

MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday 21 September 2022
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall
PUBLIC WEB LINK:	https://barnsley.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts

AGENDA

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

Minutes

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 September 2022 (Cab.21.9.2022/3)
(Pages 3 - 4)

Items for Noting

4. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.21.9.2022/4)

Petitions

5. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.21.9.2022/5)

Items for Decision/Recommendation to Council

Core Services Spokesperson

6. Quarter 1 (2022/23) Corporate Performance Report (Cab.21.9.2022/6)
(Pages 5 - 18)
7. Corporate Finance Performance Quarter 1 2022/23 (Cab.21.9.2022/7)
(Pages 19 - 40)

Children's Spokesperson

8. Barnsley: A Fostering Friendly Employer (Cab.21.9.2022/8) (Pages 41 - 52)
9. Outcomes of the Joint Targeted Local Area Inspection (JTAI) of Children's Social Care (Cab.21.9.2022/9) (Pages 53 - 66)
RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2022

Joint Children's and Regeneration and Culture Spokespersons

10. Proposed Conversion of the Elmhirst Youth Centre into an Education Facility for Pupils with Special Educational Needs (Cab.21.9.2022/10) (Pages 67 - 78)

Regeneration and Culture Spokesperson

11. High Rise Water Ingress Remediation Works (Cab.21.9.2022/11) (Pages 79 - 86)

12. Levelling Up Fund Project Development (Cab.21.9.2022/12) (Pages 87 - 94)
13. Transforming Cities Fund A61, A635 Active Travel Schemes, Station Access Schemes Approval to Spend (Cab.21.9.2022/13) (Pages 95 - 104)
14. Exclusion of Public and Press
It is likely that the public and press will be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the items so marked because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the specific paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, subject to the public interest test.

Regeneration and Culture Spokesperson

15. Goldthorpe Market Housing Development - Financial Update (Cab.21.9.2022/15) (Pages 105 - 118)
Reason restricted:
Paragraph (3) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

To: Chair and Members of Cabinet:-

Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), T. Cave, Frost, Gardiner, Higginbottom, Howard, Lamb, Makinson and Platts

Cabinet Support Members:

Councillors Cain, Cherryholme, Eastwood, Franklin, Newing, Osborne and Risebury

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Chair of Audit Committee

Sarah Norman, Chief Executive
Carly Speechley, Executive Director Children's Services
Wendy Lowder, Executive Director Place Health and Adult Social Care for Barnsley
Shokat Lal, Executive Director Core Services
Matt O'Neill, Executive Director Growth and Sustainability
Julia Burrows, Executive Director Public Health and Communities
Neil Copley, Service Director Financial Services (Section 151 Officer)
Sukdave Ghuman, Service Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Michael Potter, Service Director Business Improvement, HR and Communications
Katie Rogers, Head of Communications and Marketing
Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer
Jason Field, Head of Legal Services (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Corporate Communications and Marketing

Please contact Sukdave Ghuman on email governance@barnsley.gov.uk

Monday 12 September 2022



MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday 7 September 2022
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), T. Cave, Frost, Gardiner, Higginbottom, Lamb, Makinson and Platts

Members in Attendance: Councillors Cherryholme, Eastwood, Franklin, Newing and Osborne

70. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

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

71. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 17 August 2022 had been called in.

72. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 August 2022 (Cab.7.9.2022/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2022 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

73. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.7.9.2022/4)

The Record of Decisions taken by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers during the week ending 26 August 2022 were noted.

74. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.7.9.2022/5)

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

75. Unpaid Carers Strategic Review - Barnsley Carers Strategy and Business Case for Commissioning of a new Carers Support Service (Cab.7.9.2022/6)

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

1. Approves the Final Draft of the Barnsley Carers Strategy 2022, the proposed priority outcomes, and the next steps to develop a multiagency action plan to achieve the strategy's key aims and priorities;
2. Approves the proposal to re-model the Barnsley Carers Support Service based upon the key priority outcomes of the Barnsley Carers Strategy and findings from the review of the current service, and authorise officers within Barnsley Council to approach the market to recommission a new carers support model;

3. Authorises the Executive Directors of Place Health and Adult Social Care and Public Health and Communities, to have delegated authority to award the contract for the Carer Support Service following a competitive procurement process; and
4. Notes the intention to review the carers one-off payment grant, commencing with public engagement in June 2022, and that a report highlighting findings and any proposed changes to the carers' payment criteria resulting from the consultation will be submitted later in the year.

.....
Chair

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF CORE SERVICES
TITLE: Quarter 1 Corporate Performance Report

REPORT TO:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting	21 September 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 Q1 (April – Jun 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 in to 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

CPR Q1 2022/23

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

Report Author: Jill Bills

Post: Performance, Policy & Equalities Manager

Date:30/08/22

**Healthy
Barnsley**

**Learning
Barnsley**

**Sustainable
Barnsley**

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**Growing
Barnsley**

**Enabling
Barnsley**

Barnsley Council Corporate Plan Performance Report

Quarter 1: April – June 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.

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



Barnsley Council to restrict unhealthy food and drink advertising



We've introduced a High Fat Salt or Sugar (HFSS) Policy Guidance Note to restrict unhealthy food and drink advertising. This serves to protect children and adults from exposure to HFSS advertising, which can influence what people eat and drink, as well as how

much. The guidance note is an addition to our [Advertising and Sponsorship Policy](#) and follows similar policies adopted by Bristol City Council and several London boroughs. It will restrict the advertising of HFSS products on all council-owned or leased advertising sites. London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine research showed that a similar policy on the Transport for London (TfL) network worked well. There was an estimated 6.7 per cent decrease in average weekly household purchases of energy from HFSS products, and the average weekly purchases of chocolate and sweets fell by 19.4 per cent. Our guidance note for Barnsley has been developed with support from the food charity, Sustain, who advised the Mayor of London's team on the TfL policy and has been working with over 80 local authorities across the country to introduce local healthier advertising policies.

Organisations across Barnsley come together to celebrate Dementia Action Week



To mark Dementia Action Week (16-22 May), organisations across Barnsley came together to encourage people to act on dementia. Across the borough, interactive events and activities took place throughout the week and were planned by the Barnsley Third Sector Dementia Alliance:

- [Age UK Barnsley](#) hosted daily social groups across the borough with memory games and quizzes. On Thursday, they launched a new series of weekly sessions to actively stimulate and engage people living with dementia.
- [BIADS](#) hosted carer support groups and drop-ins throughout the week before inviting people into their Day Care Centre on Thursday for a special open day.
- [Butterflies](#) organised celebratory events for people living with dementia, their families and their carers, including a race afternoon on Thursday.
- [Crossroads Barnsley](#) hosted a Friday coffee morning with a Dementia Action Week theme and a Memory Hub Café next weekend.
- [Making Space](#) organised a Dementia Tea Party in Dodworth on Monday.

In addition to these events, Alzheimer's Society hosted an information event at Library @ The Lightbox on Thursday 19 May. Dementia Action Week is an annual event encouraging people to 'act on dementia'.

New all-age mental health strategy launches in Barnsley



In June Barnsley's Health and Wellbeing Board approved a new all-age Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2022-2026. The new strategy will help to make sure that Barnsley has the support and culture to enable everyone within the borough to achieve their potential.

Budding young artists show us what matters to them for Director of Public Health report



To showcase the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2021, an exhibition of artwork created by children and young people took place at Library @ the Lightbox. The exhibition highlighted what mattered to young people in 2019, and what matters to them now. In 2019, we asked children and young people to create artwork around the theme 'What Matters to Me?' to inform the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2019. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this work had to be postponed. In 2021, we were able to reinstate the project, and children and young people were asked to create artwork with the theme of 'What Matters to Me, Now?' to provide a comparison Barnsley pre- and post-pandemic. In 2019, Barnsley children and young people recognised the impact of technology on their lives, referencing the increase in online bullying and sedentary behaviour. In 2021, children and young people told us they want to be outside, in the real world, with opportunities to play and be active. What matters to children and young people now, more than ever, is connection with others, having fun and making happy memories.

New approach to Contacts for Adult Social Care

In May 2022 Adult Social Care implemented a new triage hub, integrating social workers at the front door. To the end of June, 2,600 people contacted Adult Social Care with over 500 requests for an assessment. Approx. 2 Previously the majority of these contacts would have been referred for an assessment, however only 200 were referred for a care assessment as a more detailed conversation at the front door has allowed people access community support or aids and adaptations to meet their need. The Reablement pathway has also been offered to support and assess longer term needs. For those that have completed a Reablement episode via the community pathway, 40% had no ongoing support needs.

Making caring visible, valued and supported in Barnsley during Carers Week



In June, we came together with partners to celebrate Carers Week, and the difference unpaid carers make to their families and local communities. This annual campaign celebrates and recognises the role unpaid carers play in our society. This year's theme was making caring visible, valued and supported. In Barnsley, it is estimated that over 28,000 people help care for a family member or friend. Many people are taking on more caring responsibilities for loved ones who would not be able to cope without them.

Learning Barnsley

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



Over 94 per cent of Barnsley children get their first choice of primary school for September

April 19th was National Offer Day and families across Barnsley found out which primary school their children will start in September. This year, we have



been able to offer 2,428 children (94.2 per cent) their first choice of primary school, up from last year's 93.8 per cent. Overall, 2,533 children (98.3 per cent) in our borough received an offer from at least one of their

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Here is a breakdown of the national offer day figures in Barnsley:

- We received 2,577 applications.
- 2,428 children (94.2 per cent) were offered their first choice of primary school.
- 87 children (3.4 per cent) received an offer from their second choice.
- 18 children (0.7 per cent) got their third choice of primary school.
- 44 children (1.7 per cent) did not get any of their choices but have been allocated a school place by our school admissions team.

We saw 96 per cent of families applying for their child's primary school place online this year. This not only makes the process more streamlined, but it also makes it quicker for families to receive their primary school offer.

Barnsley's Adult Skills and Community Learning open day



Adult Skills and Community Learning hosted an open day for anyone thinking about returning to learning in May.

The open day was a fantastic opportunity to find out what classes are taking place before the summer. Tutors and advisors were on hand for a relaxed, informal chat, and to answer questions about the courses on offer. Residents were able to tour the facilities and explore opportunities to learn new skills, grow their talents and improve their wellbeing or employability.

Barnsley Council to receive funding for Family Hubs



We're pleased to announce that we'll receive a share of 302m in government funding to support our fantastic Family Centres in Barnsley. We are one of 75 local authorities eligible for a share of the funding to support babies, children and families. The funding will be used to develop our existing Family Centres, aligning them with the government's Family Hub approach. This will include giving parents and carers advice on how to take care of their child and make sure they are safe and healthy, supporting them in gaining the best start for life. Mel John-Ross, Executive Director of Children's Services, said: "We are delighted to be receiving this funding, to make it easier than ever for families to access support when they need it. Barnsley is a place that fosters and grows ambition, enabling everyone to be the best they can be. This funding will help us continue supporting families to enjoy happy, healthy, and longer lives."

SEND services showcased at Local Offer Live Week



Local Offer Live Week ran from Monday 20 to Saturday 25 June 2022. This was a week-long showcase with many events about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). There were lots of free events to get involved with to help you understand the SEND services and support available in Barnsley. [Local Offer Live webpage](#). There was something for

everyone, from SEND coffee mornings to sensory sessions, to help with completing paperwork for short breaks. There were sessions aimed at parents and carers, children and young people, and professionals. There were also parent and carer led sessions to help develop the new SEND Strategy, which we'll launch later this year. The week rounded up with a picnic in the park on Saturday 25 June, for SEND families to socialise and give feedback on the week's events.

Barnsley Music Hub and vocal festivals 2022



The Key Stage 2 festival showcases the instrumental achievements of pupils aged 7 to 11 who have received first access to music lessons at school. Over 50 schools across Barnsley came together to perform concerts featuring woodwind, brass, string, percussion and more. Cllr Robert Frost, Barnsley Council's Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Regeneration and Culture), said: "Barnsley is a place that fosters growth and ambition, and we are extremely proud of all the young people who have worked with Barnsley Music Hub this year. Every performer has worked hard to hone their skills, and to see them all on stage, showing off their talent is amazing. I encourage everyone to attend the music festivals and support our young music makers."

Barnsley Music Service is funded by the Arts Council. It offers children and young people from age 5 to 18 the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, make music with others, learn to sing, progress and enjoy music-making. To find out more, visit Barnsley Music Service or email BarnsleyMusicService@barnsley.gov.uk

Barnsley Schools' Vocal Festival also took place in June. This festival celebrates the dedication and talent of school choirs across Barnsley, and was held at the Metrodome Arena with seven local primary schools taking part.

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



Local businesses celebrated at awards evening



Local businesses joined the Mayor of Barnsley, the Council's Steve White and council staff to celebrate the two brilliant local award ceremonies – the Business Awards and the Best Bar None Awards at the Civic on Wednesday evening.

The night began with Ojay McDonald, Chief Executive of the Association of Town and City Management, presenting our Chief Executive Sarah Norman with the Purple Flag in recognition of the town retaining Purple Flag status for a third successive year.

The first awards to be given out were the Business Awards, which celebrated our business community's hard work and resilience through the COVID-19 pandemic. Local businesses, as well as being vital to the strength of our economy, are essential to the health, wellbeing and happiness of our borough and residents.

Councillor Sarah Tattersall, Mayor of Barnsley, said: "The past two years have been challenging, and it was fantastic to finally be able to come together and celebrate the resilience and hard work of our local business community."

Barnsley bids for major £23.1m investment projects for Dearne Valley



Five major projects which would help regenerate, renew, and revitalise Goldthorpe, Thurnscoe and Bolton upon Dearne as part of a £23.1m investment have been submitted to government for approval. Goldthorpe was one of 101 towns invited to bid for Towns Fund investment to help improve skills, digital and transport connectivity, create new jobs, raise aspiration, and revitalise the economic prospects of the area. The plan is based on four themes of Growing Goldthorpe, Connecting Goldthorpe, Developing Goldthorpe and Placemaking Goldthorpe. It was prepared by the council's Economic Regeneration Team and shaped by feedback from local residents, businesses and organisations through consultation and workshops over the last two years.

The projects are:

Employment land: Investment to unlock development of major employment growth. It will support long-term commercial development of a 72.9ha site off the A635 Barnsley Road, Goldthorpe, South of the Dearne Valley Parkway.

Housing: Funding will be allocated to regenerate traditional terraced streets through improvements designed to help grow people's pride in their area and improve residents' wellbeing, including physical and mental health.

Phoenix Park: This project will help enhance the park's appeal as a destination and thoroughfare between Thurnscoe and Goldthorpe. It will also help the park achieve its potential to support small scale enterprise and more community activity.

Community and Cultural Hub: This project will develop a combined community and cultural hub within the Welfare Park. This will include refurbishment of the Dearne Playhouse, a refreshed and reinvigorated outdoor multifunctional performance and community events space

Heart of Goldthorpe: This project will include a new public plaza and events area providing a central point for community activity

Barnsley's famous outdoor market launched in a week of celebration



The outdoor market has been revitalised alongside recent developments in Barnsley town centre and businesses are now in their final locations under fresh, modern gazebos which anchor into the ground.

To celebrate, a week of activities were held including an official opening event in which the Mayor of Barnsley, Councillor Sarah-Jane Tattersall, rang the Market bell before live music from Rock Choir South Yorkshire.

Cllr Robert Frost, Cabinet Spokesperson for Regeneration and Culture at Barnsley Council said: "It's great to see Barnsley's outdoor market flourishing. Barnsley is growing, we have a thriving and vibrant town centre and the market is at the heart of it."

Leading energy solutions company, SMS, opens distribution hub in Barnsley



One of the UK's leading energy solutions businesses, SMS plc, has opened its main distribution hub in Barnsley following a move to a new 52,000 sqft premises at Ashroyd Business Park, off Junction 36 of the M1. SMS, which is headquartered in Glasgow, specialises in the installation, operation and management of carbon reduction

technologies, including smart meters, electric vehicle (EV) charging points, and battery storage systems. The company has signed a 10-year lease at the high-quality commercial premises, with around eighty jobs set to be created at the new site. Skills and supply chain support has been provided by Enterprising Barnsley, the council's business support service.

In addition to the new distribution hub, SMS is also later this year due to complete the construction of a second Barnsley site. The 40 megawatt (MW) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), built on land near Hopewell Street in Stairfoot, will support the UK's power network with the flexibility services crucial for accommodating renewable energy generation and boosting the national grid's resilience.

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



Experience Barnsley Museum shortlisted for national Family Friendly Museum Award



Experience Barnsley Museum has been shortlisted for the Kids in Museums Family Friendly Museum Award. The charity Kids in Museums has run a prestigious annual award for 16 years, recognising the most family friendly heritage sites in the UK. It is the only museum award to be judged by families.

From late March to early June, families across the UK voted for their favourite heritage attraction on the Kids in Museums website. A panel of museum experts then whittled down hundreds of nominations to a shortlist of 16 heritage attractions. Experience Barnsley Museum is vying against two other museums in the Best Accessible Museum category. The Best Accessible Museum category celebrates museums making excellent efforts to include families with children or young people who have special educational needs and disabilities. Shortlisted museums will be given feedback on how they can further improve their offer for families.

At Experience Barnsley visitors can uncover the incredible story of Barnsley, told through centuries-old artefacts, documents, films and recordings donated by people living and working in the Borough.

Councillor Robert Frost, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place, said: "One of Barnsley Museums main objectives is to be accessible to all, we want everyone to feel welcome, safe and included when they visit. We are delighted to have been shortlisted in this category as it is something we as an organisation feel so passionately about." Over the summer, the finalists will be visited by undercover family judges who will assess the shortlisted museums against the Kids in Museums Manifesto. Their experiences will decide a winner for each award category and an overall winner of the Family Friendly Museum Award 2022. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in October.

Electric waste collection vehicle to be added to fleet



Our waste collection crews recently trialled a fully electric vehicle in Barnsley and found it was up to the challenge of emptying commercial waste bins across the borough. We already have 33 fully electric vehicles, which amount to 15 percent of the council fleet, but this would be the first large commercial vehicle. Cllr Higginbottom, spokesperson for Environment and Transport, said: "Making greener choices in the vehicles we use as a council is helping reduce carbon emissions and decrease our reliance on fossil fuels."

