

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Notes of discussions between Members of the Central Area Council
7th July, 2014

Present: Councillors D. Green (Chair), Barlow, P. Birkinshaw, G. Carr, J. Carr, Clarke, Mathers, Mitchell, Johnson, Perrin, and T. Sheard.

1. **Central Area Council contract and procurement update.**

The Central Area Council Manager introduced the report.

Members noted that Royal Voluntary Service had been successful in securing the contract for delivering a service for Reducing Isolation and Loneliness in Older People. Following successful pre-contact meetings, the formal contact commenced on the 2nd June, 2014. Members noted that a 'meet the provider' event was being held on 9th July, 2014 to meet staff.

An update was given with regards to the service for Children and Young People aged 8-12 years. It was noted that the closing date for submissions had been 2nd May, 2014, and 5 tenders had been scored by a Tender Evaluation Panel. The meeting noted that the YMCA had been offered the contract subject to providing proof of CHAS accreditation. It was hoped that the contract would commence on the 21st July, 2014 and offer 3 sessions for per week in each Ward.

With regards to the service for Children and Young People aged 13-19, the meeting noted that the closing date for tenders had been 2nd May, 2014 and the Tender Evaluation Panel had assessed 5 submissions. Members noted that preferred candidate was Core Assets Children's Services, who had partnered with Active Barnsley locally, and that the contract offered was subject to successful pre-contract negotiations. These discussions were set to include the duration and type of activity to be delivered.

It was noted that Active Barnsley already delivered some provision in the area, and it was suggested that details of this should be provided in order to ensure the provision commissioned was in addition.

The meeting considered the procurement of an Integrated Environmental Enforcement Service. Members heard how only one organisation had submitted a tender, which although slightly higher in price than the indicative figure, was within a 10% threshold. The tender was evaluated and scored acceptably, therefore the tender by Kingdom Security will be accepted and pre-contract negotiations entered into. Members noted the anticipated start date of 4th August, 2014.

Members received an update on the process to appoint a provider to deliver a Service to Create a Cleaner and Greener Environment in Partnership with Local People. Although 23 organisations had expressed an interest, no tenders had been received. Members discussed feedback from a number of organisations who had decided not to submit a tender. The feedback received suggested that the level of finance was too low, and that this would leave too little time in each ward to deliver the appropriate level of service.

The meeting discussed various options to progress the procurement of this service, and it was suggested that the value of the contract be increased by £20,000 per annum to £100,000 per annum over two years, and that the service should go out to tender again as soon as possible.

With regards to the Service Level Agreement to provide a Private Rented Sector Housing Management/Enforcement Service, the meeting heard how an updated financial forecast had been provided, due to increased pension and pay costs. This had resulted in proposed costs being increased from £140,000 for a 2 year period to £147,200 without shift allowances or £154,600 with shift allowances.

Members considered the increased costs and a number of alternative options were suggested. These included reducing the term of the commission to 18 months in order to be incorporated within the currently approved levels of finance. In order to consider all options and their implications in more detail, it was suggested that a working group be convened, and that this report back to a future meeting of the Area Council.

The Central Area Council Manager presented the current financial situation for the Area Council. It was acknowledged that the projections included the original figures for a Service to Create a Cleaner and Greener Environment with Local People, which had not yet been procured, and also included increased levels of finance for the Private Rented Sector Housing Management/Enforcement Service. With these caveats, it was noted that £160,942 remained unallocated for 2014/15 and £28,245 for 2015/16.

Members heard of the development, launch and promotion of the Working Together Fund across the Central Council Area. It was noted that 43 organisations had requested applications, and by the closing date 27 applications had been received, to a value of over £400,000. It was noted that 6 of these were regarded as incomplete or ineligible, and therefore the 21 remaining would be evaluated. The outcome of this process would be reported into the September, 2014 meeting of Central Area Council.

The meeting discussed how much of the remaining unallocated finance for 2014/15 should be allocated to the fund. It was suggested that an indicative figure of £100,000 be allocated, with funds taken forward to 2015/16 should successful organisations not be able to expend the full amount within year.

RECOMMENDED:-

- (i) that the commencement of the contract for Reducing Isolation and Loneliness in Older People, and the planned 'meet the provider event' be noted;
- (ii) that the progress made to finalise the contracts to deliver a Service for Children aged 8-12 years and a Service for Young People aged 13-19 years be noted;
- (iii) that the progress made to finalise the contract to deliver a Integrated Environmental Enforcement Service be noted;
- (iv) that the indicative value for a Service to Create a Cleaner and Greener Environment with Local People be increased to £100,000 per annum, for a period of 2 years, and that this be retendered as soon as possible;
- (v) that a working group be convened to discuss in more detail the options for the funding of the Private Sector Housing Management and Enforcement Service;
- (vi) that the revised financial statement be noted;

(vii) that progress made to implement the Working Together Fund be noted, and that an indicative figure of £100,000 be allocated to this.

2. **The performance management and scrutiny role of Area Councils.**

The Head of Organisational Development, Performance and Partnerships introduced the item, which followed discussions at the previous meeting of the Area Council.

It considered the various roles of Area Councils which included performance management. This included the performance management of contracts and service level agreements. It was noted that this was already well underway.

Reference was made to the performance management of services other than those commissioned by the Area Council. These included those area based, and borough wide services which may be delivered locally.

It was noted that this could include those provided by the Council, but also could potentially include that of partners, should they be amenable to this.

Members noted that, whilst a myriad of data and intelligence about Council delivered services existed, this was not in a single repository and was not always available at an appropriate geographical level. It was acknowledged that, coinciding with restructuring and the implementation of business units, work was ongoing to address this situation, and it was suggested that this would be completed by April 2015.

It was noted that an integral part of the role of Members continued to be the gathering of local intelligence, which would then inform the delivery of services.

Members discussed the paper in some depth, debating the relationship with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the need to avoid duplication. It was stressed that the performance of services in the Central Area should be focused on.

In order to undertake this role, it was suggested that details of the core service offer was of paramount importance.

Members also discussed whether it was possible to influence the data collected and collated to be part of the repository, in order that this was appropriate for use by Area Council.

A suggestion was made that the Area Council should concentrate on its current work:
- commissioning activities and performance managing the delivery of contracted services. However, it was recognised that the performance management of other services within the Central Area may be an area which Members wish to consider in more detail in the future. A number of areas where this may focus were proposed. These were: - Youth Services; Empty Buildings; Berneslai Homes services; Flooding; and Clean and Green.

RECOMMENDED:-

(i) that the report be noted;

(ii) that future meetings of Central Area Council consider performance of the services related to the areas suggested above.