

BCP Homes ‘Our Commitment to our Communities’ Consultation



12 March - 21 May 2021 Summary Report

The public consultation for BCP Homes “Our commitment to our communities” ran for 10 weeks between 12th March to 25th May 2021.

There were 129 responses to the survey and 10 engagement events were held between January and May 2021. Almost 2000 people viewed the project online and 29 respondents contributed to the Ideas Board on the Council’s Engagement HQ online platform.

Over half of respondents (53%) agreed that the right issues and opportunities have been identified by BCP Council for the Housing Strategy. There was a high level of agreement with the Priorities.

- Priority 2 - ‘Preventing homelessness and rough sleeping’ (83%)
- Priority 4 - ‘Empowering and co-creating neighbourhoods where residents wish to live in and be part of the Community’ (81%)
- Priority 5 – ‘Improving safety and sustainability across all housing in BCP’ (80%)
- Priority 3 – ‘Improving housing options, opportunities and choice for all’ (80%)
- Priority 1 – ‘Meeting future growth needs (directly delivering new homes)’ (70%)

The top priorities that respondents felt BCP Council should focus on were

- Priority 1 - ‘Meeting future growth needs (directly delivering new homes)’ should be the top Priority to focus on’ (47%)
- Priority 2 - ‘Preventing homelessness and rough sleeping’ (35%)
- Priority 3 – ‘Improving housing options, opportunities and choice for all’ (33%)
- Priority 4 - ‘Empowering and co-creating neighbourhoods where residents wish to live in and be part of the Community’ (33%)

Respondents who felt there were things missing from the Issues and Options Paper said so because:

- There should be greater focus on increasing social housing that is maintained properly and allocated in a tenant-specific way

- There should be more partnerships to improve current services and deliver homes more quickly especially for those in greater need such as people with disabilities and the homeless
- There is a lack of family-orientated homes with outdoor space and a suitable number of bedrooms.
- The homeless also need suitable accommodation that supports long-term solutions 4
- Respondents who felt there were specific actions that BCP Council and its partners could take to deliver the Strategy said they would like to see: Improved home construction primarily for families but in general to provide tenants with more living space
- More partnership working to deliver the proposals on time and to budget including collaborating with local communities
- Homes that are accessible, safe, and secure particularly for disabled people
- Respondents who commented on the positive or negative impacts of the proposed draft Housing Strategy in relation to equalities or human rights: Made suggestions including building homes suitable for people with disabilities, affordable homes and eliminating poor quality housing Highlighted the importance of housing meeting the needs of all people, not just those in protected groups

Those respondents who made further comments on the Issues and Opportunities Paper submitted:

- Comments about the design and construction of homes with most related to improved standards
- Comments about affordable homes and the quantity of homes in BCP Comments about the importance of agencies collaborating and involving communities in any future developments

Those respondents who contributed to the Ideas Board submitted ideas on:

- Needs-based housing – they emphasised the importance of meeting the needs of a variety of tenants particularly families
- Non-flat housing – respondents highlighted the need for houses as opposed to flats to provide more spacious properties
- Housing Register - respondents felt the Housing Register and housing bidding system could be improved and criticised the current system as unfair.

A wide variety of methods were used to promote consultation such as:

- social media - Posted on BCP Council Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn.
- Instagram
- BCP website
- BCP news updates
- Local press coverage

Outcomes

- The press release was issued to all usual media outlets on 15 March 2021
- The survey was promoted on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn
- The posts consistently gained a lot of engagement, shares and comments
- The launch post on 15 March 2021 reached 6332 (people who saw the content) and 135 engagements and reached 2316 people with 19 engagements on Twitter.

The detailed consultation report has contributed significantly to this final strategy document.