

# BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Penistone Area Council**  
**21<sup>st</sup> July 2016**

**Report of the**  
**Penistone Area Council Manager**

## Undergraduate Placement

### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 At the Penistone Area Council meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016 Elected Members supported, in principle, the creation of an undergraduate placement within the Penistone Area Team and that the Area Manager develops the proposal further.
- 1.2 This report provides an update on the undergraduate placement and seeks formal approval of costs between £14,975 to £19,427. The variance is subject to whether superannuation and national insurance contributions are to be paid.

### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Further to the Penistone Area Council meeting in June discussions have been ongoing with two universities including the University of Leeds. As the preferred option to pursue was for a undergraduate rather than graduate placement discussions have focused on the student placement programme at Leeds University as students have the option of taking a 'Year in Industry' work experience placement between their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year.
- 2.2 The University has students currently looking for placements with a possible starting date in September 2016. The University would use its vacancy system to advertise the post on their website for two weeks and would allow a targeted recruitment to areas and skills required for this placement and from an appropriate discipline of study.
- 2.3 The placement would support the Area Team in working towards the Penistone Area Council's priorities of The Environment, The Local Economy including Tourism, Roads and Road Safety, Health and Well Being and Activities for Young People. This proposal is in line with and would also deliver on the Councils 2020 outcomes around and priorities for a Thriving and Vibrant Economy, People achieving their Potential and Strong and Resilient Communities.
- 2.4 The creation of work placements is a corporate priority, as a part of the authority's area governance arrangements the Penistone Area Council would be contributing to achieving this priority.
- 2.5 The Penistone Area Team would support an undergraduate placement for a fixed term period of up to 12 months, commencing in September 2016 at a grade 2 pay scale with costs between £14,975 to £16,191 if not paying Superannuation and

National Insurance and between £17,884 to £19,427 if paying.

2.6 The role would be an opportunity for an undergraduate wanting to gain practical and relevant work experience within Local Government related to their area of study or interest. The post would sit within the Penistone Area team and would provide the following benefits:

- Bring into the team different skills, ideas and perspective
- Opportunity to access a talented and enthusiastic individual
- Access to individuals with high level skills who can help develop transferrable skills across the team such as research methodologies
- Bring in additional capacity for specific projects such as community mapping or preparing data for Area Council decision making on future commissioning
- Develop a more effective use of social media, communications and relevant marketing tools to enable the Area Team to better engage with residents and groups i.e. promoting Working Together Fund, reaching a wider audience
- Increase the teams capacity around areas for project development i.e. Penistone Market
- Identifying and appraising options for future projects against Penistone Area Council priorities
- Provide assistance and support to the Community Development Officer in evaluating and reporting on Ward Alliance funding to better evidence impact
- Allow the Area Team to test out projects / ideas without dedicating existing resources and providing an evidence base for discussion with Members
- Explore developing networks and new contacts across the across, in particular from communities which are harder to reach and don't engage through traditional methods
- Developing the priority around activities for young people from a peers perspective

2.7 If required a Delegated Authority report will be submitted to create a post on the structure.

### 3.0 **Recommendations**

3.1 **That members note the content of the report and approves between £14,975 to £19,427 subject to whether superannuation and national insurance contributions are to be paid, to support an Undergraduate placement within the Penistone Area Team**