

# BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**South Area Council Meeting:**

**19<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**Report of South Area Council  
Manager.**

## **Review of Area Council Commissioned Services – recommendations from workshop held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the recommendations made at the Area Council workshop held on 1st September 2017 regarding alterations to contracts for Area Council commissioned services

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 **That members approve the recommendations made by the Area Council workshop held on 1<sup>st</sup> September and outlined in Section 4.1 of this report.**

### **3. Background & progress to date**

- 3.1 At its meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017, the South Area Council agreed to review the impact of its three largest contracts, which are:

- Tidy Team
- Environmental Enforcement
- Advice Services

- 3.2 The purpose of this review was to answer the following questions:

- What was the project initially commissioned to do and achieve?
- What needs was the project initially commissioned to meet & who were the beneficiaries?
- To what extent has it met these needs and to extent does the need still remain?
- What impact has it had in practice? What has the social return on investment been?
- What have been the project's main successes and shortcomings?
- Is the project duplicating mainstream service provision? If so, how and to what extent?
- What would be the impacts of reducing or ending this provision?

- 3.3 Since all of the three major funded projects had provided satisfactory or better performance throughout their lifetime, which was fully reported on at every Area Council meeting, it was clear that this was not to be a review of the provider's performance. The review would instead need to focus on the degree

to which the commissioned service had delivered the impact originally intended, with a view to deciding whether to:

- Continue to commission the service at its current level
- Reduce the level of service being funded
- Discontinue the service entirely; either because it was no longer needed or was not providing the impact hoped for

3.4 Reductions in any of the existing contracts could enable Area Council funding to be released for the development of a number of other projects currently under consideration. These include the development of a Social Isolation Project and the continued funding of the one year Private Sector Housing pilot.

3.5 The review of the three major commissioned contracts was held as a workshop after the main South Area Council meeting on 1st September 2017. The issues were discussed in full, using summaries of performance and impact information for each project which had been prepared by the South Area Council Manager. These papers are attached at Appendix 1 of this report.

#### **4. Recommendations made by the South Area Council workshop**

4.1 Following a full discussion of available options, the following recommendations were made by the workshop:

- That the Tidy Team contract was offering performance and impact well in excess of that originally anticipated by the South Area Council and should be retained in full
- That the Advice Services contract was offering performance and impact well in excess of that originally anticipated by the South Area Council and should be retained in full
- That the Environmental Enforcement contract be reduced by 50% from four officers down to two, which would reduce the contract value from £142,512 per year to £71,076 per year. This decision was reached for the following reasons:
  - Benchmarking work done across Area Councils suggests that Areas with two officers are gaining very similar numbers of tickets to those with four, suggesting that there may be a maximum number of tickets which can be issued in any given area, regardless of officer numbers
  - There is insufficient evidence around the degree to which four officers offer a deterrent, at a high cost to the Area Council
  - The impact on the street scene has not been sufficient to justify the cost of four officers, particularly because the majority of littering fines are for cigarette ends rather than other types of litter.

- There was also a strong desire to continue the work done by the Private Sector Housing contract, which currently runs as a pilot scheme to 31<sup>st</sup> October. It was also recommended that this contract should be extended to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 in the first instance, at a cost to the South Area Council of £13,575.
- 4.2 It is proposed that these recommendations are approved by an extra meeting of the South Area Council to be held at 3.00pm on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017. This gives the South Area Council Manager sufficient time to give the six months' notice required by all Area Council contracts where changes to contract values and service levels are made.

Appendix 1: Review of Commissioned Services report presented at workshop on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017

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**Date: 04/09/17**