



# Boscombe Retail Study

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September 30, 2016

# Brief

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- Boscombe's catchment:
  - Catchment resident and shopper populations, demographics and ACORN profile
  - Detailed expenditure by merchandise category and household income
- Projected population growth and proposed housing developments
- Trading Gap Analysis – identification of opportunity to grow sales
- Absent retailers – targeted for recruitment
- SWOT Analysis
- Recommendations relating to future opportunities



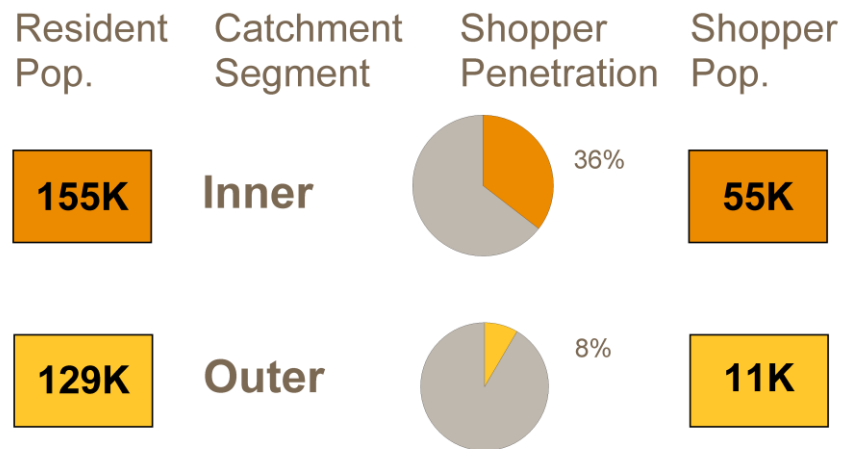
# Catchment & Demographics

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# Catchment Area

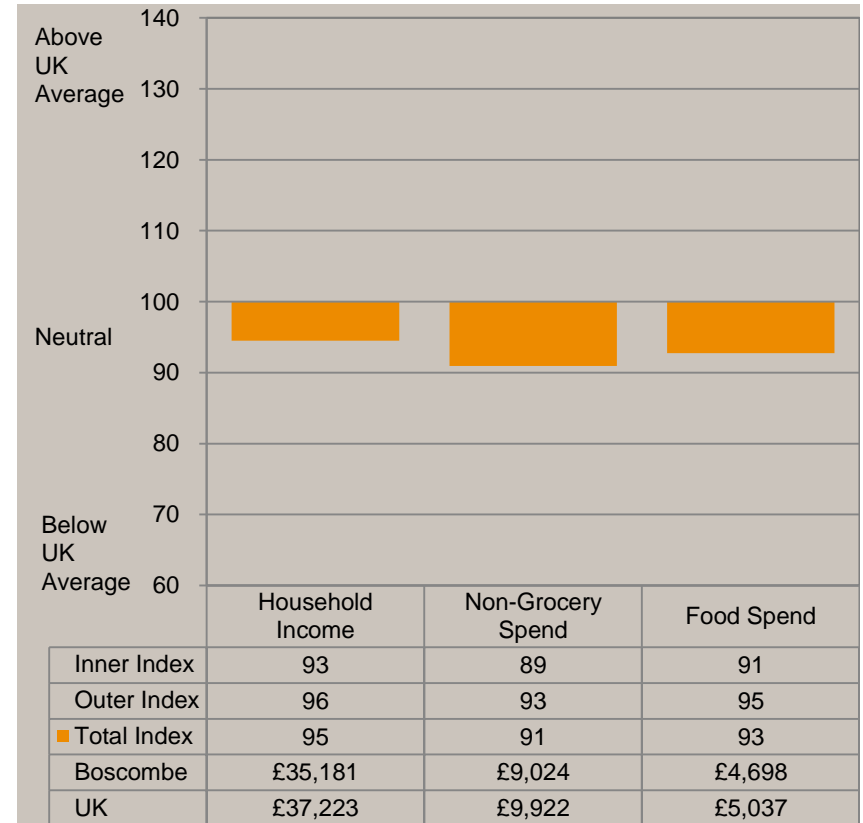
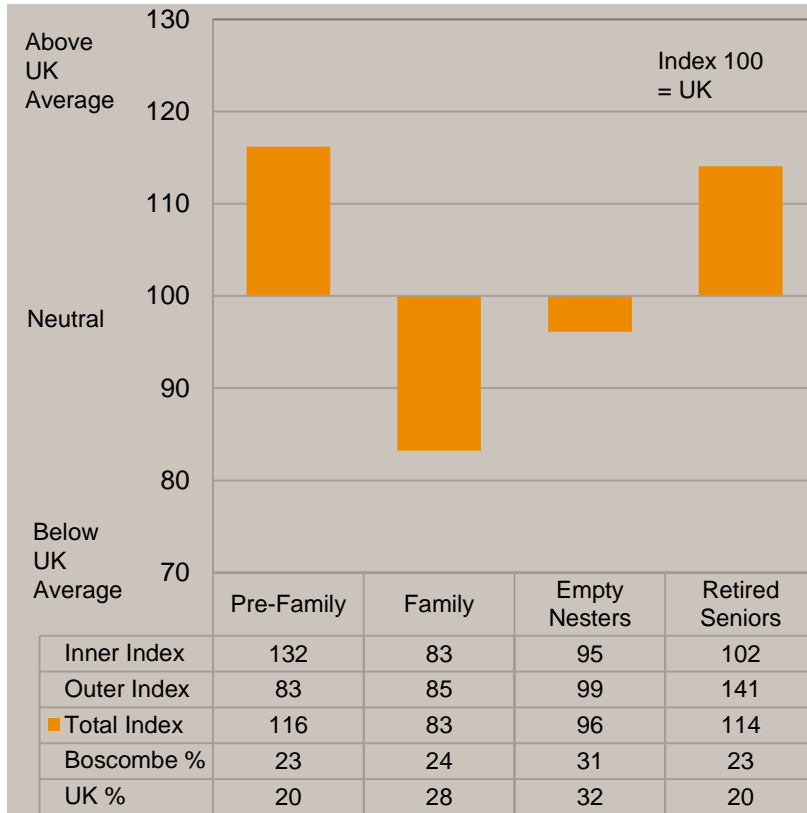


