



2018-based Sub-national population projections (SNPP) for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council

April 2020

Key points

- The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published its updated 2018 based sub-national population projections for all local authorities, on 25 March 2020.
- Population projections indicate the future population size and structure, if recent trends in births, deaths and migration continue.
- Projections are used for planning services and to estimate future need, for example in the provision of education, health care and social services. They may also be used in Local Plans for planned housing, and are the basis for producing household projections.
- However, they do not predict the impact of future government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors. Actual population change may be strongly influenced by local economic development and housing policies in particular.
- They cover a 25 year period from 2018-2043. The first ten years of the projections to 2028 are the most reliable, as projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward.
- Over the next decade BCP's population is projected to increase by 7.8 thousand (2%), from 395.8 thousand in 2018 to 403.6 thousand in 2028. This is a slower rate than the 9% growth of the past decade, and lower than the 5% increase projected for England.
- The 2018 projections suggest slower growth than in previously published 2014 and 2016 based projections. This is due to updated assumptions including: lower levels of net migration; lower births; and scaled down improvements in life expectancy.
- Population growth will be concentrated among those aged 65+. The number of over 65s are projected to increase by 12.4 thousand (15%) to 2028, compared to a small decrease of 100 in the working age population. By 2028 over 65s will represent almost a quarter of the overall population in the BCP area.
- Migration is driving population growth, with more people arriving than leaving the area. The average annual growth in the population due to migration is around 1.6 thousand. But natural change (births-deaths) is projected to reduce growth with an increasing number of deaths, due to the rise in the older population, and a fall in the number of births.

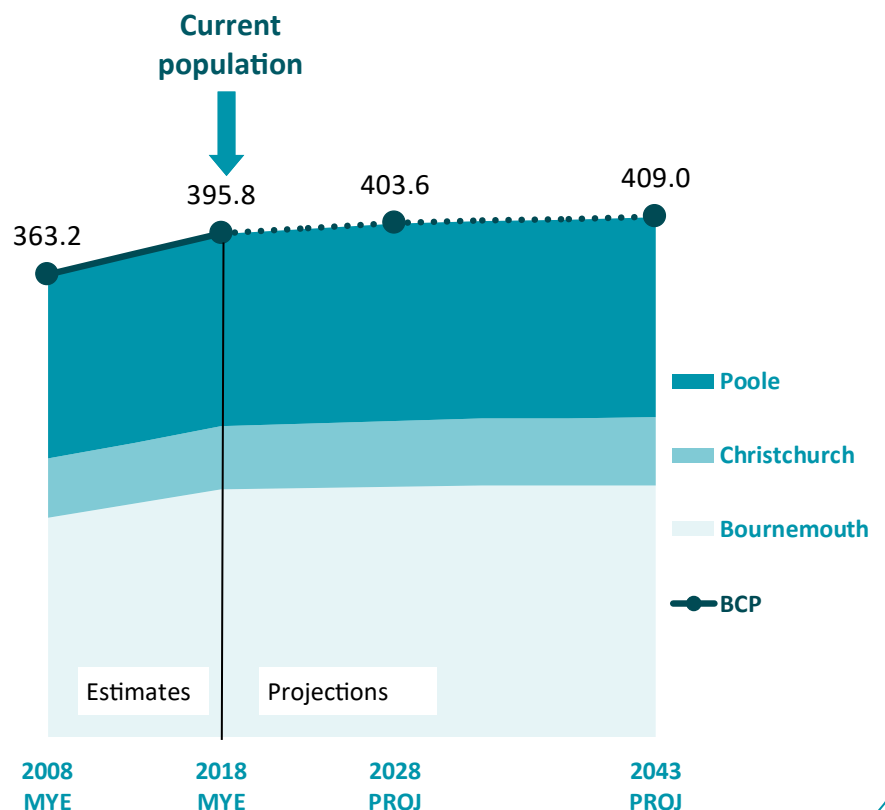
An interactive dashboard on the 2018-based SNPP for BCP can be found [here](#)

BCP 2018-based sub national population projections - summary statistics

	Total population			Population change (n)			Population change (%)		
	2018	2028	2043	2018-28	2028-43	2018-43	2018-28	2028-43	2018-43
BCP	395,800	403,600	409,000	7,800	5,300	13,200	2%	1%	3%
Bournemouth	194,400	196,800	197,300	2,400	500	2,900	1%	0%	2%
Christchurch	50,000	51,900	53,800	1,900	1,900	3,800	4%	4%	8%
Poole	151,400	154,900	157,900	3,500	3,000	6,500	2%	2%	4%

