

ANNUAL REPORT

2008



BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council



“To improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of Barnsley by working with, and on behalf of, all those who live, work and invest in the borough”

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

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FOREWORD

We are pleased to introduce the Annual Report for Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council for 2008. This sets out our key achievements during 2008, and how we used our resources during the 2007/08 financial year to deliver the services for you, the council tax payer.

The past twelve months have been pivotal as the council has made significant strides in sustaining its modern and efficient approach to service improvement, alongside clear and visible community leadership, to deliver improved service for our customers and council tax payers. We have responded positively to the challenges of the last 12 months, such as the flooding in 2007, and driven through a range of improvement activities. We have also undertaken a fundamental review of all council activities to ensure that we achieve value for money in the delivery of all our key priorities going forward.

Our performance was yet again rewarded with a 3 out of 4 star rating from the Audit Commission, for the third year running, with a 3 out of 4 rating for value for money. This demonstrates that we are performing well and make good use of the resources available. It also shows that we continue to deliver low cost, value for money services to meet local needs.

We hope you find this annual report a valuable and informative document in telling you how we are performing. We look forward to building on this during 2009 and beyond to use your council tax, and money we receive from central government, to even greater effect.



Stephen Houghton

Councillor
Stephen Houghton
Leader of the Council



Phil Coppard

Phil Coppard
Chief Executive
of the Council

BARNLSLEY – A CHANGING BOROUGH

The Barnsley borough covers 127 square miles and has a population of 223,500. Barnsley has a good reputation as a historic market town, where 78% of the borough is rural which includes some outstanding countryside, making it an attractive place in which to live, learn, work and invest.

The borough is in a central location between South and West Yorkshire, and is benefiting from the rapid development of Sheffield, Leeds, and Manchester. It is also part of the 'Northern Way' plan developed by the government to increase the economic prosperity of the north. Through the Remaking Barnsley Programme, a 30 year plan to transform the borough, a number of projects are underway to contribute to this change including the redevelopment of the Civic building, and Gateway Plaza, set to open in 2010.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Barnsley in Depth and related locality profiles form a strong evidence base about the borough and its diverse needs. Barnsley's Remaking Learning Vision is about transforming children's learning experiences, raising their aspirations, attainment and life chances. Designed to transform the learning environment for children and young people across the borough, Barnsley council has committed to the building of 13 new schools through a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) scheme.

The council is proud of the progress it is making in transforming the borough. Working in partnership, the plans and ambitions for the borough are underpinned by a strong desire to see Barnsley change through exceptional joint working between partner agencies. This work in providing clear leadership and place shaping was recognised by the 'Local Government Chronicle's Leadership to Place Shape' Award in 2008.

Thinking ahead, the vision outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy is for Barnsley to be:

“A successful, uniquely distinctive 21st Century market town at the centre of a borough that offers prosperity and a high quality of life for all”

The vision sits alongside the mission statement for the council which is:

“To improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of Barnsley by working with, and on behalf of, all those who live, work and invest in the borough”

Our ambitions for Barnsley, as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy, are:

- AMBITION 1** Our communities are attractive, clean and sustainable places to live.
- AMBITION 2** Barnsley is one of the safest towns in Yorkshire.
- AMBITION 3** Barnsley offers varied and exciting cultural opportunities to all.
- AMBITION 4** Barnsley is recognised for its community spirit and diversity.
- AMBITION 5** Barnsley people are healthier and live longer – adding life to years and years to life.
- AMBITION 6** Enabling adults to have healthy and fulfilling lives.
- AMBITION 7** Barnsley children and young people – aiming high, enjoying life and seizing opportunity.
- AMBITION 8** 21st century environments for 21st century learning, enterprise, skills and services.
- AMBITION 9** Building a prosperous and sustainable local economy.
- AMBITION 10** Barnsley has a high performing integrated transport system.
- AMBITION 11** Promote Barnsley, at home and abroad, as a great place to live, work and visit



The Barnsley Sustainable Community Strategy sets out the long term vision and ambitions for the borough over the next 12 years (more details can be found at <http://www.onebarnsley.com>).

