

Public Document Pack

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| MEETING: | Cabinet |
| DATE: | Wednesday, 1 June 2022 |
| TIME: | 10.00 am |
| VENUE: | Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall |
| PUBLIC WEB LINK: | https://barnsley.public-tv.com/core/portal/webcasts |

AGENDA

REGISTER TO ATTEND

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view via the Council's website.

Members of the public are asked to pre-register if they wish to attend the meeting in person.

Anyone who wishes to attend should email governance@barnsley.gov.uk no later than 10.00am on Tuesday 31 May 2022

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

Minutes

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 May 2022 (Cab.1.6.2022/3)
(Pages 5 - 8)

Items for Noting

4. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.1.6.2022/4)

Petitions

5. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.1.6.2022/5)

Items for Decision/Recommendation to Council

Deputy Leader

6. 2021 Director of Public Health Annual Report - 'What Matters to Me Now: The Voices of Children and Young People Who Live and Learn in Barnsley'
(Cab.1.6.2022/6) (Pages 9 - 70)
7. Response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group's Report on Gambling and Gambling Related Harm in Barnsley (Cab.1.6.2022/7)
(Pages 71 - 80)

Adults and Communities Spokesperson

8. Substance Misuse Strategic Review and New Provider Selection Regime (Cab.1.6.2022/8) *(Pages 81 - 100)*

Core Services Spokesperson

9. Quarter 4 and Year End (2021/22) Corporate Performance Report (Cab.1.6.2022/9) *(Pages 101 - 114)*
10. Corporate Finance Performance Report Year Ending 2021/22 (Cab.1.6.2022/10) *(Pages 115 - 136)*
11. Capital Programme Performance - Year Ended 31 March 2022 (Cab.1.6.2022/11) *(Pages 137 - 162)*
12. Annual Report on Treasury Management Activities 2021/22 (Cab.1.6.2022/12) *(Pages 163 - 184)*

Regeneration and Culture Spokesperson

13. Local Code of Planning Conduct and Guidance 2022 (Cab.1.6.2022/13) *(Pages 185 - 226)*
RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL ON 28 JULY 2022
14. HRA Decent Homes Capital Investment Report 2022/23 (Cab.1.6.2022/14) *(Pages 227 - 242)*
15. Report on the Schools Condition Capital Programme 2022-23 (Cab.1.6.2022/15) *(Pages 243 - 258)*
16. Exclusion of Public and Press
The appendices to agenda item 17 are exempt. Therefore, if necessary when considering that item, the Chair will move the following resolution:-

That under Section 100(A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Regeneration and Culture Spokesperson

17. Barnsley Norse - The Way Forward (Cab.1.6.2022/17) *(Pages 259 - 272)*
Reason restricted:
Paragraph (3, 4) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under the authority.

To: Chair and Members of Cabinet:-

Cabinet Support Members:

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chair of Audit Committee

Sarah Norman, Chief Executive

Sophie Wales, Interim Executive Director Children's Services

Wendy Lowder, Executive Director Adults and Communities

Shokat Lal, Executive Director Core Services (Monitoring Officer)

Matt O'Neill, Executive Director Place

Julia Burrows, Director Public Health

Neil Copley, Service Director Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Michael Potter, Service Director Business Improvement and Communications

Katie Rogers, Head of Communications and Marketing

Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer

Jason Field, Head of Legal Services

Corporate Communications and Marketing

Please contact on email governance@barnsley.gov.uk

Tuesday, 24 May 2022

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| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| MEETING: | Cabinet |
| DATE: | Wednesday, 18 May 2022 |
| TIME: | 10.00 am |
| VENUE: | Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall |

MINUTES

Present Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), T. Cave, Gardiner, Howard, Lamb and Platts

Members in Attendance: Councillors Cherryholme, Eastwood, Franklin, Frost, McCarthy and Tattersall

269. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Berneslai Homes Board Member, in respect of Minute Number 279.

270. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 20 April 2022 had been called in.

271. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 April 2022 (Cab.18.5.2022/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2022 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

272. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.18.5.2022/4)

The Record of Decisions taken by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers during the week ending 13 May 2022 were noted.

273. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.18.5.2022/5)

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

- (a) Containing the signatures of 217 signatories, in respect of a request for a 7.5 tonne weight limit for HGVs on Higham Common Road and Barugh Lane, Barnsley:-

It is recommended that the traffic team will also undertake an assessment of the location before the end of April, to determine whether HGV routing signs could be appropriate to manage these roads. The Head of Highways, Engineering and Transportation write to the lead petitioner to explain the situation and address the concerns of the petitioners.

- (b) Containing the signatures of 64 signatories, in respect of a request for 20mph Speed Limit outside Keresforth Primary School:-

The traffic team will be evaluating schools across the borough as part of the approved budget for 22/23. The evaluation will consider the installation of School 20mph signs at this location as part of an ongoing school safety programme. The Head of Highways, Engineering and Transportation will write to the lead petitioner to explain the situation and address the concerns of the petitioners

274. Local Area Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs: Written Statement of Action (Action Plan) (Cab.18.5.2022/6)

RESOLVED that Cabinet endorses the Council's and Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) Written Statement of Action, approved by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in April 2022, together with the overall improvements to be undertaken as part of the SEND Improvement Programme.

275. Outcomes of the LGA Peer Review of Children's Social Care in the Borough (Cab.18.5.2022/7)

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the LGA Outcome Letter for the Peer Review.

276. Annual Make Your Mark Results 2022 (Cab.18.5.2022/8)

RESOLVED that Cabinet receive, endorse and promotes the priorities identified by young people through the National Make Your Mark ballot for the duration of the campaign period.

277. Westgate Plaza and Smart Working (Cab.18.5.2022/9)

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

1. Recognises that Westgate will become the main Town Centre office for the workforce;
2. Accepts that to accommodate hybrid working the asset needs to be repurposed thus creating a modern working environment; and
3. Agrees that the Council spends the money outlined in the report to improve the infrastructure of the asset.

278. Unnamed Access Road to Darton Primary School, Darton, Barnsley - Proposed Waiting Restrictions (Cab.18.5.2022/10)

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

1. Agrees that the objections received be rejected for the reasons set out in the report and the objectors informed accordingly;
2. Approves the proposal to enact a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce 'No Waiting at Any Time' and 'No Waiting – Mon to Fri – 8.15am to 9.15am & 2.45pm to 4.30pm' restrictions on the Unnamed Access Road leading to Darton Primary School, Darton, as shown on Appendix 1 of the report submitted; and

3. Authorises the Head of Highways and Engineering and the Legal Service Director and Solicitor to the Council to make and implement the Traffic Regulation Order.

279. Vehicle Replacements 2022/23 (Cab.18.5.2022/11)

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

1. Authorises the procurement of 125 vehicles, in the 2022/23 financial year, to be used by council departments and partner organisations, with a total value of up to £6.104M, by way of purchase followed by a sale and lease back arrangement or whichever method of funding is deemed appropriate following full financial appraisal; and
2. Approves the procurement of an Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle (eRCV) (included in the figures provided above) – this will be used primarily to collect Commercial Waste but also be used by Domestic Waste to assess the suitability on various routes to aid with future Refuse Collection Vehicle procurement decisions.

280. Cultural Development Funding Round 2 – Acceptance of Grant (Cab.18.5.2022/12)

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees to:-

1. Accept the funding and approve the initiation of the project;
2. Authorise the Executive Director to take all necessary steps, in accordance with the grant conditions, to commence procurements and spend for the delivery of the project, including relating to the project design team and works contracts; and
3. Authorise the Executive Director (Place) to take any necessary steps to enable the capital works to be delivered as part of this funded project, including varying or otherwise dealing with existing contractual and property arrangements.

281. Update of Design of Housing Development Supplementary Planning Document (Cab.18.5.2022/13)

RESOLVED that Cabinet gives approval to consult on the Design of Housing Development Supplementary Planning Document.

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Chair

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Director of Public Health

TITLE: 2021 Director of Public Health Annual Report – *What Matters to Me Now: the voices of children and young people who live and learn in Barnsley*

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| REPORT TO: | CABINET |
| Date of Meeting | 1 June 2022 |
| Cabinet Member Portfolio | Deputy Leader |
| Key Decision | No |
| Public or Private | Public |

Purpose of report

To provide Cabinet members with information about the Director of Public Health 2021 Annual Report.

Council Plan priority

Healthy Barnsley

Recommendation

That Cabinet:

1. Note the contents of the 2021 Director of Public Health Annual Report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 National context

The Director of Public Health (DPH) is as independent advocate for the health of the population and system leadership for its improvement and protection. The independence is expressed through the DPH Annual Report – an important vehicle for providing advice and recommendations on population health to both professionals and public – providing added value over and above intelligence and information routinely available.

1.2 Local context

Improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Barnsley is crucial for improving the public health of all Barnsley residents. It is why we decided to focus on children and young people for our 2019 DPH Annual Report. As well as providing an important way of identifying needs, flagging up key issues and reporting progress, the DPH Annual Report provides a valuable process for reflection and prioritisation as well as external engagement and awareness raising. This report presented a key opportunity for the Public Health team to hear from children and young people across the borough about matters that affect their lives, to ultimately help shape their future Healthy Barnsley.

2. PROPOSAL

2.1 The report will be used to communicate the work of the public health team within BMBC to the public, BMBC staff and partners. The public health team will work with partners, both internal and external, to coordinate delivery of the recommendations throughout 2022 which will be reported in the next DPH Annual Report.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

Consultation on the financial implications of this report have taken place with colleagues within Financial Services, on behalf of the Service Director and Section 151 Officer. There are no direct financial implications emanating from this report.

The costs for the design, print and exhibition of the report is estimated at £1,500 and provision for these costs have been included within Public Health budget for 22/23.

3.2 Legal

The Director of Public Health is required under section 73B of the National Health Service Act 2006 to produce an annual report on the health of the public of Barnsley and the Council must publish that report

3.3 Equality

Equality Impact Assessment not applicable - The report and subsequent actions will ensure that commissioned services and programmes of work continue to tackle health inequalities.

3.4 Sustainability

Decision-making wheel not completed – The report is for noting and does not require a decision.

3.5 Employee

There are no employee implications.

3.6 Communications

The 2021 Director of Public Health Annual Report will be publicly launched at the opening of the What Matters to Me Now exhibition on 23rd May 2022 at the Library @ the Lightbox. The exhibition will be available until Sunday 29th May.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Extensive public engagement took place to develop this year's annual report and it was promoted through many routes to ensure a diverse response. The following groups and services who work with children and young people across Barnsley, ranging from 0 to 18 years or 25 years for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision, were engaged with:

- Barnsley Youth Council
- Barnsley Care4Us Council
- Barnsley Family Centres
- Healthwatch and Barnardo's Barnsley Young Carers Council
- Barnsley SEND Youth Forum
- Barnsley Vision Support Service
- Barnsley Targeted Youth Support Service
- YMCA Barnsley ACE Club (Horizon Community College)
- YMCA Barnsley Juniors Youth Club
- YMCA Barnsley TYI Friday Project (SEND provision)
- Barnsley Young People's Substance Misuse Service
- Barnsley Youth Justice Service
- Greenacre School (SEND provision)
- The EXODUS Project

We also distributed 1500 blank postcards asking individuals to draw or write about what mattered to them. The postcards were completed through the following settings:

- Barnsley Museums
- Barnsley Libraries
- Barnsley FUSION – Cultural and Education Partnership
- Barnsley Schools
- Barnsley Family Centres and childcare providers
- Barnsley Children in Care and Care Leavers' Celebration Event

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 The report is designed to be understandable for members of the public and those professionals who are not public health specialists. The report will take a Digital First approach and will be web-based. A small number of hard copies will be made available to community groups.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

6.1 For Cabinet to be aware of the findings and recommendations of the 2021 DPH Annual Report.

7. GLOSSARY

7.1 DPH – Director of Public Health

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: *What Matters to Me Now: The voices of children and young people who live and learn in Barnsley*

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

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| Financial consultation & sign off | Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date David Graham – Finance Manager 06.05.22 |
| Legal consultation & sign off | Legal Services officer consulted and date <i>Jason Field 06/05/22</i> |

Report Author: Amy Baxter

Post: Public Health Senior Practitioner

Date: 03.05.22

What Matters to Me, Now

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The voices of children and young people who live and learn in Barnsley.



**Director of Public Health
Annual Report 2021**



Contents

1. Foreword by Julia Burrows, Director of Public Health, Barnsley Council
2. Our progress since the 2020 DPH Annual Report
3. Introduction to the 2021 DPH Annual Report
4. What Barnsley children and young people told us
5. What we know about children and young people's health in Barnsley
6. Examples of improving the health of children and young people in Barnsley
7. Final thoughts



Foreword

As the Director of Public Health in Barnsley, I am required by law to produce an annual report about the health of people who live in our borough. I welcome the opportunity, as each year it helps me, my team and our wider partners to identify any key issues, flag up any problems, make new recommendations and describe how we are helping residents, their families and their friends to live healthier lives. For previous reports, I asked residents of Barnsley to tell me about their physical and mental health through the completion of a diary. It gave us invaluable insights into the daily challenges affecting their physical and mental health and a much better understanding about what people think makes their health better or worse.

In this report we hear from Barnsley's children and young people. Over the past two years, they have spent nine months in 'lockdown' because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Working on the report has given us a unique opportunity to explore how the things that are important to them have changed over that time, before and after the arrival of the virus. We know the pandemic has had a massive impact on children's lives – they have lost out on vital educational and social activity and, by virtue of their age, have spent a larger proportion of their lives living with the impact of the constraints, stresses and strains that the pandemic has brought to all our lives.

This Annual Report is longer than past reports but it is so important that our children and young people have their voices recognised, especially those from more vulnerable groups. Their views are crucial in helping shape our priorities and our services. I am very grateful to the staff from the wonderful clubs, groups and services in Barnsley who have supported children and young people to get involved in this project. I am overwhelmed by all the hard work and dedication that has gone into the wonderful and creative artwork that makes this report what it is.

The Children's Society recently found a significant decline in children's happiness with their lives over the last ten years. Its Good Childhood Report 2021 highlights the deep regret that 'the joy of the great British childhood' seems to be slipping away. Perhaps the pandemic can provide a reset button for our lives in Barnsley, and it is now the right time to reflect on our priorities, using the opportunity to improve the lives of our children and young people so we can bring start to back some of that joy.

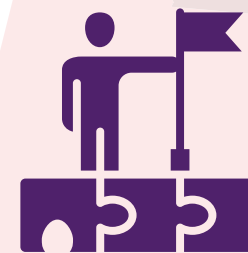


Julia Burrows
Director of Public Health



Our progress

since the 2020 Director of Public Health Annual Report



For the 2020 Report, we asked Barnsley residents to tell us about how the COVID-19 pandemic had changed their lives by recording their thoughts and feelings about their mental and physical health in a single diary entry completed on 3 November 2020. Residents told us about the importance of having good mental health and keeping spirits high, the importance of having a good job and work life balance, our connections with others, helping each other, community spirit and looking after ourselves. Although we are still living with COVID-19 and the challenges this brings, our public health team has been working incredibly hard with our partners and residents to ensure everyone has every opportunity to live their best life. Here are a few examples of what we have been doing...

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Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Barnsley's Health and Wellbeing Board has published a joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which builds on the findings of the 2020 DPH Annual Report and sets out the key priorities for health and wellbeing. The Strategy's key focus is on improving mental health for all ages and ensuring that Barnsley is a great place for a child to be born. To do this, we are taking a 'life-course' approach, having developed a series of ambitions across three stages of life: starting well, living well and ageing well. In Barnsley, we want to reduce health inequalities by acting on the wider factors that influence health and making sure everybody in the borough has access to a safe, warm and sustainable home, a good job and a good friend to talk to.

Mental Health

A Mental Health Partnership has been set up to bring together leaders from across Barnsley to improve residents' mental health and wellbeing. The Partnership has overseen the development of a new mental health strategy, which details what's important for improving mental health in our borough. The priorities over the next year include improving outcomes for people with eating disorders, people who self-harm and improving the local crisis care offer. We have already achieved many things since the Partnership started, including opening the first Andy's Man Club in the borough and signing up to our Zero Suicide Ambition, which aims to prevent suicides in Barnsley.

Physical Activity

Residents told us about the importance of being physically active in terms of how we feel and our short and long-term health. The Active in Barnsley Strategic Plan is being launched to guide our efforts for increasing the physical activity levels in the borough. The 'What's Your Move' campaign is growing in engagement and showing how people are being active in Barnsley and encouraging other people to move more. Back in July we launched the 'Moving Mental Health Forward' scheme to support those organisations, groups and clubs delivering sport and physical activity to be recognised for creating a positive mental health culture.

Employment

Residents also highlighted the importance of having a good quality, safe and secure job and striving for a positive work-life balance. Working towards and achieving a good work-life balance can have huge benefits for our physical and mental health and over the past few years, for many people, this has become more difficult to achieve. Throughout the pandemic we have been working with key partners to ensure we have plans and practical support available for residents most in need of employment and health support. 'More and Better Jobs' is Barnsley's employment and skills strategy for 2021-2024. It explains how the local council, working closely with partners across the borough, will support and invest in Barnsley's employment and skills system over the next three years. Our vision is for Barnsley to be a place of possibilities. A great place to learn, live and work, where businesses can grow, and residents have access to lifelong learning. The refreshed strategy is now structured around four Transformational Programmes: 1. Employment Opportunities for All 2. Skills for Recovery and Growth 3. Digital Barnsley 4. Supporting our Communities to Learn and Progress. These programmes sit alongside the fantastic work that takes place every day in our schools, colleges and through our training providers. Together, they will enable our residents to get ready for, get into and get on in work, regardless of their background or starting point.

Alcohol

Some of those who completed a diary told us about how their relationship with alcohol had changed during the pandemic. As a result, DrinkCoach was launched in Barnsley in 2021, offering a Barnsley specific website and mobile application where residents can complete an alcohol screening tool and receive brief advice and local treatment options. Residents that score increasing or higher risk have the option to book an online. DrinkCoach appointment, connecting them to an alcohol specialist who will offer up to six free sessions, available in multiple languages.



Food

Residents told us how they wanted to eat healthier and so our Barnsley Food Plan 2022-2025 is almost ready to be published. Our key priorities are food access, education, diet-related ill-health, food environment and sustainability. With the support of key stakeholders, we will work together to achieve action against these priorities and work towards our vision for everyone in Barnsley to have access to nutritious food that benefits their health and wellbeing.

We know we need to do more to make our environment more conducive to making it easier to be healthy and being able to achieve and maintain a healthy weight. Part of our environment includes the advertising and marketing that we're exposed to. The evidence is clear that exposure to high fat, sugar, and/or salt (HFSS) product advertisements has a direct impact on what we choose to eat and how much we eat, with children and young people being particularly influenced to make less healthy choices. To protect our children and all residents from widespread exposure to HFSS advertising and marketing, Public Health have been developing a Policy Guidance Note to restrict the advertisement of foods and drinks that are HFSS on all council-owned advertising space. It is hoped that instead of advertising unhealthy food and drink products, food manufacturers and retailers will choose to promote and advertise the healthier products within their ranges.

Community

During the pandemic, the six Area Council Teams across the borough have provided a significant amount of support to local communities. A range of offers have been commissioned across the six areas to meet the different needs in their areas, particularly for people facing increased levels of isolation, including older people, young families, men, and support for young people too. Work continues as we move into a phase of living safely with COVID and the continued need to offer support to local people and to understand their needs. For example, in the North East area, the need for social interaction and learning new skills in a craft-based setting has led to the development of two new sewing groups in the area, Betty's Little Acorns and the Pins and Needles group.

The six area teams have been supporting their local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector by providing grant opportunities through funding from the Council and Barnsley NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). This has equated to over £396,000 being awarded to local community groups and organisations who have suffered considerably throughout the pandemic. In addition, in 2021/22, over 7,518 volunteering opportunities were taken up through work linked with Area Councils and Ward Alliances, amounting to around £389,203 of cashable volunteer hours (not including quarter four data), as part of the 'Love Where You Live' campaign.

Introduction to the 2021 DPH Annual Report

The foundations for virtually every aspect of human development including physical, intellectual, and emotional development, are established in early childhood¹. Sustaining this across the life-course for children and young people is important to improve health and wellbeing outcomes and reduce inequalities². Beyond the school years, these foundations continue to have an impact on an individual's health and wellbeing, that lasts well into adulthood. Research suggests that regardless of parental income, education and social class, those who experience poor health as children have significantly lower educational attainment, poorer health, and lower social status as adults³. Improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Barnsley is therefore crucial for improving the public health of all Barnsley residents. It is why we decided to focus on children and young people for our 2019 DPH Annual Report.

Good health, wellbeing and resilience are vital for all our children, both now and for the future of society.



How do we measure children and young people's health and wellbeing?

There is good evidence about what is important for achieving good health, wellbeing and resilience and improving children and young people's public health, and this is brought together in the national Healthy Child Programme². In addition, the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) sets out the desired outcomes and the indicators that will help us understand how well public health is being improved and protected. There are currently **72 PHOF indicators** relevant to children and young people's health, but all of these are quantitative measures. The current project therefore adds another dimension, gathering qualitative evidence to help us understand children's lives today and the things that may affect their health and well-being.

2019: What Matters to Me?

The title of this report and the key question we asked children and young people was inspired by 'What Matters to You?' Day (WMTYD). Knowing what matters can play a huge part in helping to make our lives enjoyable and worthwhile. WMTY Day highlights the importance of healthcare practitioners asking their patients that one simple question in their everyday practice and emphasises the relationship between people and their health practitioners so that decisions are truly shared. In the context of public health, asking "What Matters to You?" simplifies how we engage with children and young people and enables us to combine what is important to them with what we know about public health outcomes and our expertise around evidence-based practice, to help us shape our priorities for the next few years.

The engagement process

We wanted to make the engagement process fun and creative so, in November 2019, we contacted several children and young people's groups and services across Barnsley and asked them to send us artwork that represented what matters to them and their future in Barnsley. Artwork was received from the following groups and services who work with children and young people across Barnsley, ranging from 0 to 18 years or 25 years for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision:

- Barnsley Youth Council
- Barnsley Care4Us Council
- Barnsley Family Centres
- Healthwatch and Barnardo's Barnsley Young Carers Council
- Barnsley SEND Youth Forum
- Barnsley Vision Support Service
- Barnsley Targeted Youth Support Service
- YMCA Barnsley ACE Club (Horizon Community College)
- YMCA Barnsley Juniors Youth Club
- YMCA Barnsley TYI Friday Project (SEND provision)
- Barnsley Young People's Substance Misuse Service
- Barnsley Youth Justice Service
- Greenacre School (SEND provision)
- The EXODUS Project


As well as the call for artwork from groups and services, and to engage a greater number of children and young people from across the borough, we distributed 1,500 blank postcards asking individuals to draw or write about what mattered to them. The postcards were completed through the following settings:

- Barnsley Museums
- Barnsley Libraries
- Barnsley FUSION – Cultural and Education Partnership
- Barnsley Schools
- Barnsley Family Centres and childcare providers
- Barnsley Children in Care and Care Leavers' Celebration Event

We hoped the artwork would provide Barnsley's Public Health team with a wealth of data that would enhance our understanding about the wants, needs, hopes and dreams of children and young people in our borough. We also hoped the process of creating artwork would be beneficial to the health and wellbeing of the children and young people who took part.

Research suggests that structured arts activities build resilience and contribute to positive mental wellbeing for children and young people⁴. Taking part in creative activities can also boost a young person's self-esteem, regardless of their ability level, through enhancing both self-identity and social-identity⁵. For example, art activities (particularly when creating something new) can validate the uniqueness of an individual, which leads to a sense of accomplishment and to feelings of self-worth in their ability and helping to enhance self-empowerment. Similarly, engaging in art as part of a group setting enhances positive social identity and increases individuals' self-esteem.

'Creativity in and of itself is important for remaining healthy, remaining connected to yourself and connected to the world.' –
Christianne Strang, Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Alabama Birmingham and former president of the American Art Therapy Association



'The arts take us to another world where we can explore our thoughts and feelings free of fear of stigma or judgement. They help children and young people to express things that they sometimes cannot say in conversation, and to celebrate feelings and thoughts that previously troubled them. The creative process can also be a curative process.' –
Professor Peter Fonagy, CEO, Anna Freud Centre



2021: What Matters to Me, Now?

In November 2019, nobody had any idea about what was waiting around the corner in just a few months' time, and in March 2020 our whole world changed almost overnight. Six months into the project, the 2019 DPH Annual Report and the accompanying work was stopped in its tracks by COVID-19, as local authority Public Health teams were called upon to lead the local response to the global Coronavirus pandemic.

Children and young people's everyday lives changed significantly. Most stayed at home and learnt via online lessons, and for months, play centres were closed, libraries were closed, parks were closed, cinemas were closed, cafes and restaurants were closed, and gatherings were reduced to only a few people, if any at all.

Eventually the Government measures put in place to protect the public from the virus were removed. The extraordinary efforts made by key workers and community volunteers to ensure that critical services continued to be delivered, and that those needing extra help received ongoing support, meant that we could once again look forward to a brighter future. As we started to think about the 2021 DPH Annual Report, our Public Health team were keen for it to include the fantastic artwork that had been created by the children and young people back in 2019. Being able to use this work also presented us with an opportunity to repeat the engagement process and compare the output, allowing us to explore whether the things that were important to children and young people before the pandemic had been changed by their experiences over the last two years.

In November 2021, all the children and young people's groups and services who took part in the 2019 project were therefore invited again to create and submit artwork, this time representing the theme of 'what matters to me, **now**'. In addition, we distributed a further 800 postcards across the borough.

The current report therefore highlights what matters to children and young people who are living and learning in Barnsley and explores whether the COVID-19 pandemic has changed what's important for them. It also describes the health and wellbeing of Barnsley children and young people using some of the quantitative data available and provides examples of services and initiatives that have been delivered in the last year to make a difference to the health and wellbeing of children and young people. The artwork created by the children and young people as part of the engagement process was displayed at the Library @ The Lightbox as part of the *What Matters to Me, Now* exhibition from 23 – 30 May 2022. The catalogue of artwork is available digitally, [**catalogue of artwork**](#).



What children and young people told us

We received around 800 completed postcards. There were also 30 submissions of artwork for the project (20 in 2019 and 10 for 2021). The ages of the children and young people who took part ranged from two years to 24 years old, from right across Barnsley. Once collated, each postcard and piece of artwork was reviewed to identify themes for 2019 and 2021 respectively. This chapter describes the main themes that emerged in the analysis and provides a comparison of what mattered to the children and young people in our borough, both before and after the arrival of COVID-19. The strongest themes are described first in each section.

Shared themes in both the 2019 and 2021 submissions

Family and home

What matters is family, not just the nuclear family, but families of all kinds. Simply, they want to spend quality time with the people they love and who love them, including parents, foster carers, sisters and brothers, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. This also included pets, who they feel are equally part of their family. Teddies were also referenced several times by the younger children; an attachment figure and something that reminds them of home. The children and young people of Barnsley showed a lot of love for their families, and this extended across the ages.

'I want my mum to have a good life' Mohammed (age 6)

'My family matters to me more than anything. Being in lockdown made me realise that my family is so, so special to me, even before COVID. Each member of my family hold a special place in my heart and they matter to me the very most.' Beth (age 13)

Children and young people also want their homes to be warm, somewhere to 'chill' and relax and somewhere they feel safe.

It is highly likely that children and young people have been directly affected by bereavement because of the COVID-19 pandemic and in the 2021 postcards, there were several references to remembering family who had died, highlighting the importance of this to children and young people in our borough.



Friendships and belonging

What matters is friends, making new friends and building strong friendships with people that they can depend on. It's important that they have opportunities to do this, for example, youth groups, drama clubs, dance clubs, sports clubs, and they would like more opportunities to volunteer and get involved in community groups and local charities. It gives them a sense of belonging.

Young carers specifically said that spending time together with other young carers is important to them, through group activities and days out. Many children and young people with SEND said that what really mattered to them was being able to do activities and see their friends during holidays and weekends, when they aren't at school, as they can spend a lot of time feeling lonely.



'An area to play with your friends' Millie (age 7)

'Best friends. They stick by you know matter what, love you know matter who you love. Hold a torch in your darkest moments and join you at your best. Best friends are there in your lowest nights and darkest days' Abi (age 13)

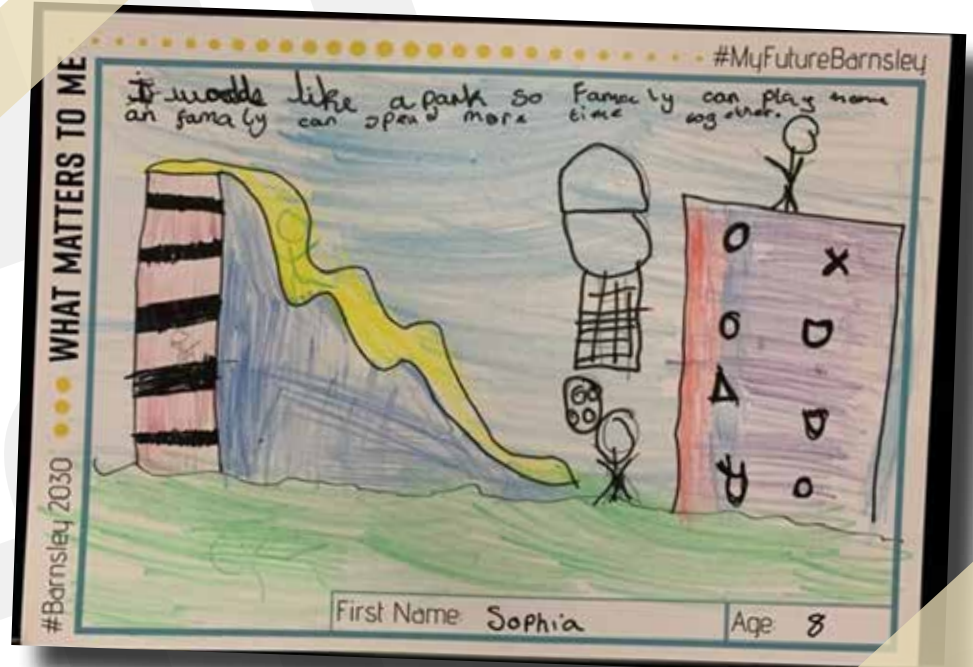
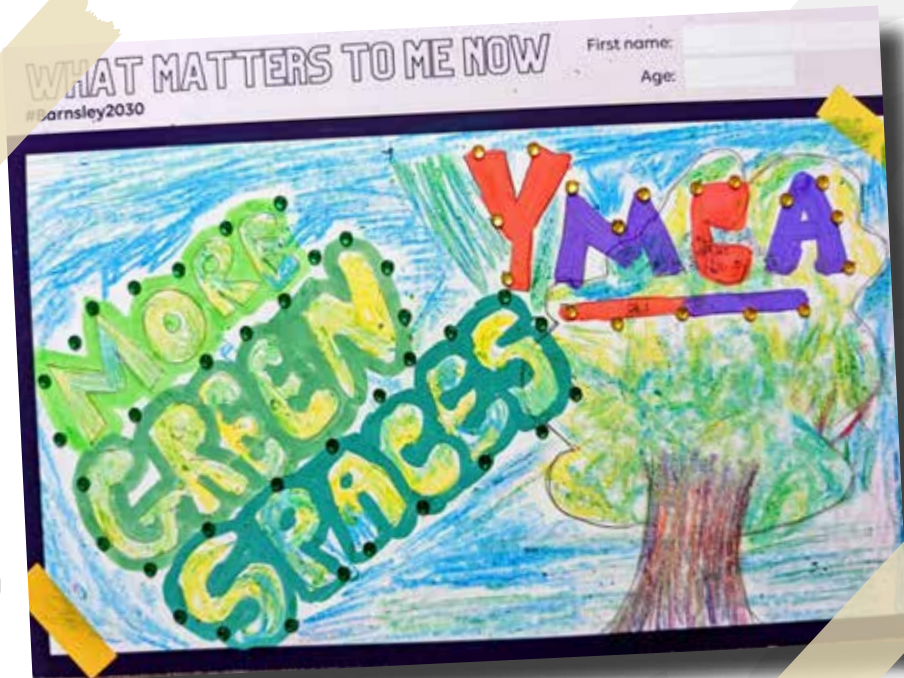
'For young people to make more friends... Cheaper fares to travel (buses) so we can socialise' Melissa (age 13)

It's also important that children and young people have places to play with their friends, as described further in the next theme. Older children also want more opportunities to socialise after school and they note that having reliable, affordable transport can help facilitate these opportunities.



Being active and outdoor play

What matters is being active and 'playing out' - it's important that they have fields for playing on, football pitches, more places to ride dirt bikes, cycle paths, walking trails and bike trails, and more opportunities for outdoor play, for older children as well as younger children. They enjoy swimming, bowling, cricket, cycling, dancing, ice skating, trampolining, boxing, playing golf, football, basketball, and netball. Children and young people also mentioned the need for more affordable access to leisure facilities, suggesting discounts for young carers, particularly during the school holidays. It was also clear in the analysis that this theme is extrinsically linked with the last two themes; children and young people want to do these activities with their family and friends.



'I would like a park so family can play more and more family can spend more time together' Sophia (age 8)



In the 2019 postcards there was noticeable reference to the rise in technology-use among their peers and an increase in sedentary behaviour, which led some children and young people to highlight the need to inspire others to get active outside and connect with others and/or nature. This is demonstrated in the quotes below.

'Barnsley is good as it is but there could be more things to improve on and try to get people more active and not getting things delivered to your door and plant more trees and friendly parks for people to play in instead of going on technology' Unknown

'I would love to see the existing parks updated and modernised so children would be motivated to play outside' Joseph (age 12)

'I think there should be more parks. I would like this to happen because children in this generation are becoming more anti-social as technology develops... I would like to see that they include things that people my age would play with/on, because parks now days only include stuff for younger kids. If more parks are built, I believe that children won't be on the internet as much and won't use it for the wrong purposes such as cyber bullying.' Tatiana (age 12)

This was not as noticeable in the 2021 artwork, possibly because the pandemic gave children and young people the opportunity to explore their local surroundings. Spending time outdoors with household members was one of the few things that children and young people were allowed to do during the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

As well as green space to be able to run and play in, calm outdoor spaces are important for children and young people too, somewhere they can reflect and be close to nature, some children felt this supported their emotional health and wellbeing.

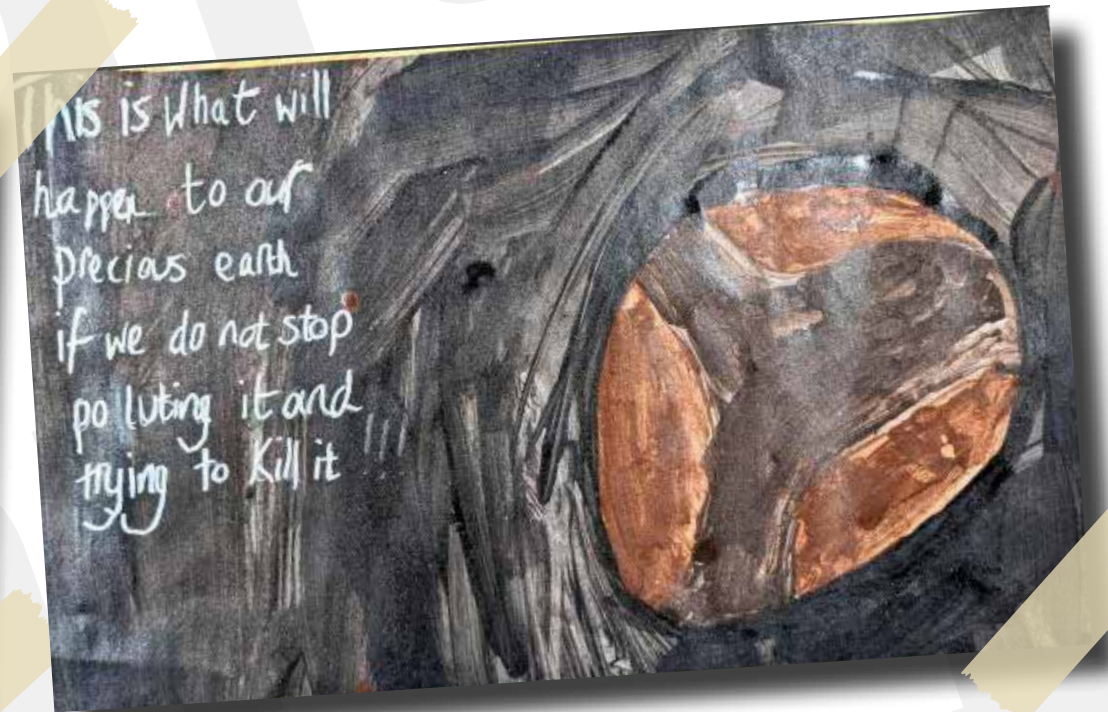
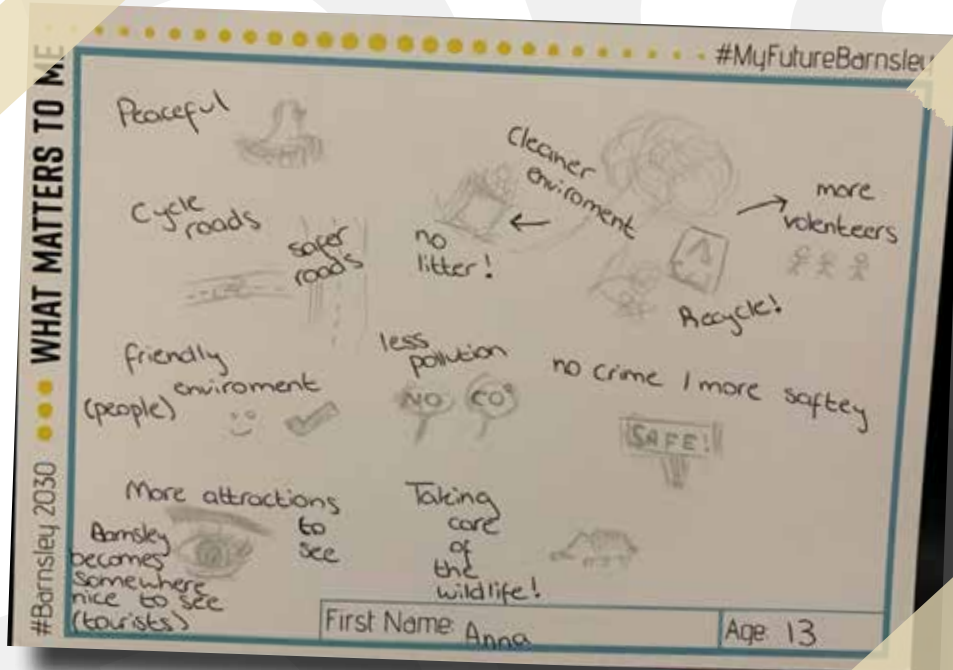
The environment

What matters is nature and protecting our environment - tackling climate change, reducing plastic, recycling, saving our wildlife and green spaces both locally and globally.

Children and young people would like more recycling bins, especially in the town centre, less litter and dog poo on their streets and more flowers and trees. Some were anti-pollution and suggested renewable energy, electric cars and modernised environmentally friendly public transport. Wildlife also matters to children and young people, and ensuring that animals too are happy and have a safe, clean environment to thrive in.



'I would love Barnsley to be a clean and lovely place for people to be because right now it is not. Barnsley is a lovely place but people are ruining it by throwing litter on the floor when there are plenty of bins around. I also think cigarettes should be banned because that is becoming a big thing a lot more people are smoking and it's polluting the air and making Barnsley an unsafe place to be, especially for younger ones.' Rae (age 12)



'One major thing I would like to change is pollution. This could be changed by doing fundraising to pay for more recycle bins, which will not only benefit the planet but will bring the town together and save our future.' Summer (age 11)



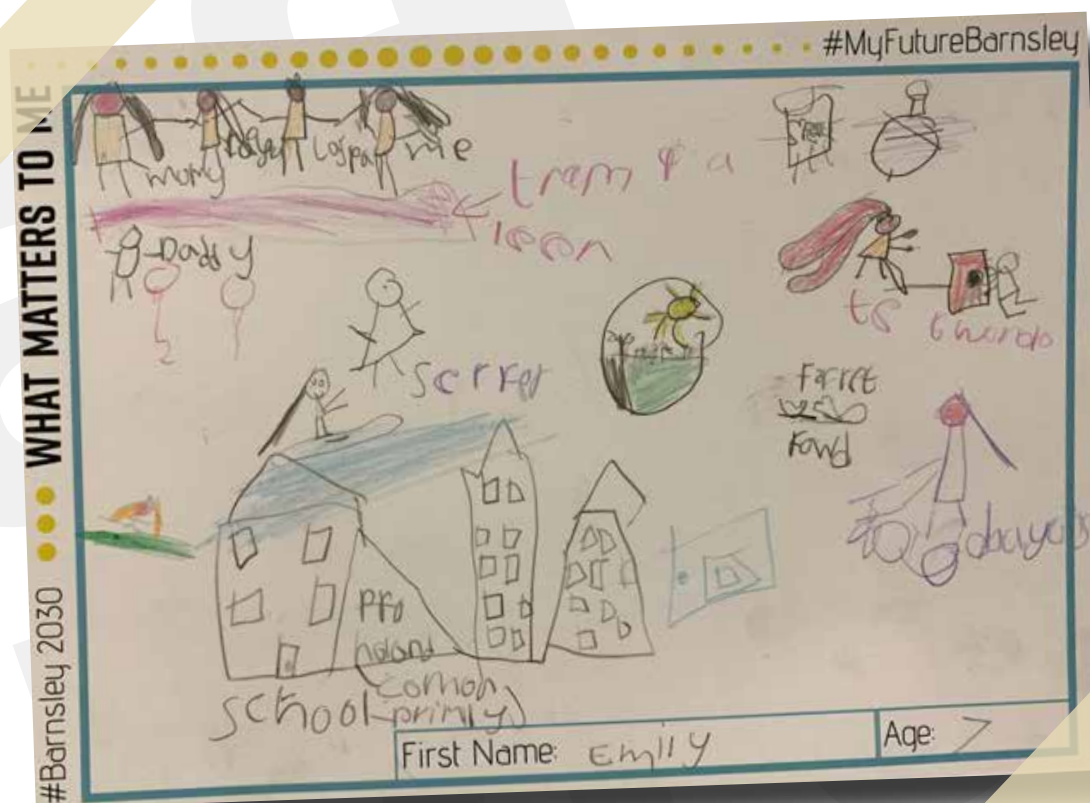
Education and learning

What matters is going to school and college - maths, art, science - but not just for learning, for the sense of community too. They love their teachers and spending time with their friends and for younger children their nursery staff and setting matter too. Especially during the pandemic, the staff in education settings provided a safe place and invaluable sense of normalcy.

'Some said at the beginning of the first lockdown they were quite excited about not being able to go to school but after a while they began to miss going and hope that the schools don't close again.' Marie (Outreach Worker, Dearne Family Centres)

'School is important to me in this town so I can experience education' Stannerz (age 11)

'Who would have thought that we would be fighting over toilet rolls and feeling claustrophobic confined to our homes and not being able to go out. Our dreams and aspirations were the little things that we take for granted in life. Our education put on halt and as young people with dreams to follow this was one of the most difficult aspects of Covid for us.' YMCA Barnsley member (age 13)



Education was a theme in both cohorts but in 2021 attending a physical setting seemed even more important. Some children and young people highlighted that they took school for granted before the pandemic and when it was taken away, they realised they needed that physical space to learn and grow. On the other hand, for some, online learning was a blessing as it meant they didn't have to face their peers. Returning to school therefore caused anxiety for some, as demonstrated in the poem below.

**"Lockdown is over,
But isolation is not.
Covid won't end,
But I might.**

**Self-isolation came to me as a miracle.
Online school was a blessing.
But now it is over,
And school is back.
I'm not sure I will last."**

YMCA Barnsley member (age 13)

Some children and young people also referenced libraries and books as important, highlighting their desire to learn outside of school and college. They also think about their future, and their education is a pathway to success in adulthood. They want to get good job, to be able to provide a nice stable home and car for their future families.

WHAT MATTERS TO ME NOW
#Barnsley2030

First name: Kimberley
Age: 10

This school matters to me so children
can learn different things:

School



WHAT MATTERS TO ME NOW
#Barnsley2030

First name: Leigha
Age: 10



Health and healthcare

What matters is having the things that they need to be healthy - such as sleep, clean air, and access to clean water, with some suggesting water fountains in the town centre. They want to be fit and healthy and reduce risks to their health, notably cigarettes and, unsurprisingly in the 2021 artwork, COVID-19. They also want to help people who are affected by drug and alcohol addiction.

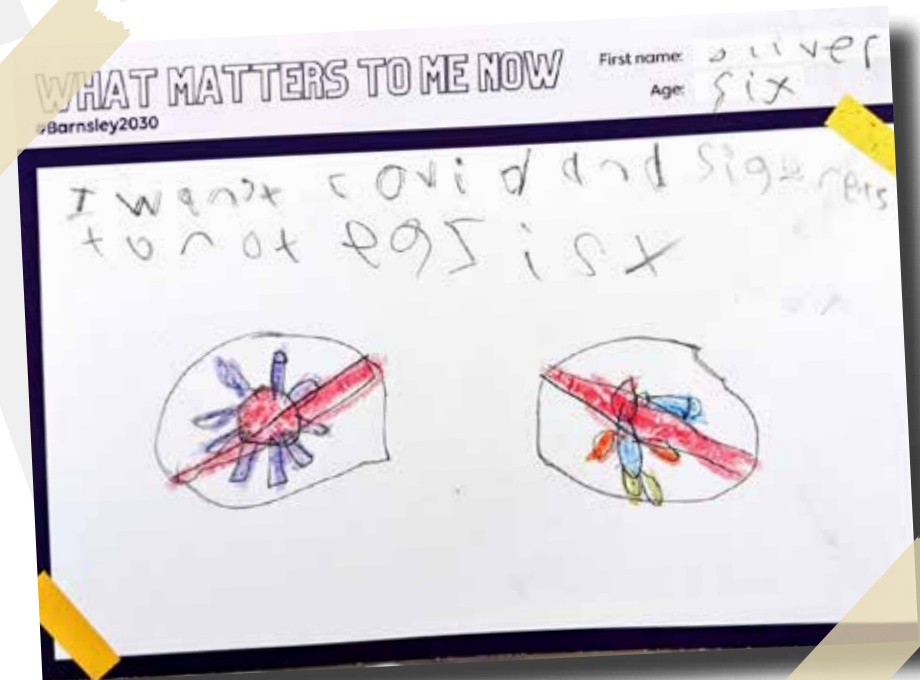
'I want covid and sigarets to not egsist' Oliver (age 6)

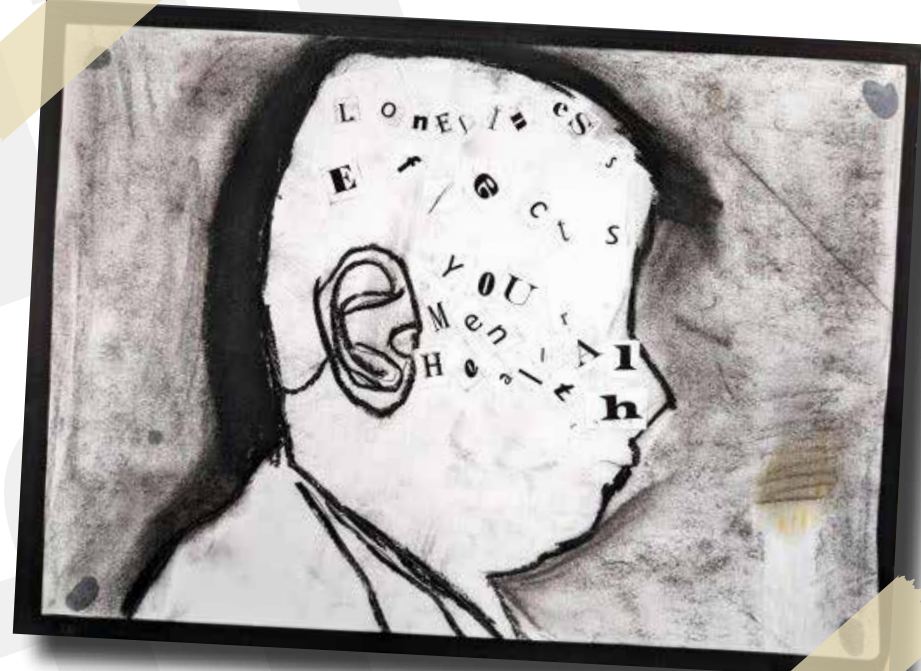
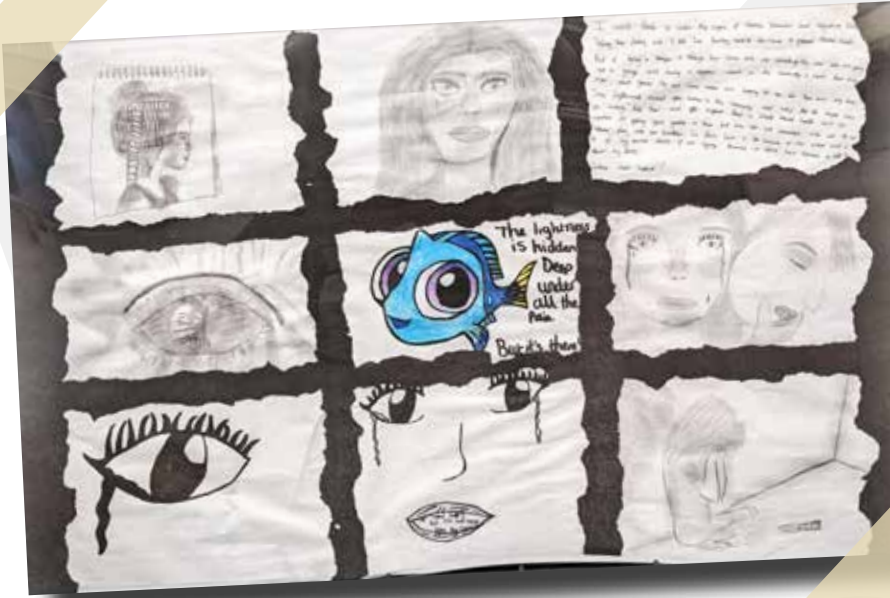
'More sport places for people to get more into things. And for more people to get fit and healthy' – John (age 12)

'I would want to make places with children in it, illegal for people to smoke. So then small children don't get effected by the smoke' Ibrahim (age 11)

'In my opinion, the thing that matters to me most in this town is keeping the environment safe and for Covid to disappear' Georgie (age 10)

Having good mental health matters massively to children and young people. The submissions across both 2019 and 2021 highlighted some of the emotional health and wellbeing issues that affect children and young people both pre- and post-pandemic - anxiety, depression, loneliness, and self-harm were all referenced. Children and young people told us that it's important that they have someone to talk to about their feelings and help with managing these when they become overwhelming, through peer support and one-to-ones with professionals, notably for young carers. It's also important that people can notice the signs of poor mental health and can provide support early. To protect their mental health, they recognised that they need help to build their resilience and ability to deal with the pressures of everyday life and with media pressure, for example, feeling like they must look a certain way.





'After being given the criteria of 'What Matters to Me Now' I decided the best thing for me to produce was a poem around Mental Health as it is something I consider very important and illustrates my feelings.' (Unknown, age 13)

Healthcare matters to children and young people, notably access to doctors, hospitals and medicine, and this did not change pre- and post-pandemic. Some children and young people highlighted the need to reduce waiting times, which may have been exacerbated by the lockdown restrictions.



Help and support for those who need it

What matters is helping others and access to support for those who are more vulnerable. It's important that this support is available specifically in school, including mental health support, support for those with additional needs, and support for young carers. What also matters to young carers specifically is having respite, free time away from their caring responsibilities.

For many children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), what really matters to them is being able to do activities and see their friends during holidays and weekends. This would help to tackle loneliness as they reported spending a lot of time feeling alone in their homes, when they weren't in their setting. The older children and young people with SEND said they would also like more support with independent living.

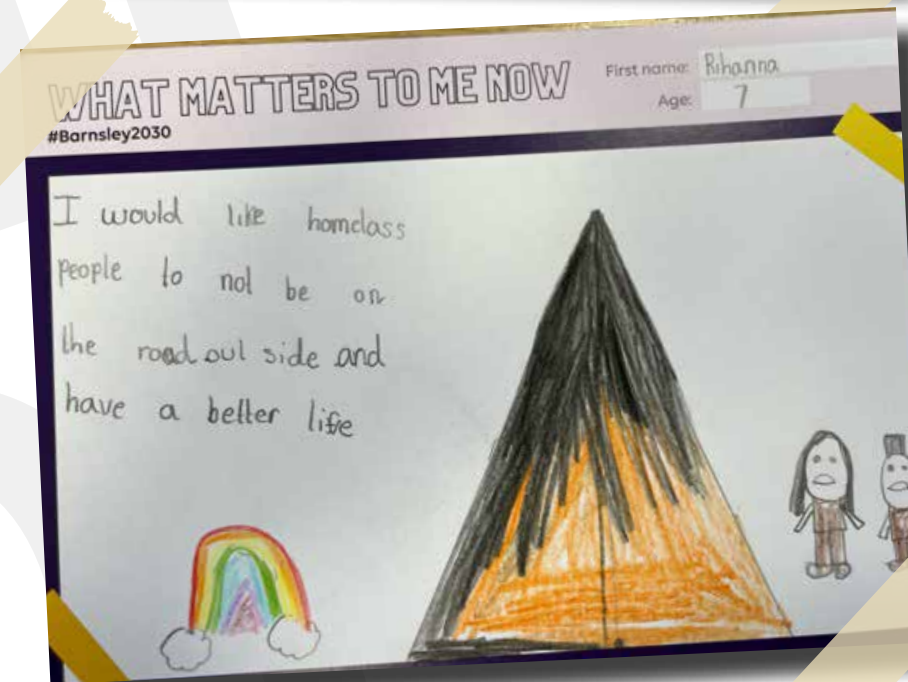
'A wider understanding of mental disabilities in the community... and better understanding of SEND throughout schools' Kai (age 14)

Caring for others and making sure they had a 'good life' was also important to some children and young people. They want to do fundraising and charitable work so that those less fortunate could be happy too. The presence of homeless people in the town centre was a concern for lots of children and young people. They expressed that they want homeless people to have accommodation and support with their problems, for example, with drug and alcohol use.

'I would like the homeless people's lives to be better. For example, on rainy, snowing and cold nights, offer showers and shelter... I think more people and organisations should offer food to the homeless and poor, like at food banks.' Georgia (age 11)

'I would like homeless people to not be on the road outside and have a better life' Rihanna (age 7)

Some highlighted the need for more support in their communities for LGBTQ+ young people (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer or questioning, and others).



Before COVID-19 themes that emerged more prominently from the 2019 submissions

Inclusivity and diversity

What matters is equality and respecting diversity - people being treated fairly regardless of their race, gender or ability. They want more food and clothes shops for families of different nationalities. They want to put an end to discrimination and bullying. Some suggested adapted play parks for children and young people with physical disabilities.

Page 35

Celebrating diversity matters, with some young people highlighting that a Barnsley Pride event is important to them.



Being and feeling safe

What matters is feeling safe, both in their homes and communities. They want vulnerable children and young people to be protected from abuse. They want more to be done to tackle antisocial behaviour, crime, knife crime and homelessness, which was one of the most referenced themes in the 2019 postcards, as described earlier in this chapter. Having a police presence in the town centre and particularly in the transport interchange, would help them feel safer.

Page 36



'Eradicate all anti-social behaviour from the town centre. I don't feel safe when I walk through the town centre.' Joseph (age 12)

A few children and young people also mentioned that road safety was important so that they are safe when walking to school and out playing.



Public transport

What matters is accessible and reliable public transport - lower travel fares, improved buses, and bus routes to take them around the borough so that they can connect with family and friends and do the activities that are important to them. Better communication about public transport was highlighted by some young people, as well as more information about travelling to areas outside of Barnsley too.

'Improve communication and state of trains because they're not amazing and I never take the train or buses because they don't make sense and people miss them.' Georgia (age 11)

'I think that to improve Barnsley we could make transport more convenient and completely redo Barnsley Interchange because it's generally not a nice place. Also there's no buses that go to the most common places and the trains/train tracks are really small' Imogen (age 12)

After COVID-19 themes that emerged more prominently from the 2021 submissions

Having fun and being creative

What matters is being entertained. Film and television programmes are important to children and young people, with many referencing their favourite movies and movie franchises. Many children also referenced their favourite toys and computer games. Technology in particular plays a big part in providing children and young people with entertainment, and it especially did during lockdown when they were stuck inside their homes. Their digital devices - phones, laptops, and tablets - along with photo and video-sharing platforms, such as Snapchat and TikTok, allow them to connect remotely with friends and family and have fun in a virtual world.

'What matters to me is... my phone because I can watch things when I am bored and I can keep in contact with my mum. Tik Tok matters to me because I love to watch it and Snapchat. And so I can call/text friends and family' Lexy (age 11)

Children and young people also said that engaging in the arts is important, they like playing and listening to music, singing, and dancing. They want more opportunities to see and do some of this in their communities.



WHAT MATTERS TO ME NOW

#Barnsley2030

First name: Evelyn

Age: 4



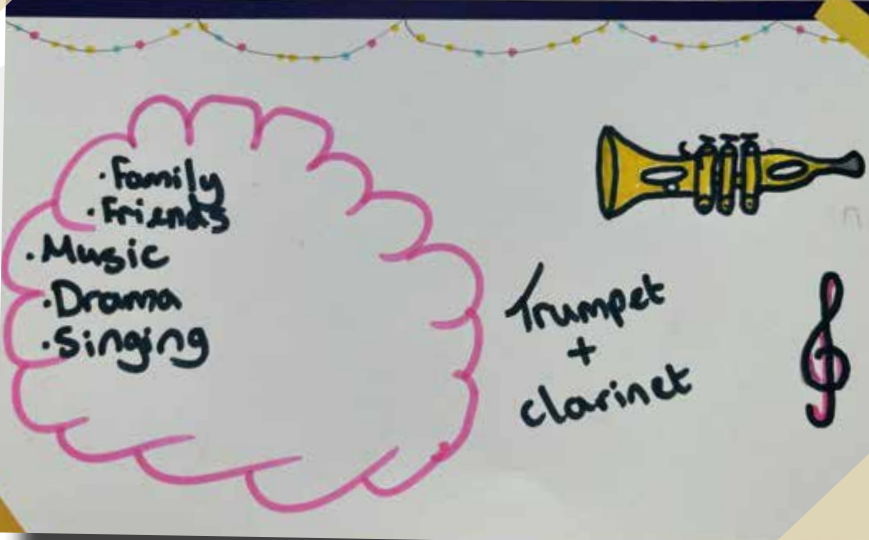
More Dance Shows with local places.

WHAT MATTERS TO ME NOW

#Barnsley2030

First name: Grace

Age: 13



They also like being creative through drawing and painting, hobbies that some children took up during lockdown and provided comfort in a scary world.

