

**North East Area Council Meeting:
21 March 2024**

**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 Members agree the recommended Option 1: offer an extension to the Age UK Social Isolation & Dementia project via a variation to grant agreement for a further 1 year from 1st June 2024 to 31st July 2025 for £39,995.
- 2.4 Members note that the Healthy Lifestyle Funding panel agreed to funding for the following projects:
 - 2.4.1 Jolly Good Communities Olympics Event £2,464
 - 2.4.2 Grassroots North East Family Project Pilot £2,940
- 2.5 Members agree the Recommendation Option 4: to devolve £40,000 from the 2024-25 Area Council Commissioning budget into Ward Alliance budgets (£10,000 per Ward Alliance).

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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
2024 Clean & Green Service	TBC	£200,000	01/04/2024	31/03/2027	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 IAG)	Ward Based	£12,000	01/04/2023	31/04/24	Funds Transfer

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Healthy Lifestyles Fund Alcohol & Drugs Advisor – Outreach Pilot	Humankind - Recovery Steps	£41,000 Total from NEAC	01/04/2024	31/03/2026	SLA Total 2yr Project Cost £71k, (£30k match funding received)
Healthy Lifestyles Fund Physical Activity & Healthy Eating Family Pilot	Grassroots	£2,940 Total from NEAC			Grant Total 1yr project costs £10,610 (match funding for the remainder)
Healthy Lifestyles Fund Olympics Event	Jolly Good Communities	£2,464 Total from NEAC			Grant Total Event Cost £5,864 (match funding for the remainder)
Healthy Lifestyles Fund – Budget Balance as approved by Area Council	TBC – open fund	Total Funding committed by NEAC £30,000 £30,000 £13,956	01/04/23 01/04/24 Fund balance	31/03/24 31/03/25	TBC

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5 Contract & Grant Financial Decisions

Healthy Lifestyles Priority

Age UK – Social Isolation & Dementia Initiative (North East)

- 5.1 At the Area Council meeting on 14th March 2022, the NEAC decided to fund a Social Isolation project which was progressed through procurement by Rachel Payling (covering for Caroline Donovan at the time).
- 5.2 The scope of the project was intended to be for 3 years and the grant application proposal from the provider covered costs for 3 years
- 5.3 The procurement event resulted in an initial grant to Age UK Barnsley for 1-year delivery from 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023 for £39,995 for the year.
- 5.4 At the North East Area Council meeting on 30th March 2023, Members noted budget projections for a financial envelope of £39,995 per year for two years to continue with a Social Isolation service to 31 July 2025.
- 5.5 After advice from the Council's legal team last year, they confirmed that the grant agreement can be varied to reflect the original intention of the project spanning three years.
- 5.6 At the Area Council Meeting on 25 May 2023, members agreed to offer an extension to the Age UK Social Isolation project via a variation to grant agreement for a further 1-years from 1st June 2023 to 31st July 2024 at a cost of £39,998 with a view to a further 1-year extension from 01 June 2024 to 31 July 2024.
- 5.7 Age UK Barnsley has met all milestones and outcomes and has firmly put its roots down in the North East Area. After robust grant monitoring through the duration of the existing agreement, there are no concerns and the project effectively supports older people across the whole North East Area through a combination of 1-1 befriending, group support, seasonal activities, community events and home-based activities. This is demonstrated through quarterly performance reports showing consistent needs that includes case studies and through collaboration with the Area Team. They also bring significant social value through volunteering and other complimentary projects and initiatives that are funded through other sources.
- 5.8 **Recommended Option 1: offer an extension to the Age UK Social Isolation project via a variation to grant agreement for a further 1-year from 1st June 2024 to 31st July 2025 at a cost of £39,998.**
- 5.9 **Option 2:** start a fresh procurement exercise to appoint a new provider to deliver the services. This option is not recommended as it would cause significant inconvenience and substantial duplication of costs for the Council. Additionally, there is no guarantee that an alternative provider can be procured.

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5.10 **Option 3:** do not extend the Age UK Barnsley Social Isolation project and allow it to expire on 30th June 2024.

Healthy Lifestyles Funding Panel

5.11 At the North East Area Council meeting on 30th March 2023, Members agreed to a recommendation to commit a financial envelope of £30,000 per year for two years to progress the Healthy Lifestyles Priority.

