

# Barnsley Council

## Growth & Sustainability

## Planning Services



Barnsley – the place  
of possibilities.



**BARNSELEY**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

## **Vision**

Our vision is to facilitate sustainable, inclusive, and high-quality development that enhances the character of our communities and supports long-term economic, environmental, and social wellbeing. We aim to be a proactive and enabling service that balances growth with the conservation and enhancement of our natural and built heritage, ensuring that all development contributes positively to place-making, economic growth, nature recovery and climate resilience. Through strong leadership and collaboration, we will champion design quality, accessibility, and innovation in the built & natural environment.

## **Strategic Objectives and Service Excellence**

We will deliver a responsive, transparent, and digitally enabled planning and building control service that supports timely decision-making and fosters public trust. Our strategy will focus on streamlining processes, improving customer experience, and embedding a culture of continuous improvement. We will invest in staff development, data-driven insights, and cross-sector partnerships to ensure our service remains agile and aligned with evolving policy, legislative, and community needs.

## **Enabling Delivery and Shaping Our Place**

As a key enabler of growth, we will work closely with developers, communities, and stakeholders to shape places that are vibrant, resilient, and future-ready. We will align our planning and building control functions with wider strategic priorities such as housing delivery, infrastructure investment, climate action, and regeneration. By taking a long-term, place-based approach, we will ensure that decisions today lay the foundation for thriving, well-connected communities tomorrow.

The Planning and Building Regulation Service at Barnsley Council is delivered through a collaborative and coordinated approach across four key functions: Development Management, Planning Policy, Building Control, and Planning & Building Control Support & Enforcement. Together, these teams work seamlessly to ensure that planning decisions, policy development, regulatory compliance, and enforcement are aligned and responsive to the needs of our residents, applicants, and communities. This integrated service model enables us to deliver high-quality outcomes, support sustainable growth, and maintain a safe and well-designed built environment across the borough.

**Garry Hildersley**

**Head of Planning & Building Control**

## Planning Policy

As a team we :

- Work collaboratively to prepare a robust development plan that ensures Barnsley continues to thrive whilst conserving and enhancing what is special about the borough
- Strive for high quality and distinctive design
- Facilitate conservation and enhancement of the historic and natural environments
- Work collaboratively and diligently to provide robust data driven evidence and analysis using appropriate digital technologies, to meet service, Council and national needs and reporting requirements.

## Development Management

As a team we will

- Be a service that delivers the development that the borough needs; prepares for and responds to climate change and other environmental challenges; and balances competing demands from the plan-making stage through to decision making and implementation.
- We will facilitate effective participation with all our stakeholders. We will provide an outstanding and innovative service and act with integrity, care and consistency with a commitment to continuous improvement.
- We will be a service where staff feel valued, trusted and empowered to make decisions and manage change in the best public interest.

## Building Control

As a team we will:

- We deliver a modern, efficient and impartial Building Control Service by embracing technology, fostering collaboration and prioritising professional excellence.
- We balance our regulatory duties with enforcement powers, to deliver compliant buildings that ensure the safety of people in and around them, along with accessibility for all and high standards of sustainability.
- By using a risk-based approach to our inspection and plan checking functions, we provide a cost-effective service that promotes responsible development.
- We provide a 24hour/365 day emergency dangerous structures callout service to protect the public and support the emergency services in dealing with unexpected instances of structural collapse, fire and other forms of building damage.
- Our role within the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) helps ensure coordination and cooperation between all relevant agencies to ensure that sporting and other regulated events take place safely.
- By working closely with neighbouring authorities, we ensure that our services remain consistent across the region.

## **SYMAS – South Yorkshire Mining Advisory Service**

- In delivering this shared service with Rotherham and Doncaster councils we provide comprehensive technical guidance on land stability and mining legacy issues.
- Our collaborative approach demonstrates our commitment to cross-boundary working and innovation in service delivery, which ensures that development on coalfield community industrial and brownfield sites is safe, sustainable, and aligned with strategic goals for economic regeneration, climate resilience, and public safety.
- By integrating technical expertise early in the land allocation and planning process, we help unlock complex sites and support long-term, place-based growth.

## **Planning & Building Control Support & Enforcement**

- Seek to ensure the timely processing, validation and determination of planning and building control applications to deliver excellent customer service and positive development outcomes.
- Continue to implement technological improvements in service delivery to support the efficiency of the service and to adapt to the continuing national and local policy changes.
- Deliver a leading planning enforcement service which is responsive, maintains the integrity and confidence of the planning system through the decisions which are made and to ensure high quality developments are delivered throughout the borough.
- Ensure S106 agreements are in place to mitigate the impact of new developments and to maximise the benefits of planning gain by working closely with internal and external partners to achieve value for money and wider community benefits.