

# Public Document Pack

<b>MEETING:</b>	Cabinet
<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday, 10 March 2021
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY
<b>PUBLIC WEB LINK:</b>	<a href="https://barnsley.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts">https://barnsley.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts</a>

## 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 24 February 2021 (Cab.10.3.2021/3) *(Pages 3 - 4)*

### Items for Noting

4. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.10.3.2021/4)

### Petitions

5. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.10.3.2021/5)

### Items for Decision/Recommendation to Council

#### Overview and Scrutiny Reports

6. Scrutiny Task and Finish Group - Child Poverty (Cab.10.3.2021/6) *(Pages 5 - 14)*
7. Scrutiny Task and Finish Group - Child Emotional Health and Wellbeing (Early Intervention and Prevention) (Cab.10.3.2021/7) *(Pages 15 - 24)*
8. Scrutiny Task and Finish Group - Covid Response, Recovery and Renewal (Cab.10.3.2021/8) *(Pages 25 - 34)*

#### Leader

9. Freedom of the Borough (Cab.10.3.2021/9) *(Pages 35 - 48)*

#### Core Services Spokesperson

10. Corporate Plan Performance Report - 2020/21 Quarter 3 (October - December 2020) (Cab.10.3.2021/10) *(Pages 49 - 70)*
11. Corporate Finance Performance - Quarter ending 31 December 2020 (Cab.10.3.2021/11) *(Pages 71 - 90)*

## **Regeneration and Culture Spokesperson**

12. Principal Towns Investment Programme - Wombwell (Cab.10.3.2021/12)  
(Pages 91 - 98)

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](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk)

Tuesday, 2 March 2021

<b>MEETING:</b>	Cabinet
<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday, 24 February 2021
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	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, McCarthy, Shepherd and Tattersall

### 71. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

### 72. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 10 February 2021 had been called in.

### 73. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 February 2021 (Cab.24.2.2021/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 74. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.24.2.2021/4)

The Record of Decisions taken by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers during the weeks ending 5 and 12 February 20201 were noted.

### 75. Action Taken under Paragraph B6 of the Responsibility for Executive Functions - Officer Delegations Contained in the Council Constitution (Cab.24.2.2021/5)

**RESOLVED** that the action taken by Executive Directors under Paragraph B6 of the Responsibility for Executive Functions – Officer Delegations, as contained within the Appendix attached to the report now submitted and detailed below, be noted:-

1. Approval of Covid Memorial Sculpture and associated consultation and works
  - (i) that progress on the development of the sculpture and associated engagement programme be noted; and
  - (ii) that the sum of £450,000 net be set aside to cover the cost of the memorial and its installation.

**76. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.24.2.2021/6)**

It was reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 44.

**Adults and Communities Spokesperson**

**77. Public Space Protection Order for Dog Control (Cab.24.2.2021/7)**

**RESOLVED** that the conditions and implementation approach documented within the report were agreed for implementation across the borough, based on the evidence and feedback from the public consultation.

**Children's Spokesperson**

**78. School Term Times and Holiday Dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2022-2023 (Cab.24.2.2021/8)**

**RESOLVED** that the term times and holiday dates for 2022-2023 outlined in Appendix 1 of the report were approved.

.....  
Chair

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL (BMBC)

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  
Core Services

### SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP (TFG) REPORT ON CHILD POVERTY

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To report to Cabinet the findings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) from the investigation undertaken on its behalf by the Child Poverty Task and Finish Group (TFG). This report follows on from the previous investigation into poverty which focused on adults; however, this investigation looks specifically at the challenges and support for children and young people (C&YP) living in poverty. This included considering what the key challenges are for C&YP living in poverty; what support services are available from the Council and other local agencies; and what are the future plans in terms of this agenda. The TFG met with a number of representatives from local agencies, spoke with C&YP directly and highlight a number of recommendations in support of further improvement.

#### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet considers the conclusions and recommendations set out in section 6 as a result of the TFG's review of Poverty.

#### 3. Introduction/Background

- 3.1 As part of its work programme the OSC agreed to undertake a further TFG investigation into Child Poverty in Barnsley following on from previous work. The TFG acknowledge that support needs to be provided to parents and carers in order to lift children out of poverty; however, they are cognisant of there being specific impacts and implications on C&YP living in poverty and were keen to further investigate these and consider the provision of relevant support mechanisms.
- 3.2 There were already heightened concerns regarding poverty both locally and nationally prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, it is evident that this position has been exacerbated as a result of national lockdowns and additional pressures on household finances, job losses and reduced access to healthcare and education provision. It is also likely that this position may worsen as national government support schemes such as furlough are removed. The TFG have sought to better understand the specific challenges in terms of poverty in Barnsley on C&YP; to hear the views from a number of different key agencies and local residents; and consider what recommendations could be made for improvements.
- 3.3 The members of the TFG who undertook this investigation included the following: Councillors Jo Newing (TFG Lead Member), John Clarke, Jeff Ennis, Steve Hunt, Wayne Johnson, Phil Lofts, Pauline McCarthy, May Noble, Pauline Phillips and Kevin Williams.

#### 4. What the Task & Finish Group (TFG) looked at

- 4.1 Initially, the TFG met to consider the scope of the investigation. This involved discussing their key concerns around child poverty in their local communities including: the availability of support services specifically for C&YP; the extent to which C&YP are aware of and access such services; how agencies are working together locally to address this agenda; consideration of those who meet criteria for support, such as access to Free School Meals (FSM) as well as those living just above the poverty line; and consider what national agencies recommend regarding this agenda.

4.2 The TFG undertook a number of virtual ‘check and challenge’ sessions with officers regarding the work being carried out and future plans. This involved asking questions of them regarding their work, their involvement and partnership working with other agencies including the impact of this on Barnsley residents, as well as speaking with C&YP directly. This included:

- Meeting with BMBC’s Head of Early Start, Prevention & Sufficiency, the Early Start & Families Strategy & Service Manager, and a Family Support Manager, who all work in overseeing and delivering the Council’s Early Help Offer to children, young people and families (CYP&F);
- Meeting with C&YP representatives from Barnsley Youth Council, Care4Us Council and Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Forum;
- Undertaking a session with BMBC’s Service Director for Children’s Social Care (CSC) & Safeguarding alongside a Professor of Social Work from the University of Sheffield and a Professor of Social Work from the University of Huddersfield who have been involved in poverty-proofing BMBC’s CSC assessment process;
- Meeting with Schools Forum representatives including the Head Teacher of Horizon Community College (HCC), Deputy Safeguarding Lead from HCC, and Executive Head of Meadstead Primary School to understand their experiences of child poverty and support provision for C&YP;
- Undertaking a session with officers from BMBC’s Youth Service including the Early Intervention & Prevention (EIP) Service Manager, EIP Operation Manager, the Youth Voice & Participation Operational Manager, the Children’s Rights Co-ordinator as well as an EIP worker;
- Meeting with BMBC’s Group Leader for Community Safety & Enforcement Services who looks after the enforcement team who manage private sector housing including both owner occupiers and private landlords;
- Attending an All Elected Member Information Briefing (AMIB) on the Good Food Barnsley Community Interest Company (CiC) which is a partnership whose aim is to work toward the relief of food poverty and the preservation and promotion of food access, good health and social improvement. The session was delivered by BMBC’s Head of Commissioning for Healthier Communities, the Commissioning Manager for Healthier Communities, the Cabinet Member for Communities and the Innovation Manager for Good Food Barnsley CiC;
- Meeting with BMBC’s Head of Service for Stronger Communities and the Area Manager for the Dearne Area Council to understand more about the work across different Area Councils to tackle child poverty as well as work undertaken by officers in partnership with corporate BMBC services;
- Meeting with representatives from BMBC’s 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service (PHNS) including the Service Manager, a Health Visitor, the Named Nurse for Safeguarding and Children in Care, a Child Development Practitioner and a School Nurse; and
- Finally, meeting with the Policy & Partnerships Officer-Social Security for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to understand their work as a nationally recognised independent social change organisation working to solve UK poverty.

## **5. What the Task & Finish Group found**

5.1 During the first session on the Council’s Early Help Offer to CYP&F, the group were given an overview of the detrimental impact childhood experiences of poverty can have upon C&YP and their outcomes, and that the pandemic was resulting in increasing numbers of families being impacted. The service highlighted the importance of effective early intervention in terms of reducing this impact and how they advocate for a holistic whole family approach which provides access to the right service at the right time through universal, targeted and specialist services that wrap around the family whilst ensuring the child is at the centre. The TFG were given an overview of the different interventions utilised by the service, this included parenting programmes to help both parents and children to be resilient. Specific support was provided to C&YP impacted by poverty to help build their personal resilience, learn from mistakes, manage emotions, problem solve and encourage their aspirations by ensuring they were exposed to positive role models. Specifically, during the pandemic, the service had worked to maximise opportunities for CYP&F to obtain digital equipment as well as face coverings and hand sanitizer. The service also worked in close partnership with local agencies to provide support and interventions including CSC services, schools, health services and South Yorkshire Police (SYP).

- 5.2 Members highlighted the importance of Family Centre Managers being well-linked with local ward members so they could mutually benefit from being aware of services available locally and promote them amongst communities, as it was felt these links had not always been made consistently. This also included Members being aware of the Family Information Service (FIS) which they could direct constituents to, especially those who may not meet criteria for certain support services. The FIS can also be used as a resource to support young people directly so they can access information on services such as 'I Know I Can' (IKIC) which is designed to build confidence, create dreams and aspirations, raise qualification levels and strengthen young people's life skills.
- 5.3 The TFG were keen to hear from young people directly regarding their experiences in relation to child poverty, whether this was something they had experienced directly, or something they had observed amongst friends and/or peers. One of the main concerns the young people raised was regarding digital poverty, where young people either didn't have access to any devices or were working off a mobile telephone. The other key challenge was ensuring young people had access to sufficient Wi-Fi and data, especially given the number of things including schooling taking place online. They spoke of evidence of schools and local colleges supplying students with equipment; however, felt this had not reached all pupils.
- 5.4 Young people felt that there was stigma attached to being poor which prevented CYP&F from accessing support. Examples were given where young people felt living in poverty meant struggles and less opportunities, for example: where young people had pretended to be ill as they couldn't afford to go on a school trip; they had studied locally as they couldn't afford to access their college/university education elsewhere due to transport costs; and where even non-uniform days were stressful for fear of being bullied for not being able to afford certain clothing. When asked what one thing would really help C&YP living in poverty, the young people responded having access to youth clubs. The young people felt that these were a real outlet for young people where they felt secure and could get advice and support without stigma being attached.
- 5.5 During one of the sessions, the group learned of the work being done by the Council in partnership with local universities to poverty-proof the CSC assessment process. It was highlighted that children living in deprivation in England are ten times more likely to be subject to child protection compared with those in more affluent areas, and that locally we don't want to see poverty as a reason for C&YP not to be with their families. It was noted that across the country, Social Workers (SWs) have developed a lens that looks at psychological issues and risk factors when undertaking assessments; however, poverty is a crucial consideration that is missing, where it's not about families not budgeting, but they simply don't have enough income to manage. Building on the service's work on neglect, they have now implemented a Manager's Poverty Checklist to take account of a family's economic circumstances as well as developing 'Poverty Champions' who will attend specialist training and share their learning across different services. The service recognises the need to maximise the income of all families and also to learn from families directly in terms of the challenges they have faced, including for example in navigating support systems. The TFG welcomed knowledge of SWs receiving basic training on the benefits system to assist families and highlighted the importance of the links with this work and Area Councils.
- 5.6 On speaking with representatives from local schools, the TFG learned of the variety of initiatives in place and work done to support CYP&F living in poverty. This included having dedicated staff providing welfare support for students in school as well as providing support to struggling families to access food parcels, replacement white goods and digital devices. Schools highlighted the number of families who find it difficult to ask for support; however, the pandemic has meant that for many of them they are no longer able to cope, with there often also being issues of drugs, alcohol and hidden gambling. Schools have therefore sought government grants where possible to address challenges and they have also worked with local partners to seek support for families. The consistency of welfare support in schools was discussed and the representatives agreed to take this to Barnsley Alliance to have as a regular agenda item so that schools can provide mutual challenge to each other regarding this. Linked with this, Members raised concerns regarding provision of support to families, given the number of agencies involved and whether there may be duplication, or conversely, families who are not getting any help at all.

- 5.7 As well as speaking to C&YP directly, the TFG met with officers from the Council's Youth Services who provide targeted provision for C&YP as well as represent youth voices universally to raise issues and themes that matter to them. The TFG welcomed knowledge of the service's integration with local partners to target and support specific young people to address risky behaviours, divert them from anti-social behaviour (ASB) and help them become resilient, positive citizens of the future. The group however noted the importance of generic youth work and the early help support this provides; thereby preventing the need for targeted support, which the service is currently unable to provide. The discussion highlighted that young people are unable to lift themselves out of poverty but provision such as youth clubs provides them with escapism and opportunities to seek support which they might not otherwise access proactively. The importance of having community venues to deliver such services was also discussed. Given the specific needs of C&YP, the TFG are keen to ensure that the voice of young people and youth services are heard when considerations are being made regarding tackling poverty within the borough.
- 5.8 Further to concerns regarding people living in poverty in private sector housing, the TFG met with the Group Leader who manages the private sector housing enforcement team to learn from their experiences of visiting properties across the borough and working with families living in poverty. The group were reassured regarding the service's work done in partnership with others to support families and make sure that 'every contact counts'; this includes helping to improve accommodation standards, as well as making referrals to other support agencies. The discussion highlighted the service's knowledge of support schemes for adults; however, that it would be helpful for them to have greater knowledge of access to support services specifically for C&YP.
- 5.9 Transient households were highlighted as an issue, whereby some households move from street to street due to issues paying rent, which is particularly unsettling for C&YP in those families. The service also raised concerns regarding the impact of the pandemic and a new cohort of people struggling financially due to a drop in income as a result of being furloughed; whereas those on benefits may have seen a rise in income due to additional monies provided through Universal Credit and access to support funds such as Council Tax and money towards paying utilities. The TFG noted the service's concerns regarding future homelessness due to the suspension on possessions and evictions coming to an end, as well as national government support schemes such as furlough being brought to a close. The service highlighted that work was being undertaken on a Private Rented Housing Strategy which TFG members were keen for OSC Members to be consulted on and involved in.
- 5.10 Further to a recommendation from the previous TFG on poverty and to avoid duplicating demands on officer time, the group attended an AMIB on Good Food Barnsley CiC. This enabled the group to provide further challenge regarding the progress of this work in addressing food poverty in partnership with other local agencies, as well as learning about recent developments such as the national Marcus Rashford campaign. The TFG welcomed the session and the work undertaken which covered:
- Foodbanks and the work of Fareshare in terms of supporting the most vulnerable and provision of emergency food aid due to the pandemic.
  - Healthy Holidays to provide food and activities for financially vulnerable families during holiday periods.
  - Rose Voucher Scheme to promote healthy eating and combat food poverty by giving families vouchers that can be redeemed for fresh fruit and veg at local markets.
  - Goldthorpe & Athersley Community Shops and their work in offering discounted good food, a café and a place where people can be supported to plan and budget for food.
- 5.11 Although TFG Members are aware of the work within their own Area Councils to address child poverty and projects to support young people living in difficult circumstances; they undertook a session to help them understand initiatives across all the different areas as well as officers' work with core Council services during the pandemic. The TFG were impressed by the innovative work being undertaken in different areas with robust contract management of local service provision. This includes projects where there may be provision of fruit and vegetables to support families struggling financially, but where so much more is done through the schemes such as educating families around healthy eating, but in a way where they don't feel stigmatised. Having undertaken several sessions



regarding services in local areas, the TFG acknowledged the great work being undertaken; however, they raised concerns regarding the co-ordination of these and trying to avoid duplication amongst the work of BMBC services, the Good Food Barnsley CiC, support in schools, projects commissioned by Area Councils and Ward Alliances as well as initiatives by 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations and local volunteers.

- 5.12 As part of their investigation, the TFG were keen to hear from health services with regards to child poverty and experiences of visiting CYP&F in their homes. A Community Paediatrician and Barnsley Hospital Paediatrician shared their experiences and concerns regarding the impact that living in poverty has on C&YP. This included the obesogenic environment many live in due to poor diet and lack of exercise, the challenges for families in navigating the plethora of local support, as well as statutory national services who each have their own access criteria and assessments. However, as the Paediatricians mainly undertake their work in clinical settings, this prompted the group to meet with representatives from the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service (PHNS) as front-line practitioners going into people's homes and seeing the challenging environments some CYP&F live in. The TFG learned of the 0-19 PHNS' universal provision to all families, including nationally mandated contacts at key times in a child's early life via Health Visitors, as well as the offer of further services to support families with additional needs.
- 5.13 The PHNS highlighted the heightened challenges that CYP&F are facing regarding poverty as a result of the pandemic. This includes lower household incomes and rising expenditure for food and household bills as families are confined to homes, as well as for some families increased exposure to poor household conditions such as damp due to lockdown restrictions. They reported that families employ a range of coping strategies to manage the financial squeeze which often includes buying cheaper, less healthy food. This has also meant that the usual access to support networks and community services has been reduced and the service are noticing increasing complexities with cases, as well as the need to signpost more for benefits advice and support families to navigate various services. The service also reported seeing increased links with poverty and poor mental health issues amongst CYP&F and the relationship this has with neglect. Some families don't have access to basic safety equipment to protect their children which increases the risk of harm. The TFG praised the service's work with partners and available agencies; however, raised concerns regarding the need to rely on charitable organisations to support some families in acute need with equipment.
- 5.14 To conclude the TFG's investigation, they met with a representative from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), which is a national organisation working to tackle poverty in the UK. The TFG learned of how they work to a social change model to deliver long-term plans aimed at tackling root causes of UK poverty in pursuit of people finding a route out of poverty through work, a better social security system and to have more people living in a decent, affordable home. The group were provided with an overview of the latest poverty statistics, highlighting the increase in those living in poverty, particularly since the pandemic, as well as increases in poverty in working households. The session covered the variety of challenges and schemes to support CYP&F living in poverty such as warm home grants, Local Welfare Assistance (LWA) schemes, including discretionary payments, as well as the benefits of advice services being co-located in accessible community locations such as GP surgeries to improve access. A key concern highlighted with regards to young people was the impact of the pandemic on industries closing where young people usually access work experience such as in the hospitality sector. For many this is where they begin building their skills and CVs for later life and may find that without these opportunities it may impact on later employment prospects. Therefore, the ability to undertake volunteering opportunities will be increasingly important for young people.

## **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 Throughout the investigation, the TFG members made a number of suggestions and recommendations regarding the work being undertaken and were able to provide an insight into how poverty was affecting their local communities, specifically raising the concerns, impact and interventions required to support C&YP living in poverty. In addition to these suggestions, the TFG recommends the following:

- 6.2 **Recommendation 1: All Family Centre Managers to hold engagement sessions with local Ward Members and ensure this is a mandatory part of the induction process for new managers as well as ensuring the intelligence is shared with other Family Centre staff**  
As highlighted above, this is to ensure that intelligence is shared regarding the work of and available facilities in family centres so Members can promote these services amongst their communities. This will also provide opportunity for Family Centre managers and their staff to understand specific projects and services which have been commissioned on a local ward or area basis which they may be able to refer CYP&F to; thereby maximising available support opportunities.
- 6.3 **Recommendation 2: Priority needs to be given to addressing digital poverty for C&YP. This not only includes access to devices but also to Wi-Fi and adequate data**  
The TFG recognise that there have been a number of schemes to address digital poverty amongst young people both locally and nationally, including provision via local schools and colleges. However, the group are cognisant of the challenges C&YP living in poverty face, without being further impeded with access to education. The group would welcome an update on the work done on this agenda and an indication of the extent to which there are still gaps. The TFG also recommend the Council engages with its suppliers regarding what they could offer local C&YP and the extent to which educational activity online could be exempt from data allowances.
- 6.4 **Recommendation 3: The Council makes provision for a generic youth service offer across the borough**  
The group acknowledge the challenges the Council has faced in recent years and the changes made to youth service provision; however, they feel this is a critical service for local young people to access. A generic offer provides opportunity for young people to seek advice and support on a variety of issues in an environment which is not stigmatised. It is also acknowledged that young people are unlikely to proactively seek support for issues they may be experiencing but by being amongst professionals in an informal environment are more likely to disclose challenges they and their family may be facing and their support needs. This may be something that is commissioned either centrally or by individual Area Councils.
- 6.5 **Recommendation 4: Work around poverty-proofing CSC assessments is presented at each Area Council, so they can engage with this agenda and exchange knowledge of local resources and services to aid this work**  
The TFG welcomed knowledge of this work and were keen to ensure that Area Councils are engaged with poverty champions so that the Council can make best use of its resources as well as those in local communities including 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations.
- 6.6 **Recommendation 5: Additional investment is made available to provide externally procured outreach advice services to ensure basic local provision in every area**  
Given the importance of maximising family income and the impact the pandemic has had on households who have not previously struggled financially, TFG Members requested to reiterate the recommendation from the previous investigation into poverty, regarding the need for advice services to be available in all wards. Given the economic impact of the pandemic on employment, the group anticipate an increasing demand on households accessing benefits for the first time and the need for sound financial advice and support for them.
- 6.7 **Recommendation 6: The TFG welcome Barnsley Alliance discussing welfare support in schools as a regular agenda item to ensure consistency across the Borough**  
The TFG welcome this action which came up during the discussion with local school representatives and are keen to support the work of the Barnsley Alliance, in particular for schools to provide ongoing peer challenge regarding their welfare support provision. The TFG are cognisant of the key role schools play in local communities, which has been, and will continue to be important, as CYP&F deal with the impacts of the pandemic both now and in the future.
- 6.8 **Recommendation 7: The OSC undertakes a future TFG investigation into gambling**  
Given the impact of the pandemic, a number of agencies mentioned concerns regarding gambling in communities and the harm this causes to CYP&F. There has been national recognition of the

increase in online gambling during the pandemic and concerns regarding the impact of this on poverty.

**6.9 Recommendation 8: Enforcement Officers working in private sector housing to be provided with/directed to information on specific support services available for C&YP living in poverty in local areas**

The TFG recognise the challenges in officers being able to have a plethora of knowledge on support services for both adults and children in different areas. Therefore, they recommend that officers are able to access a list of services they could direct young people to in local communities, whether this be at local schools, youth services or 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations for them to seek respite and support regarding challenging circumstances they may be living in.

**6.10 Recommendation 9: Work is undertaken to co-ordinate the support for CYP&F undertaken by different agencies such as BMBC services, the Good Food Barnsley CiC, support in schools, projects commissioned by Area Councils and Ward Alliances as well as initiatives by 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations and local volunteers**

The TFG praised the work of different agencies in supporting CYP&F living in poverty. However, they are keen to make sure that this is co-ordinated in order to maximise the available resources and referrals to commissioned services, avoid duplication and learn from good practice across partners. Similarly, it is important that the voice of CYP&F as well as youth services are heard within this work to ensure that provision is effective and accessed by those in most need who may not necessarily be visible to statutory services.

**6.11 Recommendation 10: 0-19 PHNS staff be provided with training on the Area Council model and commissioning of localised services, as well as basic training on the benefits system to help with assisting families in navigating services**

The TFG are mindful of the array of local support services available for families; however, they are aware of the challenges families face in navigating them, particularly as the pandemic has meant a new cohort of families need access to such services. It would also be helpful for staff to understand the service commissioning by Area Councils and what specific service provision may be available on local area footprints to both maximise referrals as well as prevent inappropriate ones.

**6.12 Recommendation 11: Provision is made by Family Centres for the loan of basic safety equipment to families most in need**

The TFG acknowledge the challenging circumstances a number of CYP&F live in and the need for them to be able to access equipment such as stair gates. The group were concerned regarding the reliance on local charitable organisations including faith groups for such items and recommend there is at least some provision via BMBC services.

**6.13 Recommendation 12: Forward planning to be undertaken regarding making opportunities available and recruiting young people as volunteers due to limited paid work experience opportunities**

As noted by another Member TFG undertaken on the Council's Covid Response, Recovery & Renewal work, the lack of employment and skill development opportunities for young people is of concern to Members. It is also thought that a number of Year 13 students plan to delay going to University for a year in the hope by which time the impacts of the pandemic will have reduced. It was recommended at a recent OSC meeting that C&YP are specifically involved in the development of Culture & Visitor Economy Services; therefore, this may be a particular opportunity which could be utilised.

The TFG would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who provided information, attended meetings and assisted with the TFG's investigation; it is much appreciated.

**7. Implications for local people / service users**

**7.1** The investigation undertaken by the TFG as well as the recommendations made are in support of improving outcomes for people in Barnsley, with a specific focus and concern for C&YP. The TFG acknowledge that support needs to be provided to parents and carers in order to lift children out of

poverty; however, they are cognisant of there being specific impacts and implications on C&YP living in poverty. The TFG recognise the daily challenges being faced by CYP&F, especially given the impacts of the pandemic, and acknowledge the good work already being undertaken by services to provide support.

