

Public Document Pack

MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday, 16 December 2020
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	THIS MEETING IS TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY
PUBLIC WEB LINK:	https://barnsley.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts

AGENDA

1. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests
2. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

Minutes

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd December 2020 (Cab.16.12.2020/3) *(Pages 3 - 8)*

Items for Noting

4. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.16.12.2020/4)

Petitions

5. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.16.12.2020/5)

Items for Decision/Recommendation to Council

Core Services Spokesperson

6. LGA Recovery and Renewal Panel Report Findings (Cab.16.12.2020/6) *(Pages 9 - 22)*

Adults and Communities Spokesperson

7. Winter Plan - Adult Social Care 2020-21 (Cab.16.12.2020/7) *(Pages 23 - 48)*

Children's Spokesperson

8. Measures to maximise and strengthen support to the Borough's examination cohort (2021) (Cab.16.12.2020/8) *(Pages 49 - 62)*

Regeneration and Culture Spokesperson

9. Employment and Skills – Digital Boost and Strategic Commissioning Framework (Cab.16.12.2020/9) *(Pages 63 - 84)*
10. Grant of 10-year lease of Elmhirst Playing fields to Hoyland Common Falcons Junior Football Club (Cab.16.12.2020/10) *(Pages 85 - 94)*
11. Berneslai Homes IT Upgrade of Repairs and Maintenance System (Cab.16.12.2020/11) *(Pages 95 - 102)*

12. Natural England Great-crested Newt District Licensing Scheme
(Cab.16.12.2020/12) (Pages 103 - 106)
13. Sale of Land and Grant of Easements to National Grid - Visual Impact Scheme,
Dunford Bridge (Cab.16.12.2020/13) (Pages 107 - 120)
14. Proposal to Surrender the Current Lease at Wellington House, Barnsley
(Cab.16.12.2020/14) (Pages 121 - 126)

To: Chair and Members of Cabinet:-

Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), Andrews BEM, Bruff, Cheetham, Gardiner,
Howard, Lamb and Platts

Cabinet Support Members:

Councillors T. Cave, Cherryholme, Franklin, Frost, McCarthy and Tattersall

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Chair of Audit Committee

Sarah Norman, Chief Executive
Matt Gladstone, Executive Director Place
Melanie John-Ross, Executive Director Children's Services
Wendy Lowder, Executive Director Adults and Communities
Shokat Lal, Executive Director Core Services
Julia Burrows, Director Public Health
Neil Copley, Service Director Finance (Section 151 Officer)
Martin McCarthy, Service Director Governance, Member and Business Support
Garry Kirk, Service Director Legal Services
Michael Potter, Service Director Business Improvement and Communications
Katie Rogers, Head of Communications and Marketing
Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer

Corporate Communications and Marketing

Please contact Martin McCarthy on email governance@barnsley.gov.uk

Tuesday, 8 December 2020



MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday, 2 December 2020
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

Present Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), Andrews BEM, Bruff, Cheetham, Gardiner, Howard, Lamb and Platts

Members in Attendance: Councillors T. Cave, Cherryholme, Franklin, Frost, Shepherd and Tattersall

17. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Gardiner declared a non-pecuniary interest as Goldthorpe Town Fund member in respect of Minute Number 22. Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest as Berneslai Homes Board and Barnsley Premier Leisure Board member in respect of Minute Number 23.

18. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 18th November 2020 had been called in.

19. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 November 2020 (Cab.2.12.2020/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2020 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

20. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.2.12.2020/4)

There were no Records of Decisions by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers to report.

21. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.2.12.2020/5)

RESOLVED that the report notifying the receipt of the following petition be noted and the recommended actions for responding to them be endorsed:-

- (a) Containing the signatures of 4 signatories, in respect of the height of trees on Council property which are close to properties on Queens Gardens and Saville Court at Hoyland Common, Barnsley.

The trees were inspected on 9th October 2020 and no imminent or developing health and safety concerns were identified.

The actions recommended are based solely on a maintenance programme. The timescales for the recommended works identified in the Visual Tree Inspection reports are in line with those described in the Council's Tree Risk

Management Framework; in this instance the following recommended works should be completed within 6 months of the inspection date by 9th April 2021.

The recommended works are as follows:

- 1 Formative prune of tree no.2; clearing low branches and branches extending over the boundary with the neighbouring properties.
- 2 Remove several branches from tree no.3 that will in time overhang the roof of a nearby property.
- 3 Remove low branches which are causing an obstruction to the grass cutting machinery.

Regeneration and Culture Spokesperson

22. Towns Fund Goldthorpe (Cab.2.12.2020/6)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that approval be given to the submission of the Town Investment Plan to the Ministry for Homes Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), on or before 11th December 2020 seeking Towns Fund grant to fund the delivery of the schemes contained therein, as detailed in the report now submitted;
- (ii) that, subject to the bid to MHCLG being successful and in line with MHCLG guidance, appraisal of the individual Town Investment Plan business cases be delegated to the Council's Capital Oversight Board which was an established body within the One Council Framework overall governance structure;
- (iii) that, subject to the bid to MHCLG being successful, the Legal Service Director and Solicitor to the Council, in consultation with the Executive Director Place be authorised to:
 - conclude any necessary approval and funding processes with MHCLG (including negotiating the terms and conditions of, and final approval of the Town Investment Plan, subsequently releasing this into the capital programme in line with grant funding once approved);
 - accept tenders, appoint where necessary a contractor/contractors to implement the delivery of the projects identified in the Town Investment Plan, subject to the costs being contained within the Town Investment Plan Grant Funding Agreement;
 - where necessary apply for any consents, licence arrangements, prepare details of and publish a Side Roads Order under sections 14 and 125 of the Highways Act 1980 to deal with any required changes to the existing highway network to accommodate any of the projects identified in the Town Investment Plan and to submit the order to the Secretary of State for Transport for confirmation and to take all necessary steps to secure confirmation of the Order including (if necessary) supporting the order at a local public inquiry;

- in principle, where necessary complete due process and documentation required to make and publish a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) pursuant to relevant legislation, noting that specific details of any identified CPOs will be subject to further Cabinet approval;
- (iv) that the Corporate Asset Manager be authorised to:
- where necessary, to enter into negotiations with any third party landowner(s) or property owners to acquire any interests or enter into agreements to occupy land now in the ownership of the local authority necessary to deliver the projects identified in the Town Investment Plan, by agreement where possible. Also, to complete any variation to any existing leases on the occupation of land owned by the local authority and where necessary negotiate compensation payments;
 - negotiate the terms and conditions of any development agreements required with relevant private developer(s) or parties to deliver the Town Investment Plan;
- (v) that the Service Director Regeneration and Culture, in line with MHCLG guidance, be authorised to:
- convene a Town Deal Board, with community and business representatives to facilitate the development of the Town Investment Plan;
 - engage with businesses and the wider community throughout the development and delivery of the Town Investment Plan;
 - procure the necessary technical expertise to assist with developing the Town Investment Plan and wider business case development;
 - under the terms of the Barnsley Contract Procedure rules, if necessary, seek tenders for any aspect of the project including the procurement of necessary technical expertise to assist with developing the Town Investment Plan and wider business case development and appoint the successful tender on the basis of most economically advantageous bid; and to consider whether the works, services or goods can be provided in-house, subject to value for money considerations;
 - submit the Town Investment Plan prepared by the Town Board;
- (vi) that the progress made with establishing the Towns Fund governance structure required in line with MHCLG guidance be acknowledged, but still recognising that the Council has overall accountability for the delivery of any Towns Fund monies received;
- (vii) that the Executive Director Place be authorised to undertake all necessary steps to secure development and delivery of the Towns Investment Plan;

- (viii) that the Service Director Regeneration and Culture in consultation with the Service Director Environment and Transport be authorised to seek any necessary planning permission, (outline or full) required for the delivery of the projects included in the Town Investment Plan.

Core Services Spokesperson

23. Quarter 2 (2020/21) Corporate Performance Report (Cab.2.12.2020/7)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Corporate Plan Performance Report for Quarter 2 (July to September 2020), as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted
- (ii) that the report be shared with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to inform and support their ongoing work programme; and
- (iii) Cabinet thanked officers for all their hard work during this period.

24. Quarter 2 (2020/21) Corporate Finance Performance Report (Cab.2.12.2020/8)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Corporate Finance Performance Report for Quarter 2 (July to September 2020), as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted;
- a) Corporate Financial Performance
 - (ii) that the current forecast General Fund Revenue overspend of £47.0M incorporating the ongoing impact of COVID-19 be noted;
 - (iii) that the current forecast Housing Revenue Account overspend of £3.4M incorporating the ongoing impact of COVID-19 be noted;
 - (iv) that the overall net impact (after all Government funding) of £15.5M be noted;
 - (v) that the continuation of the moratorium on all non-essential expenditure and the suspension of non-urgent one-off investments originally approved to commence in 2020/21 be approved;
 - (vi) that the write off of historic bad debts totalling £1.5M be approved;
- b) Capital Programme
 - (vii) that the forecast position on the approved Capital Programme be noted;
 - (viii) that the external funding position highlighted in paragraphs 4.1 be noted.
- c) Treasury Management
 - (ix) that the key messages from the Council's Treasury Management activities be noted.

25. 6 monthly Analysis of Selective Voluntary Early Retirement and Voluntary Severance April 2020 to September 2020 (Cab.2.12.2020/9)

RESOLVED that the Selective Voluntary Early Retirement and Voluntary Severances which have taken place in the period April to September 2020, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted.

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Chair

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BARNESLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORE SERVICES TO CABINET ON 16 DECEMBER 2020

LGA Recovery & Renewal Panel Findings

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform cabinet of the findings from the Local Government Association (LGA) Recovery and Renewal panel that took place on 20th August 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That cabinet note the areas of good practice identified and are informed and assured on the progress against areas for further consideration.**

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 On 20 August 2020, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council took part in an LGA Recovery and Renewal Panel. Within the overarching theme of recovery and renewal. The council and the panel:

1. Reflected on the Council's response to the COVID-19 crisis
2. Discussed the immediate priorities for Barnsley in the Borough's recovery and renewal and
3. Considered the impact of the crisis on the longer term aims and ambitions of the Council.

- 3.2 Background to the review

- Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the LGA suspended the physical delivery of all peer challenge work. To continue to support councils the LGA refocused its support and adopted a new remote peer support approach. The panel review was primarily there to support improvement.

- 3.3 The panel discussion involved the following participants:

- From the authority:-
 - Sir Stephen Houghton; Sarah Norman; Shokat Lal; Paul Castle;
- Representing the LGA:-
 - Cllr Graham Chapman (Nottingham City Council and LGA Lead Peer for Yorkshire and the Humber),
 - Kath O'Dwyer (Chief Executive, St. Helens Council)
 - Ernest Opuni (Improvement Manager, LGA).
 - Judith Hurcombe (Programme Manager, LGA)

3.4 Findings from the panel;

- The review recognised the hard work the officers and members had undertaken to support the communities of the borough; often going 'above & beyond' what might be expect of us.
- The council's response is thoughtful, strategic and long term – this is consistent with the council being people focused. The first 12-18 months is on focusing on standing up, then recovery.
- The council is seeing the opportunity and need to do things differently (e.g. diverting £43m planned investment and clear consideration of what is still relevant)
- There is sound financial planning which has enabled the council's own resources to support businesses & the economy ahead of central government allocations; balanced budget for this year and next.

3.5 The review acknowledged the joint work undertaken across the Local Resilience Forum in South Yorkshire. Recognising:

- The authorities' role leading the strategic response & recovery coordination group
- The development of the strategic approach to recovery, notably to restart services that had been paused through the pandemic; the approach to recover services throughout the borough; and the longer term recovery activity to new levels of normality.

3.6 Some specific examples of good practice recognised by the peer team were;

- **Our demonstration of clear and determined leadership of place**
 - Early payment of business grants and pro-active advice provided through Enterprising Barnsley
 - Responding to local need through early and comprehensive support to care homes
- **Effective partnership working arrangements**
 - Focus on identifying and supporting vulnerable communities was underpinned by pre-existing neighbourhood working structure and the effective involvement Area Teams and as well as work with Barnsley CVS.
 - The strong partnership with schools ensured these were opened on time in line with central government timeframes whilst focusing on managing vulnerability risks and addressing educational disadvantage.
- **One Council Organisational response**
 - Smart working plans were accelerated at pace allowing for a speedy shift to homeworking.
 - There was rapid movement to virtual full council, cabinet and other meetings such as regulatory, audit, scrutiny and area councils.
 - Staff were redeployed to support vulnerable members of the community and maintain key services.
 - This has been underpinned by a clear focus on wider staff health and wellbeing being monitored through surveys and regular Microsoft Teams events.

3.7 Some areas to consider going forward;

As part of the review the panel undertook a desktop study to consider key recovery documentation that the authority had produced, notably governance documentation; the response & recovery strategy; impact assessments; thematic recovery strategies and plans;

- *It is clear through the discussion what Barnsley’s strategic priorities and objectives are and how they connect. It is less clear from the range of documents in existence. There would be value in bringing this all together as part of a simplified clear and coherent narrative supporting the post-Covid reset of the 2030 vision for Barnsley.*
- *Think about how we can use volunteers more widely and maintain positive engagement beyond the crisis is something the council is keen to explore.*
- *Jobs-led recovery ambitions need to be further developed to ensure that both the response and the recovery aspects are managed in tandem*
- *Are we sufficiently applying the modernisation opportunities afforded by the crisis comprehensively across all areas of the council?*
- *To use the strong partnership with schools to develop a clear plan to tackle increased educational disadvantage as a result of the pandemic.*
- *To further use the Area Council structures and the route for community engagement and mobilisation of volunteers to support a jobs-led recovery as well as in mental health and community support?*
- *We need to be sufficiently prepared for the magnitude of the changes in the retail and office markets.*

3.8 Reflection on the panel’s identified areas to consider going forward

- The authority accepts the areas to consider going forward and is incorporating these points in a simplified strategic narrative of Barnsley 2030. The council recognises and can evidence the impacts that Covid-19 is having on the wellbeing, economic and health of the communities and is incorporating this into the recovery work across the borough and South Yorkshire
- The authority recognises that new normalities created by the pandemic has will have impacted upon people’s values and that it needs to reflect this in the Barnsley 2030 ambitions and council plans.

Area of consideration identified by the panel:

Area identified	Progress and Further Actions
<p><i>It is clear through the discussion what Barnsley’s strategic priorities and objectives are and how they connect. It is less clear from the range of documents in existence. There would be value in bringing this all together as part of a simplified clear and coherent narrative supporting the post-Covid reset of the 2030 vision for Barnsley.</i></p>	<p>The Barnsley 2030 vision is at an advanced stage. The vision will set out the overall strategic direction for Barnsley and will be the golden thread for all other plans and initiatives – ensuring there is clear connectivity and alignment and the Barnsley story is owned and understood not only by the Council but the place as a whole.</p>

Area identified	Progress and Further Actions
<i>Think about how we can use volunteers more widely and maintain positive engagement beyond the crisis is something the council is keen to explore.</i>	The Council has a strong track record in this area but are keen to further develop the Leadership of the CVS. To that end a CVS strategy group is now established to further develop their role within volunteering which alongside further efforts within the council to develop a more co-ordinated approach to volunteering we will be in an even stronger position.
<i>Jobs-led recovery ambitions need to be further developed to ensure that both the response and the recovery aspects are managed in tandem</i>	<p>Our work during this response phase has centred on balancing response and recovery activity to minimise the impact of any redundancies with intensive employment support to move people into vacancies and/or areas of employment growth with support to business growth/inward investments and future skills. Supporting businesses through our Enterprise Barnsley helpdesk has been essential to provide frontline support and guidance to businesses signposting them to national and regional support.</p> <p>Additionally, our local COVID Business support response provides a triage services to local businesses. Recovery work is running in parallel in respect of activity such as the High Street Recovery Plan, shaping the Sheffield City Region business recovery plan and more recently kickstarting a local Barnsley Economic Recovery plan to bridge the gaps in national and local support.</p>
<i>Are we sufficiently applying the modernisation opportunities afforded by the crisis comprehensively across all areas of the council</i>	<p>A considerable amount of work has already been done identifying the opportunities; looking at the workforce, accommodation and technology. We have developed our <i>be even better strategy</i> which will inform the new Council plan and is aligned to the council's MTFS.</p> <p>Our emerging corporate strategy to support the Barnsley 2030 work sets out key design principles centred around empowering and connecting communities & providing greater consistent end-to-end services to our customers. These points are fundamental to modernising services consistently.</p> <p>It is also recognised that modernisation across systems has to be done in partnership with other organisations particularly around care services.</p>

Area identified	Progress and Further Actions
<i>To use the strong partnership with schools to develop a clear plan to tackle increased educational disadvantage as a result of the pandemic.</i>	This is already part of our education improvement strategy. Covid has undoubtedly changed the context of this work, and the Alliance is committed to reducing educational disadvantage whilst developing inclusive provision alongside our SEND strategy. With a very present focus in this response phase on supporting children's lost learning and the cohort of children and young people who will be sitting examinations. Collaborative working improvements brought through the joint focus of the pandemic will support us to accelerate some of this work within our strategies.
<i>To further use the Area Council structures and the route for community engagement and mobilisation of volunteers to support a jobs-led recovery as well as in mental health and community support?</i>	<p>Area councils continue to fulfil a strong leadership role across our neighbourhoods and we recognised the pivotal role area councils have to play in response, recovery and beyond.</p> <p>Work is underway to ensure a focus on local economies and skills alongside health and wellbeing. Relationships between teams across Place and Communities continue to be strengthened to ensure a co-ordinated and value-added approach is delivered.</p>
<i>We need to be sufficiently prepared for the magnitude of the changes in the retail and office markets.</i>	<p>It is recognised, both locally and nationally, that the pandemic will change the requirements of office accommodation. Many organisations, including our own, have found the benefits of smart working initiatives and practices. How, and to what extent this will reduce demand for office accommodation is not known at this stage. Furthermore, we are currently undertaking a strategic review of our commercial property portfolio.</p> <p>What is known is that with less people in our town centres the demand for retail will change. More online shopping may see an increase in demand for distribution centres and the like and we continue to monitor footfall through this period. Albeit, our strategies and masterplans to support Glassworks, principal towns and the like will need to be reviewed in line with changing market conditions.</p>

4. PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

4.1 N/A

5. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

5.1 N/A

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS

6.1 Any improvements that we make will ultimately have an impact on local people and service users. This is particularly true of improvements to delivery of outcomes through our Area Council Arrangements and the intensive support currently being provided to care homes, and ultimately service users.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct implications following from this report. The financial implications arising from the findings of the Recovery and Renewal panel in supporting the post-Covid reset of the 2030 vision for Barnsley, will be considered as part of the councils overall improvement and transformation programme. This will complement the councils new 2021-24 corporate plan and 2030 place based outcomes, and will be subject to further reports.

8. EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The future of smart working and asking ourselves whether we are able to “go back” will undoubtedly have an impact on employees. We need to ensure that employee wellbeing is a key part of any strategy going forward.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None Identified

10. CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None Identified

11. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Communications continues to be our channel for communicating with residents. There will be communications implications arising, but as yet they are undefined.

12. CONSULTATIONS

12.1 NA

13. THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

13.1 The new council plan 2021 will be the vehicle for consolidating the council's priorities and outcomes in to a single narrative.

14. LIST OF APPENDICES


Appendix 1: BMBC Recovery and Renewal Panel Final Report

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

Report author: Shokat Lal/Jill Bills

Financial Implications/Consultation



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*(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer
where no financial implications)*

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Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

LGA Recovery & Renewal Panel

Key Reflections

20 August 2020

Introduction

LGA Recovery and Renewal Panel sessions provide an opportunity for the Leader, Chief Executive and any other individuals identified by the receiving council to come together, virtually, with peers to:

- Reflect on what the Council has achieved and learnt in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Discuss with peers the challenges and opportunities COVID-19 has presented for the Council and local area.
- Consider the steps you wish to take towards recovery/renewal.

The sessions help to identify a series of steps the Council may wish to take as well as identifying further support and good practice from across the sector.

On 20 August 2020, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council undertook an LGA Recovery and Renewal Panel. Within the overarching theme of recovery and renewal the council and the panel:

1. Reflected on the Council's response to the COVID-19 crisis
2. Discussed the immediate priorities for Barnsley in the Borough's recovery and renewal and
3. Considered the impact of the crisis on the longer term aims and ambitions of the Council.

The panel discussion involved the following participants:

- Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton (Leader, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council),
- Sarah Norman (Chief Executive, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council),
- Shokat Lal (Executive Director, Core Services, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council),
- Paul Castle (Service Director, Environment and Transport, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council)
- Cllr Graham Chapman (Nottingham City Council and LGA Lead Peer for Yorkshire and the Humber),
- Kath O'Dwyer (Chief Executive, St. Helens Council)
- Ernest Opuni (Improvement Manager, LGA).
- Judith Hurcombe (Programme Manager, LGA)

Background to the LGA Recovery and Renewal Panel offer

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the commencement of 'lockdown' in March 2020, the LGA suspended the physical delivery of all peer challenge work including the core offer of a Corporate Peer Challenge.

To continue to support councils during this unprecedented period, the LGA refocused its support and adopted a new remote approach. This new approach does not replace

the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge offer and is distinct and different. This project was delivered through the LGA's offer of 'Remote Peer Support' and the Recovery and Renewal Panels are one part of that remote offer. This work is there to primarily support improvement rather than providing concrete assurance and should be treated as such. This note acts a high-level summary of the key reflections from this more detailed discussion.

Key Reflections

Over recent months, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council has worked hard to support local communities and businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic. This has often involved going 'above and beyond' what might be expected of a council in more 'normal' times.

As part of this panel discussion, some examples of the Council's response over this period were considered.