Each of the 11 ambitions translates into eleven outcomes identified within the Local Area Agreement (see http://www.barnsley.gov.uk/bguk/Council_Democracy/Local%20Area%20Agreements) more details of which are outlined on pages 15 – 20.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS

Our achievements of the past twelve months are shown below under each of the outcome areas identified within the Local Area Agreement, reflecting the ambitions for the borough.

Outcome 1

Local physical environment including quality of housing stock.

During 2008 we have:

- Achieved the highest possible rating for the quality of our housing stock under the Audit Commission's CPA assessment.
- Achieved over 90% of properties which meet the decent homes standard across the council's housing stock managed by Berneslai Homes.
- Achieved the carbon emissions target for the council's operation of 40% reduction from 2003/04 levels, in 2005, 7 years ahead of the 2012/13 target.
- Increased the level of waste recycled from 3% to 32% with your help and cooperation.
- Improved the borough's parks through investment and the active participation of 'friends of parks' groups.

Outcome 2

Protecting the community from crime, disorder and other risks to their safety.

During 2008 we have:

- Worked proactively with local communities to help the recovery and support from the 2007 floods.
- Continued to reduce crime in the borough by tackling the causes of crime and addressing offending in a more coherent and efficient manner.
- Exceeded the target numbers in drug treatment and also achieved a high retention target.

Outcome 3

Securing provision of facilities and amenities.

During 2008 we have:

- Increased the number of people who participate in physical activity for 30 minutes at least 5 times a week.
- Massively increased the number of active library borrowers, expanded the items added for borrowing and improved the level of satisfaction amongst library users.
- Sustained the redevelopment of Barnsley with the second phase of the civic with revamped Mandela gardens which is almost complete.

Outcome 4

Building cohesive and enterprising communities

During 2008 we have:

- Developed two key One Barnsley Strategies, building upon the Social Inclusion Framework, to address cohesion and empowerment with imaginative and resourced action plans.
- Supported the development and construction of 'the Core', a new modern resource centre for the third sector.



Outcome 5

Promoting the health of the public and narrowing health inequalities.

During 2008 we have:

- Reduced the smoking prevalence rate across the borough from 33% in 2005 to 28% in 2008.
- Decreased Barnsley's teenage conception rate by 17.5% since 1998.
- Sexual health and contraceptive services have been extensively developed and re-designed to meet the needs of the local population.
- Delivered significant improvements to young people's contraceptive/sexual health services.
- Developed a cycling strategy to increase levels of cycling in the borough.

Outcome 6

Securing the wellbeing of older and vulnerable people in need.

During 2008 we have:

- Achieved the highest possible rating for the Council's Adult social care provision, assessed as excellent 3 star (maximum), as has been the case for 3 successive years.
- Piloted an emergency carer's card. This provides an emergency back-up service for vulnerable adults and their carers.
- Supported more older and vulnerable people to live at home than anywhere else in the country as a result of a comprehensive range of community based services delivered through strong partnerships with the NHS.
- Modernised the warden service to better meet peoples' needs.
- Modernised services away from residential support towards support in the community which includes new out of hours arrangements and a single telephone point of access.

Outcome 7

Securing the wellbeing of children, young people and families.

During 2008 we have:

- Achieved Ofsted inspections (2007/08) confirming that Fostering and Adoption Services in Barnsley are strong and improving.
- Achieved a higher standard of childcare, with 67% of full day care providers being judged as good in Barnsley.
- Commenced an innovative 2 year pilot for 2 year olds in supporting their well being and development. The programme encompasses 489 children from vulnerable groups, including 8 traveller children.
- Developed our voice and influence work further, for example 8,338 young people were involved in local 'votes at 16' survey in 2008, expanding upon the 2,148 young people involved in 2007 young people's crime survey.
- Agreed a strategic approach to its 14-19 programme in June 2006, including an entitlement to diplomas as they came on stream in Barnsley from 2008, and secured the sign-up and determined commitment of all stakeholders to deliver this vision.
- Been recognised as the most improved out of all the 6 areas identified as NEETS (not in employment, education or training) hotspots with a 4.1% improvement against a national figure of 1.0%.

Outcome 8

High performing educational institutions.

