

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

South Area Council Meeting:

24th April 2015

Agenda Item: 5

**Report of South Area Council
Manager.**

Review of South Area Council Priorities for 2015/16

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide background information and context for a workshop session to be held at the South Area Council meeting on 24th April 2015 to:

- Review the priorities of the South Area Council for 2015/16
- Begin the process of identifying new projects for development against these revised priorities, using unallocated South Area Council funding outlined in this paper, including slippage from 2014/15.

1.2 To present an updated spend profile for the South Area Council commissioning budgets to allow discussions on the use of slippage and unallocated funds from 2014/15.

1.3 To provide background information for South Area Council members to enable a decision to be made regarding the potential extension of the Enforcement contract currently held by Kingdom Security.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That members approve the South Area Council priorities for 2015/16 based on a review of the datasets presented at this meeting.

2.2 That members review the relevance of existing South Area Council projects in the light of the revised priorities identified at this meeting.

2.3 That members approve one of the options outlined in Section 4.11 of this report relating to the future of the Enforcement contract currently held by Kingdom Security.

2.4 That members note the updated financial position of South Area Council in relation to spend to date, and funding available to carry forward into 2015/16 due to unallocated funds and slippage of spend during 2014/15 outlined in Section 5 of this report

2.5 To consider the proposal to devolve a proportion of Area Council funds to ward level to replace the reduced levels of Devolved Ward Budget in 2015/16 and to approve one of the options outlined in Section 6.5 of this report

2.6 To approve the organisation of an additional Area Council meeting in late May to consider in more detail the development of further Area Council funded

projects in 2015/16 using the remaining finance identified in this paper, as outlined in Section 6.6

3. Background

3.1 In September 2013, the South Area Council agreed the following priorities, which had emerged from a series of workshops at which members had analysed a range of statistical and consultation data from a variety of sources:

- Opportunities for young people
- A thriving Local Economy
- Locally available Information & Advice

A fourth priority, Improving the Local Environment was added in February 2014. This was finalised in a South Area Council Plan in September 2014, following the finalising of the first round of commissioned projects.

3.2 Three large projects were initially commissioned against these priorities, which started at various points during summer 2014 (the start dates and the months the project will deliver in the first year are listed in the table below) which meant that there would be slippage on the full year budget allocated to each project because start dates were significantly after the 1st of April in the year.

3.3 Another project (Local Business Survey) was instigated in September 2014, with a Summer Internship Programme for Young People following on 5th February, 2015. Funding for Tidy Team Apprentices and for a further project to develop local short courses for businesses arising from the Business Survey was approved by the South Area Council on 27th February 2015. Tender specifications for a programme of five locally run business courses are currently being written, with the first courses to start during summer 2015.

3.4 At the meeting of the South Area Council on 24th April, a presentation of the new datasets for the South Area will be made by a member of the Research Team from BMBC Performance and Partnerships. This will enable members to consider this important background in order to review the original priorities outlined in section 3.1 above.

3.5 At the workshop that follows, members will be asked to consider the following key questions:

- Are our original priorities still relevant in the light of this new data? Do any need to be amended? Do we need any new priorities?
- How relevant are the projects we have commissioned in the light of this new data?
- Specifically, does the Area Council want to continue to fund the Enforcement contract for a further year? Does it want to continue to fund it at the same level of 4 officers for the South Area? [Please see section 4 of this report for further information to support this discussion]
- Have new needs emerged which the Area Council can use its remaining funds [outlined in section 5 of this report] to support? Does the South Area Council need to develop new projects and what might the nature of these be?

4. Background information regarding the Enforcement contract

4.1 On 7th April 2014, the South Area Council approved the tender specification for an Environmental Enforcement contract which would offer additional dog fouling, littering and parking enforcement activity for the South Area by providing four additional Enforcement Officer posts.

4.2 This was put out to tender through Yortender on 22nd April 2014 and the contract was awarded to an external provider, Kingdom Security on 20th June, following a full tendering process.

4.3 Kingdom Security recruited four local people for the additional posts during June & July 2014 and the service commenced on 4th August 2014.