"During COVID I found myself doing more artwork which made me feel relaxed. COVID really effected the way I looked and though about things and people, it sort of numbed my emotions. What I may have had concerns about or worried about before, I found myself laughing at. Focusing my mind on artwork improved my mental wellbeing which is why I chose to create a piece which are just a few of the things I used to draw during the pandemic to ground me." YMCA Barnsley ACE Club member (age 13)

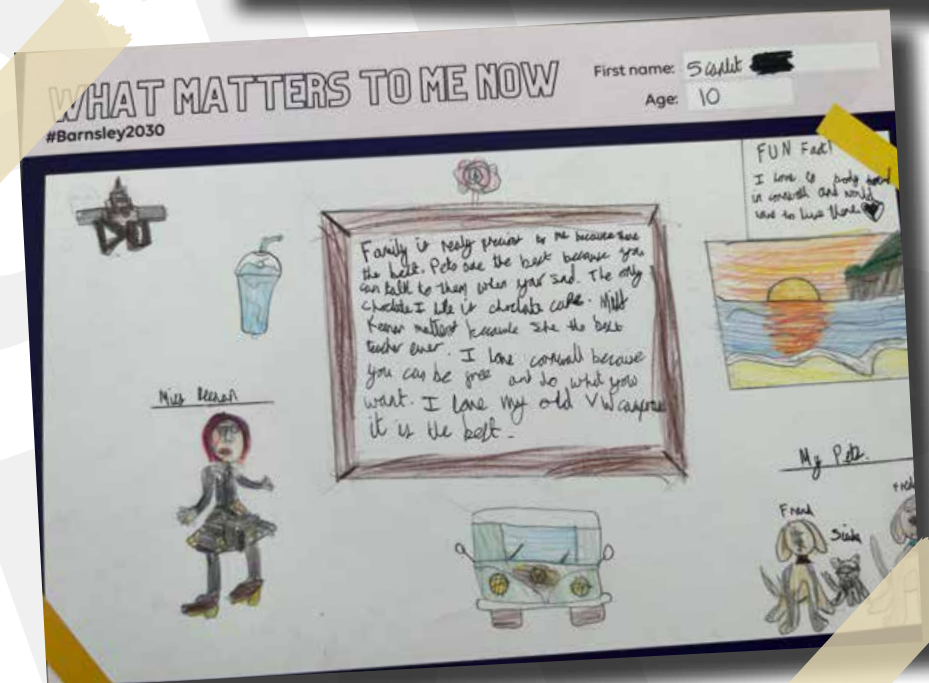
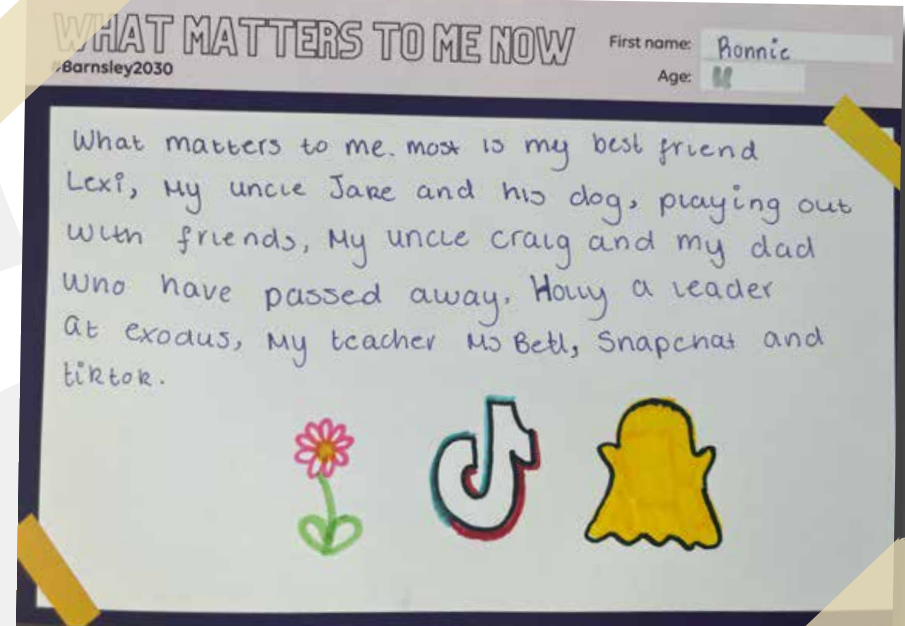
We know that 'doing things with friends and family' is important, as described earlier, so it's no surprise that shopping, cinema, bowling, ice-skating, eating out, arcades, trampoline parks and so on were referenced by the children and young people. Simply, they want to go out and have fun again.

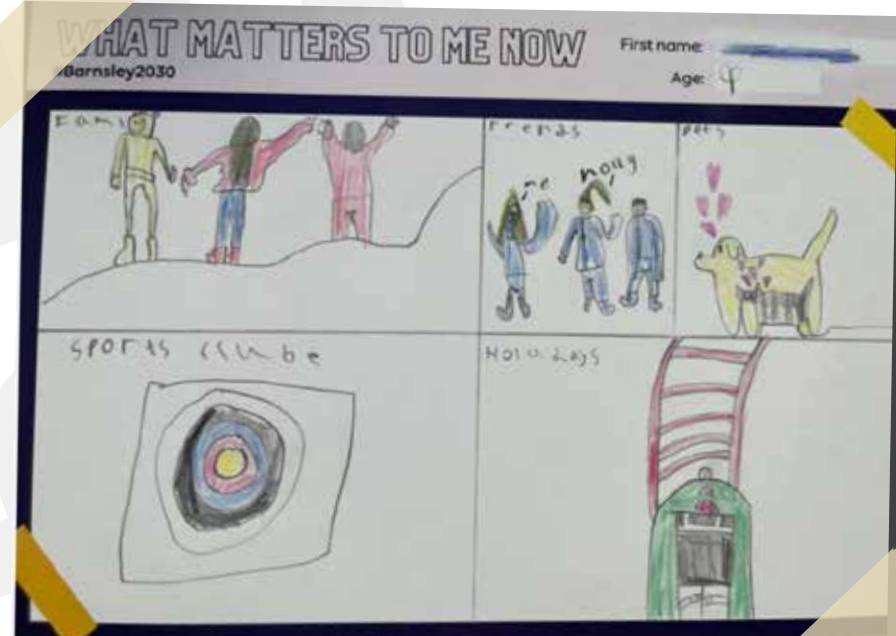
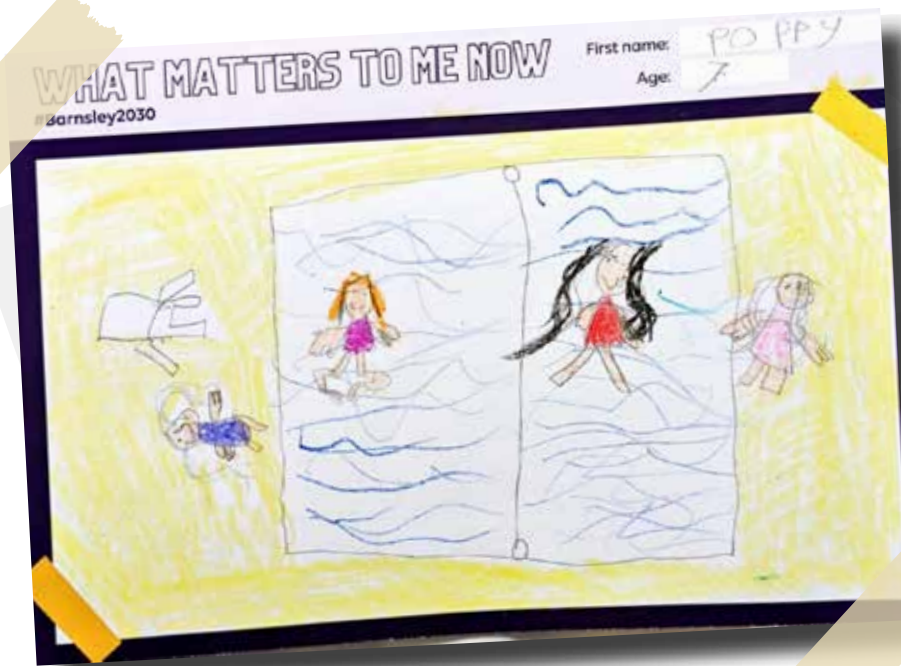
"Spending time with my friends and family. Going out to places like bowling and the cinema." Eva (age 14)

'What matters to me most is my best friend Lexi, my Uncle Jake and his dog, playing out with friends, my Uncle Craig and my dad who have passed away. Holly a leader at Exodus, my teacher Ms Bett, Snapchat and Tik Tok.' Ronnie (age 11)

Holidays and celebrations

What matters is making memories. Children and young people said it's important to celebrate special occasions with loved ones - Christmas, Easter, Halloween and Birthdays - and they want to go on holidays with their families. They want to travel, both in the UK and abroad, they want to see the beach again and visit places they haven't been to before, like London. This is no surprise, given they have spent the last two years under some variation of lockdown restrictions. Children and young people's freedoms were taken away from them due to COVID-19 and some of the best years of their childhood were spent confined to their homes, worrying about what their future would look like. Now they see a time to celebrate and enjoy their new-found freedom.





'Family is really precious to me because they're the best. Pets are the best because you can talk to them when you are sad. The only chocolate I like is chocolate cake. Miss Keener matters because she is the best teacher ever. I love Cornwall because you can be free and do what you want. I love my old VW campervan' Scarlett (age 10)

Other references

As well as the more common references amongst the artwork, what mattered but less so, in both timepoints, was food (notably takeaways) and their appearance. With only a few children and young people choosing to reference clothes, jewellery, and make-up as things that are important to them.

Many of the themes identified in the artwork align with the priorities and work of Barnsley Council together with key partners. Themes such as education and learning, protecting our environment, and supporting our residents' health and wellbeing, are consistent with Barnsley 2030 and our Council Plan.

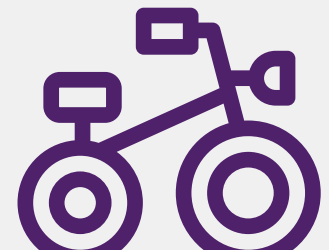
What we know about children and young people's health in Barnsley

In both 2019 and 2021, Barnsley children and young people told us that health mattered to them. Children and young people in the borough want themselves, and others, to be fit and healthy and have access to the things that will help them to live healthy lifestyles. In line with the themes from the artwork, below are some of the most recent local data that illustrate part of the picture of child health in our borough.

Healthy Weight

Nationally, obesity rates in both Reception-aged and Year 6 primary school children increased by around 4.5% between 2019-20 and 2020-21. This is the highest annual rise since the National Child Measurement Programme began. In contrast, the Barnsley data shows a 2% improvement in the prevalence of obesity at both Reception and Year 6, in the same period⁶. However, it is important to note that the COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted the National Child Measurement Programme and, as such, the volume of data collected was much lower than usual and may have affected the findings.

The children and young people told us in their artwork, that being active is important to them, they want access to parks and green spaces and affordable leisure activities to enjoy with family and friends. The Active Lives Children and Young People's Survey⁷ is published annually and collects data on the engagement in, and attitudes to, sport and physical activity. The 2020-21 report suggests that less than half (45%) of children in Barnsley reported that they engage in at least 1 hour of physical activity a day. Active travel data supports this, with around half (51%) of children and young people in Barnsley reported to walk to school at least once per week, this is in line with the national average (50%).⁸ The Active Lives Survey also showed that 10,200 children in Barnsley were inactive, meaning that they participated in no regular physical activity on a daily basis. In terms of health inequalities, around 39% of children in the most deprived communities in Barnsley were inactive and this data mirrored that found in the older generations, where 38% of adults in the most deprived communities were inactive. Additional information gathered through the Active Lives Survey provides evidence that the more active children have higher levels of mental wellbeing. This illustrates the importance of physical activity in maintaining positive health and wellbeing, areas that children and young people have told us matter to them⁹.



Smoking



What matters to young people is having the things they need to stay healthy and help to remove risks to their health and wellbeing, such as cigarettes and substances. Extensive research has demonstrated the harmful effects that smoking has on health. Smoking contributes to a variety of health conditions, including cancers and respiratory, digestive and circulatory diseases, whilst also impairing the development of teenage lungs. Moreover, smoking causes more preventable deaths than any other single cause; the latest available national data suggests that 77,800 preventable deaths in England were estimated to be attributed to smoking in a single year¹⁰. At present, local data on under-18's smoking is not available. However, a new School Health Survey for Barnsley has just been launched, which will provide this information in future along with a wealth of other data on children and young people's lifestyle factors.

Children and young people are influenced by adult behaviour and are less likely to start smoking if they do not view it as a normal part of everyday life. Over the last five years, our Public Health team have worked hard to create voluntary 'smokefree zones' in Barnsley. At present, all Barnsley Primary Schools, Pals Square (outside the Town Hall), Hoyland High Street and Barnsley Hospital (including the roads surrounding the hospital grounds) are all 'smokefree'. In addition, twenty of our Barnsley playparks are smokefree, with a review taking place this year of the signage to ensure clear 'no smoking' messages are communicated to the smokers who use these areas, so that smoking becomes almost invisible to protect children's health. As smoking becomes less visible and less of a social norm it will reduce smoking uptake by children and young people.



In the older generations, public health data suggests that 18% of the adult population in Barnsley are current smokers, and this is higher than the national and regional data (14% and 16% respectively)

Drugs and alcohol

The latest available public health data (2019) estimated that 1,317 children in Barnsley lived with an adult (over 18) who is dependent on alcohol and 1,324 children lived with an adult who is dependent on opiates, this is the highest in South Yorkshire¹². This therefore presents the risk of 'hidden harm', that is, abuse or harm due to parental drug or alcohol misuse, which is usually hidden from public view, occurring behind closed doors, often not recognised, or reported.

Of the young people in treatment at Barnsley's Young Person's Substance Misuse Service (2020-21), the data shows that early onset of drug use was seen in all cases. In addition, many of these young people are shown to have other vulnerabilities, including history of domestic abuse, poor mental health, self-harm and having been affected by another person's drug use¹⁵.

The most recent hospital admissions rate for alcohol-specific conditions in under-18s in Barnsley is **55.4 per 100,000, which is 50% higher than in Yorkshire and the Humber**¹⁴

The rate of hospital admissions due to substance misuse in **15-24-year-olds is also significantly higher in Barnsley (144.3 per 100,000) than in England, and Yorkshire and the Humber**



Covid Vaccination and Immunity

In the 2021 artwork, children and young people said they wanted to remove the threat of the COVID-19. Getting the COVID-19 vaccination is one of the best things we can do to prevent the virus impacting on our children and young people's health and the health of the people they love. There continues to be a variety of opportunities for all our residents to take up the COVID-19 vaccine [offer](#).

New research also suggests that COVID-19 antibodies are present in the breastmilk of mothers who have had the virus and / or have been vaccinated, thus giving even more value to breastfeeding in the first years of a child's life¹⁷. As well as providing protection from certain infections, breastfeeding is known to reduce the risk of childhood diabetes and leukaemia and it helps to improve children's long-term health¹⁸. Other vaccinations that protect against viruses, such as, Meningitis, Mumps, Measles and Rubella (MMR), are given routinely to children as part of the childhood immunisation programme. National data pointed towards a sustained decrease in children receiving routine childhood immunisations in 2020 and 2021 compared to 2019, impacted by the 'stay at home' messaging during the pandemic¹⁹. However, in Barnsley, coverage remains fairly static and meets, if not exceeds, national targets²⁰. Eligible children who missed a vaccine can still receive them, and parents should contact their GP.

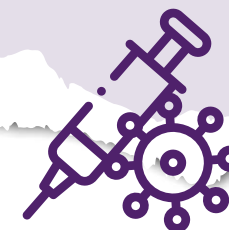
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Mental Health

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people in Barnsley and across the UK. During the pandemic, Barnsley's Public Health Team completed three waves of a Children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Survey and the impact on mental health was stark. The final wave of the survey, completed in January 2021, found that 69% of respondents described their mental health as poor. In addition, public health data from 2021 shows that 3% of school students in Barnsley have social, emotional and mental health needs and there has been a worsening trend in this data since 2015²².

As of April 2022,


57% of 12 to 15-year-olds and 67% of 16 to 17-year-olds in Barnsley had received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination¹⁶



National data from the National Mental Health of Children and Young People Survey²¹ shows that rates of probable mental disorders increased between 2017 and 2021; in 6 to 16-year-olds this increased from 1 in 9, to 1 in 6 children; and in 17 to 19-year-olds this increased from 1 in 10, to 1 in 6 young people.

Whilst self-harm in Barnsley is higher than other areas in the Yorkshire and Humber region, there has been some improvement over the past two years. In contrast, the rate of hospital admissions for self-harm in 15-19-year-olds remains significantly higher in Barnsley (1,193.6 per 100,000) than both regionally and nationally²⁴. Preventing self-harm is an area of priority for emotional health and wellbeing services in Barnsley and there has been significant investment to understand the level of need and provide effective services and support for children and young people who are displaying self-harm behaviours.

In both the 2019 and 2021 artwork the children and young people told us that it is important that people can access the support they need, when they need it, and particularly in school. Findings from the 2021 Emotional Health and Wellbeing Survey found that only 25% of respondents had accessed support for their mental health. Of these, 73% had accessed support from their friends and family, and 28% had accessed support from services, websites and/or apps. Of the children and young people who had not accessed support, 72% didn't feel that they needed support, 14% didn't know where to go to access support and 9% were too embarrassed to ask for support. Demand for mental health services in Barnsley has significantly increased through 2020 and 2021, although this is worrying, it suggests that more children and young people are seeking help with their emotional health and wellbeing. Across the borough, there has been significant investment in additional services and interventions to support children and young people with their emotional health and wellbeing. One example, within education settings, is the COMPASS Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs), which were launched in February 2020. The aim of the MHSTs is to provide early intervention and prevention through schools, with a specific role to support vulnerable children and young people who may be more at risk of developing emotional health and wellbeing needs. The MHSTs offer low-level emotional health and wellbeing support to secondary school children, through one-to-one and group interventions. This service will be rolled out across Barnsley's primary schools throughout 2022.



Barnsley also has high rates of self-harm, the rate of hospital admissions for self-harm in 10-14 year olds locally is 206.5 per 100,000 (2020/21)²³



Wider determinants

As well as the typical health factors, there are also other wider factors (social, economic, and environmental) that can affect health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people.

The latest available public health data shows that

25% of children in our borough live in relative low-income families²⁵



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The percentage of Barnsley children achieving the expected level of development in communication and language skills at the end of Reception is 81%, similar to the rest of Yorkshire and Humber, and England.

Poverty

The number of children living in relative low-income families in Barnsley is increasing, this is a trend that is being seen both regionally and nationally. Poverty can affect the health of people at all ages and families from areas of increased deprivation are more likely to suffer from poorer health outcomes, due to factors including limited access to health care and practicing more unhealthy behaviours²⁶. Children living in poverty are also more likely to suffer from chronic diseases and diet-related problems, which extend into adulthood.

Many of the children and young people, in their 2019 and 2021 artwork, said that tackling homelessness and helping homeless people was important to them. Homelessness is associated with severe poverty and is a social determinant of health. It often results from a combination of events such as relationship breakdown, debt, adverse experiences in childhood and through ill-health²⁷. However, the public health data shows that homelessness in Barnsley is much lower than it is in the rest of our region and nationally. Around 5.5 per 1,000 families in Barnsley live in households including one or more dependent children owed a prevention or relief duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act, compared to 12.4 per 1,000 in Yorkshire and Humber and 11.6 per 1,000 in England.

School readiness

Education and the importance of learning emerged as a theme in both the 2019 and 2021 artwork and children and young people told us that education is important for their futures. Early child development sets the foundation for lifelong learning, behaviour, and health. The experiences children have in early childhood shape the brain and the child's capacity to learn, to get along with others, and to respond to daily stresses and challenges. Educational attainment is one of the main markers for wellbeing through the life course and children who have not achieved a good level of development at age five have been shown to struggle with social skills, reading, maths and physical skills. This negatively impacts on their educational attainment, which in turn has been shown to impact on health, future earnings, involvement in crime, and even death²⁸. The most recent public health data shows that 70% of children in Barnsley achieve a good level of development at the end of Reception stage, this is improving and is in line with the regional and national data²⁹. The percentage of Barnsley children achieving the expected level of development in communication and language skills at the end of Reception is 81%, similar to the rest of Yorkshire and Humber, and England.

Examples of improving children and young people's health and wellbeing in Barnsley

Although half of 2021 was spent in lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was some fantastic work delivered across Barnsley to support children, young people and their families and improve their health and wellbeing. Just some of this work is described below...

Look Say Sing Play

In March 2021, Barnsley Council teamed up with NSPCC to launch Look Say Sing Play. Research previously found that parents were interacting with their babies and young children, but it could be more purposeful, deliberate and rewarding. The evidence highlighted that that many parents did not know why interaction is so important; and some struggle with ideas about how to interact in the everyday moments, beyond eye contact and cuddling, especially in the early months when they do not receive obvious feedback from their babies. Look Say Sing Play therefore aimed to support parents to have more, positive interactions with their babies; building a bond between them, which is crucial to a child's healthy development. It did this by giving new parents the tools and confidence to talk, sing and play games with their babies and young children, backed by the science of child development.

Emily, Mum to Edward (6 months) said "When we go to the supermarket I talk to (my baby) all the time now, people might look at me like I'm a nutter, but he absolutely loves it. Whatever I pick up, he's trying to investigate, and I'd never have thought to do anything like that. Usually, I'd just put him in the trolley and I'd be getting stressed out if he wasn't asleep. But now I interact with him through the whole shop".

Plans are in place to evaluate the campaign and parents can still sign up to the weekly Look Say Sing Play newsletter -

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/look-say-sing-play/sign-up/>



Barnsley Museums Makes

The Barnsley Museums Makes initiative was created in direct response to the team's desire to improve the wellbeing of children and families across the Borough, ensuring they reached those who might need inspiration with skills, confidence, and ideas to learn and play whilst stuck at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Barnsley Museum's Family Learning Team worked hard to curate packs to encourage creativity, play and language development, as well as enhancing and increasing access to arts and cultural experiences. Each learning pack included up to six highly visual, printed activity sheets designed to encourage creativity, play and language development through the chance to try a range of simple art and craft techniques. Plus, the materials required to complete the activities and suggestions of simple household objects that could also be used.

Between July 2020 and July 2021, 14,800 children received Barnsley Museum Makes packs, distributed in every school holiday through all Barnsley primary schools, eight family centres and two libraries. The packs provided families with the opportunity to access arts activities and try different artforms and gave parents the resources to help support child development and provide stimulation to develop intergenerational family learning.

One parent said: "These will keep my children occupied over the holidays. Thank you so much." A staff member at a local primary school said: "The children felt so special to receive the packs. They're beautiful. Thank you so much, at times like these, gestures like this have a real impact".



Beat the Street

Beat the Street challenged communities to see how far they could walk, cycle, run, and scoot in six weeks, by turning the whole of Barnsley into a giant game. Everyone who took part was given a Beat the Street card or fob, which they could scan on 260 Beat Boxes around the borough to log how far they had travelled.

During the six weeks of the game, 22,000 people took part; walking, cycling, running, and scootering over 160,000 miles in total. Following Beat the Street, 63% of adults and 71% of children who said they were previously inactive, became active.

Barnsley children and young people really enjoyed the challenge: "Beat the Street helped me by encouraging me to exercise in many different ways e.g., scooter, cycling, walking, and more, but most of all it built my trust of going out on roads while riding my bike. I really enjoyed getting around on other things rather than a car, and it also helped me to gain a better relationship with my family as they also took part with me. Thank you!" (Female, Aged 12-18)



Community Sport in The Dearne

The Dearne Area Team wanted to provide opportunities for residents of all ages to get outside, meet new people and get active. The team spoke to community groups and families on the Goldthorpe Railway Embankment and decided to put on boxing sessions for children and young people and crown green bowls for the whole family.

The team put on weekly sessions in amateur boxing and bowling with the support of Stefy Bulls Fitness and Circuit Training, and Hickleton Main Bowling Club. In total, three boxing sessions were held in both Thurnscoe and Bolton-upon-Deerne, with 40 children attending, 26 of which had never tried boxing before. At Hickleton Main Bowling Club, six crown green bowls sessions were held with 70 individuals attending and playing bowls.

The sessions received great feedback with one young person said, Another young person said, "Thanks to these I feel stronger and fitter, first time I've done circuit training and I love it". Not only did the people attending get a feel-good factor but the volunteers at the bowling club said that they felt fantastic too through teaching their sport to others.



The Dell Project

The Dell Project is a collaboration that aims to develop and bring a series of improvements to The Dell, a green space in Grimethorpe. The project emerged a survey conducted by Grimethorpe Residents Group in 2020, which highlighted concerns about the misuse of the green space, antisocial behaviour, lack of youth provision and a sense of not having a stake in local decision-making processes. Through collaboration with the Dell Steering Group, the North East Area Team and The University of Sheffield, the project represented a collaborative approach to place-making that emphasised the importance of mobilising children and young people's experiences and knowledge to generate proposals for local improvement to green spaces.

Over a six-week period in 2021, a series of weekly public engagement and co-design workshops were held at a local community building, with all residents welcome to attend to share their experiences, preferences, ideas, and priorities for The Dell. Children and young people were actively engaged in the process through frequent conversations in partnership with Early Intervention and Prevention Workers from the Targeted Youth

Support (TYS) service. These conversations brought into view the lack of green space that young people had a sense of ownership over and their feelings around being treated as a nuisance in the area. The process resulted in a youth engagement day that took place during half term and provided a final opportunity to engage residents with the proposals that had been developed. The day involved various free activities aimed at children, young people and families, including crafts, such as, clay totem pole making and tile making; and sporting activities, including a climbing wall.

By the end of the process, 230 residents had been engaged including 65 children (under 16). The project created a sense of ownership and responsibility amongst children and young people in the community and enriched the design proposals for The Dell that were then developed. This includes a community-built amphitheatre, a space for community workshops, and community orchards.



The project created a sense of ownership and responsibility amongst children and young people in the community and enriched the design proposals for The Dell that were then developed

School Streets Project

Barnsley Council has a duty to monitor and improve air quality and, due to high levels of Nitrogen Dioxide in some parts of the borough, there are high number of Air Quality Management Areas. The School Streets Project was therefore designed to reduce air pollution, particularly around schools, by increasing the number of children and families walking, cycling and scootering to school, increasing awareness of the associated health risks of transport emissions and the actions that can reduce these.

The project delivered ten School Street trials, which involved 11 roads being closed for the duration of the school day in 2021. During the road closures, children and their families were encouraged to leave the car at home and get to school by walking, cycling or travelling by scooter; helping to reduce congestion and emissions outside school. The School Streets Project also promoted 'Playing Out' sessions outside the school gates, offering alternative physical activity opportunities, such as skipping, hula-hooping and circus skills, and encouraged the use of classroom resources on topics such as road safety and air pollution.

Overall, 12 schools, 950 staff and 3,600 pupils and their families were engaged in the School Streets Project, in addition to countless residents. Over 70% of pupils said they felt safer due to the school street closures and more than three quarters of pupils said they had more fun on the day of the school street closures. The project also saw car usage drop, with 575 more pupils travelling actively to school on the day of the school street closures. As a result of the School Streets Project there is a high level of support for the implementation of permanent School Streets amongst parents, residents, and staff. Permanent School Streets would reduce emissions and traffic congestion outside schools, ensuring a healthier and more enjoyable space for pupils and families outside the school gates.



The project delivered ten School Street trials, which involved 11 roads being closed for the duration of the school day in 2021.

0-19 Public Health Nursing Service Drop-ins

Once the COVID-19 lockdown eased, Penistone 0-19 Public Health Nursing Team (part of the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service) felt it was important to have a presence within Penistone Grammar School, to promote the service and support improvements to pupil health and wellbeing. Planning therefore began in October 2021 on setting up a weekly Public Health Nursing Drop-in on-site, to raise awareness around public health topics and provide children and young people with access to School Nurses and Public Health Nurses, who they can talk to for more information and advice around a range of health issues.

Drop-ins are now running on Mondays 12-2pm and further sessions have been themed around the curriculum, fostering a whole-school approach, and targeting identified needs in the community. The Service also reinstated the C-Card scheme at Penistone Grammar in partnership with Spectrum Sexual Health Service (SHS), to ensure the pupils who need it have access to confidential sexual health support and free condoms in school. These sessions have been delivered jointly with staff from Spectrum SHS.

Engagement at the drop-ins has been good. Discussions are currently taking place with Spectrum SHS about replicating this model across Barnsley secondary schools.

The team is continuously seeking feedback from the children and young people about the topics they would like to see and suggested improvements.

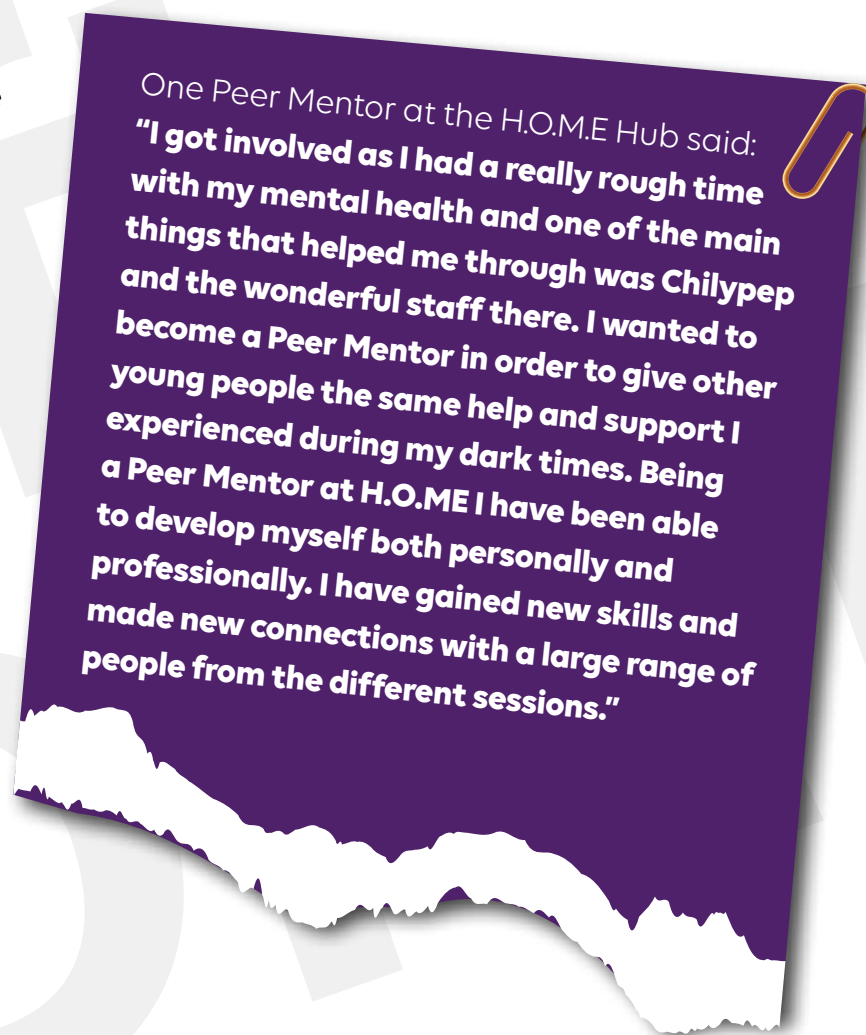
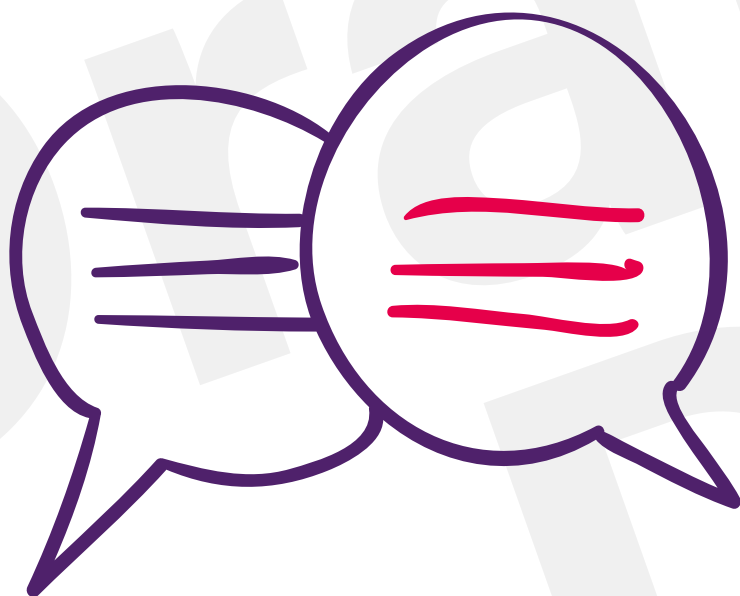


Peer Mentoring at H.O.M.E (Barnsley's Young People's Wellbeing Hub)

Chilypep is a young people's empowerment project, dedicated to raising the voices of young people and giving them the confidence, influence and platform to shape their world and stay connected. Peer Mentoring is something that young people have repeatedly said is a helpful way for them to talk to someone about their mental health or difficulties they may be facing.

Chilypep accessed funding from Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group to support 16 to 18-year-olds with their mental health and the transitions between school and college. Since April 2021, ten young people have been trained as Peer Mentors, to be based at the Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Hub in Barnsley town centre, which young people have named H.O.M.E ('Help with Our Mental 'Ealth!). In addition, twelve Mental Health Ambassadors have been trained at Barnsley College.

The Peer Mentors have been able to regularly support weekly sessions at H.O.M.E. This has helped young people attending those sessions to feel supported and able to engage. In addition to the benefits the Mentors brings others, the programme also benefits the Mentors by giving them opportunities for personal development, access to volunteering opportunities and training, all the while helping to improve their confidence.



The Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Engagement Charter

Chilypep and the Youth Voice and Participation team (part of TYS) worked together to involve 14 to 25-year-olds in the development of the Barnsley Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Engagement Charter; to set out the key principles that CYP expect all services to 'sign up to' with regards to engagement and co-production of emotional health and wellbeing services in Barnsley.

In September 2021, work began with 105 young people across the borough, through creative consultation, focus groups and one-to-ones, to find out how they want to be involved and engaged in the development, delivery and evaluation of mental health and emotional wellbeing services in Barnsley. Following this, they consulted an additional 16 young people in October 2021 through another creative consultation session, with the aim of ensuring they got it right for the Charter, reviewing and summarising the findings and using words suggested by young people (e.g., 'Values' were preferred over 'Standards') and getting feedback over the design and layout. Draft participation charters were then produced during November and December 2021 and young people were able to vote for their preferred one and provide feedback. The Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Engagement Strategy has consequently been developed and outlines how the key values, set out in the Charter, will be delivered.

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One young person said **"We have enjoyed being able to collaborate with other young people about one of the main issues affecting everyone. The best bit about making this is having a say and including our views. We are proud to be able to see what young people have been involved in and the outcomes of that"**.





All the children and young people who attended the session gave positive feedback and staff were able to consult with them about what activities they would like to attend in the summer holidays.

The Unity Project

YMCA Barnsley's Unity Project aims to build the emotional resilience and wellbeing of children and young people aged 8 to 14.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the YMCA had to adapt its delivery of the Unity Project in line with government guidance but continued to offer the consistent, positive relationships and support to the children, young people and their families throughout 2021. To provide this support, the YMCA provided activities for children and young people across the Central area.

At Queens Road Academy, an after-school club helped to support and prepare Year 6 pupils for the transition up to Year 7. In secondary schools, the team delivered 'All About Me' workshops to support with young people's self-awareness, confidence building, aspirations, building emotional resilience and positive wellbeing. Over the Spring Bank Holiday in 2021 the team also delivered activities across the borough, shaped by what children and young people said they wanted to see, which included music at YMCA Barnsley, problem solving and team games at Ardsley Park.

Staff and parents witnessed positive changes in children and young people taking part in the Unity Project, increasing their confidence, people skills and problem-solving ability.

Astrea Academy Dearne Transition Day

Transitioning to secondary school can be a difficult, worrying and anxious time for many Year 6 pupils. For the 2021 transition, Astrea Academy Dearne asked to use the Railway Embankment site in Goldthorpe to engage the students in getting to know each other, team building and environmental issues.

In July 2021, Astrea Academy Dearne welcomed approximately 240 Year 6 pupils from the local primary schools for a transition day to prepare them for starting at the academy in September. Eight stations were set up around the Embankment site and the students moved around them in their classes. The stations included: bug hunting, learning about reducing, reusing and recycling, making a bird feeder out of a plastic bottle and learning how to recognise common garden bird species, writing a poem about the Embankment or their thoughts on transitioning up to secondary school and seed planting. The day concluded with each student making a seed bomb and throwing it along the banks of the site so that wildflowers would grow there next year.

The transition day brought together volunteers from the Ward Alliances and Big Locals, members of the Dearne Area Team and partners from Twiggs, Berneslai Homes, Discover Dearne, a local youth group, the Salvation Army and Year 9 Students from the Academy. The transitioning pupils enjoyed their day at the Embankment and were able to make new friends. In addition to this, approximately 240 students gained five AQA Awards from the day.



Children, Young People and Families Bereavement Counselling Service

A review of bereavement provision in Barnsley highlighted a lack of support for children and young people following the death of a parent or sibling, and parents following the death of a child. As such, in 2021, Barnsley Council awarded Compass a contract to pilot a Specialist Bereavement Counselling Service for Children, Young People and Families.

The service commenced in July 2021 to provide direct, individual counselling to parents bereaved of a child and children and young people under the age of 18 who have experienced the death of an important person in their life. The service also provides specialist advice, support and guidance to schools and professionals to help others support bereaved children and young people. This is provided through a Specialist Bereavement Counsellor working within and alongside the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) for schools and colleges in Barnsley.

In the first six months of the pilot, more than 70 children and young people were referred for specialist counselling. One young person recently wrote to the service to tell them: **"You've helped me realise that it is ok to be sad and hurt, you've allowed me to open up ... and helped me when I thought I could no longer do it ... I'm so thankful for you helping me."**

The pilot of the service has been so successful that an additional Specialist Bereavement Counsellor has joined the team to increase the number of families that can be supported and reduce the length of time people wait to receive support.

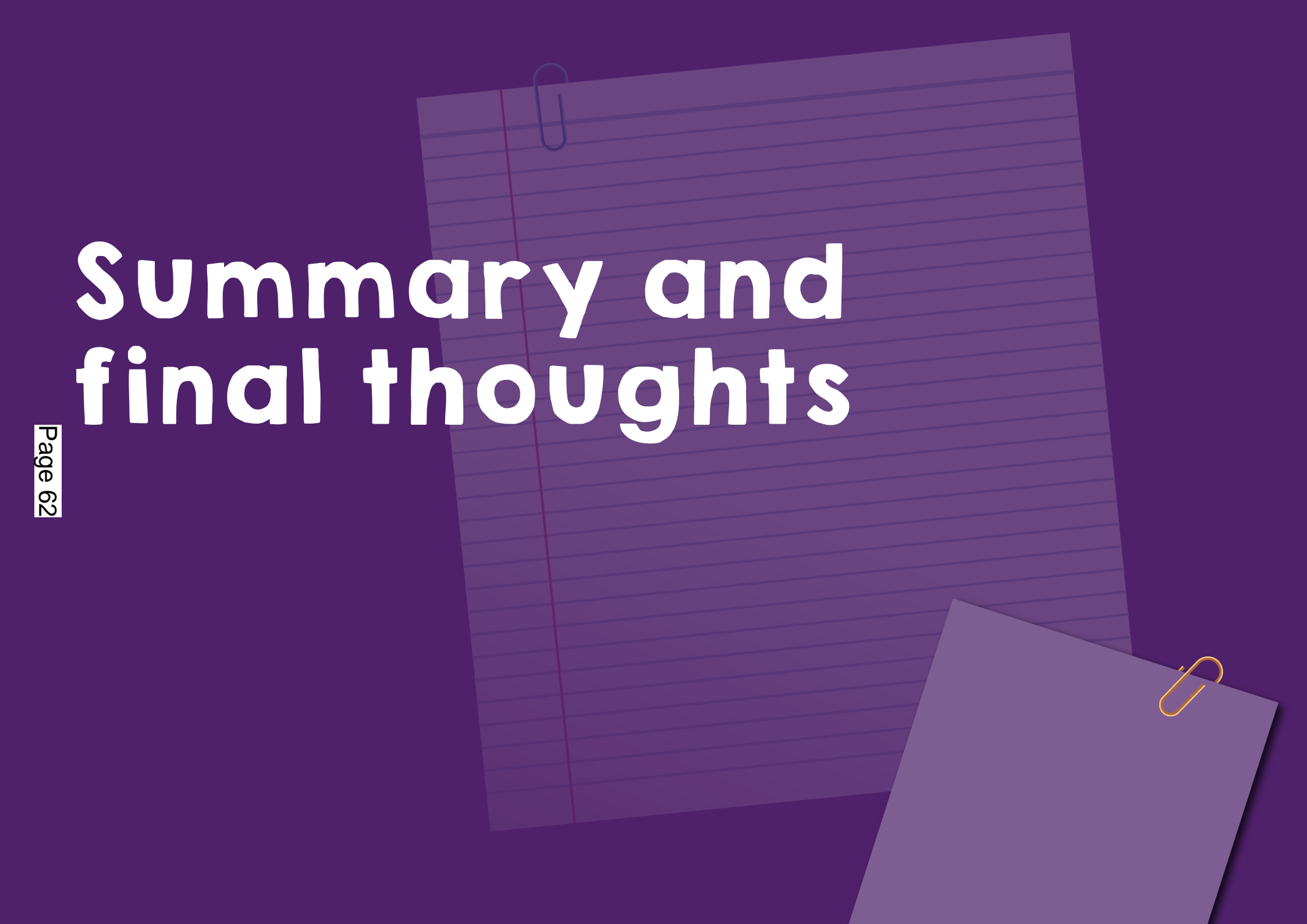
The logo for 'Compass' is written in a blue, rounded, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving it a 3D appearance as if it's floating above the page. The background behind the text is a light blue gradient.

0-19 Public Health Nursing Service's Domestic Abuse Pathway

The number of domestic incidents increased during Covid-19 lockdown. The 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service therefore developed a Domestic Abuse Pathway to help identify low- and medium-level domestic abuse incidents that they could support with. The pathway, in addition to supporting social care, aimed to give families support to improve their home-life during the lockdown by providing them with current and relevant information on the support services available. The purpose of this support was to reduce the risk of more incidents, thus encouraging better outcomes for the children living in those households.

Photo?

The pathway has been able to support practitioners in the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service, who may have little experience in supporting families following domestic incidents, to approach the family and provide them with appropriate support. Families were happy knowing that there is support in place within the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service to help keep them and their children safe.

The background features a dark purple gradient. Two sheets of lined paper are layered on top. The top sheet is a lighter purple and has a blue paper clip at the top center. The bottom sheet is a darker purple and has a gold paper clip at the top right. The text 'Summary and final thoughts' is written in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

Summary and final thoughts

Over the past decade, child poverty has increased, funding for education has reduced, there has been a housing crisis and a rise in homelessness, there are growing numbers of people with insufficient money to lead a healthy life, and there are more disadvantaged children and young people living in poor conditions with 'little reason for hope'³⁰. Yet the children and young people living and learning in Barnsley have shown us that they do have hope.

When we first started planning this project in 2019, there was some expectation that children and young people would say that what mattered to them were the material things in life – their toys, their phones, having the trendiest clothes – but what we found was that, although these things did matter to some, what mattered most pre-pandemic was their family and friends. Interestingly, research has shown that happiness with family relationships has the strongest influence on children's overall subjective well-being at age 14 (out of family, friends, appearance, school and schoolwork)³¹. Post-pandemic, family and friends was just as important, and having fun with loved ones became paramount.

Although lockdown was difficult for children and young people - learning time lost, cut off from their friends and outdoor play, and some in homes that may not have been safe - many enjoyed spending quality time with their families. The 'stay at home' orders meant many parents and carers had to work from home, allowing them to achieve a better work-life balance, which many children benefitted from.

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'Covid turned our lives upside down and the simplest items turned out to be the most precious ones.'

YMCA Barnsley member (age 13)

'A generation of children who are veterans of a global crisis. They have seen how colossally frightening life can be, far too young, and have made a lot of sacrifices. But they have endured and are emerging stronger and prematurely wise. Bruised, yes, and in many cases seriously vulnerable, but for the most part, happy, optimistic, and determined.'

Dame Rachel De Souza (Children's Commissioner for England)

Back in 2019, Barnsley children and young people recognised the impact technology was having on their lives, referencing the increase in cyber bullying and sedentary behaviour. The digital world of the pandemic has been a blessing and a curse but now more than ever children and young people told us they want to be outside, in the real world.

As we have 'unlocked', we have seen a need for experiences - activities, holidays and entertainment. What matters to children and young people now more than ever is connection with others and making happy memories.

We also found that children and young people in Barnsley are conscious about the more serious issues. They hope for a healthy and successful future, they hope for fairness and kindness, and overall, a better world.

As we begin to recover from the pandemic:

- We must make sure we continue to **work with families to strengthen and support them** and provide **greater help for the most disadvantaged in our communities**.
- We should ensure that **all** children and young people in Barnsley have **opportunities to get involved in activities in their community and build friendships with people who they can rely on**, both inside and outside of school.
- We need to **give children time to be children**, through **providing open, clean, safe spaces** where they can **play and be active**, free from the worries of the wider world. That said, we need to do more to ensure that children and young people's **views and concerns about issues, such as the environment and homelessness, are recognised** by local and national leaders.
- We need to enlist **a whole-family approach to enable more children and young people to engage in physical activity** in ways that are affordable.
- We need to **continue with the ambition to make Barnsley smokefree by 2030 and aim to promote an 'alcohol-free childhood'** with consistent messaging and school curricula, avoiding the use of industry-influenced resources, compromised by a consumer approach to alcohol.
- We must provide **vulnerable children and young people with relevant, appropriate and timely support when and where they need it**, including, young carers, children in care and care leavers, those who are at risk of or suffering from abuse, LGBTQ+ young people, children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, and those with emotional health and wellbeing needs.

'A lot of the children talked about how they had enjoyed doing things with their family like walking, exploring the outdoors and playing in the garden during the lockdowns and how they would like to continue doing these things more as everyday life returns to normal.' Marie (Outreach Worker, Dearne Family Centres)

I'd like to finish by saying some thank yous...

Thank you to the groups and organisations who supported children and young people to make their contributions to this project. In Barnsley we have a strong tradition of dedicated staff and services who put children and young people front and centre of everything they do, and I am very grateful to them for their support.

Thank you to the amazing public health team I am so lucky to work with. Under the skilled leadership of Amy Baxter, the project team has curated the contributions of children with care, thoughtfulness and integrity and I am very grateful to Amy and her colleagues for being the driving force behind this report.

Finally, thank you to every single child and young person who has shared their thoughts and creativity with us through this project. I am deeply conscious of the responsibility we have as a council, along with our partners, to listen carefully to what we have been told and to keep faith with all those who have entrusted us with their views and their creations.

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Thank you

To find out more please email:

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BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Director of Public Health

TITLE: **RESPONSE TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TASK AND FINISH GROUP'S REPORT ON GAMBLING AND GAMBLING RELATED HARM IN BARNSLEY**

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| REPORT TO: | CABINET |
| Date of Meeting | 1 June 2022 |
| Cabinet Member Portfolio | Deputy Leader |
| Key Decision | No |
| Public or Private | Public |

Purpose of report

To report to Cabinet the findings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) from the investigation undertaken on its behalf by the Gambling Task & Finish Group (TFG).

Council Plan priority

- Healthy Barnsley
- Enabling Barnsley

Recommendations

That Cabinet considers and endorses the responses, conclusions, and recommendations set out in the report, following the Task and Finish Group's report on Gambling and Gambling Related Harm in Barnsley.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2021, Public Health England published the Gambling Related Harms review and estimated that 0.5% of the population reached the threshold to be considered problem gamblers, and this proportion has remained relatively consistent since 2012. PHE also estimated that 3.8% of the population are classified as at-risk gamblers. The review also found harmful gambling associated with people who are unemployed and among people living in more deprived areas which suggests harmful gambling is related to health inequalities.

- 1.2 Following on from last year's TFG focusing on Child Poverty, it was recommended that a Gambling TFG be introduced given the impact of the pandemic, as several agencies mentioned concerns regarding gambling in communities and the harm this causes to young people.
- 1.3 The Gambling Task and Finish Group (TFG) was set up to investigate gambling related harm in Barnsley. This included considering what the key challenges are around gambling and gambling related harm; what support services are available in the borough and beyond; and what are the future plans in terms of this agenda.
- 1.4 The TFG met with several representatives from local agencies and organisations, the NHS, national charities, and officers from BMBC.
- 1.5 Due to most of the current work on gambling and gambling related harm taking place regionally and nationally, the TFG met with various national charities and regional providers of services. Local data on gambling is not widely available therefore speaking with both national and regional organisations helped build a picture of what the situation in Barnsley could look like.
- 1.6 As a result of their investigations, the group have highlighted several recommendations in support of further improvement.
- 1.7 The members of the TFG who undertook this investigation included the following: Councillors Jo Newing (TFG Lead Member), John Clarke, Jeff Ennis, John Wilson, Chris Wray, Robert Frost and Kath Mitchell.

2. TFG Recommendations and Responses: -

Recommendation 1- Investigate the placement of Category D Machines located in the boroughs gambling premises so that they are not placed in pairs.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

Licensing supports this recommendation and will prioritise the investigation of any reports of premises that have two or more gaming machines sited together. In addition, and as part of other Licensing visits and inspections, officers will monitor the siting of gaming machines and where found to be sited together, will work with the premises to request the separation of such machines. Where this cannot be facilitated, we will ensure that due diligence is being carried out at the premises to ensure the machines are constantly monitored for the purpose of identifying problem gambling and that staff are trained and can evidence the interrupting/assisting and signposting of customers accordingly.

Recommendation 2- Develop partnership working with health professionals and provide adequate resources to raise awareness of gambling related harm.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

The Public Health team work closely with the Healthy Lives Team based at the hospital, who are keen to work with us and support raising awareness of gambling and gambling related harm within their inpatient population. We would look to emulate the model in development by colleagues who are working on a leaflet and training opportunity that can be used by all partners regarding physical activity.

We will also seek to develop new working relationships with other health services across the borough.

Recommendation 3- Develop a communications plan to encourage greater knowledge of gambling-related harms across the borough.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

We support the need for greater knowledge around gambling, problem/harmful gambling, and gambling-related harm across Barnsley. The best platform(s) and format(s) of communication and engagement for this need to be properly evaluated before we proceed.

Barnsley Public Health colleagues sit on the Yorkshire & Humber Harmful Gambling Working Group. Colleagues from other local authorities across the region are also part of this group, namely colleagues from Leeds City Council who developed the Leeds Beat the Odds campaign. We will consult with these regional colleagues about their campaigns and determine whether there would be added value in us rolling out a similar campaign in Barnsley. We will also determine the feasibility of a regional campaign across the entire Yorkshire & Humber region and whether this would be more coordinated and impactful.

We need to be mindful of the capacity of our Communications and Marketing team who have a significant workload, not only with public health campaigns, but all communications across all directorates of the council. It is therefore possible that an external creative communications agency would need to be commissioned, which would be dependent on available allocated budget.

A behaviour change model campaign would be the most likely approach. Therefore, we also need to consider who the target audience is and whether or not a social media campaign would be the most efficient and effective way to engage with those who are most at risk of problem-gambling and gambling-related harm.

A meeting has been scheduled between Public Health and Communications and Marketing Colleagues to discuss the above and scope out appropriate timelines and level of support.

Recommendation 4- Review the Statement of Gambling Policy so that Public Health is consulted when new gambling premises submit licensing applications.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

At present, colleagues in Public Health are consulted regarding new licensing applications. Our aim would be to make this a consistent and systematic approach, ensuring that the Director of Public Health is consulted on all new gambling license applications.

Having consulted with Licensing, the service supports this recommendation and will change their Responsible Authorities distribution with immediate effect to ensure that the Director of Public Health is consulted on all new gambling applications.

Recommendation 5- Continue to ensure council owned advertising space does not allow gambling advertising and encourage wider partners to not allow gambling advertising.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

As alluded to within the recommendation, the council's current Advertising and Sponsorship Policy Betting, prohibits any form of advertising for betting, gaming, gambling, casinos and lottery companies, distributors, and services. Having reviewed the existing advertising and sponsorship contracts in place, it can be confirmed that there are no such forms of advertising across council-owned advertising space and therefore the policy is being upheld.

Public Health are currently developing a Harmful Gambling Plan to highlight key priorities and outcomes over the coming years, as well as an action plan to achieve them. The recommendations within this OSC report will help to shape the contents of the plan, with partnership work sure to be a key component of its delivery. Consequently, we will commit to encouraging wider partners not to advertise or promote gambling in any form. It should be recognised that for some external partners this is a significant challenge due to the advertising and sponsorship revenue gained through gambling companies. Therefore, it is likely to be a transitional process over several years.

As for discouraging the advertising of games that allow in-game purchases, Public Health will continue to work closely with Communications and Marketing to develop campaigns that raise awareness of this issue. Public Health will also consult with all services to ensure that such games are not being promoted by the council in any way.

Recommendation 6- An All-Member Briefing on Gambling and Gambling Related Harm is held to raise awareness.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

Public Health would be very happy to present an All-Member Briefing on gambling, problem gambling and gambling-related harm as well as the services currently available to residents in Barnsley. We will liaise with the appropriate administrator and arrange a date for this over the coming weeks.

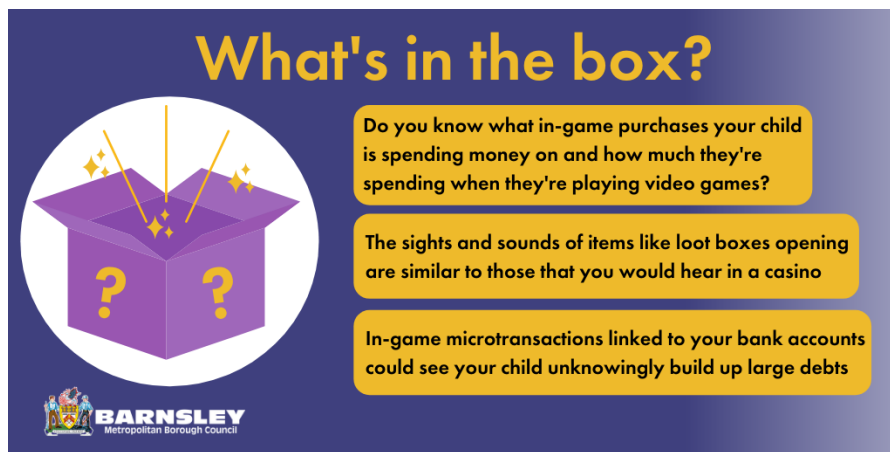
Recommendation 7- Work with wider partners to create resources and training on gambling related harm and young people.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

Education, training and raising awareness of gambling and gambling related harms is a fundamental step to reduce harm.

However, at present, all training and education packages available to organisations are funded by the gambling industry. Both as a council and regionally through the Yorkshire and Humber Harmful Gambling Working Group, we are looking to move away from association with industry and work to develop training and education packages without industry influence.

Towards the end of 2020, Public Health ran an awareness raising campaign around the links between gaming and gambling, targeted at children, young people, and parents. This aimed to educate about loot boxes and other forms of in-app or in-game purchases and included infographics such as this:



Public Health will continue to develop campaigns of this nature. However, in future we will seek to work more closely with wider partners that work with children, young people and parents (e.g., schools and colleges) to improve the reach and engagement of such campaigns.

Any resources will be featured on the [Healthier Futures Barnsley](#) website which has recently been launched to provide education settings with high quality local and national resources and toolkits to support the development and delivery of the relationships education, relationships and sex education and health education curriculum.

Recommendation 8- Create a training module for employees on gambling related harm, available on POD.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

Public Health have met with colleagues from the Learning and Development Team (Organisation and Workforce Development) to discuss this recommendation and scope out the development processes involved to deliver a suitable training module on POD. Having checked on POD, there is not currently a Gambling or Gambling Related-Harm training module.

Public Health will develop the content for an online training module (hosted on POD) to raise awareness of our workforce on gambling, problem gambling, and gambling-related harm. The specific aims and objectives of this course will be carefully considered, along with the content to ensure it is accurate, relevant, and communicated at the appropriate level.

We will then work closely with the Learning and Development team to transform the content into an online module format that is interactive, engaging, and appealing. Upon completion, we will ensure the module is promoted through the council's internal communication channels and will encourage managers to promote the module to their teams.

The timeframe for completion of this work is approximately three months, depending on whether there are existing templates that can be adapted or whether content needs to be created from scratch.

The POD course will be available to all employees and Elected Members, the learning from which can then be applied to friends, families, and residents to improve awareness and understanding of how to support someone who may be suffering from gambling related harm.

Recommendation 9- Implement a 'trigger question' and promote the use of this with wider partners such as in healthcare settings.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

For the upcoming children and young peoples' survey, we have included a question such as this. As a public health team, we support asking this question as widely as possible. However, we acknowledge that routine inclusion of these types of questions, as with alcohol and tobacco, will take training, education, and time. By continuing to raise awareness of gambling and gambling related harms, we hope to increase front-line services engagement with users on this important issue.

As part of the council's work with the Yorkshire and Humber Harmful Gambling Working Group, a funded regional programme is due to be launched. The aim is to look at how to recognise early signs of gambling related harm in priority groups, by working with substance misuse services, financial support teams, mental health teams, the police and social housing services. By working with our regional colleagues, we can share learning on how best these "trigger questions" have been implemented in various settings and apply this to our local services.

Recommendation 10- Ensure gambling support material placed in gambling premises is printed in other languages.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

When the council produces any gambling support material, we will make sure that is made available in other languages, as well as easy read in accordance with the Accessible Information Standard. To ensure this, we will work closely with Communications and Marketing and/or colleagues from Equality and Diversion prior to any publication.

With regards to material published externally, Licensing support the Recommendation and as part of their visits and inspections to gambling premises, officers will ensure to encourage due diligence and request that all advice/posters etc. displayed in/at the premises are available in multiple languages.

Recommendation 11- Evaluate how the council can better capture local data on gambling related harm in Barnsley.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

The local health needs assessment highlighted the need for robust and reliable data about gambling and gambling related harms in Barnsley.

From this, there have been three questions included in the borough-wide children and young people's survey.

A new national Public Health Outcomes Framework dashboard covering gambling and gambling related harms is expected to be published imminently. Our public health team will be working alongside colleagues in business intelligence to utilise the data produced by this to identify trends and areas for improvement.

In addition, we are continuously exploring how we can capture better local data on gambling-harm in Barnsley, and indeed across the region. This is a common challenge across Yorkshire & Humber local authorities, as well as nationally. As the profile of gambling harm continues to increase, it is hoped that rigorous systems are established that allow the collection and publication of accurate, reliable, and valid data at national, regional, and eventually local level. We will continue to work with our colleagues regionally within the Yorkshire and Humber Harmful Gambling Working Group to develop better ways to capture data.

Recommendation 12- Support the recent announcement by NHS England that as from April 1st they will not take any more money from the gambling industry to fund NHS gambling addiction programs.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

As alluded to in the response to Recommendation 7, removing association with industry allows for fair and transparent provision of services. These changes are now in effect in the NHS and will also be our aim as a local authority. We will also share this message and encourage our relevant partners to adopt the same standpoint.

The rationale for this, as stated by the NHS is that there is a clear conflict of interest with treatment clinics being part-funded by the gambling industry, with patients that have reported feeling uncomfortable about using such services paid for by the industry.

3. IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Financial & Risk

Consultation on the financial implications of this report have taken place with colleagues within Financial Services, on behalf of the Service Director and Section 151 Officer. There are no direct financial implications emanating from this report,

In response to the recommendations within the report further work to understand the communication plans will take place with Public Health and Communication colleagues with support from Financial Services. Further approval will be sought to outline any additional cost and how they can be funded if necessary.

3.2 Legal

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

3.3 Equality

The TFG is keen to ensure that all Council services and activities impact equally on all its communities. Throughout the TFG's involvement in this work it has become apparent that the work around gambling and gambling related harm can reduce health inequalities, especially as the TFG found that gambling addiction disproportionately affects those from low-income backgrounds.

3.4 Sustainability

There are no specific sustainability implications or risks associated with the report, although in responding to the report, the sustainability implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding.

3.5 Employee

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

3.6 **Communications**

It is evident from the investigation that, to drive the agenda forward, stronger communication needs to be developed to raise awareness around this issue. Information should be shared in a variety of ways in clear and accessible formats, so partners are receiving accurate and up to date information, and so residents are aware of the risks and harms caused by gambling.

4. **CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Consultations have taken place with: the Gambling TFG Members; OSC Members; the Council's Cabinet Members; Council Officers from the Public Health and Legal Directorates; and the Council's Senior Management Team.

5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 No alternative options have been considered in the writing of this report.

6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The TFG were reassured by the amount of work that has begun to reduce gambling related harm in the borough.
- 6.2 The investigation undertaken by the TFG as well as the recommendations made are in support of improving health outcomes for people in Barnsley and the TFG recognises the importance of minimising gambling related harm and the negative impacts gambling can have not just on those who are problem gambling but also their family, friends and wider network. The TFG is keen that local communities are aware of relevant services they could access support from.
- 6.3 Whilst recognising that there is evidence of good practice, the TFG have made the recommendations in order to support continual service improvement.

7. **GLOSSARY**

PHE Public Health England
NHS National Health Service
TFG Task & Finish Group
OSC Overview & Scrutiny

8. **LIST OF APPENDICES**

There are no appendices for this report.

9. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

PHE Gambling Related Harm Review:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gambling-related-harms-evidence-review/gambling-related-harms-evidence-review-summary>

GamCare:

<https://www.gamcare.org.uk/>

YGAM:

<https://www.ygam.org/>

NHS Northern Gambling Service:

<https://www.leedsandyorkpft.nhs.uk/our-services/northern-gambling-service/>

Krysallis:

<https://www.krysallis.org.uk/gamcare-support/>

GamCare starter question flowchart:

<https://d1ygf46rsya1tb.cloudfront.net/prod/uploads/2020/01/GamCare-Process-Flowchart-updated-April-2021.pdf>

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

10. **REPORT SIGN OFF**

| | |
|--|--|
| Financial consultation & sign off | David Graham – Finance Manager 06.05.22 |
| Legal consultation & sign off | <i>Jason Field 6/5/22</i> |

Report Author: Julia Burrows
Post: Director of Public Health
Date: 28 April 2022

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES

TITLE: SUBSTANCE MISUSE STRATEGIC REVIEW & NEW PROVIDER SELECTION REGIME

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| REPORT TO: | Cabinet |
| Date of Meeting | 1 June 2022 |
| Cabinet Member Portfolio | Adults and Communities |
| Key Decision | Yes |
| Public or Private | Public |

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to provide an overview of the National Drugs Strategy published at the end of December 2021, the key priorities and ambitions of the strategy and the requirements for implementation at a local level.

The report also seeks approval to enact the new provider selection regime with the continuation of the existing service provision with the incumbent provider of substance misuse service, delivered by Humankind Charity.

Council Plan Priority

The service aligns to the Council's strategic priorities as follows:

Healthy Barnsley:

- People are safe and feel safe.
- People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible.
- Reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough.

Learning Barnsley:

- People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills, including access to apprenticeships.
- People have access to early help and support.

Growing Barnsley:

- People are supported to have safe, warm, sustainable homes.

Sustainable Barnsley:

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, *feel connected and valued in their community.*

Recommendations

That Cabinet: -

1. Approve the continuation of the existing service provision with the incumbent provider of substance misuse service, delivered by Humankind Charity (subject to

the proposed changes to the public procurement regulations taking legal effect as anticipated under the current draft Health and Care Bill allowing the Council to directly award the contract to Humankind under the new provider selection regime.

2. Should the changes above not come into legal effect in the manner currently proposed then approval is given to either:
 - (i) Re-procure the services under the new Health and Care Act where any changes from the Bill as currently drafted are deemed not substantive; or
 - (ii) If the changes are substantive, seek approval from Cabinet Spokesperson, to re-procure the services under the new Health and Care Act subject to any amended requirements resulting from the changes to the legislation; or,
 - (iii) If (i) and (ii) are not possible, re-procure service provision under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or its successor legislation.
3. Agree the integration of the Multiple and Complex Needs Housing provision (25+) into the overall Substance Misuse Service contract.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Substance Misuse Service

The Substance Misuse Service, known as Barnsley Recovery Steps, is delivered by Humankind Charity and commenced on 1 April 2017. The Service is commissioned to deliver drug and alcohol treatment and support to anyone aged 18 years or over experiencing problems with substance misuse.

This includes alcohol, all illicit and performance-enhancing drugs, novel psychoactive substances (previously known as legal highs) and the problematic use of prescribed and 'over the counter' medications.

The service provides a wide range of support tailored to individual needs and includes harm reduction and early intervention/prevention support as well as clinical interventions, structured treatment programmes and recovery and aftercare support.

The current contract expires in March 2023.

1.2 Health and Social Care Bill

Procurement of regulated healthcare services is currently legislatively governed by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Procurement, Patient Choice and Competition Regulations 2013. This legislation results in contracts being regularly subject to competitive tender processes, irrespective of performance, quality, or cost. This inflexibility results in unnecessary competitive tender processes, even where there are no alternative viable providers/partnerships within the market or where the provider performs well.

The current Health and Care Bill is set to replace/amend these powers in relation to the commissioning of regulated healthcare services (of which the

substance misuse use service falls under), allowing greater flexibility for decision-makers to act in the best interests of service users, local populations and the taxpayer - while still recognising the importance and need for transparency and the use of competitive tendering only in the most appropriate circumstances.

Under the new provider selection regime introduced under the power of the Bill, the local authority will be able to continue with existing arrangements under the following circumstances:

- The incumbent is the only viable provider, and/or a change of provider is not feasible / necessary.
- The Incumbent is doing a good job, and the service isn't changing.
- There is no overall value in finding a new provider.

Decisions to continue with the existing arrangements rather than use competitive procurement would still have to be clearly justified based on the following decision-making criteria:

- Quality and innovation.
- Value integration and collaboration.
- Access.
- Inequalities and choice.
- Service sustainability.
- Social value.

In the spirit of the new legislation, the contract with HumanKind Charity would then be continuous with no timescales for its end. Section 2.1 of this report provides further context to this perspective.

1.3 National Drug Strategy

In December 2021, the Government published a new National Drugs Strategy. The Strategy's key priorities are underpinned by Dame Carol Black's two-part Review of Drugs which recommended a new long-term approach, with large-scale investment and changes to oversight and accountability, delivered by the whole of government. Both national and local partners will be expected to focus on delivering the following three strategic priorities to reduce drug-related crime, death, harm and overall drug and alcohol use:

- Break drug supply chains.
- Deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system.
- Reduce the demand for recreational drugs.

1.3.1 Headline Targets

Over the course of the strategy, the government expect to reverse the rising trend in drug use, with an ambition to reduce overall use towards a historic 30-year low. The strategy establishes the following key national targets:

- Over 2,000 more county lines closed and an increase in both drug trafficking convictions and the number of vulnerable children and adults safeguarded.
- 6,400 major and moderate disruptions against activities of organised criminals (an increase of 20%).
- 1,000 deaths prevented, and lives saved.
- Treatment contributing to around 740,000 crimes prevented, of which 140,000 are neighbourhood crimes such as burglary, robbery and theft.
- 54,500 new high-quality drug and alcohol treatment places, a 19% increase on current numbers.
- 21,000 new treatment places for opiate and crack users, 53% of opiate and crack users in treatment.
- 30,000 new treatment places for non-opiate users, including a further 5,000 more young people in treatment.
- 7,500 more treatment places for people who are either rough sleeping or at immediate risk of rough sleeping – a 33% increase on the current numbers.
- A treatment place for every offender with an addiction.
- 24,000 more people in long-term recovery from substance dependency.
- Increased referrals from police, courts and probation into drug treatment.
- More people are recovering from addiction in sustained employment.
- More people are recovering from addiction in stable and secure housing.

Local targets are being developed against the national headlines above and will be used to monitor outcomes.

1.3.2 Investment to meet the Strategy's priorities

The government are investing £780 million over the next three years to rebuild drug treatment and recovery services with new commissioning standards to drive transparency and consistency. Included in this investment are the following funding grants:

Supplemental Treatment and Recovery Grant - £533 million will be ring-fenced funding for substance misuse treatment with a focus on increasing capacity, quality and better-integrated working and delivery of support.

The supplemental funding grant will be paid through a Section 31 Agreement, and further conditions will be set out in a Memorandum of Understanding that will accompany the grant agreement and criteria.

Funding allocations for each local authority for the next three years have recently been confirmed and further details regarding Barnsley's allocation can be found in Section 3.1.

Housing Support Grant - there will be £53m over the next three years to fund a menu of housing support options that will improve the recovery outcomes for people in treatment and reduce the flow of people into homelessness and rough sleeping – including funding housing support workers and provision within treatment services. This funding would allow the opportunity to further develop and align the multiple needs housing provision and substance misuse treatment for those with multiple and complex needs. Details of how this funding grant can

be accessed have yet to be published.

1.3.3 Multiple and Complex Needs Provision – 25 years and over

As Humankind Charity also delivers this contract, merging this provision into the substance misuse service will allow a better-coordinated approach and fulfilment of the National Drug Strategy ambitions in relation to providing accommodation alongside substance misuse treatment and recovery support for those with multiple needs.

Whilst there is a risk of challenge if we merge this provision, we believe this is minimal given that we have struggled to get a strong provider field to bid for this service in the past.

National research has identified a significant crossover between substance misuse and rough sleeping; the study found ‘that 72% (of rough sleepers) have experienced a drug or alcohol support need. 60% of the respondents were defined as having a current drug or alcohol need, and 12% as having both needs’¹.

This reflects the findings of a local needs analysis undertaken on behalf of Barnsley Council by Imogen Blood and Associates to determine the support needs of people who present to multiple agencies with the most complex needs. The research found that drug use was a presenting need in 85% of cases, with alcohol prevalent in 30%. The age range of the study cohort was predominantly over 25 years, with only 12.3% being aged 24 years or less. On this basis, the existing multiple needs service for 16–24-year-olds is not recommended for merger.

In addition, merging this provision into the substance misuse service will align with the council’s wider strategic approach to rough sleeping, complementing the new ‘Complex Lives’ service currently being developed by the Housing Options Service, providing a dedicated substance misuse accommodation provision for rough sleepers, and the wider homeless population who struggle to access other accommodation due to substance use.

1.3.4 Local requirements of the strategy in relation to treatment and support

The Drug Strategy places an emphasis on strong partnership working at a local level with a range of partners being responsible for the delivery of the three strategic priorities to ensure achievement of the strategy’s long-term goals and ambitious targets.

Along with the Strategy, a new national commissioning quality standard has been developed to provide structure and oversight that will ensure consistently high-quality services and will set out the full range of treatment and recovery interventions that local areas should provide for their population based on an assessment of need and that funding is targeted at the objectives set out in the strategy.

1

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/944598/Initial_findings_from_the_rough_sleeping_questionnaire_access.pdf

A robust monitoring framework of national and local outcomes and expectations to inform progress in respect of local delivery will be introduced.

Whilst the substance misuse service is not solely responsible for delivering all the ambitions and outcomes outlined in the Strategy; it will play an integral part in the delivery of a safe and effective treatment and recovery system with a particular focus on the following key deliverables:

- Improve access to treatment and support and ensure better integration of services and interventions for adults experiencing multiple disadvantage – including combinations of homelessness, addiction, mental ill-health, domestic abuse and contact with the criminal justice system.
- Increasing referrals and numbers into treatment and support.
- Improving access to stable accommodation alongside treatment.
- Improving employment opportunities.
- Keeping prisoners engaged in treatment after release.
- Rebuilding the professional workforce to ensure capacity and quality within the system.
- Contribution to the reduction of drug and alcohol-related deaths.
- Supporting young people and families most at risk of substance misuse.

The strategy also recognises that mental health problems and trauma are often central to an individual's dependency on drugs and alcohol, and all too often, people fall through the gap between services", and therefore there will be a commitment to transforming the system, so mental health and trauma-informed care become the norm in drug treatment services and settings.

2. PROPOSAL

Given the scale of additional investment, the national strategy ambitions, and local delivery expectations, it is even more imperative that the strategic priorities of the local authority and the delivery approaches of local service providers are fully aligned.

Therefore, we propose that Humankind Charity, as an established, high-performing existing provider with a track record of successful flexible and collaborative working with commissioners and wider stakeholders, is best placed to ensure this collaboration continues and services are developed so that we can effectively deliver the strategy ambitions at a local level.

Integration of the multiple needs service into one strategic contract will provide the flexibility required to improve the recovery outcomes for people in treatment and reduce the flow of people into homelessness and rough sleeping.

2.1 Rationale for the proposal

Our considerations are as follows:

Criteria 2.3 of the new national commissioning quality standard mentioned in the previous section highlights that "Local partnerships should prioritise

treatment system quality and stability, following robust, collaborative and proportionate tendering processes. To avoid instability in treatment provision, competitive tendering is only conducted if required to improve local provision”.

Integration of the multiple needs service will enable the authority to flexibly work with the provider and our in-house homeless prevention service. This will come at a time when the new in-house service is in its early stages of development.

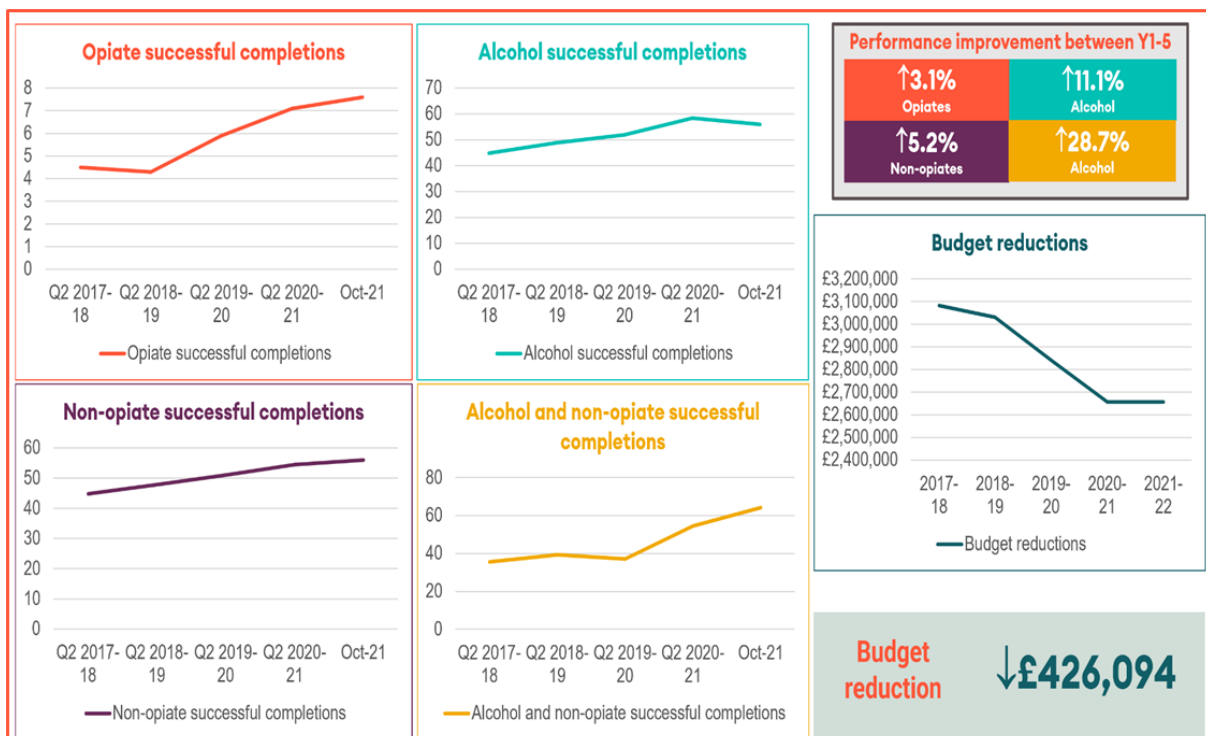
2.2 Suitability of Humankind Charity

The information below demonstrates a strong case based on the decision-making criteria for directly awarding a contract under the new provider selection regime to re-commission the current provider to deliver the specialist substance misuse service in Barnsley:

2.2.1 Quality and innovation

Within a context of historic and ongoing cuts and austerity measures, Humankind Charity has continued to innovate and improve performance since delivering the contract in 2017.

Since the commencement of the contract in 2017, the provider has experienced an overall budget reduction of £426,094; Humankind Charity has still overseen the following improvements in successful treatment completions:



Additional evidence of performance quality includes:

- **Successful completions:** Barnsley Recovery Steps consistently achieves successful completions above the national average for all four substance groupings.
- **National core indicators** – the service is consistently above the national

averages when comparing performance against the key national indicators monitored via the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS).

- **Achievement and continuation of Universal Grant 2021/22:** The delivery model for our universal grant proposal and achievement of the service delivery against this has been recognised both regionally and nationally as good practice and has supported the further development of harm reduction and criminal justice strategic pathways and relationships.
- **CQC inspection rating:** The service has been rated Good across all five key lines of enquiry, with best practice highlighted and no breaches in regulation.

2.2.2 Value integration and collaboration

Over the last five years of service delivery, Humankind Charity has contributed significantly to the following collaborative workstreams in Barnsley:

- Humankind Charity is an active participant in the Protecting Vulnerable People sub-group, working with partners to achieve the key performance indicators consistently across the course of the contract.
- Humankind Charity actively participates in Barnsley wide forums and delivery group meetings to ensure collaborative working across a range of statutory and non-statutory services, including suicide panels, channel panels, the Barnsley Alcohol Alliance and mental health partnership meetings.

2.2.3 Access

The following integrated pathways have been established, developed and improved by Humankind Charity and could be at risk with the introduction of a new service provider and/or delivery model:

- Recovery Steps were a key partner in the implementation of the new Alcohol Care Team delivered by Barnsley Hospital. Effective mobilisation has been void of the issues regarding pathways and transitions seen in other areas due to the strong collaborative partnership between Humankind Charity and the hospital.
- Hep C treatment is fully integrated within Barnsley Recovery Steps' service resulting in Barnsley having one of the highest uptakes of Hep C treatment within its treatment population in the country.
- Established links with the criminal justice partnership. 'Joining Forces' is a local initiative which included a rapid response campaign to the emerging situation around spiking, where Humankind Charity worked alongside South Yorkshire Police, the Council and Pubwatch.
- Collaboration with the criminal justice partnership regarding proposals for Office of Health Improvement and Disparities universal grant money. Progress made in Barnsley against our grant service proposal has been recognised both regionally and nationally. Momentum on the development of services utilising this grant will be disrupted should retendering take place.

2.2.4 Inequalities and choice

Further to the Full Equality Impact Assessment undertaken (referenced in section 3 below), Humankind Charity provides a range of data to enable the

comprehensive assessment to be completed and work well with commissioners to target service improvements for under-represented groups, including:

- Development of open access provision that offers a full range of treatment and harm reduction options for those hardest to engage. This has resulted in higher engagement rates and created greater service efficiencies through a reduction of missed appointments.
- Alternative methods of treatment delivery including zoom groups, telephone or video appointments, Breaking Free Online 24/7 online recovery support.
- Alternative discreet delivery site or home visit options.

2.2.5 Service Sustainability and Social Value

As demonstrated above, Humankind Charity has ensured continued service quality and improvement within a restrictive and challenging budget. There is no guarantee that other providers within a competitive tendering process would have the same approach or level of success.

In terms of socioeconomic benefits, the recommission and direct contract award to Humankind Charity will ensure that the substance misuse service will continue to contribute to the council's priorities Growing Barnsley, Learning Barnsley, Healthy Barnsley and deliver a range of sustainability impacts as outlined in section 3.4.

Humankind Charity has also successfully managed and integrated additional Barnsley health and social care services, including Thrive Barnsley Service for people facing multiple disadvantages and the Early Intervention and Prevention Service for individuals with low-level mental health problems. Clients of all three services have benefitted from a no wrong door, integrated approach that maximises service delivery efficiency, minimises duplication and supports sustainability across this service provision in Barnsley.

It is therefore our considered view that continuation with the existing provider meets the decision making criteria as described at Section 1.2 of the report.

3 IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director of Finance (S151 Officer) and are summarised below.

The report provides an overview of the National Drugs Strategy issued in December 2021, as well as seek approval under the new selection regime to continue with Humankind as the provider for Substance Misuse Services, and to include the Multiple and Complex Housing provision (25+) into the substance misuse contract.

The contract costs in 2021/22 of providing the Substance Misuse within Healthier Communities is £3.269m and includes an additional £0.414m Universal Funding grant from the Govt to increase delivery capacity of the contract. This Grant will now be included in the new funding allocations for 2022 to 2025.

The contract value for the Multiple Needs accommodation and support service is £0.500m per annum, which would form part of the overall substance misuse contract (managed by Humankind) moving forwards.

Both contracts are mainly funded by Public Health grant (£2.903m), Govt grant funding (£0.414m) and contributions from Barnsley CCG (£0.300m) and Office of South Yorkshire Police & Crime Commissioner (£0.152m).

In December 2021, the Government published a new National Drugs Strategy. To implement this strategy, the Government is investing £780m nationally over 3 years, to rebuild drug treatment and recovery services, included in this investment are the following funding grants:

- Supplemental Treatment and Recovery grant – to increase capacity, quality and integrated services. It is made up of the previous Universal Grant funding levels from 2021/22, which will still need to be maintained within the new grant. Barnsley has been allocated the following grant funding: £0.670M in 2022/23, £1.000M in 2023/24 and £2.130M in 2024/25.
- Inpatient Detoxification Grant of £0.054m for each of the 3 years to 2024/25.

The supplemental funding for substance misuse treatment and recovery is ring-fenced monies and will be paid through a Section 31 Agreement with conditions set out in a Memorandum of Understanding that will accompany the grant agreement and criteria and key performance indicator. The following are key points to note as highlighted in the drug strategy and the Public Health Grant (PHG) agreement letter:

1. eligibility for this grant funding will be dependent on maintaining existing LA (2020/21) investment in drug and alcohol treatment provision.
2. The funding allocation also includes young people's substance misuse, and a proportionate split between adult and young people's treatment provision needs to be agreed upon locally – with children services.
3. Allocations will be confirmed on a year-to-year basis, dependent on the plans agreed between the Local Authority and Department of Health and Social Care.
4. Work is being undertaken by the Healthier Communities Commissioning Team to develop a three-year plan to utilise the supplemental funding grant. This would need to be included in the re-commissioning of the substance misuse service to ensure that the

grant proposal enhances the service model and aligns with our longer-term national and local strategic priorities and targets.

5. As part of the work being undertaken at point (4) above, the Healthier Communities Commissioning Team, in liaison with the Finance Business Unit's Strategic Procurement and Business Partnering Services, will:
 - i. Identify other services across the Authority that touch on substance misuse with a view to including them in the remit of the Drugs Strategy and making the best use of resources.
 - ii. Review the contracts across the Authority for which Humankind is the provider with a view to identifying efficiencies.
 - iii. Explore the use of funding to increase commissioning capacity in terms of releasing base funding for the commissioning team whilst ensuring the capacity requirements can be addressed through an internal re-prioritisation of commissioning activities.
6. Further reports will be brought forward that will consider the detailed finances and the use of funding, with a view to achieving value for money and future efficiencies.

The table below details the Substance Misuse contract spend profile for 22/23 to 24/25:

| | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Revenue Costs | £,000 | £,000 | £,000 | £,000 |
| Substance Misuse Contract | 2,856 | 3,356 | 3,356 | 3,356 |
| Multiple and Complex Needs | 500 | - | - | - |
| New Drug Strategy requirements | 414 | 670 | 1,100 | 2,130 |
| Inpatient Detoxification | 0 | 54 | 54 | 54 |
| Total Costs | 3,770 | 4,080 | 4,510 | 5,540 |

3.2 Exploration of Efficiencies

| Area of exploration | Response |
|--|---|
| Are there any other contracts or services in the Council connected to this service where efficiencies can be explored? | <p>We have considered all services and contracts connected to this service and identified the following 2 where efficiencies can be explored.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To consider merging the Young Peoples Substance Misuse Service into the Adult Substance Misuse contract This is an in house service and costs and implications will be considered. 2. Queens House/complex lives. This is a new in house service where costs and implications will be considered. |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>3. The Multiple Needs has been considered and has been proposed for inclusion in the contract.</p> <p>4. Other services and contracts in addition to the above will be considered.</p> |
| Has corporate procurement been consulted on other related contracts? | Yes, consultation has taken place with corporate procurement. |
| Is there an overlap in management of the various services provided by the same provider where efficiencies can be gained? | <p>The report seeks approval to merge the Multiple and Complex Needs Service (Barnsley Thrive) into the Adult Substance Misuse Service as Humankind is the provider for both services. Merging this provision into the substance misuse service allows a better-coordinated approach and fulfilment of the National Drug Strategy ambitions in relation to providing accommodation alongside substance misuse treatment and recovery support for those with multiple needs. As part of this merger, we will consider economies of scale and explore the opportunities to maximise on any efficiencies identified.</p> <p>Humankind has reviewed their senior management team and changed their structure where Barnsley services are now managed under one Director of Operations and at the same time reducing management costs across three contracts they hold.</p> |
| Are there any other efficiencies offered in relation to this service? | Any other efficiencies in relation to this service are being explored. |
| Cashable savings proposed | Cashable savings are being explored. |

3.3 Legal

Procurement of regulated healthcare services is currently legislatively governed by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Procurement, Patient Choice and Competition Regulations 2013.

The current Health and Care Bill is set to replace/amend these powers in relation to the commissioning of regulated healthcare services (of which the substance misuse use service falls under), allowing greater flexibility for decision-makers to act in the best interests of service users, local populations, and the taxpayer.

Since the Health and Care Bill and associated regulations to be enacted under it which relate to the provider selection regime do not yet have any legal effect, any approval for continuation of the existing service provision with the incumbent provider should be subject to those proposed changes coming into

force. Should those changes not come into legal effect in the manner currently proposed then the legal recommendation is that further legal advice be sought as to whether or not the changes are substantive and therefore impact on the re-procurement route.

Subject to that legal advice, (i) where the changes are deemed non-substantive then the Council may proceed to directly award to Humankind in compliance with the new provider selection regime; (ii) where the changes are deemed substantive then Cabinet Spokesperson shall have authority to approve a decision to proceed to directly award to Humankind in compliance with the new provider selection regime subject to consultation with Head of Legal Services; and (iii) if the changes render the re-procurement outside the scope of the new provider selection regime, the Council should re-procure service provision under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or their successor legislation.

3.4 Equality

A full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed to make sure that changes resulting from the future commissioning of the service will minimise any adverse impact on service users, especially those from groups with protected characteristics.

Our EIA will make sure all clients receive information and advice that is relevant to them, have equal opportunities to access services, and that barriers are identified and addressed so no one is excluded or disadvantaged.

A summary of key findings tells us that:

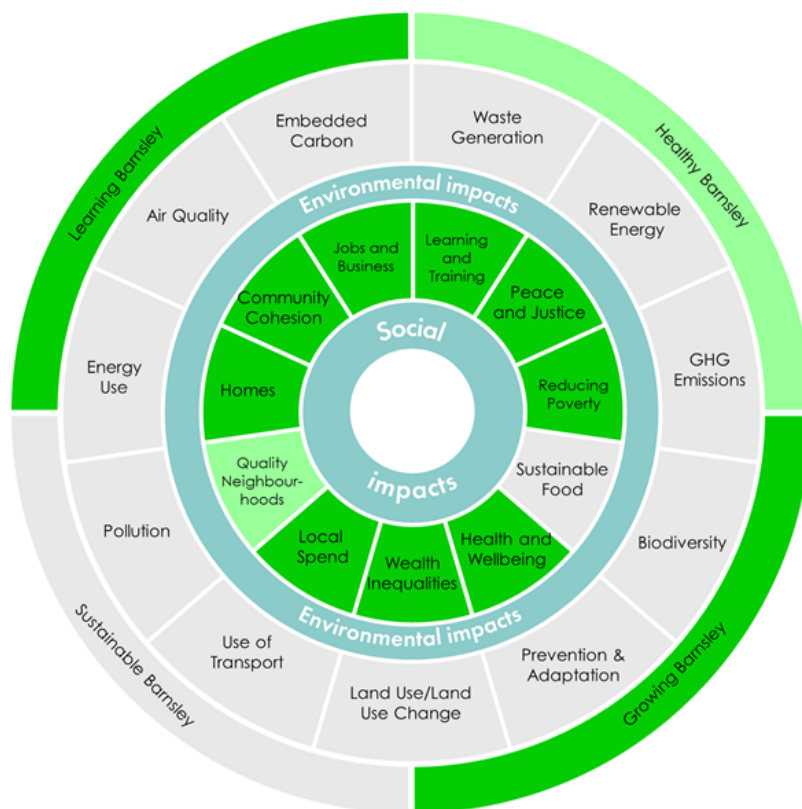
- Whilst males are more likely to misuse substances, disincentives that are more likely to occur in women include fears of having children removed, childcare or maternity concerns, physical/sexual abuse, prostitution, and stigmatisation. Pregnant women are also more likely to avoid substance misuse treatment.
- Age affects substances used by clients; alcohol consumption is more prevalent in older age groups, whilst young people are more likely to use Class A drugs. Older people's substance misuse is more likely to be overlooked due to travel barriers alongside physical and mental health comorbidity.
- There are increased risk factors for people with disabilities, such as unemployment, abuse, and access to medications.
- Nationally, white British and white other ethnic groups have the highest rates in hazardous drinking, whilst black adults are more likely to report illicit drug use than other ethnic groups. There is low representation people from ethnic groups in treatment in Barnsley, possibly due to language barriers, cultural stigma, and limited awareness of support services.
- Those who use drugs and are homeless suffer a lack of social connectedness, and their personal safety is at greater risk. There is an underrepresentation of people who have found themselves homeless in treatment compared to national figures. These people have complex needs and can be difficult to work with substance misuse services, but also have higher rates of substance misuse.

- Rates of illicit substance use are higher among LGBT+ adults. Increased risk factors for them can be poor mental health and risky sexual behaviour. This can be more prevalent in men who have sex with men, and, on average, LGBT+ adults are more likely to binge drink than heterosexual adults. There is an underrepresentation of LGBTQ+ individuals in treatment.
- The discouragement of non-medically prescribed drug use and excessive drinking in most religions can cause social stigma and reduced access to treatment. There is an underrepresentation of individuals of Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, Sikh, and other faiths.
- Environmental stressors specific to military personnel have been linked to increased risk of the development of substance misuse issues among personnel and veterans, including deployment, combat exposure, and post-deployment reintegration challenges. The hypermasculine military culture often emphasises self-reliance, meaning that Armed Forces veterans may be more likely to view getting professional mental health treatment as a sign of weakness.

A communication and engagement plan will be developed to promote the substance misuse support available. This will include targeting identified groups who are known to be under-represented in the current service, as well as other groups discussed above.

3.5 Sustainability

The decision-making wheel has been completed. There are no positive or negative sustainability impacts with regards to the environment as a result of commissioning the substance misuse service.



In terms of socioeconomic benefits, the recommission and direct contract award to Humankind Charity will ensure that the substance misuse service will continue to contribute to the council's priorities Growing Barnsley, Learning Barnsley and Healthy Barnsley and deliver the following sustainability impacts:

Learning and skills

- The service works closely with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and provides drugs awareness training to DWP staff. Referral pathways are in place between the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and the substance misuse service.
- The service provides volunteering opportunities for service users and members of the public with pathways into employment as well as opportunities to support the studies of research students and student placements.
- The service provides training to upskill workforces across Barnsley, including drugs awareness training, job shadowing, and naloxone training.

Peace and justice

- The service provides interventions to make sure those committing drug and alcohol-related offences and anti-social behaviour are identified, assessed and engaged with drug and alcohol treatment and work with South Yorkshire Police, Probation Service, courts, and prisons.
- Outreach teams (including Barnsley Recovery Steps and Barnsley Council's Safer Neighbourhoods Service and Housing and Welfare Team officers) carry out joint targeted outreach to address hotspot areas of substance misuse related to anti-social behaviour, crime and rough sleeping. Barnsley Recovery Steps is also a key partner supporting the Joining Forces initiatives.

Health and Wellbeing

- People reducing or ceasing their drug and/or alcohol use will have a positive impact on their overall health and well-being. Clinical and non-clinical staff are all trained to deliver interventions that promote the improved health and wellbeing of individuals. These include health checks, blood-borne virus screening, vaccinations, and wound care. BRS provide a range of healthcare interventions and have established pathways with health service partners to address wider health needs (e.g., Hep C treatment). They also provide a Hospital Liaison service within Barnsley Hospital which supports continuity of care.

Wealth inequality

- Service works closely with DWP to support people into work and avoid benefits sanctions and actively seeks out opportunities for employment to individuals with lived experience.
- The service offers work and skills support and has an IT suite where people can work towards accessing employment, training or education.

Local Spend and Jobs and Businesses

- A total of 81 employees work from service sites across Barnsley, using local businesses for lunch and shopping requirements. Approximately 47 of these (76%) are Barnsley residents.
- Cleaners are employed by Humankind's dedicated social enterprise More Time UK Ltd, which employs local people and training on infection control measures.
- The social value estimated to be generated by the service in 2022/23 is £1,520,132.00. Comprised of:
 - £1,506,451 from the employment of local people

- £7,648 from wellbeing programmes provided to staff
- £6,034 from volunteering hours

Community cohesion

- Anyone in the borough 18+ who has problems with drug and alcohol abuse can access the service and receive face-to-face support.
- The service has a Service User Influence group who are involved in service improvement and planning. There is a Working Together Strategy in place, and the service has robust feedback mechanisms in place.

Reducing poverty

- Drugs and/or alcohol need to be funded, so a reduction in use increases the amount of money a person has available. The service provides training and interventions on budgeting and planning, benefits advice and identifies any need for debt management.

Homes

- Accommodation need is assessed and forms part of recovery planning. Established pathways are in place with housing support partners.
- The integration of the multiple and complex needs supported housing elements within substance misuse will help ensure housing need is being fully met alongside treatment and support for drug and alcohol use.

Quality neighbourhoods

- Staff and volunteers organise and engage service users in regular litter picks.
- The Building Recovery in Communities team actively seeks out environmental projects that provide opportunities for service users to give back to the community, e.g., Goldthorpe embankment and gardening at The Women's Centre.

3.6 Employee

There are no employee implications with regards to the re-commission of the Substance Misuse Service.

Humankind Charity employs 81 FTE staff members in various roles, of which a significant number are Barnsley residents (n59). Should the recommendation to directly award the contract and re-commission the service with Humankind would result in the continued employment of the staff.

3.7 Communications

The communications and marketing team will work closely with services and partners to develop a communications plan to promote the substance misuse support available. This will include targeting identified groups who are known to be under-represented in the current service, as well as other groups discussed above:

- Women
- BAME
- LGBTQ+
- Young people (aged 18-24)
- Older people
- Homeless
- Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, Sikh, and other faiths

Targeted communications will help residents understand what the offer is for

them and how they can access help when they need it. This will be a multi-channel approach across partners. The plan will also highlight and celebrate the achievements of services and those who have seen success in the journey away from drugs and alcohol.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Consultation has been carried out with the following relevant stakeholders to inform our decision making regarding the recommendation to re-commission the Substance Misuse Service under the existing arrangements with Humankind Charity:

- Service Director of Finance (S151 Officer).
- Head of Strategic Commissioning, Contracting and Procurement.
- Head of Legal Services.
- Head of Safer Barnsley.
- Group Leader, Housing and Welfare.
- Senior Commissioning Manager, Healthier Communities (multiple and complex needs service).
- Service Director Public Health

4.2 Further consultation will take place with all stakeholders to refresh the 2020/21 Needs Assessment and develop and implement the local Substance Misuse Strategy and action plan, and to also inform our three-year grant funding proposal.

4.3 Engagement and consultation with key stakeholders, people who use the service and carers will be undertaken over the coming months to develop the service delivery model and specification for the Substance Misuse Service. The Service User and Influence Group will play a key part in co-designing the service delivery model.

4.4 Under the health and social care procurement legislation, the authority will publish its intention to award the contract to Humankind Charity.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 With regards to the re-commissioning of the Substance Misuse Service, three options have been considered:

1. Do nothing.
2. Re-commission the Substance Misuse Service via a competitive procurement process.
3. Undertake re-procurement directly with Humankind Charity by enacting the new provider selection regime regulations as set out in the Health and Care Bill.

5.2 **Option 1 - Do nothing** - If this option is taken, then the current service would expire on 31 March 2023. This option is not recommended as the loss of this provision would create a gap in support for residents with drug and alcohol issues and dependency. The local needs analysis demonstrates that there is a need for the service and highlights that the estimated prevalence figures for drug

and alcohol dependency reflect the national picture and are higher than the regional averages.

5.3 Option 2 - Competitive tender process – the second option would be to re-commission the Substance Misuse Service via a competitive tendering process.

Whilst competitive tendering can be an important tool for ensuring transparency and maximising the quality of the support provision, we believe that a competitive re-procurement process at this time would incur the following risks or negative impacts:

- No guarantee of service improvement: A competitive procurement process is an essential commissioning tool to make sure that a service of the highest quality and optimum value to the public purse continues to be delivered to local residents. When the existing service is already performing highly and has developed strong links with wider stakeholders to facilitate further improvements, it is our view that the rationale for a competitive procurement process which may potentially disrupt this is not strong.
- Potential loss of staff/skills: At a time when the National Drug Strategy and Dame Carol Black's two-part Review on Drugs are recommending significant investment in the substance misuse workforce, the uncertainty of a competitive procurement process could result in the potential loss of valued staff and skills that already exist in Barnsley. This is also at a time when there is a shortage of skilled and experienced professionals in the substance misuse field, resulting in several substance misuse providers struggling to recruit staff across their workforce.
- The introduction/mobilisation of a new service model can bring with it a period of instability for service users, local staff and the population. Whilst a new model can be worth this risk for a service that is under-performing, it is our view that this instability would be unnecessary in Barnsley as the existing service performance is very strong and the established model is effective.
- Disruption and anxiety: Our experience of commissioning and supporting the mobilisation of new services has shown that a new service transition and significant change can cause anxiety or distress to people using the service who rely on the consistency of their support and relationships with their keyworkers.
- Competition over collaboration: A competitive procurement process and potential change of service provider could result in a disruption to some of the relationships and programmes that Humankind Charity have developed at a time when a seamless, integrated approach is critical.
- Humankind Charity have contributed significantly to the development of collaborative working and integration across Barnsley public health services (eg Humankind's work with the Alcohol Alliance, delivery of DrinkCoach and their joint work with Barnsley Hospital's Alcohol Care Team which has been nationally and regionally recognised as an exemplar of best practice).
- The provider has also developed highly effective, collaborative inter-agency relationships with criminal justice partners across Probation, Police and the prison estate, as evidenced in the delivery of the Universal Grant. Within the context of significant change within that environment (i.e. probation reform), the case for enacting the procurement regulations in the Health and Care Bill and removing the need for a competitive tendering process is even stronger as the impact of these wider changes within the criminal justice

environment will be much less disruptive in terms of offending/re-offending outcomes when supported by established and effective collaborative relationships.

- A competitive procurement exercise requires significant resource investment, including the resource required for developing tender documentation/specifications, facilitating market engagement and briefing events and tender evaluation. The new provider selection regime under the Health and Care Bill will remove the requirement for commissioners to competitively tender where this is not in the best interests of service users.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The recommendation to undertake re-procurement directly with Humankind Charity, by enacting the new provider selection regime regulations as set out in the Health and Care Bill, will allow longer-term planning and collaborative commissioning with the provider and key stakeholders.

As an established service provider, we believe that Humankind Charity is best placed to continue working with commissioners to respond flexibly and adaptably to these changes and ensure the service delivery model aligns with the national and local strategic priorities and the three-year plan.

A potential competitive tender process would come at a time of significant change across the commissioning and funding landscape (e.g. National Drug Strategy investment and planning, National Probation reform, Integrated Care Systems).

As one of the most successful providers at delivering against the Universal Grant funding objectives, Humankind Charity are well positioned to respond clearly and effectively to strategic and funding changes, and this would not be guaranteed with a potential change in service provider.

7. GLOSSARY

BRS – Barnsley Recovery Steps.

DHSC – Department of Health and Social Care

DWP – Department for Work and Pensions

OHID – Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (formerly Public Health England).

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Not applicable.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- National Drug Strategy
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives>
- Draft Commissioning Quality Standard for Treatment and Recovery Services



CQS draft.pdf

- Substance Misuse Equality Impact Assessment



Substance Misuse
EIA

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

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Financial consultation & sign off | Avanda Mitchell 26.04.2022 |
| Legal consultation & sign off | Jason Field and Jo Haslam 11/04/22 |

Report Author: Jo Ekin
Post: Senior Commissioning Manager
Date: 19 April 2022

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF CORE SERVICES
TITLE: Quarter 4 and Year End Corporate Performance Report

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| REPORT TO: | Cabinet |
| Date of Meeting | 1 June 2022 |
| Cabinet Member Portfolio | Core Services |
| Key Decision | No |
| Public or Private | Public |

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to introduce the Council Plan Performance Report, drawing upon information available for Q4 (Jan – Mar) and Year End 2021/22, and to provide an overview of achievement in delivering the priorities and outcomes of the Council Plan 2021 - 24.

Council Plan priority

All

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

1. Review, challenge and scrutinise the contents of the Corporate Performance Report in relation to the delivery of the Corporate Plan priorities and outcomes.
2. The Performance Report is shared with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to inform and support their ongoing work programme.

1. INTRODUCTION

Our [Council Plan for 2021 to 2024](#) sets out what we aim to achieve over three years. Our plan gives us a clear direction to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and build our borough back better and fairer. It focuses on how we collectively deliver our services across the council to best support residents, communities, partners and business. It explains what we want to do, how we plan to do it, and how we'll measure whether we're on track to achieve it.

The Council Plan has been developed alongside the work that has taken place for the [Barnsley 2030](#) project through a series of activities with residents, businesses, employees and other key stakeholders across the borough to build a picture of what Barnsley is like now and what we want it to be like by 2030.

We have five priorities which are supported by 12 Outcomes: 63 Critical Success factors (Key Performance Indicators) have been aligned to the Outcomes to allow us to assess our performance against each Outcome.

Our priorities

- **Healthy Barnsley** – People can access all the care and support they need, at the right time and in the right place.
- **Learning Barnsley** – The opportunities available for young and adult learners mean that everyone can fulfil their learning potential, helping them build the skills they need to get into work and progress their careers.
- **Growing Barnsley** – Barnsley is an inclusive place where everyone can find suitable employment, live in a high-quality home that's right for them, and access the fast and affordable digital resources they need.
- **Sustainable Barnsley** – Protecting our borough for future generations
- **Enabling Barnsley** – Our priority to ensure that our council is modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high-performing.

Our priorities and outcomes

| Barnsley - the place of possibilities | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Healthy Barnsley | Learning Barnsley | Growing Barnsley | Sustainable Barnsley |
| People are safe and feel safe. | People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships. | Business start ups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities for all. | People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community. |
| People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible. | Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment. | People have a welcoming, safe and enjoyable town centre and principal towns as destinations for work, shopping, leisure and culture. | Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy. |
| We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough. | People have access to early help and support. | People are supported to have safe, warm, sustainable homes. | Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy and people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking. |
| Enabling Barnsley We are a modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high-performing council | | | |

Viewing the Report

Progress against our priorities and outcomes at the critical success factor level can be viewed via the new council performance dashboard and can be accessed via the link below. It is important to review the quarterly dashboard as it provides a detailed review of each of our Critical Success Factors including a red, amber and green (RAG) rating. This RAG rating is applied to each of our Critical Success Factors (CSF), which tracks our progress to achieving our vision of Barnsley, the place of possibilities.

We have also written a supplementary narrative report which outlines some of the activity that has taken place during the Quarter, but does not go into detail around performance so needs to be read in conjunction with the dashboard.

[Dashboard Link:](#)

2. PROPOSAL

That Cabinet:-

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

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

The report includes finance related performance information

3.2 Legal

None

3.3 Equality

Not applicable – our Corporate Plan is aligned with our public sector Equality Duty and therefore Equality is inherent within the framework

3.4 Sustainability

Decision-making wheel not completed as this is the regular performance report and it is therefore not applicable. This report updated on performance against our sustainability ambitions.

3.5 Employee

None

3.6 Communications

A press release will be released when these papers become public.

4. CONSULTATION

Consultations have taken place with a number of officers from all Directorates within the council who have contributed to the report and its content.

Consultation has also taken place with all members of the Senior Management Team who have collectively reviewed the report.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Not Applicable

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 This is a regular report where cabinet are invited to scrutinise and comment on performance.

7. GLOSSARY

CPR – Corporate Performance Report

Rag – Red, Amber, Green Rating of indicators

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - CPR Q3 2021/22

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

CPR Q3 2021/22

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

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

| | |
|--|---|
| Financial consultation & sign off | <i>This report contains financial performance information and has been produced in conjunction with HOS and Service Director of Finance</i> |
| Legal consultation & sign off | No Legal Implications |

Report Author: Jill Bills

Post: Business Improvement & Intelligence Lead

Date:09/05/22

**Healthy
Barnsley**

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**Growing
Barnsley**

**Enabling
Barnsley**

Barnsley Council Corporate Plan Performance Report Quarter 4: January – March 2022



BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council



**Healthy
Barnsley**

**Learning
Barnsley**

**Growing
Barnsley**

**Sustainable
Barnsley**

Welcome to Our Corporate Plan Performance Report

Our [Council Plan for 2021 to 2024](#) sets out what we aim to achieve over three years. Our plan gives us a clear direction to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and build our borough back better and fairer. It focuses on how we collectively deliver our services across the council to best support residents, communities, partners and business. It explains what we want to do, how we plan to do it, and how we'll measure whether we're on track to achieve it.

The Council Plan has been developed alongside the work that has taken place for the [Barnsley 2030](#) project through a series of activities with residents, businesses, employees and other key stakeholders across the borough to build a picture of what Barnsley is like now and what we want it to be like by 2030.

We have five new priorities which are supported by 12 Outcomes: 63 Critical Success factors (Key Performance Indicators) have been aligned to the Outcomes to allow us to assess our performance against each Outcome.

Our priorities

- Healthy Barnsley – People can access all the care and support they need, at the right time and in the right place.
- Learning Barnsley – The opportunities available for young and adult learners mean that everyone can fulfil their learning potential, helping them build the skills they need to get into work and progress their careers.
- Growing Barnsley – Barnsley is an inclusive place where everyone can find suitable employment, live in a high-quality home that's right for them, and access the fast and affordable digital resources they need.
- Sustainable Barnsley – Protecting our borough for future generations
- Enabling Barnsley – Our priority to ensure that our council is modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high-performing.

Barnsley the place of possibilities



**Healthy
Barnsley**

**Learning
Barnsley**

**Growing
Barnsley**

**Sustainable
Barnsley**

This report is a supplementary narrative report to the quarterly dashboard which provides more detail in relation to performance for the quarter.

It is important to review the quarterly dashboard report in addition to reading this narrative report, as it provides a detailed review of each of our Critical Success Factors including a red, amber and green (RAG) rating. This RAG rating is applied to each of our Critical Success Factors (CSF), which tracks our progress to achieving our vision of Barnsley, the place of possibilities.

Each CSF falls under one of our 12 Outcomes, which in turn feeds into one of our five priorities (Healthy, Learning, Growing, Sustainable and Enabling Barnsley).

We track the progress of each CSF over the year and report on them quarterly where applicable, and provide commentary on the progress of the indicator. Reviewing the online dashboard will help to provide context on where we are achieving our targets, and where there are areas for improvement.

The online dashboard is available via this [Link](#)

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Our Council Plan Performance Framework.

Across these new Priorities, we have set out the Outcomes that describe our intentions for the next three years, to ensure that we focus on Barnsley as a place of possibilities. Over the next few pages you will read about some of our achievements across the Priorities.

For a detailed review of our progress against each Priority, please take a look at our online dashboard report which is available [Link](#)

Barnsley - the place of possibilities

| Healthy Barnsley | Learning Barnsley | Growing Barnsley | Sustainable Barnsley |
|---|--|--|---|
| People are safe and feel safe. | People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships. | Business start ups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities for all. | People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community. |
| People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible. | Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment. | People have a welcoming, safe and enjoyable town centre and principal towns as destinations for work, shopping, leisure and culture. | Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy. |
| We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough. | People have access to early help and support. | People are supported to have safe, warm, sustainable homes. | Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy and people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking. |

**Enabling
Barnsley**

We are a modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high-performing council

1. People are safe and feel safe
2. People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible
3. We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough



Another successful Operation Duxford



In March, we joined forces with South Yorkshire Police and other partner agencies to support Operation Duxford. More than 150 officers, came together and took part in the police operation across Barnsley to pro-actively

tackle criminality and engage with the local community. The operation resulted in: 14 arrests for drugs offences.

One vehicle was seized for growing cannabis. 7 vehicles were seized for not having valid insurance. Four search warrants were executed. 28 stop-and-searches conducted; patrols carried out to clamp down on nuisance, street drinking and fly-tipping. 38 bags of rubbish were cleared around Thurnscoe cemetery by our volunteers. 6 litter hot spot clean-ups were undertaken. This is another positive step we've been able to take to ensure Barnsley continues to be a safe place by joining forces with South Yorkshire Police.

Healthy Barnsley Shortlisted for 2 Local Government Awards



We have been shortlisted for two Local Government Chronicle awards for our Healthy Barnsley Activity.

Our 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service has been shortlisted in the Large Team of the Year category. The

team provides health visiting and school nursing services, has been rated as outstanding in a recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection. This is the first CQC inspection the service has had since transferring from the NHS into Barnsley Council under the direction of our Public Health service in 2016. This is a fantastic achievement given the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Good Food Barnsley has been shortlisted in the Public/Private Partnerships category. The partnership is a broad coalition between the private, public and third sectors. It's a joined-up movement and partnership of great minds and resources that work towards a shared vision of building a better Barnsley where everyone has the right to the food they need to thrive.

Adult Safeguarding Peer Review

We recently invited a team of peer reviewers to take a look at our approach to safeguarding adults. We have now received the initial feedback from the review team. Areas of strength included: Strong partnerships to deliver safeguarding, Persistence of workers, especially working with adult who self-neglect and / or hoard. It was found that the Safeguarding Board has a clear strategy and works well together. There is a Robust training programme in place and evidence of working with the adult to deliver their outcomes was recognised.

Areas to consider for development: We need to clarify who owns "issues" that could be picked up by multiple boards (e.g. Domestic Abuse). Develop and use the Customer group (SAFE). Consider if we can do more to get more workers and communities to recognise and report safeguarding concerns. Encourage other partners to lead on issues on behalf of the Board



Pioneering fostering programme supports 29 looked after children and their foster carers in Barnsley



Children and young people in foster care in Barnsley benefit hugely from the Mockingbird Programme, an award-winning and sustainable foster care model which sees a constellation of fostering households set up in a similar structure to that of an extended family, structured around the support and relationships that provides.

We introduced the Mockingbird programme, which in the UK is delivered by leading fostering charity The Fostering Network, in 2020. Since then, the model has gone from strength to strength. In October 2021, we had a celebration event for the one-year anniversary of the first Barnsley constellation, six month anniversary of the second, and launch of the third constellation. The three constellations in Barnsley are each led by a hub home foster carer who offers vital peer support and guidance alongside social activities and sleepovers to strengthen relationships and permanence. Thanks to the community support Mockingbird provides, 29 children have been provided with secure and stable families, and the breakdown of relationships has been avoided, meaning more Barnsley children can grow up with the stability they deserve.

Barnsley joins the fight to improve children's health and reduce obesity with a few simple swaps



We're supporting a new Childhood Nutrition campaign launched to improve children's nutrition, health and reduce childhood obesity. The latest Better Health Campaign aims to help and influence parents purchasing decisions through the use of the free NHS Food Scanner app. The dedicated app is the ideal health hack for families to help them swap food and drink higher in sugar, saturated fat, and salt for healthier alternatives.

The app comes off the back of a record rise in obesity amongst children over the last school year with the latest data from the National Childhood Measurement Programme highlighting that one in four children aged four to five are overweight or obese, whilst four in ten children aged 10-11 are now overweight or obese.

4. People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships
5. Children & young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement & attainment
6. People have access to Early help and support



Dodworth Library set for transformation



We are excited to announce that Barnsley Libraries' application to the Libraries Improvement Fund has been successful.

The fund has been made available by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and is delivered by Arts Council England. The grant of £144,375 will support the transformation of Dodworth Library as part of our commitment to refurbish all our community libraries.

During the transformation, Dodworth Library will get a much-needed facelift to make it more welcoming for residents in the local area, offering modern facilities and a lively programme.

Success in Year 2 Phonics

In Barnsley, we want people to aim high and excel in their studies. This starts at an early age, supporting children to make the best possible start to their education journey.

We're therefore delighted to share the success of our Year 2's in learning their phonics. In their autumn screening check, we saw 82.8% of Barnsley pupils scoring 32 marks or more, the mark required to pass. This places us 3.4% above the national average for children passing these tests, widening the gap from 2.5% above the national average in 2020.

It is great to see our pass rates improve by 2% in the past year, with the most notable improvements being made by pupils with English as an additional language, pupils with SEND and boys.

This is a fantastic achievement which could not be possible without the hard work of our schools, families and the children themselves.



Youth Council Election

It's been a great start to the year for young people's voices in Barnsley, as our borough's young people vote in this year's Youth Council election and Make Your Mark ballot. This year, our Youth Council election period ran from 31 January to 28 February. Our teams worked in schools and across communities to encourage as many eligible young people as possible to get involved, with 63 young people nominating themselves to be elected to the Youth Council between 2022-2024.

Secondary schools across Barnsley, along with Barnsley College, participated in the election. 28 of the 37 available seats have now been taken with the first meeting of the new Youth Council taking place earlier this week. National votes from the ballot will now help to shape the Youth Council's work plan for at least the next 12 months. 7,758 votes were cast for the ballot in Barnsley, an amazing result which ranks our borough as 7th nationally based on percentage turnout (35.19%).

Young people in Barnsley voted for the following three topics as their priority areas: Jobs, Money, Homes and Opportunities (1,894 votes), Health and Wellbeing (1,751 votes), Environment (1,197 votes).



Early Help Navigator shortlisted for a Barnsley Hospital Heart Award



Katie Ellis, an Early Help Navigator employed by us and working at Barnsley Hospital, has been shortlisted in the Heart Awards in the Innovation category!

This role is a great example of partnership working to improve the wellbeing of families. When families attend the hospital's paediatric A&E department, the Early Help Navigator builds positive and supportive relationships with them and provides early help services in a holistic, family-centred way.

Nearly 94 per cent of Barnsley children get their first choice of secondary school for September



22nd March was National Offer Day and parents have been informed which secondary school their children will start in September. We have been able to offer 2687 children (93.6 per cent) their first choice of secondary school.

We are pleased to see that 99.7 per cent of parents applied for their child's secondary school place online – an increase of 1.5 per cent on last year. We have seen an increase in applications this year, with 2871 applications, up from 2690 last year. With 2687 (93.6 per cent) receiving their first choice, 91 (3.2 per cent) were offered their second choice of school and nine (0.3 per cent) got their third choice.

84 children (2.9 per cent) did not get any of their preferred choices but have been allocated a school place at an alternative school by our school admissions team.

Brass band scoops trophy and place at national finals



“It was exciting to play at my first contest. I've watched mum, dad and my brother and sister do them before, so I was excited that it was my turn! I was very, very happy to win the youngest player prize. I held the trophy all the way home!”
Ethan Stokes - award winner for the youngest player at Yorkshire Area Brass Band Contest

Barnsley Metropolitan Band performed at Huddersfield Town Hall in the 4th Section of the Yorkshire Area Brass Band Contest on Saturday.

They achieved second place in what was their first performance on the contest stage since March 2020. They also won Best Percussion, Best Soloist, and were awarded a special prize for featuring the contest's youngest player. The band is a Barnsley Music Hub partner, based at Barnsley Music Service within The Civic. As runners-up they will now represent Yorkshire in the finals of the National Brass Band Championships later in the year.

Growing Barnsley

7. Business Start ups & existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment providing opportunities for all
8. People have a welcoming safe and enjoyable town centre and principal towns as a destination for work, shopping, leisure and culture
9. People are supported to have safe warm and welcoming homes



BARNSELY
Metropolitan Borough Council

Ambitious investment plan approved by Cabinet



In January our own 'levelling up' plan was laid out in a new Place-based Investment Plan.

The plan sets out our investment plans and how we make sure Barnsley is in the strongest possible position to secure funding through a range of sources. The plan will be used to support bids for funding to a variety of major national funding schemes and help attract inward investment to the borough.

The plan sets out the eight key themes for investment in the plan: Vibrant and resilient places, Culture and visitor economy, Innovation, enterprise and growth, Skills, education and employment, Sustainability and net-zero carbon, Transport and mobility, Digital and Housing, land and development.

Examples of projects include further investment in our Principal Towns and Local Centres, and a number of key projects in and around the town centre including further development of The Seam Digital Campus on the lower Courthouse site, and a new Northern Academy of Vocal Excellence which will serve as a home for the Barnsley Youth Choir.



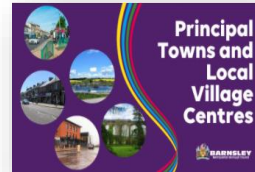
Council supporting Dearne communities to transform through major investment

This year has seen an extremely positive start to commercial investment and jobs growth in the Dearne area and surrounding employment sites in the borough.

M1 Junction 36 is now a very attractive location for businesses. We expect in excess of 1.3 million square feet of new speculative development to take place in the area within the next two years, with major new developments already underway. Barnsley has also recently experienced record levels of property take-up by expanding local companies and inward investors.

Harworth Group PLC has successfully developed the first phase at Gateway 36 in recent years, attracting inward investors and expanding local businesses, creating more than 150 new jobs. 1,002 new jobs have been created so far this financial year, and more than one million square feet of commercial property space has been occupied. £17 million has been invested in recent years to enhance the capacity of the local road infrastructure to enable substantial development to take place at M1 Junction 36. In addition, Evri (formerly known as Hermes) will open their new hub at J36 this year. This £60 million facility, the largest of its kind in Europe, is expected to create 1,400 new full-time jobs and 300 temporary roles at peak periods.

Multi-million investment to transform local high streets across the borough



We are planning to invest more than £30m in our local high streets and other local priority projects over the next five years. Our Principal Towns programme has

already demonstrated its innovative and trailblazing approach to thriving communities with £5 million already invested. This has already given us more than 60 projects either completed or underway. These include more than 500 local shop-front transformations, as well as community art projects and new public spaces created. The next, much larger, stage of the Principal Towns and Local Village Centres Investment Programme. Cabinet have approved new Town Investment Plans for each of our Principal Towns of Cudworth, Hoyland, Royston, Penistone and Wombwell. Goldthorpe already has a Town Investment Plan after it was chosen as one of the towns to be supported by the UK Government's Towns Fund.

A few examples of proposals in the plan include a new urban community square created by repurposing run-down buildings in Cudworth; Further redevelopment of Hoyland Town Centre; a potential new efficient and eco-friendly building in Penistone.

LCG Award nomination - Future Places

In response to the challenges of the pandemic, the council introduced a number of economic recovery initiatives including a free to use the digital studio, access to grant funding for digital technology, a single click and collect facility (ShopAppy.com), provision of self-serve grocery lockers, borough-wide food to go app Yoello, Barnsley gift card, and a Mi Rewards digital loyalty scheme.

This range of measures, that help to connect businesses and create new virtual experiences, aim to take our town and local centres beyond the physical, and open up all the high streets to businesses across the whole borough.

Landlords urged to seek support to insulate homes



Private sector landlords were invited to attend an event to find out about the support available to help better insulate their properties ahead of changes in the law on energy efficiency standards.

Funding is available to help landlords bring the energy efficiency standards of properties up to the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard currently required by law, which is Energy Performance Certificate rating E. That is due to change to band C by 2030 at the very latest, and government has already announced plans to bring that date forward.

The funding available will support bringing standards up to band C, which will future-proof properties for the forthcoming changes. This benefits tenants through reduced energy bills and warmer, more comfortable homes, and in turn further benefits landlords through happier tenants and more stable tenancies.

Sustainable Barnsley

- 10. People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community
- 11. Our Heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy
- 12. Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy & people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking



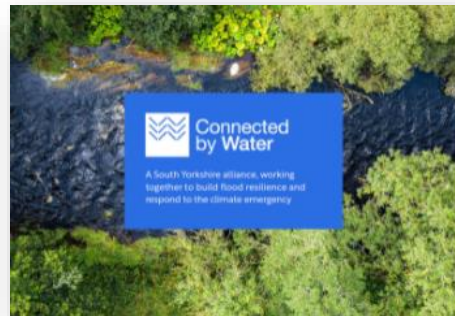
Connected by Water

Barnsley Council has proudly announced its role in a powerful new alliance to reduce flood risk and tackle the climate emergency head on. The Connected by Water Action Plan will help protect homes and businesses in Barnsley and across South Yorkshire from the impacts of flooding. The plan was first conceived after floods devastated parts of South Yorkshire in 2019. As the water subsided, communities, businesses and senior leaders realised they were experiencing the impacts of climate change first-hand and made a commitment to work together to tackle the issue.

A new partnership was formed with Barnsley Council alongside Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Councils, the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority working together on an action plan for the region. It combines 144 actions and 100 projects with a total investment of £400 million to better protect over 17,000 homes, businesses and infrastructure across South Yorkshire.