During 2008 we have:

- Opened 8 of the planned 13 state of the art primary schools.
- Advanced the planning on the Building Schools for the Future programme, which will see the construction of 9 Advanced Learning Centres.
- Supported the pupils at schools to achieve a tremendous improvement at all key stage levels, helping Barnsley become the fastest improving education authority in the country.
- Opened 21 Children's Centres across Barnsley with the possibility of more, whilst thirteen new primary schools have been opened in the last 2 years, funded through a Private Finance Initiative.
- Delivered the successful Neighbourhood Learning Net (NLN), engaging adults and families in learning, especially those not previously engaged in the education system, by focusing on people from hard to reach groups, living in the most disadvantaged communities of the borough.



Photo courtesy of DCSF

Outcome 9

Economic growth.

During 2008 we have:

- Reduced the number of incapacity benefit claimants.
- Facilitated huge tranches of external funding invested in infrastructure, communities and people have stabilised the Barnsley economy and it is now back to the size it was 25 years ago.
- Produced the Barnsley Growth Plan produced to address the major challenges facing Barnsley and accelerate economic growth.
- Attracted 15 new businesses to the borough, twenty seven Barnsley firms have relocated/expanded and £29m of additional investment has been secured. This has created 214 jobs and safeguarded another 283.
- Worked with funders and developers to build new business premises on modern parks, such as Shortwood, Capitol Park and Park Springs to ensure we have modern premises available for inward investors and to accommodate local company investment plans.
- Established an Enterprising Barnsley consortium, comprising all key partners, has been formed to take forward the challenging enterprise agenda.
- Supported the Digital Media Centre, which is delivering promising outcomes and the ambitions, and Gateway Plaza is taking significant shape in amongst a rapidly changing town centre skyline.



Outcome 10

Meeting local transport needs.

During 2008 we have:

- Made significant improvements to the transport network, including faster rail links to our neighbouring cities, Sheffield and Leeds.
- Facilitated the achievement of Safe Station Awards thereby encouraging travellers.
- Enabled the Cudworth and West Green Bypass to gain full government approval with construction starting November 2008 and completion autumn 2010.
- Worked with the main bus operator, Stagecoach Yorkshire, to deliver an increase in passenger numbers of 3.2% and an increase in adult fare paying passengers of 5%.
- Been working with schools in the borough resulting in 85% having a school travel plan in place, with work well underway to achieve 100%.

Outcome 11

Building the Barnsley brand.

During 2008 we have:

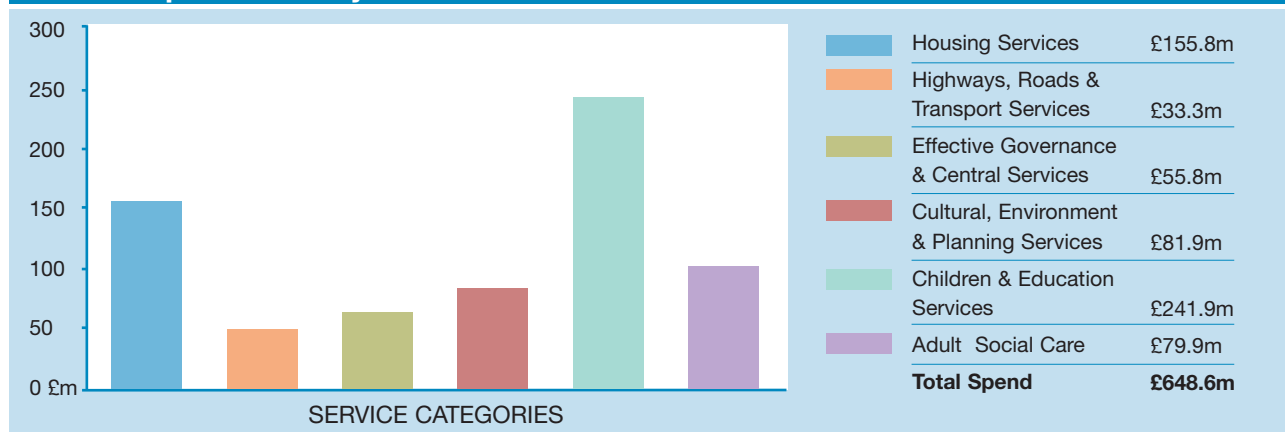
- Won a prestigious local government accolade in the annual Local Government Chronicle Awards - Leadership and Place Shaping. This award recognises the importance of the local authority in providing strategic leadership to the community it serves.
- Restructured to create a Customer and Neighbourhoods Directorate to reflect the council's commitment to the central role of the customer and customer experience, building on the incremental development and performance of the Barnsley Connects service.
- Started to develop our neighbourhood governance and engagement proposals building on the Area Boards and the introduction of the Children, Young People and Families Wellbeing Partnerships and teams throughout the borough, enabling local solutions to be developed for local areas.
- Published an A-Z of all our services and circulated it to every household.
- Improved our performance in responding to complaints, from 48.5 days in 2006/07 to 33.2 days in 2007/08, prompting a positive recognition from the Ombudsman.
- Developed an Access to Services Strategy with service standards to transform the customer experience through integrated access arrangements which are simple to understand.

