

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report of North East Area Council Manager:
Lisa Phelan

North East Area Council Procurement and Financial Update Report

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides members with an up-to-date overview of North East Area Council's (NEAC) current priorities, and provides an overview of all current contracts, contract extensions, Service Level Agreements and Grant Funded projects, with associated timescales.
- 1.2 The report outlines the financial position to date for 2022-23 and the projected financial position to 2023-24. Please note financial projections assume that the base income budget remains the same and that existing services are maintained.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Members note the overview of North East Area Council's current priorities, and overview of all current contracts, contract extensions, Service Level Agreements and Grant fund projects, with associated timescales.
- 2.2 Members note the actual financial position to date for 2022-23 and the projected expenditure, including future proposals, to 2023-24 as outlined in Appendices 1 & 2 of this report.
- 2.3 Members note that the Area Manager has secured funding of £2,000 per Ward Alliance (£8,000 in total) to increase the resource for grassroots community engagement (in its broadest sense) to enable people to get the right help, in the right place and at the right time.
- 2.4 Members agree Recommendation Option 1: to devolve £40,000 from the Commissioning budget into Ward Alliance budgets (£10,000 per Ward Alliance)
- 2.5 Members agree Recommendation Option 3: to extend the BMBC Housing Officer SLA with Safer Communities from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 at a cost of £40,000 per annum.
- 2.6 Members note the Update to the Detached Youth Work Fund – funding of the Youth Association StreetSmart Project.
- 2.7 Members agree Recommendation Option 5: move the underspend of £5,253 per year from Detached Youth Work into the Youth Development Fund Small Grants programme and maintain the total budget envelope for the Young People's priority.

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- 2.8 Members note that the Youth Development Funding panel recommended for approval funding for The Exodus Project to bridge the gap in funding of £1,636 for the period January 2023 to March 2023 to fund the Brierley Youth Club until applications for future periods can be considered under the Youth Development Fund 2023-2025.
- 2.9 Members agree Recommendation Option 7: Devolve £12,000 (£3,000 per Ward Alliance) to be ringfenced for Ward Alliances to fund Advice and Guidance services within their Ward Areas based on identified need. This would remove the requirement to commission through the Area Council.
- 2.10 Members agree recommended Option 10: Commit a financial envelope of £30,000 per year for two years to progress the Health and Wellbeing priority by establishing a Health and Wellbeing Grant Fund from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025.

Members asked that the Area Manager develop aims and objectives for the fund based on a combination of business intelligence, professional partnerships and community listening and asked that this is progressed by the Area Manager, through the development of a panel made up of NEAC Elected Members, with delegated responsibility for the procurement of these grants to the Executive Director

3. Overview of Current Contracts and timescales

The table below outlines all the North East Area Council contracts, Service Level Agreements (SLA's) and grants **currently** being delivered, together with values, timescales and recent actions **agreed**:

Service	Provider	Cost	Date From	Date To	
Love Where you Live					
Devolved to Ward Alliances	Ward Alliances	£40,000	01/04/2022	31/03/2023	Funds Transfer
Neighbourhood Engagement Officer	BMBC	£32,865	01/04/2022	31/03/2024	Cost of Salary
Cudworth Darfield Road	Darfield Road Community Centre	£4,820	01/04/2022	One Off (income received to offset)	Grant
Responsible Dog Owner Project	NEAC Project	£4,000 (£1k Per Year)	01/04/2019	31/03/2023	Purchasing
Thriving & Vibrant Economy					
Traineeships: Environmental Services	Barnsley Community Build	£222,988.33	01/04/2021	31/03/2024	Contract
Private Sector Housing	BMBC Safer Communities	£37,750	01/04/2022	31/03/2024	SLA

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Management Officer						
Young People						
After School & Holiday Clubs - Brierly	The Exodus Project	£4,020		01/01/2022	31/12/2023	Youth Development Grant
After School & Holiday Clubs - Cudworth	The Exodus Project	£5,995		01/06/2022	31/05/2023	Youth Development Grant
After School & Holiday Clubs	Grimethorpe Activity Zone	£5,700		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	Youth Development Grant
FIT Kids Excercize Sessions	New Options CIC	£6,000		01/01/2022	31/12/2022	Youth Development Grant
Young Peoples sessions - Carlton CC	Ad Astra	£5,499 £6,000		01/09/2021 01/09/2022	31/07/2022 31/07/2023	Youth Development Grant
Young Peoples 1-1 Support in Carlton ALC	Ad Astra	£5,499 £6,680		01/09/2021 01/09/2022	31/07/2022 31/07/2023	Youth Development Grant
Young Peoples sessions school - Shafton ALC	Ad Astra	£5,499 £6,000		01/09/2021 01/09/2022	31/07/2022 31/07/2023	Youth Development Grant
Essential Period & Hygiene Supplies	Ad Astra	£2,000		As and when Required	Until spent	Youth Development Grant
Sessions for Children & young People	Great Houghton Youth Group	£8,204 £8,853		01/09/2021 01/01/2023	31/08/2022 31/12/2024	Youth Development Grant
Children's Mental Health	HEY (formerly TADS)	£17,000		01/02/2022	31/01/2023	Youth Development Grant
Husbandry Learning Opportunities	Community Community Farm	£6,005		01/09/2021	31/08/2022	Youth Development Grant
Healthy Lifestyles						
Social Isolation & Dementia	Age UK Barnsley	£40,000		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	Grant

4 Contract & Grant Financial Decisions

4.1 NEAC Members met at a Workshop on 9th February 2023 to consider the medium-term financial strategy to progress current area council priorities.