## Resident/Shopper Numbers

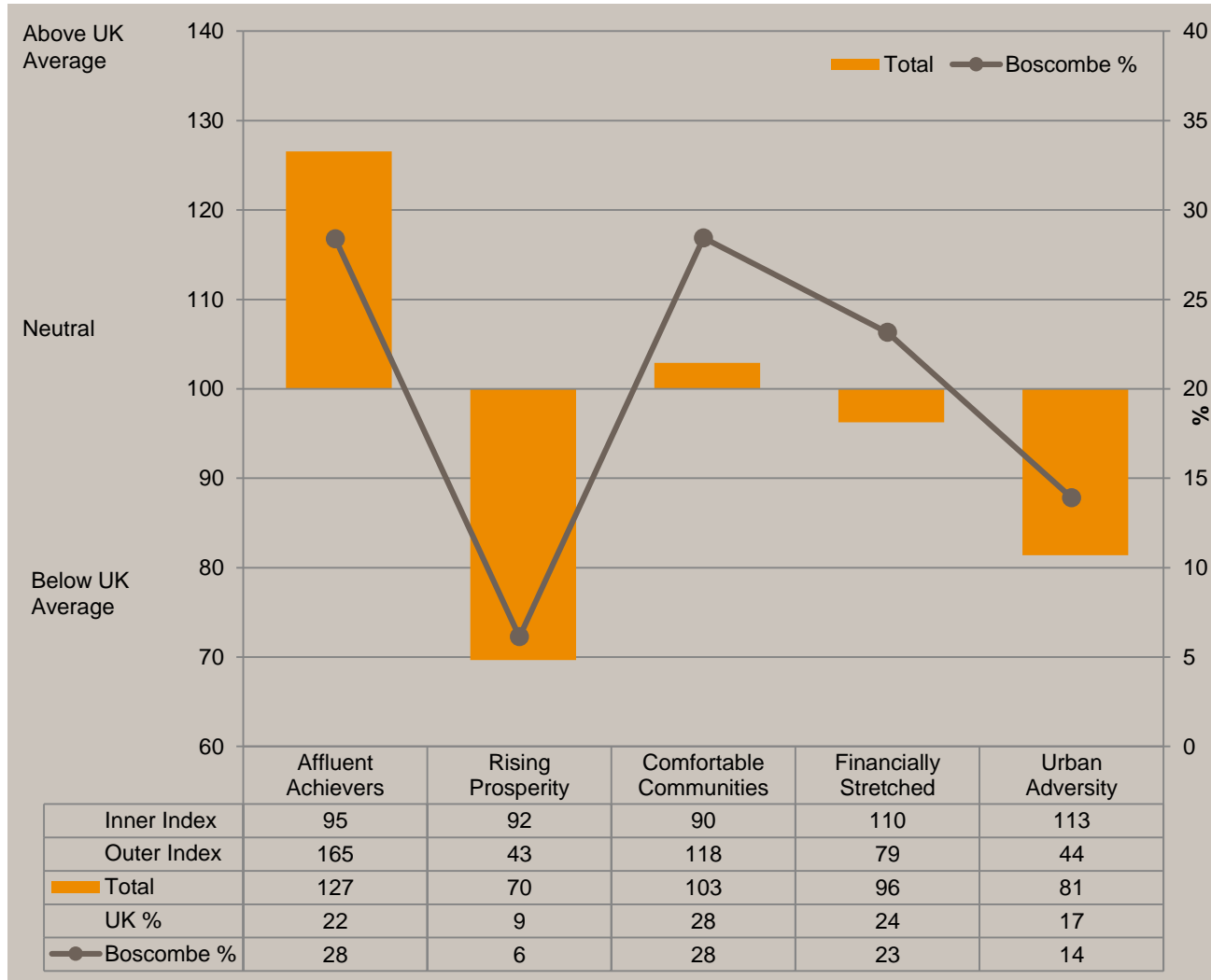


- Resident population for the Principal catchment area is 284k. Expected to increase by a slower rate than the UK, 3% to 2025 (UK+6.5%)