Barnsley Museums at Worsbrough Mill to receive £180,000 in fund to support community volunteering opportunities through UK Government investment



Worsbrough Mill has been awarded £180,000 by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports, delivered by Arts Council England. Worsbrough Mill is an incredible place to volunteer with huge potential to support the community further. This fund will be used in collaboration with a range of partners from across Barnsley using partnership between local stakeholders to create new, high quality, volunteer opportunities. The fund will develop skills and address loneliness and isolation, prioritising those most in need who face barriers to participation. The Volunteering Futures Fund was launched last year and will be distributed by Arts Council England. It will break down barriers to volunteering and enable organisations across the arts, culture, sport, civil society, youth and heritage sectors to continue their valuable work within local communities whilst volunteers enjoy the personal benefits of making a difference. Those set to benefit most from the funding include young people and people with disabilities. Colleges, local councils, schools, health and wellbeing organisations are also among the recipients of the Fund.

Supporting National Clean Air Day



Barnsley Council supported National Clean Air day in June to remind everyone how we can play our part in improving air quality in our communities.

This year, the focus of the campaign is on how air pollution damages every organ in your body and can contribute to conditions such as lung disease, heart disease, dementia and strokes. Residents from across the borough have been asked to make a pledge and make a change.

In Barnsley, we're always looking for ways to reduce pollution and create a cleaner, greener, healthier and more sustainable Barnsley and reach our goal of a Net-Zero Barnsley by 2045.

Household Waste Recycling Centres Consultation



In June, residents and businesses were invited to give feedback on our Household Waste Recycling Centres by taking part in a consultation. The current contract to manage and run the centres across Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham is due to end in October 2023.

The three councils are inviting residents' opinions on how the current service is run and where any improvements can be made. This will help us understand what changes if any can be made to improve the service from October 2023 onwards. We're also seeking opinions from local businesses on their waste disposal needs. Cllr James Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Transport said: "Recycling and reducing waste is a really important part of protecting our environment. We want to encourage people to recycle wherever possible and our Household Waste Recycling Centres are integral to how we achieve that."

Celebrating Barnsley - the place of possibilities

June marked a whole year since the official launch of Barnsley's vision and ambitions for 2030. Over the last 12 months, our 2030 Board – made up of key stakeholders from across the borough – have been working together in partnership to drive our ambitions forward. [Watch some of the fantastic stories](#) from people that share our vision and the contributions they've made to Barnsley. If you have a story to tell about you, a colleague, or a resident, please share it with us, and together we can inspire others to believe in the possibilities that Barnsley offers.



Cllr Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Leader of Barnsley Council, said: "I'm really pleased with what we've achieved together with our partners over the past 12 months. It's right for us to celebrate our fantastic borough and the people who live, work and visit here. Barnsley really is the place of possibilities with the noticeable information happening across the borough, including the town centre, the Glass Works, and the range of job opportunities available in Barnsley at the moment. You can find out more at Barnsley2030.co.uk

Employee support – Menopause café



In April, we hosted the first Menopause Café session which was open to employees on our Employee Support Forum.

The event, which was sponsored by UNISON, brought together colleagues in a relaxed environment to share their own experiences and discuss tips and tricks to what has helped them when suffering from the side effects of the menopause. It also provided the Council with an opportunity to look at ways we can support staff in the workplace.

2022 RoSPA Award for health and safety achievements



We're celebrating after landing an internationally-recognised award for demonstrating high health and safety standards for 21 consecutive years. We have received a Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Order of Distinction Health and Safety Award for working hard to ensure our staff get home safely to their families at the end of every working day. Organisations receiving a RoSPA Award are recognised as world leaders in health and safety practice. Every year, nearly 2,000 entrants vie to achieve the highest possible accolade in the UK's longest-running Health and Safety industry awards. Julia Small, RoSPA's Achievements Director, said: "This is a fantastic and well-deserved accomplishment. All our award entrants demonstrate their unwavering commitment and passion for keeping people safe at work.

Reasonable Adjustment Disability Passports

Reasonable adjustments disability passports

We have recently launched reasonable adjustment passports, creating a helpful tool to support disabled employees and those with health conditions. The benefits of the passport include:

- Support conversations between an employee and their line manager about the disability or health condition and any workplace adjustments needed.
- Formalising a record for that conversation, detailing adjustments agreed and when these should be reviewed.
- Encouraging conversations around less visible disabilities such as mental health conditions.

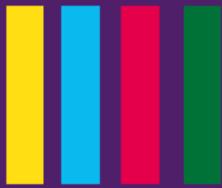
Importantly, if a staff member moves roles or gets a new line manager, it will help their new manager understand what workplace adjustments they have already been receiving and avoid starting the process over again.

Barnsley wins e-tendering contract management



In January 2022, we announced that our e-tendering provider switched from Proactis to new provider, Mercell. Since then, we've shared a number of success stories from the Strategic Procurement and Contract Management team, highlighting the achievements and benefits reaped as a result of the transition. We're delighted to share yet another fantastic update from the team.

Since the new contract went live, our Strategic Procurement and Contract Management team have been working hard to roll-out system training, ensure continuity and lead the way regionally. Responsibility of managing the contract with our e-tendering provider – Mercell, has recently been up for renewal via the Strategic Procurement Group (SPG) for Yorkshire and Humber. SPG vote bi-annually on which authority will contract manage the e-tendering provider and we're delighted to announce that this year, Barnsley was successful.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS Q1 22/23

SOME OF OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES THIS QUARTER

Healthy Barnsley

Barnsley Council's children's social care team receive fantastic feedback from their latest LGA Peer Review

Barnsley Council and Barnsley Hospital partner on new financial incentive scheme to support pregnant women to quit smoking

BMBC introduces High Fat Salt or Sugar (HFSS) Policy Guidance Note to restrict unhealthy food and drink advertising.

New approach introduced for new contacts to Adult Social Care

Learning Barnsley

The Family Service Directory - a new one-stop shop for family information in Barnsley - is launched

SEND services showcased at Local Offer Live Week ahead of the new SEND strategy to be released later this year

Over 94 per cent of Barnsley children get their first choice of primary school for September

The Barnsley Music hub celebrates school children's talent with musical festivals

Growing Barnsley

Leading energy solutions company, SMS, opens its main distribution hub in Barnsley

Barnsley Museums has announces record breaking visitor numbers for 2021/22, attracting 1,467,938 people over the year

Barnsley hosts 20 tonne Jubilee sand sculpture as part of Jubilee weekend celebrations

Barnsley welcomes twin town officials to celebrate 50th anniversary

Sustainable Barnsley

The Victorian past of Elsecar, is brought to life in a stunning new digital reconstruction

£13m+ investment to make sure Barnsley's council housing stock is maintained to a decent standard approved by Cabinet

Penny Pie Park transformation reaches final stage with new outdoor spaces coming to life

BMBC trials electric waste collection vehicle

Enabling Barnsley

Barnsley Council is successful in securing contract management of e-tendering service.

Barnsley Council launches reasonable adjustment passports, a tool to support disabled employees and those with health conditions.

Barnsley Council receives RoSPA Order of Distinction Award for health and safety achievements

June marked a year since the official launch of Barnsley's vision and ambitions for 2030.

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

TITLE: CORPORATE FINANCE PERFORMANCE Q1 2022/23

REPORT TO:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting	21 September 2022
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Cllr Gardiner - CORE
Key Decision	No
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

To consider the financial performance of the Authority during the first quarter ended 30th June 2022 and assess the implications against the Council’s Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

Council Plan priority

All

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

CORPORATE FINANCE PERFORMANCE

- 1. Note the £13.7M projected overspend on the Council’s General Fund in 22/23.**
- 2. Note that £10.9M of this relates to exceptional risks referenced as part of setting the 22/23 budget in February 2022 which have now materialised.**
- 3. Note that these cost pressures will be funded via the use of one-off reserves in this financial year pending the development of a mitigation / transformation plan to address anticipated financial pressures in 23/24 and beyond.**
- 4. Note that the remaining £2.8M relates to unanticipated cost pressures across several Council services.**

5. Request that action plans are drawn up to mitigate overspends as far as is possible and that those are submitted to Cabinet as part of the Q2 performance management update:

- Children in Care [Children's Services]
- Assessment & Care Management [Children's Services]
- Estates – Commercial Rental Income [Growth & Sustainability]
- Car Parking Income [Growth & Sustainability]
- Home to School Transport [Growth & Sustainability]
- Assisted Living Technologies [Public Health & Communities]
- Legal Costs / Income Shortfall [Core]

6. Note the current 22/23 forecast position on the Housing Revenue Account.

7. Approve the write off of historic bad debts totalling £0.9M as detailed in the report.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

8. Note to forecast position on the Capital Programme (paragraphs 2.11 to 2.17 refer).

TREASURY MANAGEMENT

9. Note the key messages from the Council's Q1 Treasury Management activities (paragraphs 2.18 – 2.28 refers).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Council's 2022/23 budget was agreed by Full Council on 24th February 2022/23. This was predicated on the delivery of several key assumptions (highlighted below), whilst also highlighting significant emerging risks that would also require addressing over the planning period. As such, the updated MTFs set aside one-off resources to temporarily mitigate these anticipated pressures pending the development of a transformation and efficiency plan to address the anticipated budget gaps on a sustainable basis over the medium term.

2. PROPOSAL

Overall General Fund Position to the Quarter Ending June 2022

2.1 The table below summarises the Council's financial performance for 22/23.

Directorate	Approved Net Budget 2022/23	Projected Net Outturn 2022/23	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Children's Services	41,967	44,179	2,213
Growth & Sustainability	50,150	51,728	1,578
Place Health & Adult Social Care	60,652	60,148	-504
Public Health & Communities	10,476	9,999	-477
Core Services	19,752	19,719	-33
Service Totals	182,997	185,773	2,777
Corporate (Exceptional Items)	29,946	40,831	10,885
TOTAL General Fund	212,943	226,604	13,662
Housing Revenue Account	73,095	73,095	-

- 2.2 The current forecast is for a year-end overspend of in the region of £13.7M comprised of the exceptional items referenced as part of setting the 22/23 budget [£10.9M], together with unanticipated overspends across several Council departments which have arisen during the quarter [£2.8M].
- 2.3 Further detail on each Directorate's position is highlighted below at paragraph 2.10. However, of particular concern are the unanticipated overspends in the **Children Services** and **Growth and Sustainability Directorates**, both of which are reporting significant unexpected cost pressures.
- 2.4 **It is recommended that Executive Directors draw up action plans to mitigate these overspends as far as is possible and that those are submitted to Cabinet as part of the Q2 performance management update.**
- 2.5 Over and above that, there are significant exceptional cost pressures totalling £10.9M. The table below summarises these pressures with further detail provided in paragraph 2.10.

Pressure	£M
Pay	5.500
Energy	3.705
Fuel	0.280
Inflation	1.400
TOTAL	10.885

- 2.6 In line with the agreed financial strategy, these pressures will be addressed in year from resources set aside specifically for this purpose, pending the development of a transformation and efficiency plan to address the anticipated budget gaps on an ongoing and sustainable basis over the medium term. Further updates on the MTFS and the proposed programme of transformational activity will be submitted to Cabinet later in the financial year.

Corporate Resources

- 2.7 The above position (as reported in the table at paragraph 2.1) excludes any impact in relation to the collection of core taxation income (Council Tax and Business Rates). Council tax collection is currently forecast to be 95.3%, which is 0.7% below the stretch target of 96% [impact of the cost-of-living crisis on household incomes and the ability to pay council tax and other bills]. Collection below 95% would result in a financial pressure over and above that reported in this report and therefore this position will be closely monitored throughout the remainder of the year.
- 2.8 Business Rates collection is also below target at 96.25% compared to the stretch target of 97.5% [ongoing impact of COVID19, inflation and supply chain issues on business cashflow and ability to meet business costs including business rates]. The impact of this will be offset by additional S31 grant for additional reliefs awarded this year so that there is no impact on the overall budget. Similar to Council Tax, this position will be closely monitoring throughout the remainder of the year.
- 2.9 Overall, the current arrears (debt) position as at the end of June stood at £22.3M, a net increase of £4.0M since the start of the year. The Council's overall bad debt provision has also been revised to reflect current arrears. Approval is also sought to write off historic debts of £0.929M which have become uneconomical to collect.

DIRECTORATE UPDATES

- 2.10 The following detailed updates have been provided by Executive Directors

Executive Director's Summary for Children's Services

Highlights

The latest approved budget for 2022/23 for the Children's Services Directorate is **£41.967M**. The Directorate is forecasting an outturn of **£44.179M** as at the end of Quarter 1, resulting in a projected overspend of **£2.213M**.

Quarter 1 Position to the End of the Quarter Ending June 2022.

Children's Services Directorate	Net Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education, Early Start & Prevention	8,713	8,361	-352
Children's Social Care & Safeguarding	32,626	35,190	2,565
Sub-Total	41,339	43,551	2,213
Schools	628	628	0
Total – People	41,967	44,179	2,213

Explanation of Key Variances

BU1 Education, Early Start & Prevention (*underspend of £0.352M*)

An operational **underspend** of **£0.352M** is forecast for the Business Unit and mainly relates to staff vacancies in several service areas. This underspend is offset by increased costs across several external contracts, together with a non-achieved income target in the School Governor Development & Clerking Service.

BU3 Children Social Care & Safeguarding (*overspend of £2.565M*)

An operational **overspend** of **£2.565M** is currently forecast, which is mainly attributable to an increase in LAC placement and associated costs for the year. This anticipated overspend is in addition to the recurrent £4M investment provided for 2022-23 to meet the placement needs of young people with multiple & complex needs, increase in social work activity / caseloads and the increase in support to families with disabled children.

The forecast overspend also reflects the competitive nature of the residential care provider market in 2022/23, with the Council continuing to face challenges (and increasing costs) in placing young children, especially for those with complex needs.

The LAC population at the end of Q1 stood at 363, an increase of 15 since the end of March 2022. Whilst this only slightly exceeds the planned number for the year (360), the recent influx in placements is significantly more than profiled for the first quarter.

The above has also resulted in a rise in the number of placements (and costs) in private residential children's homes which is also contributing to the budget pressure. There are currently 40 young people placed in external care homes (including 16 in semi-independent accommodation) at the end of Q1, compared to a planned number of 34. In particular, there has been an increase in the number of secure welfare / remand placements; inflationary uplifts to fee amounts; and an increasing number of high tariff placements due to complexity of needs. The high tariff cost on some placements reflects competitive pressures in the care markets in relation to the placements of complex young people resulting in providers charging for vacant beds to enable them to meet needs.

In addition, there is also a pressure forecast across in-house and external foster care placements due to more children being in foster care (273) than budgeted for at this time in the financial year (259). Independent fostering placements have also increased since March 2022, whilst the number with BMBC foster care placements currently stands at 205 [an increase of 11 since the end of March].

Finally, Assessment & Care management is forecasting a significant overspend mainly relating to legal costs.

Schools Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

The latest Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget for 22/23 totals £94.4M, comprising of £61.5M delegated to schools and £32.9M retained centrally by the Council.

The schools delegated budget consists of funding allocated directly to schools and includes formula funding, high needs, and early years funding. The latest reported position predicts year end surplus balances of in the region of £2.3M. Under the DSG grant conditions surplus balances at year end will be carried forward and earmarked for spend by schools.

However, there is an overspend within Schools Centrally Retained budgets (managed on-behalf of schools) of £3.4M. This relates to the SEND / High needs funding block and compares unfavourably to the planned deficit of £2.6M set at the beginning of the year. The change in the reported position (+£0.7M) predominantly relates to an increase in the number of new commissioned places [more than originally anticipated], associated increases in top up payments and higher than expected inflationary fee increases.

If the deficit materialises at this level, then the accumulated deficit at year end would be in the region of £21M. On 12th July 2022, the DFE formally invited the Council to participate in its 'Safety Valve' programme; if, as part of that process, the DFE is satisfied in respect of the robustness and deliverability of the Council's DSG deficit recovery plans, then the Department will potentially contribute towards the funding of the accumulated deficit.

Current Actions and Future Risks

1. The actions / measures to manage LAC numbers as set out in the LAC Sufficiency Action Plan – ensuring that children are placed in the right placements that meet needs and where possible are placed in family type placements - are detailed below:
 - To recruit 23 new in-house fostering households & maintain the current ones during 22/23.
 - Increase the range of 16+ independent living provision to support the transition to adulthood for those in long term care.
 - Implement the Cabinet approved business case to develop a further 5 bedded BMBC children's residential home to reduce the number of children in external provision – costings have been based on taking the first resident in October 2022.
 - Local authority care is only considered when every other option for children has been fully explored.
 - The Head of Service for Children in Care will be attending the Legal Gateway meetings leading to more consistency & challenge in future and help prevent [as appropriate] children entering the care system at the front door.

- Considering a change in practice where consideration is given to all young people in residential care at the end of Year 11. This ensures that they are supported where appropriate to progress into semi-independent living prior to full independence at 18. This change can be right for some young people, but it will also mean young people are not in residential care longer than they need to be.
 - Increase the number of children leaving care through a legal order / reunification to family.
2. A weekly demand oversight group has been established tasked with reviewing demand across children's social care. The aim is to collate data and understand how demand is managed across the pathway from referrals coming through to early help to assessments in the front door. This would assist in assessing the impact on caseloads and managing staffing levels (i.e., vacancies, recruitment and use of agency staff).
 3. DSG management plan, together with the SEND Improvement Plan, provides the basis for managing the risks / cost pressures in relation to SEND /high needs. It outlines the actions and measures to ensure spend is brought in line with the budget over the medium term.

The following outline the key risks / outlook for the rest of the year and beyond:

Education, Early Start, & Prevention

- Rising EHCP numbers and demand for SEND support would continue to pose financial / sustainability concerns in the current year and beyond. A DSG management plan is in place to address the sustainability issue over the period to 2024/25.