## **8. Financial implications**

- 8.1 There are no specific financial implications, although in responding to the recommendations in the report, the financial implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding.

## **9. Employee implications**

- 9.1 There are no specific employee implications, although in responding to the recommendations in the report, the employee implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding.

## **10. Communications implications**

- 10.1 The TFG members are keen to ensure awareness of the variety of available services amongst communities as well as amongst staff delivering front-line support, so they can make referrals for CYP&F as appropriate, as well as avoid duplication. The TFG feel it is imperative that all communities have access to local welfare support services, particularly given the impacts of the pandemic, and that the availability of these is communicated.

## **11. Consultations**

- 11.1 Consultations have taken place with: the Child Poverty TFG Members; OSC Members; the Council's Cabinet Members; Council Officers from the Children's, Adults & Communities, and Public Health Directorates; the Professor of Social Work from the University of Sheffield and the Professor of Social Work from the University of Huddersfield; the Head Teacher of HCC, Deputy Safeguarding Lead from HCC, and Executive Head of Meadstead Primary School; the Community Paediatrician and Barnsley Hospital Paediatrician; the Policy & Partnerships Officer-Social Security from the JRF; and the Council's Senior Management Team.

## **12. The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework**

- 12.1 As outlined in the Corporate Plan, the three priorities for Barnsley are: a thriving and vibrant economy, citizens achieving their potential and strong & resilient communities. Work to tackle poverty is central to achieving all of these priorities, in particular, in ensuring the support needs of C&YP are met; therefore, it is essential the Council and its partner organisations work together to support these aims.

## **13. Promoting equality & diversity and social inclusion**

- 13.1 The TFG is keen to ensure that all Council services and activities are accessible to all its communities. Throughout the TFG's involvement in this work they have specifically referred to making sure that services are accessible to all, particularly C&YP and those in our most deprived communities. As part of the investigations, specific enquires were also made regarding support and access to services for C&YP with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities as well as for CYP&F where English is an additional language. The TFG also ensured they heard directly from C&YP on the Youth Council, members of the SEND Forum & Care4Us Council.

## **14. Tackling Health Inequalities**

- 14.1 There are large health inequalities between Barnsley and England, and within Barnsley itself. Poverty and associated factors are recognised as wider determinants of health inequality; therefore, working to tackle poverty contributes to tackling health inequalities. The investigation undertaken

by the TFG and recommendations made are in support of improving services across the borough, with a particular focus on those for C&YP; with recognition that additional work may be required in specific communities to help address health inequalities.

## **15. Risk management issues**

- 15.1 It is likely the recommended activities detailed in this report will contribute further to the effective mitigation of risks associated with poverty, specifically with regards to challenges for C&YP in Barnsley, and it would be appropriate for any follow-up report to be cognisant of these risks.

## **16. Glossary**

AMIB	All Elected Member Information Briefing
BMBC	Barnsley Metropolitan borough Council
C&YP	Children and Young People
CiC	Community Interest Company
CSC	Children's Social Care
CYP&F	Children, Young People & Families
EIP	Early Intervention & Prevention
FSM	Free School Meals
HCC	Horizon Community College
JRF	Joseph Rowntree Foundation
LWA	Local Welfare Assistance
OSC	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
PHNS	Public Health Nursing Service
SYP	South Yorkshire Police
TFG	Task and Finish Group

## **17. Background papers and useful links**

- OSC TFG Report on Poverty (Cab.18.3.2020/8):  
<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s64022/Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee%20-%20Task%20and%20Finish%20Group%20-%20Poverty.pdf>
- Response to the OSC TFG Report on Poverty (Cab.19.8.2020/8):  
<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s69025/Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee%20Work%20Programme%20for%20202021.pdf>
- JRF Annual report 20/21 re. UK Poverty: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-poverty-2020-21>
- Poverty in the UK Statistics House of Commons Briefing Paper June 2020:  
[file:///C:/Users/annam/OneDrive%20-%20Barnsley%20Metropolitan%20Borough%20Council/Desktop/SN07096%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/annam/OneDrive%20-%20Barnsley%20Metropolitan%20Borough%20Council/Desktop/SN07096%20(1).pdf)

Report Author: Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

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## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL (BMBC)

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  
Core Services

### SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP (TFG) REPORT ON CHILD EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING – EARLY INTERVENTION & PREVENTION

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To report to Cabinet the findings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) from the investigation undertaken on its behalf by the Child Emotional Health and Wellbeing – Early Intervention & Prevention (EIP) Task & Finish Group (TFG). This work follows on from last year's TFG investigation into EIP regarding Adult Mental Health and instead focuses on the support provision and interventions for children. The group met with the commissioners and providers of a number of local support services, as well as speaking with young people directly, and highlight a number of recommendations in support of further improvement.

#### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet considers the conclusions and recommendations set out in section 6 as a result of the TFG's investigation into Child Emotional Health and Wellbeing – Early Intervention & Prevention.

#### 3. Introduction/Background

- 3.1 Further to last year's TFG undertaken on Adult Mental Health - EIP, as part of its work programme the OSC agreed to continue this work and undertake a TFG investigation into EIP in relation to child emotional health and wellbeing. The OSC has taken a keen interest in the provision of local Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in recent years, and given the pressures on these services, was keen to find out more about what is being done to prevent children requiring such support.
- 3.2 There have been both local and national concerns regarding the high and increasing demands on emotional health and wellbeing support services for children and young people (C&YP) even prior to the global Covid-19 pandemic. However, evidence suggests that this has been further exacerbated by national lockdowns, limited access to support networks and activities, reduced access to education and uncertainties around exams. Members were therefore keen to find out more about early intervention and prevention services available in Barnsley, how these services have adapted during the pandemic, what young people think about access to them, and to consider what recommendations could be made for improvements.
- 3.3 The members of the TFG who undertook this investigation included the following: Councillors Gill Carr (TFG Lead Member), Jeff Ennis, Steve Green, Clive Pickering, Sarah Tattersall, Charles Wraith and Co-opted Member Mark Smith, Vice-Chair Healthwatch Barnsley. As with previous years, the group specifically co-opted Mark Smith as he has helpfully assisted with previous TFG investigations into emotional health and wellbeing services and is involved in a number of forums, both locally and nationally, that provide support and challenge to the provision of emotional health and wellbeing services. This again provided additional expertise to the group as well as helped to avoid duplication of other work which has been undertaken.

#### 4. What the Task & Finish Group (TFG) looked at

- 4.1 Initially, the TFG met to consider the scope of the investigation. This included discussing all the key challenges they are aware of in relation to child emotional health and wellbeing and specific issues

which have arisen as a result of the pandemic. The group also felt they had limited knowledge in terms of available services which specifically support C&YP. The timing of the group's investigation was helpful as a new Transformation Lead for CYP Emotional Health and Wellbeing jointly funded by BMBC Public Health and Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had just commenced work on reviewing the local system with regards to children's emotional health and wellbeing services and the integration of service pathways, which meant the group could contribute to this work as it developed. The group agreed to hold an initial session to get an overview of the system. This was then to be followed by specific sessions breaking down the relevant services across the life course, as well as to hold focused sessions on support to vulnerable C&YP and those with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND), and hear directly from young people who are involved in shaping the design and delivery of children's emotional health and wellbeing services in Barnsley.

4.2 The TFG undertook a number of virtual 'check and challenge' sessions with officers regarding the work being carried out, future plans and key challenges. This involved asking questions of them regarding their work, their involvement and partnership working with other agencies and the impact of this on C&YP. This included:

- Meeting with BMBC's Head of Public Health for Children and Young People, and the Transformation Lead (who attended all sessions), who provided an overview of the current service models and development work being undertaken to enhance EIP work regarding child emotional health and wellbeing;
- Meeting with officers regarding Perinatal and Maternal Mental Health Services from the Council's Public Health Directorate, a Mental Wellbeing Midwife from Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT), the Healthy Child Programme Lead from BMBC's 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service (PHNS), a Senior Perinatal Mental Health Practitioner from South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT), a Senior Family Support Co-ordinator from Family Lives - support service for new mums commissioned by the Central Area Council, a Commissioner from Barnsley CCG and BMBC's Early Start Strategy & Service Manager;
- Undertaking a session regarding the First 1000 Days of life with officers from the Council's Public Health Directorate, the Service Manager from the 0-19 PHNS, and the Area Co-ordinator for the Family Lives Service;
- Meeting with officers regarding Early Years/Pre-school Aged Children including representatives from BMBC's Education Inclusion Services incorporating e.g. Educational Psychology, the Service Manager from the 0-19 PHNS, BMBC's Early Start Strategy & Service Manager, a Family Centre Manager, and BMBC Senior Early Years Consultant, BMBC's Childcare Quality & Sufficiency Manager, and a Senior Area Manager for the Family Lives Service;
- Meeting with officers regarding Primary School Aged Children including the Healthy Child Programme Lead from BMBC's 0-19 PHNS, representatives from BMBC's Educational Psychology Service and BMBC's Early Start Strategy & Service Manager;
- Undertaking a session regarding Secondary School Aged Children including the Healthy Child Programme Lead from BMBC's 0-19 PHNS, representatives from Mindspace who offer 1-1 and group support for parents and young people, representatives from BMBC's Targeted Youth Support Service, representatives from CAMHS which is delivered by SWYPFT, representatives from BMBC's Family Centres, and the Managing Director of the Children & Young People's Empowerment Project (Chilypep) who deliver support services as well as facilitate the voice of C&YP being heard in service design and delivery;
- Meeting with officers regarding Post-16 Provision and Transition to Adult Services including representative from SWYPFT's CAMHS, representatives from Chilypep, and BMBC's Early Start Strategy & Service Manager;
- Undertaking a session on support for Vulnerable Young People and those with SEND including representatives from BMBC's SEND Service, Barnsley CCG's Head of Commissioning for Mental Health, Children's and Maternity Services, representatives from the Council's Youth Justice Service, and BMBC's Early Start Strategy & Service Manager;
- Finally, the group met with C&YP and officers from Chilypep, so they could hear about the variety of work local young people have been involved in at both a local and national level to influence young people's emotional health and wellbeing services.



## **5. What the Task & Finish Group found**

- 5.1 The TFG received a presentation which gave an overview of the variety of services in place and local plans to review the existing system with regards to children's emotional health and wellbeing services. This is further to looking at good practice elsewhere and learning from how partners can better work together to ensure integrated pathways to services that are easier to navigate, and remove access barriers so children, young people and families (CYP&F) can access support at the right time. The TFG welcomed these developments, as they are aware that these are the key issues experienced by local residents. It was also highlighted how funding arrangements across the borough are fragmented and it is not clear what funding pots are being accessed across all services. Similarly, it is evident there is a variety of training being accessed across settings with regards to children's emotional health and wellbeing; however, work needs to be done to ensure it is consistent and of good quality. As part of this, the TFG were particularly keen that training around dealing with bullying is picked up as they are aware this is an issue raised by local C&YP, who don't feel it is dealt with effectively. In preparation for potential future demands on services, the group were made aware of a survey being sent to C&YP on a regular basis throughout the pandemic to assess children's emotional health and wellbeing locally and to identify future demands on services.
- 5.2 At the group's following session, they focused on support services regarding Perinatal and Maternal Mental Health, acknowledging how the mental health of care givers from conception, and during a child's early years, can affect C&YP for life. The group welcomed hearing from a Mental Wellbeing Midwife from BHNFT, who provides specialist support services for women via 1-1 and group sessions and works in partnership with other local services. The group were also made aware of a specialist Perinatal Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service provided by SWYPFT which is integrated with other services but provides specific support to women affected by moderate to severe emotional health and wellbeing problems during and after pregnancy. This includes supporting them with individualised pregnancy plans and advice, as well as medication.
- 5.3 In addition to the services above, the group were given an overview of the 0-19 PHNS and the nationally mandated Healthy Child Programme they deliver which includes key contact points with CYP&F. They provide a universal service to all families and additional support to others as needed. This includes making assessments regarding individuals' home environments and their support networks, providing interventions as necessary, such as low level Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), and referring on to other services as appropriate. The final part of the session was hearing from the Family Lives Service which is commissioned by the Central Area Council and provides support for new mums. This includes early intervention around emotional health and wellbeing, for example where there have been family breakdowns, and assisting with challenging relationships. The TFG welcomed knowledge of the service's use of volunteers who have themselves had similar experiences, and trains them to provide emotional as well as practical support to clients, for example helping them access additional services, such as to address issues with debt. The group were impressed by all the services they had heard from and the variety of provision available, all of which had adapted their services to continue them during the pandemic. It was noted however, that there is a gap in providing support services for 'dads' as a specific group, which there is evidence of demand for.
- 5.4 In the subsequent session, the group focused on the importance of the First 1000 Days of a child's life. This is where the foundations for emotional development are laid, and a parent's ability to bond with and care for their baby affects how a baby's brain develops and learns to regulate stress. Further information was provided to the group on the support and interventions of the 0-19 PHNS, in particular work being undertaken to provide additional intensive support to teenage and young mums and assisting them with developing coping strategies. The TFG also received a detailed presentation on BMBC's Family Centres and the Early Help provision for families, which includes a diverse package of support at both a universal and targeted level via both group and 1-1 support services. Holistic assessments of families are undertaken, and this can include enabling them to access peer support groups, parenting programmes, welfare services, specific support for C&YP, adult education provision, and making referrals to other services as appropriate. The TFG welcomed these presentations, as well as further information on the Family Lives Service. It was acknowledged however, the challenges local residents face in being aware of, navigating and accessing these

services, as well as for local professionals who are not aware of services being commissioned at an area level only and not being available borough wide, resulting in inappropriate referrals being made.

- 5.5 The next meeting of the TFG covered services regarding Early Years and Pre-School aged children including Education Inclusion Services, which are designed to identify and meet the needs of C&YP and reduce/remove barriers to their development. This covers: Educational Psychology who provide psychological advice regarding Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs; the Portage Service and Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinators (SENDCOs) who undertake home visiting for children with additional needs, and work with parents to build on play and interaction to target skill development and promote developmental progress; the Social, Communication & Interaction (SCI) Team who offer identification and support regarding these needs; and the Sensory Team who specialise in supporting C&YP with hearing and vision impairment. The TFG welcomed knowledge of the work these specialist services do to build confidence and consistency in enabling educational settings and services to work together in partnership with parents/carers to meet the needs of C&YP.
- 5.6 In addition to the Education Inclusion Services, the TFG were given further information on interventions by the 0-19 PHNS for the early years age group in identifying any physical or social/emotional development needs. This included them making interventions with families to help support a child's development or referring on to more specialist services as required. The service works to identify needs at an early stage so that they can be addressed where possible or enable support to be put in place to diagnose and manage specific impairments. BMBC's Family Centres and the Early Help provision also provide specific support at this stage to foster environments and create opportunities for children to develop emotionally through play, making friends, having one to one time with parents/cares, receive love and affection, and succeed. The TFG were again pleased to hear of the variety of support available to families; however, they raised concerns regarding the number of families who 'fall through the net' and end up needing interventions at a late stage after issues have escalated. The TFG recognise that sometimes support may be available, but it is not at the right time for CYP&F to access it; however, services need to make sure that this does not mean CYP&F are prevented from accessing support services on future occasions.
- 5.7 Regarding provision for Primary School Aged Children, the TFG were given an overview of statutory requirements in schools, including having a SENDCO. As SEMH needs are an identified category of SEND, the TFG were made aware of the locally developed comprehensive toolkit to support C&YP with these needs which has been provided to all schools. Additionally, the TFG were made aware that all primary schools have a pastoral support structure; however, this is not prescribed and therefore the offer is different at each school depending on their local need. Primary interventions schools utilise include: circle time; having peer support systems in place such as a 'circle of friends'; initiatives to ensure their school is emotionally friendly; as well as provision of specific training for staff such as Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training and Trauma-Informed Schools Training. The TFG again acknowledged the variety of service provision; however, raised concerns regarding the consistency and quality of the provision given that it is not prescribed nor delivered universally.
- 5.8 In addition to provision in Primary Schools, the TFG were advised of specific interventions by the 0-19 PHNS for this age group. This also includes the service's work with partners, such as engaging with CAMHS' Single Point of Access (SPA), whereby professionals can seek guidance and information on providing low level support to individuals; thereby preventing them needing escalating to CAMHS. The service also support the 'step-down' process from CAMHS by ensuring C&YP and their parents/carers are employing the tools they have gained through CAMHS' intervention, to prevent their needs escalating. The PHNS service also work with children who may be being educated at home and support them to get back into mainstream education as appropriate. The TFG were also given additional information on Education Inclusion Services for primary aged children and the training they provide to school staff in order for them to help meet the SEMH needs of children via personalised interventions. During this session, the TFG welcomed knowledge of the progress made in services working together to address and prevent children's emotional health and wellbeing needs from escalating, with professionals having access to guidance from CAMHS, as well as evidence, whereby services working better together, aids in reducing the demand on CAMHS.

- 5.9 With regards to provision for Secondary School Aged Young People, the 0-19 PHNS gave the TFG details of their support to young people. This includes for example 1-1 and group work in schools, providing support to help young people express their feelings/emotions in healthy ways as well as providing parenting support to manage and understand emotions and behaviours and the teenage brain. This work is done in partnership with other services and referrals are made to other agencies as appropriate. The TFG were also given an overview of interventions by the Targeted Youth Support Service and work they do to provide advice and guidance to young people to improve their confidence and support them with their emotional regulation through a range of tools and techniques. This is done via both 1-1 and group sessions. They also encourage young people to be active in their community and engage in volunteering activities. The service had adapted their provision to be online during the pandemic, which had resulted in additional engagement by some young people and disengagement by others. Therefore, the service advised they planned to review this and design their future provision accordingly, which the TFG welcomed.
- 5.10 Representatives from CAMHS advised the TFG of the variety of support and interventions they provide to secondary aged young people, including those in crisis who may present at BHNFT. The service work closely with others, including schools, early help services, social care services, the police, substance misuse services and primary care services. During the discussion, the TFG highlighted the importance in taking a whole family approach to those accessing CAMHS, recognising that often parents/carers have their own support needs which require addressing so they can fully support their child. At this session, the TFG were also advised of Mindspace who work in all ten local secondary schools and provide 1-1 and group sessions to young people, supporting them with for example, anxiety, dealing with exam pressures, and providing tools and techniques in support of improving young people's emotional wellbeing. They also work with parents to help them understand their past insecure attachments and trauma, and how this impacts on their parenting, as well as working with parents who struggle to manage/understand behaviours when their child has been diagnosed with particular conditions. The final part of the session covered Chilypep and the training they provide to schools, workforces and young people regarding emotional health and wellbeing and wellbeing, and the work they do to facilitate young people influencing the design and delivery of children's emotional health and wellbeing services. The group particularly welcomed knowledge of their support provision for boys, to help improve their emotional literacy and promote the development of help-seeking behaviours and positive emotional health and wellbeing.
- 5.11 During the session on provision for secondary aged young people, the TFG challenged services on the extent to which screening for Autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is done at an early enough stage, as well as what work is being done regarding the long waits for these services. Members also questioned services regarding work done to prevent and intervene in terms of vulnerable young people who may be susceptible to, or victims of, criminal/sexual exploitation. The services gave explanations of the work being undertaken in these areas, including funding provided by the South Yorkshire Police Crime Commissioner through the Violence Reduction Partnership, which has helped fund a Family Support Worker in BHNFT's A&E department. Also, looking at how they can upskill workforces in dealing with C&YP who've experienced trauma, and how they can access funding for this; to which a TFG Member advised they would take this up at a future Police Crime Panel meeting.
- 5.12 In relation to provision for services Post Age 16 and in Transitioning to Adulthood, the TFG heard from CAMHS regarding the support they provide in local schools and colleges, as well as the work they have undertaken to reduce waiting times for their services. Their specific work incorporates talking therapies such as CBT, as well as art therapy and medication from psychiatrists. The service advised how they undertake early planning with regards to supporting young people to transition to adult services, which begins many months in advance of the transfer. The TFG acknowledged the challenges faced by young people at this stage of life, especially being cognisant of difficulties in accessing adult mental health provision. The TFG were made aware of plans to expand CAMHS to support C&YP up to the age of 25, which they welcomed. However, they recognise that this is only just being discussed, with a potential pilot for Children in Care (CiC), and it will therefore take time and financial investment to become an established part of CAMHS.

- 5.13 During this session, the group also heard from Chilypep and the work they have undertaken in training peer mentors within Barnsley College to support students with transitions to, and emotional wellbeing, in college. They have also delivered mental health awareness tutorials to students, weekly wellbeing sessions to students in different departments which are now being undertaken online due to the pandemic, and provided training and support to college staff including Young MHFA. The group praised the work that had been undertaken; however, were mindful of the limited service provision regarding supporting C&YP post-16, and at all stages of transition.
- 5.14 With regards to support for SEND and vulnerable C&YP, the group were given a comprehensive overview of services provided by BMBC as well as those commissioned by Barnsley CCG and provided by CAMHS. Provision included supporting schools and SENDCOs via Education Inclusion Services, providing training and support to staff to identify and meet pupils' needs, as well as development of the comprehensive SEN Support Inclusion Framework Toolkit which had been provided to all schools. Members were impressed by the toolkit; however, were keen to ensure that the extent of its use and the quality of its implementation was monitored, challenged and reviewed. The group were also made aware of the recent commissioning of two additional Mental Health Support Teams, with all three teams now being under one contract to provide early-help support to C&YP via education settings. This will include providing 1-1 support to C&YP, as well as developing school workforces to take a whole-school approach to mental wellbeing; thereby, providing some consistency in provision across all schools.
- 5.15 The Youth Justice Service (YJS) gave a presentation to the TFG, highlighting the over-representation of vulnerable C&YP and those with SEND in the youth justice system both locally and nationally. The areas of need include C&YP with SEMH needs who have difficulties in managing their emotions and behaviours and often show inappropriate responses and feelings to situations, resulting in them having trouble in building and maintaining relationships with peers and adults. C&YP with speech, language and communication difficulty also struggle with listening, understanding and talking, which again creates challenges for them. The YJS works in partnership with others to provide specialist support and assessments, working with multidisciplinary teams to identify and address the support needs of these C&YP. Members were concerned regarding the over-representation of these C&YP in the youth justice system; however, welcomed knowledge of the support being provided by services to meet their needs as well as a recent autism awareness scheme undertaken by South Yorkshire Police. This is where C&YP with a diagnosed condition can access a card to show to the police and other emergency service workers, to enable them to communicate with autistic residents more effectively, helping those on the autism spectrum feel comfortable in difficult or frightening situations.
- 5.16 The group's final session involved hearing directly from C&YP who are involved in shaping the design and delivery of children's emotional health and wellbeing services. OASIS (Opening up Awareness and Support and Influencing Services) is a Chilypep group based in Barnsley that aims to empower young people to shape emotional health and wellbeing services. The young people gave an articulate and detailed presentation on the variety of ways they had worked to influence services at a local, regional and national level. This had not only resulted in better service design and delivery but had also provided opportunities for the young people involved to make strides in their own personal development, building their skills, knowledge and confidence, with one of them now having qualified as a Youth MHFA instructor. The TFG were impressed by the presentations and contributions of the C&YP and were keen that their work and involvement in services continues as well as for them to have future involvement with OSC Members.

## **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 The TFG were reassured by the amount of support services in place for CYP&F regarding EIP and emotional health and wellbeing and welcome additional knowledge regarding this as well as the creation of the Transformation Lead post. The group are also keen that all the professionals working in these services and organisations they work for care for their own and staff's emotional health and wellbeing, as without this, practitioners will not be able support CYP&F as effectively. The group are mindful that demands on emotional health and wellbeing services are likely to increase as a result of the pandemic and are keen to maximise the quality and provision of support to local CYP&F.

Whilst recognising that there is evidence of good practice and partnership working amongst local agencies, the TFG make the following recommendations in support of assisting with the continual improvement of services and support to local communities:

**6.2 Recommendation 1: A review is undertaken of funding streams and joint commissioning arrangements amongst all services including statutory ones as well as those in the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) to ensure income is being maximised and resources put to best use**

The TFG acknowledge the complexities involved regarding funding amongst different agencies including statutory ones, as well as those in the VCS sector. However, they are keen to ensure that local services capitalise on available funding, including in the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector, where they are able to access additional resources which statutory services can't. Members are also mindful that many people prefer to access non-statutory organisations for support, as they feel there is less stigma attached to these.

**6.3 Recommendation 2: Work is undertaken specifically to ensure that training for staff regarding dealing with bullying is of high quality**

The group welcome knowledge of a review being undertaken of training across services in terms of quality and consistency. As the issue of bullying has been raised by local C&YP with Members, the group are particularly keen that work is done to improve how staff deal with bullying and support C&YP as a result.

**6.4 Recommendation 3: Work is undertaken to identify how the support needs of partners could best be met by local services, whether this is delivered via statutory or 3<sup>rd</sup> sector services**

Members were reassured by knowledge of the support provision available to mums. However, they acknowledged that there is demand for, but little service provision with regards to supporting partners as a specific group and would therefore welcome work being undertaken on this and provision made available.

