

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL 21st November 2022

Report of the Dearne Area Council Manager

Commissioning update

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is for members to receive an update with regards Dearne Area Council commissioned services.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members receive the update on the Dearne Area Council commissions.
- 2.2 That members agree to a contract extension for one year to the end of March 2024 at a cost of £90,000 with the current provider Twiggs Grounds Maintenance rather than undertaking a full procurement exercise at this time.

3.0 Area Council commissions

3.1 Social inclusion service

The Social Connectivity service specification was agreed at the meeting held on 15th November 2021. B: Friend will continue to deliver their one to one befriending and social groups in the Dearne Area. This service will run from July 2022- end of June 2025. Mike Niles who established the project as now left the organisation and Colette Bunker is now in post and will oversee this contract.

3.2 Housing & Cohesion Officer

The Dearne Area Council has approved the housing and Cohesion officer post until the end of March 2025. The new Housing and Cohesion officer started in post in July 2022 and has made been working around some of the suggested areas as well as working with other groups and partners. Amendments have now been made to the Service Level Agreement and signed off by the Area Chair, Area Manager and Group Leader for Housing Management, Regulation & Service Improvement. The officer as been attending the Salvation Army and other events in the community.

3.3 **Assisting Employment and Skills**

Dearne Electronic Community Village were the successful provider of the employability contract. The contract will run from the end of March 2022 for three years. The Area Team have been assisting in the recruitment of new committee members.

3.4 **Neighbourhood and Engagement Officer Role**

On the 25th of November 2021 members of the Dearne Area Council approved a further two years for the Neighbourhood and Engagement Officer role. This role is now in place until the end of March 2024. The officer as also secured a permanent part time community development officer post therefore costings allocated from the Area Council for the NEO role will be less than projected. The officer as been working with local businesses, groups, and individuals. Over the summer months the team have been instrumental in bringing people together at various events, such as pictures in the park and healthy holidays programme. Most recently the team have had a more money in your pocket event to inform residents about the cost of living, this was a huge success.

3.5 **Environmental service**

The current contract delivered by Twiggs is due to end at the end of March 2023. At various workshops and approved at the Area Council in July 2022 the service specification is now complete and has been shared with the Procurement Team. After discussions with the Procurement Team, it was suggested that a contract extension for one year, to the end of March 2024 at a cost of £90,000, should be granted instead of going out to tender. This will allow time for other Area Councils to have discussions about future procurement and economies of scale. It is recommended that the Area Council approves this as a way forward.

Officer

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Dearne Area Council Manager

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Date:

21st November 2022