

Consultation Response

BCP Council Plan consultation

Submitted: 6th September 2019

Consultation: [original link](#)

Consultation by BCP Council gathering views on the [new \(draft\) BCP Council Plan](#). The consultation website states:

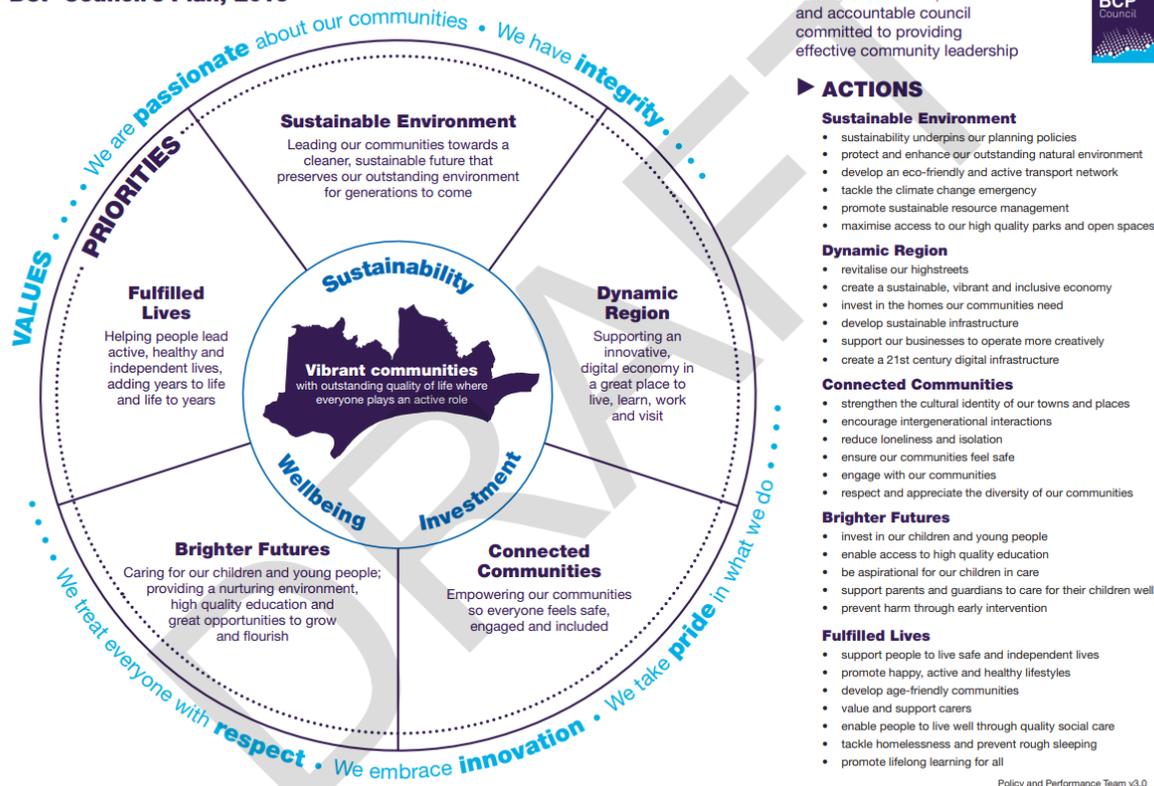
- A final draft of BCP Council's Plan has been approved for wider resident and stakeholder engagement before returning to Cabinet for final approval in October 2019.
- The Plan sets out longer term priorities, high-level actions and our commitments to equality and diversity. This will be underpinned by a council wide delivery plan for the next four years
- The aspirations for our area are ambitious. We need to agree a realistic delivery plan and will work with our partners to achieve this.

Response: Online, through this [link](#).

BU staff member who prepared/led the response: Jane Forster

BCP Council's Plan, 2019

BCP Council's Plan, 2019



Sustainable Environment

Leading our communities towards a cleaner, sustainable future that preserves our outstanding environment for generations to come

- sustainability underpins our planning policies
- protect and enhance our outstanding natural environment
- develop an eco-friendly and active transport network
- tackle the climate change emergency
- promote sustainable resource management
- maximise access to our high quality parks and open spaces

On a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 = very low priority and 5 = very high priority) please rate how important you think this priority is

1 2 3 **4** 5

Dynamic Region

Supporting an innovative, digital economy in a great place to live, learn, work and visit

- revitalise our highstreets
- create a sustainable, vibrant and inclusive economy
- invest in the homes our communities need
- develop sustainable infrastructure
- support our businesses to operate more creatively
- create a 21st century digital infrastructure

On a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 = very low priority and 5 = very high priority) please rate how important you think this priority is

1 2 3 4 **5**

Connected Communities

Empowering our communities so everyone feels safe, engaged and included

- strengthen the cultural identity of our towns and places
- encourage intergenerational interactions
- reduce loneliness and isolation
- ensure our communities feel safe
- engage with our communities
- respect and appreciate the diversity of our communities

On a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 = very low priority and 5 = very high priority) please rate how important you think this priority is

1 2 3 4 **5**

Brighter Futures

Caring for our children and young people; providing a nurturing environment, high quality education and great opportunities to grow and flourish

- invest in our children and young people
- enable access to high quality education
- be aspirational for our children in care
- support parents and guardians to care for their children well
- prevent harm through early intervention

On a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 = very low priority and 5 = very high priority) please rate how important you think this priority is

1 2 3 **4** 5

Fulfilled Lives

Helping people lead active, healthy and independent lives, adding years to life and life to years

- support people to live safe and independent lives
- promote happy, active and healthy lifestyles
- develop age-friendly communities
- value and support carers
- enable people to live well through quality social care
- tackle homelessness and prevent rough sleeping
- promote lifelong learning for all

On a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 = very low priority and 5 = very high priority) please rate how important you think this priority is

1 2 3 **4** 5

Your comments and suggestions

Do you have any comments or suggestions about the BCP Council Plan?

We welcome the council's priorities as set out in the BCP council plan. Many of these priorities reflect our own priorities as set out in our recently developed strategic plan and we look forward to being able to contribute to the development of our local area.

We believe that it is important to be clear about the diversity of our community when looking at action in relation to connected communities and a dynamic region. For example, our community is made up of permanent long term residents, but also a significant proportion of students and visitors, who may stay for short or relatively long periods and how contribute significantly to the economy and in other ways (such as volunteering and community projects work carried out by students, the wider social benefits of cultural events that are only feasible because of visitor numbers). The council needs to focus on the long-term sustainable development of the region for the benefit of all of these groups, which will mean balancing what can sometimes seem like competing interests.

We also believe that it is important for the council to consider how it can best deliver these priorities through partnerships – a more efficient way to leverage existing knowledge and experience across a wide range of areas.

In relation to the education priorities referred to in the Brighter Futures section, the BCP area has a particular strength in Higher Education which should be noted in this section. The Higher Education offering in the council area supports the local economy and brings benefits to residents. Many students come from the local area, supporting local employability and we and our students and staff work in the community, including with local schools. Many of our graduates also remain in the area, working for local businesses, and we work with local businesses on research and innovation projects. Further education is also an important contributor to the local community, employability and the economy. We are surprised that neither FE nor HE is mentioned in the priorities section and we suggest that the council could add “working in partnership with further and higher education partners to develop our communities and our economy” to the Dynamic Region section and that “supporting choices and opportunities for further and higher education” should be included in the Brighter Futures section.

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