**6.5 Recommendation 4: Training is provided on the Area Council model and commissioning of localised services as well as information on the variety of all services available across Barnsley and Primary Care Network (PCN) boundaries . This includes for all staff from front-line statutory services including GPs, as well as encouraging those from 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations and community groups to undertake this so they can assist with referring people and helping them to navigate support services**

The TFG is mindful of the array of local support services available for CYP&F; however, feel they need better promotion, particularly as they are aware of the challenges families face in navigating them, especially as the pandemic has meant a new cohort of families need access to such services. The TFG is also aware that the PCN boundaries vary to the Area Council boundaries which creates further complications. It would also be helpful for staff to understand the service commissioning by Area Councils and what specific service provision may be available on local area footprints, to both maximise referrals, as well as prevent inappropriate ones. The group note that some people prefer to engage with non-statutory services and note the importance of 'word-of-mouth' in communities accessing support services.

**6.6 Recommendation 5: Investment is made in providing additional support for C&YP post-16 and at all stages of transition**

The Members expressed concern at the limited availability of services for both of these areas and recommend that further investment is made in providing support services at these key times. The group suggest that better use could be made of Personal, Social, Health & Economic (PHSE) lessons in schools for these purposes.

**6.7 Recommendation 6: Ensure that the voice of C&YP is heard in all services, including OSC Members engaging with C&YP from Chilypep as well as the Youth Council, SEND Forum & Care4Us Council on an annual basis to hear the views of local C&YP**

The TFG were impressed by the contributions of local C&YP in the design and delivery of services and are keen to make sure that this continues. Also, to ensure that OSC Members have at least annual contact with C&YP on the available forums.

6.8 **Recommendation 7: A system review is undertaken of the assessment processes for services, with the aim of them being streamlined and having greater information sharing amongst organisations**

Throughout the investigation, the TFG were mindful of the number of assessments being carried out on CYP&F by numerous services. Although they recognise this is necessary for services to obtain particular information regarding their interventions, the group felt that this could be particularly burdensome for families accessing several services and repeating the same information on numerous occasions, which could be avoided. The TFG were also concerned that for some CYP&F this could result in them disengaging from accessing service due to assessment fatigue.

6.9 **Recommendation 8: An All Elected Member Information Briefing is held on the variety of available support services for EIP regarding child emotional health and wellbeing across the different life stages**

The TFG appreciate that during their investigation they were able to cover services in more detail and had opportunity to provide check and challenge to service provision. However, they feel it would be beneficial for all Elected Members to have an awareness of the available services in communities they could refer constituents to for support, particularly as many are only aware of CAMHS which adds to the pressures on that particular service.

6.10 **Recommendation 9: An interim update on the work to review the local system with regards to children's emotional health and wellbeing support services and the integration of service pathways is provided by the Transformation Lead to the OSC in 12 months, followed by an update in 2 years, and would recommend this post continues**

The TFG particularly welcomed the work being undertaken by the Transformation Lead and felt this was a critical post and an area of work needed to ensure that services are joined up, especially as changes are implemented. The group are keen to maintain awareness of the milestones being worked to, and met, regarding EIP and children's emotional health and wellbeing services. Members are also keen to hear how other key local partners are being involved in this work such as Berneslai Homes, as well as other developments such as the recently commissioned social prescribing service for young people, and the children's emotional health and wellbeing agenda in local Primary Care Networks (PCNs).

The TFG would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who provided information, attended meetings and assisted with the TFG's investigation; it is much appreciated.

7. **Implications for local people / service users**

- 7.1 The investigation undertaken by the TFG as well as the recommendations made are in support of improving health outcomes for people in Barnsley, particularly for C&YP. The TFG recognises the importance of EIP regarding emotional health and wellbeing and the negative impacts this can have when early intervention and support services are not accessed. The TFG is keen that local communities are aware of relevant services and opportunities they could engage with, including those from both statutory and non-statutory services.

8. **Financial implications**

- 8.1 There are no specific financial implications, although in responding to the recommendations in the report, the financial implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding.

9. **Employee implications**

- 9.1 There are no specific employee implications, although in responding to the recommendations in the report, the employee implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding.

## **10. Communications implications**

- 10.1 It is evident that there is a lack of awareness of the number of support services in local communities regarding C&YP's emotional health and wellbeing which can be accessed. It is therefore important that opportunities to share this information clearly and in accessible formats, is maximised. Recommendations included in the report are in support of communicating the variety and access to services/opportunities.

## **11. Consultations**

- 11.1 Consultations have taken place with: the Child Emotional Health and Wellbeing EIP TFG Members; OSC Members; the Council's Cabinet Members; Council Officers from the Public Health and Children's Services Directorates; Barnsley CCG; BHNFT; SWYFT; Mindspace; Chilypep; and the Council's Senior Management Team.

## **12. The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework**

- 12.1 As outlined in the Corporate Plan, the three priorities for Barnsley are: a thriving and vibrant economy, citizens achieving their potential, and strong & resilient communities. Positive mental wellbeing is critical to achieving all of these priorities, therefore, it is essential the Council and its partner organisations work together to support these aims, especially in ensuring EIP regarding child emotional health and wellbeing.

## **13. Promoting equality & diversity and social inclusion**

- 13.1 The TFG is keen to ensure that all Council services and activities are accessible to all its communities. Throughout the TFG's involvement in this work they have specifically referred to making sure that services are accessible to all, particularly given the vulnerabilities of some of those accessing mental wellbeing support. The TFG welcomed knowledge of services being person-centred to ensure that they meet individual needs and enable equality of access. As part of the investigations, specific enquires were made regarding support and access to services for C&YP with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities as well as for CYP&F where English is an additional language. The TFG also ensured they heard directly from C&YP.

## **14. Tackling the impact of poverty**

- 14.1 A growing body of evidence has shown strong links between those of lower socioeconomic status and an increased likelihood of developing and experiencing emotional health and wellbeing problems. It is therefore important to acknowledge that increased mental wellbeing support may be required in our more deprived communities. Also, that tackling the impact of poverty will help to improve mental wellbeing amongst our communities. The TFG is particularly mindful of the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact this may have on increasing poverty as well as demands on emotional health and wellbeing support services for CYP&F.

## **15. Tackling Health Inequalities**

- 15.1 There are large health inequalities between Barnsley and England, and within Barnsley itself. Improving CYP&Fs' mental wellbeing and reducing health inequalities will help local people to reach their full potential. The investigation undertaken by the TFG and recommendations made are in support of improving services across the borough; with recognition that additional work may be required in specific communities to help address health inequalities.

## **16. Risk management issues**

- 16.1 It is likely the recommended activities detailed in this report will contribute further to the effective mitigation of risks associated with poor mental wellbeing for CYP&F in Barnsley, and it would be appropriate for any follow-up report to be cognisant of these risks.

## 17. **Glossary**

ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
BHNFT	Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
BMBC	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
C&YP	Children & Young People
CAMHS	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services
CBT	Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
Chilypep	Children & Young People's Empowerment Project
CYP&F	Children, Young People & Families
EIP	Early Intervention & Prevention
MHFA	Mental Health First Aid
OASIS	Opening up awareness and support and influencing services
OSC	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
PCN	Primary Care Network
PHNS	Public Health Nursing Service
PHSE	Personal, Social, Health & Economic
SEMH	Social, Emotional & Mental Health
SEND	Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
SENDSCO	Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator
SPA	Single Point of Access
SWYPFT	South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
TFG	Task and Finish Group
VCS	Voluntary & Community Sector
YJS	Youth Justice Service

## 18. **Background papers & links**

- OSC TFG Report on Adult Mental Health – Early Intervention & Prevention (Cab.18.3.2020/9):  
<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s64178/TFG%20Adult%20Mental%20Health%20Early%20Intervention%20and%20Prevention%20Cabinet%20Report%20FINAL%2020200309.pdf>
- Response to the OSC TFG Report on Adult Mental Health – Early Intervention & Prevention (Cab.22.7.2020/6):  
<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s68099/Adult%20Mental%20Health%20Early%20Intervention%20and%20Prevention%20-%20Response%20to%20Scrutiny%20Task%20and%20Finish%20Group.pdf>

Report Author: Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021



## BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL (BMBC)

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  
Core Services

### SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP (TFG) REPORT ON COVID-19 RESPONSE, RECOVERY & RENEWAL

#### 1. **Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To report to Cabinet the findings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) from the investigation undertaken on its behalf by the Covid-19 Response, Recovery & Renewal Task and Finish Group (TFG). Although this group originally set out to look at a number of different future plans of the Council, due to the progression of the Covid-19 pandemic, the group maintained a focus on providing overview and scrutiny of the ongoing response, recovery and renewal from Covid-19. This involved meeting with a number of officers from different Council services as well as representatives from local Barnsley businesses. The TFG sought to make timely suggestions and recommendations during and after each meeting, a number of which have already been acted upon. This report also outlines a limited number of additional considerations in support of further improvement.

#### 2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 **That Cabinet considers the conclusions and recommendations set out in section 6 as a result of the TFG's investigation into the response, recovery and renewal from Covid-19.**

#### 3. **Introduction/Background**

- 3.1 As part of its work programme the OSC originally agreed to undertake a TFG investigation into a number of future plans of the Council. It was hoped that as the group's investigation commenced in September 2020, the Council would be focusing on its recovery and renewal from Covid-19, as outlined in Barnsley's Recovery & Renewal Strategy - Moving on from Covid-19 (Cab.10.6.2020/11). However, as the group met, the number of Covid-19 cases locally, regionally and nationally began to rise which was followed by subsequent tiered restrictions as well as a national lockdown. This resulted in a number of services either remaining or going back into 'responding' to the challenges raised by the pandemic.
- 3.2 As a result, the TFG maintained a focus on providing overview and scrutiny of the ongoing response, recovery and renewal from Covid-19. This included assisting in shaping service responses by acting as a consultative group, as well as making timely suggestions and recommendations during and after its meetings.
- 3.3 The members of the TFG who undertook this investigation included the following: Councillors Peter Fielding (TFG Lead Member), Jeff Ennis, Andrew Gillis, Joe Hayward, Dorothy Higginbottom, Sarah Tattersall and John Wilson.
- 3.4 As mentioned at each meeting, the TFG Members would like to take this opportunity to place on record their thanks to each and every member of staff of the Council, its partners and other services and businesses as well as volunteers who have worked night and day to respond to the challenges of the pandemic and to support Barnsley communities. They would also like to express their condolences to all those who have lost loved ones during this time.

#### 4. **What the Task & Finish Group (TFG) looked at**

- 4.1 Initially, the TFG met to consider the scope of the investigation. This included discussing the Council's Recovery & Renewal Strategy and agreeing to undertake sessions to understand the

strategic viewpoint of this work, as well as to focus in on the key themes including: Health & Wellbeing; Business Economy; Community Resilience; Education & Skills; and Infrastructure and Environment. The group were also keen to understand and investigate the communications strategies linked to each of these areas as a critical factor in the success of all this work.

4.2 The group set out to consider the plans in place, how they were being co-ordinated and how effective they were. Also, to find out how well partner agencies were working together and the extent to which the views of key stakeholders, including the public, were being sought and considered. Additionally, to understand how flexible the plans are for responding to the future and what is in our control versus what we are only able to influence.

4.3 The TFG undertook a number of virtual 'check and challenge' sessions with officers regarding the work being carried out and future plans. This involved asking questions of them regarding their work, their involvement, and partnership working with other agencies, including the impact of this on Barnsley residents. The TFG were also able to consider and learn from local business representatives. To avoid duplication, the Members also utilised All Elected Member Information Briefings (AMIBs) as well as other Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings to ask questions relevant to the TFG's investigation. Specific meetings included:

- A session with the Council's Service Director for Environment & Transport and Service Director for Customer Information & Digital Services who are the Council's lead officers for overseeing the Council's Covid-19 Response, Recovery and Renewal work. This gave the TFG a strategic overview of this work alongside key elements of the Infrastructure and Environment theme of work, as well as providing contrasting examples of front-line and back-office adaptations to working practices;
- An Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on the Public Health approach to Covid-19, including the measures to prevent and manage it in Barnsley, as well as the ongoing challenges and future plans;
- An AMIB on Covid-19 and the Public Health/NHS response further to the commencement of another national lockdown. This included further detail on support to the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV);
- Undertaking a session with the Council's Head of Economic Development, Group Leader for Enterprising Barnsley and Group Leader for Markets to understand the work undertaken to support Barnsley businesses and the economy;
- Speaking with local business representatives to understand the challenges of the pandemic from their perspective as well as their views on the effectiveness of the support provided. This included meeting with the Chief Executive of Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce (BRCC), the Managing Director of Foster's Bakery, the Director of Walnut Creative and the Chief Executive of the National Market Trader's Federation;
- A session with the Council's Head of Communications & Marketing and the Communications & Marketing Manager leading on the Covid-19 work, to look at the communications strategies employed by the Council and its partners;
- An Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on Education Attainment and Exam Preparation which included speaking with the Head Teacher of Horizon Community College, Principal of Penistone Grammar School and the Principal of Barnsley College; and
- A final session with the Service Director for Stronger, Safer & Healthier Communities and Head of Stronger Communities to consider the 'Community Resilience' theme of work including protecting the most vulnerable in society and preventing people from falling into crisis.

## **5. What the Task & Finish Group found**

5.1 During the first meeting with officers in October 2020, the TFG gained an understanding of how the response, recovery and renewal work was being co-ordinated both at a local and regional level. This included the work with partner agencies within the Local Resilience Forum (LRF), such as South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service, Yorkshire Ambulance Service and NHS organisations, as well as internal structures within the Council. This included how the working strategy and governance arrangements had adapted over time to suit the ongoing situation. The group queried the extent to which partners were working well together and were reassured that the

pandemic had enabled even closer working relationships and provided new opportunities for collaboration. The structures in place utilised existing governance arrangements which meant that on the whole this had not slowed the pace of working and services were enabled to progress flexibly with business as usual, with interventions only done on an exceptions basis.

- 5.2 Some of the key challenges had been on staffing and the pressure on individuals, especially given that managing the pandemic had now reached its eighth month. This was not only caused by many staff being tired from working at heightened levels for prolonged periods, but also the challenges of staff numbers being diminished due to those being required to self-isolate. The TFG were advised of the plans in place to support staff including encouraging them to take annual leave, the commissioning of support services, as well as corporate notices with regards to this.
- 5.3 The group were given contrasting examples of how services had adapted to the pandemic including how BMBC had fortuitously got IT infrastructure in place which enabled office-based staff to begin working from home overnight; thereby accelerating the Council's Digital First programme and removing barriers which had previously been in place. The group were advised of where working practices had been changed to adapt to new demands such as the need to increase waste collection rounds due to the rise in household waste and recycling from more people working from home. Also, where in advance of government guidance being available, the waste service had arranged for additional vehicles to accompany rounds so that waste operatives could socially distance, with advice being sought by other local authorities on how BMBC had adapted.
- 5.4 The group discussed the community spirit in Barnsley and the excellent response from individual volunteers and community groups coming forward. Members felt it was important that opportunity was created for sharing between best practice from Area Councils and Ward Alliances with regards to co-ordinating efforts from volunteers to avoid any duplication and any pitfalls in the future. The group also highlighted the importance of receiving intelligence on a ward basis, such as increases in Universal Credit claims so that this could be considered in the future commissioning of relevant support services in local areas.
- 5.5 In order to avoid duplication and demands on officer time, the TFG Members utilised the scheduled OSC meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 on the Public Health approach to Covid-19 which included representation from Barnsley Hospital, as well as an AMIB on 10<sup>th</sup> November following the recent national lockdown announcement, to explore the Health and Wellbeing aspects of the response, recovery and renewal work. These sessions gave the TFG members opportunity to provide scrutiny of the response to the pandemic as well as understand the figures regarding Covid-19 cases in Barnsley in a timely way.
- 5.6 The OSC meeting covered testing and contact tracing, care homes, staffing, health impacts and preparation in anticipation of a vaccine. Members expressed concern regarding services that were not operating as a result of Covid-19, such as screening and immunisation services, as well as access to dental treatment. Also, they were keen to understand the extent to which some face to face GP services were being offered due to the barriers to alternative provision by some vulnerable community members. During the AMIB, Members were keen to understand the pressures being faced by Barnsley Hospital and how this was being managed, as well as plans being put in place to cope with the current and future demands on mental health services. Members were assured that services were stretched, but managing, and were working on a partnership basis, including developing a Mental Health Partnership to forecast and plan for the future.
- 5.7 In focusing on the Business Economy theme of the response, recovery and renewal work, the group were keen to understand and provide 'check and challenge' of the support being provided to local businesses. The group welcomed knowledge of the work to undertake a sectoral economic impact assessment to look at how best to utilise available resources to maximise their impact in supporting businesses and preventing job losses; whilst acknowledging that the full impacts will not be known until the central government furlough scheme ends.
- 5.8 The group praised the work of the Council's economic development arm 'Enterprising Barnsley' which provides wide-ranging support to Barnsley businesses, which from the start of the pandemic

quickly established online as well as telephone support for businesses in helping them to access grants as well as provide advice, such as on the government furlough scheme. In already knowing Barnsley businesses well, this enabled the provision of tailored support, as well as opportunity to gain intelligence from businesses on what support they required and where there were gaps in central government support. This in turn helped to design how local support packages were administered, such as to the self-employed, sole traders and those impacted within supply chains. Members welcomed knowledge that support provision was not only financial, but there were offers of coaching support, marketing, and developing lean businesses processes. The TFG were also impressed by the work of Enterprising Barnsley as part of Sheffield City Region (SCR), often taking the lead on shaping and administering business support schemes. As part of this work, the service recognised untapped potential in local business supply chains and the importance of local organisations utilising local supply chains including public sector bodies such as the Council, schools, police and NHS organisations.

- 5.9 Members queried how many of the businesses seeking support had not been able to be assisted by the Enterprising Barnsley team, which the service advised they would undertake further analysis of to identify any areas which could be addressed. The group also challenged the service on the extent to which Enterprising Barnsley services are known about and promoted locally, to which they acknowledged that there is always more that could be done, but utilised available channels such as ensuring Regulatory Services colleagues made local businesses aware of the service. The TFG also acknowledged the role of all Elected Members in promoting the service in local communities. Members were keen to ensure that local businesses were being supported in particular with regards to their digital offer, such as quickly moving to online trading models. This also included querying opportunities to develop a local Barnsley delivery service to help businesses such as pubs provide takeaway food whilst avoiding the costly charges of national food delivery services. This would also mean there could be a local shared platform for businesses, rather than each of them promoting their services via limited individual social media pages, to which the service advised they would investigate the appetite for this as part of their launchpad programme.
- 5.10 In terms of support to the retail sector in particular, the TFG were keen to ensure spend is kept local and were introduced to the 'Shop Appy' scheme which was due for imminent launch at the time of the meeting. The scheme enables local businesses and shops to show information, products and services they have for sale all in one place. Items can be purchased via 'click and collect' either from individual shops or for collection from one place. The TFG welcomed news of this scheme and were keen to ensure its promotion both to local businesses to participate but also for local communities to utilise it.
- 5.11 As a follow on to the meeting with Council officers, the TFG were keen to hear directly from local business representatives regarding the challenges they had faced, and support received as a result of the pandemic. Through the discussion the TFG heard how local businesses had shown great innovation during the pandemic in adapting to the circumstances by diversifying their offer as well as quickly moving to make sure they had an online presence. For many businesses getting online had been something they had been working on for months/years; however, this was done at the start of the pandemic in a matter of weeks for some, such as local market traders. It was really positive to hear how some of the business representatives had been involved in national forums at central government level to ensure local voices are being heard and to lobby for appropriate support to be provided to businesses as well as creating resources to help new and upcoming businesses thrive. It was also highlighted that as a result of the pandemic partnership working with the Council and local organisations has been strengthened and is very productive. This has meant that local business representatives are ensuring the voice of industry is being heard in a wider variety of forums, including amongst healthcare providers with regards to caring for employee mental health and wellbeing.
- 5.12 The business representatives were complementary with regards to how Barnsley Council had supported a number of them and those they represent during the pandemic. They mentioned specific examples where they had spoken to other businesses around the country who hadn't had any such support from their local authority. In addition to the positive feedback received, the discussion

highlighted a number of potential areas for improvement which are outlined in paragraph 6.2 of this report.

- 5.13 As mentioned previously, given the importance of communications throughout the pandemic in terms of getting messages out on public health measures and government restrictions as well as the variety of support services available locally, the TFG were keen to investigate communications strategies specifically to ensure they were clear and reaching appropriate audiences. Committee members welcomed the work being undertaken by BMBC's Communications and Marketing Team alongside local and regional partners and the work to ensure the frequent refresh of the communications strategies to ensure they remain current. The work undertaken to simplify messages for local communities was particularly appreciated by the TFG and they were keen for this to continue given they are aware of the confusion that can occur amongst communities regarding central government messages. The group were also encouraged to hear how Barnsley employees were taking a leading role at a regional level at the LRF with regards to communications.
- 5.14 A particular area of concern for the group was regarding the use of social media as the main channel of communication given that a number of older people in particular would not have access to such forums. The officers however demonstrated the rise in all ages, especially older people, in the use of social media and also how such forums have also engaged some of our harder to reach communities, such as those where English is not their first language. Members also welcomed the work undertaken around myth-busting and felt this is particularly important in terms of the vaccine being rolled out. As part of this, the group acknowledged Elected Members' role in providing intelligence to the Communications and Marketing Team where they hear of either confusion or incorrect messages being spread amongst communities so that this can be addressed.
- 5.15 The TFG were advised of national work on behavioural insights around messaging and the plans in place to investigate this in more detail locally, to ensure messaging around Covid-19 is effective. The group also agreed with the Team's principles around messaging focusing on the positive aspects of what the public can do and the benefits of this, rather than what they can't, as well as support to businesses to help them comply, rather than taking an enforcement approach. The TFG welcomed the proactive work to remove old messages from media channels and suggested that it would be helpful for items to be dated so that the public are aware of when the information was published and the likelihood of them being relevant. Finally, the committee were reassured by the Communications and Marketing Team's involvement in the development of the 2030 outcomes work and future plans for the Borough, and in responding to the feedback from the LGA peer report on the Council's Recovery and Renewal Strategy. As a result of the discussion, the TFG highlighted a number of suggestions directly after the meeting, which are outlined in paragraph 6.3 of this report.
- 5.16 Again, in avoiding duplication, the TFG utilised the planned OSC meeting on Education Attainment and Exam Preparation on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to oversee the Education & Skills theme of the response, recovery and renewal work. This included speaking with local authority representatives as well as the Head Teacher of Horizon Community College, Principal of Penistone Grammar School and the Principal of Barnsley College. Members were able to investigate the support being provided to pupils remaining in the education system, including access to IT facilities, as well as those moving on to new destinations such as university, places of work or taking gap years. Support for the wellbeing of both staff and pupils was explored, and Members were reassured that work was being done wherever possible to minimise any disadvantage due to the pandemic for all children and young people, but undoubtedly there were likely to be impacts.
- 5.17 For the group's final session, they considered the Community Resilience elements of the Council's Covid-19 response, recovery and renewal work. The Stronger, Safer, Healthier Communities Service has supported a variety of agendas including Safer Neighbourhood Services, Poverty the Good Food Barnsley Community Interest Company (CiC) and Homelessness, all of which have been or are due to be considered by the OSC or one of its TFGs. Therefore, the group were provided with an overview of these areas and focused on a strategic look at the support to communities including the 3rd sector, volunteers and support to the CEV. From the outset, the service prioritised protecting the CEV, supporting the homeless, preventing people from falling into crisis and supporting

communities to bounce back, given that many people will be nervous about this having not left the house for a considerable time.

- 5.18 The TFG welcomed knowledge of the Healthier Communities Team as well as the Stronger Communities Area Teams and their work in supporting the Emergency Contact Centre and co-ordinating volunteers to help out in communities, providing them with training on befriending and safeguarding, as well as ensuring they had formal identification badges to prevent fraud. It was recognised that there had also been significant collaboration with other BMBC departments and partners in the provision of this support. Work was done to co-ordinate the creation of a large number of face masks for distribution whilst also raising money for charity. Work in local communities has also included facilitating access to the Local Welfare Assistance (LWA) Scheme to access financial support, food and health & wellbeing support. The service highlighted the challenges in getting messages out to communities regarding support services, acknowledging that not everyone is online and so therefore they undertook leafleting. During this time, the service advised of its close working with partners as well as their leading role in work at a regional basis. Also, how efforts have been made to celebrate communities and volunteers, for example through the Mayor's Award which was welcomed by all those involved.
- 5.19 The service highlighted the challenges of co-ordinating work across communities, especially with a number of new community groups and volunteers starting up and trying to maintain an awareness of all the support services being made available. The service advised they had learnt a number of lessons in terms of making earlier plans to co-ordinate volunteers in future years, such as beginning planning for Christmas in July. The service encouraged Members to refer new community groups to Barnsley Community & Voluntary Services (CVS) and South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau (SYFAB) for support with constituting their groups as well as accessing funding, which also means we can keep a greater awareness of such groups in communities. Linked with this, further to the recent OSC meeting on education, Members highlighted the need to create and encourage volunteering opportunities for increasing numbers of young people leaving college and taking gap years, especially given that sectors which usually provide jobs and work experience for young people had been severely impacted. As a result of the discussion, the TFG highlighted a number of suggestions directly after the meeting, which are outlined in paragraph 6.4 of this report.