HOW RESOURCES WERE USED TO DELIVER THESE ACHIEVEMENTS

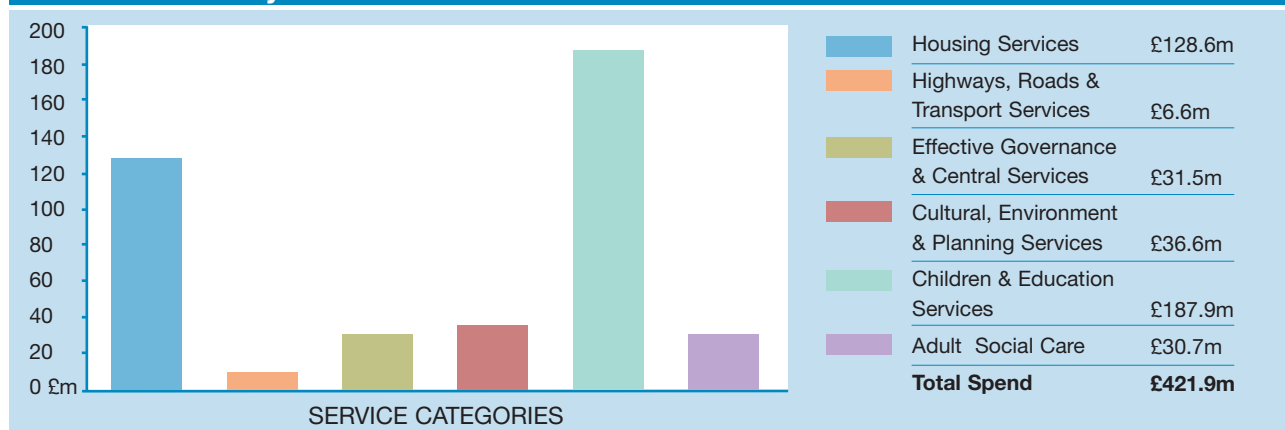
The cost of the Council's services

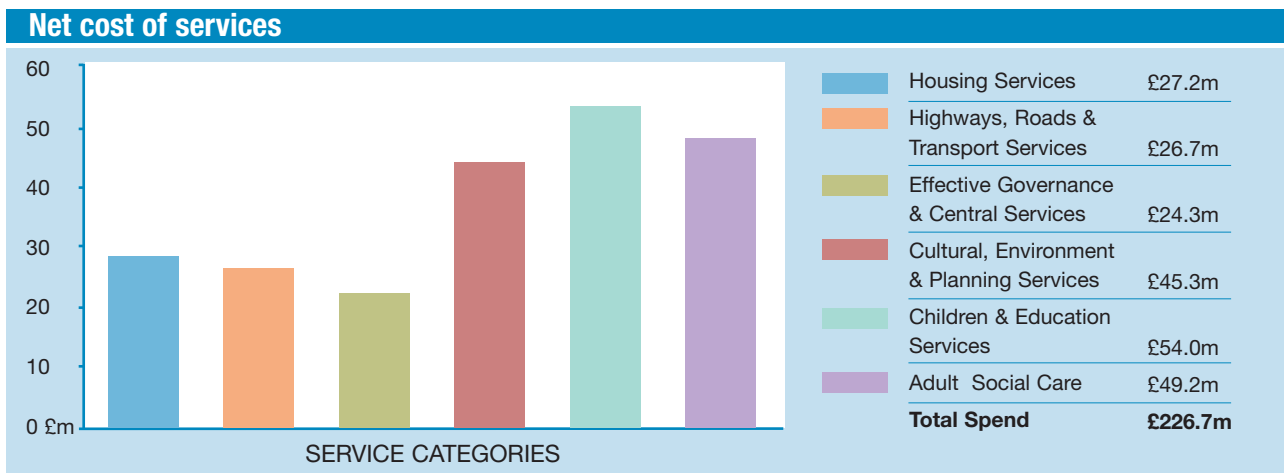
The cost of running our services between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008 is shown in our Income and Expenditure Account. The account also shows where the money came from to finance those costs, along with any surplus at year end. The major items included within Effective Governance are those associated with the democratic process together with the cost of local tax administration.

