

**South Area Council:
16th June 2023**

Report of South Area Council Manager

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:
- Environmental Enforcement services
 - Summer Sports Van
 - South Area Tidy Team service
 - South Area Council commissioning budget

2. Recommendations

Environmental Enforcement recommendations

- 2.2 That Members note the information at section 3 on the District Enforcement Ltd contract and give approval to options b and c as discussed at the workshop for 12 months:

Option b) Additional hours with District Enforcement Ltd approved

- 18 hours per week. 12 months costs = £24,000, £1740 internal Service Level Agreement
- Areas to remain primarily Wombwell High street, Hoyland Town Centre, Darfield hotspot areas. Hotspot areas are to be reviewed following the workshop.

Option c) Increase contract hours and remit to provide a focused resource for school parking issues and education.

- This can be funded through the South Area Council revenue from the District contract which is currently £7000. The cost of 5 hours per week for a 12 month period is £6666.

Summer sports van recommendations

- 2.3 That members note the information sent out in section 4 regarding the offer of the summer sports, agree the funding for the 6 weeks summer holidays and gives delegated authority to the South Area Council manager to make appropriate arrangements for the delivery of the activities at a cost of £2250. This would support the South Area Council priorities of 'Supporting young people' and 'Health and Wellbeing'.

Environmental officer post recommendations

- 2.4 That Members note the update on the Environmental officer post update at section 5 and approve the recommendation for the South Area Council Manager to look at a new Job specification for the post. Members are also asked to consider increasing the hours of the post if the post is regraded. This would still be within the financial envelope of £34,804 previously agreed.

South Area Council commissioning budget recommendations

- 2.5 That Members note the information on the South Area Council commissioning budget and the additional funding secured from the Household Support Grant.

3. District Enforcement Limited – Environment Enforcement

Background

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Under the new contract arrangements the South Area Council have been funding 18 hours per week of a team leader post from July 22 at a cost of £23,400 and a Service Level Agreement of £1740. This role provides parking enforcement, engagement, education and performance reporting.

South Area Council workshop – 2nd June 2023

- 3.5 The South Area Council held a workshop on the 2nd June to discuss future options for the District Environmental Enforcement contract. The contract is currently funded by the South Area Council until 30th June following a 3 month extension to review the service.
- 3.6 The workshop agenda:
 - Overview of workshop – Lisa Lyon, South Area Council Manager
 - Understanding the current Borough wide provision – John Simms, Paul Wilcock, District Enforcement Ltd and Carolyn Nicholls, BMBC Community Safety
 - Reviewing performance to date of the South contract – John Simms, Paul Wilcock
 - Understanding BMBC parking services provision – Alan Newlove, BMBC Parking services
 - Public Health interventions/ campaign work – Ben Brannan and Kerry Birks, Public health, BMBC
 - Reviewing current offer and future options – All
- 3.7 Discussion points:
 - Agreed that patrolling hours will be logged when on location in the South Area to achieve maximum patrol hours possible.
 - The contract delivers a mix of education and enforcement with aim of trying to change behaviour. 582 Parking notices issued over 12 months with 994 cases of engagement and education.
 - District, Parking services and Area Council to complete a review of hotspot areas ward by ward.
 - Alternative options to be explored and costed up.

- The need for additional hours for work with schools supported by the South Area Council. Agreed that it would be beneficial for Parking services and District to pool resources at key sites to gain maximum impact.
- Public health developing a menu of interventions that could support the educational focus. The Area Council to receive future updates on this work and agreed this would complement the work in place and help address the wider challenges.

Area Council Funding decision required

3.8 The South Area Council currently buy in the additional resources as part of the Borough wide contract. The additional hours will cease on the 30st June 2023. The South Area Council are being asked to make a decision on the future of the contract.

3.9 At a workshop on the 2nd June 2023 the South Area Council members considered the following options:

Option a) Do nothing

- Additional hours would cease on the 30th June 2023. Any enforcement offer would be through the Borough wide offer.
- £24,000 and £1740 would be available to reallocate to another priority.
- The borough wide contracts allows an opportunity to buy in services at a later date.

Option b) Additional hours with District Enforcement Ltd approved

- 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, £1740 internal Service Level Agreement
or
- 6 months costs = £12,000, £870 internal Service Level Agreement
- Continued level of service and patrols in place
- Areas to remain primarily Wombwell High street, Hoyland Town Centre, Darfield hotspot areas. Hotspot areas are to be reviewed following the workshop.

