- A Cultural Infrastructure Strategy for the South West 2008

South-East Dorset Cultural Strategy 2005

Dorset Cultural Strategy 2003-2008

Dorset Strategic Partnership, Draft Cultural Strategy 2009-2014

Christchurch Arts Strategy 2003

Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008-2011

Corporate Plan, Christchurch Borough Council 2008-2012

Corporate Plan, East Dorset District Council 2010-2016

East Dorset Cultural Strategy 2005

National Indicators 2007

### **Analysis**

- The DCMS document defines culture as including performing and visual arts, craft and fashion, media, film, television, video and language, museums, artefacts, archives and design, libraries, literature, writing and publishing, the built heritage, architecture, landscape and archaeology, sports events, facilities and development, parks, open spaces, wildlife habitats, water environment and countryside recreation, children’s play, playgrounds and play activities, tourism, festival and attractions and informal leisure pursuits. (This definition is included to be consistent with the County Cultural Strategy.) The Core Strategy will need to promote and encourage relevant aspects of culture such as places for performing and

visual arts, museums, libraries, the built heritage, architecture, landscape and archaeology, parks, open spaces, wildlife habitats, water environment and countryside recreation, children's play, playgrounds and play activities and tourism.

- Our Creative Talent was a survey of participation in the arts which shows the number of people taking part and volunteering leading to a need for a variety of venues and spaces.
- PPS1 reinforces the role of the spatial planning system in promoting community development and involving the community in shaping their area.
- Knitting together makes it clear that it is important to recognise shifts in how people use their leisure time and to facilitate more cultural activities
- Just Connect brings together all the regional strategies, aims to enhance access to cultural assets and promote the region as a culturally vibrant place to live and work. It stresses the significance of recognising the importance of cultural facilities on the wider health of the region, including the economy. It is supported by the Cultural Strategy for the South West which states culture is worth around £1 billion to the south west economy. The document aims to increase cultural opportunities. This has implications for the provision of cultural facilities required during the plan period.
- A Better Place to Be builds on the achievements of "In Search of Chunky Dunsters" in stressing the importance of space for cultural activities as these create a shared social space which helps build communities. Therefore, there is a need to ensure that new development includes venues and spaces to ensure access to cultural facilities and to support sustainable economic growth.
- Culture South West takes its role further in People, Places and Spaces and sets out the investment needed to enhance the economic development of the region and the quality of life of its residents. It seeks to deliver the aims of Just Connect and provide a framework for prioritisation and investment. For the South East Dorset SSCT, it suggests there is a need for a cultural hub to serve the sub-region providing indoor and outdoor facilities. There are implications for the provision of infrastructure and its location but it unlikely to be required within East Dorset or Christchurch.
- The LAA has a target of increasing participation in volunteering.
- The Dorset Cultural Strategy includes in its aims the need to improve access and to encourage participation in cultural activities.
- The DSP Draft Cultural Strategy shows Dorset, and in particular North and East Dorset, are poorly served with cultural facilities. It recognises the importance of looking beyond boundaries in provision of culture. Poor accessibility is seen as a challenge in improving cultural facilities within an area with dispersed population. Proposals for the future include improving accessibility, supporting events and venues in the rural area and safeguarding the environment.
- The South-East Dorset Cultural Strategy suggests a more developed approach is needed between culture and spatial planning. It states that venues are important and that village halls may be too small to cater for many functions. A hierarchy of halls is suggested with existing facilities being enhanced and added to, the latter especially in the urban area.
- Both Corporate Plans concentrate on the need to provide for young people.
- East Dorset Cultural Strategy wishes to see activities open to all, providing a positive contribution to the image and identity of the district.
- Christchurch Arts Strategy has an objective to provide facilities and accessibility to arts and culture and wishes opportunities to extend infrastructure to be identified.
- NI6 participation in regular volunteering
- NI7 environment for a thriving third sector
- NI9 use of public libraries
- NI10 visits to museums and galleries
- NI11 engagement in the arts

### Core Strategic Messages

There is recognition of the importance of culture to the whole area and the need for a hierarchical approach to the provision of venues. Large scale venues may not be appropriate for the two authorities' areas as they are provided in Poole, Bournemouth, Salisbury and Southampton but it will be important that if facilities are to be provided they are in keeping with the size and needs of the communities. Opportunities for volunteering need to be increased and again could be delivered through the Core Strategy in part by improving the accessibility and availability of community buildings.

Table 2.2

### Health and Care

White Paper, Choosing Health, making health choices easier 2004

NHS Next Stage Review final report, The Darzi Report 2008

Choosing Activity Department for Health 2005

Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives Department of Health 2008

Be Active, Be Healthy Department of Health 2009

RTPI Good Practice Note 5 delivering Healthy Communities 2009

Future Health: Sustainable Places for Health and Well-being CABE

Knitting together: planning and our ageing population PAS 2009

Multi –Area Agreement for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole (MAA) 2008

Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008-2011

Health Strategy, Dorset Primary Care Trust 2008-2011

NHS Dorset Health Strategy 2009-2012

Healthy Weight Strategy for Dorset 2009-2012 Dorset PCT

Health Profiles for Christchurch and East Dorset NHS 2009



Locality Commissioning Plans for Christchurch and East Dorset 2009-2010, Dorset PCT

Response to the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, Dorset Primary Care Trust (undated)

Draft Strategy for Care Homes for Older People Dorset County Council January 2006

Draft Health Improvement Plan 2008-2013, East Dorset District Council

Corporate Plan, Christchurch Borough Council 2008-2012

Corporate Plan, East Dorset District Council 2010-2016

Christchurch Local Plan 2001

National Indicators 2007

### Analysis

- The White Paper is extensive in its coverage of topics which need to be considered and taken forward in the Core Strategy.
- More health services are to be delivered at the local level, increasing the use of community hospitals, making services more accessible. This may have an impact on the scale of surgeries required and their location. There are implications for working with the health service to ensure their needs are incorporated in the Core Strategy and in infrastructure planning.
- Government initiatives set out to provide parks and playgrounds and provide access to services and choice in how to spend leisure time. These have implications for the level of infrastructure to be provided with new development.
- The role of communities in making healthy choices will be enhanced by local activity schemes.
- Improvements are needed to streets so people are happy to walk and cycle including street lighting, surfacing, traffic reduction and better air quality implications for planning access. Routes need to be safe and convenient to encourage people to walk or cycle.
- Improvements in cycling infrastructure to be funded in some areas by the Government, along with the Walking to Health campaign as part of a wider campaign to reduce obesity, particularly in children.
- In rural areas, more use should be made of the extended schools concept to allow out of hours use of school facilities to increase activity levels in children and young people.
- There is a requirement to improve housing stock, provide good quality employment and a better environment-all contribute to healthy lives. This needs to be taken into consideration in policies relating to new development.
- The Darzi Report stresses the need for the NHS to move to being a preventative service and as part of this, raise activity levels, backed up by PCT report.

- The RTPI, PAS and CABE recommend that local facilities should be clustered within areas which are accessible by walking, cycling and on public transport routes, close to the communities they serve. The co-location and integration of services such as health, education, social care, arts and leisure should be considered. “Healthy Living Centre” approaches are promoted which encourages incorporating exercise into everyday life and allows for informal meetings thus improving social cohesion and reducing isolation.
- PAS in “Knitting Together” point out that the isolated nature of many villages creates issues for access to health care facilities and other services by public transport. The document also stresses the need to protect current health facilities and ensure they are accessible to everyone.
- The Health Profiles show that whilst the populations are older than the national average, the number of over 65’s “not in good health” is lower than the national average. The numbers diagnosed with diabetes is higher than the national average which may reflect the ageing population.
- The PCT is promoting more accessible services and is moving towards providing care in the home or closer to home which may lead to some larger surgeries offering a wider range of services. Technological advances will make care in the home possible but there will be a need for improved access in terms of broadband or other IT provision. There are implications for working with the health service in ensuring their needs are incorporated in the Core Strategy and in infrastructure planning. Additional growth in both areas would have implications for health care provision. In both areas, some existing practices would need to be expanded and refurbished or possibly new surgeries required. Any new surgeries should be easily accessible from the residential development which they serve. Facilities which house both health and social care services enable integration of services and thus better patient care. The PCT also stress the need for access to open spaces and leisure centres for both mental and physical health reasons and for good cycling and walking routes to increase the possibility of active travel. Services should be located close to areas of need to ensure sustainable travel modes are the logical choice.
- The Draft Strategy for Care Homes for Older People discusses the need to provide services locally so that people do not need to move away from their neighbourhood.
- The MAA has an improved quality of life in its vision.
- The LAA has a target to improve physical activity levels, thus reducing childhood obesity and others which relate to improving the quality of life for older people..
- The Draft Health Improvement Plan for East Dorset sets out National Service Frameworks and identifies improvements to health which the local authority can implement. These include the need to improve physical activity levels which can be partially achieved by the creation of pleasant environments which help to improve mental health and encourage outdoor activities. Facilities for indoor sports are also required.
- Access to open space and to facilities can help reduce isolation. The health impacts of policy and planning applications need to be considered.
- The need for facilities applies to all ages but children and young people and the elderly, all of whom may be less mobile may require special consideration.
- Homes are needed in sufficient quantities to reduce overcrowding which has a detrimental effect on mental health. Suitable housing is needed for people with disabilities and the elderly may benefit from lifetime homes.
- The East Dorset Corporate Plan wishes to ensure people have access to health care, lead healthier lifestyles and that standards of living are improved in areas of need.
- Christchurch Local Plan suggests that the Jumpers/Fairmile/St Catherine’s area of the town is not so well provided for by medical facilities and suggests that a medical centre is required in the area.