What we spent our money on



Income received by services





The money comes from different sources:

Council Tax - money paid by residents as a local taxation.

National Non-Domestic Rates – business rates set by and paid to the government and redistributed based on population.

Revenue Support Grant - a government grant paid to councils from national taxation to provide funding to operate local services.

Collection Fund - a separate statutory fund which details the transactions in relation to NNDR and Council Tax.

Barnsley council received funding in 2007/08 of just over £238 million. The largest share of this was made up from Council Tax Income and National Non – Domestic Rates.

Sources of finance 2007/08	
Council Tax Income	£75.4m
Non-Domestic Rate Income (NNDR)	£79.4m
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	£13.3m
Collection Fund Surplus	£0.9m
Statutory Adjustments to I & E	£69.1m
Total income	£238.1m

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows what the council owns, is owed, what it owes and the capital funding as at 31 March 2008. Money owed by the council after 1 year includes the estimated value of future pension payments to staff, which is matched elsewhere in the balance sheet and does not impact upon the level of Council Tax.

The net worth of the council as at 31 March 2008 was around £505 million.

Reserves are amounts set aside for a specific purpose in 1 year and carried forward to meet expenditure in future years.

The council maintains a prudent level of reserves to meet its commitments and legislative requirements.

As at 31st March 2008	
Intangible Fixed Assets	£2.2m
Operational Assets	£1151.4m
Non Operational Assets	£57.5m
Other Long Term Assets	£7.6m
Stock	£0.8m
Money Owed to the Council	£122.3m
Cash at bank	£0.9m
Money Owed by the Council within the next year	(£68.9m)
Money Owed by the Council after one year	(£768.9m)
Total	£504.9m
Funded by:	
Capital Reserve not available for distribution	£667.3m
Reserves	£88.4m
Pension Fund Deficit	(£250.8m)
Total	£504.9m

Cash Flow 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008

Summarises the amount of cash held by the council at the start and end of the year, together with the movements in cash during the year.

Cash at start of year	(£6.0m)
Cash received	£668.6m
Cash paid out	(£661.7m)
Cash at end of year	£0.9m