- **Demonstration of clear and determined leadership of place.** The Council's determination to support local businesses was exemplified by the early payment of business grants and proactive advice provision through Enterprising Barnsley. This was further demonstrated via the provision of early and comprehensive support to care homes. The council can take credit for seizing the initiative in advance of government guidelines in order to respond to a local need.
- **Effective partnership working arrangements.** Barnsley chair the South Yorkshire LRF, Sub-Regional Health and Social Care Gold and South Yorkshire Transport Executive Board. The council's focus on identifying and supporting vulnerable communities was underpinned by its pre-existing neighbourhood working structure and the effective involvement of its Area Teams and as well as work with Barnsley CVS. The strong partnership with schools ensured these were opened on time in line with central government timeframes whilst focusing on managing vulnerability risks and addressing educational disadvantage by provision of laptops to support those without equipment in their homes. The council also took advantage of the crisis to collaborate more effectively with partners over data sharing which greatly reduced bureaucracy and allowed it to move quickly to identify vulnerability within its local population.
- **One Council Organisational response.** Smart working plans were accelerated at pace allowing for a speedy shift to homeworking. There was rapid movement to virtual full council, cabinet and other meetings such as regulatory, audit, scrutiny and area councils. Staff were redeployed to support vulnerable members of the community and maintain key services. This has been underpinned by a clear focus on wider staff health and wellbeing being monitored through surveys and regular Microsoft Teams events.

The council's response has been thoughtful, strategic and long term which is consistent with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) being a people focused organisation. There has been clear demonstration of adaptive leadership and it is heartening to see how the council has pulled together over the last 3 months.

The support provided to Members has been positive, demonstrated by the concerted effort to keeping in touch via Teams and through virtual workshops, learning from members' experiences 'on the ground'. Opportunities have been taken to revisit member development in order to maximise capacity for them to feed in on the ground issues as effectively as possible. More widely, the effective and proactive communications have been a corporate priority over the pandemic period as evidenced by a letter to residents signed jointly by the Leader, Chief Executive and Director of Public Health.

There has been good partnership working with external stakeholders such as schools, academies and businesses throughout the crisis. The foundations for these relationships pre-date Covid, meaning that the environment for effective collaboration already had strong foundations when the pandemic hit. Barnsley's leadership roles sub-regionally is clear within Local Resilience Forum arrangements and in the region more widely.

There is sound financial planning which has enabled the council's own resources to support businesses and the economy ahead of central government allocations being received. The council has achieved a balanced budget for this year and next. The council is developing internal outbreak planning within services to support business continuity.

Moving forward the council is seeing the opportunity and need to do things differently. This has been demonstrated by the diversion of £43m of planned investment through prioritisation and clear consideration of what is still relevant for the present time. The priority over the next 12-18 months is on focusing on shoring up the borough's economy and services in the short term and then driving forward a fuller, longer term recovery from this base. The council has proactively used its strong neighbourhood working model in order to support its local Covid 19 response.

The council is able to demonstrate a qualitative approach to providing support which is very much in keeping with its focus on being a 'people first' council. This has been demonstrated in the council's keen focus on the impacts of the pandemic on its staff via the council's 'Pulse' survey. There is also targeted support at young people and towards businesses via Chamber of Commerce and the Borough's Enterprising Barnsley initiative.

This council's recognises that the support required by care homes and their staff is not only practical and operational but also psychological. This approach is exemplified by the way the Council interacts with the care sector and its staff. Consequently, the council is seeking to encourage local people to enter the care profession as a career. This reflects a clear recognition of the need to support the reshaping of the local care homes sector in a strategic fashion. The council is very aware that the current picture of over-supply of care homes and paying enhanced rates for care staff may not be sustainable long term and it is likely that difficult discussions with care home-owners will be necessary in the short to medium term.

The council is keen to reassure itself about the robustness of its plans to re-open the town centre. The Council had undertaken an evidence-based retail & hospitality

impact assessment which has helped to identify the level of impact and inform recovery actions. Actions include, undertaking, a mystery shopper exercise to test the effectiveness of measures to enable the safe re-opening of Barnsley's town centre, the introduction of a customer loyalty/gift card and establishment of a dedicated Town Centre strategic management group. Furthermore, Barnsley Council is keen to ensure that any work undertaken in the Town Centre is also replicated across the Principal Towns. The council is also being very careful about understanding the wider impact on properties in the town centre through displacement, economic contraction and proposed changes in the planning approval system. The Council is therefore actively reviewing the wider Town Centre strategy with a view to understanding and responding to these challenges. It is likely that part of this thinking will include the council bringing forward an empty buildings strategy.

Moving forward

As part of this panel discussion, the panel raised a number of areas to which it would encourage the Council to give further consideration.

- Through the discussion it was clear what Barnsley's strategic priorities and objectives are and how they connect. However, it is not as a clear and coherent from the wide range of documents in existence. The team feels that there would be significant value in bringing this all together as part of a simplified clear and coherent narrative supporting the post-Covid reset of the 2030 vision for Barnsley.
- How to use Covid volunteers more widely and maintain positive engagement beyond the crisis is something the council is keen to explore
- Jobs-led recovery ambitions are to be further developed. Whilst the challenge of considering 'recovery' priorities alongside a 'response' capability is significant, it will be important to manage the two in tandem if a jobs-led recovery is to secure the hoped-for traction and sustainability. The council is already very aware of the need to do this and the team would encourage the council to maintain this valuable dual focus.
- The team would encourage Barnsley Council to consider whether it is applying the modernisation opportunities afforded by the crisis comprehensively across all of the council. There is clearly a change in the way 'normal' will be defined looking into the future, but it will be important for a clear, consistent and coherent view of future arrangements to emerge which meets and manages the expectations of both members and officers.
- There would appear to be an opportunity, as part of the ongoing recovery, for Barnsley Council to use its already strong partnership with schools to develop a clear plan for tackling increased educational disadvantage resulting from lost learning during the pandemic. Barnsley is well placed because of its history of strong collaboration to make greater in-roads than many other areas in this aspect of its recovery.
- Barnsley's Area Councils and its neighbourhood working more generally are a particular strength of the Borough. There may be opportunities for further use of these structures and this route for community engagement and the mobilisation of volunteers who came forward in the pandemic to support jobs-led recovery as well as in mental health and community support.

- The Leader of the council is aware of the structural changes in the retail and office markets. However, the council needs to consider whether it is sufficiently prepared for the magnitude of the changes.

Final thoughts and next steps

Under the umbrella of LGA sector-led improvement, there is an on-going offer of support to councils. The LGA is well placed to provide additional support, advice and guidance on a number of the areas identified for development and improvement and we would be happy to discuss this. Mark Edgell (Principal Adviser) is the main point of contact between the council and the Local Government Association (LGA). His e-mail address is mark.edgell@local.gov.uk

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ADULTS & COMMUNITIES**

WINTER PLAN – ADULT SOCIAL CARE 2020-2021

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to inform Cabinet of the Winter Plan – Adult Social Care 2020-2021. The report describes the key objectives, actions and associated resources required to deliver the plan.

This plan forms part of a wider Winter Plan that brings together responses from Primary Care, Community Health and Barnsley Hospital.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Cabinet Members note the contents of the Winter Plan – Adult Social Care and the associated resourcing of the plan.

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 In September the Minister for Care launched the Adult Social Care Winter Plan. The plan described the ambitions for the sector and the challenges facing adult social care this winter.

The plan also described the key actions for national bodies (Department of Health and Social Care), local systems (local authorities and NHS England) and adult social care providers.

This national plan covers four themes:

- preventing and controlling the spread of infection in care settings
- collaboration across health and care services
- supporting people who receive social care, the workforce and carers
- supporting the system

- 3.2 Much of what is described above is already in motion; however, local authorities were asked to ensure that they had in place specific plans to address the pressures of Winter 2020/2021. Local authorities were required to write to DHSC and confirm they have done this by 31 October 2020.

- 3.3 Whilst a specific plan was not required to be submitted to the DHSC, we took a decision to create a specific plan.

3.4 Risks and challenges

- 3.4.1 The winter plan takes account of the various risks linked to the winter period, including the additional issues and challenges associated with Covid-19 (Coronavirus).
- 3.4.2 Through understanding the risks and challenges for winter 2020/21, intelligence has been used to ensure Barnsley responds to winter and Covid-19 pressures using historic, current, predicted intelligence and scenario planning. This intelligence will support our response and use of funding.
- 3.4.3 The surveillance cell provides regular Covid-19 intelligence reports which, alongside Surge Planning data have assisted with modelling the impact of Covid-19 upon Adult Social Care. Specifically, the winter plan has addressed impacts on the external and internal care market through understanding our current capacity, points of anticipated crisis for each sector and mitigating actions (detailed within the financial breakdown section of this report).

3.5 Winter Pressures Action Plan

- 3.5.1 The winter plan addresses the identified risks and challenges through four key themes which set out actions for Local Authorities, CCGs and providers (health and social care) to take. These four key themes, which are summarised within the Winter Plan and detailed within the Winter Pressures Action Plan are:
- Prevent and control the spread of infection
 - Collaboration across health and social care services, the Community & Voluntary sector and support to the system.
 - Supporting people who receive social care, the workforce and carers

3.6 Funding objectives and conditions

- 3.6.1 The Government announced on 15 September 2020 additional funding for councils of £240m to help council alleviate winter pressures on the NHS, getting patients home quicker and freeing up hospital beds across the country. The additional funding, which has been made available in 2020/21, is intended to reduce the number of patients that are medically ready to leave the hospital from being delayed because they are waiting for adult social care services. It's expected that the funding used by councils would focus on expanding capacity, capability, resilience, and reducing risk through to spring 2021. This funding links with the Winter Action Plan and will specifically support Adult Social Care through winter by:
- Helping to reduce extended lengths of stay in hospital and delayed transfer of care
 - Improving weekend discharge arrangements so that patients are assessed and discharged earlier
 - Speeding up the process of assessing and agreeing on what social care is needed for a patient in the hospital

- Make sure everyone who needs care or support can get high quality, timely and safe care throughout the autumn and winter period
- Protect people who need:
 - Care, support or safeguards.
 - Social care workforce and carers from infections; including seasonal flu and Covid-19 through infection control and testing.
- Making sure that people who need care, support and safeguards remain connected to essential services and their loved ones while protecting individuals from infections including Covid-19

4. PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

- 4.1 That Cabinet Members note the contents of the Winter Plan – Adult Social Care and the associated resourcing of the plan.

5. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS

- 5.1 Barnsley’s Winter Plan will ensure that we are prepared for the additional pressures that Barnsley will face this Winter, in particular a growing resurgence of Covid -19 cases. This plan sets out the clear and robust steps, that we are taking to ensure Barnsley Council is prepared for Winter and that we protect people who need care and support and the workforce that supports them.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer) in relation to the spending plan supporting the Winter Plan.
- 6.2 The amount of funding available to support or resource the attached Adult Social Care Winter Plan is £3.7m. This is comprised of; £1.2m of winter pressures funding and £2.5m Infection Prevention Control funding provided to help reduce the transmission of Covid 19 in the following months to 31 March 2021. The following sections provide details of both funding streams (see attached Appendix A).

Winter Pressures Funding (£1.2m)

- 6.3 This represents non-recurrent funding provided by the Govt to fund adult social care interventions / support aimed at alleviating winter pressures on the NHS, getting patients home quicker and freeing up hospital beds. The funding has been subsumed as part of the Better Care Fund (BCF) arrangements.
- 6.4 The funding conditions require the LA to develop a plan for spending the funding and to confirmation that these plans have been discussed with local NHS partners. The following table summarises the proposed use of the winter pressures £1.2m funding (detailed spending plan included in the attached Winter Plan report):

Winter spend plan	(£)
Social work assessment capacity	£0.4m

OT capacity / Equipment	£0.1m
Block purchase of beds	£0.1m
Increased capacity in Homecare / Reablement	£0.1m
Additional care packages	£0.5m
	£1.2m

- 6.5 The funding requirement for the above proposals has been quantified on a full year basis, with commitment expected to extend beyond 31 March 2021.

Infection Prevention Control Fund (£2.5m)

- 6.6 The Adult Social Care Infection Prevention Control Fund was first introduced in May 2020 and has since been extended until March 2021 with an extra £2.5M allocated to the Council for distribution to care providers. The purpose of this fund is to support adult social care providers to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission within and between care settings over the winter period / months to 31 March 2021.
- 6.7 The table below summarises the expected funding allocation to care providers:

Local Authority	Total allocation amount	Allocation to care homes	Allocation to community care providers	Allocation for other care settings
Barnsley	£2.462m	£1.549m	£0.420m	£0.492m

- 6.8 The grant funding conditions highlight the specific use of the funding by care providers, with monthly reports required to be submitted to the Council and to the Government on the use of the funding.

7. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A set of easy read slides have been produced to describe the winter plan that can be used across the organisation. These will be made into an accessible video that can be watched on Barnsley Council's website. Through using social media, we will guide residents and local media to this information.
- 7.2 The co-ordination of our approach to Winter planning continues to be governed through the existing health and care governance arrangements.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 This plan has been co-produced through contributions from the Stronger Communities Team and health and care colleagues. Care home plan is reflective of a system wide approach to supporting care homes.

9. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A – Financial Implications
Appendix 1 – Winter Plan 2020/21

10. BACKGROUND PAPER

10.1 Covid-19 Winter Plan Action Log

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

Report author: Julie Chapman

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APPENDIX A
Prepared on Behalf of the Finance Service Director

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Adult Social Care Winter Plan Report

i) <u>Capital Expenditure</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£
Capital Works				0
	0	0	0	0

To be financed from:


ii) <u>Revenue Expenditure</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Staffing costs - increased capacity:</u>				
Locality / Hospital Teams	102	305	-	407
Response/ALT team	10	30	-	40
<u>External payments:</u>				
Reablement - OT capacity/Equipment	20	69	-	89
CCG - Buckingham home IC beds	75	-	-	75
Care Providers - Mapleton Court beds	29	-	-	29
Care Providers - care packages	54	544	-	598
Care Providers - infection control	2,462	-	-	2,462
	2,752	949	-	3,700

To be Financed from:

£1.238m - Winter Pressures funding
£2.462m - Infection Prevention Control grant

iii) **Impact on Medium Term Financial Strategy**

No impact on the Council's MTFS plan


Agreed by: On behalf of the Finance Service Director
Dated: 18/11/2020

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ADULT SOCIAL CARE WINTER PLAN 2020/21

Strategic Lead	Julie Chapman - Service Director for Adult Social Care and Wellbeing		
Content Owners	Adult Social Care and Wellbeing		
Plan Author[s]			
Date signed off		Date Reviewed	



Barnsley Council - Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020/21

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Barnsley Council - Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020/21

Background:

The Barnsley Council Winter Plan for 2020/21 is unlike any previously prepared winter plan due to the current challenges associated with the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. As a council, we need to ensure we have a resilient system over winter, that can adequately respond to the changing levels of COVID-19, the local and national restrictions and the impacts of the pandemic.

There are three overarching priorities during winter for health and social care that we need to focus on:

- Ensure everyone who needs care or support can get high-quality, timely and safe care throughout the autumn and winter period.
- Protect people who need care, support or safeguards, the social care workforce and carers from infections, including COVID-19.
- Make sure that people who need care, support or safeguards remain connected to essential services and their loved ones while protecting individuals from infections, including COVID-19.

In developing this plan, we have considered the following factors:

- risks
- historical, current and projected intelligence

This plan will be brought together with partner winter plans from our health partners to develop a Barnsley Place Winter Plan.

Risks and challenges:

There are several challenges this winter linked to COVID-19, including but not limited to:

- Ensuring timely and safe response to care management as guided by the Care Act 2014.
- Safeguarding our most vulnerable residents.
- Maintaining system flow for hospital discharges to ensure those who are medically fit for discharge are not delayed in hospital.
- Admission avoidance.
- Maintaining the flow of PPE supplies to staff and the provider market.
- Ongoing additional support needed for people in the shielded and vulnerable categories.
- Increased levels of staff sickness absence due to COVID-19 and self-isolation requirements, as well as high levels of fatigue and change overload.
- Preparation for potential spikes of COVID-19 and risk this could coincide with annual winter pressures and seasonal flu.
- Capacity with the care market.

Barnsley Council - Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020/21

- Responding to changes in government restrictions and impacts on business processes and support options.

Intelligence:

The surveillance cell provides regular COVID-19 intelligence reports which, alongside surge planning data, has assisted with modelling the impact of COVID-19 on Adult Social Care. Some specific areas to highlight are noted below:

External and internal care market:

Barnsley currently has 73 care homes with a total of 2,272 beds. 34 care homes offer residential care (1360 beds) and 12 offer residential and nursing care (587 beds) for older people. The remaining homes offer other specialist provision such residential care for people with a learning disability or those with mental health problems.

For several years Barnsley has had empty beds in care homes across the borough and this has been further impacted by Covid-19. We are currently looking at the demand for residential care and what type of services we are likely to need in the future as well as considering how we use care homes to support our winter pressures.

Like many other authority's Barnsley has seen a reduction in beds for those people with nursing needs. Although the position is stable at the moment if the bed numbers in nursing homes were to decrease by more than 10%, we could find ourselves in a position where we do not have enough beds to meet local need. This is being monitored closely by Commissioners and we are working with care home providers to make sure we have the beds we need now and in the future.

For a number of years Barnsley has had an oversupply of residential care beds with the current data suggesting 30% of residential care home beds are empty. This minimises the risk of not having enough beds to meet local need however if care homes were to start closing and we were to see a sudden increase in demand the position could change quite quickly.

We are continuing to work closely with colleagues in the health service to make sure that we have the right provision to support hospital discharges through the winter period. This includes having access to intermediate care beds and care homes that have been designated by CQC as meeting the requirements to support those residents who have tested positive for covid-19.

Commissioners have taken a number of steps to support the care home market through the current pandemic and winter. A number of financial measures have been put in place and we have supported providers to work together to address issues with staffing due to covid related illness. Government grants have been passed on to providers to support things like infection control and we will continue to monitor the position in care homes on a regular basis.

Barnsley Council - Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020/21

Due to concerns regarding outbreaks and following their experiences in the first wave of the pandemic many of our residential care providers are not prepared to take residents back from the hospital with a positive or undetermined test result. To address this and in response to the government requirement for all councils to have designated premises, 12 beds have been ringfenced at Mapleton Court to take care home residents with positive COVID-19 results. This is modelled on the worst-case scenario presented during the first wave where ten service users were delayed in the system awaiting discharge.

The home care market, although currently stable with available capacity, is more of a concern. A net reduction of less than 10%, will cause sustainability and capacity issues. We are working closely with the market to engage around best practice and infection control to limit the impact on the workforce which is the greatest risk during winter due to infection and self-isolation, with regular monitoring of the position of all providers and RAG rating risks. To further mitigate this risk, we are securing a 'bridging contract' where additional support of 100 hours per week will be available to support hospital discharges. This bridging support contract is based on intelligence from the first wave of COVID-19 and has further potential to support neighbourhood rehab.

Our reablement provision is another important area which could be impacted by winter and COVID-19. This would have a knock-on impact to hospital discharge processes and support. A net reduction of the provision of less than 10% will cause capacity issues and potential impacts with health and hospital discharges. Working with colleagues from the health sector, we're monitoring the situation daily and considering the required resources for reablement and intermediate care support. These could be impacted by pressures on neighbourhood rehab, therapy and community nursing, plus increased demand and higher acuity results in higher caseloads and longer lengths of stay. Ideally, we are seeking to recruit additional temporary Support Workers into the council's reablement service to add hours to the capacity available over winter. However, recruitment is proving challenging therefore to mitigate this and provide resilience an additional reablement contract with an independent sector provider to give an additional 140 hours capacity per week has been created.

Market sustainability:

Commissioners are working closely with the care sector to consider the sustainability of services through the winter period.

In October this year, the council was required by the DHSC to self-assess its risk broken down into key care services such as care homes, home care, reablement and direct payments.

To aid the council in its return and to gain some insight into the current risks felt by the provider market, an extract of the self-assessment was sent to care providers to assess their position. The majority of providers reported being slightly to moderately

Barnsley Council - Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020/21

concerned about their sustainability between now and March 2021 with the key issues being around occupancy levels and staffing. Two workshops followed this up with care home providers where data relating to expected demand for care home beds were shared.

For home care, we have seen a significant increase in provision – the key risks in terms of sustainability of care home providers are therefore in relation to potential failure as a result of staff absence. For care homes, the key risk is due to occupancy levels. Our modelling shows that there will be little change in the referral rates into care homes in the next six months which means occupancy will remain at the lowest it has been for some time creating challenges in the medium term around sustainability of this sector.

The council has taken several steps to sustain the care market in Barnsley since the start of the pandemic :

- One-off payments to assist with increased costs were made to care providers in late March.
- Between March and August, all care providers were paid to plan, meaning that regardless of service delivery, they were paid for any provisions in place before the first wave of COVID-19.
- Immediate payment terms to support cash flow and removal from the premier supplier scheme to increase income.
- For care homes, the council also committed to covering the cost of voids created as a result of the death of care home residents from March
- We have also ensured that all government funding, such as the IPC grant, has been passed to providers in a timely manner to support rising costs in this area.

Whilst the council cannot maintain this level of financial support indefinitely, it remains committed to supporting those providers facing financial hardship and a process to consider individual requests for financial assistance has been agreed.

Unfortunately, as with many businesses, the care sector will be affected long term by the pandemic. To date, only one care provision has closed its doors in Barnsley, but others may follow in the coming months. We will continue to monitor this through our commissioning function and wherever possible support will be offered.

Key winter planning themes and our response:

The Winter Plan has addressed these challenges through identifying four themes which sets out actions for Local Authorities, CCGs and providers (health and social care) to take. This report will focus primarily on the actions that the council has taken to achieve against the four themes which are summarised below. A more detailed account is within the [ASC Winter plan 2020-21 key themes – actions](#).

Barnsley Council - Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020/21

Prevent and control the spread of infection:

- COVID-19 specific guidance is monitored and reviewed on a weekly basis by stakeholders from across ASC. Key messages are shared weekly via a bulletin across health and social care, including distribution to the local care market to promote ongoing best practice, updates and key information. An Outbreak Management Board has been established, which is chaired by the Council Leader and information from our local Outbreak Management Group (which includes PH) that monitors local outbreaks and responses including lessons learnt for ongoing quality assurance. PH have links to other regional PH leads to share best practice regionally around IPC.
- The Infection Control Fund is being used to manage the movement of staff to limit risks of cross-infection between establishments. All infection control claims are cross referenced with capacity trackers to monitor movements and appropriate use of the grants. Commissioning managers are actively working with providers to update contingency plans, taking into consideration data from capacity trackers and weekly sitrep data for early identification of emerging risks around infection and staffing issues.
- The care market has been managing their own PPE requirements through access to the Infection Control Fund, with emergency arrangements in place to distribute where needed. In the event of a second spike, arrangements are in place to activate an out of hours offer. PPE availability is monitored via sitrep and capacity tracker at provider level, and this data is RAG for priority/escalation.
- PH are supporting the national testing processes within care homes and escalating any issues to the LRF, DHSC and PHE respectively, with local contingency arrangements in place if the national testing provision fails. All care homes are being supported with testing arrangements, and PH are actively monitoring all positive cases throughout adult social care with direct contact to PH via an email address.
- Flu vaccines have been actively promoted working with CCG and SWYFT throughout the sector, including the care market and contact with direct payment holders.