- NI8 adult participation in sport
- NI119 self reported measure of people's overall health and well being

### **Core Strategic Messages**

All documents reviewed emphasise the high level of concern over low levels of physical activity and stress the need to create safe and attractive environments to allow for increases in physical activity levels.

Poor quality housing, employment and limited access to open space and facilities are all recognised as contributing to poor health, both physical and mental, the Core Strategy needs to address these issues.

Clustering facilities and services will lead to greater use of facilities, encourage incorporating exercise into daily life and promote social contact leading to social cohesion.

Whilst the areas have higher than average numbers of older people, the health of over 65s is better than the national average.

Health care is to be delivered at the local level which may lead to requirements for more local facilities to be included in the Core Strategy and subsequent documents, for example site specific allocations.

Table 2.3

### **Facilities and Services for Older People**

World Health Organisation Age Friendly Cities Guide 2008

PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development

Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods- A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society DCLG 2008

Knitting together: planning and our ageing population PAS 2009

NHS Dorset Health Strategy 2009-2012

Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008-2011

Dorset Partnership for Older People's Project (POPP)

Total Place Project, Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole

Health Profiles for Christchurch and East Dorset NHS 2009

Draft Strategy for Care Homes for Older People Dorset County Council January 2006

East Dorset Corporate Plan 2010-2016

National Indicators

### Analysis

- WHO in Age Friendly Cities and CLG in Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods describe the requirements for places and neighbourhoods to be age friendly. The requirements include the need for easy access to facilities with the clustering or co-locating of facilities and older persons housing being a possibility. Opportunities for volunteering are important.
- PPS1 is not explicit on dealing with an ageing population but it does require development to be accessible and requires local authorities to consider people's diverse needs and to aim to breakdown exclusions.
- PAS in "Knitting Together" point out that the isolated nature of many villages creates issues for access to health care facilities and other services by public transport. The document also stresses the need to protect current facilities and ensure they are accessible to everyone. Joint working between a wide range of partners is advised.
- The PCT is promoting more accessible services and is moving towards providing care in the home or closer to home which may lead to some larger surgeries offering a wider range of services. Technological advances will make care in the home possible but there will be a need for improved access in terms of broadband or other IT provision. There are implications for working with the health service in ensuring their needs are incorporated in the Core Strategy and in infrastructure planning. Additional growth in both areas would have implications for health care provision. In both areas, some existing practices would need to be expanded and refurbished or possibly new surgeries required. Any new surgeries should be easily accessible from the residential development which they serve. Facilities which house both health and social care services enable integration of services and thus better patient care. The PCT also stress the need for access to open spaces and leisure centres for both mental and physical health reasons and for good cycling and walking routes to increase the possibility of active travel. Services should be located close to areas of need to ensure sustainable travel modes are the logical choice.
- The LAA has targets which refer to the care of older people. One is aimed at supporting people to live independently.
- The Dorset Partnership for Older People's Project is one of a set of pilot projects set up across the country to improve the quality of life for older people. It worked across organisations to devise ways of supporting older people in active and healthy living. The Total Place Project has followed on from POPP working across authorities and organisations to improve the quality of life for older people which includes improving access in rural areas.
- The Health Profiles show that whilst the populations are older than the national average, the number of over 65's "not in good health" is lower than the national average. The numbers diagnosed with diabetes is higher than the national average which may reflect the ageing population

- The Draft Strategy for Care Homes for Older People discusses the need to provide services locally so that people do not need to move away from their neighbourhood.
- The East Dorset Corporate Plan recognises that a high proportion of the district's residents are above retirement age and that it is important to provide opportunities for older people to use their skills. Businesses will be encouraged to invest in those skills and older people encouraged to act as mentors for new businesses.
- NI 137 Healthy life expectancy at age 65
- NI 138 Satisfaction of people over 65 with both home and neighbourhood
- NI 139 People over 65 who say they receive the information, assistance and support needed to exercise choice and control to live independently
- NI 142 Number of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living.

### **Core Strategic Messages**

There is a clear message for the Core Strategy that facilities should be easily accessible and that clustering facilities with or without older persons housing is beneficial. Care closer to home or even in the home will be possible with improvements in technology. The Health Profiles show that whilst the area has an ageing population, life expectancy is high and the numbers in good health is high. It is the aim of the authorities to ensure this remains so and that higher numbers are in good health.

Table 2.4

### **Education, Facilities and Services for Children and Young People**

The Children's Act 2004

Youth Matters-Next Steps Department for Education and Skills 2005

Multi –Area Agreement for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole (MAA) 2008

Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008-2011

Children and Young People's Plan, Dorset County Council 2007-2009

Corporate Plan, Christchurch Borough Council 2008-2012

Corporate Plan, East Dorset District Council 2010-2016

Draft Health Improvement Plan 2008-2013, East Dorset District Council

Policies for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults, East Dorset District Council 2009

National Indicators 2007

**Analysis**

- The Children’s Act 2004 places a duty on services to ensure every child has the support they need to be healthy, safe, enjoy and achieve through learning, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic well being.
- Youth matters-Next Steps makes money available to be spent on positive activities for young people, currently only in pilot areas.
- The MAA and LAA both aim to increase the level of skills and improve education as well as to reduce youth crime and increasing participation in positive activities. They also aim at improving the area so as to be more attractive to young people, partly working towards retaining graduates in the county.
- One priority area of the Children and Young People’s Plan is that of children and young people living in rural communities with limited access to services.
- The Christchurch Corporate Plan wishes to see improved provision of services and facilities for young people with East Dorset aiming for children and young people to feel safer, have good job and career prospects and have access to facilities which reflect their needs.
- There are implications that development needs to be attractive to young people of all ages, to provide facilities for them and ensure they are accessible.
- The Draft Health Improvement Plan sets out the need for active lifestyles to be promoted for children and young people as this has physical, mental and social health implications.
- East Dorset’s policies on protecting children establish that it aims to provide safe, enjoyable cultural activities and opportunities for young people.
- NI110 Young people’s participation in positive activities
- NI117 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training
- NI165 Proportion of population aged 19 to 64 qualified to at least Level 4 or above

**Core Strategic Messages**

The key documents reviewed show there is a clear need for the Core Strategy to address the need for the provision of facilities for children and young people. Levels of skills and education need to be raised. It is also important to ensure the community as a whole has access to a range of community facilities to meet everyday needs and to increase participation in physical exercise in particular exercise using natural, outdoor facilities.. There is also a requirement to provide safe, healthy and affordable places to live for young dependants and suitable housing for when young people become independent.

Table 2.5

### Crime and Disorder

Planning Policy Statement 1 “Delivering Sustainable Development” 2005

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Safer Places, The Planning System and Crime Prevention, ODPM 2004

LAA 2008-2011

Corporate Plan, Christchurch Borough Council 2008-2012

Corporate Plan, East Dorset District Council 2010-2016

Crime and Drugs Reduction Strategy for the County 2005-2008

Community Safety Plan 2008 -2011, Eastern Dorset Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

National Indicators 2007

### Analysis

- Local Authorities must exercise their functions with due regard to their effects on crime and disorder and work to prevent it.
- The Crime and Disorder Act requires local authorities to produce a strategy for their areas, by working with other bodies in crime and disorder reduction partnerships.
- PPS1 requires local authorities to have robust policies on design, including policies on creating safe and accessible communities.
- Safer Places adds more detail to this. Both PPS1 and Safer Places set out the need for polices on design.
- The LAA includes a target on creating safer communities.
- Christchurch Corporate Plan has an objective which relates to reducing crime, anti social behaviour and the fear of crime. East Dorset wish to address the fear of crime and also road safety.
- The Crime and Drugs Reduction Strategy concentrates on reducing both crime and the fear of crime but is positive in terms of wishing to tackle discrimination and see an increase in activities for youngsters leading to implications for provision of facilities, open space and sport. The Community Safety Plan echoes this. Both policies relate to the Crime and Disorder Act and have implications for the Core Strategy in terms of providing facilities and thus activities for young people
- NI15 serious violent crime
- NI17 perceptions of anti-social behaviour

- NI20 assault with injury crime rate
- NI24 perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem

**Core Strategic Messages**

The crime and disorder related policy documents reviewed place a statutory requirement on local authorities to promote well designed, safe places which are accessible. The quality of design and layout of new developments including open space would help with the aims of all the documents and has an implication for the Core Strategy. There is also a need for more facilities and increased access to them to reduce instances of crime and antisocial behaviour.

Table 2.6

**Community Strategies**

Dorset County Council Community Strategy 2007-2016

Christchurch Borough Council Community Strategy 2007-2010

East Dorset District Council Community Strategy 2008-2015

**Analysis**

The community strategies of the County, Christchurch and East Dorset aim to see more people volunteering, in particular they aim to see continued support for the development of parish and town plans with more people, especially those who are more isolated or marginalised, taking part in community activities and voluntary work.

Christchurch Community Plan aims to increase activity levels and play for children and young people and to promote training. It also wishes to see more intergenerational activities and to keep crime levels low and tackle the fear of crime.

In East Dorset, the Community Strategy recognises children and young people as a minority age group, facing a variety of problems including poor transport and accessibility, limited facilities, lack of training opportunities and growing up in an area of high house prices and low wages. The action points are aimed at improving health, activity, transport, education, safe communities and ensuring their views are considered in the development of policies and plans. Christchurch and East Dorset Community Plans have visions of safe communities with no fear of crime.



