

CENTRAL AREA COUNCIL

14th April, 2014

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CENTRAL AREA COUNCIL

14th April, 2014 2:00pm

50. **Present:** Councillors D. Green (Chair), P. Birkinshaw, D. Birkinshaw, Bruff, G. Carr, J. Carr, Clarke, M. Dyson, Mathers, Mitchell, Johnson, Perrin, and T. Sheard.

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

Councillor Johnson declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 53 as Chair of Oaks Millennium Technology Initiative.

52. **Minutes of the previous meeting of Central Area Council, held 17th March, 2014.**

Members received the minutes of the previous meeting of Central Area Council.

RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the previous meeting of Central Area Council held on the 17th March, 2014 be approved as a true and correct record.

53. **Central Area Council commissioning and procurement update.**

The item was introduced by the Central Area Council Manager, by providing a brief update on the progress made in procuring provision to 'Reduce isolation and loneliness in older people'.

Members noted that the closing date for tenders to be submitted had been the 14th March, 2014 and 10 submissions had been received. Each were scored and 3 providers were to be interviewed on 15th April, 2014.

A number of issues were raised with the process, including the time taken to evaluate each tender, with some submissions being in excess of 40 pages. In addition, electronic copies could not be sent to community representatives involved in the evaluation due to information governance procedures. It was also noted that scoring could be rather compartmentalised and did not take account of the whole of the proposal.

The meeting heard how a range of solutions had been suggested in order to help alleviate these issues, including the use of a pre-qualification questionnaire and restrictions on the length of submissions.

The meeting noted feedback from the community representative on the panel, who felt that the process was laborious but was also very interesting, helped building understanding, and had overall been worthwhile. There was a suggestion that it

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would be beneficial to maintain this involvement in the performance management of contracts.

As a result of the time commitment required, Councillors P. Birkinshaw and Clarke made known their wish to stand down from the tender evaluation panel associated with the commissioning of services for Children and Young People.

The meeting discussed the need for Members to be involved in tender evaluation panels. Agreement was reached that there needed to be continued Member involvement in each panel.

More generally, a concern was expressed that, within legal restrictions, contracts should be awarded to Barnsley companies or finance spent in Barnsley. It was noted that, as part of the contract rules, a minimum of two companies being considered for commissions must be from Barnsley. In addition, the consideration of social value as part of the tender process should help ensure expenditure remains in Barnsley.

The meeting then received an update on the procurement of services for Children and Young People. It was noted that adverts had been placed on 14th March, 2014. Leaflets were circulated to a comprehensive mailing list, and a market briefing event held to encourage organisations to tender either individually or collaboratively. It was suggested that future publicity to encourage submission of tenders should be circulated to Ward Alliance members.

The meeting noted the closing date for procurement of services for Children and Young People was Friday 2nd May, 2014 and it was agreed that Councillors Bruff and D. Birkinshaw would replace Councillors P. Birkinshaw and Clarke on the evaluation panel.

An update was received on the procurement of 'a service to create a cleaner and greener environment in partnership with local people'. It was noted that the tender would be advertised on YorTender imminently. NPS had advised that a market briefing event was unnecessary due to the large numbers of organisations expect to apply.

In order to complement the cleaner and greener proposal approved at the previous meeting, proposals had been developed to enhance enforcement in the Central area. The meeting considered a specification of requirements and associated procurement strategy to employ 1.5 Generic Enforcement Officers to work in the area, concentrating on dog fouling, litter and car parking offences. It was noted that this should be supported through a service level agreement with the Community Safety and Enforcement Service to provide relevant training, equipment and support.

It had been suggested that Central Area Council jointly procures this service with the Dearne Area Council, who had recently agreed a very similar specification for a single officer. Members were supportive of the proposal but it was noted that the service level agreement suggested 1 vehicle per 2 officers and requested clarification as to how this may be applied to 1.5 officers in the Central Area or 2.5 officers for Central and Dearne.

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With regards to Member involvement in tender evaluation, it was agreed that Councillor T. Sheard be part of the evaluation panel for the Environmental Enforcement procurement.

Members went on to discuss the high numbers of private sector rented housing in the area, approximately 10,000 properties. Noted were a range of problems associated with poor quality private rented accommodation and an increased enforcement service to deal with these issues was suggested. It was acknowledged that the severity of the issue varied between wards, but that all Wards would benefit from such a service. The proposal would help by dealing with long standing issues and free capacity elsewhere in the enforcement service.

While the proposal was broadly supported, Members also suggested that a number of issues surrounding social housing could also be improved. The meeting agreed to defer any further consideration to a future meeting where Members could gain a greater understanding of existing provision related to private sector housing, and where gaps occurred. It was suggested to invite the Head of Community Safety and Enforcement to answer any questions Members may have.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the progress made in taken forward the procurement processes for Central Area Council be noted;
- (ii) that approval be given for Councillors Bruff and D. Birkinshaw to be representatives on the Children and Young People's tender evaluation panels;
- (iii) that approval be given to the specification of requirements and procurement strategy for 'Environmental Enforcement' to a value of £37,500 for a year, and with a price quality split of 40:60 in favour of quality';
- (iv) that approval be given to enter into a service level agreement with the Community Safety and Enforcement Service for equipment, training and other support items to a value of £14,000, subject to clarification on the ratios for vehicle use;
- (v) that approval be given for Councillor T. Sheard to be the representative on the Environmental Enforcement tender evaluation panel;
- (vi) that the next meeting of Central Area Council considers existing enforcement provision in relation to private sector rented housing.

54. Utilisation of remaining Central Area Council Funds for 2014/15.

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. Following on from discussion at the previous meetings, a working group had met to further develop proposals in order to utilise remaining funds for 2014/15.

The meeting noted that, based on current forecasts, which included approvals to date and approximately £70,000 per annum for a Private Sector Housing Enforcement project, there would be approximately £107,205 remaining for 2014/15.

The proposal was to establish a one-off non recurrent grants programme that addresses Area Priorities, which could be delivered by not-for-profit organisations.

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It was suggested that this would commence in April 2014, with publicity aimed at encouraging organisations to come forward with ideas that would deliver the Area Priorities, and contribute to Council Corporate Priorities. It was suggested that awards could range from £1,000 to £30,000.

In July, 2014 it was envisaged that a panel would convene to assess submissions and identify a number to proceed to a further development stage. The meeting discussed the composition of the panel and it was agreed that this ought to include the Central Area Team and that each Ward Alliance ought to elect a community representative.

Organisations were expected to have developed and submitted detailed proposals around August, which would then be considered for approval by Central Area Council at their meeting in September, 2014.

Members were broadly supportive of the proposals, but were keen to see that grant payments were made in a sympathetic way as to not place undue strain on an organisation.

The need to ensure that proposals did not duplicate existing provision and added value was stressed. In addition it was felt important to try to ensure that the majority of beneficiaries were residents within the Central Council area.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that Members note the revised financial position for Central Area Council over the next three years;
- (ii) that, subject to the amendments highlighted, approval be given to the proposal to assist with the allocation of remaining funds for 2014/15.

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Chair