Children Social Care & Safeguarding

- A key risk facing children social care is the continued increase in demand and caseloads (e.g., contacts, referrals, children in need, LAC, etc.) and the pressure exerted on staffing levels.
- Sourcing placements for children & young people with complex needs both locally and sub-regionally is challenging – resulting in high cost / tariff placements.
- Slippage and delay in developing the in-house residential care home and the impact on the delivery of the approved efficiency savings in 22/23.

Executive Director's Summary for Growth and Sustainability

Highlights

The latest approved budget for 22/23 for the Growth and Sustainability Directorate is **£50.150M**. The Directorate is forecasting an outturn of **£51.728M** as at the end of Quarter 1, resulting in an overspend of **£1.578M**.

Quarter 1 Position to the End of the Quarter Ending June 2022.

Growth & Sustainability Directorate	Approved Net Budget 2022/23 £'000	Projected Net Outturn 2022/23 £'000	Variance £'000
Regeneration & Culture	16,575	16,758	183
Environment & Highways	33,575	34,970	1,395
Total Growth & Sustainability	50,150	51,728	1,578
Housing Revenue Account	73,095	73,095	-

Key Variances

Regeneration & Culture – (overspend of £0.183M)

An overall **overspend** of **£0.183M** is currently forecast within Regeneration and Culture. Within Property Services, an overspend of £0.806M is reported due to an underachievement of commercial rents (£0.520M) together with higher than anticipated running costs across the building portfolio (£0.260M). This is offset by underspends elsewhere across the Business Unit, predominantly related to staffing vacancies and an overachievement of income within Culture and Planning services.

Environment & Highways – (overspend of £1.395M)

An operational **overspend** of **£1.395M** is forecast for the year. The key variances include an underachievement of car parking income (£0.760M) together with an overspend in Home to School Transport (£0.545M) as a direct result of an increase in the number of children accessing the service over and above that previously forecast. There is also an overspend within Waste, Recycling and Highways services due to staffing issues and increased vehicle costs. These costs have been partly offset by additional income from street works and other sources.

Housing Revenue Account – (balanced position)

The HRA is reporting a **balanced position** as at Quarter 1.

Dwelling rent is projected to achieve the budgeted level based upon projected stock levels, expected additions, and anticipated Right to Buy sales during the

year. The position also includes projected rent loss from voids of around 1.05% as anticipated within the HRA Business Plan.

Spend on repair and maintenance contracts are also forecasting to spend within budget. Following the cost overruns last year, Berneslai Homes and BMBC colleagues have developed a robust financial management framework which allows resources to be deployed effectively in line with budgets whilst also enabling an appropriate response to demand for reactive repairs.

The responsive repairs budget has also been realigned to account for the volume of works encountered last financial year and uplifted to account for an anticipated contractual CPI inflationary uplift of 10%.

However, there remains significant pressure on the Property Repairs and Improvement (PRIP) contract to deliver the same volume of decency / elemental works due to inflationary and demand pressures, which will be monitored diligently throughout the year.

Significant increases in the cost of gas and electricity [£1.2M] is impacting energy costs in District Heating schemes; given the ongoing cost of living crisis these costs are not currently being passed on to tenants resulting in a cost pressure within the HRA. A review of overhead costs charged to the HRA is expected to produce savings that will mitigate the aforementioned cost pressures in this financial year.

Current Actions and Future Risks

The Directorate continues to work hard to identify actions plans and future transformational efficiencies to both mitigate the reported budget over runs and to support the wider Medium Term Financial Plan.

Executive Director's Summary for Place Health and Adult Social Care

Highlights

The latest approved budget for 2022/23 for the Place Health and Adult Social Care Directorate is **£60.652M**. The Directorate is forecasting an outturn of **£60.148M** as at Quarter 1, resulting in an overall forecast underspend of **(£0.504M)**.

Quarter 1 Position to the End of the Quarter Ending June 2022.

Place Health & Adult Social Care Directorate	Approved Net Budget 2022/23 £'000	Projected Net Outturn 2022/23 £'000	Variance £'000
Older People	31,777	31,973	196
Working Age Adults	26,589	26,419	-170
Management Account	2,286	1,756	-530
Place Health & Adult Social Care	60,652	60,148	-504

The Place Health and Adult Social Care Directorate is reporting an overall underspend position (£0.504M) at Quarter 1, which is mainly attributable to unspent / uncommitted grant funding.

The following explains the key variances:

Older People – (overspend of £0.196M)

There is an **overspend** within Older People Services (**£0.196M**) relating, in the main, to additional staffing / overtime costs within the Assisted Living Service together with unachieved income relating to various chargeable services including wardens central call, alarm units and telecare charges.

Working Age – (underspend of £0.170M)

An underspend is forecast within the Working Age Adults Service due to staff vacancies within in-house Day Services.

Management Account – (underspend of £0.530M)

There is currently uncommitted Adult Social Care grant / resources held within the Management account which are expected to remain unspent at year end.

Current Actions and Future Risks

The long-term effects of the pandemic and the potential impact of the Health & Social Care reforms are expected to place financial pressure across the Directorate over the medium-term.

The Directorate is also undertaking a significant programme of transformational activity [the Better Lives Programme] to improve outcomes for service users and deliver cashable efficiencies to support delivery of the Council's MTFS.

Executive Director’s Statement for Public Health & Communities

Highlights

The latest approved net budget for the Public Health & Communities Directorate is **£10.476M**. The Directorate is projecting a net outturn for the year of **£9.999M** (after the earmarking of £2.156M), resulting in a forecast underspend of **£0.477M**.

Quarter 1 Position to the End of the Quarter Ending June 2022.

Public Health & Communities Directorate	Approved Net Budget 2022/23 £'000	Projected Net Outturn 2022/23 £'000	Variance £'000
Public Health	3,869	3,591	-278
Stronger, Safer & Healthier Communities	6,606	6,407	-199
Public Health & Communities	10,476	9,999	-477

Key Variances

The Communities Business Unit is currently forecasting an **underspend** of **£0.199M**, primarily due to staffing vacancies / turnover across services.

Public Health – (underspend of £0.278M)

Public Health is currently forecasting an underspend of £0.278M, again primarily the result of staffing vacancies / turnover across Health Protection [£0.2M] and Regulatory Services [£0.078M].

Stronger, Safer & Healthier Communities – (underspend of £0.199M)

The Communities Business Unit is currently forecasting an underspend of £0.199M, primarily due to staffing vacancies / turnover across services.

Current Actions and Future Risks

There are several risks facing the Directorate:

- The Government requirement to provide long-term accommodation for rough sleepers.
- Support for households facing financial hardship [resourcing and funding issues].
- New Burdens Domestic Abuse Bill and Protect Duty.
- The long-term impact of the pandemic and potential additional ongoing responsibilities across Public Health.

The Directorate is undertaking a major programme of service transformation during 2022/23 to help address the above risks and also contribute towards delivery of the Council’s MTFs.

Executive Director's Statement for Core

Highlights

The latest approved budget for 2022/23 for the Core Services Directorate is **£19.752M**. The Directorate is forecasting an outturn of **£19.718M** (after the earmarking of £0.051M) as at the end of Quarter 1, resulting in a forecast underspend of **£0.034M**.

Quarter 1 Position to the End of the Quarter Ending June 2022.

Core Services Directorate	Approved Net Budget 2022/23 £'000	Projected Net Outturn 2022/23 £'000	Variance £'000
IT	7,114	7,114	-
Finance	2,609	2,564	(45)
Business Imp, HR & Comms	4,629	4,468	(161)
Law and Governance Services	5,400	5,573	173
Total – Core	19,752	19,719	(33)

Key Variances

An underspend of £0.034M is forecast for 2022/23, the key variances are as follows:

IT Services – (*balanced position*)

The balanced position is due to temporary agency spend required to undertake one-off development work, higher than budgeted spend on IT licenses and residual Code Green expenditure following the closure of the service, offset by vacancies & turnover across several service areas.

Finance – (*underspend of £0.045M*)

A minor forecast underspend [£0.045M] relates to higher than anticipated agency costs due to delays in recruiting to vacant posts & delivering government cost of living crisis schemes, offset by vacancies & turnover across several service areas.

Business Improvement, HR, and Communications – (*underspend of £0.161M*):

An underspend of £0.161M is reported due to several vacancies across the Business Unit.

Law & Governance – (*overspend of £0.173M*):

The anticipated overspend [£0.173M] is mainly comprised of higher than expected agency costs, unmitigated income losses following the loss of work

relating to external clients [including the SYMCA], offset by vacancies & minor underspends across the business unit.

Current Actions and Future Risks

- Technology – Continuing to support the workforce to operate with the right infrastructure as part of our Barnsley Is Our Office approach may potentially give rise to increasing cost pressures.
- Customer Information and Digital Services - Uncertainty remains regarding the increased cost of software licenses along with changes in contracting arrangements from external suppliers. Work is ongoing to monitor these arrangements with a view to mitigating these pressures and drive out value for money wherever possible.
- Benefits & Taxation - Further delays with the implementation of Universal Credit and the resourcing impact of unplanned Government initiatives to tackle the cost-of-living crisis continue to impact workloads and backlogs across the service.
- Legal Services - Increasing demands including in the areas of looked after children and commercial work continue to exert financial and resourcing pressure across the service.

Corporate / Council Wide Budgets

Highlights

There is current a projected overspend within Corporate Budgets of **£10.885M**.

An overall operational overspend of £10.885M is currently forecast mainly due to several risks highlighted as part of the 2022/23 budget setting process starting to emerge and at levels higher than originally anticipated:

Pressure	£M
Pay	5.500
Energy	3.705
Fuel	0.280
Inflation	1.400
TOTAL	10.885

Pay Costs - £5.500M

The budget agreed in February was predicated on a pay award of 2%, acknowledging that this was likely to be insufficient given the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

On the 25th July, the National Employers set out their final pay offer, being an increase of £1,925 on all NJC pay points 1 and above [effective 1st April 2022].

This equates to pay awards of circa 10.5% for the lowest graded staff falling to 4% for those staff on higher salaries [the 4% increase is lower still when applied to more senior officers on Grade 11+].

In financial terms, this equates to a year-on-year cost increase of circa £7M, £5M more than the cost increase originally anticipated.

Energy Costs – £3.705M

The cost of energy has also been rising steeply since the middle part of last year with further recent spikes in cost as a consequence of the ongoing war in Ukraine and other global macro-economic factors. The Council purchases its energy via a Local Government Framework held by YPO who have indicated that the average cost of electricity supplied to the Council will increase by in the region of 130% in 22/23 with gas prices rising by a staggering 270%. The combined impact will see last year's energy bill of £4M rising to £10M, an increase of £6M, though an element of this [£2.3M] will be picked up by contributions from service users / as part of major contracts already provided for.

Fuel – £0.280M

The rising cost of fuel coupled with the fact that the Council can no longer use subsidised red diesel is creating a pressure across the vehicle fleet.

Inflation - £1.400M

Inflation (CPI) currently stands at 9.4% [June 2022], the highest in over 40 years. This is placing a significant cost pressure over and above that already provided for on the Council's major contract (BSF / Waste PFI etc.) as well as the cost of delivering some in-house services.

Current Action

In anticipation of the above risks, a provision of £6.0M (£3.8M one off services grant, £1.3M energy provision, £0.9M inflation) was set aside as part of the 22/23 budget setting process. In addition, the underspend of £4.9M reported as part of the 21/22 final accounts process was also earmarked to help address the pressures highlight above. This position will be monitored closely throughout the financial year with an update provided as part of the Q2 update or by exception if required.

Future Action

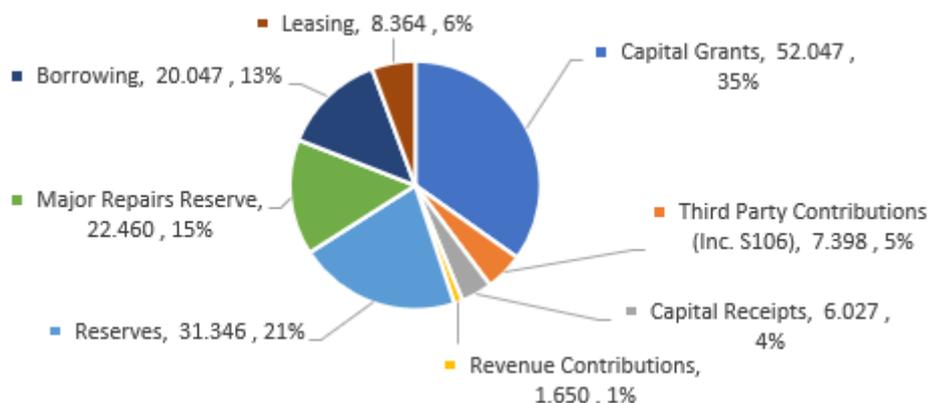
The above pressures will have an ongoing detrimental impact on the MTFs with significant budget deficits forecast for future periods. The financial strategy has been revised to incorporate the development of a programme of transformational / efficiency activity to address the anticipated budget gaps on an ongoing and sustainable basis over the medium term.

Overall Capital Programme Position to the Quarter Ending June 2022

2.11 The Council's capital programme is planned over the five-year period 22/23 through 26/27 and has a total projected cost of **£174.3M**. Forecast spend for 22/23 is **£147M**, **£2.3M** lower than originally planned:

Directorate	2022/23 Capital Programme £M	2022/23 Actual Spend £M	2022/23 Projected Outturn £M	2022/23 Variance £M	Total Capital Programme £M	Total Projected Outturn £M	Total Variance £M
Children's Services	4.472	0.452	3.907	(0.565)	6.472	6,517	0.045
Growth & Sustainability	96.176	7.199	94.447	(1.729)	117.108	117.104	(0.004)
Public Health & Communities	8.756	0.690	8.756	-	8.756	8.756	-
Core Services	5.711	0.322	5.711	-	7.709	7.709	-
Housing Revenue Account	34.224	2.383	34.224	-	34.224	34.224	-
Total	149.339	11.046	147.045	(2.294)	174.269	174.310	0.041

2.12 The above costs are to be funded from a variety of sources as highlighted in the chart below, the majority of which are from external grants and reserves specifically earmarked for capital priorities:



Scheme Slippage

2.13 The lower than expected spend is primarily due to programme slippage across several schemes during Q1 totalling £2.3M (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). Significant slippage is explained further below:

Directorate	Scheme	£M	Explanation
Growth & Sustainability	High Street Heritage Action Zone	(£0.778M)	There have been delays to the programme caused by the pandemic which has meant that some of the funding has had to be rolled over into the second half of the scheme. This has been done in agreement with the funder.
Growth &	M1 J36	(£0.406M)	Major works are expected to begin during Quarter 3 of 22/23

Sustainability	Phase 2		once ground stabilisation work has been completed. It is therefore anticipated that some work and costs will take place in the 23/24 financial year.
Children's Services	Milefield Primary Roofing Works	(£0.362M)	In order to best utilise the summer holiday period and minimise disruption to education, proposed works have been split into two phases. Phase 1 will be undertaken during summer 2022 whereby a mezzanine plant room will be built to house the ventilation system, and Phase 2 will commence in summer 2023 where the roofing works will take place.
Growth & Sustainability	Principal Towns	(£0.353M)	Work in the Royston area is currently paused due to the need to carry out an additional survey to assess the impact of the scheme on Willow Tits, which can only be carried out at a certain time of the year (February - April). Plans are in place to undertake this late in 22/23, however the pause in works will likely cause an overall delay in the area and push other work back into 23/24.
	Other	(£0.436M)	Several other schemes within Growth & Sustainability and Children's Services have reported minor slippage, totaling £0.436M.
	Total	(£2.294M)	

Variation in Scheme Costs

2.14 There has also been a minor variation in scheme cost (£0.041M) across several schemes which will be contained within the capital contingency reserve.

New Approvals

2.15 In addition to the above, several new schemes have been approved during the quarter totaling £53.5M:

Reconciliation Between 21/22 Year End and 22/23 Quarter 1 Positions	Directorate	£M
21/22 Year End Approved Total Position		95.867
<u>Approved Schemes During Quarter 1:</u>		
Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme Allocation 22/23	Housing Revenue Account	19.108
Highways Capital Programme Allocation 22/23	Growth & Sustainability	17.660
Vehicle Replacement Programme 22/23	Growth & Sustainability	6.104
Disabled Facilities Grant Allocation 22/23	Public Health & Communities	3.377
The Seam Digital Campus	Growth & Sustainability	1.672
Children in Care – Foundry Lane	Children's Services	1.000
Other		4.551
Total New Approvals		53.472
TOTAL QUARTER 1 CAPITAL PROGRAMME		149.339

Future Funding

2.16 The following key funding opportunities are currently being pursued:

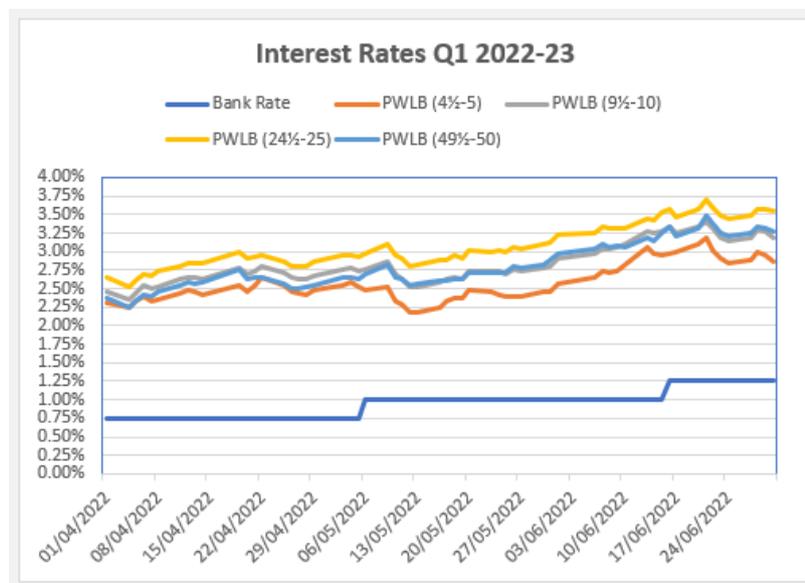
- **Levelling Up Round 2** – after extensive consultation two bids are being developed for submission to DHLUC. The first bid covers 3 schemes across the town centre – the total package is estimated to cost £12.5M with a £10m ask of LUF funds. The second LUF bid (Barnsley East) is centred around the Elsecar Heritage site and as an estimated scheme value of £18.5m with a £16m ask of LUF funds.
- **Brownfield Sites** - £40M has been allocated to the SYMCA (£8M per year over a 5-year period) by DHLUC to develop housing on brownfield sites. A number of bids are currently being progressed by Strategic Housing to be submitted against this funding.