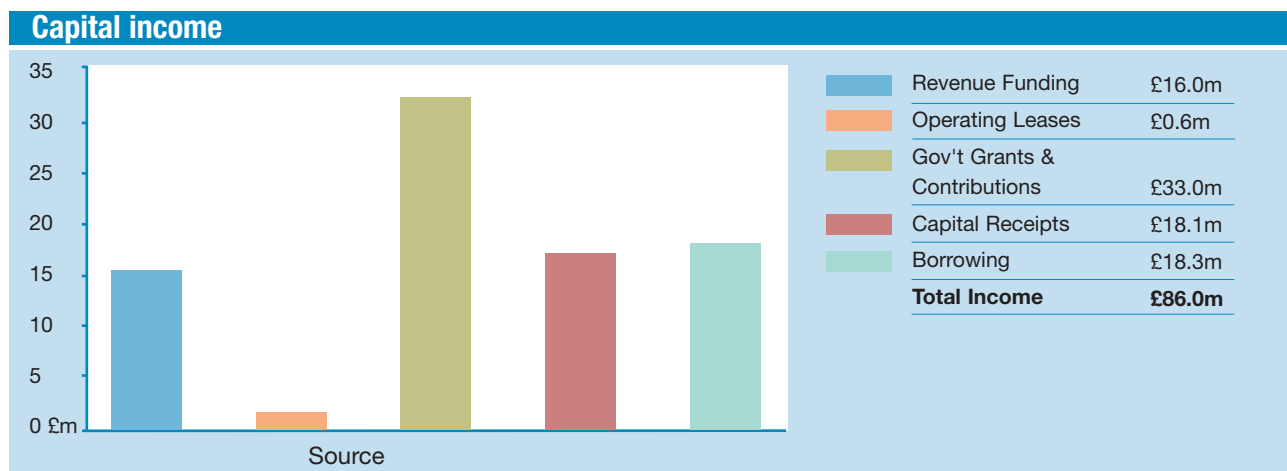
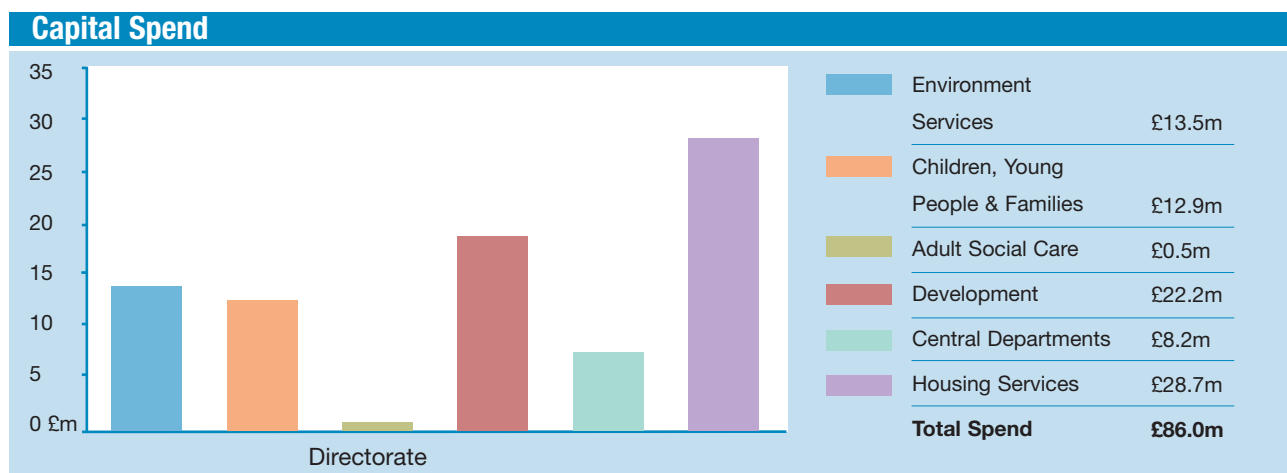
Capital

What is it?

Capital spending (expenditure) represents money spent by the council to purchase, upgrade or improve assets such as buildings and roads. The distinction from revenue expenditure is that the council and its residents essentially receive the benefit from capital expenditure over a longer period of time.

How much did we spend?

The council spent over £86 million on its capital programme in 2007/08. The programme underpins the council's overall mission and outcomes, providing for investment in long-term assets which are used to deliver the council's services.



WHAT ARE THE FUTURE PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Local Area Agreement 2008 - 2011

This section sets out the main priorities and targets that Barnsley council, working with other local partner agencies such as the Police, Primary Care Trust and many others will deliver over the next 3 years. These form part of Barnsley's Local Area Agreement (LAA), the 3 year delivery plan that reflects the vision and ambitions for the borough, as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for Barnsley 2008-20.

Each local authority area is now required to have a Local Area Agreement. It sets out which agencies are going to deliver which improvement priorities and targets in the next 3 years. Barnsley's LAA has been subject to extensive negotiation with central government and provides the basis of how resources are going to be used to support the delivery of these priorities. Above all, the LAA is strongly focused on local priorities being delivered by local partners for local people - making Barnsley a better place to live, work and visit.

