

# Travel Plan monitoring fees consultation

## Information Document

Proposals to introduce Travel Plan monitoring fees paid by developers are being consulted on by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council.

We're asking residents, businesses, and developers for their views on the introduction of the fees across the whole conurbation as they currently only apply in Poole.

Travel plans are a package of measures which encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport, and are required as part of all planning applications for large developments such as new schools, office blocks, hospitals and leisure facilities, to reduce their impact on surrounding roads.

We're launching a consultation primarily targeted at developers and agents, but we're encouraging everyone to share their views, with your feedback playing an integral role in helping shape future decision making.

Please note that **no decisions have yet been made at this stage, and will only be considered once your feedback has been carefully evaluated.**

Please read this document before giving us your views. More information can be found on the main consultation page at [haveyoursay.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/travel-plan-fees](https://haveyoursay.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/travel-plan-fees).

The deadline for responses is **11:59pm on 19 August 2024**.

## What is a Travel Plan?

A Travel Plan is a package of measures that aims to encourage more sustainable travel such as walking, cycling and using public transport.

They are a long-term strategy for integrating sustainable travel into planning and should be considered alongside other development proposals.

As part of a Travel Plan, developers are often required to carry out monitoring for at least five years to track targets while ensuring active and sustainable travel is encouraged.

Monitoring periods shorter than five years are only considered effective for the smallest developments or where Travel Plan targets are likely to be met quickly due to limited traffic impacts associated with the development, e.g. small blocks of flats.

## Background

Historically, Travel Plan monitoring fees have been applied in Poole with the costs varying depending on the type of planning permission required, but not in Bournemouth and Christchurch.

The Borough of Poole had a Travel Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance document which required a monitoring fee while the other legacy authorities have taken different approaches.

Currently, the Travel Plan monitoring fees sought in Poole enable the council to collect a fee to fund the following:

- Reviewing draft travel plans submitted as part of planning applications
- Ongoing annual monitoring
- Ensuring arrangements are made at the end of the monitoring period to continue initiatives identified in the Travel Plan.

There is also inconsistency between the monitoring periods currently required for travel plans across the three areas.

It is currently three years in Christchurch, five years in Bournemouth and seven years in Poole.

## Why are we consulting?

Due to the differences in charging monitoring fees for developments in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, we'd like your views on introducing a fairer, more consistent approach for all future travel plans across the conurbation.

There are increasing numbers of large developments, particularly in Bournemouth town centre requiring travel plans, and mitigating their impact could create budgetary pressures for the council unless we offset these via a BCP-wide monitoring fee.

The harmonisation of travel plans also presents an opportunity to support a reduction in private car dependency, minimise congestion, and improve network resilience by promoting alternative methods of travel to single occupancy car journeys.

There are also additional benefits such as decarbonisation, environmental, safety, health and well-being which support the [BCP Climate and Ecological Emergency Mitigation Action Plan](#) objectives as well as the emerging [BCP Local Plan](#).

Before any decisions are made, we would like to hear your views on the proposals set out below and expect the plans to impact developers and planning agents most.

# Proposals

The proposals for developing a harmonised approach to Travel Plan monitoring fees, and the time period for monitoring these across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are outlined below.

## 1. Proposal 1

There are three main options available for setting a monitoring fee in a harmonised charging scheme for travel plans in BCP:

1. No charges across BCP
2. Apply Poole monitoring fees across the BCP Council area
3. Apply a monitoring fee aligned with other councils

### Option 1 - No charge

Travel Plan monitoring fees in Poole would cease bringing practice in-line with Bournemouth and Christchurch.

No fees would be charged across the three towns and the council would have to cover the costs to review plans.

This could create financial pressures for the council as we would have to fund the monitoring of Travel Plans within existing budgets.

### Option 2 – Apply Poole monitoring fees across BCP

When new residential developments of 20 or more units or new commercial developments of 2000m<sup>2</sup> or more are planned, there would be a requirement to submit a Travel Plan.

We propose replicating the charges currently used across Poole to determine how much monitoring fees should be based on the type of development.

The approach used in Poole is designed to cover the administrative and officer costs of monitoring travel plans only.

We have adjusted the original figures to 2024 prices and, as part of this proposal, we would track the Retail Prices Index (RPI)<sup>1</sup> to ensure the monitoring fees remain in-line with inflation.

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<sup>1</sup> The Retail Prices Index or RPI is defined as an average measure of change in the prices of goods and services bought for the purpose of consumption by the vast majority of households in the UK. Source: United Kingdom Debt Management Office.

