

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL

8th January 2024

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.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members approve the continuation of the Social Connectivity Service from 1 July 2024 to the end of June 2025 at a cost of £28,000;
- 2.2 that members approve the continuation of the Housing and Cohesion Officer post from 1 April 2024 to the end of March 2025 at a cost of £30,694;
- 2.3 that members approve the continuation of the Assisting Employment and Skills Commission provided by Dearne Electronic Community Village from 1 April 2024 to the end of March 2025 at a cost of £34,000; and
- 2.4 that members note the update on the Environmental Service.

3.0 Area Council commissions

3.1 Social Connectivity service

This service was commissioned from July 2022 until the end of June 2025, with a caveat regarding the area council reviewing the service every year. The social groups in both Thurnscoe and Bolton on Dearne are well attended and received. Volunteer numbers have increased and it's a valuable service for the Dearne area. This is a cost to the Area Council of £28,000 per annum.

3.2 Housing & Cohesion Officer

The Dearne Area Council approved the housing and Cohesion officer post until the end of March 2025 and reviewed every year performance and finance depending. 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, very successfully. From January the

officer will be working a four-day week and in the next financial year will cost £30,694, a reduced cost than previously highlighted.

3.3 **Assisting employment and skills**

Dearne Electronic Community Village were the successful provider of the employability contract which will run until the end of March 2025 but reviewed annually. This contract continues to do well assisting people with skills and employment opportunities. This service is a cost to the Area Council of £34,000 per annum.

3.5 **Environmental service**

The service currently provided by Twigg's which ended the end of March 2023 was extended for a further year. At the Area Council in November 2023 members were given several options and decided that they would not be going out to tender for this service but would be working with neighbourhood services who could provide more hours within the Area Council financial envelope.

Officer

Claire Dawson
Dearne Area Council Manager

Tel:

01226 775106

Date:

8th January 2024