Collaboration across health and care services, the Community & Voluntary sector & support to the system :

- Integrated processes with CCG and Right Care have been established to ensure safe hospital discharge with an agreed local executive lead. A specific project team has been established to review cases where a potential short stay placement is identified via a multi-disciplinary approach seeking alternative support. Where possible individuals are discharged with a reablement package and testing is completed prior to discharge. Links are also established with PH to support falls and fracture prevention during winter, which will support hospital avoidance.

Barnsley Council - Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020/21

- Work with care homes to provide digital support through questionnaires to establish need and digital capabilities and how to apply for a tablet device. These will be further supported by our Digital Champions and will have appropriate data sharing agreements in place.
- PH have identified opportunities to support people with learning disabilities to reduce health inequalities and links with social prescribing work.
- Weekly Care Homes network meeting enables regular exchange from across care homes, Public Health, SWYT, CCG and other partners.
- Clear governance arrangements exist (Bronze to Gold) enabling appropriate levels of resolution and escalation.
- To aid our collaborative relationship with the community and voluntary sector, working with Barnsley Community & Voluntary Services (BCVS), we are establishing a new VCSE Strategy Group forum. This will help us have strategic discussions to share the challenges that the sector faces and find ways to overcome them, as well as ensuring that we maximise all opportunities.
- Throughout the pandemic response, we have been engaging with the CVS to ensure that, as far as possible, we provide support to ensure that the sector remains operational and able to survive through the pandemic.
- Since March, due to COVID-19 and the government's 'Everybody In' mandate, the Housing Options Team have worked with all rough sleepers to ensure they're offered accommodation. Throughout the winter period, the team will continue to support rough sleepers to access temporary accommodation to ensure they are off the streets. In previous years this would have been in shared sleeping sites; however, due to COVID-19 restrictions, this is not feasible. Therefore, hotels and other temporary accommodation beds will be used. Some of which may be out of the area. This will include those at significant risk of rough sleeping, i.e. those leaving prison, being discharged from hospital etc. A bed will be offered to anyone found, but there are challenges in sourcing appropriate beds with the risk of hotels closing again during the lockdown.
- Arrangements are in place to provide emergency support for the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable while lockdown arrangements are in place. The new system introduced by government means that people who are CEV are required to register on the National Shielding Support Service database, which generates a request for support to come through to the council. This is then triaged, and appropriate support put in place which can include:
 - support to access a supermarket priority slot
 - referral into a financial assessment
 - befriending calls (utilising existing voluntary and community support services where possible)
 - access to medicine (through liaison with CCG/pharmacies)
 - emergency food package (only as a last resort)
 - referral to social care where appropriate

Barnsley Council - Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020/21

- Working with community colleagues in obtaining alternative provisions and support via community groups and the voluntary sector.

Supporting people who receive social care, the workforce and carers:

- Visiting within care homes is an infection risk, but also impacts where restrictions are imposed. Work is ongoing with the Outbreak Management Group to identify key data triggers to inform decisions around closing care homes to visiting relatives. Regular updates shared with care home managers from DPH and local intelligence to enable dynamic risk assessments and decision making
[COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients and residents in health and social care settings](#)
- All service users receiving direct payments will have their assessed needs reviewed to ensure that during winter, and with changing government guidance due to COVID-19 and restrictions, their care act eligible needs are supported. These reviews will include ensuring that the way individuals use their direct payments are flexible and within their own control to support them to stay safe, well and receive the support they need.
- Support for unpaid carers continues and regular check-ins with carers support organisations provides necessary insights and ideas to ensure carers continue to be supported as much as possible.
- PH are working closely with services and providers to provide information, advice and guidance regarding people who are receiving and providing end of life support. This includes IPC guidance and advice to families to enable visits.
- Care Act easements are not currently being used. These were not used during the first phase of the pandemic and will only be activated in extreme circumstances.
- Continued support to the workforce via the weekly bulletins and summarised information regarding mental health and wellbeing resources has been circulated to all care providers, including easy read guides.
- Workforce capacity is actively monitored with a dedicated officer via the capacity tracker and sitreps. Any issues regarding provider failure or staffing issues have been mitigated through putting in place a bridging service to provide emergency home care via a block contract.
- Workforce are being supported with regular Covid-19 testing, with results monitored by Public Health to identify early any risks or outbreaks
- Regular Adult Social Care bulletin is circulated alongside & legal bulletins to ensure practitioners are kept up to date.
- Care App (DHSC) is downloaded to practitioners phones
- Series of Adult Social Care staff briefings held during November.

Barnsley Council - Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020/21

- Increase the size & capacity of the team over winter, flexing our overall hospital social work capacity in line with changing demand over the winter period.

ASC Winter Planning performance framework:

The ASC Winter Planning performance framework aims to focus on the three principles:

- Ensuring everyone who needs care or support can get high-quality, timely and safe care throughout the autumn and winter period.
- Protecting people who need care, support or safeguards, the social care workforce and carers from infections, including COVID-19.
- Make sure that people who need care, support or safeguards remain connected to essential services, and their loved ones, while protecting individuals from infections, including COVID-19

Therefore, the key objectives and outcomes that we aim to capture activity around are:

- Preventing and controlling the spread of infection.
- Collaboration across health and care services (via sharing intelligence and good practice).
- Supporting people who receive social care, the workforce and carers.
- Supporting the system (care home support, market and provider sustainability).

Performance reports and data will be daily (if required), weekly and monthly (where appropriate). The levels of analysis of data provided will be an overview of the service delivered with key performance indicators, along with trend analysis, to track the service.

Please note that performance indicators are only indicators of performance and to be used appropriately. They need to be supported by additional performance information and intelligence; this may include benchmarking (ADASS) against other authorities.

With the expectation of an increase in demand for services currently delivered and their effectiveness during the autumn and winter months, if issues are identified senior management and commissioning (providers) will be informed to act on the intelligence.

Heads of Service and team managers are responsible for managing and improving performance effectively within their service areas by:

- Promoting the performance management culture within specific service areas.

Barnsley Council - Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020/21

- Regularly receiving and analysing data and intelligence in respect of the performance of specific services and staff.
- Identifying performance improvement requirements of services and staff and planning accordingly.
- Implementing service improvement plans that are clear, strategic and operational in nature, which informs service delivery.

The winter planning data will be collated and monitored from Thursday 1 October 2020 to Wednesday 31 March 2021, and will cover:

- Absences within care homes
- Care home and home care admissions and dischargers
- Care homes infection control reporting on seasonal flu and COVID-19*
- Contacts and referrals (FAR) by team
- D2A / Reablement
- Deaths within a hospital setting
- Home care (via providers data)
- PPE distribution
- Safeguarding
- Timely assessments
- Timely care packages

The performance reporting and data analysis will be in an accessible format to enable appropriate decisions and actions to be taken in a timely manner. One of the areas we will be specifically monitoring will involve the use of the care homes dashboard ([Appendix 1](#)).

The Care Homes Dashboard :

The Care Home Dashboard is an important part of our performance picture and as a national product developed via DHSC it provides a daily snapshot of the current situation of COVID-19 infection for both residents and staff. It holds data on staff absences, deaths in care homes, both COVID-19 and non COVID-19 related, as well as occupancy levels. It also gives a visual map of the care homes that have and do not have COVID-19, for all homes in the Barnsley area. Data can be accessed that shows :

- active COVID-19 cases
- new daily cases for both staff and residents
- deaths
- occupancy
- employee absences.

The data source that the dashboard is built up from is reliable (NHS Tracker). It is the care home manager's preferred and appropriate information hub and enables care homes to update data requests all in one data source, thus stopping numerous partners and organisations from contacting the care home. This is a huge benefit for

Barnsley Council - Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020/21

the care home manager and admin team. The data is inputted daily and is therefore, as live as it can be, giving an accurate picture of the current situation across all care homes.

The care home dashboard will enable ASC to see a visual picture of COVID-19 and its effects on care homes. It will show hotspots of where the virus is present and not present (visual map), and where staff and residents may require support from ASC and partner agencies. It will aid ASC commissioning with occupancy and capacity levels and give a trend of what may be expected within all care homes and individual care homes too.

Resourcing the Winter Plan

Funding has been allocated to support the usual winter pressures and the added pressures of COVID-19 and associated impacts. Non-recurrent funding has been allocated to the council to address some of the pressures through:

- £2.5m Infection Control Funding
- £1.2m Winter Pressures Funding

Budget allocation:

Infection Control Funding:

The Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund was first introduced in May 2020, with £3.0M initially allocated to the council. The purpose of this fund is to support adult social care providers to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission within and between care settings, by helping to reduce the need for staff movements between sites.

Due to its initial success, the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund has been extended until March 2021, with an extra £2.5M allocated to the council for distribution to care providers. This is a new grant, with revised conditions from the original Infection Control Fund must be allocated to care providers and must be used for COVID-19 infection control measures over the winter period and months to 31 March 2021. The table below summarises the expected funding for allocation to care providers:

Total allocation amount (A)	Allocation to care homes (B)	Allocation to community Care providers (C)	Allocation for other care settings (D)
£2,462,158	£1,549,354	£420,372	£492,432

Regular funding claims and reports are completed by the strategic finance manager detailing how specific Infection Control Funding has been spent, including information on the council's website in line with grant conditions.

Barnsley Council - Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020/21

Winter Pressures Funding:

The government announced on 15 September additional funding for councils of £240m to help alleviate winter pressures on the NHS, getting patients home quicker and freeing up hospital beds across the country. The additional funding, which has been made available in 2020/21, is intended to reduce the number of patients that are medically ready to leave hospital from being delayed because they are waiting for adult social care services. It is expected that the funding to be used by councils would focus on expanding capacity, capability and resilience and reducing risk through to spring 2021.

The funding will be paid as a specific grant to councils and may be used for the purposes of supporting the local health and social care system to manage pressures on the NHS between November 2020 and March 2021. It is expected that the funding would be used to fund adult social care interventions and support, which help people to be discharged from hospital, who would otherwise be delayed while protecting those individuals and the workforce from Covid-19 through additional PPE and testing.

In compliance with the grant conditions, discussions on the proposed use of the funding have taken place with the CCG and other health partners in Barnsley, i.e. Barnsley Hospital and South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust (SWYPFT). The proposed plan has also been reported to the A&E Delivery Board of Barnsley Hospital.

The details regarding the proposed use (and impact) of the winter pressures funding are detailed in the table below:

Adult Social Care – Winter Pressures spending plan 2020/21

	Proposal / Theme	Full Year Cost £	Notes
1	<p><u>Increasing Social Work Capacity</u></p> <p>Increasing social work capacity in the following teams, including extending working hours if possible, to ensure hospital discharges cases continue to be prioritised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital Social Work team (x2 FTE) • OP Locality teams (x2 FTE) 	£374,400	Continuation of existing spend / commitments – i.e. use of agency staff in lieu of permanent staff in Locality Teams

Barnsley Council - Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020/21

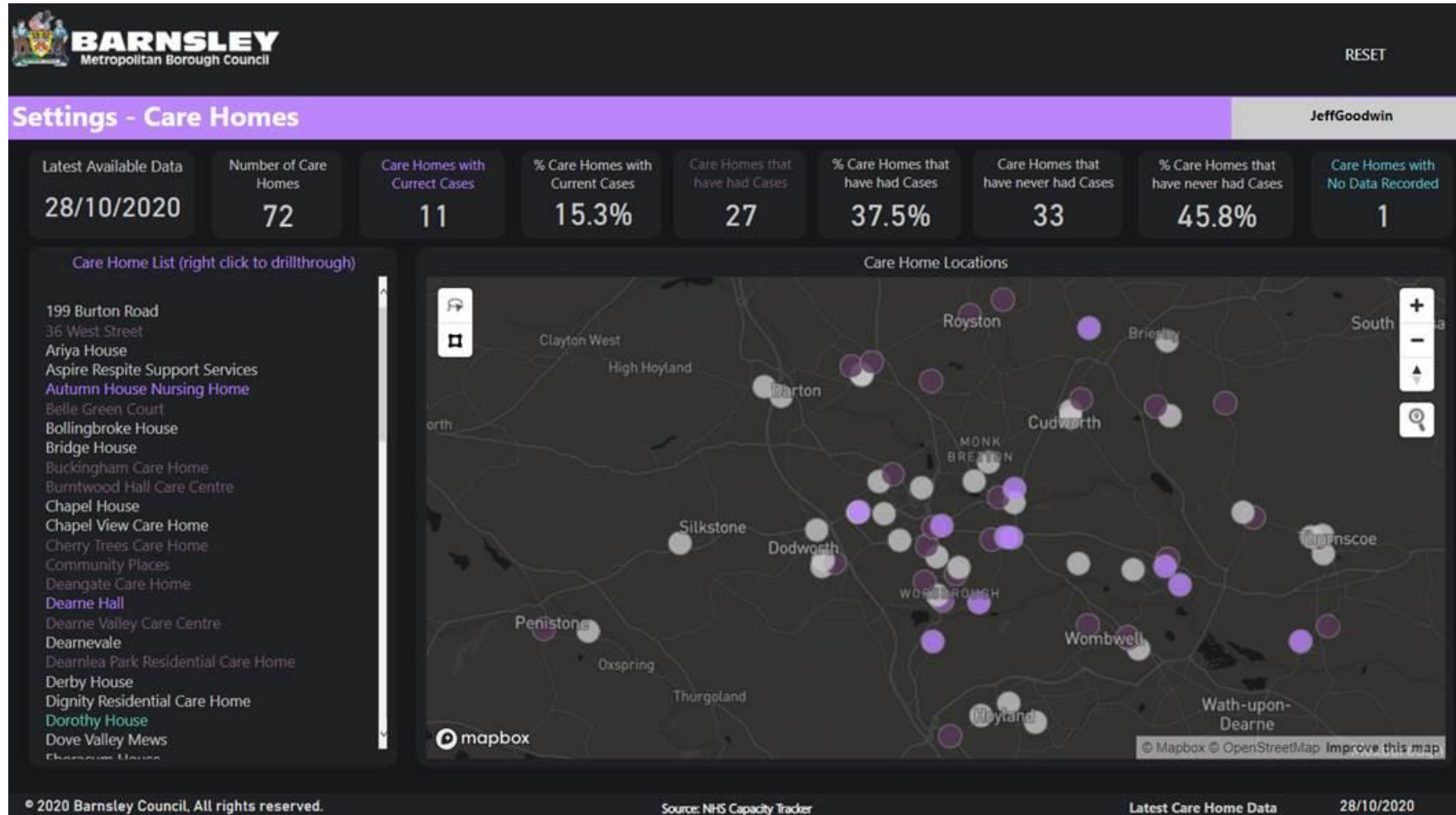
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care Home Review team (x2 FTE) 		
2	<p><u>Additional Hospital weekend management cover</u></p> <p>This proposal is to ensure there is adequate / proper management cover for the hospital social work team over the weekend and extended hours.</p>	£33,100	Continuation of existing winter pressures spend / commitments
3	<p><u>Increased Occupational Therapy Capacity</u></p> <p>Continued funding of existing OT post/capacity in SWYPFT.</p> <p>Additional OT capacity and support in the Reablement/D2A pathway to ensure hospital discharge cases are prioritised.</p>	<p>£9,667</p> <p>£58,000</p>	<p>Until expiry of current staff contract by May 2021.</p> <p>Work ongoing with SWYPFT for recruitment.</p>
4	<p><u>Homecare bridging block contract</u></p> <p>Block contract with selected homecare provider for the provision of additional 100 hours / capacity (could be increased to 150 hours) over the winter months. To act as a provider of last resort in the event of increased demand or where contracted providers are unable to pick up care packages. This contract is to the end of March 2021.</p>	£53,640	Five-month contract until end of March 2021 at an estimated £17.88 per hour.
5	<p><u>Equipment purchases</u></p> <p>There is a risk around shortage of beds and mattresses over the winter months. As a safety net SWYPFT would benefit from an additional 15 beds to support hospital discharges.</p>	£21,000	
6	<p><u>Response / ALT Service increased capacity</u></p>	£40,000	

Barnsley Council - Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020/21

	Securing additional capacity within the Responder service on a temporary basis (until March 31st '21) with x4 FTE that will work with the established team.		
7	<p><u>Mapleton Court block purchase of beds</u></p> <p>Fund the block purchase of 12 beds at Mapleton Court for the placement of Covid-19 patients discharged from hospital, pending CQC designation of the care home for this purpose. Cost will be picked up by the CCG once designation is confirmed.</p>	£28,757	Funding of £7,189 per week by Barnsley Council is likely, however funding provision has been allowed for four weeks.
8	<p><u>Buckingham care home – block purchase of IC beds</u></p> <p>Agreement to create a secure unit at Buckingham and designate exiting CCG funded IC beds for Covid-19 patients following discharge from hospital.</p> <p>Funding to meet capital conversion costs for the secure unit – create path to the unit, install new patio door, electrical lighting, ramp, handrail etc.</p>	<p>£61,600</p> <p>£13,522</p>	<p>Additional cost of £200 per bed for 14 beds until March 2021.</p> <p>Cost is currently based on estimates for the work to be undertaken.</p>
9	<p><u>Additional care packages</u></p> <p>Funding to deal with anticipated increase in demand for care support / provision over the winter period (and impact of Covid-19) i.e. additional home care and residential care packages.</p>	£544,315	
10.	<p><u>Other TBC</u></p> <p>Out of hospital provision – warmer homes service</p> <p>Additional Reablement support / capacity</p>		

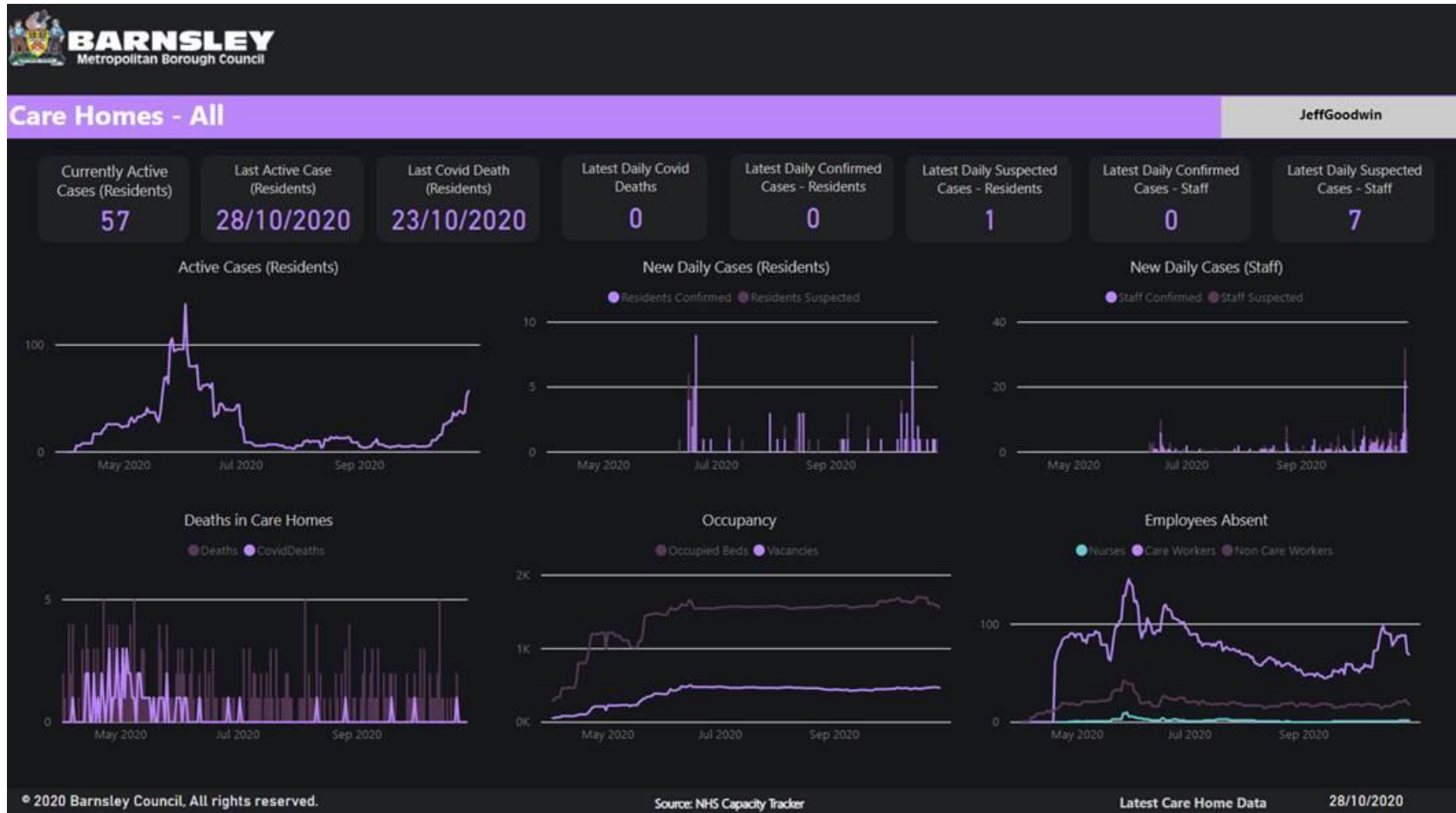
Appendix 1- Care Homes Dashboard

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Barnsley Council - Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020/21

Appendix 1 (cont.)



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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CHILDREN'S SERVICES) TO CABINET ON 16th DECEMBER 2020

MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN AND MAXIMISE SUPPORT FOR BARNSELY'S EXAM COHORT (2020/21)

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To outline the current context relating to the challenges faced particularly in relation to schools and settings with pupils scheduled to take exams next Summer; to detail the support available to Barnsley pupils in Year 11 and students in Year 13 following consultation between the Barnsley Alliance and schools and FE providers. The report also seeks to inform Cabinet of the range of stakeholder views in relation to the potential for disruption to exams and sets out a summary of the programme which has been developed, from within funding previously allocated, to further support the 2021 exam cohort.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Cabinet notes the current arrangements to support Barnsley's young people due to take exams in the academic year 2020/21

2.2 That Cabinet endorses the additional measures to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on the exam cohort as detailed in Paragraph 4.6 of this report.