## **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 Officers commented that they welcomed the opportunity to share work with members and utilise the group as a sounding board to help shape developments, especially as preparation for the meetings had given them time to reflect on the work being undertaken. Throughout the investigation, the TFG members made a number of suggestions and recommendations regarding the work being undertaken, summaries of which were sent to officers immediately following meetings, given the nature of this investigation and to support timely responses to the challenges of the pandemic.
- 6.2 With regards to support to businesses, areas for improvement/recommendations included:
- As national government criteria to receive financial support has been challenging, especially for small businesses; sole traders; those who are self-employed, such as market traders; people working from home; and ones that don't pay business rates due to their location, any future local discretionary funding should be prioritised for these groups.
  - It was felt that not all businesses in Barnsley were given the same support and flexibility as others, such as market traders received reduction in their rent, whereas others in Council accommodation had to continue to pay rent charges despite not being able to utilise their workspace.
  - It was also highlighted that a number of softer support initiatives were available via Enterprising Barnsley, such as management training; however, at times like this, it was felt that more concrete support should be prioritised such as financial support as this is what businesses need to keep going.
  - The attendees commented on the slow pace of decision making and putting plans into action within the public sector compared with the private sector and the importance of this getting better was highlighted, especially as these delays can cause irrecoverable losses in the private sector.

- Given the developments of the Sheffield City Region Deal, the representatives were keen to make sure that the funds were given out proportionately and were keen that the smaller districts were given parity of esteem with the city.
- The business representatives also recognised the need for local authorities to come together through the Local Government Association (LGA) to lobby central government regarding local support, as well as ensuring that for example market traders are able to continue trading in the same way supermarkets have been through restrictions, as they have shown they can operate safely; however, have lost out to large national companies.
- The attendees highlighted that they would like to see Barnsley Council run an advertising campaign for the people of Barnsley to support local independent businesses, especially as most of them are local residents and this helps to improve our local economy which is vital.
- The group would also like to see improvements to the variety of collection points as part of 'Shop Appy', especially in those outside the town centre. This includes encouraging local premises to take part and to understand the benefits such as the increased footfall this can bring to their own local business.
- A specific idea which should be considered for Barnsley is a coffee shop which currently operates in London where customers are provided with free refreshments all day such as cakes and drinks as they pay per hour to be there. This means that customers can choose to be there all day and work and it helps to support micro-businesses to get underway.
- Another specific consideration for Barnsley would be to have a more locally based low cost online trading platform for local businesses – perhaps forming the basis of a local online directory of businesses. This could complement the 'Shop Appy' scheme and avoid the extortionate fees charged by the big national platforms.
- Finally, it was noted that in Barnsley we have some of the best agencies in the UK and it would be helpful for the Council to finance a Marketing Board which can bring local businesses together to support each other, rather than businesses based in Barnsley always looking to gain work and contracts from elsewhere. This not only helps local businesses to thrive but keeps commerce locally and helps with our local economy.

### 6.3 With regards to communications, the TFG made the following recommendations:

- The TFG acknowledge the role that all Elected Members have in helping to share messages as trusted members of their communities by utilising corporate communications, as well as sharing their insight and soft intelligence if they hear of incorrect messages or confusion in communities so that this can be used to help to shape messaging accordingly.
- Members raised concerns over the lack of communications regarding the distribution of vaccines in Barnsley which was causing confusion amongst communities and creating unnecessary phone calls to GPs. The TFG appreciate partners are under the constraints of NHS England (NHSE); however, feel that this issue is imperative, especially given the challenge we may have in encouraging particular communities to take up the vaccine. It would also be helpful to give communities an indication of how the vaccine will be rolled out and over what timescales.
- To support in encouraging communities to take-up the vaccine, Members suggested using local key figures to promote having the vaccine, including compiling short videos which could be shared.
- The group highlighted the risk there is to taking any medication or vaccine; however, that we all take such medications every day. The group were keen to ensure that messaging to residents was not false in saying that there was no risk to taking the vaccine but to highlight that it is managed and very low risk, in the same way we all take lots of medications/vaccines.
- Members were keen to ensure that messaging remains current and is updated accordingly; highlighting the need to put dates on when information was last updated.
- A specific query was raised regarding the safety of the use of vizors and whether these need to be accompanied with a face mask further to a discussion with a local community group and requested that some wider communications regarding this are put out accordingly.

### 6.4 With regards to work around communities, the TFG made the following recommendations:

- Parish Councils to be made aware of the good work the Council is doing in communities as well as where to report intelligence to. It was suggested the Leader could hold a virtual meeting with all Parish Councillors or that written briefings could be provided to facilitate this.

- Information to go to all Councillors with advice on what to do if approached by a community group wanting to form, so they can seek guidance and support.
- Forward planning to be undertaken regarding recruiting young people as volunteers, both due to limited paid work experience opportunities, but also from Year 13 students delaying going to University for a year in the hope by which time the impacts of the pandemic will have reduced.
- It would be helpful for all Councillors to get feedback from the discussions at the quarterly Area Chairs' liaison meetings, so they are aware of work across all areas.

6.5 In addition to the suggestions above, the TFG would also like to recommend the following:

6.6 **Recommendation 1: A session is held for Members and officers from across different Area Councils and Ward Alliances to share lessons learned and good practice in their local areas from their experiences during the pandemic, and this should be utilised to inform other recovery work and how we support communities**

Given the community spirit across Barnsley, it would be helpful to understand across different areas the initiatives that have been undertaken during this time, how the efforts of volunteers have been co-ordinated and where there may be areas for learning, so that best practice can be developed and shared across all Area Councils and Ward Alliances for the future. This learning should also be utilised to inform the ongoing recovery work and how we support communities over the next year.

6.7 **Recommendation 2: In recognition of the importance of local public sector organisations utilising local supply chains and supporting the local economy, Health and Wellbeing Board members could be tasked with reviewing this in each of their organisations and placing this in their corporate performance management frameworks**

Whilst the group recognise that there will be specialist equipment the organisations may need to source from elsewhere, they are keen to ensure that where services can be obtained from Barnsley businesses that this is done to support the local economy and maximise the number of jobs in Barnsley.

6.8 **Recommendation 3: A briefing sheet to be provided to all Elected Members on Enterprising Barnsley and the support services available as well as other key schemes to support the local economy such as 'Shop Appy' so Members can easily share this within their communities**

Members recognise the role they have in promoting Council services; however, it can be challenging for them to maintain an awareness of all of these. Therefore, it would be helpful for them to have a summary they can easily share as appropriate.

The TFG would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who provided information, attended meetings and assisted with the TFG's investigation; it is much appreciated.

## 7. **Implications for local people / service users**

7.1 The investigation undertaken by the TFG as well as the recommendations made are in support of maximising the support to Barnsley communities, including local residents as well as businesses as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The TFG acknowledge the good work already undertaken as part of this and support the future development of services in the hope they are able to 'build back better'.

## 8. **Financial implications**

8.1 There are no specific financial implications, although in responding to the recommendations in the report, the financial implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding.

## 9. **Employee implications**

9.1 There are no specific employee implications, although in responding to the recommendations in the report, the employee implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding.



## **10. Communications implications**

- 10.1 A key part of the TFG's investigation and resulting recommendations was to ensure key messages around public health measures and government restrictions as well as the variety of support services available locally, were clear and reaching appropriate audiences. The TFG were provided with evidence of this and are keen that future communications continue to be directed through a variety of channels. Also, it is recommended that items are dated so that so that the public are aware of when the information was published and the likelihood of them being relevant.

## **11. Consultations**

- 11.1 Consultations have taken place with: the Covid-19 Response, Recovery & Renewal TFG Members; the OSC; the Council's Cabinet Members, Council Officers from All Directorates; local business representatives; and the Council's Senior Management Team.

## **12. The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework**

- 12.1 As outlined in the Corporate Plan, the three priorities for Barnsley are: a thriving and vibrant economy, citizens achieving their potential, and strong & resilient communities. The Council's response, recovery and renewal work aligns to the Council's existing planning and performance processes, with key performance indicators being carefully monitored and dealt with on an exceptions basis as appropriate.

## **13. Promoting equality & diversity and social inclusion**

- 13.1 The TFG is keen to ensure that all Council services and activities are accessible to all its communities. Throughout the TFG's involvement in this work they have specifically referred to making sure that messages are clear to all our residents, for example where English is an additional language and accessing hard to reach communities.

## **14. Tackling the impact of poverty**

- 14.1 The TFG recognise the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on all Barnsley communities, including those who may have already been living in poverty, as well as those who have been adversely impacted as a direct result, such as losing their job. Throughout the investigation, Members were keen to ensure that available support was being communicated and provided to individuals and families. Also, to ensure that support was being maximised to Barnsley businesses in support of protecting the Barnsley economy and the provision of local jobs.

## **15. Risk management issues**

- 15.1 The TFG were advised of how risk and threat assessments are an ongoing part of the Covid-19 recovery process. It is likely the recommended activities detailed in this report will contribute further to the effective mitigation of risks associated with the Covid-19 response, recovery and renewal work. It would therefore be appropriate for any follow-up report to be cognisant of these risks.

## **16. Glossary**

AMIB	All Elected Member Information Briefing
BMBC	Barnsley Metropolitan borough Council
BRCC	Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce
BCVS	Barnsley Community & Voluntary Services
CEV	Clinically Extremely Vulnerable
LRF	Local Resilience Forum
OSC	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
SCR	Sheffield City Region
SYFAB	South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau
TFG	Task and Finish Group

## 17. **Background papers and useful links**

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) recovery plan for Barnsley information page (including video):  
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/health-and-wellbeing/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-recovery-plan-for-barnsley/>
- Barnsley's Recovery & Renewal Strategy - Moving on from Covid-19 (Cab.10.6.2020/11):  
<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s66098/Draft%20Recovery%20Strategy%20202021.pdf>
- OSC meeting on the Public Health approach to Covid-19 in Barnsley, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020:  
<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=224&MId=6407&Ver=4>
- OSC meeting on Education Outcome and Exam Preparation in Barnsley, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021:  
<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=224&MId=6414&Ver=4>
- 'Shop Appy' Barnsley:  
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/markets/click-and-collect/>

Report Author: Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**This matter is a Key Decision and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan**

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CORE SERVICES TO CABINET  
10 MARCH 2021**

**FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval to commence the process for the award of the Freedom of the Borough.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the proposed amendments to the policy and guidance notes for nominations for the award of Freedom of the Borough set out in Appendix 1 and 2 of the report; namely to:-

- (i) include an additional nomination criterion for an individual who has made an outstanding contribution during 2020/21 in relation to the pandemic; and
- (ii) set out that the resolution to admit an honorary freeman/freewoman must be supported by not less than two thirds of the members of the relevant authority who vote on it, in line Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 (paragraph 8b).

- 2.2 That the timeline set out at Paragraph 4.8 of the report be agreed.

**3. INTRODUCTION**

- 3.1 Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, provides that 'a relevant Authority may admit to be honorary Freemen or honorary Freewomen of the place or area for which it is the Authority (a) persons of distinction, and (b) persons who have, in the opinion of the Authority, rendered evident services to that place or area'.
- 3.2 The Council has used this power on 7 occasions: in June 2000 to admit Rita Britton and Harold Dickie Bird, MBE, November 2007 to admit the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mason of Barnsley and again in June 2016 to admit Kate Rusby, David Moody, Professor Joan Fletcher and Ian McMillan. All seven people were admitted on the basis of citations, which identified the contributions that they had made:-
- (i) Rita Britton ... in recognition of her eminent contributions to the image, wellbeing and development of the Borough, both as a recognised leader within the national and international fashion industry and as a successful local business woman who has conspicuously used and shared this success to the benefit of the community including the development of the Barnsley

Design Centre to encourage young designers to keep their skills within the Region.

- (ii) Harold “Dickie” Bird, M.B.E. ... in recognition of the success he has achieved locally, nationally and internationally in his chosen and lifelong commitment to cricket and the pleasure and honour this has given to the community and in particular for his consistent endeavours in promoting the image of and acting as a world-wide ambassador for the Borough.
- (iii) The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mason of Barnsley ... in recognition of over fifty years of eminent service to the Borough of Barnsley as a trade unionist, parliamentarian, and Minister of the Crown under two prime ministers, holding high office of state; most notably for Defence and Northern Ireland, privy councillor and Peer of the Realm.
- (iv) Kate Rusby ...in recognition of the success she has achieved locally, nationally and internationally as a singer songwriter and has used and shared this success to the benefit of the community raising funds for local charities.
- (v) David Moody ... in recognition of his work as Lord-Lieutenant of South Yorkshire 2004-15 and the pleasure and honour this has given to the community and in particular for his consistent endeavours in promoting the image of the Borough and acting as its ambassador.
- (vi) Professor Joann Fletcher ... in recognition of the success she has achieved locally, nationally and internationally in her chosen and lifelong career as an Egyptologist and in particular her close relationship with Barnsley Museums and Schools and for promoting the image of the Borough.
- (vii) Ian McMillan ... in recognition of his work as a Yorkshire Poet, journalist, playwright and broadcaster and the success he has achieved locally and abroad and in particular for his consistent endeavours in promoting the image of the Borough.

#### **4. PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION**

- 4.1 In September 2014, full Council agreed the adoption of the policy and procedure for the consideration of admission of future honorary Freemen or Freewomen attached at Appendix 1. More detailed guidance and the nomination form template are attached at Appendix 2.
- 4.2 The Policy sets out the criteria to be used in considering such people, taking account of their prominence in the local community, the benefit to the local area arising from the services they have rendered to the Borough and the period over which they have done this.
- 4.3 Agreement is sought to include an additional nomination criterion for 2021, to include individuals who have made an outstanding contribution in relation to the pandemic and additional guidance as to this criteria will be provided at the time of seeking nomination.

- 4.4 Any nomination for a person to be admitted as an Honorary Freeman or Freewoman of the Borough must have the support of at least 10 members of the Council eligible to vote on such a matter.
- 4.5 Nominations will be considered by a Panel to be chaired and convened by the Leader of the Council. The Panel will be composed of elected Members and, where appropriate, community representatives. Elected Member representation will be balanced to represent the political balance of the Council overall. The Panel will be advised by the Chief Executive and the Executive Director, Core Services or their nominees.
- 4.6 The Council last used this power in June 2016, so the end of the 5-year cycle outlined within the Policy is approaching. It is therefore proposed to commence the process and seek nominations from elected Members. Given the approaching election cycle, a return date for nominations of 31 May 2021 is proposed.
- 4.7 Whilst it is recognised that the current global pandemic may impact on certain arrangements, it is possible for the deliberation panel to be held virtually if required. Arrangements as to the full Council meeting and ceremonial process will be reviewed in light of Government legislation and guidance at that time.
- 4.8 The following timeline is proposed:-
- 31 May 2021 – deadline for receipt of completed nomination forms
  - June / July 2021 – panel arranged to consider nominations
  - September 2021 – special meeting of full Council to be arranged

## **5. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES**

- 5.1 That nominations for the award of the Freedom of the Borough not be considered.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS**

- 6.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Whilst there are no direct financial or procurement implications associated with the commencement of the process governing the award of the Freedom of the Borough, there will be one-off costs at the time that the Council determines that it wishes to make an award. These will include the purchase of freedom scrolls and if Covid-19 restrictions permit, the holding of a Civic Reception following the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council as detailed below:

<b>One off Costs (estimates)</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Scrolls and Caskets (6 x £1.5k)	£ 9.0k
Civic Reception (£45 x 100)	£ 4.5k
Total	£13.5k

These costs will be contained within existing resources and be met from the budget for the Civic Office.

## **8. EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Whilst there are implications for staff in preparing for a Freedom of the Borough ceremony, these are accounted for in the staffing resource requirement for the Governance Unit.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The Council is authorised to admit honorary freemen and freewomen of the Borough by virtue of section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972. Whilst the honorary award does not confer any rights it is the Council's highest formal public recognition of an individual's service to Barnsley
- 9.2 Paragraph 4d of the Council's policy (Appendix 1) states that the resolution to admit an honorary freeman/freewoman must be supported unanimously. However, paragraph 8b of the aforementioned legislation, stipulates that the resolution must be passed by not less than two thirds of the members of the relevant authority who vote on it. It is therefore proposed to amend Part D of the Policy in line with the legislation.

## **10. CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **11. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

- 12.1 The protocol detailing the decision-making process for the award of the Freedom of the Borough sets out the consultation process prior to any recommendation being submitted to Council.

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

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **14. PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION**

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **15. TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY**

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **16. TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES**

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **17. REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER**

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **18. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

There are no risks directly associated with this report.

## **19. HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESILIENCE ISSUES**

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **20. COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **21. CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY**

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **23. LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Policy for the Admission of People to be Honorary Freemen/Freewomen of the Borough

Appendix 2: Nomination for Admission as a Freeman / Freewoman of the Borough  
Guidance Notes and Nomination Form

## **24. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

24.1 Policy for The Admission of People to be Honorary Freemen/Freewomen of the Borough, Report to Cabinet, 30 July 2014

24.2 Policy for The Admission of People to be Honorary Freemen/Freewomen of the Borough, Report to Council, 25 September 2014

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

**Report author:** Carol Tague, Head of Governance

Financial Implications/Consultation



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

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**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**POLICY FOR THE ADMISSION OF PEOPLE TO BE HONORARY  
FREEMEN/FREEWOMEN OF THE BOROUGH**

(with proposed amendments highlighted in red)

**1 Purpose**

To establish a Policy for the admission of people to be honorary Freemen or Freewomen of the Borough, setting out criteria to be considered for this and procedural aspects.

**2 Legal Background**

The power to admit people to be honorary Freemen or Freewomen of the Borough is provided in Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended. This states that "a relevant authority may admit to be honorary Freemen or honorary Freewomen of the place or area for which it is the authority (a) persons of distinction, and (b) persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area."

**3 Criteria for considering a Person to be an Honorary Freeman or Freewoman of the Borough**

- a) A person of distinction - to fulfil this criterion, the person in question should have some prominence in the local community in their line of work. The person in question is likely to already have some prominence or wider recognition and should have been active and prominent in their field of activity over a sustained period of at least 10 years.
- b) Rendered eminent services - in having that prominence, it is expected that this will have resulted in some tangible, recognised "benefit" to the local area. This could be by raising nationally the profile or reputation of the local area; or by representing the interests of the local community on the national stage; or by attracting jobs, investment or other similar benefits to the Borough; or by encouraging or supporting other local people or local activities in their field.

- c) Timeliness - by admitting a person as an Honorary Freeman or Honorary Freewoman, that person becomes further able to represent the Borough. Therefore, it is important that the Honour is conferred only on those people who are still prominent in their field or, having recently retired, still have sufficient profile to raise the profile or reputation of the Borough. A person would not normally be admitted as a Freeman or Freewoman more than 10 years after they had retired from "public life".
- d) An individual who has made an outstanding contribution during 2020/21 in relation to the pandemic.

#### **4 Process**

- a) The Council will next consider the admission of new Freeman and Freewomen in November 2015, and then every 5 years thereafter.
- b) Any nomination for a person to be admitted as an Honorary Freeman or Freewoman of the Borough must have the support of at least 10 members of the Council eligible to vote on such a matter. The nomination must include a citation that demonstrates how that person fulfils the criteria at Section 3.
- c) Nominations will be considered by a panel to be Chaired and convened by the Leader of the Council. The panel will be composed of Elected Members and, where appropriate, community representatives. Elected Member representation will be balanced to represent the political balance of the Council overall. The panel will be advised by the Chief Executive and Director of Legal and Governance or their nominees.
- d) The Panel will meet during the September of the year in question and make recommendations to Council on the admission of new Freeman or Freewomen. The admission of the person(s) in question must be approved at a full Council meeting specially convened for that purpose and must be supported ~~unanimously at that meeting.~~ by not less than two thirds of the members of the authority who vote on it.

## **5      Rescission of Freedom**

The Council may, on a unanimous vote on a motion duly submitted, rescind the honour of Freeman or Freewoman if information comes to light that, in the view of the Council, would render the person concerned ineligible or otherwise unworthy of the honour, when judged against the criteria set out at Section 3 above.

Assistant Director, Governance and Member Services  
16 July 2014

Amendments proposed, Head of Governance  
10 March 2020

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**Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council**

**Nomination for Admission as a Freeman / Freewoman of the Borough**

**Guidance notes**

**Process**

The Council considers the admission of new Freeman and Freewomen every five years. This will next take place in September 2021.

Candidates for admission can only be nominated by Elected Members. Each nomination must be supported by at least ten Elected Members, using the attached form.

Nominations are considered by a panel appointed and chaired by the Leader of the Council, made up of Elected Members and appropriate community representatives.

Completed nomination forms must be received by the Chief Executive no later than 31 May 2021. The Panel will consider nominations in June / July 2021 for consideration at Council in September 2021. The admission of the person(s) in question must be supported ~~unanimously at that meeting.~~ **by not less than two thirds of the members of the authority who vote on it at that meeting.**

**Criteria for considering a Person to be an Honorary Freeman or Freewoman of the Borough**

- (a) The candidate should be **a person of distinction**. To fulfil this criterion, the person in question should have some prominence in the local community in their line of work. The person in question is likely to already have some prominence or wider recognition and should have been active and prominent in their field of activity over a sustained period of at least 10 years.
- (b) The candidate should have **rendered eminent services to the borough**. In having that prominence, it is expected that this will have resulted in some tangible, recognised "benefit" to the local area. This could be by raising nationally the profile or reputation of the local area; or by representing the interests of the local community on the national stage; or by attracting jobs, investment or other similar benefits to the Borough; or by encouraging or supporting other local people or local activities in their field.
- (c) The nomination should be **timely**. By admitting a person as an Honorary Freeman or Honorary Freewoman, that person becomes further able to represent the Borough. Therefore, it is important that the Honour is conferred only on those people who are still prominent in their field or, having recently retired, still have sufficient profile to raise the profile or reputation of the Borough. A person would not normally be admitted as a Freeman or Freewoman more than 10 years after they had retired from "public life".
- (d) **The individual should be one who has made an outstanding contribution during 2020/21 in relation to the pandemic.**

Evidence of this should be set out on the form. Additional documentary evidence can be attached to the form. This can include links to evidence available on the Internet, but an electronic version of the form must also be submitted to [governance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk) so that this can be viewed on-line.

Appendix – Nomination form

## Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

### Admission as a Freeman / Freewoman of the Borough

#### Nomination Form

Please complete this form with reference to the guidance notes and criteria. Forms are best completed electronically, although hand-written forms will be accepted.

Contact details for the nominee:	
Name	
Known as*	
Address	
Telephone no.	
Email address	

\* where appropriate

Give details of how the nominee meets each of the criteria set out in the guidance notes. Use additional sheets where necessary, and attach any supporting documentary evidence. This can include links to Internet sources, if appropriate
<b>(a) Why is the nominee considered to be a person of distinction?</b>
<b>(b) How has the nominee rendered eminent services to the Borough?</b>
<b>(c) If not already stated at (a) or (b), when or over what period has the nominee been active in the community?</b>
<b>(d) How has the individual made an outstanding contribution during 2020/21 in relation to the pandemic?</b>

<b>Certification</b>
The nomination of ..... is supported by the following 10 Elected Members:
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

Completed forms should be returned to the Chief Executive by 31 May 2020<sup>1</sup> and by email to [governance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk)



## 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 DIRECTOR OF CORE SERVICES  
TO CABINET ON 10 MARCH 2021

**CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT**  
**QUARTER 3 OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2020**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce the council's latest Corporate Plan Performance Report, drawing upon information available for Quarter 3 (Q3), and to provide an overview of progress achieved in delivering the priorities and outcomes of the Corporate Plan 2017-2020.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Cabinet review, challenge and scrutinise the contents of the Corporate Performance Report in relation to the delivery of the Corporate Plan priorities and outcomes.
- 2.2 The Performance Report is shared with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to inform and support their ongoing work programme.

**3. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan contains three priorities, supported by 12 outcomes. These are reflected in the 2020 Outcomes Framework and outline what the council has committed to undertake in order to deliver the priorities. It is also recognised that the council is not solely accountable for delivering these outcomes, as it works in partnership with other organisations. The year-end position against these outcomes is summarised in the Scorecard below.

**4. Corporate Plan Scorecard**

THRIVING & VIBRANT ECONOMY	PEOPLE ACHIEVING THEIR POTENTIAL	STRONG & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES
1. Create more and better jobs and good business growth	6. Every child attends a good school and is successful in learning and work	10. People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities
2. Increase skills to get more people working	7. Reducing demand through improving access to early help	11. Protecting the borough for future generations
3. Develop a vibrant town centre	8. Children and adults are safe from harm	12. Customers can contact us easily and use more services online
4. Strengthen our visitor economy	9. People are healthier, happier, independent and active	
5. Create more and better housing		

**Key** – The ratings are based upon the performance indicators that relate to each Corporate Plan outcome and 2020 Outcome Framework achievement to provide a rounded picture of performance, including financial performance.

