

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

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# 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

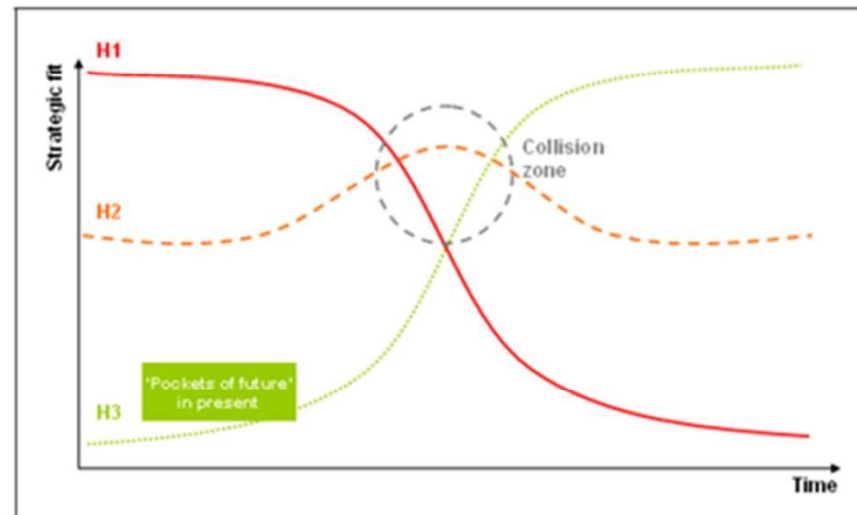
David Robinson

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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.



**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Ward Alliance - 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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# Green Waste Collection Recovery Steps

- Covid-19 has presented a number of service delivery challenges across waste and recycling
- Service delivery protocols have been amended in line with government guidance
- Staff have been redeployed from across the council and partners to support high priority services
- Safe systems of work developed including maximum Driver plus 1 Operative in vehicles

**1-5 June 2020**

Recruitment and induction of additional staff

**1-5 June 2020**

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

**1-5 June 2020**

Source additional support vehicles to support reinstatement of green collections

**6-15 June 2020**

Comms campaign – variety of media streams to support green collection re-start

**9 June 2020**

Re-commence green collections

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# Implications for the Area Council Planned Approach

Claire Dawson

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# Dearne Area Team's Response

Initial response: Community mobilisation and the Dearne Area Team's support

- Community mapping – reviewed and promoted all of the initiatives provided in the area by various groups and services. Area team offered support, weekly contact, promoted the initiatives through various mechanisms
- Ongoing communications and promotion of support at local and borough wide levels via social media
- Additional support via Wellbeing boxes for Older People delivered by B:Friend. Dispersal of free Easter Eggs and children's activity packs
- Localised support to BMBC emergency contact centre – 3000 postcards delivered in partnership with Berneslai Homes and the Salvation Army. Big Local put the flyer in their newsletter that went out to every home in Thurnscoe
- Face coverings initiative working in partnership with Barnsley CVS, produced documentation, launched Facebook group, sourced/distributing coverings. 79 sewers, 20 of those from the Dearne. To date the sewers have produced 1800 face coverings.

## 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](https://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](https://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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## Community Responders

- Volunteers that are working with people who are either shielding or are assessed to be vulnerable
- Training package implemented for community responders in partnership with Barnsley CVS
- Ensured volunteer community responders set up and trained currently supporting 10 Dearne community responders , dealing with 36 requests for support
- 21 shopping requests
- 15 befriending support
- Some responders have had more than one case, some cases are for on going support and some case were too complex for the responders to deal with

## Impact and Implications for Dearne Area Council

- Flexed Area Council contracts
- **B:Friend**, **76** older people now accessing their support, over the telephone and through social media interactions. Giving out emergency food parcels and health and well being packs
- **Twiggs** support to NS targeted clean ups and litter picks, support to community group areas and addressing hotspots
- **DECV** continue to support 23 individuals seeking employability advice and 3 gaining employment during lockdown
- **The Housing officer** has continued his work on reporting in waste, fly tipping , contaminated bins and dealing with housing disrepair
- Promoted the online and phone welfare advise through existing grants with **DIAL** and **CAB** which were up and running the same day they ceased face to face contact, both have seen an increase in people wanting support from the Dearne area
- Other work provided through the grant scheme has ceased for the time being

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# Dearne Area Council Priorities & Commissioning Intentions

Dearne Area priority	Service	Provider	Contract Value/length	Contract end date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving the economy</li> <li>• Skills and training</li> <li>• Health</li> </ul>	Employability	Dearne electronic community village	£33,000 per annum	Funded until end of March 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving the environment</li> </ul>	Private Sector Housing and migration	BMBC	£31,557 per annum	Funded until end of January 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving the environment</li> <li>• Skills and training</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Young people</li> </ul>	Environmental, volunteering and education service	Twiggs	£85,000 per annum	Funded until end of March 2021 option to extend further 2 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Skills and training</li> </ul>	Social isolation	B-friend	£27,000 per annum	Current contract funded until September 2020, waiver for a further year and the option to extend a further year

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# Dearne Area Council Budget

Area Council Spend	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Base allocation	£200,000	£200,000	
Carry forward	+£16,886.17	+£4,730.67	
Total allocation for year	£216,886.17	£204,730.67	
Community Newsletter	-£2,598.50		
Training for Employment	-£33,000	-£33,000	-33,000
Housing and Migration Officer	-£31,557	-£31,557	
Dearne Clean & Tidy	-£85,000	-£85,000	-£85,000
Dearne Development Fund	-£60,000		
Social connectivity		-£27,000	-£27,000
Total spend (actual)	£212,155.50	£176,557	£145,000
Allocation remaining	+£4,730.67	+£28,173.67	

**\*No money yet allocated to the Dearne Development fund, Dial, CAB and Goldthorpe Development Group are paid for out of this grant and all due to end Sept/Oct/Dec**

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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