

Feedback for the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan. I am writing with particular focus on the plan's alignment with health and wellbeing priorities, especially in the context of the Weymouth & Portland Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) pilot currently underway.

Key Points of Feedback

1. Scope of the Plan

The plan currently excludes Chickerell, Portland, and parts of Preston, which raises concerns about the equitable representation of the wider Weymouth & Portland area. Given the strong connections between these areas and Weymouth, this exclusion may limit opportunities for integrated planning. Issues such as housing, transport, and public health infrastructure often require collaboration across boundaries to meet the needs of the population as a whole.

2. Health and Wellbeing Integration

Whilst the plan emphasises housing and infrastructure, it does not explicitly address the impact of these elements on health outcomes. For example, access to green spaces, housing quality, and active travel infrastructure are well-established determinants of health. Including a focus on preventative health measures and community wellbeing would strengthen the plan's alignment with national and local health objectives. The INT can provide valuable insights into how these factors influence population health and how services can be designed to meet local needs.

3. Collaboration with Town Councils

Whilst the plan is led by Weymouth Town Council, the absence of input from neighbouring councils, such as those in Chickerell and Portland, represents a missed opportunity for collaboration. Better engagement with these councils could address shared priorities and strengthen the delivery of cohesive outcomes across the Weymouth & Portland area. Additionally, there is little evidence of engagement with the INT or other health and care stakeholders. Establishing these links would enhance the plan's ability to address the wider determinants of health and improve population wellbeing.

Recommendations

- **Expand Scope or Strengthen Coordination:** Either broaden the plan's scope to include Chickerell, Portland, and all of Preston, or establish a clear mechanism to ensure collaboration between these areas, particularly around health, housing, and transport priorities.

- **Embed Health Objectives:** Incorporate specific references to health and care services, emphasising the importance of preventative health, active travel, and accessible community spaces. This would ensure the plan contributes to the development of sustainable, healthier communities.
- **Facilitate Collaboration:** Develop stronger governance links between the neighbouring councils, and initiatives such as the INT. This would enable better alignment of the plan with integrated care and health improvement strategies.

The Weymouth & Portland INT is well-placed to support this work and contribute to creating a more integrated and health-focused Neighbourhood Plan. We welcome the opportunity to provide further input.

Thank you for considering this feedback as part of the independent examination process.

Best Wishes

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