

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CORE SERVICES

TITLE: COUNCIL PLAN 2024 - 2027

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	11th June 2024
Cabinet Member Portfolio	CORE SERVICES
Key Decision	Yes
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

To seek approval to publish the new Council Plan for 2024 through to 2027.

Council Plan priority

Healthy Barnsley, Learning Barnsley, Growing Barnsley, Sustainable Barnsley and Enabling Barnsley.

Recommendations

That Cabinet recommend Council:-

1. approve the publication of the new Council Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The current Council Plan came to an end on 31st March 2024 and a new plan is required to set out the priorities and outcomes of the Council for the next 3 years from 2024 through to 2027.
- 1.2 The new Council Plan continues to be influenced and aligned to Barnsley 2030 ambitions and showcases work so far to achieve the ambitions for the borough.
- 1.3 The alignment to Barnsley 2030 has been reaffirmed in use of the 2030 vision, “Barnsley the place of possibilities” and associated themes which will become the new Council Plan priorities; Healthy, Learning, Growing and Sustainable Barnsley.
- 1.4 Each priority area has several outcomes which have been reviewed to ensure they are still fit for purpose for the next three years.
- 1.5 Critical success factors are our measurement of progress towards those outcomes and together create the corporate performance framework which will report quarterly to Cabinet.
- 1.6 An additional priority, Enabling Barnsley, will continue to be included which covers our continued work to be a modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high performing Council.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 The Council is required to produce a plan to set-out its ambitions for the next three years and to track the progress towards delivering against the priorities, outcomes and overall vision for the Council.
- 2.2 The Council plan highlights the achievements so far of Barnsley Council between 2021 and 2024, such as winning two Council of the Year awards, investing in various projects, delivering high quality services in education, social care, public health and communities, and maintaining good governance and financial stability.
- 2.3 The Council Plan provides a plan on a page which is included below;

Our foundations

Our vision, priorities and values are the guiding force behind our Corporate Plan. They're all entwined together to help us and our borough become a place of possibilities.

Our vision Barnsley – the place of possibilities

Our priorities and outcomes



Enabling Barnsley Be bold. Be brave. Be innovative.

Enabling Barnsley connects our vision, values and behaviours, so that we all understand and share the same goal. It's how we use digital tools to get the best results. It's how we make the most of our buildings and resources, and explore alternative ways to deliver our services, ensuring we achieve value for money in everything we do.

Our values



- 2.4 The council plan also describes some of our key initiatives for the next three years under each priority area.
- 2.5 Health on the High Street builds on the success of our trailblazing NHS Community Diagnostic Centre. We'll transform parts of our Alhambra Shopping Centre into a health and wellbeing hub, welcoming some Barnsley Hospital outpatient services to the centre.
- 2.6 Our enrichment programme "Great Childhoods made possible" aims to give our children the opportunities and experiences they deserve.

- 2.7 Securing funding for the Northern Academy for Vocal Excellence (NAVE) to host the Barnsley Youth Choir in the former Council Computer centre will enable the choirs exciting and ambitious vision but also provide enhanced opportunities for young people within the borough.
- 2.8 We want to prepare young people and people not in employment for rewarding and sustainable work via our Pathways to Work programme. It's an ambitious plan that aims to level the playing field by understanding the challenges that people face when getting into work.
- 2.9 The Council Plan introduces the Digital Catapult initiative which will prepare our businesses and residents for the future and that our workforce has the right skills for the next digital revolution. Centred around the use of the Seam Digital Campus to fulfil its potential as a hub for research, development and collaboration between businesses, academia and government.
- 2.10 Through our Council Plan we continue to invest in our Principal Towns through our investment programme. Its aim is to improve local economies around the borough and help our high streets thrive.
- 2.11 The Council Plan continues to prioritise health activities for our residents, we are working with partners such as Sport England to ensure that every person feels supported to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle, this is supported by our commitment to build on the 11km of active travel routes across the borough so that everyone has accessible routes for walking and cycling.
- 2.12 The Council Plan will commit to continuing with the implementation of our Affordable Warmth initiatives bringing together partner organisations across the borough together to share knowledge, expertise and resources on tackling the health inequalities caused by fuel poverty.
- 2.13 The Council plan describes the ambitions of the organisation to be bold, brave and innovative to continue to develop a modern, inclusive and diverse workforce who all support making Barnsley the Place of Possibilities for all.
- 2.14 We have taken the Barnsley 2030 themes of Healthy, Learning, Growing and Sustainable Barnsley and have engaged with all DMTs to revise the outcomes to ensure they continue to describe the priorities of the council for the next 3 years.
- 2.15 For Healthy Barnsley we propose three outcomes similar to those in the previous plan, we have simplified outcome 3 to cover inequalities more broadly than previously where the outcome specifically described health and income specifically. The proposed outcomes are;
- People are safe and feel safe
 - People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible.
 - We have reduced inequalities across the borough.