4.2 A balanced budget can be delivered through the agreement of all options to 2025, however, this is contingent upon the additional matters' detailed below.

- That the Council maintain our base budget for NEAC at £500k.
- The implementation of projects delivered within the scope of the budget.

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It is likely that projects will require further efficiencies to deliver services within the financial envelope due to the rising cost of living, specifically fuel and energy.

Love Where you Live Priority

Ward Alliance Devolved Funding

- 4.3 Members are asked to note that the Area Manager has secured additional funding of £2,000 per Ward Alliance (£8,000 in total) to increase the resource for grassroots community engagement (in its broadest sense) to enable people to get the right help, in the right place and at the right time.
- 4.4 Ward Alliances continue to respond to community need through micro-commissioning at grassroots level.
- 4.5 **Recommended Option 1:** £40,000 is devolved into Ward Alliance budgets (£10,000 per Ward Alliance)

Option 2: do not devolve additional Ward Alliance funding from Area Council commissioning budget

Private Sector Housing Officer

- 4.6 The Senior Housing and Officer presented to the NEAC at the meeting on 26th January 2023. The case load and demand remains consistent with a significant number of open cases. The approach remains proactive and the Officer has also been reactive to a number of issues that have emerged throughout the SLA to date. Members agreed that this service supports the Area Council priority of Love Where you Live and value it highly.
- 4.7 **Recommended Option 3:** extend the BMBC Housing Officer SLA with Safer Communities from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 at a cost of £40,000 per annum.
- 4.8 **Option 4:** Do not extend the BMBC Housing Officer SLA.

Young People Priority

- 4.9 At the Area Council on 24th November 2022; Members agreed a budget envelope of £45,00 per year for two years from 1st April 2023 to 3rd March 2025 to fund Outreach/Detached Youth Work. Members asked that this was progressed by the Area Manager, in conjunction with a panel made up of NEAC Elected Members, with delegated responsibility for the procurement of these grants to the Executive Director

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- 4.10 The panel met to consider applications to the Youth Work Fund for Outreach/Detached Youth Work on 14th February 2023. One application was received. The panel independent scored the application as excellent and agreed to fund the Youth Association to deliver the StreetSmart project to start from 1st April 2023 at a total cost of £39,747 per year for two years April 2023 to March 2025.
- 4.11 **Recommended Option 5:** move the underspend of £5,253 per year into the Youth Development Fund Small Grants programme and maintain the total budget envelope for the Young Peoples priority.
- 4.12 **Option 6:** bring the underspend of £5,253 back into the main commissioning budget to use against other priorities as required
- 4.13 The panel also considered an application from The Exodus Project for funding to bridge the gap in funding for the period January 2023 to March 2023 to fund the Brierly Youth Club in anticipation of the new Youth Development Fund opening for applications from 1st April 2024 at a cost of £1,636.

Healthy Lifestyles Priority

Information and Advice Service

- 4.14 At the Area Council on 22nd September; the NEAC were presented with a Welfare Services Review paper and asked the Area Manager to consider options for the commissioning of an area wide Advice service. The paper detailed the background and current context in terms of need, in particular, recovery from the pandemic and current cost of living crisis.
- 4.15 The workshop considered funding requirements for this which were indicative based on costings from local suppliers and other Area Council's with similar services.
- 4.16 Members at the workshop agreed that they would prefer to continue current arrangements within their respective wards and recommended devolving additional funds from the main commissioning budget to do this.
- 4.17 Members have noted the additional funding of £12,000 secured (£3,000 per Ward Alliance) and considered options to devolve additional Ward Alliance funding of £40,000 (£5,000 per Ward) under 4.3 and 4.5 of this report.
- 4.18 **Recommended Option 7:** Devolve £12,000 (£3,000 per Ward Alliance) to be ringfenced for Ward Alliances to fund Advice and Guidance services within their Ward Areas based on identified need. This would remove the requirement to commission these services through the Area Council.
- Option 8:** Commission an Area wide service and ringfence a budget of £30,000 at this time and invite applications

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Option 9: Do not fund advice services

Health & Wellbeing Fund

- 4.19 Historically; the North East Area Council have had a fund available to fund projects to address health and wellbeing under the Healthy Lifestyles priority based on identified need.
- 4.20 **Recommended Option 10:** Commit a financial envelope of £30,000 per year for two years to progress this priority from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025.

Members asked the the Area Manager develop aims and objectives for the fund baed on a combination of business intelligence, professional partnerships and community listening and asked that this is progressed by the Area Manager, through the development of a panel made up of NEAC Elected Members, with delegated responsibility for the procurement of these grants to the Executive Director

- 4.21 **Option 11:** Do not commit to a Health and Wellbeing Fund

5. Financial Position

- 5.1 Based on updated information relating to existing NEAC contracts, SLA's and Grant Agreements, Appendix 1 provides a revised position statement on NEAC funding. It shows **actual** income and expenditure for 2022-23.

The 2022-23 figures provided remain indicative projections and may be subject to changes agreed as part of the ongoing procurement and contract management processes.

- 5.2 A finance overview with future projected expenditure for the period 2022 up to 2025 is attached as Appendix 2. This has been updated as at year-end and reconciled with Appendix 1 for accuracy.

Interventions being considered at today's meeting and other "informally agreed" services are shown in **amber**, with future potential proposals shown in **red**.

The 2022 to 2024 budget projections remain indicative projections and may be subject to changes agreed as part of the ongoing procurement and contract management processes.

The assumption is that the baseline budget remains the same year-on-year and this may be subject to change.

Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Finance Report – Actual income and expenditure
Appendix 2: NEAC Financial Forecast