

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL 15th July 2024

Report of the Dearne Area Council Manager

Future commissions

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is for members to explore the options with regards future Dearne Area Council commissioned services.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members consider the options set out in this report for future Dearne Area Council commissions.
- 2.2 That members approve the Dearne area council priorities which have recently been reviewed.
- 2.3 That members approve the procuring of an employment and advice service for the Dearne Area for three years at a cost of £34,300 the first year and a 2% percentage increase thereafter.
- 2.4 That members approve housing and cohesion officer service level agreement for a further three years at a cost of in the first year and £34,518 with an increase of £1,700 per year thereafter.

3.0 Area Council commissions and priorities

- 3.1 Councillor Pearson, Moore, Morral and Bellamy attended a workshop on the 1st of July 2024 to discuss future priorities and commissions. Currently there are five priorities, the environment, young people, skills for work, health and well being and the local economy. Members discussed each and stated that the local economy was embedded into everything they currently did so did not need to be a priority on its own.

It is recommended that the Dearne area council agree to having four priorities, the environment, young people, skills for work and health and wellbeing.

- 3.2 Members have previously been provided with recent intelligence, financial projections and performance reports. Both Dearne Electronic Community Village who provides the employment service and the housing and cohesion officer posts are due to finish at the end of March 2025. In addition, the social connectivity service currently provided by BFriend is due to finish the 1st of July 2025, a decision paper about the latter will be brought into the area council in September.

3.3 Employment and skills

The current employment contract is provided by Dearne Electronic Community Village and is due to end at the end of March 2025. Members have discussed the commission at length and state that the employment remains a priority. The service has been consistent in their assistance into employment and have around twenty people per year finding work. Twenty-two were earning in the last quarter and eighteen of those went onto further training. The service provides a handing holding service and the learners get one to one support.

Options

Option	Risk	Benefit	Cost
A, do not recommission an employment service	individuals will not receive support. less people in unemployment	More money left in the Area Council budget to spend on other priorities	£0
B, Procure an employment service	Potential providers not having the infrastructure to be able to deliver in the locality. TUPE	Additional support for people on a one-to-one basis in the area More people into employment More people receiving qualifications and training	£34,300 the first year with an up lift of 2% thereafter
C, Do something differently	Not having capacity or infostructure to be able to provide the level of service expected for Dearne residents. Lack of local providers TUPE	Potentially could deliver something brand new for the area	£34,300 the same financial envelope

It is recommended That members approve the procuring of an employment. and advice service for the Dearne Area for three years at a cost of £34,300 the first year and a 2% percentage increase thereafter.

3.4 Housing and Cohesion Officer

The service level agreement with the Safer Neighbourhoods team is due to end at the end of March 2025. The current officer works both reactive and proactive. In the last quarter alone, there were 115 reports made for an intervention. Not only does he deal with waste in gardens, hoarding, fly tipping and contaminated bins but he also supports vulnerable households. In addition, he also assists in community clear ups and is involved in the Area Team projects.

Options

Option	Risk	Benefit	Cost
A, do not fund the Housing and Cohesion role	No proactive support for people in private sector housing Only reactive work will be dealt with	More money left in the Area Council budget to spend on other priorities	£0
B, Fund the housing and cohesion role	None	Additional support for people in private sector housing Proactive environmental issues are dealt with in a timely manner	£34,518 the first year an increase of £1700 per year thereafter

3.5 That members approve housing and cohesion officer service level agreement for a further three years at a cost of in the first year and £34,518 with an increase of £1,700 per year thereafter.

If approved the area manager will work with the procurement team to get a service specification ready to go out to tender. In addition, the service level agreement will be updated and signed off by Safer Neighbourhoods, the area manager and chair.

Officer
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Date:
15th July 2024