- 2.16 For Learning Barnsley we propose three outcomes remain those in the previous plan. The proposed outcomes are;
- People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills.
 - Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment.
 - People have access to early help and support.
- 2.17 For Growing Barnsley we have reduced the outcomes from three to two. Making sure the remaining outcomes are clear and focused on the economic growth of the borough including principal towns. The proposed outcomes are:
- New and existing businesses are supported to invest in employment opportunities for all.
 - The borough is welcoming, safe and enjoyable as a destination for work, shopping, leisure, culture and tourism.
- 2.18 For Sustainable Barnsley we have reduced the outcomes from three to two. Taking some of the context from previous outcomes in this area and Growing Barnsley to create robust priorities that match ongoing activity in this area. The proposed outcomes are:
- People live in a great place and are supported to have warm sustainable homes where they are connected and valued People live in their community.
 - Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all.
- 2.19 Below each priority area are several Critical Success Factors which make up the corporate performance framework, these have all been reviewed to ensure that they are measuring key priority activity and can demonstrate continuous performance improvement.
- 2.20 The associated quarterly performance reporting provides a structured, accountable framework where areas for achievement and areas for improvement can be highlighted and challenged through a robust process before being shared with the public.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

- 3.1.1 Financial implications have been considered by representatives of the Director of Finance (S151 Officer).
- 3.1.2 Whilst there are no direct costs associated with approving the revised Council plan, there are clearly associated delivery costs of the key aspects and outcomes of the updated plan. The plan sits alongside the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy where resources have been specifically aligned to delivery of these outcomes.
- 3.1.3 The costs of resource time and design to produce the plan and continued delivery of the performance framework have already been considered as part of the Business Intelligence Service resource envelope.

3.2 Legal

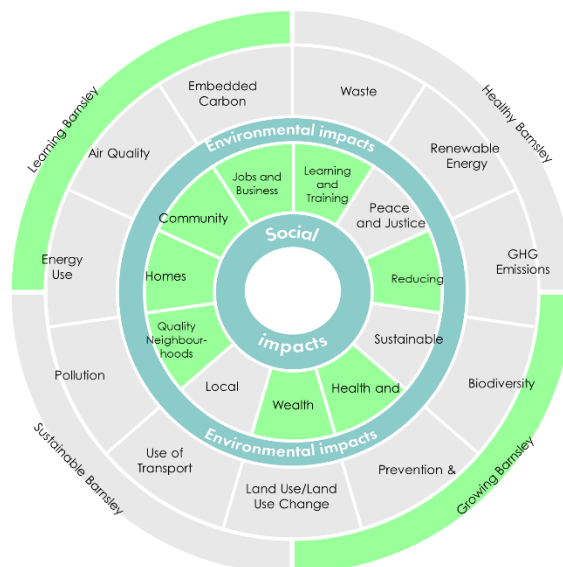
- 3.2.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report. The Local Government Association strongly recommend that all Councils have a structured plan and performance framework in place.

3.3 Equality

- 3.3.1 Equality Impact Assessment Pre-screening completed determining full EIA not required.

3.4 Sustainability

- 3.4.1 A Decision making exercise has taken place and the sustainable decision wheel is included below.



3.5 Employee

- 3.5.1 The Council Plan clearly outlines the golden thread for the organisation and will be used to ensure employees are engaged and clear about the priorities for the next three years.
- 3.5.2 We will use the plan on a page to communicate to employees the vision and priorities across the organisation.
- 3.5.3 Councils Business Plans and Delivery plans will be structured to continue this thread further reinforcing the priorities of the organisation at a directorate and business unit level.
- 3.5.4 Employees will be supported via their management structures to focus on the agreed priorities through their own PDRs and regular supervisions, this will enable them to relate their individual achievements back to the Council Plan.
- 3.5.5 Each outcome will have several critical success factors that will be driven through teams delivering effective, efficient services and employees.

3.6 Communications

- 3.6.1 Quarterly reporting updates are presented through Cabinet and published on our website, with an associated communications release to highlight the areas of improvement and achievement.
- 3.6.2 The Council Plan will be communicated across the organisation using the plan on the page as the main communication tool, this will be highlight via the normal internal communication routes.
- 3.6.3 In addition future Lets Talk sessions will focus on the Council Plan and how all employees contribute to the realisation of the vision.
- 3.6.4 It is proposed to organise an all Member's briefing to share the plan with Elected Members.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1.1 The Council Plan continues to be heavily influenced by the wide range of engagement and consultation undertaken through the Barnsley 2030 project.
- 4.1.2 The Council Plan has been taken to each directorate management team to align the delivery of priority outcomes over the next three years.
- 4.1.3 The Council Plan has been discussed at the Senior Management Team, Barnsley Leadership Team and Directorate Management

Teams to ensure they have been given the opportunity to influence and contribute to both the Council Plan and the associated performance framework.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Local Government Association strongly recommend that all Councils have a structured plan and performance framework in place.

6.2 The Council Plan allows the council to share its vision publicly for the next 3 years and showcase progress so far.

6.3 The Council Plan allows employees to focus on the agreed priorities and associate outcomes to deliver the overall vision.

7. GLOSSARY

Not applicable

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: EIA Pre-Screen

Appendix B: Council Plan 2024-2027

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date Steve Loach 11/05/24
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date Andrew Perriman 20 May 2024

Report Author: Chris Blackburn
Post: Head of Business Intelligence
Date: 13/05/2024