

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council Meeting:
3 February 2014
Agenda Item:

Report of the Dearne
Area Council Manager

Dearne Area Council Priorities and Commissioning Update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report updates members on the progress to date against agreed priorities of the Dearne Area Council.
- 1.2 The report presents a draft specification of requirements for an Employability/Confidence Building/Basic Skills training initiative and outlines the process for the appointment of a provider to deliver the service.
- 1.3 The report also identifies the need for two elected members (one Dearne North and one Dearne South) to be part of the Procurement/Evaluation Panel for appointing a Provider to deliver the service.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **1. It is recommended that members note their role the Area Council Commissioning process.**
- 2.2 **2. That members approve the draft specification of requirements for an Employability/Confidence Building/Basic Skills Training initiative to be provided locally and geared towards the needs of local businesses.**
- 2.3 **3. That an elected member from Dearne North and one from Dearne South are identified to be part of the Procurement Evaluation Panel for the agreed project.**
4. That members note the joint working of area managers/area councils in the provision of additional debt and benefit advice and decide whether this area council wishes to be included in a joint approach to addressing the issue or that the Area Manager work on a separate commission document for the Dearne area.

3. Background and Context

- 3.1 **Role of Elected Members in the Area Council Commissioning Process**
A flowchart outlining the role of elected members in the Area Council commissioning process has been developed and is attached at Appendix 1. The information contained in this report relates to the role outlined in the first two sections of the flowchart.
- 3.2 **Dearne Area Council Priorities**
 - 3.2.1 In determining the priorities for the Dearne Area the elected members have

considered results of the Turning Point Research Report finalised in August 2013, used their own ward based local knowledge, referred to information from the Dearne North and South Ward Alliances and received information/presentations from BMBC services including up to date reporting on the statistical data for the area.

- 3.2.2 As a result of the above information the following priorities were agreed at the Dearne Area Council on 18 November 2013.

Improving the Economy
Young People
Debt and Benefit Advice
Community Involvement
Skills and Learning for Work

- 3.2.3 At a subsequent meeting of Dearne North and South elected members held on 16 December 2013 it was agreed that the two priorities to put forward for commissioning first were around a Youth Training Scheme linked to local Dearne Businesses and Debt and Benefit Advice.

- 3.2.4 At a meeting held on 23 January of the Dearne Area Council Manager, Job Centre Plus, Department of Work and Pensions, BMBC Regeneration and Barnsley Development Agency (HR Business Consultant working with Aldi who are to move to the Dearne area in 2015 with the provision of over 200 warehouse operative jobs) it was agreed that there are schemes presently and shortly to come on stream both locally and nationally that would address the issue of Youth Training both within the Dearne Travel to work area and further afield. It was identified that Aldi will be undertaking an attitude based recruitment process and that local training for unemployed people of all ages in confidence building, basic skills and ICT training – taking into consideration the needs of business in the Dearne travel to work area would be more beneficial. Barriers to work were also discussed at the meeting and identified as transport costs and lack of affordable childcare.

- 3.2.5 It is with the above background knowledge that the Employability, Basic Skills ICT training draft specification document was sent out for members for consideration on Friday 24 January and is brought to this Dearne Area Council Meeting for further discussion/decision on whether it is taken forward for further development.

4.0 Debt and Benefit Advice

- 4.2 The Area Council Manager asks if a discussion can be held at this meeting as to the way forward in commissioning further debt and benefit work in the Dearne area.

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Date
30 January 2014