

South Area Council – Procurement and Financial Update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide a financial and procurement update and provide a steer on future commissioning and projects intentions for:
- South Area Tidy Team service
 - Environmental Enforcement services
 - South Area Council commissioning budget

2. Recommendations

South Area Tidy team update

- 2.1 That Members note the update and current position on the South Area Tidy team service and new service in development.
- 2.2 That Members approve the proposal for the South Area council manager to hold a Members workshop and ward meetings to develop an agreed scheduled work plan from the 1st April 2023 and to discuss any unallocated Area Council funding with a view to developing futures proposals.

Environmental Enforcement – Options to purchase additional resources

- 2.3 That Members note the information provided on the District Enforcement Ltd additional hours, which ends on the 31st March 2023.
- 2.4 That Members consider the options set out at 4.6 and provide and make a decision on their preferred course of action.
- Option a) Do nothing**
- Additional hours would cease on the 31st of March 2023. Any enforcement offer would be through the Borough wide offer.
 - Whilst no funding has been committed from 1st April 23, £24,000 and £1740 has been ringfenced for any future commitments. If this option is taken, the ringfenced budget would be available to reallocate.
 - A gap in service may highlight the impact the service has had or show no change in parking behaviour. This could lead to increased complaints and increased pressure on BMBC parking services.
 - The borough wide contracts allows an opportunity to buy in services at a later date.
- Option b) Purchase of additional hours with District Enforcement Ltd extended**
- This would be subject to BMBC Community safety and District Enforcement Ltd agreeing to extend the contract and ability to provide staffing.

- The level of parking enforcement and occasional (when witnessed) littering and dog fouling enforcement are maintained at the current level of 18 hours per week.
- 12 months costs = £24,000, 6 months cost = £12,000 plus service level agreement costs of £1740 for 12 months or £870 for 6 months/
- Continued level of service and patrols in place
- Parking issues continue to be an issue in some areas.

Option c) Purchase of additional hours extended and increase contract hours and remit.

- The South Area Council could increase the number of hours for parking and or explore other areas of work i.e littering, dog fouling, fly tipping
- The Borough wide contract includes a wider offer than previously available i.e. to include fly tipping offences and evening and weekend operating hours.

2.5 That members note the District Enforcement estimated income of £7000 and provide a steer on its allocation:

Suggested options:

- Allocate funds and any future funds to offset the cost of the additional hours.
- Councillor suggestion to fund litter pickers and hoops to be available to Councillors, community groups and volunteers from the 1st April 2023.
- As above with remaining funds to off set additional hours.

3. South Area Tidy Team service update

Background

- 3.1 At South Area Council meeting on the 16th December the South Area Council manager presented a report to the South Area Council. At the meeting the decision was taken to conclude the contract with Twiggs Ground Maintenance Ltd on 31st March 2023 and not take up the option of a further year.
- 3.2 Additionally the South Area Council agreed to develop a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with BMBC's Neighbourhood Services. This is to supply a South environmental caretaker service to provide supplementary services over and above the provision of the wider Council services at a cost of £120,963 per annum for 1 year from monies already ringfenced from the Improving the Environment priority.
- 3.3 The South Area Council also agreed to fund a Community Development Officer (30 hours per week) to sit within the South Area Team at a cost of up to £34,804 per year for an initial period of 1 year from monies ringfenced from the Improving the Environment priority.
- 3.4 The South Area Council manager is working alongside various BMBC departments to facilitate the conclusion of the contract with Twiggs Ground Maintenance and the setting up of a new service from the 1st April 2023.

New Service

3.5 The new service being developed involves the supply by Neighbourhood Services of an environmental caretaker service. The team will concentrate on a schedule of planned works focusing on the maintenance associated with the local area and involve tasks such as:

- *Street cleansing activities:* Litter collection, bin emptying, fly tipping removal, weed and detritus removal, deep cleansing of areas where required.
- *Horticultural activities:* Strimming, mowing, shrub and flower bed maintenance, hedge cutting.
- *Soft and hard landscaping projects:* Area improvement works, fencing works, reinstatement works, footway clearances.
- *Installation and dismantling of Christmas trees*
- *Winter maintenance support:* Snow clearance, gritting.

3.6 The community group and volunteer link will be through a new Community Development Officer (CDO) post sitting within the South Area Team. The post will enable the Area Council and Ward Alliances to identify and plan in a programme of work for important key locations / hot spot areas identified as a priority for the planned schedule of work.

Funding

3.7 The new service will be funded through the existing committed budget of £181,721. The total cost of the new service is £155,767. It is proposed that the South Area Council manager arrange a South Area Council members workshop alongside ward briefings in order to discuss any unallocated area council funding with a view to developing futures proposals and to develop an agreed scheduled work plan from the 1st April 2023.

