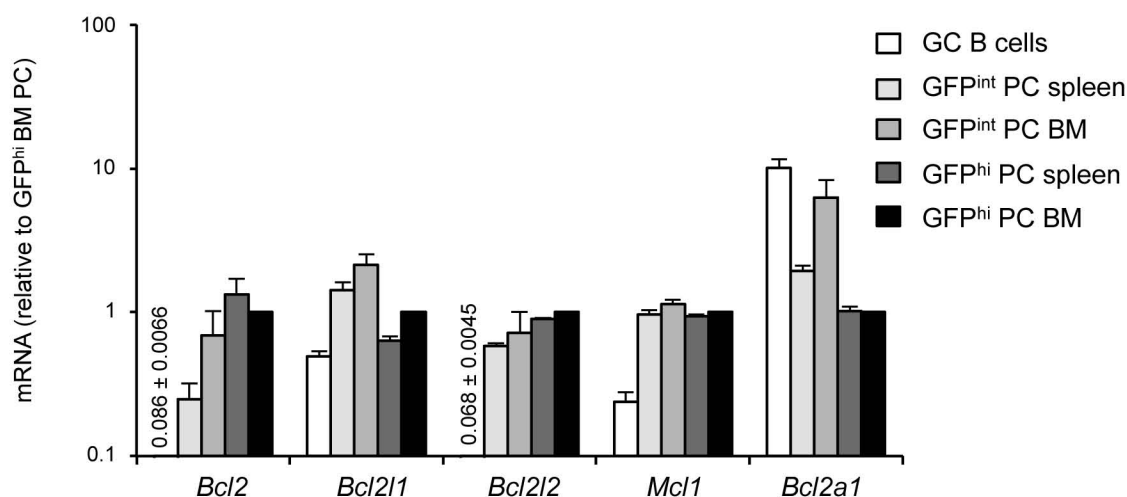
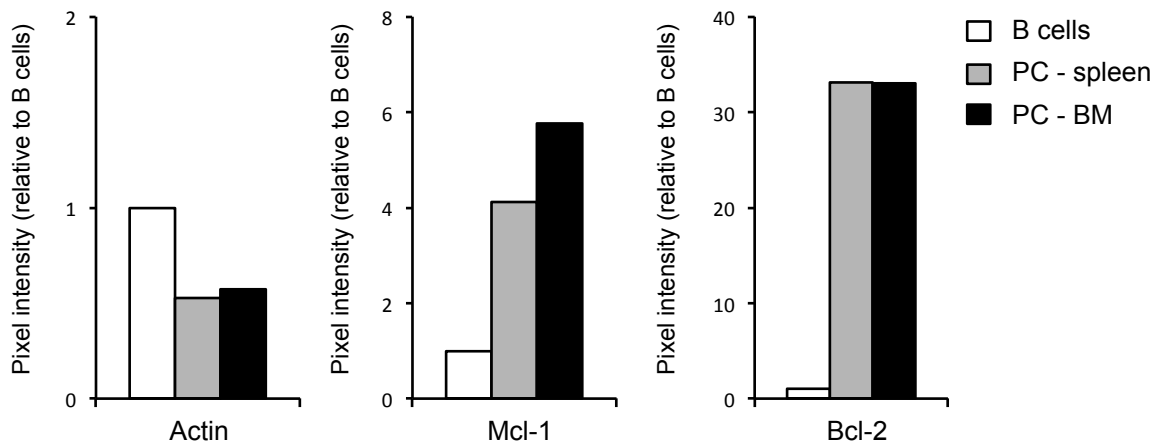


