



**BMBC Area Councils
Covid19 Recovery Presentation
June 2020**

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Metropolitan Borough Council

Presentation Content

- Strategic Approach to the Recovery Phase – David Robinson
- Role of Area Councils and Ward Alliances in Recovery – Phil Hollingsworth
- Implications for the Area Council Planned Approach – Area Council Manager

Strategic Approach to the Recovery Phase

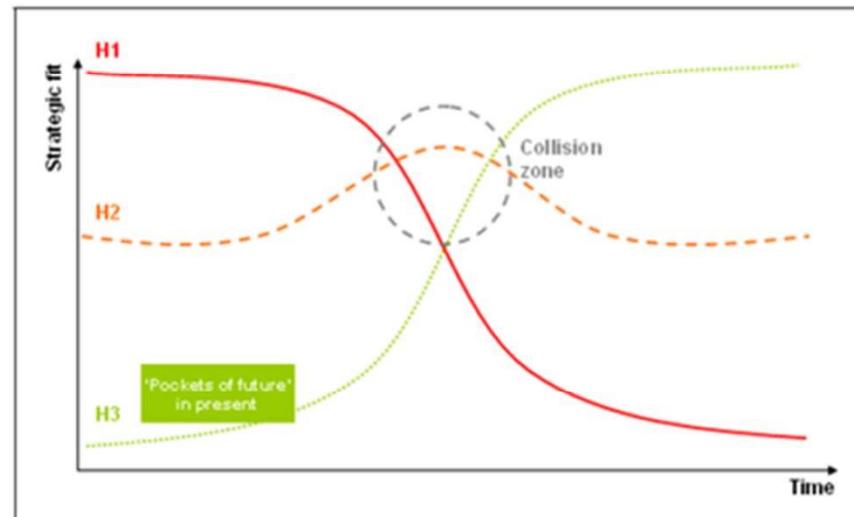
David Robinson

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Recovery, Renewal, Restarting, Restoring, Rebuilding, Moving on.....

- Its complicated, multidimensional requiring an agile and adaptive approach
- It is also an opportunity to realign with peoples values - build back better and give a sense of Renewal to communities
- To create a 'new normal' that sets a path towards longer term strategic goals and aligns with strategic phases of the virus containment.
- This 'new normal' will require dedicated, collective and focussed leadership alongside our communities, our businesses and our public services for some time.
- An emerging, developing Government Recovery & Renewal Strategy which requires aligning with our local strategies to meet the needs of the people and businesses of the borough.
- An agile and iterative arrangement is required to accommodate: -
 - Fluctuating restrictions depending on future peaks and outbreaks
 - Services may be need to be 'switched on and off' within the recovery period
 - The recovery period may be at least 12-18 months or until widespread immunity via a vaccine
 - Different population segments will have different need for restrictions i.e. Shielded population may have greater restrictions for longer.

- **Horizon 1 (H1):** Immediate Recovery steps (April – June 2020)
Horizon1 is the existing business as usual or the dominant way of doing things today.
- **Horizon 2 (H2):** Post Peak Recovery Foundations (July 2020 – December 2020)
Horizon 2 is the part of greatest innovation and disruption where new innovative thinking and new ways of doing or being emerge. A good example is the digital transformation of the past decade i.e. smartphones.
- **Horizon 3 (H3):** Realising the Recovery Objectives (2021 onwards)
Horizon 3 is the future we want; pockets of the future are already in existence and we want to see this grow and become the new future.



Proposing a 5-point Recovery / Renewal Strategy

1. Humanitarian - Health & Wellbeing

To help heal and restore the health of wellbeing to reduce and suppress infection across the borough.

2. Business Economy

To ensure that the boroughs' communities and businesses positively move on from COVID-19. To bring back public and investor confidence in our local economy.

3. Building Resilience

To improve resilience across the borough in preparation for potential future waves of the COVID 19; to continue to shield and protect the vulnerable.

4. Education & Attainment

To safely open and reinstate educational activity to catch up and minimise impact on children, young people's development and outcomes pre-birth to 25 years old through both traditional educational establishments and digital means.

5. Infrastructure & the Environment

To safely reinstate infrastructure and transport networks as soon as practicable.

Underpinning all these themes

To achieve financial stability of key anchor institutions.

To develop and deliver a concise, balanced, achievable and affordable recovery plan.

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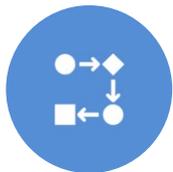
Develop the Recovery Strategy



Conduct Impact Analysis



Identify what's stopping, starting, continuing...



