Dorset FRS and Wiltshire FRS

SAFER 2020

Dorset Fire & Rescue Service

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Graeme Worrall

November 2013

Introduction

This document brings together various trends and data sources to provide an in-depth scan of the potential landscape for public services and the wider society and economy and what changes may occur by 2020.

It is clear that the public service landscape has already and will likely continue to change considerably over the next 6-7 years, in part due to continuing austerity but also due to structural reforms introduced by government. In such an environment, it is easy to become absorbed by the mechanics of internal transformation and change – potentially to the detriment of effectively considering external factors.

Horizon scanning documents such as this and analyses such as a PESTLE analysis can assist in identifying a range of external factors and changes that are impacting on the wider environment. This will provide decision makers with an informed analysis of the wider environment to aid a more holistic and complete decision making process. Used effectively, horizon scanning can enable authorities to determine future priorities, opportunities and risks and thus plan activity accordingly.

The document highlights a range of thematic topics for the reader to consider, however the following executive summary highlights the key issues that will impact upon the Dorset and Wiltshire sub-region in the period to 2020 and outlines the implications that this may have for fire and rescue services.

Graeme Worrall
Research Officer,
Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
November 2013

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Executive Summary

Continuing Austerity

For Fire Authorities, as with other areas of the public sector, the reduction in central funding (coupled with pressures on raising council tax precepts) will lead to significant changes. It can be said with a degree of some certainty that there will be very few, if any, stand alone fire control rooms by 2020 – either combined fire control rooms or combined emergency service control rooms will be commonplace and embedded within fire structures.

There is also the possibility that the establishment of shared control room will form the basis for further inter-service collaboration. While support services such as communications, human resources and finance may be the first steps, operational functions and assets, such as special appliances, training facilities and specific personnel are likely to follow. There will also be more harmonisation of operational policies and procedures between partner services.

It is important to note that the subsequent geographies in question may not necessarily be as per traditional regional or area boundaries, which will lead to a patchwork approach dependant on local circumstance and need. Rural FRAs in particular the scope for driving out additional savings is reduced in part due to the increased reliance on on-call firefighters and also in some circumstances as a result of other pressures (social care, health) that may emerge within county structures.

A growing and ageing population

A key challenge for all public services will be an increasingly ageing population. This will likely see demand on services such as health and social care grow significantly, which may also impact on the available resources for other areas such as Fire and Rescue.

As life expectancy increases, so will the proportion of life people spend with long-term conditions, for instance mobility issues, or age-related illness such as dementia. It is worth noting that already parts of Dorset and Wiltshire have some of the highest life expectancies in the country and a sizeable proportion of the population are of pensionable age. Therefore impacts from an older population will be more keenly felt across the sub-region than in other locations, such as metropolitan and urban areas.

Workforces are also likely to become older as the population ages. For organisations with fixed establishment requirements, like Fire and Rescue Services or other emergency services, this will lead to an increasingly older cohort of operational personnel. Freezes on recruitment due to budget pressures and the progression of natural wastage will also contribute to the ageing workforce profile.

Social inequality

Increasingly society will be polarised by levels of deprivation. Individuals who are least deprived are likely to enjoy not only longer life expectancy in general, but also longer periods of disability free life expectancy.
For fire and rescue services, when coupled with shrinking resources, this will necessitate effective use and sharing of data and targeting activity at groups and areas of highest risk. There will also need to be a greater degree of integration and collaboration between individual local services as those groups and individuals most at risk are likely to present with several interlinking issues or conditions.

Reforms to the welfare system will have a significant impact on some groups in society, particularly those on low incomes and who are in

receipt of out-of-work and in-work benefits, most notably housing benefit. Though the South West as a whole has low levels of benefit uptake in comparison to the national average, there will be certain neighbourhoods where levels of deprivation are higher and thus reforms to welfare will have a considerable impact.

Digital by default

The continued growth of online and mobile technology will lead to many services being 'digital by default'. Certainly many local transactional services will be delivered via an online capacity, while there will be an expectation that public service providers share and use data effectively to target resources at those most in need and to help enable service transformation.

Advances in technology may also assist at operational incidents. The use of mobile devices can enable personnel to record and transfer data such as site specific risks or inspection/audit records and make them readily available when needed. However with more services and functions using such technology, data security will become a key concern.

Cost of living

Energy bills are expected to continue to rise towards 2020, which will lead to more local residents being classed as fuel poor. Fuel poverty will also be exacerbated by the impact of welfare reform on low income households. Further rises in the cost of public transport may force a number of people to use their car(s) or bicycles instead of travelling via bus or rail. Increasing numbers of road users could lead to a rise in the number of road traffic collisions and people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on the road. While advances in technology may lead to a reduction in car users who are KSI, cyclists will be particularly vulnerable on the road network.

Police and Crime Commissioners

Providing a Conservative government is returned following the 2015 general election, Police and Crime Commissioners are likely to become more prominent. Over the next three to four years the role and remit of Police and Crime Commissioners is likely to have been expanded and there will most probably be some FRAs if not already accountable to the local PCC, will be in the process of changing from the current Authority model to a PCC model of governance. However, should a Labour government be returned as a result of the 2015 general election, then it is likely that they will enact many recommendations of the Stevens report into policing and therefore lessen the prominence of Police and Crime Commissioners.

The decision to move the Department for Communities and Local Government into the Home Office building will also lead to greater focus on integrating PCCs and FRAs and could potentially see Fire moved out of CLG altogether and under the Home Office remit. While a simple office move may seem like a trivial driver for further integration, it will serve to break down existing cross-departmental barriers.

Partnership working

The reduced financial envelope coupled with government policies such as Community Budgeting and Public Service Transformation projects will give rise to a more integrated delivery of local services, with an increasing range of functions undertaken on a collaborative or pooled basis. Recent initiatives such as integrated health and social care pilots (including the Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset pilot) and public service transformation projects are likely to be developed further. For fire and rescue services programmes such as these may lead to areas such as community safety activity being undertaken by either a collaborative range of partners or a single, combined body.

While slightly removed from the aspects of partnership working mentioned above, the incorporation of fire prevention activity into the Primary Authority Scheme will change the way in which fire safety advice to businesses is currently delivered.

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People and Society

Population

- The population in the Dorset and Wiltshire sub-region is expected to grow by 107,986 (7.6%) between 2011 and 2020. Growth in real terms will be uneven across the area and centred on urban areas, with greater increases in Swindon, Bournemouth and Poole compared to Wiltshire and Dorset.
- The highest percentage growth is likely to be seen in Swindon, Christchurch, Poole and Bournemouth.
- The proportion of younger people is likely to remain notably higher in Bournemouth due to its appeal as a university destination.
- Taken together, both Bournemouth and Swindon may retain their younger demographic profile than other parts of the sub-region, particularly Wiltshire Council and Dorset County Council which are notably older in demography.
- Life expectancy in the sub-region is likely to increase. Areas of the sub-region such as Christchurch and East Dorset already enjoy some of the longest life expectancy across the country.
- The South West has the highest concentration of military personnel in the country. Plans to rationalise the military estate and introduce a 'Rapid Reaction Force' concept will see more personnel enter the area, particularly army personnel around the Salisbury Plain and Bulford, where the 20th Armoured Infantry Brigade will be based upon their return from Germany.
- Patterns of international migration into the sub-region are linked to wider economic trends, therefore improvement in the economic outlook is likely to increase the appeal of the area to migrant workers.
- Increased levels of migration from Eastern European countries will require consideration of how engagement activities are delivered and will also require public services to be aware of cultural norms and practices that could possibly give rise to an increased risk.
- An ageing population will lead to many areas having an older demographic profile, however it should be noted that there are already local areas with a higher than average proportion of older people.
- Services will need to tailor safety messages according to local demographic factors.
- An increase in the local military footprint will lead to increased demand for local public services and housing. However there will be more opportunities to make use of the skills of armed forces personnel and the military in areas such as joint training. Also, as existing service personnel retire there may be a bigger pool of potential recruits to call upon for on-call firefighting.
- The boosting of the Army Reserve will provide both threats and opportunities; threats as it may be seen as an alternative to those who may be interested in becoming an on-call firefighter but there are also opportunities to be presented as it may allow organisations such as fire and rescue services to recruit individuals with specialist skills.

Figure 1 and 2. Dorset and Wiltshire Sub-Regional Population Forecast to 2021
Growth shown as % increase on 2011 base (2011=1)
Source: Office for National Statistics

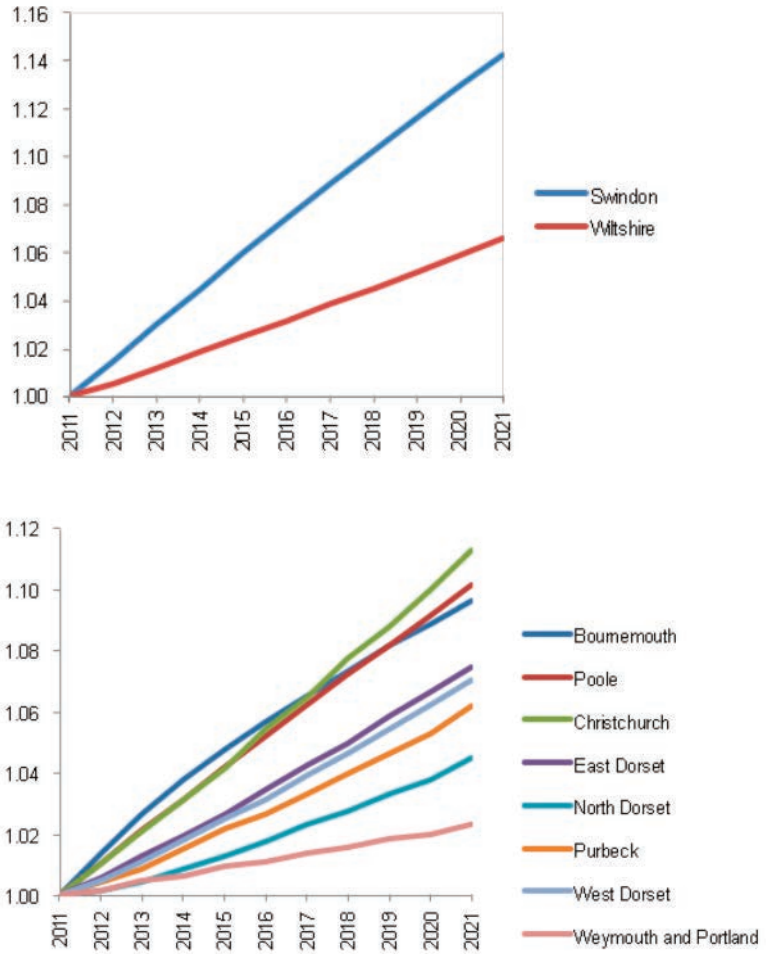


Figure 3. Bournemouth population projection to 2020
Source: Office for National Statistics

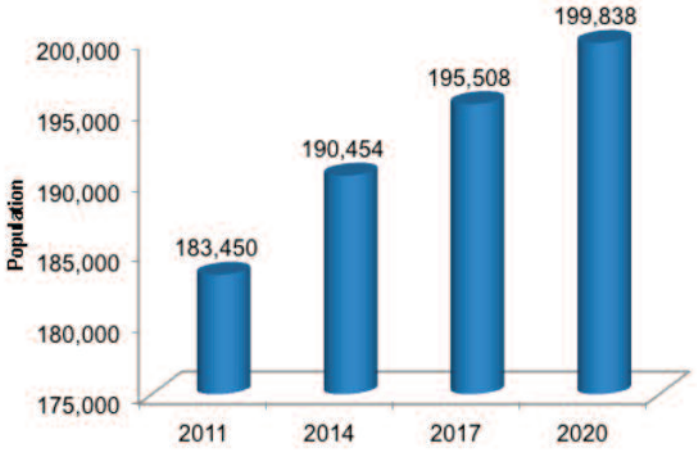


Figure 4. Poole population projection to 2020
Source: Office for National Statistics

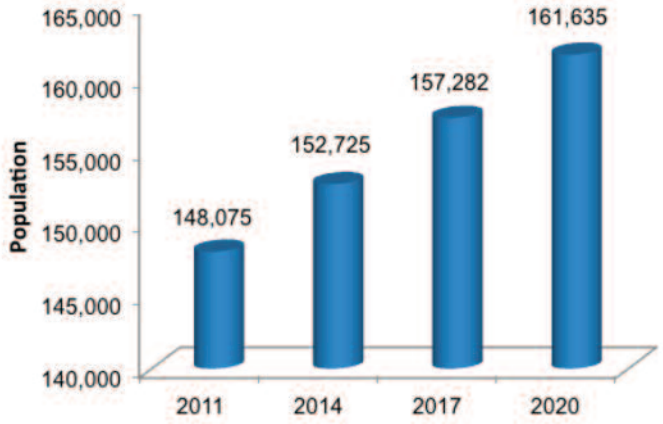


Figure 5. Population projection for Dorset County Council to 2020
Source: Office for National Statistics

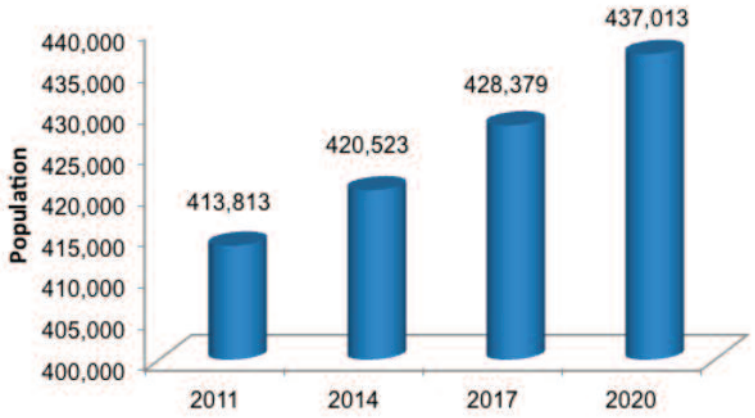


Figure 6. Population projection for Swindon to 2020
Source: Office for National Statistics

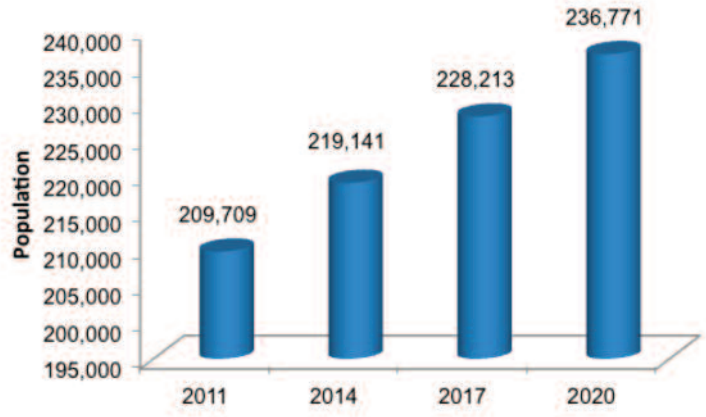


Figure 7. Population forecast for Wiltshire to 2020
Source: Office for National Statistics