# Supplementary figure 1



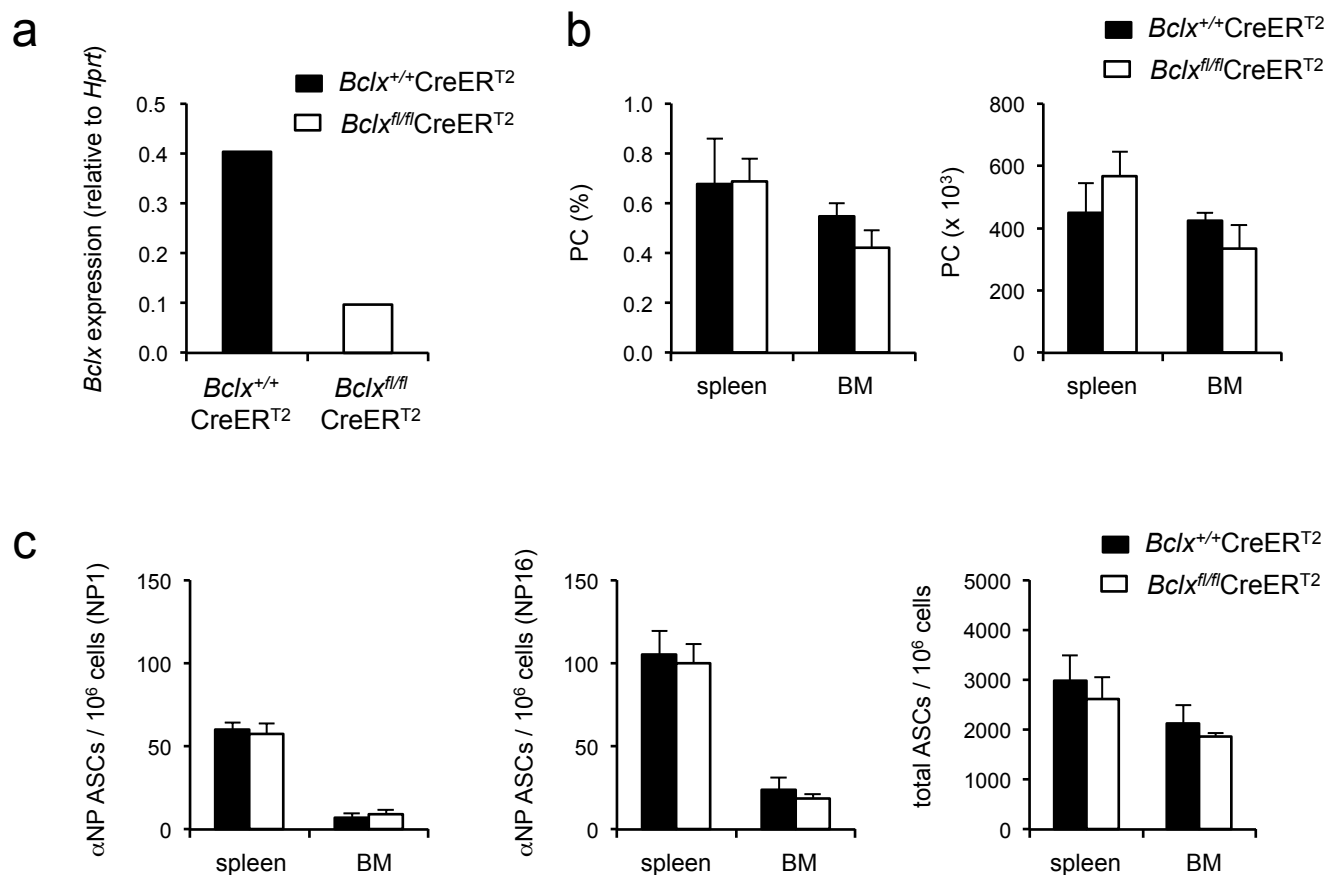
**Supplementary Figure 1 | Expression of pro-survival Bcl-2 family members in Blimp-1-intermediate PBs and Blimp-1-high PCs.** Gene transcription of pro-survival Bcl-2 family members in FACS sorted PBs ( $CD138^{+}GFP^{int}$ ) or PCs ( $CD138^{+}GFP^{hi}$ ) from the spleen or bone marrow (BM) and GC B cells ( $CD19^{+}PNA^{+}$ ) from *Prdm1<sup>GFP/+</sup>* mice, corrected for expression of the household gene *Hprt* and relative to expression in BM PCs ( $CD138^{+}GFP^{hi}$ , arbitrarily set to 1). Values  $\pm$  SEM are indicated when relative expression is lower than 0.1. The average from 4 individual mice is shown; error bars, SEM.

## Supplementary figure 2



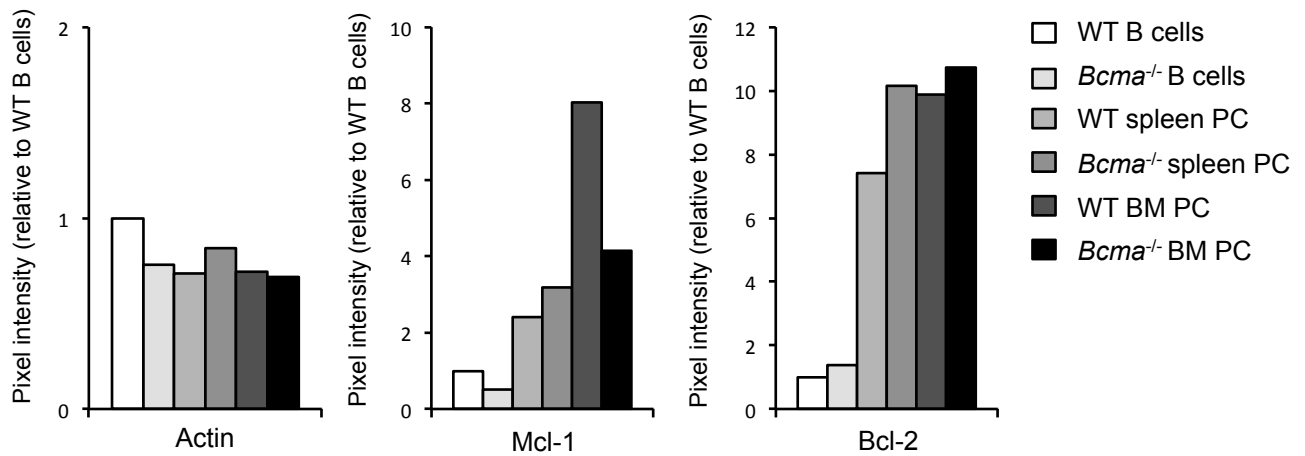
**Supplementary Figure 2 | Quantification of Mcl-1 and Bcl-2 protein expression in PCs.** Pixel intensity of the immunoblots shown in **Fig. 1a** measured using Photoshop software and relative to the pixel intensity as measured in B cells.

