

Public Document Pack

MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday, 7 April 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY
PUBLIC WEB LINK:	https://barnsley.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts

AGENDA

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

Minutes

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 March 2021 (Cab.7.4.2021/3)
(Pages 3 - 6)

Items for Noting

4. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.7.4.2021/4)

Petitions

5. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.7.4.20201/5)

Items for Decision/Recommendation to Council

Regeneration and Culture Spokesperson

6. Barnsley COVID Economic Renewal Action Plan (Cab.7.4.2021/6) (Pages 7 - 68)
7. Community Asset Transfer - Grant of 25-year lease of Land at Houghton Road Recreation Ground to Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO (Cab.7.4.20201/7)
(Pages 69 - 80)
8. Exclusion of Public and Press
It is likely that the public and press will be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the items so marked because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the specific paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, subject to the public interest test.

Children's Spokesperson

9. Borough Response to Meeting the Needs of Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs, during the Covid-19 Pandemic (Cab.7.4.2021/9)
(Pages 81 - 106)
Reason restricted:
Paragraph (1) Information relating to any individual.

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 (Monitoring Officer)

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

Friday, 26 March 2021



MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday, 24 March 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

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

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

91. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the (i) Berneslai Homes Board in respect of minute numbers 102, 103 and 104, and; (ii) Premier Leisure Board in respect of minute number 105.

Councillor Howard declared a non-pecuniary interest as a DWP employee in respect of minute number 104.

92. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

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

93. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 March 2021 (Cab.24.3.2021/3)

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

94. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.24.3.2021/4)

The Record of Decisions taken by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers during the week ending 12 March 2021 were noted.

95. Action Taken under Paragraph B6 of the Responsibility for Executive Functions - Officer Delegations Contained in the Council Constitution (Cab.24.3.2021/5)

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:-

Date of Decision - 10 March 2021

Approval of a Deed of Variation as part of the Glassworks' scheme and associated delegations.

- 1.1 The update be noted;
- 1.2 The points outlined within the report for inclusion within the Deed of Variation be approved; and
- 1.2 The required approvals to agree the final Deed of Variation be delegated to the Service Director, Finance, Service Director, Legal in consultation with the Executive Director, Place

96. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.24.3.2021/6)

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

- 1. Containing the signatures of 205 signatories, in respect of Improved road safety at Carr Green Lane, Mapplewell, Barnsley.
 - a. BMBC Traffic Team does not support this proposal as there is no history of Personal Injury Collisions (PICs) at the point in question within the last 5 years and only one slight PIC on the whole of Carr Green Lane. We justify the significant investment of road safety improvements on the basis of a reduction in PIC's at the location. Each accident saved produces a cost benefit to society as a whole through reduced emergency service involvement, reduced hospital costs, reduced loss of earnings for injured parties and loss of productivity, reduced insurance claims and so on.

Every site that is recommended for treatment on an accident basis is prioritised for funding across the borough. As the budget for road safety improvements is finite, it is the sites with the greatest proven need which are treated first and these will have a cluster of incidents with a discernible trend or pattern in the cause of each.

Installing traffic calming measures without justification on an accident basis leaves the council open to criticism that there is no human or cost benefit to society; an investment of thousands of pounds with no substantial return to the tax payer. We could also not justify to local communities where road users have been killed and seriously injured in speed related collisions, expenditure on a location that has no justification in terms of an historic accident basis.

97. National Takeover Day (2020) (Cab.24.3.2021/7)

The Children's Services' Cabinet Support Member welcomed representatives from the Youth Council to the meeting to present the outcomes of the National Takeover Challenge.

A presentation on the very positive feedback received from participants in the Challenge was provided.

Members commented on the excellent work that had been undertaken, highlighted the importance of listening to the voices of young people and thanked the participants for their valuable contributions.

RESOLVED:-

1. The achievements of Young People in the most recent Takeover Challenge across all service areas were acknowledged; and
2. That Cabinet would continue to highlight and identify future opportunities to build on this success.

98. Safeguarding Children: Implementation of Operation 'Encompass' in the Borough (Cab.24.3.2021/8)

RESOLVED:-

The implementation of Operation 'Encompass' within the Borough, with effect from 1 April 2021, be approved.

99. Council Plan 2021-2024 and Associated Performance Framework (Cab.24.3.2021/9)

RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL ON 1 APRIL 2021:-

1. That the publication of the new Council Plan be approved; and
2. The approach for the revised accompanying performance framework agreed.

100. Gender Pay Gap Report 2020 (Cab.24.3.2021/10)

RESOLVED:-

1. The results outlined in Appendix 1.2.2 of the report were noted;
2. The long-term commitment to reducing the Council's Gender Pay Gap was endorsed; and
3. The Action Plan at Appendix 2 of the report was noted.

101. Sprinkler Installation Programme 2021/22 (Cab.24.3.2021/13)

RESOLVED:-

1. The procurement and installation of sprinkler systems to the seven blocks of flats within the Council's portfolio of properties and release the necessary resources as detailed in this report be approved; and
2. The appointment of a suitable specialist contractor be authorised following the outcome of a procurement exercise and containment of costs within the approved sum.

102. 2021/22 Barnsley Homes Standard Programme and Supplementary Investment Programme (Cab.24.3.2021/12)

RESOLVED:-

1. The HRA 2021/22 Barnsley Homes Standard Programme be approved;
2. The HRA 2021/22 Supplementary Investment Programme be approved;
3. The added Social Value delivered by the Property Repairs and Improvement Partnership 2020 as set out at Section 5 of the report, including use of directly employed local staff and over 30 directly employed apprentices be noted; and
4. The Carbon Saving efficiency measures, and anticipated reductions to tenant's energy bills, as set out in Paragraph 3.8 of the report, be noted.

103. Sprinkler Installation Programme 2021/22 (Cab.24.3.2021/13)

RESOLVED:-

1. The procurement and installation of sprinkler systems to the seven blocks of flats within the Council's portfolio of properties and release the necessary resources as detailed in this report be approved; and
2. The appointment of a suitable specialist contractor, following the outcome of a procurement exercise and containment of costs within the approved sum, be authorised.

104. Employment and Skills - Barnsley Youth Employment Programme (Cab.24.3.2021/14)

RESOLVED:-

1. Officers to develop the programme with the aim of launching in May 2021; and
2. The implementation of the programme be delegated to the Executive Director of Place, or their duly authorised representative.

105. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) 2021/22 (Cab.24.3.2021/15)

RESOLVED:-

That the following be approved:-

1. The acceptance of the funding of £5,647,940 from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme;
2. That the Council enter into a contract with Ameresco to develop and deliver the Council buildings element of the project on its behalf; and
3. That the Council provide funding to develop and deliver the BSF Schools element of the project through the existing Project Agreement mechanisms.

.....
Chair

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PLACE TO CABINET ON 7 APRIL 2021

BARNSELY COVID ECONOMIC RENEWAL ACTION PLAN

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present to cabinet the Barnsley COVID Economic Renewal Action Plan.
- 1.2 To seek approval to adopt a programme of prioritised interventions focused on supporting the short and medium-term COVID economic recovery within Barnsley.

2. Recommendations

2.1 This report makes the following recommendations:

2.2 Cabinet supports the adoption of the Barnsley COVID Economic Renewal Action Plan.

2.3 That Cabinet approve the release of £1m in Council funding to support the Economic Recovery Programme and in addition utilise the £1m in Gainshare Funding awarded by SCR to support the proposals outlined in this report.

3. Introduction

- 3.1 The impact of COVID on the national, regional and local economy is unprecedented and is likely to be long lasting. This report tables the Barnsley COVID Economic Renewal Action Plan which sets out the areas of challenge, opportunities and the key recovery actions and outcomes that are required within the borough.
- 3.2 The report also seeks approval for the adoption of a prioritised programme of economic interventions that can be delivered at a local level within Barnsley as a key component of the renewal plan.

4. Background

- 4.1 A range of Economic impact modelling work has been undertaken within Barnsley which shows a high risk of contraction both in terms of the numbers of businesses and jobs within the borough. Despite this modelling work, the true level of impact remains broadly unknown and recovery will not be at the same pace in every sector. It is therefore critical that a coordinated approach to renewal is established supported by a package of immediate interventions which help to initially stabilise

the local economy and creates the conditions to enable a return back to a position of growth.

4.2 Throughout the COVID pandemic a range of national economic support measures has been provided to both business and people. Support has been often aimed at providing short term stability during a significant period of uncertainty. It is likely that this support will simply maintain the current position and once these cease we will see increases in unemployment, more business closures and ongoing challenges for Barnsley. National support initiatives include:

- Business Grants
- Loan Finance, (Coronavirus Business Interruption Loans and Bounce Back Loans)
- Job Retention Scheme
- Self Employed Support

4.3 At a regional level, the Sheffield City Region Recovery Action Plan is also actively being developed and shifting into delivery providing a range of prioritised support, again focusing on people and business including:

- Local Discretionary Business Grants
- Specialist Business Support
- Supply Chain Development
- Digital Adoption
- Train to Work
- Back to Work
- Young People's Skills Guarantee
- Overcome Barriers Supporting Social Mobility & Reducing Inequality

4.4 The Council, working with key partners, has developed a complimentary overarching COVID Economic Renewal Action Plan. The plan will set out the areas of challenge, opportunities, priority areas of focus and the key recovery outcomes that are required within the borough.

4.5 Against the backdrop of economic contraction, there is a clear opportunity to develop an immediate localised package of Barnsley specific recovery interventions that compliments both national and regional support. These interventions will support the economic recovery to build back a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable economy. Such a package of interventions should aim to both stabilise the local economy but also provide the conditions to enable our businesses to get back to a position of future growth.

5. Proposal and Justification

5.1 **Barnsley Renewal Action Plan**

5.1.1 Barnsley is a proud market town whilst the Borough encompasses six principal towns and other settlements with a rich industrial heritage.. Barnsley has demonstrated strong growth over recent years however our economy remains vulnerable and we are a town which has significant levelling-up opportunities existing across the Borough. We have understood and acted upon our challenges for many years which

has translated into good forward progress on traditional growth in advance of the recent pandemic.

- 5.1.2 Any social or economic crisis such as the global Coronavirus pandemic comes as a particular challenge to Barnsley – because of the legacy issues we face such as lower than average levels of economic activity, health inequalities and some particularly deprived communities. This has meant that Barnsley has been, and is likely to continue to be, harder hit by the pandemic than other parts of the country and the Borough will need to work harder to recover economically and socially from its impacts. There is very cautious optimism that we can start to plan for life after COVID; and look to opportunities in Barnsley’s post-pandemic economy including new reasons to visit the town centre, a growing digital sector and strengths in logistics and distribution.
- 5.1.3 In response, the Council and partners, have developed this Renewal Action Plan which aims to provide immediate help for local people, employers and places, and puts us on the road towards social and economic renewal. It will help people, employers and places recover, and put us on course to transform the Borough – making our economy and society stronger, greener and fairer.
- 5.1.4 The plan also contributes to our **longer-term goals developed through Barnsley 2030** so we can look towards a better future. The plan shows how Barnsley Council, and its public, private and third-sector partners will help:
- **People** – to adapt to the new economy and be better equipped to fill higher-skilled jobs
 - **Employers and businesses** – to adapt, consolidate and thrive in the new environment
 - **Places** – to create jobs, make our towns, villages and rural areas more resilient, and transform local economies
- 5.1.5 The renewal action plan also seeks to pave a way forward for **A more inclusive and productive economy** aiming to make post-pandemic Barnsley:
- **Stronger** – an economic transformation to create not just a bigger economy but a better one: more inclusive, higher-skilled, and creating higher-value socially and economically
 - **Greener** – a green transformation to become a low-carbon economy, improve our environment, and revolutionise our transport
 - **Fairer** – a transformation of wellbeing and inclusion, raising our quality of life, reducing inequality, and widening opportunity
- 5.1.6 The Renewal Action Plan has been developed in close partnership with Barnsley’s businesses, the Borough’s anchor institutions, skills and education providers, Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, Barnsley CVS, Sheffield City Region and the other three constituent local authorities, and other partners through the Borough’s and the SCR COVID response groups.
- 5.1.7 The changes we will seek to make in the next 18 months include:
- Help people improve their skills, get back to work, remain and/or progress in work, sustain, grow or set up in business

- Accelerate our Net Zero Carbon transition through creating a Zero Carbon route map for the Borough
- Back our businesses as wealth and job creators
- Improve connectivity across the borough and within South Yorkshire.
- Increase development of Urban Barnsley, our principal towns and neighbourhood investment plans.

5.1.8 A key aspect of the plan is to bring forward an immediate package of support interventions providing additional resilience to people, employers and business and places. The following sections of this report set out this supporting programme in more detail.

5.2 **Defining the prioritised programme**

5.2.1 The Economic Recovery journey for Barnsley has realistically been ongoing from the onset of the COVID pandemic. Maintaining and increasing the delivery pace of our existing business, people and place based economic interventions has never been as important as it has been over the last 12 months.

5.2.2 This includes the introduction of new business support activity such as COVID Health Checks, Business Productivity Grants and Digital Innovation Grants which provides organisations with the framework to build resilience against the backdrop of COVID challenges.

5.2.3 From a people perspective, the Council has worked hard to shape the regional recovery plan to ensure that this aligns to the groups that we know are most impacted by COVID. At a local level this has been complimented with the delivery of elements such as the employment support desk, redundancy support and the ongoing development of new initiatives such as Tenants First and the Youth Employment Support Hub.

5.2.4 From a place based perspective the Council has maintained focus on delivering key growth sites and the regeneration of our town centre through the Glassworks and The Seam – Digital Campus. This has been further complimented by seizing national opportunities such as Towns Funding for Goldthorpe, Get Britain Building and Future High Street Funding.

5.2.5 In establishing the prioritised programme, a robust evidence based approach has been undertaken in terms of identifying and defining the potential interventions considered. This has involved liaising with stakeholders within the Council but also key partners to identify potential interventions focusing on capturing the following key information:

- Challenge/need
- Provision of supporting evidence/data
- Defining the proposal/intervention and delivery mechanism
- Identifying high level tangible outcomes
- Articulation of delivery resource requirements.
- Delivery timescales

5.2.6 The initial call for proposals identified 18 potential initiatives at an indicative financial ask of circa £15m. A further prioritisation process has therefore been applied to the initial list of intervention with an assessment undertaken against the following areas:

- Evidence of need
- Clearly defined outcome
- Deliverability
- Clearly defined resource requirements
- Ability to secure additional resource

5.2.7 This further assessment has resulted in the established of the prioritised list of interventions contain in Appendix B with key headline outcomes as follows:

- £2m financial ask
- 870 businesses supported
- 1,500 jobs safeguarded
- 550 jobs created
- 1,000 individuals provided with employment support

5.2.8 Partner input into this process has been essential in relation to ensuring that a robust programme of interventions has been developed. Working through the Barnsley COVID Business and Economy group it has been possible to obtain support and guidance from a range of partners including Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber, Department for Work and Pensions, Barnsley Business Innovation Village, Barnsley CVS and Barnsley College. It is also envisaged that ongoing partnership will be critical in relation to the delivery of the activity identified in this report.