The Dorset Strategic Partnership has produced a document on “Choosing Health in Dorset”, written by its sub group, the Health and Wellbeing Partnership and for East Dorset there is a Local Health Improvement plan, produced by the East Dorset Community Partnership. The DSP is concerned about the rising numbers of older people and the question of how to provide care for them. The Local Health Improvement Plan raises the issues of rising levels of obesity and access to services-recognised as being particularly difficult for a variety of groups including children and young people, homeless people, travellers and substance misusers.

The DSP promotes accessible services and the ongoing provision of services in the rural area with consideration being given to shared facilities.

Christchurch Community Plan wishes to see the provision of a youth and community centre in the town centre with East Dorset recognising that new and improved facilities will be need to be provided for new housing. There is a current scheme to improve the Druitt Hall in the centre of Christchurch for which planning permission has been secured. This would go some way to provide a central community facility but funding is required.

A strategic approach to the provision of multi purpose venues is suggested by the DSP with venues being provided to facilitate access to culture. It also suggests that artists should be involved in design and in planning to enhance the environment. East Dorset Sustainable Community Strategy wishes to see East Dorset becoming a place where culture and leisure are valued. It recognises that some venues are to be found in Poole and Bournemouth but that transport is an issue and there is a need for new and improved facilities in the district.

Parish Plans in East Dorset generally recognise the importance of a central meeting place for all age groups, with the provision of activities for all. Holt Parish Plan refers to the need for activities for teenagers and the issue of accessibility. Leisure facilities are said to be needed but the plan recognises it would be most realistic to improve access to facilities elsewhere. The plan for Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge seeks to improve facilities for young people, suggesting that the best way of achieving this is partly by providing some access to other places and their facilities. Local facilities exist in the village and the plan proposes improving the links to sports clubs to encourage more young people to take part in their activities. A youth shelter provided at the skate park has proved popular and there are requests for more sites to be found for additional shelters in the village. Colehill’s action plan includes the need to examine the feasibility of enhancing the Memorial Hall and the library to become a community centre. There is also a proposal to redevelop the youth club, The Reef.

Sixpenny Handley currently has a doctor’s surgery but the building is felt by parishioners to be inadequate. The Parish Plan includes an action to ensure its replacement.

### **Core Strategic Messages**

The Community Strategies all aim to encourage more people, especially those who are isolated or marginalised to take part in volunteering and other community activities. The strategies also wish to see improvements in health, in physical activity levels, in community safety and in accessibility. Improvements in these areas will involve improving accessibility, (See Transport Improvements Key Issues Paper), the provision of facilities in locations to serve new residential development as well as provision in locations which are the most accessible. The Core Strategy will need to take account of these factors.

Table 2.7

### Core Strategic Messages

- The Core Strategy needs to address the balance of facilities provision between larger settlements and the provision of limited local facilities in smaller settlements or on the edge of larger settlements to facilitate access. The provision of facilities should be in locations to serve new residential development as well as in locations which are the most accessible.
- Whilst some strategies emphasise the need for facilities to be located in larger settlements and for preference to be given to access by public transport, cycling and walking, there is a need for facilities provision in smaller settlements as supported by PPS7, and Defra's Rural Strategy. In examining the provision of facilities, it is important to note that a hierarchical approach could be taken with facilities being provided in keeping with the size and needs of the communities. Larger facilities such as theatres, cinemas and other large venues are and will be provided in the larger towns outside of East Dorset and Christchurch,. There is particular concern about poor access to facilities and services in the rural area and there is a movement towards services, in particular health, being delivered at the local level.
- The clustering of services and facilities such as education, health and leisure has many benefits, allowing for exercise to be incorporated into everyday life at the same time as providing opportunities for informal meetings and thereby improving social cohesion and reducing isolation. It is possible that older persons housing could be incorporated into developments of clustered facilities.
- Opportunities for volunteering need to be increased and again could be delivered through the Core Strategy in part by improving the access to community buildings. (See Transport Key Issues Paper). It is also important to ensure the community as a whole, including older people, families, children and young people, has access to a range of community facilities to meet everyday needs and to increase participation in physical exercise to meet the physical and mental health agendas as well as to provide activities and meeting places which may help to reduce the occurrences of crime and disorder. Poor quality housing, employment and limited access to open space and facilities are all recognised as contributing to poor health, both physical and mental. The health agenda is moving towards the prevention of illness and so improvements to housing, to employment and to facilities and services will be important. As health care is to be delivered at the local level there may be requirements for more local facilities to be included in the Core Strategy policies and subsequent documents, for example Site Specific Allocations DPDs. Clustering of facilities across organisations will improve access for all and improve community cohesion and reduce crime and disorder. Local provision will also increase opportunities for volunteering.
- The needs of children and young people need to be met with the provision of all facilities for children and young people, from schools and the extended school system to health care as well as access to them as well as ensuring their are homes and jobs or careers in future.

Table 2.1

## 3 Identification of Issues

This section will consider the validity of the questions posed in the Issues and Options consultation (CI1 - 10) and how appropriate they were, based on responses and other issues identified by key stakeholders, members of the public and through the evidence base. In addition, this section will set out any issues that have been identified from new evidence arising since the Issues and Options engagement. This will then form a consolidated list of issues for the development of preferred options in Section 4.

### 3.1 CI1 How can we best support community development?

**3.2** As part of the Issues and Options consultation no-one objected to this as being a valid issue. Examination of the documents listed above show that policy at national, regional and local level requires the development of communities and empowers communities to set out their own plans. Planning polices are required to set out the spatial strategy required to promote community development. New legislation on planning obligations has been issued and the Core Strategy will need to establish a contributions policy in response.

**3.3** Therefore, this was a valid issue to pose at issues and options. This issue now forms part of Issue 1 "How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age structure?" and Issue 2 "How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?" that are more strategic and set out the overarching approach of the Core Strategy toward community facilities provision.

### 3.4 CI2 How can we develop culture in Christchurch and East Dorset?

**3.5** As part of the Issues and Options consultation no-one objected to this as being a valid issue. The examination of the relevant documents on Cultural Facilities shows the importance of culture and volunteering in the lives of residents. In part this is helped by the provision of buildings and venues in which activities can take place. This issue now forms part of Issue 1 "How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age structure?" and Issue 2 "How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?" that are more strategic and set out the overarching approach of the Core Strategy toward community facilities provision. Detailed issues relating to accessibility and the improvement of transport infrastructure are set out in the Transport and Access Key Issues Paper.

### 3.6 CI3 Which community facilities and services most need to be improved, or provided in Christchurch and East Dorset?

**3.7** As part of the Issues and Options consultation no-one objected to this as being a valid issue. The documents reviewed show that facilities need to be provided to serve communities and that they need to be easily accessible. This issue now forms part of Issue 1 "How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age structure?" and Issue 2 "How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?" that are more strategic and set out the overarching approach of the Core Strategy toward community facilities provision.

### 3.8 CI4 How can we develop policies to improve access to services for the young, the elderly and for vulnerable groups?

**3.9** As part of the Issues and Options consultation no one objected to this as being a valid issue. The evidence shows that the bodies responsible for delivering services to these groups are examining concepts such as local delivery or even delivery in the home as well as the more standard approach of improvements to transport which justifies specific consideration for the needs of these groups. This issue now forms part of Issue 1 "How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age structure?" and Issue 2 "How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?" that are more strategic and set out the overarching approach of the Core Strategy toward community facilities provision. The Transport and Access and Town, Village and Neighbourhood Centre Key Issues Papers also address this issue.

### **3.10 CI5 How can we support deprived communities?**

**3.11** As part of the Issues and Options consultation no-one objected to this as being a valid issue. The evidence shows that all communities should be considered in the preparation of the Core Strategy and policies developed to meet their needs in the most appropriate way. However, the targets in the Local Area Agreement could be contributed to by concentrating support on deprived areas. This issue now forms part of Issue 1 "How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age structure?" and Issue 2 "How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?" that are more strategic and set out the overarching approach of the Core Strategy toward community facilities provision. This issue is also addressed through the Delivering Suitable and Sufficient Housing, Sustainable Economic Growth, Town, Village and Neighbourhood Centre , Transport and Access and Design and Landscape Key Issues Papers.

### **3.12 CI6 How can we help meet the specific needs of older people?**

**3.13** As part of the Issues and Options consultation no one objected to this as being a valid issue. Their needs are in general very similar to those of other age groups in the community and are contained in the other Issues such as health, cultural and community facilities and access to these facilities and services. This issue now forms part of Issue 1 "How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age structure?" and Issue 2 "How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?" that are more strategic and set out the overarching approach of the Core Strategy toward community facilities provision. This issue is also addressed in part through the Town, Village and Neighbourhood Centre , Transport and Access, Delivering Sustainable and Sufficient Housing, Design and Landscape and Key Strategy Key Issues Papers.

### **3.14 CI7 What are the key issues affecting children and young people in Christchurch and East Dorset?**

**3.15** As part of the Issues and Options consultation no one objected to this as being a valid issue. The key documents reviewed show there is a clear need to include facilities for children and young people. It is important to ensure there is access to these and to improve physical activity levels. This issue now forms part of Issue 1 "How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age structure?" and Issue 2 "How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?" that are more strategic and set out the overarching approach of the Core Strategy toward community facilities provision. This issue is also in part addressed through options generated through the Improving Sports and Leisure Facilities, Transport and Access, Sustainable Economic Growth, Affordable Housing and Key Strategy Key Issues Papers.

