

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

South Area Council Meeting:

28th April 2017

**Report of South Area Council
Manager.**

South Area Council update on commissioned work, other development work & finance update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present an update on work being commissioned by South Area Council, including progress on procurements underway.
- 1.2 To present an update on the amount of unallocated Area Council funding remaining for 2017/18
- 1.3 To present a longer term financial profile for the South Area Council and its existing commitments through to 2019/20
- 1.4 To seek approval for continuation of funding for the distribution of the South Area Council Community Magazine.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That members note the progress of commissioned projects under development as outlined in Section 3 of this report

2.2 That members note the progress of other non-commissioned development work currently being undertaken by the South Area Council Manager as outlined in Section 4 of this report

2.2 That members approve costs for the production and distribution of 2 further editions of the South Area Council Community Magazine as outlined in Section 3.2 of this report

2.2 That members note the financial profile for 2017/18, including the amount of Area Council funding currently unallocated, as presented in Section 5 of this report

2.3 That members note the long term financial profile and potential implications for future commissioning work presented in Section 6 of this report

3. Update on projects commissioned by the South Area Council

3.1 Advice Services contract:

3.1.1 The Advice Services contract (previously known as the 'One Stop Shop' contract) was first commissioned by the South Area Council in June 2014. The service was delivered by Barnsley Citizen's Advice Bureau and BMBC Welfare Rights Service, both of whom provided a full time advice worker to meet the requirements of the contract to deliver a range of drop in sessions across the South Area. The contract has been highly successful and was extended through a number of waivers to standing orders to 30th June 2017.

3.1.2 At its meeting on 24th February 2017, a new tender specification was agreed for this project for a period of 2 years (July 2017 – June 2019). Following this agreement, the project was immediately put out to open tender for recommissioning. It was also agreed that the South Area Council Chair and South Area Council Manager would act as the Evaluation Panel for tenders received, supported by colleagues from BMBC Procurement Team.

3.1.3 On 7th April 2017, the Evaluation Panel considered the tenders received. The tender receiving the highest score was that submitted by Barnsley Citizen's Advice Bureau. Following due legal checks, they will be awarded the contract to run from 1st July 2017 – 30th June 2019. This ensures that there will be no break in service after the existing contract finishes on 30th June 2017.

3.1.4 Following the decision by BMBC Welfare Rights not to bid jointly with CAB for this new contract, CAB intends to recruit its own welfare rights worker. The tender was clear about their previous experience in delivering this and the Panel was confident that the organisation had the skills and expertise required.

3.1.5 The new contract will continue to be closely monitored on a quarterly basis by the South Area Council Manager. The South Area Chair will also continue to sit on the Steering Group which oversees project delivery.

3.2 – South Area Council Community Magazine

3.2.1 At its meeting on 2nd September 2016, the South Area Council agreed to fund the distribution of a twice-yearly Community Magazine (to be named #LoveBarnsley) to all households in the South Area, at an estimated cost of £3,000 for two further editions. The cost of the magazine's production by CIS would continue to be covered by advertising, requiring the Area Council to cover only the distribution costs.

3.2.2 Of the £3,000 allocated for distribution costs for 2016/17, a total of £3,119 has been spent on the delivery of the July 2016 and December 2016 edition.

3.2.3 If the South Area Council wishes to continue to fund a further two editions (June 2017 and November/December 2017) this would require the allocation of a further £3,500 from the 2017/18 budget.

3.2.4 This allocation would be the only cost associated with the production of a further two magazine editions, as production costs continue to be covered by advertising as previously.

3.3 – Young People's Activities arising from the Youth Asset Mapping project

3.3.1 At its meeting on 17th June 2016, the South Area Council agreed to fund 2 small youth projects which came out of discussions with local young people during the Youth Asset Mapping Project undertaken by Forge Community Partnership during summer 2016:

- £2,000 to fund pop up sessions for young people in local parks during the school holidays
- £2,000 to fund a 'young person friendly' social media presence for BMBC, working alongside a group of local young people

3.3.2 Because of the long term absence of the South Area Council Manager, it has not been possible to write the formal specifications for these projects to date. In addition, because winter weather does not lend itself to outdoor activities in parks, the aim is now to have a provider in place for both in time for the summer holidays this year. It is proposed that the South Area Council Manager approach Forge Community Partnership to run both activities, since the funding is under the threshold to require formal tendering, and Forge have the Youth Partnership and young person's Digital Group in place to move forward on these projects quickly.

4. Other developmental work

4.1.1 The South Area Council Manager is increasingly developing work which impacts the South Area, but which does not require commissioning or funding. This new section of the report aims to let members of the South Area Council know about this additional work.