<b>R</b>	Performance against majority of indicators is below target for this point of the year
<b>A</b>	Performance is mixed, some indicators will be on track to achieve targets and others will require improvement to achieve targets
<b>G</b>	Performance against majority of indicators is in line with targets for this point of the year

## **5. Progress against Priorities and Performance Measures**

- 5.1 The Q3 position for each priority area is detailed in the Corporate Performance Report, which includes both the data and supporting narrative. The Q3 Corporate Performance Dashboard can be accessed via this link:  
<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoizThiNGY2YTQtYjZINS00ZTJhLTNmZTEtMzNhNzhmOWI0M2ZlIiwidCI6ImJhNmEyNDcxLTMzNDAtNDMxNC1hOTY5LTQ4ZDhjZGM0YzRmOCIsImMiOiJh9>

## **6. Consultations**

- 6.1 Consultations have taken place with a number of officers from all Directorates within the council who have contributed to the report and its content.
- 6.2 Consultation has also taken place with all members of the Senior Management Team who have collectively reviewed the report.

## **7. Risk Management Issues**

- 7.1 The report identifies a number of performance issues and risks as an underlying consideration throughout the report under each of the outcomes.

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

# Corporate Plan Performance Report



**2020-2021 Quarter 3  
October- December 2020**

# Welcome to Our Corporate Plan Performance Report

The council’s Corporate Plan for 2017-20 sets out what we aim to achieve over the next three years to improve outcomes for our customers and community. It explains what we want to do, how we plan to do it, and how we’ll measure whether we’re on track to achieve it.

We have extended the plan through to April 2021. We feel that specific areas warrant greater attention, emphasis, and possibly resources, to influence other activity and make the greatest impact overall, so this is where we’ll focus our performance management and reporting arrangements to keep a closer eye on how well we’re doing.

Our three main priorities are:



Each priority is broken down into outcomes, which are long term and sustainable benefits that support the overall success of the priority. For each outcome there are performance indicators (PIs) which are the activities that we measure to understand whether we are on track to achieve it.

This report provides an overview on how we are performing for the quarter. It should be read in partnership with the accompanying performance data dashboard (a link to which is available on the last page of this report).

Throughout the document you will see that some of the figures are coloured differently. This RAG (Red, Amber or Green) rating indicates how we are performing against our targets and is explained below. Where figures are not coloured, there are no targets set but we still want to monitor our performance

We have highlighted the PIs that are RAG rated as red throughout the report.

	Performance is more than 10% below target for this point of the year
	Performance has been satisfactory and within 10% of the target for this point of the year
	Performance against the indicator is in line with targets or better for this point in the year

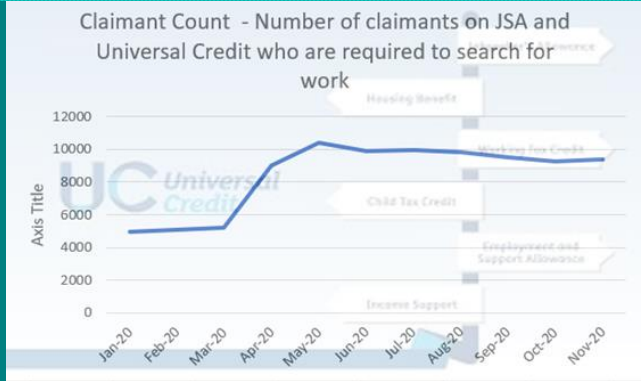


# Covid-19 Response and Recovery

Tackling COVID-19 is proving to be a longer, harder battle than any of us imagined, and it's important to ensure that the council does everything it can to both reduce the spread and get our communities and businesses through it. It is now ten months since we have had to make real changes to the way we work, and our day-to-day business looks very different to how it did pre-March 2020. In partnership, we monitor a number of performance indicators on a monthly basis through a Tactical Co-ordination Group and Barnsley Council's Gold COVID Response Group, attended by the most senior members of the council. Here are some of the highlights from the theme area summaries for December.

**Business & Economy - Universal Credit Claimants**

Covid-19 has had a substantial impact on the working age population. Since March 2020 the number of claimants on JSA and UC who are required to search for work has fallen from 4985 to 9360, an increase of 75 people (88%).



**Health & Wellbeing - Flu Vaccination Take Up**

The CCG average is currently 82.1% at the end of December 2020. This is currently above national average (80%) but just below regional average (82.5%).


**The Flu Vaccine**

Why its more important than ever in 2020!



**Education & Skills -% LAC against Monthly average**

There were 351 LAC recorded in Barnsley at the end of November, 6 more than in December. This figure is 11.1% greater than the 12-month average of 316.



**Community Resilience - Homelessness**

In Q3 there were 494 approaches to the Housing Options Team, 230 applications have been made and Full Duty applied in 31 cases. Of concern is the overall demand placed on the Housing Options team and the team continue to work to identify more temporary accommodation options as part of the Recovery Plan.

**Environment & Infrastructure - Bus Patronage**

There has been a clear reduction in November when compared with October figures, as a result of the autumn lockdown. Although November data is 'only' 43% compared to that of last year, buses are still running at reduced capacity and the general trend of patronage is improving. December data is expected to show an increase on November figures due to the seasonal increases.

# Corporate Plan Score Card 2020/21



The ratings are based upon the performance indicators that relate to each Corporate Plan outcome to provide a rounded picture of performance, including financial performance. At year end, individual indicators are mostly given a red or green RAG dependent upon targets being met or not. In exceptional cases we may assign an amber rating where the target is missed by a narrow margin.

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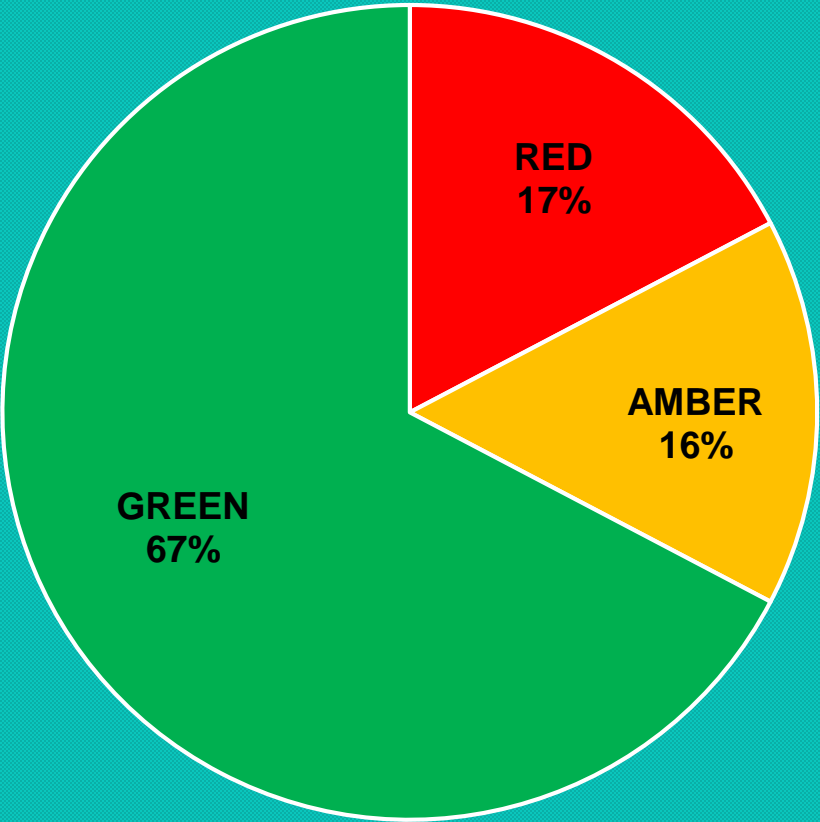
1. Create more and better jobs and good business growth	6. Every child attends a good school and is successful in learning and work	10. People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities
2. Increase skills to get more people working	7. Reducing demand through improving access to early help	11. Protecting the borough for future generations
3. Develop a vibrant Town Centre	8. Children and adults are safe from harm	12. Customers can contact us easily and use more services online
4. Strengthen our visitor economy	9. People are healthier, happier, independent and active	
5. Create more and better housing		



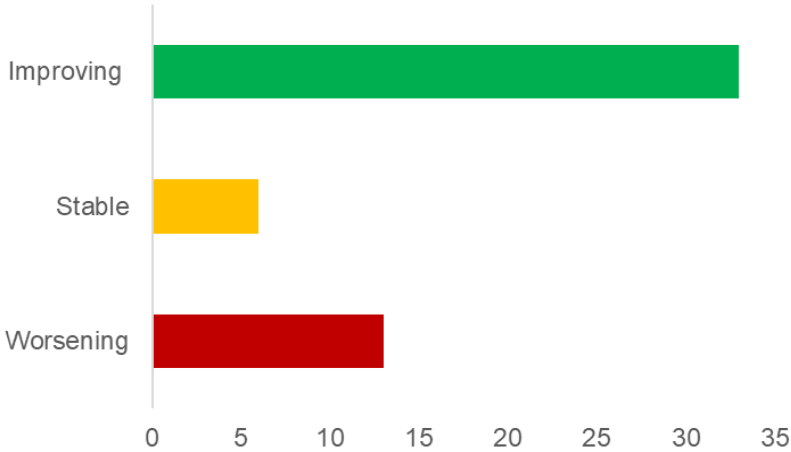
- Performance is more than 10% below target for this point of the year
- Performance has been satisfactory and within 10% of the target for this point of the year
- Performance against the indicator is in line with targets or better for this point in the year

# Performance Summary

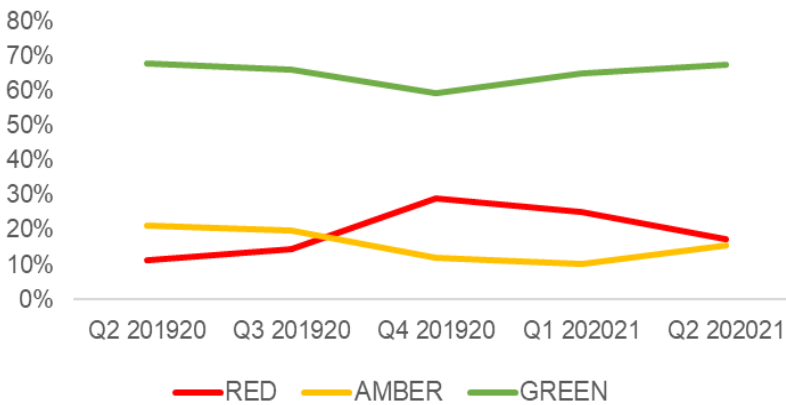
Q3 RAG ratings



Q3 Direction of Travel



Overall Status Trend



# Performance by Priority

**THRIVING &**  
VIBRANT ECONOMY



PEOPLE ACHIEVING  
THEIR  
**POTENTIAL**



**STRONG &**  
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



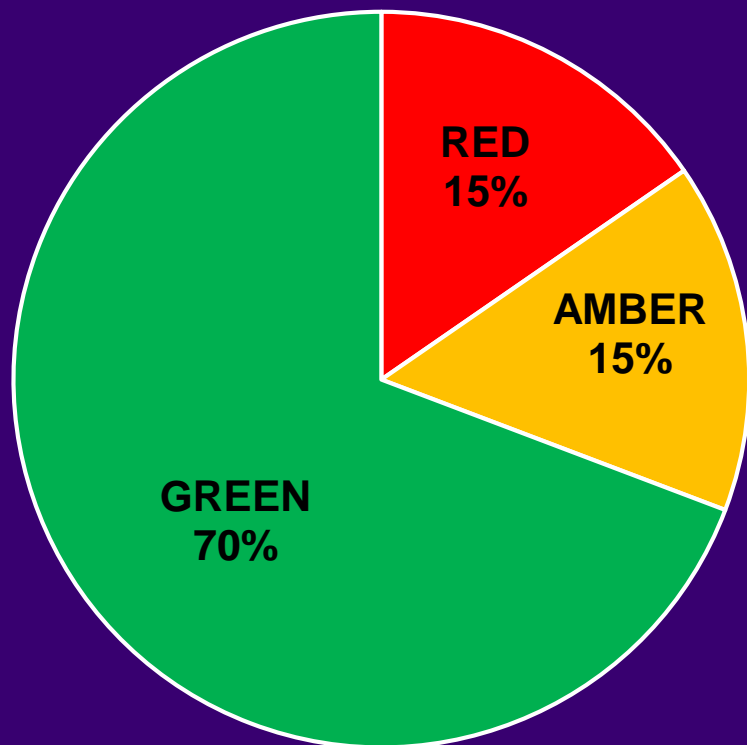
**ONE COUNCIL**



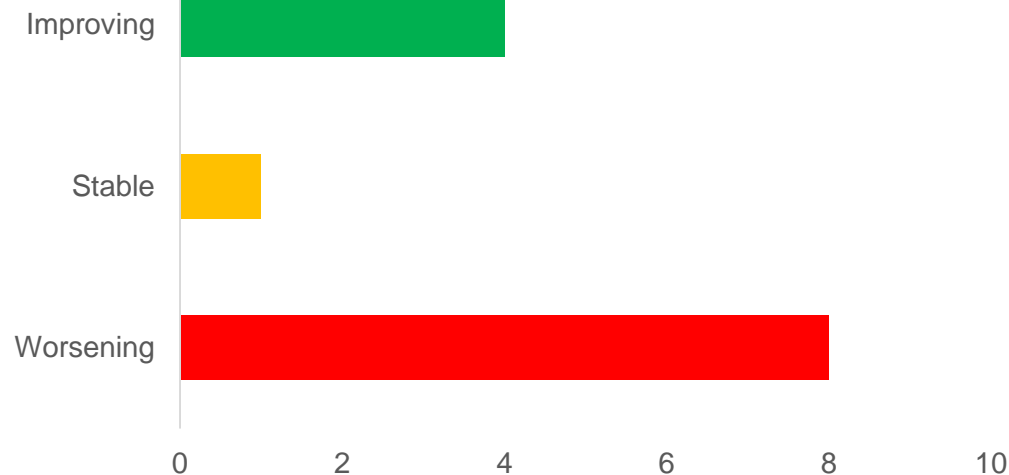


# Performance Summary

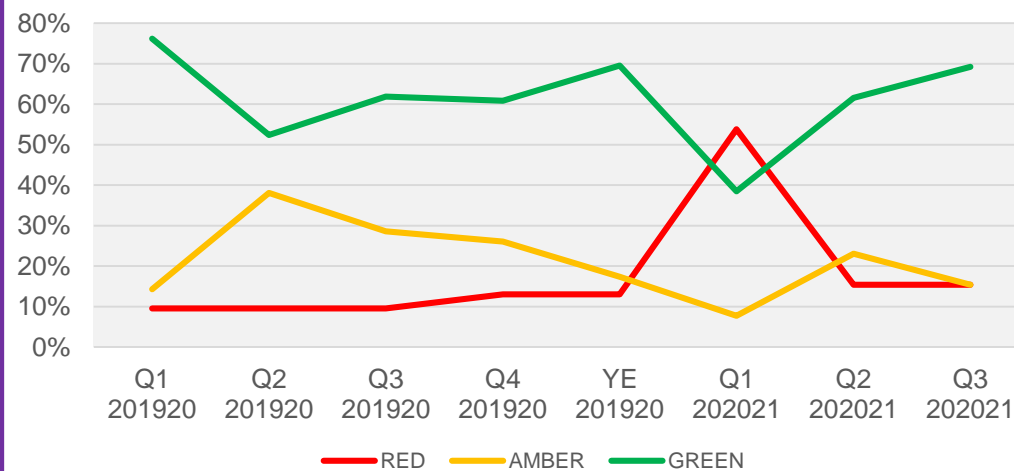
Q3 202021



Q3 Direction of Travel



Overall Status Trend



# Priority Summary



**Matt Gladstone – Executive Director, Place**

Tackling the Covid-19 pandemic has been, and continues to be, very challenging, but we are working to ensure that the council does absolutely everything it can to both reduce the spread of the virus and get our communities and businesses through it.

We have continued to build on our successes from both Q1 and Q2 and are forging ahead with our masterplans for key growth sites to ensure a strong pipeline of inward investment, building developer confidence and leveraging in more jobs, homes and businesses.

We remain focused on economic recovery and continue to support both our workforce to adapt and our businesses to prosper under tough, changing conditions. Our strengths continue to include outcomes for Care Leavers, with a high proportion of young people in either education, training or employment. The number of adults with learning difficulties supported into employment continues to exceed our target. Although town centre footfall struggled in Q3, this reflected the trends seen in similar towns both locally and nationally. The strength of our culture and visitor economy – particularly visitor numbers at key heritage sites – is impressive.

Our Enterprising Barnsley programme has helped to administer a £1.1m 100% grant for Small Medium Enterprises in South Yorkshire, to invest in projects worth between £1,000 - £3,000, so we are looking for companies to bring forward investment projects who have been adversely impacted by COVID. This is the £1.1m European Regional Development Fund Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government offered to Growth Hubs across England.

## Some Areas of Good Performance



**38** companies have been supported to expand and **113** private sector jobs were created during Q3.

**4** Businesses have relocated to Barnsley in Q3.

**73.5%** of care leavers were in education, employment or training.

**4.7%** of adults with learning disabilities were in employment.

**53** affordable homes created in Q3. 103 YTD – over 100% of revised target achieved.

So far this year, Barnsley Museums have had over **770,000** visitors, contributing **£17,000,000** to the local economy.

**99.8%** of Barnsley's 16 & 17-year-olds were offered an education or training place which places Barnsley in the top 10% nationally across all Local Authorities.

## Areas for Improvement



The lockdown in November severely impacted the town centre footfall figure of **1,066,432**. November footfall was 61% down on 2019 and overall Q3 is 65.6% down on Q3 for 2019.

**426** homes have been built between April and December 2020 which is some way short of our 700 year-end target.

## Opening of DMC02

The growth of DMC01 prompted the council to create DMC02 Digital Business Hub. Its £1.7M refurbishment was backed by the Sheffield City Region and will support 100 jobs to be created. DMC02 aims to attract technology businesses from across the UK and Europe. The centre will play a huge part in securing Barnsley's role at the heart of digital technology and innovation in the North.

DMC01 and DMC02, together with Barnsley College's SciTech building for digital learning and apprenticeships, form part of The Seam Campus. There are future plans to add residential, retail, hotel and transport facilities.



## Flour Power

The Worsbrough Mill team have responded to a rapid an increase in demand for flour. During lockdown, their customer base has grown significantly to include restaurants, bakeries and individual customers from across the country. Five years ago, the mill only produced four tonnes of flour a year and was not really a commercial proposition. Flour sales are now set to generate almost £20,000 in income towards supporting Barnsley Museums.

To improve water flow to the mill and increase daily milling capacity it was necessary to dredge the mill's pond to remove significant silt build-up. This has enabled a 43% increase in operational hours and a 39% increase in flour production.

## Affordable Housing - Kenworthy Road, Worsbrough Common

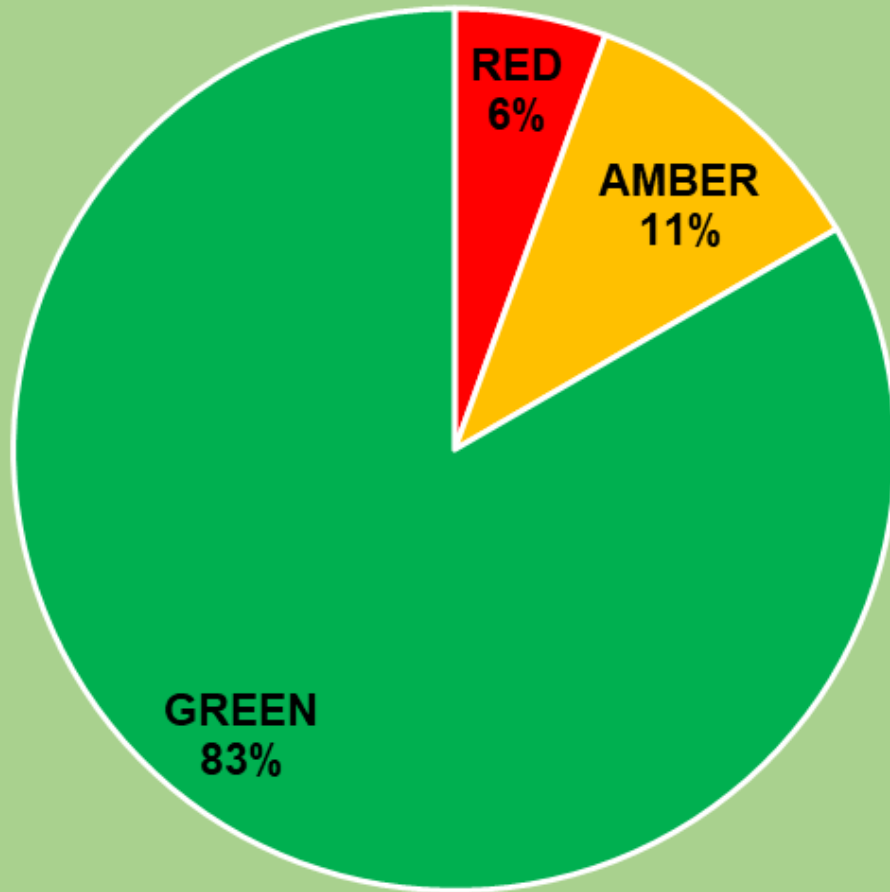
Three new council homes, a three bedroomed house and two two-bedroomed houses, were completed in November 2020. Built to the council's standard house types, the new homes have transformed a brownfield site, pictured right. The main contractor was Berneslai Homes Construction Services.

The scheme has achieved the Police's Gold "Secured by Design" award, recognising again the council's commitment to "designing out" crime to provide safe and secure new homes..

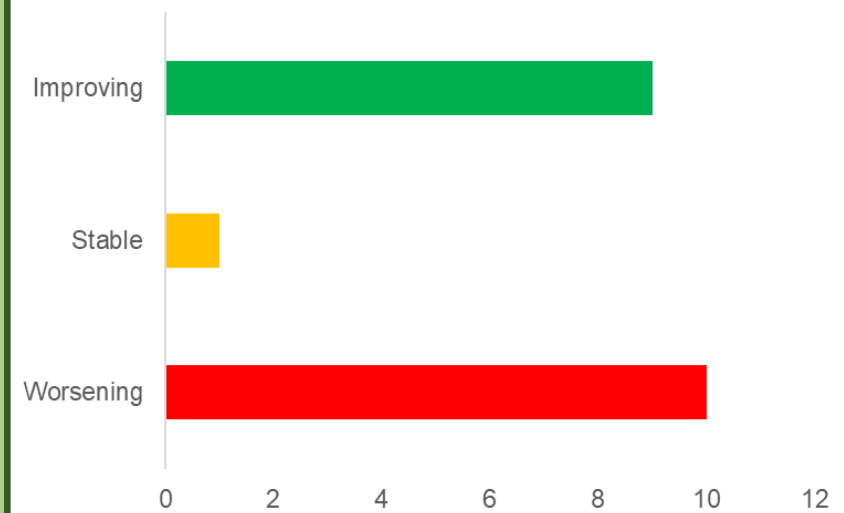


# Performance Summary

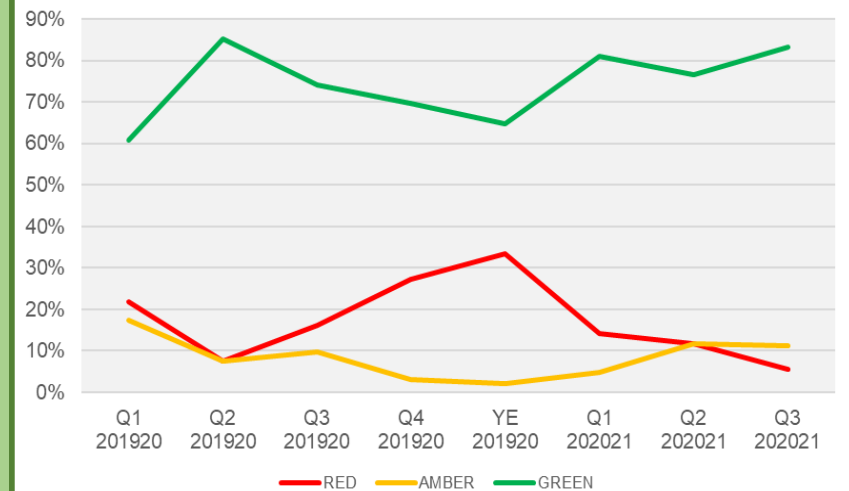
Q3 RAG ratings



Q3 Direction of Travel

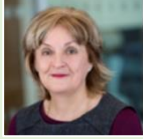


Overall Status Trend





# Priority Summary



## Mel John-Ross Executive Director Children's Services

I am pleased with our Q3 performance. The percentage of children in care in family placements further increased, whilst children subject to a care protection plan for the second or subsequent time decreased. Despite seeing an increase in Q3 in the percentage of re-referrals in the last 12 months, we remain on target and well below benchmarks. The number of young people entering the Youth Justice System for the first time continues to decrease and puts us amongst the best performing local authorities nationally. The percentage of two year olds taking up a funded place continues to increase. The percentage of Section 47 investigations proceeding to Initial Child Protection Conference within 15 days (based on number of children) fell below target in Q3. We understand this and our Year To Date (YTD) performance remains above target and benchmarks. The percentage of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time involves a small cohort of children and is above our aspirational target; our YTD performance however remains well below it. Performance for assessments completed within the national 45 day standard remains outstanding, but we need to be completing shorter, more proportional assessments within 20 working days of referral.