### **3.16 CI8 How can we develop policies to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour?**

**3.17** As part of the Issues and Options consultation no one objected to this as being a valid issue. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires authorities to have due regard to the effects of their work on crime and disorder and to work to prevent it. There is a need to promote well designed and safe places and to promote activities which may reduce crime and disorder. This issue now forms part of Issue 1 "How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age structure?" and Issue 2 "How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?" that are more strategic and set out the overarching approach of the Core Strategy toward community facilities provision. . This issue is also addressed in the Design and Landscape Key Issues Paper.

### **3.18 CI9 How can the Core Strategy help to maximise opportunities for people to improve their health and well-being?**

**3.19** As part of the Issues and Options consultation no one objected to this as being a valid issue. All documents reviewed on this topic emphasise the need to improve physical activity levels across the population and the need to create opportunities for this to happen. Access to health care is also important. This issue now forms part of Issue 1 "How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age structure?" and Issue 2 "How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?" that are more strategic and set out the overarching approach of the Core Strategy toward community facilities provision. This was therefore a valid issue to ask as part of the consultation; however it could have been merged with all the other questions in the community issues consultation (Issues and Options). This issue now forms part of Issues 1 and 2 that are more strategic and less specific and therefore more suitable for a Core Strategy. It is also addressed in the Transport and Access Key issues Paper as well as the Improving Sport and Leisure Facilities Paper.

### **3.20 CI10 Have we identified all of the issues under this Theme?**

**3.21** This was a valid question to ask as part of the Issues and Options consultation in order to ensure that any issues that were not covered by the questions above could be picked up. This gave people the opportunity to express their concerns. No other Issues were identified.

### **3.22 Conclusions**

**3.23** The majority of the Issues raised were valid issues and were supported by the information contained in the documents reviewed in Section 2. The Issue which it has been decided was not valid was "Supporting Deprived Communities (CI5)". None of the documents reviewed referred to the need to concentrate specifically on the needs of this group, although the health documents refer to the need for facilities for all ages but with children and young people and the elderly, all of whom may be less mobile, requiring special consideration. The Draft Strategy for Care Homes for Older People and the Health Strategy discuss the need to provide services locally so that people do not need to move away from their neighbourhood but other documents such as PPS1 set out the need for local provision of facilities and services and improved access to them, especially by means other than the car. Clustering of facilities is seen as of growing importance. This need for improved accessibility applies to all age groups, in the interests of community cohesion and sustainability amongst other reasons. However, it may be considered necessary to pay particular attention to the needs of deprived communities in examining any requirements for new facilities or improving access to existing ones. This would contribute to meeting the targets in the LAA.

**3.24** The issues have been consolidated into two Issues which cover the provision of services and the need for development to contribute towards provision. These are Issue 1: How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age profile? and Issue 2: How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?

### **Evidence Studies**

**3.25** There are no Evidence Studies relating to this topic. Continuous engagement with various bodies and examination of their plans and strategies has provided information which is included in Section 4. Evidence studies relating to open space and transport are addressed in those Key Issues Papers.

### **Cross Border Issues**

#### **3.26 Provision of Large Scale Facilities**

**3.27** Many higher level facilities are provided across South East Dorset, particularly in Bournemouth and Poole and further afield in Salisbury and Southampton. Facilities include the larger hospitals which provide specialist treatment as well as larger venues for concerts, sports, recreation and events and a wider range of facilities than can be provided in Christchurch and East Dorset as they may not be viable in these smaller areas.

**3.28** Poole's Adopted Core Strategy (February 2009) recognises the importance of the Lighthouse in providing a focus on which to improve its cultural base. The Lighthouse, located in the centre of the town is in an accessible location for much of the sub region. Bournemouth is examining options for its town centre and there is an extant permission for a town centre cinema complex.

**3.29** The Preferred Options document (February 2008) for Salisbury District Council indicates there is a need for a larger entertainment venue in the town to attract larger events. Salisbury again serves a wide area including East Dorset.

**3.30** Provision of such facilities in the larger settlements outside of Christchurch and East Dorset means there is no requirement for this Core Strategy to seek similar facilities. It is clear that PPS1 expects large scale facilities to be in settlements of a commensurate size and that it would be more advantageous to improve transport links to those settlements and venues than to propose something similar in the two authorities' areas.

#### **3.31 Education**

**3.32** Both Poole and Dorset education authorities are changing from a three tier system of schools to a two tier system. As pupils from East Dorset middle schools move on to attend Corfe Hills School in Poole, it is important that the timing of the change is co-ordinated across the two authorities. The alteration to a two tier system needs to be coordinated with the likely growth in population to ensure that any expanded or new schools are located in locations which are easily accessed by the existing and proposed residential areas. Corfe Hills School is on a confined site in an area of heathlands and this potential lack of capacity will need to be resolved.

#### **3.33 Recreation**

**3.34** The New Forest has a wide variety of recreational activities and community and local facilities, such as pubs, to which many people from the surrounding areas travel. The attractiveness of the area draws people from Christchurch and East Dorset to make use of the facilities there and may mean that there is less need to supply some facilities within the two council's areas which border the New Forest. This topic is addressed in the Natural Environment and Sports and Leisure Key issues Papers. The Heritage Coast of Purbeck also attracts people from this area.

### **3.35 Conclusions**

**3.36** No new issues have been identified. An examination of the proposals of the adjacent authorities, and the roles of nearby larger towns, show that they have different roles to those within Christchurch and East Dorset. They provide higher level facilities such as hospitals and larger venues such as theatres and cinemas. There is therefore no requirement to duplicate these facilities in the two areas which have smaller population catchments.

### **Summary of Identified Critical Issues**

**3.37** The following issues are the consolidated issues identified from the stakeholder engagement undertaken at Issues and Options and from the baseline information, evidence, consideration of other plans and strategies. Sub issues addressed by these strategic issues are set out beneath. Section 4 will interrogate the original issues raised at issues and options and generate preferred options and reasonable alternatives.

### **3.38 Consolidated Issues**

#### **3.39 Issue 1: How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age profile?**

- C11 How can we best support community development? (Issues and Options)
- C12 How can we develop culture in Christchurch and East Dorset? (Issues and Options)
- C13 Which community facilities and services most need to be improved, or provided in Christchurch and East Dorset? (Issues and Options)
- C14 How can we develop policies to improve access to services for the young, the elderly and for vulnerable groups? (Issues and Options)
- C15 How can we support deprived communities? (Issues and Options)
- C16 How can we help meet the specific needs of older people? (Issues and Options)
- C17 What are the key issues affecting children and young people in Christchurch and East Dorset? (Issues and Options)
- C18 How can we develop policies to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour? (Issues and Options)
- C19 How can the Core Strategy help to maximise opportunities for people to improve their health and well-being? (Issues and Options)

#### **3.40 Issue 2: How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?**

- C11 How can we best support community development? (Issues and Options)
- C12 How can we develop culture in Christchurch and East Dorset? (Issues and Options)
- C13 Which community facilities and services most need to be improved, or provided in Christchurch and East Dorset? (Issues and Options)
- C14 How can we develop policies to improve access to services for the young, the elderly and for vulnerable groups? (Issues and Options)

### 3 Identification of Issues

- C15 How can we support deprived communities? (Issues and Options)
- C16 How can we help meet the specific needs of older people? (Issues and Options)
- C17 What are the key issues affecting children and young people in Christchurch and East Dorset? (Issues and Options)
- C18 How can we develop policies to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour? (Issues and Options)
- C19 How can the Core Strategy help to maximise opportunities for people to improve their health and well-being? (Issues and Options)



### 4 Formation of Options

4.1 The formulation of Options set out within this section considers the outcomes of the Core Strategy Issues and Options engagement process, relevant evidence documents and the sustainability appraisal process undertaken at Issues and Options. This includes a critical assessment of the options put forward to address issues identified in the Issues and Options paper.

#### Issue identified at issues and options

4.2 CI1 How can we best support community development?

General Comments received in response to the issue:

4.3 The Dorset Strategic Partnership (DSP) stated that culture creates vibrant desirable places and spaces that enhance the quality of life for everyone. Culture plays an essential role in the place shaping agenda for local authorities by promoting a sense of place and community identity and as such needs to be considered in the preparation of policies.

4.4 Community facilities should include green infrastructure.

#### Issues and Options Consultation Response

4.5 Option A By creating policies which ensure that new development contributes towards the provision of community facilities

Agree	Disagree	No Opinion	Total
117	9	4	130

Table 4.1

#### Comment received in relation to Option A

4.6 It was felt that new development should only contribute towards the provision of facilities where appropriate.

#### Consideration of Evidence and Policy

4.7 The previous Government expected new development to contribute towards the provision of such facilities and the Core Strategy to determine whether this is an appropriate method, given the levels of growth which are proposed. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) legislation has been passed which would allow local authorities to collect monies to go towards the provision of community facilities across their areas.

### Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal

**4.8** This option has significant beneficial impacts in the medium to long term in relation to objectives 16 (community facilities) and 21 (public access open space).

### Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options

**4.9** The response to the Issues and Options consultation gives support for new development to contribute towards the provision of community infrastructure. Government policy already allows local authorities to do this and this concept was taken forward in the passing of legislation to introduce the Community Infrastructure Levy. The SA indicates that there would be significant beneficial impacts on the provision of community facilities if development contributed towards the provision of community facilities.

**Preferred Options to address this issue are set out under the following strategic issues:**

**4.10 Issue 1:How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age profile?**

**4.11 Issue 2:How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?**

### Issues and Options Consultation Response

**4.12 Option B** By encouraging the development of additional facilities at schools to serve both education and community needs

Agree	Disagree	No Opinion	Total
117	4	7	128

Table 4.2

### Comment received in relation to Option B

**4.13** The need to use under utilised school buildings outside of school hours and to encourage greater use of existing community facilities was suggested.