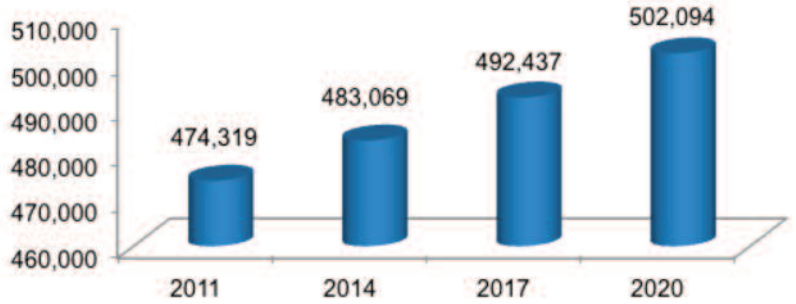


Figure 8. Sub-regional age structure
Source: 2011 Census

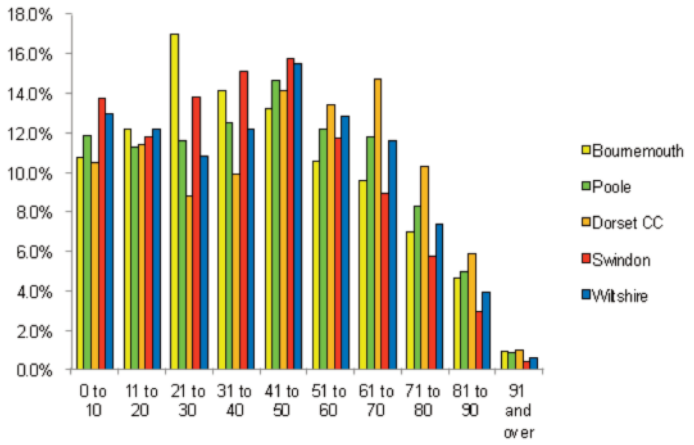


Figure 9. Sub-regional population aged 16-24
Source: 2011 Census

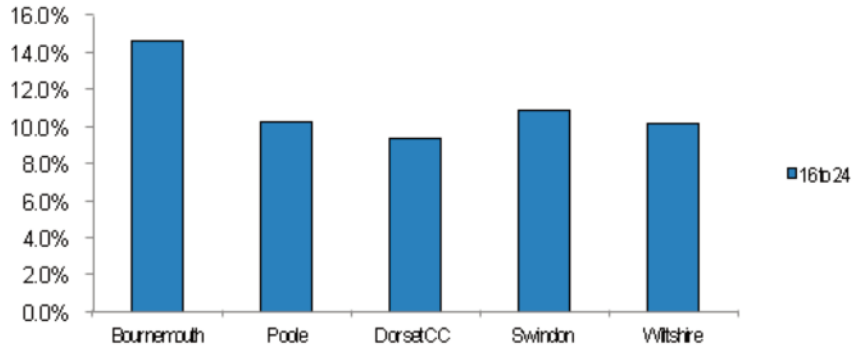


Figure 10. Sub-regional population aged over 65
Source: 2011 Census

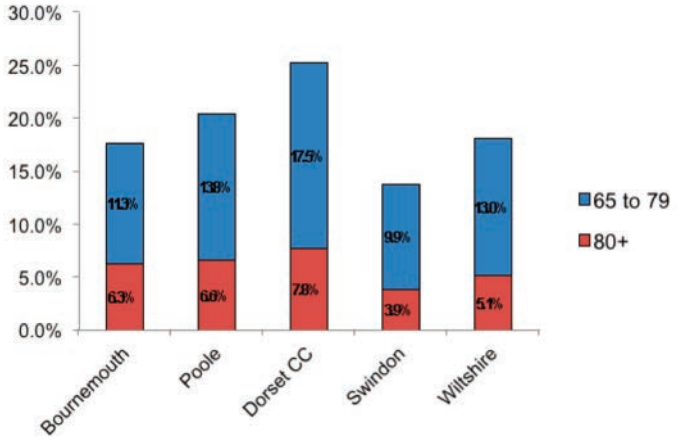


Figure 11. Projected sub-regional growth in military population to 2020 Source: Wiltshire Council / Defence Analytical Services Agency, 2012

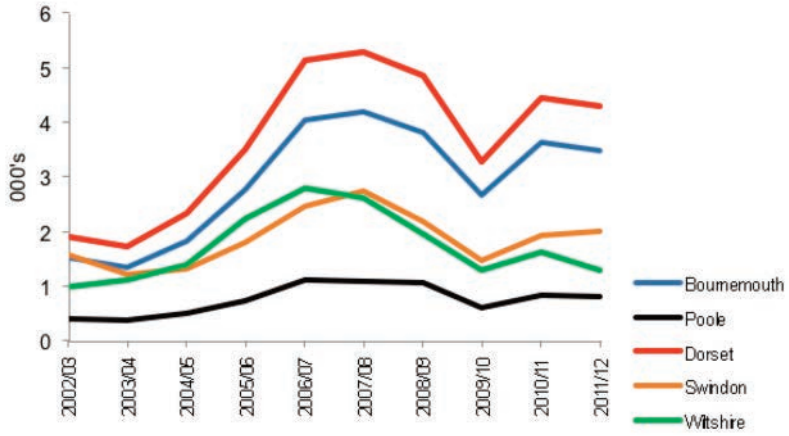
Local Authority	Military Personnel	Estimated Dependants	Total Footprint
Wiltshire	**14,955**	**14,400 - 15,600**	**29,400 - 30,600**
Tidworth Garrison, Perham Down & Ludgershill	6,150		
Bulford Camp	2,960		
Larkhill	1,600		
Warminster	1,440		
Bournemouth	**2,180**	**2,000 - 2,300**	**4,200 - 4,400**
Poole	**970**	**900 - 1,100**	**1,900 - 2,000**
Dorset	**2,180**	**2,000 - 2,300**	**4,200 - 4,400**
Blandford	1,480		
Total	**20,285**	**19,300 - 21,300**	**39,700 - 41,400**

Figure 12. Disability free life expectancy (DFLE) at age 65 and at birth according to level of deprivation
Source: Office for National Statistics

Disability Free Life Expectancy (DFLE) at Aged 65				
Level of Deprivation	2003-2006		2007-10	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1 - Least deprived	13.2	13.4	12.9	13.2
2	11.7	12.7	11.7	12.1
3	10.5	11.9	10.6	10.9
4	10.0	10.4	9.4	10.1
5 - Most deprived	8.1	9.3	7.5	8.5

Disability Free Life Expectancy (DFLE)				
Level of Deprivation	2003-2006		2007-10	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1 - Least deprived	70.2	71.1	69.8	70.7
2	67.3	68.9	67.7	68.2
3	65.1	67.4	64.3	65.4
4	63.0	64.3	62.1	63.1
5 - Most deprived	56.8	60.1	55.1	57.3

Figure 13. Overseas National Insurance Number (NiNo) Registrations by Year
Source: Department for Work and Pensions



Dwellings and Households

- There has been a considerable increase in the housing stock across the sub-region over the past decade, particularly in Swindon, Wiltshire and the Dorset County Council areas.
- Future development to 2030 will see housing development focus on Swindon (22,000 homes), Poole (10,000), North Dorset (7,000) and West Dorset (9,640).
- Owner-occupation is the majority tenure across the sub-region, though is more prevalent in Christchurch and East Dorset.
- The proportion of rental properties is likely to continue to increase – partly due to affordability and the availability of properties.
- It is likely that single occupancy households will become more common across the sub-region.
- Areas of the sub-region are popular holiday destinations for both domestic and international visitors, with parts of Dorset (Purbeck, West Dorset) having significantly higher numbers of second properties than the national and regional average.
- Demand for second homes is likely to continue as the European economy falters and the 'stay-cation' retains its popularity.
- At face value it would appear that an increase in the number of dwellings would lead to a corresponding increase in the risk and rate of dwelling fires, however this is not necessarily the case due to fire safety regulations in new housing and also changes to construction and building methods.
- An increase in rental properties could see more houses of multiple occupation (HMOs), especially in more urban environments such as Bournemouth, Poole and Swindon.
- Housing affordability - both homeownership and rental - will continue to be an issue across the sub-region but especially in areas of Wiltshire, West Dorset, Purbeck and Poole.
- Rising numbers of single occupation households may increase the risk of fire.

Figure 14. Housing growth projections to 2030
Source: Department for Communities and Local Government

Housing development planned by area, to 2030 Source: Local authority core strategies/local plans		
Area	**Planned Housing**	**Development focus (homes planned)**
Dorset		
Bournemouth	6,438	Town centre (2,000), near to district centres or transport routes (2,500)
Poole	10,000	Town centre (4,000), near to local centres or transport hubs (3,500)
Christchurch	3,257	
East Dorset	5,110	
North Dorset	7,000	Blandford (1,500), Gillingham (2,300), Shaftesbury (1,200)
Purbeck	2,520	Swanage (960), Wareham (475)
West Dorset	9,640	Chickerell (900), Bridport (840), Dorchester, Sherborne
Weymouth and Portland	3,580	
Total	**47,545**	
Wiltshire		
Swindon	22,000	Central Swindon (1,000), Kingsdown (1,650), New Eastern villages (6,500), Tadpole Farm (1,695), Rowborough (1,500), Swindon urban area (3,500), Wichelstowe (4,064)
Wiltshire	16,180	Amesbury Bulford and Durrington (1,470), Chippenham (3,000), Salisbury (4,290), Trowbridge (2,600), Warminster (1,110)
Total	**38,180**	
Combined Total	**85,725**	

Figure 15. Housing stock by local authority, 2002-12
Source: Department for Communities and Local Government

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bournemouth	76,750	77,670	78,770	79,810	80,710	81,740	83,210	84,390	84,950	85,380	85,940
Poole	61,880	62,180	62,650	63,030	63,830	64,470	65,060	65,880	66,270	66,500	66,690
Dorset CC	180,180	182,280	184,430	186,250	188,280	189,780	191,240	192,710	193,700	194,940	196,180
Swindon	78,170	79,270	80,590	82,360	83,980	86,300	88,310	89,340	90,280	91,130	92,020
Wiltshire	185,830	187,370	189,440	191,170	193,070	194,860	197,240	198,830	200,200	201,990	203,740

Figure 16. Properties by tenure
Source: 2011 Census

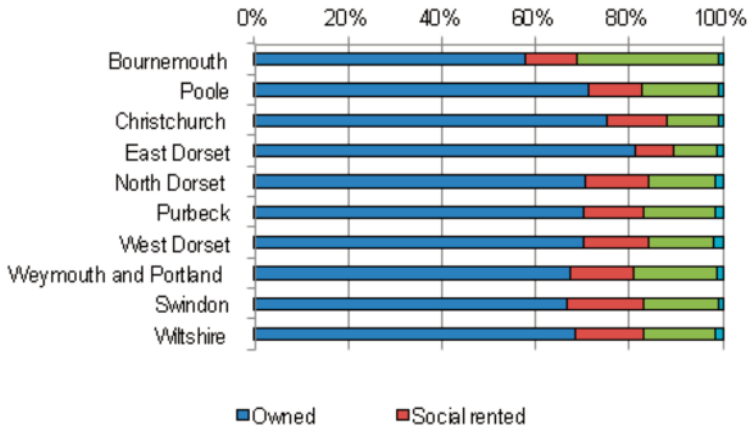


Figure 17. Rental properties 2001-2011
Source: 2001 Census

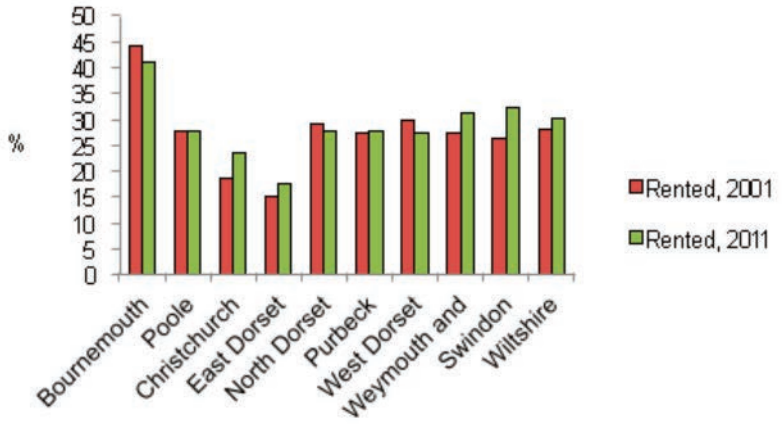


Figure 18. One person households as a % of the population
Source: 2011 Census

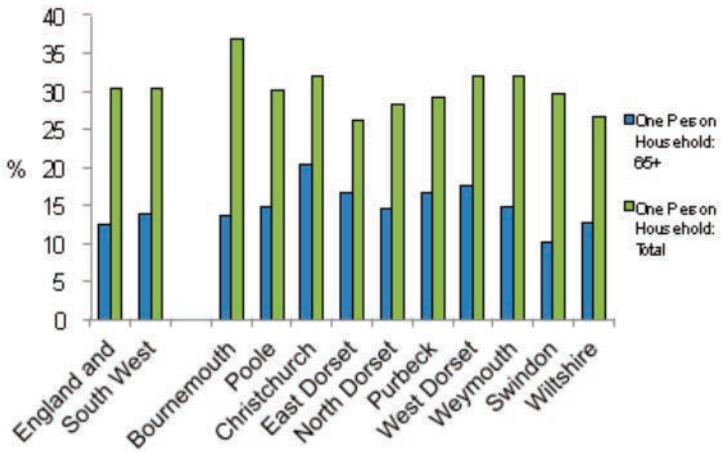


Figure 19. Second homes per 1,000 population
Source: 2011 Census

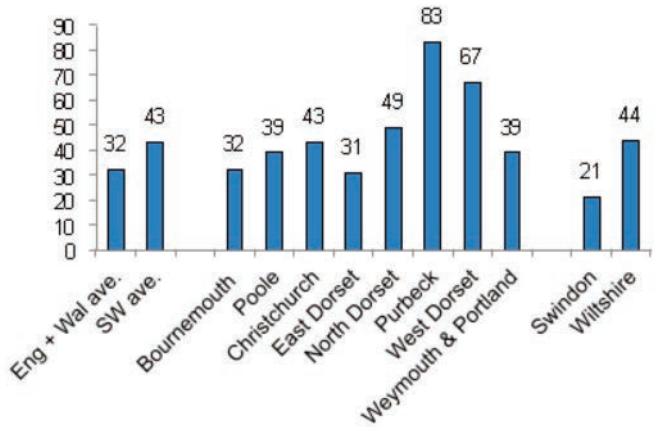
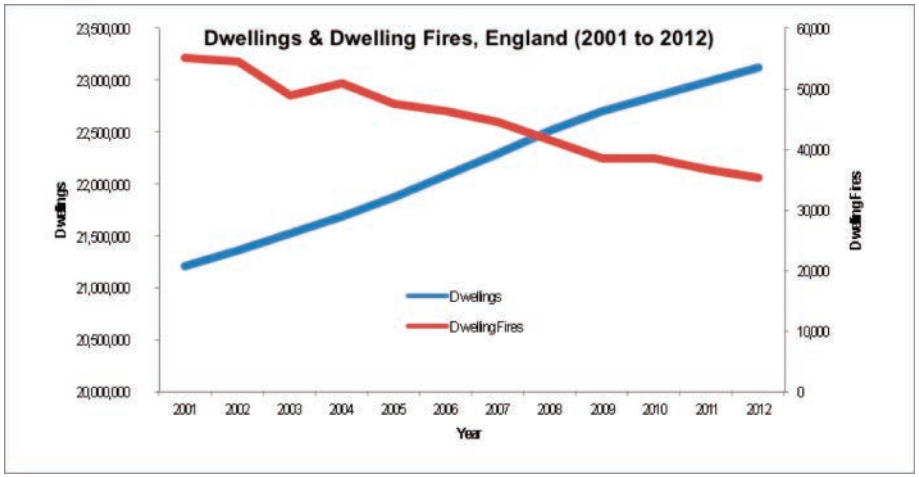


