

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NORTH EAST AREA COUNCIL

13TH FEBRUARY, 2014

35. **Present:** Councillors Hayward (Chair), Tim Cheetham, Ennis, S. Green, Higginbottom, Houghton, Makinson, North, Richardson (The Mayor), M. Sheard and C.C. Wraith

36. **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non pecuniary interest from Members present at this meeting.

37. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Area Council**

RESOLVED : That the minutes of the previous meeting of North East Area Council held on 5th December, 2013 be approved as a correct record,

38. **Notes of Ward Alliance Meetings**

The Area Council considered the notes from the following Ward Alliance meetings:-

- (a) Monk Bretton - held on 13th December, 2013
- (b) North East - held on (i) 18th December, 2013 and (ii) 29th January 2014
- (c) Royston - held on (i) 16th December, 2013 and (ii) 13th January, 2014, and
- (d) Cudworth - held on 6th January, 2014

The Chairs of the respective Alliances, and Councillor Tim Cheetham in the case of the Royston Ward Alliance, each gave a brief summary of the work they were currently undertaking.

RESOLVED: That the notes of the above meetings of the Ward Alliances be noted.

39. **Devolved Ward Budgets**

The Area Council Manager submitted a report giving details of the spending to date from the devolved Ward budget allocation of £80,000 (£20,000 per Ward). It was explained at the meeting that further monies had now been provisionally allocated but more details were awaited regarding the initiatives involved prior to finally agreeing the expenditure.

RESOLVED: That the report on allocations from the devolved Ward budgets be noted.

40. Commissioning Against the North East Area Council Priorities

The Area Council considered a report of the Area Council Manager outlining the potential areas of investment based on the previously agreed priorities which could be suitable for the commissioning of services by the Area Council. The report explained the possible commissioning activity being sought to address the identified priorities of (i) the environment, (ii) the local economy and regeneration, (iii) young people, and (iv) health and wellbeing.

The Area Council Manager explained that two detailed commissioning proposals reflecting priority (i) above (the environment) were being submitted to this meeting (minute 41 refers).

RESOLVED: That the information contained in the report now submitted regarding commissioning services to reflect the previously agreed priorities be noted and the project suggestions outlined in the report be approved as the basis for more detailed work.

41 Commissioning Priorities - Environmental Priorities

The Area Council Manager referred to the commissioning priorities outlined in minute 40 above and circulated project specification templates for (a) Environmental Enforcement and (b) the Community Enablement Service.

(a) Environmental Enforcement

The Area Council Manager explained that the Environmental Enforcement commissioning package sought to provide a 'zero tolerance' enforcement capability for littering, dog fouling and parking offences over and above the core service standards provided by Barnsley Council's Community Safety and Enforcement Service for the 2014/15 financial year.

The contract specification template involved the appointment of two Environmental Enforcement Officers working 37 hours per week for an initial 12 months period to work flexibly according to need in the four Wards covered by the North East Area Council. The specification set out the general contract details and the proposed duties of the Environmental Enforcement Officers. The specification gave details of the performance measures and outputs that would inform the monitoring and recording arrangements. The cost of the Service in the initial year was estimated at £65,000.

RESOLVED:

(i) That approval be given to a Service Level Agreement, in accordance with the specification template now circulated, with Barnsley Community Safety and Enforcement Service for an Environmental Enforcement Service for an initial 12 months period at an estimated cost of £65,000, and

(ii) That the possibility of other Area Councils using the specification template produced for this Service level Agreement as the basis for a similar Agreement in their respective areas be noted.

(b) Community Enablement Service

So far as the commissioning package for the Community Enablement Service was concerned, the Area Council Manager indicated that the commissioning package sought to provide a local uniformed Service which would respond to requests from local Councillors to undertake 'grounds maintenance' tasks such as cutting back shrubs which overhang footpaths, strimming grassed areas and small scale fencing repairs.

Two contracts were proposed, one covering the Cudworth and North East Wards and one covering the Monk Bretton and Royston Wards. The two contracts will also maintain and improve environmental standards across the four Wards at the key high profile locations such as village centres, main shopping centres and key access routes. The Service would work closely with the Council's North East Area Team to support opportunities for volunteering through the 'Barnsley MBC Love Where You Live' branding and to lead with on-site co-ordination of volunteering activity. Details of the services and activities to be delivered were outlined in the specification template. The template also included outcomes and outputs for measuring contract performance, a framework for appropriate monitoring and key quality standards.

The specification for the two contracts included an anticipation of each employing two people and an apprentice with a vehicle and a local base with working hours on a Monday to Friday basis on the understanding that there may be up to 12 times a year when weekend working is necessary to help with community events and 'clean up' days. The proposed contract was for an initial 12 months period.

Members referred to the specification parameters indicated in the template for the vehicles and the need to adopt a branding that reflected that the service was being locally provided but with funding from Barnsley Council through the Area Council. As other Area Councils were contemplating commissioning a similar service, it was suggested that further discussion on the logo and branding for the vehicles might be helpful to see if a basic format could be agreed which could be adopted in all areas.

Members were informed that discussions had been held with key officers, including officers in Neighbourhood Pride, to try to ensure there was no duplication of services at a local level.

RESOLVED:

(a) That approval be given for a Community Enablement Service with a specification as outlined in the template now circulated for the Wards of (1) Cudworth and North East and (ii) Monk Bretton and Royston, at an estimated cost of £75,000 per annum for an initial 12 months period with potential for further renewal, for each of the two areas (£150,000 in total) with a price quality ratio of 35:65 being adopted in favour of quality, as recommended by Norfolk Property Services, with final arrangements for price/quality award criteria being approved by the Assistant Director for Neighbourhoods and Support in consultation with the Chair, and

(b) That the initiative be branded under the heading of 'Barnsley MBC Love Where You Live' and this be commended to the other Area Councils adopting similar initiatives, subject to the comments of the Council's Head of Communications and Marketing.

42. **'Barnsley MBC Love Where You Live' Initiative - Update**

The Area Council Manager explained that a successful bid had been made for monies from NESTA's (the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) 'Love Where You Live' initiative and £30,000 was available across the Borough. Some of this money will be used for marketing and signage with the remainder earmarked for stimulating volunteering. During the summer it is hoped to hold at least one 'Barnsley MBC Love Where You Live' event in each Ward to highlight volunteering opportunities in local communities.

Arising from the Area Managers report mention was made of a recent event had been held in Cudworth with a number of organisations, including Barnsley Premier Leisure, regarding initiatives for young people for the school summer holiday period, this might link well with the 'Love Where You Live' initiative,

RESOLVED: That the verbal report of the Area Council Manager about the 'Barnsley MBC Live Where You Live' initiative be noted and she be invited to look at (i) the specification being produced by Central Area Council for commissioning a service around helping to tackle the isolation of local people to see if there may be a possibility of commissioning a similar service in this area, and (ii) a leaflet produced by the Royston Ward Alliance highlighting the local services for older people, to assess if there would be merit in producing a leaflet along similar lines for the communities covered by the North East Area Council.

43. **Next Meeting of the Area Council**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Area Council is scheduled to be held on Thursday 3rd April, 2014 at 12.30pm in Barnsley Town Hall.

.....

Chair