2.17 It is worth noting that whilst the capital programme is currently forecasting to be delivered within budget, inflationary pressures and supply chain issues are placing a significant strain on the delivery of individual projects as well as the development of the scheme pipeline.

Treasury Management Update as at End of June 2022

Treasury Management – Economic Outlook

2.18 Interest rates continue to be monitored closely. As shown in the graph borrowing rates have been on a rising trend over the course of the first quarter.



2.19 In June 2022, inflation hit a 40-year high at 9.4% and is forecast to keep rising to more than 10% by the end of 2022, before gradually falling back to an estimated 4.7% by the end of 2023.

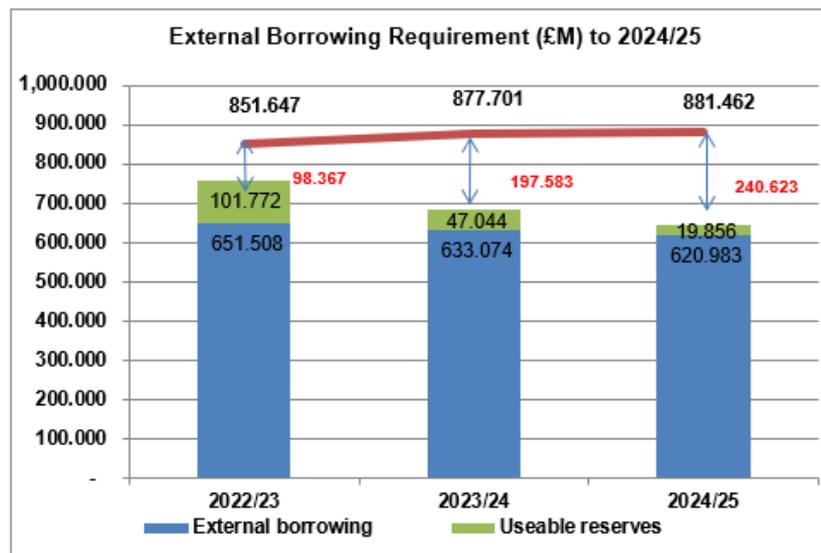
2.20 As predicted in the Q4 update, the current Base Interest Rate increased to

1.25% in June 2022. It is anticipated that the rate will rise further, possibly to 3.00% by the end of 23/24:

	<i>Latest</i>	Sep-22	Mar-23	Sep-23	Mar-24	Sep-24	Mar-25
UK Base Rate ~ Link Group	1.25%	1.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.50%	2.25%	2.25%
UK Base Rate ~ Capital Economics	1.25%	1.75%	2.50%	3.00%	3.00%	-	-
PWLB Certainty 50 Years ~ Link Group	3.27%	3.40%	3.50%	3.40%	3.30%	3.20%	3.10%
PWLB Certainty 50 Years ~ Capital Economics	3.27%	3.60%	3.80%	3.70%	3.60%	-	-

Treasury Management – Borrowing Activity

- 2.21 As outlined previously the Council's borrowing strategy is to limit its exposure to interest rate risk whilst maintaining an appropriate level of internal borrowing to minimise its financing costs.
- 2.22 No new borrowing was undertaken during the first quarter, however, as shown in the graph, based on current capital plans it is anticipated that the Council will need to borrow up to £240.6M by the end of 2024/25.

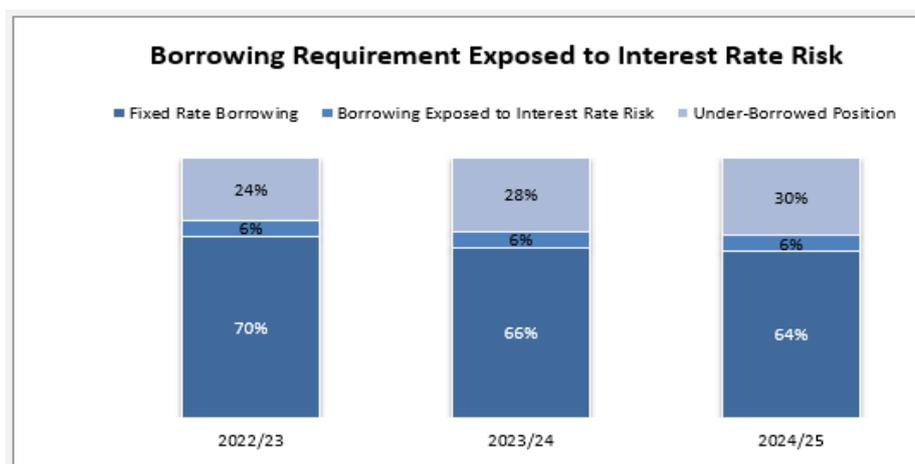


Projected external borrowing requirement 2022/23 – 2024/25	£M
Planned capital investment	54.674
Maturing loans / reduced support from useable reserves	201.034
Amounts set aside to repay debt	(15.085)
Total	240.623

- 2.23 The Council remains committed to maintaining its exposure to interest rate risk within the limits set out below.

Interest Rate Risk Exposure	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Limit on Variable Rate Borrowing / Unfinanced CFR	30%	25%	25%

- 2.24 Although the graph below shows that the borrowing target for 22/23 has been achieved early (70% fixed rate), based on the above projections, should the Council take no further fixed rate borrowing there would be an exposure of 34% to variable rates in 23/24 and 36% in 2024/25.



- 2.25 In order to deliver against the strategy, it is therefore anticipated that the Council will need to fix out an additional £95.1M by the end of 2024/25. Treasury officers are actively seeking to secure funding through forward loans to bring some of the fixed rate borrowing requirement forward and lock into lower rates in the current rising interest rate environment.

	2022/23 (£M)	2023/24 (£M)	2024/25 (£M)
Fixed Rate Borrowing Requirement (Cumulative)	-	80.203	95.114
Temporary Borrowing Requirement (Cumulative)	98.367	117.380	145.509
Total	98.367	197.583	240.623

Treasury Management - Investments

- 2.26 There has been a net increase in investment balances of £17.6M during the quarter.
- 2.27 The Council's investment strategy remains focused on security (loss avoidance) and liquidity (ensuring cash is available when needed to meet the Council's spending commitments).
- 2.28 To reflect this strategy, officers continue to place investments in secure Money Market Funds and instant access accounts. The Council has also placed a significant level of short-term deposits with reputable banks and other local authorities to diversify the investment portfolio and help spread counterparty risk.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

- The Authority's outturn currently stands at an overspend of £13.7M.
- Executive Directors are requested to draw up action plans to mitigate these overspends as far as is possible and that those are submitted to Cabinet as part of the Q2 performance management update.
- Any remaining cost pressure after this exercise will be funded temporarily via the use of one-off reserves in this financial year pending the development of a mitigation / transformation plan to address anticipated financial pressures in 23/24 and beyond.

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 in relation to the budgets proposals as appropriate.

3.4 Sustainability

Decision Wheel not applicable.

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 corporate pressures currently being experienced were, in general,

anticipated as part of the 2022/23 budget setting process, the overspend position reported at Quarter 1 is higher than expected. Therefore, Executive Directors are requested to bring forward action plans to address the pressures within their respective areas to address the current position.

7. GLOSSARY

N/A

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Service and Financial Planning 2022/23 – The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy – 2022/23 Budget recommendations (Cab.09.02.2022/6 refers).

Report Author: Neil Copley

Post: Service Director Finance and S151 Officer

Date: 10/08/2022

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CHILDREN’S SERVICES)

TITLE: BARNSELY MBC – A FOSTERING FRIENDLY EMPLOYER

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	21 SEPTEMBER 2022
Cabinet Member Portfolio	CHILDREN’S SERVICES
Key Decision	Yes
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

To seek Cabinet’s approval for the Council to be recognised as a “*Fostering Friendly*” employer

Council Plan priority

The proposal primarily supports the priority of a **Healthy Barnsley** through enabling vulnerable children in need of care to remain safe from harm. The improvements in skills and capacity envisaged through becoming a ‘*Fostering Friendly*’ employer can ensure greater stability of care and act as a platform for improving a range of outcomes, thereby reducing inequalities in health and income

Recommendations

That Cabinet supports the proposal for the Council to become a National Fostering Network ‘*Fostering Friendly*’ employer

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report outlines a brief case for proposing that the Council should become a *Fostering Friendly* employer.

2.0 PROPOSAL

2.1 Foster carers can provide a stable, loving home that can enable children and young people in need of care to thrive. Fostering provides a sense of belonging for children within a family setting and recruiting foster carers

locally, supports children in being able to stay close to their family network and community within Barnsley.

2.2 At a time when demand among children and young people in need of care grows, we are experiencing a combination of factors that has led to challenges in the supply and recruitment of labour in many sectors of the employment market. In combination, the objective of ensuring children and young people in need of care stay local and constraints in the supply of skills, therefore provide an opportunity for the Council to become a *Fostering Friendly* employer. A fostering friendly employer is an enterprise that helps employees who are foster carers or who want to become foster carers do this alongside their day job.

2.3 One of the outcomes and recommendations of the recently published final report of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, was that a national foster carer recruitment programme should be launched later this year to recruit 9,000 additional foster carers in the next three years. Incentives such as the Fostering Network's *Fostering Friendly* initiative can improve the quality of practice and provision locally and quickly.

2.4 Current Position

2.5 The current position concerning the recruitment and retention of Local Authority foster carers in Barnsley is as follows:

2.6 *Allowances*: The payment of weekly fostering allowances in Barnsley are based on the National Minimum Fostering Rate that increases year on year. The allowance is intended to cover the following elements:

- Food, including school meals
- The child's health and hygiene
- Toys and play equipment
- Activities including school trips and some residential trips
- Clothing
- Pocket money
- Mobile phone top ups
- Costs of travel to school
- Contribution to household costs, for example, heating, lighting
- Bedding and replacement items
- Day to day transport, either by car or public transport
- Family day trips
- Personal allowance, including for trips to the cinema, bowling, swimming

2.7 Moreover, additional allowances can be made in relation to the following:

- Holidays, birthdays, and festivals
- Clothing
- School uniform
- School extra-curricular activities

Carers can also receive financial support through our skills-based payments scheme. Foster carers are paid at 3 levels and the criteria is based against their experience, knowledge and range of skills. The financial fees are paid based upon the age of the children in care with the older the child, the greater the payment.

- 2.8 Whilst the Scheme of payment and allowances is felt to be comparable with neighbouring local authorities (*comparisons were reviewed in September 2021*), challenges prevail in the recruitment and retention of foster carers nationally and Barnsley has been no exception. During the period April 2021 to March 2022, 23 foster carers left their role and whilst some of the reasons are positive, including through legal permanence via a Special Guardianship Order, exit interviews also indicated the following reasons:
- Local authority concerns over foster carers standards of care
 - Separation or divorce
 - Special guardianship orders (SGO)
 - Retirement
 - Withdrawal due to health reasons
- 2.9 We are keen to support our workforce to become foster carers and increasingly foster carers combine the role of foster carer with their day job. The National *Fostering Friendly Scheme* helps in recognising this dual role. Since the Scheme's inception in 2015, over 70 organisations including neighbouring local authorities and the Department for Education have participated in the Scheme.
- 2.10 The attraction for potential carers is that the Scheme recommends that employers adopt a fostering friendly policy and procedure which should include an entitlement to flexible hours of working, paid leave for training purposes as well as special leave to help enable a new child in their care to settle into their new home.
- 2.11 In noting the challenges and considerations described earlier in this report, the proposal is therefore, to revise and update the Council's existing policies for Flexible Working, Work Breaks and Special Leave as part of making it a Fostering Friendly employer and to attract the right people capable of offering a stable and loving home to children in need of care (*Please also see Paragraphs 3.10 and 4.2*).
- 2.12 Participation in the Scheme would be accentuated by the ability of the Council to use the Fostering Friendly insignia on recruitment literature to help promote this within the wider market. We will also communicate out to all partner agencies to encourage them to take up this scheme through the Fostering Network including the private sector, through the Business Economy Board.
- 2.13 Investing in such a policy will support council employees who are already foster carers, including for other councils to feel more supported and remain working but also supports any Council staff who are considering fostering to potentially be able to fulfil their current contractual responsibilities but also enable them to foster children and young people alongside this.

- 2.14 Historically, foster cares did not combine the role with formal paid work. With the passage of time local authorities have recognised they can recruit foster carers who also have paid roles. An example being if a foster carer has an older child who is in full time education, then paid work around their commitments can be considered. This would be the same as in a non-fostering family and provides young people in their care, with a positive work ethic and role modelling for the future. Our communication plan for the 'Fostering Friendly' Employer Initiative will address this perception.
- 2.15 Whilst there are various other fostering schemes, including emergency provision that can be considered which offer flexibility, the *Fostering Friendly Employer* initiative would enhance the number of current fostering households and support our ambition to continue to reduce the number of children being placed in independent fostering or residential provision, thereby enabling the Authority to deliver value for money and a more effective use of available resources within children's social care.

3.0 IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

- 3.2 There are no direct financial implications for the Authority emerging through consideration of this report, as there are no proposed changes to the foster carers' scheme of payment and allowances.

3.4 Legal

- 3.5 There are no legal implications or risks for the Authority emerging through consideration of this report (*Please also see Paragraph 5.2 of the report*).

3.6 Equality

- 3.7 An equality impact assessment has been completed in relation to the proposal and is attached as an appendix to this report.

3.8 Sustainability

- 3.9 There are no implications for sustainability in the Borough arising through consideration of this report.

3.10 Employee

- 3.11 The proposal would afford opportunities for anyone within the Council's workforce who has considered becoming a foster carer but is unsure whether they can combine both roles, to fulfil this role with the assurance that flexible working, together with special leave and work breaks will become a feature of their tenure.

3.12 Communications

- 3.13 Subject to Cabinet approving the proposal, steps will be taken to promote the

Council as a 'Fostering Friendly' employer within internal news channels and across our network of partner organisations.

4.0 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation on the proposal has taken place with the Service Director (Human Resources, Business Improvement and Communications) together with trade union representatives from the GMB, Unison and Unite. All three trade unions have indicated their support for the proposal.
- 4.2 In order to ensure consistency of approach, the Council's existing Special Leave and Flexible Working policies will be amended to include details of the Fostering Friendly Employer initiative and include relevant information such as eligibility criteria, time- off requirements and how to process requests.
- 4.3 Consideration will also be given to aligning polices such as parental and adoption leave in Barnsley for new foster carers, if appropriate. The amended policies would follow the normal consultation and approval process including consulting with relevant Trade Unions and equality impact assessed.
- 4.4 to promote the Council as a Fostering Friendly Employer, it is recommended that job adverts and recruitment sites include a link to the Fostering Friendly Network Web site and their logo. The Council's corporate induction checklist would also be amended to refer to the Council being a 'Fostering Friendly' Employer and to encourage managers to raise awareness with new starters.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The proposal for the Council to become a *Fostering Friendly* employer provides an opportunity to increase capacity within our cohort of foster carers for children in need of care and to help improve a range of outcomes.
- 5.2 Should Cabinet decide not to support this proposal, there is a risk that it would be an opportunity wasted in ensuring we have a cost-effective solution to satisfactorily complying with our statutory responsibility for ensuring a sufficient volume of placements for children in need of care.

6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The proposal for the Council to become a *Fostering Friendly* employer provides useful accreditation in attracting additional foster carers of the right calibre, particularly from within the Council's own workforce, including Children's Services.

7.0 GLOSSARY

- 7.1 None, applicable.

8.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

- 8.1 Appendix 1: Barnsley MBC – A ‘Fostering Friendly’ Employer: Equality Impact Assessment

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

10.0 REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	<i>Joshua Amahwe 20/07/2022</i>
Legal consultation & sign off	<i>Jason Field 19/07/22</i>

Report Author:
Designation:

Claire Brodie
Interim Head of Service, Children’s Services

Equality Impact Assessment

Stage 1 Details of the proposal

Name of service Directorate	Children's Social Care and Safeguarding (Children's Services)
Name of officer responsible for EIA Name of senior sponsor	Interim Head of Children in Care Services (Children's Social Care and Safeguarding)
Description / purpose of proposal	Barnsley MBC as a 'Fostering Friendly' Employer
Date EIA started	1 st July 2022
Assessment Review date	30 th June 2023

Stage 2 - About the proposal

What is being proposed?	The proposal for Barnsley MBC to become a ' <i>Fostering Friendly</i> ' employer is to be presented for consideration by Cabinet in September 2022.
Why is the proposal required?	The proposal will encourage employees of the Council, together with those of local partner agencies, to consider becoming a foster carer to children in need of care, by enabling a change to special leave and associated policies and procedures which will help combine the role of the employee at work with that of foster carer.
What will this proposal mean for customers?	The 'Fostering Friendly' employer initiative if successful will lead to an increase in capacity among

Local Authority foster carers' that will result in more children in need of care being placed in stable placements that will enable them to thrive. Such placements will enable children in need of care in Barnsley to be able to stay in their communities and wider family networks. The alternative would be to find costlier placements in independent settings outside of the Borough, potentially within unregistered and unregulated settings. This is a situation which the Local Authority is committed to preventing as far as possible

Stage 3 - Preliminary screening process

Use the Preliminary screening questions to decide whether a full EIA is required

Yes - EIA required (go to next section)

No – EIA not required (provide rationale below including name of E&I Officer consulted with)

Stage 4 - Scoping exercise - What do we know?

Data: Generic demographics

What generic data do you know?

The Service maintains a range of data on the circumstances and profile of children and young people entering the care system, together with information relating to accommodation, health, education as well as any young person who goes missing from care or school. This is to ensure this group of vulnerable children are kept safe from harm, are able to maintain their wellbeing and achieve their potential.