### Consideration of Evidence and Policy

**4.14** Documents reviewed such as the Children's Act 2004 relate to the need to provide more facilities for children and young people, for example providing out of school clubs using school premises. Increasing revenue costs of community buildings mean that the greater use of existing facilities needs to be examined and that existing facilities will need to take a higher rate of use before a new facility can be promoted.

**Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal**

**4.15** This option has significant beneficial impacts in the medium to long term in relation to objectives 12 (healthy lifestyles), 14 (access to learning), 16 (community facilities) and 21 (public access open space).

**Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options**

**4.16** The response to the issues and options consultation gives support for the extended use of schools to serve the community although it must be remembered that older people often require facilities to be available in the daytime. This extended use would reduce the duplication of facilities with their additional revenue cost to the local community. The option is supported by the SA which shows significant beneficial impacts from increasing the use of school facilities.

**Preferred Options to address this issue are set out under the following strategic issues:**

**4.17 Issue 1: How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age profile?**

**4.18 Issue 2: How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?**

**Issues and Options Consultation Response**

**4.19 Option C** By identifying areas where new community facilities are needed

Agree	Disagree	No Opinion	Total
121	0	5	126

Table 4.3

**Consideration of Evidence and Policy**

**4.20** No studies have been carried out identifying areas where community facilities are required and there is no nationally recognised standard that can be used. The requirement for new community facilities will rely on facilities being identified by groups such as service providers, parish and town councils and user groups. If a settlement or area does not have a hall for example, this does not mean that one is required. There may be another facility which provides that function and the community group or parish council may have decided that there is insufficient demand for one or that revenue costs would be too high or indeed the facility is provided in another way or place. It may instead be necessary to examine the way in which a nearby facility can be accessed and improvements made to accessibility (See Transport and Access Key Issues Paper). The need for new community facilities will also be

addressed through master planning work undertaken for the urban extensions. It may be necessary to accept that land should be reserved for a community facility as part of an urban extension but that its provision may not take place for some time. The need for one centre was identified through a study of Leigh Park, Wimborne and is currently under construction. Information on facilities is also contained in the Area Profiles.

### Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal

**4.21** Option C – As option B but with the addition of objective 2 (wise use of land) being uncertain or having insufficient information on which to determine an assessment.

### Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options

**4.22** Dorset County Council is currently carrying out a study on the location of existing facilities and delivering services. The aim is to provide a more rational approach to the use of buildings and their location, examining the potential for clustering. The results of this work are not yet available and it is anticipated that continuing engagement will identify further needs. Once the result of the work is known it will be possible to identify future needs. Most new facilities will be concentrated where the majority of development will take place. Some needs will be met by improving transport links to existing facilities nearby as well as by increasing the use of existing facilities such as schools and new provision may not always be required. Additional use of existing facilities should be explored before additional facilities are planned in the interests of sustainability and it is likely that as provision is generally good, any future improvements will be based around existing facilities, leading to clustering. Alternative means of provision are also used by providers, for example mobile youth provision and this removes some need for provision in each settlement, as will the provision of care in the home for older people.

**4.23** Deficiencies in provision are identified in this document and in the Area Profiles. The general strategy for provision will be set out in the Core Strategy.

**4.24** Preferred Options to address this issue are set out under the following strategic issues:

**4.25** Issue 1: How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and a changing age profile?

**4.26** Issue 2: How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?

### Issue identified at issues and options

**4.27** CI2 How can we develop culture in Christchurch and East Dorset?

### General Comments

**4.28** The opportunity should be given to enhancing, protecting and increasing access to biodiversity / conservation features.

**Issues and Options Consultation Response**

**4.29 Option A** Encourage provision of specific cultural facilities e.g. theatres, cinemas, halls, galleries, museums etc.

Agree	Disagree	No Opinion	Total
67	18	9	94

Table 4.4

**4.30** The response from the Dorset Strategic Partnership was that there should be an increase in the provision of cultural facilities such as concert and theatre venues, artist’s studios, street events, public art, community music and dance venues, galleries and facilities for film and digital media.

**4.31** Specifically, the use of Christchurch Public Hall, Princess Avenue, should be promoted rather than building a new hall. Christchurch was also considered to need a heritage centre.

**Consideration of Evidence and Policy**

**4.32** Taking part in cultural activities is difficult in Dorset, especially in the rural area due to a lack of facilities and poor access. In order to increase the number of people taking part in cultural activities and in volunteering, there is a need to examine any requirements and opportunities for extended or new facilities. Any such provision should be commensurate in size and scale with the location, recognising that the larger towns and cities around the two areas provide the larger venues in line with their size and function. Whilst the Joint Retail Study examined community facilities in the towns it recognises they adequately served the communities. There is no nationally recognised standard that can be used to assess standards. The requirement for new community facilities will rely on them being identified by groups such as parish and town councils, user groups and service providers. There may be another facility which provides that function and the community group or parish council may have decided that there is insufficient demand for one or that revenue costs would be too high or indeed the facility is provided in another way or place. It may instead be necessary to examine the way in which a nearby facility can be accessed and improvements made to accessibility (See Transport and Access Key Issues Paper). The need for new community facilities will also be examined in part through master planning work undertaken for the urban extensions. It may be necessary to accept that land should be reserved for a community facility as part of an urban extension but that its provision may not take place for some time. The need for one centre was identified through a study of Leigh Park, Wimborne and is currently under construction.

**Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal**

**4.33** This option has significant and long term strong significant beneficial impacts in relation to objective 17 (cultural activities).

**4.34 Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options**

**4.35** Whilst the provision of theatres, cinemas, galleries, museums etc is supported, it is unlikely that any new ones will be accommodated in the two areas. Private funding would be required for them and given the proximity of existing facilities either already in the areas or in adjoining or nearby towns proposals are unlikely. The additional use of existing facilities will need to be examined before new facilities are proposed and this applies to new halls as well. Parish councils, for example, are often reluctant to take over an additional hall due to lack of revenue funding. It is anticipated that continuing engagement will identify further needs. Some needs will be met by improving transport links to existing facilities nearby as well as by increasing the use of existing facilities such as schools and new provision may not always be required. Additional use of existing facilities should be explored before additional facilities are planned in the interests of sustainability and revenue costs. Alternative means of provision are also used by providers, for example mobile youth provision and this removes some need for provision in each settlement

**4.36** The Infrastructure Delivery Plan will include infrastructure which is fundable and deliverable over the plan period. The Core Strategy will include a policy on developer contributions.

**Preferred Options to address this issue are set out under the following strategic issues:**

**4.37 Issue 1: How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and a changing age profile?**

**4.38 Issue 2: How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?**

### Issues and Options Consultation Response

**4.39 Option B** Secure development contributions and other funding for public art in new development and public spaces.

Agree	Disagree	No Opinion	Total
44	38	11	93

Table 4.5

**4.40** There was a mixed response to the concept of contributions from development being made for art but consideration will need to be given to current Government advice on contributions before a decision is made on the types of schemes to be funded in this way.

### Consideration of Evidence and Policy

**4.41** There have been a number of consultations on amendments to the current system of planning obligations for which previous national guidance is set out in Circular 5/05. Legislation on the Community Infrastructure Levy allows local authorities to introduce the Community Infrastructure Levy and planning obligations will be scaled back to apply to onsite requirements only. Authorities not introducing the Levy will not have the opportunity to acquire funding to spend on local and sub-regional infrastructure to support the development of the area. The current Government expects new development to contribute towards the provision of facilities and a tariff based approach may be feasible.

**Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal**

**4.42** Option B – This option has potentially significant beneficial impact in the medium to long term in relation to objective 17 (cultural activities).

**Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options**

**4.43** The authorities will need to consider the advantages and disadvantages of introducing a tariff based system. Authorities not introducing a tariff based system will not have the opportunity to acquire funding to spend on local and sub-regional infrastructure to support the development of the area. However, the introduction of a tariff will take some time and expense. The regulations on the Community Infrastructure Levy came into being in April 2010 and do not allow for any alternative and if local and sub regional infrastructure is to be provided under this system, then it will be the only way forward. The Sustainability Appraisal shows this option would have potentially significant benefits to cultural activities.

**Preferred Options to address this option are set out under the following strategic issue:**

**4.44 Issue 2: How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?**

**Issues and Options Consultation Response**

**4.45 Option C** Improve accessibility and improve the environment around existing cultural and heritage sites e.g. Christchurch Priory and Wimborne Minster.

Agree	Disagree	No Opinion	Total
79	8	11	98

Table 4.6

**Consideration of Evidence and Policy**

**4.46** Access to facilities is covered in the Transport and Access Key Issues Paper and any issues relating to the specific sites themselves are a matter for the site managers. It is therefore not taken forward specifically in any Consolidated Issue.

**Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal**

**4.47** Option C – This option has potentially significant beneficial impact in the medium to long term in relation to objective 17 (cultural activities) and has uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine an assessment in relation to objectives 18 (protect heritage) and 20 (places and spaces).

### Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options

**4.48** Whilst the Sustainability Appraisal shows this option could have significant beneficial impact on cultural activities, it is considered that improvements to accessibility and the environment around existing cultural and heritage sites is too specific an issue to be dealt with in the Core Strategy. Access to facilities is covered in the Transport and Access Key Issues Paper and any issues relating to the specific sites themselves are a matter for the site managers. It is therefore not taken forward specifically in any Consolidated Issue.