3.0 INTRODUCTION

3.1 Pupils currently in years 11 and 13 will be expected to sit GCSE and A Level / Level 3 assessments next summer.

3.2 The Government and Ofqual have announced that exams will go ahead in summer 2021, with an extended exam season in operation as indicated in the document linked to below

[https://www.gov.uk/government/news/students-to-be-given-more-time-to-prepare-for-2021-exams.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/students-to-be-given-more-time-to-prepare-for-2021-exams)

The exam schedule has been delayed to that in previous years to allow some additional time to prepare. Clearly, there will need to be contingencies and dispensations in place to allow for the disruption already experienced and likely to be further experienced in the run up to summer 2021. It is important therefore, that we plan for the different eventualities involved in any late change in national policy. As part of this, on 3rd December, the DfE in conjunction with Ofqual announced further measures to support children and young people taking exams in England next Summer and a summary of these measures can be viewed via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-measures-to-support-students-ahead-of-next-summertime-exams>

For this reason, the proposals set out in this report to support pupils with preparation for exams would also pivot flexibly, if needed, to focus on how to ensure good outcomes in the event of a move to teacher-led assessments. This would involve focusing on the skills required to produce good quality coursework and assist with techniques to motivate pupils, particularly those most in need, and keep them engaged with the process throughout.

- 3.3 The eventual results will be announced to students between 24th and 27th August 2021 to allow pupils to start the 2021/22 academic year as normal but taking into account the delay to the exam schedule.
- 3.4 The current pandemic presents significant challenges to students and schools / FE providers to ensure they are as ready as they can be for their final assessments. Pupils and students in years 11 and 13 have already experienced significant disruption to their education during the 2019/20 academic year and this is persisting in 2020/21 despite the full return in September 2020, due to 'bubble' closures resulting from a Covid-19 positive case (s).
- 3.5 Cabinet agreed on the 7th October that it was important to ensure that everything that can be done to support students in this respect was being done; that consideration be given to anything further the Council could do or facilitate to add value to the arrangements put in place by the education sector, to ensure our young people are not further disadvantaged as a result of the disruption to their learning caused by the pandemic.
- 3.6 The report sets out the results of an initial consultation with schools and FE leaders to establish the support that is currently in place and scope proposals as to how the Council could enhance and / or support these approaches without duplication and to maximise positive impact.
- 3.7 **Context and Scale of Challenges**
- 3.8 As indicated earlier, the Department for Education (DfE) have advised that GCSE and A levels will go ahead next year, on the basis that exams are the fairest way of judging a student's performance and that contingency planning by the DfE in consultation with the sector will be produced before Christmas.
- 3.9 Notwithstanding this, the impact of coronavirus on children's education and the 2020/21 exam cohort in areas in the north of England, including Barnsley, have seen increased and high rates of coronavirus, which have significantly affected children's education, many of whom are already from disadvantaged communities.
- 3.10 Since the start of the pandemic there has been a disproportionate impact on children's school attendance due to coronavirus, in the North of England. Between 5 July and 25 October 2020 there have been a total of 217,074 cases in the North, compared with 181,614 for the rest of England. That is despite the North having less than a third of the whole population.

- 3.11 New figures published in response to a Parliamentary question show that on 15 October 2020, 17 out of the 23 local authorities where secondary school attendance had been below 80 per cent were in the North of England. The three regions of the North also have the lowest secondary school attendance in the country. Secondary schools in the North West and Yorkshire and the Humber had the joint lowest attendance rate at 81 per cent, followed by the North East at 83 per cent.
- 3.12 By contrast, secondary schools in the South West had the highest rates of attendance, with 90 per cent of pupils in school, while the South East and the East of England had 89 per cent attendance.
- 3.13 On Thursday 22nd October, according to data submitted to DfE via the daily submission form, attendance in Barnsley secondary schools was 73% in comparison to 83% nationally. Attendance was slightly higher in primary schools at 84% but still well below the 90% reported nationally and 11% of pupils were absent for Covid related reasons in comparison to the estimated 6% to 7% nationally. Local attendance data for the first half term of the 2020/21 academic year showed that attendance for our Year 11 pupils had dropped to 92% in comparison to 94% for the same period in 2019/20. However, this figure does not include the high number of X and Y codes now being used for covid related absences. When these are taken into account, actual attendance for Year11 pupils in the first half term of 2020/21 was 85%.
- 3.14 GCSE and A level Exams 2021
- 3.15 Whilst there is a duty for schools to provide remote education during these periods, there is little available research on the quality of remote education. However, research from the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) reported in '*Learning during the lockdown: real-time data on children's experiences during home learning*' (May 2020) found that:
- Primary and secondary students are each spending about 5 hours a day on average on home learning. However, secondary school children are more likely to have online classes and to spend their leisure time online.
 - Higher-income parents are much more likely than the less well-off to report that their child's school provides online classes and access to online videoconferencing with teachers whilst 64% of secondary pupils in state schools from the richest households are being offered active help from schools, such as online teaching, compared with 47% from the poorest fifth of families. 82% of secondary school pupils attending private school are offered active help, with 79% being provided with online classes.
 - Children from better-off families are spending 30% more time on home learning than those from poorer families. Children in the highest-income quintile of families spend 5.8 hours a day on educational activities, over 75 minutes more than their peers in the poorest fifth of households (4.5 hours). Over the 34 days (minimum) that schools will be closed, students in the best-off families will have done more than 7 full school days' worth of extra learning time. If schools do not go back until September and current rates of home learning continue, the gap would double to 15 full school days. This could have very substantial long-term consequences in light of evidence that even one extra hour a week of instructional time can significantly raise achievement.

- Better-off students have access to more resources for home learning. Within state primary and secondary schools, parents in the richest families are around 15 percentage points more likely than those in the poorest fifth to report that their child's school offers active resources such as online classes, or video or text chatting. More than half (58%) of primary school students from the least well-off families do not have access to their own study space.
- Many parents of both primary and secondary school students report struggling with supporting home learning. Almost 60% of the parents of primary school children and nearly half of the parents of secondary school children report that they are finding it quite or very hard to support their children's learning at home.
- school closures are almost certain to increase educational inequalities. Pupils from better-off families are spending longer on home learning; they have access to more individualised resources such as private tutoring or chats with teachers; they have a better home set-up for distance learning; and their parents report feeling more able to support them.

3.16 The report highlights the inequalities for children from disadvantaged and poorer backgrounds and the risk that for these children, the attainment gap will widen due to coronavirus.

3.17 Summary of Support currently offered through Schools and FE Providers

- Schools and FE providers have worked hard to ensure that students have access to appropriate technology to facilitate remote learning and to enhance learning through the additionality which remote resources can bring.
- In addition, a range of approaches have been / are being applied in respect of Year 11 and Year 13 learners as follows:

3.18 Schools and Academies

- School leaders are confident that current pupil predictions remain broadly in line with trajectories
- Schools' report that most pupils have returned to school with a high level of positive engagement, determination and focus – recognising the work they themselves need to do to avoid falling behind
- Pupils are being frequently assessed to ensure their progress remains on track
- Curriculum delivery has been reconsidered to take account of lost learning time and the knowledge that now needs to be built as a priority focus
- Schools are targeting support to pupils, based on subject trajectory / pupil ability – particularly in the core subjects of Maths and English
- Schools are using a range of interventions to support pupils including where necessary: 1 to 1 support, additional lessons before and after-school, remote learning to enhance what's happening in school and ensuring pupil progress is closely tracked and monitored. Barnsley schools have been supporting each other and drawing from best practice through the regular meetings of secondary head teachers with some really good examples of creative working such as online masterclasses, specific interventions in core areas of the curriculum and the increased use of remote facilities to enhance school-based learning activity.

Some really good examples can be seen by following these links:
<https://www.northerneducationtrust.org/remote-learning-secondary/>
<https://www.dartonacademy.org.uk/online-academy3>

- Resources have been made available by the Government through the ‘catch-up’ Pupil Premium and a National Tutoring Programme, which is intended to support disadvantaged pupils identified by their schools and schools will focus this to ensure maximum impact.
<https://nationaltutoring.org.uk/>
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-catch-up-premium?es_c=CB00C9611C363D90552209427917D344&es_cl=64F463847F765BE92A7AB17926EA6188&es_id=9d%c2%a3o3
- In addition to the Government access to technology scheme, some schools have identified pupils who require access to their own, dedicated device (Chromebooks, laptops, tablets) who wouldn’t have qualified under the Government scheme and have distributed devices accordingly. However, not all schools have the resources available to do this so there is likely to be disparity across the borough.
- Schools are working with pupils and partners to identify and respond to any anxieties in respect of the pressures of examinations during this unprecedented time.
- Support to the emotional health and wellbeing of pupils is also being offered through a number of initiatives through the Barnsley Alliance including trauma-informed practice training for schools staff, the Return to Education Wellbeing project which has produced training resources and webinars for schools staff and programmes of support and training developed through the Educational and Community Child Psychology Service.

3.19 **Further Education**

- Students are being assessed on a regular basis to identify gaps in learning with additional staff recruited in Barnsley College to support this
- Interventions include regular reviews, tracking and monitoring of student progress
- Additional sessions have been introduced by the College for some core subjects with these taking place evenings and during holidays
- The College has introduced a new pastoral and enrichment package
- Barnsley College has also ensured Year 13 students have access to appropriate technology and has distributed devices to help with this.
- Additional funding has been made available to post-16 education providers to mitigate the impact of the pandemic
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-funding-16-to-19-tuition-fund?es_c=CB00C9611C363D90552209427917D344&es_cl=027EF797DE4FD25B5271E35D19572D7F&es_id=9d%c2%a3o3

3.20 **Challenge and Rationale**

- 3.21 Given the scale of the challenges experienced so far this academic year, the Winter months and beyond may bring even greater levels of disruption to learning and so

our responses therefore need to be flexible and adaptive to a rapidly changing need among pupils and students.

- 3.22 School and FE leaders have reflected that they have worked hard to ensure disruption to learning is kept to a minimum and that learning can still be delivered when learners are unable to attend physical campus. There remains, however, a continuing concern that learners affected most, may well be those already significantly disadvantaged, and it is therefore potentially helpful to consider how the Council can support these cohorts from a central perspective.
- 3.23 Sector leaders have also reflected that subject-specific support is unlikely to be appropriate or particularly helpful for a variety of reasons including full understanding of pupil ability levels and that the sequencing of the delivery of curriculum objectives is likely to vary from setting to setting.
- 3.24 The proposals set out particularly in Paragraph 4.6 below are therefore intended to maximise the Council's ability to support learning in a way that enables better engagement with learning tools and methods, improves access to study and revision skills tutoring and where necessary, helps to support with digital technology and connectivity.

4.0 PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

- 4.1 We recognise that not all young people are able to access quiet study facilities, nor do all young people have access to appropriate technology. In addition, some young people struggle to maintain sufficient motivation to ensure they remain engaged fully with their learning.
- 4.2 Exams and other forms of assessment are known to create higher levels of anxiety among young people and this is even more the case currently, with pupils feeling anxious about the impact of the pandemic on their long-term life chances as well as the immediate impact on their family and friends. It is important therefore that support mechanisms are in place for young people to manage their anxieties and not allow this to impede their ability to engage with their education.
- 4.3 The challenge from Cabinet was to explore all possibilities to ensure Barnsley young people are not disproportionately impacted by the effects of the pandemic on their education. While there have been resources and funding made available to schools and FE providers for approaches such as one to one tuition, this is likely to be in high demand and we know that capacity is limited at national level.
- 4.4 The Sheffield Hallam University 'GROW' programme has a strong evidence base in motivating young people to study by using recent graduates from the local area to engage with young people directly, offering a tried and tested approach to ensure a large number of pupils receive the learning support they need. It has the added benefit of recruiting recent graduates locally, enhancing long-term employment prospects for this cohort.
- 4.5 There is the potential to maximise the use of community facilities by encouraging young people to seek out quiet study space as near to their homes and communities as possible. In addition to the proposals below we can work through

our network of public libraries, subject to Covid-secure guidance at the time, to offer:

- Free access to public computers, bookable for 1-2 hours per day
- Free wifi
- Quiet study space – option to introduce as a bookable resource at some libraries
- Free access to a range of online reference resources from home or library with library membership e.g. Encyclopaedia Britannica, Oxford Reference Online, Access to Research, British Newspaper Archive
- Introductory online sessions to resources for mentors and teaching staff

4.6 The following proposals and ideas for development therefore are intended to blend a range of approaches to support pupils and students identified by their settings as in need of specific, targeted support while allowing young people, where appropriate, to self-identify and opt into the support available. In brief, these proposals are summarized as follows:

1. 'Support for Learning' Programme Manager
2. Improve access to facilitated study space
3. Additional Targeted Information, Advice and Guidance
4. Improve access to technology
5. Sheffield Hallam University to implement GROW student mentoring programme for year 11 pupils & develop and implement a programme for year 13 students

Summary of Proposal	Approach and Summary of Benefits	Resource Requirement	Cost
1. Support for Learning Programme Manager	Co-ordinate and support implementation of the programmes to support schools and colleges – ensure resources targeted to right pupils and students	One full-time, temporary post to end of 20/21 academic year	£34,000
2. Improve access to facilitated study space through a combination of opening dedicated spaces within libraries, family centres, community resource centres and IKIC centres.	Aim to facilitate supported study space within our network of Family Centres and IKIC centres for Year 11 students for a period of 23 weeks between February 2021 and July 2021. Supportive environment that will provide access to the internet and IT equipment, a warm study friendly environment, access to healthy study foods, provision of mindfulness/meditation	Fit for purpose, accessible community venues Bank of suitably skilled sessional staff Rollout of Wifi 1 Grade 9 EIP worker, 1 Grade 3 Outreach Worker and 1 Grade 4 TYS Support per session	£84,703

	<p>activities, information and advice around specific related issues (e.g. managing stress and emotional wellbeing) provided by suitably trained staff.</p> <p>Six three-hour sessions per week – one in each area council area, hosted at either a Family Centre or IKIC Centre. Each session would be held either on a weekday evening or on a Saturday morning and the sessions would rotate across each area council locality to ensure that there is both a weekend and evening offer available.</p> <p>Provided from alternating spaces / ensure access is equitable across borough – one in each Area Council area – to ensure Covid-secure practice.</p> <p>Installation of corporate Wifi at two sites to ensure access to good, reliable internet</p>	<p>Summary of costs:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="887 300 1265 792"> <tr> <td>Staffing Costs</td> <td>£30,503</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Facilities Management</td> <td>£7,820</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Catering</td> <td>£1,380</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public access computers (40)</td> <td>£30,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Installation of corporate Wifi at 2 sites</td> <td>£15,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>£84,703</td> </tr> </table>	Staffing Costs	£30,503	Facilities Management	£7,820	Catering	£1,380	Public access computers (40)	£30,000	Installation of corporate Wifi at 2 sites	£15,000	TOTAL	£84,703	
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Facilities Management	£7,820														
Catering	£1,380														
Public access computers (40)	£30,000														
Installation of corporate Wifi at 2 sites	£15,000														
TOTAL	£84,703														
<p>3. Improve access to technology including hardware for disadvantage pupils and provide 4G connectivity for those without internet access at home– 4G connectivity addresses barrier to learning where no internet</p>	<p>Schools / college identify additional pupils where access is limited - most schools / academies have already done this – propose a contingency fund for cases where access is limited but pupils wouldn't qualify under the Government scheme and their school / academy doesn't currently have the resources to plug the gap.</p> <p>A Y11 fund that parents / carers can apply to in</p>	<p>£180 - £200 per device (estimate 550 required)</p> <p>Approximately £6 per month per device (7 months x 550)</p>	<p>£50k</p> <p>£25k</p>												

access is available in family home	order to secure Wifi access		
4. Additional Targeted Information, Advice & Guidance	<p>Focus on the mental health and resilience of young people in Y11 / post – 16 learning and motivations to remain engaged with learning.</p> <p>Build on TIAGs current ESF Pathways offer to schools and young people in Y11. Working alongside schools it has identified and targeted students at risk of becoming NEET and put in place additional IAG to that already delivered. This offer will be extended to provide support for young people in Y11 and Y13 struggling with their emotional and mental health and wellbeing as a result of current covid-19 restricted delivery models of learning.</p> <p>Intervention and support would be provided to identified young people to help them overcome the challenges they face and to re-engage and/or keep them engaged in learning.</p> <p>An additional resource of 2 Advisors experienced in working with young people who have low level mental health issues would be required.</p> <p>The beneficiaries of this would be young people who are likely to fall through current gaps in support but are vulnerable</p>	<p>2 additional TIAG Advisors @ £45k each</p> <p>Term time staff working additional hours in the Feb/Easter break</p>	<p>£90k</p> <p>£15k</p>

	<p>for a myriad of reasons and often go unnoticed.</p> <p>Utilising existing resource within the Education Welfare Service to undertake targeted home visits to families to direct them to study support within the school and community.</p> <p>Good study info guide to be hosted on the family services directory – advice around good study environments, study foods, importance of sleep with tips to getting enough sleep and rest. - aimed at both young people and their parents and carers. To include hints and tips from previous Y11 students. What helped them focus what supported and motivated them.</p>	Commissioned	£20K
<p>5. Strategic partnering with Sheffield Hallam University to implement GROW student mentoring programme for year 11 pupils</p> <p>6. Develop and implement GROW programme for year 13 students</p>	<p>7-week programme = 300 pupils x 2 = 600 pupils in total. Pupils mentored by recent graduate. Evidence-based programme already delivered through pilot in some South Yorkshire schools (Horizon in Barnsley). Scale-up and roll-out at pace.</p> <p>Programme currently targeted at year 11 could be quickly developed for year 13. Additional advantage of recruiting graduates from Barnsley, would support Contingent on recruitment of graduates</p>	Detailed costings provided by SHU (£88k to deliver two cohorts)	<p>£88k</p> <p>£88k</p>

TOTAL			£494,703

5.0 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

5.1 The Council has a proud and proven record of prioritising investment in order to safeguard children from harm and improve the quality of practice and provision both in education and in children's social care as part of improving the life chances of all children and young people in the Borough. The next steps and investments detailed particularly in Paragraph 4.6 will help in enhancing the support to be given to our cohort of children and young people taking exams at the end of this academic year so they are better equipped and prepared to succeed and achieve their potential.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS

6.1 The measures adopted by the schools sector and colleges in the Borough as described in Section 3.0 together with the investment proposals detailed in Paragraph 4.6 of this report will aim to provide support to the entire exam cohort at Years 11 and 13 in all areas of the Borough as part of mitigating the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic upon their progress.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer).

7.2 The total estimated cost of the proposals as detailed in para 4.6 above amounts to **£0.495m** and can be analysed as follows:

Spend	Description	Cost (£)
Staffing	Programme Manager; 1 Grade 9 EIP worker, 1 Grade 3 Outreach Worker 1 Grade 4 TYS Support Term time EWS staff hours	79,503
Premises related	Creating study space within network of family centres and IKIC centres	54,200
TIAG Advisors	2 additional advisors (Employment & Skills Service)	90,000
Commissioned contracts	SHU – student mentoring GROW programme (Y11 & Y13)	176,000
	Family services directory	20,000
IT devices; connectivity	Access to IT devices for disadvantaged pupils	75,000
		494,703

7.3 The above represents non-recurrent costs in 2020/21 and will be funded from £0.5M earmarked reserves set aside by the Council for School Improvement.

8.0 EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Cabinet will note that the additional investment proposals aimed at maximising the support to the exam cohort includes the recruitment of a set of temporary, additional posts. Subject to Cabinet's approval of the proposals as detailed in Paragraph 4.6, further reports leading to the appointment of these posts will be generated by the Service Director (Education, Early Start and Prevention) in consultation with the Service Director (Business Improvement, Human Resources and Communications) in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no legal considerations emerging through the proposals indicated in this report.

10.0 CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no implications for accessing the range of Council services or the onus in favour of digital transactions emerging through the report.

11.0 COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There could be a pressing need for the Council and local MPs to lobby central government for additional support, including through the Northern Powerhouse, in order to influence post Spending Review lobbying activity .
- 11.2 In addition, it is conceivable that other local authorities and schools beyond the Borough may be interested in Barnsley's approach to maximising and strengthening support to its exam cohort as part of the dissemination of good practice elsewhere. In such instances, these requests will be met through existing resources. The opportunities presented in the report will be widely communicated as appropriate.

12.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 Consultation on the measures hitherto adopted to support the Borough's cohort of children and young people taking exams next Summer has been undertaken with the Borough's schools, academies and colleges. The Senior Management Team has been consulted on these measures together with the proposed additional investments and has endorsed the report's proposals.

13.0 THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- 13.1 The measures adopted to prepare and support the exam cohort during the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic aim to continue the progress made in recent years by the Borough's young people in each stage of the National Curriculum. The proposed approach actively supports Outcome 6 in the Council's Corporate Plan of *"Ensuring child attends a good school and is successful in learning and work."*
- 13.2 The proposals will particularly aim to consolidate progress and achievement against the targets, including closing the gap with the National Average, in a range of performance indicators including the following:

- Percentage of children achieving a strong pass grade in Key Stage 4 Basics
- Number of disadvantaged pupils achieving the average Attainment 8 score at KS4 in comparison to peers
- Average Progress 8 score at Key Stage 4

13.3 Data concerning the latest, provisional and unpublished performance against the targets of these indicators have recently been presented to Cabinet as part of the Quarter 2 Corporate Performance report and provisional education outcomes (2020).

14.0 PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

14.1 An overriding objective of the proposals will be to address the gap in attainment for disadvantaged pupils in Years 11 and 13, including those with a protected characteristic, as part of reducing the gap in achievement and improving their life chances.

15.0 TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY

15.1 A crucial element of our ambition for all children and young people in the Borough is to enable them to achieve their potential and acquire the skills and qualifications that will support them in accessing the employment market via sustainable jobs and improve their resilience to the impact of poverty.

16.0 TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

16.1 The measures adopted to strengthen the exam cohort's preparedness will include proposals to improve their emotional resilience through initiatives such as the *Return to Education Wellbeing* project referenced earlier in the report.

17.0 REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

17.1 There are no direct implications for the Borough's Plan for tackling crime, disorder and anti-social behavior emerging through this report. Attendance levels will need to be improved as infection rates hopefully reduce and there continues to be good engagement with parents and families in re-integrating children and students back into school and college. Our approach has long been that children and young people remain safest in their school or setting and the level of positive engagement should minimize any risk of harm.