5.3 **High Level Programme**

5.3.1 The prioritised recovery programme will tackle immediate impacts of Covid19 as well as unlocking economic recovery and growth within the following areas:

- Business support
- Retail, leisure & hospitality sector enabling work
- Culture & visitor economy sector capacity building
- People, employment and skills

Business Support - This economic plan recognises that the business base continues to be faced with a number of challenges on areas such as access to finance, cash flow and workforce impacts. It is further recognised that much of the national and regional support to date has been specifically focused on these areas. Consequently, this plan seeks to identify and provide support activity at an organisational level by providing the tools and specialist knowledge which will aid recovery including:

Ecommerce Retail Enabling Works – Our retail businesses need to incorporate an online offer to bolster their physical presence. Many of our independent retailers and market traders have little or no IT presence in their existing business, many only with access to a mobile phone. Prior to being able to move online, they will

need support to digitise their existing business model, including stock management, financial transactions and digital communications.

This activity will also include access to an IT facility, photography and videography area to allow businesses to photograph and prepare products for selling or promoting online. This activity will provide the vital building blocks to effectively incorporate an online retail presence into their current business model.

Ecommerce support was recognised as a priority area of focus through the recent Elected Member Scrutiny Task and Finish Group (TFG) on COVID Response, Recovery and Renewal and the need to provide businesses with the ability to deliver an online presence. This will help to maximise revenue stream opportunities and therefore directly contribute to future sustainability.

Supply Chain & Procurement Support – This workstream will involve working with approximately 50 Barnsley business to explore the development and capability to be able to access local supply chain again creating the conditions for indigenous growth. The development of local supply chains and the associated circular economy within Barnsley will directly contribute to the Barnsley Inclusive Economy aspirations as well as being a key recovery action.

- 5.3.2 **Retail, Leisure and Hospitality** – The Barnsley Retail Impact assessment recognises the need to provide specific support to this sector. Good progress has been made in this area through existing initiatives such as the Principal Towns Shop Front scheme and recent introduction of the Barnsley Gift Card with further plans to expand that offer to include a loyalty and travel scheme. Additional activity identified within the recovery plan includes:

Ecommerce Retail Enabling Works – A focus on providing support to businesses in stock management, IT basics, online payments. This will include access to an IT facility, photography and videography area will be provided to allow businesses to photograph and prepare products for selling online. This activity will provide the building blocks to effectively transition into an online retail presence.

Click & Collect Hub – Provision of self-serve, click and collect lockers located in the Glass Works, accessible to use by all town centre businesses. For businesses these automated lockers offer a more profitable way to fulfil online orders, eliminate delivery costs and reduce the staffing costs required to manage traditional click and collect services. For shoppers, the self-serve lockers offer an easy, safe and convenient way to collect and drop off goods. This customer focussed retail approach is key to the evolving uses and demands of the town centre effectively extending the virtual trading hours of the retail offer to complement the cultural and leisure uses. Again, the Scrutiny TFG were keen to see this type of activity progress in supporting local businesses and the local economy.

- 5.3.3 **Culture & visitor economy sector capacity building** – The recent Chamberlain Walker sector impact assessment undertaken within the Sheffield City Region demonstrates the significant economic contribution provided by this sector but also paints a stark message in terms of the fragility of the business base.

Culture and visitor economy venues have been severely impacted by opening restrictions since March with income significantly reduced and future capacity

compromised for the medium term. This has reduced the cash flow for commissioning work, exhibitions, events and activities that help to support and develop the creative and cultural industries. The SCR level report highlights the lack of resilience in the culture and visitor economy sectors pre Covid so this year has created an even more challenging landscape. The creative industries (design, media etc) have greater capacity to bounce back with some evidence of demand for these services increasing.

The Renewal Action Plan therefore makes provision to operate a sector specific programme based on existing national initiatives. This will include running a series of cohort based programmes to increase capacity, improve resilience, help with technology adoption and market development. A secondary benefit will be improved networking and collaboration within the creative and cultural industries.

5.3.4 People, employment and skills – As identified earlier in the report, Barnsley Council has been heavily involved in shaping the people aspect of the Sheffield City Region recovery plan which provides a range of identified support. At a local level, it has been identified that there is an opportunity to develop a targeted intervention aimed at Improving Workforce Productivity.

This proposal focuses on ensuring SME/micro businesses are able to restart/rebuild productivity as we enter recovery. It focuses around addressing the following issues faced by our businesses.

- The ability of businesses to restart efficiently post furlough.
- The workforce is underproductive due to stress/anxiety, higher sickness numbers/presenteeism.
- Staff will have lost skills/capability while being off work.
- Staff may not have the skills to deliver their role as ways of working shift.
- Businesses will need to move to new ways of working, adopted new ways of working.
- Businesses will be making staff redundant/putting them at risk.
- Businesses will have vacancy freezes and putting existing staff under pressure.
- Businesses may need to enter new markets requiring new skills in their workforce.

This proposal will provide a sustained and intensive offer to our businesses through investment into our employability service and through existing support models. Evidence from contacts through our current Helpdesk evidences the need for us to increase and solidify our capacity to support employed individuals to strengthen and develop new skills and capabilities to thrive in their current jobs and progress in their careers creating opportunities for new entrants into the workforce.

Businesses will be able to access a free workforce productivity package including:

- Free assessment of workforce skills /capabilities of their team
- Labour market intelligence about their current market and potential markets (salary levels, skills levels)
- Their staff will have access to support/activities while on furlough
- Our team will work with the business to bring staff back from furlough while ensuring they are back up to productivity as effectively and efficiently as possible
- Provision of a workforce training plan aligned to the skills assessment

- Access to a productivity GURU – up to 3 days with a specialist training consultant, able to provide management coaching/embed productivity skills in the workforce and support job redesign where needed
- Workforce Wellbeing support measures through our BeWell@Work service
- Links to Enterprising Barnsley/Growth Hub
- Support for restructuring including redundancy
- Support for recruitment/vacancy management
- Access to training support for retraining/upskilling
- Advice and guidance on establishing traineeships, apprenticeships, Kickstart and other job creation opportunities

Apprenticeships – one of our strongest tools available to us as part of our economic recovery and integral to our jobs-led response. Apprenticeships level the playing field, offering an all-age solution with a learning structure, work experience, the development of industry specific and transferable skills with a recognised accreditation at the end. Graduate apprenticeships also make higher education more accessible for a breadth of residents to whom a traditional route to HE is not attractive, or, for many possible.

We will continue to work with our employers to support the growth of apprenticeship opportunities at all levels across our businesses, making it easier for our businesses to benefit from the scheme.

We will raise awareness of the opportunities an apprenticeship can offer individuals of all ages, for younger people a good first step into work, for older workers, who may not consider one as a route for their age group, raising awareness that these can be a good way to pivot careers and to access higher level skills.

5.3.5 Third sector capacity building – The recent Barnsley Community and Voluntary Sector impact assessment identifies a number of challenges faced by the third sector which continue to worsen as the pandemic continues. A summary of high level challenges faced by the sector includes:

- Most organisations are still unable to: -
 - Fundraise
 - Rent their space out
 - Operate as they would usually
 - Deliver services how they would usually deliver their services
- Most organisations have had to: -
 - Flex their service delivery
 - Establish and operate a virtual service
 - Buy new equipment and learn new skills to operate online
 - Buy PPE, signage and other resources to keep COVID-safe
 - Operate with smaller groups which makes delivery less cost effective
 - Run buildings and pay for rent and utilities
 - Navigate their way through ever changing and complex guidance

The Renewal Action Plan therefore makes provision to operate a sector specific programme based on existing national initiatives. This will include running a series of cohort based programmes to increase capacity, improve resilience, help with

technology adoption and market development. A secondary benefit will be improved networking and collaboration within the creative and cultural industries.

5.3.6 **Delivery Capacity and Contingency** – The vast majority of activity identified within the recovery plan is additional activity over and above core functions. It is therefore proposed to allocate £50,000 of the overall recovery budget to provide delivery resource and capacity as required. Provision of such resource also provides prudence in the events of contingency funding to cover any unseen costs in respect of individual delivery activity.

5.3.7 **Governance and Monitoring** - In terms of governance, it is recommended that the recovery plan be aligned to the COVID Business and Economy cell which meets on a fortnightly basis and consists of key partners/stakeholders from across the borough. This approach provides a dynamic forum for tracking delivery on the ground and in turn delivery progress can be reported through to the overarching Barnsley Tactical Coordination Group in line with the established mechanism.

5.3.8 **External Peer Support** – The Council is currently working with the Local Government Association, (LGA), to secure external support capacity in respect of the recovery programme. The LGA will work in partnership with the Council to provide an external ‘critical friend and check and challenge role’. This will include reviewing the approach to establish the programme but also providing support and guidance as this shifts into delivery. The provision of the external support is welcomed as it will help to provide assurance on the overall integrity of the delivery programme.

6 **Consideration of Alternative Approaches**

6.1 Option 1: Do Nothing is an option that does exist. However, the programme tabled in this report aims to provide additionality to existing recovery interventions at a national and regional level. It is therefore felt that the programme tabled in this report is critical to the long term recovery of the Barnsley economy.

7. **The Corporate Plan and the Council’s Performance Management Framework**

7.1 The proposals in this report are consistent with Council’s Corporate Plan as it directly contributes towards the Council ambitions of:

- Create more and better jobs and good business growth
- Increase skills to get more people working
- Develop vibrant town centres
- Strengthen our visitor economy
- People are healthier, happier, independent and active
- People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

7.2 The plan also contributes to our **longer-term goals developed through Barnsley 2030** so we can look towards a better future. In particular the plan and prioritised interventions contained in this report are directly aligned and support the emerging **Growing Barnsley** priority by:

- **People** – to adapt to the new economy and be better equipped to fill higher-skilled jobs

- **Employers and businesses** – to adapt, consolidate and thrive in the new environment
- **Places** – to create jobs, make our towns, villages and rural areas more resilient, and transform local economies

8. **Implications for Local People/Service Users**

8.1 As outlined earlier there are significant positive implications for residents and businesses impacted economically by COVID.

9. **Financial Implications**

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

9.2 In order to fund the proposals in this report it is recommended that;

- £1m in Council funding, from those resources already set aside to support COVID 19 recovery, is utilised; and
- that this is funding is complemented by utilisation of £1m in Gainshare monies currently being offered by SCR to support economic recovery focussed projects in Barnsley.

9.3 It should be noted that Gainshare funding will be released upon satisfactory completion of a supporting application to SCR – this is however a ‘light touch’ process and no issues around the release of this funding are anticipated.

9.4 It should be further noted that SCR require this tranche of Gainshare funding to be spent by 31 March 2022.

10. **Employee Implications**

10.1 It is critical that the delivery of this programme is adequately resourced from a commissioning, delivery and monitoring perspective. It is therefore proposed to establish an additional temporary Grade 10 role for 12 months providing delivery capacity for the programme.

11. **Communications Implications**

11.1 The different areas of the programme will be supporting by communications and marketing activity to target messages to the relevant audiences, with clear links back to the COVID Economic Renewal Action Plan and the council’s Recovery and Renewal Strategy.

Progress and key milestones will be publicised through a range of channels and will be initially collated on the council’s website as part of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) recovery plan for Barnsley.

12. **Consultations**

- 12.1 Extensive consultation has been undertaken on the establishment of this programme. This includes:

Barnsley Business & Economy Sub Group - This group is responsible for coordinating the Barnsley Economic COVID response and recovery actions. The group consists of key stakeholders from internally within the Council but also partners including Barnsley College, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber, Barnsley Business Innovation Village, DWP and the Third Sector.

Barnsley Inclusive Economy Board – This group is focused on delivering an Inclusive Economy for Barnsley. It ensures opportunities are maximised and inequalities reduced to allow everyone in Barnsley to benefit from its economic growth and prosperity. The Barnsley Economic Recovery plan will be a key area of focus for the IEB Business Sub Group.

Barnsley Council Recovery Task & Finish Group – The proposals contained within this report have been established and developed through a multi-disciplined team of officers from across the Council. This has been critical in terms of understanding need and opportunity within the context of the recovery programme.

Scrutiny Task & Finish Group on COVID Response, Recovery & Renewal – The assessment undertaken by the recent Elected Member TFG has provided an invaluable insight in relation to the current and future support needs within the context of economic recovery. The findings from this group have therefore provided basis to inform the recovery plan as it has been developed.

13. **Risk Management Issues**

- 13.1 Following approval of the scheme detailed risk assessments will be undertaken at an individual intervention level. A full risk framework will be established and reported in line with the governance structure as set out in this report.

14. **Health, Safety and Emergency Resilience Issues**

- 14.1 There are no immediate implications arising directly from this report.

15. **Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights**

- 15.1 The proposal is fully compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights.

16. **Promoting Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion**

- 16.1 The programme will consider equality, diversity and social inclusion impact as an individual project level.

17. **List of Appendices**

Appendix A - Financial implications
Appendix B – Economic Renewal Action Plan
Appendix C - Prioritised Recovery Programme

18. **Background Papers**

None

Officer Contact: Paul Clifford

Date 25/02/2021


Report of the Executive Director Place

Financial Implications: Barnsley COVID Economic Recovery Programme

i) Capital	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
To be financed from:					
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
ii) Revenue	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure					
Proritised Recovery Plan Proposals - Appendi	0	2,000,000	0	0	2,000,000
	0	2,000,000	0	0	2,000,000
To be financed from:					
Existing Resources Set Aside to Support COV	0	-1,000,000	0	0	-1,000,000
SCR Advance Gainshare Allocation		-1,000,000			-1,000,000
	0	-2,000,000	0	0	-2,000,000
	0	0	0	0	0

Impact on Medium Term Financial Strategy**Section TBC**

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

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

Appendix C – Prioritised Recovery Plan & High Level Outcomes

Proposal	Total Investment Required	Outputs				
		Jobs created	Jobs safeguarded	No of Businesses supported	New business created	No People Supported
Ecommerce Business	£ 300,000.00	120	240	120		
Retail Business Support	£ 100,000.00	30	60	60		
Supply Chain & Procurement	£ 240,000.00	384	68	50		
Future Proofed Workforce	£ 690,000.00		1000	250		1,000
Cultural & Visitor Economy Capacity Building	£ 150,000.00	10	30	30	5	
Third Sectors Capacity Building	£ 150,000.00	10	30	30	5	
Click & Collect Hub	£ 320,000.00	1.5	66	330		
Contingency	£ 50,000.00					
	£ 2,000,000.00	555.5	1494	870	10	1,000

BARNSLEY ECONOMIC RENEWAL ACTION PLAN

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March 2021



BARNSELY
Metropolitan Borough Council

1 INTRODUCTION

Why is this needed

We are a 'catching up' economy. Barnsley is a **proud market town** whilst the Borough encompasses six principal towns and other settlements with a **rich industrial heritage**. It is also a Borough which has much greater ground to make up than other places in the national transition to a service and knowledge-based economy with significant levelling-up opportunities existing across the Borough. We have understood and acted upon our challenges for many years throughout this transition.

Any social or economic crisis such as the global Coronavirus pandemic comes as a particular challenge to Barnsley – because of the **legacy issues we face** such as lower than average levels of economic activity, health inequalities and some particularly deprived communities. This has meant that Barnsley has been harder hit by the pandemic than other parts of England and will need to work harder to recover economically and socially from its impacts.