Figure 20. Number of Dwellings vs Dwelling Fires, 2001-12
Source: Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012



Social Cohesion and Citizenship

- The majority of residents across Dorset and Wiltshire identify themselves as Christian, with significant minorities of people following no religion.
- There will likely be an increase in the number of people who identify as following no religion.
- Religious diversity has increased across the sub-region over the past decade and will likely continue.
- A more diverse religious landscape could see more risk of fire from various festivals/events, though this will still account for a very small percentage of the local population. It will also be important to engage with newly established or growing religious movements in the area to deliver safety messages.
- The sub-region is fairly homogenous, with the vast majority of residents identifying themselves as White-British.
- Voluntary activity in the region has increased since the Olympic Games in 2012.
- However, on-call recruitment and retention can still be problematic. In part this may be due to the fact that those most likely to volunteer are more affluent and may not be incentivised to join the FRS.
- With significant structural reform, it may be necessary to expand the use of on-call to attract a range of skilled people. For instance, flood rescue or animal rescue work may appeal to someone already working in their relevant sector. Additionally, some support roles may be suited to an on-call arrangement such as vehicle maintenance or ICT support.
- The South West as a region is an area of good cohesion where the majority of people believe those from different backgrounds can get on.
- Community engagement is more prevalent in the least deprived areas – less well off areas will be the ones hardest to engage with and change their patterns of behaviour/risk
- As levels of community engagement are lower in more deprived areas, these parts of the community will require more targeting in order to help either change behaviour or ensure they influence the delivery of public services.

Figure 21. Religious identity, 2001 vs 2011 census
Source: 2001 census, 2011 census

	Christian		Buddhist		Hindu		Jewish		Muslim		Sikh		Other religion		No religion		Religion not stated	
Bournemouth	104,828	↓	1,215	↑	1,292	↑	1,343	↓	3,264	↑	156	↑	1,216	↑	55,911	↑	14,266	↑
Poole	89,243	↓	538	↑	511	↑	404	↓	1,035	↑	79	↑	717	↑	43,922	↑	11,196	↑
Dorset CC																		
Christchurch	32,057	↓	157	↑	51	↑	96	↓	146	↑	5	↓	264	↑	11,291	↑	3,685	↑
East Dorset	58,251	↓	156	↑	103	↑	148	↓	352	↑	12	↓	359	↑	21,103	↑	6,682	↑
North Dorset	45,631	↓	262	↑	221	↑	92	↑	186	↑	10	↑	341	↑	16,323	↑	5,517	↑
Purbeck	29,239	↓	111	↓	5	↓	36	↑	69	↓	2	↓	217	↑	11,642	↑	3,652	↑
West Dorset	64,793	↓	334	↑	121	↑	86	↓	257	↑	13	↓	594	↑	24,783	↑	8,283	↑
Weymouth and Portland	39,766	↓	260	↑	49	↑	61	↓	308	↑	46	↑	455	↑	19,079	↑	5,143	↑
Swindon	120,287	↓	1,209	↑	2,597	↑	151	↑	3,538	↑	1,228	↑	1,061	↑	64,780	↑	14,305	↑
Wiltshire	301,651	↓	1,621	↑	1,308	↑	384	↑	2,074	↑	303	↑	2,417	↑	125,045	↑	36,178	↑
Total	885,746	↓	5,863	↑	6,258	↑	2,801	↓	11,229	↑	1,854	↑	7,641	↑	393,879	↑	108,907	↑

Figure 22. Sub-regional demography of ethnic minorities
Source: 2011 census

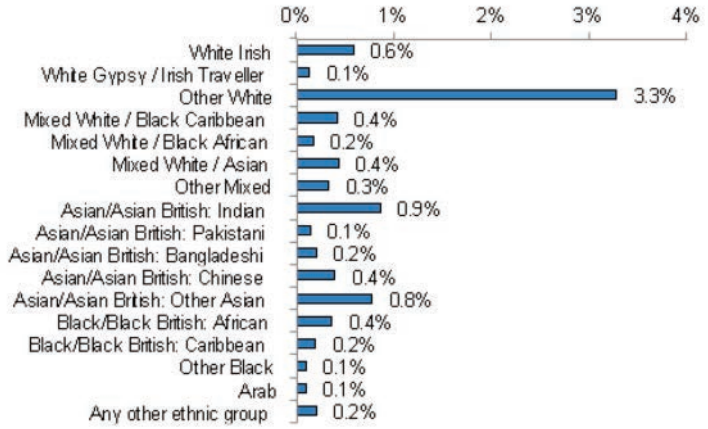


Figure 23. Percentage of population who undertake carer activity
Source: 2011 census

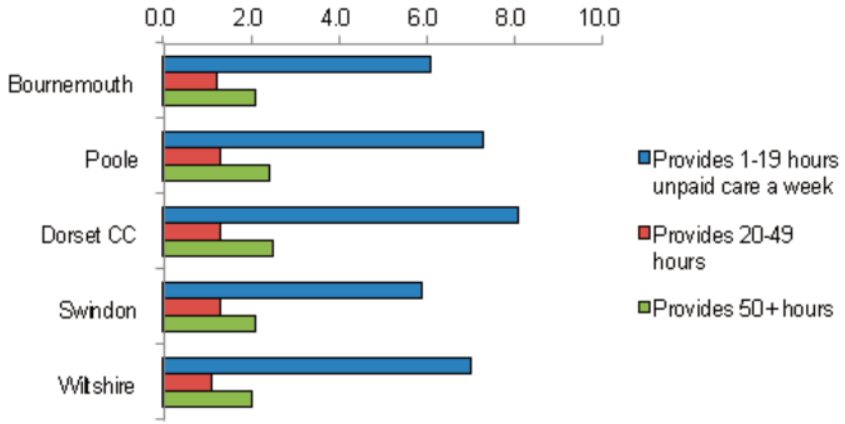


Figure 24. Non-engagement index by personal circumstances
Source: British Crime Survey 2011/12

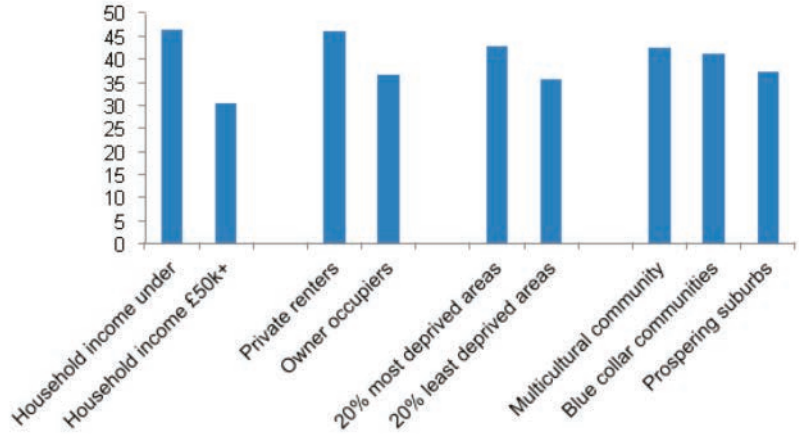
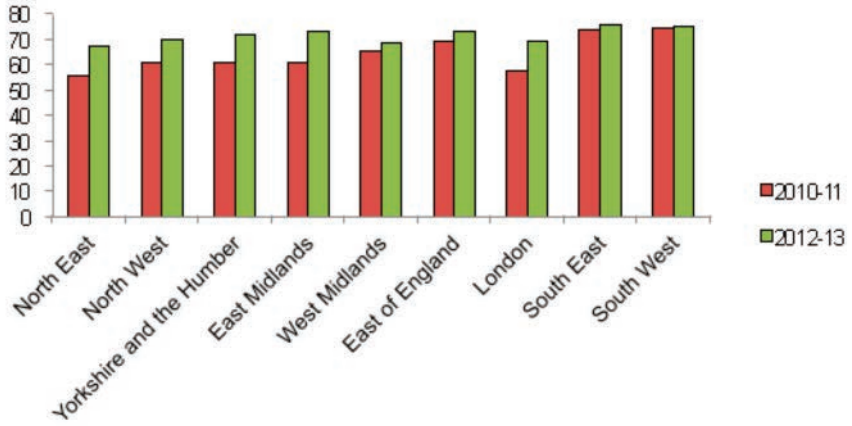


Figure 25. Participation in voluntary activities (%age)
Source: Cabinet Office, 2013



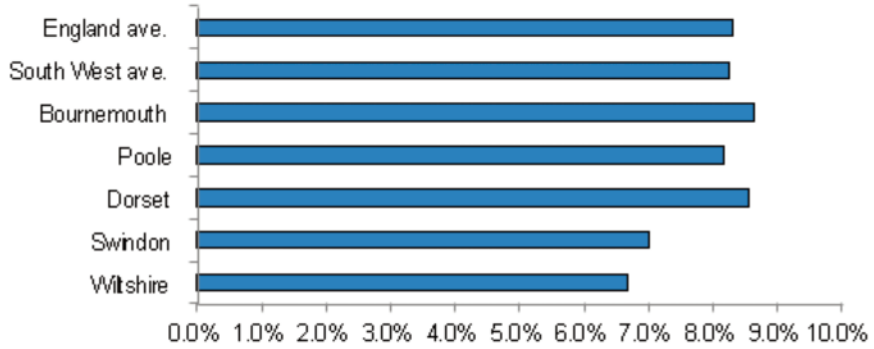
Health and Wellbeing

- Life expectancy across the population will continue to increase, but health inequalities will become more apparent.
- Areas of the Dorset and Wiltshire sub-region already have the highest life expectancy in the country.
- With an ageing population, the cost of providing adult social care will continue to increase and age associated illness such as dementia will become more common.
- There will be an evident age 'postcode lottery', with those in more deprived areas having a much less independent older age than those in more affluent areas.
- Longer lives may also see a higher proportion of lifespan spent with reduced mobility.
- Local public services will place a focus on tackling troubled families – those who require the most resources through interventions. This will be developed via public service transformation networks/community budgets.
- The number of people taking illicit drugs will continue to increase, though levels of regular drug abuse is likely to carry on decreasing.
- Alcohol consumption will increase. While binge drinking may decrease amongst the general populace, it will still be common among younger drinkers. There is likely to be an increase in the number of people with chronic alcohol conditions.
- Obesity levels will rise; with the condition (along with dementia and related illnesses) being one of the major health and social challenges facing national and local public services.
- A more frequent prevalence of obesity will place further demand on local public services. There may be further risks from interlinked lifestyle issues, such as decreased mobility.
- Reform to emergency care structures will lead to a focus on preventing hospital admissions where possible, with more people being treated either on-scene or at smaller facilities.

Figure 26. Sub-regional life expectancy at birth and at age 65
Source: Office for National Statistics, 2012

Local Authority	Life Expectancy At Birth (Years)				Life Expectancy At Age 65 (Years)			
	2001-03		2009-11		2001-03		2009-11	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Bournemouth	76.1	81.5	78.6	83.3	16.6	19.8	18.3	21.2
Poole	78.2	82.1	80.1	84.1	17.5	20.3	19.3	21.8
Dorset CC								
Christchurch	78.2	83.6	81.6	85.3	18.0	21.2	20.3	23.2
East Dorset	80.1	83.4	83.0	86.4	18.9	21.4	20.9	23.7
North Dorset	79.2	82.8	81.8	85.5	18.3	20.7	19.9	23.2
Purbeck	79.7	82.9	80.8	85.8	18.3	21.0	20.1	23.3
West Dorset	77.6	82.0	80.5	84.9	17.7	20.3	19.4	22.4
Weymouth and Portland	75.9	81.6	78.6	82.9	16.7	19.7	19.1	21.0
Swindon	76.4	80.0	79.2	82.7	16.3	18.8	18.5	20.9
Wiltshire	78.0	81.8	80.1	83.8	17.2	19.9	19.1	21.7

Figure 27. Percentage of population with long term conditions that significantly limits daily activity -
Source: Office for National Statistics, 2012



Deprivation

- Levels of fuel poverty have grown across the sub-region since 2006.
- The rising cost of domestic energy is likely to lead to an increase in the number of households classed as being 'fuel poor'.
- This will particularly impact rural areas where the energy efficiency of dwellings is traditionally at a lower standard than in more urban environments.
- Fuel poverty is more prevalent, and will impact more, in rural areas of Wiltshire and Dorset compared to Bournemouth, Poole and Swindon. This could lead to an increased risk of fire through people turning to alternative heating methods such as the use of electric heaters, particularly those in thatched properties or other homes that may be built using alternative methods or materials.
- Increased numbers of fuel poor residents may also lead to higher instances of respiratory illness and other linked conditions, particularly among elderly and vulnerable residents.
- Social exclusion will be a polarising measure of society, with those in the most deprived areas and circumstances affected considerably more than those in the most comfortable areas or with the most affluent lifestyles.
- As society potentially becomes more polarised, should this become entrenched then resulting disillusionment may lead to instances of civil disorder – despite Dorset and Wiltshire being quite socially cohesive as an area.
- Those in the most deprived circumstances will be the hardest for local services to engage with and change patterns of behaviour.
- Households without insurance will be concentrated amongst the most deprived groups in society. Additionally these households may be among the most at risk from fire.
- The impact of welfare reform will see incomes reduce for a number of households.
- Estimates from the Department for Work and Pensions have revealed the cost of providing Housing Benefit to both the private and social rented sector has increased significantly over the ten years to 2013/14.
- While the South West regionally has low levels of housing benefit recipients, low wage growth coupled with increasing numbers of people renting and rising rent costs may see this expenditure grow further and place pressure on local authorities administering claims. Though this impact could be negated to an extent by capping housing benefit.
- From the implementation of the reforms in April 2013 to September 2013, a total of 976 households in the South West saw benefits capped. Nationally, 78% of benefits claimants have had their benefit capped by £100 per week or less.
- Research from the Local Government Association has estimated that the impact from housing benefit reform will be felt particularly keenly in Bournemouth (average loss of £1,166 per year, affecting 15.8% of all households) and Weymouth and Portland (£1,108, 14.2%).