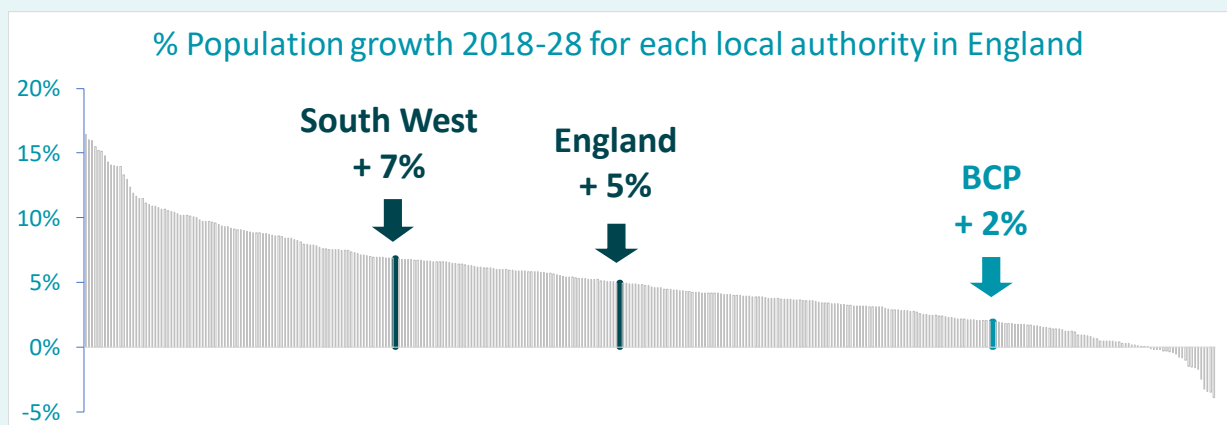
BCP's population is projected to continue to increase but at a slower rate

- The population of BCP is projected to increase by 7.8 thousand, between 2018 and 2028, and continue to rise by a further 5.3 thousand to 2043.
- This is a 2% growth in the population of BCP over the next decade to 2028, and a further growth of 1% over the following 15 years to 2043.
- Population growth is projected to be slower than over the previous decade. There was an increase of 32.6 thousand people, 9% between 2008-2018.

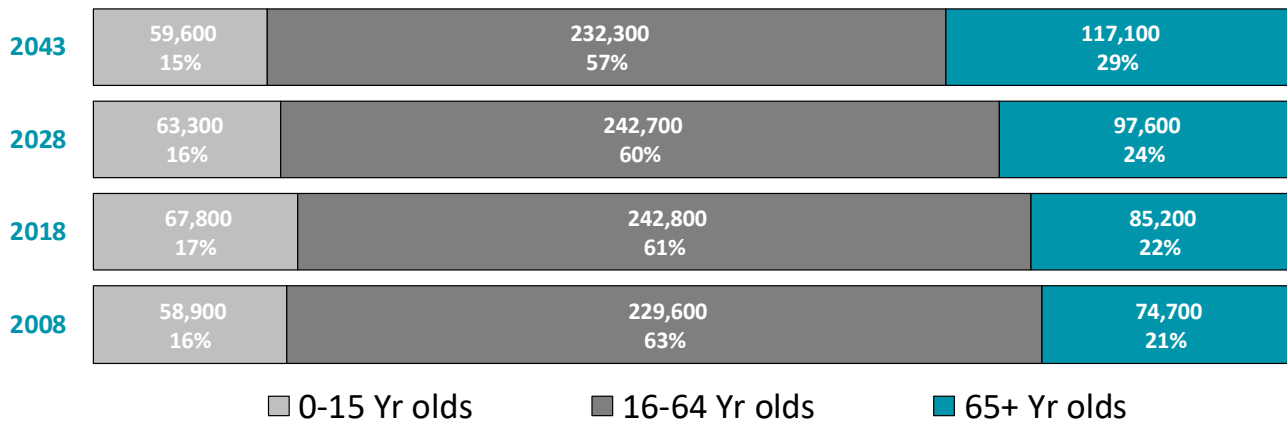


BCP's population growth will be slower than the average nationally

- Almost all local authorities are projected to increase their population by mid 2028. However the projected change varies from +16% in Tewksbury to -4% in Copeland. BCPs projected growth at 2% sits within the lower quartile nationally, with a national average of 5% growth.

