

The Diocese of Salisbury covers most of Dorset and most of Wiltshire, and lies within the local government areas of Dorset Council, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, and Wiltshire Council. While the area is mostly rural it includes the city of Salisbury itself, some 30 towns, and a large part of the conurbation of Bournemouth and Poole. The Diocese also has parishes in Devon and Hampshire.

Two Counties

Local government reorganisation in April 2019 saw changes across the whole of Dorset. District and borough councils were wound up, and two new unitary authorities were established; Dorset Council, and Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole Council. The impact of these changes on the delivery of local services is still being worked through. Wiltshire Council was established as a unitary authority in 2009 and has a developed system of community areas based on market towns and their hinterlands.

As well as different local government structures and cultures, the two counties have different voluntary sector structures and cultures. Dorset has Councils for Voluntary Service, organisations that can support community groups, a Rural Community Council, Youth Association supporting youth clubs, a significant number of historical, endowed, grant-making trusts, and Community Foundation. Wiltshire has a Rural Community Council that also supports some work with young people, notably young carers, and a well-established Community Foundation, but fewer grant-making trusts.

Large parts of the two counties are subject to protection as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, or simply through ownership and use by the Ministry of Defence. The area also includes recognised World Heritage Sites at Avebury, Stonehenge, and along the Jurassic coast.

Population

The last census was in 2011, so we are now working with mid-year projections, and assumptions about what might happen in the future. Dorset Council (which continues to maintain a statistics team) and Wiltshire Council provided their internal projections.

Figures from the CofE Research team puts the population of the Diocese in 2017 using Office of National Statistics mid-year estimates at 955,000. About 650,000 people, nearly 70%, live in our towns and larger urban areas.

Assuming that the diocesan figure will increase at the same rate as the Wiltshire and Dorset projections then we might expect the population of the Diocese of Salisbury to be about 1,007,000 in 2030.

The change of local authority structure in Dorset means that projections now include Christchurch, but the local team has also provided information based on the old electoral wards.

	2019	2030	2040
Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole	400610	425540	441750
Dorset	377910	394740	405050
Wiltshire	503600	531500	546400
Total	1,282120	1,351780	1393200

The age breakdowns suggest that our population will continue to have a higher proportion of people who are over 70.

	2019	2030
Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole	16.5%	16%
Dorset	21.5%	25.5%
Wiltshire	16%	19.5%

The localised projections from Dorset Council suggest that as a rule, rural parishes where housing development has limited potential, will see populations stagnate or drop a little, with a corresponding increase in the proportion of older people. Increases will focus on the BCP area, and around market towns. Wiltshire Council's strategic plan also envisages housing development being around market towns.

Over the past ten years the number of people over 65 increased in Dorset, while the number of children and people of working age decreased. This trend is expected to continue over the coming years. This is similar to expectations for Wiltshire where the number of older people will increase, the number of children remain fairly static, and there will be a slight decrease in the number of people of working age. There will, therefore, be increased demands on carers and care services.

Over the next twenty-five years the population of Dorset is expected to increase by about 0.3% each year, which is less than the national rate of increase which will be about 0.6%. Wiltshire has tended to reflect the national rate of increase. Growth in population in both counties will mostly be based migration from other parts of the United Kingdom. In Wiltshire the increase in population includes large numbers of military personnel redeployed into the area.

Deprivation

The national Indices of Deprivation include issues such as health, quality of housing, employment, income, education, access to services, among others. In rural areas deprivation will reflect the distances involved in getting to medical services, schools, and shops. Urban deprivation will correspondingly reflect low levels of income. This list is of parishes where there are significant issues of deprivation especially around poverty and low educational achievement where 1 is the most deprived in the country, and 12500 is the least deprived.

	Parish	Population	Rank*
1	West Howe, St Philip	6685	431
2	Littlemoor	4844	1073
3	Weymouth, St Paul	8107	1239
4	Portland	12844	1821
5	Trowbridge, St James	9745	2183
6	Poole, St James	6297	2260
7	Weymouth, Holy Trinity	7097	2360
8	Radipole and Melcombe Regis	14500	2396
9	Branksome, St Clement	11328	2450
10	Bemerton, St Michael	9961	2536
11	Kinson, St Andrew	13071	2674
12	Studley St John	11498	2739
13	Heatherlands, St John	15732	2760
14	Hamworthy, St Michael	13059	2898

15	Salisbury, St Martin	4502	3219
16	Devizes, St John	4040	3411
17	Devizes, St Peter	2046	3480

Incomes

Comparisons of wages and other sources of income such as pensions can be difficult. The Office of National Statistics produces figures for Gross Disposable Household Income which takes account of all sources of income and makes allowance for taxes and costs of housing. District figures for Dorset were available in 2015 reflecting local government structures then.

	GDHI in 2015
Dorset	20297
Bournemouth and Poole	18833
Wiltshire	20704
South West England	19128
UK	19432
Bournemouth	17600
Poole	20425
East Dorset	20327
North Dorset	19055
Purbeck	20935
West Dorset	24636
Weymouth and Portland	16555

Schools

Nationally there has been a significant fall in the birth rate and 2018 birth rates (11.1 per 1000 people) were at the lowest level since records began in 1938. This is a 9.9 per cent drop in the number of babies being born since 2012 and a 3.7 per cent drop from 2017. Reasons given by the ONS is that this largely driven by falling fertility rates and may have been exaggerated by the ageing population.

The effect of this will be that new schools will only be required where there is new housing developments, and these will generally be around existing urban areas and towns. New schools related to new developments have to be bid for via an open competition which is only open to existing successful Multi Academy Trusts (MATs). The competition is organised by the relevant LA but the decision on the successful bidder is done by the Regional Schools Council (RSC). The SDBE is proactively working with MATs (containing Church Schools) so that any new schools bid for and won can be designated as a Church School.