4. District Enforcement Limited – Environment Enforcement

Background

4.1 The Safer Neighbourhood Service is responsible for dealing with environmental enforcement issues across the Borough. This includes everything from the issuing of fixed penalty notices for issues such as littering through to prosecutions for matters such as Fly-Tipping.

4.2 Following re-approval of the Environmental Enforcement Policy, the Safer Neighbourhood Service pulled together all environmental enforcement activities into one boroughwide service. This service was tendered for and District Enforcement Ltd were selected as the approved supplier to deliver a single contract supporting the service in issuing fixed penalty notices across the whole borough on a range of issues such as littering, dog control, fly-tipping, duty of care and more.

4.3 Previously the South Area Council had contracted with District Enforcement Ltd to deliver parking patrols to encourage behavioural changes and keep traffic flowing safely at Wombwell High Street, Hoyland Town Centre and Darfield Local Centre.

4.4 The South Area Council agreed to fund an 18 hours per week Team Leader post from July 22 for a period of 9 months at a cost of £17,550 and an Service Level Agreement of £1740. This role would provide parking enforcement, engagement, education and performance reporting. The post would focus on parking but with the ability to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) whilst out on patrols.

Area Council Funding decision required

4.5 The South Area Council currently buy in the additional resources as part of the Borough wide contract. The additional hours will cease on the 31st March 2023. The South Area Council are being asked to make a decision on the future of the South area additional hours.

4.6 At a workshop on the 10th February the South Area Council members considered the 9 months performance information to date and the following options:

Option a) Do nothing

- Additional hours would cease on the 31st of March 2023. Any enforcement offer would be through the Borough wide offer.
- Whilst no funding has been committed from 1st April 23, £24,000 and £1740 has been ringfenced for any future commitments. If this option is taken, the ringfenced budget would be available to reallocate.
- A gap in service may highlight the impact the service has had or show no change in parking behaviour. This could lead to increased complaints and increased pressure on BMBC parking services.
- The borough wide contracts allows an opportunity to buy in services at a later date.

Option b) Additional hours with District Enforcement Ltd extended

- This would be subject to BMBC Community safety and District Enforcement Ltd agreeing to extend the contract and ability to provide staffing.
- The level of parking enforcement and occasional (when witnessed) littering and dog fouling enforcement are maintained at the current level of 18 hours per week.
- 12 months costs = £24,000, 6 months cost = £12,000 plus service level agreement costs of £1740 for 12 months or £870 for 6 months/
- Continued level of service and patrols in place
- Parking issues continue to be an issue in some areas.

Option c) Increase contract hours and remit.

- The South Area Council could increase the number of hours for parking and or explore other areas of work i.e littering, dog fouling, fly tipping
- The Borough wide contract includes a wider offer than previously available i.e. to include fly tipping offences and evening and weekend operating hours.

4.7 The South Area council are being asked to consider the above options and provide a steer on its future commissioning requirements.

District Enforcement income

4.8 The South Area Council have an estimated income of £7000 to be recharged into the Area Council cost centre for allocation by Members. Members are being asked for a steer on allocating the funds.

Suggested options:

- Allocate funds and any future funds to offset the cost of the additional hours.
- Councillor suggestion to fund litter pickers and hoops to be available to Councillors, community groups and volunteers from the 1st April 2023.
- As above with remaining funds to off set additional hours.

5. South Area Council Finances

5.1 The South Area Council currently have a commissioning budget of £22,462 which is unallocated, an additional £24,000 and £1740 ringfenced for environmental enforcement support and £37,996 ringfenced for Children and Young people activities. The list below outlines committed funding to date.

Contract / Service / Project	Contract start / end date	Value
Welfare rights drop in service	1 st July 21 – 31 st August 24	£81,261 per year
South Tidy Team Service – Twiggs	1 st April 21 – 31 st March 23	£181,721 per year
Private Sector Housing Officer SLA	1 st October 21 – 30 th September 23	£34,000 per year
Environmental Enforcement – District Enforcement Ltd	9 months up to 31 st March 23	£17,550
Environmental Enforcement SLA	BMBC Service Level Agreement	£1740
Better Together service – Age UK Barnsley	1 st April 21 – 31 st March 24	£59,935
Health & Wellbeing Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age UKB – Men in Sheds in Wombwell • Reds in the Community (Fit Red session left to deliver in a community setting) 	Allocated in 2019 – 2020.	£10,000
Tackling off Road Biking initiative	Community safety have the equipment	£2130
Healthier Communities Covid Pot	Ringfenced to Children and young peoples activities	£37,996 Income
Covid Practical Support Fund	Allocated and distributed in 2022 to schools and targeted through PSAs and Private sector housing officer.	£20,000 Income
Functional Fitness MOT training	No longer required	£1200

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