

CENTRAL AREA COUNCIL

17th March, 2014

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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17th March, 2014 1:00pm

45. **Present:** Councillors D. Green (Chair), P. Birkinshaw, Bruff, Clarke, K. Dyson, Mathers, Mitchell, Johnson and Perrin.

46. **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests.**

Cllr Johnson declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute number 48(b) as Chair of Oaks Millennium Technology Initiative.

47. **Notes of the Ward Alliances.**

RESOLVED that the notes of the Central, Kingstone, Worsbrough, Dodworth and Stairfoot Ward Alliance meetings be received and noted.

48. **Central Area Council Priorities and Procurement Update.**

a) **Procurement Update**

The Area Manager provided Members with an update on the progress being made with regard to the Central Area Council procurement processes. It was noted that 10 submissions had been received in respect of 'Services to Reduce Isolation and Loneliness in Older People'. An evaluation panel is to be held next week, followed by interviews of the top 2 providers.

It was stated that the specifications to procure 'Services for Children Aged 8-12 Years' and 'Services for Young People Aged 13-19 Years' had now been published with a closing date of 2 May 2014. The market briefing event, to enable smaller local organisations to network with larger organisations and potentially become part of the procurement process, is to be held on 28 March 2014. It was anticipated that members of Youth Council will make up part of the evaluation panel.

The meeting received details of the specific requirements for a 'Service to Create a Cleaner and Greener Environment in Partnership with Local People'. This specification, as with the previous ones, has been developed by the members working group with input from officers. It was suggested that this be evaluated based on a 35:65 price/quality split, in favour of quality. It was noted that a market briefing event is to be held in early May 2014 to encourage the involvement and engagement of local providers. The meeting heard how this will be planned and delivered jointly with the South Area Council who are also commissioning "clean and green" services and are progressing along similar timescales. It is proposed that a Central Area Council Member and a Ward Alliance representative be identified to be part of the Evaluation Panel for this service.

CENTRAL AREA COUNCIL

17th March, 2014

Members welcomed the encouragement and involvement of local providers and recognised their role in ensuring delivery on the ground. It was stated that it is important for Members to be realistic with regard to the levels of service that would be available as a result of the investment of this size for such a service covering the whole of the Central area.

The importance of being able to distinguish between core services and commissioned services was recognised.

Following on from the discussions at the last meeting and subsequent discussions on the provision of a Generic Environmental Enforcement Service, it was proposed that, subject to agreement, joint procurement would take place with the South Area Council. A draft specification of requirements for the service was being developed and it was proposed that this be considered at a special Central Area Council meeting in mid-April 2014.

It was noted that discussions were currently underway to agree the approach for delivering the Private Sector Rented Housing Management/Enforcement Service. It was anticipated that a draft specification or service level agreement for this would also be considered at such special meeting.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the progress made in taking forward the Central Area Council procurement processes, as now reported, be noted;
 - (ii) that approval be given to the specification of requirements and the associated price/quality split upon which tenders would be evaluated for a Service to Create a Cleaner and Greener Environment in Partnership with Local People;
 - (iii) that Councillor Johnson and a Ward Alliance representative, to be identified, form part of the Evaluation Panel for the Cleaner and Greener Environment procurement;
 - (iv) that the Ward Alliance be asked to nominate a representative to the Evaluation Panel for the Cleaner and Greener Environment procurement;
 - (v) that a specification of requirements/service level agreement for each of the two enforcement proposals be submitted to a special Central Area Council meeting to be scheduled for mid-April 2014.
- b) Ongoing Priorities and Remaining Budget Allocation

The Area Manager presented a report setting out the context for the Area Council commissioning process, associated spend and details of the financial position and

CENTRAL AREA COUNCIL

17th March, 2014

projected expenditure for the next 3 years. In particular it was noted that there was a balance of £134,580 currently unallocated for 2014/15 expenditure.

The options for the allocation/spend of such resources were explained and Members discussed the best way forward. Bearing in mind the current timeframe and the development work required, it was proposed that Option 3, a combination of Option 1 (establish a one-off non-recurrent grants programme for 2014/15 that addresses the identified Area priorities) and Option 2 (develop further procurement opportunities linked to the identified Area priorities and/or new priorities identified through the Area Council) be pursued and that a small working group, made up of one representative from each Ward, be established to take forward the development work for the preferred options.

It was confirmed that the working group would consider the options in more detail in the context of the Area Council's priority areas, including the potential of establishing provision for a contingency fund. The working group would also be able to give consideration to the necessary parameters to be put in place to ensure appropriate use of public money where support was to be given to small businesses.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the update on the background and context for the Area Council commissioning process and associated spend now reported be noted;
- (ii) that the financial position statement for the Central Area Council funding and projected expenditure for the next 3 years, based on current thinking and commitments to date, as now reported, be noted;
- (iii) that Members indicate their preference for Option 3, a combinations of Option 1 and 2, set out in the report now submitted, for the allocation/spend of the remaining Central Area Council monies for 2014/15; and
- (iv) that the next steps for taking forward the preferred options be agreed as follows:
 - agree that 1 member from each Ward be part of the Central Area Council Working Group
 - the Working Group to develop a discussion paper for consideration at a special meeting of the Central Area Council in April 2014.

49. Use of Devolved Ward Budgets, Ward Alliance Funds and Public Health Allocation.

The Area Manager provided Members with details of devolved Ward budgets and Ward Alliance fund expenditure in each Ward for 2013/14. In particular, it was noted that the accumulated commitment of devolved Ward budget for the five Wards was £59,014 out of the £100,000 allocated, leaving £40,986 unspent.

CENTRAL AREA COUNCIL

17th March, 2014

It was noted that given the timescales for expenditure, being the end of March 2014, it was unlikely that there would be any further allocation of funds before the end of this financial year. However, all non-committed funds could be carried forward into the next financial year (2014/15).

RESOLVED that the details of devolved Ward budgets and Ward Alliance fund expenditure in each Ward for 2013/14, as now reported, be noted.

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Chair