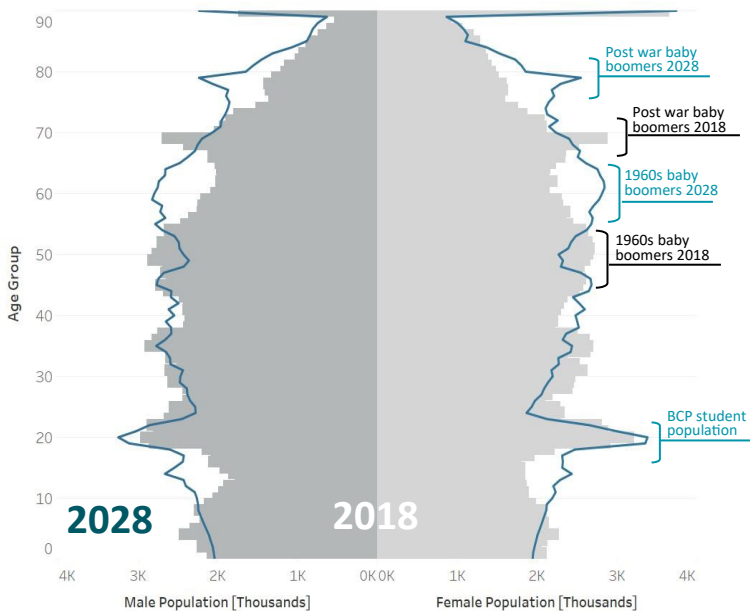


BCP will have an increasing number & proportion of older people



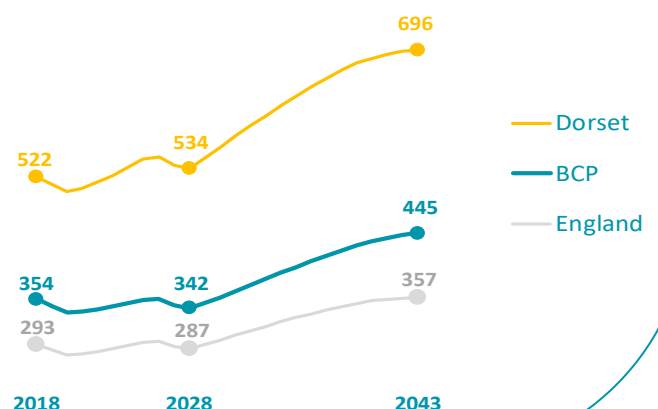
- The number and proportion of people of working age in BCP will fall. Currently the working age population in BCP is 61% of the overall population. By 2043 this could fall to 57%. The number of people aged 16-64 will remain relatively stable to 2028 reducing by around 100, but may fall by 10.4 thousand from 2028-43.
- There will be significant growth in the number of older people. An increase of 12.4 thousand (15%) to 2028, and a further 19.5 thousand between 2028-43. As a result the population aged 65+ will represent an increasing proportion of the population. This could increase to almost a quarter (24%) by 2028. This compares to 21% for England.
- An increasing number of older people has implications for the provision of services such as social care, housing and transport. But also presents opportunities for people to contribute to the labour market for longer and to be more involved in their communities through activities such as volunteering. It also enables people to provide long-term care and childcare to family members.
- ONS have produced a [sub-national ageing tool](#) to enable further analysis and comparison of current and projected indicators of ageing across local authorities.

BCPs population pyramid for 2018 and 2028



- The population pyramid compares the BCP age structure for 2018 and 2028 and highlights reasons for the growing older population.
- Larger cohorts of people currently in their mid 50s and 70s from the post war and 1960s baby boom generations will reach retirement age and their 80s over the next decade.
- The growing older population is of particular significance given the decline in the numbers of working age.