In February 2021, the Government announced its Roadmap out of national lockdown – outlining the series of steps that may be taken towards the removal of legal limits on commercial and social activity, not earlier than June 2021. The decision on moving between each step will be governed by the data about the transmission and mortality rate of the virus. As such, there is very cautious optimism that we can start to plan for life after COVID; and look to opportunities in Barnsley's post-pandemic economy including new reasons to visit the town centre, a growing digital sector and strengths in logistics and distribution.

In response, we have developed this Renewal Action Plan which **aims to provide immediate help for local people, employers and places**, and puts us on the road towards social and economic renewal. It will help people, employers and places recover, and put us on course to transform the Borough – making our economy and society stronger, greener and fairer.



Some of the strengths and weaknesses of our economy are analysed in Section Two of this plan, along with the story of the impacts of the pandemic. But the main body of the plan focusses on action – what we can do to support a rapid and effective recovery.

The plan also contributes to our **longer-term goals developed through Barnsley 2030** so we can look towards a better future. The plan shows how Barnsley Council, and its public, private and third-sector partners will help:



People

To adapt to the new economy and be better equipped to fill higher-skilled jobs



Employers & Businesses

To adapt, consolidate and thrive in the new environment



Places

To create jobs, make our towns, villages and rural areas more resilient, and transform local economies

A more inclusive and productive economy

In line with Sheffield City Region ambitions, our Renewal Action Plan aims to make post-pandemic Barnsley:



Stronger

An economic transformation to create not just a bigger economy but a better one: more inclusive, higher-skilled, and creating higher-value socially and economically



Greener

A green transformation to become a low-carbon economy, improve our environment, and revolutionise our transport



Fairer

A transformation of wellbeing and inclusion, raising our quality of life, reducing inequality, and widening opportunity

A collective enterprise with our partners

The Renewal Action Plan has been developed in close partnership with Barnsley's businesses, the Borough's anchor institutions, skills and education providers, Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, Barnsley CVS, Sheffield City Region and the other three constituent local authorities, and other partners through the Borough's and the SCR COVID response groups.

This plan identifies the key aims and programmes we will deliver individually and collectively to:

- Strengthen Barnsley's economy
- Improve sustainability
- Ensure people are supported to develop their skills, retain their current employment or move into new employment
- Help businesses and employers to recover
- Develop places like our high streets, towns, villages and neighbourhoods to restore their economic and social vibrancy.

The changes we will make

In the next 18 months we will:

- Help people improve their skills, get back to work, remain and/or progress in work, sustain, grow or set up in business
- Accelerate our Net Zero Carbon transition through creating a Zero Carbon route map for the Borough
- Back our businesses as wealth and job creators
- Improve connectivity across the borough and within South Yorkshire.
- Increase development of Urban Barnsley, our principal towns and neighbourhood investment plans.

This plan also maps out additional medium-term and longer-term initiatives which will also support economic and social recovery up to 2030.



How this will be funded

Parts of this plan are already funded through Barnsley Council, national government and SCR funds. Some funds will come from a wide range of national and regional funding partners and anchor institutions, as well as from businesses themselves. Other elements of the plan will require securing additional funds. This work is already under way and we will endeavour to pursue any funding opportunities which fit with the big ambitions of this plan.

We are now in discussions around what support we can expect using the powers and funding in the recent **Sheffield City Region Devolution Deal** to help the Borough's people, businesses and places.



How this Plan sits with our governance and strategies

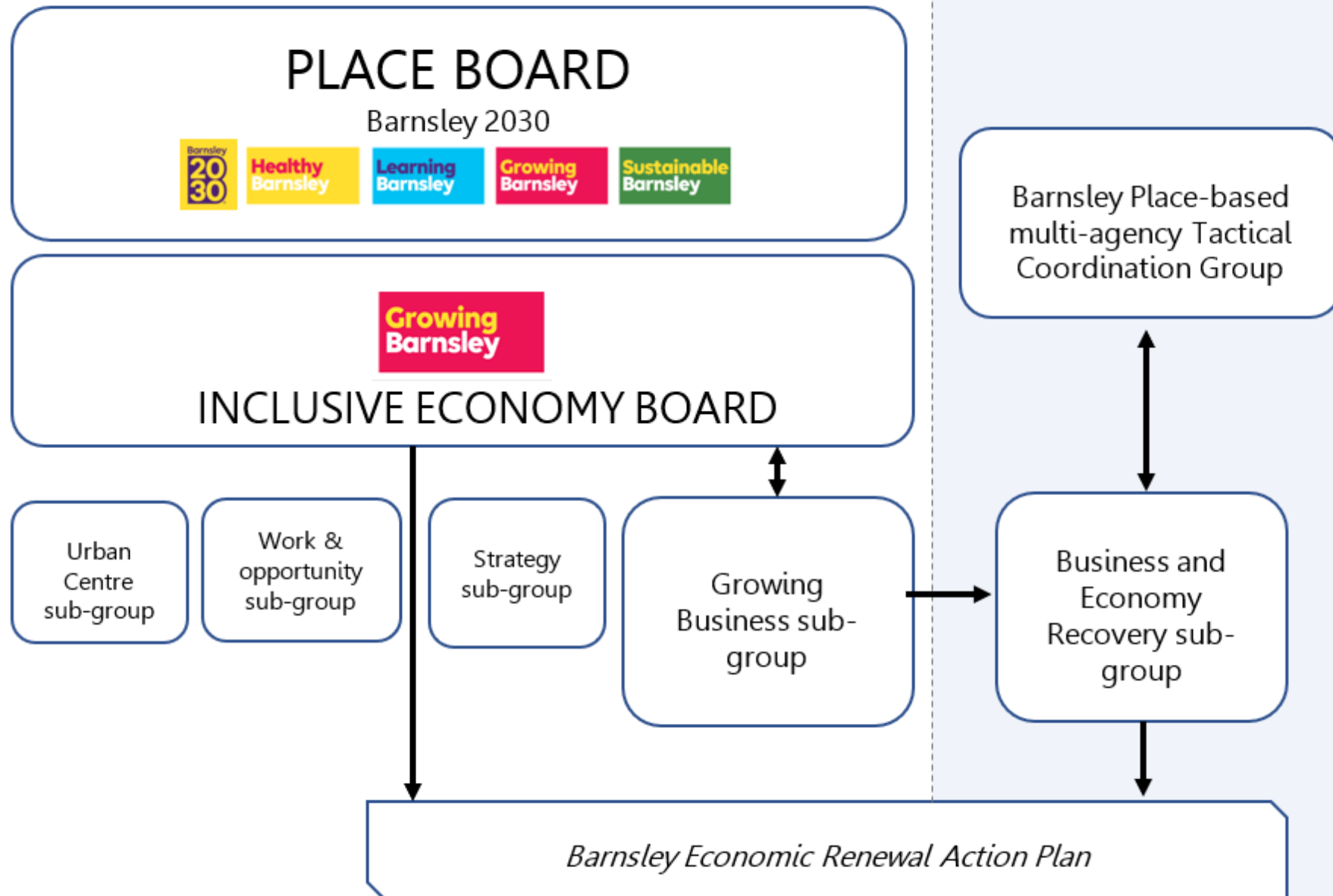
This plan has been developed under the Barnsley Inclusive Economy Board which includes Barnsley businesses, education institutions, NHS, Barnsley Council members and senior leaders. The Inclusive Economy Board is responsible for oversight and ensuring the plan has maximum commitment from the business community and delivery institutions across the Borough.

The delivery of this plan will be overseen by the Business and Economy Recovery sub-group convened by Barnsley Council, with the Group reviewing progress every month against the interventions laid out in this plan and their impact.

The Business and Economy Recovery Sub-Group will be guided by the Business Recovery Subgroup of the Inclusive Economy Board.

Return to business as usual

COVID response



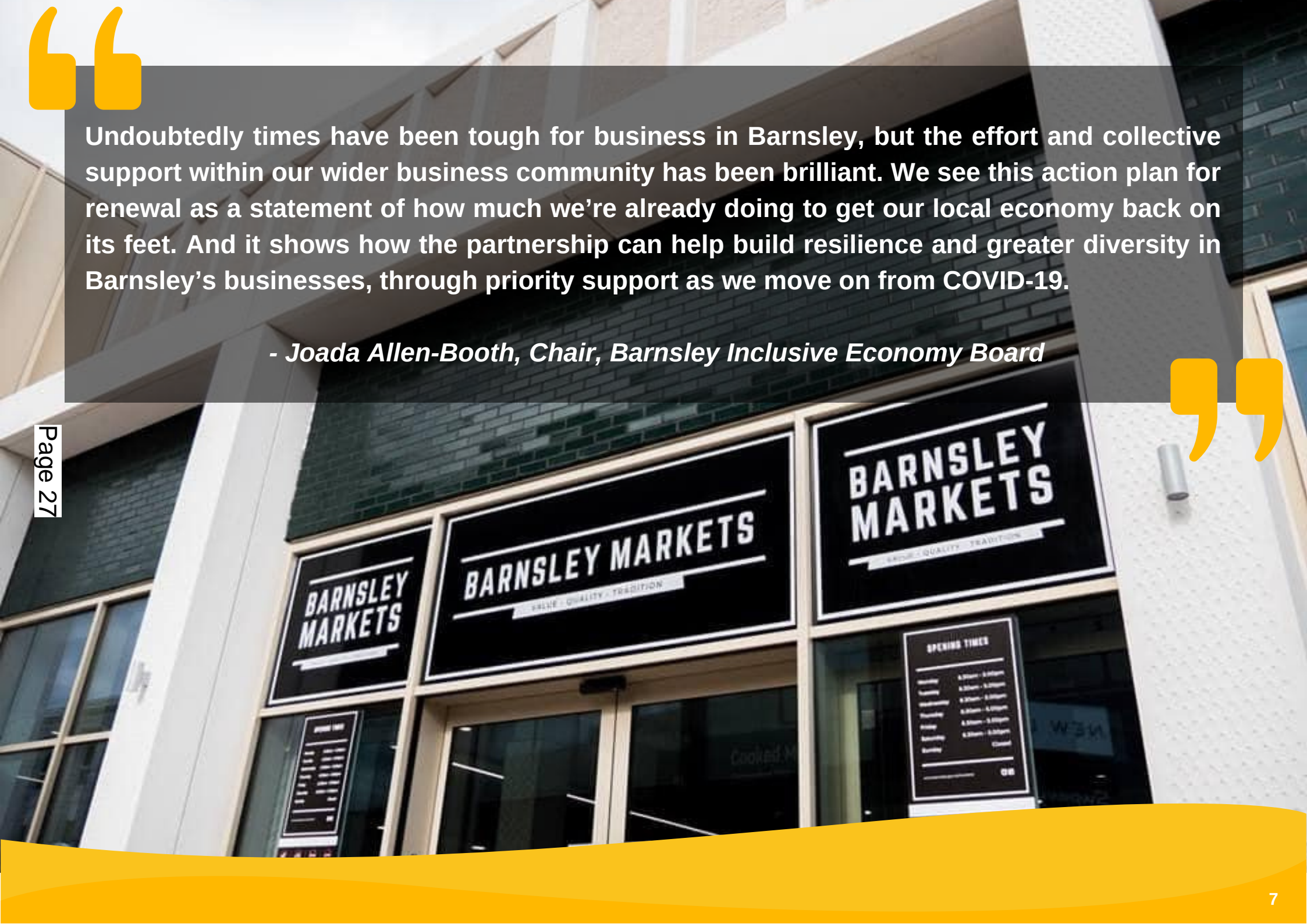


Undoubtedly times have been tough for business in Barnsley, but the effort and collective support within our wider business community has been brilliant. We see this action plan for renewal as a statement of how much we're already doing to get our local economy back on its feet. And it shows how the partnership can help build resilience and greater diversity in Barnsley's businesses, through priority support as we move on from COVID-19.

- Joda Allen-Booth, Chair, Barnsley Inclusive Economy Board



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OPENING TIMES	
Monday	8.30am - 5.00pm
Tuesday	8.30am - 5.00pm
Wednesday	8.30am - 5.00pm
Thursday	8.30am - 5.00pm
Friday	8.30am - 5.00pm
Saturday	8.30am - 5.00pm
Sunday	Closed

2 BARNLSLEY BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER COVID-19

PEOPLE

BEFORE: Pre-2020 Trends & Issues for People

Work, economic engagement and inclusion: Like many parts of the North [1], Barnsley's role in the national structural economic transition of the last forty years, means our local economy must grow even more than elsewhere to generate enough replacement work. **Great progress has been made** as jobs growth was three times faster than the City Region average between 2015 and 2019 [2]. **But the gaps are persistent: more than 14,000 more jobs would be needed to match provision across the City Region.**

Economic engagement in Barnsley **continued to improve considerably in the mid-2010s**; but was starting to slip again pre-pandemic. The percentage of people unable to work, or choosing not to, has been higher than the national average since 2015 [3]. Progress in alleviating deprivation had also stalled since 2010 in the wake of the 2008/9 recession, austerity and the real terms decline of wages. By 2019, 56% of Barnsley's neighbourhoods were in the lowest third nationally in the Index of Multiple Deprivation [4].

Skills and training: More and more people have basic qualifications for entry into the labour market, with foundation skills improving well in the years before the pandemic. The development, attraction and retention of people with **skills for higher-value work remains a key challenge** – the gap in numbers of people with a degree or equivalent is growing between Barnsley and the wider labour market [5].

Health: Ill health was already an ingrained and serious challenge for Barnsley before COVID-19. **The legacy effects of industrial employment and ongoing health inequalities continue to impact on communities and economy.** The proportion of people who are economically inactive through ill health in Barnsley has been consistently higher than regional and national averages for more than a decade [6]. Life expectancy for residents is below the national average; whilst people in Barnsley are 11% more likely to die of preventable causes than the wider population [7].

DURING: 2020 - 2021 Trends & Issues During the Pandemic for People

Work, economic engagement and inclusion: Successive public health lockdowns since March 2020 have had a clear impact. 10% of all eligible employees were on furlough at the end of 2020, and approximately 1,350 redundancies have been announced in the Borough, **pushing back jobs growth**. Up until the end of the Jobs Retention Scheme (April/May 2021), Barnsley has not been especially affected compared to other places. In fact, in December 2020 the out-of-work claimant count, and the proportion of workers furloughed, were both lower than the national and regional averages. However, the loss of jobs so far has already weakened Barnsley's modest employment market.

Barnsley's economic structure means a significantly lower proportion of the workforce has been able to work from home under lockdown compared to other local economies: 34% in Barnsley compared to the national average of 42%, and much higher rates in city economies such as nearby Sheffield (44%) and London (48%) [8].

Skills: The **job market is currently more competitive**, requiring applicants to differentiate themselves; it is harder for new entrants lacking the ability to evidence the application of these skills in practice.

New ways of working have created demand for enhanced digital communication skills and for critical and agile decision making. The pandemic and digital working have also highlighted growing demand for 'soft skills' across the whole workforce – empathy in a digital environment, listening skills, self-management (time management, discipline, focus and emotional intelligence). Technical skills have changed at pace - employees require the right mindset to learn how to learn and to have the ability to adjust and maintain organisational resilience.

Health: The effect of pre-existing health inequalities and population age on mortality rates from Coronavirus has been stark in Barnsley. **The Borough has amongst the highest rates of death from COVID-19 of all local authorities in the country** [9]. This is result of existing ill-health and a higher proportion of people of retirement age and older [10], combined with the additional exposure of the proportion Barnsley's workforce continuing to work out of the home during lockdowns.