The Local Area Agreement will be subject to an annual review to assess whether performance is on track and/or whether other areas for improvement need to be prioritised. The council and its partners will be working hard to ensure that the priorities are delivered to meet the agreed targets.

Barnsley's priorities for improvement are set out under a number of areas that we are calling 'outcomes', what we are ultimately trying to achieve over the next 3 years. The rest of this annual report provides a brief overview of each of the outcomes and highlights the 57 improvement priorities for the borough.

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITIES

Outcome 1

Improving the physical environment including quality of housing stock.

This outcome is focused on improving the quality of life of all residents by improving the built environment. This includes the quality and accessibility of green and public open spaces and the wider public realm, its cleanliness and maintenance, as well as the availability, accessibility and affordability of housing across the borough. The outcome also includes the regulation and maintenance of buildings, roads, infrastructure and the environment, as well as looking ahead to the sustainability of the borough through the minimisation and recycling of waste and a reduction in carbon emissions.

The priorities for improvement over the next 3 years are:-

- reducing carbon emissions
- the cleanliness of the Borough
- quality of green and public open spaces
- quality of public and private sector housing
- conditions of the roads and footways
- quality of the buildings in local neighbourhoods.

Outcome 2

Protecting the community from crime, disorder and other safety risks.

This outcome is focused upon the safety of people's day to day lives. This includes the reduction of crime and disorder, encompassing crime, fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and drug related issues. Arson, domestic abuse and alcohol related disorder are also areas that affect people's safety, as well as road safety.

More recently, emergency preparedness and civil protection arrangements have taken on a new level of importance given the impact of the 2007 floods in the borough and the continued threat of terrorism nationally.

The priorities for improvement over the next 3 years are:-

- reducing the incidents of assault
- reducing anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime
- offender management
- reducing domestic abuse
- increasing drug users in treatment
- reducing arson
- road safety
- enhancing our emergency preparedness.

Outcome 3

Securing provision of facilities and amenities.

This outcome is focused upon the availability, accessibility and affordability of local facilities and amenities across the borough and within neighbourhoods. It is about improved choice, access and quality of facilities and amenities such as shops, libraries, leisure centres, theatres and other provision to enhance the quality of people's day to day lives.

The priorities for improvement over the next 3 years are:-

- physical activity and sport
- arts
- cultural activities.

Outcome 4

Building cohesive and enterprising communities.

This outcome recognises that cohesive and enterprising communities are more likely to be built if they are supported by active, engaged and empowered citizens working in partnership with public agencies and elected representatives. Work in this area focuses upon effective community engagement and work with community and voluntary groups to support local decision making.

The priorities for improvement over the next 3 years are:-

- promoting social justice and inclusion
- diversity and community cohesion
- building social capital - community engagement, neighbourhoods, active citizenship
- encouraging enterprise
- support to community and voluntary groups.



Outcome 5

Improving the health of the public and narrowing health inequalities.

This outcome focuses on the health and wellbeing of the population, with an emphasis on promoting public health of the wider population and reducing the health inequalities between Barnsley and the rest of the country, and to narrow the gap between different neighbourhoods across the borough. Improving health and wellbeing requires a dual approach - focusing on both individual behavioural change, and on borough-wide action for a healthier environment. At an individual level it is about enabling residents to do things for themselves and encouraging lifestyle changes. At a borough-wide level, it is about developing a health enhancing environment, one where it is easier for people to lead a healthy lifestyle.

The outcome also includes the efforts to improve physical activity as a precursor for an active lifestyle, potentially graduating to sport and active recreation, and the regulatory activity to protect the wider public health agenda, including food safety, air pollution, noise pollution and pest control.

The priorities for improvement over the next 3 years are:-

- reduce smoking
- sexual health
- reducing obesity
- diet and nutrition
- increase physical activity
- promoting mental wellbeing.



Outcome 6

Securing the wellbeing of older and vulnerable people in need.

This outcome focuses on improving the wellbeing of older and vulnerable adults, particularly those in need, with an emphasis on increasing independence, choice and quality of services.

The outcome is not only focused upon health and social care provision, but also identifies the need to improve and co-ordinate other lead services for older and vulnerable people to improve their overall quality of life.