## Julia Burrows, Director of Public Health

It is really pleasing to see that number of Excess Winter Deaths has reduced in Barnsley. The most recent rate of 17.7% for 2018/19 is less than half of the previous year and demonstrates the progress made through collaborative action. We know that there are still large geographical differences in the rate across the borough and we will continue in our efforts to understand and target those at risk. Regrettably, we have seen an increase in our suicide rate over the most recent two year period. We remain alert to emerging risk factors whilst recognising that known risk factors including health inequalities and deprivation may be worsened by the ongoing impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic.



## Wendy Lowder Executive Director Adults and Communities

Our ongoing commitment to preventing and supporting homelessness has allowed us to achieve our annual target. We are also pleased that Anti-Social behaviour remains the lowest across South Yorkshire. In Adult Social Care we have seen the investment in two additional social workers at the hospital alongside more flexible weekend working impact positively on hospital discharges and reablement targets increased from 24% to 41% in this quarter.

Our Home First approach has seen continued reductions in admissions to residential care with 80 less admissions than the same time last year. Q3 also showed further improvements in safeguarding with Section 42 Decisions completed within 72 hours exceeding the target.

## Some Areas of Good Performance



Take up of the two-year-old childcare/education offer has increased to **77.3%** in Q3 from 70.8% in Q2.

14 First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System in Q3, this is **136** per 100,000 0-17 population; significantly lower than national and regional.

**85.6%** of Education Health and Care Plans were completed within 20 weeks.

The rate of excess winter deaths (**17.7**) is less than half that of the previous year.

**202** permanent admissions to residential and nursing care (65+) & **14** (18-64).

**95.7%** of Adult Safeguarding - % of Section 42 Decisions made within 72 hours.

**41%** of clients completed reablement with no long-term needs.

**4,441** Anti-Social Behaviour incidents were recorded between April and December 2020. This is the lowest in the South Yorkshire (SY) region.

There were **140** homelessness preventions making the total so far for 2020/21 **353**, above the annual target.

## Areas for Improvement



Barnsley's 2017-19 rate per 100,000 for suicide and injury of undetermined intent is **10.7**.

# PEOPLE ACHIEVING THEIR POTENTIAL

## Safeguarding Awareness Week 16-20 November

Despite the COVID pandemic, a total of 13 safeguarding adult learning events were provided by a range of partners including South Yorkshire Police, BMBC, Refugee council. Adult Safeguarding Evaluations show that people found the training 'very useful' or 'useful' and rated the content 'good' or 'very good' and all would recommend the courses to others. The launch event, delivered virtually over Microsoft Teams, included inputs from elected members, the Chair of the Safeguarding Board and key partners who all confirmed their commitment to safeguarding.

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Safeguarding is  
Barnsley's business

## Local Boost to Covid-19 Test and Trace

Since October, members of our Public Health team have been contacting residents who have tested positive for Covid-19 to offer support and guidance. This work complements and enhances the work of NHS Test and Trace and Public Health England, to ensure that as many people as possible are reached by contact tracing, to prevent further transmission of Covid-19 across the borough.

The local Public Health team use the data provided by NHS Test and Trace and aim to follow up all positive cases, firstly by text to offer support for self-isolating safely, and then by following up with a supportive call or email. The scheme has been well received with some really positive comments from the residents who were contacted.

## Local test and trace

"I was struggling to get food and essential supplies as my family don't live locally. The local test and trace service contacted me; it is amazing just having someone to talk to as I live on my own. I am grateful for the call to check on my welfare and even more grateful that I will be getting support, I no longer feel like I am on my own."

Feedback from an 81 year old resident who was contacted by our local test and trace service after testing positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19).



## Training for staff re free childcare entitlement

An online e-learning module has been launched for BMBC staff to access during their induction or as a refresher for existing employees entitled "Free Child Care for Eligible Two-Year-Olds." In addition, training has been delivered virtually via Microsoft Teams to Family Centre Outreach staff.

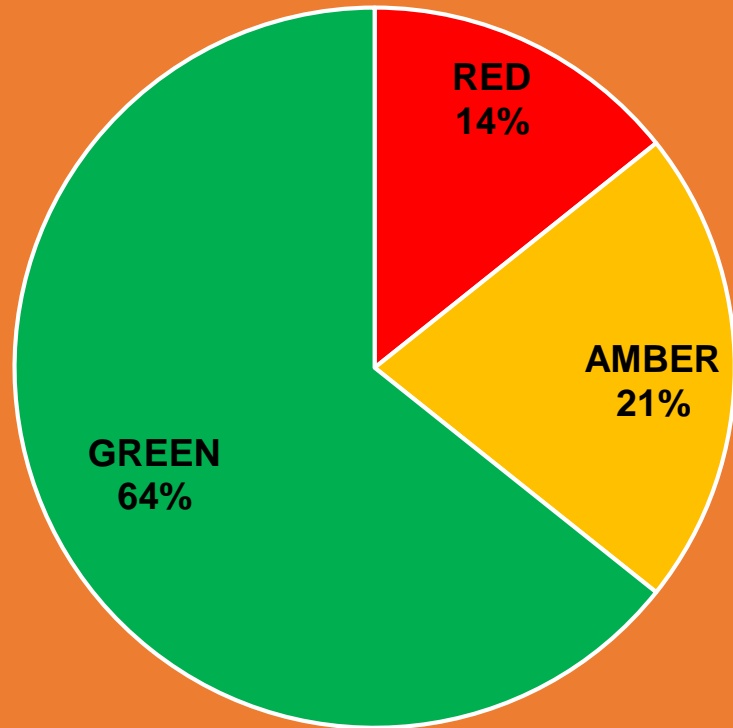


## Dearne & North East Area Team Stay Home, Stay Safe winter warmth programme

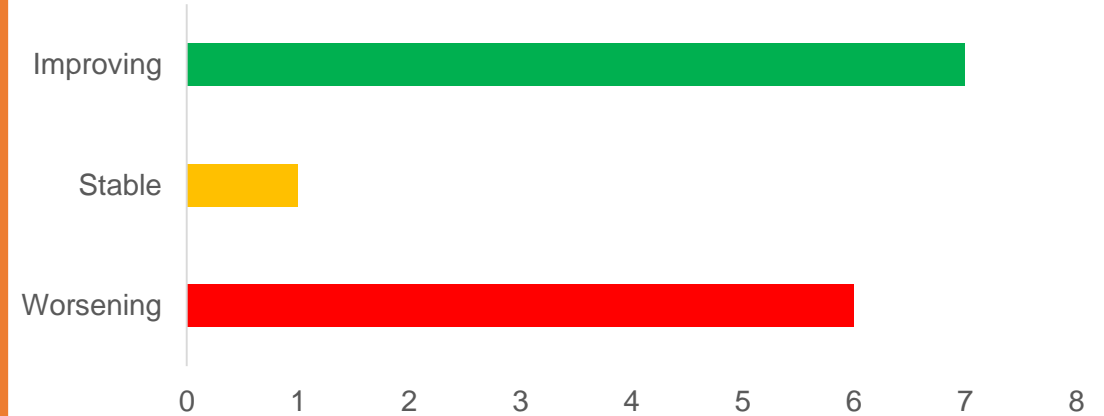
We provided our most vulnerable residents with items to keep them safe and warm but a little special something to keep them active too. Bags were sourced from a specialist company that deals with keeping elderly people warm in winter. Packs included a blanket, hand warmers, flask, gloves, hat, socks, refreshments, activity book and leaflets on how to keep warm during the winter months. We worked with the Public Health team to provide information on their new Fall Proof campaign designed to keep elderly residents active in their own homes.

# Performance Summary

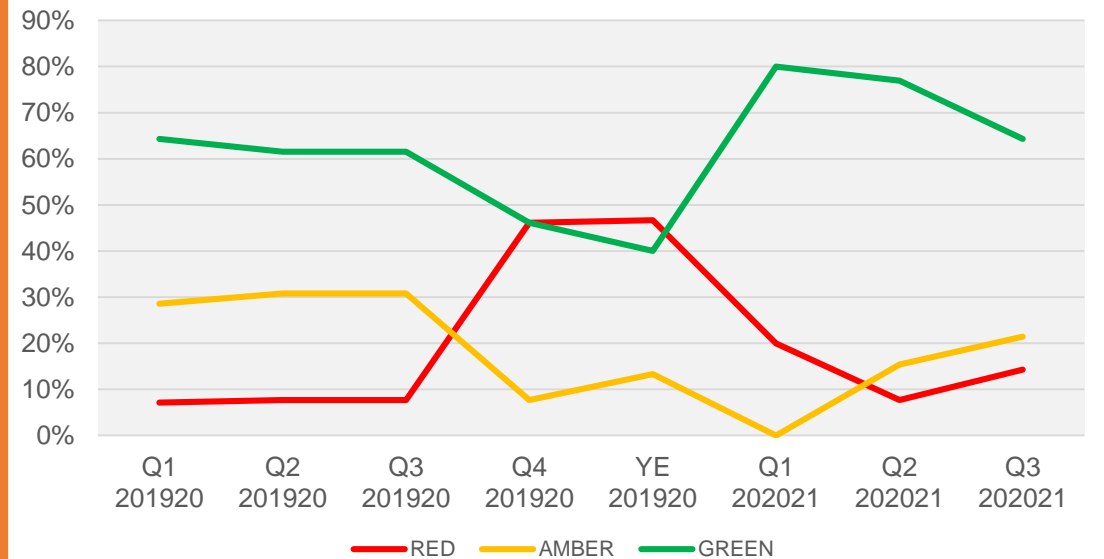
**Q3 RAG Ratings**



**Q3 Direction of Travel**



**Overall Status Trend**





## Priority Summary



### Matt Gladstone – Executive Director Place

Throughout this pandemic, the ever-changing restrictions have had a significant impact on environmental and transport services, and our performance in Q3 demonstrates that our detailed recovery and renewal plans are coming to fruition. Employee and resident safety continues to be our primary concern in all of the work that we undertake. All services are now back up and running and incorporating the required safe systems of work aligning to the latest government advice. Our ongoing commitment to a clean, green borough is evidenced by continued success in dealing with instances of fly tipping, alongside making progress with our tree-planting programme. Bins are emptied on time, traffic signals, street lights and pot holes are repaired quickly, and our recycling rates are improving. Household Services, which were affected in Q2, continued to be delivered safely in Q3.

We are also pressing ahead with Zero Carbon and have published our ambitious first Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) which sets out our ambitions for the next five years - focussing on continuing and accelerating our journey to net Zero Carbon by 2040. There remains ongoing appreciation for our front line workers with considerable acts of kindness being shown towards our staff. The volume of positive feedback received demonstrates a real togetherness, and our communities' resilience is to be admired in such tough times.



### Wendy Lowder - Executive Director Adults and Communities

During Q3, the COVID pandemic and lockdown with its restrictions and limitations continue to affect volunteering opportunities for the community. We have been working with existing volunteers (where appropriate and safe to do so) but we have been unable to do a recruitment drive for new volunteers due to the reduced number of opportunities for volunteering.

There has been some activity but not as regularly as before COVID19. Some of the regular volunteers the team work with will have been self-isolating.

### Some Areas of Good Performance



At the end of Q3, **41.7%** of diesel council vehicles detailed in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 vehicle replacement programmes had been replaced with Electric Vehicles

Neighbourhoods continue to clear all cases of fly tipping within **5** days despite an increase in fly tipping incidents

**98%** of all CAT 1 pot holes were repaired on time during Q3

**95%** of all signal faults were fixed within 24 hours

**61.1%** take up of superfast broadband against a target of 56%

An estimated **82.5%** of all monitored contacts were via self service

Over **£143,200** cashable volunteer hours undertaken in Q3

### Areas for Improvement



**32.3%** of household waste was recycled which is below the 40% target. Some collections were stood down due to the Covid pandemic.

**619** new volunteers registered (46% of the annual target) between April and December 2020



## Priority Summary

### Barnsley Healthy Holidays – Dearne Area Team

With Covid19 still upon us during the holidays, we were unable to run any community projects and felt upset at the prospect of not helping our families. We felt we needed to help all our families whether they are working, furloughed or unemployed.

We targeted all our families that were struggling with unemployment, furlough, changes to the household income, families receiving free school meals and anyone which had children that needed some help with healthy eating over the festive period. 204 families received boxes of vegetables and fruit; 477 children were fed with their families over Christmas with fresh, locally sourced produce.



### Community Advent Calendars – Central Ward Team

The team designed community advent calendars to be distributed to residents within the Central Area Council. The 5,000 calendars had 24 windows, behind each was a call to social action or a social wellbeing task. The initiative was supported by a social media campaign where the daily actions were revealed on Facebook in the morning followed by a video or photo. The videos were made in partnership with various organisations and BMBC services.

The calendars were distributed via primary schools, contracted providers, the Family Centre and Elected Members. The tasks were suitable for people of all ages. The purpose was to help address loneliness and isolation and help people feel connected to their community.



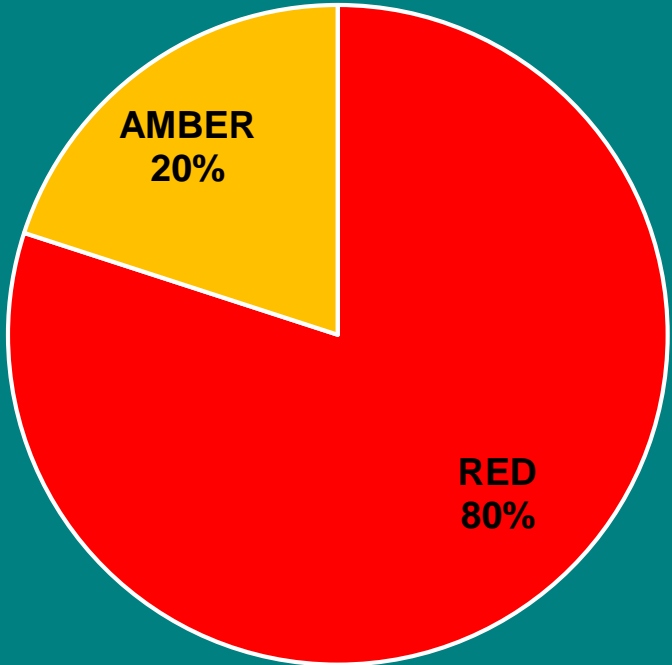
### Friends of Wilthorpe Park

Throughout 2020, the COVID 19 Pandemic caused major disruptions to the community and the groups that operate within it. Steadfastly, the Friends of Wilthorpe Park have been committed to keeping the park area as safe as it possibly can be and have gone above and beyond to make Wilthorpe Park beautiful.

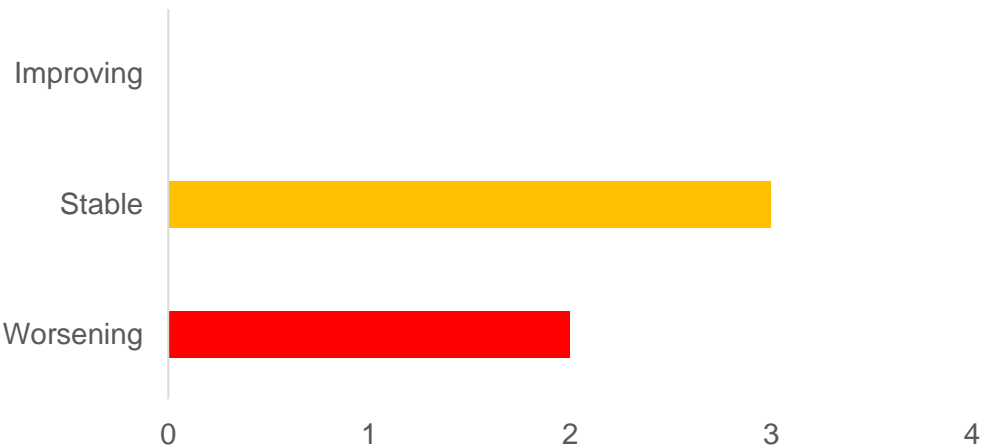
Where it has been possible to meet as a group, the members have done so, weeding, planting, and maintaining the park. Where full lockdowns have been in effect, the members have gone out of their way to use their daily exercise to go individually to the park with their own tools and put in hours upon hours of work to keep up the area. They truly are community focussed and deserve much praise and respect.

# Performance Summary

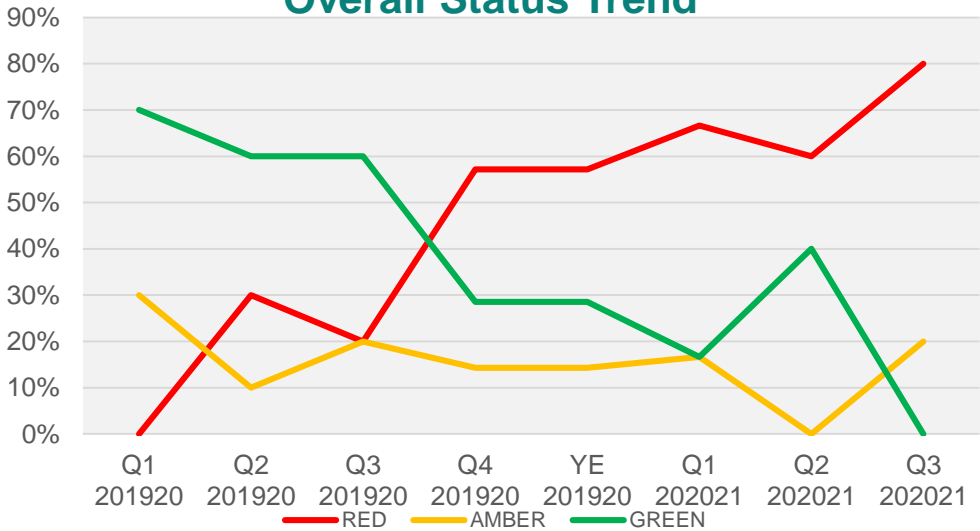
Q3 RAG Ratings



Q3 Direction of Travel



Overall Status Trend



*Our “One Council” Priority includes the things that we want to achieve to ensure that we are running our council as efficiently as we can, enabling us to provide the best possible outcomes for our district and its residents.*

## Shokat Lal, Executive Director, Core Services



Our Business Rates Collection rate continues to fall short of the current target as a result of the impact the Covid-19 pandemic is having on business sustainability. However, there has been an increase of 0.65% on the Q2 position, which reflects that the position is currently stable but uncertainty remains due to current and any future restrictions which may be placed upon the borough.

Council Tax Collection performance remains below the 96% target, but is stable due to an increase of 0.4% on the Q2 position. There is also the potential for a further reduction in the amount of council tax collectable as the pandemic impacts the economy and more jobs and more residents claim local council tax support.

### Sickness Absence

In Q3, the number of days lost to sickness absence per full time equivalent employee was **1.91** days.

This is higher than in Q2 (1.71 days lost) and is lower in comparison to Q3 19/20 (2.27 days lost). Mental Health continues to account for the largest proportion of absences. We have implemented a number of offers to assist employees with their mental health, including a helpline and App, e-learning courses and recruiting mental health first aiders.

Short-term sickness absence: 0.66 days.  
Long-term sickness absence: 1.27 days.

Currently, **1.34%** of the council's workforce, which includes employees in schools, are undertaking an apprenticeship, 63 of these began in Q3.

An increase in the overall number of employees has affected performance of this indicator.

A number of people are waiting to begin programmes and there is potential for Leadership and Management Apprenticeships following the launch of our Leadership Programme. It is anticipated that the number of employees beginning an apprenticeship in Q4 will assist in achieving the annual 2.3% public sector target for this indicator.

### Finance

A total of £7.448M of efficiency savings are to be delivered in 2020/21. Directorates are reporting a **95%** delivery against this target.

The Council Tax collection rate in Q3 was **95%** falling short of target by 1%

The Business Rates collection rate was **94.9%** and has fallen short of target by 3.25%



The LGA has highlighted the council's hard work to support local communities and businesses through the pandemic, which it noted, has often involved going 'above' and 'beyond' what might be expected of a council in more 'normal' times. The LGA also said that the council had demonstrated clear and determined leadership of place and noted many examples of good practice including early payment of business grants and comprehensive support to care homes. <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/news/barnsley-council-s-hard-work-and-support-to-local-communities-and-businesses-recognised-by-the-lga/>



# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

THE TIMELINE BELOW SHOWS SOME OF THE KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES THAT TOOK PLACE DURING QUARTER 3 (OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2020).

PRIORITY	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
	Halloween activities took place in the town centre during half term. The Glass Works hosted a monster hunt and involved retailers and market traders	Cannon Hall, Park and Gardens and Elsecar Park both won Green Flag awards. Cannon Hall also achieved Green Heritage Site Accreditation	<p>The annual Barnsley Bright Nights was held with changes to keep everyone safe. There was online entertainment, downloadable activities and a Winter Windowland exhibition</p> <p>The Barnsley Gift Card was launched. The card can be used in over 50 shops and restaurants around the borough and the town centre</p>
	On World Mental Health Day, as part of our Alright Pal campaign, we promoted the use of Barnsley's great outdoors to improve mental wellbeing. #Grow Outside	An engagement campaign was launched to find out about how the Covid 19 pandemic has affected the daily lives of residents	Thousands of Barnsley Children benefitted from new financial support from the council for food during the half term break
	Our joint scheme with Grandparents Plus was promoted which provides access to free specialist services to support special guardians	Barnsley Libraries produced Winter Wellbeing Reading Packs which will be distributed to isolated and vulnerable people	Covid Marshals began their roles. Their job is to advise and support the public and businesses to follow the Covid-19 guidelines
	The council won an LGC award, received a commendation and was nominated for seven other awards	We have published a new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy which sets out our commitment to meet our Public Sector Duty	A new Apprenticeship Strategy was developed to ensure that we are supporting the delivery of inclusive apprenticeships within the council and across the borough

# Finance Data – Spend Per Outcome

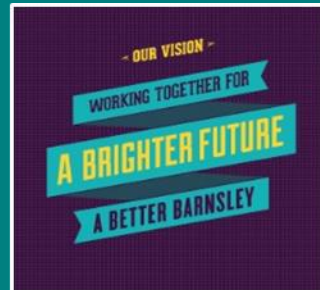
Outcome	Budget	Out-turn	Variance	% variance	Commentary
Outcome 1	1,807,964	2,139,524	331,559	18%	Shortfall in income due to COVID 19
Outcome 2	1,656,779	1,658,382	1,603	0%	Balanced position as per Q3
Outcome 3	(345,090)	791,037	1,136,128	329%	Shortfall in Markets & Town centre Income due to COVID 19
Outcome 4	1,986,826	2,167,284	180,458	9%	Shortfall in income and extra costs due to COVID 19
Outcome 5	1,632,377	1,640,964	8,587	1%	Shortfall in income due to COVID 19
Outcome 6	5,143,895	6,165,645	1,021,750	20%	Additional costs for Home to School Transport due to higher than anticipated demand and COVID 19 combined with a shortfall in income due to COVID 19
Outcome 7	6,109,194	5,663,087	(446,107)	-7%	Underspends on staffing and supplies & services partially offset by Early Years settings covid costs
Outcome 8	80,741,548	94,176,729	13,435,181	17%	CV19 costs - payments to ASC providers; homelessness and rough sleepers; and additional children SW, placement breakdowns/extentions and payments to care leavers
Outcome 9	2,073,950	5,242,368	3,168,419	153%	Income shortfall against School Catering due to schools closures for COVID combined with increased COVID related Public Health costs
Outcome 10	4,676,978	4,510,253	(166,725)	-4%	Staffing vacancies - delays in recruitment
Outcome 11	27,110,491	32,902,767	5,792,276	21%	Loss of income due to COVID 19 e.g. Car Parks, Highways and Licences combined with the additional cost of maintaining services during the pandemic including the additional cost of waste collection and traffic management.
Outcome 12	3,117,346	3,065,548	(51,798)	-2%	Staffing vacancies - delays in recruitment offset partly by lost income due to Covid 19

# Contact us

If you have any additional questions about our corporate performance, please contact us at:  
[BusinessImprovement&Intelligence@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:BusinessImprovement&Intelligence@barnsley.gov.uk)

In addition to this report, we have published a data dashboard [here](https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/our-council/our-performance/how-we-measure-our-performance/) which provides the detail around all of our corporate performance indicators. These are the activities that we measure to understand whether we're on track to active against our overall outcomes and priorities.

