

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Central Area Council Meeting:
7 August 2024

Report of Central Area Council Manager:
Sarah Blunkett

Central Area Council Procurement and Financial Update Report

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an up-to-date overview of Central Area Council's 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 and the projected financial position to 2024-2025. Please note financial projections assume that the base income budget remains the same and that existing services are maintained.
- 1.3 This report provides financial recommendations regarding future priorities and commissions for 2025-2028.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1.1 Members note the overview of Central Area Council's current priorities, and overview of all current contracts, contract extensions, Service Level Agreements and Grant Funded projects, with associated timescales.
- 1.2 Members note the actual financial position to date and the projected expenditure, including future proposals, as outlined.
- 1.3 Members note that the Social Isolation, Loneliness and vulnerable persons moderation panel met and were able to progress some applications through to the second stage.
- 1.4 Members agree to recommendation option 1a to allocate £10,000 per year for 3 years, from 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2028, to support or commission projects which support the overarching priority of 'healthy and vibrant' communities. Members are also asked that this is progressed by the Area Manager, in conjunction with a panel made up of CAC Elected Members to agree the criteria aligned to this fund, and that responsibility for the procurement and approval of projects be delegated to the Executive Director Public Health and Communities.
- 1.5 Members agree recommended option 2a to allocate £40,000 per year for welfare advice services and £100,000 per year for supporting vulnerable people services for 3 years from 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2028. Members are asked that the welfare advice service is progressed by the Area Manager, in conjunction with a panel made up of CAC Elected Members, with delegated responsibility for the procurement of these grants to the Executive Director Public Health and Communities.
- 1.6 Members are asked that the Area Manger holds engagement events to gain local intelligence and reports back to the Area Council in September with objectives for the supporting vulnerable people's grant.

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- 1.7 Members agree recommendation option 3a to allocate £70,000 per year for detached youth work and allocate £60,000 per year for services to support young people in transition from primary to secondary. Members are also recommended to allocated £10,000 per year for a steps to employment/ volunteering and learning fund. These allocations will be for 3 years from 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2028.
- 1.8 Members are asked that the procuring services to deliver detached youth work is progressed by the Area Manager, in conjunction with a panel made up of CAC Elected Members, with responsibility for the procurement of any grants delegated to the Executive Director Public Health and Communities.
- 1.9 Members are asked that the Area Council Manager undertakes an evaluation of the sufficiency assessments and provides further detail to Members at the next Area Council meeting regarding the potential focus of £60,000 allocated for supporting young people in their transision from primary to secondary.
- 1.10 Members are asked to support a £10,000 fund to be available to invite proposals to support or enhance existing provisions which meet the objective of supporting individuals to take a step closer to employment, volunteering or learning. Members are asked that this fund is progressed by the Area Manager with approval for all applications delegated to the Area Council Manager in consultation with the Area Council Chair for proposals up to £2,000 each.
- 1.11 Members agree Recommendation 4a to allocate £90,000 per year for 3 years from April 2025 to March 2028 for two Officers and associated costs through a Service Level Agreement.
- 1.12 Members are asked the Area Council Manager progresses the Service Level Agreements with the Safer Neighbourhood Service for the provision of two Housing and Cohesion Officers.
- 1.13 Members are asked to agree an allocation of £120,000 per year for 3 years for clean and enjoyable communities initiatives from 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2028. Members are also asked that this is progressed by the Area Manager, in conjunction with a panel made up of CAC Elected Members to undertake a comprehensive review of commissioning options for a clean and enjoyable initiatives. This panel will make recommendations to the Area Council.

