

# **BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **DEARNE AREA COUNCIL 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

### **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 and potential future projects.

##### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That members receive the update on the Dearne Area Council commissions.

##### **3.0 Area Council commissions**

###### **3.1 Social Connectivity service**

The Social Connectivity service specification was agreed at the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021. B: Friend continues 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. The social groups in both Thurnscoe and Bolton on Dearne are well attended and received.

###### **3.2 Housing & Cohesion Officer**

The Dearne Area Council approved the housing and Cohesion officer post until the end of March 2025. The Housing and Cohesion officer started in post in July 2022 and has been working around some of the suggested areas as well as working with other groups and partners. The officer as been attending the Salvation Army and other events in the community.

###### **Assisting employment and skills**

###### **3.3**

Dearne Electronic Community Village were the successful provider of the employability contract. The contract is coming to the end of its first of three years. There have been some issues with the lease on the building which have now been resolved.

### 3.4 **Neighbourhood and engagement officer role**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 members of the Dearne Area Council approved a further two years for the Neighbourhood and Engagement Officer (NEO) role. This role is 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. He's a very passionate and proactive individual who has made a significant contribution to both the Area Team and wider community

### 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 waiver for one year should be granted instead of going out to tender, this was approach was approved at the last Area Council. Having a further year's contract will allow time for other Area Councils to have discussions about future procurement and economies of scale. The waiver as now been signed by senior management.

### 3.5 **Future projects**

Discussions have taken place over the last twelve months with regards meeting the Area Councils young people's priority. Officers from the young people's service have attended to inform the Area Council of their service offer as well as the other wrap around services. Other organisations in the area such as the Big Local have also aligned finances to meet this priority. Further exploration needs to be undertaken to ensure there is no duplication and the Area Council can meet the needs of the young people in the area. The Early Start and Families manager is now the link officer for the Area Council, so this feels like the perfect time to start those conversations again. A workshop will be convened to look at both gaps in provision and finances.

**Officer**

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Dearne Area Council Manager

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**Date:**

20<sup>th</sup> March 2023