

BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**North East Area Council Meeting:
11th February 2016**

Agenda Item: 8

**Report of North East Area Council
Manager**

Apprenticeship and Employability Study Programme, focusing on the local Environment.

1. Background

- 1.1 The local Economy and Regeneration has been highlighted as a central focus across the North East Area Council, and links in with Barnsley MBC's Corporate priorities to achieve:
- A Thriving and Vibrant Economy
 - Strong and Resilient Communities
 - People Achieving their Potential
- 1.2 The North East Area Council has recognised the need to provide development opportunities for the young people in their communities, and the need to help to raise young people's aspirations. The Councillors have acknowledged that the Personal and Social development of a young person should include Confidence Building, Self Esteem, Health and Wellbeing, independent Living Skills, independent Travel Skills, Active Citizenship, Careers Guidance and Interview Practice. It was felt that commissioning a local Apprenticeship programme would help to deliver these skills to help young people locally to achieve their potential and develop their future careers. Research (2013) by BITC shows that *`Over half of young people in England would choose to do an apprenticeship if they could, according to a new ICM survey`*
- 1.3 Additionally, the local environment has been highlighted as a significant asset by people who live, and work, in the four Wards. This is supported by the Ward Alliances which have all highlighted the Environment as a priority for local consideration. Improvements to the local environment are also regularly discussed at local residents meetings, at the Councillors' surgeries and at the local street surgeries. In a recent study by the Keep Britain Tidy organisation where 62% of people in England said they were concerned about the appearance of their area and 57% considered litter to be a problem. Street cleansing alone cost taxpayers almost £1 billion a year in England (Keep Britain Tidy 2013). Feedback to date from people who live and work in the area with regard to the service provided by the North East Environment Teams has been extremely positive, and the North East Area Council has resolved to continue this service provision.

- 1.4 A key purpose of the North East Area Council is to grow community capacity and Social Return on Investment through commissioning local services and encouraging Volunteering. The importance of Social Value has been highlighted as part of each of the North East Area Council procurements, and the successful organisation will need to effectively demonstrate how they will create local jobs, use local supply chains, ensure local spend, support and encourage existing Volunteers, and create new Volunteering and work experience opportunities.
- 1.5 Increased Volunteering opportunities, and potential for greater community participation and development will be supported through this commissioning through Active Citizenship initiatives.

2.0 Overview of the Proposal

The North East Area Council wishes to procure an Apprenticeship and Employability Study programme, with a strong focus on the local Environment. The Councillors want to achieve local solutions to building employment and skills across the North East Area Council. The Apprenticeship and Employability Study Programme will provide the young people with a recognised knowledge and competency qualification, and hands on learning approach to enhance their qualifications and improve their CV's. It will deliver a recognised route into work and improve educational achievement, which in turn will strengthen young people's employment prospects and aspirations.

- 2.1 The Apprenticeship Programme will include a second stage Apprenticeship scheme, for two apprentices who have completed the Stage 1 programme. This will include responsibility to maintain and keep clean their own small community area, a rapid response to help the two North East Environment Teams, using a peripatetic approach, as required, and the opportunity to undertake further enhanced qualifications to enhance their skills and employment prospects such as the Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS). This course introduces them to their legal responsibilities regarding health, safety, welfare and environmental issues. This will give them a further meaningful qualification, and put them into a position of being well qualified for any job vacancy they may choose to apply for in the future.
- 2.2 The Apprenticeship Programme will also include a requirement for Social Return on Investment and will work closely with the Council's North East Area Team to support, and help to facilitate, opportunities for Volunteering through informal engagement, and the onsite co-ordination and delivery of Volunteering initiatives. The Apprentices will be involved in a programme of Active Citizenship which will enhance their skills and develop their community awareness. Familiarity with the values of collective responsibility, and community spirit and pride, will be a valuable part of the work experience undertaken by the Apprentices. Effective communication and customer care values are essential to inspire people who live and work in the area to *Love Where You Live*, and this will be an integral part of the commission.
- 2.3 Furthermore, the Environment is an additional Key Priority which has been identified by the North East Area Council, and following on from the very successful North East Environment Team contract, the Area Council would like to continue to

provide a responsive, efficient and accountable, local, uniformed Environment Team service, with a strong focus on the provision of local Apprenticeships.

- 2.4 The Councillors from each of the four Wards of the North East Area Council formed a Steering Group to take these proposals forward, and at their meeting on February 1st 2016, the Councillors went through a copy of the draft Specification in detail, and made changes as appropriate. The Steering Group subsequently recommend that the Specification for the Apprenticeship and Employability Study Programme – focusing on the local Environment, should now be put out to tender (please refer to Appendix B), and that the Contract price should not exceed £245,000 per annum.
- 2.5 The Councillors are asked to note that because of the value of the tender the commission will have to go through the Official Journal of the European Union commissioning procedures.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 **That the North East Area Council approves the Specification for an Apprenticeship and Employability Study Programme, focusing on the local Environment.**
- 3.2 **That the Contract price shall not exceed £245,000 per annum.**

Officer Contact:

Caroline Donovan

Tel. No:

01226 773013

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Appendix A

Draft Specification, for the Apprenticeship and Employability Study Programme, focusing on the local Environment,