2 Overview of Contracts and timescales

The table below outlines all the Central Area Council contracts, Service Level Agreements (SLA's) and grants **currently** being delivered, together with values, timescales and recent actions **agreed**

Priority	Service/ Fund	Provider	Value	From	To	Type
Social Isolation	Social Isolation Challenge Fund My Community, My Life	Age UK Barnsley	£79,187	01/04/2021	31/03/2023	Grant Agreement
			£40,000	01/04/2023	31/03/2024	
			£39,978	01/04/2024	31/04/2025	
	Social Isolation Challenge Fund Thriving Communities	Rotherham and Barnsley Mind	£79,165.17	01/04/2021	31/03/2023	Grant Agreement
			£41,800	01/04/2023	31/03/2024 Ends	
	Social Isolation Challenge Fund	Barnsley FC Community Trust (formally	£30,252.96	01/04/2021	31/03/2023	Grant Agreement
			01/04/2023	31/04/2024		

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	Reds Connect	Reds in the Community)	£15,500 £22,760.20	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	
	Social Isolation Challenge Fund Community Timebank	DIAL Barnsley NEW	£18,838.00	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Grant Agreement
	Social Isolation Challenge Fund Advice Drop In Service	Citizens Advice Barnsley NEW	£21,160.00	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Grant Agreement
Children & Young People	CAC Commission Building emotional resilience & wellbeing in children & young people School Year 6 to Year 9	Barnsley YMCA	£139,876 £139,867	01/04/2023 01/04/2024	31/03/2024 31/03/2025	Contract
	2022 Youth Fund Street Smart	The Youth Association (TYA)	£52,000 £52,000 £10,515	01/07/2022 01/07/2023 01/07/2024	30/06/2023 30/06/2024 31/03/2025	Grant Agreement
	2022 Youth Fund Detached Youth work	YMCA	£12,934 £12,934 £40,000	01/07/2022 01/07/2023 01/07/2024	30/06/2023 30/06/2024 31/03/2025	Grant Agreement
	CAC Commission Creating a cleaner and greener environment in partnership with local people	Twiggs Grounds Maintenance	£110,000 £110,000 £110,000	01/04/2022 01/04/2023 01/04/2024	31/03/2023 31/03/2024 31/03/2025	Contract
Clean & Green	CAC Commission Targeted Household Fly Tipping Service	BMBC Service Level Agreement	£35,000 £35,000 £35,000	01/04/2022 01/04/2023 01/04/2024	31/03/2023 31/03/2024 31/03/2025	SLA
	CAC Commission Private Rented Housing Support Service	BMBC Service Level Agreement	£35,000 £35,000 £35,000	31/03/2023 31/03/2024 31/03/2025	31/03/2023 31/03/2024 31/03/2025	SLA
	Uplift project <i>Funding agreed as match funding with Arts Council</i>	Creative Recovery	Year 1 £15,000 Year 2 £15,000	01/10/2022	30/09/2024	Grant Agreement
Vulnerable People	Central Wellbeing Fund Tranche 1 Advice Drop-In	DIAL Barnsley	Year 1 £29,597 Year 2 £29,597	01/04/2023 01/04/2024	31/03/2024 31/03/2025	Grant Agreement

4. Contract & Grant Financial Decisions

4.1 Social Isolation and Supporting Vulnerable People Priorities

The moderation panel has met and some applications have progressed through to the second stage. At the time of writing this report not all applicants had been informed. Full details will be provided to Members once this has been completed and these grants will be reflected in

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the next finance report. The Social Isolation and Loneliness grant fund will run until 31 March 2025.

4.2 CAC funding allocation 2025-2028

Details regarding the CAC priorities for 2025-2028 have been provided in a report to Area Council. These financial recommendations are based on the outcomes of this report.

The report recommends an Overarching priority - "**Healthy and Vibrant Communities.**" With the goal to foster thriving, supportive communities across all of the priorities. Members discussed having a fund linked to this overarching priority that can be reactive to local need.

In discussions at workshops, it was suggested that issues in communities can arise very quickly and have a significant impact on the area. The Area Council meets only six times a year and is required to give notice on the decisions it wishes to make. In order for the Area Council to act swiftly to address concerns as soon as they arise, it was suggested that a reactive fund be established. This would have a small amount of finance allocated, with appropriate and proportionate criteria and decision-making processes to address this issue.

Recommendation Option 1a. It is recommended that Members allocate £10,000 per year for 3 years to commission or support projects which support this overarching priority to commence April 2025.

This will be an open grants fund available for applications according to emerging need. This will be available on a rolling basis to allow organisations to apply to support us to achieve this overarching priority. The objective is to provide timely and flexible support and ensure that resources are allocated when and where they are most needed.