- Generates 66k regular shoppers (73k incl. 'pull-in'). Penetration is 23%

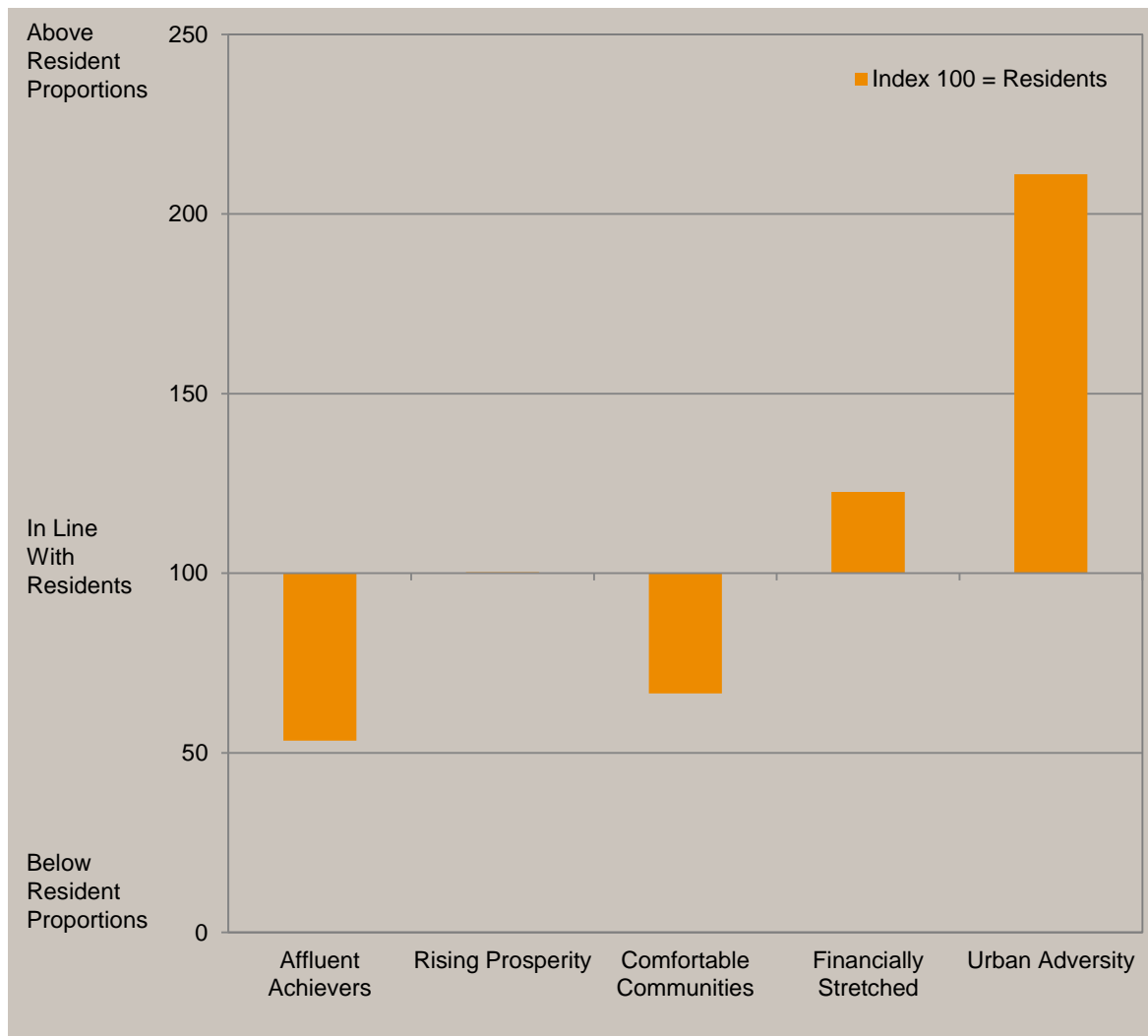
# Catchment Demographics – Resident Lifestage/Household Income