Option c) Increase contract hours and remit to provide a focused resource for school parking issues and education.

- At the workshop a proposal was put forward to increase the contracted hours by 5 hours per week. These hours would be a dedicated resource to allocate specifically to working with schools across the South Area Council.
- This can be funded through the South Area Council revenue from the District contract which is currently £7000. The cost of 5 hours per week for a 12 month period is £6666.

Option d) Increase or decrease 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. Summer Sports Van

- 4.1 BMBCs Sports and Active Recreation Team are working in partnership with Reds in the Community to, again, run the summer sports van across the Borough. The South Area Council have previously funded the sports van which saw a successful summer activity programme in the area last year.
- 4.2 The South Area Council have the option of funding the summer sports van again for 1 day per week for the 6 weeks of the summer holidays. The van can cover 2 locations per day
- 4.3 The cost for the 6 weeks is £2250 and can be funded through the South Area Council commissioning budget in support of the 'Supporting young people' and 'Health and wellbeing' priorities of the South Area Council.
- 4.4 The provision would sit alongside, and compliment, provision funded through the Ward Alliances, provision supported by the South Area team and any activities promoted within the community.

5. Neighbourhood Services, Environmental Caretaker service update

Background

- 5.1 At South Area Council meeting on the 16th December the South Area Council took the decision to conclude the contract with Twiggs Ground Maintenance Ltd on 31st March 2023.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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.

New Service update

- 5.4 Interviews for the Environmental Caretaker service are on the 6th June 23. The posts to be recruited to are Caretaker Team Leader, Operative and Apprentice.
- 5.5 The interview panel is made up of Matt Holdroyd, Assistant Service Manager, Environment and Highways, Rosie Adams, North Area Council Manager and Lisa Lyon, South Area Council Manager.
- 5.6 The South Area Council Manager will provide further updates once the recruitment processes have been completed.

Community Development Officer post update

- 5.7 The post has been advertised and interviews taken place. The post has not been filled. The South Area Council manager has discussed with Members, at the workshop on the 2nd June 23, changes to the job specification which would bring the role more in line with skills and experience required for the role.
- 5.8 The South Area Council Manager has been tasked with developing a new job specification for approval and re-advertising the role.
- 5.9 The new job specification will require a further delegated officer report and to be considered by a regrading panel. It is unsure whether the grade of the post will be affected. In the event of a grade change the South Area Council manager is

seeking approval to work within the existing financial envelope of £34,804 and increase the hours of the post, potentially to 32 or 37 dependant on the outcome of the grade. Currently the post is 30 hours per week. The current budget would not be affected.

6. South Area Council Finances

6.1 The South Area Council currently have a commissioning budget of £49,616 which is unallocated, and £37,996 ringfenced for Children and Young people activities. The list below outlines funding to date including external funding being managed by the South area.

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
Environmental Caretaker Service – Service Level Agreement	1 st April 23 – 31 st March 24 Not started so will roll over from start date,	£120,963
Environmental Community Development Officer	1 st April 23 – 31 st March 24 Not started so will roll over from start date,	£34,804
Private Sector Housing Officer – Service Level Agreement	1 st October 22 – 31 st March 24	£42,844 per year
Environmental Enforcement – District Enforcement Ltd	£24,000 + £1740 Service Level Agreement – up to June 2023	£25,740
District revenue	To be allocated	£7000
Better Together service – Age UK Barnsley	1 st April 21 – 31 st March 24	£59,935
Summer Sports Van	Summer 2022, 1 day per week X 5 weeks.	£1875
Healthier Communities Covid Pot	Ringfenced to Children and young peoples activities	£37,996 Income
Household support grant – South Area application	Support to schools, residents and groups for cost of living support – Funding approved June 23.	£20,000
Safer Street Funding – Community safety funded devolved to South area.	£10,000 Wombwell £10,000 Darfield £5000 Hoyland, Milton £5000 Rockingham To be spent by August 2023	£30,000
UK Shared Prosperity funding – South Area application	Allocated – 2022/ 23 Provide cost of living support to residents, schools and groups.	£19,000
Health & Wellbeing Funding:	Allocated in 2019 – 2020.	£10,000
<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)		
Tackling off Road Biking initiative	Allocated - Community safety have the equipment	£2130
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. Reallocated into commissioning budget.	£1200

Officer contact: Lisa Lyon, lisalyon@barnsley.gov.uk