- Nationally, 8.8million people are now over-indebted; where they have either fallen behind with their bill at least 3 months in the past 6 months or that their level of debt feels like a heavy burden. The majority (75%) of those over-indebted are younger people under 54, while 50% of those affected have household incomes below £20,000 per year.

- Locally, research has shown that 10-20% of the population in Swindon, Wiltshire and Bournemouth are over-indebted. This falls to 5-10% in Poole and areas Dorset County Council, with the exceptions of East Dorset (0-5% of the population) and Weymouth and Portland (20-30%). Reforms to the welfare system and capping of benefits could lead to an increase in those who are over-indebted.

- Initiatives such as the troubled families programme will drive further collaboration between public agencies and other delivery partners. An integrated approach could reduce the costs to services that arise from dealing with the households that interact with services most frequently.

Figure 28. Households in fuel poverty 2006-11
Source: Department for Energy and Climate Change, 2013

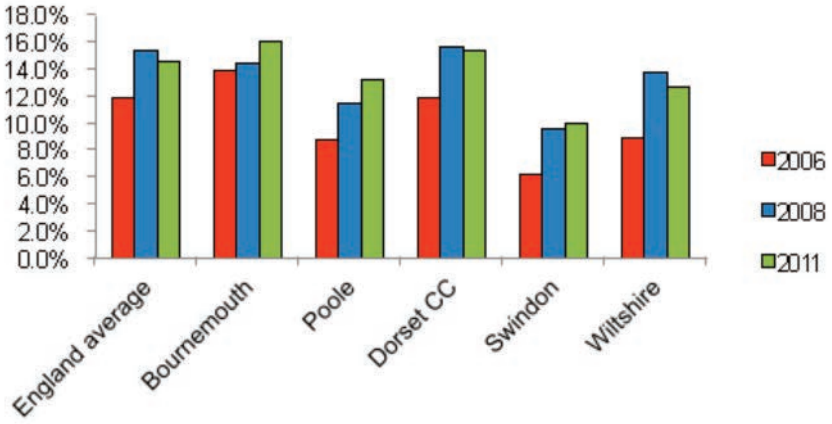


Figure 29. Rate of population claiming key out-of-work benefits
Source: NOMIS, 2013

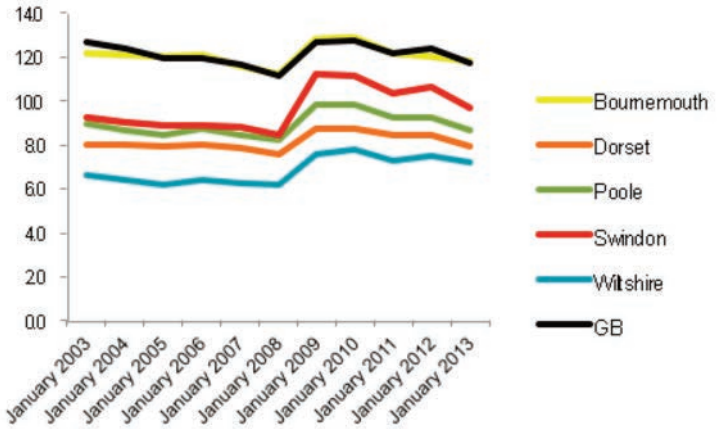


Figure 30. Loss per claimant household from welfare reform (excluding Universal Credit), by 2015/16
Source: Local Government Association, 2013

Local Authority	Loss
Bournemouth, Christchurch, Purbeck, West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland	£1,666 - £5,161
East Dorset, Poole	£1,566 - £1,665
North Dorset	£1,513 - £1,565
Swindon, Wiltshire	£1,460 - £1,512

Figure 31. Sub-regional socio-economic classifcation
Source: Office for National Statistics,2013

	Large employers and higher managerial and administrative occupations	Higher professional occupations	Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations	Intermediate occupations	Small employers and own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	Semi-routine occupations	Routine occupations	Long-term unemployed	Never worked	Full-time students
England & Wales ave.	2.4	7.9	20.8	12.7	9.4	6.9	14.1	11.1	1.7	3.9	9.0
South West ave.	2.4	7.8	21.6	12.8	11.3	7.3	14.8	10.6	1.2	2.2	7.9
Bournemouth	1.9	7.3	20.6	12.4	10.6	6.6	14.3	9.3	1.5	2.5	13.2
Poole	2.5	8.0	22.1	14.1	10.5	7.6	15.1	10.3	1.2	1.9	6.6
Dorset	2.8	7.5	23.2	13.3	13.1	7.5	14.4	10.0	1.0	1.8	5.4
Swindon	2.3	8.2	20.7	14.7	7.5	8.1	16.0	12.4	1.6	2.5	5.9
Wiltshire	3.7	8.8	23.8	13.6	10.6	7.3	13.6	10.1	1.1	1.7	5.7

Community Safety

- The number of fires attended by Fire and Rescue Services has shown a sustained fall over the past decade and this is likely to continue.
- The number of deliberate fires, both primary and secondary, has decreased significantly across both Dorset and Wiltshire FRS areas.
- The number of people injured in road traffic collisions across Swindon, Wiltshire and the Dorset County Council areas has reduced over the past five years, however the number of incidents has increased in Bournemouth and Poole.
- Dorset County Council and Wiltshire have witnessed reductions in the number of people killed in road traffic collisions over the past five years, while the rate of Bournemouth has remained static and the number of incidents in Poole has increased.
- Local partners will need to address variances in instances and rates of road traffic collisions.
- Advances in technology, such as spatial sensors and crash protection will help to reduce the severity of road traffic collisions in the future.
- Levels of anti-social behaviour have fallen markedly in both Dorset Police and Wiltshire Police areas.
- Falling levels of anti-social behaviour may contribute to lower levels of small and deliberate fires
- Fly-tipping across the sub-region has decreased since 2005/06.
- As outlined in the previous section (Health and Wellbeing), a focus on increasing the amount of on-scene treatment that paramedics provide to patients - in order to prevent hospital admissions – could lead to further opportunities for collaboration, particularly in relation to co-responding.
- Decreasing activity may provide opportunities for further enhancing co-responding or first response initiatives - particularly beneficial to isolated rural areas – or allow firefighters or other public service staff to become more holistic community safety advocates encompassing a wider remit including health and crime, as is being explored in Hampshire. A holistic community safety role would also provide the public with a single point of contact for an issue as opposed to relaying the same issue to multiple agencies.
- There may be a need to question the efficiency and cost of current approaches to the delivery of Home Fire Safety Checks in the current economic climate as resource intensive methods may not be sustainable in the long-term. Joint working or more holistic safety/welfare checks may be an alternative to interactions by each individual public service provider.

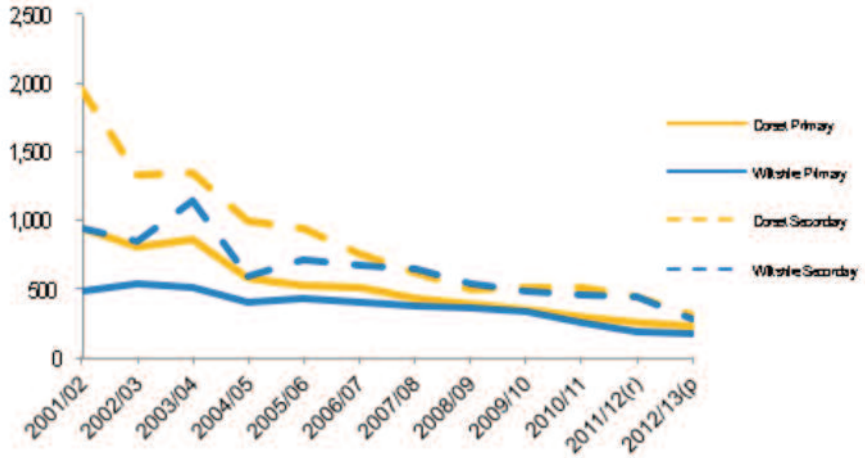


Figure 32. Deliberate Primary and Secondary Fires
Source: Department for Communities and Local Government

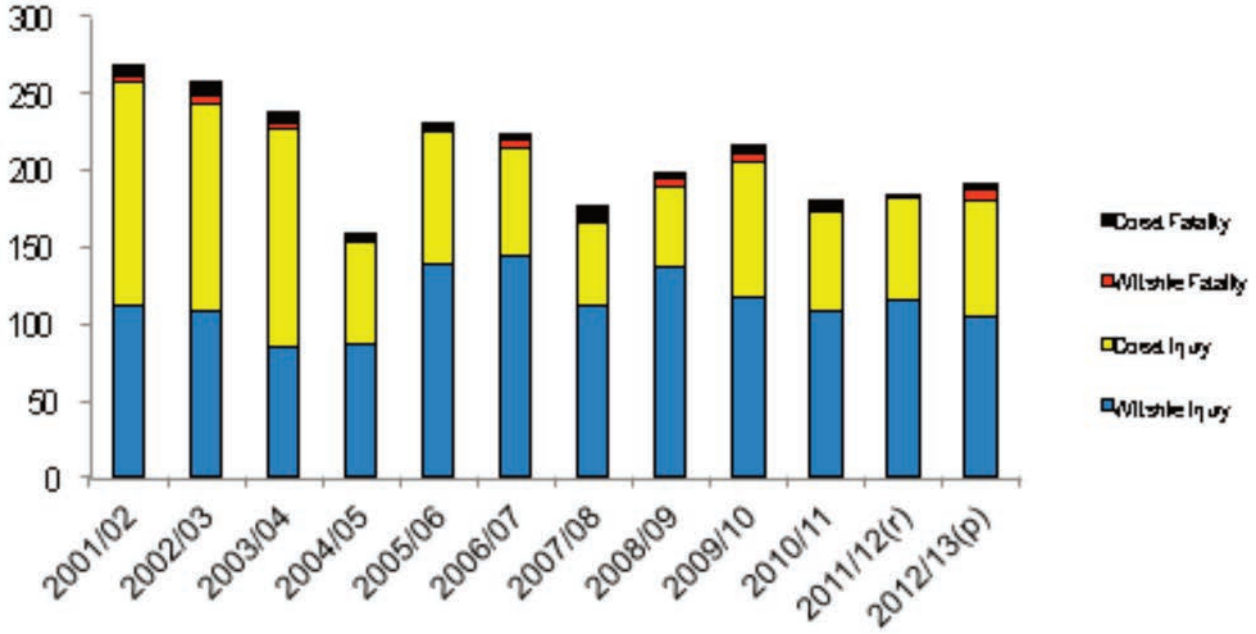


Figure 33. People killed or injured in fires
Source: Department for Communities and Local Government

Figure 34. Anti-Social Behaviour Rate per 1,000 population
Source: Home Office

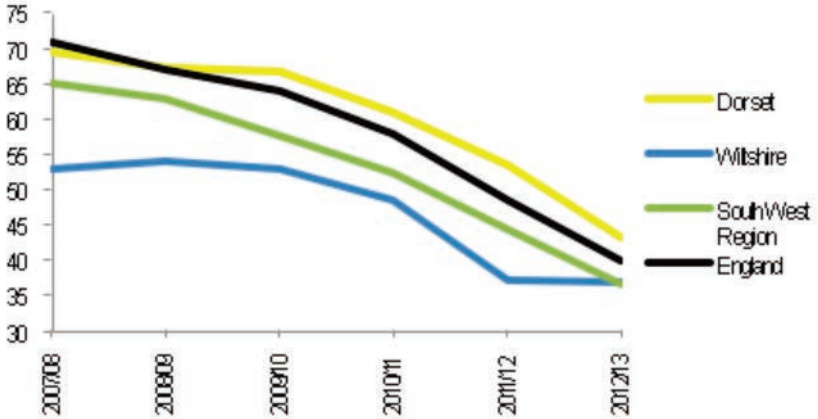


Figure 35. Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents by Police Force area
Source: Home Office

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Dorset	48,844	47,847	47,407	43,340	38,374	32,314
Wiltshire	33,629	34,759	34,390	31,767	24,569	25,209

Further reading

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Review of Urgent and Emergency Care Services in England
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Dorset Fire & Rescue Service
Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

Working together to make our communities safer

Economy and Technology

Economic Activity

- Economic output across the sub-region has increased in the ten years to 2011. Over the course of the financial crisis, the local economies of Swindon, Bournemouth and Poole showed greater resilience to economic pressure.
- Economic growth is likely to be centred around export driven industry such as manufacturing (particularly Swindon (motor) Bournemouth, Poole (marine)), along with tourism and associated industry (notably in areas of Dorset and Wiltshire). The expansion of the military footprint across the sub-region may also contribute to economic growth.
- The UK economy now appears to be in the recovery phase and as house prices increase and activity returns to around pre-recession levels, the construction sector will provide a boost to gross domestic product.
- Across the sub-region there are several industries that account for higher than average output, such as defence, manufacturing and accommodation and food services, reflecting the concentration of the defence, manufacturing and tourism sectors in the area.
- While wages will continue to increase, they will on average still be lower than the national average.
- There is a considerable gap in gross value added (GVA) per head between Swindon and other areas of the sub-region, reflecting the concentration of high-skilled and technical jobs in the local area.
- Recent research by PriceWaterhouseCooper and Demos has shown that the growth potential for many Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas in the South West is particularly good in comparison to the national picture and to large cities such as London, Birmingham and Manchester. The growth potential in all South West LEPs is above average (except for Wiltshire and Cornwall, which themselves are around average).
- Rate revaluations in 2017 and caps on business rates may impact on local authority collection rates but could further boost the output of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), particularly in town centres and on the traditional high street.