### Issue identified at issues and options

**4.49** **CI3 Which community facilities and services most need to be improved, or provided in Christchurch and East Dorset?**

### 4.50 Issues and Options Consultation Response

Options		Agree	Disagree	No opinion
A	Health facilities	72	15	17
B	New schools	25	39	30
C	Adult education	42	26	34
D	Care services for the elderly	92	6	12
E	Community hall	58	13	26
F	Youth centres	84	11	15
G	Libraries	50	22	25

Table 4.7

**4.51** Comments included:

- The need for youth centre provision, specifically at Highcliffe.
- Improved public transport is required so that existing facilities can be accessed as well as new ones.
- Due to the age structure of the population it was felt that facilities were required for the elderly such as meeting places and dance halls.
- There was some positive feedback about existing facilities such as the elderly person's day centres at Highcliffe and Jumpers.
- The point was made that the cost of public transport and the reduction in many of the existing bus services has lead to many people feeling isolated.



## Consideration of Evidence and Policy

**4.52** Dorset County Council is currently carrying out a study on the location of existing facilities and delivering services. The aim is to provide a more rational approach to the use of buildings and their location, examining the potential for clustering. The results of this work are not yet available and it is anticipated that continuing engagement will identify further needs. Once the result of the work is known it will be possible to identify future needs. Evidence of need received from the County Council and the Primary Care Trust to date indicates that in most cases the need for new facilities will depend on the level of growth and its location. Access to existing facilities needs to be improved, especially for disadvantaged groups including children and young people, with new facilities located in easily accessible places so that walking and cycling can be an option, along with the use of public transport. It is sensible to accept that larger settlements will always provide the larger and higher level services and facilities and that these will not be provided in the market towns. The market towns will serve their residents and the surrounding area. There is also a need to examine innovative ways of delivering services particularly in the rural area. It is important that additional use of existing facilities is examined first, followed by extension of existing facilities before a new facility is considered. The use of personal budgets in the care of older people is also changing the way care is provided and may lead to an increase in the demand for general community facilities rather than for older persons day care centres.

## Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal

**4.53** All the options consider here provide an overall benefit to the community should they be provided.

## Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options

**4.54** The concept of providing improved or new facilities was supported and evidence from providers of services indicates there will be a need for new facilities within the existing urban areas and to support urban extensions.

**4.55** The concept of providing improved or new facilities was supported and evidence from providers of services indicates there will be a need for new or expanded facilities within the existing urban areas and to support urban extensions.

**4.56** Locations for new community facilities will be identified in this Paper and within the Area Profiles, where information is available. It is anticipated that continuing engagement will identify further needs. Most new facilities will be concentrated where the majority of development will take place. Some needs will be met by improving transport links to existing facilities nearby as well as by increasing the use of existing facilities such as schools and new provision may not always be required. Additional use of existing facilities should be explored before additional facilities are planned in the interests of sustainability and it is likely that as provision is generally good, any future improvements will be based around existing facilities, leading to clustering. Alternative means of provision are also used by providers, for example mobile youth provision and this removes some need for provision in each settlement, as will the provision of care in the home for older people.

**Preferred Options to address this issue are set out under the following strategic issues:**

**4.57 Issue 1: How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age profile?**

### 4.58 Issue 2: How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?

#### Issue identified at issues and options

### 4.59 CI4 How can we develop policies to improve access to services for the young, the elderly and for vulnerable groups?

### 4.60 Issues and Options Consultation Response

Options		Agree	Disagree	No opinion
A	Prevent the loss of village and local shops, pubs and community facilities to reduce the need to travel	96	5	6
B	Develop and improve the networks of cycle routes / bus routes / footpaths / walking / buses	81	14	9
C	Enhance community transport services, such as Dial-a-Bus, Dial-a-Ride, shop mobility and community taxi vouchers through developer contributions	70	26	7
D	Designate traffic management zones around schools, open space and key services and facilities to reduce the impact and speed of vehicles and improve the pedestrian environment	72	15	11

Table 4.8

### 4.61 Comments included:

- The suggestion that home zones should be introduced
- Access to health facilities needed to be improved in rural areas.

### Consideration of Evidence and Policy

**4.62** Documents reviewed in the section headed Community Services and Facilities above including PPS1, PPS7 and the Rural Services Review emphasise the need to provide services locally and to improve access to others. This includes access to education and employment as well as to services, facilities, shops especially food shops and open space. Routes need to be safe and convenient to encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport. Improved accessibility is needed to reduce the isolation of those in rural and suburban areas. Improvements to public transport which may include improved provision of demand responsive transport as well as other measures will be set out in the Local Transport plan. (See Transport and Access Key issues Paper).

### Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal

**4.63** Option A – This option has a strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objectives 7 (need to travel) and 16 (community facilities). It also has uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine an assessment in relation to objectives 19 (enhance diversity) and 24 (sustainable economy).

**4.64** Option B – This option has a strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objective 7 (need to travel). It has uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine an assessment in relation to objectives 6 (air / noise pollution) and 21 (public access open space).

**4.65** Option C – This option has a strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objective 7 (need to travel) and has uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine an assessment in relation to objectives 6 (air / noise pollution), 11 (non-renewables), 12 (healthy lifestyles), 13 (affordable housing) and 21 (public access open space).

**4.66** Option D – This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objectives 7 (need to travel) and 12 (healthy lifestyles).

### Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options

**4.67** The documents reviewed emphasise the need to provide services locally and to improve access to others. This includes access to education and employment as well as to services, facilities, shops especially food shops and open space. Routes need to be safe and convenient to encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport. Improved accessibility is needed to reduce the isolation of those in rural and suburban areas. This is also covered in the Transport and Access Key Issues Paper and links to the Local Transport Plan. The responses to the Issues and Options consultation show support for the protection of existing facilities as well as for improvements to non car forms of access to facilities and services. However, whilst there was support indicated for demand responsive transport, this is not backed up in Parish Plans. Consideration of accessibility and the role of demand responsive transport and the need for an improved system to be set up is contained in the Transport and Access Key Issues Paper. The issue over the loss of shops and other facilities is included in the Town, Village and Neighbourhood Centres Key Issues Paper. The Core Strategy and the Local Transport Plan will need to consider the location of new development in relation to accessibility to existing facilities as well as examine improvements in access to them. The Sustainability Appraisal shows that there would be some beneficial impacts from this option, in particular in relation to the need to travel and on healthy lifestyles. However, other impacts are more uncertain, including impacts on air and noise pollution.

**Preferred Options to address this issue are set out under the following strategic issues:**

**4.68 Issue 1: How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age profile?**

**4.69 Issue 2: How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?**

**4.70 Preferred Options are also set out in the Transport and Access Key Issues Paper and the Town, Village and Neighbourhood Centre Vitality Key issues Papers.**

### Issue identified at issues and options

#### 4.71 C15 How can we support deprived communities?

##### General Responses

- Support should be given for adult education outreach facilities.
- There should be increased youth provision, especially in deprived areas.
- A good level of community facilities supported by community development initiatives is required.

#### 4.72 Issues and Options Consultation Response

#### 4.73 Option A Use new housing development to encourage more mixed communities

Agree	Disagree	No Opinion	Total
63	21	10	94

Table 4.9

### Consideration of Evidence and Policy

4.74 This is covered in the Housing Key Issues Paper

### Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal

4.75 This option has potential to improve the provision of affordable housing in the long term (Objective 13).

### Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options

4.76 This option is addressed in the Delivering Sustainable and Suitable Housing Key Issues Paper.

### Preferred Options to address this issue are set out under the following strategic issues:

4.77 See Delivering Sustainable and Suitable Housing Key Issues Paper

### Issues and Options Consultation Response

4.78 Option B Target new commercial and employment development on deprived communities to secure better facilities and job opportunities

<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>53</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>83</b>

Table 4.10

4.79 The suggestion was made that employment policies that provide established local companies with the flexibility to grow and create new employment and training opportunities should be included in the Core Strategy.

**Consideration of Evidence and Policy**

4.80 New commercial and employment development should, where possible, be delivered in the most sustainable locations well served by public transport services. The employment strategy for the plan area should seek to enhance the availability of a diverse range of employment opportunities available to deprived communities such as Somerford, Christchurch. This is addressed in the Economy Key Issues Paper. Where it is not possible to provide employment development in deprived areas the Councils should consider enhancing sustainable transport modes such as public transport, cycling and walking to enable access to employment opportunities as well as education and training and other services and facilities. This will also link to the Transport Key Issues Paper and the Town Centre Vitality Key Issues Paper.

**Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal**

4.81 Option B – This option has potentially significant beneficial impact in relation to objectives 16 (community facilities) in the medium to long term and 24 (sustainable economy).

**Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options**

4.82 The Core Strategy will need to consider the promotion of a diverse range of employment opportunities which are available, either by location or by improved transport means including modes other than the car. This would have a beneficial impact on objectives on community issues and the sustainable economy in the Sustainability Appraisal.

**Preferred Options to address this issue are set out under the following strategic issues:**

4.83 See Sustainable Economic Growth and Transport and Access Key Issues Papers.

**Issues and Options Consultation Response**

4.84 Option C Improve transport services and infrastructure in deprived communities

<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>	<b>Total</b>
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75	10	9	94
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Table 4.11

### Consideration of Evidence and Policy

**4.85** This is discussed in the Transport and Access Key Issues Paper.

### 4.86 Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal

**4.87** Option C – This option has potentially significant beneficial impact in relation to objectives 7 (need to travel) and 16 (community facilities). It also has uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine an assessment in relation to objectives 6 (air / noise pollution), 11 (non-renewables) and 12 (healthy lifestyles).

### Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options

**4.88** The transport part of this Option is addressed in the Transport and Access Key Issues Paper. The need to provide community facilities is addressed in other Issues and Options above.

