

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
13th March 2023

Agenda Item: 4

Report of North Area Council
Manager

Environmental Priority – Community Caretaker

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To appraise Members of the current position regarding future Environmental commissioning.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **Members note the current position, section 4.**
- 2.2. **That Ward Members work with the Area Manager to develop the Clean and Green Agreements for each Ward.**

3. Background

- 3.1. The North Area currently has 5 priorities: Anti-Poverty, Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Economic Regeneration, Young People; plus an overarching priority of Enabling Barnsley.
- 3.2. To address the Environment priority the North Area has historically commissioned a provider to work with the community. “Working in Partnership with Local People to Deliver a Cleaner, Greener North Area” and more latterly “Environmental Education Service”.
- 3.3. Contract one was delivered by Forge Community Partnership commenced on the 14th September 2015. This had a two-year duration.
- 3.4. The second environmental contract commenced on the 2nd October 2017 at a value of £85,000 per annum. The provider, Twiggs Grounds Maintenance Ltd, commenced service delivery on the 2nd October 2017. On the 25th March 2019 the Area Council took the decision to utilise the contract extension clause and extend the contract until the end of September 2020.
- 3.5. The current contract was tendered in autumn 2020. Twiggs Grounds Maintenance Ltd secured a two-year contract with the opportunity for a final one-year extension. The contract commenced on 1st April 2021 and is now in it's second year of delivery.

4. Current Position (In brief)

- 4.1. Both parties (Twiggs GM Ltd and North Area Council) have agreed that the current contract will conclude on the 31st March 2023.
- 4.2. At the North Area Council meeting on the 16th January 2023, Councillors made the decision to change direction and work with BMBC Neighbourhood Service to develop a Community Caretaker model.
- 4.3. A budget envelope of £125,000p.a. has been agreed for a two-year duration from April 2023.
- 4.4. An SLA has been drafted by the North Area Council manager and Neighbourhood Services service manager. The aim was to have the SLA in place by the 1st April 2023. Running till 31st March 2024 as a 12-month trial.
- 4.5. However, the time of writing there is likely to be a delay. Until TUPE implications are fully understood it is not recommended to commence recruitment. This is the advice from BMBC Legal, Procurement and Human Resources. It is not recommended to use agency staff to bridge the gap. The Community Caretaker model is intended to enable staff to build up an effective and efficient, asset based, operational working knowledge of the geographic area. It would be preferable to recruit staff to the role who are more likely to remain in post and deliver the service over a number of years.
- 4.6. The monthly Environmental Steering Group is attended by one elected Councillors from each ward. The representatives will work with the Area Manager and Ward Alliances to develop Clean and Green Agreements for each ward, these will form the basis of a schedule of work for the Community Caretaker model to deliver.

5. Environmental Priority – Adding Value:

- 5.1. Based on the conversations that have taken place at the with the Environmental Working Group, the added value of the new contract/service can be explained by the following points:
 - What the Area Council wants to achieve?
Enhance community greenspaces, public footpaths, and village centres. Ensuring that local people have a sense of pride for where they live and work. Contributing to Barnsley 2030.
 - What will change?
Working with the ward alliances, we aim to deliver a model that encourages community participation in determining the service delivery of localised environmental maintenance and creates volunteering opportunities for residents to actively support improvement of public green spaces.
 - Who will the provision benefit?
Everyone who lives in and works within and visits the North Area.

- How will success be measured?
Each Ward Alliance will review their Clean and Green Agreements to ensure that the new service is adding value to BMBC's core service provision.
- How will success be reported and celebrated?
Monthly updates will be required for each ward, accounting for time and demonstrating the outcomes achieved. It is recommended that this is a short narrative document with supplementary photos.

6. Neighbourhood Services – Community Caretake Model

6.1. Neighbourhood services proposal costings = £120,963 to include:

- Team Leader (G6)
- Development and Demand Team (G4)
- Apprentice
- Vehicle, training, fuel, waste license, tools and contingency budget.

6.2. The contingency budget is £20,160 (20% of the resource requirement £100,803.00). The Area Manager recommends that this amount is committed by the Area Council, if this option is selected, but only released when an exceptions report is received by the Communities Assistant Director, detailing the requirements.

6.3. To ensure adequate cover over weekends as per the specification, a five days in seven working pattern has been discussed and identified as the preferred option.

7. Recommended Next Steps

7.1. The Area Manager will continue to work with Neighbourhood Services to ensure the SLA is fit for purpose and the posts are recruited to as soon as practicable.

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Date:
28th February 2023