In Barnsley, projects include:

- Low Valley Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Barnsley Culvert Programme
- Worsbrough Reservoir
- Church Street, Darton
- Low Valley (Bulling Dyke)
- Low Valley Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Netherwood Road bank strengthening
- Culvert Replacement Programme, A637 in Darton



Tree Planting

We have been supporting the UK-wide tree planting initiative and have invited schools and community groups from across our borough to plant a tree and play their part in making Barnsley more sustainable.

The QGC encourages the planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, encouraging everyone to learn more about the best way to plant trees so that they survive and flourish for years to come.



New energy-efficient council housing in Athersley South



Work has started on seven new gas-free council bungalows featuring a range of measures to make them more environmentally friendly and energy-efficient. The new homes off Laithes Lane in Athersley South will include air source heat pumps for low carbon heating, solar panels with batteries for electricity generation and storage, and electric vehicle charging points. The bungalows have level access to the front and back, as well as wet rooms, making them particularly suitable for people with mobility issues.

O&P Construction Ltd have been appointed as the main building contractor and the new homes will be ready in July 2022. The bungalows will be let and managed by Berneslai Homes. It's part of our commitment to reducing the council's carbon emissions to net-zero by 2040. This year as a council we have new council homes with gas-free heating under construction at Billingley View in Bolton upon Dearne, St Michaels Avenue in Monk Bretton, and this site in Athersley and a further scheme at the planning stage for Market Street, Goldthorpe.

A new way to manage our grasslands



Grass cutting season starts this week alongside a new scheme to encourage biodiversity and wildflowers in selected areas as part of our ongoing work to make Barnsley more sustainable.

This year, we will be managing some of our grasslands differently by rewilding carefully selected plots across our borough. This will mean allowing small areas of natural grassland to grow, which over time, will improve biodiversity.

It will encourage wildflowers, help create new habitats and vital shelter for pollinators and potential species reintroductions.

The selected 16 plots have been identified as having a low variety of wildlife (biodiversity). Rewilding them will make a significant change to this enabling more plants and wildlife to flourish. Plots will still be actively maintained and attended every 18 days to cut the grass around the plots as well as cutting paths through the grass in suitable places.

This will enhance the areas for people to enjoy walking, exercise and nature. At the end of the season, the grass will be cut, and all of the clippings will be removed from these rewilding sites. This is to ensure that sites are left neat and tidy over the winter period and help to reduce soil fertility because wildflowers thrive in less fertile conditions.

Our people strategy

As we work to deliver our Barnsley 2030 vision for the borough, we are excited to have launched our new People Strategy 2022-2025. A strategy for all our staff, it has been designed to help them to be the best they can be, making sure they feel empowered to share their ideas and have the support, opportunities and inclusive culture they need to thrive. Our People Strategy, which recognises our staff as our greatest asset, will help us to be in the best place possible to deliver on our Barnsley 2030 ambitions and Council Plan priorities. The strategy will be pivotal to Enabling Barnsley. Driven by our ambition to Be Even Better, this is our underlying priority as part of Barnsley 2030 to ensure that our council is modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high-performing.

Our People Strategy has three key themes:

- Having effective leadership, values and culture.
- Maximising our organisational capacity and capability.
- Supporting staff to have a great employee experience.



Our 2022-23 balanced budget has been approved

The budget for 2022-23 has been approved at Full Council. After another truly challenging and uncertain year, we're in a reasonably strong financial position which is a great achievement.

This means that we can boost investment for people and their places; in our Principal Towns and Local Centres, creating opportunities for new jobs and better homes while supporting the people who need our help the most. However, we're still faced with considerable financial uncertainty and many risks and challenges ahead due to labour supply issues, inflation, Government funding and levelling up plans, and moving forward from the pandemic, which puts significant pressure on our resources and increased demand on frontline services such as Adult and Children's Social Care services.

Our budget proposals are well planned and researched, and we remain vigilant, preparing for every financial scenario and managing our resources with a long-term future in mind.



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International Safety Award

We have won an International Safety Award from the British Safety Council in recognition of our commitment to keeping our workers and workplaces healthy and safe.

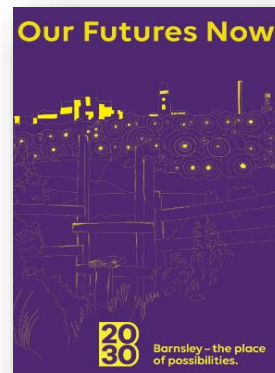
We are one of 135 organisations to win a distinction in the International Safety Awards 2022, being recognised for all our hard work during 2021 to help keep our staff safe, healthy and well in the face of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Now in their 64th year, the International Safety Awards recognise and celebrate organisations from around the world which have demonstrated to the scheme's independent judges their commitment to preventing workplace injuries and work-related ill health.

The awards also acknowledge organisations that have shown a commitment to wellbeing and mental health at work.



Our Futures Now book begins its tour around Barnsley Libraries



Last year, around 50 individuals from Barnsley Council, partners and local poets came together to tell stories and inspire people to imagine the future of Barnsley – the place of possibilities.

Back in December 2021, following the launch event, we mentioned that the book would go on tour. Well, your wait is now over, and we are now happy to announce that the tour has begun. The book celebrates the stories that come straight from the heart of real people, many of who live in Barnsley and are passionate about our borough.

From stories based on the resilience shown during the pandemic to fictional or very personal narratives, each story looks at the future of our borough with ambition and optimism. Our Futures Now will travel across the borough, allowing everyone to see it and get inspired on the doorstep of their local community.

Each month, the hand-made version of the book will be staying at a different library. Here are months of when the book will be staying near where you live:



ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS 2021-22

SOME OF OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE 2021/22 REPORTING YEAR

Healthy Barnsley

The What's Your Move Website is launched to help improve physical activity levels

Barnsley Hospital is the first hospital site in the country to have surrounding smoke-free roads

BMBC joined forces to deliver the first South Yorkshire Safeguarding Awareness Week

One of the UK's first permanent Covid Memorials is unveiled in Barnsley

Learning Barnsley

Early Help Navigator Role implemented at Barnsley Hospital to help families attending A&E

93% of Barnsley children get their first choice of primary school and 94% their first chance of secondary school

Unique Bereavement counselling service launches in Barnsley schools

Barnsley students achieve an A-Level pass rate of 99.7 per cent

Growing Barnsley

The Glass Works wins a major National regeneration award

Barnsley Council secures £2.4m grant for Community Boost project to help boost the growth of good employment

Arts Council England announces commitment to Barnsley as one of 54 priority places

£1.7m is secured by BMBC to upgrade energy efficiency of council houses

Sustainable Barnsley

Dearne valley Wetlands designated site of special interest

Ambitious flood action plan launched with Barnsley Council as a key partner to tackle climate emergency in South Yorkshire

Worsbrough Mill Country Park given a green flag award for the first time since 2014

20 electric vehicle charging points are approved across 9 town centre car parks

Enabling Barnsley

Barnsley 2030 plan launched with ambition for Barnsley to be the place of possibilities

Barnsley Council wins International Safety Award for protecting our employees from the risk of injury and ill health

People Strategy 2022-2025 launched to help us deliver on our ambitions for Barnsley

No Place for Hate launched to develop supportive, inclusive communities online

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Executive Director – Core Services & Service Director – Finance
(Section 151 Officer)

TITLE: CORPORATE FINANCE PERFORMANCE YEAR ENDING 2021/22

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| REPORT TO: | Cabinet |
| Date of Meeting | 1 June 2022 |
| Cabinet Member Portfolio | Core Services |
| Key Decision | No |
| Public or Private | Public |

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide details of the 2021/22 draft revenue final accounts position for the General Fund (including Schools) and the Housing Revenue Account.

In addition, separate reports have been prepared detailing the Authority’s final accounts positions for the Capital Programme and Treasury Management activities.

It should be noted that the accounts are draft subject to external audit scrutiny, although no significant changes are anticipated.

The report also sets out the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on the accounts during the year.

Council Plan priority

Enabling

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

- 1. Note the final position for the General Fund being an operational underspend of £4.9M (after adjusting for statutory balances, scheme slippage & known expenditure commitments in 22/23 – see Appendix 1).**
- 2. Note the final position on the Housing Revenue Account, being an operational underspend of £0.2M.**

3. Note that whilst the above positions are favorable, The Council is set to face significant financial pressure in the next financial year and beyond as a consequence of several emerging risks including supply chain and inflationary issues, increasing demand for council services e.g. looked after children, the impact of adult social care reform and other policy related risks.
4. Approve that the 21/22 underspends [£4.9M & £0.2M respectively] be held in strategic reserves to mitigate against these cost pressures, pending a fundamental refresh of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy / Improvement & Efficiency Agenda.
5. Approve the write off of historic bad debts totaling £0.9M as detailed in the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council's 2021/22 budget was agreed by Full Council on 25th February 2021/22. The performance against the budget set has been reported to the Council on a quarterly basis over the past 12 months. This report now presents the final update for 2021/22.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 The table below summarizes the Council's financial performance for 21/22.

| Directorate | Approved Net Budget 2021/22 | Projected Net Outturn 2021/22 | Variance* | Variance Split by: | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | Covid Costs | Covid Income Lost | Business as Usual |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Children's | 42,849 | 46,964 | 4,115 | 326 | - | 3,789 |
| Place | 45,609 | 50,795 | 5,186 | 4,772 | 1,697 | (1,283) |
| Adults & Communities | 64,446 | 76,434 | 11,988 | 15,712 | - | (3,724) |
| Public Health | 4,314 | 6,433 | 2,119 | 3,016 | - | (897) |
| Core Services | -4,207 | -4,957 | (750) | 129 | 184 | (1,063) |
| Service Totals | 153,011 | 175,669 | 22,658 | 23,955 | 1,881 | (3,178) |
| Corporate / General Items | 33,576 | 32,000 | (1,476) | 232 | - | (1,708) |
| Total Pre- COVID Funding | 186,587 | 207,669 | 21,182 | 24,187 | 1,881 | (4,886) |
| COVID-19 Funding | | -26,036 | (26,038) | -24,187 | -1,881 | |
| Total | 186,587 | 181,633 | (4,856) | - | - | (4,886) |
| HRA | 73,470 | 73,095 | (155) | | | (155) |

*Includes proposed earmarking of resources as detailed in Appendix 1

- 2.2 COVID 19 has continued to have a major impact on the council's finances during the year with the cost of responding to the pandemic totaling some £26.0M (£24.1M in costs and £1.9M in lost income). However, this has been fully offset by funding received from Government.

- 2.3 Over and above that there is a net underspend in 21/22 of **£4.9M** on business-as-usual activities / services. It is proposed that this balance is earmarked to mitigate against emerging financial risks pending a refresh of the MTFs [See recommendation at 2.1 bullet 4].
- 2.4 An initial review indicates that most of this underspend is one off in nature [e.g., vacancies held pending new year restructures, slippage in relation to key projects & initiatives etc] and will therefore not be available to support the MTFs in future periods. However, as part of the MTFs refresh an exercise will be carried out to ensure that existing budgets / resources are appropriately aligned to Council priorities.

Comparison with Quarter 3

- 2.5 As at the end of Quarter 3 the overall outturn was forecast to be a balanced position comprised of a net overspend on Covid related activities (after applying specific grants) of £3M offset by an equivalent underspend on Business-As-Usual [BAU] activities. The improvement in the final outturn position of £4.9M is mainly attributable to a reduction in the level of expected spend in dealing with the pandemic combined with an improved underspending position in BAU activities due to lower than anticipated spend and additional grant income received during the period:

| | Covid Cost | Covid Income | BAU | FUNDING | Total |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | £M | £M | £M | £M | £M |
| Q3 | 25,390 | 2,487 | (3,352) | (24,695) | (170) |
| Reduction in costs | (1,233) | (606) | (1,534) | - | (3,373) |
| Increase in grant income | - | - | - | (1,343) | (1,343) |
| TOTAL Q4 | 24,157 | 1,881 | (4,886) | (26,038) | (4,886) |

COVID Costs

- 2.6 The overall cost of responding to, and recovering from, the COVID 19 pandemic during 21/22 was £24.1M, a decrease of £1.2M since Q3. This decrease is predominately due to the impact of the Omicron variant on service delivery being lower than anticipated, helped by the amazing vaccination effort by the NHS and BMBC colleagues.

The table provides a summary of costs incurred.

| Spend | Outturn £ | Q3 £ | Var £ |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Infection Control / support to care providers | 7,355 | 7,427 | (72) |
| Outbreak Control | 3,168 | 3,003 | 165 |
| Household Support/Support to the vulnerable | 8,357 | 7,911 | 446 |
| Additional Social care | 326 | 330 | (4) |
| Waste | 1,229 | 1,461 | (232) |
| Cleaning & Security | 1,824 | 2,391 | (567) |
| Business support* | 1,537 | 2,000 | (463) |
| Other | 361 | 867 | (506) |
| TOTAL | 24,157 | 25,390 | (1,233) |

**In addition to this support, business grants have also been awarded totaling £15.5M.*

COVID Income

2.7 COVID 19 has also adversely impacted on income levels with an overall shortfall in income against budgeted levels of £1.9M, mainly relating to car parking income and commercial rents. However, as the various COVID restrictions were lifted during the latter part of 2021 an improvement of £0.6M on the reported Q3 position has materialised at year end e.g., increased meal uptake within the schools catering service etc.

Government Funding

2.8 The following Government funding has been used to fully offset the costs associated with COVID 19.

| Support Type | Purpose | TOTAL £M |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Emergency COVID Funding | General funding to support the Council's response to the pandemic. | 5.053 |
| Infection and Prevention Control | Funding to help control and prevent infections in care home settings. | 2.731 |
| Outbreak Control and Management | Mitigation and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19. | 4.690 |
| Income Compensation | Compensation for lost income from fees and charges. | 0.380 |
| Household Support Grant | Funding to provide welfare assistance for food and household items for people on low income who are impacted by the cost-of-living crisis as well as support for those required to self-isolate. | 2.939 |
| Rapid Testing | Specific testing in care homes for both staff and visitors. | 1.625 |
| Test and Trace | Funding to provide hardship support for low-income households required to self-isolate. | 2.800 |
| Workforce Retention fund | Funding predominantly for additional capacity / retaining existing staff within the care sector. | 2.386 |
| Omicron Support Fund | Additional support provided to social care providers to address the impact of the Omicron Variant. | 0.310 |
| Business Support | Support to businesses to assist them in recovering from the impact of the pandemic. | 2.493 |
| New Burdens | Funding to help LA's make core system changes to facilitate key support services. | 0.307 |
| Community Testing | Funding to support the community testing programme throughout the Borough. | 0.194 |
| Community Champions | Funding to support the provision of community champions across the Borough, providing advice and support to those affected by COVID 19. | 0.096 |
| Next Steps Accommodation | Funding provided to support the homeless. | 0.030 |
| TOTAL | | 26.038 |

Business as Usual

2.9 There is also an operational underspend on Business-as-Usual activity of £4.9M across the council. This is predominately one off in nature and relates to vacancy management pending the implementation of new service operating structures, increased contributions from Health Partners and re-deployment of workloads to support the covid response. However, it should be noted that this position is net of a significant overspend in Children's services.

2.10 Further details are provided in the individuals directorate updates at section 7

Earmarking of resources from 21/22 to 22/23

2.11 As in previous years, included in the overall outturn are resources which are required to be earmarked [set aside] to finance specific expenditure items in future years.

2.12 Earmarking's recommended for approval fall into 2 categories:

(A) Earmarking's previously approved by Cabinet or required by statute including Schools' and SEND balances and reserves previously agreed for use via the 22/23 reserves strategy;

(B) Earmarking's relating to project / scheme slippage or set aside to fund specific expenditure commitments in future periods. Examples include grant monies required to be earmarked for specific purposes to fund schemes, projects or initiatives continuing to completion in 22/23 and beyond (e.g., commitments for school improvement, ringfenced grant funding slippage (e.g ERDF, ESF etc.), vehicle replacement programme, smart working /transformation programmes, glassworks).

2.13 These are separately listed in Appendix 1 with a summary given in the table below:

| <u>2021/22 Proposed Earmarking</u> | £M |
|---|---------------|
| Total of proposed earmarking's previously approved by Cabinet / Statute (includes required provisions for COVID 19) | 46.683 |
| Total of proposed earmarking's related to grant / project / scheme slippage / known expenditure commitments | 8,159 |
| Total - Proposed earmarking's included into overall outturn | 54.842 |

Corporate Resources

Collection Rates

- 2.14 The Council's major sources of discretionary income are Business Rates and Council Tax. As Government funding continues to reduce, the Council's financial health becomes almost completely reliant upon the collection of both Council Tax and Business Rates (as demonstrated in the financial resilience section of this report). The following table compares actual collection rates for the year against the stretch targets that were set.

| | 20/21 Actual | 21/22 Stretch Target | 21/22 Actual | Variance to Target |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Council Tax | 96.26% | 96% | 96.8% | +0.8% |
| Business Rates (local share) | 98.27% | 97.5% | 98.1% | +0.6% |

- 2.15 Council Tax collection rates have exceeded the stretch target by 0.8%, around 0.4% higher than forecast in Quarter 3. This is an extremely positive position, though it needs to be considered within the context of having a reduced amount to collect due to the increased awards of localised council tax support, additional government funded hardship payments and other government interventions linked to COVID and the cost-of-living crisis.
- 2.16 However, there is a major risk to collection rates in the coming financial year as this funding / support falls away and the cost-of-living crisis continues to impact household incomes and the ability to meet expenses / service debts deteriorates further.
- 2.17 Business Rates collection exceeded the stretch target of 97.5% by 0.6%. This is an improvement of 0.06% on the position reported at Quarter 3. The position has been volatile throughout 21/22 due to the uncertainty around the extension of local and central government support schemes.
- 2.18 This represents strong performance especially when considering that businesses in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors had nothing to pay in 2020/21 [66% to pay in 21/22]. Again, the economic climate and in particular supply chain and inflationary issues is likely to place pressure on collection during 22/23. The position will be closely monitored with any risks to collection being reported as part of normal budgetary procedures.

Arrears Management

Total Arrears

- 2.19 The table below shows that the overall overdue debt (arrears) position at the end of March 22 stands at £18.4M. This is comprised of prior year debt of £10.0M and new debt of £8.4M.

| | Pre-21/22 Arrears £M | 2021/22 Arrears £M | TOTAL Arrears £M | Bad Debt Provision £M | % Provision v Overall arrears |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Opening 2021/22 Position (position as at 31.03.2021) | 17.890 | n/a | 17.890 | 15.979 | 89% |
| Total as at end Dec | 9.587 | 7.891 | 17.478 | 14.870 | 85% |
| Total as at end March | 10.007 | 8.345 | 18.352 | 16.109 | 88% |
| Total movement in year | (7.883) | 8.345 | 0.462 | 0.130 | (1%) |
| Movement Dec to March | 0.420 | 0.454 | 0.874 | 1.239 | 3% |

Bad Debt Provision

- 2.20 Historic debt is traditionally much more difficult to collect. To offer some protection against non-collection, the Council sets a prudent provision to allow for possible non collection (allowed for within the 2021/22 budget). The current bad debt provision as at the end of March 22 stands at £16.1M. Whilst this is an increase of £0.130M since the start of the year, the total provision against outstanding arrears has reduced by 1%.

Write Offs

- 2.21 The S151 Officer is now also seeking approval to write off historic debt amounting to £0.896M which has become uneconomical to pursue. This is summarised in the table below:

| Type of Dept | Value of Write off (£M) |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Council Tax | 0.474 |
| Business Rates | 0.226 |
| Trade Debt - General Fund | 00.84 |
| Trade Debt - HRA | 0.040 |
| Housing Benefit | 0.053 |
| Sub Total | 0.877 |
| Rent Arrears | 0.019 |
| Total | 0.896 |

Financial Sustainability Beyond 2021/22

- 2.22 The Council approved its updated Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2025 in February 2022.
- 2.23 Whilst this presented a balanced budget for 2022/23, the strategy for ensuring the Council's longer term financial stability was predicated on effectively mitigating several key emerging risks, some of which have already started to materialise [e.g., the more than doubling of the Council's electricity costs in the current financial year]. Some of the other risks that need to be unpacked, modelled and then mitigated over the course of the next planning period are explained further below:

- **Health and Social Care Reforms**

The Government have proposed several reforms to Health and Social Care including the introduction of a cap on the amount people will pay towards the cost of their care needs over their lifetime as well as introducing fair cost of care proposals for providers. Whilst the Government have allocated some funding as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review it remains uncertain whether this will cover the full costs of the reforms.

- **Children's Social Care / Home to School**

Children's Social Care overspent by some £4M during 21/22 mainly due to an increase in the number of children looked after beyond the numbers provided for within the Placement & Sufficiency Strategy, this being exacerbated due to the increasing complexity of children's care needs (see Section 7). Whilst some provision has been made in the updated MTFs this may not be sufficient should demand not stabilise and / or appropriate mitigations put in place.

- **Energy Costs**

It is well documented that wholesale energy prices have increased dramatically in recent months. By way of example, the cost of the Council's electricity supply increased by 118% from 1st April adding some £4 Million to the annual utility bill. Work is ongoing to identify measures that may mitigate against some of this cost increase.

- **Inflation and interest rate rises**

Linked to the above, inflation is running at a 30 year high with CPI currently standing at 7% (April 22). This impacts the cost of many of the Council's contracts which are linked to annual changes in CPI e.g., Waste Disposal, Building Schools for the Future, Property Repairs Contract etc. Interest rates have also increased twice in the final quarter of 2021/22 currently standing at 0.75%. These are expected to rise further during 2022/23 before levelling out towards the end of next year. The Council will continue with its strategy to minimise interest rate risk by adhering to its targets around the level of variable rate interest rate debt it holds at any one time.

- **Local Government Funding reforms**

Government again announced another one-year only funding settlement in December 2021. They also announced their intentions to consult on a future model for Local Government funding during 2022; this has yet to commence in the timeframe originally set out and therefore there is a possibility that this could once again be delayed. Alongside this the next spending round could take place within the context of a further squeeze on public sector spending as the Government grapples with ways in which to balance the books and fund the huge debts incurred in dealing with the pandemic together with the economic shocks arising from the ongoing war in Ukraine. The funding outlook for the Local Government Sector and Council is therefore extremely uncertain.

2.24 Therefore, whilst the 21/22 position is favorable, it is largely one-off in nature, and not likely to recur in future periods. As a result, the aforementioned cost pressures and funding uncertainty will place a significant strain on the Council's budget in this financial year and beyond, something that the Council is planning for to ensure its financial sustainability over the longer-term is maintained.

Directorate Outturns

Executive Director's Summary for Children's Services

LOOKING BACK – 2021/22

An overall **overspend of £4.114M** is reported for Children's Services after proposed earmarking's (mostly related to Schools DSG budgets). This shows a reduction of -£0.270M since the reported position at Q3, mainly due to increased staff vacancy savings in Education, Early Start and Prevention.

| 2021/22 | COVID Cost | COVID Income | BAU | Total | Q3 | VAR |
|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Education, Early Start & Prevention | 0 | 0 | -272 | -272 | -53 | -219 |
| Children Social care | 326 | 0 | 4,060 | 4,386 | 4,437 | -51 |
| Sub Total | 326 | 0 | 3,788 | 4,114 | 4,384 | -270 |
| Schools | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 326 | 0 | 3,788 | 4,114 | 4,384 | -270 |

COVID-19 Costs

The outturn position shows £0.326M was expended on supporting the COVID response within the Directorate, mainly relating to the need for additional Social Workers to respond to the increase in children's social care caseloads.

COVID-19 Income

There is no reported loss of income due to Covid-19 within the Directorate.

Business as Usual

Education, Early Start & Prevention reported a net underspend (£0.272M). This is a further improvement from Q3 of -£0.219M. The underspend is mainly due to the following:

- Inclusion Services (£0.242M) – non-achievement of trading income from schools by the Education Psychology / SEND Support services and increase in mediation contract costs, offset by staff vacancy savings across Inclusion Services.
- Early Start & Family Services (-£0.313M) – staff turnover and vacancy savings.
- Other services (-£0.202M) – due to staff vacancies across Commissioning, Targeted Youth Support and School Improvement.

Children's Social Care & Safeguarding - an overspend of £4.064M is reported for the Business Unit. The main cost pressures for 2021/22 are as follows,

- Children in Care (£3.169M) – mainly relates to LAC costs and is due to increases in residential care and foster care placements in the year. LAC numbers as of 31st March were 348, an increase of 15 for the year.
- Assessment & Care (£0.364M) – relates to increased legal, Section 17 and family support costs.
- Children Disability (£0.516M) – relates to an increase in the number of disabled children supported during the year.

Schools/DSG Budgets

A year end surplus balance of -£4.844M is reported for schools, whilst an overall deficit of £6.189M is reported on central DSG budgets. This is made up of an overspend on Early Years budgets of (£0.162M) and an in year overspend of £6.027M on SEND / High Needs. The overall accumulative DSG Deficit balance is £17.946M.

LOOKING FORWARD - BEYOND 2022/23

- Risk of further increase in looked after children numbers, complexity, and placement costs;
- Managing demand pressures across children safeguarding and SEND;
- Implementing the Placement & Sufficiency Strategy / new Children's home and achieving the savings targets in 23/24 (£200k) and (£170k).

Executive Director's Summary for Place

LOOKING BACK – 2021/22

An overall **overspend of £5.2M** is reported for the Place Directorate, of which £6.5M relates to COVID-19 pressures, offset by operational underspends across the Directorate of (£1.3M). This represents a minor deterioration of £0.179M since the position reported at Q3.

| 2022/23 | COVID Cost | COVID Income | BAU | Total | Q3 | VAR |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Regeneration & Culture | 3,466 | 977 | -1,096 | 3,347 | 2,856 | 491 |
| Environment & Transport | 1,306 | 720 | -187 | 1,839 | 2,151 | -312 |
| TOTAL | 4,772 | 1,697 | -1,283 | 5,186 | 5,007 | 179 |
| Housing Revenue Account | - | - | -155 | -155 | 0 | -155 |

COVID-19 Costs

Additional costs of £4.772M have been incurred by the Directorate during the COVID-19 pandemic. This relates to additional cleaning and security services [£1.854M] to ensure buildings and cultural venues were safe and secure to use; expenditure of £1.537M to support businesses to expand and bounce back from COVID 19; increased cost of waste services due to increased tonnages and ensuring that waste was collected and disposed of safely in a socially distanced manner [£1.229M]; and outbreak control related costs [£0.152M].

COVID-19 Income

Income losses arising from the impact of COVID total £1.697M; this representing a reduction on the position reported at Q3 as restrictions were lifted in the latter part of 2021 7 & income levels returned to near normal levels [£0.563M improvement]. The main income shortfalls relate to commercial rents and service charges (£0.934M), car parking (£0.691M), and learning and skills (£0.072M).

Business as Usual

Regeneration & Culture reported an overall net underspend (£1.096M), a slight increase since Q3 as a result of increased property running costs mitigated by staff vacancies and increased planning fee income.

Environment & Transport reported a net underspend [£0.187M]. This underspend is as a result of increased recycles income due to favourable market conditions and higher than expected income from Street Works licences.

LOOKING FORWARD- BEYOND 2022/23

- Delivery of town centre accommodation saving linked to the use of Gateway Plaza (£500k in 23/24)
- Inflationary pressures for utilities, parts & materials
- Supply chain issues & skilled labour shortages
- Increased waste tonnages due to the construction of new homes and behavioural changes linked to the pandemic
- Recovery of high street - behaviour changes post pandemic and the impact on the retail offer and commercial rents
- Recovering fees and charges income to pre Covid levels e.g., car parking
- Loss of European Funding and the extent to which this is replaced by the Shared Prosperity Fund
- Home to School Transport – rise in LAC numbers and SEND pressures may impact on the ability to contain costs

Executive Director's Summary for Adults and Communities

LOOKING BACK – 2021/22

The Adults & Communities Directorate returned an **overspend of £11.988M**, of which £15.712M relates to COVID-19 pressures, offset by operational underspends across the Directorate of £3.724M.

| 2022/23 | COVID Cost | COVID Income | BAU | Total | Q3 | VAR |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| BU2 | 7,355 | - | -3,114 | 4,241 | 5,082 | -841 |
| BU8 | 8,357 | - | -610 | 7,747 | 7,911 | -164 |
| TOTAL | 15,712 | - | -3,724 | 11,988 | 12,993 | -1,005 |

COVID-19 Costs

Additional costs totalling £15.712M have been incurred in sustaining adult social care and the care sector during the COVID-19 pandemic (£7.355M) as well as the provision of support to the most vulnerable across the Borough (£8.357M) including providing financial hardship support, accommodation for the homeless and rough sleeper's, a co-ordinated community response, food distribution, and support to the voluntary sector. This represents a reduction of £0.071M on the position reported at Quarter 3.

COVID-19 Income

The Directorate has not incurred any income losses due to COVID 19 during 2021/22 financial year.

Business as Usual

The Directorate is reporting an operational underspend of -£3.724M, an improvement of -£0.934M from Q3, due in the main to increased income from health contributions and clawback of unused funding in direct payment accounts (both ASC). The year-end underspend can be explained as follows:

- **Adult Social Care** (-£3.114M): - This underspend is after allowing for earmarking's and relates mainly to staff vacancy savings, increased health funding and direct payments surplus balances clawback.
- **Communities** (-£0.610M): - This underspend mainly relates to staff vacancy savings

LOOKING FORWARD

Adult social care

- Impact of Adult Social Care reforms e.g., care cap, cost of care
- Care market financial sustainability [linked to care cost of care fees]
- Low occupancy rates in care homes
- Increased demand for care / support
- Impact of continued Discharge to Assess process
- Efficiency savings in 23/24 (£1.250M)

Communities

- Government requirement to provide long-term accommodation for rough sleepers
- Financial support for households facing financial hardship [resourcing and funding issues]
- New Burdens Domestic Abuse Bill and Protect Duty

Director's Summary for Public Health and Regulatory Services

LOOKING BACK – 2021/22

An overall **overspend of £2.119M** is reported for Public Health and Regulatory Services after proposed earmarking's of £1.504M (mostly related to the extension of Public Health additional staffing structure relating to COVID 19 recovery). This shows a minor adverse variance of £0.022M from the position reported at Quarter 3.

| | COVID Cost | COVID Income | BAU | Total | Q3 | VAR |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| BU10 | 3,016 | - | -897 | 2,119 | 2,097 | 22 |
| TOTAL | 3,016 | - | -897 | 2,119 | 2,097 | 22 |

COVID-19 Cost

The Directorate has managed the Outbreak Control programme since December 2020. The Council has received £10.2M of specific grants over this period to support contact tracing and wider outbreak control activities, of which £5.530M was utilised during 20/21. Of the remaining £4.690M, £3.016M has been incurred on Public Health activities in 21/22, with the remaining £1.674M being spent on activities across the rest of the Council (e.g., covid marshals, building cleaning etc).

COVID-19 Income

The Directorate has not incurred any income losses due to COVID 19 during 2021/22 financial year.

Business as Usual

The final outturn position for day-to-day operations was an underspend of £0.897M after proposed earmarking's. A significant proportion of this underspend (£0.509M) relates to resources no longer required to support the ongoing Public Health Plan

Other variances include;

- **Health Protection Service – (£0.189M);** - This underspend is mainly due to staff vacancies / turnover and a reduction in the cost of out of area clinics.
- **Regulatory Services - (£0.147M);** - The underspend in Regulatory Services relates to staff vacancies / turnover.
- **Other Minor Variances – (£0.052M);** - The remaining underspend relates to various minor underspends across the Directorate.

LOOKING FORWARD

The long-term impact of the pandemic and potential additional ongoing responsibilities is expected to place financial pressure across the Public Health Directorate. The impact is currently being reviewed and will be reported back during this financial year.

The directorate is also undertaking a significant service transformation programme during 2022/23 which should realise efficiencies to support delivery of the Council's MTFs.

Executive Director's Summary for Core Services

LOOKING BACK – 2021/22

The Core Directorate reports an overall **underspend of £0.750M**, of which £0.313M relates to COVID-19 pressures, offset by operational underspends across the Directorate (£1.063M). This shows an improvement of £0.669M on the position reported at Q3, largely due to unanticipated additional income and the maximisation of covid grants, together with higher than anticipated staff vacancies / turnover.

| 2021/22 | Covid Cost | Covid Income | BAU | Total | Q3 | VAR |
|--------------|------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| IT | 120 | | -255 | -135 | 164 | -299 |
| Finance | | | -452 | -452 | -308 | -144 |
| Catering | | 78 | -89 | -11 | 306 | -317 |
| BIHR&C | 9 | | -285 | -276 | -220 | -56 |
| Legal | | 106 | 141 | 247 | 169 | 78 |
| Council Gov | | | -123 | -123 | -192 | 69 |
| TOTAL | 129 | 184 | -1,063 | -750 | -81 | -669 |

COVID-19 Costs

Additional costs of £0.129M have been incurred mainly in relation to the provision of IT digital support required to support the pandemic.

COVID-19 Income

The Directorate has seen income losses of £0.184M comprised of reduced school meal income £0.078M, and reduced court fee income due to lower than anticipated throughput of court cases [£0.106M]. This is an improvement of £0.043M from Q3 mainly due to school meal uptake returning up to pre-covid levels during Q4.

Business as Usual

The Directorate is reporting an operational underspend of £1.063M, which relates to unanticipated income and the maximisation of covid grant funding [£1.412M], vacancies and salary savings [£0.941M] offset by additional agency costs [£0.393M], BSF contractual charges £0.500M, and the additional cost of supplies and services including software licences [£0.397M].

The BAU underspend is non-recurrent as planned restructures in 22/23 have factored in the vacancy management / turnover reported during 21/22.

LOOKING FORWARD- BEYOND 2022/23

22/23 efficiency target of £1M on track to be delivered with a further £250k planned to be delivered in 23/24, final details of which are yet to be determined.

Corporate Budgets

LOOKING BACK – 2021/22

In terms of corporate [non service] budgets an overall underspend of £1.476M is reported, an improvement of £1.6M since Q3.

| | Covid Cost | Covid Income | BAU | Total | Q3 | VAR |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| 2021/22 | 232 | 0 | (1,708) | (1,476) | 125 | (1,601) |

COVID-19 Costs

Covid costs mainly relate to the provision of PPE. Overall costs in relation to supporting the Covid response from a corporate point of view have reduced significantly since Q3 mainly due to resources, previously set aside to provide staffing resilience to deal with the Omicron variant, being no longer required as a result of the amazing effort by NHS and Council staff on the vaccination booster programme over the Christmas period. It should also be noted that Covid resources have also been slipped to extend the Household Support Programme to the end of Quarter 1 of 2022/23.

Business as Usual

The underspend in BAU is due to improved collection on business rates [relating to the 20/21 financial year but brought into the 21/22 financial year in line with accounting guidance] and additional grant income not previously anticipated.

LOOKING FORWARD- BEYOND 2022/23

As set out earlier in the report there are several significant cost pressures that pose a threat to the Council's ongoing financial sustainability. These need to be planned for and mitigated by the formulation of a further transformation and efficiency programme, details of which will be reported back to Cabinet at a later date.

Executive Director's Summary for Housing Revenue Account

LOOKING BACK – 2021/22

An overall **underspend of £0.155M** is reported for the Housing Revenue Account. This represents an improvement from the breakeven position reported at Q3.

| 2022/23 | Gross Income | Gross Expenditure | Total Net | Q3 | Var |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Housing Revenue Account | 73,470 | 73,095 | -155 | 0 | -155 |

Income

Income from dwellings rents was high than forecast (£0.444M) predominately as a result higher stock levels and a lower void % than anticipated within the HRA Business Plan. Income from District Heating charges was £0.095M lower than budget following Cabinet approval to a reduced per K/WH rate charged to tenants.

Expenditure

The repairs and maintenance budget and associated professional fees overspent by £2.3M as a result of making good a back log of repairs combined with the impact of inflation on the price of materials. The high volumes of day-to-day repair requests from tenants were likely due to tenants not reporting repairs during the height of the pandemic in 20/21.

A review of General Fund recharges into the HRA yielded savings to the HRA (£1.587M).

The HRA's financing income and expenditure has been reviewed and the interest payable relating to the HRA's debt portfolio reduced by £1.089M when compared to budget.

LOOKING FORWARD

- Inflationary pressures for utilities
- PRIP CPI September Position
- Backlogs of work presenting themselves as the Council emerges from the COVID pandemic
- Increase to demand led services
- PRIP Contract Review at Year 5
- Stock Decarbonisation Strategy

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

- The Authority's outturn after adjusting for statutory balances, slippage and specific expenditure commitments requiring the earmarking of resources (see Appendix 1), is an **operational underspend £4.9M**
- The Council is set to face significant financial pressure in the next financial year and beyond as a consequence of several emerging risks including supply chain and inflationary issues, increasing demand for council services e.g. looked after children, the impact of adult social care reform and other policy related risks.
- The Authority's Housing Revenue Account shows an **operational underspend of £0.2M.**
- The cost of dealing with the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been significant, although this has been fully mitigated by funding received from Government.

3.2 Legal

There are no legal implications as a result of this report

3.3 Equality

Not applicable as individual EIA's will have been completed for each service delivered

3.4 Sustainability

Decision Wheel not completed

3.5 Employee

There are no direct employee implications as a result of this report

3.6 Communications

Communication will be made in line with the normal performance monitoring arrangements of the Council

4. CONSULTATION

N/A

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 N/A

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Whilst the 21/22 position is favorable, it is largely one-off in nature, and not likely to recur in future periods. The recommendations made come as a result of the future cost pressures and funding uncertainty highlighted within the report.

7. GLOSSARY

N/A

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: List of proposed Earmarking's

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Service and Financial Planning 2021/22 – The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy – 2021/22 Budget recommendations (Cab.10.2.2021/6 refers).

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

| | |
|--|---|
| Financial consultation & sign off | Report of the Service Director, Finance & Section 151 Officer |
|--|---|

Report Author: Neil Copley
Post: Service Director Finance and S151 Officer
Date: 17/05/2022

PROPOSED EARMARKING OF REVENUE UNDERSPENDS / BALANCES TO BE CARRIED FORWARD TO 2022/23

| Summary | | | Section A - Cabinet / Statutory | Section B - Slippage | Total by Directorate |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| BU | SERVICE AREA & ITEM | DESCRIPTION OF ITEM | £ | £ | £ |
| CHILDRENS | | | | | |
| BU1 | Schools - Delegated DSG surplus balances | Represents the overall level of surplus balances on schools delegated budgets. These are held in the respective schools' bank accounts. DSG conditions require balances to be applied to schools expenditure / spend. | 4,843,967 | | 4,843,967 |
| BU1 | DSG Reserves (Deficit) | Final DSG closing Deficit balance - High Needs and Early Years | - 6,189,216 | | - 6,189,216 |
| BU1 | Schools - Centrally Retained | DSG Advance payment to Hoylandswaine and Apprenticeship Levy owing | | - 31,590 | - 31,590 |
| BU1 | Schools - centrally Retained | Devolved Grants - 16-19 EFA Grant Penistone Grammar, Mental Health Lead grant, Connect the Classroom and Pupil Premium LAC | | 176,129 | 176,129 |
| BU1 | Schools - centrally Retained | Exclusions charges | | 61,279 | 61,279 |
| BU1 | School Evaluation | Represents slippage on approved school improvement commitments as approved by the Barnsley Alliance Board - 21/22 academic year. | | 231,879 | 231,879 |
| BU1 | School Improvement | Moderation Funding - represents slippage on grant funding provided by the DfE for the costs of coordinating and undertaking moderation tests in primary schools. Virtual Head Grant provided by DfE. Plus slippage earmarked to fund Admin posts in Admissions | | 179,331 | 179,331 |
| BU1 | Other SEN | Language Link Grant slippage | | 35,490 | 35,490 |
| BU1 | SEN Support | Radio Aids CCG funding | | 22,392 | 22,392 |
| BU1 | Early Start | Professional Development grant slippage | | 46,270 | 46,270 |
| BU1 | Youth Justice Service | CCG income received for post in 22/23 & training slippage for booking in 22/23 | | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| BU1 | Early Start | CCG income received for 2 posts in 22/23 | | 55,712 | 55,712 |
| BU1 | Commissioning | BSARC CCG income received in 22/23 | | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| Sub Total Education & Early Start | | | - 1,345,249 | 856,892 | - 488,357 |
| BU3 | Childrens Partnership Board | Carry forward the balance of the partnership funding | | 39,351 | 39,351 |
| BU3 | SENIASS | NHS income received for post in 22/23 | | 14,955 | 14,955 |
| Sub Total Children's Assessment & Care Management | | | - | 54,306 | 54,306 |
| | ED People | Uncommitted s75 Children's partnership funding | | 65,362 | 65,362 |
| Sub Total ED People | | | - | 65,362 | 65,362 |
| TOTAL CHILDRENS | | | - 1,345,249 | 976,560 | - 368,689 |
| PLACE | | | | | |
| - | | | | | |
| BU4 | Learning & Skills | AEB - Academic Year Grant | | 557,991 | 557,991 |
| BU4 | Learning & Skills | Music - Academic Year Grant | | 86,986 | 86,986 |
| BU4 | Economic Development | ERDF Grants | | 335,162 | 335,162 |
| BU4 | Culture | Fusion Scheme | | 9,500 | 9,500 |
| BU4 | Culture | Great Place Grant | | 13,303 | 13,303 |
| BU4 | Culture | Eldon St Grant | | 22,500 | 22,500 |
| BU4 | Culture | Worsbrough Wet Woodland Grant | | 3,598 | 3,598 |
| BU4 | Culture | Barnsley Brand Marketing | | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| BU4 | Transport | Traffic Surveys/Counters | | 96,044 | 96,044 |
| Sub Total Economic Regeneration | | | - | 1,135,084 | 1,135,084 |
| BU4 | Property | Planned Maintenance | | 323,783 | 323,783 |
| Sub Total Asset Management function | | | - | 323,783 | 323,783 |
| BU6 | Fleet | Cost Pressures - Parts, late delivery of vehicles, contract hire | | 555,000 | 555,000 |
| BU6 | Highways | Yotta Systems Update | | 20,200 | 20,200 |
| BU6 | Highways Management | Income from Sale of old vehicles - Contribution to New | | 33,000 | 33,000 |
| BU6 | Bereavement | For RCCO to support shortfall in reception capital scheme funding | | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| BU6 | Sport | Playing Pitch Strategy - Delayed due to covid | | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| BU6 | Sport | Grant Slippage - External Funding | | 33,003 | 33,003 |
| BU6 | Sport | Grant Slippage - Moving Health Forward | | 12,559 | 12,559 |
| BU6 | Home to School | Purchase of telephones for Pas - Service Improvement | | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| Sub Total Environment and Transport | | | - | 733,762 | 733,762 |
| TOTAL PLACE | | | - | 2,192,629 | 2,192,629 |

| ADULTS & COMMUNITIES | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | - |
| BU2 | SD Account | CCG Transferred Funding | 7,870,483 | | 7,870,483 |
| BU2 | SD Account | Unutilised Better Care Fund and Winter Pressures Funding | 2,722,172 | | 2,722,172 |
| BU2 | SD Account | Early Implementation of NLW funding from Health | 739,000 | | 739,000 |
| BU2 | OP Reablement/ALT | Community Responders ALT | | 127,934 | 127,934 |
| BU2 | Commissioning | Commissioning - Various Temp Staffing Extensions | | 107,587 | 107,587 |
| BU2 | Adult Safeguarding | Adult Safeguarding - Slippage of Various Service Budgets | | 40,994 | 40,994 |
| BU2 | Adult Safeguarding | Adult Safeguarding - Slippage of Training Budget | | 5,984 | 5,984 |
| Sub Total Adult Assessment and Care Management | | | 11,331,655 | 282,499 | 11,614,154 |
| BU8 | Stronger Communities | Management Account CCG Grants re respiratory fund & Bu | 33,370 | | 33,370 |
| BU8 | Safer Communities | DCLG Homelessness Grant funding slippage | 165,000 | | 165,000 |
| BU8 | Safer Communities | RSI Grant funding slippage to continue with rough sleepers programme | 64,098 | | 64,098 |
| BU8 | Safer Communities | Queens House | 59,833 | | 59,833 |
| BU8 | Safer Communities | Private Rented Sector 21717 | 34,313 | | 34,313 |
| BU8 | Safer Communities | Syrian refugee Grant funding slippage to fund support local areas facing pressures linked to recent migration | 17,037 | | 17,037 |
| BU8 | Safer Communities | AMIF Grant funding slippage to fund support local areas facing pressures linked to recent migration | 57,351 | | 57,351 |
| BU8 | Safer Communities | Afghans | 45,564 | | 45,564 |
| BU8 | Healthier Communities | Domestic Violence Grant (£586k) Enhanced Property Portfolio * underspend as a result of switchfunding | | 350,000 | 350,000 |
| BU8 | Healthier Communities | Therapeutic Support for Children | | 70,000 | 70,000 |
| BU8 | Healthier Communities | Contribution to OPCC funding given to IDAS for Young Person's IDVA & LGBT / BME posts | | 142,286 | 142,286 |
| BU8 | Healthier Communities | DHRs | | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| BU8 | Healthier Communities | Armed Forces Community Hub | | 90,000 | 90,000 |
| BU8 | Healthier Communities | Substance Misuse | | 8,467 | 8,467 |
| BU8 | Healthier Communities | DV Staff Cost Earmark | | - | - |
| BU8 | Healthier Communities | Armed Forces Officer | | 130,000 | 130,000 |
| BU8 | Healthier Communities | HAF | | 56,000 | 56,000 |
| Sub Total Safer Stronger & Healthier Communities | | | 476,566 | 856,753 | 1,333,319 |
| TOTAL ADULTS & COMMUNITIES | | | 11,808,221 | 1,139,252 | 12,947,473 |
| PUBLIC HEALTH | | | | | |
| | | | | | - |
| BU10 | Health Improvement | Various Health Improvement Schemes | | 180,000 | 180,000 |
| BU10 | Health Protection | Health Protection CVD Checks | | 98,000 | 98,000 |
| BU10 | Health Protection | Integrated Sexual Health GUM | | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| BU10 | Regulatory Services | Reg Services Pollution Slippage | | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| BU10 | SD Account | Transfer of BAU Staffing Costs to COMF - Agreed to Earmark for Extension of PH Recovery Costs | 1,161,107 | | 1,161,107 |
| Sub Total Public Health | | | 1,161,107 | 343,000 | 1,504,107 |
| TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH | | | 1,161,107 | 343,000 | 1,504,107 |
| CORE SERVICES | | | | | |
| | | CT and Housing Benefit Grants | | 139,179 | 139,179 |
| | | Building Schools For the Future - PFI commitments | 952,153 | | 952,153 |
| | | Debt Recovery Allocation | | 218,402 | 218,402 |
| Sub Total Finance | | | 952,153 | 357,581 | 1,309,734 |
| | | CCG Contribution for Vulnerability Index | | 10,900 | 10,900 |
| | | Email Marketing System Costs | | 30,240 | 30,240 |
| | | 2 x Success Factors Posts | | 80,000 | 80,000 |
| | | Trade Union Convenors | | 29,000 | 29,000 |
| Sub Total HR, Performance & Communications | | | - | 150,140 | 150,140 |
| TOTAL CORE SERVICES | | | 952,153 | 507,721 | 1,459,874 |
| TOTAL SERVICE EARMARKINGS | | | 12,576,232 | 5,159,162 | 17,735,394 |

| CORPORATE | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|------------------|
| | | New Homes Bonus | 2,410,000 | 2,410,000 |
| | | Covid Grant - As per 2022 Budget Papers | 7,800,000 | 7,800,000 |
| | | Social Care Grant - As per 2022 Budget Papers | 2,300,000 | 2,300,000 |
| | | Improved Better Care Fund - As per 2022 Budget Papers | 1,700,000 | 1,700,000 |
| | | Adult Social Care Precept - As per 2022 Budget Papers | 900,000 | 900,000 |
| | | Minimum Revenue Provision (Capital) Model | 3,070,694 | 3,070,694 |
| | | 22/23 Transformational Initiative | - | 1,000,000 |
| | | Insurance Fund | | 49,123 |
| | | Glassworks - As Per Feb Cabinet Report | 667,000 | 667,000 |
| | | Glassworks - Income - For Future Investment | 769,000 | 769,000 |
| | | Car Leasing Scheme | 33,335 | 33,335 |
| | | Provision for Building Schools For the Future | 202,533 | 202,533 |
| | | Provison for SEND | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 |
| | | Smithies Depot | | 169,000 |
| | | Smart Working | | 1,000,000 |
| | | COVID 19 Business Rates Relief Grant Local Share - To be Drawn Down in 22/23 | 11,388,456 | 11,388,456 |
| | | Economic Development capitalisation | | 782,000 |
| | | Household Support Grant | 1,366,084 | 1,366,084 |
| TOTAL CORPORATE EARMARKINGS | | | 34,107,102 | 3,000,123 |
| TOTAL PROPOSED EARMARKINGS | | | 46,683,334 | 8,159,285 |

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Executive Director – Core Services & Service Director – Finance (Section 151 Officer)

TITLE: CAPITAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE – YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| REPORT TO: | Cabinet |
| Date of Meeting | 1 June 2022 |
| Cabinet Member Portfolio | Core Services |
| Key Decision | No |
| Public or Private | Public |

Purpose of report

To consider the financial performance of the Council’s Capital Programme for the year ended 31st March 2022.

Council Plan priority

All priorities

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

- 1. Note the final financial position on the 2021/22 Capital Programme;**
- 2. Approve scheme slippage totaling £34.9M and scheme re-phasing totaling £2.6M (paragraphs 3.5, 3.6 and Appendix B refer);**
- 3. Note the total net increase in scheme costs in 2021/22 of £0.8M (paragraph 3.7 and Appendix B refer); and**
- 4. Receive an updated 2022/23 indicative Capital Programme position (as part of the Quarterly Finance Monitoring update).**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council's approved Capital Programme for the period 2022 – 2025 was agreed by Full Council on 25th February 2021. Cabinet has received quarterly updates on the performance and delivery of key capital schemes. This report provided the final update for the year and highlights the impact on the delivery of the future years programme.

2. PROPOSAL

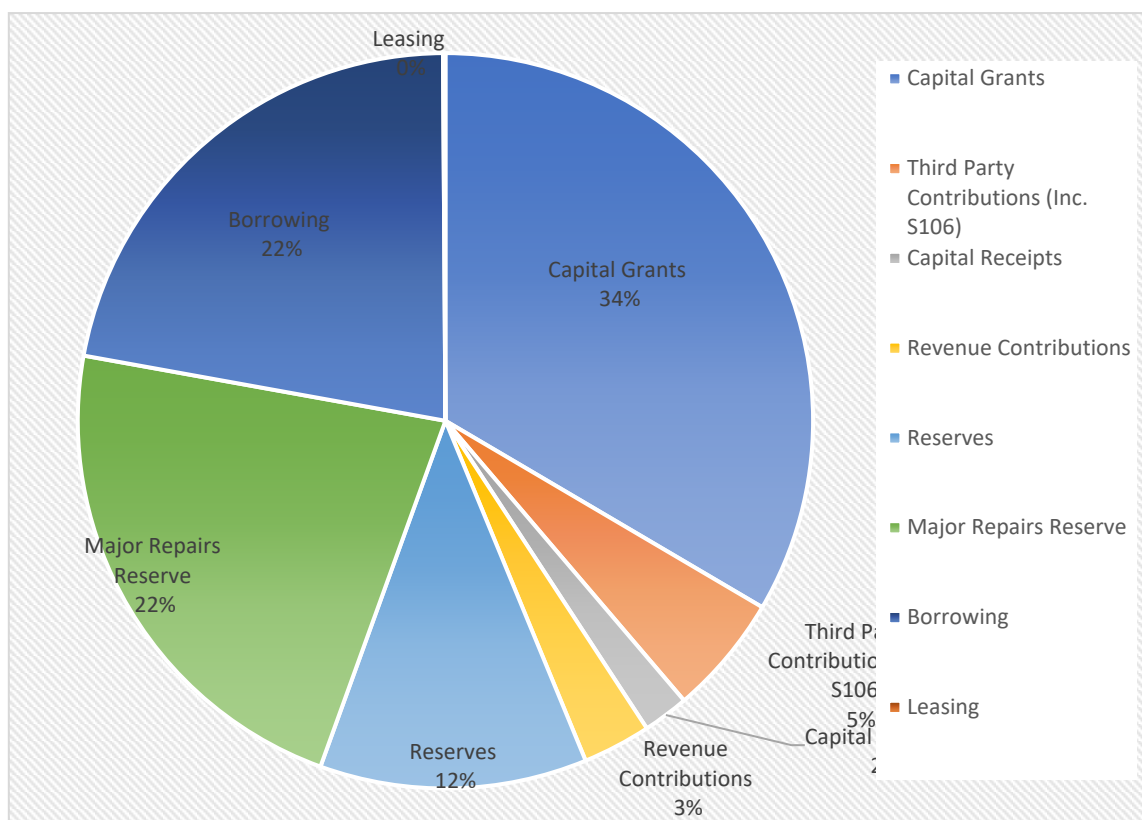
- 2.1 The table below summarises the position on the 2021/22 Capital Programme as at 31st March 2022 which shows an overall lower than expected spend of approximately £31.5M against the approved capital programme budget. This variance is explained further in paragraphs 3.4-3.8 below with a further detailed breakdown provided in Appendix A.

| <u>Directorate</u> | 2021/22 Capital Programme | 2021/22 Outturn | 2021/22 Variance |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | £M | £M | £M |
| Childrens Services | 4.562 | 3.437 | (1.125) |
| Place | 87.624 | 59.216 | (28.408) |
| Adults & Communities | 4.022 | 4.800 | 0.778 |
| Core Services | 3.634 | 1.426 | (2.208) |
| Housing Revenue Account | 26.540 | 25.956 | (0.584) |
| TOTAL | 126.382 | 94.835 | (31.547) |

- 2.2 The following table summarises the resources utilised to fund the 2021/22 Capital Programme. It should be noted that this funding only relates to direct Council expenditure (or where the Council acts as the Accountable Body). A number of schemes also lever in other private and public sector investment, but this is not reflected in the figures below.

| <u>Funding Source</u> | 2021/22 £M |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Capital Grants | 31.736 |
| Third Party Contributions (Inc. S106) | 5.020 |
| Capital Receipts | 1.910 |
| Revenue Contributions | 2.846 |
| Reserves | 11.141 |
| Major Repairs Reserve | 21.166 |
| Borrowing | 20.916 |
| Leasing | 0.100 |
| Total | 94.835 |

- 2.3 The pie chart below is a graphical representation of the table above.



2.4. The following table summarises the reasons for the £31.5M reduction in spend as compared to that expected in the 2021/22 plan. This variance is primarily a result of scheme slippage across the programme, with the majority relating to schemes delivered by the Place Directorate. All significant variances are explained in further detail in paragraphs 3.5 – 3.7.

| Directorate | Slippage | Re-phasing | Net Increase/ (Decrease) in Scheme Costs | Total |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|-----------------|
| | £M | £M | £M | £M |
| Childrens Services | (1.286) | - | 0.161 | (1.125) |
| Place | (29.050) | 1.295 | (0.653) | (28.408) |
| Adults & Communities | (0.040) | 0.817 | 0.001 | 0.778 |
| Core Services | (2.274) | 0.065 | - | (2.209) |
| Housing Revenue Account | (2.281) | 0.377 | 1.321 * | (0.583) |
| Total | (34.931) | 2.554 | 0.830 | (31.547) |

* Actual increase in scheme costs within the HRA totals £3.3M. The reported position above includes mitigations agreed in Q4 of 2021/22 but excludes other proposed mitigations. Paragraph 3.7 refers.

2.5. Slippage

Of the total variation in expenditure against approved plans, £34.9M relates to scheme slippage (where expenditure plans are expected to be utilised in a future year rather than the current year, due to events largely outside of the Council's control). This position is constantly reviewed by finance officers in

conjunction with project leads to ensure schemes progress as planned and that there are no adverse implications in terms of funding. Those schemes that have slipped in excess of £0.5M are explained further below:

Place: M1 Junction 37 Phase 2 – (£8.937M)

This scheme relates to the front funding of the developer contributions towards the delivery of the M1 Junction 37 Phase 2. There have been delays with the completion of the acquisition of 3rd party land by the developer which has resulted in the expected spend now falling into 2022/23. As a result, the developer is resubmitting a revised delivery programme and spend profile to the Council by the end of Q1 2022/23. Therefore, it is recommended to transfer capital resources totaling £8.937M from 2021/22 into 2022/23. There are no implications affecting the SYMCA funding allocated to this scheme.

Place: Glass Works Development Phase 2 – (£3.968M)

This scheme relates to Phase 2 of the Glass Works Development. Whilst the construction element of the scheme is largely complete, the reported slippage relates to a delay in the letting of units awaiting occupation, resulting in capital incentive payments now falling in 2022/23. Furthermore, an element of the main contractor retention payment is expected to be issued in 2022/23.

Place: Sustainable Warmth – (£5.463M)

This scheme is the Council's element of the Government's "Sustainable Warmth – Protecting Vulnerable Households in England" strategy which outlines the commitment to tackling fuel poverty and helping the most vulnerable by increasing the energy efficiency of homes, reducing the cost of energy bills, contributing to Net Zero targets, and supporting low-income households in the transition to low carbon heating, specifically targeting private owned / rented tenures. The scheme was planned to commence during 2021/22, however, due to supply chain issues and contractor capacity, the scheme is now planned to commence in the 1st quarter of 2022/23. Thus, it is now recommended to transfer capital resources totaling £5.463M into next financial year (2022/23).

Place: LAD 2 – (£1.729M)

This scheme is the Council's element of the Government's £2 billion Green Homes Grant scheme which is designed to upgrade homes across England aimed at improving the energy efficiency of fuel poor homes. Similar to the above scheme, delivery of works required has been delayed due to contractor capacity, recognised nationally as an issue across the entire LAD2 programme by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), who are expected to extend the deadline for utilisation of the grant to June 2022.

Place: Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme – (£1.214M)

This scheme relates to the SALIX administered Government grant scheme to support energy and low carbon projects in public buildings. The scheme has so far funded the upgraded LED lighting, Air Source Heat Pumps and Solar PV works to several Council and BPL buildings. The scheme was due to complete on the 31st March 2022 but due to design and supply chain issues, the scheme has been extended until the 30th June 2022.

Place: Car Parking Strategy – (£0.908M)

This scheme relates to the implementation of the Council's car parking strategy. Phase 1 of the scheme has been partly completed, but the SMART signage procurement exercise was delayed as a result of supply chain issues. The planned impact assessment of the changes implemented during Phase 1 has also been delayed due to the impact of Covid 19 on car park usage, with this data informing whether to progress with Phase 2 of the scheme as planned. The assessment is now expected to take place during 2022/23 together with the installation of SMART signage and ticketing options.

Children's Services: Penistone Grammar School – SEN Places – (£0.811M)

The purpose of the scheme is to commission up to 30 new places for pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) at Penistone Grammar School. There have been delays to the development in 2021/22 due to a late change to a legal requirement from the LEP/SPV who required a Deed of Variation to the contracts rather than a High Value Change Notification as first identified. As a result, the project has been delayed although arrangements have now been agreed allowing works to commence with the current scheduled completion date for September 2022.

Place: Barnsley Property Investment Fund Phase 2 – (£0.538M)

This scheme relates to the second phase of the Council's investment to provide gap funding and incentivise inward investment into the Borough. The final unit is now expected to complete in Quarter 1 of 2022/23, the practical completion delayed as a result of external works being undertaken outside of the control of the developer.

Various: Other - (£11.363M)

A significant number of other schemes have reported slippage of less than £0.5M (individually) in 2021/22, totaling £11.363M. Appendix B identifies these schemes separately.

- **Recommendation 2 of this report is to formally approve the slippage of plans into later years within the capital programme as outlined above.**

2.6. **Re-phasing**

An amount totaling £2.554M has been re-phased (e.g., where additional works have been completed earlier than originally planned due to proactive project planning). There are no financial implications in terms of the overall capital programme. The re-phased schemes, in excess of £0.5M, are detailed below:

Communities: Disabled Facilities Grant – (£0.819M)

This scheme relates to the provision of adaptation works on private homeowners' / landlords' properties in the form of either direct works or the provision of grants. During the first six months of the financial year, it was anticipated that works would be delayed as a result of supply chain / deliverability issues. These issues were addressed in the latter part 2021/22, which, coupled with an increase in the cost of materials, has meant that additional resources were required in 2021/22. Therefore, it is recommended to bring forward capital budgets totaling £0.819M from 2022/23 into 2021/22. This does not impact on the programme for 2022/23.