AFTER: 2021 and Beyond - Prospects & Issues for People

Work, economic engagement and inclusion: The final effect of the pandemic will not be known for some time; the Job Retention Scheme is holding back the worst of the impacts. The effect for a 'catching up economy' will be very significant. **If every job on furlough at the end of 2020 (10,500) is made redundant in May 2021, it would eliminate all jobs growth since 2014** – even before the effect on self-employment. In communities in Barnsley where access to employment is already a challenge, the post-pandemic economic effects on the experience of deprivation are unfortunately likely to be regressive without targeted support and intervention. The labour market, already starting to hollow out; will widen inequalities, bringing concerns around inclusion and diversity, pushing disadvantaged groups further away from work.

Skills: In the short term there may be fewer roles, but as companies recover roles will emerge and these will require roles more strategic and professional skills will be needed. **Qualifications will become ever more important to differentiate people in the job market.**

Technical skills will increase in value and evolve as new technologies emerge, occupations will shift, and the nature of activities will change to pair humans with machines as technology augments the workforce. The mix of occupations requiring higher level skills will also change to compete with highly capable machines - agriculture, skilled trades and construction occupations all suggest pockets of opportunity.

Workers will need skills and capabilities not replicable by machines – problem-solving, resilience, team-working, initiative, imagination and resourcefulness, systems analysis and systems evaluation.

Health: We will be facing the direct, indirect and longer-term health impacts of living alongside Coronavirus for some time. We will need a place-based approach to testing, vaccination & self-isolation that can flex to the needs of our area to manage infection levels. This will require ambitious system-wide, streamlined action for households from positive test result through to financial and emotional support. Key stakeholders will need to develop a more joined up approach to address issues experienced by unengaged and marginalised groups. We will also need to re-focus efforts to address the inequalities that have been exacerbated by Covid-19.



BEFORE: Pre-2020 Trends & Issues for Employers and Business

Business resilience, enterprise and growth: The structural economic legacy of widespread employment in state-owned industry and large-scale manufacturing firms, has left Barnsley catching up in terms of the size and diversity of its business base. There are almost 40% fewer businesses per head in Barnsley than across England [11]. But, pre-pandemic, great strides were being made to close the gap. **Growth in the number of businesses outstripped local, regional and national averages between 2016 and 2020.** In recent years, businesses in Barnsley have also been more likely to survive the first three years of operation than across the wider economy [12].

Historically, our structural legacy led to low levels of enterprise, with extra efforts and support required to encourage private business development. The culture of enterprise in Barnsley has been developing well in recent years with the support of the successful Launchpad programme. Prior to the pandemic, the business start-up rate improved for three consecutive years (2017-19).

Investment: Before the pandemic, property enquiry levels and inward investment successes were the highest for a number of years. However, even before March 2020, Brexit uncertainty was already having a marked effect in investment decisions.

As a Barnsley town centre business, receiving the money so quickly from the council was vital to paying our business costs and keeping afloat. The fact the council have paid us what we are entitled to automatically as new support has been made available has saved me the hassle of having to fill in any forms and really speeded up the process.

We've had great support as well as being given practical advice from the council's Enterprising Barnsley service to help us manage through the periods of being open.

- Karl Chamberlain, owner of Barnsley Models and Games, based in the Victorian Arcade

DURING: 2020-2021 Trends & Issues During the Pandemic for Employers and Business

Business resilience, enterprise and growth: Successive national lockdowns and local tier restrictions during the pandemic have forced many customer-facing businesses to close for undetermined periods throughout 2020 and 2021. Demand for other services such as leisure and travel have fallen dramatically. Thousands of small businesses have been affected across the Borough – in sectors such as retail, food, accommodation, hospitality and personal services. – a critical test of the resilience of the business base. So far, only three businesses employing ten or more people have been reported to have closed permanently.

Recognising the importance of bolstering fragile growth in the business base, **Barnsley has been especially proactive in ensuring its businesses have accessed the maximum financial support available from external funding.** £42.7m of Small Business Rates Relief grant was administered by the Council to almost 3,900 businesses in five months in mid-2020; a further £7.8m was accessed with EB support from the Business Interruption Loans scheme.

In January 2021, Barnsley Council paid out over £10m in business rate support grants – ahead of the funds being received from Central Government.

Investment: Very encouragingly Barnsley has **continued to secure and deliver large-scale private sector investment** in new economic activity throughout the pandemic. This includes a £40m expansion of a PLC headquarters and manufacturing facility at Grimethorpe and a £60m investment in new parcel distribution hub at M1 Junction 36.

But the enforced closure of certain sectors, together with Brexit uncertainty slowed investment decisions and resulted in a 50% reduction in enquiry levels. The pandemic also slowed completion of speculative commercial property developments, which has limited the number of new premises being available to the market. The corporate target for inward investment successes was reduced from 45 to 24 companies, to reflect the challenges of 2020.

AFTER: 2021 and Beyond - Prospects & Issues for Employers and Business

Business resilience, enterprise and growth: Current forecasts expect the UK economy to return to growth in 2021 following the vaccination programme; but it may not recover to pre-pandemic levels until 2023 [13]. The post-COVID business landscape will vary across sectors, depending on the specific effects of Covid-related business interruption and levels of demand. Whilst many businesses are likely to see some contraction – or at least consolidation – some employers in Barnsley, such as in engineering and manufacturing report increasing orders and turnover. We will create the right conditions for people to start new businesses in Barnsley, targeted at growing sectors.

Investment: Positively, inward investment enquiries have increased, and targets will be exceeded. The completion of speculative developments, supported by BMBC Property Investment Fund & SCR JESSICA Fund, has provided opportunity to secure growing local companies and inward investors. For example, the Nexus Business Park development at M1 J37 was fully let by the end of last year and the developer is now investing a further £5.25 million in a second phase scheme, to compliment the first phase of 15 units. A range of new high specification commercial properties are now available at M1 J36 and there is a strong pipeline of planned development for 2021. It will be important to continue to look to the future pipeline of developments and to ensure funding is available to work with developers to overcome viability constraints. Similarly we need to work hard to reduce the reliance on public sector enabling interventions and create the conditions to unlock private sector investment accelerating our renewal work.



BEFORE: Pre-2020 Trends & Issues for Places

Town Centre: The shape and role of Barnsley Town Centre has been changing quickly over the decade up to the pandemic. Most places have anticipated and experienced a rapid a contraction of centres dominated by traditional retail. However, historically, there has been a persistent under-provision of retail, leisure and other commercial property in central Barnsley. **Opportunities for consolidation, diversification and growth have been identified** – including a new retail offer to capture a greater share of resident expenditure being lost to other centres such as Sheffield, Meadowhall and Leeds; and an improved evening economy offer.

The Council is undertaking a process of transformative investment in Barnsley Town Centre. The Glass Works is a two phase, £190m+, redevelopment of Barnsley Markets and development of the surrounding area into the town centre's leisure, retail and civic quarter. The Glass Works will consolidate primary retail within a single spatial area that is supported by high-quality leisure and food & beverage operators to drive additional footfall, dwell time and linked trips.

Phase 1 of the Glass Works is complete, consisting of demolition works, the redevelopment of Barnsley Markets (Met Centre) and the development of The Library @ The Lightbox. Phase 2, the development of four complementary high-quality leisure (cinema and bowling alley), retail, food & beverage blocks was already under way pre-pandemic, with a new landmark town square planned, all due for completion in late 2021.

Principal Towns: The Borough's population extends well beyond the boundaries of the town. Barnsley's Principal Towns are its other largest settlements: Cudworth, Royston, Hoyland, Wombwell, Penistone and Goldthorpe. Each principal town is an important local economic and service centre. Prior to the pandemic, the Council had initiated a £5m programme of capital investments to support continued economic regeneration across the Borough.

Digital: Significant progress has been made on the delivery of superfast broadband with coverage across the borough at 97.5%. Much of this success has been attributed to the Superfast South Yorkshire programme which promoted coverage and has been deploying the next generation of digital infrastructure with full fibre coverage. There was no commercial deployment of 5G prior to the pandemic in Barnsley. Barnsley Council is working with Sheffield Hallam University to lever academic digital knowledge into businesses (Digital Innovation for Growth) and provide a Makerlab facility at DMC 02 for demonstrating technology and developing new solutions.

Transport: Significant progress has been made in connecting our local communities through road, public transport and more recently active travel. Public transport patronage like other areas had experienced a decline but was still relatively strong with Barnsley. A clear focus has been established to develop a prioritised programme of transport interventions ensuring good mobility for our residents and businesses both within the borough but also cross boundary within the wider regional context.

Culture and visitor economy: Barnsley has a number of cultural jewels within the borough including Elsecar, Cannon Hall, Cooper Gallery, Worsbrough Mill and Experience Barnsley. More recently, working in partnership with the National Trust the Council was able to re-open Wentworth Castle and grounds. Our Culture team has delivered significant enhancements to our asset base through a sustained programme of innovative and external funding opportunities and partnership working. Supported by a dynamic marketing, communications and events programme visitor numbers and spend were increasing year on year truly illustrating the key contribution that the sector provides to the local economy.



DURING: 2020-2021 Trends & Issues During the Pandemic for Places

Town Centre: Footfall in Barnsley Town centre has fallen dramatically during the pandemic, as a result of the closure of retail, leisure and hospitality businesses; government directives for office-based workers to work at home; and no spectators at Barnsley FC matches. Online sales have grown rapidly across the economy, accelerating the long-acknowledged trend away from traditional high street retail formats; which had already been incorporated into Barnsley's plans to diversify the town centre experience and co-locate retail and leisure in the Glassworks. After the initial adjustment period, construction work has continued as normal on developing Barnsley's new town centre heart – which will also benefit from a successful Future High Streets Fund for over £15m government capital investment, announced during the third national lockdown.

Principal Towns: Economic and commercial activity has been similarly affected across the Borough, including the Principal Towns, which commonly rely on retail and personal services to drive footfall in the district centres. The Council's Principal Towns programme has continued to deliver capital investment during the pandemic. The Goldthorpe Town Investment Plan has been developed during the pandemic and was submitted with a case for £30m+ central government funding in December 2020. The Council's Principal Towns programme has continued throughout the pandemic and in particular it has been encouraging to see an increasing demand for the Shop Front programme with applications received from 99 businesses providing clear evidence of the resilience and willingness of our high streets to bounce back.

Digital: Barnsley has worked to create the conditions to facilitate the delivery of world class digital infrastructure. This has included working in partnership to facilitate CityFibre with their three year, £32m full fibre deployment programme starting during the pandemic. Barnsley continues to shape the regional digital connectivity strategy and the launch of DMC2 autumn 2020 is a major milestone in The Seam – Digital Campus development.

Transport: Work has continued on the positioning Barnsley to secure regional and national funding to further enhance connectivity within the borough. Longer term, the preparatory work and investment into the network will directly support our economic recovery. Like most areas, as a result of the COVID lockdown mitigations, public transport patronage has been decimated which leads to significant concern around the future sustainability of the sector.

Culture and visitor economy: Covid 19 has had a huge impact on physical attendance at our exhibitions and events during 2021, as well as periods of closure for museums and attractions. It also required the delivery of projects and programmes to be revised; despite this the majority of these have been delivered with only minor changes and some slippage. Other work streams were accelerated, such as digital programmes as many activities were delivered online including virtual gallery and exhibition tours, family engagement programmes and live streaming events. Bright Nights 2021 has been delivered in a Covid secure yet highly creative way and digital engagement has significantly increased as has the demand for outdoor space and nature.

AFTER: 2021 and Beyond - Prospects & Issues for Places

Town Centre: According to some evidence, Barnsley town centre is relatively well-placed for recovery compared with other centres which may have higher reliance on student populations, cultural anchors, out-of-town visitors and large-format national chain retail [14]. At the point when restrictions were the lowest in September 2020, footfall in the town centre returned to the pre-pandemic (Feb 2020) level [15]. However, the way in which urban centres will be used is undoubtedly going to change as a result of Coronavirus – and this must be factored in to plans to diversify demand into leisure and hospitality in the town centre.

Principal Towns: Economic renewal in principal towns remains a priority post-pandemic, with investment plans being worked up for each of the centres – using Goldthorpe as a blueprint – so that we can maximise our ask of government post-pandemic and ‘levelling up’ capital funding; and ensure investment takes place across the Borough.

Digital: A key priority will be to ensure that every home and business in Barnsley has access to a world class digital infrastructure, with the renewed and continued focus on supporting rural communities, gigabit capable infrastructure, full fibre deployment and engaging with 5G operators. Moving forward, following securing Future High Street Funding, we will look to drive forward the The Seam – Digital Campus providing a physical place that aligns digital business and skills.

Transport: A key focus will be to continue to invest in our transport network ensuring that communities are linked and able to access employment opportunities. Building on opportunities presented by the pandemic a significant refocus will take place in delivering active travel infrastructure across the borough. A priority area for Barnsley will be to work with partners to rebuild public transport patronage to pre-Covid levels.

Culture and visitor economy: We look forward to the safe re-opening of our Cultural assets. A key challenge will be to address the ground lost over the last 12 months with an emphasis on building back our visitor numbers. The wider strategic investment into this sector will continue with in particular the development and adoption of an Elsecar Masterplan being a key area of focus. This recovery plan also makes specific provision to deliver capacity building and resilience support for the wider culture and visitor economy within Barnsley.



2.1 Barnsley's Post-COVID Economy: SWOT Analysis

The table below outlines our analysis of: the existing analysis of strengths and weaknesses of Barnsley's economy; known future opportunities which can help our renewal plan; and potential threats which are the unknown risks to the Borough's renewal plans.

STRENGTHS

- Strong and consistent track record of delivering inward investment and indigenous business growth
- Higher than average jobs and business base growth prior to pandemic
- Very successful established business support system and programmes
- Strong success rate in securing external funding, including existing and ongoing central government funds

WEAKNESSES

- Continued deficit in volume of jobs and businesses pre-pandemic
- Persistent higher-level skills gap
- Poorer than average health outcomes across a range of indicators including life expectancy and deaths from preventable causes
- Challenging in making progress in alleviating multiple deprivation

OPPORTUNITIES

- Ensure public health and inequalities in health outcomes remain main priority in all regeneration and recovery activity
- Build back from pre-pandemic jobs growth
- Continue to close gap on entry-level skills
- Ongoing investment in Barnsley's new town centre and The Seam Digital Campus
- Further investment in strategic employment cluster at Junction 36: including possible Freeport Tax Site status
- Potential £25m+ Town Fund investment in inclusive and sustainable economic regeneration projects in Goldthorpe
- Additional capital investment available via SCR Gainshare programme

THREATS

- Potential for large scale redundancies in mid-2021
- Ongoing austerity and decline in real terms wages contributing to relative deprivation
- Possible medium-term or irreversible disruption for manufacturing business from Brexit import / export regulations
- Older than average population continues to be more susceptible to Coronavirus, even after vaccination
- Long-term health effects of COVID on population with higher than average pre-existing ill health, including mental health effects of pandemic life



3 OUR RECOVERY PRIORITIES

This Renewal Action Plan outlines **immediately deliverable actions** which the Council and its partners will oversee in the pandemic transition period – focusing on the **next 18 months to October 2022** – whilst acknowledging that the effect of the pandemic will be clear in our work for several years to come.