Set out key recovery actions & plan



Implement 100-day Recovery Plan



**Monitor & Learn
Test & Adapt**

Moving on.....

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Role of Area Councils and Ward Alliances in Recovery

Phil Hollingsworth

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A Valuable Framework to Build Upon

Through the Response phase we have seen:

- Commissioned service and community organisations flexed to adapt their service models and continue support for communities
 - New support networks and groups become established
 - The deployment of 'Community Responders' to support those in need
- As we move more towards Recovery, there is also a valuable role for our area governance arrangements to continue to provide.

Council's Overall Funding Position

- Uncertainties caused by Covid19 mean we need to review assumptions that were made for all budgets in 20/21.
- Furthermore, a re-focussing of priorities needs to take place to ensure we are addressing the new challenges brought about by Covid19.
- In line with this, on the 8th of April guidance was issued in the Members daily bulletin in respect of a cessation of all 'non-essential' expenditure.
- We need to explore what this means for Area Council's as we re-establish our schedule of meetings.

Area Council's Budgetary Position

- The funding allocation into Area Councils for 20/21 has not changed.
- Therefore the amount available to your Area Council is unaffected (we will look at this in detail shortly).
- We do however need to consider whether the planned priorities and commissioning intentions remain the right ones in the context of Covid19 long-term impact.

Anticipated Challenges for Communities

- Exacerbated impact on poverty & worklessness.
- Educational impact due to disruption to schooling.
- Economic impact on local high-street.
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- Re-establishing the fabric of society – informal support networks through clubs/groups/organisations.
- Health & wellbeing impacts from lack of service access & people not seeking help.

Opportunities to Build Upon?

- Our strategic direction of travel priorities that still remain relevant:
 - digital agenda
 - inclusive economy
 - Zero40
 - Barnsley 2030
- More agile working as a result of Covid19 so people working closer to home – opportunities for local district centres?
- Changing support networks with greater insight of those who we would consider are our most vulnerable.
- Examples of greater community spirit e.g. Thursday night support for NHS & care workers.

Ward Alliance's Budgetary Position

- The base budget allocation into Ward Alliances has not changed.
- We had intended to delegate a further £210k into Ward Alliances in 20/21 but, in line with all additional investments, this remains on hold until we have a clearer picture on the overall financial position for the Authority.
- Therefore the base amount available to your Ward Alliance is the base budget of £10k/ward, plus any carry-forward.
- Area Council's may still choose to delegate additional funds to Ward Alliances if they feel that it where the Recovery effort is best served.

Ward Alliances – Covid19 Recovery Guidance

- Ward Alliance projects should be relevant to directly assisting our communities with their Recovery efforts in relation to Covid-19.
- All other projects should be considered 'non-essential' in the current financial climate and crisis response phase.
- Any projects that come forward should demonstrate how they benefit our recovery efforts and have taken current Covid-19 guidance into account in their proposals.
- As an exception, where a local business has already committed resources, we will honour these agreements for projects which may otherwise be considered 'non-essential' spend. However, no new projects of this nature should be commenced.
- We know there is an ambition to get back to normal and have community events and celebrations. At the current time we do not know how long social distancing restrictions will apply but in all likelihood these will continue in some form for most of the year, if not longer. It would therefore not seem appropriate to be planning any events at this time that would bring people together in large numbers – including outdoor events.

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Ward Alliances – Update to Volunteer Match Funding

- The volunteer match is written into the Ward Alliance Fund requirements which means that at least 50% of the funding available to Ward Alliances requires a match in volunteering time, resources or income. This was included to ensure that the funding is used to facilitate greater volunteering and social action, and not to just buy goods or services without community involvement.
- Due to some volunteers socially isolating it has been acknowledged that the volunteer match element will be harder to meet this year.
- Moving forward it has been agreed that we will relax the volunteering element for 20/21 and we will amend the guidance to indicate that this is still strongly encouraged where safe and practical to do so, but that the 50% match would not be enforced.
- A review for 21/22 will take place to see whether it is sensible to reintroduce it at this time.