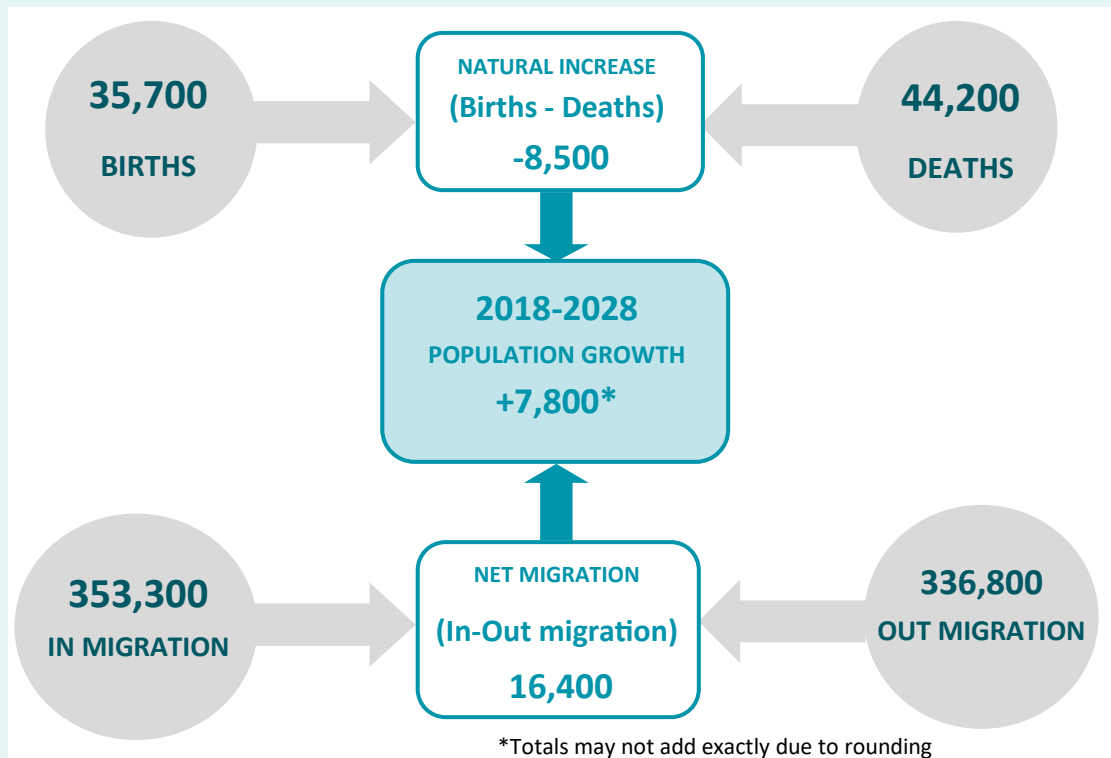
People of pensionable age and over per 1000 people of working age



- Its impact is shown by the increasing dependency ratio – the number of people of state pension age and over per 1,000 people of working age.
- The chart to the right shows a slight reduction in the dependency ratio to 2028 due to increases in the pension age, but thereafter a steep increase.

Migration alone will drive projected population growth

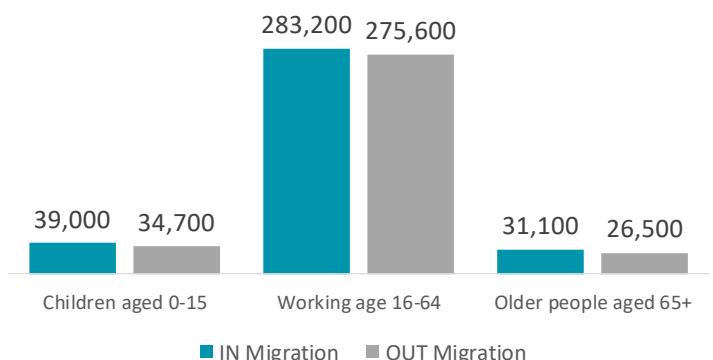
- Population growth occurs as a result of **NATURAL INCREASE (Births - Deaths)** and **NET MIGRATION (people moving in - people moving away)**
- Migration will drive population growth in BCP, with more people arriving than leaving the area. The average annual growth in the population due to migration could be around 1.6 thousand. Net migration is projected to contribute 16.4 thousand to overall population growth over the next decade to 2028.
- Natural change (births-deaths) is projected to mitigate some of this growth, with an increasing number of deaths, due to the rise in the older population and stalling improvements in life expectancy, and a fall in the number of births. This is projected to lead to negative natural increase of -8.5 thousand to 2028.



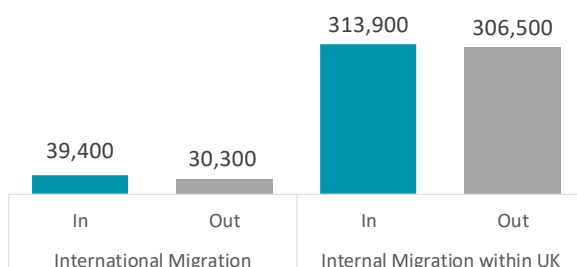
Migration can help offset the increasing dependency ratio

- Most migration is made up of people of working age 16-64 (80%), 11% will be children & young people aged 0-15, and 9% older people aged 65+.
- Migration is important as migrants are concentrated at young adult ages, and can therefore offset the growing older population and increasing dependency ratio.
- Immigration is also particularly important for employment to some sectors of the economy.