4.1.2 Since the previous report in February, the South Area Council Manager has been involved in:

- Meeting with colleagues in Public Health, Social Prescribing and Community Nursing to look at future opportunities for better joint working across the South Area now that we are all working to the same Areas from 1st April. These improved relationships will be particularly useful when developing projects around tackling social isolation across the South Area.
- Meeting with Diane Lee from Public Health to develop a workshop for the South Area Council to be held on 28th April, to consider possible responses to social isolation at both Ward Alliance and Area Council level
- The induction of the new Principal Towns Project Manager, Fiona O'Brien, for whom Kate will have line management responsibility. This has also included support to the development of the emerging governance structures for this project.
- Continued work with Rose Regeneration/Rocket Science to help test out their new Social Value Engine – a piece of software which will allow local authorities and others to calculate their own Social Return on Investment more easily.
- Working with the Area Team to try and improve our visibility as a team across the South Area, particularly with those who don't know about the work we do, particularly in terms of support to community groups and volunteers. This will include a range of new promotional campaigns across a range of media.

5. South Area Council Financial Position for 2017/18

5.1 In addition to the £400,000 budget allocated to the South Area Council for 2017/18, members will note from the spreadsheet at Appendix 1 that the final budget figure available for spend this year is larger than this because of the following:

- A figure of £93,615 (including all income from Environmental Enforcement) which is underspend from 2016/17 which is now carried forward into 2017/18 (although some of this is already spoken for).

- This includes a figure of £43,167, which is the income from tickets issued by Kingdom Security during 2016/17 as part of the Environmental Enforcement contract

5.2 This gives a total figure of **£493,615.00** which is the budget available for the South Area Council during 2017/18.

5.3 However, members will also note from the spreadsheet at Appendix 1 that the South Area Council has already committed to spend a total of **£446,269.00** on activities and projects already commissioned.

5.4 Taking into account the amounts already committed by the South Area Council, this leaves a figure of **£47,346.00** unallocated for spending on new projects or activities during 2017/18. This does NOT include any future income from the Environmental Enforcement contract, since this cannot be guaranteed; although it may be fair to assume that this could come in at a similar amount to that received during 2016/17, since the number of tickets issues seems to be fairly similar from quarter to quarter at present.

5.5 Members are also asked to consider the following implications of this financial situation during this year and in the longer term. The unallocated figure given above does NOT include any of the following costs:

- The Private Sector Housing Officer contract is currently only funded for one year, and is due to finish on 31st October 2017. If the South Area Council wishes to continue the project beyond this date, a further year would cost £32,580. Alternatively, funding the project until the end of the financial year (1st November 2017 – 31st March 2018) would cost a further £13,575.
- The costs of any future Summer Internship or similar project are not included.
- The costs of any future social isolation projects identified are not included.
- Any future funding of the young people's projects described in Section 3.3 of this report are not included.

6. South Area Council Long Term Financial Profile for 2017/18 – 2019/20

6.1 Although yet to be confirmed on a year to year basis, Area Council Managers have been asked to assume that Area Councils will continue to receive the same levels of annual funding until 2020 (£400,000 per year for the South Area Council).

6.2 The spreadsheet at Appendix 2 gives an overview of the financial commitments already made by the South Area Council through its existing commissions.

6.3 Members are asked to note the following:

6.3.1 The amount committed during 2018/19 for the three large contracts (Tidy Team, Environmental Enforcement and Advice Services) currently stands at a total of £405,720. This is above the annual allocation of £400,000 but does not include income from tickets or any underspend from this year.

6.3.2 Although the South Area Council is unlikely to be overspent in 2017/18 because of this additional income from tickets and a likely small underspend from this

year, there will be little funding available to commission other work whilst these commitments remain in place – the financial profile at Appendix 2 shows this to be estimated around £9,280.00 at present.

6.3.4 However, all three of the large projects listed above have a 'break clause' at the end of each contract year if performance is not satisfactory or if the South Area Council deems that its priorities have changed.

6.3.5 This allows projects to be brought to an end or their financial profiles altered at the end of each contract year if the South Area Council decides that it wishes to alter the priorities it is choosing to fund, subject to a reasonable period of notice. It is suggested that a review of these commitments be undertaken in autumn 2017 to allow sufficient time for any changes to be implemented.

6.3.6 In terms of maximising its long term income, there may also be a need for the South Area Council to consider bringing in other external funding streams to finance other work it wishes to do.

6.3.7 In addition, the South Area Council Manager is already engaged in development work outlined in Section 4, which may lead to existing local budgets being used jointly more effectively to facilitate work which contributes to the South Area Council's priorities. It is likely that with its commissioning budget largely allocated, this could also be an important emerging role for the Area Council – that of a 'hub' to bring together local service provision and to encourage more joined up working to meet local priorities.

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Date: 11th April 2017

Appendices:

**Appendix 1 South Area Council Commissioning Budget – Financial Analysis
2014/15 – 2019/20**

Appendix 2 – Finance overview – projections 2017/18 – 2019/20