**Preferred Options to address this issue are set out under the following strategic issues:**

**4.89** Issue 1: How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age profile?

**4.90** Issue 2: How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?

**4.91** Preferred Options are also set out in the Transport and Access Key issues Paper.

### Issues and Options Consultation Response

**4.92** Option D Identify deprived areas for environmental enhancement of public spaces and high quality design of new development

Agree	Disagree	No Opinion	Total
74	2	13	89

Table 4.12

**Consideration of Evidence and Policy**

**4.93** None of the evidence or responses to the Issues and Options consultation sets out any areas which need improvement. The design issue is addressed in the Design and Landscape Key Issues Paper and public open space in the Improving Sports and Leisure Key Issues Paper.

**Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal**

**4.94** This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objectives 12 (healthy lifestyles) in the long term, 20 (places and spaces) in the short medium and long term, and 21 (public access open space) in the medium and long term.

**Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options**

**4.95** This issue is addressed in the Design and Landscape and Town, Village and Neighbourhood Centre Vitality Key Issues Papers.

**Preferred Options to address this issue are set out under the following strategic issues:**

**4.96** See Design and Landscape and Town Centre Vitality Key Issues Papers

**Issue identified at issues and options**

**4.97** CI6 How can we help meet the specific needs of older people?

**General Responses**

- The need to ensure no loss of current care centre facilities.
- The suggestion that families be encouraged to return to the area to care for elderly relatives.

**4.98** Issues and Options Consultation Response

Options		Agree	Disagree	No opinion
A	Seek developer contributions toward provision of accessible transport services such as Dial-a-Bus or Shop Mobility	59	30	14
D	Ensure that health and care facilities are located in accessible locations which reduce the need to travel and increase travel choice	99	2	6

Table 4.13

### Consideration of Evidence and Policy

**4.99** The Government documents reviewed require all services and facilities to be located in accessible locations. There is recognition of the need for service centres, such as market towns, to be enhanced and for smaller communities to extend their range of services to meet the needs of their community and the surrounding areas. At the same time, there are concerns that residential areas on the edge of towns can be as poorly served as rural settlements. Innovative ways of providing services and facilities in both types of areas may be needed. The Primary Care Trust plans promote more accessible services, moving towards care in the home or closer to home. The PCT also proposes to deliver care at more localised centres instead of using the larger hospitals of Poole and Bournemouth for such functions as out patients' clinics. This is likely to mean expansion of existing surgeries and in Christchurch, the possible establishment of a "Healthy Living Centre" as health, social care and preventative health care are brought together. The co-location or clustering of a range of facilities is promoted by several of the documents. Such joint facilities would improve health and promote healthy lifestyles as well as improve patient care. Improving access to services and facilities was well supported in the Issues and Options consultation responses. Routes need to be safe and convenient to encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport with improved accessibility is needed to reduce the isolation of those in rural and suburban areas. Improvements to public transport which may include improved provision of demand responsive transport as well as other measures will be set out in the Local Transport Plan. (See Transport and Access Key issues Paper).

**4.100** A policy on developer contributions and public transport will be developed in line with Government requirements. The Transport and Access Key Issues Paper contains information on improvements to accessibility.

### Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal

**4.101** Option A – This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objective 7 (need to travel).

**4.102** Option D – This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objectives 7 (need to travel), 12 (healthy lifestyles) and 16 (community facilities).

### Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options

**4.103** These options are supported by the Sustainability Appraisal as they have significant beneficial impacts on reducing the need to travel, supporting healthy lifestyles and on community facilities. Government policies require the provision of services and facilities in accessible locations and the Primary Care Trust plans comply with this. Innovative methods of provision are being explored and advances in technology will see some health care provision being delivered in the home. Co-location of facilities should be promoted and currently the County Council are working with the Primary Care Trust to examine the uses of existing County and Primary Care Trust owned buildings which may lead to shared or joint use of buildings and clustering of uses. Policies on developer contributions will be developed in line with Government advice and regulations and may provide for public transport to be funded.

**Preferred Options to address this option are set out under the following strategic issue:**

**4.104 Issue 1:How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age profile?**



**4.105 Issue 2:How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?**

**4.106 Preferred Options which address this issue in part are set out in the Town, Village and Neighbourhood Centre Vitality, Transport and Access and Key Strategy Key Issues Papers.**

**4.107 Issues and Options Consultation Response**

Options		Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
B	Make more provision towards the needs of elderly people in the design of buildings and public spaces	83	7	10
C	Support older people to adapt their homes to enable them to remain in their own homes for longer	96	2	6

Table 4.14

**4.108** There was a high level of support for these options which covered improved design of public spaces to take into consideration the needs of the elderly, supporting people to live in their homes for longer.

### Consideration of Evidence and Policy

**4.109** Improvements to open spaces, recreation facilities and access to these are considered to improve physical activity levels and health. They would also help keep the population active and healthier into later life. There are increasing numbers of older people living in the area, many of whom find access to facilities difficult, especially if they live in the rural area or suburban areas. There is a move by the PCT and the County Council to provide more services in the home. This will enable older people to stay in their own homes longer. The Core Strategy will also contain a policy on Lifetime Homes. Properties built to this standard allow for their adaptation to meet needs.

### Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal

**4.110** Option B – This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objectives 12 (healthy lifestyles) and 21 (public access open space).

**4.111** Option C – This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objective 12 (healthy lifestyles) and has uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine an assessment in relation to objectives 7 (need to travel) and 16 (community facilities).

### Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options

**4.112** The Core Strategy will influence the location of facilities to meet the needs of older people. Support offered to older people to enable them to remain in their homes longer is an important issue but not one for the Core Strategy to address. However, the Core Strategy will set out a policy approach for the application of Lifetime Homes standards for new development which fulfils a similar purpose and which is contained in the Housing Key Issues Paper.

**Preferred Options to address this option are set out under the following strategic issue:**

**4.113** Preferred Options are set out in the Delivering Suitable and Sufficient Housing and Design and Landscape Key Issues Papers.

### Issue identified at issues and options

**4.114** C17 What are the key issues affecting children and young people in Christchurch and East Dorset?

**4.115** Issues and Options Consultation Response

Options		Agree	Disagree	No opinion
A	The need for open space and places to play	66	16	13
B	The need for specific facilities e.g. youth clubs and drop in centres	84	8	8
C	Better access to services through transport provision which meets their needs (e.g. better footpaths, cycle routes)	80	8	9
D	Better access to career and employment training	76	3	14
E	The need for affordable housing provision to meet the needs of young people	77	5	11

Table 4.15

**4.116** Comments included:

- Better recreation facilities are required for young people such as skate / bike ramps and go-karting.
- A youth centre is urgently required at Highcliffe.
- A suggestion was made that there is a lack of activities for all ages. The respondent felt that people must feel included and that intergenerational activities would help to unite the generations.

### Consideration of Evidence and Policy

**4.117** Documents reviewed require activities for children and young people and access to them, to improve health and to encourage integration in the community as well as improvements in education and skills and access to these. PPS 1 states that facilities should be accessible by public transport, walking and cycling and this also offers health benefits associated with walking and cycling. Locating employment and training opportunities in accessible locations enhances opportunities available for young people.

**4.118** There is evidence that young people migrate out of Dorset to take up employment opportunities elsewhere. The local availability of suitable employment opportunities and provision of affordable housing will assist in retaining skilled young people in the area which contributes to sustainable economic growth and balanced communities.

**4.119** Other strategies include the need to provide facilities and activities for children and young people so that crime is reduced. Youth centres have been suggested in Christchurch town centre, Highcliffe and Walkford with a refurbishment of the existing youth club at Colehill.

### Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal

**4.120** Option A – This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objectives 12 (healthy lifestyles) and 21 (public access open space).

**4.121** Option B – This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objective 16 (community facilities).

**4.122** Option C – This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objective 7 (need to travel)

**4.123** Option D – This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objective 14 (access to learning)

**4.124** Option E – This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in the long term in relation to objective 13 (affordable housing)

### Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options

**4.125** There was support for all the options and it is clear that the Core Strategy needs to promote improved access to all facilities and services for children and young people, enabling them to be independent. The evidence shows that there is also a need to provide facilities for them. The Sustainability Appraisal shows that the options all have strong and significant benefits on objectives, such as community facilities, reducing the need to travel, access to learning and affordable housing.

**Preferred Options to address this option are set out under the following strategic issues:**

**4.126 Issue 1: How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age profile?**

**4.127 Issue 2: How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?**

**4.128** Preferred Options are also set out in the Improving Sports and Leisure Key Issues Paper, Transport and Access Key Issues Paper, Sustainable Economic Growth Key Issues Paper, Delivering Suitable and Sufficient Housing Key Issues Paper and the Key Strategy Key Issues Paper.

**Issue identified at issues and options**

**4.129** C18 How can we develop policies to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour?

**4.130** Issues and Options Consultation Response

Options		Agree	Disagree	No opinion
A	Develop facilities for young people such as sports facilities and youth clubs which act as diversions to boredom	94	0	5
B	Introduce policies which aim to reduce crime and fear of crime in the design of development and public spaces	89	0	6
C	Ensure that new development contributes toward community safety measures such as CCTV systems, drink / drug awareness sessions, or community policing	63	22	8

Table 4.16

### General Responses

- Continued communication and engagement with young people was thought to be important in reducing anti-social behaviour.
- The development of youth opportunity schemes, mentoring and activity schemes was suggested.
- The possibility of extending the school day to include more sport / recreational activities using existing facilities was made.