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/our-council/our-performance/how-we-measure-our-performance/>



**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 – Core Services &  
Service Director – Finance (Section 151)**

**CORPORATE FINANCE PERFORMANCE QUARTER ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To consider the financial performance of the Authority during the third quarter ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and assess the implications against the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).
- 1.2 This report also provides an updated position to reflect the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the Council's 20/21 budget and beyond.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

**CORPORATE FINANCE PERFORMANCE**

- **Note the current forecast General Fund Revenue overspend of £52.2M incorporating the ongoing impact of COVID-19;**
- **Note the current forecast Housing Revenue Account overspend of £0.8M incorporating the ongoing impact of COVID-19;**
- **Note the overall net impact (after all Government funding) of £11.9M;**
- **Agree the financial plan / earmarking of resources to fully mitigate the current forecast deficit and any further pandemic related spend that may arise in 21/22 as set out at paragraphs 3.11 to 3.17;**
- **Approve the continuation of the moratorium on all non-essential expenditure and the suspension of non-urgent one-off investments originally approved to commence in 20/21; and**
- **Approve the write off of historic bad debts totalling £1.0M.**

**CAPITAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE**

- **Note the forecast position on the approved Capital Programme;**
- **Note the external funding position highlighted in paragraphs 4.1.**

## **TREASURY MANAGEMENT**

- Note the key messages from the Council's Treasury Management activities.

### **3. Overall General Fund Position to the Quarter Ending December 2020**

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed a significant strain on the 20/21 revenue budget. The Council is currently reporting an overall projected General Fund revenue overspend for 20/21 of £52.2M. This is comprised of a forecast overspend on Directorate budgets of £36.8M, and a £15.4M overspend on Corporate budgets.

In addition, there is a projected overspend of £0.8M on the Housing Revenue Account.

				Variance Split by:		
Directorate	Approved Net Budget 2020/21	Projected Net Outturn 2020/21	Variance	Covid Costs	Covid Income Lost	Business as Usual
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Children's</b>	31,359	32,217	858	1,022	621	-785
<b>Place</b>	44,051	59,606	15,055	5,495	9,680	-120
<b>Adults &amp; Communities</b>	62,792	77,218	14,926	18,015	80	-3,169
<b>Public Health</b>	4,515	8,151	3,636	4,045	8	-417
<b>Core Services</b>	20,702	22,979	2,277	194	2,708	-625
<b>Service Totals</b>	<b>163,419</b>	<b>200,171</b>	<b>36,752</b>	<b>28,771</b>	<b>13,097</b>	<b>-5,116</b>
<b>Corporate / General Items *</b>	<b>9,157</b>	<b>24,577</b>	<b>15,420</b>	<b>9,065</b>	<b>6,355</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Sub Total – Council</b>	<b>172,576</b>	<b>224,748</b>	<b>52,172</b>	<b>37,836</b>	<b>19,452</b>	<b>-5,116</b>
HRA	0	771	771	1,100	784	-1,113
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>172,576</b>	<b>225,519</b>	<b>52,943</b>	<b>38,936</b>	<b>20,236</b>	<b>-6,229</b>
COVID-19 Funding	0	0	-41,019	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>11,924</b>			

\* The Public Health outturn includes the cost of the Council's outbreak control, specific funding for which has been received and included in the total Covid 19 Government funding.

\*\* The Corporate outturn includes a forecast shortfall in Council Tax and Business Rate Income.

### Overall Forecast Position

	Covid Cost	Covid Income	BAU	FUNDING	Total
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
2020/21	32,537	18,383	-6,229	-39,719	<b>4,972</b>
2021/22	6,399	1,853	-	-1,300	<b>6,952</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,936</b>	<b>20,236</b>	<b>-6,729</b>	<b>-41,019</b>	<b>11,924</b>



- 3.1 The revenue outturn position as at December 2020 is currently reporting a forecast overspend of £11.9M, £5.0M in 2020/21 and a further £6.9M to carry on the COVID response and recovery to the end of Q2 2021 [30<sup>th</sup> September 2021]. This is further analysed below:

#### COVID-19 Expenditure

	2020/21	2021/22	TOTAL
DIRECTORATE	£M	£M	£M
Children's	649	373	1,022
Place	4,968	527	5,495
Adults & Communities	16,092	1,923	18,015
Public Health	2,498	1,547	4,045
Core Services	194	0	194
Corporate / General Items	7,036	2,029	9,065
HRA	1,100	0	1,100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32,537</b>	<b>6,399</b>	<b>38,936</b>

- 3.2 It is currently forecast that leading the COVID-19 emergency response will cost the Council in the region of £38.9M. This cost can be split between costs incurred during 2020/21 totalling £32.5M with a further £6.4M costs forecast to continue the response effort through to the early autumn of 2021/22.
- 3.3 These costs include providing additional support to the Social Care market, supporting the most vulnerable in society, maintaining social distancing, providing personal protective equipment as well as the increased cost of delivering front line services. Further detail is provided in the Directorate updates below.

#### COVID-19 Income

	2020/21	2021/22	TOTAL
DIRECTORATE	£M	£M	£M
Children's	621	0	621
Place	7,977	1,703	9,680
Adults & Communities	80	0	80
Public Health	8	0	8
Core Services	2,558	150	2,708
Corporate / General Items	6,355	0	6,355
HRA	784	0	784
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,383</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>20,236</b>

- 3.4 A total shortfall in income is also forecast in the region of £20.2M, of which £18.4M relates to income losses during 20/21 with a further phased shortfall of £1.8M expected in 21/22. This includes lost income from fees and charges totalling £13.1M (£11.3M in 20/21 and £1.8M in 2021/22), £4.2M in Council tax in 20/21, £2.1M in business rates and £0.8M in housing rents all in 20/21.

3.5 Further details of the income lost through irrecoverable fees and charges is provided in the Directorate updates below. Council tax collection is currently forecast at 95.0%, 1.0% below target. This is due to an increase in the number of residents claiming Local Council Tax Support as well as other residents who have struggled financially during the pandemic. Business Rates collection is forecast to be 94.9%, 2.6% below target, largely as a result of the closure of all but essential businesses during the various national lockdown periods.

3.6 The S151 Officer is also seeking approval to write off debt amounting to £1.004M which has become uneconomical to pursue. This is summarised in the table below:

Type of Dept	Value of Write off (£M)
Council Tax	0.263
Business Rates	0.080
Trade Debt General Fund	0.217
Trade Debt HRA	0.036
Housing Benefit Overpayment	0.227
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>0.823</b>
Rent Arrears	0.181
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.004</b>

### COVID 19 Government Support

3.7 Government have provided some financial support to help Council's through the pandemic. To date, the Council is expected to receive up to a maximum of £41.0M in funding. This funding is further analysed in the table below.

Support Type	£M	Purpose	Conditionality	Risk
Emergency COVID Funding	£23.113	General funding to help Council's respond to the pandemic.	No specific conditions attached	No payback
Infection and Prevention Control	£5.462	Funding to help control and prevent infections in care home settings.	Paid in 2 tranches, tranche 1 (£3.0M) to be spent by Sept 20. Tranche 2 £2.4M to be spent by 31 <sup>st</sup> March 21.	£0.140M returned under tranche 1. Concerns over 2nd tranche so currently under review
Outbreak Control & Management	£5.155	Mitigation and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19.	£1.6M was paid initially. This has no restrictions attached to it with £1.3M to be carried forward into 21/22.  Further payment received reflecting the different restrictions put in place at between £4 and £8 per head – subject to restrictions and to be used by 31 <sup>st</sup> March 21.	To be spent by 31 <sup>st</sup> March though currently under review. Plan in place including covering redeployment costs.
Income Compensation	£3.390	Compensation for lost income from fees and charges.	2 claims submitted to date with further claim to be submitted in March. First	Losses in 2020/21 outweigh compensation.

			5% must be stood by LA and then 75% of losses funded. To be used in 2021/22.	
Winter Grant	£0.946	This funding was provided for free school's meals, winter fuel grants, healthy holidays, food bank provision and local welfare assistance	This funding expires by 31 <sup>st</sup> March.	A small underspend is currently forecast though plans are in place to utilise this by year end.
Welfare Assistance	£0.351	Funding is to provide welfare assistance for food from food banks and household items for people setting up a new home after a period of living in an institutional setting or has experienced an unforeseen, unfortunate event.		This funding has been fully spent.
Lateral flow testing	£0.752	Specific testing in Care Homes.	No conditions as yet but expected that this funding can be carried forward in to 21/22.	Currently liaising with Care Homes to formulate a plan.
Test and Trace	£0.536	Funding is to provide hardship support for low income households required to self-isolate.	Council has agreed to continue the scheme beyond funding envelope	Funding fully utilised.
Workforce Capacity	£0.619	Funding for additional care staff capacity, admin support and overtime costs where required.	This funding has just been announced (27 <sup>th</sup> January) and has some specific / tight funding criteria. It is unclear at this stage whether the funding can be carried forward beyond March 21.	Currently looking to formulate a plan to align to funding criteria but risk of claw back due to funding criteria / year-end deadline for spend.
COVID Marshals	£0.156	Specific funding to employ COVID marshals to offer advice and support during restrictions.	Funding already used on employment of 8 marshals [costs in excess of funding].	Funding fully utilised.
New Burdens	£0.170	Funding to help LA's make core system changes for key support	No conditions.	Funding fully utilised.
CEV Funding	£0.366	Support for individuals identified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable during national lockdown periods, to enable them to access basic food and support.	Funding used in the emergency contact centre	Funding fully utilised.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£41.016</b>			

- 3.8 It is anticipated that the vast majority of the £41M grant funding will be maximised in accordance with the timeframe and eligibility criteria attached to each funding stream.
- 3.9 However, there are risks of clawback / grants being repaid to Government in relation to the following:
1. Infection and prevention control – this largely represents grants paid to care homes to deal with infection control, with each provider having to evidence spend on eligible items. Although the first tranche of grant was largely expended, a small number of providers were unable and / or didn't require the funding to pay for eligible items and therefore £140k will be repaid to Government. There is also a risk around unspent grant in relation to the second tranche of funding which has to be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March. Although this is largely outside of the Council's control, colleagues in Adult Social Care and Finance continue to work with providers to ensure this funding is maximised as far as is possible;
  2. Outbreak Control – This is funding to mitigate and manage local outbreaks of COVID 19. The funding [£5.1m in total] has been announced in stages in response to the different restrictions announced over the past year. This has made planning difficult although colleagues from Public Health and across the Council have put together a detailed plan intended to fully utilise this grant by year end. There does remain a risk that some of the actions within the plan will not spend as currently forecast, though further mitigations are being explored, including 'switching out' existing public health activity and wider redeployment costs, should that be the necessary;
  3. Adult social care workforce capacity funding – this funding announced at the end of January 21 is provided for additional care staff capacity, admin support and overtime costs where this would release expert resources to the front line. Colleagues in Adult Social Care and Finance are currently developing a plan to maximise this funding though there remains a risk of some claw back due to the restrictive nature of the grant criteria and the tight timeframe for spending the money i.e. 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.
- 3.10 Regardless, Government support will be inadequate to cover the full cost of responding to and recovering from the pandemic. To mitigate against this risk Cabinet approved the Barnsley MBC Recovery & Renewal Strategy in June (Cab 10/06/2020/10) together with the COVID-19 Financial Recovery Strategy.

### COVID-19 Financial Recovery

- 3.11 The COVID-19 Financial Recovery Strategy comprises of two phases:
- Phase 1 – Emergency Response & Short-Term Recovery [20/21 financial year];
  - Phase 2 – Longer Term Recovery and Sustainability [21/22 and beyond / MTFS].

- 3.12 The current forecast deficit position stands at £11.9M. This is split between £5.0M relating to 2020/21 and a further £6.9M through to the end of September 2021.

#### 2020/21 Recovery / Mitigation Plan

	Covid Cost	Covid Income	BAU	FUNDING	Total
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
2020/21	32,537	18,383	-6,229	-39,719	<b>4,972</b>
<b>Mitigations</b>					
Continue with the moratorium on all non-essential expenditure					TBD
Continue to delay / postpone previously approved investment					£3M
Compensation from Government for Taxation income losses					£2M
Use of reserves					n/a
<b>Balance</b>					<b>Nil</b>

- 3.13 Based on the above mitigations, it is envisaged that the Council will be in a position to balance its books by the financial year end.

#### 2021/22 Recovery / Mitigation Plan

	Covid Cost	Covid Income	BAU	FUNDING	Total (for 6 months)
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
2021/22	6,399	1,853	-	-1,300	<b>6,952</b>
2021/22 Extended to March 22	6,399	1,853	-	-	<b>8,252</b>
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,204</b>
<b>Mitigations</b>					
Extension of fees & charges compensation scheme to Q1					£0.5M
Compensation for taxation income losses					£2.0M
Further provision in the 2021/22 budget for income losses					£3.0M
COVID 19 funding set aside as part of 21/22 budget					£12.7M
COVID Reserves (if required)					TBD
<b>Balance</b>					<b>Nil</b>

- 3.14 As discussed as part of setting the 21/22 budget the total cost of dealing with the pandemic included provision to continue with the current 'emergency' response mode through to the end of September 2021, together with an assumption around ongoing losses to fees & charges as restrictions remain in place, at a combined estimated cost of £6M [net].
- 3.15 If, for whatever reason, the response effort had to be extended through to the end of 21/22 at the same level as currently assumed, further costs of £8.3M are anticipated, bringing the total deficit for 21/22 to in the region of £15.2M.
- 3.16 In this, hopefully worse case scenario, the mitigation plan to maintain a balanced budget position in 21/22 is to utilise the full £12.7M of one-off funding that was set

aside as part of approving the 21/22 budget process the remaining gap being plugged from the Government's core income compensation schemes.

- 3.17 To the extent that the position improves resources can be released for other priorities and / or to support the wider pandemic / economic recovery.

## **DIRECTORATE UPDATES**

- 3.18 Council services are forecasting a significant overspend for 2020/21 of £35.0M. This is made up of £40.6M of costs relating to the impact of COVID-19, offset by operational underspends of (£5.6M). Details of variances have been split between existing business as usual activities and those relating to COVID-19.

### **Children's Services Directorate**

- 3.19 The Children's Services Directorate is currently forecasting an **overspend of £0.958M**, of which £1.480M is related to COVID-19 pressures, offset by £0.785M operational underspends.

People Directorate	Approved Net Budget 2020/21 £'000	Projected Net Outturn 2020/21 £'000	Variance £'000	Variation Split by:		
				Covid Costs	Covid Income Lost	Business as Usual
				£'000	£'000	£'000
Education, Early start & Prevention	3,456	3,339	-117	120	548	-785
Children Social Care & Safeguarding	25,702	27,677	975	902	73	0
Sub-Total	29,158	30,016	858	1,022	621	-785
Schools	2,201	2,201	0	0	0	0
Total – People	31,359	32,217	858	1,022	621	-785

### **COVID-19 Costs**

- 3.20 Additional costs of £1.022M are currently forecast. This includes employing additional Social Worker resource through to autumn 2021 to support the increase in children's social care caseloads of £0.527M, an anticipated increase in Looked After Children [LAC] placement numbers and respite care costs totalling £0.309M, support to early years care providers of £0.120M and support for care leavers of £0.066M.

### **COVID-19 Income**

- 3.21 The Directorate is anticipating income losses of £0.621M. This has increased since Q2 following the recent school closures and a reduction in the demand for Education Psychology, Education Welfare and SEND support services. The temporary closure of Newsome Avenue for respite care earlier in the year also resulted in a £0.074M income pressure.

### Business as Usual

- 3.22 Children in Care remains an area of concern, projecting an overspend of £1.404M, an increase of £0.470M since Q3. This cost has been fully offset in year by the planned use of one-off Social Care Grant, with the ongoing impact provided for as part of the revised MTFS. Over and above this an underspend (£0.785M) is anticipated as a result of vacancies across Education, Early Start & Prevention together with implementation of the moratorium on expenditure particularly within Early Start / Family Centres, School Evaluation and Targeted Youth Services.

### Place Directorate

- 3.23 The Place Directorate is forecasting an **overspend of £10.903M**, the majority of which (£10.823M) is COVID-19 related.

Directorate	Approved Net Budget 2020/21 £'000	Projected Net Outturn 2020/21 £'000	Variance £'000	Variation Split by:		
				Covid Costs £'000	Covid Income Lost £'000	Business as Usual £'000
Regeneration & Culture	14,892	22,021	7,129	1,847	5,484	-203
Environment & Transport	29,159	37,085	7,926	3,648	4,196	83
<b>Total Place</b>	<b>44,051</b>	<b>59,106</b>	<b>15,055</b>	<b>5,495</b>	<b>9,680</b>	<b>-120</b>

### COVID-19 Costs

- 3.24 Regeneration and Culture have seen additional costs of £1.847M associated with COVID-19, predominately related to an increase in security and cleaning costs. Costs include property related / building adaptations to support strict government guidelines through to the end of September 21 (£1.299M), supplier relief (£0.215M), delivering cultural services digitally (£0.050M) and conducting a Retail Impact Assessment (£0.018M).
- 3.25 The pandemic has also resulted in a delay to the town centre buildings review and delivery of 20/21 planned efficiency savings (£0.265M).
- 3.26 Environment and Transport have incurred significant additional costs of £3.648M as a result of the pandemic, this being an increase of £0.421M compared to the position reported at Q2 primarily due to the assumed extension of the revised waste services [Covid] delivery model through to September 2021.
- 3.27 Overall these costs include; additional waste collection and disposal costs due to general increases in waste combined with implementing COVID safe measures into operational delivery (£2.654M), additional costs of Home to School Transport to comply with the Government's COVID-19 safety guidelines (£0.867M) and the installation of a refrigeration unit at the crematorium (£0.077M). There will also be a

delay in the delivery of planned 20/21 efficiency savings within Commercial Services (£0.050M).

### COVID-19 Income

- 3.28 Regeneration and Culture forecast a shortfall in income of £5.485M, an increase of £2.410M since Q2 reflecting the recent lockdown in January and closure of all non-essential retail including the market as well as a general shortfall in fees and charges income within the Employment and Skills service, planning fees, reduced Right to Buy sales and across the Council's cultural offer. Income losses have also been extended through to the end of September on a phased return to normality basis.
- 3.29 Environment and Transport are anticipating income losses of £4.196M. These losses are associated with; a shortfall in highways income as a result of the suspension of highways works in the Q1 (£1.144M), a loss of car parking income (£1.774M), a loss of commercial waste and recycling income (£1.202M) and a loss in fee income from sports and leisure facilities and other income (£0.076M) .

### Business as Usual

- 3.30 Regeneration and Culture are reporting an overall underspend on BAU of £0.203M. The overall underspend is comprised of vacancy management (£0.563M) and an underspend on events (£0.140M), offset by the running costs of under occupied buildings e.g. LIFT (£0.423M) and additional project costs at Elsecar Heritage Centre. Environment and Transport is reporting an overspend of £0.083M mainly due to a delay in the delivery of the Transfer Loading Station (£0.333M), offset by staffing underspends.
- 3.31 It should also be noted that this position excludes the cost of winter maintenance. The number of winter grits completed in January way exceeds the same levels in each of the last of the four years. This is as result of significantly lower temperatures coupled with the levels of rain fall which effectively washed away all grit salt. It is likely that the current budget will be exceeded with any overspend a call on corporate resources.

### Adults & Communities Directorate

- 3.32 The Adults & Communities Directorate is forecasting an **overspend of £14.926M**, of which £18.095M relates to COVID-19 pressures, offset by operational underspends across the Directorate of £3.169M.



Directorate	Approved Net Budget 2019/20 £'000	Projected Net Outturn 2020/21 £'000	Variance £'000	Variation Split by:		
				Covid Costs £'000	Covid Income Lost £'000	Business as Usual £'000
BU02 – Adult Social Care & Health	52,930	63,689	10,759	13,384	0	-2,625
BU08 – Safer, Stronger & Healthier Communities	9,862	14,029	4,167	4,631	80	-544
<b>Total for Directorate</b>	<b>62,792</b>	<b>77,718</b>	<b>14,926</b>	<b>18,015</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>-3,169</b>

### COVID-19 Costs

- 3.33 Additional costs totalling £13.384M are estimated to be incurred in sustaining the adult social care service / providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes; payments to plan, payment of voids and payments to introduce infection control measures. The Council has also pooled resources with the CCG to support the cost of hospital discharges.
- 3.34 The Directorate has also led the provision of support to the most vulnerable in society by providing financial hardship support, brokered the provision of accommodation for the homeless and rough sleeper's, provided the emergency contact centre and co-ordinated community response, food distribution, support to the voluntary sector as well as additional measures to combat an increase in anti-social behaviour (£4.631M).

### COVID-19 Income

- 3.35 Minor income losses (£0.080M) are anticipated as a result of the suspension of fixed penalty notices.

### Business as Usual

- 3.36 The Directorate is forecasting an underspend on its day to day operations of - £3.169M, a significant improvement from Q2. The increased underspend is mainly due to continued reduction in forecast spend on care support / packages relating to Older People residential / nursing care together with vacancy and general cost management across the directory. Efficiencies planned for 21/22 have also been delivered early.

### Public Health

- 3.37 Public Health is forecasting an **overspend of £3.636M**, of which £4.053M relates to COVID-19 pressures.

Directorate	Approved Net Budget 2020/21 £'000	Projected Net Outturn 2020/21 £'000	Variance £'000	Variation Split by:		
				Covid Costs	Covid Income Lost	Business as Usual
				£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Public Health</b>	<b>4,515</b>	<b>8,151</b>	<b>3,636</b>	<b>4,045</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-417</b>

### COVID-19 Costs

3.38 The Directorate is responsible for delivering the Council's outbreak control plan to support the detection and prevention of Covid 19 across the Borough. Specific funding allocations totalling £3.661M have been allocated via central government to support these costs which is included within the Council's overall COVID 19 funding. Further costs (£0.090M) have also been incurred associated with bereavement support and compliance and enforcement (£0.294M).

### COVID-19 Income

3.39 Minor income losses are anticipated associated with the issuing of animal welfare licences.

### Business as Usual

3.40 An operational underspend of £0.417M is forecast by year end, mainly as a result of staffing underspends in the 0-19 service. A detailed review and re-configuration across the Public Health Directorate is currently underway to ensure resources are aligned to priorities in a sustainable way. The outcome of this will be reported in future updates.

### Core Directorate

3.41 The Core Services Directorate is forecasting an **overspend of £2.277M**, of which £2.904M relates to COVID-19 pressures, offset by operational underspends of £0.625M.

Directorate	Approved Net Budget 2020/21 £'000	Projected Net Outturn 2020/21 £'000	Variance £'000	Variation Split by:		
				Covid Costs	Covid Income Lost	Business as Usual
				£'000	£'000	£'000
IT	6,370	6,975	605	56	215	334
Finance	3,968	5,503	1,535	44	1,841	-500
Bus Imp, HR & Comms	5,158	5,009	-149	85	204	-388
Legal Services	1,590	1,962	372	-	448	24
Council Governance	3,616	3,530	-86	9	-	-95
<b>Total – Core</b>	<b>20,702</b>	<b>22,979</b>	<b>2,277</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>2,708</b>	<b>-625</b>

### COVID-19 Costs

- 3.42 Additional cost pressures of £0.194M associated with providing the required IT support / equipment to facilitate home & remote working requirements costs been incurred on staff support and supplier relief payments.

### COVID-19 Income

- 3.43 The Core Directorate is anticipating income losses of £2.708M, predominately due to a fall in the demand for school meals as a result of school closures (£1.741M). Other losses relate to court fee income (£0.250M) following the suspension of court activity [due to recommence November 2020) particularly related to non-payment of Council Tax, external (mainly schools) trading income (£0.264M), a shortfall in license / land charge fee income (£0.348M) and income from registrars (£0.105M).

### Business as Usual

- 3.44 An operational underspend of £0.625M is forecast, a slight improvement from Q1 mainly due to increased vacancy levels. The overall position is mainly comprised of staff turnover and vacancy management (£0.791M), an underspend in the cost of servicing elections (£0.152M) as a consequence of the postponement of this year's election and various other underspends in supplies & services in line with the moratorium (£0.123M). These underspends are offset by overspends in Legal Services due to the use of locums (£0.347M) and loss of external SLA income (£0.094M).

### Corporate Budgets

- 3.45 Corporate budgets are forecasting to be **overspent** by **£15.420M** by the end of 20/21. This is split This is a result of increased costs associated with the Covid 19 response together with forecast losses in tax collection. In terms of the latter although the Government has announced that losses may be spread over a 3-year period [rather than the current 1-year period] the detail of that announcement is still awaited.