# Supplementary figure 3



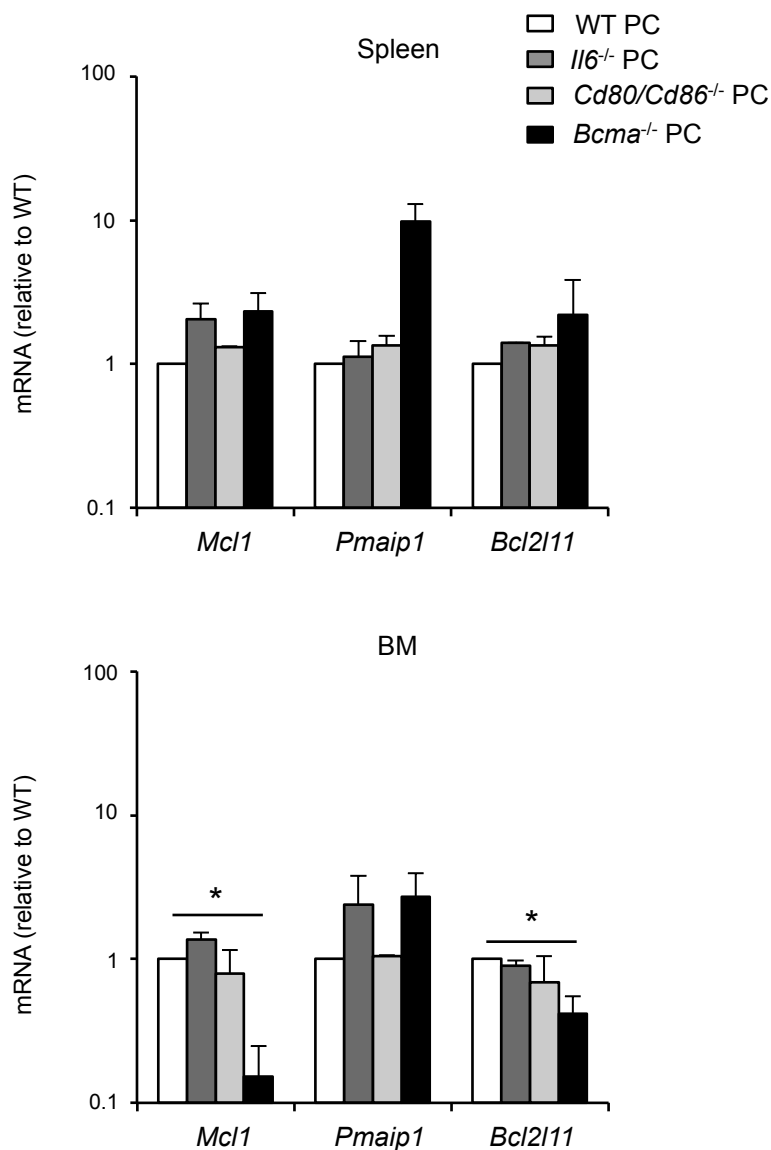
**Supplementary Figure 3 | Survival of existing PCs is not perturbed after deletion of *Bclx*.** (a) Gene transcription of *Bclx* in flow cytometry sorted PCs (B220-CD138<sup>+</sup>) from the bone marrow (BM) of *Bclx*<sup>+/+</sup>CreER<sup>T2</sup> or *Bclx*<sup>fl/fl</sup>CreER<sup>T2</sup> mice 2 days after treatment with Tamoxifen. Data are presented relative to expression of the household gene *Hprt* and the average of 4 mice pooled per group. (b) Percentage and absolute number of total PCs (B220-CD138<sup>+</sup>) in spleens and BM of *Bclx*<sup>+/+</sup>CreER<sup>T2</sup> or *Bclx*<sup>fl/fl</sup>CreER<sup>T2</sup> mice at 18 days after immunization with NP-KLH and 4 days after treatment with Tamoxifen. (c) ELISpot analysis of total (NP16), or high affinity (NP1), NP-specific or total antibody secreting cells (ASC) 4 days after deletion of *Bclx* and 18 days after immunization with NP-KLH as in (b). Data represent the average of 4 animals per group; error bars, SEM. The results are representative of 2 independent experiments.