18.0 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

18.1 Schools in conjunction with the Barnsley Alliance will continue to review the effectiveness of their Covid-19 risk assessments and recovery plans as part of ensuring children and students across the Borough remain engaged with their learning and are able to achieve the grades necessary to enable them to access further or higher education, employment and additional skills.

18.2 The proposals and investments indicated in the report will help mitigate the impact of the disruption to education as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic in order to meet the needs of the exam cohort.

19.0 HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESILIENCE ISSUES

19.1 Schools and other settings remain as far as possible Covid-19 secure learning environments, however, should infections occur all education settings have in place contingency and continuity plans to ensure engagement with learning continues off-site.

20.0 COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

20.1 The proposals outlined in this report are compatible with the Articles and Protocols of the Convention.

21.0 CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

21.1 There are no implications for the local environment, tackling climate change or the conservation of biodiversity arising through the report.

22.0 GLOSSARY

22.1 None applicable.

23.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

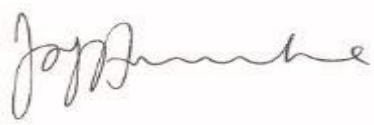
23.1 There are no appendices to this report.

24.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

24.1 If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

Report author: Richard Lynch (Head of the Barnsley Alliance for Schools)

Financial Implications/Consultation



Joshua Amahwe (18/11/2020)

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BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan

Report of the Executive Director of Place to Cabinet

Employment and Skills – Digital Boost and Strategic Commissioning Framework

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To ask that Cabinet approve the acceptance for European Social Fund (ESF) grant for a workforce development project, **“Digital Boost”** subject to bid approval. This project aims to support the delivery of digital skills and increased progression in employment for working people in South Yorkshire and is in the final stages of appraisal at the point of writing, Barnsley Council and its partners are keen to be able to mobilise as soon as possible on approval within challenging timescales.
- 1.2 Approval is sought to enter into an ESF funding contract with DWP (Digital Boost) to lead a South Yorkshire project of FE, HE and local authorities and deliver the project locally.
- 1.3 The report also seeks approval to develop and implement a commissioning strategic commissioning framework underpinning the delivery of the Digital Boost project and wider delivery activities in order to progress the borough's employment and skills strategy.
- 1.4 This report sets out a proposal to deliver this through the establishment of a Dynamic Purchasing System allowing Barnsley Council to bring in partners to deliver the complex programmes needed without a further lengthy procurement process on receipt of discretionary grants. This approach enables the service to work with smaller organisations, for example, 3rd sector organisations who may not have the resource, experience and expertise to bid and deliver for work at scale and short notice but provide a valuable focused service in our communities against specific elements of a broader programme of support.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 **To agree to accept the ESF grant for Digital Boost project on approval and contribute the required match funding.**
- 2.2 **To sign a contract with DWP to manage Digital Boost on behalf of the project partners, conclude service level agreements with the project partners and undertake the responsibilities of delivering the Barnsley activity.**

- 2.3 That the Council agrees to the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) approach as the preferred route;**
- 2.4 That the Council begins a procurement exercise to establish the DPS;**
- 2.5 That the Council agrees to allow other authorities to use the DPS;**
- 2.6 To delegate the award of the contracts to the successful tenderers for the DPS to the Executive Director of Place, or their duly authorised representative.**

3 Introduction

- 3.1 The priorities in Barnsley Council's 2017-20 Corporate Plan are:
 - to create more and better jobs and good business growth
 - to increase skills to get more people working
 - to create strong and resilient communities.
- 3.2 Productivity in the UK is dragged down by a long tail of low skills and productivity. Skills are one of the key drivers of productivity. Comparatively low levels of skills in Barnsley and the wider city region contribute towards economic under-performance. Even before the advent of Covid – 19 and the subsequent Lockdown commentators were warning that the UK's productivity was continuing to fall and had fallen to a low of just 0.3%¹, the worse since the industrial revolution 250 year ago.
- 3.3 The emergence of the virus and subsequent lockdown has not only created a recession, perhaps the worst in 300 years but is also accelerating changes that were afoot in the economy already. These include pressure on the high street, increasing use of digital technologies and the need for the skills use them. At the same time new opportunities are emerging, for example the push for a greening of the economy which has the potential to create new jobs requiring new skills.
- 3.4 The Digital Boost project is part of a wider programme of projects delivered as part of our Employment and Skills Strategy supporting a journey for local people from those at a distance from the labour market to those who are working and need to update their skills to adapt to new opportunities. The projects in this programme are mutually supportive and link to new projects coming forward to support our local businesses. They also build on the work undertaken to date to integrate services around the individual to provide the right support at the right time to enable people to progress.

Figure 1 – The new ESF employment and progression programme

¹ The Guardian, February 2020 - <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/feb/03/uk-productivity-slowdown-worst-since-industrial-revolution-study>

Complex and Multiple Barriers	Unemployed - Closer to Labour Market	Employed Low Skills/ Pay or Disadvantaged	Employed - Improving Digital Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TENANTS FIRST • Intensive and integrated support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SECTOR ROUTEWAYS • Targetted skills training for priority sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADVANCE • Information, Advice and Guidance, Skills Support and help to access apprenticeships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DIGITAL BOOST • Flexible and comprehensive digital skills pathway from basic to advance skills

3.5 These programmes are a key elements in realising our Employment and Skills Strategy, currently being refreshed. To achieve this, the Employment and Skills service directly delivers employment support, adult skills and community learning. It utilises a mix of discretionary, grant and core budget funding in its service delivery. The support offer is diverse and responsive in order to meet the current and future employment needs of our residents and employers which we are unable to deliver entirely internally as a Council. The service often partners with other organisations in bids or subcontracting (for example, Berneslai Homes, our Colleges and Sheffield Council) and works in close partnership with many of our 3rd sector as part of a rounded customer support offer (for example, Fareshare Yorkshire, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, DIAL, Citizens Advice and Credit Union).

3.6 Barnsley MBC and its partners are developing plans to reduce the impact of the shock on Barnsley businesses and residents. As part of this recovery plan, options to utilise existing resources differently and bring forward new activities to address identified caps are being considered. The proposed framework sits as a foundation for the main infrastructure we need to deliver Barnsley’s 2030 Strategy, Recovery Plan and our refreshed Employment and Skills Strategy, due to launch January 2021. New services in response to those priorities will continue to be funded through a mix of grant and discretionary budgets.

4 Proposal and justification

Digital Boost

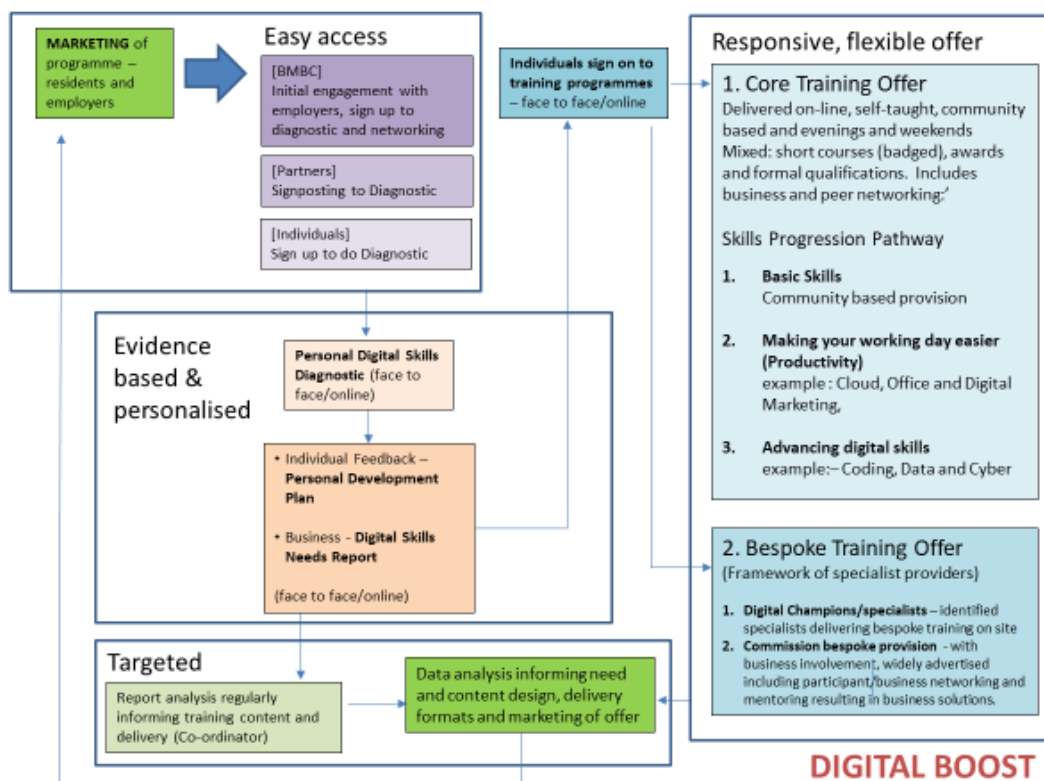
4.1 **Digital Boost** is led by Barnsley Council on behalf of a South Yorkshire partnership of Sheffield City Council, Sheffield Hallam University, Barnsley College and RNN Group. The Council will manage the project and project claims on behalf of the partnership and deliver to local participants using our community outreach strengths and through our business relationships as well as via a strong marketing and promotion plan.

4.2 Digital boost will deliver digital training for working people at all levels from supporting people with no/low skills to advanced skills for digital practitioners. In addition the project will develop bespoke training that meets identified gaps and emerging needs. This will be supported through a framework which can commission digital champions

and niche training as and when required. There will be a two pronged marketing and promotion through community venues and business to business engagement.

- 4.3 Participants will undertake a digital skills assessment and receive a personal development plan. Businesses who have signed up their employees will receive a digital needs report to help them identify gaps. The digital skills training will be delivered flexibly through one to one and community learning, on-line learning or a blended approach depending on the individual's needs and preferences.
- 4.4 The entire participant journey will be supported through quality information advice and guidance, with one to one mentoring where appropriate and skills delivery will align with the Adult Skills and Community Learning offer in order to maximise efficiency and progression.

Fig 2. The Digital Boost Programme



- 4.5 It will support the move to an Inclusive Economy by delivering the required skills for local people to access new jobs and progress and support employers to build the skills of their workforces to meet the needs of an increasingly digitalised economy. It supports the priority of **Getting On (and Staying In) Work** in the More and Better Jobs Plan.

A Commissioning Framework for Employment and Skills

- 4.6 Establishing a local commissioning framework for employment and skills will allow us to bring in partners to deliver the complex programmes needed without a further lengthy procurement process after contracting; it will enable us to work with smaller organisations, for example, 3rd sector organisations who don't have the resource, experience and expertise to bid and deliver for work at this scale but provide a valuable focused service in our communities against specific elements of a broader programme of support.
- 4.7 The model we want to utilise to achieve this is a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS), an electronic version of a supply chain list. A DPS is where tenders or other bidding opportunities are published to specific contractors that have been successful in maintaining a position on that list, and is similar to a framework agreement. Providers can join the DPS at pre-determined points throughout the term and the Council can add work programmes and schemes when funding becomes available for the DPS providers to bid for.
- 4.8 Our intent is to shape and structure the DPS with active market input to ensure its structured appropriately and works not just for BMBC but also providers within it. The DPS will have different categories of specialism within it to allow us to target activity, for example:
- Category 1 – Support to unemployed residents
 - Category 2 - Support for people employed and wanting to progress
 - Category 3 – Digital skills for the workforce and productivity
- 4.9 Following the publication of the tender outlining the new system and it's requirements, setting up the the DPS is a two stage process:
- Stage One: Contractors complete a Selection Questionnaire (SQ) and all those who meet the selection criteria will be admitted to the DPS and/or the relevant categories within it. Rejected contractors are provided with feedback in order to enable them to re-apply at a later date should they wish to do so.
- Stage Two: The Council, or another participating Authority, issues mini-competitions under a specific category for a "lot" of work, such as a particular programme, and invites all suitable contractors on the DPS (or within a particular DPS category) to bid for it. Contractors are not obliged to bid. The contracts are awarded through the DPS to the successful bidder.
- This element of competition means best value can be achieved and the Council will benefit from any reduction in costs between different work programmes during the 5 year period.

- 4.10 The Council can set its own requirements for contractors wanting to be part of the DPS, such as holding matrix certifications, the international quality standard for organisations that deliver information, advice and/or guidance (IAG), either as their sole purpose or as part of their service offering. It will also allow for this criteria to be changed as new external funding becomes available or new requirements are set by government meaning it can be kept up to date.
- 4.11 There is no upper limit on the number of providers who can join the DPS but its value is not expected to exceed £10m during the 5-year term. The overall value of the contracts will vary depending on availability of external funding, customer contributions and availability of council funding.

5 Consideration of alternative approaches

- 5.1 Doing nothing removes the associated risks of managing and delivering ESF projects and it could be argued that the current Skills Bank Provision and Skills Support for the workforce provide routes through which workforce development can be promoted.
- 5.2 Barnsley Council is already investing a considerable amount of its own and other funds in the local digital economy, with the Digital Campus being a key priority for the authority both to grow its niche innovation and to support the adaptation of the wider economy. Digital skills for the workforce is currently a missing piece of this strategy, especially in light of the generally lower level of digital skills in the labour market. Without growing these skills locally, the benefit of this investment is unlikely to be fully realised and there is the potential for local people to be locked out of opportunity.
- 5.3 Digital Boost enables access from working people whose employers don't support their skills development and progression, which is not the case for either The Skills Bank or Skills Support for the Workforce, both of which have to work through engagement with the employer.
- 5.4 In its programme delivery, the Council can issue tenders for specific programmes of work as they arise. This is not recommended given the timescales involved for procurement and the requirement to be able to submit bids for funding as they arise. Security of delivery is usually a scoring criteria for bids and so having something existing in place would be viewed more favourably than having to start a procurement exercise from scratch.

6 Implications for local people / service users

- 6.1 Digital Boost supports progression in the labour market contributing towards economic sustainability for local people and enhancing their opportunities in the labour market. In designing the project, the partners identified those who are most at risk of falling behind and have included specific support to engage those individuals

and address their barriers to progression; be it the need for intensive support or the ability to access training when and where they need it.

- 6.2 In the establishing the recommended approach to commission activity under the Employment and Skills Strategy the Employment and Skills service undertook some informal testing with providers, if this is to progress, the service will be undertaking a proactive market development approach over the coming months to ensure that providers are fully aware and able to participate. Sessions will be delivered in partnership with BMBC procurement to ensure all interested parties are able to engage.

7 Financial implications

- 7.1 Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer).

- 7.2 As lead body for the South Yorkshire Partners, the Council is due to be offered a contract of up to £5,509,158 from DWP which £3,305,495 will be provided from ESF.

- 7.3 The £5,509,158 is for delivery across all the South Yorkshire partners. Specific to Barnsley the total project cost will be £1,376,683. To be able to access the £1,376,683 investment the Council will have to provide £429,405 in match funding.

- 7.4 The Councils match funding of £429,405 is over the 3 year contract period and comprises of existing substantive staff roles involved in project delivery and a cash contribution of £50,000 which has already been allocated to support the creation of a digital skills pipeline. This is phased as follows:

2020/21 £39,353

2021/22 £130,615

2022/23 £145,587

2023/24 £113,850

- 7.5 The Council will be responsible for the administration of funding for the Project, any risk will be confined to the Barnsley element of the project. Project partners will be responsible for their own spend and delivery of outputs.

- 7.6 The ESF grant will enable the Council to draw in an additional £150,000 for the digital skills commissioning framework and to recruit 3 posts; an additional Information, Advice and Guidance Officer, an additional Employer Engagement Officer and an additional Projects and Contracts Officer. Full details of the HR implications are in Appendix B.

- 7.7 The strategic commissioning framework will be utilised to invest funds when available. Providers pre-qualified on the DPS have no guarantee of contract.

7.8 The financial implications for the project are summarised on the attached Appendix A.

8 Employee implications

8.1 Digital Boost, as laid out, will safeguard some employees who would otherwise be at risk and require additional recruitment. Appendix B details new grant funded posts and those earmarked to contribute match funding.

8.2 Resource will be needed from the Employment and Skills team to co-ordinate and manage commissions through the DPS, to undertake market engagement and ongoing development. This will be accommodated within current staffing levels.

8.3 Resource will be needed from the Procurement team to conduct the tender process for the initial set up of the DPS and to manage the mini-competitions once the DPS is established. This will be accommodated within current staffing levels.

8.4 Resource will be needed from the Legal to set up the DPS initially but there will be no further involvement in the running or management of the DPS.

9 Communications implications

9.1 There will need to be some publicity around extending our ambitions for our commissioning framework and the launch of the new DPS to encourage providers to get involved.

9.2 Marketing plans will need to be drawn up and agreed with comms as part of any work programmes allocated via the DPS

10 Consultations

10.1 Throughout the development period for Digital Boost the following partnerships have been consulted:

- More and Better Jobs Taskforce
- South Yorkshire Local Authorities
- Barnsley College, Northern College and RNN Group
- Internal colleagues, HR, Finance, Enterprising Barnsley

10.2 Consultations have taken place with the procurement team to determine the suitability of using a DPS.

10.3 Consultations have taken place with Finance and Legal.

11 The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework

- 11.1 The Corporate Plan includes outcomes to increase skills and get more people working and so by establishing a more flexible approach via the DPS it would allow the council to set and achieve more ambitious targets.

12 Promoting equality, diversity, and social inclusion

- 12.1 Digital Boost aims to address challenges and promote equality, diversity and social inclusion. Each project has its own Equality and Diversity Plan which will be monitored on a quarterly basis. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out.
- 12.2 The availability of funding is promoted through various front-line staff, proactive marketing and organisations that are in contact with minority groups across the Borough.
- 12.3 Providers added to the DPS will be expected to provide marketing literature in a variety of languages and formats to meet the needs of residents and this will be monitored throughout the duration of any contracts established via this route. Again, An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

13 Tackling the Impact of Poverty

- 13.1 Improving the employability and skills of residents are some one of the ways in which residents can be taken out of poverty or prevented from falling into poverty.
- 13.2 Contractors will be expected to work alongside the Council's Employment and Skills team team and other relevant services o ensure that those residents with wider issues around poverty are referred into the relevant support networks that are available to assist with this.

14 Tackling health inequalities

- 14.1 Worklessness is one of wider determinants of health and improving employment prospects produces long-term benefits for residents.
- 14.2 Digital Boost does not have a specific health element although it will include targets for people with a disability of health issue alongside appropriate support. However both projects will promote the services of Be Well @Work and other services which can help employers to support employees with health barriers

14.3 Information relating to resident's health will be collected as part of an holistic Assessment pre and post support and is used to evaluate the effect that support provided has had overall.

15. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

15.1 Risks for the Digital Boost project has been assessed and its Risk Register is appended in Appendix C.

16. GLOSSARY

- ESF – European Social Fund
- ASCL – Adult Skills and Community Learning
- DPS – Dynamic Purchasing System

17. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A – Financial Implications
Appendix B – HR Implications, Digital Boost
Appendix C – Risk Register Digital Boost

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Call Specifications
- Project Applications
- ESF Standard Contract Template
- Barnsley's Employment and Skills Strategy, More and Better Jobs

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

APPENDIX A
Report of the Executive Director Place

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Digital Boost

i) Capital	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0

To be financed from:

	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0

ii) Revenue	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Expenditure</u>					
BMBC Direct Staffng Costs	58,339	303,881	318,652	249,285	930,157
BMBC Other Direct Costs (Travel /Training/Admin Expenses)	54,186	75,334	95,384	82,098	307,002
BMBC Indirect Costs	8,751	45,582	47,798	37,393	139,524
Partner Direct Staffing Costs	197,435	854,924	937,318	736,736	2,726,413
Partner Other Direct Costs(Travel /Training/Admin Expenses)	41,375	364,500	379,500	211,725	997,100
Partner Indirect Costs	29,615	128,239	140,598	110,510	408,962
	389,701	1,772,460	1,919,250	1,427,747	5,509,158

To be financed from:


ESF Grants - BMBC	81,923	294,182	316,247	254,925	947,277
ESF Grants - Partners	153,190	769,111	831,747	604,169	2,358,217
BMBC Match Funding - Existing Staffing resources	39,353	130,615	145,587	113,850	429,405
Partner Match Funding	115,235	578,552	625,669	454,802	1,774,257
	389,701	1,772,460	1,919,250	1,427,747	5,509,158
	0	0	0	0	0

There is no impact on the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Costs to be contained within the grant funding & existing matched resources available.

Impact on Medium Term Financial Strategy

This report has no impact on the Authoritys Medium Term Financial Strategy.

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	£m	£m	£m	
Current forecast budget gap	0	0	0	0
Requested approval	0	0	0	0
Revised forecast budget gap	0	0	0	0

Agreed by On behalf of the Service Director - Finance, Section 151 Officer

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CABINET REPORT - Digital Boost and Strategic Commissioning Framework (and date approved if already approved)

Comments – HR Bus Comments – Pay and Reward:

Date: Date:

Authorisation by the Service Director of Performance Improvement, Human Resources & Communications:

Post Number (if new position write 'new position)	Current Directorate and Service Area	Proposed Directorate and Service Area (if applicable)	Current Post Title	Current Grade	Current Hours	Current Reporting Line Manager	Deletion y/n	Fixed Term y/n	Proposed Post Title	Proposed Grade	Proposed Hours	Job Profile Number	Proposed Reporting Line Manager
New Position		Place, Employment and Skills						YES	Projects and Contracts Officer	7	37	97203	Group Leader Employment and Skills SAP Post ID 50122416
New Position		Place, Employment and Skills						YES	IAG Advisor	6	37	50663	Project Manager SAP Post No. 00022138
New Position		Place, Employment and Skills						YES	IAG Advisor	6	37	50663	Project Manager SAP Post No. 00022138
New Position		Place, Employment and Skills						YES	Project Manager	9	37	83251	Strategic Service Manager SAP Post ID 50094182
New Position		Place, Employment and Skills						YES	Contract Performance Officer	4	37	92237	Project Manager (New Post)
New Position		Place, Employment and Skills						YES	Contract Performance Officer	4	37	92237	Project Manager (New Post)
New Position		Place, Employment and Skills						YES	Apprentice	NMW	37	TBC	Project Manager (New Post)
Note fixed term posts until December 2023 with the exception of one IAG Advisor fte funded until March 2022													

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**b) DIGITAL BOOST –
RISK REGISTER V4**

Please identify and assess the key risks for the project/programme using the Risk Register below. Insert further rows if needed.

