

# BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**South Area Council Briefings:  
31<sup>st</sup> July 2020**

**Report of South Area Council Manager**

## **South Area Council – South Area Council Priorities and Forward plan**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 To provide information on two South Area Council workshops agreed at its first ever virtual South Area Council meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

1.2 To provide details of the discussion and way forward.

### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 That Members note the information on the South Area Council Workshops.

2.2 That Members agree a sixth South Area Council priority: 'Health and Wellbeing for all'.

2.3 That the South Area Council will work with Public Health to deliver a pilot in the South to provide a better insight into the impact of social distancing for our communities.

2.4 That Members agree to any decisions on the remaining South Area Council budget are put on hold until the Public Health work is completed and can inform future spend which better meets the emerging needs of our communities.

2.5 That ward briefings take place to discuss further how the opportunities for the work of the South Area Council and Ward Alliances can support the inclusive economy agenda, making the most of opportunities to better align to the economic, skills and people support and programmes and Principal Towns . This will be ongoing work with outcomes presented at briefings and Area Council meeting when appropriate.

2.6 That Members revisit at a future date commissioning intentions and areas of work being developing by the South Area Council prior to Covid 19 and as part of the Public Health work described at 4.5.

### **3. South Area Council Recovery presentation**

3.1 The South Area Council met for its first virtual Area Council meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 20 as part of a round of Area Council meetings across the Borough. All Area Council meetings followed a similar format of a presentation setting out:

- Strategic approach to the recovery phase, 5-point recovery plan – David Robinson
- Role of Area Councils and Ward Alliances in recovery – Phil Hollingsworth
- Implications of the Area Council current approach – Lisa Lyon, South Area council Manager

3.2 The government lockdown and social distancing had implications for each of the Area Councils in terms of the annual programmed Area Council meetings. It was not possible to meet and hold meetings in the usual manner, as such the Governance

team set up virtual meetings for each of the 6 Area councils meeting which took place over a period of a week.

3.3 The virtual meetings covered an agreed format and key messages and were aimed as a starting point for further discussion with Area Council members. (see appendix 1 South Area Council recovery presentation).

3.4 There were a number of common themes for actioning from the meeting with briefings suggested on the following topics:

- Business and financial hardship support across the Borough and South area.
- Public health: Mental Health and wellbeing support available including exploring Hidden harm, food access, mental health, early help and prevention.
- Inequalities across the South area - Connectivity, IT infrastructure

3.5 It was agreed at the South Area Council meeting that Members Briefing workshops would be set up to look at the information presented at the meeting in more details and consider further information provided as a result of the common themes. The agendas:

**South Area Council workshop briefing, 10<sup>th</sup> July 20:**

- Overview of economic and skills support and position statement
- Principal Towns update

**South Area Council Workshop briefing 17<sup>th</sup> July 20:**

- Public health presentation
- Smokefree Hoyland presentation
- Stocktake on South Area Council priorities and commissioned services

**4. Workshop discussions**

4.1 As part of the workshop briefings Members were presented with information to consider:

- how the South Area Council can better support the Councils 5-point recovery plan priorities below through Ward Alliances and Area Council commissioned services:

**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**

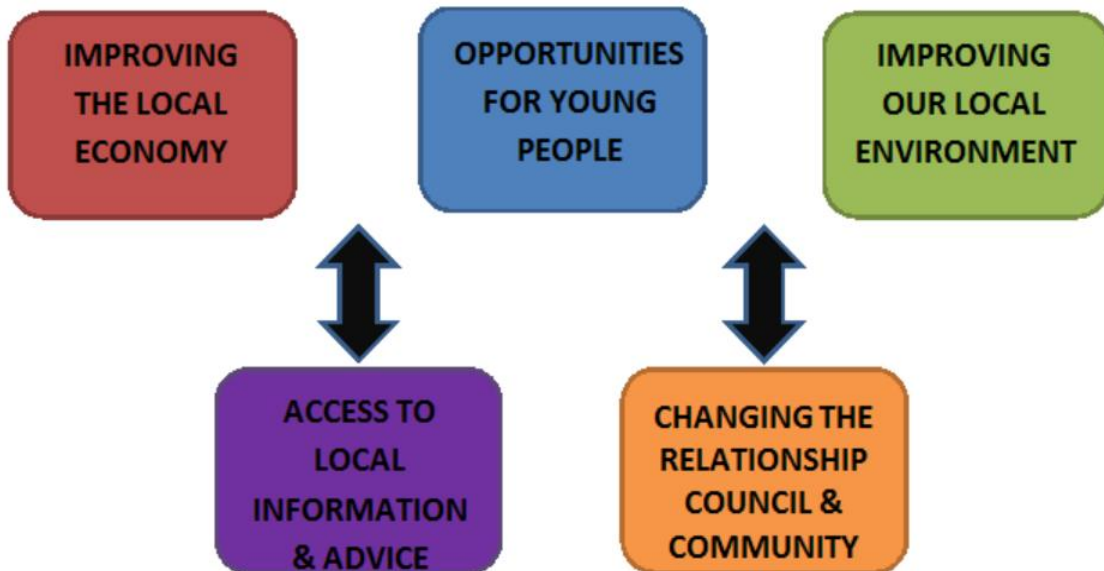
*To safely open and reinstate educational activity to catch up and minimise impact on children, young people's development and outcomes pre-birth to 25 years old through both traditional educational establishments and digital means.*

