

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

TITLE: **Area Council and Ward Alliance Annual Report 2021 - 2022**

REPORT TO:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting	Monday 27th June 2022
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Public Health and Communities
Key Decision	No
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to share the first Annual Report for the Area Councils and Ward Alliances and showcase the work that has been delivered over the last year 2021/2022.

Council Plan priority

Healthy Barnsley

All the emotional health, well-being, environmental and volunteering work that the Area Councils and Ward Alliances support help to achieve this overall priority. It is not just the services we commission or fund but also how we approach communities to work with us which makes what we do a success. We understand how our communities operate and the barriers they face. It is our job to influence the key partners who work alongside us and who often ask us to be involved in sharing that success with them.

Learning Barnsley

All the work of the Area Councils and Ward Alliances is centered around early intervention and prevention and supporting the resilience and learning in our communities. The services we commission through the Area Councils and the support we give through the Ward Alliances are all about reducing health inequalities and preventing people from needing statutory sector services.

Growing Barnsley

In every area, we are connecting our communities to the opportunities that are on offer across Barnsley, whether that is supporting entrepreneurs or supporting our communities to engage with the Principal Towns agenda. We are making sure that people have their say and are supporting our local businesses to have an awareness of the opportunities that are on offer to them.

Sustainable Barnsley

Across the Area Councils and Ward Alliances, the environment is a key part of our delivery, supporting communities to look after their local area with a bit of support from the council. All the work commissioned through the Area Councils contributes to this priority. Early intervention and prevention are key, making sure that communities are connected and influencing the partnership around the barriers that some communities face when trying to be connected and play a part. Some of these barriers are due to how we communicate (whether that is in a language that is too corporate or in a language that isn't understood by all), or it could be due to things our communities are experiencing like poor emotional health and wellbeing, financial hardship, transport issues or digital inclusion. All of which we, as a team, can influence and advocate on behalf of our communities.

Enabling Barnsley

In all that we do through the Area Councils and Ward Alliances, it is about us enabling communities to be as successful as they can possibly be.

Recommendations

That Cabinet: -

1. That Cabinet receive and note the Area Council & Ward Alliances Annual Report for 2021/2022 and the exceptional impact that continues to be achieved against our strategic objectives by taking a member-led, asset and community-based approach.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The model of Area Councils & Ward Alliances was implemented in Barnsley in 2013 and is fully embedded in the Borough. Every quarter a narrative report is produced to showcase the projects that are happening in all six areas across the Borough.
- 1.2 This is the first year an Annual Report has been produced and it's a great opportunity to showcase and share the excellent work that has taken place in this last year.

Next year will be 10 years since we introduced these arrangements, and we aim to celebrate and mark this significant milestone.

1.3 Headline achievements:

Volunteering opportunities supported	11,422 (target is 8,000)
Cashable hours of volunteering time	£745,880 (target is £500,000)
Community groups supported	794
Of which were new groups	179
Socially isolated people supported	2,324
Young people supported through emotional health and wellbeing	1,372
Number of people supporting the environment	2,828
People helped into employment	130
Supporting people to get more money in their pockets	4,716
Amount of unclaimed benefits brought into the borough	£2,062,451
Ward Alliance funding totalling	£278,255
Community projects supported by the Ward Alliances	272

All this has been achieved in addition to the significant support provided to our communities during the pandemic.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 That Cabinet receive and note the Area Council & Ward Alliance Annual Report for 2021/2022 and reflects on the significant contribution that this approach makes to our strategic objectives.

3 IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director Finance (S151 Officer) and an overview of the finances are provided below.

Area Councils are made up of the Elected Members from that area, that come together to determine the priorities for that area and make decisions on the services they are going to commission to meet the needs of their communities. Area Councils are allocated an annual budget of £100k based on the electoral wards in their area.

Ward Alliances funding is available for small groups/organisations to apply for to deliver projects and events in that local area. Ward Alliances are allocated an annual budget of £10k based on the electoral wards in their area.

Each area has a Stronger Communities Team to work alongside the Elected Members throughout the Borough to understand the communities they serve and provide relevant services to meet their needs.

The table below shows the Area Council, Ward Alliance and Stronger Team budgets for each area.

Area Council / Ward Alliance Funding	Area Council Funding £,000	Ward Alliance Funding £,000	Stronger Communities Team £,000	Total £,000
Management			171	171
Central	500	50	184	734
North	400	40	142	582
Dearne	200	20	140	360
Penistone	200	20	139	359
North East	400	40	140	580
South	400	40	168	608
Total	2,100	210	1,084	3,394

During 2021/22 Barnsley Council have provided financial support and administered CCG grants to the voluntary and community sectors to help with their financial recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic. The table below shows the financial support provided.

Specific Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations	£,000
Government Grants to support the vulnerable	600
Barnsley Better Bonds	30
Covid Resilience Funds	250
Business Planning & Sustainability	22
Mental Health Crisis Alternative	50
Respiratory Support	30
Mental Health Inequalities	45
Total	1,027

3.2 Legal

No legal implications.

3.3 Equality

Not applicable – this report is pulling together all the activity from the last year. All activity has a completed Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) attached to it

and all the delivery considers the impact on equalities. This is purely pulling together that activity in one report and sharing it. It is not initiating any further delivery which would require an EIA.

3.4 Sustainability

Decision-making wheel not completed – there are no decisions expected on this report it is to showcase the work of the Area Governance approach only.

3.5 Employee

There are no impacts on employees.

3.6 Communications

Through this process, we will work with Communications and Marketing to further promote the work that has been achieved through the Area Governance approach and celebrate its impacts on our communities. This will be done in line with the communications plan and developed across platforms through written and visual representation.

4. CONSULTATION

The consultation that will take place for this report is:

DMT

SMT

Cabinet Members briefing

Purple Cabinet

White Cabinet

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Not applicable.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 To share the Area Governance Annual Report for 2021/2022.

7. GLOSSARY

None required.

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Area Council and Ward Alliance Annual Report 2021/2022.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Details of background papers **MUST** be included]

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 Avanda Mitchell 18.05.2022
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date <i>Jason Field 26/05/22</i>

Report Author: Rachel Payling
Post: Head of Stronger Communities
Date: 09/05/2022