Grass Cutting Recovery Steps

- Covid-19 has presented a number of service delivery challenges across Neighbourhood Services
- Service delivery protocols have been amended in line with government guidance
- Staff from service have been redeployed to support domestic waste collection priorities
- Safe systems of work developed including maximum Driver plus 1 Operative in vehicles
- Grass cutting on partial delivery due to available staff resource

7 April 2020

Priority areas continued to be maintained – in line with available resource

28 April 2020

Mobilised skeletal team to cut residential high-risk areas i.e. sheltered housing

8 June 2020

Staff returned from waste to substantive grass cutting duties

8 – 12 June 2020

Re-induction and safe system of work briefing - staff returning to work

16 June 2020

Re-commence grass cutting core offer – backlog addressed in phased approach

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Implications for the Area Council Planned Approach

Elaine Equeall

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Impact and Implications for Penistone Area Council

Initial response: Community mobilisation and Area Team support

- Community mapping – 9 networks established within first 3 weeks via group and parish responses e.g. Huskar Helping Hands, <https://lovethypenistone.co.uk/>. Area team offered support, checked on resource, weekly contact, arranged WA funds where needed.
- Ongoing communications and promotion of support at local and borough wide levels via social media, liaison with Penistone FM and other partners.
- Localised support to BMBC emergency contact centre – approx 4000 postcards and posters delivered in partnership with Berneslai Homes, Age UK, Parishes.
- Additional support via Wellbeing boxes for Older People delivered via Probation service in conjunction with Age UK. Dispersal of free Easter Eggs working with Huskar Helping hands in Silkstone and Lovethypenistone.

Emergency COVID-19 contact centre

We've launched a new emergency contact centre to respond to COVID-19 (coronavirus) related emergencies for vulnerable people, and to respond to services who need support.

If you, or someone you know, needs emergency support visit barnsley.gov.uk/covid-19-emergency-support.

If you're unable to fill the online form in, you can call us on (01226) 774444 or freephone 0808 196 3531.

For general information about coronavirus disruption and support, please visit barnsley.gov.uk/coronavirus.

The centre can only help those vulnerable people and families who need emergency support such as:

- essential supplies
- help with medication
- over-the-phone befriending.

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Impact and Implications for Penistone Area Council

Community Responders

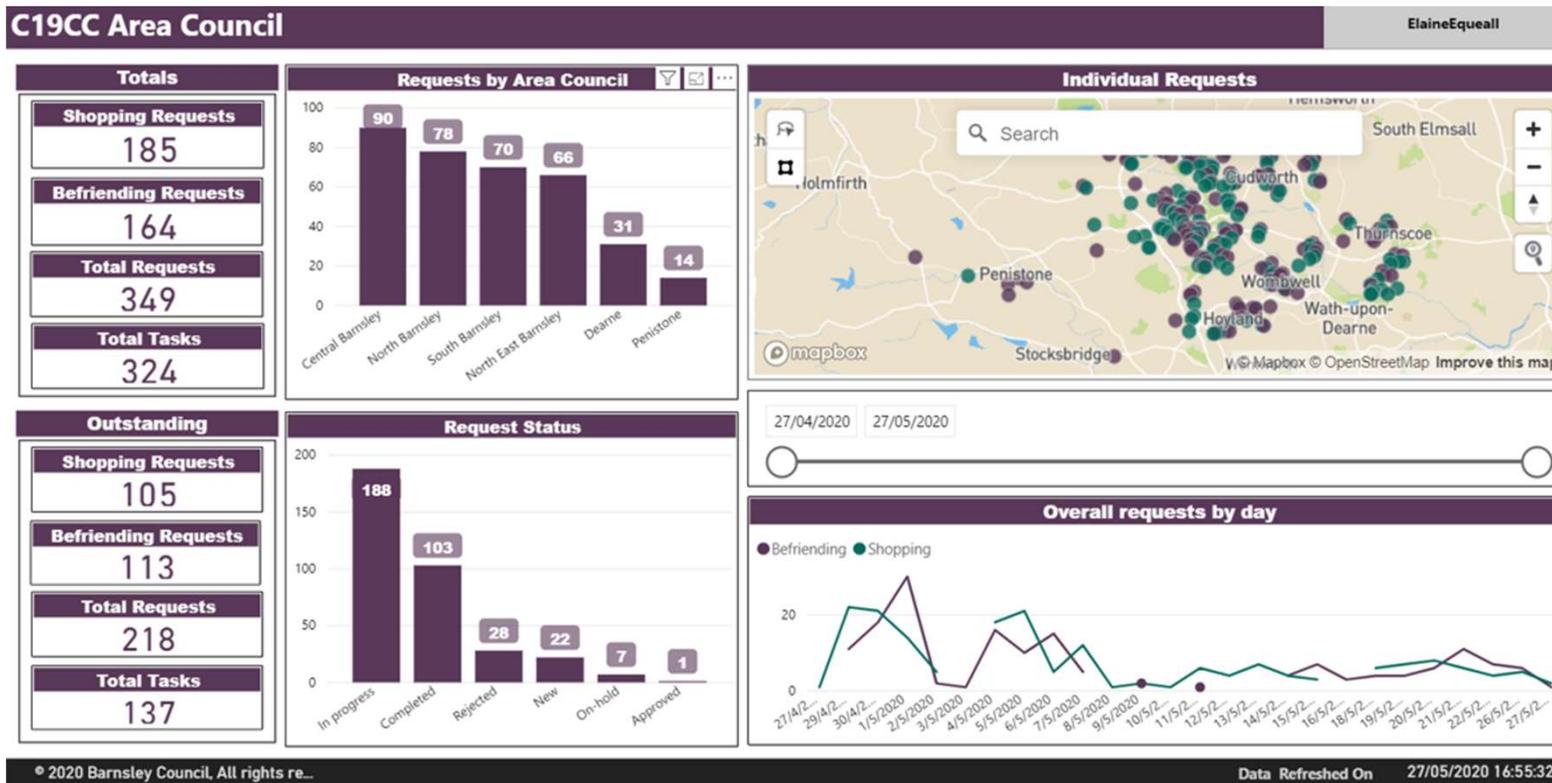
- Community Responders are Volunteers who are working with people who are either shielding, or have been assessed to be vulnerable.
- Training packages have been implemented for Community Responders in partnership with Barnsley CVS.
- The Area Team has ensured the Community Responders have been trained, and given PPE, and we have supported 19 Community Responders so far (although 11 have recently stepped down having become unavailable) who have been dealing with requests for support:
 - 6 shopping requests
 - 14 befriending support
- Some Community Responders have been assigned to more than one case, some cases require ongoing support, and some cases were too complex for the Community Responders to deal with, and have either been referred to Adult Social care or other suitable agencies.
- Made links with our existing community networks to advise on this additional resource to ensure partnership working