# Supplementary figure 4



**Supplementary Figure 4 | Quantification of Mcl-1 and Bcl-2 protein expression in *Bcma*<sup>-/-</sup> PCs.** Pixel intensity of the immunoblots shown in **Fig. 2d** measured using Photoshop software and relative to the pixel intensity as measured in WT B cells.

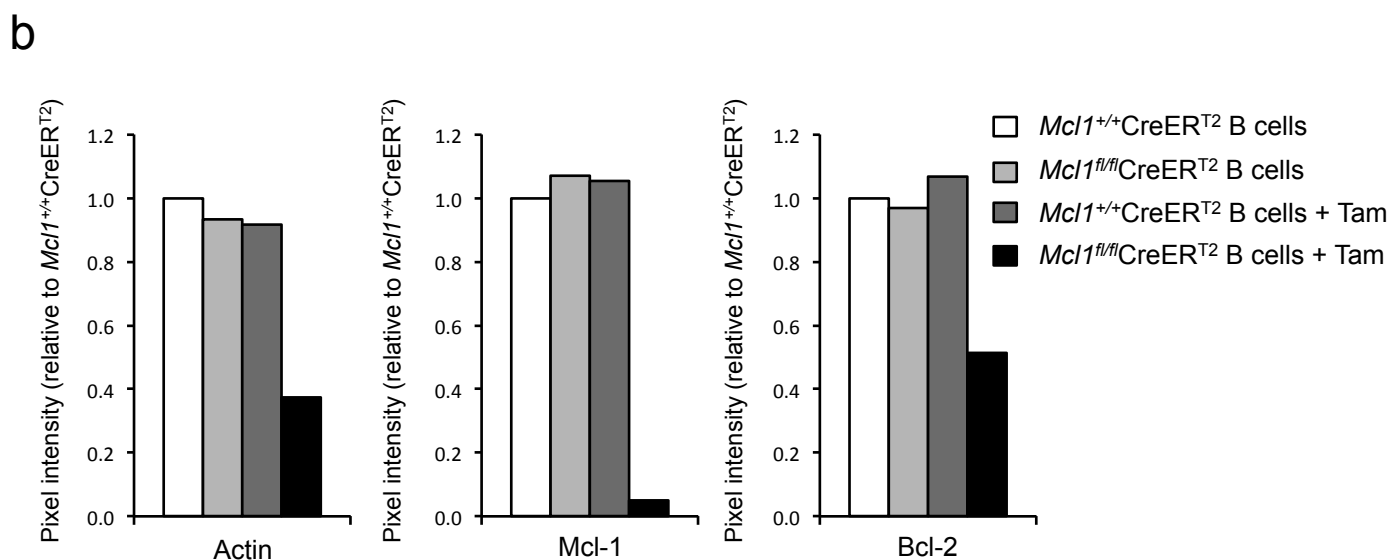
# Supplementary figure 5



## Supplementary Figure 5 | *Bim* expression is reduced in *Bcma*-deficient BM PCs.

Gene transcription of *Mcl1* and pro-apoptotic Bcl-2 family members *Noxa* (*Pmaip1*) and *Bim* (*Bcl2l11*) in PCs (B220-CD138<sup>+</sup>) isolated from the spleen or BM of wild type (WT), *Il6*<sup>-/-</sup>, *Cd80*<sup>-/-</sup>/*Cd86*<sup>-/-</sup> and *Bcma*<sup>-/-</sup> mice. Values are presented as the expression relative to that found in WT PCs (arbitrarily set to 1) and represent the average of 2 experiments with PCs from 4 mice pooled per group; error bars, SEM. \**p*≤0.05

# Supplementary figure 6



**Supplementary Figure 6 | Mcl-1 protein expression after Tamoxifen-mediated *Mcl1* deletion. (a)** Immunoblot analysis for Mcl-1 and Bcl-2 of B cells purified from *Mcl1*<sup>fl/+</sup>CreER<sup>T2</sup> or *Mcl1*<sup>fl/fl</sup>CreER<sup>T2</sup> mice and cultured for 4 days in the presence or absence of Tamoxifen added on day 3. **(b)** Pixel intensity of the immunoblots shown in **(a)**, measured using Photoshop software and relative to the pixel intensity as measured in *Mcl1*<sup>+/+</sup>CreER<sup>T2</sup> B cells.