The priorities for the Renewal Action Plan are aligned to the three themes for a renewed post-Covid Borough:

18-month Theme	18-month Priorities
People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People unemployed through the pandemic • Young people • Self-employed people • People with multiple barriers to employment
Employers and Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business adaptation • Thriving businesses • Business leadership • Multiplying our business base
Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoring confidence and sense of safety in places of economic, commercial and social activity • Re-establishing social connection • Adapting to post-high-street retail • Establishing a place-based investment pipeline for our urban centres

In parallel to the Renewal Action Plan – and moving beyond the 18-month horizon – longer-term aspirations for Barnsley as Borough are established in **Barnsley 2030**: a shared vision for how the Borough would like to develop over the next decade. This Renewal Action Plan will help us stabilise conditions in the immediate post-pandemic period – providing the foundation to achieve the long-term goals for a:

- **Healthy Barnsley**
- **Growing Barnsley**
- **Learning Barnsley**; and
- **Sustainable Barnsley**

The Barnsley 2030 themes will be supported by a future delivery plan and decision-making framework which will shape the future inclusive economy of Barnsley.

3.1 Our Recovery Objectives

Programme Objectives	Overall Targets
<p>People: Supported to work and adapt to the new economy</p>	<p>550 return to work support interventions by October 2022.</p> <p>Recovery rate of levels of employment in Barnsley in line with or better than South Yorkshire average (measured by % change in work-related claimant count indexed to June 2021)</p>
<p>Employers and Businesses: Supported to adapt, consolidate and thrive</p>	<p>Annual number of business starts back to pre-pandemic (2019) level for the period April 2021-March 2022 (970 business starts)</p> <p>Recovery rate of size of business base in Barnsley in line with or better than the regional average (measured by % change in number of businesses indexed to June 2021)</p>
<p>Places: Supported through place-based investment to create jobs, offer vibrant local economies and transform our communities</p>	<p>Complete Glass Works Phase 2 by end of 2021</p> <p>Establish Eldon Street Heritage Action Zone to bring 15,000sqft of currently vacant floorspace in historic buildings back into economic use</p> <p>Design enabling works for The Seam to use Future High Streets investment, and establish a refreshed Town Plan by end of 2021</p> <p>Develop clearly defined investment plans for each of our six principal towns by September 2022</p>

3.2 Our Actions

Our ambition for **'More jobs and better opportunities'** is as important to post-pandemic renewal as it is for addressing our long-standing structural and economic challenges. The medium-term programme being developed by the Council and its partners will focus on four themes:

1. **Skills for work:** upskilling the workforce at scale.
2. **Getting back to work:** match people to opportunity, especially in industries like clean energy, health and care, advanced manufacturing and construction.
3. **Young People's Pledge:** support young people to progress.
4. **Offer inclusive employment:** removing barriers to training and employment for vulnerable groups.

The key economic challenge in **supporting our people** after the pandemic will be to ensure that existing work and health-related deficits and inequalities do not irreversibly deepen and widen.

In the short-term, our actions across the Borough will be to support, enable and deliver the following targeted activity to sustain and replenish work and skills, and to restore and enhance wellbeing.



1 Skills for Work

Context	<p>We have an improving foundation base of skills in Barnsley. We need to ensure that this ongoing progress in raising basic employability levels is not jeopardised by delivery disruption and damage to individual confidence and well-being during and after the pandemic. Meanwhile, we continue to address the challenge of having enough people with higher-level skills for modern technical and knowledge-based jobs. These requirements will continue to evolve at pace in parallel with – and partly as a result of – social and economic changes from the pandemic, for example the increasing importance of applied digital skills and higher-cognitive 'non-machine learnt' skills.</p>
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What the programme will do	The programme will provide direct support to businesses and employees to adapt skills to stay in work, whilst aligning to future SCR funding opportunities.		
Delivery	<p>Future-proofed workforce Sustained and intensive offer to our businesses through investment into our employability service and through existing support models with the aim to support at least 250 businesses and safeguard 1,000 existing jobs</p> <p>Sheffield City Region Train to Work Programme targeted support for 20,000 individuals across the City Region working through existing local institutions and delivery mechanisms</p>	Funding £0.69m Barnsley Prioritised Recovery Programme SCR investment requirement £375m - £450m	Delivery partners BMBC Sheffield City Region
Theme Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the proportion of working age population with at least one formal qualification at pre-pandemic level of 90% or more • Deliver targeted skills interventions with 250 businesses by October 2022 		
Outcomes	People involved in the Future-Proofed workforce programme will have enhanced and adapted skills to allow them to maintain employment in the post-pandemic labour market.		

2. Get Back Into Work

Context	<p>Whilst we will provide the best possible support and access to finance to prevent redundancies and business closures, we must prepare for the possibility of a significant number of our residents finding themselves out of work in 2021. Barnsley is not unique in this – but we already know hard we have to work here to support the level of economic activity and investment to provide enough jobs for our residents. Targeted support and intervention will be needed in communities in Barnsley where access to employment is already a challenge and the post-pandemic economic effects on the experience of deprivation are unfortunately likely to be regressive.</p>		
What the programme will do	<p>A range of projects will support people back into work – both general support offered by DWP to new Universal Credit claimants, and targeted support from BMBC to those requiring more bespoke and intensive support</p>		
Delivery	<p>Community Outreach: through Targeted Information and Guidance and Adult Skills and Community Learning. Targeted Outreach Key Worker Service - trusted, independent, community face - to identify and provide personalised pastoral support in neighbourhoods to enable residents to access a pathway to develop their skills, confidence and prospects of gaining employment. Aim for 450 individuals supported to work/training each year</p> <p>Digital Access 100 laptops and supporting software/data dongles and accessories for ESF Employability programme participants. Participating individuals will receive a loan device for up to 12 months with an unlimited data dongle for 3 months</p>	Funding <p>£0.26m a year to be secured from SCR Adult Education Budget</p> <p>£0.5m ESF secured</p>	Delivery partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMBC & Area Councils • VCS • Education + Training Providers • Employment Support Providers • DWP • BMBC • ESF

Delivery	<p>Job Finding Support & Job Entry Targeted Support Assistance to claimants (all ages) (0 to 13 weeks) back into work, focusing on job ready people with employment skills and experience. The support improves the participants' understanding of current recruitment practices, their ability to apply for jobs and give them an up to date CV and job finding action plan. The offer includes, but not limited to, at least four hours of one to one support, mock interview, job specific advice and at least one group session.</p> <p>Sheffield City Region Back to Work programme Extension of City Region <i>Working Win</i> pilot project and additional direct support newly employed individuals to remain and progress in work for 10,000 individuals over 18 months.</p>	Funding DWP £3m City Region wide investment ask	Delivery partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWP • SCR • JCP • National Careers Service
Theme Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery rate of levels of employment in Barnsley in line with or better than South Yorkshire average (measured by % change in work-related claimant count indexed to June 2021) • Deliver 550 targeted return to work interventions by September 2022 		
Outcomes	<p>Support those who have the greatest barriers to employment by building their skills, -confidence, motivation and resilience to progress towards formal learning or employment and improve their wellbeing by enabling their participation in learning and employment.</p>		
Working Together / Requirements	<p>Build on existing neighbourhood infrastructure working through Barnsley's 6 Area Council forums.</p> <p>Utilise existing networks, relationships between families/individuals and professionals to engage with the Key Worker developing trust as opposed to going in 'cold' or trying a marketing-based approach.</p>		

3. Young People's Pledge

<p>Context</p>	<p>We know that our young people are a vital contributor to our future community and economy in Barnsley and are also amongst those most likely to have had their future financial and personal development plans disrupted by Covid-19. We need to target action to ensure that no young person is worse off in terms of education and progression to training and employment as a result of the pandemic.</p>		
<p>What the programme will do</p>	<p>Maximising use of external Government and Sheffield City Region funding to deliver work placements and support packages for young people</p>		
<p>Delivery</p>	<p>Kickstart National Government funding to create new job placements for 16 to 24-year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long-term unemployment – for 6-month placements starting any time until December 2021. Eligible young people will be offered one of a menu of job placements with employers in Barnsley. Comprehensive support will be available to every young person participating on a Kickstart work placement, maximising their opportunities to progress into meaningful employment thereafter. Aim for 200+ participants in Barnsley</p> <p>Barnsley Youth Employment Programme Building on the Kickstart programme, Barnsley Council and Berneslai Homes will offer at least 100 12-month paid work placements (25 hours per week) for 16-24 year olds including access to qualifications and awards and intensive wraparound support.</p>	<p>Funding</p> <p>c.£7m in Barnsley on per capita basis</p> <p>BMBC</p>	<p>Delivery partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWP • BMBC • Berneslai Homes • DWP

Delivery	<p>New Universal Credit Youth Offer All new 18 - 24 year old Universal Credit Claimants (intensive work search) will have the direct access to the most appropriate support route: a) 13-week offer b) Youth Hub or c) Youth Employability Coach</p> <p>Mentoring Circles Employability skills support through interaction with employers who will lead and share insight and information with the young people.</p> <p>Sheffield City Region Young People's Skills Guarantee 18-month support programme for 4,500 'at risk' individuals</p>	Funding DWP DWP £1.5m-£3m investment requirement across SCR	Delivery partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWP • DWP • Sheffield City Region
Theme Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery rate of levels of 18-24 employment in Barnsley in line with or better than South Yorkshire average (measured by % change in work-related claimant count indexed to June 2021) • Deliver 200 of targeted young person interventions by July 2022 		
Outcomes	<p>On completion of a Kickstart work placement young people will have had the opportunity to significantly develop their employability, understand the progress they've made, received support to overcome any barriers and receive support to move into meaningful employment thereafter.</p>		
Working Together / Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality work placements created across a diverse employer base with clear progression routes into further training and/or sustained employment • Effective matching of young people's skills and aspiration in partnerships with JCP Work Coach and employer • Personalised 'on programme' skills and training programme available to support work placement • Effective CEIAG / job search support available alongside placement + training to ensure onward progression post-Kickstart 		

4. Offer Inclusive Employment

Context	People in vulnerable and disadvantaged groups already have additional multiple barriers to employment , which require specialist support to overcome. In the fast-paced post-pandemic labour market with shifting skills and occupational requirements we need to work particularly hard to ensure that groups are not pushed further away from work.		
What the programme will do	The programme will provide targeted support to people out of work, most in need of help in overcoming existing challenges such as health or social difficulties – whilst also providing in-work help to maintain wellbeing.		
Delivery	<p>Supporting mental wellbeing recovery through BeWell@Work. Monthly topical business webinars on employee wellbeing in challenging times: taking place since September 2020.</p> <p>Return to work package to give tips for employers on how best to address any wellbeing issues after lockdown: issued in May 2020, revised March 2021. Aim for 70 organisations supported and 100+people accessing in-work training.</p> <p>Sheffield City Region Overcoming Barriers programme. Support to at least 15,000 vulnerable and hard-to-reach individuals across 18-month programme to re-engage with the labour market.</p> <p>Work and Health Programme - (WHP) offers an intensive, tailored support to tackle barriers to work for those with health problems, other more complex barriers to work and those who have been unemployed 24 months plus.</p>	Funding BMBC Core funding Employer contribution SCR investment requirement £285m - £315m DWP	Delivery partners BMBC inc. Public Health Barnsley Chamber of Commerce Employers Specialist providers Sheffield City Region DWP

Theme Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver support to at least 70 businesses
Outcomes	<p>People in work will receive support to maintain and / or restore their mental wellbeing helping them stay in employment. People out of work will be better placed to access meaningful employment.</p>
Working Together / Requirements	<p>Barnsley Council will work in close partnership with DWP and employability advisors on this programme.</p>

The Coronavirus pandemic has affected each and every one of us and, together with our partners, stakeholders and local businesses, we are supporting our students through the uncertainty and disruption it has brought. Our aim is to transform the lives of our students, staff and our community and now, more so than ever, we continue to work hard to raise aspirations, drive social mobility and help to reignite the economy.

- Yiannis Kouris, Principal and Chief Executive, Barnsley College



Our objective for 'Resilient Businesses' following the pandemic is a natural continuation of our work to support organisations to adapt and grow and bring new private sector investment into Barnsley. The programme will support businesses and employers to:

1. **Adapt:** through accessing information services and knowledge support for COVID-19 adaptation & Digital upskilling
2. **Finance:** access flexible investment and recapitalisation
3. **Lead:** through employer leadership support
4. **Multiply:** through improved supply chain and procurement support

The key economic challenge in **supporting our employers and businesses** after the pandemic will be to prevent all avoidable closures and maintain the confidence and aspiration to start-up, grow and invest in Barnsley.

In the short-term, our actions across the Borough will be to support, enable and deliver the following targeted activity to sustain and replenish work and skills, and to restore and enhance wellbeing.



1 Adapt

<p>Context</p>	<p>Before the pandemic, more and more businesses were opening and surviving to sustainability in Barnsley. We know this is vital to our future economy, because the size of our business base does not yet match our size as a Borough of almost 250,000 people. We continue to provide support to businesses to survive; and will move towards providing the best possible guidance for businesses to adapt to the post-pandemic economy, help them make return to work safe, boosting resilience and seizing opportunities for growth when they arise.</p>
<p>What the programme will do</p>	<p>A programme of support helping Barnsley businesses adapt to the post-pandemic economic and business environment – working in particular with sectors most liable to have changed working practices such as retail.</p>

Delivery		Funding	Delivery partners
	<p>Ecommerce & Retail Support to digitise existing business models, including stock management, financial transactions and digital communications. Develop an IT facility, photography and videography area to allow businesses to photograph and prepare products for selling or promoting online. Aim to create 120 jobs; safeguard 240 jobs; support 120 businesses</p>	<p>£0.3m Barnsley Prioritised Recovery Programme</p>	<p>Enterprising Barnsley</p>
	<p>Click and Collect Hub Provision of self-serve, click and collect lockers located in the Glass Works, accessible to use by all town centre businesses. Aim to create 1.5 jobs; safeguard 66 jobs; support 330 businesses.</p>	<p>£0.32m Barnsley Prioritised Recovery Programme</p>	<p>Town Centre Businesses</p>
	<p>Business Support: Post-Covid Health Checks and helpdesk Building on the successful business coaching model, post-Covid business health checks will provide support from dedicated coaches to help business with issues such as lean efficiencies, sales & marketing and horizon planning. Enterprising Barnsley will also continue to develop its digital helpdesk.</p>	<p>BMBC Core funding</p>	<p>Enterprising Barnsley</p>
	<p>Sheffield City Region Business Adaptation Support SCR business support programme</p>	<p>SCR requirement £2.5m</p>	<p>Sheffield City Region</p>
	<p>Trade & EU Transition Post-Covid 19 Support Package International Trade training and advice to support businesses through Brexit transition</p>	<p>B&RCC requirement £0.04m</p>	<p>Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce</p>
	<p>Safe return to work Support to Barnsley businesses to meet the regulatory, logistical and financial challenges of safely bringing employees back into the workplace</p>		<p>Enterprising Barnsley, BMBC Regulatory Services</p>

Theme Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery rate of size of business base in Barnsley in line with or better than the regional average (measured by % change in number of businesses indexed to June 2021) • Support over 600 Barnsley businesses in adaptation by October 2022
Outcomes	As a result of our programme, businesses in Barnsley will be most resilient in the wake of post-pandemic commercial and economic changes, and ultimately more likely to survive, stabilise and grow.
Working together / Requirements	We will seek to support out businesses to adapt by working in partnership with our Inclusive Economic Board, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber, Barnsley Business Innovation Centre and Newable. It is also critical that we work in partnership with retail businesses across Barnsley to ensure our adapt support is aligned to their needs.