### Consideration of Evidence and Policy

**4.131** Youth centres have been suggested in Christchurch town centre, Highcliffe and Walkford with a refurbishment of the existing youth club at Colehill being planned. However, Dorset County Council are currently carrying out a study on the location of existing facilities and delivering services. The aim is to provide a more rational approach to the use of buildings and their location, examining the potential for clustering. The results of this work are not yet available and it is anticipated that continuing engagement will identify further needs. Once the result of the work is known it will be possible to identify future needs which will include provision for young people.

**4.132** Other strategies and policies include the need to reduce crime and the fear of crime, although it is recognised that in both areas and East Dorset in particular, the rate of crime is lower than the national average. The crime and disorder related policy documents reviewed, such as the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, PPS1 and Safer Places require local authorities to promote well designed, safe places which are accessible. The quality of design and layout of new developments including open space would help with the aims of all the documents and has an implication for the Core Strategy. There is also a need for more facilities and increased access to them to reduce instances of crime and antisocial behaviour.

**4.133** The Community Infrastructure Levy has been introduced which will allow local planning authorities to require development to make payments for a variety of community projects. As a result, the Core Strategy may contain a policy on a tariff system which will be developed in accordance with Government regulations.

### **Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal**

**4.134** Option A – This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objective 15 (fear or crime) and had uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine an assessment in relation to objective 7 (need to travel).

**4.135** Option B – This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objectives 15 (fear or crime) and 20 (places and spaces) and it has uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine an assessment in relation to objective 18 (protect heritage).

**4.136** Option C – This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in the long term in relation to objective 15 (fear or crime). It also has uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine an assessment in relation to objectives 13 (affordable housing), 18 (protect heritage) and 20 (places and spaces).

### **Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options**

**4.137** It is important to develop facilities and activities for children and young people which improve opportunities for them. Any developments need to be well designed to reduce crime and the fear of crime. The options were well supported at consultation though there was less support for the concept of developers paying for community safety measures.

**Preferred Options to address this issue are set out under the following strategic issues:**

**4.138 Issue 1: How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age profile?**

**4.139 Issue 2: How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?**

**4.140 Preferred Options relating to this issue are also set out in the Design and Landscape Key issues Paper.**

**Issue identified at issues and options**

**4.141 C19 How can the Core Strategy help to maximise opportunities for people to improve their health and well-being?**

## Issues and Options Consultation Response

### General Responses

- There should be improved use of the harbour and sea.
- Local community centres should be provided.
- The point was made that there is a proven relationship between unemployment and poor health and well being.
- More allotments are required.
- The Core Strategy can help maximise opportunities for people to improve their health and well-being by ensuring the provision of an accessible network of health facilities, including policies that support the development of formal and informal sporting opportunities and establishing a mechanism by which new development can financially support the maintenance of existing facilities. This latter point will need to be developed in accordance with Government policy.

Options		Agree	Disagree	No opinion
A	Ensure the provision of an accessible network of health facilities	90	0	10
D	Support measures to promote walking and cycling	97	2	10

Table 4.17

- Reliable bus services are needed so that people can access facilities.

### Consideration of Evidence and Policy

**4.142** Health care is likely to be provided in larger GP practices with less need to journey to the larger hospitals. (Darzi Report). Advances in technology will mean that some care will take place in the home, reducing the need to travel to surgeries. Whilst it is unlikely that the growth in the two areas and the change in the function of practices will mean that new surgeries are required, existing ones will need expanding, either on existing sites or on new ones. Some existing surgeries wish to expand to meet the needs of existing patients. These include the Quarterjack surgery in Wimborne and the Highcliffe practice in Christchurch. Any new practices need to be located with accessibility in mind and access issues with existing surgeries will need to be improved. A “Healthy Living Centre” may be required in Christchurch. More dentists and other medical practitioners will be required to meet the needs of the growing population but their numbers will be in response to market conditions. Facilities need to be located so that they can be accessed by means other than the car and co-location of facilities in accessible locations needs to be pursued. Proposals to enable cycling and walking to take place are included in the Transport Key issues Paper.

### Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal

**4.143** Option A This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objective 12 (healthy lifestyles).

**4.144** Option D – This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objectives 7 (need to travel) and 12 (healthy lifestyles).

### Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options

**4.145** There was overwhelming support for the options which were considered to improve health. The requirements of other bodies who provide health care will be included and it will be important to ensure that new facilities are located so they are easily accessed by means other than the car. Access to existing facilities of all types will need to be improved in some cases and this is included in the Transport Key issues Paper. As there is increasing emphasis on preventative health care it is important that opportunities are provided for exercise of all types. The Sustainability Appraisal shows clear beneficial impacts on healthy lifestyles and reducing the need to travel. Dorset County Council are currently carrying out a study on the location of existing facilities and delivering services and are working with the PCT including an examination of their facilities. The aim is to provide a more rational approach to the use of buildings and their location, examining the potential for clustering. The results of this work are not yet available and it is anticipated that continuing engagement will identify further needs. Once the result of the work is known it will be possible to identify future needs

**Preferred Options to address these options are set out under the following strategic issue:**

**4.146 Issue 1: How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age profile?**

**4.147 Issue 2: How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?**

**4.148 Preferred Options are also set out in the Transport and Access Key Issues Paper.**

### Issues and Options Consultation Response

Option	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
B	91	4	8
C	100	2	5

Table 4.18

### Consideration of Evidence and Policy

**4.149** This topic is considered in the Improving Sport and Leisure Facilities Key Issues Paper

### Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal

**4.150** Option B – This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objective 12 (healthy lifestyles) and has uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine an assessment in relation to objective 7 (need to travel).

**4.151** Option C – This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objective 21 (public access open space).

### Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options

**4.152** This topic is covered in the Improving Sports and Leisure Key Issues Paper.

**Preferred Options to address these options are set out under the following strategic issue:**

**4.153** Preferred options addressing this issue are set out in the Improving Sports and Leisure Key Issues Paper.

### Issues and Options Consultation Response

Option	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
E Support other agencies' initiatives to promote healthier lifestyles	83	4	13

Table 4.19

### Consideration of Evidence and Policy

**4.154** PPS12 requires Core Strategies to include the proposals of other agencies such as health care providers and Sport England. Consultation is continually taking place with the health authorities and the County Council and their requirements will be included. The documents reviewed above such as the Health White Paper show that it is necessary for the Core Strategy to consider access by means other than the car thus providing access by foot or by cycling. Routes need to be safe and convenient to encourage these modes.

### Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal

**4.155** Option E – This option has strong and significant beneficial impact in relation to objective 12 (healthy lifestyles)

### Conclusions and Implications for Preferred Options

**4.156** As this is a requirement of PPS12, the health authorities and the County Council are being consulted amongst others and their requirements will appear in the Core Strategy. There was a good level of support for this option which has a strong and significant impact on improving healthy lifestyles.



Options to address these options are set out under the following strategic issue:

**4.157** Issue 1: How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age profile?

**4.158** Issue 2: How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?

**Options (These Options are now set out in the Core Strategy under the Meeting Local Needs Chapter)**

**Issue 1: How and where can facilities and services be provided to support the existing population and meet the needs of a growing population and changing age profile?**

**Preferred Option LN18: Facilities and services will be provided to support the existing population as well as the growth in population and changes in the age profile by the following:**

**4.159** New facilities should be concentrated in the urban areas of Christchurch, Highcliffe, Corfe Mullen, Wimborne Minster, Colehill, Ferndown, West Moors, Verwood, Alderholt, Cranborne, Sixpenny Handley, Three Legged Cross and Sturminster Marshall. This is where access can be by public transport, bike and foot. Some facilities could be provided in smaller settlements with innovative ways of providing services, such as taking services to the smaller settlements and in the case of the health service, into homes. Taking services to the smaller settlements would make more use of existing facilities. More innovative ways of providing services would be relevant in the suburban areas of both East Dorset and Christchurch where access to facilities is more restricted to the car.

**4.160** The Council will work with partners and providers of services to ensure the timely provision of high quality, convenient and local facilities and services such as education, health, library, youth services, older persons requirements and community buildings using the current County Council work as a basis once this is available.

**4.161** Loss of facilities will be resisted unless it is shown that the facility is unused and no longer needed.

**4.162** The Council will work with partners and providers to ensure the timely and adequate provision of high quality, convenient, local and accessible facilities for community and cultural use, health and care, older people, children and young people.

**4.163** Priority will be given to any proposals to allow the multi-use of existing facilities, followed by the expansion of existing, well located facilities to allow for the co-location of facilities and services.

**4.164** New facilities will be required to serve the needs of the population and new development when the alternatives above are not feasible. Preference will be given to the clustering of services and facilities.

**4.165** New provision must be accessible to all.

### Issue 2: How can we ensure that necessary community and cultural facilities are provided in step with new development?

**Preferred Option LN19:** Introduction of a tariff based approach and on site infrastructure delivered through s106 agreements.

**4.166** New development will put pressure on existing facilities and services. Consideration must be given as to how these can be funded and provided. The Government currently expects new development to contribute towards the provision of such facilities and the Core Strategy must determine whether this is an appropriate method, given the levels of growth which are proposed. On site requirements will continue to be provided under s106 agreements.

**4.167** In line with Government policy, all development will be subject to planning contributions towards community infrastructure. This is proposed to be in the form of a tariff based approach. Section 106 agreements will be used to ensure that any improvements which are required on site as part of the development are supplied.

**Preferred Option LN20:** Continue to require planning obligations through S106 and not introduce a tariff based approach.

**4.168** The Councils will continue to require planning obligations where applicable to a development.

**4.169** Section 106 agreements will be used to ensure that any improvements which are required on site as part of the development are supplied. A tariff based approach which would provide for off site infrastructure will not be introduced.

## 5 Implementation