Place: Principal Towns Phase 2 – (£0.552M)

This scheme relates to the second phase of the Council's Principal Towns Programme which seeks to redevelop the Borough's principal towns. The Council has recently agreed to progress Phase 3 of this scheme, as part of the 2022/23 budget process.

Phase 2 of the scheme included refurbishment of shops fronts on private businesses within the Borough. Due to an increase in applications in the final quarter of the financial year the original scheme became oversubscribed. In April 2022, the Principal Towns Project Board approved the release of the remaining uncommitted Phase 2 budget to bring these works forward.

Various: Others – (£1.371M)

A number of other schemes have been re-phased (all less than £0.5M individually) in 2021/22. Funding for these schemes has also been re-profiled from future years to ensure there are no financial implications overall. Appendix B identifies these schemes separately.

- **Recommendation 2 of this report is to formally approve the net re-phasing of plans from later years within the capital programme as outlined above.**

2.7. Variation in Costs

Overall Position (£0.830M Net Increase)

A number of schemes and programmes have reported a net increase in scheme costs totaling £0.830M. The paragraphs below summarise each Directorate's position in terms of these variations. Appendix B identifies these schemes separately.

Place (£0.653M Net Decrease)

A number of individual schemes being delivered by the Place directorate, predominately within Highways, have reported minor variations in scheme cost resulting in an overall net decrease of £0.653M. The associated resources are ringfenced for use on the Highways capital programme. These resources will be held pending further development of the work programme for 2022/23. This practice represents effective programme management within the totality of the available resources.

Housing Revenue Account (£3.321M Increase)

A number of individual schemes within the Housing Revenue Account, reported a combined increase in cost of £3.321M. The most significant programme being the Supplementary Investment Programme which reported an overall net increase in scheme costs totaling £3.003M. This increase is due to a combination of above average inflationary material price rises together with completion of works previously delayed due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The main area of increased demand was within the Major Adaptations scheme which ensures that the Borough's most vulnerable are able to live independently in their homes, for longer. This, and the other key areas of pressure are shown in the table below:

| Programme Area | Budget | Outturn | Variance |
|---|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | £M | £M | £M |
| 21/22 Major Adaptations | 2.812 | 3.901 | 1.089 |
| 21/22 Planned Replacements | 2.130 | 2.609 | 0.479 |
| 21/22 Domestic Heating | 0.481 | 0.885 | 0.404 |
| 21/22 Extensive Structural | 0.875 | 1.409 | 0.534 |
| Major Voids / Property Upgrades | 1.002 | 1.499 | 0.497 |
| Sub - Total Supplementary Investment Programme | 7.300 | 10.303 | 3.003 |
| Other HRA Schemes | 1.103 | 1.421 | 0.318 |
| TOTAL | 8.403 | 11.724 | 3.321 |

This is to be mitigated via a combination of:

Housing Revenue Account – 2021/22 Barnsley Homes Standard / Acquisitions (£2.7M Net Decrease)

The Barnsley Homes Standard (BHS) seeks to maintain the Council's housing stock to a good standard. Following the receipt of detailed survey works during 2021/22, an overall reduction in scheme costs of £1.7M has been realised. It is proposed that this underspend be used to help address the financial pressure detailed above.

In addition, Cabinet had previously approved the use of further residual resources totaling £1M from the 2020/21 BHS programme to extend the Council's acquisitions programme. To date, no commitments have been made so it is proposed to utilise these resources to contribute to the financial pressure as outlined above.

Housing Revenue Account – 2022/23 Review

The above mitigations account for £2.7M of the £3M pressure. In order to identify funding for the remaining £0.3M cost pressure, Strategic Housing and Financial Services, in conjunction with Berneslai Homes are undertaking a review of the 2022/23 BHS programme. Should this review not provide the required level of resources, then a review of other capital schemes currently approved within the 2022/23 capital programme will need to be undertaken to identify potential deprioritisation.

In summary, the reported position on the HRA in 2021/22 and mitigations are shown in the table below:

| Programme Area | Variance £M |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Overall Increase in Costs | 3.321 |
| Mitigated by: | |
| 21/22 BHS Underspend | (1.716) |
| Uncommitted Acquisitions | (1.000) |
| 22/23 BHS Position | (0.287) |
| Uncommitted HRA Resources | (0.318) |
| TOTAL | (3.321) |

Other (£0.162M Net Increase)

A number of schemes within Core Services and Communities have reported a minor net increase in cost of £0.162M that will be contained within uncommitted resources which represents effective programme management within the totality of the available resources.

- **Recommendation 3 of this report is to formally approve the variation of plans within the capital programme due to cost variations as outlined above.**

Approved Schemes During Quarter 4

- 2.8 A number of new schemes have been approved by Cabinet during the final quarter of 2021/22 and are therefore included in the reported capital programme in section 3 above. The table below provides a reconciliation between the approved quarter 3 position and the year-end position, with significant schemes shown separately:

| <u>Reconciliation Between Quarter 3 and Year End Positions</u> | Directorate | Capital Programme £M |
|--|-------------|-------------------------|
| Quarter 3 Approved Total Position | | 181.241 |
| <i>Approved Schemes During Quarter 4:</i> | | |
| Worsbrough & Elsecar Reservoirs | Core | 3.375 |
| Housing Repairs System | HRA | 2.000 |
| M1 J37 PPP Bridge | Place | 1.620 |
| Goldthorpe Market | HRA | 1.337 |
| Parkside Sports Facility | Place | 1.160 |
| Active Travel Tranche 2 | Place | 0.979 |
| Thurgoland Bank Stabilisation | Place | 0.497 |
| Other | Various | 1.271 |
| Total New Approvals | | 12.239 |
| TOTAL INDICATIVE CAPITAL PROGRAMME | | 193.480 |

- 2.9 The table below provides a reconciliation from the approved Quarter 4 capital programme to the indicative future years' plans, subject to the approval of this report.

| <u>Directorate</u> | Total Planned Capital Programme (Q4) | 2021/22 Variation in Scheme Costs | Revised Total Capital Programme (Following Approval of this Report) | Less 2021/22 Actual Spend | Indicative Future Years' Capital Programme (Inc. Roll Forward) |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|
| | £M | £M | £M | £M | £M |
| Childrens Services | 5.442 | 0.161 | 5.603 | 3.437 | 2.165 |
| Place | 133.903 | (0.653) | 133.250 | 59.216 | 74.033 |
| Adults & Communities | 9.677 | 0.001 | 9.678 | 4.800 | 4.879 |
| Core Services | 8.385 | - | 8.385 | 1.426 | 6.960 |
| Housing Revenue Account | 36.073 | 1.321 | 37.394 | 25.956 | 11.437 |
| Total | 193.480 | 0.830 | 194.310 | 94.835 | 99.474 |

Future Years

- 2.10 The table below summarises the **indicative** position of the 2022/23 to 2025/26 Capital Programme, including all slippage/re-phasing highlighted above. Appendix C provides a breakdown of this position by scheme.

| <u>Directorate</u> | Existing 2022/23 Plans | Slippage / Rephasing (2021/22 Position) | 2022/23 Indicative Capital Programme | 2023/24 Indicative Capital Programme | 2024/25 Indicative Capital Programme | Total Indicative Future Years' Capital Programme |
|--------------------|------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | £M | £M | £M | £M | £M | £M |
| Childrens Services | 0.879 | 1.286 | 2.165 | - | - | 2.165 |
| Place | 44.669 | 27.755 | 72.424 | 1.609 | - | 74.033 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Adults & Communities | 5.656 | (0.777) | 4.879 | - | - | 4.879 |
| Core Services | 2.753 | 2.209 | 4.962 | 1.443 | 0.555 | 6.960 |
| Housing Revenue Account | 9.533 | 1.904 | 11.437 | - | - | 11.437 |
| Total | 63.490 | 32.377 | 95.867 | 3.052 | 0.555 | 99.474 |

- 2.11 Members should note that this indicative future years' capital programme is based on currently approved schemes. Other schemes that have been approved in principle as part of the annual budget process and schemes administered elsewhere e.g. SYMCA schemes, may not have been formally incorporated into the capital programme at this stage, pending formal governance arrangements. Members will be informed of any significant approvals as part of the quarterly capital programme monitoring reports.
- 2.12 To illustrate the element of the capital programme that is not included in the table above, that has yet to be formally approved, the following table, taken from the 2022/23 budget papers, outlines the new resource allocations for 2022/23:

| | 2022/23 £M |
|--|-----------------------|
| Specific Funding to be Approved | |
| School Maintenance Programme (indicative) | 0.700 |
| Disabled Facilities Programme (indicative) | 2.976 |
| Local Highways Maintenance Programmes | 5.187 |
| School Admissions Programme | - |
| Total | 8.863 |

- 2.13 The capital programme for 2022/23 and beyond is under constant review by both the Finance Business Unit and individual project/budget managers, together with the Capital Oversight Board. The existing capital programme reflects the Council's capital requirements/priorities, but a more detailed analysis will be undertaken to ensure that any slipped resources are still required in full.

Capital Programme Monitoring Position - By Corporate Priority / Outcome

- 2.14 The table below provides an analysis of the capital plans/resources within the Council's 2021/22 capital programme, aligned to achieving the Council's 5 main Corporate Priorities and the 13 front facing outcomes. Members should note that the later years' indicative capital programme includes the anticipated roll forward from 2021/22 as outlined in the Table 5.1.

| Corporate Priorities | Corporate Outcomes | 2021/22 Capital Programme | 2021/22 Outturn | 2021/22 Variance | Later Years Capital Programme (Indicative) |
|----------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
| | | £M | £M | £M | £M |
| Healthy Barnsley | (1) People are safe and feel safe | - | - | - | - |
| | (2) People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible | 0.926 | 0.627 | (0.299) | 0.571 |
| | (3) We reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough | - | - | - | - |
| | Sub Total | 0.926 | 0.627 | (0.299) | 0.571 |
| Learning Barnsley | (4) People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing skills including access to apprenticeships | 0.326 | 0.209 | (0.117) | 0.617 |
| | (5) Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment | 4.562 | 3.437 | (1.125) | 2.166 |
| | (6) People have access to early help and support. | - | - | - | - |
| | Sub Total | 4.888 | 3.646 | (1.242) | 2.783 |
| Growing Barnsley | (7) Business start-ups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities for all. | 4.279 | 2.700 | (1.579) | 6.942 |
| | (8) People have a welcoming, safe, and enjoyable town centre and principal towns as destinations for work, shopping, leisure, and culture. | 75.439 | 48.399 | (27.040) | 55.353 |
| | (9) People are supported to have safe, warm, and sustainable homes. | 32.862 | 33.273 | 0.411 | 21.739 |
| | Sub Total | 112.580 | 84.372 | (28.208) | 84.034 |
| Sustainable Barnsley | (10) People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community. | 0.991 | 0.702 | (0.289) | 2.288 |
| | (11) Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for everyone to enjoy. | 3.914 | 2.841 | (1.073) | 5.727 |
| | (12) Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy and people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking. | 1.810 | 1.676 | (0.134) | 1.943 |
| | Sub Total | 6.715 | 5.219 | (1.496) | 9.958 |
| Enabling Barnsley | (13) We are a modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high-performing council. | 1.273 | 0.971 | (0.302) | 2.128 |
| | Sub Total | 1.273 | 0.971 | (0.302) | 2.128 |
| | Total | 126.382 | 94.835 | (31.547) | 99.474 |

Capital Programme Board

- 2.15 The Capital Programme Board has oversight for the performance management of the Council's capital programme, including Sheffield City Region schemes where the Council is the lead Authority.
- 2.16. The Oversight Board is particularly important in addressing the Council's capital priorities over the planning period to 2025, especially with anticipated future funding reductions / changes. This is also the case in relation to capital resources that will be re-directed to City Regions as a result of local Devolution Deals and changing Government policies / priorities.

- 2.17. The Oversight Board continues to develop a long-term scheme pipeline as well as considering individual business cases relating to the capital programme. Subsequent reports will be presented to Cabinet as part of the budget setting process to formally approve scheme priorities.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. The 2022/23 Capital programme will be updated to reflect the reported slippage/rephasing on individual schemes. The minor costs variations on scheme reported have been funded by specific resources already set aside for this purpose.

3.2 Legal

N/A

3.3 Equality

Not applicable – individual equality impact assessment have been completed prior to delivery of individual capital projects.

3.4 Sustainability

Individual decision wheels have been completed upon delivery of specific capital schemes.

3.5 Employee

N/A

3.6 Communications

N/A – undertaken in detail on individual schemes.

4. CONSULTATION

N/A

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 N/A

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Recommendations are proposed in accordance with the agreed Capital Investment Strategy.

7. GLOSSARY

N/A

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A - Plans Vs Outturn 2021-22

Appendix B - Variance Analysis 2021-22

Appendix C - Future Years Programme (Excluding Roll Forward From 21-22)

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Service and Financial Planning 2021/22 – The Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy – 2021/22 Budget recommendations (Cab.10.2.2021/6 refers).

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

| | |
|--|---|
| Financial consultation & sign off | Report of Service Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer |
|--|---|

Report Author: Neil Copley

Post: Service Director Finance and Section 151 Officer

Date: 17/05/2022

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| Project Description | 2021/22 Plans | 2021/22 Outturn | Variance |
|---|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2. People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible | | | |
| Assisted Living Technology | 298 | | -298 |
| Communities Total | 298 | 0 | -298 |
| Assembly Way Play Facilities | 25,787 | 34,040 | 8,253 |
| Barnsley Golf Club Improvements | 29,557 | 19,100 | -10,457 |
| Beck Play Area - Grimethorpe | 20,000 | 17,500 | -2,500 |
| Bly Road Play Area | 36,000 | 3,177 | -32,823 |
| Bolton Brickyard Ponds | 4,850 | 2,915 | -1,935 |
| Brierley Recreation Ground | 31,134 | 28,286 | -2,848 |
| Countryside Sites & POS | 600 | 1,600 | 1,000 |
| Darfield Park Pathway | 11,707 | 11,707 | 0 |
| Dorothy Hyman Phase 2 | 352,270 | 157,093 | -195,177 |
| Former Royston School - Bence & Plaque | 1,400 | | -1,400 |
| Grimethorpe Park Paving | 6,251 | 6,251 | 0 |
| Grimethorpe Park Footpath | | 7,300 | 7,300 |
| Inkerman Fields - Darfield | 22,676 | 22,676 | 0 |
| Locke Park Bowling Club | 19,600 | 19,600 | 0 |
| Lundhill Rec - Flytipping | 6,340 | 6,340 | 0 |
| Lundhill Road - Footpath Works | 37,186 | 35,023 | -2,163 |
| Millennium Green | 24,938 | 16,735 | -8,203 |
| Newstead Play Area, Athersley | 19,725 | | -19,725 |
| Newstead Road Play Area | 8,167 | 7,723 | -444 |
| Pilley/Jubilee/Lidgett Rec Ground | 26,601 | 24,144 | -2,457 |
| Playing Pitch Improvements | 7,800 | 7,800 | 0 |
| Royston Park - St John's Walk | 8,500 | 8,500 | 0 |
| Royston Park Car Park | | 552 | 552 |
| Royston Park/Chantry Grove | 312 | 312 | 0 |
| RSPB Old Moor | 35,000 | 35,000 | 0 |
| Sensory Garden - Wombwell | | 6,572 | 6,572 |
| Stainbrough Road Play Area, Dodworth | 12,480 | 12,480 | 0 |
| Tankersley Welfare Hall | | 3,807 | 3,807 |
| The Green, Royston | 8,600 | 8,600 | 0 |
| Thurgoland Welfare Scheme | 66,643 | 15,474 | -51,169 |
| Winter Ave Play Area - Royston | | 4,800 | 4,800 |
| Wombwell Main FC | 101,500 | 101,500 | 0 |
| Place Total | 925,624 | 626,607 | -299,017 |
| 2. People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible Total | 925,922 | 626,607 | -299,315 |
| 4. People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships | | | |
| Libraries Mgmt Information System - LMIS | 11,350 | | -11,350 |
| Replacement Programme for People's Netwo | 12,997 | | -12,997 |
| Communities Total | 24,347 | 0 | -24,347 |
| Barnsley Civic Development - Phase 2 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 0 |
| Barnsley Museums - Network Connectivity | 100,000 | 7,489 | -92,511 |
| Hoyland Core Aquisition | 100,000 | 100,000 | 0 |
| Refurbishment of the Learning Lab | 1,340 | 1,340 | 0 |
| Place Total | 301,340 | 208,829 | -92,511 |
| 4. People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships Total | 325,687 | 208,829 | -116,858 |
| 5. Children & young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement & attainment | | | |
| Astrea Dearne Ac - 20 Athena Places | 56,000 | 55,128 | -872 |
| Athersley/Barugh Green - Replace Boilers | 89,316 | 90,273 | 957 |
| Barugh Green Primary - Convert ICT | 112,193 | 101,121 | -11,072 |
| Barugh Green Primary - Fencing | 4,736 | 664 | -4,072 |
| Birdwell Primary - Fire Alarm | 23,207 | 22,732 | -475 |
| Birdwell Primary - Slate Roof Replacement | 14,836 | 9,704 | -5,132 |
| Birkwood Primary School Extension | | 6,700 | 6,700 |
| BSF Capital Contribution Variations | 1,870,856 | 1,870,856 | 0 |
| Burton Road - Toilet Refurb P2 | 718 | 718 | 0 |
| Burton Road Primary - Roof | 2,725 | | -2,725 |
| Burton Road Primary - Toilet Refurb P1 | 840 | | -840 |
| Churchfields - Increase Admission Number | 924 | | -924 |
| Cudworth Churchfield Primary - 10 RP Places | 105,000 | 78,862 | -26,138 |
| DFC - ALL SCHOOLS | 193,601 | 311,364 | 117,763 |
| Gawber Primary - Entrance Works | 82,652 | 68,154 | -14,498 |
| Gawber Primary - Pitched Roof P2 | 14,653 | 14,030 | -623 |
| Gawber Primary - Roof | 4,277 | 107 | -4,170 |
| HEALTH & SAFETY REACTIVE WORKS | 140,000 | 147,129 | 7,129 |
| High View Primary Extension | 10,000 | | -10,000 |
| Hoyland Greenfield - Reroof Nursery | 11,035 | 341 | -10,695 |
| Hoylandswaine Primary - Fire Protection | 17,225 | 2,455 | -14,770 |
| Keresforth Primary - Improve Facilities | 12,136 | | -12,136 |

| Project Description | 2021/22 Plans | 2021/22 Outturn | Variance |
|---|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Keresforth Primary - Replace Cladding | 395 | | -395 |
| Ladywood Primary - Fire Alarm | 502 | 502 | 0 |
| Milefield - Increase Admission Number to | 59,356 | 60,000 | 644 |
| Milefield Primary - Roofing Works | 43,751 | 10,709 | -33,042 |
| Milefield Primary - Toilet Refurb | 1,399 | 137 | -1,262 |
| Millhouse Primary - Entrance | 2,755 | 2,755 | 0 |
| Millhouse/Cawthorne - Replace Boilers | 103,938 | 102,237 | -1,701 |
| Nexus Pennine View - 10 SEND Places | 37,500 | 37,500 | 0 |
| Oxspring Primary - Entrance | 2,070 | 1,687 | -384 |
| Oxspring Primary - Roofing Works | 7,223 | 5,954 | -1,269 |
| Penistone Grammar Extension | 114,890 | | -114,890 |
| Penistone Grammar School - SEN | | 18,173 | 18,173 |
| Penistone Grammar School - SEN Places | 832,391 | 21,093 | -811,298 |
| Penistone St Johns - Increase Admissions - P3 | 161,245 | 48,529 | -112,716 |
| Remedial Works - Fire Risk Assessment | 40,000 | 9,189 | -30,811 |
| Remedial Works - Water Distribution Syst | 15,000 | 1,035 | -13,965 |
| Royston Meadstead - Resource Provision | 15,000 | | -15,000 |
| SEN Capital Provision Fund | 46,110 | 35,132 | -10,978 |
| Shawland Primary - Re-roof P1 | 1,179 | 331 | -848 |
| Shawland Primary - Roof Replacement P2 | 38,242 | 35,804 | -2,438 |
| Shawlands Primary - Air Handling Unit | 73,649 | 79,849 | 6,200 |
| Silkstone Primary - Entrance | 242 | 242 | -0 |
| Summer Lane Primary - Pitched Roof P2 | 63,096 | 60,915 | -2,181 |
| Summerland Primary - Roofing Works P1 | 2,323 | 2,323 | 0 |
| Thurgoland Primary - Fencing | 680 | | -680 |
| Thurlstone Primary - Increase Admission | 4,687 | | -4,687 |
| Thurlstone Primary - School Hall | 73,300 | 64,664 | -8,636 |
| Wilthorpe Primary - Kitchen Ventilation | 54,582 | 57,958 | 3,376 |
| People Total | 4,562,435 | 3,437,055 | -1,125,380 |
| 5. Children & young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement & attainment Total | 4,562,435 | 3,437,055 | -1,125,380 |
| 7. Business Start ups & existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment providing opportunities for all | | | |
| Barnsley Property Investment Fund Phase 2 | 961,732 | 423,795 | -537,937 |
| Digital Media Centre | 30,000 | | -30,000 |
| DMC1 Refurbishment | 45,578 | 22,877 | -22,701 |
| Eastern Gateway | 1,004,083 | 87,727 | -916,356 |
| Goldthorpe Towns Fund | 92,061 | 79,368 | -12,693 |
| High Street Heritage Action Zone | 618,987 | 583,367 | -35,620 |
| Local Growth Fund - Better Homes | 90,221 | | -90,221 |
| Principal Towns | 858,514 | 508,577 | -349,937 |
| Principal Towns Phase 2 | 317,348 | 869,480 | 552,132 |
| Strategic Business Parks Eco Plan | 260,000 | 125,153 | -134,847 |
| Place Total | 4,278,524 | 2,700,344 | -1,578,180 |
| 7. Business Start ups & existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment providing opportunities for all Total | 4,278,524 | 2,700,344 | -1,578,180 |
| 8. People have a welcoming safe and enjoyable town centre and principal towns as a destination for work, shopping, leisure and culture | | | |
| Homeless and Rough Sleeper Plan | 913,481 | 914,818 | 1,337 |
| Town Centre CCTV Upgrade | 20,472 | 5,100 | -15,372 |
| Communities Total | 933,953 | 919,918 | -14,035 |
| Capital Feasibility Monies | 1,911,000 | 214,710 | -1,696,291 |
| Core Total | 1,911,000 | 214,710 | -1,696,291 |
| A6133 PARK ROAD | 259,510 | 259,510 | 0 |
| A633 Wath Road, Wombwell | 102,930 | 102,930 | 0 |
| A633 Wombwell Lane, Stairfoot | 100,000 | 100,000 | 0 |
| A635 ARDSLEY TO DARFIELD CYCLEWAY | 333,000 | 333,336 | 336 |
| Acquisition of 35 Eldon Street Barnsley | 511,424 | 385,251 | -126,173 |
| Acquisition of Cheapside | 2,583,000 | 2,517,000 | -66,000 |
| ASHLEY CROFT | 18,975 | 18,975 | -0 |
| Assessment Programme | 70,000 | 39,788 | -30,212 |
| Barber Street | 235,000 | 233,911 | -1,089 |
| BROADWAY/KERESFORTH HALL ROAD SIGNALS | 170,000 | | -170,000 |
| BROADWAY/KERESFORTH HILL ROAD SIGNALS | 145,000 | | -145,000 |
| Car Parking Strategy | 1,120,089 | 211,823 | -908,266 |
| Carriageways Planned Maintenance | 1,766,725 | 1,650,204 | -116,521 |
| Click & Collect Hub - RAP | 125,000 | 40,905 | -84,095 |
| Condition Surveys | 50,000 | | -50,000 |
| Courthouse Digital Campus | 119,619 | 38,475 | -81,144 |
| CRANFORD GARDENS | 18,402 | 18,402 | -0 |
| Cycling Facilities | 384,563 | | -384,563 |
| DERWENT ROAD ATH STH | 90,025 | 90,025 | 0 |
| Drainage Planned Maintenance | 850,000 | 1,172,997 | 322,997 |
| DRAINAGE-GULLY MAINTENANCE | 100,000 | 73,363 | -26,637 |

| Project Description | 2021/22 Plans | 2021/22 Outturn | Variance |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Fees For Future Schemes | 50,000 | 1,664 | -48,336 |
| Footways Planned Maintenance | 485,000 | 488,438 | 3,438 |
| Glass Works Development Phase 1 | 210,134 | 60,777 | -149,357 |
| Glass Works Development Phase 2 | 17,602,645 | 13,634,397 | -3,968,248 |
| Glassworks - Public Realm | 4,784,153 | 4,737,209 | -46,944 |
| Goldthorpe Strategic Land Assembly | 580,000 | 531,982 | -48,018 |
| Goldthorpe Towns Fund - DLUHC | 250,000 | 88,215 | -161,785 |
| Group A Street Lights LED Replacement | 500,000 | 346,424 | -153,576 |
| HOUGHTON ROAD | | 272,226 | 272,226 |
| J36 HCA Land Rockingham | 50,000 | 41,858 | -8,142 |
| LAD2 | 1,785,258 | 55,864 | -1,729,394 |
| Land Drainage Reactive Works | | 15,750 | 15,750 |
| Lining Programme | 250,000 | 281,768 | 31,768 |
| Local Roads Reactive Drainage | 100,000 | 85,799 | -14,201 |
| M1 J37 Phase 1 | 3,505,436 | 3,838,891 | 333,455 |
| M1 J37 Phase 2 | 9,695,179 | 758,524 | -8,936,655 |
| M1 J37 PPP Bridge | 528,710 | 97,464 | -431,246 |
| M1 Junction 36 Phase 2 Goldthorpe | 700,809 | 481,344 | -219,465 |
| Market Gate Bridge | 1,605,854 | 1,541,271 | -64,583 |
| Medium Term Programme LRP CW | 160,000 | 125,597 | -34,403 |
| Medium Term Programme LRP FW | 85,000 | 78,843 | -6,157 |
| MEMBERS LOCAL PRIORITY SCHEMES (MLPS) | 371,573 | 101,045 | -270,528 |
| New Footways | 18,000 | | -18,000 |
| PIF3 | 20,000 | | -20,000 |
| Planned Maintenance | 1,295,231 | 912,269 | -382,962 |
| Planned/Route based signage | 70,000 | 17,999 | -52,001 |
| Principal Inspections | 100,000 | 88,743 | -11,257 |
| Principal Roads | 298,861 | 298,861 | -0 |
| Private Streets | 54,760 | 54,760 | 0 |
| PRN FW-A629 RAG LANE/COPSTER LANE | 130,000 | 130,000 | 0 |
| PRN-A629 COPSTER LANE/RAG LANE | 540,018 | 540,018 | -0 |
| PRN-A629 HALIFAX RD: ROPER LN-CRANE MOOR | 250,000 | 250,000 | 0 |
| PRN-A629 HALIFAX RD: WRTLY ARMS-BOOTH WD | 544,976 | 544,976 | -0 |
| PRN-A633 ROTHERHAM RD: CARLTON RD-SCORAH | 200,000 | 186,025 | -13,975 |
| PRN-A635 WILTHORPE RD: REDBROOK RD-W&RCC | 450,000 | 450,000 | 0 |
| PRN-A637 HUDDERSFIELD ROAD (HAIGH RA) | 522,195 | 522,195 | -0 |
| Project Management Costs | 513,549 | 394,714 | -118,835 |
| Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme | 4,316,000 | 3,102,030 | -1,213,970 |
| Refurbishment of the Core Building | 139,263 | 92,044 | -47,219 |
| Reservoirs | | 1,016 | 1,016 |
| Retaining Walls General | 50,000 | 74,174 | 24,174 |
| Road Safety / Danger Reduction | 166,000 | 83,581 | -82,419 |
| Safer Roads | 150,000 | 119,517 | -30,483 |
| Safety Barriers (PRN) | 50,000 | 26,876 | -23,124 |
| Schools Decarb | 1,331,940 | 1,331,940 | -0 |
| Social Inclusion | 25,000 | 13,425 | -11,575 |
| Street Lighting Planned Maintenance | 400,000 | 477,357 | 77,357 |
| Street Name Plates | 25,000 | 50,850 | 25,850 |
| Structures Planned Maintenance | 50,000 | 40,871 | -9,129 |
| Superfast Broadband Phase 2 | 200,000 | 205,437 | 5,437 |
| SURFACE DRESSING | 311,000 | 311,322 | 322 |
| Sustainable Warmth | 5,463,481 | | -5,463,481 |
| SYMCA - ARG | 410,000 | 410,000 | 0 |
| THE CRESCENT | 1,025 | 19,320 | 18,295 |
| The Seam Digital Campus | 859,662 | 636,292 | -223,370 |
| Thurgoland Bank | 65,000 | 67,604 | 2,604 |
| Thurgoland Bank Stabilisation | 497,000 | 190,625 | -306,375 |
| Traffic Signals | 115,000 | 430,200 | 315,200 |
| Traffic Signs & SNP Planned Maintenance | 190,000 | 222,865 | 32,865 |
| WINDMILL AVENUE | | 13,457 | 13,457 |
| Wombwell Library Extension | 20,246 | | -20,246 |
| Youth Zone | 300,000 | | -300,000 |
| Place Total | 72,596,220 | 47,263,607 | -25,332,613 |
| 8. People have a welcoming safe and enjoyable town centre and principal towns as a destination for work, shopping, leisure and culture Total | 75,441,173 | 48,398,235 | -27,042,939 |
| 9. People are supported to have safe warm and welcoming homes | | | |
| Disabled Facilities Grant | 3,063,400 | 3,880,225 | 816,825 |
| Communities Total | 3,063,400 | 3,880,225 | 816,825 |
| 19/20 BHS Darton/Staincross CS | | 500 | 500 |
| 19/20 BHS Electrical Works | 63,010 | 157 | -62,853 |
| 19/20 BHS Kexborough CS | | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| 19/20 BHS Penistone CS | | 2 | 2 |
| 19/20 BHS Roofing Elemental Scheme | | 20,321 | 20,321 |
| 19/20 BHS Silkstone | | 24 | 24 |

| Project Description | 2021/22 Plans | 2021/22 Outturn | Variance |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 19/20 BHS Staincross / Mapplewell | | 311 | 311 |
| 19/20 Flood Refurbishment Programme | | 11,462 | 11,462 |
| 19/20 Gas Elemental | 71,462 | 25,043 | -46,419 |
| 19/20 Major Adaptations 19 Buxton | 14,691 | 14,691 | 0 |
| 19/20 Programme Capital Replacements | 80,000 | 43,651 | -36,349 |
| 20/21 BHS Bolton on Dearne | 498,083 | 134,051 | -364,032 |
| 20/21 BHS Cudworth | 519,807 | 503,956 | -15,851 |
| 20/21 BHS Grimethorpe | 21,580 | 19,819 | -1,761 |
| 20/21 BHS Hoyland | 538,730 | 438,403 | -100,327 |
| 20/21 BHS Hoyland/Jump | 387,419 | 403,012 | 15,593 |
| 20/21 BHS Kendray | 149,497 | 153,584 | 4,087 |
| 20/21 BHS Monk Bretton | 326,455 | 339,730 | 13,275 |
| 20/21 BHS Penistone | | 4,813 | 4,813 |
| 20/21 BHS Royston | 157,532 | 228,393 | 70,861 |
| 20/21 Community Centre Rewires | 74,872 | 118 | -74,754 |
| 20/21 Extensive Structural | | 750 | 750 |
| 20/21 Fire Safety Works | 138,000 | 124,783 | -13,217 |
| 20/21 Gas Elemental Programme | 1,475,814 | 1,224,211 | -251,603 |
| 20/21 Sprinkler Insatallation Prog | 290,974 | 97,136 | -193,838 |
| 21/22 BHS Honeywell | 352,800 | 263,683 | -89,117 |
| 21/22 BHS Hoyland | 1,334,206 | 1,213,924 | -120,282 |
| 21/22 BHS Kingstone | 871,500 | 461,304 | -410,196 |
| 21/22 BHS Platts Common | 638,400 | 359,873 | -278,527 |
| 21/22 BHS Royston | 1,828,041 | 1,907,195 | 79,154 |
| 21/22 BHS Thurnscoe | 1,379,700 | 879,847 | -499,853 |
| 21/22 BHS Town | 1,452,117 | 1,254,947 | -197,170 |
| 21/22 BHS Worsbrough Dale | 1,279,354 | 964,259 | -315,095 |
| 21/22 Capitalised Salaries | 178,000 | | -178,000 |
| 21/22 Community Centre Rewires | 186,141 | 257,911 | 71,770 |
| 21/22 Community Refurb Prog 1 | 100,000 | 217,312 | 117,312 |
| 21/22 Community Refurb Prog 2 | 100,000 | 106,233 | 6,233 |
| 21/22 District Heating | 400,000 | 204,197 | -195,803 |
| 21/22 Domestic Heating | 481,000 | 884,661 | 403,661 |
| 21/22 Extensive Structural | 874,596 | 1,408,758 | 534,162 |
| 21/22 Fire Safety Works | 100,000 | 84,514 | -15,486 |
| 21/22 Gas Elemental Programme | | 12,746 | 12,746 |
| 21/22 Major Adapt 127 Neville Avenue | | 1,550 | 1,550 |
| 21/22 Major Adaptations | 2,812,204 | 3,901,195 | 1,088,991 |
| 21/22 Major Adaptations 103 Gerald Road | 127,889 | 25,428 | -102,461 |
| 21/22 Major Adaptations 21 Bedford | 1,000 | 947 | -53 |
| 21/22 Major Adaptations 40 Burton Road | 127,789 | 22,501 | -105,288 |
| 21/22 Major Voids | 983,982 | 1,363,436 | 379,454 |
| 21/22 Planned Replacements | 2,130,434 | 2,609,135 | 478,701 |
| 21/22 Property Acquisition Upgrades | 17,590 | 136,084 | 118,494 |
| 21/22 Timber Floor Replacement Scheme | 80,000 | 22,008 | -57,992 |
| Bellbrooke New Build Bungalows | | 1,523 | 1,523 |
| Conversion - 18/20 Woodhall | 30,000 | 43,783 | 13,783 |
| Conversion - Upton Close | 100 | 6,448 | 6,348 |
| Conversion - Woodhall Flats | 412 | 3,678 | 3,266 |
| District Heating | | 2,545 | 2,545 |
| Empty Home P & R BCB | 298,755 | 11,208 | -287,547 |
| Empty Homes Acquisitions | 1,653,422 | 1,462,262 | -191,160 |
| Enviro Imps - Bin Stores | 200 | 1,730 | 1,530 |
| Enviro Imps - Malborough/Lansdowne | | 61,511 | 61,511 |
| Goldthorpe Market | 506,902 | 105,846 | -401,056 |
| IT Repair System | 700,000 | 688,935 | -11,065 |
| Kenworthy Road New Build | | 28,949 | 28,949 |
| Keresforth Acquisition & Conversion | | 24,072 | 24,072 |
| Laithe Lane Housing Development | 202,667 | 385,258 | 182,591 |
| Major Adaptations 23 Quest Avenue | 320 | 320 | 0 |
| Major Adaptations 4 Murdoch Place | 89,328 | 117,191 | 27,863 |
| Meadstead New Build | | 67,586 | 67,586 |
| New Build - Roy Kilner Road | | 6,953 | 6,953 |
| New Build Billingley View | 413,428 | 583,476 | 170,048 |
| HRA Total | 26,540,203 | 25,957,044 | -583,159 |
| 146 Barnsley Road | 50,000 | 193,640 | 143,640 |
| Affordable Warmth | 449,335 | 449,335 | 0 |
| Empty Homes | 421,513 | 147,017 | -274,496 |
| HIF Grant Keepmoat | 1,819,748 | 1,819,748 | 0 |
| New Build St Michaels | 517,645 | 826,679 | 309,034 |
| Place Total | 3,258,241 | 3,436,419 | 178,178 |
| 9. People are supported to have safe warm and welcoming homes Total | 32,861,844 | 33,273,688 | 411,844 |
| 10. People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community | | | |

| Project Description | 2021/22 Plans | 2021/22 Outturn | Variance |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| BIN REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME | 300,000 | 345,603 | 45,603 |
| Binrastructure | 21,580 | 6,725 | -14,856 |
| In-Cab Technology | 150,000 | | -150,000 |
| Property Flood Resilience | 69,846 | 69,846 | 0 |
| Transfer Loading Station | 449,107 | 280,255 | -168,852 |
| Place Total | 990,533 | 702,428 | -288,105 |
| 10. People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community Total | 990,533 | 702,428 | -288,105 |
| 11. Our Heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy | | | |
| Worsbrough & Elsecar Reservoirs | 450,000 | 239,793 | -210,207 |
| Core Total | 450,000 | 239,793 | -210,207 |
| Acquisition of New Cremators | 159,858 | 138,730 | -21,128 |
| Cannon Hall North Glass Refurbishment | 239,733 | 218,493 | -21,240 |
| Cannon Hall Parks for People | 416,410 | 365,500 | -50,910 |
| Cooper Cottage & Garden | 6,096 | 3,859 | -2,237 |
| Covid Memorial | 330,904 | 325,246 | -5,658 |
| Crematorium Reception | 30,000 | 14,582 | -15,418 |
| Elsecar Master Plan | 204,066 | 38,138 | -165,928 |
| EV Charging Units | 186,147 | 133,848 | -52,299 |
| Little Don Trail | 594,276 | 594,276 | 0 |
| Parks Safety Surfacing | 80,000 | 40,775 | -39,225 |
| Parkside Sports Facility | | 13,493 | 13,493 |
| Replacement Of Boilers At Metrodome | 181,496 | 43,383 | -138,113 |
| Stairfoot Station Heritage Trail | 1,919 | | -1,919 |
| SYMCA EV Charge Points | 275,385 | | -275,385 |
| Wentworth Castle & Stainborough Park | 642,800 | 627,569 | -15,231 |
| Worsborough Mill Car Park | 46,452 | 2,409 | -44,043 |
| Worsbrough Mill shop refit | 68,338 | 40,726 | -27,612 |
| Place Total | 3,463,880 | 2,601,025 | -862,855 |
| 11. Our Heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy Total | 3,913,880 | 2,840,818 | -1,073,062 |
| 12. Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy & people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking | | | |
| Active Travel Tranche 2 | 620,296 | 622,406 | 2,110 |
| Trans Pennine Trail - Tranche 3 | 179,734 | 180,264 | 530 |
| Trans Pennine Trail - Tranche 4 | 390,000 | 243,726 | -146,274 |
| Transforming Cities Fund | 620,093 | 630,075 | 9,982 |
| Place Total | 1,810,123 | 1,676,471 | -133,652 |
| 12. Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy & people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking Total | 1,810,123 | 1,676,471 | -133,652 |
| 13. Enabling Barnsley | | | |
| IT Infrastructure Refresh | 322,806 | | -322,806 |
| NGFL Replacement Devices | 100,000 | 84,647 | -15,353 |
| SAP Infrastructure Report | 350,000 | 342,314 | -7,686 |
| SAP Success Factors | 100,000 | 165,214 | 65,214 |
| Smart Working | 400,000 | 378,837 | -21,163 |
| Core Total | 1,272,806 | 971,012 | -301,794 |
| 13. Enabling Barnsley Total | 1,272,806 | 971,012 | -301,794 |
| Grand Total | 126,382,927 | 94,835,487 | -31,547,440 |

| Project Description | 2021/22 Variance | 2021/22 Slippage | 2021/22 Rephasing | 2021/22 Variation in Costs |
|---|------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 2. People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as | | | | |
| Assisted Living Technology | -298 | -298 | | |
| Communities Total | -298 | -298 | 0 | 0 |
| Assembly Way Play Facilities | 8,253 | | | 8,253 |
| Barnsley Golf Club Improvements | -10,457 | -10,457 | | |
| Beck Play Area - Grimethorpe | -2,500 | -2,500 | | |
| Bly Road Play Area | -32,823 | -32,823 | | |
| Bolton Brickyard Ponds | -1,935 | -1,935 | | |
| Brierley Recreation Ground | -2,848 | -2,848 | | |
| Countryside Sites & POS | 1,000 | | 1,000 | |
| Darfield Park Pathway | 0 | | | |
| Dorothy Hyman Phase 2 | -195,177 | -195,177 | | |
| Former Royston School - Bence & Plaque | -1,400 | -1,400 | | |
| Grimethorpe Park Paving | -0 | | | |
| Grimethorpe Park Footpath | 7,300 | | 7,300 | |
| Inkerman Fields - Darfield | 0 | | | |
| Locke Park Bowling Club | 0 | | | |
| Lundhill Rec - Flytipping | 0 | | | |
| Lundhill Road - Footpath Works | -2,163 | -2,163 | | |
| Millennium Green | -8,203 | -8,203 | | |
| Newstead Play Area, Athersley | -19,725 | -19,725 | | |
| Newstead Road Play Area | -444 | -444 | | |
| Pilley/Jubilee/Lidgett Rec Ground | -2,457 | -2,457 | | |
| Playing Pitch Improvements | 0 | | | |
| Royston Park - St John's Walk | 0 | | | |
| Royston Park Car Park | 552 | | 552 | |
| Royston Park/Chantry Grove | 0 | | | |
| RSPB Old Moor | 0 | | | |
| Sensory Garden - Wombwell | 6,572 | | 6,572 | |
| Stainbrough Road Play Area, Dodworth | 0 | | | |
| Tankersley Welfare Hall | 3,807 | | 3,807 | |
| The Green, Royston | 0 | | | |
| Thurgoland Welfare Scheme | -51,169 | -51,169 | | |
| Winter Ave Play Area - Royston | 4,800 | | 4,800 | |
| Wombwell Main FC | 0 | | | |
| Place Total | -299,017 | -331,302 | 24,031 | 8,253 |
| 2. People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible Total | -299,315 | -331,600 | 24,031 | 8,253 |
| 4. People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships | | | | |
| Libraries Mgmt Information System - LMIS | -11,350 | -11,350 | | |
| Replacement Programme for People's Netwo | -12,997 | -12,997 | | |
| Communities Total | -24,347 | -24,347 | 0 | 0 |
| Barnsley Civic Development - Phase 2 | 0 | | | |
| Barnsley Museums - Network Connectivity | -92,511 | -92,511 | | |
| Hoyland Core Aquisition | 0 | | | |
| Refurbishment of the Learning Lab | 0 | | | |
| Place Total | -92,511 | -92,511 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships Total | -116,858 | -116,858 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. Children & young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement & attainment | | | | |
| Astrea Dearne Ac - 20 Athena Places | -872 | -872 | | |
| Athersley/Barugh Green - Replace Boilers | 957 | | | 957 |
| Barugh Green Primary - Convert ICT | -11,072 | -11,072 | | |
| Barugh Green Primary - Fencing | -4,072 | -4,072 | | |
| Birdwell Primary - Fire Alarm | -475 | -475 | | |
| Birdwell Primary - Slate Roof Replacement | -5,132 | -5,132 | | |
| Birkwood Primary School Extension | 6,700 | | | 6,700 |
| BSF Capital Contribution Variations | 0 | | | 0 |
| Burton Road - Toilet Refurb P2 | 0 | | | |
| Burton Road Primary - Roof | -2,725 | -2,725 | | |
| Burton Road Primary - Toilet Refurb P1 | -840 | -840 | | |
| Churchfields - Increase Admission Number | -924 | -924 | | |
| Cudworth Churchfield Primary - 10 RP Places | -26,138 | -26,138 | | |
| DFC - ALL SCHOOLS | 117,763 | | | 117,763 |
| Gawber Primary - Entrance Works | -14,498 | -14,498 | | |
| Gawber Primary - Pitched Roof P2 | -623 | -623 | | |
| Gawber Primary - Roof | -4,170 | -4,170 | | |
| HEALTH & SAFETY REACTIVE WORKS | 7,129 | | | 7,129 |
| High View Primary Extension | -10,000 | -10,000 | | |
| Hoyland Greenfield - Reroof Nursery | -10,695 | -10,695 | | |
| Hoylandswaine Primary - Fire Protection | -14,770 | -14,770 | | |
| Keresforth Primary - Improve Facilities | -12,136 | -12,136 | | |

| Project Description | 2021/22 Variance | 2021/22 Slippage | 2021/22 Rephasing | 2021/22 Variation in Costs |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Keresforth Primary - Replace Cladding | -395 | -395 | | |
| Ladywood Primary - Fire Alarm | 0 | | | |
| Milefield - Increase Admission Number to | 644 | | | 644 |
| Milefield Primary - Roofing Works | -33,042 | -33,042 | | |
| Milefield Primary - Toilet Refurb | -1,262 | -1,262 | | |
| Millhouse Primary - Entrance | 0 | | | |
| Millhouse/Cawthorne - Replace Boilers | -1,701 | -1,701 | | |
| Nexus Pennine View - 10 SEND Places | 0 | | | |
| Oxspring Primary - Entrance | -384 | -384 | | |
| Oxspring Primary - Roofing Works | -1,269 | -1,269 | | |
| Penistone Grammar Extension | -114,890 | -114,890 | | |
| Penistone Grammar School - SEN | 18,173 | | | 18,173 |
| Penistone Grammar School - SEN Places | -811,298 | -811,298 | | |
| Penistone St Johns - Increase Admissions - P3 | -112,716 | -112,716 | | |
| Remedial Works - Fire Risk Assessment | -30,811 | -30,811 | | |
| Remedial Works - Water Distribution Syst | -13,965 | -13,965 | | |
| Royston Meadstead - Resource Provision | -15,000 | -15,000 | | |
| SEN Capital Provision Fund | -10,978 | -10,978 | | |
| Shawland Primary - Re-roof P1 | -848 | -848 | | |
| Shawland Primary - Roof Replacement P2 | -2,438 | -2,438 | | |
| Shawlands Primary - Air Handling Unit | 6,200 | | | 6,200 |
| Silkstone Primary - Entrance | -0 | | | |
| Summer Lane Primary - Pitched Roof P2 | -2,181 | -2,181 | | |
| Summerland Primary - Roofing Works P1 | 0 | | | |
| Thurgoland Primary - Fencing | -680 | -680 | | |
| Thurlstone Primary - Increase Admission | -4,687 | -4,687 | | |
| Thurlstone Primary - School Hall | -8,636 | -8,636 | | |
| Wilthorpe Primary - Kitchen Ventilation | 3,376 | | | 3,376 |
| People Total | -1,125,380 | -1,286,323 | 0 | 160,942 |
| 5. Children & young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement & attainment Total | -1,125,380 | -1,286,323 | 0 | 160,942 |
| 7. Business Start ups & existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment providing opportunities for all | | | | |
| Barnsley Property Investment Fund Phase 2 | -537,937 | -537,937 | | |
| Digital Media Centre | -30,000 | -30,000 | | |
| DMC1 Refurbishment | -22,701 | -22,701 | | |
| Eastern Gateway | -916,356 | -916,356 | | |
| Goldthorpe Towns Fund | -12,693 | -12,693 | | |
| High Street Heritage Action Zone | -35,620 | -35,620 | | |
| Local Growth Fund - Better Homes | -90,221 | | | -90,221 |
| Principal Towns | -349,937 | -349,937 | | |
| Principal Towns Phase 2 | 552,132 | | 552,132 | |
| Strategic Business Parks Eco Plan | -134,847 | -134,847 | | |
| Place Total | -1,578,180 | -2,040,090 | 552,132 | -90,221 |
| 7. Business Start ups & existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment providing opportunities for all Total | -1,578,180 | -2,040,090 | 552,132 | -90,221 |
| 8. People have a welcoming safe and enjoyable town centre and principal towns as a destination for work, shopping, leisure and culture | | | | |
| Homeless and Rough Sleeper Plan | 1,337 | | | 1,337 |
| Town Centre CCTV Upgrade | -15,372 | -15,372 | | |
| Communities Total | -14,035 | -15,372 | 0 | 1,337 |
| Capital Feasibility Monies | -1,696,291 | -1,696,291 | | |
| Core Total | -1,696,291 | -1,696,291 | 0 | 0 |
| A6133 PARK ROAD | 0 | | | |
| A633 Wath Road, Wombwell | 0 | | | |
| A633 Wombwell Lane, Stairfoot | 0 | | | |
| A635 ARDSLEY TO DARFIELD CYCLEWAY | 336 | | | 336 |
| Acquisition of 35 Eldon Street Barnsley | -126,173 | -126,173 | | |
| Acquisition of Cheapside | -66,000 | -66,000 | | |
| ASHLEY CROFT | -0 | | | |
| Assessment Programme | -30,212 | | | -30,212 |
| Barber Street | -1,089 | | | -1,089 |
| BROADWAY/KERESFORTH HALL ROAD SIGNALS | -170,000 | | | -170,000 |
| BROADWAY/KERESFORTH HILL ROAD SIGNALS | -145,000 | | | -145,000 |
| Car Parking Strategy | -908,266 | -908,266 | | |
| Carriageways Planned Maintenance | -116,521 | | | -116,521 |
| Click & Collect Hub - RAP | -84,095 | -84,095 | | |
| Condition Surveys | -50,000 | | | -50,000 |
| Courthouse Digital Campus | -81,144 | -81,144 | | |
| CRANFORD GARDENS | -0 | | | |
| Cycling Facilities | -384,563 | | | -384,563 |
| DERWENT ROAD ATH STH | 0 | | | |
| Drainage Planned Maintenance | 322,997 | | | 322,997 |
| DRAINAGE-GULLY MAINTENANCE | -26,637 | | | -26,637 |

| Project Description | 2021/22 Variance | 2021/22 Slippage | 2021/22 Rephasing | 2021/22 Variation in Costs |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Fees For Future Schemes | -48,336 | | | -48,336 |
| Footways Planned Maintenance | 3,438 | | | 3,438 |
| Glass Works Development Phase 1 | -149,357 | -149,357 | | |
| Glass Works Development Phase 2 | -3,968,248 | -3,968,248 | | |
| Glassworks - Public Realm | -46,944 | -46,944 | | |
| Goldthorpe Strategic Land Assembly | -48,018 | | | -48,018 |
| Goldthorpe Towns Fund - DLUHC | -161,785 | -161,785 | | |
| Group A Street Lights LED Replacement | -153,576 | -153,576 | | |
| HOUGHTON ROAD | 272,226 | | | 272,226 |
| J36 HCA Land Rockingham | -8,142 | -8,142 | | |
| LAD2 | -1,729,394 | -1,729,394 | | |
| Land Drainage Reactive Works | 15,750 | | | 15,750 |
| Lining Programme | 31,768 | | | 31,768 |
| Local Roads Reactive Drainage | -14,201 | | | -14,201 |
| M1 J37 Phase 1 | 333,455 | | 333,455 | |
| M1 J37 Phase 2 | -8,936,655 | -8,936,655 | | |
| M1 J37 PPP Bridge | -431,246 | -431,246 | | |
| M1 Junction 36 Phase 2 Goldthorpe | -219,465 | -219,465 | | |
| Market Gate Bridge | -64,583 | -64,583 | | |
| Medium Term Programme LRP CW | -34,403 | | | -34,403 |
| Medium Term Programme LRP FW | -6,157 | | | -6,157 |
| MEMBERS LOCAL PRIORITY SCHEMES (MLPS) | -270,528 | | | -270,528 |
| New Footways | -18,000 | | | -18,000 |
| PIF3 | -20,000 | -20,000 | | |
| Planned Maintenance | -382,962 | -382,962 | | |
| Planned/Route based signage | -52,001 | | | -52,001 |
| Principal Inspections | -11,257 | | | -11,257 |
| Principal Roads | -0 | | | |
| Private Streets | 0 | | | |
| PRN FW-A629 RAG LANE/COPSTER LANE | 0 | | | |
| PRN-A629 COPSTER LANE/RAG LANE | -0 | | | |
| PRN-A629 HALIFAX RD: ROPER LN-CRANE MOOR | 0 | | | |
| PRN-A629 HALIFAX RD: WRTLY ARMS-BOOTH WD | -0 | | | |
| PRN-A633 ROTHERHAM RD: CARLTON RD-SCORAH | -13,975 | | | -13,975 |
| PRN-A635 WILTHORPE RD: REDBROOK RD-W&RCC | 0 | | | |
| PRN-A637 HUDDERSFIELD ROAD (HAIGH RA) | -0 | | | |
| Project Management Costs | -118,835 | -118,835 | | |
| Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme | -1,213,970 | -1,213,970 | | |
| Refurbishment of the Core Building | -47,219 | -47,219 | | |
| Reservoirs | 1,016 | | | 1,016 |
| Retaining Walls General | 24,174 | | | 24,174 |
| Road Safety / Danger Reduction | -82,419 | | | -82,419 |
| Safer Roads | -30,483 | -30,483 | | |
| Safety Barriers (PRN) | -23,124 | | | -23,124 |
| Schools Decarb | -0 | | | |
| Social Inclusion | -11,575 | | | -11,575 |
| Street Lighting Planned Maintenance | 77,357 | | | 77,357 |
| Street Name Plates | 25,850 | | | 25,850 |
| Structures Planned Maintenance | -9,129 | | | -9,129 |
| Superfast Broadband Phase 2 | 5,437 | | 5,437 | |
| SURFACE DRESSING | 322 | | | 322 |
| Sustainable Warmth | -5,463,481 | -5,463,481 | | |
| SYMCA - ARG | 0 | | | |
| THE CRESCENT | 18,295 | | | 18,295 |
| The Seam Digital Campus | -223,370 | -223,370 | | |
| Thurgoland Bank | 2,604 | | | 2,604 |
| Thurgoland Bank Stabilisation | -306,375 | | | -306,375 |
| Traffic Signals | 315,200 | | | 315,200 |
| Traffic Signs & SNP Planned Maintenance | 32,865 | | | 32,865 |
| WINDMILL AVENUE | 13,457 | | | 13,457 |
| Wombwell Library Extension | -20,246 | -20,246 | | |
| Youth Zone | -300,000 | -300,000 | | |
| Place Total | -25,332,613 | -24,955,640 | 338,892 | -715,864 |
| 8. People have a welcoming safe and enjoyable town centre and principal towns as a destination for work, shopping, leisure and culture Total | -27,042,939 | -26,667,303 | 338,892 | -714,527 |
| 9. People are supported to have safe warm and welcoming homes | | | | |
| Disabled Facilities Grant | 816,825 | | 816,825 | |
| Communities Total | 816,825 | 0 | 816,825 | 0 |
| 19/20 BHS Darton/Staincross CS | 500 | | | 500 |
| 19/20 BHS Electrical Works | -62,853 | | | -62,853 |
| 19/20 BHS Kexborough CS | 1,200 | | | 1,200 |
| 19/20 BHS Penistone CS | 2 | | | 2 |
| 19/20 BHS Roofing Elemental Scheme | 20,321 | | | 20,321 |
| 19/20 BHS Silkstone | 24 | | | 24 |

| Project Description | 2021/22 Variance | 2021/22 Slippage | 2021/22 Rephasing | 2021/22 Variation in Costs |
|---|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 19/20 BHS Staincross / Mapplewell | 311 | | | 311 |
| 19/20 Flood Refurbishment Programme | 11,462 | | 11,462 | |
| 19/20 Gas Elemental | -46,419 | | | -46,419 |
| 19/20 Major Adaptations 19 Buxton | 0 | | | |
| 19/20 Programme Capital Replacements | -36,349 | | | -36,349 |
| 20/21 BHS Bolton on Dearne | -364,032 | -257,000 | | -107,032 |
| 20/21 BHS Cudworth | -15,851 | -15,851 | | |
| 20/21 BHS Grimethorpe | -1,761 | -1,761 | | |
| 20/21 BHS Hoyland | -100,327 | -50,000 | | -50,327 |
| 20/21 BHS Hoyland/Jump | 15,593 | | | 15,593 |
| 20/21 BHS Kendray | 4,087 | | | 4,087 |
| 20/21 BHS Monk Bretton | 13,275 | | | 13,275 |
| 20/21 BHS Penistone | 4,813 | | | 4,813 |
| 20/21 BHS Royston | 70,861 | | | 70,861 |
| 20/21 Community Centre Rewires | -74,754 | | | -74,754 |
| 20/21 Extensive Structural | 750 | | | 750 |
| 20/21 Fire Safety Works | -13,217 | | | -13,217 |
| 20/21 Gas Elemental Programme | -251,603 | -78,792 | | -172,811 |
| 20/21 Sprinkler Installation Prog | -193,838 | -193,838 | | |
| 21/22 BHS Honeywell | -89,117 | -74,800 | | -14,317 |
| 21/22 BHS Hoyland | -120,282 | -120,282 | | |
| 21/22 BHS Kingstone | -410,196 | -36,500 | | -373,696 |
| 21/22 BHS Platts Common | -278,527 | | | -278,527 |
| 21/22 BHS Royston | 79,154 | | | 79,154 |
| 21/22 BHS Thurnscoe | -499,853 | -58,700 | | -441,153 |
| 21/22 BHS Town | -197,170 | | | -197,170 |
| 21/22 BHS Worsbrough Dale | -315,095 | -281,000 | | -34,095 |
| 21/22 Capitalised Salaries | -178,000 | | | -178,000 |
| 21/22 Community Centre Rewires | 71,770 | | | 71,770 |
| 21/22 Community Refurb Prog 1 | 117,312 | | | 117,312 |
| 21/22 Community Refurb Prog 2 | 6,233 | | | 6,233 |
| 21/22 District Heating | -195,803 | | | -195,803 |
| 21/22 Domestic Heating | 403,661 | | | 403,661 |
| 21/22 Extensive Structural | 534,162 | | | 534,162 |
| 21/22 Fire Safety Works | -15,486 | | | -15,486 |
| 21/22 Gas Elemental Programme | 12,746 | | 12,746 | |
| 21/22 Major Adapt 127 Neville Avenue | 1,550 | | | 1,550 |
| 21/22 Major Adaptations | 1,088,991 | | | 1,088,991 |
| 21/22 Major Adaptations 103 Gerald Road | -102,461 | | | -102,461 |
| 21/22 Major Adaptations 21 Bedford | -53 | | | -53 |
| 21/22 Major Adaptations 40 Burton Road | -105,288 | | | -105,288 |
| 21/22 Major Voids | 379,454 | | | 379,454 |
| 21/22 Planned Replacements | 478,701 | | | 478,701 |
| 21/22 Property Acquisition Upgrades | 118,494 | | | 118,494 |
| 21/22 Timber Floor Replacement Scheme | -57,992 | -57,992 | | |
| Bellbrooke New Build Bungalows | 1,523 | | | 1,523 |
| Conversion - 18/20 Woodhall | 13,783 | | | 13,783 |
| Conversion - Upton Close | 6,348 | | | 6,348 |
| Conversion - Woodhall Flats | 3,266 | | | 3,266 |
| District Heating | 2,545 | | | 2,545 |
| Empty Home P & R BCB | -287,547 | -287,547 | | |
| Empty Homes Acquisitions | -191,160 | -354,968 | | 163,808 |
| Enviro Imps - Bin Stores | 1,530 | | | 1,530 |
| Enviro Imps - Malborough/Lansdowne | 61,511 | | | 61,511 |
| Goldthorpe Market | -401,056 | -401,056 | | |
| IT Repair System | -11,065 | -11,065 | | |
| Kenworthy Road New Build | 28,949 | | | 28,949 |
| Keresforth Acquisition & Conversion | 24,072 | | | 24,072 |
| Laites Lane Housing Development | 182,591 | | 182,591 | |
| Major Adaptations 23 Quest Avenue | 0 | | | |
| Major Adaptations 4 Murdoch Place | 27,863 | | | 27,863 |
| Meadstead New Build | 67,586 | | | 67,586 |
| New Build - Roy Kilner Road | 6,953 | | | 6,953 |
| New Build Billingley View | 170,048 | | 170,048 | |
| HRA Total | -583,159 | -2,281,152 | 376,847 | 1,321,146 |
| 146 Barnsley Road | 143,640 | | | 143,640 |
| Affordable Warmth | 0 | | | |
| Empty Homes | -274,496 | -274,496 | | |
| HIF Grant Keepmoat | 0 | | | |
| New Build St Michaels | 309,034 | | 309,034 | |
| Place Total | 178,178 | -274,496 | 309,034 | 143,640 |
| 9. People are supported to have safe warm and welcoming homes Total | 411,844 | -2,555,648 | 1,502,706 | 1,464,786 |
| 10. People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community | | | | |