Figure 36. Gross Value Added Per Head (Index,UK = 100)
Source: Office for National Statistics

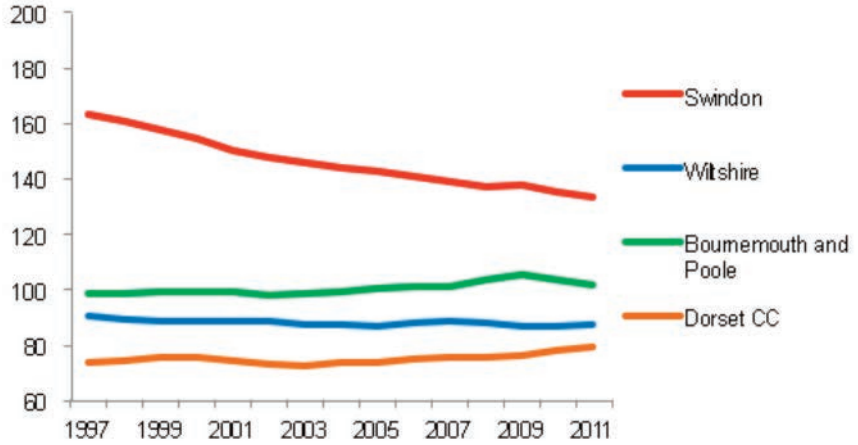


Figure 37. Gross Value Added (Prices)
Source: Office for National Statistics

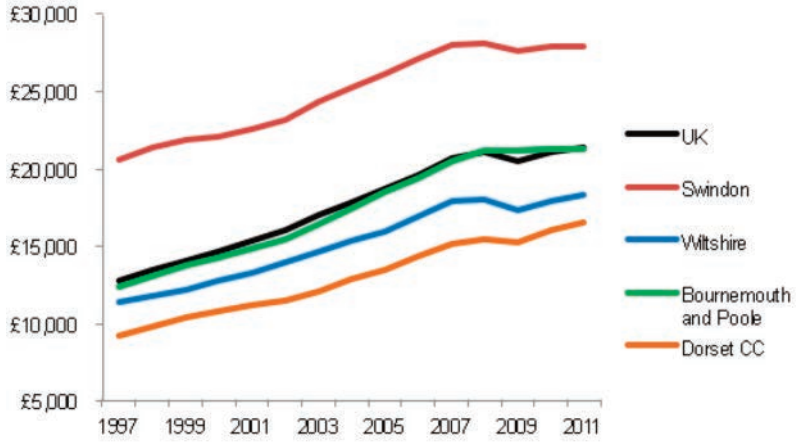


Figure 38. Business Births By Year
Source: ONS/Business Demography 2011

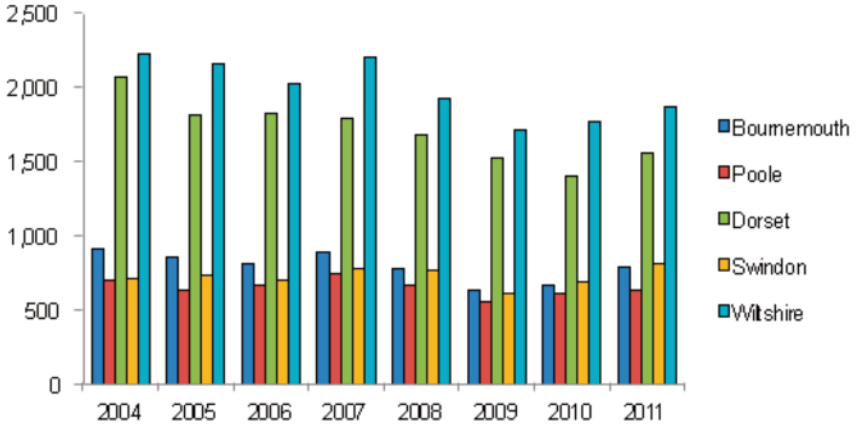


Figure 39. Business Deaths By Year
Source: ONS/Business Demography 2011

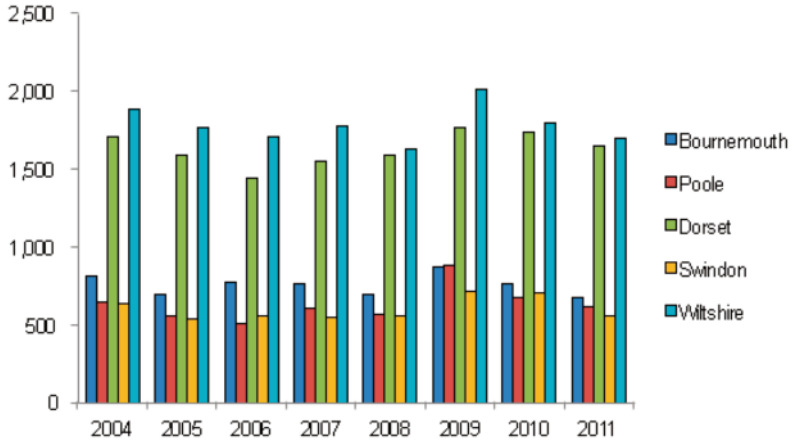


Figure 40. Sub-regional economy
Source: Office for National Statistics, 2012

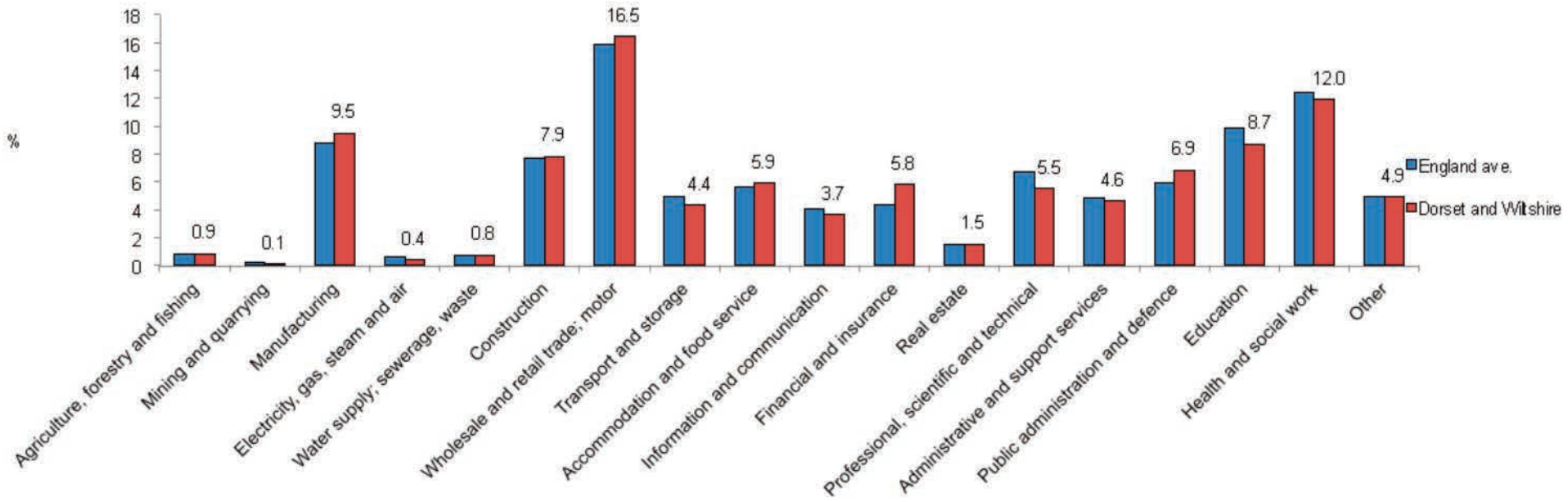


Figure 41. Local businesses
Source: Office for National Statistics, 2013

	Agri, forestry & fishing	Production	Construction	Motor trades	Wholesale	Retail	Transport & storage (inc. postal)	Accommodation & food services	ICT	Finance & insurance	Property	Professional, scientific & tech	Business admin and support services	Public admin and defence	Education	Health	Arts, entertainment, recreation and other	TOTAL
Bournemouth	20	280	825	175	260	1,005	135	600	485	190	305	900	430	30	185	560	495	**6,880**
Poole	25	490	875	255	350	700	180	345	505	140	325	845	410	40	145	395	400	**6,425**
Dorset County	2,140	1,410	2,500	645	860	2,125	510	1,380	940	370	685	2,435	1,175	215	465	1,000	1,365	**20,220**
Christchurch	20	150	280	70	110	270	65	135	110	50	70	280	135	10	65	90	115	**2,025**
East Dorset	215	385	670	160	245	385	115	190	290	120	170	645	305	35	100	205	285	**4,520**
North Dorset	640	235	435	125	150	330	105	145	175	60	110	375	195	45	80	145	245	**3,595**
Purbeck	195	185	295	60	75	215	60	220	115	30	70	230	130	25	60	85	160	**2,210**
West Dorset	1,005	350	565	190	235	620	100	405	175	85	205	705	315	75	110	320	390	**5,850**
Weymouth and Portland	65	105	255	40	45	305	65	285	75	25	60	200	95	25	50	155	170	**2,020**
Swindon	120	370	800	265	315	795	315	475	845	180	200	1,090	480	40	175	345	475	**7,285**
Wiltshire	2,095	1,320	2,390	740	895	2,040	585	1,410	1,655	435	750	3,615	1,475	255	650	1,140	1,590	**23,040**
Former districts of:																		
Kennet	475	230	445	105	130	355	85	300	315	55	130	770	275	60	105	215	340	**4,390**
North Wiltshire	715	430	780	205	310	545	195	390	665	130	205	1,270	500	70	210	300	495	**7,415**
Salisbury	550	330	600	190	210	600	130	380	330	160	230	830	385	75	180	330	410	**5,920**
West Wiltshire	355	330	565	240	245	540	175	340	345	90	185	745	315	50	155	295	345	**5,315**

Labour Force

- Decreasing activity levels will likely increase the need for employees to act with flexibility in multiple roles and possess multiple skill sets. It may also be necessary for staff with specific skills to operate across service areas and in conjunction with multiple services through a pooling of resources.
- Since 2008, the South West has seen a reduction in public sector employment, while employment in the private sector has remained at a similar level. Given the reduction in central funding projected over the next four years, it is likely that public sector employment will continue to shrink.
- The South West as a region has one of the highest rates of underemployment at 10.4%. Someone who is underemployed is in work and wants to work more hours e.g. working part-time wanting a full-time job.
- The fragile nature of the economic recovery may lead to underemployment becoming a more common trend. Conversely this may assist with efforts to recruit on-call firefighters.
- Flexible working will become increasingly commonplace, not only within the public sector but also within the private sector.
- More employees are now working from home, a trend that will likely continue as mobile technology and connectivity improves.
- However, the South West regionally has one of the lowest proportions of workers who regularly work from home, so any future increase may be more muted than other areas of the country.
- More employees working from home could increase the risk of fire as they are active at home during the day, but it may also aid penetration and engagement rates for prevention activity, as well as providing for a potential pool of recruits for on-call firefighters.
- For Fire and Rescue Services, recruitment freezes due to financial constraints and/or workforce profiles will see services become increasingly reliant on an older workforce. An ageing workforce may also become increasingly common in the wider economy.
- Specifically in relation to Dorset and Wiltshire FRSs, significant proportions of the operational workforce are aged between 46-55, or over. In Dorset, 34.1% of Wholetime Duty System and 36.8% of Retained Duty System firefighters are 46-55+, while in Wiltshire this figure is 38.4% and 30.9% respectively.
- By 2020 a number of these personnel may have left their respective service due to retirement or other reasons, while some of the cohort of staff currently in the 36-45 age bracket will be in the 46-55 age bracket, making for an ageing workforce profile.
- The transport network within Dorset and Wiltshire and associated travel time (particularly on road given the lack of motorway network aside from the M4) will place more reliance on the use effective technology to communicate from home or at a mobile location.
- Many local authorities are now developing commissioning models of delivering services. This may involve outsourcing of staff to employee mutuals or private providers. An increasingly diverse landscape for service provision will present both risks (e.g unemployment) and opportunities (e.g. mutualisation) for staff and could also lead to more variances in terms and conditions for support staff.

- An increased reliance on retained duty system staff may be impacted by a reluctance of employers to release potential on-call firefighters, while decreasing incident levels places a focus on ensuring operational competence through training etc that is a time commitment which employers may not be willing to grant their staff.

- There is the possibility that the Grey Book national terms and conditions could be altered

- The economic climate may necessitate further enhancing the functions that are undertaken by voluntary staff as opposed to traditional roles and positions. Already FRSs have volunteers to assist with events, youth engagement and other activities, while other avenues may be developed further.

