

The following table indicates the alignment of our local recovery planning with corporate priorities:-

Local Recovery Theme External Housing and Communities

Corporate Priority

COVID-19 Recovery Considerations

Health and Happiness	<p>Build on humanitarian work with the community and voluntary sector</p> <p>Re-introduction of events when safe to do so</p> <p>Ensure workplace health</p>	<p>Distributed over £40,000 distributed to the Community and Voluntary sector in Ashfield, to help them support residents negatively impacted by Covid</p> <p>Responded to 117 community support requests</p> <p>£70,000 Infrastructure grants distributed to Our Centre, Under one Roof, and Ashfield Citizen's Advice</p> <p>Engaged over 650 families engaged in Feel Good Families activities</p> <p>Co-ordinated over £120,000 of Covid Winter Grants (food vouchers) to vulnerable residents</p> <p>Number of resident engagement events have taken place in the priority areas</p>	<p>Continue to support the Community and Voluntary Sector to help residents' recovery from the impact of Covid-19</p> <p>Deliver an annual programme of events in town centres and green spaces</p> <p>Engage at all levels to improve support for health and wellbeing</p> <p>Aligned with regeneration and skills, continue to provide advice regarding education and interventions</p>
Homes and Housing	<p>Review of homeless strategy to understand covid impact</p>	<p>Successfully and positively adapting our practices to reflect the change in the working environment and in the nature of residents' housing needs and issues. Despite the increasing complexity of cases and limited move on options, set in the context of COVID 19, a significant number of residents have had their housing issues resolved.</p> <p>Secured £1m Rough Sleeper Initiative to improvement opportunities and support for rough sleepers across the County</p> <p>In partnership with Framework we secured Next Steps Accommodation Programme funding to fund 3 additional units of specialist accommodation for rough sleepers with complex needs</p>	<p>Work with partners to identify sustainable housing solutions for individuals continuing to rough sleep following accommodation offers made during Covid</p>
Cleaner and Greener	<p>Delivery of 'Bag it' campaign</p> <p>Safe re-opening of park buildings</p>	<p>Successful delivery of 'Bag it' and 'Spring Clean' campaigns</p> <p>Safe re-opening of our parks and open spaces with investment in improvements completed at 19 sites</p> <p>A review of the standard of all of our parks, open spaces, play areas and sports facilities has been completed which will inform a rolling programme of improvements and investment, including the aim to extend our six green flag awards to seven in 2021/22</p>	<p>Support community and business volunteers to enhance their local area</p>
Safer and Stronger	<p>Provide refuge accommodation for people in abusive relationships</p> <p>Raise awareness of domestic abuse and ensure support is provided to survivors</p>	<p>Appointed a new Domestic Abuse and Vulnerability Officer in October 2020, providing key support across the District</p> <p>Complex Case Team delivered the White Ribbon Campaign and 16 Days of Activism</p>	<p>Continue to support for high risk survivors of domestic abuse</p> <p>Provide refuge accommodation for people in abusive relationships</p> <p>Raise awareness of domestic abuse and ensure support provided to survivors</p> <p>Aim to extend our white ribbon accreditation to a Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation in next 12 months</p>

External Economy and Place | Finance - External

Corporate Priority

Economic Growth and Place

COVID-19 Recovery Considerations

Open up our town centres safely in response to the recovery from Covid-19 implementing appropriate measures

Ensure that eligible businesses receive COVID-19 grant support funding to help their future sustainability

Ensuring transport is safe (social distancing)

Permitting processes and safe practices

In 2020/21 we have

Employed Covid Information Officers to help support high street businesses through the pandemic

Installed hand-sanitising units in town centre car parks to help give confidence and reassurance to shoppers

Worked closely with the market retailers, ensuring that traders selling essential goods and services could trade throughout the lockdowns, including click and collect and home deliveries

Set up a new local skills partnership to help us focus what training provisions partners deliver in our area and ensure they meet employer needs

From September 2020 to March 2021, the regeneration team responded to 3,209 business support enquiries

Circa 7,300 grant payments have been made to businesses, with a total value of around £30m

Processed 1286 test and trace claims, enabling £191,000 to be paid in test and trace grants

In 2021/22 we will

Support businesses through implementation of the Economic Recovery Plan

Deliver the Future High Streets and Towns Fund programmes

Support employment through inclusion of social value in our key contracts

Offer eligible businesses start up grants

Local Recovery Theme

Council Services | Legal and Governance | Finance - Internal

Innovate and Improve

Fast tracking our digital transformation delivery to improve accessibility and online capability centred on the customer

Support employees to increase digital skills
Work in partnership to increase digital inclusion across the District

Enabling employees, where appropriate and relevant, to work from home, having adequate digital tools and equipment, and a safe working environment

Ensuring employee wellbeing at home or when returning to the work environment

At the end of September, 2020, we launched a brand new, modern, user friendly website, which was accredited by the Shaw Trust as fully meeting accessibility standards

Expedient implementation of online forms enabling residents and business to be able to apply for benefits, 24/7. We have received over 2,600 online benefits related applications or notifications of changing circumstances

Over 100 forms now available online

Expanded our payment channels further introducing the ability for debtors to more easily make repayments through 'recurring card payments' functionality, enabling the collection of over £126,000 of debt over the year

Successful rollout of O365 collaboration tools, facilitating a blended approach to working throughout the pandemic and business continuity. Combined with a significant reduction of files and storage space, this has enabled the successful rationalisation of assets through the expedient decant of our Brook Street office, realising circa £200k efficiencies

Putting in place a safe working environment, enabling employees the opportunity to work either in the office or from home, throughout the pandemic

Continue to fast track delivery of significant digital change, increasing the availability of online services

Support employees and members to increase digital skills

Review and refresh the People Strategy, including consideration of new ways of working being embedded as a result of the pandemic

Continuing to ensure employee wellbeing at home or the work environment