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Community Volunteer Responder Scheme Summary of Requests by Area Council



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Impact and Implications for Penistone Area Council

Flexing of Area Council Contracts

- **Age UK** targeted support to those most vulnerable with no family and friends , approximately 60 service users and 50 + volunteers providing shopping and befriending.
- **Twiggs** clean, green and tidy contract provided support to Neighbourhood Services with targeted clean ups and litter picks, whilst also continuing to support community group maintained areas, contacting volunteers by phone to arrange work days on an individual basis
- **DIAL and CAB** provided online and phone welfare advice through existing contracts
- **South Pennine Community Transport** Interim extension to 25 bus service contract to allow continuity and enable vulnerable to shop.

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Current Penistone Area Council Priorities & Commissioning Intentions

HELPING PEOPLE

To connect better

ENVIRONMENT

HEALTH & WELL BEING

SUPPORT

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Including Tourism

Contracts and commissions supporting priorities

Contract end date

South Pennine Bus service 25 (Working together grant)
Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older people grant funded project

June 2020
January 2021

Clean Green and Tidy commissioned service

April 2021 (+1+1
option)

DIAL information and Advice service
Supporting Vulnerable and isolated older people grant funded projects

January 2021
January 2021

None currently still in research stage intention to establish grant pot – utilising underspend from 2020 budget

CAB debt advice service
South Pennine Community bus service 25

September 2020
June 2020

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Penistone Area Council Budget

For 2020/21 the area has 1 Commissioned Service and 2 Grant Fund pots
The budget for 2020/21 is **£200,000** plus **£115,224** carried forward

Area Council funded Services	Value (from 2020/21 budget)	End Date
Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older people grant fund – 3 lots £70K total	£52,000	January 2021
Twiggs – Clean and Tidy service (new 3 year contract started 01/04/2020)	£100K	31/03/2021 (+1+1)
Working Together Grant fund currently supporting: DIAL service CAB service South Pennine community bus service	Nil (£61k remaining as carry forward)	December 2020 September 2020 June 2020
Total	£152,000	
Unallocated spend 2020/21	£48,000	
Carry forward underspend	£115,224	

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Area Council Discussion

Against the 5 recovery priorities:

- Humanitarian – Health & Wellbeing
- Business & Economy
- Building Resilience
- Education & Attainment
- Infrastructure & Environment

What are aspects of the Area Council plan that:

- Aligns and can continue (may need adapting)
- Doesn't align and needs to cease
- What are the gaps that need addressing

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