Figure 42. Unemployment Rate, 2005-13
Source: NOMIS, 2013

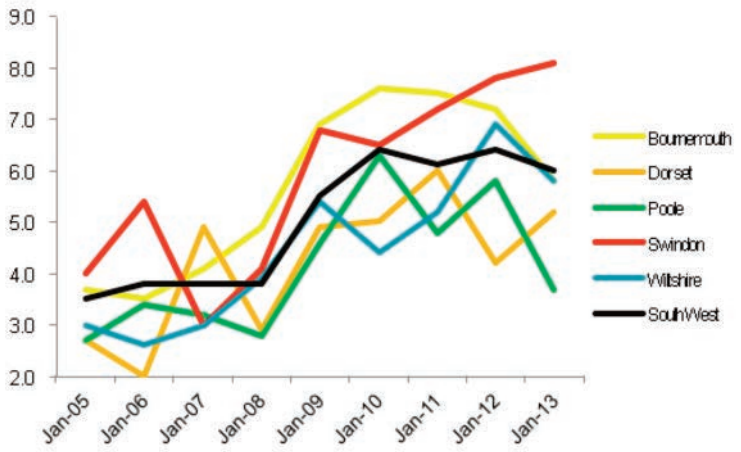


Figure 43. Jobseekers Allowance Claimants Aged 16-24
Source: NOMIS, 2013

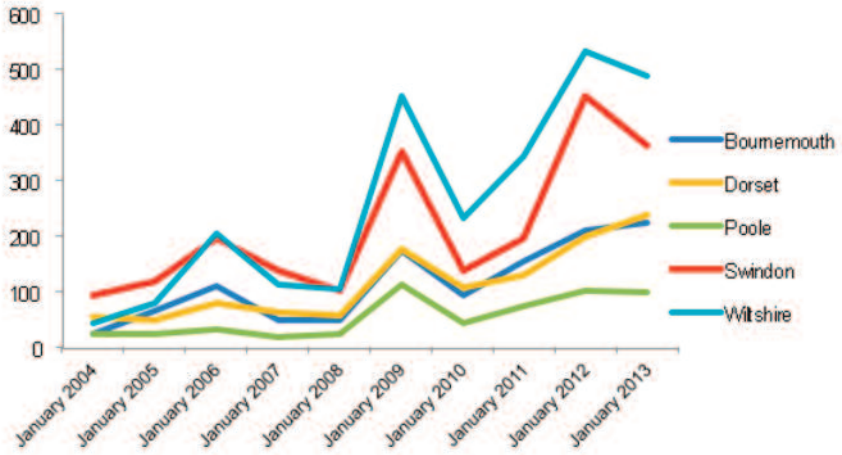


Figure 44. Underemployment Rate, 2005-13
Source: ONS / National Institute for Economic and Social Research

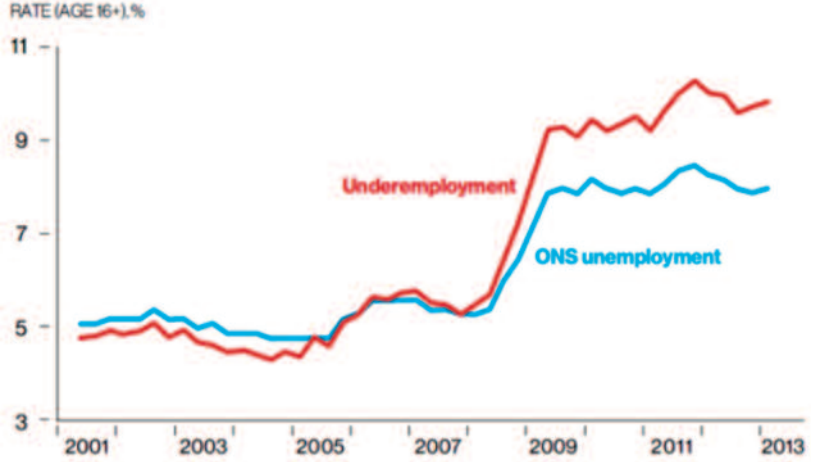
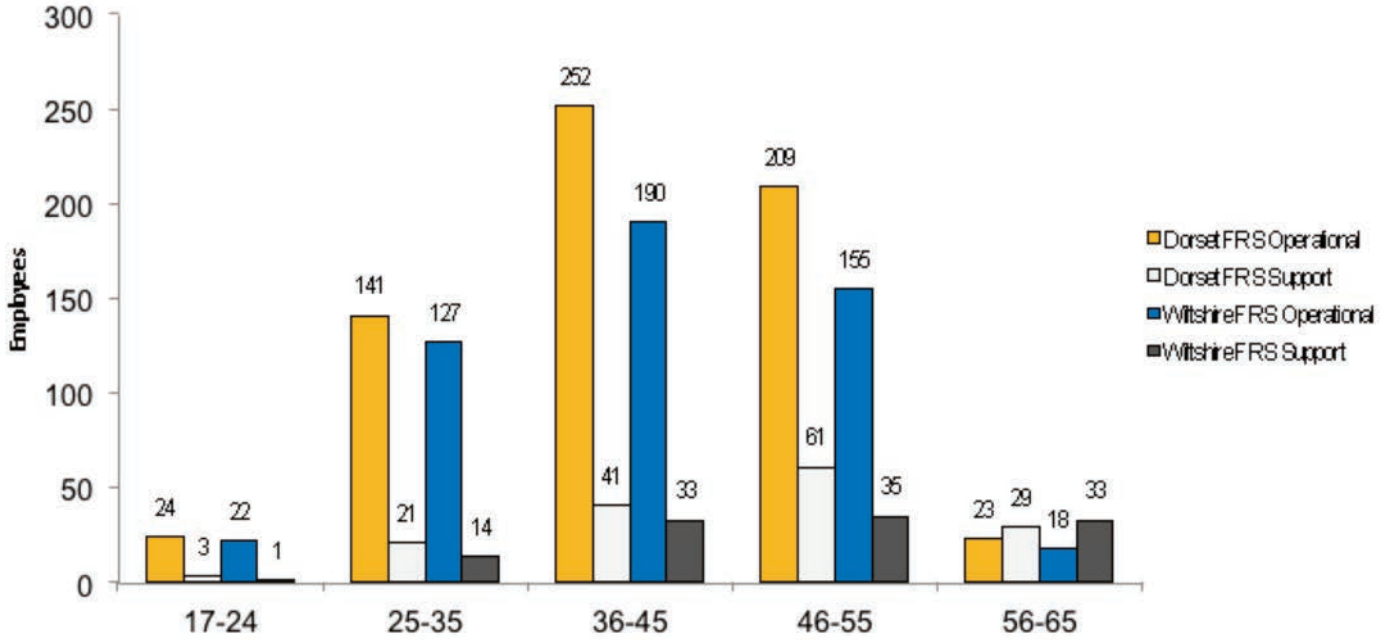


Figure 45. Public Sector vs Private Sector Employment, South West
Source: Office for National Statistics

	Public Sector	Private Sector
2008	519,000	2,047,000
2009	549,000	1,927,000
2010	548,000	1,992,000
2011	525,000	1,970,000
2012	487,000	2,062,000
2013	471,000	2,044,000

Figure 46. Workforce profile of Dorset FRS and Wiltshire FRS
Source: Dorset FRS and Wiltshire FRS, 2013



Education and Skills

- Across the sub-region education attainment continues to improve, with increases in the number of children able to meet Key Stage 4 requirements for maths and English.
- Locally, the workforce is becoming increasingly well qualified with more people attaining NVQ Level 4 qualifications or above.
- There will be a focus on ensuring that education meets the needs of the local and national economy.
- Reform of the education system could see more individuals take up vocational training and lead to a growth in the number of apprenticeships.
- Education and learning will increasingly be undertaken either on an online basis or utilising other electronic methods.
- There is likely to be an increasing polarisation between highly skilled and increasingly mobile individuals and those who do not possess formal qualifications and/or requisite training or skills in modern technology.
- There will be continued growth in people undertaking 'lifelong learning', learning from home etc.
- For firefighters and incident commanders, fewer incidents also provides fewer opportunities to hone and develop skills. In future this could be addressed via alternative training delivery methods such as the use of virtual reality (VR) technology and also by ensuring that services improve the learning and sharing of experiences - a key recommendation of the Knight Review.
- The change in ownership of the Fire Service College (FSC) could see an improved offer for FRSs as more investment is put into the college. However, in diversifying the offer to attract industry and other customers, there may potentially be fewer opportunities for FRSs to use the college.
- Joint training and collaborative exercises will be expected to become more commonplace, both between FRSs and other emergency responders and agencies.

Figure 47. Percentage of individuals with NVQ level 4 Qualifications or above
Source: office for National Statistics, 2012

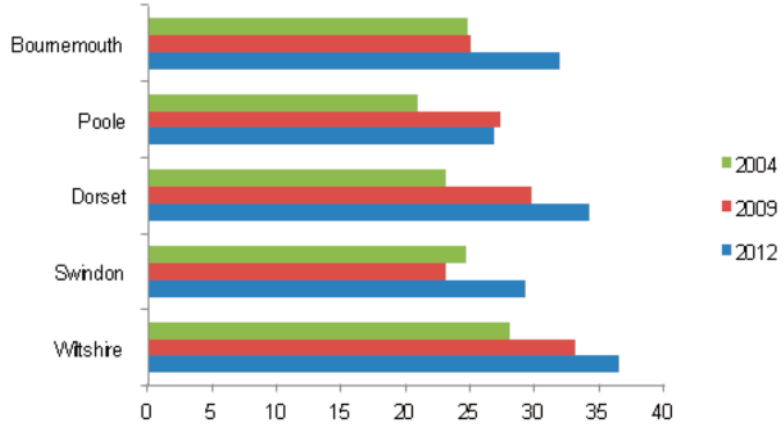
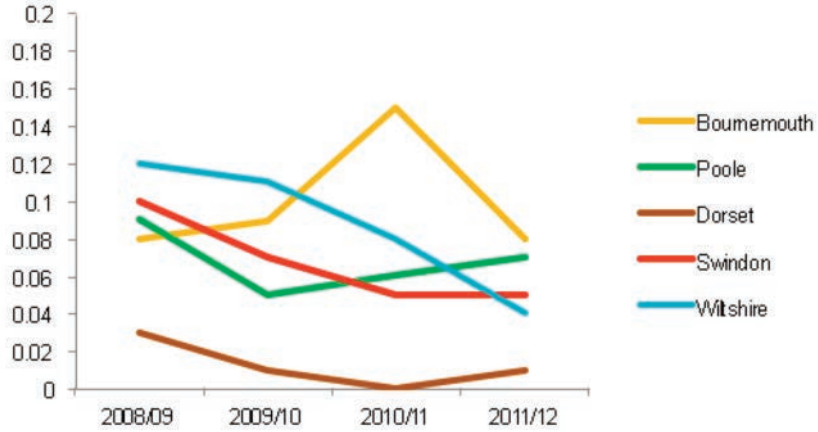


Figure 48. Percentage of pupils permanently excluded from school
Source: Department for Education, 2013



Austerity/Financial Challenges

- Continuation of the austerity agenda is expected through the course of the next Parliament (to 2020).
- If current trends to 'protect' budgets such as the Department of Health are continued along with a reluctance to increase taxation, annual cuts to non-protected departments could be approximately -6% to -7%.
- Overall funding for Fire and Rescue Services will decrease by 22.5% by the end of the current spending round in 2014/15. A continuation of this level of budget reduction may see total cuts in central funding of up to 40% by 2018 and possibly 45% by 2020.
- Central grant reductions will be particularly difficult for FRSs which are already largely operating on an on-call/retained basis, as the scope for operational changes such as shift patterns and crewing arrangements are greatly reduced.
- Squeezes on recruitment due to financial pressure will see many services operate on an older workforce profile. This might lead to higher risks of workplace related injury.
- The ability of FRSs and other local authorities to mitigate central funding cuts through increases in the precept will be curtailed through the veto/referendum principles and pressure from central government.
- Demand for social care – and the cost of provision – will increase to 2020 and beyond. This will place extra pressure on local service providers and will likely drain council resources away from other areas such as community safety, road safety and regulatory enforcement.
- Pooling of resources through arrangements such as community budgets (see later chapter) will likely increase pressure on smaller authorities such as FRSs.

Figure 49. Reductions in Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) by department 2010 to 2016
Source: HM Treasury, 2013

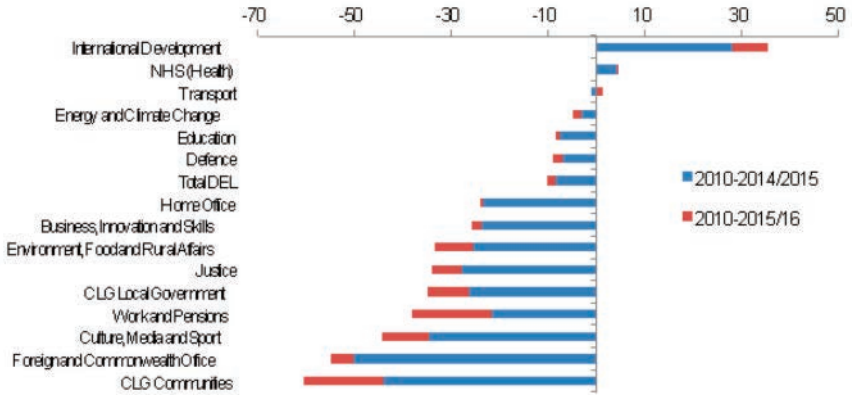
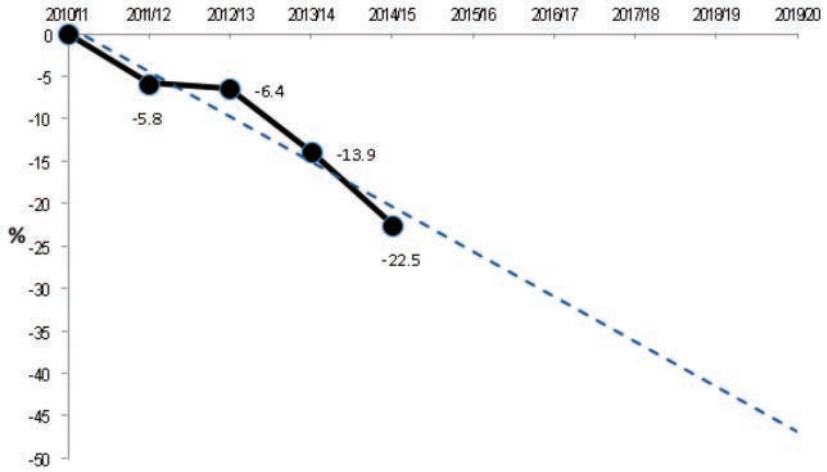


Figure 50. Reduction in central funding to fire and rescue services since 2010/11 and projection to 2020
Source: Local Government Association, 2013



ICT

- More authorities will be delivering transactional services online – council tax payment, reporting a problem, contact centres etc.
- More businesses and organisations will be accessing online services and more employees will be accessing the internet for work purposes.
- Rates of daily computer usage will carry on increasing. While often seen as the preserve of younger generations, the highest rate of increase in usage recently has been among older generations.
- The development of online-storage and cloud computing could facilitate more public services being delivered through an online capacity, while cloud technology could also reduce the resource intensity of an organisation's ICT support requirements.
- A growing number of people will access information and service through mobile technology such as smartphones and tablets.
- Social networking will continue to grow, with the majority of the population linked into at least one social network.
- The growth in online technology and mobile communications will lead to greater emphasis being placed on cyber security and the correct handling of personal data.
- Initiatives such as the Local Government Digital Alliance and the 'Tell Us Once' project will help to drive technology to make it easier and simpler for individuals to interact with public services.
- Advances in technology may help to provide support to working practices, such as providing remote support to personnel at the scene of an incident or out in the community. It will also become increasingly important that workforces are able to use and work effectively with new technologies.