Data: Service data / feedback

What equalities knowledge do you already know about the service/location/policy/contract?

All children and young people in need of help or protection, including those who enter formal care are screened for any specific needs including a protected characteristic which the Service endeavours to meet

Data: Previous / similar EIA's

Has there already been an EIA on all or part of this before, or something related? If so, what were the main issues and actions it identified?

This is the first EIA to have been compiled for this purpose.

Data: Formal consultation

What information has been gathered from formal consultation?

As yet no data or information has been gathered as part of the proposal. When matching children and young people with foster parents any specific needs will always be foremost in discussions in order to meet these needs. However, foster carers are subject to the Council's Equalities Scheme and an important part of their role will be to promote equality and eliminate unlawful discrimination.

In recent years, the Local Authority has recognised that it lacks representation from specific sections of the community within its cohort of foster carers and has worked in partnership with the Area Councils and Ward Alliances to increase the percentage of people from specific parts of the community who would like to consider providing foster care and this will continue.

Stage 5 - Potential impact on different groups

Considering the evidence above, state the likely impact the proposal will have on people with different protected characteristics

(state if negative impact is substantial and highlight with **red text**)

Negative (and potentially positive) impacts identified will need to form part of your action plan.

Protected characteristic	Negative '-'	Positive '+'	No impact	Don't know	Details
Sex			√		There will be no change to the eligibility of couples wanting to provide foster care to children.
Age			√		None anticipated
Disabled <i>Learning disability, Physical disability, Sensory Impairment, Deaf People, invisible illness, Mental Health etc</i>			√		There will be no change in affording care which meets the specific needs of children with complex health requirements including an impairment or disability.
Race			√		There will be no change in affording care which meets the specific needs of children from an ethnic minority

Religion & Belief			√		As above
Sexual orientation			√		Please see Rows 4 and 5
Gender Reassignment			√		Please see Rows 4 and 5
Marriage / civil partnership		N/A			None anticipated
Pregnancy / maternity		N/A			None anticipated

Other groups you may want to consider					
	Negative	Positive	No impact	Don't know	Details
Ex services			√		Supporting the needs of all children in need of care is a universal service which is available to every child in such circumstances
Lower socio-economic			√		Please see above
Other ...					None anticipated-

Stage 6 - BMBC Minimum access standards

If the proposal relates to the delivery of a new service, please refer to the Customer minimum access standards self-assessment (found at)

If not, move to Stage 7.

Please use the action plan to be taken to ensure the new service complies with the minimum access standards. Reasonable adjustments for disabled people.

Not yet live

The proposal will meet the minimum access standards.

The proposal will not meet the minimum access standards. –provide rationale below.

Stage 7 – Action plan

To improve your knowledge about the equality impact . . .

Actions could include: community engagement with affected groups, analysis of performance data, service equality monitoring, stakeholder focus group etc.

Action we will take:	Lead Officer	Completion date
Outcomes of national reviews of practice	Head of Children in Care Services	June 2023
Engaging with all groups of young people and their families particularly the Youth Council, Care4Us Council and SEND Youth Forum, together with other specific initiatives including the annual <i>Make Your Mark Survey</i> and National 'Takeover' Challenge	Head of Children in Care Services	June 2023
Annual report of the Virtual School Head teacher for Vulnerable Children and the Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel	Head of Children in Care Services	June 2023
Monthly Children's Social Care Performance Reports including data on the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children dispersed and resettled in the Borough	Head of Children in Care Services	June 2023

To improve or mitigate the equality impact . . .

Actions could include: altering the policy to protect affected group, limiting scope of proposed change, reviewing actual impact in future, phasing-in changes over period of time, monitor service provider performance indicators, etc.

Action we will take:	Lead Officer	Completion date
Pulse surveys and further consultation	Head of Children in Care Services	June 2023
Identifying, disseminating and introducing best practice	Head of Children in Care Services	June 2023
Implementing the recommendations of the recent independent review of children's social care, including the designation of children experiencing care or leaving care as a protected characteristic.	Head of Education and Partnerships	June 2023

To meet the minimum access standards . . .(if relevant)

Actions could include: running focus group with disability forum, amend tender specification, amend business plan to request extra 'accessibility' funding, produce separate MAS action plan, etc.

Action we will take:	Lead Officer	Completion date
Not yet live		

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Stage 8 – Assessment findings

Please summarise how different protected groups are likely to be affected

Summary of equality impact	The proposal will aim to enhance the number and profile of Local Authority foster carers whose skills and training will enable them to care and meet the specific needs of groups of children in need of care.
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Summary of next steps	If approved, the impact of the proposal in enabling Local Authority employees, together with those in local, partner agencies to combine their employment with being a foster carer will be reviewed after 6 months.
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Signature (officer responsible for EIA) Date	
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** EIA now complete **

Stage 9 – Assessment Review

(This is the post implementation review of the EIA based on date in Stage 1 if applicable)
What information did you obtain and what does that tell us about equality of outcomes for different groups?

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

TITLE: INSPECTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES CHILDREN'S SERVICES: OUTCOMES OF THE JOINT, TARGETED AREA INSPECTION OF THE MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF INITIAL NEED AND RISK AMONG VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN BARNSELY

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	21 SEPTEMBER 2022
Cabinet Member Portfolio	CHILDREN'S SERVICES
Key Decision	No
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

To inform Cabinet of the outcomes of the recent Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to the identification of initial need and risk among vulnerable children in Barnsley, together with the next steps.

Council Plan priority

The JTAI and its outcomes primarily support the priority of a **Healthy Barnsley** within the Council Plan, by ensuring young people are effectively safeguarded from harm, together with the priority of a **Learning Barnsley** through enabling young people to have access to effective early help and support.

Recommendations

1. That the outcomes of the JTAI, together with the next steps, be recommended for consideration by Full Council.
2. That the draft 'Written Statement of Proposed Action' in response to these outcomes be presented for Cabinet's approval at the meeting on 19th October 2022, with this date subject to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee waiving its right to 'call-in' the Statement, if required (*Please see Paragraph 2.9 of this report*)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Together with focused inspections and the *Annual Conversation* between the Regional Director (Ofsted) and the Director of Children's Services, the JTAI forms part of the framework for the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS)

1.2 The Borough's JTAI took place between 23rd and 27th May this year and was undertaken by a combination of inspectors from the following inspectorates:

- Care Quality Commission
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of (Police) Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services
- Ofsted

1.3 Scope and Methodology of the JTAI

1.4 The scope of the JTAI included an evaluation of the following:

- How effectively individual agencies in a local area identify and respond to contacts and referrals concerning initial need and risk among vulnerable children in need of help or protection
- The effectiveness of the local multi-agency safeguarding hub or MASH
- How effectively each local partner contributes to the multi-agency response, including early decision-making across early help, children in need of help and child protection
- How effectively the local statutory partners for safeguarding or the Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children Partnership monitor, promote, co-ordinate and evaluate their work.
- The impact of leaders and managers upon the quality of practice and provision with children and families through the '*front door*' to children's social care
- The timeliness of this work and the impact of the local area's actions in improving the multi-agency response to children in need of help and protection
- How well current practice takes account of the relevant history in children's cases.

1.5 The methodology for conducting the JTAI included the following:

Pre-inspection activity

Each inspectorate shared an analysis of relevant information they held about the local area. An inspector from each of the inspectorates reviewed the information and then met to discuss arrangements for the inspection before local partners, including the Council were notified of the JTAI.

Week 1

- Inspectors requested information from the local partners to support the inspection

- Inspectors and local leaders held a set-up discussion which took place off site.
- Local agencies shared with each other, the information to support the inspection.
- Inspectors selected a cohort of children as the basis for evaluating their experiences and journey
- Inspectors concluded their planning and pre-inspection analysis for the JTAI.

Week 2

- The local area audited children's experiences.
- Local agencies in the Barnsley LSCP shared information with inspectors to support the inspection.
- Inspectors carried out pre-inspection analysis and reviewed the information set out in Annex 'A'. of the guidance for conducting JTAs
- Inspectors worked with the local agencies to agree a fieldwork timetable.
- Inspectors met virtually with local leaders, staff and stakeholders, together with observing practice. These interviews included the Interim Executive Director (Children's Services) the Independent Scrutineer of local area arrangements for safeguarding children; Head of Public Protection, together with the Force's lead for multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (South Yorkshire Police) and the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children (*formerly Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group and now the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board*)

Week 3

- Inspectors carried out fieldwork as part of gathering evidence for the inspection
- Identification of any emerging issues of concern and recording evidence
- The findings of the Inspection were communicated to the Barnsley LSCP's Board at the end of Week 3

2. PROPOSAL

2.1 The JTAI culminated in the publication of the inspectorates' findings in the letter attached as the Appendix to this report.

2.2 Outcomes of the JTAI

2.3 The JTAI's headline findings were that:

"Most children in Barnsley receive the right support at the right time to identify risk and meet their needs across the 'front door' services. The recently formed Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children Partnership demonstrates ambition and commitment to improve outcomes for children and their families. However, it is too early to evidence consistent progress to improve services for all children"

- 2.4 Many aspects of provision were commended in the report, including the following:
- The commitment of local partners to working together to improve outcomes for children
 - The quality of the multi-agency training offer to practitioners
 - The quality of early help offered
 - Tackling child protection concerns
 - The quality of child and family assessments
 - The multi-agency response to children missing from home
 - The effectiveness of both single and multi-agency audits in building upon the quality of practice.

2.5 However, the following areas of provision were identified as in need of improvement

- The quality and consistency of all agencies' in gathering, recording and responding to the expressed wishes and feelings of children with whom they work.
- The quality of referrals to the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH), including the timeliness of those from general practitioners (GPs).
- The timeliness of the local authority sharing information with partner agencies, including the outcome of referrals and the minutes of child protection strategy meetings.
- The consistent application of thresholds for children stepping down to early help services.
- The provision of an appropriate adult when children are arrested by the police.
- The timeliness of the police response to all incidents when there is an identified risk to children.
- The availability of and the quality of the Emergency Duty Team's (EDT) response to children and partner agencies.

2.6 The detailed findings of the JTAI are outlined in the joint inspectorates' letter (*Please see Appendix*)

2.7 Next Steps

- 2.8 As a result, the JTAI has concluded that as the principal authority, Barnsley MBC, together with its local statutory partners in the Barnsley LSCP should compile a *Written Statement of Proposed Action* outlining how the local partners will appropriately own and respond to the findings in the JTAI's report via an action plan to be overseen by the Barnsley LSCP Board.
- 2.9 This Statement must be forwarded to the joint inspectorates by 25th October 2022 for consideration and approval. Therefore, with Cabinet's agreement, it is recommended that the proposed Written Statement be presented for Cabinet's consideration and approval at the meeting on 19th October prior to its submission to Ofsted.
- 2.10 Unlike the culmination of standard inspections of local authority children's services no judgement has been given to the JTAI and no additional intervention is contemplated.

3 IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

- 3.2 Consultation has taken place with representatives of the Service Director Finance (S151 Officer).
- 3.3 Whilst the requirement to submit a *Written Statement of Proposed Action* in isolation will not create any additional cost pressure, the actions highlighted within it may well do. With this in mind senior finance officers will work closely with colleagues within Children's Social care to determine any ongoing cost implications for the Council and report back to Cabinet and Full Council in due course.

3.4 Legal

- 3.5 The JTAI letter did not expressly indicate any non-compliance with the Council's statutory responsibilities for meeting the needs of children in need of help or protection, together with children in need of care.

3.6 Equality

- 3.7 There were no implications for promoting equality or eliminating unlawful discrimination expressly emerging through the JTAI.

3.8 Sustainability

- 3.9 There are no implications for sustainability in the Borough arising through consideration of this report.

3.10 Employee

- 3.11 The JTAI letter commends the quality of the overall multi-agency programme of training and development for professionals and practitioners. However, the JTAI has identified specific instances where the quality of practice is variable among the multi-agency partners. This will be addressed through the 'Written Statement of Proposed Action' and the multi-agency training programme.

3.12 Communications

- 3.13 The outcomes of the JTAI have been disseminated with partners as part of formulating the 'Written Statement of Proposed Action' and instigating the improvements identified by the joint inspectorates.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Barnsley Local Safeguarding Partnership and the Council's Senior Management Team have both been consulted on the outcomes of the JTAI and the next steps.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The exclusive purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the findings of the recent JTAI and the next steps in responding to these findings.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Our ambition is to ensure the commissioning and provision of an outstanding and seamless range of services for all children, young people and families in the Borough. As part of this, we are committed to seeking all forms of external assurance on the quality and consistency of services, including benchmarking them with similar services in the Region and nationally.
- 6.2 External assurance, including the LGA's peer review of children's social care in the Borough and our own self-evaluation activity form an important triangulation with such inspections on the current quality of practice and provision. This will help in closing any gaps particularly in preparation for the Council's next full inspection under the Ofsted ILACS Framework.

7. GLOSSARY

- 7.1 None, applicable

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

- 8.1 Appendix 1: Joint Targeted Area Inspection of Barnsley – Letter from the Joint Inspectorates'

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date Steve Loach (08/08/2022)
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date <i>Jason Field 9/8/22</i>

Report Author: Sophie Wales
Designation: Service Director (Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding)

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18 July 2022

Sophie Wales, Interim Executive Director of Children's Services, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Chris Edwards, Accountable Officer, NHS Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group
Alan Billings, Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire
Lauren Poultney, Chief Constable, South Yorkshire Police
Jean Imray, Independent Scrutineer

Dear Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership

Joint targeted area inspection of Barnsley

This letter summarises the findings of the joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to identification of initial need and risk in Barnsley.

This inspection took place from 23 to 27 May 2022. It was carried out by inspectors from Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

Headline findings

Most children in Barnsley receive the right support at the right time to identify risk and meet their needs across the 'front door' services. The recently formed Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) demonstrates ambition and commitment to improve outcomes for children and their families. However, it is too early to evidence consistent progress to improve services for all children.

What needs to improve?

- The quality and consistency of all agencies' gathering, recording and responding to the expressed wishes and feelings of children with whom they work.
- The quality of referrals to the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH), including the timeliness of those from general practitioners (GPs).
- The timeliness of the local authority sharing information with partner agencies, including the outcome of referrals and the minutes of child protection strategy meetings.
- The consistent application of thresholds for children stepping down to early help services.
- The provision of an appropriate adult when children are arrested by the police.

- The timeliness of the police response to all incidents when there is an identified risk to children.
- The availability of and the quality of the emergency duty team's (EDT) response to children and partner agencies.

Main findings

The BSCP has recently experienced changes to all its executive partners. This has resulted in some delay in agreeing future priorities. However, partners have used this delay constructively to review their structure and how they oversee front door services across the partnership. The partners are committed to working together and are ambitious for children and improving their lived experiences. A new independent scrutineer is supporting the partnership to review its priorities and how it functions to support children in Barnsley. Partners have started to make progress. For example, they have increased the frequency of meetings, created a MASH operational and strategic group, and are reviewing the performance data that the partnership receives. However, the pace of change has not always been sufficient to have a positive impact on improving children's lives.

The BSCP has a broad core membership, and this means that a range of professionals offer their knowledge and experience of front door services for children and contribute to forward planning. However, the private, voluntary and independent education providers are not currently represented on the BSCP. This is a missed opportunity to have these significant education providers contribute to future planning.

Partners in Barnsley are proactive in responding to local and national issues relating to safeguarding children. They have collectively commissioned external scrutiny to challenge and review their current practice to improve outcomes for children. Partners respond in a timely manner to significant incidents for children and jointly review children's circumstances to appropriately identify learning across the partnership workforce. However, the commissioning of child safeguarding practice reviews does not always provide partners with all the information they need to implement learning from significant incidents.

The staff training offer from the BSCP and individual agencies is highly valued by the wider workforce. Staff reported training to be easily accessible, including after-school hours and bite-sized learning sessions. School leaders reported an increased confidence and competence in leading early help plans for children and their families following training events.

The BSCP escalation policy is not used effectively. Strong professional working relationships in Barnsley often lead to informal conversations outside the agreed

policy. This means that there is a lack of transparency and recording of decisions made in relation to the safeguarding of children and young people.

Multi-agency referrals to the MASH are mostly timely. However, they vary in quality, detail and analysis. This means that MASH practitioners often need to seek further clarification or do more research to fully understand the concerns. For a small number of children, social workers do not seek this additional information from referrers, contributing to the delay in the decision-making for these children. This also means that some decisions are not always based on the full information available.

A number of health professionals reported that GPs do not refer concerns for children to the MASH at the earliest opportunity. Risks identified are too often passed to other health professionals to respond to and refer on to MASH, should they decide to do so. This means that some children will experience delay in having risk to them assessed in a timely way.

The MASH is resourced by the co-location of key social care, early help, police and health partners and appropriate virtual partners from other agencies. Although there is an education representative in the MASH, the effectiveness of this role is restricted because it provides limited information. The education representative's role does not require them to contribute to decision-making for children. The BSCP responded to concerns raised during this inspection and took action to ensure that a probation service representative would be available for future decision-making in the MASH.

Information-sharing processes between multidisciplinary health professionals are effective. However, social workers do not always inform all safeguarding partners of the outcome of their referrals. This means that professionals are too often required to chase the MASH staff for a response or might not be in receipt of important information that could inform their response with those children and families.

Concerns for children raised at the front door are responded to quickly. Most partners use the child and family's history well to inform decision-making. Consent is gained from parents to seek and share information and, when necessary, management oversight is clear to override consent when in the best interests of children. The MASH arrangements are effective in making immediate safeguarding decisions for most children to ensure that they receive the support and protection they need.

Early help is appropriately recognised and provided to support children and families when concerns or difficulties first arise. Assessments involve a varied range of statutory, community and voluntary services that are child-focused and are used well to meet children's needs effectively. For many children, early help support prevents an escalation of concerns to statutory services. However, for a small number of children, decisions to step down to early help are overly optimistic regarding the

sustainability of parental change and would be managed more effectively through statutory child in need intervention.