# Catchment Demographics – ACORN Profile



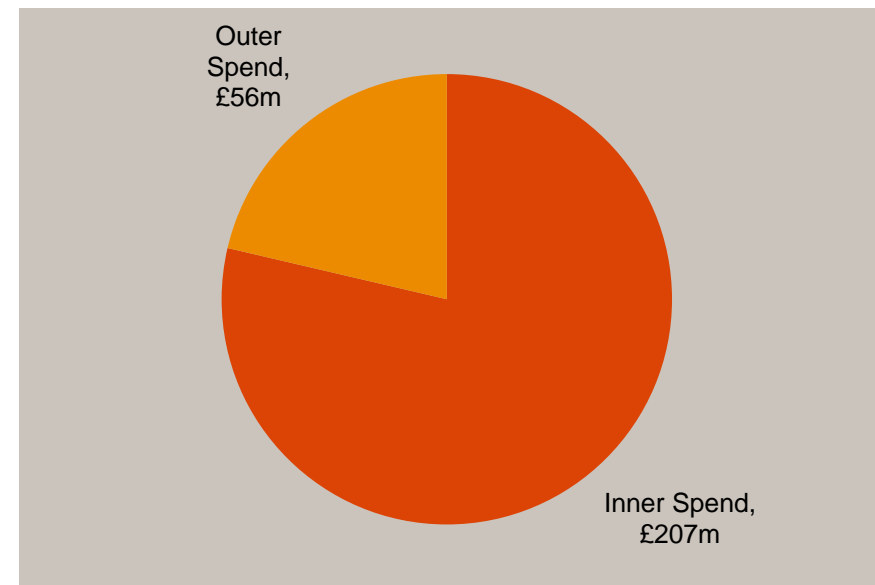
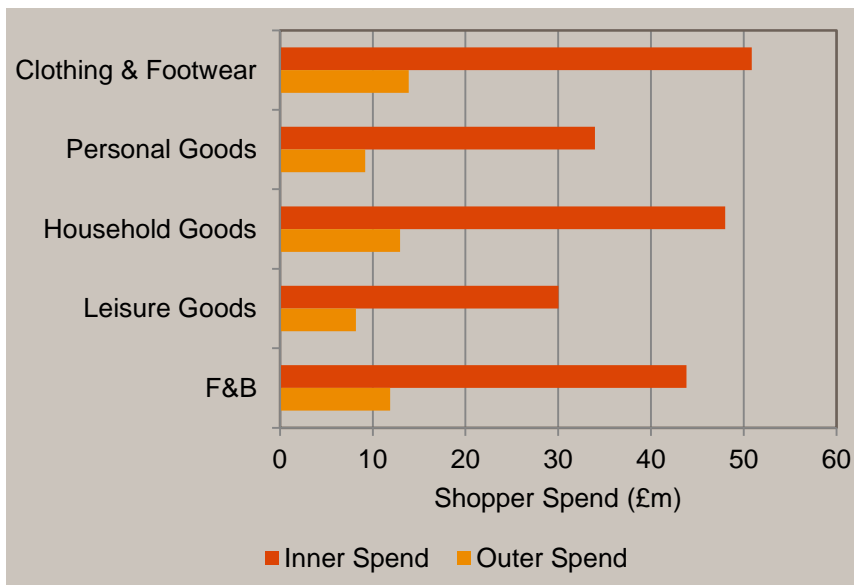
# ACORN Category – Residents vs. Shoppers