**5. Infrastructure & the Environment**

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

Proposing a  
5-point  
Recovery /  
Renewal  
Strategy

- how to address new challenges brought about by Covid 19
- the South Area Council unallocated budget of £54,318 plus £9062 grants unallocated and £1180 remaining enforcement income
- whether the following South Area Council current priorities are still the right ones:



4.2 In the South Area all the commissioned providers flexed their contracts to ensure that those in need were supported. The South Area Council benefitted from having established resources in place that could react quickly. Much of the provision was adapted to online and telephone support. The following was presented to Members at the workshop briefings to map how current contracts help meet the South Area Council priorities and the 5-point recovery plan priorities:

## South Area Council priorities:



- All the contracts help to change the relationship between the Council and the community. For ‘improving the environment and local economy’ and ‘access to local information and advice’ between 3 and 4 contracts support this agenda. One contract supports the priority for ‘Opportunities for young people’.

5-point recovery plan priorities:

- When the same exercise is completed for the 5-point recovery plan priorities at 4.1 it was evident at the workshop that 4 out of the 5 existing contracts support ‘Humanitarian – Health and Wellbeing’. Health and Wellbeing isn’t currently recognised as a specific priority for the South Area Council even though several contracts are supporting this work. Also noted at the workshop was the education and attainment priority currently has just one contract supporting this, which is the same contract, Tidy Team services, delivering on the one ‘Opportunities for young people’ priority.

## 5 point recovery plan:

<b>1. Humanitarian - Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	 Anvil Community I.C.	 Barnsley ageUK		 citizens advice Barnsley
<b>2. Business Economy</b>	 citizens advice Barnsley	 DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT THE CAR PARKING SPECIALISTS	 Barnsley ageUK	
<b>3. Building Resilience</b>	 Barnsley ageUK			
<b>4. Education &amp; Attainment</b>	 Anvil Community I.C.			
<b>5. Infrastructure &amp; the Environment</b>	 Anvil Community I.C.	 DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT THE CAR PARKING SPECIALISTS		

4.3 In recognition of the contribution of contracts towards improving people’s health and wellbeing and the opportunities to build on this during Covid 19 recovery stages, it is recommended that the South Area Council agree a further priority ‘Health and Wellbeing for all’.

4.4 At the workshop briefing it was recognised that as lockdown eases many people in the South area will still require ongoing support to reengage into society, and deal with the ongoing impact of the pandemic and exacerbating existing health inequalities. Members agreed that before they could make any recommendations for allocating the remaining South Area Council budget outlined at 4.1, they would like to better understand what the impact of Covid 19 has had on our communities in order to better commission work to support the recovery.

4.5 Diane Lee, Head of Public Health, presented to Members a detailed picture of the effects of social distancing measures with significant cross over with the work of the South Area Council and Ward Alliances and opportunities to align the work towards recovery. Diane presented a proposal to pilot in the South, building on a successful

piece of work by Public health called 'A day in the life of'. The work would aim to provide a better insight into the impact of social distancing for our communities at a very individual level. The ambition would be that this work can better steer commissioning to support the Borough and more targeting of resources.

4.6 At the workshop briefing Members agreed that the South Area would work with Public health to deliver this work. Decisions on spend will be put on hold until this work is completed.

4.7 At the workshop briefing on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 Members received detailed presentations regarding the support put in place for businesses, people, employment and skills. The briefing outlined the reactive work put in place across Barnsley building on a strong foundation of existing provision and programmes. Information included how since the start of the pandemic the offer has been evolving and strengthening to meet the needs of the Borough and the potential role for the Area Council and Ward Alliances to support the inclusive economy agenda in particular through Principal Towns. Members felt that ward briefings would be needed to discuss the information in more detail.

4.8 Prior to lockdown the South Area Council were working on a number of commissioning intentions and developing the following areas of work:

- Smokefree Hoyland
- Strength and Balance training, roadshows and tackling excess winter deaths
- Road Safety and air quality around schools
- Food access

4.9 This report is recommending that these areas of work are revisited at a later date as part of the work with Public Health to define the challenges for local people whilst social distancing.

## **5. Agreed way forward and action**

5.1 Recommendations on a way forward and actions:

- The South Area Council agree a sixth priority: 'Health and Wellbeing for all'
- The South Area Council will work with Public Health to deliver a pilot in the South to provide a better insight into the impact of social distancing for our communities.
- Decisions on the remaining South Area Council spend will be put on hold until the Public Health work is completed and can inform future spend.
- Ward Briefings to take place to discuss further how the opportunities for the work of the South Area Council and Ward Alliances can support the inclusive economy agenda, making the most of opportunities to better align to the economic, skills and people support, programmes and Principal Towns . This is ongoing work with outcomes presented at briefings and Area Council meeting when appropriate.
- Revisit at a future date commissioning intentions and areas of work being developing by the South Area Council prior to Covid 19 and as part of the Public Health work described at 4.5.

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