Migration in and out of BCP by age group 2018-28



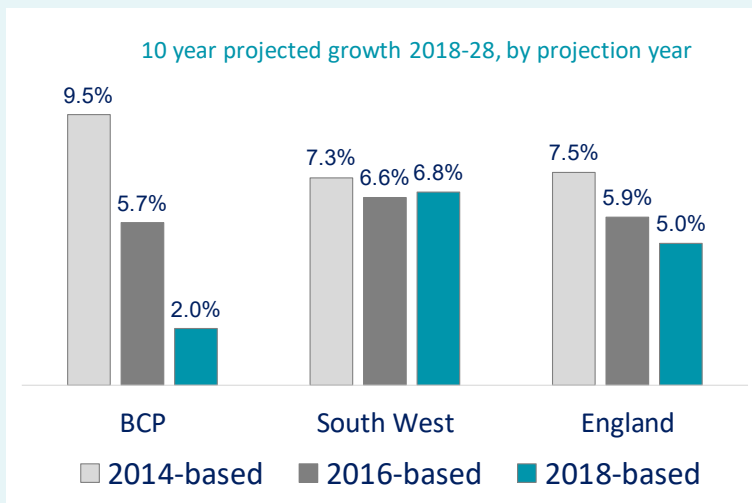
Migration in and out of BCP by type 2018-28



- The majority (89%) of migration into BCP is internal from within the UK, while 11% is international migration. However, international migration contributes over half (55%) to overall net migration (in migration - out migration).

Comparing the 2018-based projections against previous sets of projections

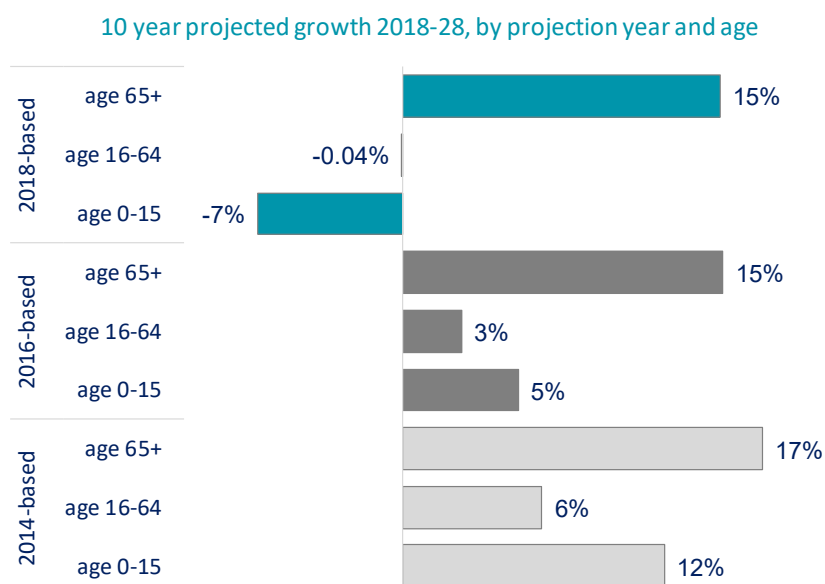
- Every 2 years the SNPP projections are updated in light of the most recent demographic trends.
- Recent changes in fertility, life expectancy and migration have led to differences between previous projections and the latest 2018-based projections.



- **BCP's population is expected to grow at a slower rate over the next 10 years compared to previous projections.**
- BCP's ten year growth has reduced for each successive set of population projections: from 9.5% for 2014-based, 5.7% for 2016-based and further to 2.0% for the 2018-based projections.
- This compared to reduced growth rates for England overall from 7.5% for 2014-based, 5.9% for 2016-based and 5.0% for the 2018-based projections.

A significant change from previous projections is the reduced growth of children & working age adults

- The 2018-based projections predict the number of children (aged 0-15) will decline to 2028, with a marginal decrease in those of working age. This is a significant change to previous projections that predicted higher levels of growth in both age groups.
- Growth among those aged 65+ has consistently been the most significant in the BCP area. This is not projected to change.



Reasons for the reduced growth rates

- The lower projected number of children is largely due to the recent fall in births and subsequent adjustments to assumptions on levels of fertility.
- Increases in the levels of OUT migration, particularly international OUT migration, have also contributed to the decline in the projected growth of children and working age adults.
- Levels of IN migration to the BCP area have remained relatively stable between projections.

An interactive dashboard comparing the 2014, 2016 and 2018-based SNPP for BCP can be found [here](#)

Further information

For further information regarding this report please contact the [Insight Team](#), BCP Council