

North East Area Council Meeting:
21st September 2023

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 NEAC 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 **Recommended Option 1** from the Youth Development Fund (YDF) Funding Panel: The recommendation is that the Area Council fund the Exodus Project Youth Club at Brierly at a cost of £10,512 for the period 1 June 2023 to 31 March 2025.
- 2.4 **Recommended Option 3** from the YDF Funding Panel: The recommendation is that the Area Council fund Grimethorpe Activity Zone for their Youth Club at Grimethorpe at a cost of £8,456.25 for the period 1 June 2023 to 31 March 2025.
- 2.5 **Recommended Option 5** from the YDF Funding Panel: The recommendation is that the Area Council fund Ad Astra for Group Support Sessions at Carlton and Shafton secondary schools at a cost of £7,000 for the academic year 2023-24 starting 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.
- 2.6 **Recommended Option 7** from the YDF Funding Panel: do not fund Ad Astra one-to-one support sessions at Carlton secondary school.

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- 2.7 **Recommended Option 8** that Members procure Clean and Green Contract/s at a cost of £200,000 per year commencing on 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027 for 3 years on a 1-year plus 1-year plus 1-year contract basis (subject to annual review). It is recommended that Members select two Members from the NEAC to sit on the procurement panel. It is recommended that Members agree to delegate responsibility to the Executive Director to agree to the procurement of these contracts.

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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**:

Commissioning Table to 31 st March 2024					
Service	Provider	Cost	Date From	Date To	Type
Love Where you Live					
Devolved to Ward Alliances	Ward Alliances	£40,000	01/04/2023	31/03/2024	Funds Transfer
Neighbourhood Engagement Officer	BMBC	£6,000	01/04/2022	31/05/2023	Cost of Salary
Cudworth Darfield Road Community Centre	Darfield Road CC	£4,820	01/04/2022	One Off	Offset income received
Responsible Dog Owner Project	NEAC Project	£4,000 (£1k Per Year)	01/04/2019	31/03/2023	Purchasing
Private Sector Housing Officer	BMBC Safer Communities	£37,750	01/04/2023	31/03/2024	SLA
Thriving & Vibrant Economy					
Traineeships: Environmental Services	Barnsley Community Build	£222,988.33	01/04/2021	31/03/2024	Contract
Young People					
Outreach Youth Work	The Youth Association	£39,747.00	01/04/2023	31/03/2025	Grant
CYP Small Grants Programme	Various Providers	£41,889.00 Budget	01/04/2023	31/03/2024	Youth Development Grants
Sanitary Supplies	Partnership Project	£1,000.00	01/04/2023	31/03/2024	Purchasing
Healthy Lifestyles					
Social Isolation & Dementia	Age UK Barnsley	£44,995	01/07/2022	31/06/23	Grant
Social Isolation & Dementia	Age UK Barnsley	£39,998	01/07/2023	31/06/24	Grant
Devolved to Ward Alliances (Ringfenced for Advice & Guidance Projects)	Ward Based	£12,000	01/04/2023	31/04/24	Funds Transfer
Health & Wellbeing Fund	TBC	£30,000	TBC	TBC	TBC

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4 Contract & Grant Financial Decisions

CYP Small Grants Fund Update

4.1 The grants panel met on 11th May 2023 to consider applications to the Youth Development Fund. Four applications were reviewed at the meeting as follows:

	Provider	Project	From	To	Total Cost
4.3.1	The Exodus Project	Brierley Youth Clubs	01/06/23	31/03/25	£10,512
Recommended Option 1 from YDF Panel: Fund this application					
Option 2: Do not fund this application					
4.3.2	Grimethorpe Activity Zone	Youth Clubs	01/06/23	31/03/25	£8,456.25
Recommended Option 3 from YDF Panel: Fund this application					
Option 4: Do not fund this application					
4.3.3	Ad Astra – Group Sessions at Carlton and Shafton Academies	Group Support Session	01/09/2023	31/08/2024	£7,000
Recommended Option 5 from YDF Panel: Fund this application					
Option 6: Do not fund this application					
4.3.4	Ad Atra – 1-1 sessions at Carlton Academy	1-1 Sessions	01/09/2023	31/08/2024	£6,680
Recommended Option 7 from YDF Panel: Do not fund this application					

- 4.2 The panel reviewed the budget in detail against the applications received.
- 4.3 Members are asked to note that both Shafton and Carlton academies have contributed £3k per school match funding toward Ad Astra group sessions for this academic year.
- 4.4 Members are asked to note that The Exodus Project Brierly and GAZ youth groups funding forms 75% of the total ask and the organisations will fundraise themselves for the remaining costs or look at efficiencies if needed.
- 4.5 The decision was made by the panel not to fund the 1-1 sessions at Carlton School. The 1-1 sessions were put on post covid to support demand needs due to social distancing rules and the impacts of Covid.
 Since this time, social distancing restrictions have been lifted and alternative 1-1 support through Kooth (funded by the Council). The CAMHS waiting list has also significantly improved.
 The school was not willing to match fund the 1-1 support and was made aware of the risk to the service.
- 4.6 The Youth Development Fund small grants funding panel will set a date to consider future applications and a further report will be brought to the Area Council.