Daily MASH meetings review the needs of children who have gone missing, have been arrested or have presented at the emergency department overnight. They include a range of professionals who share relevant information to make appropriate decisions to progress interventions for these vulnerable children.

Child protection concerns are appropriately identified, and strategy meetings are held swiftly for most children. For these children, the key agencies involved in their lives attend strategy meetings, share information effectively and make decisions to reduce risk and safeguard them. For a small number of children, some key specialist agencies are not always invited to, or do not always attend, strategy meetings. This means that decisions are made without this potentially essential information being shared about the child.

The agreed actions from strategy meetings are too often generic and do not address all of the information shared at the meeting. Children's social care professionals do not share the minutes of strategy meetings in a timely manner. This means that professionals rely on their own written records without the benefit of accessing the multi-agency agreed account of the meeting.

Children are mostly visited promptly by social workers, and their views are sought; for some children, this influences decision-making. Social workers' observations of non-verbal or pre-verbal children are recorded well, and this provides a better understanding of what life is like for those children. However, some children are not seen quickly enough when there is a reported police incident and there is an identified risk to children. The delayed response from police officers has left these children at potential risk of harm.

Child and family assessments of need are comprehensive. They include the views of relevant professionals and clearly outline what life is like for the child. Children are visited at home and school, and alone when this is appropriate.

Practitioners in adult mental health and adult substance misuse services appropriately demonstrate professional curiosity to identify risk for children. Police officers take appropriate immediate action to safeguard children living in neglectful homes. However, for a small number of children, this could be better planned with social workers, prior to police protection powers being used.

When children are reported missing from home, their immediate needs are responded to promptly at the front door services. Police officers use the THRIVE police risk assessment tool consistently and effectively, and this means that risk is well understood. Children receive prevention interviews from police and are

encouraged to engage in return home interviews. This information then informs wider planning at a strategic level.

Professionals within the partnership submit intelligence about vulnerable children and their circumstances directly to the police. This approach means that, when decisions are made about risk and safety planning, they can be based on multi-agency information. This is positive practice and not always seen in other areas.

The provision of an appropriate adult for children arrested in Barnsley is ineffective. Out of hours, the appropriate adult service relies on volunteers who do not attend the police station to advocate for children unless to do so would expedite their release from custody. This means that children detained during those hours do not receive the appropriate support.

The structure and current function of the EDT mean that it does not routinely provide partners or children with an effective response to meet the safeguarding needs of all children outside normal office hours. This means that some children do not receive the most timely response to safeguarding concerns.

Workload demands for individual professionals across the partnership affect their capacity to consistently provide the right help at the right time. Most health professionals receive regular and supportive clinical and safeguarding supervision. For others, the variability in the quality and regularity of supervision affects how professionals progress their interventions to improve children's outcomes.

Inspectors saw some highly effective individual direct work with children from a variety of professionals, including police, education staff, health staff and social care. However, the gathering, recording and acting on the voice of the child are too variable, from individuals, single agencies and across the multi-agency partnership workforce. This means that not all children's views are being heard or their lived experiences fully understood by professionals.

The single and multi-agency audits carried out for this inspection by partners demonstrate professionals' ability to identify strong practice and areas that could be improved. However, it is of concern that a decision to reopen or change the direction of the planned intervention was identified for more than half the children of the sample. This means that the partnership cannot be wholly confident about the level of effective single agency management oversight and decision-making to safeguard all children.

Next steps

We have determined that Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council is the principal authority and should prepare a written statement of proposed action responding to the findings outlined in this letter. This should be a multi-agency response involving

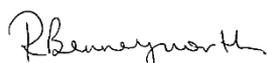
the individuals and agencies that this report is addressed to. The response should set out the actions for the partnership and, when appropriate, individual agencies. The local safeguarding partners should oversee implementation of the action plan through their local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Barnsley should send the written statement of action to ProtectionOfChildren@ofsted.gov.uk by Tuesday 25 October 2022. This statement will inform the lines of enquiry at any future joint or single-agency activity by the inspectorates.

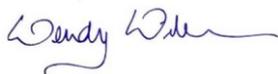
Yours sincerely



Yvette Stanley
National Director Regulation and Social Care, Ofsted



Rosie Benneyworth
Chief Inspector of Primary Medical Services and Integrated Care, Care
Quality Commission



Wendy Williams, CBE
Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT REPORT OF: Executive Director (Children’s Services) and Executive Director (Growth & Sustainability)

TITLE: PROPOSED CONVERSION OF THE ELMHIRST YOUTH CENTRE INTO AN EDUCATION FACILITY FOR PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	21 September 2022
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Children’s Services
Key Decision	Yes
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

To seek Cabinet’s approval for the refurbishment and use of the former Elmhist Youth Centre into an education facility to be used exclusively by children with special educational needs.

To seek Cabinet’s approval for the commissioning of up to 40 new places for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) at the Elmhist Youth Centre provision.

To seek Cabinet’s approval for the granting of a new lease agreement to the NEXUS Multi Academy Trust of up to 25 years for these purposes at nil rental in this instance.

Council Plan priority

Learning Barnsley

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 1. Approves arrangements leading to the refurbishment and expansion of the former Elmhist Youth Centre into a satellite facility for providing education to pupils with special educational needs as summarised in this report, with effect from the 2022/2023 school year**

- 2. Approves the commissioning of up to 40 places for pupils with SEND including complex needs at the Elmhirst Youth Centre, as detailed in this report**
- 3. The financial implications arising from this report, be included in the Capital Programme and released in accordance with the financial regulations Code of Practice C5.2(a)**
- 4. That, as part of this report's proposals, Cabinet approves the granting of a new lease to the NEXUS Multi Academy Trust for up to 25 years at the former Elmhirst Youth Centre at nil rent.**
- 5. That the Head of Property Services be authorised to finalise Heads of Terms for the new lease to the NEXUS Multi Academy Trust.**
- 6. That the Service Director (Law and Governance) be authorised to complete the new lease to the NEXUS Multi Academy Trust.**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2020, under emergency delegated powers, the Chief Executive approved, on behalf of Cabinet, the updated Borough School Placement and Sufficiency Strategy for pupils with Special Educational Needs 2020/23.
- 1.2 The Strategy details how the Local Authority and its statutory partners will address the fundamental challenges being faced in meeting increasing demand for school places for children and young people with SEND within the available resource envelope. In particular, the strategy would be based upon the following objectives:
 - To ensure children and young people with SEND have access to the right type of school placement which best meets their needs, that is within their community and is closer to home. This includes those who have been categorised as having needs relating to social, emotional and mental health; autism and/or speech, language and communication needs.
 - Embedding a partnership-based approach, to ensure the appropriate range and capacity of provision is available in local mainstream schools, academies and specialist settings to enable the needs of a greater number of children and young people to be met, as part of an inclusive culture. This builds upon our commitment expressed in November last year within the terms of reference of the Barnsley Alliance for Schools and the Education Improvement Strategy.
 - To ensure value for money and the most effective use of available resources continues to underpin the refreshed strategy.
 - To ensure that children, young people and families are at the heart of planning and provision.

- Statutory partners continue to work closely and ensure, where possible, to ensure children and young people with SEND do not have to travel out of the borough to have their educational needs met through early identification and support, in parallel with improvements to the quality and efficiency of education, health and care plan processes.
- To enable children and young people who require ongoing specialist support to be placed in the best possible provision and have their needs met through a stable and enriching school life.
- Improving personalisation as part of provision, including personal budgets.
- A system which promotes independence, confidence and aspirations and enables children to make a successful transition to adulthood

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 As part of the Strategy's objective of ensuring children and young people with SEND have access to a placement which best meets their needs closer to home, the proposal in this report is for the Local Authority to develop and commission provision at the former Elmhirst Youth Centre. This will lead to the creation of up to 40 additional Key Stage 3 and 4 places for children and young people with SEND Communication, Interaction and Autism needs
- 2.2 It is proposed that this development and expansion, subject to appropriate all relevant approvals will be in two phases, over two academic years 22/23 and 23/24.
- Phase one will be the refurbishment of the existing building which will provide up to 24 additional SEND places for KS3 and 4 children and young people with C& I and Autism needs who will be able to access a specialist education curriculum to meet their individual needs. Provide new multi-use games area facilities and provide all year-round access to sports facilities and create additional recreation space for pupils. External groundworks. Remodelling/refurbishment works to include; removing internal walls, providing ramped access to the upper teaching area, new lighting, toilet facilities, floor coverings and redecoration
 - Phase two will be to expand adjacent to the current building to develop further additional capacity on the site to accommodate a further 16 places minimum. Providing a new classroom extension, with pupil cloak room and toilets. Additional resource areas for small group work, new office and SEN space.
- 2.3 To support the Council's declared climate emergency and Zero 40 and Zero 45 programmes to reduce carbon emissions, all phases of work will be developed using sustainable designs, systems, and materials to reduce carbon emissions from the site. Initial discussions with LA planning have indicated that there are no concerns for expansions within the permitted scope of the boundary and foot print requirements

- 2.4 This will provide education places for children, identified with complex needs and who will require access to the specialist curriculum predominantly supported by supplementary teaching and specialist learning assistance.
- 2.5 With Cabinet's approval, it is proposed that the pupils, will be accommodated at the Elmhirst Youth Centre. This Centre's core purpose, since its opening, has been to support vulnerable, adolescent children, but it has been vacant for over 4 years.
- 2.6 The former Youth Centre is a Council asset and it is proposed that the NEXUS MAT will be granted a new lease of up to 25 years at nil rent for this property, after its conversion. Doing this will help to facilitate the provision of education for pupils with SEND at the former youth centre site.
- 2.7 The lease will enable NEXUS MAT to operate the service on behalf of the Council and it will pass the responsibility of maintaining and running this building over to the MAT. It will also contain a landlord only break clause which will allow the Council to take back control of the SEND facility should the Council's service provider change at any point in the future.
- 2.8 Re-designating the Elmhirst Centre from its original role as a youth centre into a proposed facility for specialist, education provision, is based upon the Local Authority having to comply with its statutory responsibilities to ensure pupils, particularly those with SEND, are accommodated in facilities which support access to an appropriate specialist curriculum.
- 2.9 This proposal also supports the Local Authority's approach in managing the High Needs Block deficit through its DSG Management action plan, as one of a number of schemes being proposed to provide additional education places and further supports the strategic approach for increasing and improving the sufficiency of education placements within Barnsley
- 2.10 Based on current need and consultations for school places, the development of these places will ensure that these children and young people are not placed in independent, high-cost special school settings or out of borough. This is because continual long-term dependence on such provision is not financially or otherwise favourable as a long-term sustainable option when viewed against steadily rising increase in needs for these cohorts of children and young people.
- 2.11 The proposal in its entirety would ensure all pupils transferring into the Elmhirst Centre, continue to have their educational needs met and as previously noted, the proposal accords with the priorities of the Borough's Placement and Sufficiency Strategy by investing in local specialist provision. and in maintaining an arrangement with a provider, thereby, making more effective use of available resources; improving value for money and helping secure better outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

The Service is aware that by converting such facilities into exclusive use in this way, it potentially prevents the wider community of the use of an asset. Mindful of communities' right to challenge and to bid for direct ownership and management of assets of community value, the Service directly consulted the Elected Members for Worsbrough Ward in order to give due regard to their views and those of their constituents on the proposed conversion of the former Elmhirst youth centre.

3.1.1 As previously stated, the proposal in this report represents the most effective option for meeting the needs of both sets of pupils. In particular, the proposed conversion of the former Elmhirst youth centre would prevent placing pupils with SEND in high-cost settings outside the Borough away from their families.

3.1.2 In addition, the proposed lease and conversion of the former Elmhirst youth centre would see a currently vacant building brought back into use for the purpose of specialist education provision for SEND, thereby affording a facility which should benefit families within the immediate location as well as the whole Borough.

3.1.3 Capital Costs

3.1.4 The proposal to refurbish and expand the Elmhirst centre will result in additional costs to the Local Authority. This is essential in order to make it fit for purpose as an education provision which ensures pupils with SEND are supported to fully access the specialist curriculum

3.1.5 A provisional schedule of the development cost of undertaking the work that totals £1.3million has been received from NEXUS. The schedule includes an indicative cost for the following:

3.1.6 A summary of the overall scheme for delivering refurbishment and expansion is set out below

Capital Expenditure (Inclusive of Works, Fees, ICT, Furniture, etc):	£M
Phase 1- Refurbishment and external ground works including Provide new MUGA to provide all year-round access to sports facilities and create additional recreation space for pupils External Groundworks Remodelling/refurbishment works to include; removing internal walls, providing ramped access to the upper teaching area, new lighting, toilet facilities, floor coverings and redecoration	0.702
Phase 2 - New classroom extension, with pupil cloak room and toilets. Additional resource areas for small group work, new office and SEN space.	0.602
Total Capital Funding	1.304

3.1.7 The above costs are based on high level estimates. Until procurement exercises for each phase of works and actual tendered rates have been received, there is a risk that schemes costs could change.

3.1.8 The schedule of costs has been discussed with the Council’s Asset Management and Property Service for reasonableness and value for money against the benchmarked National School Delivery Cost for SEN provision (it provides benchmarked costs for New Build, Re-build, Extension and refurbishment). This provides a direct average, summary build cost/per pupil place

- For the Elmhirst provision with 40 pupils, the average per pupil refurbishment and expansion cost is approximately **£32,500** subject to any market variations.
- The above compare favourably with the National School Delivery Cost benchmarked average cost per pupil of **£39,428**

3.1.9 Additionally, appropriate financial governance oversight arrangements have been discussed with both procurement and asset management colleagues as well as strategic contract and governance team in financial services.

3.1.10 It is proposed that the above capital costs are funded from the Council’s High Needs Provision Capital Allocation Grant capital funding. The DfE has allocated Barnsley £3.82m for 2022/23 and a further £3.27m for 2023/24 to deliver new SEND places and to improve existing SEND facilities and provision. This is in addition to £1.46m capital funding for 2021/22. The table below shows level of current uncommitted SEND / High Needs provision capital funding in 2022/23:

Special Provision Capital Fund balance B/F	2,141,816
High needs capital funding allocation (22/23)	3,825,538
Committed schemes (as at June 2022)*	-1,162,286
Total latest uncommitted funding	4,805,068

* Includes recently approved Athersley IKIC centre SEND development (£298k)

3.1.11 Revenue Costs

3.1.12 Annual revenue funding will be provided to NEXUS based on number of places. The revenue funding arrangements are as follows:

- Place funding £10,000 per place.
- An annual top up funding has been agreed at £19,800 per pupil.
- However, it is proposed to pay an additional one-off funding of £112,000 in 2022/23 (equivalent to £8,000 per pupil) for start-up / diseconomies of scale costs in the first year. It is proposed that this cost is capitalised and funded from high needs capital resources.
- The number of planned places is 24 in 2022/23 and increasing to 40 places in 2023/24 (i.e. additional 16 places). Actual top up funding will be dependent on the actual number of pupils placed at the provision.

The expected high needs revenue costs / funding is detailed in the table below:

	2022/23	2023/24
	£	£
Place Funding (£10,000)	140,000	333,333
Top Up (£19,800)	277,200	660,000
Start-up costs / funding	112,000	0
	529,200	993,333

(22/23 part year funding from September 22 and full year in 23/24 based on pupils)

3.1.13 The above costs will be funded from Barnsley's allocated DSG high needs funding (NB £112k to be funded from HN capital funding) and has been included in the high needs budget for 2022/23. Funding requirement for future years has been reflected in the Council's DSG Management Plan (2022 – 2025).

3.1.14 Transport Costs

3.1.15 All school transport routes to this school are new and therefore a net cost to the service. The thrust of this report is that new schools such as this will provide more pupils with in- borough specialised places and reduce transport costs to out of borough schools. This may be the case in time but short term it will cost more. For example, West Riding School is proposed to cater for pupils with Communication, Interaction and Autism needs. A similar out of borough school is Robert Ogden. In the financial year 2022/23 school transport will still be providing transport to both Robert Ogden and West Riding as shown in the table below creating an overall increase to school transport of £58,900, whilst at the same time the overall numbers travelling to Robert Ogden has increased

September 2021	Robert Ogden	West Riding
Number of pupils accessing transport	22	0
Annual cost of transport (academic school year 2021/22) including passenger assistants	£130,410 (7 routes)	0
Pupils accessing a personal Travel budget (PTB)	£ 37,528 (14 pupils)	0
Staff costs passenger assistants and pro rata office staff	£12,000	0
Total cost 2021/22	£179,933	0
September 2022		
Number of pupils accessing transport	27	8
Annual cost of transport (academic year 2022/23) including passenger assistants	£157,494* (6 routes)	£58,900* (2 routes)

Pupils accessing a Personal Travel Budget	£37,528	(14 no)	0
Staff costs including passenger assistants and pro-rata office staff	£12,000		£12,000
Total cost 2022/23	£207,022*		£70,900*

- At time of writing school transport is still receiving applications for September 2022

3.1.16 It is also important to note that in Phase one it is proposed to have 24 places at the West Riding School. Unless a pupil lives extremely close to the school and can walk, it is fair to assume that all 24 places will be eligible for school transport, of which only 8 have applied to date. Some parents will choose not to apply for transport or take up a personal travel budget, but the worst- case scenario is that a further 16 pupils could require transport during the 2022/23 academic year. Based on the costs above this could place an extra £141,800 onto the school transport budget, with very little foreseeable reduction in the Robert Ogden School transport costs.

3.2 Legal

3.2.1 The former Elmhirst youth centre is presently vacant, being used for storage pending the approval of this report.

3.2.2 The Local Authority has statutory duties under the Education Act 1996 to educate children in accordance with parental wishes; and secure efficient education to meet the needs of the population of their area

3.2.3 The Council also has duties to achieve best consideration for the disposal of any land under section 123 Local Government Act 1972. The grant of a 25- year lease at nominal rents is a disposal at less than best consideration. The Secretary of State's consent is usually required but specific consent is not required where the Authority considers this will help it to secure the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area and the proposals in this report appear to fit this category. An undervalue of more than £2M requires Secretary of State consent in any event.

