BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Penistone Area Council
11 February 2016

Report of the
Penistone Area Council Manager

Agenda Item:

Penistone Area Council Commissioning, Procurement and Funding Update

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update members on the current commissioning and procurement position of the Penistone Area Council.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 **That members receive the update on current commissioned projects.**

2.2 **That members note the current financial position of the Area Council Commissioning Budget for 2015/16 and 2016/17.**

3.0 Countryside Skills Training Commission

3.1 A three monthly monitoring meeting was held between the Penistone Area Council Manager and Tom Handley of Growforest on 28 January 2016. As well as discussing the progress of the project to the extended end of commission date of 31 March 2016, an end of project letter was issued.

3.2 The projects achievements, successes and struggles were discussed in detail as was the projects exit strategy. It was agreed that the project, although not achieving what it set out to do initially, which was to give practical skills in stone walling and hedge laying to 16 – 24 year olds from the Penistone area, has achieved much more by opening up the green environment and offering skills training to people from the wider Barnsley area and from a wider age group. Clients recovering from substance misuse, struggling to succeed in the academic and employment environment, or suffering from stress disorders after having served in the armed forces have benefitted from the project.

3.3 A ‘Social Return on Investment’ exercise is currently being undertaken and initial findings for this project are extremely positive, mainly due to the client group which came forward. The results of this exercise will be available for the Penistone Area Council Meeting scheduled for 14 April 2016.

3.4 Tom Handley, the proprietor of Growforest has requested that he attend the Penistone Area Council Meeting on 14 April to give a presentation and final summing up of the Countryside Skills Commission.

3.5 The following table shows the Milestones/Targets/Outcomes for this quarter and to date for the Countryside Skills Training Commission.

Milestone/Target/Output	Target	Achieved	Comments
Learners Recruited	24	32	To date but not all of these stayed the full cohort time.
Learners Achieving Stage One Qualification in Dry Stone Walling	24	19	Tom commented that at least 5 more achieve the next test in February.
No of Learning Hours Delivered	230	182	This quarter
No of Learners Achieving 85%or higher attendance	24	19	To date
Linear Metres of Dry Stone Wall repaired	160	78	This quarter
People perceiving traditional countryside skills as a viable enterprise.	24	3	Few out of the trainees who came forward for this and shown interest in taking the enterprise route, despite active support and encouragement from the project team.
People being happier and healthier by being connected to the natural environment.	24	24	This has become evident by the case studies submitted throughout the lifetime of the project.

4.0 Clean and Tidy Commission

4.1 The first quarterly monitoring meeting for this commission took place on 28 January 2016.

4.2 The following key milestones, targets and outputs achievements were reported at the meeting.

Milestones

Recruitment. Two new operatives have been appointed and took up post on 1 December 2015. The service is yet to recruit the apprentice but state that this should happen in the next couple of weeks.

Launch of Volunteer Scheme. This took place on 29 October 2016. Volunteer activity days are planned for 5 February (Oxspring), 25 February 2016 (Ingbirchworth Nature Reserve), and 31 March 2016 (Green Moor Delph area). Several young people from Penistone Youth Centre also volunteered to tidy and plant up the planters outside Penistone Library with spring bedding.

Green Partners Activity. The service produced evidence of actively liaising with Parish Councils to involve local people in joint working environmental initiatives as well as undertaking reactive work for the Parish Councils in response to requests coming in to the area team.

During the next quarter the Clean and Tidy Team will be actively liaising with local schools and businesses to discuss ways of involving them in local environmental maintenance and/or improvement initiatives.

4.3 **Activity Intervention Targets – Quarter 1**

Target/Output	Target	Achieved	Comments
Recycled Waste	75%	100%	
No of reactive Clean/Tidy Activities Undertaken	3	10	Requests from Parish Councils coming into the Area Office.
No of proactive Clean.tidy Activities	3	3	Cutting back verges and clearing litter/overgrowth on main spine routes in the Penistone area. A616,A628,A629. Photographs of the before and after work were submitted as evidence and will be available at the Area Council Meeting.
No of activities involving volunteers from Parish Councils/Community Groups	3	3	
No of clean and tidy initiatives involving young people	3	1	In hindsight we agreed that 3 was a little ambitious during the first quarter.

5.0 **Finance Update**

5.1 A financial update on the commissioning budget to date is given as Appendix 1 to this report.

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