4.4 In order to ensure that the service provided by Kingdom is appropriate to local needs and works sensibly with other enforcement provision, arrangements were made for the four staff to be tasked by the Safer Neighbourhoods Team Tasking Officer, alongside other BMBC Enforcement Officers.

4.5 To further ensure that the service worked in conjunction with other BMBC enforcement services, the Area Council Manager has met monthly with Kingdom staff and the BMBC Community Safety Manager. This has been in addition to the formal quarterly contract management meetings, which have also included the BMBC Community Safety Manager.

4.6 In addition, the Tasking Officer for the South Area has also sat on the Steering Group for the Tidy Team, to ensure that enforcement activity and working with the community to maintain the environment are seen as a 'seamless' activity by the general public.

4.7 Although it is not legally permitted to set targets for enforcement activity, Kingdom staff have worked closely with BMBC staff and have performed well in terms of the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices for dog fouling and litter. Due to internal BMBC issues, Kingdom staff were not able to start issuing Parking Civil Notices for Parking until mid January 2015, but again have made an excellent start to this work.

4.8 The table below shows the number of tickets and targeted operations completed by Kingdom staff during the **first six months** of the contract (4th August 2014 – 4th February 2015). Because contract management figures are collected quarterly, the figures from February – May 2015 will not be available until mid-May.

Littering Fixed Penalty Notices issued	246
Dog Fouling Fixed Penalty Notices issued	17
Parking Civil Notices issues [January 12 th – February 4 th only]	13
Targeted littering & dog fouling operations completed	30

4.9 In addition, Kingdom Security have been extremely efficient in terms of the development of relationships with a range of partners including BMBC departments, agencies like the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Berneslai Homes and with local projects like the Tidy Team. Kingdom has also been prompt and comprehensive in providing the required contract management information.

4.10 The South Area Council Manager has been advised by NPS that because of satisfactory performance it would be possible to seek a waiver to contract procedurals to enable the South Area Council to extend the one year contract with Kingdom Security for a further year without re-tendering.

4.11 In the light of this information, the South Area Council is asked to approve one of the following options:

- Option 1 – to seek a waiver to extend the current Kingdom Security contract to provide four Enforcement Officers for a further year if the contract is still felt to meet the revised South Area Council priorities
- Option 2 – to seek a waiver to extend the current Kingdom Security contract to provide a smaller number of Enforcement Officers for a further year if the contract is still felt to meet the revised South Area Council priorities
- Option 3 – to decide not to extend the current Kingdom Security contract because it will not help to support the delivery of the revised South Area Council priorities

5. Financial position of the South Area Council – April 2015

5.1 The original **allocated budget for the South Area Council for 2014/15 was £400,000** and the **same amount is available to the South Area council for 2015/16**.

5.2 A large amount of the allocation for 2014/15 has already been spent, although there has been some slippage due to projects not starting until after 1st April during their first year. A summary of this position can be found in the table below:

Project	Annual cost	Actual spend	Slippage
One Stop Shop Started June 2014 9.5 months of delivery in 14/15	£72,500 (2 year contract – total cost £145,000)	£57,389	£15,111
Tidy Team Started August 2014 8.5 months of delivery in 14/15	£150,000 (2 year contract – total cost £300,000)	£106,250	£43,750

Project	Annual cost	Actual spend	Slippage
Business Survey September – December 2014 3 months of delivery in 14/15 – now completed	£3,187	£3,187	None
Total	£360,779	£262,516	£98,263

5.3 From the original allocation of £400,000, the South Area Council chose to leave part of its budget unallocated to enable it to respond to other needs which might arise during this year. This left an **unallocated figure of £39,221** from the 2014/15 budget, which can now be carried forward into 2015/16

5.4 In addition, the **underspend slippage of £98,263** from the 2014/15 identified in the table above can be also be carried forward into 2015/16.

5.5 In addition, there is £15,188 of fixed penalty notice income from the Kingdom enforcement contract as at 31st March. Government requirements stipulate that this income must be spend on environmental initiatives so the income could be used as a contribution towards continuation of the enforcement contract or an alternative environmental initiative.

5.6 This means that there is a **total of £152,672 (unallocated money + underspend slippage + fixed penalty notice income) to carry forward into 2015/16** which can be spent alongside the Year 2 allocation of £400,000.