| Project Description | 2021/22 Variance | 2021/22 Slippage | 2021/22 Rephasing | 2021/22 Variation in Costs |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| BIN REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME | 45,603 | | 45,603 | |
| Binrastructure | -14,856 | -14,856 | | |
| In-Cab Technology | -150,000 | -150,000 | | |
| Property Flood Resilience | 0 | | | |
| Transfer Loading Station | -168,852 | -168,852 | | |
| Place Total | -288,105 | -333,708 | 45,603 | 0 |
| 10. People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community Total | -288,105 | -333,708 | 45,603 | 0 |
| 11. Our Heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy | | | | |
| Worsbrough & Elsecar Reservoirs | -210,207 | -210,207 | | |
| Core Total | -210,207 | -210,207 | 0 | 0 |
| Acquisition of New Cremators | -21,128 | -21,128 | | |
| Cannon Hall North Glass Refurbishment | -21,240 | -21,240 | | |
| Cannon Hall Parks for People | -50,910 | -50,910 | | |
| Cooper Cottage & Garden | -2,237 | -2,237 | | |
| Covid Memorial | -5,658 | -5,658 | | |
| Crematorium Reception | -15,418 | -15,418 | | |
| Elsecar Master Plan | -165,928 | -165,928 | | |
| EV Charging Units | -52,299 | -52,299 | | |
| Little Don Trail | 0 | | | |
| Parks Safety Surfacing | -39,225 | -39,225 | | |
| Parkside Sports Facility | 13,493 | | 13,493 | |
| Replacement Of Boilers At Metrodome | -138,113 | -138,113 | | |
| Stairfoot Station Heritage Trail | -1,919 | -1,919 | | |
| SYMCA EV Charge Points | -275,385 | -275,385 | | |
| Wentworth Castle & Stainborough Park | -15,231 | -15,231 | | |
| Worsborough Mill Car Park | -44,043 | -44,043 | | |
| Worsborough Mill shop refit | -27,612 | -27,612 | | |
| Place Total | -862,855 | -876,348 | 13,493 | 0 |
| 11. Our Heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy Total | -1,073,062 | -1,086,555 | 13,493 | 0 |
| 12. Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy & people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking | | | | |
| Active Travel Tranche 2 | 2,110 | | 2,110 | |
| Trans Pennine Trail - Tranche 3 | 530 | | | 530 |
| Trans Pennine Trail - Tranche 4 | -146,274 | -146,274 | | |
| Transforming Cities Fund | 9,982 | | 9,982 | |
| Place Total | -133,652 | -146,274 | 12,092 | 530 |
| 12. Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy & people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking Total | -133,652 | -146,274 | 12,092 | 530 |
| 13. Enabling Barnsley | | | | |
| IT Infrastructure Refresh | -322,806 | -322,806 | | |
| NGFL Replacement Devices | -15,353 | -15,353 | | |
| SAP Infrastructure Report | -7,686 | -7,686 | | |
| SAP Success Factors | 65,214 | | 65,214 | |
| Smart Working | -21,163 | -21,163 | | |
| Core Total | -301,794 | -367,007 | 65,214 | 0 |
| 13. Enabling Barnsley Total | -301,794 | -367,007 | 65,214 | 0 |
| Grand Total | -31,547,440 | -34,931,365 | 2,554,162 | 829,762 |

| Project Description | Existing 2022/23 Budget | 2023/24 Budget | 2024/25 Budget | 2025/26 Budget | Overall Budget |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Barnsley Boundary Footpath Improvements | 10,000 | | | | 10,000 |
| Countryside Sites & POS | 13,635 | | | | 13,635 |
| Fleets Dam/Nature Park | 23,967 | | | | 23,967 |
| Grimethorpe Park Footpath | 7,300 | | | | 7,300 |
| Monk Bretton Cemetery Extension | 55,559 | | | | 55,559 |
| Old Orchard Site - Grimethorpe | 6,073 | | | | 6,073 |
| Phoenix Park - Thurnscoe | 25,000 | | | | 25,000 |
| Provision of MUGA Grimethorpe | 1,829 | | | | 1,829 |
| Rabbit Ings Football Pitch Imp | 20,000 | | | | 20,000 |
| Rabbit Ings Royston - Pitch Access | 4,200 | | | | 4,200 |
| Royston Park Car Park | 4,550 | | | | 4,550 |
| RSPB Old Moor | 30,000 | | | | 30,000 |
| Sensory Garden - Wombwell | 6,572 | | | | 6,572 |
| Silkstone Cemetary Extension | 519 | | | | 519 |
| Smithies Rec Fencing | 15,561 | | | | 15,561 |
| Tankersley Welfare Hall | 4,187 | | | | 4,187 |
| The Mullins Anti-Vehicle Protection | 7,427 | | | | 7,427 |
| Warren Quarry Open Space | 4,150 | | | | 4,150 |
| Winter Ave Play Area - Royston | 4,800 | | | | 4,800 |
| Worsbrough Wet Woodland Rescue | 17,919 | | | | 17,919 |
| Place Total | 263,248 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 263,248 |
| 2. People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible Total | 263,248 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 263,248 |
| Barnsley Civic Development - Phase 2 | 100,000 | | | | 100,000 |
| Barnsley Museums - Network Connectivity | 400,000 | | | | 400,000 |
| Place Total | 500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 500,000 |
| 4. People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships Total | 500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 500,000 |
| Athersley/Barugh Green - Replace Boilers | 3,206 | | | | 3,206 |
| Barugh Green Primary - Convert ICT | 3,106 | | | | 3,106 |
| Birdwell Primary - Fire Alarm | 829 | | | | 829 |
| Birdwell Primary - Slate Roof Replacement | 175,000 | | | | 175,000 |
| Gawber Primary - Entrance Works | 1,994 | | | | 1,994 |
| Gawber Primary - Pitched Roof P2 | 546 | | | | 546 |
| Hoylandswaine Primary - Fire Protection | 603 | | | | 603 |
| Keresforth Primary - Improve Facilities | 138,000 | | | | 138,000 |
| Milefield Primary - Roofing Works | 347,401 | | | | 347,401 |
| Millhouse/Cawthorne - Replace Boilers | 2,994 | | | | 2,994 |
| Oxspring Primary - Roofing Works | 44,277 | | | | 44,277 |
| Penistone St Johns - Increase Admissions - P3 | 83,162 | | | | 83,162 |
| Remedial Works - Fire Risk Assessment | 64,000 | | | | 64,000 |
| Shawland Primary - Roof Replacement P2 | 1,368 | | | | 1,368 |
| Shawlands Primary - Air Handling Unit | 6,864 | | | | 6,864 |
| Summer Lane Primary - Pitched Roof P2 | 1,763 | | | | 1,763 |
| Thurlstone Primary - School Hall | 2,290 | | | | 2,290 |
| Withthorpe Primary - Kitchen Ventilation | 1,834 | | | | 1,834 |
| People Total | 879,237 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 879,237 |
| 5. Children & young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement & attainment Total | 879,237 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 879,237 |
| Goldthorpe Towns Fund | 72,857 | | | | 72,857 |
| High Street Heritage Action Zone | 2,621,793 | 617,835 | | | 3,239,628 |
| Principal Towns | 1,614,142 | | | | 1,614,142 |
| Principal Towns Phase 2 | 125,292 | | | | 125,292 |
| Strategic Business Parks Eco Plan | 402,125 | | | | 402,125 |
| Place Total | 4,836,209 | 617,835 | 0 | 0 | 5,454,044 |
| 7. Business Start ups & existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment providing opportunities for all Total | 4,836,209 | 617,835 | 0 | 0 | 5,454,044 |
| A635 OLD MILL LANE | 350,546 | | | | 350,546 |
| CONE LANE, SILKSTONE (STRUCTURES) | 150,000 | | | | 150,000 |
| Footways Planned Maintenance | 335,000 | | | | 335,000 |
| Glass Works Development Phase 2 | 8,872,000 | | | | 8,872,000 |
| Glassworks - Public Realm | 923,000 | | | | 923,000 |
| Group A Street Lights LED Replacement | 1,289,537 | | | | 1,289,537 |
| J36 HCA Land Rockingham | 137,277 | | | | 137,277 |
| M1 J37 Phase 1 | 462,710 | | | | 462,710 |
| M1 J37 PPP Bridge | 1,091,290 | | | | 1,091,290 |
| M1 Junction 36 Phase 2 Goldthorpe | 1,000,000 | | | | 1,000,000 |
| Market Gate Bridge | 7,104,146 | | | | 7,104,146 |
| PIF3 | 56,808 | | | | 56,808 |
| PRN-A61 SHEFFIELD RD: WORSBRO RD-MOOR LN | 568,310 | | | | 568,310 |
| Project Management Costs | 370,000 | 411,500 | | | 781,500 |
| RIVER DEARNE BRIDGE (A6195) | 50,000 | | | | 50,000 |
| Safer Roads | 1,029,544 | | | | 1,029,544 |
| SOUR PROTECTION WORKS | 100,000 | | | | 100,000 |
| Superfast Broadband Phase 2 | 198,264 | | | | 198,264 |
| The Seam Digital Campus | 318,338 | | | | 318,338 |
| Youth Zone | 4,208,000 | | | | 4,208,000 |
| Place Total | 28,614,770 | 411,500 | 0 | 0 | 29,026,270 |
| 8. People have a welcoming safe and enjoyable town centre and principal towns as a destination for work, shopping, leisure and culture Total | 28,614,770 | 411,500 | 0 | 0 | 29,026,270 |
| Disabled Facilities Grant | 5,655,577 | | | | 5,655,577 |
| Communities Total | 5,655,577 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,655,577 |
| 19/20 Programme Capital Replacements | 39,726 | | | | 39,726 |
| 20/21 Gas Elemental Programme | 55,712 | | | | 55,712 |
| 20/21 Sprinkler Insatallation Prog | 1,459,026 | | | | 1,459,026 |
| 21/22 BHS Honeywell | 88,200 | | | | 88,200 |
| 21/22 BHS Kingstone | 217,500 | | | | 217,500 |
| 21/22 BHS Platts Common | 159,600 | | | | 159,600 |
| 21/22 BHS Royston | 425,494 | | | | 425,494 |
| 21/22 BHS Thurnscoe | 591,300 | | | | 591,300 |
| 21/22 BHS Town | 504,878 | | | | 504,878 |
| 21/22 BHS Worsbrough Dale | 255,947 | | | | 255,947 |
| 21/22 Gas Elemental Programme | 337,000 | | | | 337,000 |
| Empty Home P & R BCB | 80,604 | | | | 80,604 |
| Goldthorpe Market | 830,574 | | | | 830,574 |
| IT Repair System | 1,300,000 | | | | 1,300,000 |
| Laithes Lane Housing Development | 1,148,445 | | | | 1,148,445 |
| New Build Billingley View | 2,039,135 | | | | 2,039,135 |
| HRA Total | 9,533,141 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9,533,141 |
| New Build St Michaels | 5,497,095 | | | | 5,497,095 |
| Place Total | 5,497,095 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,497,095 |
| 9. People are supported to have safe warm and welcoming homes Total | 20,685,813 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20,685,813 |
| Vehicle Replacement Programme 2021/22 | 2,000,000 | | | | 2,000,000 |

| Project Description | Existing 2022/23 Budget | 2023/24 Budget | 2024/25 Budget | 2025/26 Budget | Overall Budget |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Place Total | 2,000,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,000,000 |
| 10. People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community Total | 2,000,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,000,000 |
| Worsbrough & Elsecar Reservoirs | 1,660,000 | 940,000 | 325,000 | | 2,925,000 |
| Core Total | 1,660,000 | 940,000 | 325,000 | 0 | 2,925,000 |
| Athersley Memorial Lake | 15,000 | | | | 15,000 |
| Cannon Hall North Glass Refurbishment | 20,000 | | | | 20,000 |
| Crematorium Reception | 100,000 | | | | 100,000 |
| Parkside Sports Facility | 580,000 | 580,000 | | | 1,160,000 |
| Wentworth Castle & Stainborough Park | 433,734 | | | | 433,734 |
| Place Total | 1,148,734 | 580,000 | 0 | 0 | 1,728,734 |
| 11. Our Heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy Total | 2,808,734 | 1,520,000 | 325,000 | 0 | 4,653,734 |
| Active Travel Tranche 2 | 505,057 | | | | 505,057 |
| Trans Pennine Trail - Tranche 4 | 304,000 | | | | 304,000 |
| Transforming Cities Fund | 1,000,000 | | | | 1,000,000 |
| Place Total | 1,809,057 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,809,057 |
| 12. Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy & people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking Total | 1,809,057 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,809,057 |
| IT Infrastructure Refresh | 8,932 | 503,251 | 230,105 | | 742,288 |
| NGFL Replacement Devices | 145,000 | | | | 145,000 |
| SAP Success Factors | 338,657 | | | | 338,657 |
| Smart Working | 600,000 | | | | 600,000 |
| Core Total | 1,092,589 | 503,251 | 230,105 | 0 | 1,825,945 |
| 13. Enabling Barnsley Total | 1,092,589 | 503,251 | 230,105 | 0 | 1,825,945 |
| Grand Total | 63,489,657 | 3,052,586 | 555,105 | 0 | 67,097,348 |

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Executive Director – Core Services & Service Director – Finance (Section 151 Officer)

TITLE: ANNUAL REPORT ON TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES 2021/22

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| REPORT TO: | Cabinet |
| Date of Meeting | 1 June 2022 |
| Cabinet Member Portfolio | Core Services |
| Key Decision | No |
| Public or Private | Public |

Purpose of report

This report reviews the treasury management activities carried out by the Council during 2021/22, in accordance with statutory guidance. In broad terms it covers:

- The overarching treasury management strategy for 2021/22;
- An economic summary for the year;
- An update on the Council’s borrowing and investment activities; and
- The Council’s Prudential and Treasury Indicators.

Council Plan priority

All

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

1. Note the latest expectations for interest rates;
2. Note the activities undertaken during the year to support the Council’s borrowing and investment strategies, and;
3. Note the Prudential and Treasury Indicators set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22 was approved by full Council on 25 February 2021. It identifies the key risks associated with the Council’s borrowing and investment activities and sets out how those risks will be managed.

- 1.2 The current borrowing strategy is to maintain a minimum proportion of fixed rate borrowing to limit the Council's exposure to interest rate risk, whilst managing an appropriate level of internal borrowing in order to reduce the Council's financing costs. As paragraph 2.6 refers, in the interests of budget certainty, the fixed rate borrowing target for 2022/23 was met earlier than planned during 2021/22 due to a combination of falling PWLB borrowing rates and forecast interest rate rises.
- 1.3 The current investment strategy seeks to scrutinise credit risk and maintain a suitable balance of liquid funds to ensure that sufficient cash is available when needed and as such the pursuit of higher investment returns is a secondary objective. The focus in 2021/22 has been managing elevated cash levels from continuing disbursement of COVID-19 funds from the Government and also increased cash levels from the loans taken out in line with the borrowing strategy. Throughout the year officers ensured that the Council's short-term investments remained both secure and liquid.

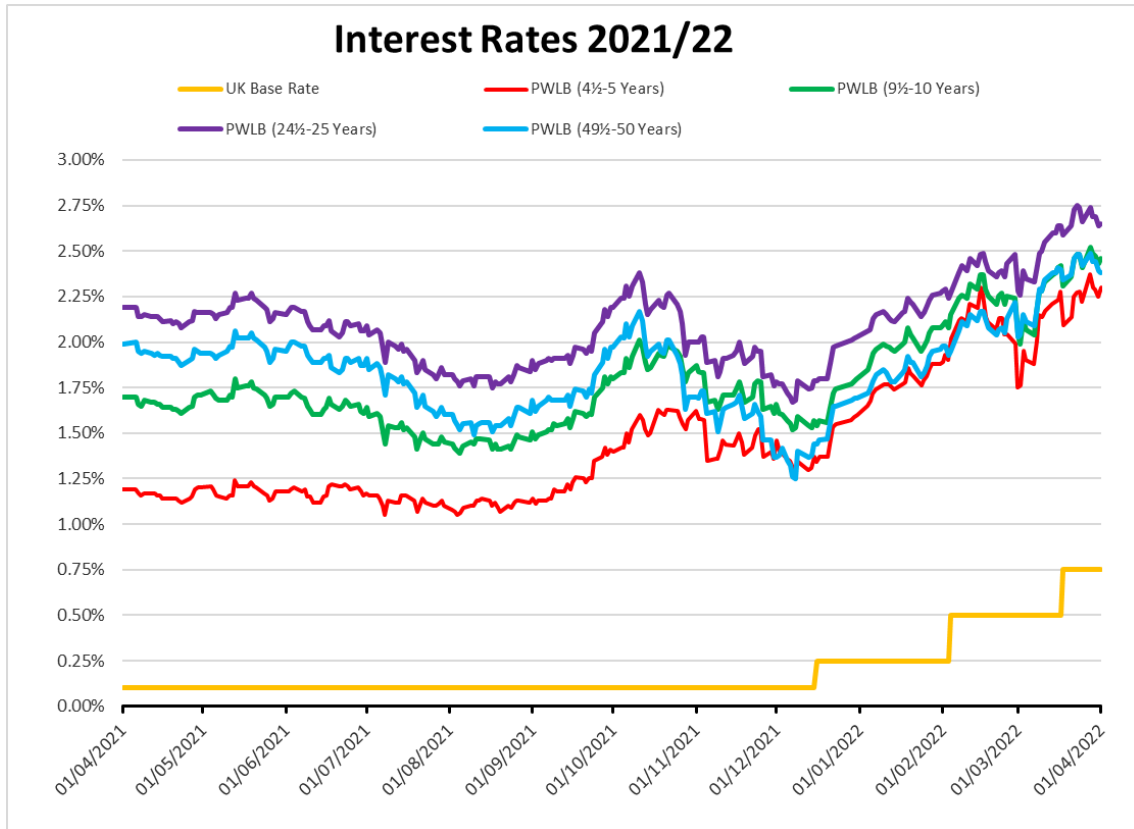
2. PROPOSAL

Economic Summary

Highlights:

- *The UK Bank rate increased from 0.10% to 0.75% during the year;*
- *Volatility in PWLB borrowing rates over the financial year, with levels falling to historically low levels in December before rising sharply towards the end of March;*
- *The annual inflation rate in the UK rose to a new 30-year high of 7.0% in March 2022 (up from 6.2% in February 2022) and is expected to rise further in the near term.*

- 2.1 Interest rates are a key driver of the Council's treasury management activities and as such are closely monitored by officers.
- 2.2 As illustrated in the graph below, there was a high level of volatility in PWLB rates over the course of the financial year, with rates falling to historically low levels in early December 2021. The latest forecasts are predicting a steady rise in rates to 2024/25 (see 2.3 below).



2.3 After the Bank of England became the first major western central bank to increase interest rates in December, it has quickly followed up its first 0.15% rise by a further two 0.25% rises to 0.75%, in what is very likely to be a series of increases during 2022. The Council's treasury advisors, Link Group, are currently forecasting the following movement in UK Base Rate and the 50 Year PWLB Certainty Rate over the next three years. It is worth noting that other leading economists (Capital Economics) have rates increasing at a faster rate than Link currently predict. The forecasts for the UK Base Rate and PWLB 50 Year Certainty Rate are shown below:

Latest Interest Rate Projections (provided by Link Group & Capital Economics as at 31.03.22)

| | <i>Latest</i> | Sep-22 | Mar-23 | Sep-23 | Mar-24 | Sep-24 | Mar-25 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| UK Base Rate ~ Link Group | 0.75% | 1.00% | 1.25% | 1.25% | 1.25% | 1.25% | 1.25% |
| UK Base Rate ~ Capital Economics | 0.75% | 1.25% | 1.50% | 2.00% | - | - | - |
| PWLB Certainty 50 Years ~ Link Group | 2.44% | 2.30% | 2.40% | 2.40% | 2.40% | 2.40% | 2.40% |
| PWLB Certainty 50 Years ~ Capital Economics | 2.44% | 2.60% | 2.80% | 3.00% | - | - | - |

2.4 Despite the end of the COVID 19 restrictions from late January, the immediate outlook for the UK economy remains uncertain. With constantly fluctuating prices, inflation running at a 30-year high and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, economies worldwide are finding it difficult to maintain stability. The Bank of

England's strategy has been to increase the UK Base Rate to manage inflation, a trend that is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Officers will continue to closely monitor interest rate forecasts in order to mitigate the risk of movements which could adversely impact on Council finances.

Borrowing Activity

Highlights:

- £57.7M new fixed rate PWLB borrowing undertaken during the year;
- A closing Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) of £844.7 Million (down £3.6 Million from the original estimate);
- An external borrowing requirement of up to £185.1 Million by the end of 2023/24; of which £78.0 Million would need to be addressed through fixed rate borrowing in order to meet the Council's agreed exposure targets;
- Next year's fixed rate borrowing target has been increased to 70% in line with the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) and performance against the target will be reported throughout the year.

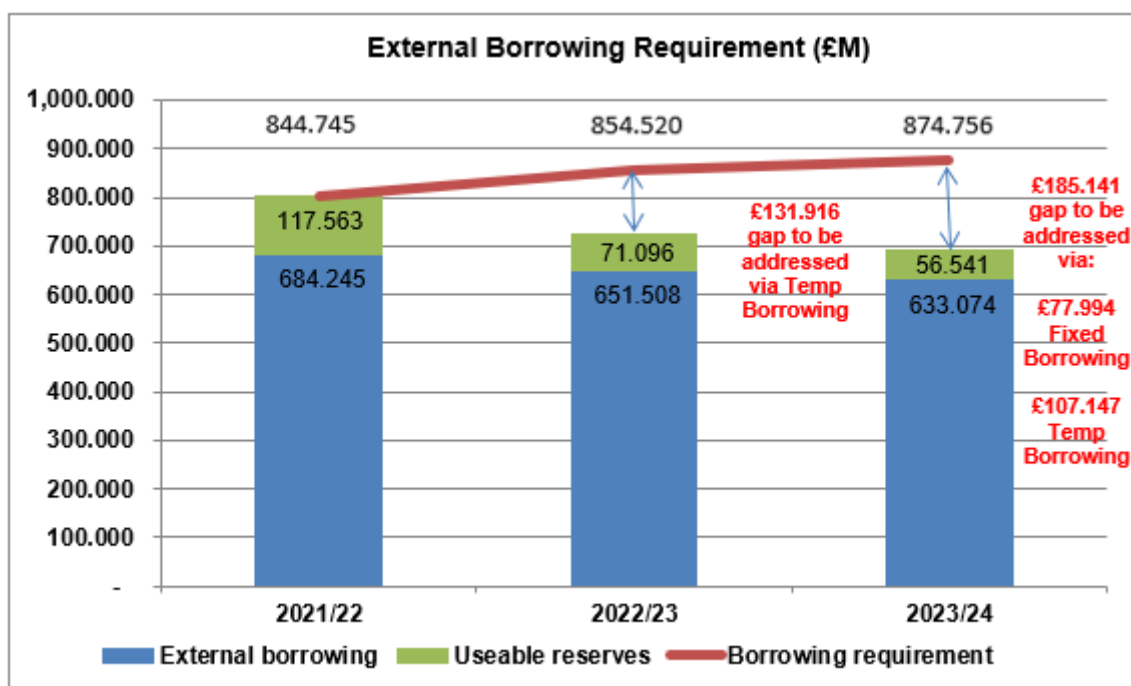
2.5 As outlined previously (see paragraph 1.2) the Council's borrowing strategy is to actively reduce its exposure to interest rate risk, whilst maintaining an under-borrowed* position to keep its financing costs to a minimum. The table below shows the Council's under-borrowed position as at 31st March 2022 and how this compares to the original estimate.

| | 2021/22 Estimate (£M) | 2021/22 Actual (£M) | Variance (£M) |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Opening CFR (exc. PFI Schemes / finance leases**) | 828.377 | 828.377 | 0.000 |
| Increase from in-year capital investment | 24.596 | 20.916 | (3.680) |
| Amounts set aside to repay debt | (4.647) | (4.548) | 0.099 |
| Closing CFR (exc. PFI Schemes / finance leases**) | 848.326 | 844.745 | (3.581) |
| External borrowing | (626.545) | (684.245) | (57.700) |
| Under-borrowed position | 221.781 | 160.500 | (61.281) |

* Refers to the temporary use of internal cash resources (e.g. earmarked reserves or grants received in advance of expenditure) to support its borrowing requirement.

** Excluded on the basis that each arrangement contains its own borrowing facility and therefore the Council is not required to borrow separately.

- 2.6 Although the fixed rate borrowing target for 2021/22 had already been met, due to a combination of falling PWLB borrowing rates and forecast interest rate rises it was decided to fix out the borrowing requirement for 2022/23 early.
- 2.7 The Council had previously made a successful bid for a discounted 'local infrastructure rate' which secured a 0.2% discount from the existing rate on a loan of £25.3M. An additional £32.4M was borrowed at the PWLB 'certainty rate' and a combination of these loans has enabled the Council to lock into historically low rates and create future budget certainty. The total of these loans (£57.7M) is represented in the table above as the movement in external borrowing. The under-borrowed position (£160.5M) will keep financing costs to a minimum by temporarily using internal cash resources to support the Council's borrowing requirement.
- 2.8 Having met the fixed rate borrowing targets for 2021/22 and 2022/23 early, based on current capital spend plans it is anticipated that the Council's remaining borrowing requirement will be £185.1M by the end of 2023/24. This is shown in the graph below and consists of £78.0M to be secured through fixed rate borrowing and £107.1M in temporary or variable rate borrowing in accordance with the TMSS interest rate exposure targets:



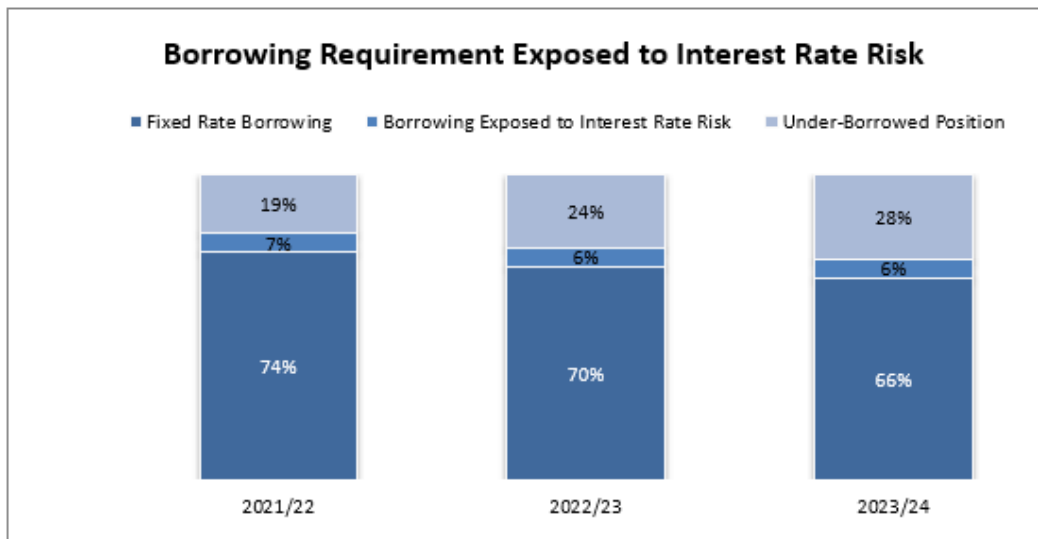
- 2.9 The Council is committed to maintaining its interest rate risk exposure within the following agreed limits (in line with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22):

| Projected external borrowing requirement 2022/23 – 2023/24 | £M |
|--|---------|
| Planned capital investment | 45.686 |
| Maturing loans / reduced support from useable reserves | 149.311 |
| Amounts set aside to repay debt | (9.856) |

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Total | 185.141 |
|--------------|----------------|

| Interest Rate Exposures | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Limit on Variable Rate Borrowing / Unfinanced CFR | 35% | 30% | 25% |
| Fixed Rate Borrowing Target | 65% | 70% | 75% |

2.10 As illustrated by the charts below, the Council has delivered to the target levels in 2021/22 and met the 2022/23 exposure target earlier than planned. Should no further fixed rate borrowing be undertaken, the Council's borrowing requirement will be potentially exposed to 34% interest rate risk by the end of 2023/24.



2.11 To achieve the target of 25%, an additional £78.0M of fixed rate borrowing is anticipated over the period to 2023/24. This borrowing strategy creates cost certainty for the Council in terms of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, whilst also allowing flexibility to use the under borrowed position to 6crutini costs.

2.12 The exposure targets are kept under review and may be updated should the interest rate environment change, or the profile of capital expenditure spend changes. Additionally, the Council's cash levels, will be assessed in the decision to fix out further borrowing, with the aim being to reduce cost of carry and 6crutini investment risk.

2.13 Members are asked to note that the reported position does not currently account for the proposed South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Gainshare policy which is expected to add significantly to the Council's overall level of borrowing in future, increasing all aspects of our Treasury Management risk. In view of this and the Council's existing debt levels, the advice of the Section 151 Officer is to undertake prudent and modest additional borrowing to effectively manage the Council's risk exposure, which in a current economic climate of rising interest rates becomes even more relevant. Updates in relation to the Council's TM

policy and the impact on the capital financing requirement will be provided to Members throughout 2022/23.

2.14 In light of the above requirement, officers continue to monitor rates and assess borrowing options and opportunities as set out in the Council's borrowing strategy:

- **Deferred loans** – the Council may be able to access long-term, fixed rate funding from financial institutions such as banks, insurance companies and pension funds on a deferred drawdown basis. Whilst they may no longer be cheaper than the PWLB, deferred loans help to protect the Council from interest rate risk without the additional cost of carry and credit risk. The Council has already secured £40M of deferred loans and will work with its advisors in order to identify any further potential lenders.
- **Municipal Bonds Agency (MBA)** – the MBA was established in 2014 with the intention of providing an alternative source of funding to the PWLB. The MBA has made two bond issues for Lancashire CC and are aiming to launch a pooled bond issue. Barnsley has been a leading authority in promoting the MBA and has already committed to the next bond issue subject to 'due diligence' tests. The MBA also offer a flexible range of short and long-term loans, and forward loans. Officers are monitoring the situation and any updates on the MBA bond launch will be reported.
- **PWLB borrowing** – following the reduction in lending margin, the Council has access to long-term PWLB funding at rates in the region of 2.2% to 2.5%. The latest forecasts (at paragraph 2.3) show a steady, but slow, rise in PWLB rates during the forecast period to March 2025. There is likely to be unpredictable volatility during this period as detailed in the economic summary section of the report. Officers will continue to closely monitor long-term PWLB rates.
- **Local authority loans** – the Council may be able to borrow from other local authorities for periods of up to 5 years, which would provide additional budget certainty over the medium-term whilst providing a saving against current long-term PWLB rates.
- **Market loans** – as with deferred loans the Council may be able to access long-term, fixed rate funding from financial institutions on a spot basis (i.e. immediate drawdown). However, this is now likely to be more expensive than the PWLB, therefore is not one of the preferred options at present.

Investment Activity

Highlights:

- *Total investment balance of £189.0M as at 31 March 2022;*
- *A net increase in investment balances of £74.0 Million during the year, primarily as a result of the new loans (£57.7 Million) detailed in the Borrowing Activity section;*
- *Security and liquidity remained the key priorities, with the majority of new investments placed in secure Money Market Funds and instant access accounts;*
- *Investment rates have improved during Quarter 4 of 2021/22 and are expected to improve further, in-line with Bank Rate forecast increases over the next two years.*

2.15 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2021/22, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy, was approved by the Council in February 2021. In accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, it sets out the Council's investment priorities as being:

- Security of capital
- Liquidity
- Yield

2.16 The Council aims to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity and with the Council's risk appetite. In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to keep investments short-term to cover cash flow needs, but also to seek out value available in periods up to 12 months with high credit rated financial institutions, using the Link suggested creditworthiness approach.

2.17 The majority of transactions during the financial year related to short term deposits. However, to maintain sufficient liquidity, an appropriate balance of cash was deposited in the Council's Money Market Funds and instant access accounts (see Appendix 2 for further details).

2.18 The key investment issues managed by the Council during 2021/22 have included:

- **Short-Term Investments** – the Council continued to invest funds on an overnight basis in order to meet day to day spending commitments and fluctuating cashflows. Investment returns reduced as a result of this approach, but it helped to reduce the risk of unplanned temporary borrowing (which would have been at an additional cost). As cashflows scrutinize during the year, officers invested more funds in 3-to-12-month deposits (in line with the 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy counterparty limits) achieving a slightly higher yield.

- **Local Authority Creditworthiness / Reputation Management** – this remained an ongoing issue throughout the year, particularly in light of the COVID 19 crisis. Whilst there are no issues foreseen from a credit perspective (there are regulations in place to avoid local authorities going bankrupt), officers scrutinize the reputational risk associated with such investments and this was taken into consideration when deciding where to invest the Council's surplus cash. Due to reputation management, the Council does not invest in Local Authorities where a Section 114 Notice has been issued even though they are not considered to be a serious credit risk.

In May 2021 the Council entered into an advance agreement with Slough Borough Council to invest £4M commencing from September 2021, and in July 2021 Slough Borough Council issued a section 114 notice. The Council cannot exit the current transaction which will be in place until September 2022, but no further investments will be placed with Slough Borough Council at this time. Members are advised that this situation will be monitored, and the risk of funds not being returned is deemed to be extremely low.

CIPFA Financial Resilience and Benchmarking

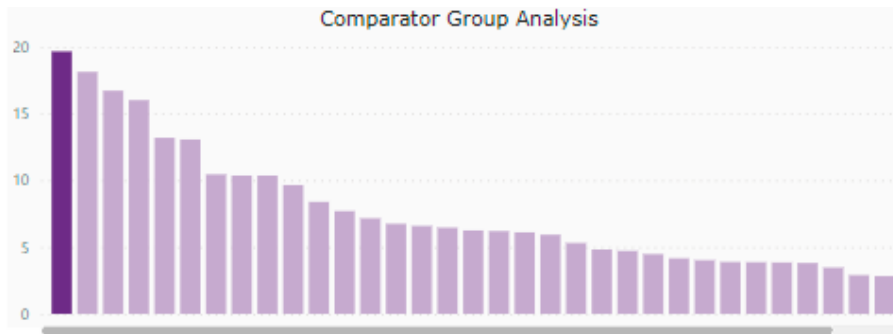
2.19 As part of the 2019-2021 Medium Term Financial Strategy, the S151 Officer presented a paper highlighting the Council's position in terms of its financial resilience and ability to continue to meet future financial challenges.

2.20 This paper demonstrated that, whilst there were some concerns over the Council's relatively high debt levels and financing costs as compared to others, the Council continues to demonstrate a strong financial grip, holding a robust and stable reserves position with a sound strategy in place to meet the immediate challenges faced by the Council.

2.21 The results below are based on 2020/21 accounts and compare the Council with other Metropolitan Authorities. In comparison to other Metropolitan Authorities, the Council has the highest ratio of interest costs to net revenue expenditure, and this is largely due to a combination of additional capital expenditure on the town centre redevelopment and the interest payable on PFI schemes. Gross debt in 2020/21 was £849.127M and the Council's position is shown in the second graph below.

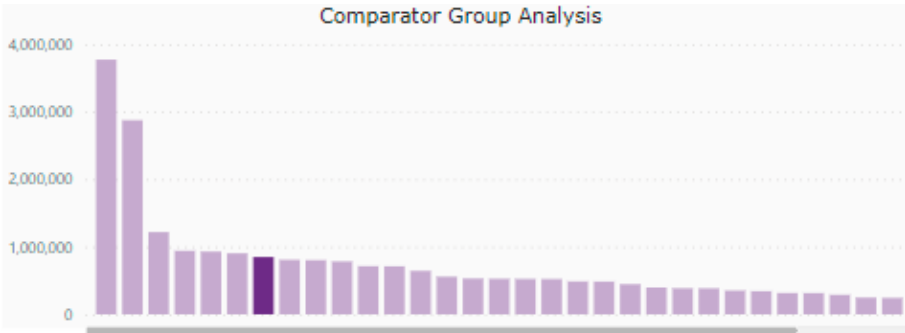
Interest Payable / Net Revenue Expenditure indicator

This indicator is the ratio of interest payable and net revenue expenditure; 19.66% in 2020/21.



Gross External Debt indicator

This indicator compares the gross external debt held by the Council; £849.127M in 2020/21.



2.22 The Section 151 Officer recommends that this position be kept under close scrutiny so that the Council’s future policy choices are not overly constrained and to ensure that it’s long-term financial sustainability is maintained.

Performance Measurement / Compliance with Prudential and Treasury Limits

- 2.23 Whilst the Council's capital financing budget underspent during the year, the final outturn was impacted by the late rise in interest rates in the final quarter of the financial year. Although not as large as initially forecast, the underspend is primarily due to maintaining an appropriate level of internal borrowing. The impact of rising interest rates on the Council's capital financing budget has been mitigated as a result of the strategy to fix out borrowing earlier than planned and by securing £57.7M in PWLB loans at historically low rates as detailed at paragraph 2.7. This underspend is expected to reduce in future years as reserves are 11crutini and the Council considers further external borrowing.
- 2.24 It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the affordable borrowing limits. During the year to 31 March 2022, the Council has operated with the prudential and treasury indicators set out in the agreed Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2021/22, subject to the comments at 2.13 and 2.22. The Service Director Finance reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with these indicators (see Appendix 1 for more details). All treasury management operations have been conducted in full compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Practices.

Regulatory Framework & Risk Assessment

- 2.25 The Council has adopted the statutory guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), which seeks to ensure that its capital expenditure and borrowing are prudent, affordable and sustainable, and its treasury practices demonstrate a low-risk approach.
- 2.26 The Council is aware of the risks of passive management of the treasury portfolio and, with the support of its Treasury Management advisers, Link Group, has proactively managed the debt and investments over the past year.
- 2.27 Treasury Management is subject to annual inspection from the Council's Internal Audit function, and Treasury Management risks are identified and monitored as part of the Council's overall approach to managing risk. The current assessment of Treasury Management systems is 'reasonable', with no outstanding recommendations.
- 2.28 Treasury Management activities are also 11crutinized as part of the Council's External Auditors annual accounts and VfM opinion process with any recommendations to be included as part of their 2021/22 Annual Reports. As a result the Council will continue to closely monitor treasury management activities and the associated risks.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

The financial and risk implications arising from the treasury management activities for the year (paragraph 2.23 refers) are reported to Cabinet separately as part of the Council's revenue outturn report for 2021/22.

3.2 Legal

Not applicable.

3.3 Equality

Not applicable – Equality Impact Assessments are undertaken for key Treasury Management decisions where appropriate.

3.4 Sustainability

Decision-making wheel not completed – where appropriate individual decision-making wheels would be completed for key Treasury Management decisions.

3.5 Employee

None arising from this report.

3.6 Communications

No specific requirements.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with Link Asset Services and approved by the Treasury Management Panel.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Not applicable as reporting year-end position.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Recommendations made in-line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy.

7. GLOSSARY

Not applicable.

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Actual Prudential Indicators and Treasury Indicators for 2021/22

Appendix 2: BMBC Borrowing 2021/22

Appendix 3: BMBC Investments 2021/22

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Service and Financial Planning 2021/22 – The Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy – 2021/22 Budget recommendations (Cab.10.2.2021/6 refers).

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

| | |
|--|---|
| Financial consultation & sign off | Report prepared by Service Director Finance |
|--|---|

Report Author: Neil Copley
Post: Service Director Finance
Date: 18/05/2022

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APPENDIX 1 - ACTUAL PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY INDICATORS FOR 2021/22

1. Capital Expenditure

The Council's capital expenditure plans are the key driver of treasury management activity. The output of the capital expenditure plans is reflected in the prudential indicators, which are designed to assist in the management of treasury management risks and confirm capital expenditure plans.

| | 2020/21 Actual (£M) | 2021/22 Estimate (£M) | 2021/22 Actual (£M) |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| General Fund | 90.405 | 84.769 | 68.879 |
| HRA | 20.775 | 35.590 | 25.956 |
| Total Capital Expenditure | 111.180 | 120.359 | 94.835 |

The £25.5M variance in capital expenditure in 2021/22 relates to slippage in the capital programme, as detailed in the 21/22 Capital Programme Performance Report, and the planned spend will be reprofiled across future periods.

2. Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

This indicator sets out the Council's underlining need to borrow for capital purposes, i.e. its borrowing requirement. The CFR is the amount of capital expenditure that has not yet been financed by capital receipts, capital grants or contributions from revenue.

| | 2020/21 Actual (£M) | 2021/22 Estimate (£M) | 2021/22 Actual (£M) |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| General Fund | 556.643 | 556.643 | 573.011 |
| HRA | 271.734 | 271.734 | 271.734 |
| Total (exc. PFI Schemes / finance leases) | 828.377 | 828.377 | 844.745 |
| Other Long-Term Liabilities | 234.048 | 237.350 | 231.531 |
| Total CFR | 1,062.425 | 1,065.727 | 1,076.276 |

The actual CFR varies from the original estimate due to reprofiling of schemes and priorities within the capital programme. Further details can be found in the 2021/22 Capital Programme Performance report.

3. External Debt

This indicator is obtained directly from the Council's balance sheet and is measured in a manner consistent for comparison with the Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit (External Borrowing + Other Long-Term Liabilities).

| | 2020/21 Actual (£M) | 2021/22 Estimate (£M) | 2021/22 Actual (£M) |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| General Fund Borrowing | 409.519 | 393.117 | 450.818 |
| HRA Borrowing | 234.418 | 233.427 | 233.427 |
| Total External Borrowing | 643.937 | 626.544 | 684.245 |
| Other Long-Term Liabilities | 202.285 | 194.049 | 193.512 |
| Total Debt | 846.222 | 820.593 | 877.757 |

4. Operational Boundary for External Debt

This indicator refers to the means by which the authority manages its external debt to ensure it remains within the statutory authorised limit. It differs from the authorised limit in as far as it is based on the most likely scenario, in terms of capital spend and financing during the year and is calculated using the Council's **average** level of debt (including PFI) over the financial year. The average of £858.706M compares to an actual level of debt of £877.757M as at 31 March 2022 (including PFI debt).

Unlike the authorised limit breaches of the operational boundary (due to cash flow movements) are allowed during the year as long as they are not sustained over a period of time.

| | 2021/22 Limit (£M) | Actual Debt (incl. PFI) 31/03/22 (£M) | 2021/22 Average Debt (£M) | Compliant? |
|---|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------|
| Average Debt compared to Operational Boundary | 1,101.618 | 877.757 | 858.706 | YES |

5. Authorised Limit for External Debt

The Authorised Limit sets the maximum level of external borrowing on a gross basis (i.e. excluding investments) for the Council. This indicator is calculated using the Council's **maximum** level of debt (including PFI) over the financial year. The maximum of £891.908M compares to an actual level of debt of £877.757M as at 31 March 2022 (including PFI debt).

The Authorised Limit is the statutory limit under the Local Government Act 2003 and must not be exceeded during the year.

| | 2021/22 Limit (£M) | Actual Debt (incl. PFI) 31/03/22 (£M) | 2021/22 Maximum Debt (£M) | Compliant? |
|---|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------|
| Maximum Debt compared to Authorised Limit | 1,131.618 | 877.757 | 891.908 | YES |

6. Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing

These limits are set to reduce the Council's exposure to large, fixed rate sums falling due for refinancing.

Separate limits have been set for the GF and HRA debt pools. The higher percentage of maturities within 12 months is representative of the strategy of short-term borrowing to minimise debt interest costs. LOBO loans are shown within the 'Less than 12 months' category.

| Maturity Period - GF | 2021/22 Limit (%) | Actual 31/03/2022 (%) | Compliant? |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Less than 12 months | 0-50 | 12 | YES |
| 12 months to 2 years | 0-25 | 2 | |
| 2 years to 5 years | 0-25 | 3 | |
| 5 years to 10 years | 0-40 | 5 | |
| 10 years to 20 years | 0-75 | 5 | |
| 20 years to 30 years | 0-75 | 11 | |
| 30 years to 40 years | 0-75 | 12 | |
| 40 years to 50 years | 0-75 | 50 | |

| Maturity Period – HRA | 2021/22 Limit (%) | Actual 31/03/2022 (%) | Compliant? |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Less than 12 months | 0-25 | 16 | YES |
| 12 months to 2 years | 0-25 | 3 | |
| 2 years to 5 years | 0-25 | 5 | |
| 5 years to 10 years | 0-40 | 3 | |
| 10 years to 20 years | 0-75 | 4 | |
| 20 years to 30 years | 0-75 | 18 | |
| 30 years to 40 years | 0-75 | 51 | |
| 40 years to 50 years | 0-75 | 0 | |

7. Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long-term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream. The ratios in relation to the General Fund have been calculated to show debt levels including and excluding borrowing for the PFI schemes.

| | 2020/21 Actual | 2021/22 Estimate | 2021/22 Actual |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| General Fund (including PFI) | 24.00% | 23.00% | 20.07% |
| General Fund (excluding PFI) | 9.00% | 9.50% | 9.53% |
| HRA | 44.00% | 43.00% | 40.96% |

8. Maximum Principal Sums Invested

This indicator sets an upper limit for the level of investment that may be fixed for a period greater than 365 days. This limit is set to contain exposure to credit and liquidity risk.

| | 2021/22 Limit (£M) | 2021/22 Actual (£M) | Compliant? |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Sums Invested > 365 days | 20 | 0 | YES |

APPENDIX 2 – BMBC BORROWING 2021/22

Movement on External Borrowing

As shown below there was a net increase of £40.3M on the Council's borrowing portfolio during the year, comprising £57.7M of new borrowing and £17.4M of principal repaid.

PWLB loans in the sum of £57.7M were taken out during the financial year at historically low interest rates. The principal repayments made during the year comprise of other local authority loan repayments and scheduled principal repayments to the PWLB and PBB (other long-term loans).

| | Balance on 01/04/2021 (£M) | New Borrowing (£M) | Principal Redeemed (£M) | Balance on 31/03/2022 (£M) | Net Movement (£M) |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| PWLB borrowing | 520.908 | 57.700 | (3.263) | 575.345 | 54.437 |
| Other long-term loans | 93.571 | - | (1.429) | 92.142 | (1.429) |
| Temporary loans | 0.001 | - | - | 0.001 | - |
| Longer term local authority loans | 29.457 | - | (12.700) | 16.757 | (12.700) |
| Total external borrowing | 643.937 | 57.700 | (17.392) | 684.245 | 40.308 |

Average Interest Rates on Borrowing as at 31/03/2022

| | Balance (£M) | Average Rate (%) |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| PWLB borrowing | 575.345 | 3.49 |
| Other long-term loans | 92.142 | 3.87 |
| Temporary loans | 0.001 | 0.50 |
| Longer term local authority loans | 16.757 | 1.49 |
| Total external borrowing | 684.245 | 3.49 |

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APPENDIX 3 – BMBC INVESTMENTS 2021/22

Movement on Investments

As shown below, there was a net increase of £74.0M on the Council's investment portfolio during the year, comprising £471.9M of new investments and £397.9M of principal redeemed. The increased levels of investment balances are as a result of the new borrowing detailed above. Officers continue to utilise more liquid investments in order to manage the Council's cash flows in the short term.

| | Balance on 01/04/2021 (£M) | New Investments (£M) | Principal Redeemed (£M) | Balance on 31/03/2022 (£M) | Net Movement (£M) |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Short term deposits | 60.000 | 277.530 | (203.000) | 134.530 | 74.530 |
| Money Market Funds / instant access accounts | 55.000 | 194.400 | (194.900) | 54.500 | (0.500) |
| Total investments | 115.000 | 471.930 | (397.900) | 189.030 | 74.030 |

Investment Portfolio as at 31/03/2022

| Counterparty | Principal (£) | Interest Rate | Start Date | Maturity Date | Fund Rating |
|--|---------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| MMF Federated Investors (UK) | 20,000,000 | 0.39% | | MMF | AAAm |
| MMF Aberdeen Standard Investments | 17,500,000 | 0.39% | | MMF | AAAm |
| MMF Deutsche | 11,000,000 | 0.36% | | MMF | AAAm |
| Barclays Bank FIBCA A/C | 6,000,000 | 0.75% | | Call | A |
| Blackpool Borough Council | 5,000,000 | 0.08% | 10/06/2021 | 11/04/2022 | AA- |
| Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council | 5,000,000 | 0.11% | 21/12/2021 | 01/04/2022 | AA- |
| Cornwall Council | 5,000,000 | 0.55% | 22/03/2022 | 22/04/2022 | AA- |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council | 5,000,000 | 0.15% | 01/11/2021 | 03/05/2022 | AA- |
| Suffolk County Council | 5,000,000 | 0.08% | 10/12/2021 | 10/05/2022 | AA- |
| National Bank of Canada | 5,000,000 | 0.25% | 26/11/2021 | 26/05/2022 | A |
| Surrey Heath Borough Council | 5,000,000 | 0.10% | 06/12/2021 | 06/06/2022 | AA- |
| Aberdeen City Council | 5,000,000 | 0.13% | 12/01/2022 | 13/06/2022 | AA- |
| Surrey Heath Borough Council | 5,000,000 | 0.10% | 20/12/2021 | 20/06/2022 | AA- |
| Flintshire County Council | 2,000,000 | 0.15% | 18/03/2022 | 20/06/2022 | AA- |
| National Bank of Canada | 5,000,000 | 0.45% | 05/01/2022 | 05/07/2022 | A |
| PCC for Merseyside | 5,000,000 | 0.07% | 26/11/2021 | 08/07/2022 | AA- |
| Blackpool Borough Council | 5,000,000 | 0.08% | 18/01/2022 | 18/07/2022 | AA- |
| Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council | 5,000,000 | 0.08% | 16/02/2022 | 16/08/2022 | AA- |
| North Lanarkshire Council | 5,000,000 | 0.13% | 17/12/2021 | 17/08/2022 | AA- |
| Monmouthshire County Council | 5,000,000 | 0.15% | 18/02/2022 | 18/08/2022 | AA- |
| London Borough of Haringey | 5,000,000 | 0.15% | 01/12/2021 | 01/09/2022 | AA- |
| North Lanarkshire Council | 5,000,000 | 0.14% | 17/12/2021 | 19/09/2022 | AA- |
| Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council | 5,000,000 | 0.20% | 22/12/2021 | 22/09/2022 | AA- |
| Slough Borough Council | 4,000,000 | 0.18% | 24/09/2021 | 23/09/2022 | AA- |
| Broxbourne Borough Council | 3,530,000 | 0.16% | 05/10/2021 | 04/10/2022 | AA- |
| Birmingham City Council | 5,000,000 | 0.17% | 24/01/2022 | 24/10/2022 | AA- |
| Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead | 5,000,000 | 0.25% | 19/11/2021 | 18/11/2022 | AA- |
| Woking Borough Council | 5,000,000 | 0.30% | 22/11/2021 | 21/11/2022 | AA- |
| Highland Council | 5,000,000 | 0.18% | 24/11/2021 | 23/11/2022 | AA- |
| Highland Council | 5,000,000 | 0.18% | 02/12/2021 | 01/12/2022 | AA- |
| Ashford Borough Council | 5,000,000 | 0.25% | 28/01/2022 | 27/01/2023 | AA- |
| Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead | 5,000,000 | 0.20% | 28/01/2022 | 27/01/2023 | AA- |
| Total Investments | £189,030,000 | 0.25% | | | |

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ARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PLACE

TITLE: LOCAL CODE OF PLANNING CONDUCT & GUIDANCE 2022

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| REPORT TO: | CABINET |
| Date of Meeting | 1 June 2022 |
| Cabinet Member Portfolio | Place (Environment and Transportation) |
| Key Decision | Yes |
| Public or Private | Public |

Purpose of report

This report seeks approval to adopt an updated Local Code of Planning Conduct and Guidance.

Council Plan priority

Enabling Barnsley

Recommendation

That Cabinet:-

1. Approves the 'Local Code of Planning Conduct and Guidance 2022' for recommendation to the Council.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council's current Local Code of Planning Conduct and Guidance was adopted by Full Council in 2015. The Code of Conduct applies to members and officers of the Council and its primary purpose is to ensure that decisions made in respect of planning applications are fair, open and transparent.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 It is imperative that the way in which members and officers determine planning applications is fair, honest and transparent and it is also essential that members and officers act in accordance with their own statutory duties. The existing Local Code of Planning Conduct and Guidance has been in place

almost seven years and has been effective in ensuring that planning decisions are fair, honest and transparent and in accordance with relevant statutory duties. This can be evidenced by the Council:

- Having an up-to-date Local Plan,
- Adopting seven Masterplan Frameworks covering the larger employment, housing and mixed-use allocations in the Local Plan,
- Providing in excess of 5-years housing land supply and meeting the Governments housing delivery test targets,
- Adopting a raft of Supplementary Planning Documents providing guidance regarding a whole host of planning issues
- Achieving government targets for timeliness and quality of planning decisions
- Being in the top 5% of authorities in respect of taking formal enforcement action against breaches of planning control
- Seeing very few complaints upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman

2.2 Nonetheless, it is essential that officers and members remain familiar with and understand their obligations so as to avoid becoming complacent and allowing bad habits manifest themselves. Work to update the Local Code of Conduct & Guidance was therefore underway when the pandemic hit but was paused while officers got to grips with new ways of working. Since then, changes have been made to the scheme of delegation from Planning & Regulatory Board. These were initially introduced on a temporary basis but were subsequently made permanent by Full Council following endorsement by Planning & Regulatory Board and Cabinet.

2.3 The changes retain member involvement in the same types of planning applications as previously but certain applications no longer have to be considered at the main Planning & Regulatory Board meeting if members of the Planning & Regulatory Board are satisfied with the officer recommendation having been consulted in advance of the main meeting. This renders the wording of some sections of the existing Local Code of Planning Conduct & Guidance out of date and so it has been updated accordingly.

2. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

3.1.1 Consultations on the financial implications of this report have taken place with representatives of the Service Director for Finance and S151 Officer. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

3.1.2 The updates to the Local Code of Planning Conduct & Guidance will assist in helping to manage risks associated with planning decision making.

3.2 Legal

3.2.1 The Head of Legal Services has helped to draft the updated Code of Conduct to ensure it reflects the latest legislation and guidance.

3.3 Equality

- 3.3.1 Equality Impact Assessment Pre-screening completed determining full EIA not required.

3.4 Sustainability

- 3.4.1 The decision-making wheel has not been not completed as the report relates solely to officer and member conduct and governance.

3.5 Employee

- 3.5.1 Employees will be required to comply with the Code and will be asked annually to sign the key messages document confirming that they are aware of what the Code requires and committing to adhering to it.

3.6 Communications

- 3.6.1 If approved, all members will be offered a training session to update them on changes to the Local Code of Planning Conduct & Guidance.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Informal discussions have taken place with the Chair of Planning and Regulatory Board and officers in Legal and Governance in advance of preparing this report. There is no statutory requirement to consult on the changes

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 There are two potential alternatives to the recommendations, which are:
- a. To update the Local Code of Planning Conduct & Guidance but for it not to be accompanied by a Key Messages document which needs to be signed annually
 - b. For the Key Messages document to only be signed by members at the beginning of each term and for officers every 4 years.
- 5.2 Neither of these are deemed to be preferable as they increase the risk that members and officers will forget the content of the Local Code of Planning Conduct & Guidance.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

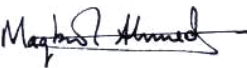
- 6.1 It is considered necessary for the Local Code of Planning Conduct and Guidance to be updated to take account the changes to the scheme of delegation from Planning Regulatory Board to officers. In updating the Code, an opportunity has also been taken to benchmark the existing code against best practice and in doing so, it has been identified that a key messages document to accompany the code, which will be signed annually by members and officers, will be an effective way of ensuring that both groups remain

familiar with and understand their obligations.

7. LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Existing Local Code of Planning Conduct & Guidance 2015:
- Appendix 2: Proposed Local Code of Planning Conduct & Guidance 2022
- Appendix 3: Proposed Local Code of Planning Conduct & Guidance 2022 – Key Messages Document

8. REPORT SIGN OFF

| | |
|--|--|
| Financial consultation & sign off | Senior Financial Services officer consulted March 2022.  <i>This box must be signed to confirm that there are no financial implications.</i> |
| Legal consultation & sign off | Jason Field 28/04/22 |

Report Author: Joe Jenkinson
Post: Head of Planning & Building Control
Date: 28 April 2022

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
LOCAL CODE OF PLANNING CONDUCT AND GUIDANCE 2015

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

LOCAL CODE OF PLANNING CONDUCT AND GUIDANCE 2015

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The successful operation of the planning system relies on a mutual understanding of the role of officers and Members. It also relies on each ensuring that they act in a way which is not only fair, honest and impartial but also clearly seen to be so.

1.2 Planning decisions can affect people's lives and therefore the community is entitled to expect the highest standards of probity and accountability in the decision making process. The process should leave no grounds for suggesting with any justification that a decision has been partial, biased or not well founded in any way.

1.3 Planning decisions rely on well informed judgment within a policy context provided by the statutory Development Plan. Planning law requires local planning authorities to determine all planning applications in accordance with the Development Plan (so far as material to the application), any local finance considerations (so far as material to the application) and any other material considerations. This responsibility must be performed without undue influence or personal interest.

1.4 Members and local planning authorities also have a duty to take into account any representations made to the Council as a result of consultation with interested bodies or as a result of public notice or neighbour notification. In doing so it is necessary to decide which representations are material to the decision to be made, and, if so, what weight to attach to them. It is essential that each application is considered on its own merits and only material planning considerations are taken into account in reaching a decision.

1.5 This Code of Conduct relating to Planning Matters applies to Members and Officers of the Council and its purpose is to ensure that decisions made are open, fair and transparent. It is intended to be supplementary to the provisions introduced by the Localism Act 2011 which require Members to register pecuniary and other interests and for local authorities to promote and maintain high standards of conduct.

1.6 In the case of officers it is supplementary to the Council's Code of Conduct for Officers. In both cases it provides more detailed guidance on the standards to be applied in relation to all planning related issues.

2. The General Role and Conduct of Members and Officers

2.1 Members and officers have different, but complementary, roles. Both serve the public but Members are responsible to the electorate, while officers are responsible to the Council as a

whole. Officers advise Members and the Council, and carry out the Council's work. They are employed by the Council, not by individual Members, and it follows that instructions may only be given to officers through a Council decision, which is often via delegated powers. Both Members and officers have responsibility to ensure that the policies of the Council are implemented wherever possible. A successful relationship between Members and Officers can only be based upon mutual trust and understanding of each other's positions. This relationship, and the trust which underpins it, must never be abused or compromised.

2.2 The Localism Act 2011 introduced provisions which oblige local government members in England to register disclosable pecuniary and other interests. It makes the failure to register relevant interests or declare them when appropriate in meetings a criminal offence. This Act abolished Standards for England, Standards Committees and the National Code of Local Government Conduct. Section 27(1) of the Localism Act 2011 provides that a Relevant Authority (which includes local planning authorities) must promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority. Section 27(2) further provides that, in discharging its duty under Section 27(1), a Relevant Authority must, in particular, adopt a code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members and co-opted members of the authority when they are acting in that capacity. The Council adopted the Member Code of Conduct on 5th July 2012 and approved an up-dated version on 4th June 2015.

2.3 Officers who are Chartered Town Planners are guided by the Royal Town Planning Institute's (RTP) Code of Professional Conduct. Breaches of the Code may be subject to disciplinary action by the Institute. In addition to these codes, the Council's standing orders set down rules which govern the conduct of Council business.

2.4 The basis of the planning system is the consideration of private proposals for the proposed development and use of land against wider public interests. Much is often at stake in this process and opposing views are often strongly held by those involved. Whilst Members should take account of those views, they must not favour any person, company, group or locality, nor put themselves in a position where they appear to do so.

3. **The Role of Members**

3.1 Under the Localism Act 2011 the monitoring officer of a Relevant Authority must establish and maintain a register of interests of members and co-opted members of the Authority. A member or co-opted member is also obliged to notify the Authority's monitoring officer of any disclosable pecuniary interests which the person has at the time the notification is given. A disclosable pecuniary interest is an interest of a relevant member or, where the relevant member is aware that the other person has the interest, an interest of their spouse or civil partner, a person with whom they are living as husband and wife and a person with whom they were living as if they were civil partners. It is a criminal offence where a member of a relevant authority fails without reasonable excuse to register or declare disclosable pecuniary interests and then duly takes part in council business or meetings (when acting alone).