### COVID-19 Costs

- 3.46 There are COVID related costs of £9.065M. This is split between costs in 2020/21 totalling £7,036 and £2,029 during 2021/22. This relates to the provision of additional staffing resource across the Council to support the Tier 3 and subsequent further lock down response through to September 2021 (£3.124M), the costs of recovery from the first lockdown restrictions (£1.239M) provision of PPE (£1.065) and provision for a discretionary business support scheme subject to clarity on nationally available funding (£2.500M).

- 3.47 In addition, the Council has also seen increased insurance premiums costs (£0.500M), additional system costs, additional payments to the Coroner's Office (£0.100M) and other miscellaneous corporate costs (£0.537M).

#### COVID-19 Income

- 3.48 As reported in Q1 there continues to be an anticipated shortfall in budgeted Council Tax income of approximately £4.2M. This is largely due to the downturn in the economy / job impact and a subsequent increase in the number of new Universal Credit / Local Council Tax Support claimants (£2.4M). Collection is also less than forecast (£1.8M) at an estimated collection rate of 95.0% (95.85% in 2019/20).
- 3.49 In addition, there is a shortfall in relation to Business Rate income, with a collection rate of 94.9% (97% in 2019/20) forecast. This is mainly due to the enforced closure of businesses at the end of March and subsequent disruption which has adversely impacted business income together with a small number of business closures in recent months (£2.085M).

#### Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 3.50 The HRA is currently forecasting an operational overspend as at the end of September of £0.771M.

#### COVID-19 Costs

- 3.51 An additional cost of £1.100M is forecast on the housing repairs contract relating to the payment of supplier relief and the cost of emergency works during the initial lockdown period.

#### COVID-19 Income

- 3.52 The combination of COVID and subsequent increase in the number of tenants claiming Universal Credit and / or seeing their incomes fall as a result of furlough / redundancy has contributed to a reduction in the amount of rent collected [Q3 collection rate is 96.7%]. It is forecast that the bad debt provision will be increased by £0.771M to cover the expected rental income loss.

#### Business as Usual

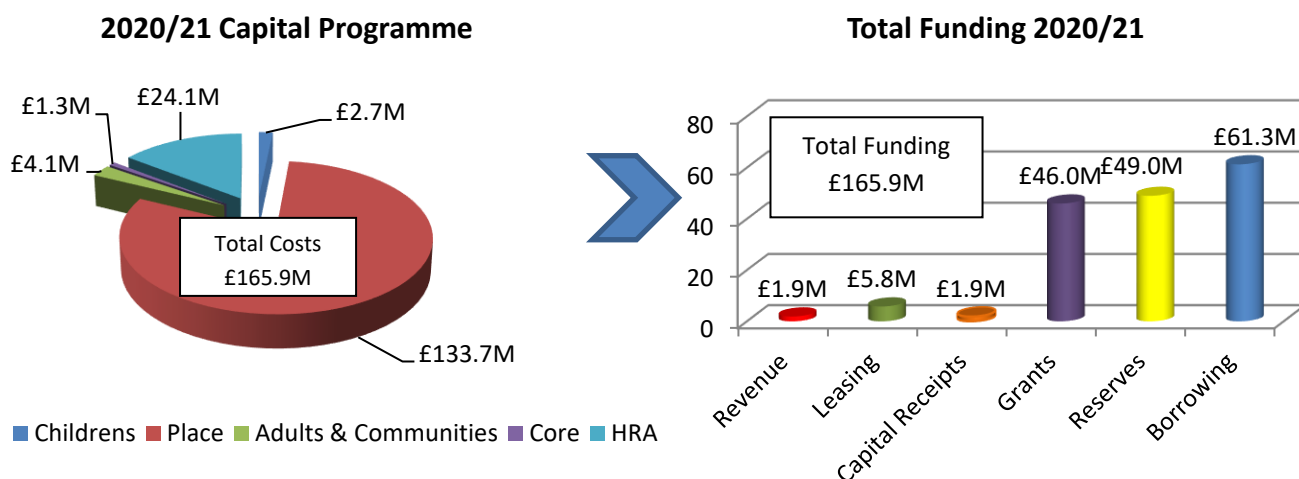
- 3.53 There is however a forecast underspend of £1.113M mainly as a result of reduction in the number of right to buy properties and a drawdown of reserves earmarked to fund compliance testing within the Property Improvement Repairs Programme (PRIP).

#### 4. Overall Capital Programme Position as at the End of December 2020

The position on the Council's Capital Programme for 2020/21 is currently projected to be an overall lower than anticipated expenditure of £34.2M.

This in the main relates to scheme slippage of £35.5M, offset by the rephasing of costs from future years (£1.3M).

4.1 The Council's capital programme is planned over the five-year period 2020/21 through 2024/25 inclusive and has a total estimated cost of £202.3M. The cost in 2020/21 totals £165.9M as highlighted in the chart below:



<u>Directorate</u>	2020/21 Capital Programme	2020/21 Actuals	2020/21 Projected Outturn	2020/21 Variance	Total Capital Programme	Total Projected Outturn	Total Variance
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
<b>Children's Services</b>	2.669	1.852	2.343	(0.326)	3.130	3.065	(0.065)
<b>Place</b>	133.702	60.147	105.115	(28.587)	159.756	160.387	0.631
<b>Adults &amp; Communities</b>	4.149	1.600	2.532	(1.617)	8.882	8.881	(0.001)
<b>Core Services</b>	1.331	0.119	0.983	(0.348)	1.331	1.331	0.000
<b>HRA</b>	24.052	8.425	20.743	(3.309)	29.231	28.364	(0.867)
<b>Total</b>	<b>165.903</b>	<b>72.143</b>	<b>131.716</b>	<b>(34.187)</b>	<b>202.330</b>	<b>202.028</b>	<b>(0.302)</b>

#### Key Messages

4.2 The table below summarises all movements in the capital programme during Q3. Each movement is explained further in paragraphs 4.3 to 4.7 below.

	2020/21	Later Years	Total
	£M	£M	£M
<b>Reported Variance as at 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>			
<b>As a result of:</b>			
<b>Slippage:</b>			
Children's Services	(0.260)	0.260	-
Place	(29.217)	29.217	-
Adults & Communities	(1.616)	1.616	-
Core Services	(0.347)	0.347	-
Housing Revenue Account	(4.026)	4.026	-
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>(35.466)</b>	<b>35.466</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Re-phasing:</b>			
Housing Revenue Account	1.250	(1.250)	-
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1.250</b>	<b>(1.250)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Funded Increases/(Decreases) in Scheme Costs:</b>			
Children's Services	(0.065)	-	<b>(0.065)</b>
Place	0.631	-	<b>0.631</b>
Adults & Communities	(0.001)	-	<b>(0.001)</b>
Housing Revenue Account	(0.536)	(0.331)	<b>(0.867)</b>
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>0.029</b>	<b>(0.331)</b>	<b>(0.302)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>(34.187)</b>	<b>33.885</b>	<b>(0.302)</b>

### 2020/21 Slippage

4.3 Scheme slippage totaling £35.5M is reported during the quarter. The table below highlights the main schemes that have slipped

Scheme	Amount £M	Comments
Glassworks Development	15.8	Delays in securing planning permission and design for remaining areas of public realm and securing tenants due to COVID 19
M1 Junction Improvements (J36 & J37)	6.1	Delays in planning, contractor appointment and statutory diversion works
Barnsley Homes Standard Programme / Disabled Facilities Grant	4.7	Slippage due to COVID 19 re property access issues
Highways Safer Roads	1.2	Delays in land acquisition
Car Parking Strategy	1.0	Delays in procurement
Eastern Gateway	0.9	Delays in site acquisition
Other	5.8	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35.5</b>	

### **2020/21 Scheme Rephasing**

- 4.4 There has been a rephasing of scheme costs from future years (£1.250M) mainly relating to accelerating the Council's Empty Homes Acquisitions Programme (£1.000M).

### **2020/21 Variation in Scheme Costs**

- 4.5 There has been a net increase in scheme costs totaling £0.029M across several schemes.



## 5. Treasury Management update as at end of December 2020

### Economic Summary

A reduction in the PWLB rates of 1% was implemented on the 26th November. There is little movement expected in interest rates over the next two years due to the expected prolonged period of recovery.

### Borrowing Activity

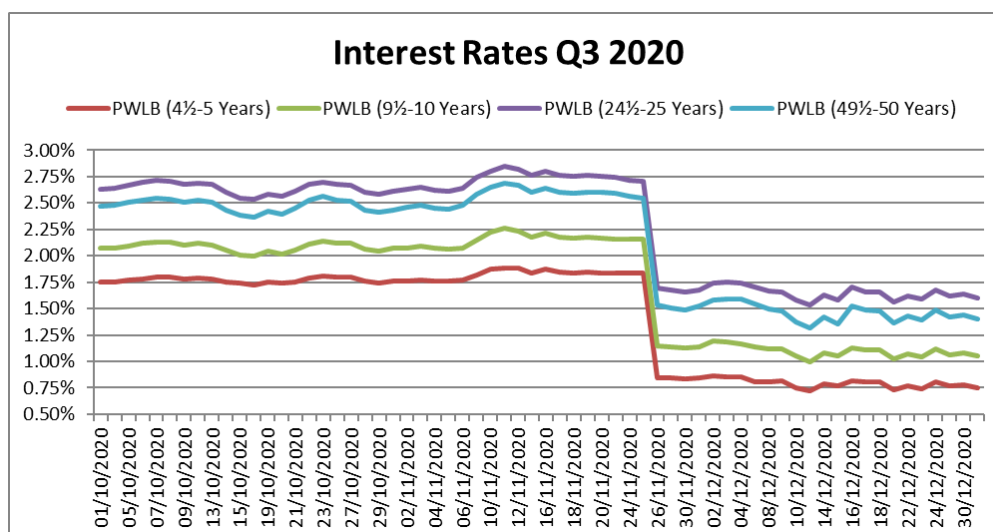
In line with the agreed TM strategy there was no new borrowing undertaken during quarter 3. It is anticipated that the Council will need to borrow up to £216M over the next 3 years, of which £68M will need to be taken at fixed rates of interest to maintain interest rate risk exposure at 70% of total debt.

### Investment Activity

There has been a further net reduction in investment balances of £6.6 Million during quarter 3. Security and liquidity remained the key priorities, with the bulk of transactions relating to secure Money Market Funds and instant access accounts. It is recommended that the temporary increase in investment limits applied in March 2020 should continue to remain in place to ensure sufficient liquidity during the Covid crisis.

## Key Messages – Economic Summary

- 5.1 Interest rates remain a key driver of the Council's Treasury Management activities. As illustrated by the chart below there was some volatility in interest rates during the third quarter, however the main highlight is the reduction in PWLB lending margin implemented on the 26th November (by 1%). This reduction comes with some revised lending terms to prevent authorities from using PWLB loans to buy commercial assets primarily for yield, however these terms are not expected to cause any issues for the Council:



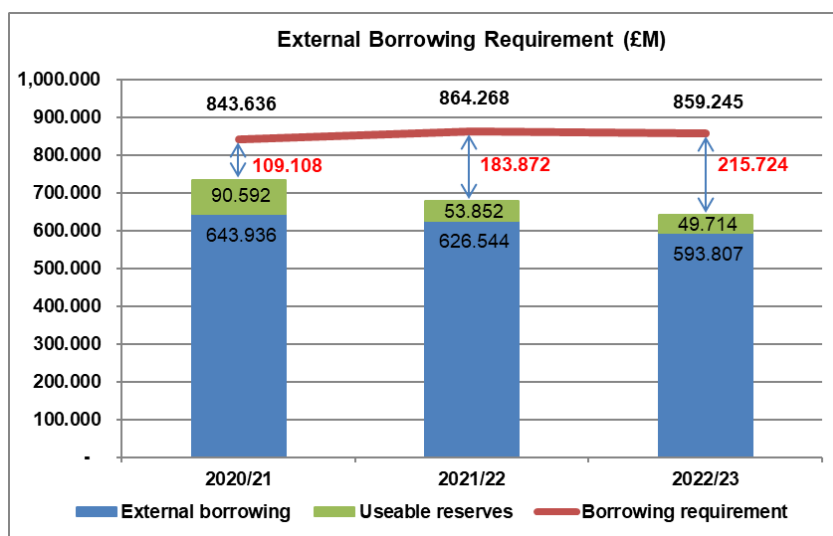
5.2 As a result of this reduction, the expectation is that PWLB rates will remain below 2% for the foreseeable future due to a prolonged period of economic recovery following the Covid pandemic (see table below):

	Latest Interest Rate Projections* (Link Asset Services)					
	Latest	Mar-21	Sep-21	Mar-22	Sep-22	Mar-23
<b>UK Base Rate</b>	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%
<b>PWLB Certainty (50 Years)</b>	1.53%	1.30%	1.40%	1.40%	1.50%	1.50%

### **Key Messages – Borrowing Activity**

5.3 In line with the agreed Treasury Management strategy to limit exposure to interest rate risk whilst maintaining an appropriate level of internal borrowing to minimise financing costs, no new borrowing was undertaken during the quarter.

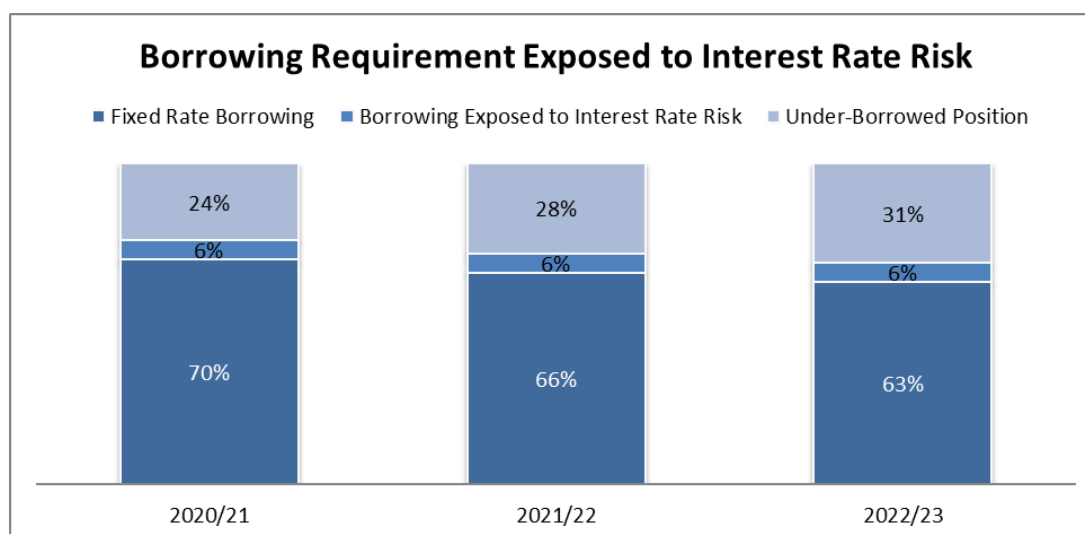
5.4 However, as shown in the following chart, it is anticipated that the Council will need to borrow up to £216M by the end of 2022/23 with a breakdown of this borrowing shown in the table below:



<b>Projected external borrowing requirement 2020/21 – 2022/23</b>		<b>£M</b>
Planned capital investment		86.553
Maturing loans / reduced support from useable reserves		137.994
Amounts set aside to repay debt		(8.823)
<b>Total</b>		<b>215.724</b>

5.5 The Council is committed to maintaining its interest rate risk exposure within the limits set out overleaf (subject to approval of next year's Treasury Management Strategy). The Council is currently on track for 2020/21, however, to continue delivering against this strategy it is anticipated that £68M of fixed rate borrowing will be required over the next two years.

Interest Rate Exposures	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Limit on Variable Rate Borrowing / Unfinanced CFR	30%	35%	30%



5.6 Based on the latest projections, there isn't an immediate requirement for any fixed rate borrowing. Instead, this year's requirement could be met through temporary borrowing or internal cash resources.

### **Key Messages - Investments**

5.7 The Council's investment strategy is to minimise credit risk and maintain a suitable balance of liquid funds to ensure that cash is available when needed. To reflect this strategy, the bulk of transactions related to secure Money Market Funds, instant access accounts and short-term local authority deposits.

5.8 It is recommended that the temporary increase in investment limits applied in March 2020 remain in place, to ensure sufficient liquidity during the COVID-19 crisis.

Institution	Minimum Long-Term Rating (Fitch or Equivalent)	Previous Limit	Revised Temporary Limit
Barclays Bank PLC (The Council's own bank)	A	£10M	£50M

### **Background Information – available on request**

Corporate Finance Performance Q3 – detailed report

Capital Programme Update Q3 – detailed report

Treasury Management Update Q3 – detailed report

## 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 of PLACE

### **Principal Towns Investment Programme**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. To update Cabinet on the Principal Towns Investment Programme (Cab.11.1.2017/13) for the principal town of Wombwell.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 **Cabinet approve the proposed Principal Towns allocation for Wombwell (Section 4).**

#### **3. Introduction**

- 3.1 Following the approval of the Principal Towns Investment Programme (Cab. 11.1.2017/13 refers), officers across the Communities and Place Directorates have been working on a co-production delivery model, which has included an extensive consultation exercise with elected members, local community groups and businesses. This was carried out to identify and develop projects at a local level. The identification of schemes has been further underpinned with the development of supporting financial and outcome-based businesses cases.
- 3.2 In June 2018, Arcadis were appointed to undertake a master planning exercise covering the principal town of Wombwell. Work has now been completed providing a long term strategic vision for Wombwell as well as helping to identify the work packages that can be delivered within the duration of the Principal Towns programme.
- 3.3 Following the completion of the consultative phase, the programme has now firmly moved into active delivery. The current programme is predicted to run up until 31 March 2021 to make sure there is effective delivery of a diverse and complex programme.

#### **4. Principal Towns - Business Case - Wombwell**

- 4.1 The master planning exercise identified a range of opportunities for Wombwell. It considered ways to improve the local economy, improve green and public spaces, while enhancing the viability of the high street. These activities should be undertaken while making sure that initiatives are of high quality and sustainable for the future.
- 4.2 The action plan, sets out predicted costs and timescales for individual opportunities. This presents an assessment of the potential economic and

social benefits. These actions cover both short term (up to two years) and long term (two years +) aspirations.

- 4.3 Not all of the projects identified in the action plans are suitable for delivery through Principal Towns funding. They will form part of the longer-term strategic vision for the area. The Principal Towns programme has provided a clear vision for those areas, providing a platform to explore future funding opportunities to bring forward schemes at a later date.
- 4.4 Principal Towns Commissioning Board approved a Business Case for Wombwell at the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 covering the following elements:

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
Public Realm Improvements	116,094
* CCTV	26,396
Market Stalls	50,000
Toilet Block	100,000
Cladding	25,000
Start Up Grants	30,000
Contingency (10%)	38,610
<b>Total Funding for Wombwell</b>	<b>386,100</b>
<b>Total Funding for Approval in this Report</b>	<b>359,704</b>

\*CCTV shown for completeness, previously approved by Commissioning Board, delegated decision minute number ODD/43/2020.

Options for the Burton Building will continue to be explored as part of Phase 2 Principal Towns.

### **Proposals for Wombwell**

#### **4.5 Public Realm Improvements**

Over the years additional street furniture / bollards have been added and, whilst the street furniture is well used, it does now appear cluttered on the High Street and accessibility is poor for individuals with sight or mobility issues. The proposal is to declutter the High Street and create a more open, flexible space whilst still providing ample seating areas.

#### **4.6 CCTV**

CCTV has been approved separately and is now in situ.

#### **4.7 Market Stalls**

Although one of the best functioning of our district markets, the market can look disorganised and unsightly due to a lack of stalls for the market traders. Demountable stalls will give a tidier, consistent feel to the market whilst providing additional cover for the stall holders. There are currently anchor point and electrical outlets for use by the stall holders, however these are not in the

appropriate areas so anchor point and electrical outlets will be moved and/or replaced. The stalls will be in line with Barnsley Town Centre's and other District Market stalls and will be included in the work programme, meaning there is no future revenue cost to the area for mounting and demounting the stalls.

#### 4.8 Toilet Block

The toilet block is currently unsightly and attracts unwanted usage. It is currently privately owned so we would look to purchase the unit. The consultation carried out offered the options of converting the unit into a retail unit or demolishing to extend the pedestrian area. The overwhelming result was to demolish the toilet block.

#### 4.9 Cladding

There are six units on the High Street with unsightly concrete façades above the shops which we will cover with a composite cladding to improve the appearance, subject to building owner approval.

#### 4.10 Start up Grants

Although there are limited empty units on Wombwell High Street, the majority are larger units that require increased investment to take on and have therefore been empty for some time, creating a blight on the High street. It is therefore proposed that a start business grant scheme is introduced to encourage businesses to take on these empty units.

### 5. Implications for Local People/Service Users

- 5.1 Residents of Principal Towns and Local Centres will see significant positive outcomes from the programme. This proposal will develop the Town Square and surroundings that will attract employers and increase footfall to Wombwell. Overall, this scheme is likely to have a sustained positive impact

### 6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 Consultations on the financial implications have taken place with representatives of the Service Director - Finance (S151 Officer).
- 6.2 This scheme utilises funding set aside as part of the 2017-2020 Capital Programme, as identified in the Principal Towns Investment Programme report (Cab.11.1.2017/13).
- 6.3 The attached business case for Wombwell put forward for approval totals £359,704 and is the final Principal Towns scheme as part of Phase 1 of the Programme. The table below shows the current breakdown of the Principal Towns Phase 1 funding;

	£
<b>Total Principal Towns Funding</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>
Schemes Previously Approved by Cabinet	(4,534,272)
Funding to be Approved as Part of this Report	(359,704)
<b>Remaining Principal Towns Funding</b>	<b>106,024</b>

6.4 As per the table above, all expenditure identified within the overall scheme for Wombwell will be managed within the resources currently available.

6.5 Procurement regulations will be adhered to for all tendering.

6.6 The detailed financial implications relating to this proposal are shown in Appendix A of this document.

## **7. Employee Implications**

7.1 Additional highways design and project management resource has also been allocated and appointed to the programme. This will deliver the project at a faster pace and provide additional capacity.

## **8. Communications Implications**

8.1 A new communication and marketing plan has been created, which will implement an integrated approach, targeting a range of stakeholders such as residents, ward councillors and local businesses. The plan aims to raise the profile, achievements and progress of Principal Towns and Local Centres across the borough.

Channels such as social media, website content, email mailers and the media will be used to tell the story of our Principal Towns, the journey so far and what is yet to come providing an opportunity to share and celebrate successes.

## **9. Promoting Equality & Diversity and Social Inclusion**

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed in order to inform the development of this programme.

9.2 The EIA has focused on how this scheme can promote better access inclusion to shops. This will improve access for people from diverse communities, including disabled people and older people.

9.3 The access to some facilities and services is currently limited in the Principal Towns particularly for disabled people. Access visits have been arranged through the 'My Barnsley Too' forum. These results will be fed in to business cases where appropriate.

9.4 Plans have been put in place to encourage grant applicants to consider undergoing an assessment of their general accessibility. This will allow businesses to be listed on the Disabled Go website and participate in schemes



such as Dementia Friendly, Breast Feeding Friendly and a Safe Places, helping to promote a welcoming and inclusive environment for all.

## **10. Consultations**

10.1 Community consultations have taken place, which have encouraged residents to have their say and voice their thoughts about improvements that could be made in their local area. This included conversations with the Ward Alliance and community engagement at various events.

Internal consultation has worked with Elected Members in Wombwell, which has also developed the understanding of what could be achieved in each area.

A recent consultation survey has been carried out during Covid-19 utilising social media.

## **11. Risk Management Issues**

11.1 The risks and the mitigation are listed below:

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Expectation that all projects in the action plans will be delivered, rather than ones highlighted for delivery in the first two years.	Expectations will be managed through delivery of an all member briefing and continued communications with elected members and wider community.
Effective delivery of proposed projects.	Mitigated by extension of project timescales and additional resource, including the Project Support Officer and Highways Technician. Established relations now in place with other Council services i.e. Highways and planning.

## **12. List of Appendices**

Appendix A - Financial Implications

**Officer Contact:** Fiona O'Brien/Teresa Williams

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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## Joint Report of the Executive Director - Communities and the Executive Director - Place

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Principal Towns Investment Programme Phase 1 - Allocation of Funding to Wombwelli) Capital Expenditure

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£
<b>Wombwell</b>				
				-
Public Realm Improvements	-	116,094	-	<b>116,094</b>
Market Stalls	-	50,000	-	<b>50,000</b>
Toilet Block	-	100,000	-	<b>100,000</b>
Cladding	-	25,000	-	<b>25,000</b>
Start Up Grants	-	30,000	-	<b>30,000</b>
Contingency	-	38,610	-	<b>38,610</b>
	-	<b>359,704</b>	-	<b>359,704</b>

**To be financed from:**

*Funding set aside as part of the 2017-2020 Capital Programme	-	359,704	-	<b>359,704</b>
	-	<b>359,704</b>	-	<b>359,704</b>

\*Funding for the Principal Towns Investment Programme was approved in January 2017 (Cab.11.1.2017/13)

Agreed by: .....



.....On behalf of the Service Director - Finance (S151 Officer)

Date: ...1st Feb 2021.....

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