

# **BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **DEARNE AREA COUNCIL 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

### **Report of the Dearne Area Council Manager**

#### **Dearne Area Council future commissions and use of Area Council budget.**

##### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update members with regards to the development of future Area Council commissions. This includes the approval of the specification and procurement of the environmental clean, tidy and volunteering service. The report also includes plans for allocating further finances to the Dearne Development Fund, railway embankment scheme and Ward Alliance Funds.

##### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That members approve the service specification and procurement of an environmental clean tidy and volunteering service for the Dearne Area Council as outlined in the attached specification, to a value of £75,000, for a period of one year with the option to extend for a further year.
- 2.2 Members consider the option to delegate £10K from the Area Council budgets to each of the Ward Alliances for 2016/17 to be allocated through existing Ward Alliance Fund approval mechanisms.
- 2.3 That a further £30,000 is allocated to the Dearne Development Fund, to be allocated as previously agreed.
- 2.4 That £10,000 be allocated to the railway embankment scheme, with final approvals for expenditure being delegated to the Interim Executive Director, Communities.

##### **3.0 New Commissions for 2017/18 Dearne Area Council**

##### **3.1 Environmental Clean ,Tidy and volunteering service**

Based on discussions between the area manager and Dearne elected members the Dearne Area Council clean and tidy specification has now been amended and with agreement of the Area Council is ready for procurement.

- 3.2 The specification states the incoming provider will work with local community groups, businesses, enforcement teams as well as being proactive and reactive in addressing local hot spots. The incoming provider will develop an environmental steering group in partnership with Dearne North and South

ward alliances

- 3.3 It is expected that the work of the provider will be designed to complement and build upon rather than duplicate the existing provision. With the service having a particular focus on educating young people, families, volunteers and residents with regards the environmental, economic and health related impact in relation to littering. Therefore elements of the service will focus on the “prevention of littering” and not solely focus on clean-up operations.
- 3.4 Based on the area size, population and realistic costings a maximum sum of £75,000 has been identified for this 1 year commission with the option to extend for a further year performance and finance permitting.
- 3.5 A further consideration is TUPE. If there is a change of supplier minimal changes to the specification TUPE may apply. However this will only be to staff that are dedicated to the Dearne contract.
- 3.6 During the tender process the incoming tenders will be evaluated based on their competence in delivering the service and there will be a 30:70 quality price split favouring quality rather than price. This will be followed up by way of presentations from services which have expressed an interest. The panel will consist of local residents, the area manager and elected members.
- 3.7 If agreed the procurement will commence early October 2016 and evaluated in November. Taking the stand still period into consideration this would mean the contract could be awarded in January 2017. This leaves plenty of time for the lead in period and for the provider to commence work on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2017.

#### 4.0 **Use of Area Council finances 16/17**

##### 4.1 **Dearne Development Fund**

The Dearne development fund was established in 2015/16 in order to meet all of the area priorities, upskill local groups and bring in services to meet the needs of residents. The allocation of funds is done by way off a formal application process followed by a panel that award the funds. Further all services that receive funds are expected to submit monitoring information in order to feed back to the Area Council.

- 4.2 The Area Council allocated 80K to the Dearne development fund in order to meet area priorities in 15/16; this amount funded nine projects in total. Further an initial allocation of 50K was agreed at the area council to meet area priorities in the 16/17 financial year. Already the panel have distributed £9,974 of this allocation to CAB.
- 4.3 During the second round of the 2016/17 financial year the area team have received applications many enquiries regarding proposed projects. The next shortlisting panel consisting of area manager, elected members and residents

will take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2016. Due to the success of previous projects it is recommended that the area council allocate a further 30k out of 2016/17 finances in order to meet all of the priorities set by the area council.

#### 4.4 **Railway embankment**

The disused railway has long been a blight on the Dearne environment, for example fly tipping and the overall appearance of the railway bridges. Therefore the area team have been working with partners on dealing with some of these issues.

4.5 Work has already taken place on the appearance by way of the well-publicised painting of the bridges. This has involved over one hundred people, services and groups. Each have contributed either financially or with volunteer hours in order to finish this part of the project.

4.6 Highways and BDSS have waived costs in order to ensure safety and closed roads so that the bridges could be painted. Big Local have installed and will maintain CCTV on Straight Lane bridge as well as paying the expenses of University students that will be taking part in the next phase. Network Rail have so far spent 20K on fly tipping and installing new fencing on Barnsley Road. They are also looking at costings in relation to heightening the bridge on Straight Lane in order to reduce further fly tipping.

4.7 The area manager has submitted an application to Network Rail in order to gain a community licence that will enable the community to work on the disused railway site. This development of this scheme will be done through the railway embankment meeting It will be undertaken according to health and safety guidelines and will bring specialist in as and when future plans have been developed.

4.8 The area manager's intention is to apply for match funding from the various streams that exists in order to drive this scheme forward, some of these discussions have already taken place. It is recommended that the area council earmark 10K out of their 2016/17 budget in order to contribute to the overall project. This will be done in line with BMBC financial regulations. Further it is recommended that members of the Dearne Area Council give delegated authority to the area manager in order to project manage the development of the disused railway site through the railway embankment meeting.

#### 4.9 **Ward Alliances**

At the area council meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2015 a discussion took place with regards allocating finances from the area council to the Ward Alliances in order to compensate for the reduction in Devolved Ward Funds. It was agreed that this would be looked at as and when finances in each of the ward alliances were running low.

- 4.10 To date Dearne North have spent £5352.50 and Dearne South £6613.50 of their initial Ward Alliance allocation. Following provisional approval it is recommended that the Area Council devolved 10k to each ward alliance in order to meet ward priorities.
- 4.11 If agreed this funding must be allocated to the Ward Alliance and then be split: 50% to be used to enhance community capacity and volunteering (the same as the existing Ward Alliance Fund), and 50% to be used to fund local projects that the Ward Alliance considers a priority (ie these can be purchase of physical improvements that do not require match-funding with volunteer time).

## 5.0 **Appendices**

Service Specification

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**Date:**

19<sup>th</sup> September 2016