Members are also asked that this is progressed by the Area Manager, in conjunction with a panel made up of CAC Elected Members to develop the criteria aligned to this fund.

It is considered that this option will address the issue of timeliness, whilst also providing appropriate safeguards to ensure finance is utilised appropriately.

Option 1b – For an allocation from the Area Council budget be made to address emerging concerns, with the Area Council remaining as decision maker. Whilst this option remains within current Governance structures, and would involve all Central Area members, it may not address the issue of being able to react quickly enough.

Option 1c - Do nothing at this point and review alternative budget options at a future meeting. Whilst this would allow further consideration for Members, it may also delay delivery against priorities.

The previous report recommended the following priorities:

Priority 1- Healthy Communities - We will support and commission services which support people who are socially isolated and vulnerable.

Previous reports to the Area Council, and associated data, highlighted the continued demand for welfare advice services, especially in light of the cost-of-living crisis, and Members have indicated that were keen to commission similar services for welfare advice to those which are currently being delivered, recognising the much-needed outcomes for

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CAC communities, including ensuring residents manage their debt properly and gain access to the benefits to which they are entitled.

Feedback from commissioned services, continues to highlight loneliness and isolation and issue, and local intelligence corroborates this. In workshops Members were keen to have a grant for organisations who can support socially isolated and/or vulnerable people, and it was suggested that, as the current arrangements worked effectively it would seem appropriate for these to be the procured using the same grant process.

Recommended Option 2a allocate £40,000 per year for welfare advice services and £100,000 per year for supporting vulnerable people services for 3 years. These allocations will commence April 2025.

Members are asked that the procurement of a welfare advice service is progressed by the Area Manager, in conjunction with a panel made up of CAC Elected Members, with delegated responsibility for the procurement of these grants to the Executive Director.

This is the preferred option as it will allow the progression of welfare advice services with immediate effect. Given that it is based on the current service, and will still have member involvement in the procurement this is the most effective way to secure this service.

Members are also asked that the Area Manger holds engagement events to gain local intelligence and reports back to the Area Council in September with objectives for the supporting vulnerable people's grant.

In relation to providing a grant to address social isolation and loneliness, given the breadth and depth of this issue, it is imperative that further information is gained. This will provide Members with information, which together with local intelligence, will help shape the procurement of services and help target interventions more effectively to address the issues.

Option 2b – That all the finance associated with this priority be allocated to a grant regime, to be taken forward immediately. Whilst this may lead to more immediate delivery against priorities, delivery may not get to the root of the issue and therefore may not be the most effective delivery mechanism. If applications are not forthcoming in relation to Welfare Advice, it may also not deliver to this need, which has been highlighted

Option 2c - Do nothing at this point and review alternative budget options at a future meeting. Whilst this would allow further consideration for Members, it may also delay delivery against priorities, therefore it is not recommended.

Priority 2- Learning Communities - We will support and commission services which support young people and families. Information from providers, and local intelligence highlight that this remains a high priority. Current programmes delivering detached youth work remain effective in delivery, and supporting young people in transition from primary to secondary school was also highlighted as an ongoing issue. The need to support people to get make positive steps into learning, volunteering or employment also stood out as a need in the Central Area.

Recommendation 3a allocate £70,000 per year for detached youth work. Allocate £60,000 per year for services to support young people in transition from primary to secondary, which will take into account local sufficiency assessments. Allocate £10,000 per year for a steps to employment, volunteering and learning fund. These allocations will be for 3 years commencing April 2025.

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Given it's effective delivery, it would be pertinent to commission the same delivery as the current provision for detached youth work, recognising the vital role in communities. There is no change required. Therefore it is suggested the procurement of detached youth work services is progressed by the Area Manager, in conjunction with a panel made up of CAC Elected Members, with delegated responsibility for the procurement of these grants to the Executive Director Public Health and Communities.

Members are also asked that the Area Council Manager undertakes an evaluation of the sufficiency assessments and provides further detail to Members at the next Area Council meeting to progress transition from primary to secondary to advise the most effective way of delivering against this priority.

