

8. Community Issues

Ward Survey 2007

During September 2007, all ward councillors were requested to meet with their ward committee to discuss, identify and prioritise the five key issues for their wards. The purpose of conducting the survey was to get a better understanding of service delivery priorities at an individual ward level, which would assist in informing IDP priorities and projects for 2008/09 financial year. Enhancing ward participation in the IDP Review process was also one of the objectives of the survey.

The Process followed

Following identification of key priorities, ward councillors were also requested to convene a ward general meeting to seek consensus on and endorsement of the priorities. However, some ward councillors indicated that priorities for their wards had been identified at prior general meetings and therefore did not deem it necessary to repeat the process as the priorities were still relevant. The survey sheet requested each of the wards to list the issues in order of importance and to provide a brief description of the particulars relating to the issue. Submissions were received from only 43 of the 45 wards.

The table below provides a summary of the consolidated outcomes, which were derived by the allocation of a single point for every issue raised (only one point was allocated for each issue, irrespective of whether it was the highest or lowest priority for the ward). Where more than one issue was raised, within the five priorities, points were allocated for these.

Table B.20: Consolidated Outcomes of the BCM Ward Survey - September 2007

ISSUE	POINTS	ORDER OF PRIORITY
Roads & Transport	56	1
Housing & Land	31	2
Water & Sanitation	31	2
Electricity	26	3
Community Halls & Multi-Purpose Centres	20	4
Unemployment, Job Creation & Livelihoods	15	5
Sports Facilities	9	6
Waste	4	7
HIV/Aids Treatment & support	3	8
Health Care	3	8
Environment	2	9
Safety & Security	2	9
Libraries	2	9
Cemeteries	1	10
Ward Office	1	10

CLUSTERED ISSUES	POINTS	TOTAL
JOB CREATION & LIVELIHOODS		15
HOUSING & LAND		31
BASIC SERVICES		113
Roads & Transport	54	
Electricity	24	
Water & Sanitation	31	
Waste	4	
COMMUNITY FACILITIES/ SERVICES		41
Community Halls & Multi-purpose Centres	19	
HIV/Aids Treatment & support	3	
Sports Facilities	9	
Cemeteries	1	
Health Care	3	
Libraries	2	
Education	0	
Safety & Security	2	
Environment	2	

According to the consolidated outcomes in the above table, service delivery issues consistently emerged at the top of priorities. For instance, roads and transport, housing and land, water and sanitation, and electricity respectively received the highest number of points. It is interesting to note that ‘roads and transport’ again emerged as the ‘top’ issue, as in the previous ward survey of 2004 they were in the same position. It is assumed that this is because of the importance of mobility for accessing services and opportunities.

The IDP objectives and strategies were revisited to determine how they address the issues raised in the survey. The table below shows how the refined IDP objectives aim to address the matters raised by communities within Buffalo City.

Table B.21: Ward issues linked with IDP cluster objectives

ISSUE	POINTS	IDP CLUSTER OBJECTIVES AIMED AT ADDRESSING ISSUE
Roads & Transport	56	I&S13a – Provide and maintain a safe and economical road and storm water network which supports the development and economic growth of the City. I&S8 – A fully integrated transport system to increase accessibility for people and freight in the whole of Buffalo City I&S9 – A formal public transportation system in BCM
Housing & Land	31	I&S3 – Public sector land processes are supported through the provision of a high quality co-ordination, land assembly, layout, survey and administration services. I&S7 – All citizens, especially the poor and those with special needs have access to adequate housing.
Water & Sanitation	31	I&S20 – Well maintained and operated water services infrastructure I&S21 – Eliminate the water backlog I&S22 – Eliminate the sanitation backlog
Electricity	26	I&S26 – A safe, efficient, functioning and well maintained electricity infrastructure network I&S28a – All low-income settlements are electrified I&S28b – Provide adequate public lighting within BCM
Community Halls & Multi-Purpose Centres	20	S4 – BCM citizens experience enhanced access to libraries, halls, arts facilities and sports facilities
Unemployment, Job Creation & Livelihoods	15	I&S14 – Create work opportunities and training for local communities I&F6 – All qualifying households in terms of Indigent Policy have access to Indigent Grant I&F5 – Operating budget efficiently and effectively structured to support service delivery ED2 – Enhanced access to and utilisation of economic opportunities by residents of Mdantsane

ISSUE	POINTS	IDP CLUSTER OBJECTIVES AIMED AT ADDRESSING ISSUE
Sports Facilities	9	S4 – BCM citizens experience enhanced access to libraries, halls, arts facilities and sports facilities
Waste	4	E4 – Buffalo City supplies its population with increasingly efficient waste management services
HIV/Aids Treatment & support	3	CC1 – Address the HIV/Aids pandemic and mitigate the negative impact on Buffalo City S2 – Training has capacitated health care givers and communities on HIV/Aids prevention, treatment, care and support within BCM area.
Health Care	3	S1 – Accessible, equitable and comprehensive primary health services for all communities S3 – Contribute to a safe and healthy environment through adequate, integrated and sustainable municipal health services
Environment	2	E2 – BCM understands and responds to the environmental challenges and opportunities within Buffalo City in an integrated manner
Safety & Security	2	S9 – Increase visibility of law enforcement agents in the CBD and surrounding areas
Libraries	2	S4 – BCM citizens experience enhanced access to libraries, halls, arts facilities and sports facilities
Cemeteries	1	S6 – BCM provides an acceptable standard of service and has sufficient, well maintained, regulated cemeteries and crematoria
Ward Office	1	I&F8 – BCM has the practical and physical infrastructure to enable the Municipality to deliver on its mandate

MAYORAL IMBIZO

Follow on from the Ward Survey was the Mayoral Imbizo that took place during October 2007. Imbizos afforded the Executive Mayor an opportunity to listen to issues raised by BCM communities as well as clarify and respond to those issues. The Executive Mayor also shared with the communities many of the positive developments happening within BCM in relation to service delivery.

The most dominant cross-cutting issues raised by communities related to:

- HIV & Aids
- Youth Development
- Skills Development
- Unemployment

Issues pertaining to the following were raised mainly in urban wards:

- Street lighting
- Clean water
- Housing
- Roads
- Traffic and pedestrian safety
- Bush cutting / illegal dumps
- Electricity
- Ward Development Funds
- Land for housing development

Whilst issues raised in rural wards tended to focus on:

- Clean drinking water
- Roads
- Health facilities
- Fencing
- Community halls; and
- Ward Development Funds

As demonstrated above BCM already has objectives and strategies in place that are aimed at addressing the issues raised by the communities. An effort has also been made to ensure that proposed projects for the 2008/09 financial year address these issues.