Number	Category Financial, Reputational, Operational, ETC	Description of risk.	Impact (I)	Likelihood (L)	Rating		Date raised	Responsible Person	Status	Mitigation	Actions to Date	Date Closed
					Previous	Current I + L						
Operational												
1	Operational	Recruitment of Staff at appropriate skill levels	H	L			27.02.20	BMBC Partners	Raised	Clear job specification and appropriate salary levels.		Click here to enter a date.
2	Operational	Late contracting of DWP / BMBC contract	H	M			27.02.20	BMBC / DWP	Raised	Prompt and accurate response to DWP requests for clarification. If contract substantially delayed reduce funding/outputs and results.		
3	Operational	Delayed start leading to under spend	H	H			27.02.20	BMBC / DWP / Partners	Raised	Pre prepare all recruitment and outreach activities Reduce project funding/outputs and results in event of delay. Ensure partners' governance in place to secure prompt completion of contracts and SLAs		
4	Operational	Under-performance in recruiting participants	H	H			27.02.20	BMBC, Partners	Raised	Plan inception period to ensure staff in place. Engage with community hubs in advance to plan engagement events. Marketing campaign		



Number	Category Financial, Reputational, Operational, ETC	Description of risk.	Impact (I)	Likelihood (L)	Rating		Date raised	Responsible Person	Status	Mitigation	Actions to Date	Date Closed
					Previous	Current I + L						
5	Operational	Underperformance in recruitment for SMEs	M	M			27.02.20	BMBC, Partners	Raised	Establish referral systems with business intermediaries, embed in More and Better Jobs, Proactive Marketing Campaign		
6	Operational	Delivery of Project Outputs	H	L			27.02.20	BMBC / Partners	Raised	Commitment from partners, ensuring claims and monitoring are up to date. Constant monitoring process to highlight under performance.		
7	Operational	Unable to produce evidence for audit	H	I			27.02.20	Project Manager	Raised	ESF require retention of all documentation for ongoing audits. All partners required to comply with records management policy. Provision of clear guidance to deliver, record and store required evidence	Ensure partners are fully aware of their obligations and include in contracts.	
8	Operational	Staff turnover	H	M			27.02.20	BMBC / Partners	Raised	Effective recruitment, promote staff satisfaction and commitment through Performance Management processes. Initiate recruitment for replacement staff on receipt of a leaving notice		
9	Operational	Failure to evidence SME status	H	L			27.02.20		Raised	Standard documentation and process to validate all beneficiaries before being claimed		



Number	Category Financial, Reputational, Operational, ETC	Description of risk.	Impact (I)	Likelihood (L)	Rating		Date raised	Responsible Person	Status	Mitigation	Actions to Date	Date Closed
					Previous	Current I + L						
10	Operational	Giving of illegal state aid to large companies	L	H			27.02.20	BMBC / Partners	Raised	Openly market to all companies/all sectors operating in South Yorkshire. Robust identification process of company status and use of GBER Exemption. Company to pay and evidence relevant % of staff training costs as per exemption.		
11	Operational	Low levels of sign up to the core training offer	H	M			27.02.20	BMBC / Partners	Raised	The programme offer will be driven by a clear evidence base of need from employers and underpinned with Careers Information Advice and Guidance providing a clear alignment from training into employment progression opportunities. User and employer feedback will inform future shape and scope of provision. Dedicated marketing and comms role will ensure that strategic approach to marketing provision is undertaken. The Co-ordinator will keep the course directory up to date and meaningful.	Initial programme offer developed against identified employer need and evidence taken from workforce Digital Skills Diagnostics undertaken to date.	



Number	Category Financial, Reputational, Operational, ETC	Description of risk.	Impact (I)	Likelihood (L)	Rating		Date raised	Responsible Person	Status	Mitigation	Actions to Date	Date Closed
					Previous	Current I + L						
12	Operational	Low levels of employer interest in the bespoke provision offer (Gurus, Framework)	M	M			27.02.20	BMBC / Partners	Raised	This offer will be embedded in complimentary business growth and productivity schemes. Promoting the opportunity to increase skills and digital capacity in the workforce. The Guru approach has been tested and demand established. Again, marketing and comms will target and promote.	The Guru approach has been tested and demand established. Feedback from employers suggests a bespoke offer will be welcomed.	
13	Operational	Covid – 19 restrictions continue into the Spring/Summer 2021	H	H			12.10.20	BMBC/Partners	Raised	BMBC and partners put in place Covid-19 secure measures for face to face delivery. Fewer participants can be engaged through these channels	All partners have established Covid-19 secure measures. Outputs and results revisited.	
14	Operational	We are not able to attract a breadth of providers into the framework because of fixed unit costs	M	M			27.02.20	BMBC / Partners	Raised	The provider framework will be established with a broader remit than the Boost project enabling it to be used for other digital development purposes. It will be co-designed with providers and a lengthy market development process is planned. The framework will be regularly refreshed to enable new providers to join.	Early market engagement suggests provider interest if the framework can be delivered in an agile and efficient way. The team are experienced in this delivery approach and will bring experience into its development.	

Number	Category Financial, Reputational, Operational, ETC	Description of risk.	Impact (I)	Likelihood (L)	Rating		Date raised	Responsible Person	Status	Mitigation	Actions to Date	Date Closed
					Previous	Current I + L						
Financial												
15	Financial	Failure to contract ESF	H				27.02.20	DWP	Raised	Prompt Partner Responses around issues and questions raised by DWP Ensure robust and compliant systems at BMBC.	Application submitted awaiting response from DWP.	
16	Financial	Delayed start leading to under spend	H	H			27.02.20	BMBC / DWP	Raised	Effective pre-planning, prompt response to business planning queries.	Application submitted awaiting response from DWP.	Click here to enter a date.
17	Finance	Poor Cash flow	L	L			27.02.20	BMBC / Partners	Raised	Partners will pay for project costs and ensure resource in place to cashflow the project until claims received.	Application submitted awaiting response from DWP.	Click here to enter a date.
18	Financial	BMBC fail to recover project costs incurred before contract is issued.	L	L			27.02.20	BMBC and DWP	Raised	Project doesn't run until in principle offer made. Project 1 st quarter planned for inception.	Application submitted awaiting response from DWP.	
19	Financial	Poor Cash flow	L	L			27.02.20	BMBC / Partners	Raised	Partners will pay for project costs and ensure resource in place to cashflow the project until claims received.	Application submitted awaiting response from DWP.	Click here to enter a date.
20	Financial	Availability of all partners corporate resource & commitment	H	L			27.02.20	BMBC / Partners	Raised	Commitment from partners through match funding letters, will proceed to appropriate governance sign off for partners.	Application submitted awaiting response from DWP.	Click here to enter a date.



Number	Category Financial, Reputational, Operational, ETC	Description of risk.	Impact (I)	Likelihood (L)	Rating		Date raised	Responsible Person	Status	Mitigation	Actions to Date	Date Closed
					Previous	Current I + L						
21	Financial	Failure of partners to spend on target	H	H			27.02.20	Project Manager	Raised	Monthly re-profile of spend against profile. Quarterly review forecasts from partners. Quarterly updates of actual vs profile. If necessary re-allocate funding.	Ensure partners are fully aware of their obligations and include in contracts. Application submitted awaiting response from DWP.	
22	Financial	Claw back of funds due to audit irregularities	H	M			27.02.20	PMT/Project Manager (compliance)	Raised	ESF require retention of all documentation for ongoing audits. All partners required to comply with records management policy.	Ensure partners are fully aware of their obligations and include in contracts.	
23	Financial	Failure to draw down Match Funding to cover match management costs	H	L			27.02.20	BMBC	Raised	Partners budgets fully cover match funding commitments. Review partners' intervention rates if high variation occurs. Ensure evidence trail is robust.		
Partnership												



Number	Category Financial, Reputational, Operational, ETC	Description of risk.	Impact (I)	Likelihood (L)	Rating		Date raised	Responsible Person	Status	Mitigation	Actions to Date	Date Closed
					Previous	Current I + L						
24	Partnership	Failure to collaborate	L	L			27.02.20	Project Board	Raised	Steering Group established to ensure partnership model adhered to and quality assured involving senior representatives from the partner organisations. Regular Steering Group meetings with oversight of the programme, management and reporting, monthly updates, universal agreement from the outset of objectives and work plans	All partners co-designed the model and sign up to project model at the outset. Agreed to establish Steering Group. A Co-ordinator for the programme and dedicated comms. and marketing support with facilitate and enable partnership communications	Click here to enter a date.
25	Partnership	Partner unable to contract with BMBC	L	H			27.02.20	BMBC	Raised	Constant communication with partners, full disclosure of requirements pre-contracting, due diligence, open application process. Support to strengthen capacity.	Regular updates and meetings with partners throughout application process.	
26	Partnership	Failure to collaborate externally	L	L			27.02.20	Project Manager	Raised	Pro active engagement and communications with stakeholders, lengthy and robust market engagement and development in the run up to the framework establishment. Formation of Boost Stakeholder group meeting regularly across the life of the programme to ensure model is responsive and service provision continually improving.	Early discussions with provider market to warm up. Regular maintained communications with external partners, SCR, business support services, community organisations etc.	Click here to enter a date.



Number	Category Financial, Reputational, Operational, ETC	Description of risk.	Impact (I)	Likelihood (L)	Rating		Date raised	Responsible Person	Status	Mitigation	Actions to Date	Date Closed
					Previous	Current I + L						
27	Partnership	Underperformance from partners - outputs					27.02.20	Project Manager	Raised	Monthly progress reports requested from partners in conjunction with quarterly visits to monitor performance against profile and identify problems before they arise where possible.	Steering Group will be established to have oversight of programme performance.	
28	GDPR	Breach of data protection legislation	H	M			21/10/20	Project Manager and all staff	Raised	Participant personal details to be restricted on data schema and identified by project reference code Computer access to be protected by secure passwords Hard copies of data with sensitive information to be secured in locked storage Sensitive identification details (passports etc) to be ticked as being seen and only reference recorded GDPR protocols to be communicated in project guidance	GDPR and Information Governance training to all project staff on induction and annual refreshers	

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

Report of the Executive Director – Place

**GRANT OF 10-YEAR LEASE OF ELMHIRST PLAYING FIELDS TO HOYLAND
COMMON FALCONS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB**

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Council to consider granting a 10-year lease of Elmhirst Playing Fields.
- 1.2 The lease will be granted to Hoyland Common Falcons Junior Football Club (HCFJFC), allowing them to attract Football Foundation funding to improve the condition of the onsite pitches.
- 1.3 The proposed leased area is shown edged black on the attached plan (Appendix B).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Council as freehold owner of the Elmhirst Playing Fields approves the grant of a 10-year lease to HCFJFC.**
- 2.2 **That the Corporate Asset Manager be authorised to finalise Heads of Terms for the proposed 10-year lease.**
- 2.3 **That the Service Director Legal Services be authorised to complete the 10-year lease, subject to the necessary consents being achieved.**

3. Introduction

- 3.1 The Council owns the freehold of the site of the former Elmhirst School, off Ardsley Road, Worsbrough. The playing fields along with a small car park (originally the tennis court to the school) amount to approximately 20.5 acres.
- 3.2 Since the demolition of the school in 2009, HCFJFC have occupied the playing fields by way of season-to-season hire agreements granted by Park Services. Under this arrangement the club pay an annual hire charge, with the Council undertaking standard maintenance of the pitches.

- 3.3 HCFJFC were established in 1979 and are a registered CASC. Entirely staffed by volunteers, the club provide football matches, training and coaching to over 140 local children, in addition to hosting South Yorkshire's largest annual junior football tournament. They have been credited by the FA as a Charter Standard Development Club since 2015.
- 3.4 In 2013, Section 106 funding provided for a small prefabricated toilet/changing block on site. The facility is let to the club by the Council on a rolling tenancy agreement.
- 3.5 HCFJFC have made an application to the Football Foundation to access grant funding to improve the condition of the site's pitches. The available funding is part of the Football Foundation's "Grass Pitch Revolution" scheme and is structured as follows:
1. A preliminary pitch assessment is undertaken by the relevant branch of the FA to determine the current standard of the pitches on site.
 2. The resulting report recommends specific improvement works and planned maintenance to be completed over a 10-year period.
 3. The club receive funding to help finance the works as detailed in the assessment report.

The Sheffield & County FA have completed a pitch assessment of the playing fields at the Elmhirst site as a result of HCFJFC's application and recommended:

- The club purchase a tractor and combination tool to allow them to undertake regular maintenance of the pitches including mowing, line-marking, aeration, decompaction, turf nutrition, seeding, and top-dressing.
- The club employ a private contractor to undertake works the club cannot complete themselves including scarification and weeds/pest control.

The proposed funding would assist the club meet the costs of the recommendations listed above.

- 3.6 In order to secure the funding from the Football Foundation, HCFJFC require a demonstrable interest in the land for the duration of the recommended improvement works, in this case 10 years.

4. Proposal and justification

- 4.1 It is proposed the Council approve the grant of a 10-year lease of the Elmhirst Playing Fields to HCFJFC. As the proposed leased area includes the prefabricated changing facility, the existing rolling tenancy will be surrendered on commencement of the 10-year lease.
- 4.2 The proposed lease terms stipulate that HCFJFC will become responsible for all maintenance and outgoings associated with the land from the date of commencement. The rent will be a nominal sum to help ensure the club are

not unduly financially burdened.

- 4.3 The proposed lease will contain a landlord and tenant break clause, subject to 6-months' written notice. This will provide a degree of flexibility ensuring the club can terminate the agreement if the management of the site becomes too onerous and allows the Council to retake occupation in the event of tenant breach.
- 4.4 The proposal will enable HCFJFC to protect the use of the pitches as a site for local sporting activities and competition in the long-term. The continuation of a junior football club in this location is an important factor in ensuring community wellbeing, not just in terms of the provision an accessible sports organisation for young people, but also in the availability of social interaction and community events for the parents and carers of the attending children.
- 4.5 Community groups or charities with observable vested interests in property are more likely to receive funding from external parties. The proposed lease would allow HCFJFC to finance the proposed improvement of the pitches and provide confidence in the club's long-term ability to sustain itself financially.

5. Consideration of alternative approaches

- 5.1 If a lease is not granted, HCFJFC would not be able to access the Football Foundation funding to improve the pitches. It is likely that the condition of the playing fields would deteriorate over time, reducing the number of playable pitches on the site. This would have a negative impact on the club's development, as well as the provision of junior football in the area.
- 5.2 Even if the club were able to meet the costs of the works themselves, without a lease any future application for external funding would be hampered by the club's lack of a permanent interest in the site.
- 5.3 Transferring the freehold of the land to the club would not be advisable as this would relinquish any Council jurisdiction over management of the transferred land.

6. Impact on local people

- 6.1 The proposal would help ensure the existing involvement, inclusion and empowerment of a third-sector sporting organisation in the local community continues for the foreseeable future. In addition, the improved condition of the onsite football pitches will provide a better playing surface for the attending children.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 Consultations on the financial implications have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer).

- 7.2 This proposal is to grant a ten-year lease for the land at the former Elmhirst School Site to HCFJFC.
- 7.3 Under the current arrangements, HCFJFC rents the football pitches on an annual basis to which the Council receives rental income totalling approximately £1,000 p.a. The current arrangements also dictate that the Council have responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the site which approximately costs the Council the same as the level of income received. i.e. approximately £1,000 p.a.
- 7.4 On the basis that this proposal is approved, the Council will relinquish the income that it receives from the hire of the football pitches, but equally would no longer have the maintenance obligations on the site, which from a Council perspective, would result in no financial impact.
- 7.5 Should the need arise, there is a 6 month break clause included within the lease that can be activated [by either party] which would see the Council regain control of the site. This provides some flexibility in redeeming control of the land if the situation arose.
- 7.6 In terms of potential future development, this site is subject to planning constraints in terms of provision of playing fields. Therefore, there are no implications of granting a longer term lease from the perspective of any issues impacting on any future development.
- 7.7 The financial implications to this report are summarised in the attached Appendix A.

8. Employee implications

- 8.1 There are no implications for BMBC employees as a result of this report.

9. Communications implications

- 9.1 There are no communications implications as a result of this report.

10. Consultations

- 10.1 A list of stakeholders consulted during the preparation of this report includes
- Core Services (Legal & Financial Services)
 - Environment and Transport (Sport and Active Recreation)
- 10.2 Local ward members have been consulted on the proposed recommendation and support the proposals as detailed within this report.

11. The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework

11.1 HCFJFC have demonstrated effective management of the playing fields for the last 10 years, providing regular and accessible football matches and training to local children. The grant of the lease will allow the club's work to continue, an outcome in-line with the continuing development, consolidation, and expansion of community resources detailed in the Council's Corporate Plan.

12. Promoting equality and diversity and social inclusion

HCFJFC have identified key objectives as part of their development plan, these include establishing senior teams and more provision for children with disabilities and other under-represented groups. The lease grant will give the club a long-term interest in the site, a vital platform from which they can realise their ambitions of widening local participation.

13. Tackling the impact of poverty

13.1 There are no issues arising from this report.

14. Tackling health inequalities

14.1 The granting of a lease will allow HCFJFC's provision of regular exercise for local children to continue and develop. Moreover, by reaffirming their long-term interest in the site, the club have an opportunity to safeguard their future in this location, ensuring the provision of regular exercise is accessible to subsequent generations.

15. Reduction of crime and disorder

15.1 Failure to grant the lease will increase the risk of the playing fields becoming under-used or vacant. Under-used land can attract vandalism and unauthorised uses such as fly-tipping, substance abuse, and other anti-social behaviour.

15.2 The availability of community and sporting facilities is considered important in reducing crime and disorder, especially amongst younger age groups.

16. Risk management issues

16.1 It is possible, during their occupation, HCFJFC are forced to disband, either through financial hardship or the changing priorities of personnel. Additionally, it may be that the club breach the terms of their lease agreement. To reduce potential losses, the lease will include a mutual break clause allowing both parties to terminate the agreement at 6-month notice. Should the break be enacted, the Council would retake possession of the site and assume all maintenance responsibility.

16.2 The pitches are accessed via a track leading through a large area of greenspace immediately adjacent to Ardsley Road. The lease will reserve the right for the Council to redirect the access way should the greenspace be required for any other purpose in the future.

17. Health, safety and emergency resilience issues

17.1 There are no direct health and safety implications arising from this report. After the lease is granted, HCFJFC will be responsible for ensuring on site compliance with all health and safety best practice and legislation.

18. Compatibility with European Convention on Human Rights

18.1 This report recognises the promotion and importance of equality, diversity and human rights for all members of the local community and the wider borough.

19. Conservation of biodiversity

19.1 There are no direct issues arising as a result of this report. The impact on biodiversity of any of the proposed improvement works (paragraph 3.5) will be considered as part of the planning process if necessary.

20. Glossary

CASC – Community Amateur Sports Club

21. List of appendices

Appendix A: Financial Implications
Appendix B: Site Plan

22. Background papers

Correspondence regarding this matter is held on the files in Property – Estates – not available for inspection, contains exempt information
If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Report author: Tanya Hunter (9th November 2020)

Report of the Executive Director of PLACE**Grant of 10 Year Lease of Elmhirst Playing Fields to Hoyland Common Falcons Junior Football Club****FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

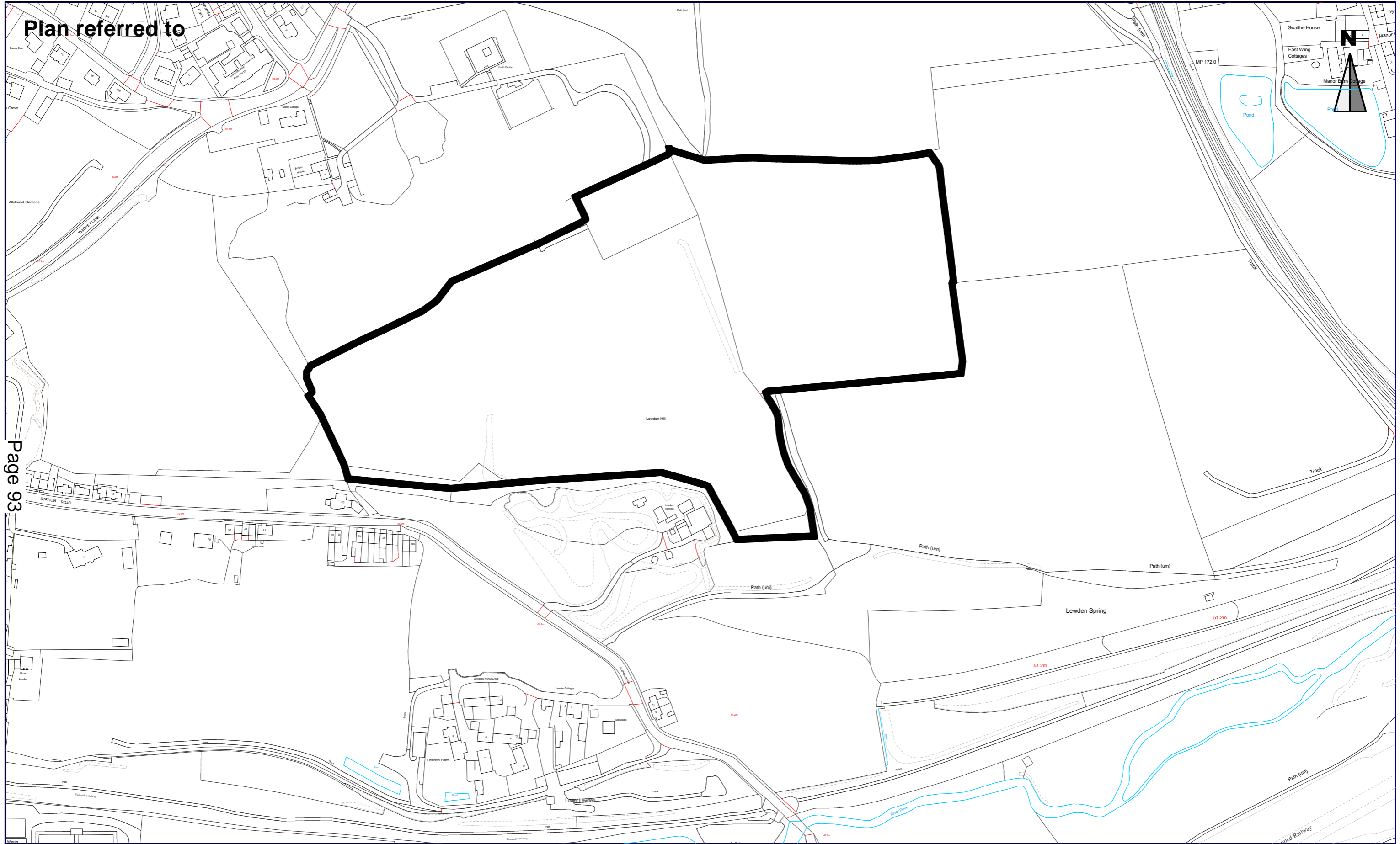
i) <u>Capital Expenditure</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	TOTAL
		£	£	
<i>Not applicable in this instance</i>				0
	0	0	0	0
To be financed from:				0
	0	0	0	0
ii) <u>Revenue Effects</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>FYE</u>
	£	£	£	£
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Savings on Grounds Maintenance	-1,124	-1,124	-1,124	-1,124
Total Expenditure	-1,124	-1,124	-1,124	-1,124
<u>Income</u>				
Football Pitch Hire	1,124	1,124	1,124	1,124
	0	0	0	0
To be financed from:				0
	0	0	0	0

<u>Impact on Medium Term Financial Strategy</u>	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	£	£	£
MTFS	0.000	0.031	3.879
Effect of this report	0	0	0
There are no financial impacts on MTFS from this report			
Revised Medium Term Financial Strategy	0.000	0.031	3.879

Agreed by: ..D Greaves..... On behalf of the Service Director and Section 151 Officer -Finance

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Plan referred to



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Drwg no:	JK3011A
Date:	18/09/2020
Scale 1: 2,500	

Drawing Title :
**Elmhirst Playing Fields, Worsbrough
 Cabinet Plan**



BARNSELY
Metropolitan Borough Council

Strategic Property and procurement/Asset Management
 PO Box 634, Barnsley, S70 9GG

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 website: www.barnsley.gov.uk

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BARNESLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PLACE TO CABINET

Berneslai Homes IT Upgrade of Repairs and Maintenance System

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report seeks the approval to release earmarked capital and revenue funding which has been set aside for Berneslai Homes IT developments.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Cabinet approve the release of earmarked funding to Berneslai Homes for IT developments.