3.2 The Council's Member Code of Conduct specifies that if a Member has a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any matter to be determined at Planning Regulatory Board they must disclose that interest and give sufficient details of it so that the nature of their interest is clearly understood. Unless a dispensation has been granted, they should not take part in any matter to be determined at Planning Regulatory Board where their interest is a "disclosable pecuniary interest" which they are required to register in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State and should withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of that item.

3.3 A Member must not act in such a way as to bring their office or the Council into disrepute. In considering this broad obligation the following should be particularly borne in mind:

- The over-riding duty of a Member is to the whole local community.
- Members have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them.
- Whilst Members may be strongly influenced by the views of others, and of their party in particular, it is their responsibility alone to decide what view to take on any question which Members have to decide.
- A Member should never do anything in their public role which could not be justified to the public. A Member's conduct, and what the public believe about their conduct, will affect the reputation of the Council, and of their party if they belong to one.
- It is not enough to avoid actual impropriety; you should at all times avoid any occasion for suspicion and any appearance of improper conduct.

3.4 The role of Members in dealing with both Development Plan and Development Management issues can often lead to difficulties with constituents who naturally expect their Elected Representative to represent their views. The following principles should be applied:-

- In considering Development Plan and policy issues Members must vote in the interests of the whole community, not for Ward, Party, Sectional or personal considerations.
- In considering Development Management matters, Members must act impartially and must not make up their minds until they have read the officers reports and heard the evidence and arguments for and against.
- When dealing with matters affecting their Ward, Members must make clear to constituents, applicants and objectors that they must act in accordance with the above two principles. This does not mean that a Member cannot comment or reflect local concerns about a proposal or even have a predisposition where they

may be entitled to vote at the relevant committee but any such view or comment must not be, or be seen as being a pre-determination of the proposal.

- Similarly Members who are also Parish Councillors must make it clear that they may have to vote differently when sitting as a District Member and having heard the technical and legal background from officers. In controversial cases, Members must abstain from the Parish vote to make it clear that they are not prejudicing the decision they will need to make as a District Member. In the event that they do participate in the Parish decision such participation is likely to be viewed as having precluded the participation of such Member in the decision by the district council on the basis that they are not in a position to view the application with an open mind. A Member is always advised in such circumstances to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer.
- Members must always advise constituents, applicants and objectors of any known public consultation arrangements and the standard representation system and refer them to the appropriate Planning Officer in order that their views can be properly included in the officer's report.

Confidential matters may arise from time to time on planning applications but it is in discussions on enforcement matters in closed session where it is most likely that confidential information will be disclosed. Often the information will relate to the Council's legal position with regard to a particular planning contravention. Information on such matters, if disclosed to any member of the public, could eventually come to knowledge of the person responsible for the contravention and could seriously prejudice the Council in the event of an appeal or in legal proceedings. Members must therefore take particular care not to disclose such information. The Members Code of Conduct specifies that Members should not disclose information given to them in confidence by anyone or information that they reasonably believe or ought reasonably be aware is of a confidential nature.

4. **The Role of Officers**

4.1 The public are entitled to expect high standards of conduct, probity and courtesy by all persons holding public office but in particular when dealing with planning matters.

4.2 In making delegated decisions on applications, officers will:-

- Act fairly and openly
- Approach each application with an open mind
- Carefully weigh up all of the relevant material planning considerations
- Avoid undue contact with interested parties

- Ensure that reasons for decisions are clearly stated and recorded

4.3 In reporting to Planning Regulatory Board and in progressing non-delegated applications, officers will:-

- Provide professional and impartial advice
- Make sure that all information necessary for a decision to be made is given
- Set the application in the context of the Development Plan and all other material considerations
- Include the substance of objections and the views of people who have been consulted
- Provide a clear and accurate written analysis of the issues within the written report
- Give a clear recommendation

4.4 Any material planning information which is received after the written report has been prepared will be presented orally to the Planning Regulatory Board by officers.

4.5 Officers are responsible for carrying out the decisions of the Planning Regulatory Board, whether or not those decisions are in line with officer recommendations.

4.6 Officers shall play no part in the processing of any application in circumstances where there is, or would be perceived to be, a conflict between their personal or financial interests, those of their families or friends, and their professional duty, and they shall formally register the existence of any such conflict in writing to the Executive Director of Place. Any interest the Executive Director of Place has in an application shall be declared to the Chief Executive.

5. **Declaration and Registration of Interests**

5.1 Members sitting on the Council's Planning Regulatory Board must disclose any personal interest in respect of any application. The declaration must include the existence and nature of that interest at the beginning of discussing the matter to which it is relevant, or when the interest becomes apparent. A Member who makes a decision in relation to that matter must ensure that any written statement of the decision records the existence and nature of that interest. The Member need only declare the interest or interests which he knows about and does not need to investigate the business or other interests of friends and relatives. He can stay in the meeting, take part in the discussion and vote on the matter under question.

- 5.2 Members should review their situation regularly and should bear in mind that not only must impropriety be avoided but also any appearance, or grounds for suspicion, of improper conduct. The responsibility for this rests individually with each individual Member.
- 5.3 Given the sensitive nature of planning there are situations where the obligations placed upon Members go beyond the strict requirements of the Code of Conduct. In particular:
- (i) Members submitting applications on behalf of themselves or in respect of any person with whom they are related or with whom they are a close personal acquaintance, shall take no part in the processing of that application. Any such application must clearly show that it is submitted by a Member. The proposal must be dealt with by the Planning Regulatory Board and not under delegated powers.
 - (ii) Involvement of a Member of his/her family in a consultancy, agency or company which could be involved in land or property dealings of development within the Borough must be disclosed to the Executive Director of Place or equivalent.
 - (iii) Close working relationships/friendships or family connection with a consultancy, agency, developer, construction company or land or property owner which operate in the locality and have an interest in a planning application or development within the Borough must be disclosed to the Executive Director of Place.
 - (iv) Where a Member has advocated a particular course of action on a planning application in advance of it being considered by the Planning Regulatory Board and has a closed mind on this issue, that Member must not take any part in the determination of that application.
- 5.4 Members must declare any interests in applications coming before the Planning Regulatory Board at the start of the meeting. In order to be able to do that, they are encouraged to seek advice at an early stage from relevant officers of the Council in any situation of uncertainty. If for some reason it is not possible, however, for an interest to be declared by a Member at the outset of a meeting, or if it becomes clear at a later stage during the meeting that a Member has an interest in an item under discussion, then the Member should declare that interest at the first available opportunity.
- 5.5 When declaring an interest, a Member must specify the nature of the interest, and whether it is personal or prejudicial. The minutes of the meeting must record what type of declaration was made by any Member.
- 5.6 If a Member declares a disclosable pecuniary interest, he or she must withdraw from the meeting while the matter concerned is under discussion. Withdrawal from the meeting involves physically leaving the meeting room. Moving to the public gallery is not sufficient. The chairman of the Planning Regulatory Board must suspend the proceedings of the Board briefly while the Member leaves the Council Chamber.

6. Lobbying

6.1 It is quite common for applicants and persons who could be affected by a planning decision to approach Members to discuss a proposed development, seek to influence the determination of a planning application or seek to influence the allocation of land in the determination of a planning application or seek to influence the allocation of land in the Development Plan. Whilst this is a perfectly proper part of the political process it can often lead to suggestions of the impartiality and integrity of Members being called into question. To avoid compromising their position all Elected Members must not:-

1. Lobby Members of Planning Regulatory Board.
2. Act as an advocate or put pressure on officers for a particular recommendation or do anything which compromises, or is likely to compromise, the officers' impartiality or professional integrity.

6.2 Members of Planning Regulatory Board must exercise great care in ensuring that their position is not compromised and should:-

(i) Do their best to avoid discussing with an applicant, or any other person, their thoughts about the merits of a planning application or proposed development.

(ii) Not make it known in advance of the consideration of the application by planning Regulatory Board whether they support or oppose a proposal and avoid lobbying other Members.

(iii) Restrict their response to giving procedural advice, and make it clear that that is all they are prepared to do.

(iv) Direct lobbyists or objectors to the case officer.

(v) Advise the Executive Director of Place as soon as possible of the existence of any substantial or abnormal lobbying activity.

7. Hospitality

7.1 Gifts or hospitality should only be accepted in very limited situations as otherwise this might reasonably be thought to influence, or be intended to influence the judgment of a Member or Officer. The Member Code of Conduct provides that members must register with the Director of Legal and Governance within 28 days receipts details of any gifts or hospitality which they have accepted from any person or body other than the Authority, the value of which exceeds £100.

7.2 However in view of the sensitivity of the handling of planning applications, both Officers and Members must in all circumstances tactfully refuse any personal gift which if offered to themselves or to a member of their family by, or indirectly attributable at any person or

body who has, or may have, dealings of any kind whatsoever with the Council or, who has applied, or may apply, to the Council for any planning or other kind of decision.

7.3 Officers and Members must likewise in the above circumstances refuse offers of hospitality to avoid the suggestion of any improper influence. In exceptional circumstances where the need for the taking of meals and refreshments arises incidental to, and in the normal course of business, between officers, Members and applicants for planning permission the officer should pay for by themselves or if practical payment should be made by the Council. To minimise such situations arising officers or Members should avoid wherever practical visiting the premises of any applicants for planning permission. Where doubt exists, the officer should seek advice from the Director of Legal and Governance.

8. Development Proposals submitted by Members, Officers and Council Developments

8.1 Proposals to their own authority by serving and former Members and officers and their close friends and relatives can easily give rise to suspicions of impropriety. So indeed can proposals for a Council's own development. Proposals can take the form of either planning applications or development plan proposals.

8.2 It is perfectly legitimate for such proposals to be submitted. However, it is vital to ensure that they are handled in a way that gives no ground for accusations or favouritism. Serving Members who act as agents for people pursuing planning matters within their authority, or submit their own proposal to the authority they serve, must play no part in the decision-making process for that proposal. In addition, they should not take any part in its processing, or should they seek to influence the case officer's assessment or recommendations on the proposal.

8.3 The Head of Planning and Building Control shall maintain a formal register of planning applications which have been submitted by an officer of the Planning Service, or a Member of the Council, or an agent acting on their behalf and which relates to the land or property in which the officer or Member has an interest. In the case of officers, this register constitutes compliance with the requirements of section 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 which require an officer to register their interest in any contract or other matter which may come before the Council for consideration. The register secures compliance with the relevant associated procedures contained in the Code of Conduct for Employees. The above provisions apply to all officers of the Council who should therefore register any application by them or their spouse in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Employees.

8.4 It shall be the responsibility of the officer or Member to notify the Head of Planning and Building Control in writing that an application has been submitted on their behalf. On receiving such notification the Head of Planning and Building Control will enter details of the application in the register, and will confirm in writing to the officer or member that he or she has done so.

- 8.5 The officer or Member must not thereafter have any direct involvement in the processing of the planning application, nor must they seek to use their public office to directly or indirectly influence the decision on it. This requirement applies equally in respect of an application by any officer of the Council. In the case of an application submitted by or on behalf of an officer of the planning service, it will be the responsibility of the Head of Planning and Building Control, or other officer nominated to act on their behalf, to supervise the processing of the application and ensure no direct or indirect involvement by the office on whose behalf the application has been lodged.
- 8.6 All applications entered in the register will be referred to the Planning Regulatory Board for determination. The written report of the application will, as a matter of record, carry the statement, "This application has been submitted by or on behalf of a Member or officer of the Planning Service."
- 8.7 The officer or Member concerned must not attend the Council Chamber whilst the decision is taken but may exercise the same right as any member of the public to view the meeting from the public gallery should they wish to do so.
- 8.8 Where a planning application is submitted on behalf of a close friend or relative of an officer of the planning service, it shall be responsibility of the officer to notify the Head of Planning and Building Control of this in writing. The letter will be placed on file as a matter of record. If the nature of the relationship is such that a reasonable and detached member of the public would consider that the officer's actions may be influenced as a consequence of the relationship, the officer must take no further part in the processing of the application. Where an application is submitted by a close friend or relative of a Member, the Member concerned shall notify the Head of Planning and Building Control in writing and such notification will be placed on file as a matter of record.
- 8.9 The responsibility for the decision in such cases will fall to the Planning Regulatory Board.
- 8.10 Where officers have a friendship with a professional operating within the Borough, and the registration of their interest would happen with such frequency that their ability to carry out their normal duties would be impaired, they may apply in writing to the Head of Planning and Building Control for special dispensation. Any dispensation granted must be recorded in writing by the Head of Planning and Building Control and will only be granted where the officer concerned will have their work routinely supervised by two or more senior officers.
- 8.11 Applications made on behalf of the Council for its own development must be determined in an identical manner to applications made by the general public and the same planning policy considerations applied. All such applications must be referred to the Planning Regulatory Board for determination and decisions made must be strictly on planning merits without regard to any financial or other gain, which may occur to the Council if the development is permitted. Any officer who is, or has been, involved in work relating to the promotion of such development within the Council shall not seek to influence improperly any officer responsible for the processing of the application. However this should not preclude the normal professional dialogue that may be expected in terms of the provision or requesting of relevant information or

seeking clarification as to any material issue in respect of the application in the same way as any other applicant other than the Council. Any such discussions shall be recorded on file for the purposes of transparency.

9. **Pre Application and Predetermination Discussions**

9.1 Discussions between an applicant and officers/Members prior to the submission or determination of an application can be of considerable benefit to all parties. However, it can be easily interpreted that such discussions can be seen (especially by objectors) as part of the lobbying process.

9.2 In order to avoid such problems, any discussions should take place within the guidelines below:-

- Members should discuss with officers whether it will be necessary to have an officer present at a meeting with a potential applicant or agent and a record of the meeting must be taken.
- It must always be made clear at the outset that the discussions will not bind a Council to making a particular decision and that any views expressed are personal and provisional. By the very nature of such meetings not all relevant information will be to hand, neither will formal consultations with interested parties have taken place.
- Advice must be consistent and based upon the development plan and material considerations. There should be no significant difference of interpretation of planning policies between planning officers.
- A written note must be made of all such meetings and telephone calls, particularly where these are of a potentially contentious nature. Where material has been left with the Council, confirmation or its receipt should be given in a follow up letter.

9.3 Generally it is preferable that Members do not take part in pre-application discussions so as to maintain impartiality. Where Members do become involved in such discussions, including meetings on a site, and the matter is contentious or potentially contentious; they should seek advice of a Planning Officer.

9.4 When attending public meetings and site visits, Members must take great care to maintain their impartial role as Members, listen to all the points of view expressed by the speakers and public, and not state a conclusive opinion on any pre-application proposals and submitted planning applications. Members should not become drawn into any negotiations, which should be undertaken by officers so as to ensure that the authority's position is co-ordinated.

9.5 The Localism Act 2011 specifically provides that Members should avoid any appearance of bias or of having predetermined their views before taking a decision on a planning application. Members of the Planning Regulatory Board will not be taken to have had a closed mind when making a decision just because:- (i) they had previously done anything that directly or indirectly indicated what view the decision-maker took, or would or might take, in relation to a matter, and (ii) the matter was relevant to the decision.

9.6 A “legitimate predisposition” is acceptable and occurs where a Member has certain relevant views on a matter but retains an open mind when it comes to making the determination. Even if a Member has campaigned on a planning application or made public an initial view on how they would vote in respect of the application, they will still be able to participate in a discussion on that application and vote in it, so long as they retain an open mind. A Member may be predisposed on a matter before it comes to Planning Regulatory Board, providing they remain open to listening to all of the arguments and changing their mind in view of any information or representations made at the committee. Nevertheless, a Member in this position will always be judged against an objective test as to whether the reasonable onlooker with knowledge of the relevant facts would consider that the Member was biased.

9.7 Nevertheless, a “predetermination” is not acceptable and occurs where a Member has fixed views on a matter and retains a mind which is closed to the acceptance of a different view when it comes to making the determination. This state of mind can impair the legal validity of any decision taken by the committee of which the Member is a part.

9.8 Members have a duty to act in accordance with “natural justice” and must act with fairness to the applicant and interested parties. Members need to avoid any appearance of bias and should have regard to whether a fair minded observer knowing the background consider that there was a real possibility of bias arising from a decision in respect of a particular Member. The bias of a single Member in respect of a planning application determined at Planning Regulatory Board may vitiate a decision and render it susceptible to challenge by Judicial Review.

10. Officer Reports

10.1 It is particularly important that full and consistent reports are presented to the Planning Regulatory Board on planning applications with clear officer recommendations, not only as a matter of good practice, but because failure may constitute maladministration, and/or give rise to judicial review on the grounds that the decision was not taken in accordance with the provisions of the Development Plan and section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

- Reports must be accurate and cover, among other things, the substance of objections and the views of people who have been consulted, as recommended by the Ombudsman.
- Relevant points will include a clear explanation of the development plan, site of related history and any other material considerations.

- Reports must have written recommendations of action; oral reporting (except to update a report) should be extremely rare and carefully minuted when it does occur.
- If the report's recommendation is contrary to the provisions of the development plan, the material considerations which justify this must be clearly stated.

10.2 If a Member wishes to introduce additional information that has not been referenced within the officer's report in connection with an application before Planning Regulatory Board, they must ensure that the additional factual evidence is supported by a verifiable evidential background so as to enable it to be substantiated as a material consideration.

11. Decisions Contrary to Officer Recommendation and/or the Development Plan

11.1 Where a decision to grant or refuse permission contrary to the officer recommendation occurs the reasons for such a decision taken by the Board must be clearly minuted. The courts have expressed the view that such reasons should be clear and convincing. The Planning Officer should also be given the opportunity to explain the implications of the contrary decision. The personal circumstances of an applicant will rarely provide such grounds.

11.2 Prior to the Planning Regulatory Board taking a decision which is contrary to the Officers recommendation they shall first give an opportunity to the Planning Officer, or where appropriate the Legal Officer, to explain the implications of the contrary decision.

11.3 Having had regard to all material considerations, including the verbal advice of the officers regarding the implications of a contrary decision, if the Board is minded to make a decision contrary to the officers recommendation the Chair shall ask the Members moving and seconding the contrary motion to given an explanation of their reasons for considering that a contrary decision is appropriate. Members should ensure that their reasons are clear-cut planning reasons that can be substantiated by reference to either established policy or verifiable evidence. Officers will not be expected to draft and prepare detailed reasons at the Board itself and instead the detailed wording for the reasons for refusal will ordinarily be delegated to officers in consultation with the Chair.

11.4 The vote taken in respect of an application approved or refused contrary to the recommendation of the Head of Planning and Building Control or their representative shall be recorded by roll call.

11.5 A detailed minute of the Board's reasons for taking a contrary decision as expressed by the Members moving and seconding the contrary motion shall be kept and a copy placed on the planning application file. Any Member may also wish to vote against the contrary motion for reasons other than those contained in that motion. In such circumstances Members must make that clear before the vote is taken.

11.6 In the event that the Board wish to approve an application which had otherwise been recommended for refusal, the Board should delegate to the Head of Planning and Building Control in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, such planning conditions as are considered necessary to control and regulate the development and comply with statutory requirements.

12. Site Visits

12.1 The Planning Regulatory Board should only visit a site for one of more of the following reasons:-

- (a) The application raises issues which are likely to require detailed first-hand knowledge of the site and its surroundings to enable a well informed decision to be taken.
- (b) The application involves major development which if approved could change the character of the local area considerably and detailed knowledge of the site and surroundings would be needed to assist in decision making.
- (c) A proposal generates substantial local opposition or support and the views expressed by local residents are in conflict with the recommendation of the Officers on the application.

12.2 The request for a site visit, justified by reference to one of the reasons given above, can be made by any Member in the following ways:-

- (a) To the Head of Planning and Building Control or any officer nominated to act on his/her behalf before the application has been referred to Board. The Head of Planning and Building Control shall then advise the Board of the request and the reason for it when the application is placed before them for decision.
- (b) At the Board meeting at which the application is to be determined.

12.3 The request for a site visit by a member of the public, the applicant or any other interested person or group can be made in the following ways:-

- (a) To the Economic Regeneration Service in writing. The Head of Planning and Building Control will then advise the Board for the request and any reason given for it when the application is placed before them for decision.
- (b) To any local Member in writing who will then raise it in accordance with the procedures set out above.

12.4 It shall be the responsibility of the Planning Regulatory Board to decide whether the request for a site visit made by a Member, applicant or any other third party is granted and in reaching their decision they shall have regard only to the criteria set out in paragraph 12.1.

12.5 In circumstances where an urgent decision is needed but, in the opinion of the Head of Planning and Building Control, the application is of a nature that would require a site visit and an unacceptable delay would occur if the request for a visit was referred to the Planning Regulatory Board in the normal manner, the application can be added to the list of site visits without reference to the Planning Regulatory Board, subject to the agreement of the Chair to such action.

13.0 Procedure on Site Visits

13.1 The purpose of the site visit is to inform Members of the content of the application, and how the development will relate to the site and surroundings, whilst paying particular attention to site specific issues. The site does not constitute a statutory decision making meeting, and there is no

debate of decision making. It is, however, quite acceptable for Members to ask questions on points of detail.

13.2 The Chair of the Board shall preside at the site visits or, in the absence of the Chair, a Member nominated at the outset of the site visits by those Members present shall preside. Site visits shall be subject to the same requirements for declaration of interest as the Regulatory Board meeting. Any Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest shall not participate in the site visit in respect of the relevant clarification.

13.3 The site visit shall consist of:-

- (a) An explanation of the application by the relevant officer(s) highlighting the issues involved.
- (b) An inspection of the site and surrounding area to the extent considered necessary to inform the decision making process.
- (c) Members raise questions on matters of fact for clarification.

13.4 During the site visit, as far as it is practicable to do so, the visiting Board shall keep the applicants and any other third parties at arm's length. It shall be responsibility of the attending officer(s), together with the Chair, to explain to those present on site that for reasons for impartiality and fairness the Board will not receive verbal representation nor debate the application during the site visit.

13.5 It shall be the responsibility of the applicant or appointed agent to ensure that adequate access to the site is available. At the commencement of each site visit, particularly where access to private land is needed, the attending officer(s) and Chair shall identify the visiting Regulatory Board to the site occupier/owner and explain the purpose of the visit.

13.6 A Member who is not a member of the Planning Regulatory Board must not attend site visits undertaken by the Board.

14.0 Member Participation at Meetings of the Planning Regulatory Board

14.1 The Council's Standing Orders prohibit the Chair from inviting any Member who is not a Member of the Planning Regulatory Board to attend and address the meeting on a specific item.

14.2 Attendance at meetings of the Planning Regulatory Board of Members, other than those appointed by the Council to the Board, can give rise to confusion in the eyes of the public as to who is responsible and accountable for making decisions on planning applications. Participation of Members at meetings of the Board who are not appointed by the Council to the Board may also cause the impression to arise that such Members are able to disproportionately influence the Planning Regulatory Board in its determination of the merits of any particular application. The following principles must therefore be applied:

- (i) A Member who is not a member of the Planning Regulatory Board must not be allowed to address the Board.

(ii) A Member who is not a member of the Planning Regulatory Board must not substitute for a member of the Board.

14.3 Members who are not appointed by the Council to the Planning Regulatory Board have the right to make representations in writing in their capacity as Ward Members for or against applications to be considered by the Board. However, the restriction of a general right to address meetings, or to substitute for a Member of the Planning Regulatory Board, will avoid any confusion as to which Members are responsible and accountable for making planning decisions. This is consistent with the promoting of high ethical standards in the determination of planning applications.

15. **Disclosure of Information**

15.1 Members will sometimes be given information or assurances by Applicants that are not part of the formal application or be given information by objectors which is misleading, untrue or irrelevant. This may cause problems if officers are unaware of any such submissions and are unable to advise the Planning Regulatory Board of their relevance or enforceability.

(a) Any Member receiving a letter for or on behalf of an Applicant or third party in connection with an application before Planning Regulatory Board should establish whether the letter has been submitted to the Council via the Planning Officer and, if not, declare the receipt of the letter prior to the decision being taken.

(b) A Member must not circulate any documents of information to Planning Regulatory Board unless that information has been first submitted to the Planning Officer and forms part of the application of background papers.

16. **Political Group Meetings**

16.1 There are occasions when planning matters will be discussed prior to being determined at Planning Regulatory Board by informal meetings/briefings involving Members and/or by the Chair the Board either with or without officer attendance. These meetings are informal opportunities for Members to consider various aspects of planning matters before taking a decision at Planning Regulatory Board. For more complex planning proposals these informal meetings may be essential to the understanding of proposals and could lead to the request for more information or consultation on a proposal. As long as the decision on the planning matter is taken when all issues and materials are before Members at Planning Regulatory Board and in public reports, advance informal discussion may, on occasion, be beneficial to the decision making process.

16.2 Elected Members have an overriding duty to the whole local community and, although they may be strongly influenced by the views of others and particularly their political group, it is their responsibility alone to decide what view to take on any matters before the Board.

(a) Although it is accepted that political groups may have a policy on particular types of development or on a major schemes, group meetings prior to the Board Meeting must not be used to decide how members vote. Political whips should not be used to influence the determination of planning applications.

(b) Members must consider all applications in the light of the Development Plan and decide on the applications merits taking into account only material planning considerations. The appearance of bias or predetermination can lead to a decision being quashed and costs awarded against the Council.

17.0 Sanctions

17.1 A failure to adhere to the Code gives rise to a range of potential consequences to the Council, and individual Members, especially if this gives rise to inconsistency. The normal sanction of the democratic process is through the ballot box. Members may make a reputation in their community not only for their beliefs but also for their general conduct. Consistency and fairness are important qualities in the public eye and they are vital to the conduct of the Planning Regulatory Board. Beyond the normal democratic process a number of specific consequences can be identified.

17.2 The Local Government Ombudsman:

Although the Local Government Ombudsman will not investigate the merits of any planning decision, she/he may agree to investigate a planning complaint if it concerns the manner in which a decision was taken. If it is found that injustice has been caused by maladministration in the light of statutory or established Council procedures she/he will recommend redress which may take the form of compensation. Where the Local Government Ombudsman makes a finding of maladministration and considers that the Member may have acted in breach of the Member Code of Conduct, then the report may name the individual Member and give particulars of the breach. In such cases the Council is required to assist the Ombudsman in making publicly available details of the report and the Ombudsman findings. The Local Government Ombudsman can recommend that the Council pay compensation to the aggrieved complainant and may be more inclined to do so where there has been a breach of the Member Code of Conduct.

17.3 The Appeals, Awards and Standards Regulatory Board:

This is the Council's own standards committee which will investigate and deal with complaints in respect of breaches of the Member Code of Conduct. It is also the body within the Council that would deal with any issues of non-compliance with this Local Code of Planning and Conduct Guidance.

17.4 The Member Code of Conduct provides guidance on arrangements for handling ethical standards complaints by the Council. The Code states that the Council's Director of Legal and Governance will initially consider any complaint received and determine whether the complaint warrants any specific considerations by Members. Where it is considered that the complaint warrants further consideration by Members, the Director of Legal and Governance shall arrange for an officer or some other person if appropriate to carry out a further investigation and to produce a report of their findings. The Director of Legal and Governance shall inform the Member that is the subject of the complaint of the nature of the complaint and that it is subject to investigation. That report shall be considered by a panel of three Members selected from the membership of the Appeals and Awards Regulatory Board by the Director of Legal and Governance in consultation with the Chair of the Board. The Panel shall consider the report and determine whether any further action is appropriate.

17.5 Section 34 of the Localism Act 2011 makes it a criminal offence if a Member or co-opted Member fails without reasonable excuse, to comply with requirements under Section 30 or 31 to register or declare disclosable pecuniary interests, or takes part in council business at meetings or takes any steps in relation to a matter in which the Member has a pecuniary interest when discharging a function of the authority as a Member acting alone. If convicted of an offence in contravention of this section of the Act, a magistrates' court is empowered to impose a fine of up to level 5 and an order disqualifying the person from being a member of a relevant authority for up to five years.

17.6 Appeals to the Secretary of State:

An applicant who has been refused planning permission or a person served with an enforcement notice etc. have a right to appeal to the secretary of State. If an appeal is successful and it is shown that the Council's Conduct is dealing with the matter was unreasonable, the appellant's costs may be awarded against the Council. This may also result in the Council's External Auditor issuing a Public Interest report which the Council would be required to publish criticising the members concerned for failing to act properly in their stewardship of public funds.

17.7 Judicial Review:

If objectors are convinced that the Council, in determining to grant an application, did not observe their statutory obligations to carry out all necessary procedures, based on their decision on the Development Plan and take into account all representations, they may apply for judicial review of the decision, which might result in it being quashed. In such circumstances it would be normal for the costs of an applicant to be awarded against the Council.

17.8 Powers of the Secretary State:

The Secretary of State possesses a range of powers which could be exercised where a local planning authority appears to be making inconsistent decisions, or decisions which are seriously in conflict with national and development plan policies. This could involve a greater use of the power to "call in" applications, whereby an application would be determined by him following a public inquiry. Where permission has already been granted by the Council, powers exists to revoke or modify permissions, or to require discontinuance of a land use, which if exercised would give rise to a liability to compensate on the part of the Council. The amount of compensation may be considerable.

17.9 The Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013 has also provided the Secretary of State with powers to designate local planning authorities as underperforming, if it is considered that their performance in handling major applications has fallen below an acceptable standard. Where authorities are designated in this way, the Act gives applicants for major development proposals the right to apply for planning permission directly to the Secretary of State.

18.0 **Complaints and record keeping**

18.1 Every planning application file will contain an accurate account of events throughout its life. It should be possible for someone not involved with that application to understand what the decision was and how and why it was reached. Applications determined under officers' delegated powers, where there is no committee report, will be as well documented and recorded as those taken by Members at Planning Regulatory Board; these principles apply equally to enforcement.

18.2 Whatever procedures a Council operates, it is likely that complaints will still be made. However, the adoption of the advice in this code should greatly reduce the occasions on which complaints are justified. It should also provide fewer reasons for people to complain in the first place. When such complaints come forward they will be treated as any other made to the Council and considered under the complaints procedures.

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
LOCAL CODE OF PLANNING CONDUCT AND GUIDANCE 2022

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The successful operation of the planning system relies on a mutual understanding of the role of officers and Members. It also relies on each ensuring that they act in a way which is not only fair, honest and impartial but also clearly seen to be so.
- 1.2 Planning decisions can affect people's lives and therefore the community is entitled to expect the highest standards of probity and accountability in the decision making process. The process should leave no grounds for suggesting with any justification that a decision has been partial, biased or not well founded in any way.
- 1.3 Planning decisions rely on well informed judgment within a policy context provided by the statutory Development Plan. Planning law requires local planning authorities to determine all planning applications in accordance with the Development Plan (so far as material to the application), save where other material planning considerations indicate otherwise. This responsibility must be performed without undue influence or personal interest.
- 1.4 Members and local planning authorities also have a duty to take into account any representations made to the Council as a result of consultation with interested bodies or as a result of public notice or neighbour notification. In doing so it is necessary to decide which representations are material to the decision to be made, and, if so, what weight to attach to them. It is essential that each application is considered on its own merits and only material planning considerations are taken into account in reaching a decision.
- 1.5 This Local Code of Planning Conduct & Guidance applies to Members and Officers of the Council and its purpose is to ensure that decisions made are open, fair and transparent. It supplements the Council's general Codes of Conduct for Officers and Members by providing detailed guidance on the standards to be applied in relation to all planning related issues. It therefore accords with the Localism Act 2011 which requires Members to register pecuniary and other interests and for local authorities to promote and maintain high standards of conduct. It also reflects the Local Government Association's most recent guidance on Probity in Planning, which was published in December 2019.

2. The General Role and Conduct of Members and Officers

- 2.1 Members and officers have different, but complementary, roles. Both serve the public but Members are responsible to the electorate, while officers are responsible to the Council as a whole. Officers advise Members and the Council, and carry out the Council's work. They are employed by the Council, not by individual Members, and it follows that instructions may only be given to officers through a Council decision, which is often via delegated powers. Both Members and officers have responsibility to ensure that the policies of the Council are implemented wherever possible. A successful relationship between Members and Officers can only be based upon mutual trust and understanding of each other's positions. This relationship, and the trust which underpins it, must never be abused or compromised.
- 2.2 The Localism Act 2011 introduced provisions which oblige local government members in England to register disclosable pecuniary and other interests. It makes the failure to register relevant interests or declare them when appropriate in meetings a criminal offence.

2.3 Officers who are Chartered Town Planners are guided by the Royal Town Planning Institute's (RTP) Code of Professional Conduct. Breaches of the Code may be subject to disciplinary action by the Institute. In addition to these codes, the Council's standing orders set down rules which govern the conduct of Council business.

2.4 The basis of the planning system is the consideration of private proposals for the proposed development and use of land against wider public interests. Much is often at stake in this process and opposing views are often strongly held by those involved. Whilst Members should take account of those views, they must not favour any person, company, group or locality, nor put themselves in a position where they appear to do so.

3. The Role of Members

3.1 Under the Localism Act 2011 the monitoring officer of a Relevant Authority must establish and maintain a register of interests of members and co-opted members of the Authority. A member or co-opted member is also obliged to notify the Authority's monitoring officer of any disclosable pecuniary interests which the person has at the time the notification is given. A disclosable pecuniary interest is an interest of a relevant member or, where the relevant member is aware that the other person has the interest, an interest of their spouse or civil partner, a person with whom they are living as husband and wife and a person with whom they were living as if they were civil partners. It is a criminal offence where a member of a relevant authority fails without reasonable excuse to register or declare disclosable pecuniary interests and then duly takes part in council business or meetings.

3.2 The Council's Member Code of Conduct specifies that if a Member has a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any matter to be determined at Planning Regulatory Board they must disclose that interest and give sufficient details of it so that the nature of their interest is clearly understood. Unless a dispensation has been granted, they should not take part in any matter to be determined at Planning Regulatory Board where their interest is a "disclosable pecuniary interest" which they are required to register in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State and should withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of that item.

3.3 A Member must not act in such a way as to bring their office or the Council into disrepute. In considering this broad obligation the following should be particularly borne in mind:

- The over-riding duty of a Member is to the whole local community.
- Members have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them.
- Whilst Members may be strongly influenced by the views of others, and of their party in particular, it is their responsibility alone to decide what view to take on any question which Members have to decide.
- A Member should never do anything in their public role which could not be justified to the public. A Member's conduct, and what the public believe about their conduct, will affect the reputation of the Council, and of their party if they belong to one.

- It is not enough to avoid actual impropriety; you should at all times avoid any occasion for suspicion and any appearance of improper conduct.

3.4 The role of Members in dealing with both Development Plan and Development Management issues can often lead to difficulties with constituents who naturally expect their Elected Representative to represent their views. The following principles should be applied:-

- In considering Development Plan and policy issues Members must vote in the interests of the whole community, not for Ward, Party, Sectional or personal considerations.
- In considering Development Management matters, Members must act impartially and must not make up their minds until they have read the officers reports and heard the evidence and arguments for and against.
- When dealing with matters affecting their Ward, Members must make clear to constituents, applicants and objectors that they must act in accordance with the above two principles. This does not mean that a Member cannot comment or reflect local concerns about a proposal or even have a predisposition where they may be entitled to vote at the relevant committee but any such view or comment must not be, or be seen as being a pre-determination of the proposal.
- Similarly Members who are also Parish Councillors must make it clear that they may vote differently when sitting as a District Member and having heard the technical and legal background from officers.
- Members must always advise constituents, applicants and objectors of any known public consultation arrangements and the standard representation system and refer them to the appropriate Planning Officer in order that their views can be properly included in the officer's report.

Confidential matters may arise from time to time on planning applications but it is in discussions on enforcement matters in closed session where it is most likely that confidential information will be disclosed. Often the information will relate to the Council's legal position with regard to a particular planning contravention. Information on such matters, if disclosed to any member of the public, could eventually come to knowledge of the person responsible for the contravention and could seriously prejudice the Council in the event of an appeal or in legal proceedings. Members must therefore take particular care not to disclose such information. The Members Code of Conduct specifies that Members should not disclose information given to them in confidence by anyone or information that they reasonably believe or ought reasonably be aware is of a confidential nature.

4. **The Role of Officers**

4.1 The public is entitled to expect high standards of conduct, probity and courtesy by all persons holding public office but in particular when dealing with planning matters.

4.2 In making delegated decisions on applications, officers will:-

- Act fairly and openly
- Approach each application with an open mind

- Carefully weigh up all of the relevant material planning considerations
- Avoid undue contact with interested parties
- Ensure that reasons for decisions are clearly stated and recorded

4.3 In reporting to Planning Regulatory Board and in progressing non-delegated applications, officers will:-

- Provide professional and impartial advice
- Make sure that all information necessary for a decision to be made is given
- Set the application in the context of the Development Plan and all other material considerations
- Provide a clear and accurate written analysis of the issues within the written report
- Give a clear recommendation

4.4 Any material planning information which is received after the written report has been prepared will be presented orally to the Planning Regulatory Board by officers.

4.5 Officers are responsible for carrying out the decisions of the Planning Regulatory Board, whether or not those decisions are in line with officer recommendations.

4.6 Officers shall play no part in the processing of any application in circumstances where there is, or would be perceived to be, a conflict between their personal or financial interests, those of their families or friends, and their professional duty, and they shall formally register the existence of any such conflict in writing to the Executive Director of Place. Any interest the Executive Director of Place has in an application shall be declared to the Chief Executive.

5. **Declaration and Registration of Interests**

5.1 Members sitting on the Council's Planning Regulatory Board must disclose any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in respect of any application. The declaration must include the existence and nature of that interest at the beginning of discussing the matter to which it is relevant, or when the interest becomes apparent. A Member who makes a decision in relation to that matter must ensure that any written statement of the decision records the existence and nature of that interest. The Member need only declare the interest or interests which he knows about and does not need to investigate the business or other interests of friends and relatives. They can stay in the meeting, take part in the discussion and vote on the matter under question unless the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest in which case you should withdraw from the meeting (see paragraph 5.6 below).

5.2 Members should review their situation regularly and should bear in mind that not only must impropriety be avoided but also any appearance, or grounds for suspicion, of improper conduct. The responsibility for this rests individually with each Member.

5.3 Given the sensitive nature of planning there are situations where the obligations placed upon Members go beyond the strict requirements of the Code of Conduct. In particular:

- (i) Members submitting applications on behalf of themselves or in respect of any person with whom they are related or with whom they are a close personal acquaintance, shall take no part in the processing of that application. Any such application must clearly show that it is submitted by a Member. Planning Regulatory

Board must be provided with a proposed recommendation and given the opportunity to comment before any decision is made under delegated powers and if the application has resulted in objections or the decision is, in the opinion of the Head of Planning & Building Control, finely balanced then the application should be determined by Planning and Regulatory Board.

(ii) Involvement of a Member of his/her family in a consultancy, agency or company which could be involved in land or property dealings of development within the Borough must be disclosed to the Executive Director of Place or equivalent.

(iii) Close working relationships/friendships or family connection with a consultancy, agency, developer, construction company or land or property owner which operate in the locality and have an interest in a planning application or development within the Borough must be disclosed to the Executive Director of Place.

(iv) Where a Member has advocated a particular course of action on a planning application in advance of it being considered by the Planning Regulatory Board and has a closed mind on this issue, that Member must not take any part in the determination of that application. However, allowances for members with "predispositions" are granted by section 25 of the Localism Act 2011 (see paras 9.4 and 9.5 below)

5.4 Members must declare any interests in applications coming before the Planning Regulatory Board at the start of the meeting. In order to be able to do that, they are encouraged to seek advice at an early stage from relevant officers of the Council in any situation of uncertainty. If for some reason it is not possible, however, for an interest to be declared by a Member at the outset of a meeting, or if it becomes clear at a later stage during the meeting that a Member has an interest in an item under discussion, then the Member should declare that interest at the first available opportunity.

5.5 If a Member declares a disclosable pecuniary interest, he or she must withdraw from the meeting while the matter concerned is under discussion. Withdrawal from the meeting involves physically leaving the meeting room. Moving to the public gallery is not sufficient. The chairman of the Planning Regulatory Board must suspend the proceedings of the Board briefly while the Member leaves the Council Chamber.

6. **Lobbying**

6.1 It is quite common for applicants and persons who could be affected by a planning decision to approach Members to discuss a proposed development, seek to influence the determination of a planning application or seek to influence the allocation of land in the Development Plan. Whilst this is a perfectly proper part of the political process it can often lead to the impartiality and integrity of Members being called into question. To avoid compromising their position all Elected Members must not:-

1. Lobby Members of Planning Regulatory Board.
2. Act as an advocate or put pressure on officers for a particular recommendation or do anything which compromises, or is likely to compromise, the officers' impartiality or professional integrity.

6.2 Members of Planning Regulatory Board must exercise great care in ensuring that their position is not compromised and should:-

- (i) Do their best to avoid discussing with an applicant, or any other person, their

thoughts about the merits of a planning application or proposed development.

(ii) Not make it known in advance of the consideration of the application by planning Regulatory Board whether they support or oppose a proposal and avoid lobbying other Members.

(iii) Restrict their response to giving procedural advice, and make it clear that that is all they are prepared to do.

(iv) Direct lobbyists or objectors to the case Officer.

(vi) Advise the Executive Director of Place as soon as possible of the existence of any substantial or abnormal lobbying activity.

7. Hospitality

7.1 Gifts or hospitality should only be accepted in very limited situations as otherwise this might reasonably be thought to influence, or be intended to influence the judgment of a Member or Officer. The Member Code of Conduct provides that members must register with the Director of Legal and Governance within 28 days receipts details of any gifts or hospitality which they have accepted from any person or body other than the Authority, the value of which exceeds £100.

7.2 However, in view of the sensitivity of the handling of planning applications, both Officers and Members must in all circumstances tactfully refuse any personal gift which if offered to themselves or to a member of their family by, or indirectly attributable at any person or body who has, or may have, dealings of any kind whatsoever with the Council or, who has applied, or may apply, to the Council for any planning or other kind of decision.

7.3 Officers and Members must likewise in the above circumstances refuse offers of hospitality to avoid the suggestion of any improper influence. To minimise such situations arising, officers or Members should avoid wherever practical visiting the premises of any applicants for planning permission (unless of course the premises is the application site and they are undertaking a site visit to assess the application) . Where doubt exists, the officer should seek advice from the Service Director, Legal.

8. Proposals submitted by Members, Officers and Council Developments

8.1 Proposals to their own authority by serving and former Members and officers and their close friends and relatives can easily give rise to suspicions of impropriety. So indeed can proposals for a Council's own development. Proposals can take the form of either planning applications or development plan proposals.

8.2 It is perfectly legitimate for such proposals to be submitted. However, it is vital to ensure that they are handled in a way that gives no ground for accusations of favouritism. Serving Members who act as agents for people pursuing planning matters within their authority, or submit their own proposal to the authority they serve, must play no part in the decision-making process for that proposal. In addition, they should not take any part in its processing, or should they seek to influence the case officer's assessment or recommendations on the proposal.

8.3 The Head of Planning and Building Control shall maintain a formal register of planning applications which have been submitted by an officer of the Planning Service, or a Member of the Council, or an agent acting on their behalf and which

relates to the land or property in which the officer or Member has an interest. Upon receipt of such notification, the Head of Planning and Building Control will enter details of the application in the register and will confirm in writing to the officer or member that he or she has done so.

- 8.4 The officer or Member must not thereafter have any direct involvement in the processing of the planning application, nor must they seek to use their public office to directly or indirectly influence the decision on it.
- 8.5 Planning Regulatory Board must be provided with a proposed recommendation for all such applications and given the opportunity to comment before any decision is made under delegated powers. The written report of the application will, as a matter of record, carry the statement, "This application has been submitted by or on behalf of a Member or officer of the Planning Service".
- 8.6 If the application has resulted in objections or the decision is, in the opinion of the Head of Planning & Building Control, finely balanced then the application should be determined by Planning and Regulatory Board. In such circumstances, the officer or member concerned must not attend the Council Chamber whilst the decision is taken but may exercise the same right as any member of the public to view the meeting from the public gallery should they wish to do so.
- 8.7 Where a planning application is submitted on behalf of a close friend or relative of an officer of the planning service, it shall be responsibility of the officer to notify the Head of Planning and Building Control of this in writing. The officer must then take no further part in the processing of the application. Where an application is submitted by a close friend or relative of a Member, the Member concerned shall notify the Head of Planning and Building Control in writing and such notification will be placed on file as a matter of record.
- 8.8 Planning Regulatory Board must also be provided with a proposed recommendation for all applications submitted by the Council for its own development and given the opportunity to comment before any decision is made under delegated powers. The written report of the application will, as a matter of record, carry the statement, "This application has been submitted by or on behalf of a Member or officer of the Council".
- 8.9 If the application has resulted in objections or the decision is, in the opinion of the Head of Planning & Building Control, finely balanced then the application should be determined by Planning and Regulatory Board. Decisions made must be strictly on planning merits without regard to any financial or other gain, which may occur to the Council if the development is permitted. Any officer who is, or has been, involved in work relating to the promotion of such development within the Council shall not seek to influence improperly any officer responsible for the processing of the application. However, this should not preclude the normal professional dialogue that may be expected in terms of the provision or requesting of relevant information or seeking clarification as to any material issue in respect of the application in the same way as any other applicant other than the Council. Any such discussions shall be recorded on file for the purposes of transparency.

9. Pre Application and Predetermination Discussions

9.1 Discussions between an applicant and officers/Members prior to the submission or determination of an application can be of considerable benefit to all parties. However, it can be easily interpreted that such discussions can be seen (especially by objectors) as part of the lobbying process.

9.2 In order to avoid such problems, any discussions should take place within the guidelines below:-

- Where the matter is contentious or potentially contentious; they should first seek advice of a Planning Officer.
- It must always be made clear at the outset that the discussions will not bind a Council to making a particular decision and that any views expressed are personal and provisional. By the very nature of such meetings not all relevant information will be to hand, neither will formal consultations with interested parties have taken place.
- Advice must be consistent and based upon the development plan and material considerations. There should be no significant difference of interpretation of planning policies between planning officers.
- A note must be made of all such meetings and telephone calls, particularly where these are of a potentially contentious nature. Where material has been left with the Council, confirmation or its receipt should be provided

9.3 When attending public meetings and site visits, Members must take great care to maintain their impartial role as Members, listen to all the points of view expressed by the speakers and public, and not state a conclusive opinion on any pre-application proposals and submitted planning applications. Members should not become drawn into any negotiations, which should be undertaken by officers so as to ensure that the authority's position is co-ordinated.

9.4 . Under section 25 of the Localism Act 2011 Members of the Planning Regulatory Board should not predetermine decisions (i.e. have a closed mind) but will not be taken to have had a closed mind when making a decision just because:-

- (i) they had previously done anything that directly or indirectly indicated what view the decision-maker took, or would or might take, in relation to a matter, and
- (ii) the matter was relevant to the decision.

9.5 A "legitimate predisposition" is acceptable and occurs where a Member has certain relevant views on a matter but retains an open mind when it comes to making the determination. Even if a Member has campaigned on a planning application or made public an initial view on how they would vote in respect of the application, they will still be able to participate in a discussion on that application and vote in it, so long as they retain an open mind. A Member may be predisposed on a matter before it comes to Planning Regulatory Board, providing they remain open to listening to all of the arguments and changing their mind in view of any information or representations made at the committee. Nevertheless, a Member in this position will always be judged against an objective test as to whether the reasonable onlooker with knowledge of the relevant facts would consider that the Member was biased.

9.6 A “predetermination” is not acceptable and occurs where a Member has fixed views on a matter and retains a mind which is closed to the acceptance of a different view when it comes to making the determination. This state of mind can impair the legal validity of any decision taken by the committee of which the Member is a part.

9.7 Members have a duty to act in accordance with “natural justice” and must act with fairness to the applicant and interested parties. Members need to avoid any appearance of bias and should have regard to whether a fair minded observer knowing the background would consider that there was a real possibility of bias arising from a decision in respect of a particular Member. The bias of a single Member in respect of a planning application determined at Planning Regulatory Board may vitiate a decision and render it susceptible to challenge by Judicial Review.

10. Officer Reports

10.1 It is particularly important that full and consistent reports are presented to the Planning Regulatory Board on planning applications with clear officer recommendations, not only as a matter of good practice, but because failure may constitute maladministration, and/or give rise to judicial review.

10.2 Reports must be accurate and cover, among other things, a clear explanation of the site and the proposal, a summary of the objections and the views of people/groups who have been consulted, the relevant development plan policies and any other material considerations and a clear recommendation. If the report’s recommendation is contrary to the provisions of the development plan, the material considerations which justify this must be clearly stated. Oral reporting (except to update a report) should be rare and carefully minuted when it does occur.

11. Political Group Meetings

11.1 There are occasions when planning matters will be discussed prior to being determined at Planning Regulatory Board by informal meetings/briefings involving Members and/or by the Chair the Board either with or without officer attendance. These meetings are informal opportunities for Members to consider various aspects of planning matters before taking a decision at Planning Regulatory Board. For more complex planning proposals these informal meetings may be essential to the understanding of proposals and could lead to the request for more information or consultation on a proposal. As long as the decision on the planning matter is taken when all issues and materials are before Members at Planning Regulatory Board and in public reports, advance informal discussion may, on occasion, be beneficial to the decision making process.

11.2 Elected Members have an overriding duty to the whole local community and, although they may be strongly influenced by the views of others and particularly their political group, it is their responsibility alone to decide what view to take on any matters before the Board.

11.3 Although it is accepted that political groups may have a policy on particular types of development or on a major schemes, group meetings prior to the Board Meeting must not be used to decide how members vote. Political whips should not be used to influence the determination of planning applications.

12. Site Visits

12.1 In preparing their recommendation to Planning & Regulatory Board, officers will have visited the site and assessed the scheme against policies and material considerations already. In advance of the meeting, the presentation slides will be provided to members of the board and will include as much detail as they consider necessary for members of the board to be sufficiently familiar with the site. Site visits should therefore only be used where the benefit is clear and substantial. Accordingly, the Planning Regulatory Board should only visit a site for one or more of the following reasons:-

(a) The application raises issues which are likely to require detailed first-hand knowledge of the site and its surroundings to enable a well informed decision to be taken.

(b) The application involves major development which if approved could change the character of the local area considerably and detailed knowledge of the site and surroundings would be needed to assist in decision making.

(c) A proposal generates substantial local opposition or support and the views expressed by local residents are in conflict with the recommendation of the Officers on the application.

12.2 The request for a site visit, justified by reference to one of the reasons given above, can be made by any Member in the following ways:-

(a) To the Head of Planning and Building Control or any officer nominated to act on his/her behalf before the application has been referred to Board. The Head of Planning and Building Control shall then advise the Board of the request and the reason for it when the application is placed before them for decision.

(b) At the Board meeting at which the application is to be determined.

12.3 In circumstances where an urgent decision is needed but, in the opinion of the Head of Planning and Building Control, the application is of a nature that would require a site visit and an unacceptable delay would occur if the request for a visit was referred to the Planning Regulatory Board in the normal manner, the application can be added to the list of site visits without reference to the Planning Regulatory Board, subject to the agreement of the Chair to such action.

13.0 Procedure on Site Visits

13.1 The purpose of the site visit is to inform Members of the content of the application, and how the development will relate to the site and surroundings, whilst paying particular attention to site specific issues. The site does not constitute a statutory decision making meeting, and there is no debate of decision making. It is, however, quite acceptable for Members to ask questions on points of detail.

13.2 The Chair of the Board shall preside at the site visits or, in the absence of the Chair, a Member nominated at the outset of the site visits by those Members present shall preside. Site visits shall be subject to the same requirements for declaration of interest as the Regulatory Board meeting. Any Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest shall not participate in the site visit in respect of the relevant clarification.

13.3 The site visit shall consist of:-

(a) An explanation of the application by the relevant officer(s) highlighting the issues involved.

(b) An inspection of the site and surrounding area to the extent considered necessary to inform the decision making process.

(c) Members raise questions on matters of fact for clarification.

13.4 During the site visit, as far as it is practicable to do so, the visiting Board shall keep the applicants and any other third parties at arm's length. It shall be responsibility of the attending officer(s), together with the Chair, to explain to those present on site that for reasons for impartiality and fairness the Board will not receive verbal representation nor debate the application during the site visit.

13.5 It shall be the responsibility of the applicant or appointed agent to ensure that adequate access to the site is available. At the commencement of each site visit, particularly where access to private land is needed, the attending officer(s) and Chair shall identify the visiting Regulatory Board to the site occupier/owner and explain the purpose of the visit.

13.6 A Member who is not a member of the Planning Regulatory Board must not attend site visits undertaken by the Board. This means that ward councillors may not attend unless they are members of the Board

14.0 Member Participation at Meetings of the Planning Regulatory Board

14.1 The Council's Standing Orders prohibit the Chair from inviting any Member who is not a Member of the Planning Regulatory Board to attend and address the meeting on a specific item.

14.2 Attendance at meetings of the Planning Regulatory Board of Members, other than those appointed by the Council to the Board, can give rise to confusion in the eyes of the public as to who is responsible and accountable for making decisions on planning applications. Participation of Members at meetings of the Board who are not appointed by the Council to the Board may also cause the impression to arise that such Members are able to disproportionately influence the Planning Regulatory Board in its determination of the merits of any particular application. The following principles must therefore be applied:

(i) A Member who is not a member of the Planning Regulatory Board must not be allowed to address the Board.

(ii) A Member who is not a member of the Planning Regulatory Board must not substitute for a member of the Board.

14.3 Members who are not appointed by the Council to the Planning Regulatory Board have the right to make representations in writing in their capacity as Ward Members for or against applications to be considered by the Board. However, the restriction of a general right to address meetings, or to substitute for a Member of the Planning Regulatory Board, will avoid any confusion as to which Members are responsible and accountable for making planning decisions. This is consistent with the promoting of high ethical standards in the determination of planning applications.

15. Disclosure of Information

15.1 Members will sometimes be given information or assurances by Applicants that are not part of the formal application or be given information by objectors which is

misleading, untrue or irrelevant. This may cause problems if officers are unaware of any such submissions and are unable to advise the Planning Regulatory Board of their relevance or enforceability.

- 15.2 Any Member receiving a letter for or on behalf of an Applicant or third party in connection with an application before Planning Regulatory Board should establish whether the letter has been submitted to the Council via the Planning Officer and, if not, declare the receipt of the letter prior to the decision being taken.
- 15.3 A Member must not circulate any documents of information to Planning Regulatory Board unless that information has been first submitted to the Planning Officer and forms part of the application of background papers.
16. **Decisions Contrary to Officer Recommendation and/or the Development Plan**
- 16.1 Planning & Regulatory Board can, and does, make decisions which are different from the officer recommendation. Sometimes this will relate to conditions attached to the permission or planning obligations secured through a legal agreement pursuant to Section 106 (S106) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). Sometimes the board's decision will change the outcome from an approval to a refusal, or vice versa. This will usually reflect a difference in the assessment of how a policy has been complied with, or different weight ascribed to material considerations.
- 16.2 If a councillor is concerned about an officer's recommendation, they should discuss their areas of difference and the reasons for that with officers in advance of the committee meeting. Care should be taken however to ensure that this does not lead to predetermination of a decision.
- 16.3 If the councillor is still minded to propose an alternative recommendation they should be prepared to explain in full their planning reasons for not agreeing with the officer's recommendation, which should be set in the context of the development plan or the NPPF. The courts have expressed the view that such reasons should be clear and convincing and that the officer should also be given an opportunity to explain the implications of the contrary decision, including an assessment of a likely appeal outcome based on policies set out in the development plan and the NPPF, and chances of a successful award of costs against the local authority, should one be made.
- 16.4 Having had regard to all material considerations, including the verbal advice of the officers regarding the implications of a contrary decision, if the Board is minded to make a decision contrary to the officers recommendation the Chair shall ask the Members moving and seconding the contrary motion to give an explanation of their reasons for considering that a contrary decision is appropriate. Members should ensure that their reasons are clear-cut planning reasons that can be substantiated by reference to either established policy or verifiable evidence. Officers will not be expected to draft and prepare detailed reasons at the Board itself and instead the detailed wording for the reasons for refusal will ordinarily be delegated to officers in consultation with the Chair.
- 16.5 The vote taken in respect of an application approved or refused contrary to the recommendation of the Head of Planning and Building Control or their representative shall be recorded by roll call.
- 16.6 A detailed minute of the Board's reasons for taking a contrary decision as expressed by the Members moving and seconding the contrary motion shall be kept and a copy placed on the planning application file. Any Member may also wish to vote against

the contrary motion for reasons other than those contained in that motion. In such circumstances Members must make that clear before the vote is taken.

- 16.7 In the event that the Board wish to approve an application which had otherwise been recommended for refusal, the Board should delegate to the Head of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the Chair, such planning conditions as are considered necessary to control and regulate the development and comply with statutory requirements.

17.0 **Sanctions**

- 17.1 A failure to adhere to the Code gives rise to a range or potential consequences to the Council, and individual Members, especially if this gives rise to inconsistency. The normal sanction of the democratic process is through the ballot box. Members may make a reputation in their community not only for their beliefs but also for their general conduct. Consistency and fairness are important qualities in the public eye and they are vital to the conduct of the Planning Regulatory Board. Beyond the normal democratic process a number of specific consequences can be identified:

(a) The Local Government Ombudsman

- 17.2 Although the Local Government Ombudsman will not usually investigate the planning merits of any planning decision, she/he may agree to investigate a planning complaint if it concerns the manner in which a decision was taken. If it is found that injustice has been caused by maladministration in the light of statutory or established Council procedures she/he will recommend redress which may take the form of compensation. Where the Local Government Ombudsman makes a finding of maladministration and considers that the Member may have acted in breach of the Member Code of Conduct, then the report may name the individual Member and give particulars of the breach. In such cases the Council is required to assist the Ombudsman in making publicly available details of the report and the Ombudsman findings. The Local Government Ombudsman can recommend that the Council pay compensation to the aggrieved complainant and may be more inclined to do so where there has been a breach of the Member Code of Conduct.

(b) The Appeals, Awards and Standards Regulatory Board

- 17.3 This is the Council's own standards committee which will investigate and deal with complaints in respect of breaches of the Member Code of Conduct. It is also the body within the Council that would deal with any issues of non-compliance with this Local Code of Planning and Conduct Guidance.
- 17.4 The Member Code of Conduct provides guidance on arrangements for handling ethical standards complaints by the Council. The Code states that the Council's Executive Director, Core Services will initially consider any complaint received and determine whether the complaint warrants any specific considerations by Members. Where it is considered that the complaint warrants further consideration by Members, the Executive Director, Core Services shall arrange for an officer or some other person if appropriate to carry out a further investigation and to produce a report of their findings. The Executive Director, Core Services shall inform the Member that is the subject of the complaint of the nature of the complaint and that it is subject to investigation. That report shall be considered by a panel of three Members selected from the membership of the Appeals and Awards Regulatory Board by the Director of Legal and Governance in consultation with the Chair of the Board. The Panel shall consider the report and determine whether any further action is appropriate.

17.5 Section 34 of the Localism Act 2011 makes it a criminal offence if a Member or co-opted Member fails without reasonable excuse, to comply with requirements under Section 30 or 31 to register or declare disclosable pecuniary interests, or takes part in council business at meetings or takes any steps in relation to a matter in which the Member has a pecuniary interest when discharging a function of the authority as a Member acting alone. If convicted of an offence in contravention of this section of the Act, a magistrates' court is empowered to impose a fine of up to level 5 and an order disqualifying the person from being a member of a relevant authority for up to five years.

(c) Appeals to the Secretary of State

17.6 An applicant who has been refused planning permission or a person served with an enforcement notice etc. have a right to appeal to the secretary of State. If an appeal is successful and it is shown that the Council's Conduct is dealing with the matter was unreasonable, the appellant's costs may be awarded against the Council. This may also result in the Council's External Auditor issuing a Public Interest report which the Council would be required to publish criticising the members concerned for failing to act properly in their stewardship of public funds.

(d) Judicial Review

17.7 If objectors are convinced that the Council, in determining to grant an application, did not observe their statutory obligations to carry out all necessary procedures, base their decision on the Development Plan and take into account all representations, they may apply for judicial review of the decision, which might result in it being quashed. In such circumstances it would be normal for the costs of an applicant to be awarded against the Council.

(e) Powers of the Secretary State

17.8 The Secretary of State possesses a range of powers which could be exercised where a local planning authority appears to be making inconsistent decisions, or decisions which are seriously in conflict with national and development plan policies. This could involve a greater use of the power to "call in" applications, whereby an application would be determined by him following a public inquiry. Where permission has already been granted by the Council, powers exists to revoke or modify permissions, or to require discontinuance of a land use, which if exercised would give rise to a liability to compensate on the part of the Council. The amount of compensation may be considerable.

