

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PLACE
Cabinet, 26 January 2022

Public or Private: Public

Barnsley Place-based Investment Plan

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to Cabinet the Barnsley Place-based Investment Plan.
- 1.2 To seek approval to submit the Barnsley Place-based Investment Plan to South Yorkshire Combined Authority as the strategy for South Yorkshire Renewal Fund investment priorities in Barnsley.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet adopts the Barnsley Place-based Investment Plan.
- 2.2 Cabinet approves the submission of the Barnsley Place-based Investment Plan to South Yorkshire Combined Authority, as the strategy for South Yorkshire Renewal Fund investment priorities in Barnsley.

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 In March 2021, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SY MCA) Board agreed the principle of a South Yorkshire Renewal Fund (MCA Board March 21) drawing on the £30m p.a. resources secured through the Devolution Deal with Government ('Gainshare') supplemented by prudential borrowing.
- 3.2 The SY Renewal Fund is intended to support investment which helps to meet the SY MCA's strategic objectives for economic, social and environmental enhancements across South Yorkshire, as articulated in the Strategic Economic Plan (2020). It is expected to bring a more coherent approach to the management of the range of national government funds for which SY MCA becomes responsible (e.g. Transforming Cities Fund, Housing (Brownfield) Fund, Active Travel Fund etc.). It will also use additional funds from prudential borrowing to add value to / fill gaps between discreet and ad hoc government funding such as the Future High Streets Fund and Levelling Up Fund.
- 3.3 SY MCA has established four principles upon which the fund will be managed and allocated:
 - a. *Social Value. Investment to create jobs and grow the economy must also deliver greater inclusion for people and communities.*
 - b. *Outcomes. Delivery of 'Strategic Economic Plan' outcomes and local priorities.*
 - c. *Subsidiarity. Funds should be devolved to the most appropriate level, whilst maintaining accountability and responsibility.*
 - d. *Equity. Every area will get an equitable share of programme funds.*

- 3.4 MCA officers are developing a 'place-based' framework for the deployment of the SY Renewal Fund based upon: a) assessing investment impact on SY MCA outcomes and b) upon local priorities at a district level. As part of this process each of the four constituent local authorities has been asked to prepare its own 'Place-based Investment Plan' as the strategy for potential SY Renewal Fund investments in that area.
- 3.5 Place-based Investment Plans will principally focus upon priorities for capital investment under the SY Renewal Fund. However, it is also anticipated that the Plans will be used to demonstrate the rationale for future investment opportunities, including any possible future rounds of the Levelling Up Fund and revenue programmes under the proposed UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- 3.6 This report precedes a further report on the Principal Towns and Local Centre Investment Plans and capital programme, due in spring 2022. This is as a result of the timing of the SY MCA's process for completion of Place-based Investment Plans and the opening of the SY Renewal Fund in April 2022. Whilst the Place-based Investment Plan (Appendix A) includes some elements of the Principal Towns and Local Centres plans which could be funded through 'Early Delivery' of SY Renewal Fund in 2022/23, it is important to note that it does not represent the entirety of Council's proposals for capital investment in principal towns and local centres, which is reflected in the forthcoming plans.