5.7 This gives a **total budget allocation of £552,672 for 2015/16**.

5.8 However, a considerable proportion of this has already been allocated to ongoing projects. In some cases, this will mean that projects will continue to run beyond the end of the 2015/16 financial year, which ends 31st March 2016. Please see the table below for details of committed spend for 2015/16:

Project	Committed spend for 2015/16
One Stop Shop 2 years	£72,500 This will allow project to run until June 2016
Tidy Team 2 years	£150,000 This will allow the project to run until the end of July 2016
Summer Internship Programme 1 year	£45,000 - to run one programme in Summer 2015 with follow up of young people until November 2016

Project	Committed spend for 2015/16
Tidy Team Apprenticeship costs 1 year	£24,000 This will allow funding for wages for 4 Apprentices to start Summer 2015 and complete in Summer 2016
Environmental Enforcement Contract Currently 1 year – can be extended to a second year with Area Council approval	£135,092 NB: This contract is currently only funding until July 2015 – an Area Council decision is required to determine if it should be continued
Total committed spend	£446, 592 [Total if the Enforcement contract is continued] £311, 500 [Total if the Enforcement contract is NOT continued]

5.9 From the 2015/16 South Area Council budget of **£552,672** (£400,000 allocation + the £152,672 slippage/unallocated funding carried forward from 2014/15 + income of £15,188 from enforcement activity) this leaves the following amounts to spend on further commissioned projects:

- **£106,080** if the Enforcement contract is continued in 2015/16
- **£241,172** if the Enforcement contract is NOT continued in 2015/16
- This does not include future income from enforcement activity if continued throughout 2015/16

6. Process for identifying future use of unallocated funds

6.1 As outlined in section 5.9 of this report, the South Area Council has **£106,080** of funds unallocated from its 2015/16 budget, including slippage and unallocated funds carried forward from 2014/15. This rises to **£241,172** if the Enforcement contract is not extended.

6.2 As members will be already be aware, it has recently been announced that the ward based Devolved Ward Budget available to councillors will be cut from £20,000 to £10,000 a year per ward in 2015/16 and will be abolished altogether in 2016/17.

6.3 The option for an Area Council to allocate funding up to a value of £20,000/Ward has therefore been introduced in 2015/16 in the light of these recent reductions. Any funding devolved would be allocated to the Ward Alliance and would be used 50% to support social action and volunteering and 50% to support local commissioned projects. This would mean that members would have increased access to more localised ward based funding. However, this would also reduce the amount of

funding to the Area Council to spend more strategically across the South Area, and there would be a danger the fragmentation of Area Council monies could lead to spend on activities which do not meet its identified priorities.

6.4 Members are also asked to note before deciding that all of the four South Area Council wards are currently underspent on their Devolved Ward budgets, with significant carry-forward amounts from 2014/15 as outlined below:

- **Darfield** – carry forward of £19,890.65 + £10,000 allocation for 2015/16 = **£29,890.65 for spend in 2015/16**
- **Hoyland Milton** – carry forward of £4,334.60 + £10,000 allocation for 2015/16 = **£14,334.60 for spend in 2015/16**
- **Rockingham** – carry forward of £5,845.35 + £10,000 allocation for 2015/16 = **£15,845.35 for spend in 2015/16**
- **Wombwell** – carry forward of £12,500.70 + £10,000 allocation for 2015/16 = **£22,500.70 for spend in 2015/16**

6.5 Members are therefore asked to approve one of the following options:

- Option 1 – to decline to allocate South Area Council funding to Ward Alliances during 2015/16
- Option 2 – to allocate an agreed amount of South Area Council funding to Ward Alliances during 2015/16, with the understanding that all activities funded must clearly support the South Area Council's identified priorities and that 50% of the value will be used to support social action and volunteering and 50% to support local commissioned projects.

6.6 It is proposed that following on from the revision of South Area Council priorities and existing projects completed at the Area Council meeting on 24th April 2015 that an additional Area Council workshop is organised to discuss in more detail future projects requiring development using these unallocated funds. The development of these projects can then be taken forward by the South Area Council Manager.

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