

# BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**North Area Council Extraordinary Meeting:**

**4<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

**Agenda Item: 5**

**Report of North Area Council Manager.**

## **North Area Council's Proposal to Commission Private Sector Housing & Environmental Support**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 To update the Area Council regarding progress of this project and in recruitment of a suitable candidate for the role of Private Sector Housing and Environment Officer within the North Area.

### **2. Recommendations**

**That members note section 5 the progress update.**

### **3. Background**

3.1 The North Area Council invited Safer Communities officers to the North Area Council Meeting on the 19 September 2016. Safer Communities officers Jane Brannan and Cath Fairweather provided Members with an overview of the Private Sector Housing and Environment Service. It was explained that the service proactively deals with all issues capable of having a detrimental impact on others in the community, including anti-social behaviour and criminal activity, environmental issues, property/housing conditions, fly-tipping and littering. This is done in conjunction with other agencies such as SYP, SYFRS, Social Care, Landlords/letting agents and local residents.

3.2 Following the presentation on the 19<sup>th</sup> September the Area Council elected not to proceed with any further consideration of this specialist area until the Safer Communities completed its restructure and confirmed what its core service offer would be from April 2017.

3.3 A further workshop was held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017. It was attended by Cllrs Leech, Platts, Grundy, Howard, Tattersall, Charlesworth, Cherryholme and Lofts. Invited officers included Jane Brannan, Cath Fairweather, Jeanette Millward (Private Sector Housing and Environment Officer – North East Area) and Paul Jolley. The core private sector housing offer was confirmed which clarified that there will only be three private sector housing officer from April 2017 and it is anticipated that the vast majority of their work will be relative.

3.4 An informative and lively discussion followed which enabled the councillors present to learn more about the breath and volume of issues that officers are required to deal with. Case studies were provided to help explain these in more depth. It was highlighted that often the intervention required is supportive in nature rather than enforcement focussed. This leads to the empowerment of individuals and

intervening at the right level can prevent a costly escalation processes being required. The Tasking Officer explained that this type of private sector support was immeasurably helpful in delivering coordinated pieces of work which can involve a whole street. Three locations were referenced that would benefit from this type of intervention.

3.5 At the conclusion of the workshop Members were in agreement that they wished to proceed and commission private sector housing support for the North Area without delay. An extraordinary meeting of the Area Council was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and the decision to recruit was agreed.

#### 4. Private Sector Housing Support Outline

4.1 Based on initial findings the project would be in the region on £33,000 plus equipment and the possibility of a small working budget to enable larger projects to proceed without delay.

Project	Outline costings
<p><b>Private Sector Housing Management &amp; Enforcement</b></p> <p>This programme provides a full time worker at Grade 7 to be employed within the BMBC Safer Communities Service to tackle issues surrounding private landlords &amp; their tenants in identified hotspot areas across the North Area.</p> <p>This programme has already been funded by 4 out of the 6 Area Councils Central, where the impact has been substantial.</p> <p>Please see Appendices 1 – 5 of this report for further details.</p>	<p><b>£33,000 per year</b> to fund 1FTE worker. There is no management fee. Additionally purchase of a personal bodycam is recommended plus a small working budget to ensure larger projects can be realised.</p> <p>It should be noted that although the worker would be employed by BMBC, this is not 'buy back' activity, as it is work which has never been undertaken by the Council and is additional.</p> <p>There is a possibility that this post could eventually become mainstreamed if BMBC choose to introduce selective licensing schemes for private landlords.</p>

#### 5.0 Progress Update

5.1 Stronger Communities will have line management responsibility for the post and will therefore lead on recruitment to the post. The advert to recruit to the post is due to be posted imminently.

5.2 The post was advertised on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March and Closed on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

5.3 There were a total of 9 applications for the post. Short listing has been completed and 4 candidates will be interviewed w/c 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

**Officer Contact: Rosie Adams  
North Area Council Manager**

**Tel: 01226 773583  
Date: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017**