2 Finance

Context	Access to the right level and security of finance is a well-known barrier to business resilience and growth, in Barnsley and elsewhere. With the contraction of the national economy and hit to investor and lender confidence it is ever more important for us to work with our business community to ensure they have the capital to survive, develop, innovate and grow. Private businesses will be vital to the regrowth we need to provide new and replacement jobs in Barnsley.
What the programme will do	This programme will ensure that Barnsley businesses have the best possible access to finance they need to survive, stabilise and grow – including signposting and providing support for them to access national and City Region grant funding and loans.

Delivery	<p>Digital Innovation Grants An extension of the successful Superfast South Yorkshire grant model., this is a demand-led voucher scheme (50% to support investments up to £10K) to help SMEs to develop their use of digital technology, by exploring digital technology, businesses can access new markets, promote their products and services more effectively to help develop more cost effective ways of working (would support enhancements to websites for E/Mcommerce, Sage accountancy/ ERP Systems , or Digital marketing materials amongst other items)</p> <p>Productivity Investment Grants Work with businesses on projects to boost productivity, for example: to find a technical solution; commercialisation plan for taking the solution into the market; possible commercial models; investment in equipment. Part of this new 3-year programme aims to include a delivery a Productivity Investment Grant of up £12.5k based upon a 50% intervention level for a £24,999 Project Total.</p> <p>BBIC/Newable Loan Finance – Working with our partner Newable through the BBIC we will look to make loan finance available to Barnsley businesses</p>	Funding £2.5m across SCR £8m across SCR £0.25m Newable	Delivery partners SCR Partner local authorities SCR Partner local authorities Newable/BBIC
Theme Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery rate of size of business base in Barnsley in line with or better than the regional average (measured by % change in number of businesses indexed to June 2021) 		
Outcomes	As a result of our programme, businesses in Barnsley will be have better access to finance and improved competitiveness, ultimately making them more likely to survive, stabilise and grow.		

Working together / Requirements	<p>Communication and key account management are critical to ensure that Barnsley businesses are aware of all opportunities for grant funding and loan facilities.</p> <p>Businesses require the time, capacity, expertise and support to complete grant and loan applications.</p>
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3 Lead

Context	<p>Ensuring that businesses are able to access specialist advice and guidance on developing leadership capability will be critical in terms of enabling businesses to adapt and thrive. Our focus here will be to establish a framework of support which enables businesses to access the leadership support that fits their unique requirements.</p>		
What the programme will do	<p>Enterprising Barnsley will act as a gateway for local businesses providing a brokerage role to access support which will either be available on local or regional frameworks. We will seek to deliver the right support at the time when businesses need this.</p>		
Delivery	<p>Third sector capacity building sector specific programme based on existing national initiatives. This will include running a series of cohort-based programmes to increase capacity, improve resilience, help with technology adoption and market development. A secondary benefit will be improved networking and collaboration within the creative and cultural industries. Aim of 10 jobs created; 30 jobs safeguarded; 30 organisations supported; 5 new businesses created.</p> <p>Cultural/Visitor economy capacity building Same capacity building programme delivery and objectives, looking at our cultural and visitor economy organisations .</p>	<p>Funding</p> <p>£0.15m Barnsley Prioritised Recovery Programme</p> <p>£0.15m Barnsley Prioritised Recovery Programme</p>	<p>Delivery partners</p> <p>SCR Partner local authorities</p> <p>SCR, Culture and Visitor Economy Board</p>

Theme Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 jobs created; 60 jobs safeguarded; 60 organisations supported; 10 new businesses created
Outcomes	Organisations involved in the programme will be better placed to survive and adapt their service delivery to the post-pandemic social and environmental changes
Working together / Requirements	It is critical that both the Barnsley Community Voluntary Sector and Culture and Visitor Economy Board help us to shape the support that will be provided to ensure that this is aligned to sector needs. It is envisaged that both Barnsley and City Region support frameworks will be used to deliver support within the borough.

4 Multiply

Context	Because of where we have come from as a producer economy with large-scale single employers, the impetus already existed pre-pandemic to foster entrepreneurship, innovation, diversity and – most of all – growth in our business base. A key way to do this is to ensure that Barnsley businesses are part of upward and downward supply chain: generating high-value business-to-business activity.
What the programme will do	The programme will encourage and support Barnsley businesses – in parallel to businesses across the City Region – to be able to access supply chain opportunities and be aware of other SMEs within the SCR that have potential supply chain capabilities and opportunities.

Delivery	<p>Supply chain and procurement support Working with approximately 50 Barnsley business to explore the development and capability to be able to access local supply chain again creating the conditions for indigenous growth. Target of 384 jobs created; 68 jobs safeguarded; 50 businesses supported.</p> <p>SciTech Digital Innovation Hub Incubation space for 5 new enterprises, opening in September 2021, providing collaboration and learning opportunities for businesses, students and school-age children.</p>	Funding £0.24m Barnsley Prioritised Recovery Programme £2.3m (£1.45m SCR GBBF)	Delivery partners SCR Partner local authorities, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber, BBIC Barnsley College, BMBC, SCR, DMC01
Theme Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery rate of size of business base in Barnsley in line with or better than the regional average (measured by % change in number of businesses indexed to June 2021) • Deliver 50 supply chain and procurement interventions by September 2022 		
Outcomes	Businesses involved in the programme are more likely to use local businesses in their supply chain, or sell to businesses in Barnsley and the Sheffield City Region		
Working together / Requirements	This priority will be delivered utilising dedicated specialist advisor roles funded through the SCR Renewal Action Plan. We will also work with key partners such as BBIC and the Chamber to raise awareness and host business to business events.		

During and following the pandemic we are maintaining a programme of place-based initiatives – including masterplans and investment plans - co-designed with communities and partners, to help urban areas and communities to adapt to COVID-19 and avoid decline; boost sustainable travel; and enable renewed investment in decarbonisation, advancing our strategic economic, social and environmental goals.

The development and delivery of this programme will involve reconfiguring places to meet the needs of the new economy, supporting spatial adaptation and sustainable travel, and increased decarbonisation. They will also build community and local capacity to enable towns and communities to be less reliant on public institutions and have an increased sense of agency in delivering for themselves.

There are two interconnected themes which will guide the Place programme:

1. **Place-based spatial design**, including connectivity; and
2. **Sustainability initiatives** which support low carbon housing, recycling, and active travel



1 Place-based Spatial Design

<p>Context</p>	<p>The physical shape of the Borough of Barnsley – its former collieries, the town centre, its high streets, and other settlements – was already changing at pace before the pandemic. We are already actively planning for change, growth, and adaption in our places. The pandemic will accelerate some of the spatial-economic trends we have already been planning for, for example in the changing use of town centres and renewed attention on healthy neighbourhoods; whilst other trends such the decrease in demand for office space may require permanent adaptation of strategy.</p>
<p>What the programme will do</p>	<p>Our key short-term priority will be to continue to deliver key projects including Glassworks and enabling infrastructure works at our Strategic Sites.</p> <p>Running in parallel to this we will develop clear place-based investment plans reflective of local need, priorities and opportunities for each of our 6 principal towns and Elsecar. Established plans will directly lead to the creation of investment priorities for Barnsley which will enable the Council and partners to secure funding leading to delivery. A further overarching priority will be to create the conditions to unlock private sector investment which sees a switch away from a dependency on public finance.</p>

Delivery		Funding	Delivery partners
	<p>Barnsley Town Centre Plan First phase development of an integrated spatial, economic and investment plan for Barnsley Town Centre. Activities will include: Glass Works phase 2 including cultural units; Seam masterplan including new Active Travel Hub; car parking strategy; Eldon Street Heritage Action Zone; Southern Gateway Youth Zone; Purple Flag accreditation; and town centre marketing.</p>	<p>Central government: £15m FHSF, £2m HAZ, £4m TCF, £4m GBF</p>	<p>Barnsley Markets Sheffield City Region MHCLG DCMS</p>
	<p>Goldthorpe Town Investment Plan Delivery of the Town Investment Plan to achieve the vision of <i>Working together to create a thriving community where people choose to live, invest and excel</i>. The investment plan covers a range of areas including skills, employment, connectivity, housing, culture and urban centre regeneration.</p>	<p>£30m+ MHCLG Towns Fund</p>	<p>Town Board, SCR, NPR, Land Trust, MHCLG</p>
	<p>Principal Town Investment Plans Develop clear place-based investment plans reflective of local need, priorities and opportunities for each of our 6 principal towns. Established plans will directly lead to the creation of investment priorities for Barnsley which will enable the Council and partner to secure funding leading to delivery. A further overarching priority will be to create the conditions to unlock private sector investment which sees a switch away from a dependency on public finance.</p>	<p>£1.5m BMBC</p>	<p>Area Councils, Ward Alliances, Local Community Groups, Residents</p>
	<p>Elsecar Masterplan Creating full detailed masterplans, secure relationships, surveys, feasibility studies and detailed planning to enable full development of Elsecar and to realise its potential – economically, culturally and socially.</p>	<p>£0.19m BMBC</p>	<p>BMBC, Historic England; RMBC; Wentworth Woodhouse; National Trust</p>

Delivery		Funding	Delivery partners
	<p>Worsborough Mill development and masterplan New extended retail and commercial spaces, increased refreshment covers, potential tenanted spaces, new visitor gallery, new staff/volunteer spaces, new external trading infrastructure for commercial partners. Detailed business planning and architectural master-planning, to enable future leveraging in of external investment.</p>	<p>£0.16m Cultural recovery Fund</p> <p>£0.07m BMBC</p>	<p>National Lottery Heritage Fund, Heritage England</p>
	<p>Northern Glass Development of an on-site training facility to bring a derelict building back into productive use to provide hands-on training for young people.</p>	<p>£0.26m inc. £0.05m Wolfson Foundation</p>	<p>BMBC, Wolfson, schools and colleges,</p>
	<p>Eldon Street Heritage Action Zone Physical improvements to 6 key historic buildings to bring 15,000sqft of currently vacant floorspace in historic buildings back into economic use. Works to Barnsley Civic as the landmark building: Reinstate the historic front entrance to the Civic, creating a box office and front facing food and beverage offer, and convert disused space above into 8 high quality residential lets.</p>	<p>£2.0m council £1.968m Heritage England £0.193 local business contributions</p>	<p>BMBC, Historic England, Arts Council, Business owners, Barnsley Civic, Cultural Consortium</p>
	<p>Covid Memorial Sculpture in the Glassworks Square – to recognise the impact of Covid 19 and pay tribute to key workers; provide a focal point for Covid 19 related annual event / possible Memorial Day; and to provide a symbol of regeneration and hope. Associated engagement programme will involve people in sharing their experiences of the pandemic and its impact.</p>	<p>£0.45m BMBC</p>	<p>BMBC, Steering group, artists</p>

Delivery	<p>Dodworth Road Gyratory new junction to address existing congestion and improve air quality along Dodworth Road. A long-term solution that will provide enough capacity for the current volume of traffic as well as accommodating the future business and housing growth aspirations of Barnsley and prevent traffic queuing back onto the M1 by 2023.</p> <p>Junction 37 Strategic Site enabling work Delivery of new and improved highway infrastructure works in the vicinity of M1 Junction 37 (Claycliffe) to improve and widen Capitol Close/Higham Lane, make improvements to the Chestnut Tree roundabout and provide new access into MU1 (Barnsley West), a mixed use employment and housing site allocated as part of Barnsley's Local Plan.</p>	Funding £1.17m SCR LGF £10.63m SCR LGF	Delivery partners Sheffield City Region Sheffield City Region Highways England
Theme Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Glass Works Phase 2 by end of 2021 • Restoration and repurposing of at least 10 historic building into new productive uses • Establishment of 6 Principal Towns Investment Plans 		
Outcomes	People in Barnsley will have greater access to well-designed and safe places for work, living and cultural and leisure recreation.		
Working together / Requirements	We will work with a range of partners to deliver our place-based aspirations which includes the Inclusive Economic Board, SCR, MHCLG and local community infrastructure.		

2 Sustainability Initiatives

<p>Context</p>	<p>Barnsley Council declared a climate emergency in September 2019 and set out its aims to achieve net-zero carbon within the council by 2040, and across the borough by 2045.</p> <p>Existing achievements include converting more than 90 per cent of Barnsley’s street lighting to low energy LED lamps, a recent pledge to plant 10,000 more trees across the borough, and the replacement of vehicles in the council’s fleet with ultra-low emission vehicles.</p> <p>The <i>Sustainable Energy Action Plan</i> affirms the commitment to embed a carbon reduction culture across the Council and beyond.</p>		
<p>What the programme will do</p>	<p>The programme constitutes the immediate actions we are taking to deliver post-pandemic investment, to secure a greener and more sustainable future in the Borough: including energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable travel. Other future measures may include ensuring net gains to biodiversity as a result of development proposals consistent with our Local Plan and the Environmental Bill.</p>		
<p>Delivery</p>	<p>Decarbonising Barnsley’s property portfolio Funding secured to deliver energy efficiencies and new energy sources for Barnsley Council Buildings over the next 12 months.</p> <p>Residential energy efficiency Retrofit of private and social housing stock, increasing energy efficiency by replacing building materials.</p> <p>Energise Barnsley and solar PV Use the feed in tariff income from previous PV installs as leverage for a community bond which will allow £4 million to be raised to install 1,000 PV arrays over the next 18 months.</p> <p>Electric Vehicle Charging in public car parks.</p>	<p>Funding £4.3 million PSDF</p> <p>£1.8 million BEIS</p> <p>£0.25m p/a from feed in tariff</p> <p>£0.15m inc £100k from OLEV</p>	<p>Delivery partners BMBC /BPL BEIS Ameresco</p> <p>Berneslai Homes, BMBC, BEIS</p> <p>BMBC, Berneslai Homes, Energise Barnsley, Community bond</p> <p>BMBC</p>

Delivery	<p>PV Farm and nature reserve Solar PV farm and nature reserve on the site of Dodworth colliery to deliver renewable energy to BMBC which is purchased via a sleeving arrangement -this will allow the site to be built out at no cost via a bond</p> <p>Improvement to heat controls in PFI schools funded through Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme</p> <p>Active Travel hubs Delivery of Active Travel Hubs using Transforming Cities Fund in Goldthorpe, Darton and Barnsley Town Centre</p>	Funding £4.5m via the community bond £1.35m PSDF £3m TCF	Delivery partners <i>BMBC</i> <i>Energise Barnsley Coal board</i> BMBC, Amey DfT, Sheffield City Region
Theme Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of c£15m sustainability investment programme (additional metrics tbc) 		
Outcomes	As a result of the programme there will be a reduction in the energy consumption and reduction in carbon emissions from a significant amount of building stock across public and private sectors in Barnsley.		