3. Introduction

- 3.1 Berneslai Homes are seeking to replace the current IT system which is used for the management of repairs and maintenance tasks for Council Housing.
- 3.2 This development will also allow for the improvement and automation of job allocation to front line repairs operatives which will deliver greater efficiencies.
- 3.3 Berneslai Homes will enhance the digital offer to tenants and improve the way repairs can be reported online at a time which suits tenants. An aim is to give greater transparency which will reduce the number of calls handled by the call centre.
- 3.4 Business Cases have been prepared and a Project Board formed of key stakeholders from both BMBC and Berneslai Homes.
- 3.5 The costs associated with the project will be contained within the earmarked IT improvement capital budget envelope of £2 million and the £100,000 annual revenue budget.
- 3.6 Berneslai Homes currently use SAP Plant Maintenance for managing repairs and maintenance tasks associated with the upkeep of Council owned homes.
- 3.7 For many years, Berneslai Homes have been aspiring to modernise the customer journey, experience and service which customers receive, particularly when reporting a repair. As far back as 2013 we worked closely with Barnsley MBC's IT Team, on its then Customer Services Programme, which identified a range of improvements including reporting and tracking of repairs online.

- 3.8 Due to constraints with the use of SAP, there has been little progress on delivering major changes for tenants who are accessing the repairs and maintenance service.
- 3.9 BMBC IT is fully supportive of the move from the current system and is supporting Berneslai Homes with the change.
- 3.10 Berneslai Homes are seeking to implement an integrated housing management and repairs system to reduce the complexity of systems used and so there is a single customer and property record. Data accuracy is vital when dealing with building compliance issues such as gas and electrical safety.
- 3.11 The service needs to have an improved digital offer and tenants need to receive information and updates digitally. The current system has restricted progress in this important area.
- 3.12 Importantly, the change will also enable the implementation of new elements including a dynamic scheduling system which is important for Berneslai Homes to be competitive under the new Property Repairs and Improvement Partnership (PRIP) contract. The scheduling system has its own Business Case but will also be funded from the identified IT development budget.
- 3.13 In support of the Council's strategy, we will also be looking to move systems from the BMBC data centre and into a cloud environment.
- 3.14 The decommissioning of SAP, for repairs and maintenance, would positively impact on amongst others:
- Logging of repairs at the Call Centre and in the back office
 - Dealing with enquiries regarding repairs by both BH and BMBC staff
 - Scheduling of the repair visit
 - Management of maintenance tasks such as gas servicing
 - Allocation of work via the mobile app (as this is built on an SAP system)
 - Recording of financial information including time and cost
 - Stores and procurement
 - Reporting, performance management and business intelligence
 - Interfaces with other key stakeholder's systems including PRIP partner, Wates.
 - Location of data as it moves from the Barnsley Data Centre to a cloud environment.

4. Proposal & Justification

- 4.1 The critical nature of this service is leading us to seek an off the shelf system which has been tried and tested by other organisations.
- 4.2 There is a clear need and opportunity to redesign the service and bring customers to the centre of that design.

- 4.3 Working in collaboration with BMBC IT, we can greatly enhance the online service offer, improve customer communication, give greater transparency to the service and increase the productivity of the workforce.
- 4.4 Our preferred approach would be to extend the use of the current Housing Management System, provided by Northgate Housing. Their system is modular, meaning we could build from the existing and well embedded core. As a second phase we would look to fully assess the requirements of asset management with the aim of bringing that into the one system.
- 4.5 Berneslai Homes are working alongside BMBC IT so that tenants will be able to report a repair from within the Council's borough-wide customer portal. This is currently under development as part of the #Digital First programme.
- 4.6 Existing technology will be reused where possible including the council's automation software, customer portal and Berneslai Homes' mobile devices. We will seek other opportunities to work with existing council technology such as the chat bots used within the call centre.

5. Implications for local people / service users

- 5.1 The introduction of a new integrated housing management and repairs system will bring benefits for tenants. Developments in the mobile application, improved scheduling of repairs and increased communication with tenants along with greater visibility of planned work will all be positive outcomes. Improved real-time information will allow for better planning and a greater understanding of service user needs.
- 5.2 The digital service offer will be enhanced, and greater choice will be given to tenants about when and how they report their repair.
- 5.3 It should be noted that whilst the digital service offer will be improved, full consideration will still be given to ensuring that those tenants who are less digitally savvy can 1) access support to enable them to become more digitally connected, should the so wish, or 2) continue to report their repairs via their preferred communication route (hotline/via HMOs where appropriate).

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer).
- 6.2 The proposal by Berneslai Homes to upgrade the repairs and maintenance systems consists of two elements. The first, is a customer focussed journey improvement which will allow tenants to order repairs through an on line portal, the second is a dynamic scheduling system which will utilise operatives' handheld devices with a more efficient workload planning system.
- 6.3 It is expected that the new system will generate efficiencies within the HRA through a more efficient deployment of Berneslai Homes resources to deliver the PRIP contract.
- 6.4 It is expected that the new system will record and collate the historical repairs and capital component replacements accurately against each individual

property, linking directly with the Council’s asset management software, PIMSS. This is to ensure that the condition information on the Council’s housing stock is regularly refreshed to give officers a comprehensive understanding on an ongoing basis. Furthermore, this will ultimately ensure a more effective approach to the Council’s 30 year HRA business plan and will intelligently inform future investment programmes in the Council’s housing stock.

- 6.5 The estimated cost of the capital project [purchase and implementation of the system] totals £2.0M. These resources have been previously approved as part of the 2020/21 HRA Budget Planning process that were submitted to Cabinet in December 2019 (Cab.11.12.2019/6 refers).
- 6.6 Berneslai Homes have estimated the project will be implemented over a 3 year period commencing in the 2021/22 financial year. The expected profile of the expenditure is detailed in the table below.

Capital Project Profiled Expenditure	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
Licensing	£391,000	£80,000	£80,000	£551,000
Professional Services / Set-up	£694,650	£446,850	£307,500	£1,449,000
Year Total	£1,085,650	£526,850	£387,500	£2,000,000

- 6.7 The ongoing revenue implications [maintenance and cloud hosting etc.] are estimated to cost £0.1M per annum from 2021/22, incurred within the HRA. These resources have been previously approved as part of the 2020/21 HRA Budget Planning process that were submitted to Cabinet in December 2019 (Cab.11.12.2019/6 refers).
- 6.8 The financial implications relating to this proposal are shown in Appendix A.

7. **Legal Implications**

- 7.1 Procurement rules will be followed and BMBC procurement is supporting Berneslai Homes in this area.

8. **Employee implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct employee implications, at this time. However, it should be noted that a wider review of customer contact and the call centre is under review. The IT projects are being developed in consultation, and with consideration to, the wider corporate review. Whilst dynamic scheduling and upgrades to the repairs and maintenance system will ultimately create efficiencies and avoidable contact, it is not currently known if this will result in reductions to staff within the call centre; as the volume of current calls across the board often exceeds capacity.

9. Communications implications

- 9.1 There are no direct communications implications arising from this report. There will be a robust communications plan implemented as part of the project management process.

10. Consultations

- 10.1 Consultations have been undertaken with BMBC IT, finance, procurement and other housing providers; alongside the Council's Capital Oversight Board, DMT, SMT and Portfolio Holder. Robust consultations have taken place between BMBC IT and Berneslai Homes and the appropriate Service Director forms part of the Project Board.

11. The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework

- 11.1 The Berneslai Homes Strategic Plan 2021-31 strategically aligns with the Council's Corporate Plan for Barnsley 2030 and Housing Strategy (2014-33) contributing to the provision of high quality homes for social rent; investment in the borough and council assets; supporting people to manage tenancies, live independently and 'achieve'; and assist in the delivery of housing growth in promoting economic growth.

12. Promoting Equality & Diversity, Social Inclusion & Tackling Health Inequalities

- 12.1 Berneslai Homes assists the authority in providing quality housing provision for those households on low incomes and vulnerable service users who cannot secure suitable housing privately.
- 12.2 Ensuring that Council owned homes are well managed and maintained to a high standard of decency, is an important factor in tackling health inequalities in the borough.

13. Climate Change & Sustainability – Zero Carbon

- 13.1 There are little implications for and contributions to Zero Carbon at this stage. However, cloud hosting has been shown to be more energy efficient and Northgate Housing, if selected, are developing internet of things technology which may contribute at a later stage.

14. Risk Management Issues

- 14.1 Risks including data security, successful project delivery and disruption to service delivery will all be considered as part of the project.

15. List of Appendices

Appendix A : Financial Implications

16. Background Papers

Berneslai Homes Repairs System Business Case

DRS Business Case

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

Report author: Sarah Cartwright

Report of the Executive Director - Place

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
Berneslai Homes IT Upgrade Repairs and Maintenance Business Plan**

i) Capital Expenditure	<u>2021/22</u> (£)	<u>2022/23</u> (£)	<u>2023/24</u> (£)	Total (£)
Licensing	391,000	80,000	80,000	551,000
Professional Services / Set-up	694,650	446,850	307,500	1,449,000
	1,085,650	526,850	387,500	2,000,000
To be financed from:				
HRA Reserves	1,085,650	526,850	387,500	2,000,000
	1,085,650	526,850	387,500	2,000,000
ii) Revenue Effects	<u>2021/22</u> (£)	<u>2022/23</u> (£)	<u>2023/24</u> (£)	<u>Future Years</u> (£)
Cloud Hosting / Support and Maintenance	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
To be financed from:				
HRA	-100,000	-100,000	-100,000	-100,000
	-100,000	-100,000	-100,000	-100,000
Net Revenue Position				
	0	0	0	0

Impact on Medium Term Financial Strategy

Not applicable in this report

Agreed by:



.....On behalf of the Service Director-Finance, Section 151 Officer

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BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PLACE
TO CABINET**

NATURAL ENGLAND GREAT-CRESTED NEWT DISTRICT LICENSING SCHEME

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the intention to sign up to the Natural England Scheme of District Level Licensing in respect of Great-crested Newts. --

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council signs up to the District Level Licensing Scheme for Great-crested Newts run by Natural England.**

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 Great-crested Newts (GCN) are relatively common and widespread in England but have declined dramatically over the last 60 years. It is illegal to capture kill, injure or disturb a GCN or damage its habitat, without a license. Under the traditional licensing approach, developers are constrained by seasonal timings for surveys and mitigation and must recreate habitat on site. The amount of money spent on survey, trapping and exclusion may outstrip that spent on habitat creation and management by 7:1. Resources are concentrated on individual sites to prevent losses, whilst at the landscape scale GCN populations continue to decline. Despite being protected under UK and EU law, the species suffered the loss of around 50% of its pond habitat in the 20th century.
- 3.2 At present landowners or housing developers in Barnsley have to apply for a license before building on or around known great-crested newt breeding ponds and surrounding habitats on a site-by-site basis. This approach to date has missed opportunities to manage populations of great crested newts on a landscape scale, and it has resulted in habitat for newts being squeezed around development, sometimes in disconnected patches.
- 3.3 If Barnsley MBC signs up to the Natural England District Level Licensing Scheme, licensing will be applied at a district level. This 'landscape-scale' approach means that developers need only make a single application and payment to join their local, area-wide scheme. The one-off payment covers the creation, restoration, maintenance and monitoring of ponds around the area for 25 years, in locations specially chosen to provide the best habitat and most benefit.

- 3.4 There is another organisation called Naturespace that also runs a district level licensing scheme. Other South Yorkshire authorities are considering their positions. Early indications are that the majority are likely to sign up to the Natural England scheme. To provide consistency to landowners and developers it will be beneficial for us to be in the same scheme as most of our neighbouring authorities. It is also considered beneficial to go with the scheme run by Natural England as they are the Government's adviser on the natural environment in England.
- 3.5 No Memorandum of Understanding or legal agreement is required to sign up to the Natural England scheme. Officers will be required to provide Local Plan allocations data and to contribute to an occasional Steering Group for the SY scheme. Other than providing minimal resources there is no financial cost to the authority.

4. PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

- 4.1 It is recommended that Barnsley MBC signs up to the Natural England Great Crested Newt District Level Licensing scheme.
- 4.2 This scheme provides the opportunity to take a 'landscape-scale' approach to Great Crested Newt habitats. This means that developers need only make a single application and payment to join their local, area-wide scheme. The one-off payment covers the creation, restoration, maintenance and monitoring of ponds around the area for 25 years, in locations specially chosen to provide the best habitat and most benefit. At present landowners and developers have to apply for a license before building on or around the newts' pond habitat on a site-by-site basis. This approach to date has missed opportunities to manage populations of great crested newts on a landscape scale, and it has resulted in habitat for newts being squeezed around development, sometimes in disconnected patches.
- 4.3 There is no financial cost to the authority in signing up to the Natural England Scheme. A small resource in officer time and providing mapping information is required.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

- 5.1 There are currently 2 options to join a District Level Licensing Scheme that have been considered. One is the scheme being run by Natural England as recommended. The other scheme is run by Naturespace. Partnership, which has been running since 2018 and the impact assessments carried out by Naturespace are accredited by Natural England. Out of the four South Yorkshire Local authorities, only one is considering Naturespace. It is considered beneficial for Barnsley to join the same scheme that the majority of neighbouring authorities within South Yorkshire are joining.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS

- 6.1 This approach will provide more certainty to landowners and developers than the current system of surveying on a site by site basis. -

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

8. EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no employee implications arising from this report.--

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Our understanding at the current time is that no contract or Memorandum of Understanding required between the Council and Natural England. If this were to be the case legal support may be required.-

10. CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Mapping data showing local plan allocations will need to be provided. --

11. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Support from Communications may be required to assist in promoting and publicising this scheme if the decision is taken for Barnsley to join.--

12. THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

12.1 The proposal supports the corporate priority 'Thriving and Vibrant Economy' by providing greater certainty to developers and landowners on what the implications of the protection of Great Crested Newts has for their sites, and what costs may be associated with this protection.

13. PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

13.1 There are no direct equality issues arising from this report. The only issue that could arise is around communication with landowners who might have a visual or any other impairment. This can be dealt with on an exception basis.

14. TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

14.1 -Conserving and improving the natural environment can have a positive effect on mental health and wellbeing. -

15. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

15.1 There is no risk to the Council in signing up for this scheme. It is run by Natural England which is the Government's adviser for the natural environment in England. It is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

16. CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

16.1 The recommendation to join this scheme will help to conserve and improve biodiversity through taking a more strategic approach to Great Crested Newts and their habitats.--

17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

Report author: Paula Tweed

Financial Implications/Consultation

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'D Green', is written over a horizontal line. Below the line is another horizontal line, creating a space for a signature.

.....
*(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer
where no financial implications)*

BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

**Report of the Executive
Director Place**

**Sale of land and Grant of Easements to National Grid – Visual Impact Project,
Dunford Bridge**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek authority for the sale of land amounting to 1.2 acres or thereabouts as shown hatched black on the attached plan at Wogden Foot required for a sealing end compound, the granting of the necessary easements between the sealing end compound and the car park located at Dunford Bridge and temporary 2 year lease of land amounting to 8.77 acres shown cross hatched black on the attached plan, required for site compound purposes.
- 1.2 Also referred to in this report is the associated way leave required by National Powergrid for the laying of the overhead low voltage power supply underground to help facilitate the Visual Impact Project (VIP).
- 1.3 All of the above is required in relation to the National Grid Visual Impact Project (VIP) at Dunford Bridge facilitating the removal of 7 Overhead Towers at Dunford Bridge.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 **Cabinet approves the granting of the necessary easements, lease and land disposal in relation to the Visual Impact Project proposed by National Grid for the removal of 7 Overheads Towers at Dunford Bridge as part of their Visual Impact Project funded by Ofgem.**
- 2.2 **Cabinet notes that the Overhead Towers are to be replaced by underground cables to be laid within the easement route which shall run under the Trans Pennine Trail between the public car park at Dunford Bridge and the sealing end compound where it will reconnect to the Overhead Towers.**
- 2.3 **Cabinet approves the granting of a 2 year lease of land is required for site compound purposes allowing for the works to be undertaken and will be used for storage of materials during the works. At the same time National Powergrid are to replace the local overhead low voltage power supply network with an underground power supply to facilitate the Visual Impact Project as it currently traverses the National Grid overhead line.**

- 2.4 **The Corporate Asset Manager be authorised to negotiate and finalise Heads of Terms for the option agreements relating to the sale of land required for a sealing end compound.**
- 2.5 **The Corporate Asset Manager shall by way of Officer delegation dated May 2018 para 23 (j) (iii) and (v) grant, a temporary 2 year lease for site compound purposes and cable easements required by National Grid.**
- 2.6 **The Corporate Asset Manager shall by way of Officer delegation dated May 2018 para 23 (j) (v) grant to Northern Powergrid a way leave in relation to the underground power supply where it affects the land owned by the Council within the car park at Dunford Bridge.**
- 2.7 **That the Executive Director Core Services (Legal) be authorised to complete the necessary documentation so that the option agreements can be completed together with the land transfer, lease and easements as part of National Grids Visual Impact Project at Dunford Bridge.**

3. Introduction

- 3.1 Back in 2016 National Grid began a conversation with the Council having identified as part of their Visual Impact Programme funded by Ofgem the removal of 7 overhead towers at Dunford Bridge replacing them with underground cables. At the time National Grid presented a number of options for discussion and investigation.
- 3.2 At the time a stakeholders group was established in order to consider the options and challenge the proposals in order to ensure the best outcome.
- 3.3 The stakeholders group was and remains made up of representatives from Peak District National Park, BMBC, Dunford Parish Council and Ward Members. National Grid has continued to consult with the stakeholder group and local community throughout the whole of the process.
- 3.4 There were initially 5 options put forward by National Grid, after much deliberation and investigation it has been concluded that there is only one viable option which would facilitate the removal of the 7 overhead towers. This is for the overhead towers to be removed and the cables laid under the existing Trans Pennine Trail between the car park at Dunford Bridge and terminating with a sealing end Compound at Wogden Foot where the cabling would be reconnected to the existing overhead towers. Prior to the commencement of the laying of the cables the TPT will be temporarily diverted by National Grid to the North of the river Don and reinstated once the former Line of the TPT is opened again for use. This will involve significant earth movements and temporary access routes will be created in order to facilitate this over third party land.
- 3.5 During the period the works are being undertaken an area has been identified for storage of materials and it is proposed that a temporary 2 year lease be granted allowing for the use of the Councils land for such purposes. This area is shown crossed hatched black on the attached plan.
- 3.6 The transfer of 1.02 acres or thereabouts of the land showed hatched black on the attached plan is required for National Grid to create a new sealing end compound

where the underground cables will be lifted over the river Don and rejoin the overhead cables once again.

- 3.7 As part of the project National Powergrid also need to lay their overhead low voltage supply cables underground to facilitate the works National Grid are undertaking, as the National Powergrid cables currently traverse the National Grid overhead tower lines. They have already renewed the local supply cables within the immediate vicinity as part of their works to renew the dated existing infrastructure. National Grid has confirmed that it has regular meetings with Northern Powergrid, coordination will be important to ensure that disruption for local people is kept to a minimum throughout the duration of the work.
- 3.8 As part of the project the existing car park is to be improved. The improvements include for resurfacing and an improved layout whilst still retaining the bus turning circle, horse box parking, disabled parking provisions. Provision will be made for two electric vehicle charging points. The picnic area will be upgraded and replanting and wild flower seeding will be provided for as part of the reinstatement works.
- 3.9 National Grid was required to obtain planning applications for the main project and the car park improvements. The main application had been approved at the May 2020 meeting of the Peak District National Park Authority planning committee and at the June 2020 meeting of Barnsley Council's planning regulatory board. The latter was conditional on a legal agreement to ensure the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain which has now been completed and the planning permission issued on 21st September 2020
- 3.10 As part of the planning consent National Grid have undertaken ecology surveys in order to ensure the works commence at the appropriate time of year and for the least impact on the ecology. At the end of the project National Grid will reintroduce habitats that existed prior to the commencement of the project and improve other areas within the Borough.
- 3.11 The other areas to be improved by National Grid include;
- Two additional areas of willow tit enhancement identified at the eastern end of/adjacent to Wogden Foot.
 - Replacement / additional tree planting secured with two off site landowners
 - Off-site biodiversity enhancement at Crow Edge quarry – 1.5km from VIP site.
- At Crow Edge, the enhancement proposals centre on a site of 13.52ha of unenclosed upland, south-east of the Banks Renewables Hazelwood Wind Farm within Dunford Parish. An outline Habitat Management Plan was submitted to Barnsley Council which included 25-year monitoring / management with reports to be submitted to Barnsley Council.
- 3.12 The programme of works provided by National Grid in outline commence with main construction starting in early 2021 subject to funding being approved by Ofgem. The Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) diversion would then be scheduled to open, with the existing route closed in the autumn of 2021. The underground cables will be installed and energised by summer 2022 with the overhead line removed in autumn 2022. The car park enhancement works would follow on afterwards starting during the winter of 2022.