The priorities for improvement over the next 3 years are:-

- health and emotional wellbeing
- quality of life
- making a positive contribution
- increasing choice and control
- freedom from discrimination and harassment
- achieving economic wellbeing
- maintaining personal dignity and respect.



Photo courtesy of DCSF

Outcome 7

Securing the wellbeing of children, young people and families.

This outcome is central to the future of the borough, and the prospects for children and young people. There are high aspirations for all Barnsley's children and young people to be in the best of health; feel safe wherever they are; enjoy leisure time positively; achieve well at school, college, in training, and at university; and contribute to decision-making and supporting the community and environment whilst understanding their rights and responsibilities so that they can enter adulthood, able to support themselves, contribute to the community and be free from poverty.

The priorities for improvement over the next 3 years are:-

- being healthy
- staying safe
- enjoying and achieving
- making a positive contribution
- achieving economic wellbeing.

Outcome 8

High performing educational institutions.

The main priority of this outcome is to provide high performing learning institutions that meet the needs of the Barnsley community in the 21st century. In doing so, Barnsley and its people need to embed a life-long learning culture, embracing the Remaking Learning agenda.

Remaking Learning aims to secure the transformation of learning provision and includes: primary and secondary re-organisation, wrap-around child care and family services available at a local level, together with a relevant curriculum for children, young people and adults, improved teaching and learning, effective leadership and governance. This is beginning to have a major impact on results and provision.

The priorities for improvement over the next 3 years are:-

- children's centres
- primary school redevelopment
- Building Schools for the Future
- Barnsley College redevelopment
- University Centre Barnsley.

Outcome 9

Economic growth.

The focus of this outcome is on building a stronger, sustainable economy to realise the vision for a 21st century market town. At a neighbourhood level it is about working with individuals and facilitating their transition into the labour market whilst enabling firms to access all the support and advice needed to manage the growth and development of their business.

As a result, the emphasis is on increasing employment, partly by working with people who are currently out of work, developing and growing enterprises, and raising the skills levels of the population

The priorities for improvement over the next 3 years are:-

- increasing the employment rate
- reducing worklessness, in particular Incapacity Benefit claimants
- business start up and survival
- the focus on growth sectors
- increasing productivity/innovation/research and development/skills.



Outcome 10

Meeting local transport needs.

The availability of reliable, accessible and affordable public transport is crucial to enable people to get to work, access leisure opportunities and reduce congestion levels as a result of increased car ownership.

The priorities for improvement over the next 3 years are:-

- tackling congestion
- public transport
- accessibility
- economic linkages.

Outcome 11

Building the Barnsley brand.

How the borough of Barnsley – including its many small communities and neighbourhoods – is viewed by residents, visitors, businesses and people outside of the borough is important to its reputation and future. More importantly, how residents feel about their street, neighbourhood and town is a really important indication of whether improvement is being delivered or not. As a result, we are keen to promote Barnsley, communicate its successes and focus on improving the satisfaction levels of citizens.

The priorities for improvement over the next 3 years are:-

- public satisfaction
- branding
- communication.

More detailed information about the Local Area Agreement can be accessed via www.onebarnsley.gov.uk and www.barnsley.gov.uk

Summary

We hope that this annual report has provided you with an insight into our work over the past 12 months, and how our resources have been used to deliver improved outcomes for the borough. We will produce a similar document next year, giving you an insight into our work for 2008/09, though we intend to publish it during the summer of 2009.



Nëse j'u nevojitet ndihmë për të kuptuar këtë dokument, j'u lutemi n'a kontaktoni.

若您需要幫助來理解本檔，請與我們聯繫。

यदि आप को इस दस्तावेज़ को समझने के लिए सहायता की आवश्यकता है तो कृपया हम से संपर्क करें

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tego dokumentu skontaktuj się z nami

ਜੇਕਰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਲਈ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਮਦਦ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ

Обратитесь к нам, если для того, чтобы понять этот документ, вам нужна помощь

اگر آپ کو اس دستاویز کو سمجھنے کیلئے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ کرم ہم سے رابطہ کریں

If you need help understanding this document,
please contact Steve Pick 01226 773101
or Bob Williams 01226 774586



BARNSELY
Metropolitan Borough Council