

**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**South Area Council Meeting:  
28<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

**Agenda Item: 6a**

**Report of South Area Council  
Manager**

**Working with Environmental Priorities in the South Area**

**1. Background**

1.1 At a series of workshops and meetings between August and October 2013, the South Area Council worked with local statistics and intelligence to identify three Area Priorities for inclusion in the Area Plan, which would then be used to develop commissioned activity to meet these priorities from April 2014 onwards. These priorities were:

- Young People
- Local Economy and work
- Local Information & Support

1.2 At this point, the Environment was not identified as one of the initial priorities for commissioning. However, it has since become very clear that there is now a need to identify the Environment as an additional South Area Council priority.

This has come from:

- Discussions with local members in all 4 wards and consistently high levels of enquiries around the environment coming from member's surgeries
- All of the 3 Ward Alliances within the South Area have identified the Environment as a key priority for their Ward Alliance Plans, and 2 of the 3 are currently developed environmental projects as part of their action plans
- During extensive community consultations on the 3 Ward Alliance plans in summer/early autumn 2013, it was clear that environmental issues were the top priority for most people consulted, with young people, local information/ support & the economy/jobs following closely behind.

1.3 There has also been significant interest from South Area Council members in the development of projects which tackle locally identified environmental issues, notably:

- The need to maintain the appearance of key public areas in the face of significant reductions to resources within Neighbourhood Services, including the need to involve local people in helping to sustain their own neighbourhoods
- The need to back this work up with a strong environmental enforcement service around dog fouling, littering and parking which complements the basic service offered by BMBC

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the South Area Council approves the adoption of the Environment as an additional priority, for inclusion in the South Area Council Plan.
- 2.2 That the South Area Council approves the Specifications for:
- A Service Level Agreement with Barnsley Community Safety and Enforcement Service for an Environmental Enforcement service at an estimated cost of £130,000 for 4 full time equivalent posts
  - A Community Enablement Service for the Wards of 1) Darfield & Wombwell and 2) Hoyland Milton & Rockingham at an estimated cost of £75,000 per annum for each of the two areas (£150,00 per annum in total) with a price quality ratio of 35:65 being adopted in favour of quality, as recommended by Norfolk Property Services, with final arrangements for price/quality award criteria being approved by the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods, Access and Support in consultation with the chair

## 3. Background to the tender specifications

### 3.1 Community Enablement Teams

- 3.1.1 This draft specification provides a 'caretaker plus' service to support and maintain the local environment and to augment the existing BMBC services, including:
- Providing a reactive service to respond to specific requests – for example, cutting back shrubs overhanging footpaths or minor repairs to broken fencing
  - Providing a more scheduled service – for example, to empty bins or sweep the streets
  - Tackling seasonal issues like snow clearance or support clearing litter after community events
  - Tackling specific local issues like the erection of Xmas decorations or help with community litter picks
  - A reporting service into existing services around issues requiring specialist handling – for example, fly tipping, needles, graffiti, asbestos removal etc.
  - Working with the South Area team to recruit, train and engage local volunteers in environmental projects and events. This could include assisting the Ward Alliances with their identified environmental projects.
- 3.1.2 Two draft tender specifications have been developed; one to cover Darfield & Wombwell wards, and the other to cover Hoyland Milton and Rockingham wards. They are identical in terms of the service outlined and the costings. This has been done to break the contracts down to a manageable size, to encourage smaller local companies (who may be concerned about the size of a whole South Area contract) to apply. This would still enable larger companies wishing to tender for the whole of the South Area to apply for both tenders.
- 3.1.3 The full tender specifications attached at Appendices 1 and 2 outline the full service expected of the contractor/s and gives full details of how the contractors' work would be allocated and would work effectively alongside existing mainstream services.

### 3.2 Environmental Enforcement Service

3.2.1 This tender specification takes the form of a Service Level Agreement with Barnsley Community Safety and Enforcement Service, to provide additional levels of enforcement activity using an outside contractor around the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices for:

- Dog fouling
- Littering
- Parking offences

Public feedback consistently identifies environmental blight through littering, dog fouling and illegal parking as the causes for local concern, and highlights where the people who live and work in the area want to see action being taken. This is consistently borne out by community consultations within the South Area.

Within this context, an enhanced enforcement capacity is seen as vital to prevent problems escalating and so that the positive work undertaken to maintain the environment is not undone by an anti-social minority.

3.2.2 Full details of the draft service can be found at Appendix 3, but in summary, the specification would provide:

- One full time equivalent worker per ward working 37 hours per week
- Each worker would spend a minimum of 85% either on patrol or on targeted operations, with at least 10 hours per week spent on either early mornings, evenings or weekends, depending on what the work dictates
- There is a guarantee that none of the commissioned workers would be taken away on duties elsewhere in the borough, but will focus full time on the South Area
- The worker would be locally based within the South Area and would be managed by the Tasking Officer, to ensure they are working coherently with the other enforcement services
- The worker would also be expected to work closely with the South Area Team and other local organisations and groups
- All income from Fixed Penalty Notices will be retained by the South Area Council

### 4. Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft Community Enablement Team tender specification for Darfield Wombwell
- Appendix 2 – Draft Community Enablement Team tender specification for Hoyland Milton Rockingham
- Appendix 3 – Draft Enforcement Service specification for the South Area

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