3.3 Our Framework for Recovery - Ensuring an Inclusive Economy 2021 - 2030

Barnsley Renewal Action Plan	RECOVERY (18 months)		RESILIENCE (18 months - 3 years)	BUILD BACK (3+ years)
People: Supported to work and adapt to the new economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future-proofed workforce • SCR Train to Work Programme • Community Outreach: through Targeted Information and Guidance and Adult Skills and Community Learning • Digital Access • Job Finding Support & Job Entry Targeted Support • Sheffield City Region Back to Work programme • Kickstart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Universal Credit Youth Offer • Mentoring Circles • Sheffield City Region Young People's Skills Guarantee • Supporting mental wellbeing recovery through BeWell@Work • Sheffield City Region Overcoming Barriers programme • Work and Health Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment & Skills Strategy refresh • Virtual Youth Hub • Pathways to Progression & Success • Sector Routeways • Digital Boost Workforce Development • Tenants First • Advance All Age Careers • SCR Gainshare programmes • Delivery NPO Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employability support • Redundancy support • Supported Employment • Traineeships & Apprenticeships • Adult Skills & Community Learning • CEIAG/All age advice and guidance
Employers and Businesses: Supported to adapt, consolidate and thrive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecommerce & Retail Support • Click and Collect Hub • Business Support: Post-Covid Health Checks and helpdesk • Sheffield City Region Business Adaptation Support • Digital Innovation Grants • Productivity Investment Grants • Supporting cultural organisations to access grants • BBIC/Newable Loan Finance • Third sector capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural/Visitor economy capacity building • Supply chain and procurement support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprising Barnsley core offer • Inward Investments • Business Starts (Launchpad) • Barnsley Inclusive Economic Strategy • Commissioning work from artists and cultural organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Account Management • BeWell@Work • Enterprising Barnsley core offer • Inward Investments • Business Starts (Launchpad)

3.3 Our Framework for Recovery - Ensuring an Inclusive Economy 2021 - 2030

Barnsley Renewal Action Plan	RECOVERY (18 months)	RESILIENCE (18 months - 3 years)	BUILD BACK (3+ years)
<p>Places: Supported through place-based investment to create jobs, offer vibrant local economies and transform our communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnsley Town Centre Plan • Goldthorpe Town Investment Plan • Principal Town Investment Plans • Elsecar Masterplan • Worsborough Mill development and masterplan • Northern Glass • Eldon Street Heritage Action Zone • Covid Memorial Sculpture • Dodworth Road Gyrotory • Junction 37 Strategic Site enabling work • Decarbonising Barnsley's property portfolio • Residential energy efficiency • Energise Barnsley and solar PV • Electric Vehicle Charging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Seam – Phase 1 • City Fibre Full Fibre Deployment • Principal Towns Investment Plan delivery • Delivery of Town Plan • Developing a cultural compact – including capacity building – market development • Securing funding Elsecar projects • Creation SCR destination management plan • Fundraising Civic redevelopment Plans / • Fundraising Experience Barnsley expansion • Event programme delivery • Delivery art in the public realm projects • Delivery of Transport Strategy – connecting people to places • Delivery of Active Travel Strategy • Delivery of Transforming Cities Active Travel routes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Seam – Digital Campus • Goldthorpe Town Investment Plan • Junction 37 • Junction 36/Freeport • Implementing cultural compact • Goldthorpe employment site and associated off site infrastructure • Deliver Elsecar projects • Completion HAZ • Completion Civic redevelopment • Promotion cultural and events offer



Barnsley Town centre is being transformed. Barnsley Council, supported by the Sheffield City Region, has demonstrated great commitment to modernising our town centre with the vibrant new Glass Works development. As we recover from the pandemic, we all want to see the town centre thriving and creating new opportunities for retail, leisure and employment.

Alongside the development of the Seam and DMC 02 there is incredible potential for future development, which is why we've identified it as one of the select number of growth areas for South Yorkshire, with priority support and investments to help boost vibrancy and activity – and generate knock-on economic benefits.

I'm proud to be supporting the Glass Works as part of our town and our region's economic recovery and renewal from Covid. That's why local leaders and I are creating an £860m South Yorkshire Renewal Fund to build a stronger, greener and fairer regional economy and help revitalise our high streets and urban centres.

- Dan Jarvis, MP for Barnsley Central and South Yorkshire Mayor



4 MOVING FORWARD

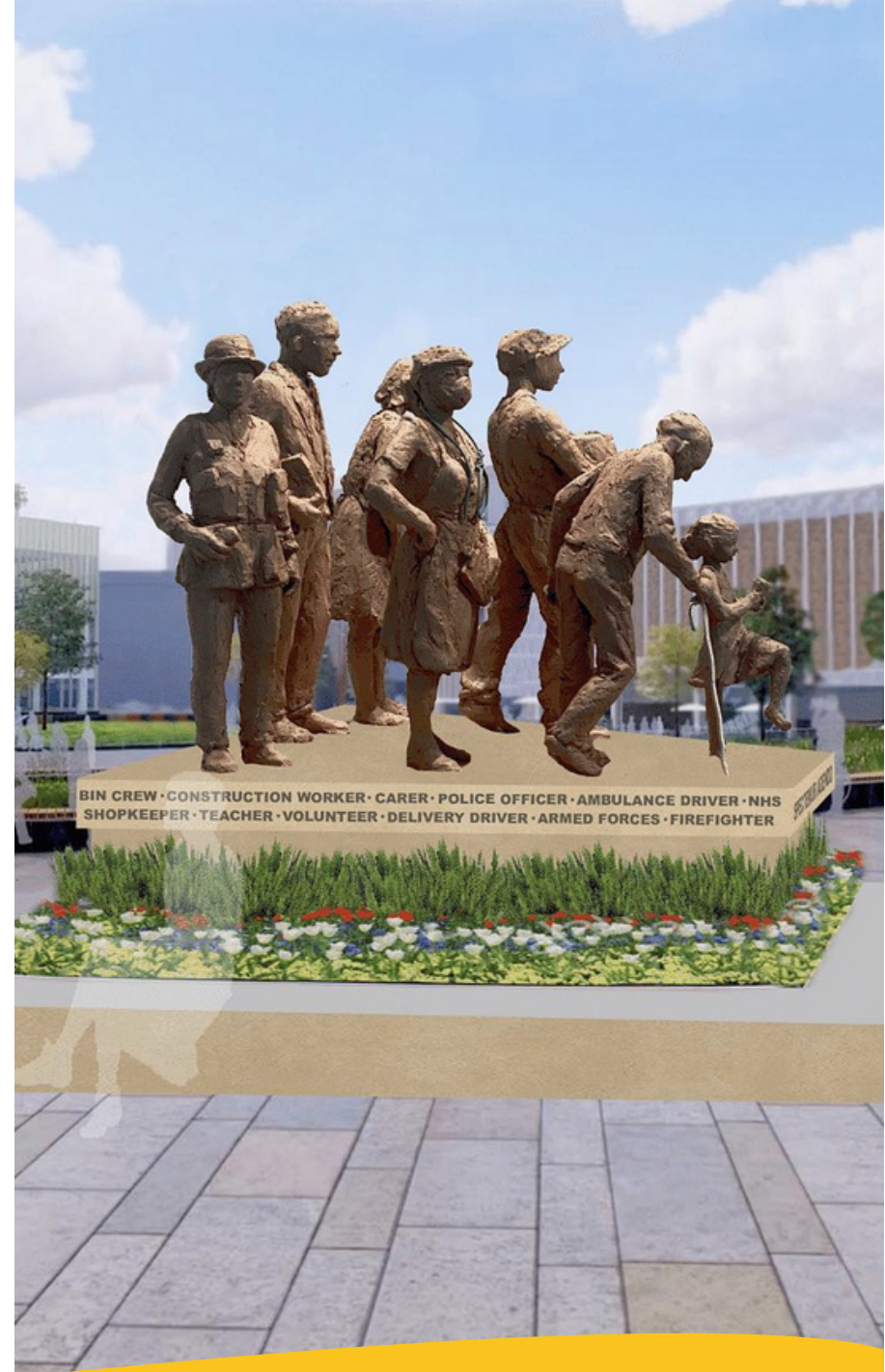
This **Recovery Action Plan** is an important statement of commitment by Barnsley Council and its partners to continued and renewed investment and support for our businesses, residents and community organisations following the Coronavirus pandemic.

This is a short-term plan focusing on the immediate issues and opportunities. It will be reviewed and updated to reflect the unpredictable dynamics of our national social and economic recovery from the virus, the personal and health effects, and the closure and disruption to education, business and enterprise.

The Plan will help us return to stable foundations, as the point from which we can **move forward towards the ambitious goals we have for Barnsley in 2030** including ensuring our economy and community is more inclusive and sustainable.

For that reason, this Plan is 'owned' by the Barnsley Inclusive Economy Board working through its Business sub-group and the Business and Economy Recovery COVID sub-group to co-ordinate delivery. The Business and Economy Recovery COVID sub-group will establish a robust review and monitoring regime to ensure that the evolving plan is deliverable and is on track to bring about the outputs stated in this Plan.

As a Borough, Barnsley is finding a way through the Coronavirus pandemic by working together and approaching adversity as a collective community. In the transition period after the pandemic this plan offers the opportunity to galvanise and coordinate our continued support for people and businesses and invest in our places and communities. We hope to recover and renew our Borough with the same spirit and pride which has carried us through this challenging time.



References

- [1] See, Johns et al (December 2020). State of the North 2020/21: Power Up, Level Up, Rise Up. IPPR North.
- [2] ONS BRES 2019. BMBC analysis.
- [3] ONS Labour Force Survey 2020. BMBC analysis.
- [4] MHCLG (2019). English Indices of Deprivation. BMBC analysis
- [5] ONS Annual Population Survey 2020. BMBC analysis
- [6] ONS Labour Force Survey 2020. BMBC analysis
- [7] ONS/DOH.. Deaths from Preventable Causes 2013-2017. Taken from Public Health England Local Authority Area health profile for Barnsley MBC, 2021
- [8] Fothergill, S and Beattie, C. (2021). The impact of the Coronavirus Crisis on Older Industrial Britain. Sheffield Hallam University.
- [9] https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/deaths#card-deaths_within_28_days_of_positive_test_by_area
- [10] ONS Population Estimates, small areas by year of age, 2019. BMBC analysis.
- [11] ONS Business Density, BMBC analysis
- [12] ONS Business Demography, 2019. BMBC analysis
- [13] KPMG (2021). UK Economic Outlook January 2021 [see also Bank of England (2021). Monetary Policy Report].
- [14] ADE Regeneration/URBED (2021). Preparatory evidence base for Barnsley Town Plan.
- [15] Centre for Cities, Recovery Tracker 2021.

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – PLACE
TO CABINET ON 7 APRIL 2021**

**COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER – GRANT OF A 25 YEAR LEASE OF LAND AT
HOUGHTON ROAD RECREATION GROUND TO THURNSCOE REGENERATION CIO**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the grant of a 25 lease of land at Houghton Road Recreation ground, shown hatched black on the attached plan, to Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO, a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).
- 1.2 The lease will enable Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO to secure external funding to facilitate the development of a Village Plaza and community café from which both formal and informal community and leisure-based activities will be delivered for the benefit of the community.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Council as freeholder of Houghton Road Recreation Ground approves the grant of a 25-year lease to Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO on terms and conditions to be agreed.**
- 2.2 **That the Corporate Asset Manager be authorised to finalise Heads of Terms for a 25-year lease to Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO. The grant will be in accordance with Local Government Act 1972, but at less than best consideration based on the delivery of local social economic and environmental wellbeing powers as introduced by the Local Government Act 2000 and the General Disposal Consent (England) 2003.**
- 2.3 **That the Service Director of Legal Services be authorised to complete the lease to Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO, subject to the necessary planning consents being achieved**
- 2.4 **That the Service Director Legal Services be authorised to deal with the issuing of notices relating to the disposal of Public Open Space and consider any objections should they arise.**

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The Council own the freehold of Houghton Road Recreation Ground an area of recreational space located in the centre of Thurnscoe. The site is host to a multi-use

games area (MUGA), football fields, a wetland area, and outdoor gym equipment all of which was originally funded by Sport England. The Recreation Ground is currently managed by the Parks Services.

- 3.2 The Council acquired the land from the British Coal Authority in 1990. As a condition of the sale, the British Coal Authority placed a restrictive covenant on the title, limiting use of the land to that of recreational purposes only, as such consent from the British Coal Authority will be required in the granting of any lease to Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO.
- 3.3 In 2005, Barnsley MBC secured funding from Sport England for a sports support worker, refurbishment of the playing fields, the addition of a MUGA and outdoor gym within the recreation ground. A condition of funding was that the Council enter a Deed of Dedication with Sports England, whose consent is required in the granting of any lease to Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO.
- 3.4 There is a 20-year ground lease in place between the Council and Direct Access Ltd granted 20 October 2017 for a telecommunication mast located adjacent the MUGA. There are two wayleave agreements providing services to the mast these run between the mast and Houghton Road. The granting of a lease to the CIO will not interfere with the telecommunication mast and reservations will be made in relation to existing services.
- 3.5 Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO was established in 2018 and their objective is the promotion for the benefit of the public regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation. The ways in which this is to be achieved are set out in their Charitable Constitution that outlines several means, one being the provision of recreational facilities available to all. As such they have been working on a project to develop a Village Plaza along with a community café and have identified an area within Houghton Road Recreation ground for the Village Plaza and café to be located.
- 3.6 The CIO are planning on creating a Village Plaza and cafe that is accessible to the whole of the community and will form a platform from which the CIO can deliver a range of community and leisure activities. The development of the Village Plaza will create a place for the community to invest their time in and create and develop a cohesive community enabling them to fulfil their with aspirations for the future.
- 3.7 Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO are in the process of making funding applications in support of the development of a Village Plaza and Community Cafe. They have engaged Freestyle and are working with them to finalise the design, secure capital funding and oversee the development. Once completed the CIO will continue to raise funds to support the ongoing revenue costs of the project and to support the employment of a project development officer who will engage with the community around the use of the Village Plaza.
- 3.8 The CIO have worked with stakeholders and designers to future proof the Village Plaza Project and have already secured £150k from the Big Local Thurnscoe Legacy budget for the build, £6k from SY Wind Farm and £120k in principal from Yorkshire Sport. Further funding bids amounting to over £25k have been submitted and are confident that the remainder will be secured in order to commence the build in Spring 2021. It is estimated that the build phase will cost in the region of £250k-£300k.

- 3.9 It is recognized that the importance of safe accessible outdoor spaces promotes health and wellbeing, and the original concept has been updated to reflect this. The new bespoke designs consist of a large hexagonal structure with a central parkour feature and amphitheater style seating. This space is designed to suit all manner of informal leisure options including skate, scoot, bike and parkour. A smaller overlapping hexagon provides a quieter more contemplative space incorporating raised beds, new seating and a sculpture.
- 3.10 The CIO intend installing a bespoke shipping container alongside the main Plaza to provide a pop-up café which will also provide storage for leisure and events equipment. It is believed that this provision will provide for maximum flexibility of use by the community.
- 3.11 In order to secure funding the CIO require a 25 year lease of the land shown hatched black once funding is secured and all necessary consents are in place the develop a Village Plaza and community café can be commenced all of which will improve amenities available to the local community and encourage local community cohesion around the newly developed Village Plaza.
- 3.12 The CIO propose to involve a range of existing community groups in the design and running of the plaza, with funds being made available from the grants received for a full time paid project development officer whose role will be to engage with young people and the wider community.

4. PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

- 4.1 It is proposed the Council approve the granting of a 25 year lease of the land shown hatched black on the attached plan to Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO at a less than best consideration in-line with powers as introduced by the Local Government Act 2000 and the General Disposal Consent (England) 2003.
- 4.2 The completion of the lease will be conditional on the tenants securing funding facilitating the development of a Village Plaza and café in accordance with previously approved plan after which the CIO will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and repair together with all outgoings cost and utilities associated with the scheme.
- 4.3 The proposed lease will contain a landlord or tenant break clause, subject to 6-months' written notice. This will provide a degree of flexibility ensuring the CIO can terminate the agreement if the management of the site becomes too onerous and allows the Council to take occupation in the event of continued and material tenant breach.
- 4.4 The proposal is in line with the Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy (Cab 30.01.2013/6.3).
- 4.5 The proposed Village Plaza and community cafe will enable Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO to encourage the community to use and look after the facility and encourage community and leisure-based activities all of which is known to contribute to the well-being and development of individuals.

- 4.6 Charitable organisations with observable vested interests in property are more likely to receive funding from external parties for the purposes of investment or refurbishment of the facilities provided. The proposed lease would allow the CIO to finance the development of a Village Plaza and community café along with the funding of a full-time project development officer to development in the engagement of the community in the project.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

- 5.1 If a lease is not granted, the CIO would not be able to access external funding for the development of the Village Plaza and community café or a full-time project development officer. This would mean that the residents of Thurnscoe do not benefit from investment in providing a Village Plaza and the associated benefits this proposal would bring to the local community would not be achieved. This would have a potential negative effect on the local community.
- 5.2 Transferring the freehold of the land to the CIO is not an option as the land remains part of a larger area of public open space. If the project is not successful, the land will revert to the Council and be managed alongside its retained portfolio as Public Open Space.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE


- 6.1 The proposal would help improve involvement, inclusion and empowerment of a third-sector organisation in the local community for the foreseeable future. The result of granting this lease will create a purpose-built Village Plaza and café facility which will provide a base at which the community can meet and from which the CIO can deliver organised activities for the benefit of the community.
- 6.2 Once the proposed works have been completed, the scheme will provide facilities appropriate to meet the specific local demand for social activity, providing a space for family and friends to socialise, promoting local cohesion.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer).
- 7.2 The proposal is to grant a 25-year lease to Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO (the tenant) for land at the Recreation Ground, Houghton Road, Thurnscoe.
- 7.3 The lease proposed will be subject to a nominal rent received by the Council. In accordance with the Community Asset Transfer Policy, (Cab.30.1.2013/6.3 refers), any land or property leased out by the Council should be at a market rent, unless otherwise specifically agreed by Cabinet, and that in the case of offering land or property for rent or lease at a lower market value, the anticipated socio-economic benefits are taken into consideration.
- 7.4 The grant of a 25-year lease will allow the tenant to make a funding application for the development of a Village Plaza and community café. It is estimated that the development proposals will cost the tenant in the region of £350k. The tenant will also

be responsible for the ongoing operational running costs which will initially include a project development officer.

- 7.5 The proposal to award the lease at a nominal rent promotes external investment in the site which will have significant socio-economic benefits to the local community as outlined within Section 6 of this report.
- 7.6 On completion of the lease, the area included in the lease and currently maintained by the Council will become the responsibility of the tenant in respect of maintenance and upkeep, thus reducing the Council's maintenance obligations and costs moving forward, which will be redeployed to other areas of the Borough.
- 7.7 The proposed lease has a 6-month notice break clause for either party to evoke throughout the duration of the lease. This would allow the Council to effectively regain short term control of the site should the need arise. Conversely, the tenant may also give the same notice should it need to. Should this event occur, then the Council would have to decide upon the future approach for the site at that point.
- 7.8 There are no undue VAT implications arising as a result of this report.
- 7.9 For accounting purposes, the proposed lease will be classified as an operating lease.
- 7.10 There are no direct financial implications associated with this proposal.

<p>Financial Implications /</p>  <p>Consultation</p> <p><i>(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer where no financial implications)</i></p>

8. EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

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

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The granting of a lease to the CIO will be subject to obtaining the necessary approvals which will include consent from Sport England and the Coal Authority together with dealing with any objections arising out of the relevant notices to be posted relating to the sale of POS. The development of the Village Plaza and community café will be subject to obtaining any necessary planning approval.

10. CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no issues arising as a result of this recommendation.

11. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no issues arising as a result of this recommendation.

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 Local ward members have been consulted on the proposed lease and support the proposals as detailed in this report.
- 12.2 The Service Director Stronger, Safer & Healthier Communities (Parks Services) support the grant of a 25-year lease.
- 12.3 The Director of Financial Services has been consulted and details are shown in paragraph 7 of the report.
- 12.4 The Director of Legal Services have also been consulted in the respect of the grant of a lease of public open space, Sport England and Coal Authority.

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

- 13.1 Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO encourage active citizenship and promote the creation of local green space and community spaces. Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO's statement is to "develop green spaces and improve the local amenities for the public benefit". The grant of a lease to the CIO for the development of a Village Plaza along with a community café and employment of a project officer is in alignment with the continuing development, consolidation and expansion of community resources as detailed in the Council's Corporate Plan.

14. REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

- 14.1 The development of a Village Plaza and café will provide a central hub that will provide a base from which the CIO will delivery community and leisure based activities providing place where people of all ages can feel safe and build and develop a cohesive community reducing the risk of persons engaging in crime and engaging in anti-social behavior.
- 14.2 The proposed transfer will provide investment in the site and encourage the local community to use and look after the facilities it will provide for the community again minimising the risk of vandalism and other anti-social behavior.

15. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 15.1 The granting of a lease to Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO will see continued use of and investment in Houghton Road Recreation Ground, keeping the asset at the heart of the community encouraging the local community to use the facilities. The grant of this lease will bring investment to the site by way of creating a Village Plaza and café facility. Consultations with the local community has assisted in the development of the proposals in terms of what the local community want to see developed at the site for their benefit.
- 15.2 Should Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO not be successful if there is no other community organisation who is able take on the ongoing management of the project the Council would have to take responsibility for the Village Plaza and café along with all the associated costs.

15.3 In not granting this lease the local community would not benefit from the external investment Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO is able to access and the improvements to the recreation ground that this funding will enable.

16. GLOSSARY

CIO – Charitable Incorporated Organisation
MUGA – Multi use games area
POS – Public Open Space

17. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A – Site Plan
Appendix B – Scheme layout

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

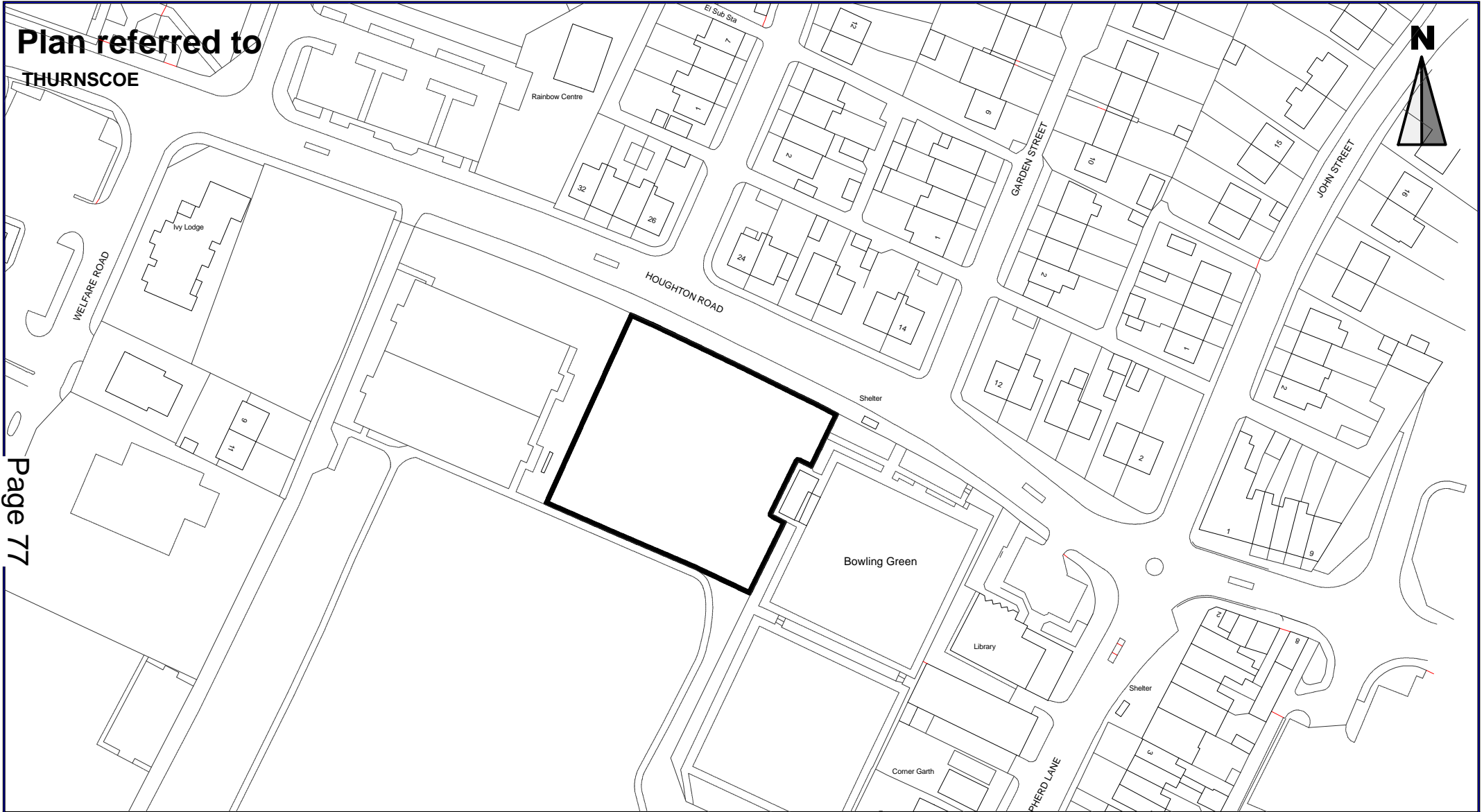
Office Contact: Tanya Hunter

Date: 25th January 2021

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**Plan referred to
THURNSCOE**

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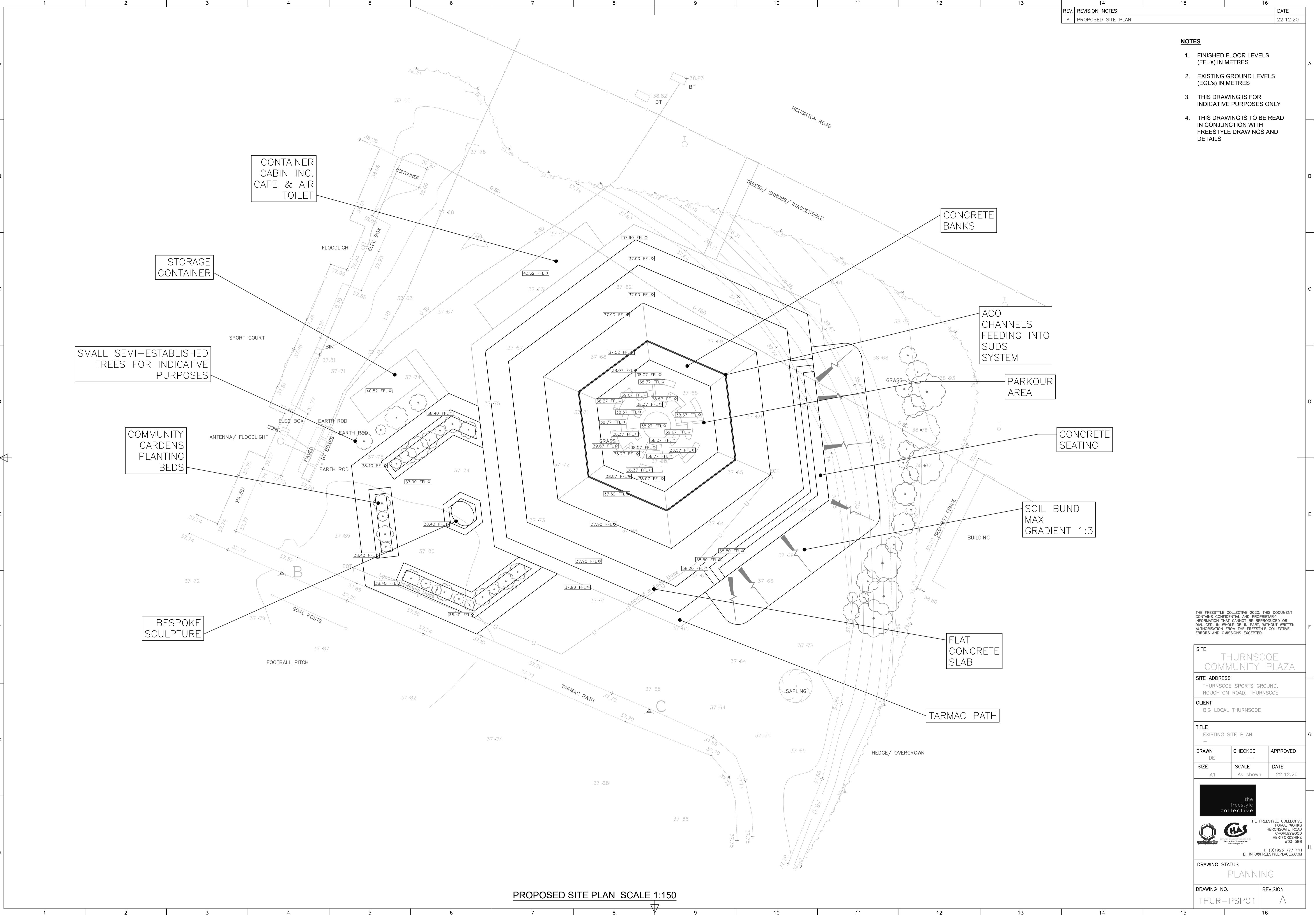
e-mail: Assetmanagement@barnsley.gov.uk
 website: www.barnsley.gov.uk

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REV.	REVISION NOTES	DATE
A	PROPOSED SITE PLAN	22.12.20

- NOTES**
1. FINISHED FLOOR LEVELS (FFL's) IN METRES
 2. EXISTING GROUND LEVELS (EGL's) IN METRES
 3. THIS DRAWING IS FOR INDICATIVE PURPOSES ONLY
 4. THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH FREESTYLE DRAWINGS AND DETAILS

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PROPOSED SITE PLAN SCALE 1:150

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SITE THURNSCOE COMMUNITY PLAZA		
SITE ADDRESS THURNSCOE SPORTS GROUND, HOUGHTON ROAD, THURNSCOE		
CLIENT BIG LOCAL THURNSCOE		
TITLE EXISTING SITE PLAN		
DRAWN DE	CHECKED ---	APPROVED ---
SIZE A1	SCALE As shown	DATE 22.12.20
THE FREESTYLE COLLECTIVE FORGE WORKS HERONGATE ROAD CHORLEYWOOD HERTFORDSHIRE WD3 5BB T. (0)1923 777 111 INFO@FREESTYLEPLACES.COM		
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