

**NORTH AREA COUNCIL**

**13<sup>th</sup> January, 2014**

**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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30. **Present:** Councillors Burgess (Chair), Cave, Cherryholme, Duerden, Howard, Lofts, Miller, Platts, Spence and Tattersall.

31. **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non Pecuniary Interests**

No declarations were received.

32. **Minutes from the North Area Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2013**

The meeting received the minutes. It was noted that the Area Plan Leaflet had been finalised and was now available on the Barnsley Council website.

**RESOLVED:-** that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 be accepted as a true and correct record.

33. **The commissioning and procurement process**

The item was introduced by the Lead Locality Officer, referring to the flow chart circulated, which gave an overview of the role of Members in the Area Council commissioning process.

It was noted that a great deal of time had been taken to determine the challenge to be addressed, through such as Area Council workshops. The importance of ensuring specifications were fit for purpose was stressed, acknowledging the time taken by Members and officers in their preparation.

Members acknowledged the need to approve specifications and consider price/quality criteria if tenders were not to be scored on price alone. It was noted that the tendering process would be conducted through YorTender if above £2,500. Members' involvement in tender evaluation panels as part of the process was also discussed.

The meeting discussed the role of Members in engaging businesses, through promoting tender opportunities and ensuring local suppliers were registered on the YorTender system. It was noted that a number of events had been arranged across Barnsley in order to raise awareness and provide support and advice to local organisations, encouraging them to do business with the council. The meeting discussed the poster advertising the event and provided feedback; it was agreed to forward views to NPS.

Members noted that, following decisions on tenders they would have a role in monitoring the implementation of the project. It was acknowledged that this would vary as necessary with the complexity and size of the project.

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**RESOLVED: -**

- (i) that the flowchart relating to the role of Members in area council commissioning be noted;
- (ii) that feedback on the events being organised to engage local suppliers be forwarded to relevant officers within NPS.

**34. Commissioning against North Area Council Priorities**

The chair introduced the report, referring to the priorities agreed by the Area Council; Health and Wellbeing; Youth Provision; Anti-Poverty and Regeneration and Economic Development.

A brief update was given on progress made to take forward each priority area including the planned workshop to discuss the development of a proposal to help address poverty in the area.

Members discussed the possibility of considering a proposal to address enforcement issues in the area, utilising area council finance to provide an additional service. It was agreed to consider this in further detail at the next meeting of the area council. In preparation Members were encouraged to forward any issues relating to enforcement to the Area Manager.

In addition the issue of public transport in the area was raised and whether this had been overlooked and should be a priority for the area. It was noted that improving rail frequency or bus routes could have positive impacts on access to work and services. It was suggested that discussions about public transport and the role of the Area Council takes place between relevant Members outside the formal meeting, with a report feeding into a future meeting if necessary.

The meeting then went on to consider the two tender specification documents circulated. These included a 'Health Eating - Cook and Eat' proposal aimed at supporting the Health and Wellbeing priority; and an 'Employability of Under 25s - Summer Holiday Internship' proposal aimed at responding to the Youth Provision priority.

The 'Employability of Under 25s - Summer Holiday Internship' specification was discussed by the meeting. Members noted the wide range of people with specialist knowledge in a variety of areas involved in the development of the proposal. The project aimed to address the issue of children becoming 'NEET' (not in education, employment and training) by providing an intensive programme of support which included a work placement.

Members felt that the individuals involved in the internship needed a high quality experience in order for the project to be successful. Questions were raised with regards to the ongoing support to participants after the programme. It was suggested that if this is to be provided by work placement organisations or the tendering organisation it would enhance the tender submission, but was not part of the specification.

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The meeting heard how within the authority proposals were also being developed relating to an apprenticeship scheme based on the Future Jobs Fund, which may merit consideration by the area council. It was suggested that this may be an item a future meeting when proposals are more fully developed.

The meeting then considered the 'Cook and Eat' proposal. The need to ensure this did not duplicate any existing provision was discussed. Though some provision was evident in Barnsley, including schemes encouraging growing of food, assurances were given the project would complement any existing provision.

The chair also raised the possibility of allocating an amount of the budget available to the area council to establish a small grant scheme for the area. Members were supportive of the idea and it was agreed to consider this in further detail at a future meeting.

**RESOLVED: -**

**(i)** that the specification of requirements for 'Employability of Under 25s - Summer Holiday Internship' with a contract value of £45,000 be approved, subject to price quality award criteria being approved by the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods, Access and Support in consultation with the chair;

**(ii)** that the progress made in developing the 'Healthy Eating- Cook and Eat' specification be noted, support be given to its further development, and Members agree to provide any comments on the proposal to the Area Manager;

**(iii)** that further information relating to proposals for an enhanced enforcement service be considered by the area council at its meeting in February, 2014, and Members forward any issues from their ward relating to enforcement to the Area Manager;

**(iv)** that the potential to establish a grant scheme for the area be considered by the area council at its meeting in February, 2014.

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Chair