

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Agenda Item: 7

Report of North Area Council  
Manager

### **Anti-Poverty Project – Information, Advice and Guidance Service Budget Commitment**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To ensure that Members are aware of the budgetary implications of funding an Information, Advice and Guidance Service beyond June 2023 and are informed in their decision to commit further funding for this priority area.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1. **Members note the report.**
- 2.2. **Members make a decision regarding which service delivery option they prefer, reference section 4. Delegating responsibility to the Area Council Manager to oversee the procurement of the service.**
- 2.3. **That Members commit a budget of £107,500.00 p.a. for a period of two years from July 2023 – June 2025, with the option to extend for a further year.**

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1. The current Area Governance arrangements were introduced in 2013. Devolution of funding to Area Councils was intended to enable needs-based commissioning that would address inequality within specific geographic areas.
- 3.2. Commissioning began in 2014 and the North Area was quick to recognise that additional Information, Advice and Guidance provision would benefit local people. The North Area council was clear that this provision should be easily accessible in local community buildings.
- 3.3. From September 2015 the North Area have commissioned CAB And DIAL to deliver provision tailored to the needs of the North Area.
- 3.4. On the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 David Andy, CAB Operations Manager attended the North Area Council. He shared the results of the project September 2015 – December 2021:
- 10,481 client contacts
  - In excess of £11.82m of additional welfare benefits gain
  - In excess of £1.74m of debt managed
  - A return on investment of £20 per £ spent (SROI)

- 3.5. Residents of the North Area have continued to benefit from the service provision to the continued investment by the North Area Council.
- 3.6. Due to the Welfare Review the current contract with Barnsley CAB and DIAL Barnsley end on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. It is therefore essential that the Area Council utilised this opportunity to agree on the budgetary commitment from July 2023 for this service provision.

#### **4. Options Appraisal**

- 4.1. The Anti-Poverty Steering Group, represented by Councillors from each Ward meets quarterly to review the performance of the contract and assess local need.
- 4.2. Councillors have made it clear that they value this service very highly and can see the great benefit that it delivers to individuals and the wider community in terms of socioeconomic impact.
- 4.3. There are currently two service delivery options available to the Area Council, costing are for a 12 month period:

<b>Variation</b>	<b>Service Implications</b>	<b>Cost</b>
EXISTING FULL SERVICE	EQUAL DELIVERY FROM CAB and DIAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 x daytime drop-in sessions per week (Emmanuel, Darton, Athersley, Mapplewell)</li> <li>• PLUS 4 x twilight sessions per month (2x Mapplewell, 2x Athersley)</li> </ul>	£105,000
FOUR F2F SESSIONS PLUS ad hoc TELEPHONE/ DIGITAL	EQUAL DELIVERY FROM CAB and DIAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 x daytime sessions per week (Emmanuel, Darton, Athersley, Mapplewell)</li> <li>• PLUS ad hoc telephone/digital advice per week if capacity allows</li> <li>• (NO TWILIGHT)</li> </ul>	£90,000

- 4.4. Members are requested to indicate which option they wish to take.

#### **5. Budget Commitment**

- 5.1. The current contract value stands at: £97,850 p.a.
- 5.2. **Due to inflation and real time project costs, it is recommended that the budget envelope for this service is increased to: £107,500 for two years if Councillor which to retain the service provision at it's existing level. This ensures a budget of £105,000 for 2023/24 and £110,000 for 2024/25.**

#### **6. Recommended Next Steps**

- 6.1. Following the recommendations of this meeting the Area Manager will work with procurement colleagues regarding the most appropriate from of contract for this provision.

**Officer Contact:**  
**RosemarieAdams@barnsley.gov.uk**

**Date:**  
**1<sup>st</sup> March 2023**