3.3 Equality

3.3.1 Cabinet will be aware that children and young people with special educational needs, including a disability or impairment, are designated as having a protected characteristic under the Equality Act. The proposal in this report exclusively aims to promote the engagement of these vulnerable groups of children in education, support their inclusion and improve their life chances.

3.4 Sustainability

3.4.1 Cabinet's attention is drawn particularly to Paragraph 2.3 of this report.

3.5 Employee

- 3.5.1 There are no workforce implications directly arising through consideration of this report.

3.6 Communications

- 3.6.1 Should Cabinet approve the recommendations of this report, steps will be taken to inform parents and carers of the pupils and the local community affected by the repurposing of the Elmhirst centre, of the changes and when they will take effect.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 A briefing for Elected Members took place on 7th July 2022 during which they raised no concerns over the proposal to convert the former Elmhirst youth centre into a facility for meeting the education placement needs of pupils with SEND.
- 4.2 The Senior Management Team has been consulted and has given its support to the proposal.
- 4.3 Liaison with the LA planning department and estates has taken place to ensure adherence to the appropriate protocols and governance required subject to any specific planning and building regulations.
- 4.4 Further consultation has taken place with residents who have also been given an opportunity to provide feedback and considerations on the proposals through direct consultations from the LA planning department.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The proposal in this report represents the best option for meeting the needs of both sets of pupils. In particular, the conversion of the former Elmhirst youth centre and the absence of a viable local alternative, would help prevent placing pupils with SEND in high cost, independent settings outside the Borough and away from their families.
- 5.2 In order to comply with its statutory responsibility of providing a sufficient number of placements for a growing percentage of children and young people with SEND whilst achieving value for money and the more effective use of available resources within an increasingly challenging financial climate, the Council has no alternative but to develop a system which is more sustainable and beneficial for the local population

The lack of alternatives within the Borough, in the medium term, has formed part of the considerations as part of the sufficiency strategy into the expansion of secondary school and special school places.

- 5.3 Any implications noted in this report would need to be considered and balanced with a requirement for the Council to address an immediate issue over its statutory duty concerning the education of this group of children and in a way

which helps reduce mounting pressure on the Council's budget to meet rising demand.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The overriding objective of the School Placement and Sufficiency Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs, and/or disability (SEND) is to meet these needs, closer to home, through investing in and improving both capacity and quality within local mainstream and special schools.
- 6.2 There should be no risks to communities in the Worsbrough Ward emerging through the proposal.
- 6.3 This is in line with the Council's policy for better meeting rising demand for school places for children and young people with special educational needs by investing in local special and mainstream provision
- 6.4 It will benefit a group of children from many areas of the Borough through enabling them to have their education needs met within a satellite facility of a local, mainstream academy trust; improve parental choice and prevent the alternative of placing these vulnerable young children in far more costly out of Borough independent settings some of which could potentially be unregistered or unregulated, thereby better safeguarding these children
- 6.5 It represents value for money to the Council Tax- payer and a more effective use of the resources available to meet our statutory responsibility for ensuring sufficient school places for these groups of children. The proposal will provide such children to learn in a good environment, closer to home as part of our ambition to ensure all children and young people improve their life chances and achieve brighter futures.

7. GLOSSARY

IKIC I Know I Can

SEND Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

MAT Multi Academy Trust

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

There are no appendices to this report

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Details of background papers **MUST** be included]

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>Joshua Amahwe 17/08/2022</i>
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date <i>Jason Field 17/08/22</i>

Report Author: Nina Sleight
Designation: Service Director (Education, Early Start and Prevention)

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Executive Director - Growth and Sustainability

TITLE: High Rise Water Ingress Remediation Works

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	21 September 2022
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Regeneration and Culture
Key Decision	Yes
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

- To inform Cabinet of, and seek approval for, the intended approach to remedy water ingress issues experienced by residents in the three high rise buildings, Albion House, Britannia House & Buckley House.
- To set out a clear programme of works and cost plan to ensure that compliance with the Regulator of Social Housing’s Homes Standard is maintained.
- To approve funding to support the programme of works.

Council Plan priority

Healthy, Growing, Learning & Sustainable Barnsley

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

- 1. Approve the project to carry out required remedial works through a tendered planned programme of works to be complete predominately within the 2023-24 financial year**
- 2. Approve the required HRA funding for the project up to the total estimated cost of £1.150M.**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A resident at Albion House, located on the 5th floor of the building, initially raised concerns of damp patches appearing on their internal bedroom walls sited on the external elevations of the building following heavy rainfall and driving wind in a certain direction. These patches were intermittent in nature.

Each high-rise block is 7 storeys high comprising of 56 homes. The buildings have a concrete frame with external cavity masonry built off each floor level concrete slab.

- 1.2 Maintenance Surveyors investigated these issues and deemed the source of the water ingress to be from the external elevation during periods of wet weather that was tracking through the cavity and exposing itself on the internal plaster as damp patches and sulphates (white powder) when drying out.
- 1.3 Due to the specialist nature of the works required and design of these in scope buildings, Berneslai Homes commissioned MPA Building Pathologists, an industry leading Damp & Mould expert with RICS & CIOB accreditation, to undertake further investigative surveys to the external walls of the affected properties of Albion House.

Scaffolding was erected to the elevations affected. The outer brick leaf was exposed to a flat at Albion House which had been particularly badly affected by the water ingress. MPA concluded that ineffective cavity trays were the root cause of the ongoing issues the residents were experiencing.

- 1.4 MPA Building Pathologists recommendations in their report are summarised into 5 key points follows:

1. To supply and erect a safe working platform to all elevations of the 3 No. affected similarly constructed blocks, ready to undertake the remedial works recommended.
2. To replace the defective cavity trays with new impermeable formed Damp Proof Membrane material, incorporating an angle fillet to form a sloping profile, in support of the new cavity tray to drain by cavity from inner leaf to outer leaf.
3. To install weep tubes to the perpends (vertical layer of mortar between two bricks) of the outer leaf brickwork, at the base of the newly formed cavity tray, sitting on top of the concrete ring beams.
4. To access and further investigate balcony external door and balcony slab abutment detail, to determine for any on-going defects, together with any arising remedial recommended works required.
5. All works undertaken should be carried out in strict accordance with the Health & Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974.

- 1.5 Following receipt of this report in October 2021, BMBC commissioned Align Property Partners who have provided design support, development, and procurement for the project.

- 1.6 As part of this work, a RIBA Stage 2 Estimate of the works was produced to assist with obtaining approval of funds via this cabinet report to enable a tender to be put out for the works to be completed.
- 1.7 The Stage 2 Estimate proposes costs of £1.028M to carry out the recommended works highlighted in the MPA Building Pathology report, with a 48-week construction period, with 16 weeks work on each block.
- 1.8 Since this investigatory work commenced, to date, the same issues have occurred in other flats across all three high rise blocks.
- 1.9 To date, Berneslai Homes Housing Management Team have continued to liaise with residents, are keeping them updated on progress and are offering support where required.
- 1.10 Berneslai Homes have since supported the resident who was originally affected into a move to a bungalow, but the other residents are still living with the intermittent issues.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 Following the detailed MPA Building Pathology report highlighting the root cause of the issues residents are currently facing, and the Align Property Partners Stage 2 report detailing the scope, programme, and costings, it is proposed that HRA funding is agreed by Cabinet to allow this project to be put out to open tender, so that the necessary remedial works can be done as soon as reasonably practicable for the residents.
- 2.2 Also to note, these three in-scope buildings fall under the scope of the new Building Safety Bill which measures structural integrity and will be subject to a visit by the regulator to obtain building certification during 2023-24. It is therefore imperative that both from a customer and client perspective that these works are prioritised.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

Financial and Risk

- 3.1 Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer).
- 3.2 This report seeks approval to commence the tendering process to commission a suitable external specialist contractor to deliver the water ingress works as described within the body of this report.
- 3.3 Align Property Partners have provided indicative costings at this stage, which are estimated to total cost £1.150M, inclusive of the Council's internal professional fees.
- 3.4 Cabinet has previously approved resources totalling £0.150M for such works as part of the 2022/23 budget setting process [Cab.12.1.2022/6 refers].

- 3.5 The original estimate was highly indicative and since that time, the costs of the scheme have increased as a result of both the current inflationary climate and further clarity being obtained around the scope of works required.
- 3.6 It is proposed to fund the expected shortfall by a combination of identified underspends within the 2022/23 BHS Decency programme (£0.500M) and by 'top slicing' the 2023/24 BHS Decency Programme (£0.500M) as part of the 2023/24 budget setting process. This proposal represents good financial management in terms of ensuring that the total resources available for investment are not overcommitted.
- 3.7 Therefore, the overall resources proposed for this scheme are summarised in the table below:

	£M
2022/23 Original Estimate – Approved via HRA Budget Process	0.150
2022/23 BHS Programme – Reallocation of Current Resources	0.500
2023/24 BHS Programme – As Part of the 2023/24 Budget Setting Process	0.500
	1.150

- 3.8 Both Council and Berneslai Homes officers will continue to monitor the financial position across all of the housing capital programme to ensure that any pressures are mitigated accordingly. Should other significant pressures present themselves, a further reprioritisation exercise would be required.
- 3.9 The financial implications are summarised in the attached Appendix A.

Legal

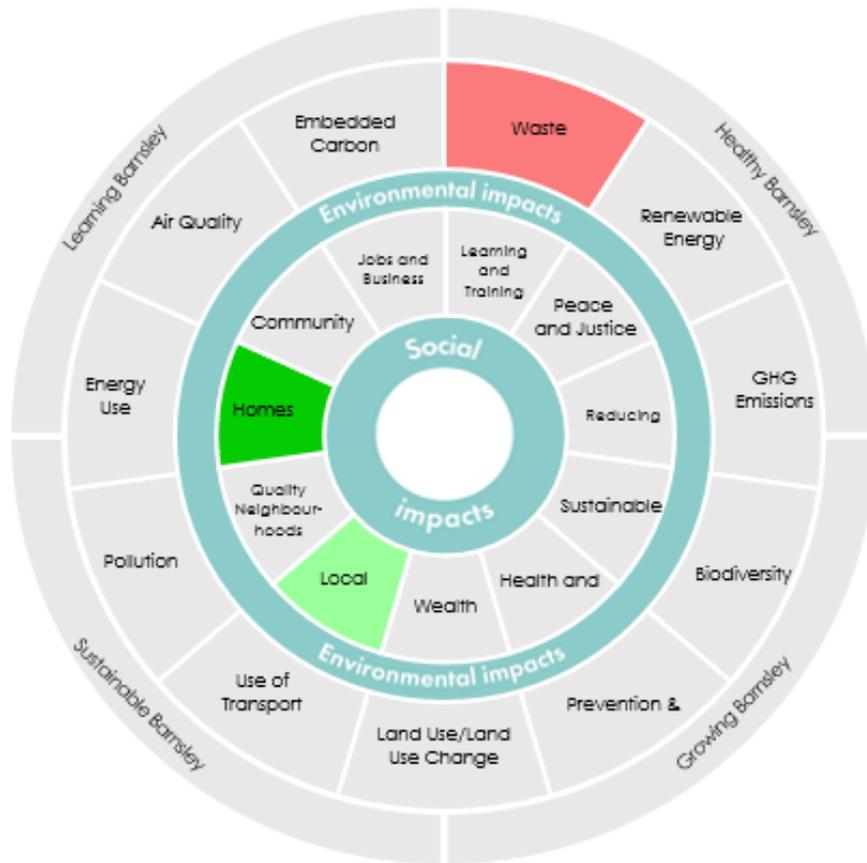
- 3.10 Section 198A of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (as amended) states that the regulator's regulatory and enforcement powers may be used if a registered provider has failed to meet a consumer standard (which includes the Home Standard). In order to use regulatory or enforcement powers, as well as the failure to meet the standard, there should also be reasonable grounds to suspect that the failure has resulted in a serious detriment to the provider's tenants (or potential tenants) or that there is a significant risk that, if no action is taken by the regulator, the failure will result in a serious detriment to the provider's tenants (or potential tenants).

Equality

- 3.11 An equality Impact Assessment will form part of the tender process.

Sustainability

- 3.12 Decision-making wheel completed:



- 3.13 Dependant on sub-contractor, the project of works *could* be delivered locally potentially adding a positive impact to Local Spend.

These works will have a high impact in ensuring our residents homes are safe and of quality within the borough.

Naturally the works will result in an amount of waste being produced having a minimal low impact.

Employee

- 3.14 There are no employee implications arising directly from this report.

Communications

- 3.15 As part of the ongoing Communications Strategy, a meeting was held on Thursday 9th June 2022 with members of the Tenants Voice Panel and BH Communications Manager to agree how to communicate important changes to customers.

Key officers in the Contact Centre have been made aware of the imminent works to ensure that they can effectively communicate the importance of this work to customers.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation has taken place with BMBC Director of Finance, Housing Service Director and the Head of Strategic Housing, Sustainability and Climate Change.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Options considered are whether works can be delivered to start on site within the 2022-23 financial year, or whether this should be captured within the 2023-24 financial year. Timeframes surrounding tenders have concluded this.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The recommendations put forward in section 2 are to ensure we continue to effectively manage our housing stock in line with current regulatory requirements, and BMBC and Berneslai Homes priorities.

7. GLOSSARY

BMBC – Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
HRA – Housing Revenue Account
DPM – Damp Proof Membrane
RIBA – Royal Institute of British Architects
RICS - Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
CIOB – Chartered Institute of Builders
MPA – Michael Parrett Associates

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Financial Implications

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Technical report available upon request.

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>See Appendix A.</i>
Legal consultation & sign off	Jason Field, Head of Legal Services 24/08/2022

Report Author: Berneslai Homes
Post: Head of Repairs Maintenance & Building Safety
Date: 05/08/2022

Report of the Executive Director - Growth & SustainabilityFINANCIAL IMPLICATIONSHigh Rise Water Ingress Remediation Works

	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>£M</u>	<u>£M</u>	<u>£M</u>	<u>£M</u>
Expenditure:				
Water Ingress Works	-	1.150	-	1.150
Total Expenditure	-	1.150	-	1.150
Resources:				
HRA 2022/23 Investment - Cab.12.1.2022/6 refers	-	0.150	-	0.150
Underspends Realised on BHS 2022/23	-	0.500	-	0.500
BHS 2023/24 Investment	-	0.500	-	0.500
Total Resources	-	1.150	-	1.150

Agreed by:		On behalf of the Service Director- Finance, Section 151 Officer
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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GROWTH & SUSTAINABILITY

TITLE: LEVELLING UP FUND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	21 September 2022
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Regeneration and Culture
Key Decision	Yes
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

1. To seek approval to progress with the design development of projects contained within the recent levelling up fund bids for Barnsley ensuring future deliverability should funding application be successful.
2. To seek approval to progress all relevant procurement activity and associated appointments in line with the above.

Council Plan priority

The Councils Levelling up bids are multifaceted and will deliver a range of outcomes that directly contribute to the Corporate Plan and Barnsley 2030 strategy and specifically the outcomes shown below:

- Healthy Barnsley
- Learning Barnsley
- Growing Barnsley
- Sustainable Barnsley
- Enabling Barnsley

The LU projects when completed would support the development of a more inclusive economy, the continual regeneration of the town centre and the creation of more and better jobs for our residents.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

1. **Approve the continued development of projects included within the Levelling Up Fund bid submissions for Barnsley inclusive of all relevant**

supporting procurement activity and appointment of providers to support.

- 2. Agree to resource the ‘at risk’ spend required to take schemes included within both bids up to RIBA Stage 3 from the feasibility fund allocations as provided by SYMCA to support projects in Barnsley.**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July of this year, the Council worked with its partners to submit two Levelling Up Fund bids, ‘Barnsley Futures’ and ‘Elsecar Forging Ahead,’ equating to a total bid value of £26.2m. In line with the national Levelling Up competitive process, the bids are subject to assessment and evaluation by central government teams with an announcement expected autumn 2022. Given changes in the current government and the large number of bids DLUCH will have received, this could easily be October/November.
- 1.2 Round 2 of Levelling Up funding does stipulate a requirement for successful bids to be able to discharge expenditure in the current financial year with project delivery to be completed by March 2025 both of which are considered to be aggressive timescales within the context of regeneration activity.
- 1.3 The projects contained with the Levelling Up bids for Barnsley are well formulated and developed. However, against the context of the aggressive timescales there is a recognition that it would be prudent to move forward with the next stage of project development during the national bid assessment process.
- 1.4 This report therefore seeks approval to move forward with ‘at risk’ project development work during the national bid assessment process. This will be primarily focused on site investigations, design development and project management support.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 This report seeks approval to take forward project development for the ‘Barnsley Futures’ and ‘Elsecar Forging Ahead’ projects up to RIBA 3 stage during the period August to December.
- 2.2 The overall indicative cost associated with bid development work totals £747,000 broken down across the two bids as follows:
- Barnsley Futures - £356,000
 - Elsecar Forging Ahead - £391,000

- 2.3 The costs outlined above are unplanned and unbudgeted within the context of existing Council resources. It is therefore proposed to fund project development cost through South Yorkshire Mayoral Authority feasibility resources allocated to Barnsley to support the development of strategically significant projects. This approach will result in no additional cost implications to Council resource.
- 2.4 It is noted that there is a risk associated to progressing the development of projects in advance of any formal notification on the outcome of the submitted levelling up funds. There are no guarantees that the Levelling Up Fund bids will be successful. However, this risk is mitigated as detailed below:
- The inability to undertake this work now results in a bigger risk around the Council being unable to accept funding awarded through Levelling Up in relation to an inability to meet the project deliverability test set out by government.
 - All projects contained within the bids are deemed to be of strategic importance to the Barnsley growth agenda and consequently should levelling up funding not be secured then the development work at this stage will position the Council and its partners strongly to secure funding through other sources.
 - There is no direct cost impact for the Council associated with developing works at risk.
- 2.5 This report therefore seeks approval to move forward with the next phase of project development for the 'Barnsley Futures' and 'Elsecar Forging Ahead' programmes of activity.
- 2.6 Further reports would be brought forward once the outcome of the funding bid is known to outlined the wider ask to develop the projects further.