Figure 51. Employees using internet access for work
Source: Office for National Statistics, 2012

	Employees using computers with internet access for work at least once per week (%)	Businesses with internet access (%)	Businesses with a website (%)
2006	40.7	90.2	69.6
2007	40.7	89.3	70.0
2008	45.5	91.3	74.5
2009	45.4	91.0	75.7
2010	48.8	95.0	78.5
2011	50.9	94.1	81.4

Figure 52. Proportion of the population with internet access
Source: Office for National Statistics, 2013

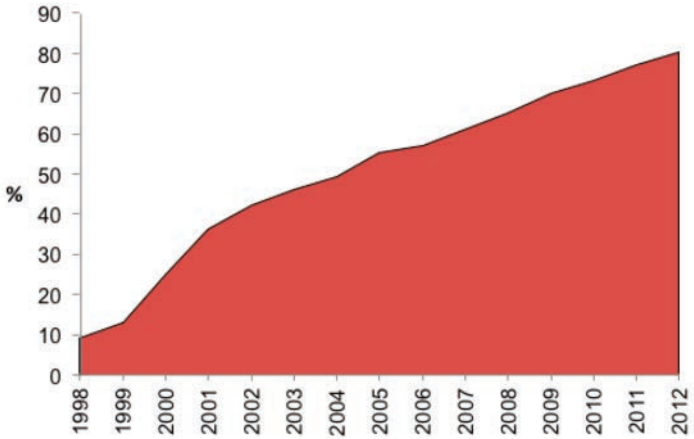


Figure 53. Percentage of the population who undertake daily computer use, by age group
Source: Office for National Statistics, 2013

Daily computer use by age group		
	2006	**2012**
16-24	63	82
25-44	62	83
45-54	56	71
55-64	36	63
65 +	9	29
All	45	67

Operational Equipment

- Developments such as lance cutting technology will assist firefighters at various incidents and reduce the risk that personnel face when fighting fires. Such developments may also help to streamline operational procedures and reduce the need to commit firefighters.
- Personal protective equipment will become lighter and more durable for wearers.
- Fire engines will be more fuel efficient and will be able to be built and specified for a range of tasks. Alternatively, with incidents reducing, there may be a move away from traditional appliances to more mobile vehicles such as midi-fire engines, fire bikes and rapid response units, which may lead to more local variance. Conversely financial and procurement needs may dictate a more standardised fleet of vehicles.
- Some detection equipment will become more advanced, with wireless integration becoming more commonplace as opposed to hardwired linkages. Increasingly alarms will be able to undertake multiple functions such as fire detection, carbon monoxide detection and motion detection.
- Sprinkler systems may become more cost-effective as technology progresses.
- Advances in mobile data technology will assist FRSs in sharing data with other agencies and aid identification of at risk individuals. Mobile data and applications will also be able to benefit firefighting crews on incident grounds through the quick transfer of risk critical information.
- Robotic technology may assist crews in dealing with hazardous incidents such as chemical spillages.
- It will be important to address methods of offensive firefighting at incidents with no life risk and to make use of technology to minimise the risk to firefighters in these situations. The use of 3-D imaging and scanning as well as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs/drones or remote controlled devices) could assist in providing an accurate assessment of an environment such as a warehouse fire or similar structure.

Further reading

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http://pdf.pwc.co.uk/good-growth-report-2013.pdf

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http://www.tuc.org.uk/workplace-issues/work-life-balance/04-homeworkers/home-working-increase-despite-recession-says-tuc

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http://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2013/sep/13/benefits-mobile-services-citizens

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New York Times, 2013
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Lincs First To Introduce New Cobra Coldcut Equipment
Fire Magazine, 2013
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Dorset Fire & Rescue Service
Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

Working together to make our communities safer

Built and Natural Environment

Built Environment

- Together, Dorset and Wiltshire are the two areas with the most thatched properties in the UK. Thatched properties bring their own specific fire risks and it is likely that thatch as a building material will continue to be popular locally.

- The number of people 'self-building' or custom building their home is expected to increase, which is being supported by Government. Locally, this could lead to more dwellings being built using historic methods such as thatching or through the use of non-conventional building techniques.

- More custom builds may impact on existing knowledge and experience of fire development, as fires in self built properties or those with uncommon materials may develop in an unexpected manner or in a way that is considerably different to more traditional materials; potentially increasing the risk that operational personnel face at an incident.

- Pressures to address the lack of affordable homes in the country could lead to more development on areas of flood risk. Coupled with the affects of climate change this could lead to more incidents of flooding that require FRS resources.

- In England, the South West contains the highest proportion of the population living in a rural environment (31.6%), with approximately one million living in villages, hamlets and isolated dwellings.

- Within Dorset and Wiltshire, the rural population is focussed within West Dorset, North Dorset and areas of Purbeck, East Dorset and Wiltshire (primarily in south Wiltshire). In contrast Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch, Weymouth and Portland and Swindon comprise the urban population.

- Over 86,000 properties across the South West are estimated to be at significant risk of flooding from rivers or sea – this equates to 18% of properties in England. Further increases in the population and in housebuilding could see more properties sited in flood risk areas.

- A focus on energy efficiency could lead to more properties being insulated, which in turn may impact on fire development by increasing the rate of fire growth in insulated locations or increasing the risk of flashover.

Travel and Transport

- Vehicle ownership is likely to continue to rise in proportion to the increase in population.
- Travel by car will continue to be the most popular method of road transport, though the number of road users either commuting or travelling by bicycle is likely to grow in more urban environments such as Bournemouth and Swindon.
- In comparison to other areas of the country, a number of areas in the Dorset and Wiltshire sub-region are less well served by the road transport network, with an absence of nearby motorway or trunk road. For some this will ensure that travel by car remains a necessity.
- Cyclists are likely to become a more frequent hazard on the road, with the potential for more local RTCs. Only Dorset County Council and Poole have recorded decreases in the number of cyclist casualties on the road, the other authorities have witnessed an increase in the number of casualties.
- Air traffic and passengers through Bournemouth airport and nearby regional airports such as Bristol and Southampton is likely to increase over the medium term.
- Rail usage at major stations has increased, however the increasing cost of rail fares may lead to more people using the road network to commute and travel, which may increase the risk of road traffic collisions.

Figure 54. Car ownership, South West England
Source: Department for Transport, 2012

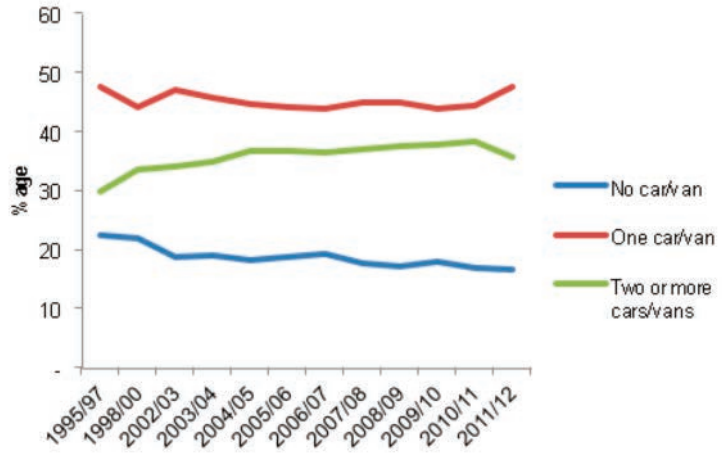


Figure 55. Vehicle Kilometres, South West England
Source: Department for Transport, 2012

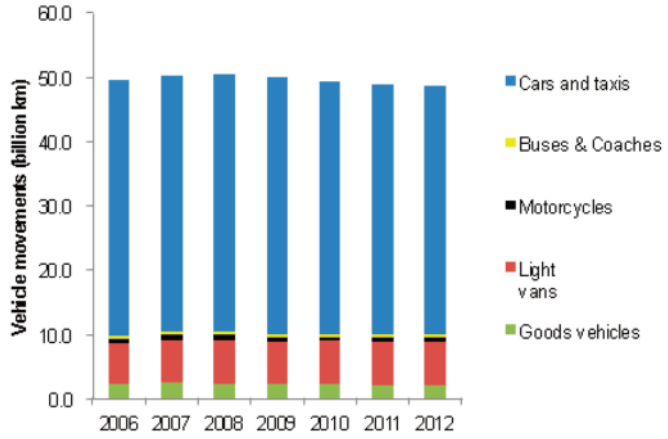


Figure 56. Cyclist Road Casualties, 2010-12
Source: Department for Transport

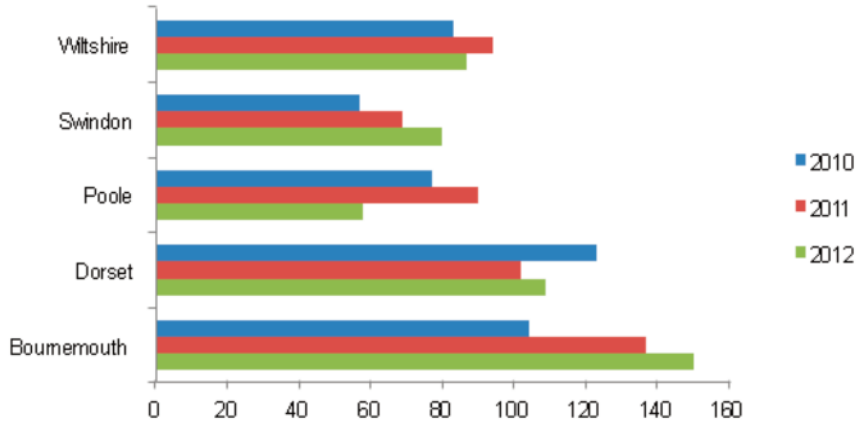


Figure 57. UK Car Ownership Since 1994
Source: Department for Transport

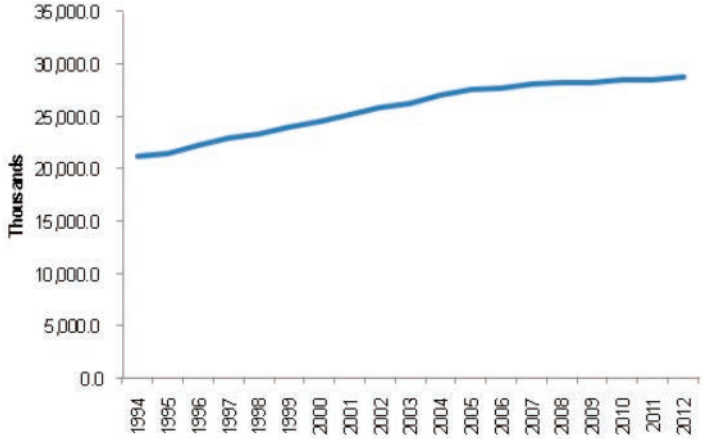


Figure 58. UK Non-Car Road Ownership Since 1994
Source: Department for Transport

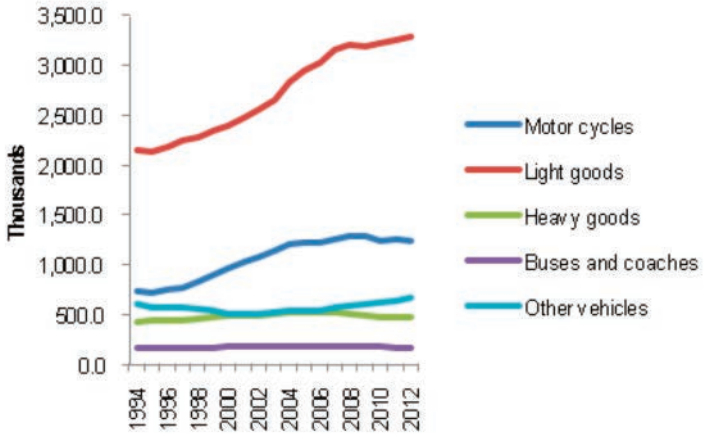
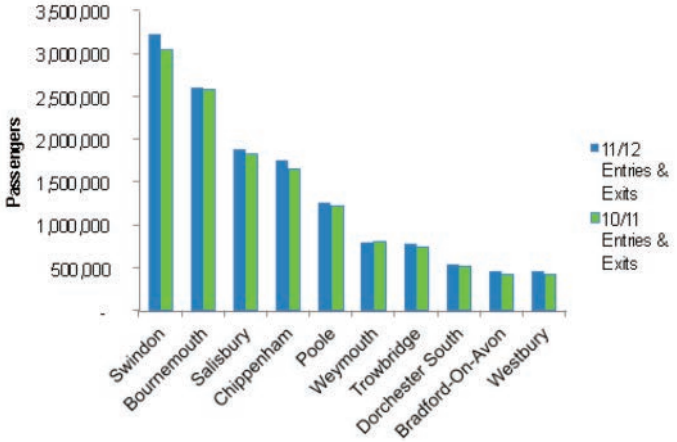


Figure 59. Bournemouth Airport Passenger and Air Traffic Forecast
Source: Bournemouth Airport

	Passengers	Air Traffic Movements
2005/06	932,000	13,000
2009/10	1,800,000	18,000
2014/15	3,000,000	27,000
2029/30	4,500,000	29,000

Figure 60. Top 10 Busiest Stations in Dorset and Wiltshire
Source: Office for Rail Regulation, 2013



Natural Environment

- The predicted impact of climate change has estimated that on average, summer periods may become drier in the South of England.
- Drier summer conditions may lead to an increased risk of grass and heathland fires in open areas, which will call on FRS resources.
- Conversely, seasonal rainfall over winter is expected to increase, which may increase the risk of pluvial flooding (groundwater flooding).
- Climate change is likely to impact on both the erosion and flood risks presented in coastal areas by sea level rises. This is particularly relevant to coastal areas of Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset.
- Recent years have seen varying extremes of weather patterns, notably heavy flooding and severe winters. These events, particularly winter flooding, are likely to become more frequent occurrences and local services will be required to respond accordingly.
- For FRSs this is likely to mean more demand for resources in relation to flooding incidents, particularly in areas of flood risk. It is also likely that this will necessitate closer collaboration with lead flood risk agencies (usually councils), the Environment Agency and other category 1 responders to ensure effective plans and procedures are in place.
- With an increase in flooding incidents fire and rescue services may develop a key role in the management and co-ordination of responses to such events, particularly in relation to multi-agency responses to incidents of widespread flooding.