5.12 At the North East Area Council on 3rd July 2023, Members agreed to a recommendation to identify a funding panel made up of NEAC Elected Members, with delegated responsibility for procurement to the Executive Director

5.13 The Healthy Lifestyles Funding Panel met on 28 February 2024 and agreed to fund two projects, details are as follows:

5.13.1 **Jolly Good Communities – The Barnsley Games:** The Barnsley Games proposal aims to create a one-off (replicable) sporting event on Sunday 11 August 2024 at the Dorothy Hymen Sports Stadium, to celebrate the 2024 Olympics and promote community cohesion, health and well-being, and local pride.

The project is expected to achieve around 800 volunteering hours which equates to £10,800 of social return on investment.

Objectives

- To increase participation and engagement in sport and physical activity among Barnsley residents, especially those from across the North East Area.
- To showcase the diversity and talent of Barnsley's sports, physical activity and health sectors, and to provide opportunities for local volunteers to get involved in the Olympics.
- To enhance the image and reputation of Barnsley as a vibrant and attractive destination for visitors and investors, and to generate economic and social benefits for the local community.

Activities

The Barnsley Games proposal consists of three main components:

1. A one-off sports festival, with workshops, and competitions, covering a range of Olympic and Paralympic disciplines, as well as traditional and emerging sports. The programme will target schools, clubs, and community groups.
2. A comprehensive marketing and communication campaign.
3. A robust evaluation and monitoring plan.

Cost

The Barnsley Games will cost a total of £5,864. Funding has also been secured and/or requested from other local funders.

The Healthy Lifestyles Panel agreed to part-fund the project £2,464

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5.13.2 Grassroots Sports Academy – North East Ward Healthy Lifestyles

Families Pilot: This pilot project outlines a comprehensive approach to improving the eating habits and physical activity levels of families in the North East Ward, especially those living in areas of deprivation and social exclusion. The project aims to address the high rates of obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease among the local population, as well as the low levels of physical activity and fruit and vegetable consumption. The project will have two main components: healthy eating workshops and activity sessions. The project will target families with children aged 5-11 years, as this is a crucial period for developing healthy behaviours and preventing chronic diseases later in life. The project will run for 12 months from 1st April 2024 to 31 March 2025 and will be delivered by a team of experienced staff and they will work in partnership with local schools, community centres, and sports clubs.

Objectives

- Increase the knowledge and skills of families regarding healthy eating and physical activity
- Increase the consumption of fruit and vegetables and reduce the intake of fat, sugar, and salt among families Increase the participation and enjoyment of physical activity among families, especially in outdoor and natural settings
- Improve the health outcomes and quality of life of families in Barnsley, especially those at risk of obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease

Activities

The strategy for achieving these goals is based on the following principles:

- Family-based approach - The project will involve the whole family unit, as parents play a key role in influencing and supporting their children's eating and activity behaviours. The project will also foster family bonding and cohesion through shared activities and experiences.
- Community-based approach: The project will be delivered in local settings that are familiar and accessible to the families, such as community centres, and parks. The project will also encourage community involvement and ownership through engaging local stakeholders and volunteers.
- Evidence-based approach: The project will be informed by the best available evidence and practice guidelines on healthy eating and physical activity for children and families.
- Community Led: The project takes a flexible approach and ongoing community listening and consultation will inform the planning of the activities programme.

Cost

The Grassroots pilot will cost a total of £10,610.

Funding has also been secured from other local funders.

The Healthy Lifestyles Panel agreed to part-fund the project £2,940

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Love Where You Live Priority

5.14 Ward Alliance Devolved Funding Ward Alliances continue to respond to community need through micro-commissioning at Grassroots level and carry forward amounts for all Wards demonstrate that the Alliances successfully spent their additional allocations in 2023-24 as follows:

Ward	Estimated Carry Forward Balance (to be finalised)
Cudworth	£1,875.88
Monk Bretton	£3,464.64
North East	£0.00
Royston	£979.32

5.15 **Recommended Option 4: £40,000 is devolved into Ward Alliance budgets (£10,000 per Ward Alliance) from the 2024-25 Area Council Commissioning budget.**

Option 5: do not devolve additional Ward Alliance funding from Area Council commissioning budget

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 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.

5.2 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