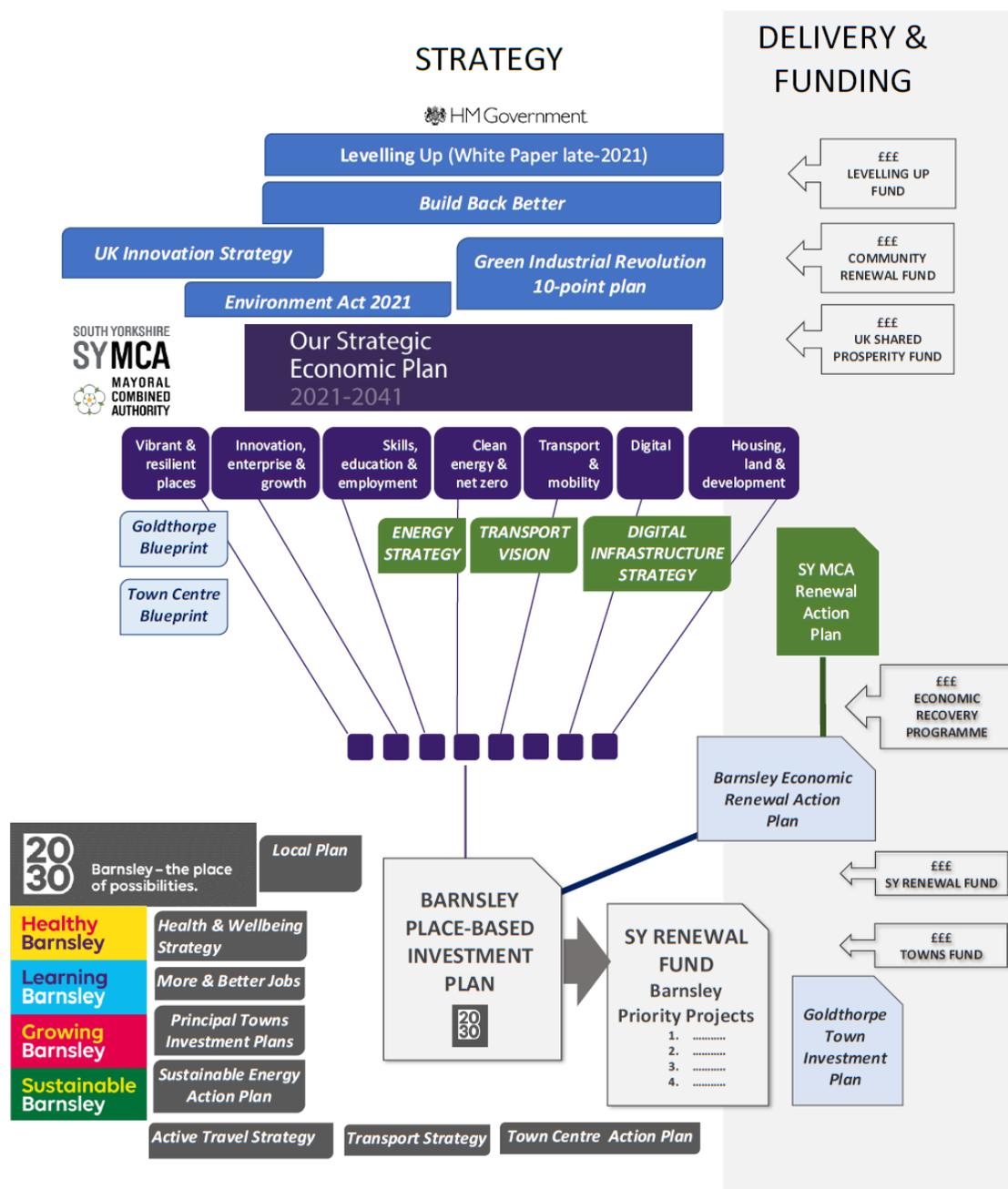
4. PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

- 4.1 Barnsley Council officers have developed the 'Barnsley Place-based Investment Plan' (Appendix A) with the intention that this is submitted to SY MCA for consideration in January 2022, prior to the opening of the SY Renewal Fund in April 2022.
- 4.2 The 'Barnsley Place-based Investment Plan' outlines the following key information and summary investment proposals to SY MCA:
- a. Vision and objectives for investment in Barnsley aligned to *Barnsley 2030*;
 - b. Evidence-base and rationale for investment;
 - c. Focused investment plans for 8 themes – directly aligned to the SY *Strategic Economic Plan* and mayoral priorities: i) Vibrant & resilient places; ii) Culture & visitor economy; iii) Innovation, enterprise and growth; iv) Skills, education and employment; v) Sustainability and net zero; vi) Transport and mobility; vii) Digital; viii) Housing, land and development;
 - d. Priority projects for early SY MCA investment in Barnsley; and
 - e. Governance and delivery.
- 4.3 Whilst the eight investment themes are directly drawn from SY MCA's strategic investment priorities, it is considered that they also closely reflect the current and future priorities for strategic regional-level investment in Barnsley. Local Barnsley-specific programmes are identified for investment over the next 5 years on each of the themes, including:
- i. Vibrant & resilient places: Seam Digital Campus; Town Centre Plan; and Principal Towns Investment Plans.
 - ii. Culture & visitor economy: Culture and Visitor Economy Capital Programme.
 - iii. Innovation, enterprise and growth: Business innovation support; Business centres capital programme; and Commercial property and inward investment programme.

- iv. Skills, education and employment: Technical sector skills academies; and Employment and skills capital programme.
- v. Sustainability and Net Zero: Innovation in energy; and Circular economy.
- vi. Transport: Principal Towns Transport Network.
- vii. Digital: Gigabit City; Smart Barnsley; and Digital inclusion.
- viii. Housing, land and development: Housing growth; and Employment growth.

4.4 The Place-based Investment Plan aligns with priorities outlined in other Council strategies, for example the More and Better Jobs strategy and Sustainable Energy Action Plan. It is also informed by, and aligned with, emerging UK Government policy and associated funding opportunities, particularly associated with the Levelling Up White Paper.