Energy, Resources and Pollution

- Energy consumption across the region has decreased over the past three to five years, however on a national basis there is a growing likelihood that there will be an energy shortage around 2015.
- An energy shortage could lead to rationed supplies or rolling blackouts. There will also be an expectation for public bodies to be as energy efficient as possible. Energy shortages could increase the risk of fire through individuals using alternative means to heat their homes or provide energy.
- The cost of electricity and gas is expected to continue rising. For households this will possibly lead to more households entering fuel poverty. For organisations, increasing energy costs may lead to more investment in renewable/sustainable energy sources such as solar panels, wind turbines etc.
- Rising energy costs and the subsequent impact on fuel poverty could lead to more winter deaths due to related illness, particularly in extreme cold weather. Recent statistics have shown that the cold weather experienced during winter 2012/13 led to 35,000 extra deaths across the country compared to the previous year.
- Cold weather and excess winter mortality is of particular concern to vulnerable and elderly residents. Data from the Office for National Statistics revealed that in the South West during winter 2012/13, there were 16.% more fatalities among those aged 75-84 than in other times of the year, while there were 25% more deaths among those aged over 85 in winter than other seasons. Accounting for all age groups, there were 18.4% more deaths in the South West over winter than the rest of the year. The 10 year average for the region to 2011/12 is 16.7%.
- Increasing costs of supplying energy may lead to more pressure to introduce price fixing and ensuring households are placed on the cheapest possible fuel tariff.
- The next decade will see the development of new nuclear power stations at Hinkley Point C and Oldbury. While not in the service area of either Dorset FRS or Wiltshire FRS, both sites will present major hazards within the region, as well as a key source of energy.
- It does not appear likely that there will be further development of a tidal barrage on the River Severn, however coastal areas may be subject to developments such as off-shore wind farms.
- The sub region may see exploration for shale gas as firms attempt to exploit resources within the Wessex Basin, particularly around Weymouth.
- Across the sub-region, CO2 emissions have reduced and are likely to continue on a downward level with public sector bodies expected to lead in adopting renewable sources and energy efficient practices.
- Additionally, some new technologies may provide cheaper or renewable energy but could also lead to a higher risk of fire. For instance, use of fuel cells or generators involving hydrogen gas could impact of fire risk, while a growing use of electric cars could potentially see more electrical fires occur.

Figure 61. Energy consumption by local authority 2005-10
Source: Department for Energy and Climate Change

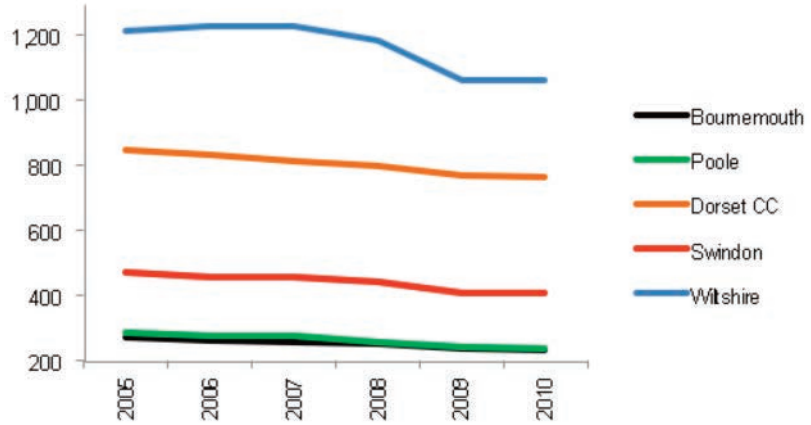


Figure 62. CO2 emissions by local authority 2005-11
Source: Department for Energy and Climate Change

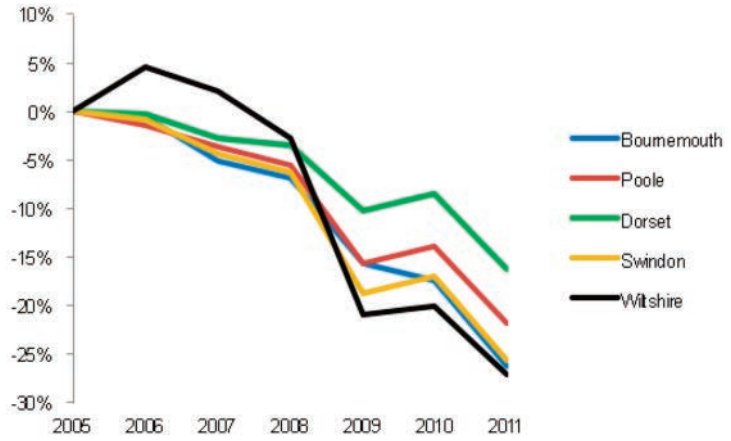
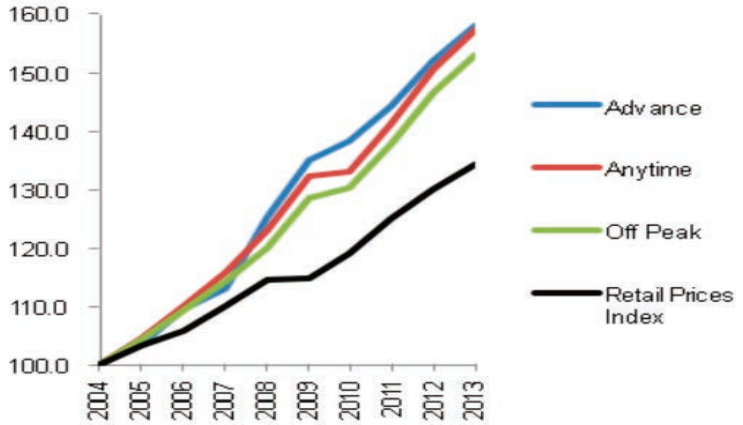


Figure 63. Rail fare increases 2004-13
Source: Office for Rail Regulation, 2013



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Dorset Fire & Rescue Service

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

Working together to make our communities safer

Governance & International/ National Influences

Governance

- The diversification of public service provision could lead to a range of delivery vehicles for local services and it is likely that the future landscape will be more fragmented than is currently the case. In part due to financial considerations, many local authorities will commission services, particularly but not exclusively non-statutory services.

- A growing number of public sector bodies will operate trading arms or partnerships in order to capitalise on their particular area of expertise.

- The community rights introduced under the Localism Act will become embedded as public service provision is diversified. The Community Right To Challenge and the Community Right to Bid could see external providers bid to provide a range of local public services. While operational firefighting is currently excluded from this provision, there may be more development of external provision of prevention and community engagement activities.

- The FRS National Framework and other guidance place emphasis on ensuring accountability and assurance to local communities and on working collaboratively to ensure intra and inter operability. This will fuel further collaboration through shared services, assets and procedures between FRSs and other emergency services.

- Nationally, levels of trade union membership have declined over the past 15 years due to a number of factors such as international trade and competition and a reduction in the number of public sector employees. The South West as a region has lower levels of trade union membership than other regions, however membership levels have seen a steady rate of increase over the past 15 years.

- The declining membership of trade union may give rise to more dual-mechanism negotiations, involving both formal trade unions and, increasingly, employee-led councils or forums. Traditional trade union arrangements are more likely to remain in place within the Fire and Rescue Service due to central, national-level pay negotiation and standards. However in local authorities, there may be more employee councils and sounding boards.

- In addition there is the possibility that new regulation introduced by Government could tighten restrictions on strike ballots, which may reduce the instances of industrial action. It may be possible that there will be restrictions placed on emergency service workers rights to strike.

International/National Influences

- The slow pace of global economic growth may impact upon national and local economic growth. The uneven nature of estimated growth will disadvantage areas and local economies that are heavily dependent on demand from and exports to the Eurozone countries. British business and export growth will become more focused on emerging and developing markets such as the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China) bloc of nations – China in particular.

- There is likely to be continued uncertainty over the U.K.'s future role in the European Union in the medium to long term, particularly if an in/out referendum is held during the next parliamentary session.

- There will be a continual threat to security from acts of terrorism. These are likely to be targeted at busy and populous areas or transport infrastructure.

- Pandemic influenza remains the highest risk on the Government's National Risk Register for Civil Emergencies, though the prospects of cyber attacks may increase. The impacts of climate change may also increase the likelihood and severity of flooding incidents.

- An improving economic outlook may result in an upswing in net migration, which could see more migration from areas of Eastern Europe such as Poland, Slovakia and some Baltic states, as well as the new EU member states of Bulgaria and Romania.

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Dorset Fire & Rescue Service

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

Working together to make our communities safer

Political Landscape

Political Landscape

- Calls among Parliamentarians and others for more interoperability between emergency services could result in a single emergency services or homeland security Minister, sitting either in an existing department such as the Home Office or Cabinet Office, or possibly a newly created government department.

- There will likely be an examination of how non-county fire structures can be made leaner, both in terms of number of Members and in the number of committees required.

- Some Fire and Rescue Services – Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, East and West Sussex - have already discussed the potential for mergers and it is highly unlikely that there will be the same number of Fire Authorities in existence by 2020 than there is currently.

- County FRSs will be particularly vulnerable to mergers as council budgets are prioritised towards areas such as education and adult social care.

- Recent reports have given impetus to the exploration of merging fire services and ambulance trusts. It is likely that there will be an increase in the number of fire stations/ambulance stations that serve as a base for both services.

- The second wave of community budgeting (Public Service Transformation) pilots will further develop a collaborative approach to improving the outcomes for local residents.

- For FRSs, the community budgeting process does contain some risks, particularly if a service operates over a number of local authority areas. It may also impact upon wider cross-border collaboration, as services are drawn inwards to work with local partners within their own area as opposed to outwards with other emergency services or councils

.

- There will be an expectation that all three emergency services will operate on a much more integrated basis than exists at present.

- The emergence of the new health landscape has to an extent increased fragmentation, with local government responsible for public health and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) taking on many primary care functions.

- Local authority health and wellbeing boards will be influential bodies for FRSs to engage with to ensure that fire prevention is factored into a holistic approach to health improvement.

- It will be necessary to engage with CCGs to obtain local data around vulnerable people in order to effectively target diminishing resources to those at greatest risk.

- Should the Conservative Party form the next Government following the 2015 general election, Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will become prominent figures in the local landscape and by 2020 may have extended their role and remit beyond policing and probation. As they embed themselves into the local landscape and more funding is directed towards PCCs, their influence on local partnerships and structures will continue to grow.

- It is likely that at least some PCCs will also gain responsibility for Fire and Rescue Services, replacing existing fire authorities. Such developments are already underway in Northamptonshire and have been discussed in Norfolk. Also in Hertfordshire the existing Chief Fire Officer also serves the Chief Executive for the PCC, which may prove to be an alternative method for amalgamating services.

- Much of the impetus for these developments have been borne through a desire for increased interoperability; driven by reports and debates from some MPs local to the sub-region such as Tobias Ellwood that have also gained traction with government at a national level.

- Given this local impetus, coupled with PCCs such as Angus MacPherson (Wiltshire PCC) and Martyn Underhill (Dorset PCC) who are proactively looking to reform the way in which community safety services are delivered, it is possible that areas such as Dorset and Wiltshire could be pilot/test-bed areas for developing a new governance structure for fire and rescue services to replace fire authorities.

- The developing arrangement in Northamptonshire involving the local Police and Fire and Rescue Service may serve as a blueprint or prototype for further integration and joint working, whereby there are two distinctly badge services on the front line (public facing) but behind this is one support structure.

- Alternatively, if a Labour government is returned following the 2015 general election, then the role of PCCs and their remit may be substantially altered and they could become less prominent features on the local landscape.

- The Department for Communities and Local Government is to move into the existing Home Office building in 2015/16, from where the two departments will share a building. This may further drive interoperability between police and fire services and could also lead to responsibility for fire once again being handed to the Home Office. This may be particularly relevant if some PCCs gain responsibility for fire and rescue services.

- Interoperability is highly likely to be considered further in the forthcoming White Paper from DCLG in response to the Knight Review.

Legislation

- By 2020 the state pension age will have increased to 66, with the process in place for a further increase to 67 between 2026 and 2028. The pension age will also have been equalised for men and women; first to age 65 then to age 66.

- Extending the remit of the Primary Authority Scheme to Fire and Rescue Services could have a significant impact on regulatory enforcement and business safety work and may lead to FRSs operating across each other's geographic boundaries.

- There is also scope for additional regulatory Bills to be introduced to Parliament that seek to reduce the burden of regulation. This could potentially affect existing fire regulations.

- Pension reforms to the Local Government Pension Scheme will be introduced in 2014, which will see the scheme move to a career-average scheme as opposed to a final salary scheme.

- Reform to the Firefighters Pension Scheme will also be introduced, which will be preceded by periods of industrial action. Reforms are likely to lead to higher contribution rates for firefighters and possible increases in the retirement age for the scheme.

- Regional pay structures for the public sector are yet to be introduced and it does not appear likely that legislation to bring such arrangements into force will be introduced in the near future. Regional pay could make recruitment more difficult in certain areas and industries of the South West, where, historically, pay levels have been lower than national averages.

- The UK will maintain its current opt-out arrangement from the European Union Working Time Directive. However, the UK position may come under challenge from future case law that is decided on by the European Courts. Changes or restrictions to the opt-out may have a significant impact on FRSs that employ a large number of on-call firefighters.

- The introduction of a 'Community Trigger' within the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill will give victims of anti-social behaviour (ASB) the right to require local agencies to deal with persistent problems of ASB in an area. This could see FRSs required to work with local partners in some instances to address issues in certain areas, for example neighbourhoods with high rates of small deliberate fires.

- The introduction of Injunctions to Prevent Nuisance and Annoyance (IPNAs) in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill will replace Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs). IPNAs could be utilised in certain areas with a history of nuisance fires in order to help drive down incidents.

- An amendment to the Energy Bill has provided the Secretary of State with the power to make it a requirement for landlords to fit smoke alarms and/or carbon monoxide alarms in their properties. Should this order be made and enforced then this could lead to a reduction in the number of people killed or injured in dwelling fires.

- Legislation will be introduced to provide retained duty system firefighters with access to pension rights. Fire and rescue services, particularly those that are heavily reliant on retained duty system staff, will need to prepare for additional financial contributions and possible back payments.

- Regulation could potentially be brought forward to require the installation of sprinklers in domestic properties, however it will be necessary to make the case to government and industry that the benefits of doing so outweigh the costs.

- There may also be legislative orders to enable the merging of ambulance trusts to cover larger areas. The South West has already experienced a merger of Ambulance Services as the South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust was created in February 2013 from the former Great Western Ambulance Service (which covered Wiltshire) and the South Western Ambulance Service (which covered Dorset).

- Should the ambulance merger progress on a positive note then this may become a blueprint for a potential merger of fire and rescue services across the South West region.

- There is a possibility that legislation could be introduced that would open up the provision of firefighting services to other providers, as occurs in other countries such as Denmark. However such a move is likely to face sizeable opposition both from within parts of the fire sector and amongst parts of the general public.

- Inspection and enforcement by the Health and Safety Executive may be scaled back in low risk areas in order to both reduce regulation and also to focus on more high risk sectors and organisations where issues have been identified.

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