

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 00.01 TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER



Arsenal publishes first Economic and Social Impact Report, highlighting its £616m contribution to the UK economy

London, 19th November 2024: Arsenal Football Club contributed more than half a billion pounds to the UK economy in a single season, according to a major new study by EY.

The findings, which were published in Arsenal's Economic and Social Impact Report, found the Club also supported 4,400 UK jobs and reached more than 14,000 people through its community projects during the 2022/23 season.

The report highlights the Club's longstanding commitment to driving economic and social progress, which it delivers through numerous community-focused initiatives including through the work of [Arsenal in the Community](#) and the Club's registered charity, [The Arsenal Foundation](#).

One of the Club's most successful initiatives is the Positive Futures Programme, which is marking its 20th anniversary this year. Combining football, sports activities, mentoring, and pathways into community volunteering and employment, the programme supports individuals living in local estates across Islington.

Kai Brennan, who is now an Arsenal in the Community coach, talks about his transformative experience with Positive Futures:

"The first time I heard about Positive Futures, I was very little – I was about seven years old. I remember walking through Harvist Estate with my mum and my twin. Knowing it was free was a huge relief. The first session I went to, I just remember being happy in the environment. The coaches were great, they were supportive, and they ensured that I was in a safe environment.

"Being part of social inclusion has changed me in a positive way – it's made me feel ambitious and it's given me a goal to push towards, which is to be a fully licensed football coach. Being part of Arsenal is like being part of a family – you support each other no matter what. It also gives me the confidence to take on any challenges that come my way and to try new things whether it be within Arsenal or outside of Arsenal. I'm prouder of myself than I have ever been."

Key findings from the report, which covers the 2022-23 season, include:

- Arsenal delivered £616 million in economic value* (GVA) to the UK economy, with £425 million contributed in the Club's home Borough of Islington
- The Club helped generate £228 million in UK tax revenue
- More than 4,400 jobs in the UK and 1,600 local jobs in Islington were supported
- 14,000 people participated in AITC initiatives, which delivered over 140,000 hours of community-based activity
- Arsenal attracted 1.6 million supporters to Emirates Stadium and more than 9,500 supporters to Meadow Park (where Arsenal Women played the majority of their games), resulting in positive

economic effects on local businesses and the surrounding community

Richard Garlick, Managing Director of Arsenal, said:

“Arsenal brings so much to our community beyond the football we play. Creating a sense of belonging and driving progress in our communities has been central to who we are since we were established in 1886. We cherish that heritage and the positive impact we continue to make.

“We are proud to publish our first Economic and Social impact report today. EY’s independent analysis shows the economic contribution that we make to the local and national economy, delivering £616million of economic value to the UK.

“We hope the report, along with the stories shared by people in our local community, will bring to life the contribution Arsenal makes to the prosperity of the local communities we serve and the impact we have beyond Islington too.”

Cllr Santiago Bell-Bradford, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy, Culture & Jobs, said:

“Our ambition is to create a more equal Islington, and we believe that to achieve that, our residents and businesses must have a genuine stake in their local community and economy.

“Arsenal has acted for our community and supported the local economy for over 100 years. This report brings to life many of the ways in which we work in partnership with Arsenal to nurture young people, support jobs and instil a strong sense of pride and belonging in our borough. We’re excited to continue to move forward in partnership to make Islington more equal and prosperous for all.”

The Arsenal Economic and Social Impact report also outlines the work the Club is doing to support the environment. In 2020, Arsenal was the first Premier League club to endorse the UN Sport for Climate Action Framework and, last week, became the first club in the world to have a [net-zero target approved by the globally respected Science Based Targets Initiative \(SBTi\)](#), ensuring its climate action plan for net-zero aligns with the most ambitious pathway to limit global temperature rises.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

*Gross Value Added (GVA) is a measure of economic activity which can be viewed as the incremental contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It therefore provides a useful measure for understanding the economic contribution made by particular industries, or businesses, such as Arsenal.

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About the Arsenal Football Club Economic and Social Impact Report:

Arsenal’s inaugural Economic and Social Impact Report, which will be published annually, examines the economic and social contribution of the Club’s community initiatives across the London Borough of Islington and the UK. The report, prepared by Ernst & Young LLP for Arsenal Football Club, uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative analysis to assess the impact of Arsenal, using both economic modelling and case studies of community initiatives, to understand the impact of the Club’s activities on the economy and society. The report considers a range of activities carried out by Arsenal, as well as the impact of visitor spending and assesses the economic returns at a local and national levels based on three key measures:

- Gross Value Added (GVA) reflects the additional value to the economy that is created from Arsenal’s presence. This broadly equates to profits and employee salaries generated at each stage of the supply chain.

- The total number of full time equivalent (FTE) jobs created or supported by the total direct, indirect, and induced effects of Arsenal's presence.
- The revenue generated for the Exchequer as a result of the economic activity, including direct, indirect, and induced effects. This revenue includes taxes such as employee PAYE and National Insurance, VAT, and corporation tax.

In addition to the impacts quantified in the report, there are likely to be wider impacts resulting from the activities of Arsenal, such as through connections with the media and retail sectors, which are not fully captured within this analysis.

About Arsenal in the Community:

Arsenal in the Community (AIRC) was established in 1985 and delivers Arsenal's social and community programmes, with the aim of helping communities and individuals thrive. The programme, which is led by a team within Arsenal, delivers sport, social and educational initiatives to over 5,000 individuals each week. Between 2022 and 2023, the programme reached 14,000 people.

AIRC aims to address key social issues facing the local community, including unemployment, youth safety, education and health inequalities. One of the programme's longest-standing and most successful initiatives – delivered in partnership with the London Borough of Islington – is The Positive Futures Programme. Positive Futures, which this year celebrates its 20th year, engages over 500 young people aged 7-16 through weekly football activity on seven estates across Islington.

For more information, visit: <https://www.arsenal.com/community>

About The Arsenal Foundation:

The Arsenal Foundation, the Club's registered charity, was launched in May 2012 as a fundraising and grant giving organisation with the mission to help young people fulfil their potential. Save the Children, the Willow Foundation and Islington Giving are all official partners of The Arsenal Foundation, with a great number of other projects also benefitting from grants and support. This level of support can only be achieved with the support and generosity of The Arsenal family. Each year players, staff and supporters get involved in a range of activities to raise awareness and funds for the Foundation. With this fantastic backing, The Arsenal Foundation continues to go from strength to strength. www.arsenal.com/thearsenalfoundation

For more information visit: www.arsenal.com/thearsenalfoundation