

Barnsley's new approach – moving towards 'doing with' our communities

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BARNLSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

Why did we need a new approach in 2013?

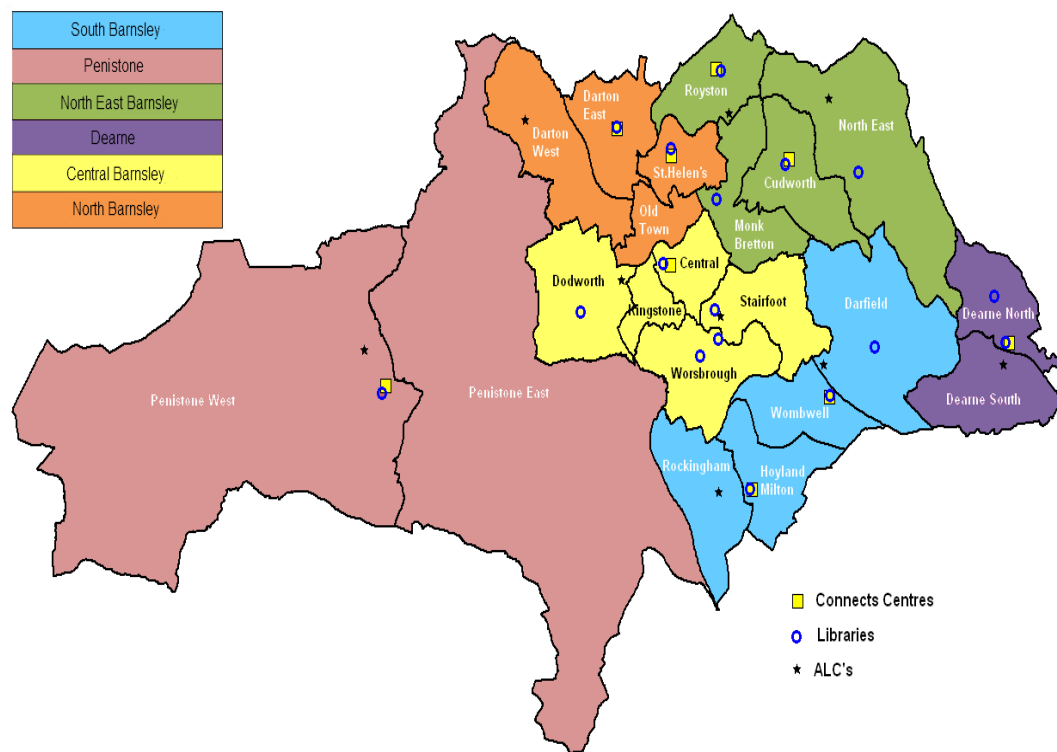
- Response to reducing budgets – complete re-think rather than ‘tweaking’ the edges
- Wanted to change the relationship with the communities we serve – shift from ‘doing for’ to ‘doing with’
- Push on community engagement in decision making & involvement through volunteering
- Modernise the traditional role of the Council for the 21st century – bringing in new local partners
- A new community leadership role for elected members



What do our Area arrangements look like?

- 6 Area Councils comprising ward councillors with £100K per ward from core budgets 'top sliced'
- 19 Ward Alliances comprising councillors, community groups & local partners with £10K budget to increase community involvement
- 19 Neighbourhood Networks run by host voluntary organisations – virtual group of groups to maximise joint working

AREA GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS



What roles do our Area Councils have?

- Identify local priorities from research datasets & consultation results
- Design & commission a range of projects to tackle identified priorities – from local/non-traditional organisations where possible
- Performance management of commissioned projects to ensure full local impact
- Local 'Check & Challenge' role with mainstream services



How were local priorities decided?

Series of workshop with Area Councils to look at:

- Wide range of datasets - although sometimes difficult to get down to ward level
- Community consultation results
- Local priorities set by Ward Alliances
- 'Expert advice' from range of partners
- Small working groups to design project outlines & tender specifications for approval by Area Council



What did we commission to meet our local priorities?

Each Area commissioned very different projects to meet local needs

Examples from South Area include:

- Advice & debt services
- Tidy Team
- Summer Internship
- Environmental Enforcement
- Courses for Local Businesses



Our Ward Alliances & volunteering

- Since 2013, 19 Ward Alliances have funded 1609 projects ranging from Sloppy Slippers to Community Gardens
- In 2016/17 31,000 volunteer hours were given at a financial value of £366,000 – a social return of £11.80 for every £1 invested
- ‘Love Where You Live’ is our volunteer ‘brand’
- 6 small Area Teams support development of new & existing community groups, including range of funding applications



How's it going?

Some fantastic project successes:

- Advice Services have brought in £2m of benefits/pensions & managed £2m of debt with a SROI of £28 for every £1 put in
- Tidy Team have completed 900 projects with 152 groups/schools & 163 businesses & recruited over 500 new volunteers
- Enforcement have issued over 2,000 tickets for littering, dog fouling & parking
- Over 80 Y10 students completed 2 week Internship programme in summer holidays

NEED ADVICE?

Just drop in to get free impartial and confidential advice.

There's no need to make an appointment.

Citizens Advice Bureau
Advisers can help you with problems about debts, housing and benefits issues, employment, consumer issues and relationships.
3pm to 7pm on Mondays at Hoyland Centre
9am to 12.30pm on Tuesdays at Hoyland Centre
Wednesdays at Darfield Library
9.30am to 12.30pm on Thursdays at Wombwell Library

Welfare Rights
Advisers can help you with all aspects of claiming benefits and any issues you may have about council tax, housing benefits, tax credits, state pensions.
The team can also offer advice on blue badges, social services and care in the community.
3pm to 7pm on Mondays at Hoyland Centre
1pm to 4.30pm on Tuesdays at Hoyland Centre
Wednesdays at Darfield Library
Thursdays at Wombwell Library

This has been funded by the South Area Council, which covers the wards of Darfield, Hoyland Milton, Rotherham and Wombwell and is made up of your 12 local councillors.
Your Area Council is responsible for developing plans to improve the services delivered in your area to meet your needs.

SOUTH AREA COUNCIL
01226 1211

BARNSELY
Metropolitan Borough Council

citizens advice bureau



Other successes

- Elected members much more involved in decision making & acting as community leaders
- Early SROI analysis suggests that local commissioning offers higher levels of social impact/value
- Commissioning for higher quality & social value now being rolled out across wider council
- Higher levels of local spend (averaging 90% against BMBC average of under 40%) & use of local VCS/private sector businesses helping to keep money in the local economy



Remaining challenges!

- Area Council 'Check & Challenge' role still problematic
- Some councillors still finding more strategic role difficult – although much progress has been made
- Issues around displacement where Area Councils are funding services
- Under-developed VCS & private sector means extensive market development needed
- Difficult to recruit volunteers in a traditionally 'owt for nowt' culture
- Area Council budgets 'top-sliced' which can create tensions with other departments



So What's next for Barnsley?

- Review of priorities & into next rounds of commissioning – funding in place to 2020?
- Carrier use of Area Council budgets as match for external funding
- Market development & support to smaller organisations to ready them to bid for work
- Using our experience to help the wider Council to commission more confidently around Social Value
- Continue to build capacity in the Ward Alliances & groups – particularly to lever in more external funding
- Building volunteering - & the idea of 'doing with' - as the way we all do business