There will also be a decrease in children attending rural schools causing additional financial pressure on the smaller rural primary schools of which the majority are Church Schools. In a lot of rural communities, apart from the Church, the school is the last thing in the village as over time other community facilities have closed. There is therefore the increased risk of rural isolation.

It is expected, based on current information from the local LAs, that there may be a new Church School (primary) in the Diocese every three years, via the SDBE proactively working with MATs, but there will also be the closure of a small Church School (primary) every three years. The number of

children it is expected will decrease from the current 43,000 in line with national trends. This decrease will be slightly tempered by the opening of larger new Church Schools compared to those closing.

The CofE is the largest provider of schools within England. This is also the case in the Diocese where there are over 43,000 children in the 194 Church Schools in the Diocese. This simplistically equates to 49% of the schools and 24% of the children in the Diocese. The percentage of the children is lower than the schools as the majority of Church Schools are primary (age 4 to 11). A key challenge facing the Diocese is that 75% of the Church Schools are classed as small (210 pupils or less) and nationally small schools are under threat from a variety of pressures especially financial.

Of the 194 church schools in the diocese, as at 1st July 2019;

Pupil numbers	Schools not in a MAT	Schools in a MAT or SAT	Total number of schools
100 and below	29	22	51
101 to 210	50	42	92
Subtotal up to 210	79	64	140
Greater than 210	19	32	54
Total	98	96	194

Of the 194 schools 96 (50%) have become academies as at the 1st July 2019 within 22 multiple academy trusts (MATs) and 10 single academy trusts (SATs). The SDBE recognises the current challenging educational landscape and is proactively seeking to support the development of the academy landscape in the most strategic way. It is expected that by 2030 there will be only be around 12 to 15 larger MATS (with Church Schools) and no SATs and most schools will converted to academies.

The SDBE believes that belonging within a thriving MAT, where partnership working and shared accountability underpins school provision, will be a key to ensuring Church Schools of the future go from strength to strength. Enabling economies of scale, sustainable finance and strong school improvement provision.

The Diocese of Salisbury MAT is the Diocesan MAT and its aim is to improve schools and provide outstanding education to children in a distinctive Christian environment. It is steadily growing and by the 1st January will have 18 schools and 3,486 pupils which equate to 9% of Church Schools in the Diocese and 6% of pupils. It is expected the MAT will continue to grow and will be one of the larger MATs in existence in 2030.

If a maintained school has an adverse Ofsted grading it will be issued a Direct Academy Order (DOA). This is a real risk as it means that if a MAT (with Church Schools) cannot be found who the RSC agree can take on the school and improve it the school could lose its Church status. This risk will increase over future years as the pressure continues to build and expectations of what a school should be doing grow. Recent examples of this being mental health support and pressure to include all pupils whatever their needs.

There are now virtually no Council-run open access youth provision. By 2030 the only open access provision will be charitable and run by volunteers. This is expected to decrease from current levels. As pressure of elderly care increases we can expect that there will be further cuts to youth provision.

Economy and Employment

Two Local Economic Partnerships cover our area.

Swindon and Wiltshire LEP expects to see economic development in the areas of automotive research and design, life sciences, digital technologies and cyber security.

Dorset LEP expects to see growth in financial services, agriculture and aquaculture, food and drink, creative industries, tourism, and advanced engineering.

Both LEPs see economic growth linked to the continued and growing presence of Ministry of defence personnel.

The new unified identity of the BCP conurbation is being described as 'a new city by the sea, comparable in size to Bristol'. There is some suggestion that this 'city' will look towards the south east region while Dorset continues to look towards the south west.

Climate Change

Local authorities have produced action plans for dealing with climate change in their areas. The heating up of the earth will have localised effects and predictions for these, UK Climate Projections or UKCP09, are available.

By **2050** average summer temperatures will increase by between 1.3 -4.6 °C on the current average summer temperature in Dorset, and by 2.0 – 3.9 °C in Wiltshire. Winter temperatures will rise by between 1.1 -3.6 °C in Dorset and 1.5 – 2.9 °C in Wiltshire. Rainfall will decrease in summer with a rise in winter rainfall of a similar amount so that average yearly rainfall will be about the same.

There are obvious implications for farming but also expectations that farmers will adapt. Concern in the adaptation plans is for the health and care sectors. 90% of hospital wards are already prone to overheating, and many care homes are in buildings that will also be difficult to keep cool.

For some years now we have worked with the two Community Foundations on their campaigns to provide additional support for older people who struggle to stay warm in Winter. ONS figures show that in 2016/17 a total of 370 people in Wiltshire and 590 people in Dorset died from the impact of cold. Numbers for excess winter deaths compare average mortality through the year and attribute higher numbers in winter to the effects of cold. In future we can expect to see another spike in deaths of vulnerable people due to high heat.

Key documents

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/adult-care-joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy>

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-policy-core-strategy>

https://www.wiltshirecf.org.uk/sites/default/files/0210_WCF_MainReport_FINAL%20PDF%20SP.pdf

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=10&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKewiK4ta6w7nkAhWDQkEAHRaBA4kQFjAJegQIABAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fapps.geowessex.com%2Fstats%2FHome%2FAsset%2F515&usg=AOvVaw0QhHIGiwl9D5E7I_3Zw3OE

<https://www.dorsetcommunityfoundation.org/who-we-help/hidden-dorset-report/>

References for Climate Change:

Dorset: <https://dorsetlnp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Climate-Change-Adaptation-Position-Paper1.pdf>

Wiltshire: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/climate-change-adaptation-plan-2016-revised.pdf>