Source: FSP/CACI/NSLSP

# Shopper Spending

- Total *Non-Grocery* shopper spend (spend by those residents who use Boscombe regularly as a shopping location) amounts to £293m annually (including 10% 'pull in') plus £58m from tourism
- *C&F* and *Household Goods* are the largest markets, respectively worth £72m and £68m annually (including 10% 'pull in')
- *F&B* is also a large market, annually worth £62m (including 10% 'pull in')



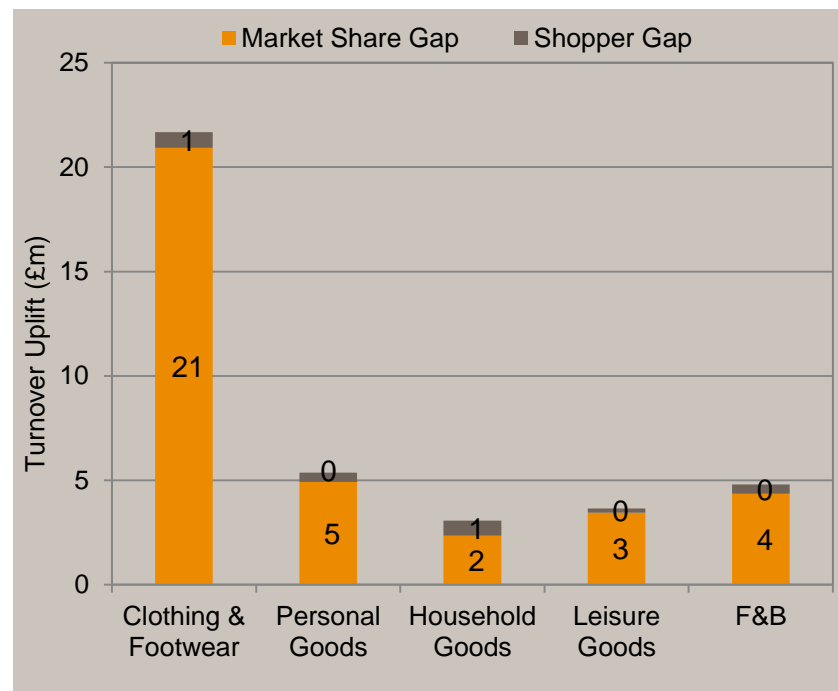
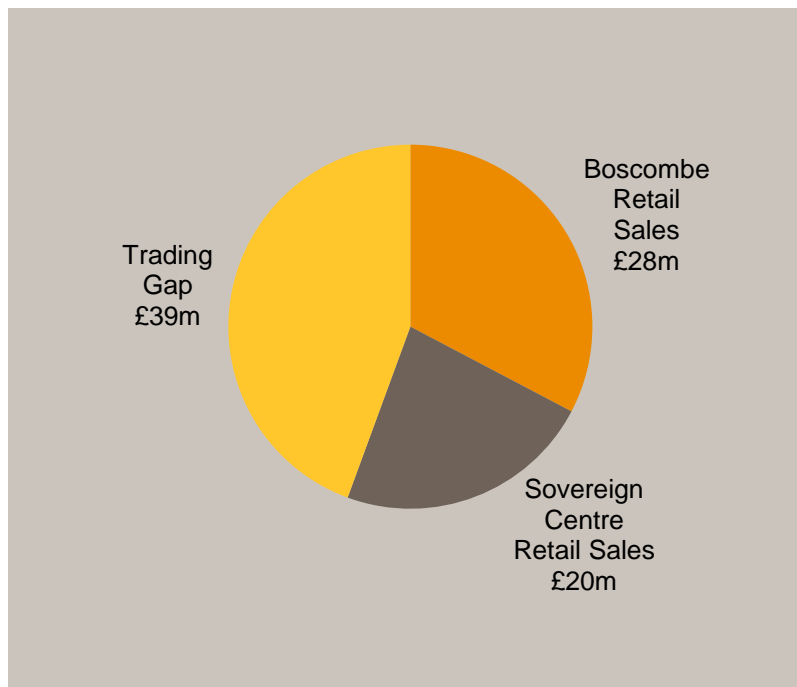