This approach reflects the costs associated with the set-up, monitoring, and follow-up work required from small (BCP1) developments right up to the largest (BCP5) over a seven-year period.

Below are the proposed thresholds for charging monitoring fees for a Travel Plan across BCP:

<b>Band Thresholds</b>	<b>BCP1</b>	<b>BCP2</b>	<b>BCP3</b>	<b>BCP4</b>	<b>BCP5</b>
Residential units (no of dwellings)	20	50	200	400	600+
<b>Class C1</b> Hotel (no of beds)	40	75	100	150	200
<b>Class E</b> Commercial, Business and Service	0	2000m <sup>2</sup>	4000m <sup>2</sup>	6000m <sup>2</sup>	8000m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Class F1</b> Learning and non- residential institutions	0	1000m <sup>2</sup>	2000m <sup>2</sup>	3000m <sup>2</sup>	4000m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Class F2</b> Local Community Uses	0	1000m <sup>2</sup>	2000m <sup>2</sup>	3000m <sup>2</sup>	4000m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Class B2</b> General Industrial	0	400m <sup>2</sup>	800m <sup>2</sup>	1200m <sup>2</sup>	1600m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Class B8</b> Distribution/ Wholesaling	0	4000 m <sup>2</sup>	8000m <sup>2</sup>	12000m <sup>2</sup>	16000m <sup>2</sup>
Stadia (no of seats)	0	1500	3000	4500	6000
Other	Case by case basis				
<b>Fees (£)</b>					
Charge for set-up and 7 years monitoring	<b>3370</b>	<b>4950</b>	<b>6800</b>	<b>7265</b>	<b>9700</b>

Based on this proposal, three travel plans per year within Band BCP3 would be charged at £20,400.

If this increased to six per year at Band BCP3, the fees incurred would be charged at £40,800.

These fees would ensure the costs associated with the monitoring of travel plans are covered and enable us to effectively mitigate the impacts of developments.

### **Option 3 – Apply a monitoring fee aligned with other councils**

Following a review of other local authority Travel Plan charges, the average cost for a five-year monitoring period is £5,698.

This equates to £17,094 for three travel plans per year and £34,188 for six per year.

This ‘mid-market’ estimate would place our fees within an acceptable range based on current market figures but excludes local factors and is a flat rate regardless of the size of developments or the level of monitoring required.

## Summary

The table below shows a financial comparison of the three charging options for Band BCP3 developments:

	3 travel plans annual scenario	6 travel plans annual scenario
<b>Option 1 - Zero Charge</b>	£0	£0
<b>Option 2 - BCP Proposal</b>	£20,400	£40,800
<b>Option 3 - Align with other councils</b>	£17,094	£34,188

## 2. Proposal 2

There are three main time periods we could use for monitoring travel plans:

1. Three years
2. Five years
3. Seven years

### Option 1 – Three years

This is the current monitoring period generally used in Christchurch, meaning the time periods used in Bournemouth and Poole would be reduced.

The window for monitoring the impacts of developments would be smaller, thereby restricting the council to tracking and mitigating short-term impacts only.

Please note, this option is only considered effective for small-scale developments, e.g. small blocks of flats.

### Option 2 – Five years

This is the current monitoring period used in Bournemouth, meaning the time period used in Christchurch would increase and those in Poole may reduce.

The window for monitoring the impacts of developments would be large enough to enable the council to track and mitigate them in both the short and medium-term.

### Option 3 – Seven years

This is the monitoring period currently used in Poole, meaning those used in Bournemouth and Christchurch would increase.

The window for monitoring the impacts of developments would be large enough to enable the council to track, and mitigate, the short, medium and long-term effects.

Following a review of other local authority travel plans, we have found that most authorities use a seven-year monitoring period.

## Have your say...

Please share your views on the above proposals as your feedback will help us shape our Travel Plan monitoring fees scheme moving forward.

**Please note that, no decisions have been made at this stage and will only be considered once your feedback has been carefully assessed.**

- After reading the information in this document, you can give us your feedback by completing our [online survey](#), with paper copies available at your local library or for download on the main consultation page
- You can also find more information about the consultation at [haveyoursay.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/travel-plan-fees](https://haveyoursay.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/travel-plan-fees).

This consultation will close at **11:59pm on 19 August 2024**.

If you have any questions or need the survey in a different format, please email [TEnghelpdesk@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:TEnghelpdesk@bcpcouncil.gov.uk).

You can also refer to our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) [here](#).