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5 Clean, Green & Tidy Update

- 5.1 The current North East Environmental Team contract expires on 31 March 2024 therefore a series of workshops have been held with members to review this priority and to prepare, design and construct the new commission. The new service specification will be based on operational need from 1st April 2024.
- 5.2 The Workshops included the review and consideration of a local environmental questionnaire targeting community groups and volunteers and the findings have informed the aims and objectives set.
- 5.3 The Workshops also included a full review of the total available NEAC budget and spending allocations against each NEAC priority.
- 5.4 The *current* financial envelope per year for the clean and green contract is £222,988. It is noted that salaries and other costs have increased since this was originally awarded however, there are savings to be made due to the removal of traineeships from the contract as well as the fact that Neighbourhood Services will include a new schedule of works across the NEAC Area from 1st April 2024.
- 5.5 Based on conversations with the current provider (BCB), Bernesai Homes, Barnsley College and the Council's Work & Skills Team, the NEAC are assured that training and development opportunities with wrap-around support are available outside the scope of this contract. This includes support for young people with multiple barriers to employment into either paid employment or apprenticeships.
- 5.6 Neighbourhood Services have provided the NEAC with a comprehensive daily, weekly and monthly schedule of planned works to be deployed across specific NEAC locations that will be actioned within their existing capacity at no cost to the NEAC, (as per their Core Offer).
- 5.7 The aims and objectives of the new specification will be to:
 - 5.7.1 Provide a high visibility litter picking and general cleanliness schedule to identified areas, (to be agreed with Ward Alliances to form Clean and Green Ward Agreements).
 - 5.7.2 To improve the physical appearance of the North East Council Area in partnership with local residents and/or local community groups, organisations and businesses.
 - 5.7.3 Contribute to maintaining a clean, safe, well-presented and welcoming physical environment through the delivery of reactive and proactive work (to be agreed with Ward Alliances in Clean and Green Ward Agreements).
 - 5.7.4 Inspire and lead local people and encourage sustainability through engagement with volunteers, residents, local community groups and organisations, including those from BME communities and those who are "hard to reach".
 - 5.7.5 Encourage and support community responsibility/stewardship schemes for green areas/ shrub beds/planters etc.
 - 5.7.6 Support existing groups with regular hands-on support and specialist advice, supporting them to become independent and self-sufficient
 - 5.7.7 Reduce the amount of littering, and dog fouling in the area through embedding education and building community confidence in all delivery.
 - 5.7.8 Complement existing provision provided by BMBC Neighbourhood Services.

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5.7.9 Liaise with other key agencies as part of the Clean and Green Partnership Group

5.8 **Background:** Love Where You Love was identified as a North East Area Council priority in 2013, and a number of North East Area Council environmental services have been procured and delivered since then. However, Love Where You Live was re-affirmed as a priority in 2023. This area of concern has also been highlighted by local residents across the 4 wards in a community listening exercise that took place in the summer of 2021 and is supported by the 4 Ward Alliances in the area, who have also re-affirmed the Environment as a priority for local consideration.

5.9 The Council's Neighbourhood Service provides a service across the Borough that includes litter picking, fly-tipping removal, weed killing, grass cutting, hedge cutting, shrub bed maintenance, and arboriculture work. However, there are limitations in what can be provided locally.

5.10 A North East Area environmental service has been delivered by the current Provider since 2014 with positive results. This work has included: support provided to environmental groups; support to sustained volunteers; and support of added value projects. The contract was flexed during Covid lockdowns and the current contractor provided support to Neighbourhood Service at this time.

5.11 The new service to be procured by the North East Area Council should therefore complement the Council's Neighbourhood's Service, build on the achievements of the current Provider and proactively engage the local community in taking ownership of areas of green space and/or keeping their neighbourhoods clean and tidy.

5.12 A key purpose of the North East Area Council is to grow community capacity and Social Return on Investment through commissioning local services and encouraging Volunteering. The importance of Social Value has been highlighted as part of each North East Area Council procurement, and all organisations should effectively demonstrate how they will create local jobs, use local supply chains, ensure local spending, support and encourage existing Volunteers, and create and support new Volunteering and work experience opportunities, and support and encourage new and established voluntary and community groups.

5.13 The contract will support, complement and encourage Volunteering opportunities and the potential for greater community participation and development will be supported through Active Citizenship initiatives.

5.14 It is therefore recommended that members allocate an indicative spend of £200,000 per year to the Clean & Green contract with contracts to be awarded for 3 years commencing on 1 April 2024 (on a 1-year plus 1-year plus 1-year) to allow for longer-term planning and sustainability.

5.15 **Recommended Option 8:** It is recommended that the Area Council approve an indicative budget of £200k per annum for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2027 to buy Clean, Green and tidy Services on a 1-year plus 1-year plus 1-year contract basis (total of three years).

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It is also recommended that the Area Council identify a minimum of two elected members at this meeting to form a panel alongside the Area Manager and Head of Service, with delegated responsibility for procurement to the Executive Director.

Option 9: Do not agree to fund a Clean, Green & Tidy contract on the recommended basis from 1st April 2024.

6. Financial Position

- 6.1 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 revised year-end figures that have been reconciled with strategic finance and **actual** income and expenditure for 2023-24.

The 2023-24 figures provided remain indicative projections and may be subject to changes agreed upon as part of the ongoing procurement and contract management processes.

- 6.2 A finance overview with future projected expenditure for the period 2023 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 any future potential proposals shown in **red**.

The 2023 to 2024 budget projections remain indicative projections and maybe subject to changes agreed upon 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 also be subject to change.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Finance Report – Actual income and expenditure

Appendix 2: NEAC Financial Forecast