

Public Document Pack

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| MEETING: | North Area Council |
| DATE: | Thursday, 27 June 2019 |
| TIME: | 2.30 pm |
| VENUE: | Meeting Room 5 - Barnsley Town Hall |

AGENDA

- 1 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Items for Decision

- 2 Proposal to Commission Private Sector Housing & Environmental Support
(Pages 3 - 4)

To: Chair and Members of North Area Council:-

Councillors Leech (Chair), A Cave, T Cave, Charlesworth, Howard, Hunt, Lofts, McCarthy, Newing, Pickering, Platts, Spence and Tattersall

Area Council Support Officers:

Tom Smith, North Area Council Senior Management Link Officer
Rosie Adams, North Area Council Manager
Kate Faulkes, Head of Service, Stronger Communities
Elizabeth Barnard, Council Governance Officer

Please contact Elizabeth Barnard on email governance@barnsley.gov.uk

Wednesday, 19 June 2019

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Item 2

BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Extraordinary Meeting:

27th June 2019

Agenda Item: 1

Report of North Area Council Manager.

Proposal to Commission Private Sector Housing & Environmental Support

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1** To request an extension to the funding for the role of Private Sector Housing and Environment Officer within the North Area.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** That members agree to an extension of the funding for the role of Private Sector Housing and Environment Officer within the North Area.

3. Background

- 3.1** The North Area Council agreed to fund a Private Sector Housing and Enforcement Officer in February 2017 after a series of informative workshops delivered by Safer Communities officers.
- 3.2** However the Private Sector and Housing Environment Officer role is a Grade 7 and requires a Level 5 qualification. This proved to be very difficult to recruit to.
- 3.3** In September 2017 the decision was taken to recruit to the post of Private Sector Housing and Migration Officer, a Grade 6 requiring a Level 3 qualification.
- 3.4** Recruitment was effective and the successful candidate commenced their duties on the 22nd January 2018 on a 12 month fix term contract. Members were highly satisfied with performance and extended the contact by a further 12months.
- 3.5** On the 3rd June 2019 the officer handed in their notice having secured a position in BMBC's Shared Accommodation Team. This is a permanent post.
- 3.6** The North Area Council must now agree how they would like to proceed in relation to this commissioning commitment.

4. Budget Implications and outline of role

- 4.1** Based on initial findings the project would be approximately £33,000 plus equipment and the possibility of a small working budget to enable larger projects to proceed without delay.

| Project | Outline costings |
|--|---|
| <p>Private Sector Housing and Migration Officer (Grade 6 Officer)</p> <p>The role profile would allow for proactive, early intervention, support, advice and information. This role will be crucial to support private tenant and landlords as the welfare system continue to change and Universal Credit is rolled out across the borough.</p> | <p>Approximately £33,000 per year to fund 1FTE worker. There is no management fee. Additionally budget expenses include laptop, mobile phone and a small working budget to ensure larger projects can be realised.</p> <p>It should be noted that although the worker would be employed by BMBC, this is not 'buy back' activity.</p> <p>There is a possibility that this post could eventually become mainstreamed if BMBC choose to introduce selective licensing schemes for private landlords.</p> |

5. Options

- 5.1 Do not recruit to the post, reconsider the projects funded by the North Area Council and reallocate the associated funding.
- 5.2 Extend the funding to ensure that the post will be funded for at least 12 months from the new officer start date.
- 5.3 Commit to fund the post for at least 24 months (12 month contract, plus 12 months which would require a further delegated report to formally extend). This is intended to make the post more attractive to prospective applicants and ensure that there is consistency within the North Area.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 If the Area Council agrees the funding for the Private Sector Housing and Migration Officers post, the North Area Manager will complete the delegated report and submit it for approval.
- 6.2 Following which a request to recruit can be submitted and the recruitment process can commence.

Officer Contact: Rosie Adams
North Area Council Manager

Tel: 01226 773583
Date: 10th June 2019