3.13 In order for the works to commence National Grid need r the land option agreement for the land transactions to be in place and is the purposes of this report.

4. Proposal and Justification

4.1 National Grid are through Ofgem funding undertaking a number of Visual Impact Projects throughout the UK with Dunford Bridge being identified as one of these. The Dunford Bridge proposal includes for the removal of 7 overhead towers. National Grid will as part of the proposal lay the cables under the existing TPT between the car park at Dunford Bridge and a sealing end compound they will create at Wogden Foot. In order to facilitate this National Grid need to acquire the land for a sealing end compound from the Council and for the Council to grant to national Grid a cable easement allowing them to lay the cables under the TPT. In addition a 2 year lease will also be required of land needed for storage purposes until the works have been completed.

4.2 Dunford Bridge is located on the periphery of the Peak National Park and is considered to be an area of outstanding natural beauty; the removal of the towers will reduce the impact of National Grids presence in the locality and dramatically improve the vistas in the immediate vicinity. There has been local opposition to the scheme this has been more around the disruption during the works.

4.3 As part of the scheme improvements will be made to the car park at Dunford Bridge and the adjoining picnic areas. This will provide improved facilities for visitors to the area and benefit the users of the TPT ensuring it remains accessible for all. As part of the reinstatement works additional planting will take place ensuring the sites ecology is reinstated as much as possible and invasive species identified will be removed from site during the project.

4.4 In addition to the improvements carried out to the TPT and the car park additional mitigation works have been agreed in relation to other sites within 5 kms of the TPT and are listed in more detail in 3.11 above.

5. Consideration of Alternative Approaches

5.1 At the commencement of discussions between National Grid the Council and other stakeholders an options paper was submitted offering 5 options. As part of these processes other options were discarded based on the viability and all but the project currently presented were rejected due to accessibility and ground conditions.

5.2 Not progressing this proposal will result in the 7 overhead towers remaining in situ and National Grid investing in an alternative project to improve the visual impact of their equipment/ apparatus on the environment.

6. Impact on Local People

6.1 During the undertaking of the works there will be a significant impact on the local community, due to the nature of the works there will be regular vehicle movements within the locality. The work will take place over a period of 2 years; once the works have been completed the residents will have the benefit of the 7 overhead towers having been removed as part of the Visual Impact Project.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer.)
- 7.2 National Grid are proposing to remove 7 overhead towers and replace them with underground cabling . They will be making an application for funding from Ofgem in order to carry out these works as such there will be financial implication in relation to the cost of the works. In addition, National Grid will also make improvement to a car park at Dunford Bridge and surrounding woodland. If the funding from Ofgem is not forthcoming then the project will not go ahead.
- 7.3 In order to facilitate these works, National Grid are seeking to purchase a plot of land from the council required for sealing end compound purposes. It is estimated that the Council will benefit from a capital receipt from the sale of land in the region of £7,800 and for the cable easement a sum in the region of £22,100. On signing the option agreements 25% will be paid and non-refundable with the remaining 75% paid upon completion.
- 7.4 In addition, National Grid also require a smaller plot of land on a 2 year lease from the council to be used as works compound. If granted the Council will also receive a rental income expected to be in the region of £70,984 for the two year period and will be received in advance. For accounting purpose of IFRS the lease will be classified as a Finance lease
- 7.5 There will be a cost implication on the Council in terms of officer time relating to dealing with the project from the Council's perspective, which is covered within existing resources.
- 7.6 There are no undue VAT implications arising for the Council as a result of the proposed lease to the Scheme.
- 7.7 Full financial implications are considered in Appendix A to this report .

8. Employee Implications

- 8.1 There are no issues arising as a result of this report.

9. Communications Implications

- 9.1 Throughout this process National Grid have continued to communicate with the stakeholders group and local residents. Now that planning permission has been obtained as the project progresses, subject to the approval of the recommendations included in this report the intention is that there will be a joined up communications approach between the Council and National Grid with a Community Liaison Group representing the local community throughout the project.
- 9.2 As the VIP moves from the development phase into delivery the VIP will be more visible and potentially disruptive to the local community and National Grid have emphasised the importance on clear communications and a proactive and responsive approach being taken.

- 9.3 There would be designated contacts for individual landowners provided by National Grid land team and local residents will be communicated with by the Community Relations Team who can be contacted via a dedicated email, website, and phone number.
- 9.4 Morgan Sindall the appointed contractor will also appoint a local site representative with responsibility for community issues. National Grid's Consents officers will continue to liaise with local authority officers and other statutory bodies regarding the discharge of planning conditions, while National Grid's Project Management Team supported by the Community Relations Team and local site representative will look after wider stakeholders including elected members and interest groups.

10. Consultations

- 10.1 The stakeholder groups have been consulted throughout the option appraisal process and as outlined in 9 above continued consultation will take place throughout the project.
- 10.2 Local Ward Members have been consulted regarding the Visual Impact Project.
- 10.3 The Parish Council has been consulted regarding the Visual Impact Project.
- 10.4 The relevant stakeholders within the Council have been consulted in relation to the Visual Impact project and are listed as follows;

Sarah Ford – Senior Rights of Way
Russ Boland – Park Officer
Mandy Loach – Trans Pennine Trail Officer
Paul Castle- Service Director Environment and Transport
Ian Wilson – Service Manager Highways
Joe Jenkinson – Service director
Trevor Mayne – Countryside and Biodiversity Officer

11. The Corporate Plan And The Council's Performance Management Framework

- 11.1 In approving the recommendations the VIP project will move from the development phase into the construction phase, subject to funding from Ofgem. The removal of the 7 overhead towers will improve the environment and improvement will be carried out to the car park. The addition mitigation works will also enhance the local biodiversity within the local area. All of which will support the corporate plan by meeting the Council priority of creating a Thriving and Vibrant Economy and creating an environment that improves the health of the residents of Barnsley.

12. Promoting Equality and Diversity and Social Inclusion

- 12.1 There are no issues arising from this report.

13. Tackling The Impact Of Poverty

13.1 There are no issues arising from this report.

14. Tackling Health Inequalities

14.1 There are no issues arising from this report.

15. Reduction of Crime and Disorder

15.1 In investigating the options set out in this report, the Council's duties under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 have been considered.

15.2 In National Grid carrying out the works they will have to comply with appropriate standards and take all necessary measures to ensure the site remain secure minimising the potential for antisocial behaviour or fly tipping etc.

16. Risk Management Issues

16.1 It is the responsibility for National Grid to secure funding from Ofgem for the VIP. Once the funding is secured there is a low risk of the VIP not progressing. If Ofgem funding is not forthcoming the Project will not proceed and other than officer time all expenses have been borne by National Grid.

16.2 Once the works are completed the temporary TPT will be returned to farmland the cost of which are included in the Ofgem funding.

16.3 National Grid has obtained the planning consents necessary for the VIP and has engaged Morgan Sindall who will carry out the works on behalf of National Grid.

16.4 National Grid advise that all other land agreement required for the scheme are in place, without these the temporary TPT route would not be secured and the proposal would not take place.

17. Health, Safety And Emergency Resilience Issues

17.1 There are no direct health and safety implications arising from this report.

17.2 Any future development will be the responsibility of the National Grid to ensure full consideration is given to current Health and Safety Legislation.

18. Compatibility with European Convention on Human Rights

18.1 This report recognises the promotion and importance of equality, diversity and human rights for all members of the local community and the wider Borough.

19. Conservation of Biodiversity

19.1 As part of the VIP extensive ecology surveys have been undertaken and consultation with the Council's Countryside and Biodiversity Officer has been undertaken. There are no direct issues arising as a result of this report and any

biodiversity issues will have been considered as part of the planning application process.

20. Glossary

20.1 VIP – Visual Impact Project

20.2 TPT – Trans Pennine Trail

21. List of Appendices

Appendix A – Financial Implications.

Appendix B – Site Plan

22. Background Papers

22.1 Correspondence regarding this matter is held on the files in Property – Estates – not available for inspection contains exempt information.

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Report author: Tim Hartley

Report of the Executive Director of Place

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

i)	Capital Income	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	TOTAL
		£	£	£	
	Sale Of Land & Cable Easement	-29,902			0
		<u>-29,902</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	To be financed from:				0
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
ii)	Revenue Effects	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>FYE</u>
		£	£	£	£
	<u>Income</u>				
	Rental Income	-70,984			
	Total Income	<u>-70,984</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	To be financed from:				
		<u>-70,984</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Impact on Medium Term Financial Strategy	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	£	£	£
MTFS	0.000	0.031	3.879
Effect of this report	0	0	0
Revised Medium Term Financial Strategy	0.000	0.031	3.879

Agreed by:D Greaves..... On behalf of the Service Director and Section 151 Officer -Finance

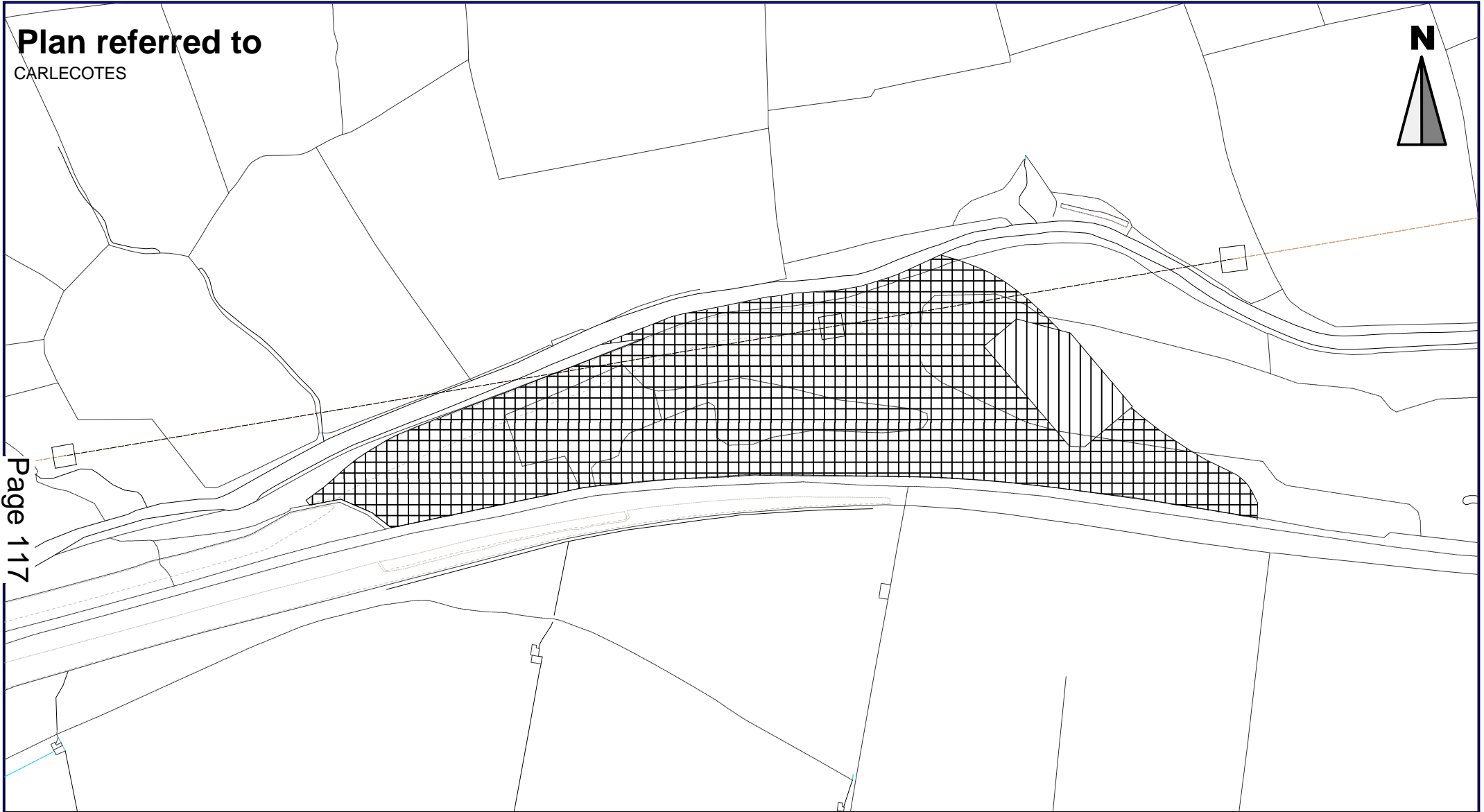
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Plan referred to

CARLECOTES



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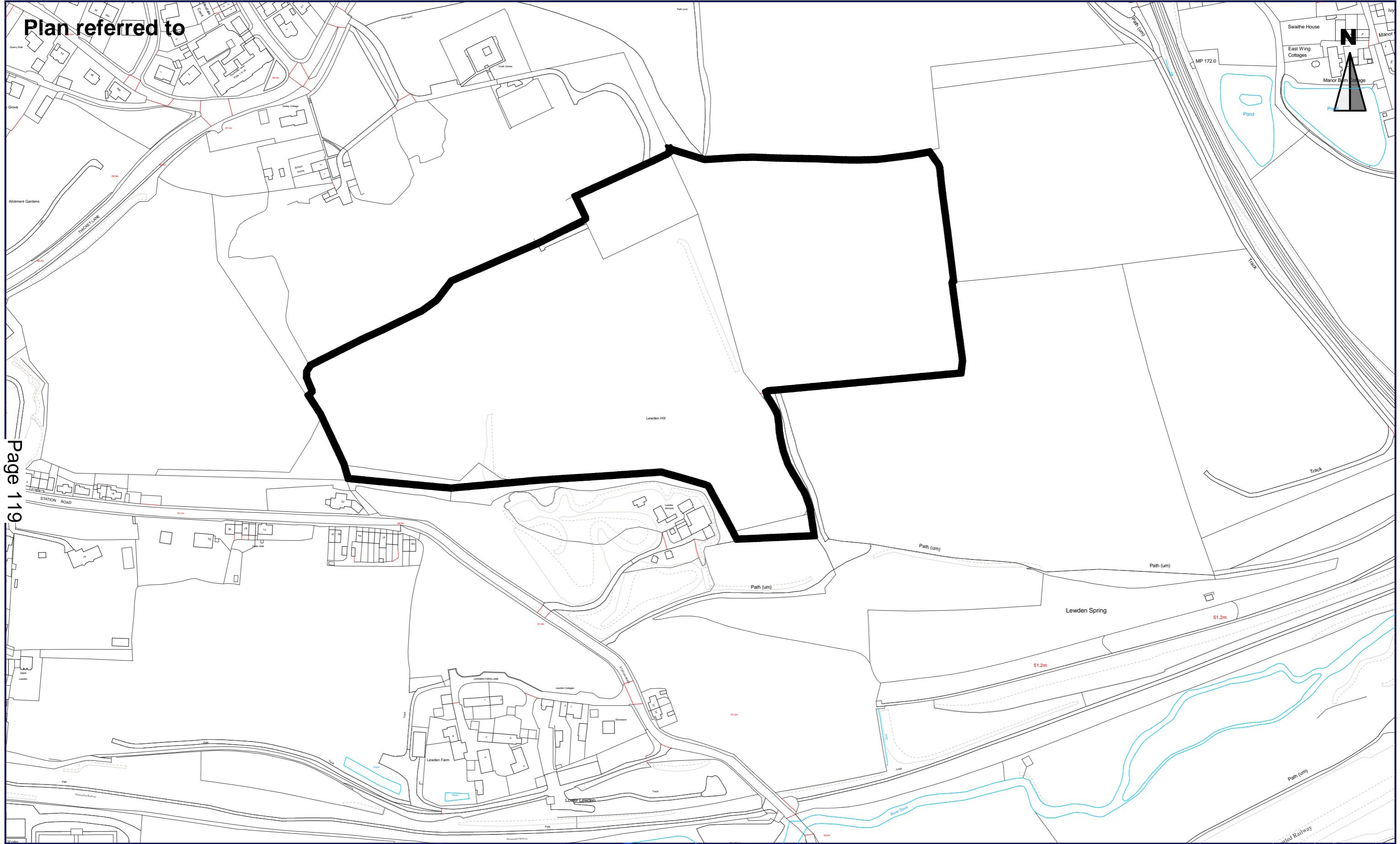


Strategic Property and Procurement/Asset Management
PO Box 634, Barnsley, S70 9GG

e-mail: Assetmanagement@barnsley.gov.uk
website: www.barnsley.gov.uk

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Plan referred to



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Drwg no:	JK3011A
Date:	18/09/2020
Scale 1: 2,500	

Drawing Title :
**Elmirst Playing Fields, Worsbrough
 Cabinet Plan**



BARNSELY
Metropolitan Borough Council

Strategic Property and procurement/Asset Management
 PO Box 634, Barnsley, S70 9GG

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 website: www.barnsley.gov.uk

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PLACE
TO CABINET**

**PROPOSAL TO SURRENDER THE CURRENT LEASE AT WELLINGTON HOUSE,
BARNSELY**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the Council's intention to surrender one of the current leases at Wellington House (six months early) to facilitate the site being used by DWP for a new Job Centre provision and create a 'Support Hub' in the Town Centre.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

- 2.1 **The terms are accepted to surrender of the lease arrangements at Wellington House on the 31st December 2020.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Cabinet will recall approval was given in February 2020 for the Town Centre Accommodation Strategy, which would reduce surplus office accommodation through the disposal or repurposing of assets and divesting of leasehold sites upon expiry.
- 3.2 Wellington House is currently occupied by way of several leases expiring in June 21 and June 26. The original plan was for the lease to be terminated for the Ground/1st Floor in June 2021 contributing a total saving of £227,700 (£170,775 in 21/22 and a further £56,925 in 22/23) which would contribute towards the 21/22 efficiency saving of £242,000. This space has been vacant since the library moved to the Lightbox in 2018.

Table below summarises current occupancy:

Floor Space	Lease Arrangements	Rent £	Service Currently Operating
Basement 5,629 sq. ft	The Council have a 10-year lease of part, commencing 24/06/16	The passing rent is £14,075 per annum with reviews on the 5 th and 10 th anniversary	Library Services – BIBs team
Ground 6,635 sq. ft 1 st Floor 6,351 sq. ft	The Council have a 5-year lease of part of the ground floor and part of the first floor, commencing 24/06/16. This lease also includes the car park	The passing rent is £103,088 per annum	Currently Vacant and the proposed space for HOT
2 nd Floor 12,900 sq. ft	The Council have a 10-year lease of the whole of 2 nd floor, commencing 24/06/16	The passing rent is £103,200 per annum with reviews on the 5 th and 10 th anniversary	The Adult Skills and Community Learning Service (ASCL)
Part First Floor 4,994 sq. ft	The Council have a 10-year lease of the remaining part of the first floor	BMBC are responsible for the rent of £39,522 per annum with reviews on the 5 th and 10 th anniversary	Sublet to Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) whose rent payable is Zero, however BMBC recovers a service charge.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The DWP have approached the Council to take space within the Town Centre. The Head of Property has negotiated a deal with the Landlord and DWP for them to occupy the vacant space at Wellington House.
- 4.2 The deal results with an early surrender (31.12.20) of the lease held by the Council for the ground and first floor with a surrender premium of £83k, which is payable by the Council.
- 4.3 This payment will be a full and final settlement and will allow the Council to walk away from the dilapidations claim of c£220k and a further 6 months rates liability.

5. BENEFITS

- 5.1 The following benefits of this early surrender have been identified:
- Early surrender of the lease will achieve the KLOE for this site six months early and meet the objectives of the Accommodation Strategy.

- Remove the risk and liability associated with a long-term empty asset.
- Create savings associated with the Business Rates Liability and remove the costs associated with the final schedule of dilapidations (£220K).
- Economic and Employment Benefits – with DWP taking the lease it will bring approximately 200 jobs to the Town Centre.
- The occupation by DWP will complement the Adult Education and CAB Services that will continue to operate from this site until 2026.
- SMT did recently approved a temporary move for Housing Options Team to occupy the subject space albeit on a temporary solution. This deal will prevent that temporary move being facilitated, however the Assets Team have now identified several alternatives to meet the long-term requirements.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Revenue	2020/21	2021/22
Current Costs	£	£
Rent & Service Charge	165,094	165,094
Running Costs	77,538	77,538
Total	242,632	242,632
Revised Proposal	£	£
Rent & Service Charge	206,821	0
Running Costs	58,153	0
Total	264,974	0
Saving	22,342	(242,632)
Cumulative	22,342	(220,290)

- 6.1 Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer.)
- 6.2 Whilst extra costs will be incurred during in the current financial year (payment of the surrender premium £83K), this will be partially offset by savings on the service charge and running costs.
- 6.3 However, in the financial year 2021/22 a full saving of £242,632 will be achieved and the KLOE fully delivered in 2021/22.
- 6.4 There will also be a Capital expenditure saving of £220K associated with dilapidations that no longer need to be funded by the Town Centre Accommodations scheme.

7. EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Not Applicable.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Not Applicable.

9. CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Not Applicable.

10. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Not Applicable,

11. CONSULTATIONS

11.1 Internal consultation has taken place with Service Director Finance and Executive Director Place.

12. THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

12.1 Not applicable.

13. PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

13.1 Not applicable.

14. TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY

14.1 Not applicable.

15. TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

15.1 Not applicable.

16. REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

16.1 Not applicable.

17. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

17.1 Not applicable.

18. HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESILIENCE ISSUES

18.1 Not applicable.

19. COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

19.1 Not applicable.

20. CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

20.1 Not applicable.

21. BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no background papers associated with this report

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

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