Figure a. Diagram outlining strategic, delivery and funding alignment of the Place-based Investment Plan



4.5 A number of projects have been identified as early investment priorities in this version of the Plan (Appendix A), with additional investment opportunities identified for further development for the first 5 years of the SY Renewal Fund. However, it is intended that the list of Investment Plan projects can be updated to reflect emerging priorities and changes in project circumstances. This principle is being developed in collaboration with SY MCA officers.

4.6 It is also intended to update the existing Local Economic Impact Assessment tool which has been successfully used by the Council to assess and demonstrate the economic impact and value for money of investment propositions to UK Government and SY MCA (Sheffield City Region as was) over the last few years. The update will include alignment with the core outcomes and metrics used by SY MCA to assess SY Renewal Fund proposals and will include compatibility with UK Government's 'land value uplift' approach to measuring economic impact.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

5.1 SY MCA has developed its preferred approach to the development of local investment priorities in the form of 'Place-based Investment Plans' and therefore no alternative approach to developing Barnsley's strategy for the SY Renewal Fund was available.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS

6.2 Strategically, the anticipated indirect benefits of the investment ask to SY MCA will be to support the Council and its partners to deliver investment in the Borough's social, economic and environmental infrastructure to lead to positive outcomes for Barnsley residents and businesses.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer).

7.2 There are no financial implications of the recommended actions in this report. However, the adoption and submission of the Place-based Investment Plan is expected to support future investment resource from SY MCA, enabling the Council to fulfil its economic growth aspirations. All future investment decisions will be subject to full business case scrutiny and legally binding grant agreement which will be considered on a case-by-case basis as they emerge.

8. EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no employee implications associated with this report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no anticipated legal implications at this stage of the Council's engagement with SY MCA on the SY Renewal Fund. All future investment decisions will be subject to full business case scrutiny and legally binding grant agreement which will be considered on a case-by-case basis as they emerge.

10. CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Place-based Investment Plan will be publicly available on the Barnsley Council website. A digital publishing plan is being developed with Communications officers.

11. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The Place-based Investment Plan will be a published Council document. A publishing plan is being developed with Communications officers.

12. CONSULTATIONS

12.1 The Barnsley Place-based Investment Plan has been developed in consultation across Regeneration & Culture, with the Strategic Director of Finance, Executive Director of Place, key delivery organisations across the Borough and officers of the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

13. EQUALITY IMPACT

13.1 An equality impact assessment is being developed in line with the timetable for Cabinet approval.

14. THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

14.1 The 'Place-based Investment Plan' is based upon, and directly aligned to, the Council's Barnsley 2030 aspirations. The document directly highlights the anticipated impact of each investment theme upon the achievement of the aims for:

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

The delivery of the Place-based Investment Plan will directly contribute to a range of Corporate Performance Critical Success Factors, whilst also supporting regional and national policy objectives as shown in Figure A.

15. TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY

15.1 The evidence-base of the 'Place-based Investment Plan' outlines the following guiding principles for investment in Barnsley, which are anticipated to have a direct and indirect effect on addressing economic disadvantage in the Borough:

- a. Redressing the jobs deficit and providing opportunity for higher levels of economic engagement
- b. Harnessing private investment to grow our business base and drive higher-value activity
- c. Fostering an inclusive economy
- d. Supporting population, housing and employment growth

- e. Making our urban centres fit for the future
- f. Maximising the value of our cultural and heritage assets

16. TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

16.1 Tackling health inequalities is considered an important element of the ‘inclusive economy’ guiding principle for investment within the Plan.

17. REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

17.1 Reduction of crime and disorder will be considered on a case-by-case basis in the future design of all capital asset investments.

18. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

18.1 Key risks include:

Risk	Mitigation
Strategic – Barnsley’s Place-based Investment Plan misaligned or contradictory to SY MCA economic and investment ambitions	The Barnsley Place-based Investment Plan is purposefully based upon the SY MCA’s key investment themes from the Strategic Economic Plan. This structure has been shared and discussed with SY MCA officers who are supportive of BMBC’s approach. Continued engagement is taking place with SY MCA officers, including through the Local Resilience Forum
Financial – SY MCA not able to fund all of BMBC’s investment aspirations through the SY Renewal Fund	The Place-based Investment Plan proposes a flexible approach to bringing forward priority investment projects that will allow the programme to be rationalised or adapted as necessary. The Plan will also be used as the investment rationale for future bids to other funds outside SY Renewal Fund.

19. GLOSSARY

SY MCA - South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority

20. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Barnsley Place-based Investment Plan
Appendix B: Place-based Investment Plan Project Summary

21. BACKGROUND CABINET PAPERS

None

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<p>Financial Implications/Consultation</p>  <p>.....</p> <p>(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer where no financial implications)</p>
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