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).
- 3.1.2 Per paragraphs 2.2 to 2.3 it is proposed that the 'at risk' costs outlined in this report are funded in their entirety (i.e. up to £0.747m) from the £2.8m 'feasibility' fund allocation made to Barnsley by SYMCA.
- 3.1.3 This is considered an appropriate use of this funding pot and sits within the objectives of the fund as described by the MCA.
- 3.1.4 The 'at risk' cost estimates and underpinning assumptions for each bid have been reviewed by Financial Services Officers who have concluded that the requests appear be reasonable.

3.1.5 It should be noted that if the LUF Round 2 bids are successful any 'at risk' costs incurred will be covered off from LUF grant – effectively restoring feasibility funding for other purposes.

3.1.6 Appendix A outlines the financial implications of the recommendations in this report

4. Legal

4.1 There are no legal implications associated with the proposals contained within this report.

5. Equality

The Project team would need to carry out a high level EIA but impacts are nil at design stage. Equalities will be factored into design work with full EIA's undertaken at an individual project level.

6 Sustainability

6.1 Sustainability and the Zero45 aspirations are fully embedded within both the Barnsley Futures and Elsecar Forging Ahead. This relates to the consideration of sustainability/net zero design and construction through to the use of innovative renewable energy solutions at Elsecar.

7. Employees

7.1 It is noted that this work is in addition to core activity and consequently support will be required from key services across the Council including BPS, procurement and finance. Similarly, there is a recognition that dedicated project management resource is required to coordinate this activity and costs associated with temporary resource have been factored into the proposal contained within this report.

8 Communications

8.1 A robust communications strategy will be developed running in conjunction with both the 'at risk' development phase and also the national bid appraisal phase.

9. CONSULTATION

9.1 Extensive consultation has been undertaken during the bid development phase and has provided an extensive underpinning evidence base for the projects that from the 'Barnsley Futures' and 'Elsecar Forging Ahead' proposal. Ongoing consultation and engagement will continue as relevant with stakeholders and partners during the 'at risk' development phase.

10. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 10.1 Do nothing. There is the option not to progress any work at risk however this will result in the Council not being able to meet the levelling up deliverability test and consequently could result in the inability to accept any grant funding offered through successful bids.
- 10.2 An additional risk of not progressing the development works at risk is that the reduced timelines for delivery of this will mean that the Council will be unable to secure providers to deliver these, or that the costs will increase due to additional resources which would be required to deliver to a shorter timeline to keep to the funding programme outlined. This could result in additional financial pressures on the Council if these costs were then to exceed those allocated in the Levelling Up Fund or MCA Feasibility.

11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 The recommendations set out in this report are intended to ensure that the Council and partners are positioned strongly to be able to effectively deliver the 'Barnsley Futures' and 'Elsecar Forging Ahead' programmes either through successful levelling up fund submission or via other relevant funding streams as applicable.

12. GLOSSARY

LUF – Levelling Up Fund

DLUHC – Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

13. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Financial Implications

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no background papers for this report

15. REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	See Appendix A
Legal consultation & sign off	<i>24/08/22 Jason Field</i>

Report Author: Kathy McArdle

Post: Service Director Regeneration and Culture

Date: 24/08/22

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Report of the Executive Director of Place

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Levelling Up Fund Project Development

i) <u>Capital Expenditure</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	£M	£M	£M	£M
None.				
	0.000	0	0	0.000
To be financed from:				
N/A	0	0	0	0.000
ii) <u>Revenue Effects</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	£M	£M	£M	£M
<u>Expenditure</u>				
LUF 2 'At Risk' Spend: Barnsley Futures	0.356	0.000	0.000	0.356
LUF 2 'At Risk' Spend: Elsecar Forging Ahead	0.391	0.000	0.000	0.391
Total Expenditure	0.747	0.000	0.000	0.747
To be financed from:				
SYMCA Feasibility Funding Allocation	0.747	0.000	0.000	0.747
	0.747	0.000	0.000	0.747
Balance	0	0	0	0

Agreed by:  August 2022

On behalf of the Service Director & Section 151 Officer - Finance

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

**TITLE: TRANSFORMING CITIES FUND
A61, A635 ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEMES, STATION ACCESS
SCHEMES APPROVAL TO SPEND**

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	21 September 2022
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Regeneration and Culture
Key Decision	Yes
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet on

- the progress made towards the delivery of the A61 and A635 Active Travel Schemes
- the progress made towards the delivery of the Station Access Improvement schemes

and to seek Cabinet approval:

- To accept the offer of TCF funding from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) to support the A61, A635 and Station Access schemes
- To secure delegated authority for the Council to use the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) grant funding to progress the evaluation and award for the A61 and A635 Active Travel schemes procurement and to enter into contract for delivery of these works
- To secure delegated authority for the Council to use the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) grant funding for the Council's Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) to deliver the Station Access Improvement schemes at Darton and Elsecar
- To prepare and progress any necessary statutory procedures required to develop and deliver the proposed schemes in line with SYMCA guidance

Council Plan priority - Sustainability

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Notes the progress on the delivery of the A61 and A635 Active travel schemes;
2. Notes the tender returns show that the prices are within the indicative budget allocation, subject to the due diligence checks which are ongoing;
3. To then agree to award the tender to the successful contractor to deliver the works;
4. Approves acceptance of grant funding from SYMCA for the construction of the works;
5. Approves acceptance of the grant funding from SYMCA for the delivery of the Station Access Improvement Scheme for the Councils DLO to deliver; and
6. The Service Director of Finance in consultation with the Executive Directors of Legal and Place be authorised to negotiate the terms and conditions of, and final approval of the SYMCA grant funding agreements, for the delivery of the A61 and A635 Active Travel Schemes.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with the information to accept the SYMCA TCF funding for the 3 schemes – A61 Royston Active Travel Scheme, the A635 Active Travel Link and the Station Access Improvement schemes for Darton and Elsecar.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 In November 2019 a Strategic Outline Business Case (the “SOBC”) was submitted to the DfT on behalf of the 4 Local Authority’s and the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive to deliver a series of interventions that contribute towards the SYMCA’s objective to improve intra-city region connections that either:
 - i) connect areas of deprivation/transport poverty to areas of economic opportunity by public transport and active travel modes; or
 - (ii) seek to achieve significant mode shift away from the private car on key corridors and in areas where future growth ambitions and improved health and air quality would otherwise be compromised
- 2.2 On 23rd March 2020 the DfT agreed funding of £166m regionally to deliver the TCF programme. The SYMCA submitted an indicative list of projects in April 2020 that aligned with the new funding offer. Over £13m was awarded to Barnsley.
- 2.3 Outline Business Case approvals were granted in July 2020 for:
 - A61 Active Travel Scheme – Barnsley-Royston
 - A635 Active Travel scheme.
 - Station Access Improvement Schemes (Darton and Elsecar)

- 2.4 Since the award of the Outline Business Case, the Transport / Highway Design teams have prepared the detailed design, cost estimates, full business case documents and prepared the tender documents. In the case of the A61 Royston Active Travel scheme, planning consent for a section of drainage works was needed (consent granted June 2022). Public consultation events have been held in the area, which were well received, and the schemes have been amended to take into account comments made.
- 2.5 With Benefit Cost Ratio's of 1.68, 1.60 and 1.99 respectively; this demonstrates that the schemes offer a Medium value for money (a result of between 2 and 4 is considered high value for money).
- 2.6 A Full Business Case and accompanying documents for all three schemes were submitted to SYMCA on 30th June. The details provided in that submission continued to give confidence that the scheme is deliverable on time, within the original budget and can support the outcomes required. These have been appraised and approved at TEB / MCA board for the scheme to be delivered
- 2.7 The Tender documents for the delivery of the A61 and A635 Active Travel Schemes were published on 7 July with a return date of 23rd August. The tenders generated a good level of interest with five compliant tenders received.
- 2.8 The submission included proposals from each of the Tenderers for added social value outcomes as part of their delivery of the works.
- 2.8 In the case of the Station Access Improvement Schemes, this will be delivered by the Council's in house DLO team.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

- 3.1.1 Consultation on the Financial Implications of this report has taken place with representatives of the Service Director Finance (Section 151 Officer).
- 3.1.2 Approval is sought to accept "up to £7.6m" from the TCF programme Capital funding to support the projects identified in paragraph 2.3.
- 3.1.3 Tender submissions for the schemes were received on 30 August and of the five tenders received the value of the highest is well within the estimates provided in the recent full business case submissions to the MCA and the £7.6m funding envelope allocated by MCA. The tendered values provide sufficient headroom for absorbing non-construction costs and inflationary pressures on materials and labour.
- 3.1.4 Final bidder selection has gone through the normal due diligence checks and a preferred contractor has been selected. Formal announcements will be made following Cabinet approval to receive the funds.

3.1.5 In terms of MCA governance, scheme business cases will be considered by the MCA as follows:

Transport & Environment Board – 1st September; the schemes were approved.

Mayoral Combined Authority Board – 19th September.

3.1.6 There is no financial “ask” from the Council to progress the recommendations outlined in this report.

3.1.7 Appendix A – summarises the financial implications of accepting funding only as the full scheme costs may still change. Funding will be drawn down from SYMCA on quarterly basis based on actual costs incurred. Any surpluses will be retained by SYMCA.

3.2 Legal

The use of the funds will be subject to SYMCA’s terms and conditions

3.3 Equality

Better connectivity, affordable and inclusive travel, a cleaner environment and a healthier population are all key aims of the SCR Strategic Economic Plan and the Barnsley Transport Strategy 2014 – 2033.

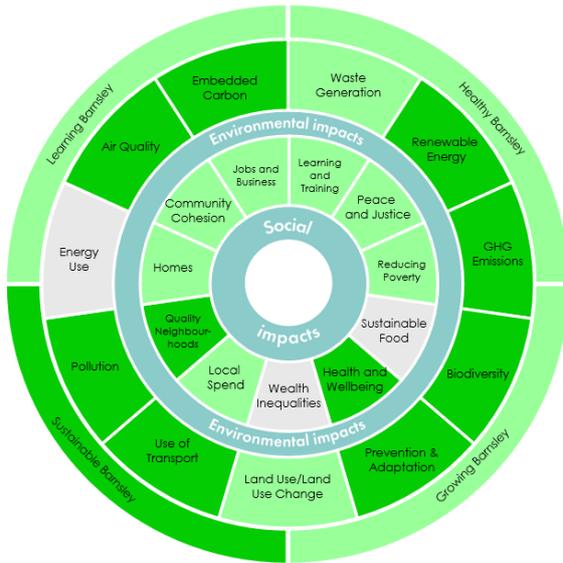
The proposed projects support the principles of the SCR Strategic Economic Plan and the Barnsley Transport Strategy 2014 – 2033, and once completed will provide better connectivity and opportunities assisting linking people to employment, training and healthcare.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) for all three of the schemes has been completed to demonstrate our due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty. For the purpose of this report, no potential for unlawful discrimination and / or low level or minor impact has been identified. Key Findings:

- The project will bring benefits to protected groups via improving walking and cycling facilities along the A635. It will be built to be inclusive of all protected groups especially age and disabilities.
- The project will bring benefits to protected groups via improving an established Public Right of Way between Barnsley Town Centre and Royston. The proposed link will be built to be inclusive of all protected groups especially age and disabilities.

3.4 Sustainability

The Sustainable Decision Wheel has been completed which shows high positive impacts for sustainability.



3.5 Employee

There are no issues arising directly from this report. The recent restructure in the Strategic Transport team has provided the in-house resources to deliver active travel schemes and develop a work programme. Any staffing implications will be subject to reports on specific schemes.

3.6 Communications

All SYMCA business case submissions are high profile schemes and appropriate communication strategies are being developed linked to the signing of the funding agreement. Releases will also need to be agreed and coordinated with the SYMCA arrangements.

Timely and accurate information will be provided through appropriate press releases via local press, social media/website updates, local member briefings, and engagement with key stakeholders.

4. CONSULTATION

Engagement / Consultation to Date

The pandemic has prevented the more traditional approach to consultation / engagement; therefore, in early 2020 we undertook an online survey for the residents of Barnsley to determine their views on providing the major work programme around Bus Priority and Active Travel routes across the Borough.

Over 230 responses were received representing a broad range of local views which have been very positive in terms of building our walking and cycling aspirations. Below is a selection of the results:

- 68% of respondents never cycle;
- The car is the main choice of travel for all activities;
- 63% of respondents thought more extensive and direct active travel

- routes would be useful or very useful to get them walking and cycling more;
- 64% of respondents thought more segregated walking and cycling routes from traffic would be useful/very useful to get them walking and cycling more.

Full Business Case Consultation

Public consultation events to disseminate information on the detailed design, to capture public opinion and degree of support, and to record and measure responses were held in various community buildings in March and June 2022. Where possible / practicable, suggestions that were made at these events were incorporated into the design (such as informal crossing points).

A61

Two events were held for the A61 scheme:

Location	Date & Time
Honeywell Community Centre	Thursday 10 th March 2022 3pm-8pm
Roundhouse Library	Monday 14 th March 9am – 5pm

The two events attracted around 50 visitors who were largely in support of the scheme.

A635

Two events for the A635 were held

Location	Date & Time
Darfield Community Centre	Wednesday 16 th March 2022 12.30pm – 7.30pm
Christ Church Ardsley	Tuesday 22 nd March 2022 12.30am – 7.30pm

During the March 2022 consultation events, the A61 and A635 Schemes received positive support. Councilors and residents recognised the benefits of enhancing routes so that existing suitable infrastructure is better connected and residents from towns on the border of the borough (Goldthorpe and Royston) can travel along dedicated active travel corridors towards the town centre.

Within the A635 consultation there was a strong request by Ardsley residents and councilors for crossing facilities to be included as part of the scheme, this request was considered and included.

The two events saw around 120 attendees combined. The views were highly positive for the Fitzwilliam Road section of the scheme. However, concerns around the central reservation and provision of a crossings along the A635 Doncaster Road in Ardsley were raised. Following consultation, amendments have made following the consultation to address some of the concerns.

The local SAGA group have also been consulted as part of this consultation on 2 occasions.

Both Darfield and Stairfoot ward members have been briefed.

Station Access

A public consultation was held on Thursday 16th June 2022 at the Darton Centre. The feedback was mainly positive, but concerns were raised over the closure of the tunnel on Mill Lane due to the visibility of the alternative route on Mill Lane/Church Street Junction. To accommodate and mitigate these concerns this junction has been reconfigured to improve sight lines and to reduce speeds.

Local ward members have been briefed following the consultation with the changes to address the concerns.

The Elsecar Station Access scheme was well received at the consultation event.

Residents recognized how the proposals would improve accessibility to the train

station. The schemes main feature of a sealed track across a local field was welcomed

– with attendees mentioning it would overcome issues around connectivity and usage

during winter months.

Plans for additional consultation following the completion of the procurement process for the construction of the works will be developed.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The only other option is for the Council not to accept the Funding and not to deliver the schemes. This would then mean the Council would be liable for claw back for failing to deliver the TCF programme.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 To ensure that Cabinet remains informed on the progress of the work to deliver the Transforming Cities Fund schemes and to ensure that funds are accepted to enable the work to continue in a timely manner.
- 6.2 The schemes must be delivered by the end of May 2023 and the usual SYMCA process is such that the tender for the construction of the scheme has to be returned prior to submission of the Full Business Case. This is appraised by SYMCA and given the values will need the MCA approval – a process which can take a minimum of 3 months.
- 6.3 To then go through the Cabinet approval process to accept the tender and grant funding could add a further 2 months to the process. This puts the progress of the scheme at risk due to the uncertainty in the price of

construction materials, this could mean that tenderers either inflate prices to cover the delay in award or add in high costs to cover risk in delaying signing the contract.

- 6.4 In the case of the A61 and A635 however, we have been given approval to run the tender period concurrently with the Full Business Case submission. This means that the final tender price was received in time for the Transport Environment Board (TEB) on 1 September and therefore approval granted at the MCA on 19th September; with approval being sought by Cabinet to award the tender.
- 6.5 The agreement to award the tender will now allow work to start on site as early as October with the anticipated opening date for both schemes at the end of March 2023
- 6.6 In the case of the Station Access Improvement schemes at Darton and Elsecar, this work will be delivered in-house by the Council's DLO.

7. GLOSSARY

SYMCA – South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
SCR – Sheffield City Region
DfT – Department for Transport
DLO – Direct Labour Organisation
TCF – Transforming Cities Fund
OBC – Outline Business Case
FBC – Full Business case

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Financial Implications

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Sheffield City Region Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2 Business Case Submission.
Sheffield City Region Active Travel Plan Implementation
Barnsley Draft Transport Strategy

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	Mark Bell 28 June 2022
Legal consultation & sign off	Jason Field 18 August 2022

Report Author: Tracey Brewer, Post: Head of Strategic Transport

APPENDIX A

Report of the Executive Director Place

ACCEPTANCE OF TCF FUNDS FROM SYMCA: A61 ROYSTON ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME, A635 ACTIVE TRAVEL LINK & STATION ACCESS SCHEME (DARTON & ELSECAR)

i) <u>Capital</u>	<u>2022/23</u> £M	<u>2023/24</u> £M	<u>2024/25</u> £M	<u>2025/26</u> £M	<u>TOTAL</u> £M
TCF FUNDING TO SUPPORT: A51 ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME, A635 ACTIVE TRAVEL LINK (GOLDTHORPE- STAIRFOOT) & STATION ACCESS SCHEME (DARTON & ELSECAR)	7.600	0.000	0.000	0.000	7.600
	7.600	0.000	0.000	0.000	7.600
To be financed from:					
TCF GRANT ALLOCATION FROM SYMCA	7.600	0.000	0.000	0.000	7.600
	7.600	0.000	0.000	0.000	7.600
Balance	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

ii) <u>Revenue</u>	<u>2021/22</u> £	<u>2022/23</u> £	<u>2023/24</u> £	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> £
<u>Expenditure</u>	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
To be financed from:					
	0	0	0		0
	0	0	0		0

Impact on Medium Term Financial Strategy				
	2020/21 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Current forecast budget gap	0	0	0	0
Requested approval	0	0	0	0
Revised forecast budget gap	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

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

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