17.9 The Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013 has also provided the Secretary of State with powers to designate local planning authorities as underperforming, if it is considered that their performance in handling major applications has fallen below an acceptable standard. Where authorities are designated in this way, the Act gives applicants for major development proposals the right to apply for planning permission directly to the Secretary of State.

18.0 Complaints and Record Keeping

18.1 Every planning application file will contain an accurate account of events throughout its life. It should be possible for someone not involved with that application to understand what the decision was and how and why it was reached. Applications determined under officers' delegated powers, where there is no committee report, will be as well documented and recorded as those taken by Members at Planning Regulatory Board; these principles apply equally to enforcement.

18.2 Whatever procedures a Council operates, it is likely that complaints will still be made. However, the adoption of the advice in this code should greatly reduce the occasions on which complaints are justified. It should also provide fewer reasons for people to complain in the first place. When such complaints come forward they will be treated as any other made to the Council and considered under the complaints procedures.

Planning Code of Conduct 2022

Key Messages

For Officers & Members:

1. Always act in a way which is fair, honest and impartial.
2. Always declare pecuniary and non pecuniary interests as soon as possible and follow advice regarding any further participation
3. Do not disclose confidential information
4. Do not accept any gifts or hospitality
5. Always remember there are a range of sanctions for failing to adhere to the Code of Conduct

For Members:

6. Always seek officer advice regarding participation in pre-application discussions/consultations by developers.
7. Do not make up your mind until you heard the evidence and arguments for and against
8. Do not lobby officers or members of Planning & Regulatory Board and report any lobbying to the Executive Director of Place or the Monitoring Officer
9. Discuss concerns regarding officer recommendations with relevant officers ahead of the application being considered by Planning & Regulatory Board.
10. Always follow the procedure regarding site visits and participation in Planning Board meetings.

I hereby confirm that I have read and understand the Planning Code of Conduct and will adhere to it in full.

| | | | |
|------|--|--------|--|
| Name | | Signed | |
| Date | | | |

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**REPORT OF:** Service Director, Place & Regeneration / Berneslai Homes**TITLE:** HRA Decent Homes Capital Investment Report 2022/23

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| REPORT TO: | CABINET |
| Date of Meeting | 1 June 2022 |
| Cabinet Member Portfolio | Place |
| Key Decision | Yes |
| Public or Private | Public |

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to inform Cabinet of, and seek approval for, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Investment Programme for 2022/23, delivered through the Property, Repairs and Improvement Partnership (PRIP) contract and tendered elemental works programmes. The over-arching budget for this work was agreed as part of the Housing Revenue Account DRAFT 2022/23 budget and investment proposals 2022-27 (cab 12.1.2022/6). The Property Repairs and Improvement Contract is a partnering term contract between Berneslai Homes Construction Services and Wates Ltd. The contract is a 10-year contract spanning 2020-2030 with a 5-year break clause.

Council Plan priority

Healthy, Growing, Learning & Sustainable Barnsley

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

- 1. Approves the HRA 2022/23 Barnsley Homes Standard Programme;**
- 2. Approves the HRA 2022/23 Supplementary Investment Programme;**
- 3. Notes the added Social Value delivered by the Property Repairs and Improvement Partnership 2020 as set out at Paragraphs 1.12 through 1.13 of the report; including use of directly employed local staff and over 30 directly employed apprentices; and**
- 4. Notes the Carbon Saving efficiency measures, and anticipated reductions to tenant's energy bills, as set out in Paragraph 1.8 of the report.**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This paper sets out the proposed programme for the Council's core housing capital programme for both the Barnsley Homes Standard (BHS) programme and the programme of supplementary investments that compliment BHS. These investments will allow Berneslai Homes to continue to maintain the Decent Homes target for the Council's social housing throughout 2022/23. The current Decent Homes target is to ensure that at least 96% of all stock meets decent homes standards at the start of the financial year. The remainder of properties would be picked up as part of the decent homes programme during the following year. As of the 1st April 2022, it was reported that 99.71% of the Council's housing stock achieved the Decent Homes Standard.
- 1.2 Berneslai Homes have recently had approved a new Asset Management Strategy 2021-26 which outlines the approach to be undertaken to ensure decency performance across the life of the business plan. This includes, in part, a plan for improving the energy efficiency of our stock and options for meeting our low carbon targets (including the phasing out of gas heating solutions).

Decent Homes Standard

- 1.3 The Council first met the Decent Homes Standard for all of its stock in December 2010, having delivered a £300M capital programme between 2004 and 2010 to achieve this. The standard is set by the government and requires a home to meet the following four criteria:
- a) It meets the current statutory minimum standard for housing – containing none of the 29 serious [Cat 1] hazards set out under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System [HHSRS].
 - b) It is in a reasonable state of repair where building components [Key and Other] do not require replacement or major repair due to age and condition.
 - c) It has reasonably modern facilities and services - dwellings which fail to meet this criterion are those which lack three or more of the following:
 - a reasonably modern kitchen (20 years old or less).
 - a kitchen with adequate space and layout.
 - a reasonably modern bathroom (30 years old or less).
 - an appropriately located bathroom and WC.
 - adequate insulation against external noise (where external noise is a problem); and,
 - adequate size and layout of common areas for blocks of flats.
 - d) It provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort - this criterion requires dwellings to have both effective insulation and efficient heating.

- 1.4 Since January 2011, Berneslai Homes has implemented and managed the Barnsley Homes Standard programme [BHS] on the Council's behalf and it is designed to maintain the social rented housing stock at the Decency Standard. Appropriate Council/ BH strategic targets are set annually to ensure this.
- 1.5 The Government's Decent Homes standard covers a range of components whose useful lifespan is time-limited (for example, 20 years for a kitchen) and different components have different lifecycles. Berneslai Homes manages this process on the Council's behalf and uses its asset management database [PIMMS] which tracks the installation date of all home standard components within a property. This database is used to establish both the 30-year HRA business plan and the annual programme contained within this report. The annual programme details where work is required to maintain the Standard in the coming year.
- 1.6 Actual lifespans for individual components vary from the government guidance, and components are not replaced where they are in good condition and their expected remaining life extended for a further period. Every home and every component is surveyed in advance of replacement within the annual programme with variations recorded in the database. In addition to these 100% checks, periodic sample surveys of the whole stock are undertaken to ensure data and 30-year business plan accuracy.
- 1.7 The schemes proposed within the 2022/23 programme are addresses that were last improved during the early years of the previous decent homes programme. The scope of works from the database shows that elements such as PVCu windows and doors, full rewires and central heating distribution systems will be unlikely to require replacement, but some kitchens, bathrooms and central heating boilers are likely to. The programme will also identify other elements that were deemed not to fail at the time as well as original tenant refusals, if not replaced since for instance as part of void works.
- 1.8 Gas central heating boilers are one element that consistently fails before the 15-year lifetime expectation within the government decency programme. Older boilers tend to break down more often. The Council currently has a high number of boilers which are over ten years old. The reason for this is due to the decent homes' replacement programme being at its peak in the 2004 to 2008 period when there were significant replacements. Older gas boilers are also less efficient at around 78% efficiency compared with a modern combination boiler at 91% efficiency. Changing from the older boiler to a modern one, on a typical semi-detached property, will save the tenant approximately £105 per annum on average (source: Sedbuk). This will contribute towards reducing fuel poverty in the borough.
- 1.9 Whilst the more efficient boilers also emit less CO2 than the older boilers, as a result of burning less gas, they will not be a longer terms solution to meeting the Council's Zero Carbon aspirations. The Council and Berneslai Homes are thus developing a programme of retrofit solutions to include switching to renewable heating sources, as part of the HRA 30-year business planning process.

- 1.10 It is expected that the HRA will spend c.£1.9M per annum on gas heating breakdown this year which represents the largest single element of the responsive repairs and maintenance budget. To help reduce this problem, additional tendered elemental heating replacement schemes have featured as part of the Barnsley Homes Standard programme over the last five years. For 2022/23, it is planned to use £1.0M of the elemental works HRA budget allocation to support this objective.
- 1.11 The Social Housing White Paper, The Charter for Social Housing Residents, indicates that the Decent Homes Standard will be reviewed to consider whether it needs to be updated to strengthen the definitions of safety, energy efficiency and decency. This will be completed by Summer 2022. The implications of the revised Decency Standard on the Council's HRA will be considered in due course.

SOCIAL VALUE

- 1.12 The PRIP contract was designed to ensure that social value and sustainability are embedded throughout contract delivery; ensuring that directly employed staff across both BHCS and Wates live within the borough and that supply chains remain local. There are KPI's within the contract to ensure that staff are locally employed (restricting sub-contracts), that training, and development opportunities run through the heart of operations and that contract spend benefits the Borough. Both contractors have signed up to deliver a social value plan which requires them to have a minimum number of apprentices at any time during the duration of the contract (c.30) and to ensure that they are adding value to the localities within which they work. This includes providing training and up-skilling for tenants, school visits, tree planting initiatives and an annual contribution to the Better Barnsley Bond Scheme and/or other social value initiatives. Each year, each contractor pays a sum of funding to support social value (split 2/3 to 1/3 across BHCS & Wates respectively) to a sum of £150k. This funding is used to support local groups and charities to deliver vital services and support to residents across the borough. This year to date, organisations benefitting from this funding include BIADS (Alzheimer's and dementia local charity), a bowling group and after school club in the Barnsley Dearne and both work and funding to deliver a sensory garden for disabled children in Barnsley Central. These measures were directly funded from the Better Barnsley Bond.
- 1.13 The contract has targets for equality and diversity in the workforce, including the encouragement of women into construction. Each contractor has committed to a sustainability plan to reduce their operational emissions and to procure more sustainably within contract. It sets stringent targets for re-cycling waste materials (more than 96%), tree planting and green initiatives and investment in the Barnsley Pound (more than 73%).

2. PROPOSAL

2.1 Barnsley Home Standard - Main Programme

The proposed main Barnsley Homes Standard programme for 2022/23 will be delivered by Berneslai Homes Construction Services (CS) and Wates and is summarised per area in the table below:

Barnsley Homes Standard 2022/23

| Delivery Partner | Scheme | Number of Properties | Estimated Budget Cost £M |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| CS | Athersley South | 45 | 0.374 |
| CS | Dodworth & Gilroyd | 296 | 2.457 |
| CS | Shafton | 47 | 0.390 |
| CS | Wilthorpe | 24 | 0.199 |
| CS | Worsbrough Common & Worsbrough Dale | 184 | 1.527 |
| CS | Barnsley West (Thurgoland, Wortley, Oxspring, Silkstone) | 213 | 1.768 |
| Wates | Hoyland Common & St Peters | 113 | 0.938 |
| Wates | Jump | 163 | 1.353 |
| Wates | Darfield | 100 | 0.830 |
| Wates | Wombwell | 74 | 0.614 |
| TOTAL | | 1,259 | 10.450 |

2.2 The Decency Programme, together with other works detailed, will maintain or better the Council's Housing Stock over and above its strategic target of 96% by the end of March 2023.

2.3 Anticipated indicative budgets are derived by using intelligence from previous years actual costs on maintaining Decency, which include all associated fees, which is reflected in the table above. Following a detailed survey of every property within each scheme and an agreement on individual scopes of work for every property, partner contractors propose guaranteed maximum prices (GMPs) for each package. The HRA is protected by these GMPs to ensure that chargeable costs do not increase significantly.

2.4 The associated works are allocated to both of the Council's PRIP partners, Berneslai Homes Construction Services and Wates respectively, on a two thirds and one-third basis, in line with the overall principles of the PRIP 2020 Contract.

Gas Heating Replacement Works - £1.009M

2.5 It is proposed that the Gas Heating Replacement Works budget be used to carry out a tendered heating replacement scheme to the value of £1.009M as paragraph 1.10 of the report refers. This equates to approximately 404 new efficient gas boiler replacements.

Urgent Individual Property Heating Replacements – £0.481M

- 2.6 In all cases following a heating breakdown, a repair is attempted in the first instance. In some cases, the boiler cannot be repaired or is beyond economic repair which cannot wait for a planned programme. The £0.481M budget relates to approximately 200 such replacements within the housing stock of 18,500 properties. This work is delivered through the Property Repairs and Improvement Partnership (PRIP) with the works carried out by Berneslai Homes Construction Services or Wates.

Reactive Component Replacements - £1.547M

- 2.7 The proposed replacement items budget is to be used to replace items in the Council's housing stock which are not scheduled for renewal as part of the Core BHS programme as outlined above, where they cannot be repaired, are reasonably urgent in nature and are not heating related (where there are separate budgets to address). Such items are placed in planned programmes which are released monthly through the Property Repairs and Improvement Partnership (PRIP) to Berneslai Homes Construction Services and Wates respectively. These batched releases enable the work to be properly planned and priced, making delivery efficient and costs more controllable. The works typically consist of:

- Full or Partial Kitchen Replacements.
- Full or Partial Bathroom Replacements.
- New Guttering.
- New Doors; and
- New Windows.

- 2.8 The proposed budget relates to approximately 868 replacements at an average cost of around £1,782 per replacement. These estimates are indicative at this stage given the reactive nature of the works involved in addition to the varying types of works that may present itself. The works commissioned will be managed within the resources set aside. Such works do contribute towards maintaining the Council's Decent Home Standard Target of 96%.

Supplementary Investment Programme

- 2.9 The Supplementary Investment Programme is additional to the Barnsley Homes Standard Programme and is complimentary in maintaining the housing stock to the Decency Standard. The individual elements are outlined in the paragraphs below.

Planned Works to District Heating Networks - £0.300M

- 2.10 The Council has 24 District Heating Networks serving 1,212 dwellings, independent living schemes, community centres, and a school. Properties have heat meters and pay cost of the heat they use on a pooled basis. The Council recently undertook a review of such charges and was able to reduce the charges to the tenants from September 2021 onwards. The capital cost of

improvements and replacements for such systems falls on the Council's HRA, as it does for all other domestic systems.

- 2.11 The plans for 2022/23 include the replacement of the gas heating boilers at Sheffield Road Flats which are towards the end of their life expectancy and provide a vital back up heating supply for residents. Replacement of older, less efficient boilers reduces the risk of failure and improves overall efficiency of the heat network. It should be noted that these systems are back up systems to the biomass systems already installed.
- 2.12 The remainder of this capital budget is held as a contingency which may be required for any major failures that occur during the year, for example, major boiler failure requiring a renewal or a burst underground main requiring section renewal rather than repair.

Major Adaptations for Tenants with Special Needs - £2.507M

- 2.13 The population in Barnsley is aging and tenants are living longer, and consequently, the number of these demand led adaptation requests are rising year on year. As a result of this increasing demand, the Council needs to be responsive and reactive to fulfil its obligations.
- 2.14 All applications are first accessed by the Council's Equipment, Adaptation and Sensory Impairment Service, to determine the exact requirements. The applications are then assessed by officers from the Equipment and Adaptation Service jointly with Berneslai Homes' officers. Applicants currently have a right of appeal, with a final decision from an independent appeals panel, but this is due to change in 2022/23 with a newly revised Policy imminent. There is also a review of the equipment and adaptations processes across the council and across tenure to ensure that, whilst funding sources may differ, there is a consistent approach being taken to the provision of adaptation services. There is also a wider housing review looking at the provision of older/disabled persons housing across our borough; assisting those for who it is a preference to stay in their homes for longer, but also ensuring that there is adequate provision and choice for those seeking alternative provision which is already age/disability friendly.
- 2.15 The three most frequent type of adaptations requested are:
- Level Access Showers.
 - Entrance Ramps; and
 - Stair Lifts and Ceiling Hoists.
- 2.16 The proposed budget also covers several significant conversions to the Council's properties where tenants have specific needs that can only be met through these works. The demand for such conversions is managed through the process outlined above and it is anticipated that 5 significant conversions, estimated to cost in the region of £0.120M each will be required during 2022/23, based on the average number of conversions over recent years. This totals an estimated £0.600M for 2022/23.

- 2.17 The remainder of the budget, which totals £1.907M, will address the minor adaptations expected in 2022/23, which equates to approximately 521 adaptations, at an average cost of £3,659 per property. These estimates are indicative at this stage given the reactive nature of the works involved in addition to the varying types of works that may present itself. The works commissioned will be managed within the resources set aside.
- 2.18 Where appropriate, the proposed budget can also be used to build a small number of extensions to properties where tenants cannot be re-housed to more suitable accommodation. Officers from BMBC Housing are working closely with Berneslai Homes to align the new build and acquisition programmes to best meet the needs of our tenants; including where that need might be a purpose built or adapted unit on a council build scheme and/or the acquisition of a unit not currently available amongst our stock. This often enables the tenant and their family to be suitably housed, without compromise, and makes best use of resources in the longer term.

Structural Extensive Works - £0.828M

- 2.19 The proposed Structural Works budget is used to fund extensive, one-off structural works that are deemed urgent, and which cannot reasonably wait for the Barnsley Homes Standard Programme. Typically, structural works will include:
- Re-roofing.
 - Subsidence Underpinning.
 - Major Damp Works; and
 - External Retaining Wall Failure.
- 2.20 The proposed budget provides for structural works at 110 properties at an average cost of £7530 per works. These estimates are indicative at this stage given the varying types of works that may present themselves. The works commissioned will be managed within the resources set aside.

Void Replacements - £1.357M

- 2.21 The proposed Void Replacements budget is to fund replacement items in void properties that are required to bring the properties back to the lettable standard which needs to be carried out quickly to let the property and keep void rent loss to a minimum. Void replacements are typically home standard type works of kitchens, bathrooms, replacement heating replacements and rewires, which take place in empty properties following tenant vacation.
- 2.22 The proposed budget provides for an estimated 99 void replacement works at an estimated cost of £13,707 per property. These estimates are indicative at this stage given the unknown nature of the works required involved that may present themselves. The works commissioned will be managed within the resources set aside.

- 2.23 All these works are delivered through the Property Repairs and Improvement Partnership (PRIP) by Berneslai Homes Construction Services and/or Wates.

Community Centre Rewires - £0.065M

- 2.24 The proposed Community Centre Rewire budget is to be used to fund electrical upgrade works in several of the 14 HRA Community Centres and 18 other HRA buildings with communal facilities. The budget is sufficient to fund two to three upgrades per year, dependant on the scale of the project. This work is planned and is carried out by partners in the Property Repairs and Improvement Partnership (PRIP) by Berneslai Homes Construction Services or Wates.

Community Refurbishment Schemes - £0.386M

- 2.25 Berneslai Homes has run a very successful Community Refurbishment and Training Scheme which has been operational for the last 15 years. The scheme helps young, unemployed and some older, long-term unemployed into work-based learning and employment. It provides level 2 basic skills training in construction, mainly, bricklaying. Work programmes are based on a trainee profile of 20 in total at any one time with a split of 10 on site and 10 undertaking off site assessment and training. Training is delivered in Partnership with Barnsley Community Build.
- 2.26 The types of work undertaken on Council owned properties and estate includes:
- General tidying up and clearance of open space.
 - Brick boundary walls.
 - Installation of metal fencing and gates.
 - Timber fencing.
 - Construction of footpaths and driveways in concrete, tarmac and block paving.
 - Pavement crossings and dropped kerbs; and
 - Minor / incidental hard landscaping works.
- 2.27 Given the continuing success of this scheme, it has been agreed for Berneslai Homes to launch a second Community Refurbishment Scheme which will initially be based also in Athersley South, co-locating with the original CRS staff and trainees whilst the works and training model is established. It is intended that the CRS 2 scheme will then re-locate to another area of the Borough where it has been previously identified that Estate Environmental works are urgently required.
- 2.28 The proposed budget is used to undertake general boundary estate works inclusive of fencing, drives, walls, pavements and minor landscaping. The scheme is currently working in Athersley South and has been very popular with residents. In addition to skills training, it is a cost-effective way of delivering environmental improvements.

Barnsley Homes Standard Capitalised Salaries - £0.178M

- 2.29 A number of Berneslai Homes support staff work specifically on the Barnsley Homes Standard capital schemes throughout the year, whose cost is charged to the HRA via the Berneslai Homes Management fee.

This proposed budget is to be used to fund the cost of those project managers which are capitalised during 2022/23.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

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

Capital Expenditure

- 3.2 This report details to Cabinet how Berneslai Homes intend to deploy the Council's HRA Capital Investment Programme for 2022/23, totalling £19.108M.
- 3.3 The total proposed capital plans of £19.108M has been allocated between The Barnsley Home Standard (BHS) Investment Programme totalling £13.487M and the Supplementary Investment Programme totalling £5.621M. This is shown in the tables below: -

| Barnsley Homes Standard | 2022/23 | | | |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------|
| | Estimated No. of Units | Estimated Unit Costs | Budget £M | Para. |
| Barnsley Homes Standard | 1,259 | £8,300 | 10.450 | 2.1 – 2.4 |
| Gas Heating Replacement Works | 404 | £2,500 | 1.009 | 2.5 |
| Domestic Heating Replacements | 200 | £2,405 | 0.481 | 2.6 |
| Reactive Replacements | 868 | £1,782 | 1.547 | 2.7 – 2.8 |
| Sub Total Barnsley Homes Standard Programme | | | 13.487 | |

| Supplementary Investment Programme: | Estimated No. Units | Estimated Unit Costs | Budget £M |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| District Heating Network | | | 0.300 |
| Major Adaptations - Reactive | 548 | £3,659 | 1.907 |
| Major Adaptations - Conversions/Extensions | 5 | £120,000 | 0.600 |
| Extensive Structural | 110 | £7,530 | 0.828 |
| Voids | 99 | £13,707 | 1.357 |
| Community Centre Rewires | | | 0.065 |
| Community Refurbishment Scheme | | | 0.386 |
| BHS Capitalised Salaries | | | 0.178 |
| Sub Total Supplementary Investment Programme | | | 5.621 |
| Total HRA Capital Investment Programme 2022/23 | | | 19.108 |

- 3.4 The proposed capital plans detailed above include annual professional fees of £0.8M are to be contained as part of the programme delivery. These fees are the professional contract support provided formerly by NPS Barnsley. The fees are apportioned over the programme identified above on a budgeted pro rata basis.

Capital Resources

- 3.5 The resources in respect of these proposals have been set aside as part of the HRA budget papers for 2022/23 which have been previously approved by Cabinet (Cab.12.1.2022/6 refers).

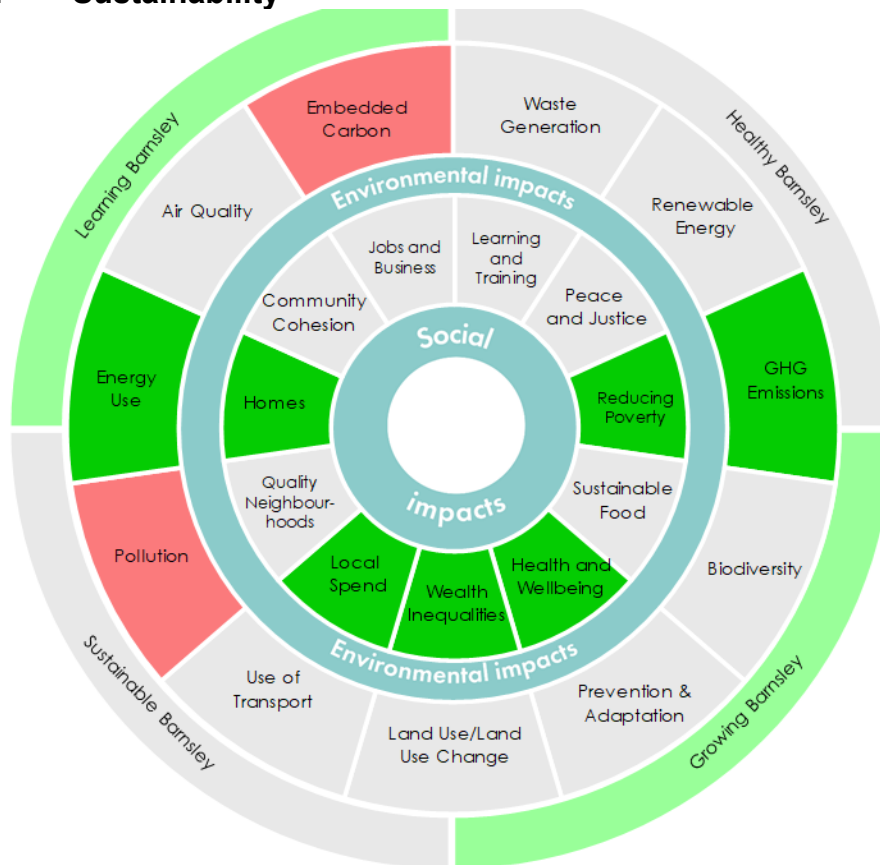
Risk

- 3.6 The HRA capital programme faced significant financial pressures during 2021/22 which materialised as a result of:
- supply chain pressures and availability of materials.
 - inflationary impact on prices.
 - an increase to demand led services; and
 - backlogs of work presenting themselves as the Council emerges from the COVID pandemic.
- 3.7 A review of associated processes, both from an operational and financial perspective will ensure that these pressures are considered and managed appropriately. Officers from both the Council and Berneslai Homes will rigorously monitor these issues throughout the 2022/23 financial year to ensure that the associated risks are managed prudently.
- 3.8 Risks associated in the delivery of any building contract and working in occupied homes can involve additional risks. These risks will be managed and monitored by a contract Core Group consisting of staff from BPS, Berneslai Homes and our Contractors. The Core Group, who will meet regularly throughout the scheme, will monitor progress, costs, cash flow, performance and customer satisfaction. This should result in timely interventions or value engineering to take place should the situation arise.
- 3.9 Financial risks will be monitored throughout the programme and contained with the resources allocated and detailed in this paper.
- 3.10 The financial implications of these proposals are summarised in the attached Appendix A.

4. Equality

A Full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed by Berneslai Homes.

5. Sustainability



- 5.1 The sustainability decision-making wheel has been reviewed for this project and the overall impacts are positive, particularly around reducing carbon emissions, reducing poverty, and improving health and well-being of residents. Pollution from the insulation manufacturing process along with embedded carbon in the supply chain are highlighted as areas of negative impact. However, work is on-going with the procurement team to address how we can build a more sustainable supply chain (within our scope 3 emissions) going forwards.
- 5.2 The programme includes the installation of new gas boilers. Whilst these systems will run more efficiently (saving tenants money on their heating bills) and emit less CO₂ than the older systems that they are replacing, it is acknowledged that to achieve carbon zero targets we will need to move away from fossil fuel heating in the medium term. This will need to be a phased approach which considers the needs and views of tenants and considers the 30-year business plan financial implications, future technology options and a full training programme for both staff and tenants.

Berneslai Homes has a good track record of introducing non fossil fuel technology including air source heat pumps (632 domestic installations) and on heat networks, ground source heat pumps and biomass systems. From 2021, the Council's New Build programme no longer builds homes 'on' gas and is piloting a Barnsley Low Carbon Standard specification as part of its 2021-24 delivery programme. This will inform the most efficient and cost-effective ways of delivering new homes which are low carbon and provide the

best energy efficiency for our tenants; whilst being affordable within the capital investment programme and 30-year business plan.

Officers are working closely with Berneslai Homes to explore the options for moving stock to renewable heating sources (air source/ground source/hydrogen) as part of the future homes standard programme; these will be built into the SEAPs to ensure that stock is on track to meet the Zero 45 target.

- 5.4 The Property Repair and Improvement Partnership (PRIP) sets a challenging target for the partners to recycle waste from their operations of 96%. Construction Services achieve this by having waste sorting facilities at its depot at Carlton. Of the remaining mixed waste that leaves site, this is dealt with using a local waste contractor who further sorts the waste; disposing of only a small amount that is currently un-recyclable. Up to quarter 4 of the 2019/20 period, a combined performance by both partners realised a waste recycling level of 97.28%. The partnership will continue to contribute to waste recycling initiatives and strive towards 100% waste recycling.

6. Employee

There are no direct employee implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

7. Communications

- 7.1 All tenants and leaseholders involved will be fully consulted before works take place. Customers have choice for kitchen and bathroom ranges, and all customers have a right of refusal if they do not wish the works to be carried out.
- 7.2 Where leaseholders are affected by works, they will be consulted within the prescribed leaseholder timescales. Where leaseholders are required to pay for jobs, several established easy payment options have been devised, including interest-free and monthly term payments.
- 7.3 As part of the BHS works, customers receiving new boiler installations will benefit from digital programmable timers and multiple location heat controls. They will receive both face to face and written instructions on the use of the heating systems. We will encourage our customers as part of the programme to take up smart meters from their energy supplier. We also provide advice on keeping the home warm and can help with specialist advice for those struggling with energy and other bills.
- 7.4 Before and during the programme of works, tenants will receive dedicated tenant support from our Project Liaison Officers. The officers prepare tenants for the work, explain what will be taking place, support them during the process and provide aftercare. Tenants are also eligible for a redecoration grant following major works.

8. CONSULTATION

Consultations about the programme have been undertaken within BMBC and Berneslai Homes. Tenants are consulted about the works as described in the paragraph above.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The Barnsley Home Standard programme is required to meet the Council's decency target of 96% and the Council is contractually committed to Construction Services and Wates for the delivery of the work within the PRIP 2020 Contract.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Financial Implications

11. REPORT SIGN OFF

| | |
|--|--|
| Financial consultation & sign off | See Appendix A |
| Legal consultation & sign off | Legal Services officer consulted and date <i>29/04/22 Jason Field</i> |

Report Author: BMBC/Berneslai Homes
Date: 30/03/2022

Report of the Executive Director for PlaceFINANCIAL IMPLICATIONSHRA Capital Investment Programme 2022/23

| | 2022/23 £M | 2023/24 £M | 2025/26 £M | TOTAL £M |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Expenditure: | | | | |
| <u>Barnsley Homes Standard Investment Programme</u> | | | | |
| Athersley South | 0.374 | - | - | 0.374 |
| Dodworth & Gilroyd | 2.457 | - | - | 2.457 |
| Shafton | 0.390 | - | - | 0.390 |
| Wilthorpe | 0.199 | - | - | 0.199 |
| Worsbrough Common & Worsbrough Dale | 1.527 | - | - | 1.527 |
| Barnsley West (Thurgoland, Wortley, Oxspring, Silkstone) | 1.768 | - | - | 1.768 |
| Hoyland Common & St Peters | 0.938 | - | - | 0.938 |
| Jump | 1.353 | - | - | 1.353 |
| Darfield | 0.830 | - | - | 0.830 |
| Wombwell | 0.614 | - | - | 0.614 |
| Reactive Component Replacements | 1.547 | - | - | 1.547 |
| Gas Heating Replacement Elemental Works | 1.009 | - | - | 1.009 |
| Urgent Individual Property Heating Replacements | 0.481 | - | - | 0.481 |
| | 13.487 | - | - | 13.487 |
| <u>Supplementary Investment Programme</u> | | | | |
| District Heating Network | 0.300 | | | 0.300 |
| Major Adaptations - Reactive | 1.907 | | | 1.907 |
| Major Adaptations - Conversions/Extensions | 0.600 | | | 0.600 |
| Extensive Structural | 0.828 | | | 0.828 |
| Voids | 1.357 | | | 1.357 |
| Community Centre Rewires | 0.065 | | | 0.065 |
| Community Refurbishment Scheme | 0.386 | | | 0.386 |
| BHS Capitalised Salaries | 0.178 | | | 0.178 |
| | 5.621 | - | - | 5.621 |
| Total Expenditure | 19.108 | - | - | 19.108 |
| Resources: | | | | |
| Resources as identified per HRA Budget Papers 2022/23 | 19.108 | - | - | 19.108 |
| Total Resources | 19.108 | - | - | 19.108 |

Agreed by:



.....

On behalf of the Service Director- Finance,

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Executive Director of Place

TITLE: Report on the Schools Condition Capital Programme
2022-23

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| REPORT TO: | CABINET |
| Date of Meeting | 1 June 2022 |
| Cabinet Member Portfolio | Place, Regeneration & Culture |
| Key Decision | Yes |
| Public or Private | Public |

Purpose of report

To seek approval to the 2022-23 Schools Condition Capital programme.

Council Plan priority

Learning Barnsley – Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment.

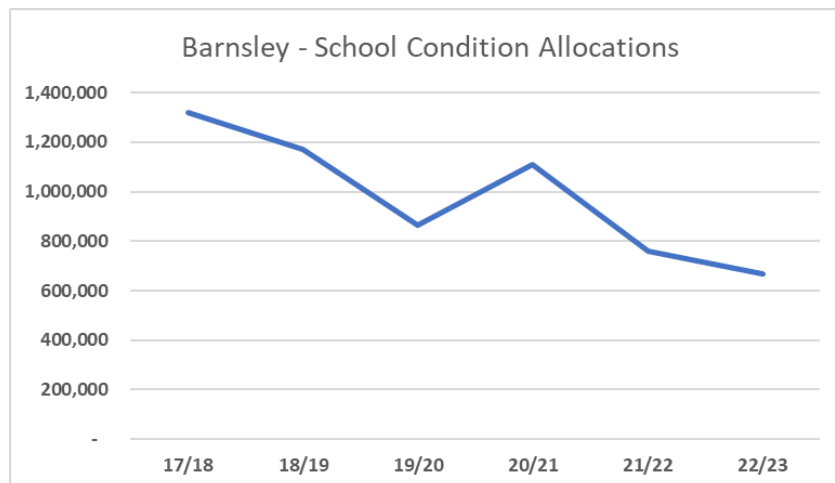
Recommendations

It is recommended that:-

1. The list of schemes, detailed in Appendices B and C of the report be approved and financed from the 2022-23 Department for Education (DfE) School Condition Allocation;
2. The Executive Director - Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Spokesperson, be authorised to vary the programme of works, and to approve additional schemes, to meet emerging priorities;
3. The financial implications arising from the report be included in the capital programme and released in accordance with the Financial Regulations Code of Practice C5.2(a).

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Department for Education (DfE) provide Local Authorities an annual School Condition Allocation (SCA) capital grant to address urgent building condition defects, including health and safety and safeguarding measures across the maintained school estate, early years settings, and family centres.
- 1.2. On 28th March 2022 the DfE announced Local Authority SCA funding allocations for the 2022-23 financial year. For Barnsley, this amounts to £667,384 and is a reduction of £0.091M on the funding received for 2021-22.
- 1.3. The formulae used to calculate the SCA is based on a combination of pupil numbers attending a Local Authority maintained and the physical condition of schools, as determined by the data from the DfE's centralised Condition Data surveys, which compares the condition of Barnsley schools to schools across the country.
- 1.4. The current number of maintained primary schools the Council is responsible for under the SCA is 22. There are a further 5 Private Finance Initiative (PFI) primary schools, but these are managed through the PFI contract and are outside of this process. The sole remaining Local Authority controlled secondary school, Penistone Grammar is operated under the BSF contract arrangements and is also excluded from this process. With continued Academisation, the allocations to local authorities will continue to be reduced, as the funding transfers to the various Multi Academy Trusts to manage. The impact of this can be seen in the chart below:



- 1.5. The 2020-21 allocation shows a one-off additional payment of £0.352m allocated to Barnsley as part of the government's national transformative school rebuilding (including repairs and upgrades) programme. Without this additional funding, the allocated funding has reduced year on year.
- 1.6. In setting priorities for the 2022-23 School Condition programme, the Council has used the available data from its own condition data, centralised DfE surveys, school visits and, where appropriate, consultations with other services, including BMBC Health and Safety and the Council's in-house Property Services surveyors.

- 1.7. The backlog of maintenance on the maintained schools is shown in the table below:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| High Priority Works (to be completed within 18 months) | £3.456m |
| Medium Priority (to be completed within 3 years) | £3.412m |
| Low Priority (to be completed within 5 years) | £0.578m |
| Total Maintenance Requirement | £7.446m |

- 1.8. As the table highlights, the available funding will be insufficient to deal with the high priority items. It is therefore highly unlikely that any medium priority items will be addressed within this period. These figures have increased by over £1.939M on the figures reported in 2021-22, following the receipt of new mechanical, electrical and roofing condition surveys that have been undertaken by the council's property team on a small number of schools.
- 1.9. The proposed programme includes schemes included on previous approvals that were not completed, due to design developments or insufficient original scheme funding allocations.
- 1.10. To meet the 2022-23 school summer holiday period, it has been necessary to commence initial surveys and investigation works on several schemes included in the programme.

2.0 PROPOSAL

- 2.1 Appendix C of this report provides further details of the proposed schemes within the School Condition programme. These are necessary to address urgent condition works, Health and Safety remedial works and safeguarding concerns on maintained schools.
- 2.2 The installation of additional insulation, LED lighting, efficient kitchen appliances and low water usage sanitaryware in a number of projects will support Council's declared climate emergency and Zero 40 strategy.

3.0 IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

Financial Implications

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

Capital Expenditure

- 3.1.2 The 2022/23 Schools Condition capital programme is estimated to total £1.234M and is summarised in the table below with further detail at Appendix B.

| Scheme | Existing Roofing Schemes 2021/22 | Cost Increases to 2021/22 Approved Schemes | 2022/23 New Schemes | 2022/23 Proposed Budget |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | £M | £M | £M | £M |
| Roofing Works | 0.567 | 0.295 | - | 0.862 |
| Internal Condition Works | - | - | 0.055 | 0.055 |
| External Condition Works | - | - | 0.115 | 0.115 |
| Health & Safety Works | - | - | 0.202 | 0.202 |
| Total | 0.567 | 0.295 | 0.372 | 1.234 |

3.1.3 In respect of the 2021-22 programme, there are three roofing schemes that that have been delayed in terms of their delivery. Capital plans totalling £0.567M were approved and are already included in the Council's capital programme. Furthermore, there has also been an estimated increase in the cost of these schemes which totals £0.295M, bringing the total revised budget to £0.862M.

Capital Funding / Resources

3.1.4 The DfE have confirmed a 2022-23 School Condition funding allocation for Barnsley amounting to £0.667M and the programme, as outlined above, has been based on this allocation.

3.1.5 The high level, indicative 2022-23 School Condition funding was approved in principle in the Council's 2022-23 budget papers (Cab.9.2.2022/6 refers).

3.1.6 It is proposed to fund the additional cost of the three 2021-22 roofing schemes (£0.295M) by utilising the 2022/23 Schools Condition Grant. The remainder of the anticipated allocation is planned to be used on both the internal / external condition works and health and safety works.

3.1.7 A full summary of the Schools Condition Programme can be found in Appendix B, with more detailed scheme details in Appendix C.

Revenue Implications

3.1.8 It is expected that there may be minimal savings to the revenue running costs of some schools included within the programme following the installation of additional insulation in roofing projects, low energy LED lighting and kitchen appliances.

Governance

3.1.9 The proposal contained within this report has been approved to proceed by the Capital Oversight Board on the 3rd March 2022.

3.1.10 The financial implications of this report are summarised in the attached Appendix A.

Risk

- 3.1.11 The current costs identified within the report are based on estimated prices. Until actual tendered prices have been received, there is a risk that scheme costs could change.
- 3.1.12 The current construction market is in a volatile position as a result of supply chain issues caused by the pandemic and Brexit. In addition, the rising cost of gas, electricity and fuel will impact on the manufacture and delivery of materials. The full impact will not be known until the works are procured as the market is expected to fluctuate over the coming months.
- 3.1.13 As far as reasonably practical site surveys and investigations will be carried out on the building and site to identify potential risks to the project. Where identified these will be included with the tendered works.
- 3.1.14 As with any building work, there is always a risk of unknowns that only surface once the works have commenced, or demolitions have started. The project costs will be closely monitored as part of the Directorate's regular capital monitoring and risk management.

3.1 **Legal**

- 3.1.1 The programme includes a scheme to replace the roof at Milefield Primary that was due to be undertaken during the summer of 2021.
- 3.1.2 Following structural investigation works, during the design process, it was determined that the original proposal to over-clad the existing roof would not be achievable due to the additional weight placed on the unique structure of the school. This resulted in the scheme being deferred until a suitable solution could be found.
- 3.1.3 The school converted to an Academy in July 2021 and the councils commitment to address the long standing issue with the roof formed part of a legal works agreement between the council and academy trust during the transfer process.
- 3.1.4 The works agreement sets out that the works must be completed by September 2023.

3.2 **Equality**

The programme includes 2 schemes where full Equality Impact Assessments have been undertaken. The findings are summarised below:

3.2.1 Gawber Primary – Entrance Works, Phase 2

The works to improve the approach to the school, install dropped kerbs and provide accessible parking adjacent to the main entrance have a positive impact for disabled building users.

3.2.2 Summer Lane Primary – Formation of gender-neutral toilet facilities

The scheme will have a positive impact by providing a block of self-contained toilet facilities for all building users. These will not replace any existing facility and offers a choice for all individuals.

3.3 Sustainability

Decision-making wheel completed:



The schemes identified within the 2022-23 school condition programme have been identified to address urgent condition defects and enhance provisions at a number of schools in Barnsley. As a result, the environmental and social impacts of some of the individual schemes are small, but there are schemes whereby sustainable construction, installation of additional insulation and low energy use equipment and fittings, and using recycled materials will provide positive environmental benefits. The use of local supply chains will also provide a positive social impact for Barnsley.

3.4 **Employee**

There are no employee implications arising from this report.

3.5 **Communications**

Proactive communications will be shared with elected members and the public on the progress of school condition improvements. Schools will also communicate directly with families affected by any works.

4.0 **CONSULTATION**

4.1 Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Executive Director, Place, and representatives of the Service Director for Finance (the S151 Officer).

4.2 The programme has been prepared to address urgent condition and property related operational issues. Schemes are identified in a transparent way using condition data determined from surveys undertaken by the Council and DfE.

4.3 Where appropriate discussions with school stakeholders have taken place to inform the programme and further consultations will take place during scheme development and delivery.

5.0 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 The summer holiday period of six weeks is normally when most of the School Condition works can be completed. To minimise the pressure of delivering the whole School Condition programme over this period, where possible, and in discussions with schools, some schemes may be carried out over alternative holiday periods or during term time, only where it is safe and practical to do so.

6.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 Undertaking the schemes identified within the 2022-23 School Condition Programme will address urgent condition defects and improve or enhance facilities on the school estate.

7.0 **GLOSSARY**

| | |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| DfE | Department for Education |
| PFI | Private Finance Initiative |
| SCA | School Condition Allocation |

8.0 **LIST OF APPENDICES**

- 1.1 Appendix A – Financial Implications
- 1.2 Appendix B – Proposed School Condition Programme
- 1.3 Appendix C – Further details on the proposed schemes included in the School Condition Programme

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Working papers regarding this matter are held on files within the Assets Team and contain exempt information.

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

10.0 REPORT SIGN OFF

| | |
|--|---|
| Financial consultation & sign off | <i>Appendix A, outlining the financial implications has been provided.</i> |
| Legal consultation & sign off | Legal Services officer consulted and date <i>Jason Field – 23rd March 2022</i> |

Report Author: Richard Waterhouse
Post: School Asset & Project Manager
Date: 20th April 2022

Report of the Executive Director Place

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

2022-23 School Condition Programme

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| i) Capital Expenditure | <u>2022/23</u> £ | <u>2023/24</u> £ | <u>2024/25</u> £ | <u>2025/26</u> £ |
| 2021/22 Existing Roofing Schemes (Indicated on Appendix B) | 861,899 | | | |
| 2022/23 School Condition Capital Expenditure on Various School Schemes (Indicated on Appendix B) | 372,384 | | | |
| | 1,234,283 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

To be financed from:

| | | | | |
|---|------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2022/23 School Condition Allocation (SCA) Grant | 667,384 | | | |
| Existing 2021/22 School Condition Capital Plans | 566,899 | | | |
| | 1,234,283 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ii) Revenue Effects | <u>2022/23</u> (£) | <u>2023/24</u> (£) | <u>2024/25</u> (£) | <u>2025/26</u> (£) |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

To be financed from:

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|

Impact on Medium Term Financial Strategy

Not applicable in this report

Agreed by:



.....On behalf of the Service Director-Finance

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| | | Previous Approvals | 2022-23 Estimated | Total Budget |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Health and Safety | | | | |
| 1.1 | Various | Health and Safety - Asbestos | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| 1.2 | Various | Health and Safety - Fire Protection Works | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| 1.3 | Various | Health and Safety - Legionella reduction measures | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| 1.4 | Various | Health and Safety - General in-year support | 92,384 | 92,384 |
| 1.5 | Various | Support for Non-School Related capital expenditure | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| | | | 202,384 | 202,384 |
| 2. Roofing | | | | |
| 2.1 | Milefield | Roofing Works | 366,899 | 516,899 |
| 2.2 | Birdwell Primary | Slate Roof replacement, Phase 1 | 150,000 | 290,000 |
| 2.3 | Oxspring Primary | Roof replacement | 50,000 | 55,000 |
| | | | 566,899 | 861,899 |
| 3. Internal Condition Works | | | | |
| 3.1 | Summer Lane Primary | Formation of new gender neutral toilet facilities | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| 3.2 | Thurgoland CE Primary | Replace Kitchen Flooring / New Dishwasher / Kitchen units | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| | | | 55,000 | 55,000 |
| 4. External Condition Works | | | | |
| 4.1 | Gawber Primary | Entrance works, Phase 2 | 85,000 | 85,000 |
| 4.2 | Milefield Primary | Reinstatement of Grounds following closure of Farm | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| | | | 115,000 | 115,000 |
| Total | | | 566,899 | 1,234,283 |

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2022-23 School Capital Condition Programme

List of Schemes

Financial information shown against each scheme are based on budget estimates and are inclusive of professional design fees. These will be subject to change following the tender process.

1. Health and Safety (£202,384)

1.1. Asbestos (£30,000)

Used to support the removal of asbestos on maintained school sites and supporting asbestos related works on schemes due to be completed under the capital maintenance programme.

1.2. Fire Protection Works (£30,000)

To ensure compliance with Fire regulations, this scheme will continue to fund Fire Risk Assessments and remedial works on maintained school sites. Items included previously include fire compartmentation works, replacement fire doors or upgrading of emergency lighting systems.

1.3. Legionella Remedial Works (£20,000)

This scheme has been created to remove significant identified items from the legionella/water hygiene surveys.

Examples of this include conversion of water systems to mains pressure, removal of redundant water storage tanks and rationalising hot water storage systems, including new pressure sets and valves.

1.4. Other H&S, Safeguarding works and support for SEN alterations (£92,384)

Supporting unplanned emergency and safeguarding works on schools. Provides support to schools adapting buildings, where reasonably practicable, to meet the needs of children with special educational needs.

1.5. Support for Non-School related capital expenditure (£30,000)

Supporting early years and family centre settings with capital related expenditure to support the delivery of services. Examples include the provision of new external play equipment, fixed storage equipment and external shelters.

2. Roofing Works (£861,899)

2.1. Milefield Primary – Roof Replacement (£516,899)

The existing roof at the school was recovered 8 years ago using a specialist surface treatment. Unfortunately, this treatment has started to fail around the central glazing areas. Due to the complicated nature of the scheme (lightweight roof structure, internal scaffold, and additional ventilation requirements) developing a scheme to address the issues has proved difficult and various proposals have proved undeliverable. This has been ongoing for several years and the replacement roof formed part of a legal agreement between the council and Multi Academy Trust when the school converted to an Academy in July 2021.

The appointment of a specialist, with knowledge of this type of building has finally determined a solution that allow the works to be completed. This involves stripping off the top sheet of the existing roof covering, installing a small upstand, with increased insulation and then installing a standing seam steel roof sheet over the top. As the opening roof lights of the existing system would be removed, the installation of new roof lights will maintain natural light, but a new ventilation system will need to be installed to comply with building regulations

Due to the nature of the proposed works, the existing fascia and soffit boards, and guttering will also need to be replaced as part of the scheme.

To undertake this work, it has been necessary to phase the works. The first phase will be the formation of a plant room and installation of the ventilation system over the Summer 2022 holiday period. The

roofing works will commence June 2023. Discussions with the school have taken place on how a 12-week estimated construction period can be facilitated during the summer of 2023 and a solution has been sought.

2.2. Birdwell Primary – Slate Roof Replacement (£290,000)

The original slate roof is suffering from many cracked, spalled and slipped roof tiles. A full re-roofing scheme will be carried out before major internal damage occurs.

The scheme will be sympathetic to the materials used and decorative ridge and hip details will be retained.

Originally approved as part of the 2021-22 school condition programme, officers from the council's property team carried out initial investigations, where it became apparent that the initial budget of £150,000 would be inadequate to complete the scheme. The scheme was deferred until Summer 2022 and further funds were allocated to the scheme.

2.3. Oxspring Primary – Roofing works (including bat protection measures) (£55,000)

Originally approved as part of the 2021-22 school condition programme, this scheme involves carrying out remedial works to the hall roof.

All works must be completed under license from Natural England and under the supervision of an ecologist, as the school roof houses a maternity bat roost.

The scheme involves stripping the existing slates from the hall roof, replacing the breathable roof membrane with a felt and reinstating the tiled roof. Installation of roof ventilation and the creation of access points to the roost will also be carried out.

Following the recommendations of the ecologist, the original plan was to undertake the works when there are no dangers to the maternity roost, which gave a window of October to March. Following visits from property professionals and roofing contractors, it was determined that this timeframe would result in the school hall and kitchen being out of use for the duration of the works, resulting in the loss of school meals, PE and assembly space for pupils at the school. Further discussions with the ecologist took place and an alternate proposal was to carry out the works over the Summer 2022 holiday period, with an ecologist on site to oversee the works.

An initial phase of works will take place to seal up the roof space to prevent bat access to the roof space before the major works are carried out over Summer 2022.

3. Internal Condition Works (£55,000)

3.1. Summer Lane Primary – Formation of gender-neutral toilet facilities (£25,000)

This proposal will split the existing large female staff toilets into a smaller room for female staff members and 2 additional independent, self-contained toilet rooms to provide gender-neutral toilet facilities on the school site.

3.2. Thurgoland C of E Primary – School Meals Kitchen refurbishment (£30,000)

To address Health and Safety issues within the school meals kitchen, this proposal will replace the existing flooring with non-slip vinyl and remove several concrete plinths to allow existing units to be firmly fixed to the wall. In addition, new stainless-steel tableware will be provided, and the existing steriliser sink will be replaced with an energy efficient dishwasher.

4. External Condition Works (£115,000)

4.1. Gawber Primary – Formation of new approach and resurfacing works (£85,000)

During the 2021 Summer holiday period, a project was undertaken to form a new secure lobby at the school. Unfortunately, the budget allocated to this scheme did not allow for the external works phase to be completed. This scheme will form a new approach to the school and stop parents, pupils, and visitors from having to use the main vehicle driveway to access the main entrance to school.

This will be remodelled to include a disabled parking space, delivery drop off, and a wider paved entrance to the school. Existing rotten timber planters will be removed, but the existing old mine cart and water feature will be retained within the scheme. The existing potholed driveway will be resurfaced, and new external lighting installed.

4.2. Milefield Primary – Reinstatement of grounds following the closure of the community farm (£30,000)

Grimethorpe Community Farm operates out of the school site in the former caretaker's house. Following the school's conversion to an Academy in July 2021, notice was given that their lease would not be renewed, and alternative accommodation had to be found.

This provisional sum is to reinstate the grounds back to grass, as they were before the farm occupied the site. The extent of the works is unknown at this stage, as there are a lot of animal pens and cages that maybe moved to a new site by the farm.

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PLACE

TITLE: Barnsley Norse – The Way Forward

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| REPORT TO: | CABINET |
| Date of Meeting | 1 June 2022 |
| Cabinet Member Portfolio | Place (Regeneration & Culture) |
| Key Decision | Yes |
| Public or Private | Part Exempt Open report with exempt appendices - by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 |

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for the Council to amend the existing Joint Venture agreements with Barnsley Norse, with an effective date of 1st August 2022.

Council Plan priority

Enabling

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 1. Authorises the Executive Director Place to negotiate and agree with NPS Barnsley (on behalf of Norse) to vary the service agreement to ensure the contract meets the current strategic needs of the Council.**
- 2. Authorises the Executive Director Place to (1) agree extensions to the termination date of the Service Agreement until such time as there are legal arrangements in place to vary the service agreement to allow for the services in Option C to be provided by BMBC and (2) thereafter agree with NPS Barnsley to withdraw the notice to terminate.**
- 3. Recognises that the Trade Unions are continually engaged with and actively included throughout the remainder of the process.**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 1st November 2011, BMBC entered a contract with NPS Barnsley Ltd to provide cleaning, catering, mobile catering and courier services. Under this agreement NPS Barnsley subcontracted the entire work to Barnsley Norse Ltd. Staff transferred over to Barnsley Norse.
- 1.2 The contract was due to end on 31st January 2026, however there was an option for early termination (to break) on the 10th anniversary of the term with 6 months' notice.
- 1.3 Back in July 2020, cabinet agreed that the arrangements with NPS Barnsley Ltd no longer provided a strategic-fit and the recommendation to terminate the contracts with both companies was approved. Notice to terminate the contract was served in accordance with the break clause and the contract was due to finish on 31st October 2021. The termination date has been extended twice since then and is due to finish on 31st July 2022
- 1.4 On 1st April 2021, NPS colleagues who were solely working on behalf of BMBC (construction and design services) successfully came back to the Council and many positives have already been demonstrated, which include:
 - Driving efficiency through best practice contract management.
 - Removing the mentality to drive profit and instead focus on delivering quality outcomes.
 - Improving efficiency and reducing costs [delivered £500k efficiencies for Council's MTFS].
 - The ability to integrate a range of services and removal of duplication.
 - Merging and aligning services allowing greater economies of scale.
 - Enhanced flexibility and agility.
 - Regaining control and focus on operational activity.
 - Greater staff motivation and improved service quality.
- 1.5 Whilst it was appropriate to bring the functions carried out by NPS Ltd back to the Council, the rationale to terminate the Services agreement with NPS Barnsley that was subcontracted to Barnsley Norse was revisited and this has effectively changed the direction, based on evidence. The main rationale is that the relationship with Barnsley Norse still provides a strategic fit, though a review of the services delivered, and corresponding costs, was needed to ensure VFM is driven from the contract arrangements.
- 1.6 Therefore, in June 2021, BMBC met with representatives from Norse and agreed there was appetite from both parties to jointly explore the following options to revise but continue with the arrangements:

Option A

Revoke the decision made and continue with the existing arrangements.

Option B

As A) above but review the specification and associated costs of all services delivered.

Option C

As A) above but also look to insource those activities that naturally align to the BMBC FM function, whilst other staff remain within Norse.

- 1.7 There is a continued commitment to reduce the impact for all affected employees.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 The preferred option and proposal for consideration is Option C. The details of this option are included in Appendix C (exempt).

- 2.2 The justification for these decisions are:

- 2.3 Roles which are a clear extension of an FM function are brought in house to make the management of our assets more agile, providing the opportunity to manage the delivery of our services across the wider asset base. It also allows better deployment of resources and improved VFM.

- 2.4 The Council does not have a management system that would enable the resource of hundreds of employees to operate on a rota basis. This would require significant investment and would be difficult to embed before 1st August 2022.

- 2.5 Many staff employed by Norse are currently operating on numerous contracts; not solely working for BMBC. Norse deploy the staff based on locality area to minimise the impact on the individual and the environment through travelling, as well as being able to call on a bigger workforce to cover sickness, leave and ad hoc requirements. The Council would not be able to facilitate this.

- 2.6 Given the points discussed above, if certain roles were to be insourced it is likely that the Council would have to go out to market for an alternative provider which would have TUPE implications for the employees.

- 2.7 Adopting this proposal means the Council can now drive VFM and demonstrate transparency in relation to the operations of the activities delivered on site, including unit costs per building.

- 2.8 This proposal has been considered within the context of Barnsley is our office and the changing needs of the portfolio. It will provide greater ability to flex to the needs of the organisation and should be aligned to the Asset Management Strategy and the MTFS.

- 2.9 In addition, the specification for the services delivered has been redefined for each building including frequency based on usage. This means that all our buildings comply with the statutory requirements. The proposed arrangements have built in the additional work that Norse currently provides on an ad-hoc basis ensuring there is full transparency on all services provided.

- 2.10 Norse have worked with the Council to make the contract as lean as possible to demonstrate their ongoing commitment to the partnership. Along with using their expertise and knowledge in the field to help shape the provision required by the Council.
- 2.11 And finally, Norse have continued to provide a good service throughout the life of the JV and have been exemplar during the pandemic in keeping our workspaces clean and safe. In our view they are best placed to continue to deliver services in partnership with the Council.

3 IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

- 3.1.1 Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer).
- 3.1.2 In July 2020, cabinet agreed that the JV arrangements with NPS Barnsley Ltd & Norse no longer provided a strategic-fit and approved the recommendations to terminate the contracts with both NPS Barnsley with effect from 31/01/21 (extended to 31/03/21) and Norse 31/10/21 (extended to 31/07/22).
- 3.1.3 This report recommends that the decision to terminate the contract with Norse is revoked and that we continue with the existing JV arrangements but agree to insource those activities that naturally align to the BMBC FM function with the others remaining with Norse.
- 3.1.4 The main rationale is that the relationship with Barnsley Norse still provides a strategic fit, though a review of the services delivered, and corresponding costs, was needed to ensure VFM is achieved from the contract arrangements. Also, the Council does not have the IT infrastructure or system to manage employees that operate on a rota basis. This would require significant investment and would be difficult to embed before 1st August 2022.
- 3.1.5 Appendix A and B (exempt) set out the actual and projected costs of the new hybrid working arrangements alongside the other main financial implications. The new service levels agreed with Norse from 1st August 2022 are comparable with those which existed in 2020-21 during the Covid-19 epidemic. Hence the projected costs / Norse proposals need to be compared with the 2020-21 outturn costs uplifted for inflation.

3.2 Legal

- 3.2.1 There are no legal restrictions that would influence this proposal; however, the legal and contractual documents will need amending to reflect the new working arrangements, flexibility and enable performance management of Norse. They may also need varying and/or monitoring to ensure that overall, the service agreement remains Teckal compliant

To implement Option C in a situation where a notice of termination has been served the Council will have to vary the service agreement to identify the

services to be provided inhouse and those to be provided by NPS Barnsley/Norse and ensure the services continue until new legal arrangements are in place.

This will require the termination date to be extended (by agreement with NPS Barnsley) until such time as the varied service agreement is in place and the insourced services arrangements are ready to be delivered.

3.3 Equality

3.3.1 Full Equality Impact Assessment is not applicable due to the proposal being a continuation of the current service delivery, albeit it will be delivered in a much more modern and efficient way.

3.4 Sustainability

Decision-making wheel completed 20th April 2022 and included below:



3.5 Employee

3.5.1 Employees identified under the proposal will be protected by TUPE and therefore would transfer back to the Council. The exact number cannot be quantified in full until the negotiations with the Norse have been finalised.

3.6 Communications

3.6.1 The Council recognises the changes to the current JV arrangements will create some anxiety for existing employees. As such the Council has continued to communicate and engage with those affected as a collaborative effort with the Norse.

3.6.2 Both the Council and Norse have engaged with Trade Unions and will continue to keep them informed of progress and any relevant updates.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Internal consultation has taken place with SMT, Legal, Finance and HR.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 The alternative options considered are as follows:

5.2 To continue with the termination of the JV, however this would have a detrimental impact on the clean and safe environment that has been developed during the pandemic.

5.3 To revoke the cabinet decision made in July 2020 and seek to continue with the existing JV for the remainder of the term (5 Years). This approach would be hampering the Council's ability to fully react to emerging strategic priorities and the implications of COVID-19.

5.4 All alternative approaches have been considered but discounted due to the viability and impact on employees.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The justification for the recommendations has been outlined below:

- The scope and specification for all methods of delivery have been redefined based on the needs of the organisation.
- The service provision has been broken down into activity, frequency, and delivery method, providing greater clarity and flexibility in the future for provision to be amended to meet the requirements of the Council's changing portfolio (linked to Barnsley is our office).
- Norse costings are now available for each asset as standalone units, with transparency on the profit to be generated from the JV.
- And finally, there is minimal impact to the workforce.

7. GLOSSARY

7.1 N/A

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix A: Financial Implications (Exempt)

8.2 Appendix B: Financial Details (Exempt)

8.3 Appendix C: HR Implications (Exempt)

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 There are no background papers associated with this report.

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

| | |
|--|--|
| Financial consultation & sign off | Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date <i>Neil Copley 09/05/22</i> |
| Legal consultation & sign off | Legal Services officer consulted and date <i>Jason Field 06/05/22</i> |

Report Author: Rachel Copley

Post: Group Leader FM

Date: 09/05/2022

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