# Trading Gap Analysis

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# Retail Supply and Demand



- *Non-Grocery* sales in Boscombe town centre as a whole amount to an estimated £48m – 16% market share
- 41% of Boscombe's total sales originate from Sovereign Centre
- The Trading Gap is £39m – the largest gap is in *Clothing and Footwear* (£22m, most of which from existing shoppers)

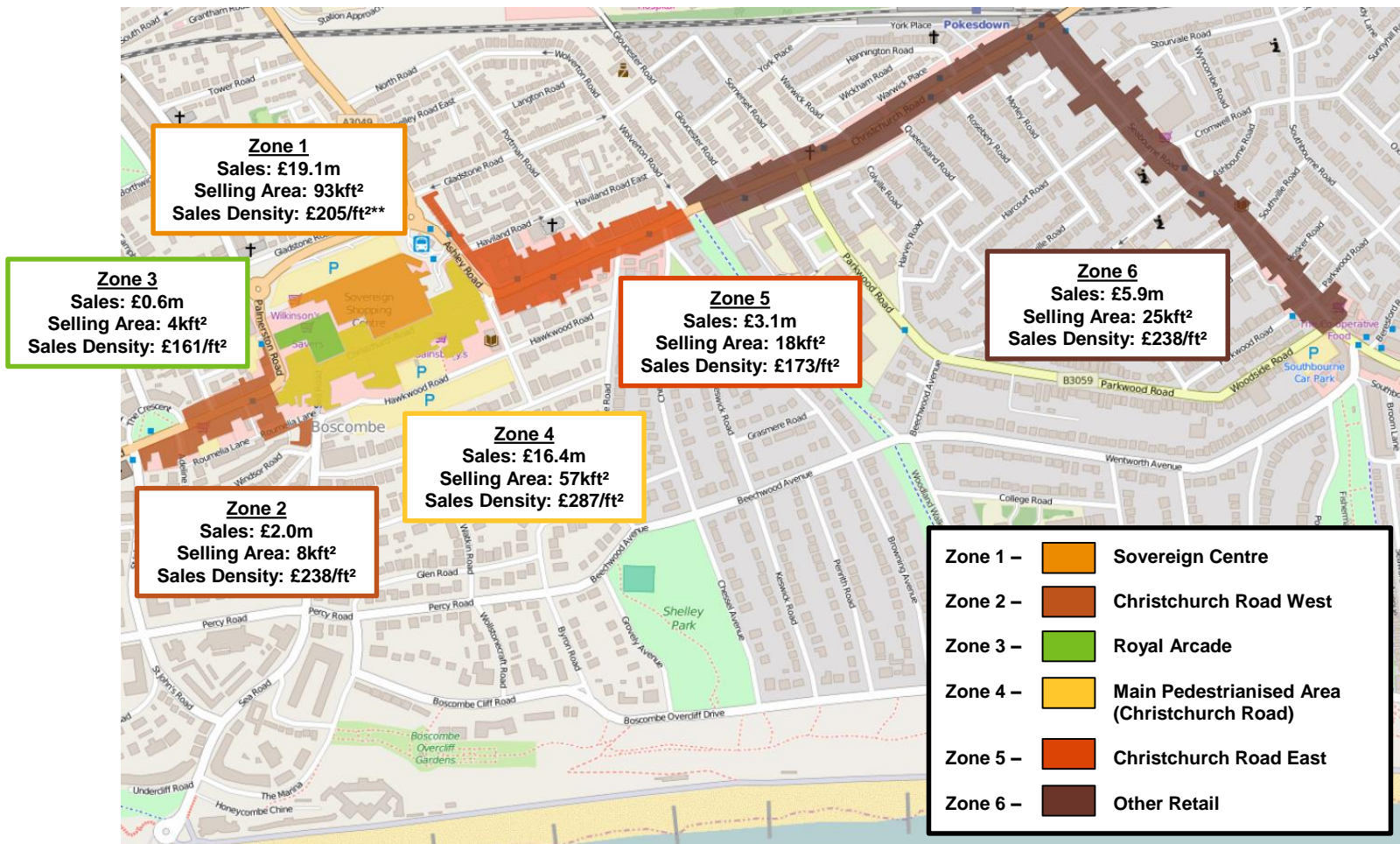
Source: FSP/CES



# Present Tenant Mix

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# Zoning



# Boscombe Retailing Overview – Key Points

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## ■ The Precinct:

- Main pedestrianised shopping area, with majority of national multiples
- Buildings generally pleasant but many in poor condition. No real seating
- Value-based offer, with many charity shops. *C&F* offer targets families
- Primark anchors area yet is small and poorly merchandised. The loss of New Look is a blow
- *F&B* offer is generally café/snacks, although there is potential (e.g. Café Boscanova)
- O2 Academy a strength as is the Royal Arcade though it needs stronger management and a more focused tenant mix

## ■ Sovereign Centre:

- 129kft<sup>2</sup> anchored by Wilko, Peacocks, Poundland, Sports Direct and Boots
- Poundland & More to replace old T J Hughes unit (currently Zervo Flexi-Village)
- Warren James may enter the town. Costa resited and Perfume Shop renewed lease

## ■ Christchurch Road:

- Outside of the pedestrianised area, the shopping standard drops considerably – many stores are small and badly maintained, with low footfall and a highly fragmented offer. There are exceptions which should be built upon

# Benchmark Absent Retailers





# Summary

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# SWOT Analysis

## Strengths

- Pedestrianised precinct providing a comfortable shopping experience
