

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Council Meeting:
17th March 2014**

Agenda Item: 5b

**Report of Central Area Council
Manager**

Central Council -Ongoing Priorities and Remaining Budget Allocation

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report updates Members about the background and context for the Area Council commissioning process and associated spend. It also provides a financial position statement for Central Council funding and projected expenditure for the next three years, based on current thinking and commitments to date.
- 1.2 The report also provides members with options for the future allocation/spend of remaining Central Council monies and proposes a series of next steps to take the preferred option forward.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

2.1 Members note:

- **The update about the background and context for the Area Council commissioning process and associated spend.**
- **The financial position statement for Central Council funding and projected expenditure for the next three years based on current thinking and commitments to date.**

2.2 Members consider and agree their preferred option for the allocation/spend of remaining Central Council monies for 2014/2015

2.3 Members agree the next steps for taking forward the preferred option as follows:

- **Agree one member from each Ward to be part of the Central Council working group.**
- **The working group to develop a discussion paper for consideration at a special meeting of Central Council in April 2014.**
- **A special meeting for Central Council be scheduled to take place in mid April 2014.**

3. Background and Context

- 3.1 As part of the establishment of the Council's Communities and Area Governance Service and the development and delivery of the associated governance framework, Area Council's were each given a budget for April 2014 to March 2015.
- 3.2 This budget has been devolved to each of the Area Council's with the intention of Area Council's commissioning services that will address the Council's Corporate priorities: Growing the Economy; Supporting Resilient communities; and Citizens achieving their potential. In addition to addressing the Corporate priorities, Area Plan priorities should also be addressed.
- 3.3 Central Council was allocated a £500.000 budget for this period.
- 3.4 A series of meetings and workshops took place from July 2013-November 2013 to consider the Central Council data and receive information from Ward level about Ward priorities. The intention of this exercise was to identify the collective priorities for the Central Council upon which the commissioning of services would be based.
- 3.5 As a result of this process the following priority areas were agreed at the Central Council meeting on 11th November 2013:
- Older People
 - Children and Young People
 - Clean and Green
- 3.6 A Members working group (with representation from each Ward) was established to develop specifications of requirements to address the priority areas outlined above.
- 3.7 The following specifications of requirements , with corresponding Area Council approval dates, have been agreed:
- A service to reduce isolation and loneliness in older people- approved 20th January 2014
 - A service to improve the wellbeing of children aged 8-12 years- approved 17th February 2014
 - A service to improve the health and wellbeing of young people aged 13-19 years –approved 17th February 2014
 - A service to provide a cleaner and greener environment in partnership with local people- subject to approval on 17th March 2014
- 3.8 In addition to the above, and to complement the specification of requirements for the Cleaner and Greener service, work is currently underway to develop additional specifications as follows:
- Environmental Enforcement and Education Service
 - Private Sector Housing Management/Enforcement service

4.0 Current Situation

4.1 Based on the information provided above and the associated procurement processes and draft timescales, Table 1 below outlines the current financial position for Central Council, together with anticipated spend for the next three years.

It should be noted however that these are indicative projections and may be subject to change depending upon the payment schedules submitted and agreed as part of the ongoing procurement processes.

Table 1:

Service to be procured	Length of contract & anticipated start date	Total contract cost	Anticipated Expenditure 2014-2015	Anticipated Expenditure 2015-2016	Anticipated Expenditure 2016-2017
Older People	2 years- May 2014	200,000	91,670	100,000	8,330
Children aged 8-12 years	2 years- July 2014	200,000	75,000	100,000	25,000
Young People aged 13-19 years	2 years- July 2014	200,000	75,000	100,000	25,000
Cleaner & Greener Environment in partnership with local people	2 years- July 2014	160,000	60,000	80,000	20,000
Environmental Enforcement	1 year-July 2014	55,000	41,250	13,750	-
Private Sector Rented Housing Management/ Enforcement	1 year-July 2014	30,000	22,500	7,500	-
Totals: Projected Expenditure			365,420	401,250	70,000
Balance remaining			134,580	98,750	70,000

5.0 Options for Remaining 2014/2015 Central Council Allocation/Expenditure

5.1 Given the balance of £134,580 currently unallocated by Central Council for 2014/2015 expenditure, consideration should now be given as to how the Central Council wants to proceed with the allocation/expenditure of these funds.

5.2 A number of options are outlined below with Option 3 identified as the preferred option.

Option 1: Establish a one-off non-recurrent grants programme for 2014/2015 that addresses the identified Area priorities and is aimed at community organisations, small businesses and social enterprises, with a view to developing their capacity to bid for future procurement opportunities.

Note:

Given the current timeframe and the development work that would be required to take this option forward fairly, transparently and effectively, it may be overly ambitious to allocate/spend **all** remaining resources through this approach.

Option 2: Develop further procurement opportunities linked to the identified area priorities and/or new priorities identified through the Area Council.

Note:

Given the current timeframe and the development work required to take forward any additional procurements, it may be overly ambitious to allocate/spend all remaining resources through this approach.

Option 3: Preferred Option

A combination of Options 1 and 2 above.

6.0 Next Steps

6.1 It is proposed that:

- A small Central Council Working Group, made up of one representative from each Ward, be established to take forward the development work for the preferred option agreed at today's meeting.
- The Working group prepares a discussion paper about the implementation of the preferred option for consideration at a Special meeting of the Central Council in April 2014
- That a special meeting of the Area Council be arranged to take place in mid April 2014.

Officer Contact:
Carol Brady

Tel. No:
01226 775707

Date:
10th March 2014.