Members are asked to support a £10,000 fund to be available to invite proposals to support or enhance existing provisions which meet the objective of supporting individuals to take a step closer to employment, volunteering or learning. The objective is to provide timely and flexible support and ensure that resources are allocated when and where they are most needed to support this priority. Members are asked that this fund is progressed by the Area Manager with approval for all applications to be approved through the Area Council Manager following consultation with the Area Chair of up to £2,000.

A mixed approach, as suggested above, is believed to be the most effective way of delivering against the three elements highlighted above, with a bespoke approach to each functional area, which would take into account the level of data and information available at the current time and is proportionate to the level of resource proposed.

Option 3b – to procure services via a grant regime which seeks to deliver against the Learning Communities Priority. This may be more effective in terms of workload for officers and may also highlight issues previously not considered. However, there is a risk that applicants may not address the issues highlighted through data and intelligence.

Option 3c Do nothing at this point and review alternative budget options at a future meeting. This is not recommended as this could delay any deliver against priorities.

Priority 3- Safe and Enjoyable Communities - We will commission support for CAC's most vulnerable people to live in safe and enjoyable homes and communities. As delivery has been effective through SLAs with the Safer Neighbourhood Service, it is proposed that this will remain through the employment of two Officers. The issue of providing small levels of support to those in crisis has been really valued by those most in need and also by Members. It is proposed that we will also support these Officers with a fund to provide help when needed at first point of contact. Building on current delivery, recognising that clean and green communities remain a priority for many in the community, we propose to commission a clean and green contract which works with volunteers and includes heritage and the outcome of building attractive and enjoyable communities.

To enhance our community's living environment and address pressing issues within private sector housing and illegal waste disposal, we propose the implementation of Service Level Agreement's (SLA) with Barnsley Council's Safer Neighbourhoods Team, aimed at securing two dedicated officers. Building on existing delivery, these roles will be instrumental in managing and improving private sector housing standards, ensuring compliance with relevant regulations, and tackling the persistent problem of fly-tipping. By allocating resources through this SLA, we aim to provide sustained support to these critical areas, ultimately fostering a safer, cleaner, and more compliant community. This initiative underscores our commitment to maintaining high standards of living and environmental stewardship. We will also support these Officers with a fund to provide help when needed at first point of contact.

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To more accurately address the clean and green element of this priority, it is proposed that further intelligence is gathered to focus any delivery on the needs identified.

Recommended Option 4a allocate £90,000 per year for 3 years from April 2025- March 2028 for two Officers and associated costs through a Service Level Agreement. Allocate £120,000 per year for 3 years for a 'clean and enjoyable communities' initiative. These allocations will commence April 2025.

Members are asked that the Area Council Manager progresses the Service Level Agreements for the two Housing and Cohesion Officers.

Members are also asked that the Area Manager, in conjunction with a panel made up of CAC Elected Members, undertakes a comprehensive review of commissioning options for a clean and enjoyable initiatives. This panel will make recommendations to the Area Council.

Option 4b – An option exists to procure housing support for vulnerable families externally to the Council. However, all enforcement powers would remain with the Council, and therefore this would still require a service level agreement to be in place. Previous experience has shown that having a resource in-house working with colleagues in the Safer Neighbourhood Service is more efficient, and therefore this option is not preferred.

Commissioning a clean and green service immediately is also an option for consideration. However, whilst this would ensure there were no gaps in delivery, it would not allow Members to consider, in detail, the needs in this area, and the options to deliver against these needs.

Option 4c - Do nothing at this point and review alternative budget options at a future meeting. This option is not recommended as it may delay delivery against the priorities of the Area Council.

5. Financial Position

5.1 Based on updated information relating to existing CAC contracts, SLA's and Grant Agreements, Appendix 1 provides a revised position statement on CAC funding.

The 2024-25 figures provided remain indicative projections and may be subject to changes agreed as part of the ongoing procurement and contract management processes.

5.2 Interventions being considered at today's meeting can be seen in in 2025-2026, 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 columns

The budget projections remain indicative projections and may be subject to changes agreed 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 be subject to change

Appendices:

Appendix 1: CAC Current Budget and Future Projections