- Accessibility – flat shopping area good for pedestrian access
- Existing café culture (capable of further development)
- Sovereign Centre – Potential to attract new retailers at owner's cost
- Relatively large resident population
- Some new independent retailing providing relief from the 'value' offer
- Royal Arcade
- Beach (and consequent increase in summer tourism)
- Current availability of extensive car parking
- Support from Bournemouth Council in respect of regeneration

## Weaknesses

- Retailer/shopper perception of deprivation and anti-social behaviour
- Strung out retail offer dilutes available retail spend across a wide range of operators
- Surfeit of small units, many in poor condition and offering little opportunity to provide a credible offer
- Below average household income for area
- Very negative *Net Promoter Score* when FSP completed its 2014 study
- Reported low sales densities generated by retailers
- Lack of large anchor store/s
- Car park signage weak/non-existent
- Poor evening economy



# Recommendations

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- More independents – celebrate and encourage more independent retailing which has the potential to differentiate Boscombe’s retail offer – value, creativity, ‘edginess’
- Focus the offer – reduce scale of retailing (St John’s Road to Chessel Avenue)
- Exploit the markets – build on existing markets and harness current street food trend; reinstate Vintage Market
- Community services – further integrate into central areas to encourage higher footfall and reduce voids
- Sovereign Centre – assist New River Retail to enlist more retailers
- Royal Arcade – has potential as is a highly attractive building, but need to build critical mass, commonality of theme and proper management. Establish a specialist offer (e.g. F&B, crafts and exhibitions)



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