

BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

South Area Council Meeting:

16th June 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 a networking group to strengthen partnership working and joint funding within the Area

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

2.3 That members consider the project idea outlined in Section 4.1.3 – 4.1.11 of this report and agree further development work to be done by the South Area Council Manager for approval in September 2017

2.4 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

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

2.6 That members approve the development of an Area Partners Network as outlined in Sections 6.3.9 – 6.3.10 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 a full open tendering process, the contract has now been awarded to Barnsley Citizen's Advice Bureau to start on 1st July 2017. The old contract will finish on 30th June, ensuring that there is no break in service.

3.1.3 Following the decision by BMBC Welfare Rights not to bid jointly with CAB for this new contract, CAB is currently recruiting 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.

3.1.4 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 28th April 2017, the South Area Council agreed to fund the distribution costs of a further two editions of the Community Magazine #LoveBarnsley, at a maximum cost of £3,500. The costs for producing the magazine will continue to be met from the advertising revenue generated by CIS, who design and put it together.

3.2.2 The five Area Council Managers who are involved in the production of community magazines have been working together to attempt to identify a reliable and cost effective provider to deliver the magazines, and have been working with our Procurement Team to pull together a joint tender for all five areas, in the hope that this might attract a better quality provider. However, the way in which deliveries would be organised through this tender (by the first four characters of the postcode) do not work well for the South Area because of postcode crossovers with adjacent wards. This would mean a lot of direct mailing (packaging up and posting the magazine through the standard postal system) rather than the usual door drop method, which would make the cost prohibitive.

3.3.3 Because of this, the South Area Council Manager has decided not to become part of this joint procurement, but to re-use Smart Distribution, who delivered the previous edition without any problems, and who are happy to work from address lists rather than postcodes – meaning that all addresses can be door dropped, which keeps the price much lower.

3.3.4 The summer edition of #LoveBarnsley will be distributed across the South Area in the week commencing 24th July 2017. Please let the Area Council Manager know as soon as possible if you are aware of any addresses which have been missed.

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 At its meeting on 28th April 2017, the South Area Council agreed to award both of these small contracts to Forge Community Partnership, who did the original Asset Mapping work and who have a strong pre-existing Youth Partnership. Because of the small value of both contracts, the work falls below the threshold for formal procurement, meaning that they do not have to be formally tendered.

3.3.3 The South Area Council Manager has met with Neil Spencer from Forge Community Partnership, and plans are now underway to develop both projects. In order to take forward the 'young person friendly' social media project, Neil is pulling together a small initial meeting with the BMBC Communications Team & the South Area Council Manager to discuss the degree to which young people will be allowed and enabled to administer a social media presence which is 'badged' to some degree as BMBC and to look at sensible checks and balances for this. If any member of the South Area Council would like to take part in this short term development group, they would be warmly welcomed.

3.3.4 Once the necessary protocols have been agreed with the Communications Team, Forge will be pulling together a development group of young people from their Youth Partnership and interested young people from Kirk Balk and Netherwood schools.

3.3.5 Forge are also starting to plan out the 'pop up' parks sessions, and will be working with Jo Birch in BMBC Parks to take this forward over the summer holidays. It is also intended to pull together both projects, but using the pop up sessions to engage young people in the social media project and to get them involved in its development.

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 April, the South Area Council Manager has been involved in:

- Continuation of discussions with Diane Lee and other colleagues in Public Health to discuss ways to tackle the social isolation issues discussed at the workshop following the April 2017 meeting of the South Area Council.
- Meeting with the CEO of Age UK, to explore their existing work in combatting social isolation and how Area Council/Ward Alliance intervention might contribute to and enhance this
- Both of these have contributed to the production of the Options Appraisal paper for presentation at the South Area Council meeting on 16th June 2017.

- Mapping the work done by the Area Council commissioned projects against the Public Health Framework outcomes. Although Health is not one of the South Area Council's four priorities, it is clear that the projects it has commissioned contribute strongly to both mental and physical wellbeing across the Area. This mapping is an opportunity to highlight this contribution to gain recognition for the work done and also to ensure that colleagues within Health are given a clearer picture about the work being undertaken and the impact it is having
- Continued support for the new Principal Towns Project Manager, Fiona O'Brien, particularly around developing the processes and procedures for expressions of interest for funding and the ways in which these are assessed by the Principal Towns Commissioning Board.
- Continued beta testing of the new Social Value Engine produced by Rocket Science/Rose Regeneration.
- A meeting to be held with Rocket Science staff and the BMBC Procurement Team with a view to purchasing licences for the Social Value Engine, and using it to embed the social value approach in commissioning and procurement across the wider Council.
- 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.
- The South Area Council Manager also accompanied Phil Hollingsworth and a member of Wombwell Ward Alliance to 'pitch' for the Municipal Journal Award for Community Involvement in London. We have already been shortlisted for this award for the work done by Ward Alliances across the borough, and will find out whether or not we have won at the Awards Ceremony on the evening of 15th June (this is why she will be unable to attend the South Area Council meeting on the morning of the 16th of June)

4.1.3 The South Area Team has also been approached by the Dearne Area Team, whose Ward Alliance has been funding a programme of training for young people wanting to gain access to the building trades after their initial training. The industry standard Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card and the training needed to acquire it costs around £219 per person. The Dearne Ward Alliances became aware that a number of young people successfully finishing college and apprenticeship courses in construction did not have the money to pay for the card, which effectively barred them from being able to access job opportunities on construction sites. When approached, Barnsley College and other training providers involved stated that they received insufficient funding to provide this training and accreditation.

4.1.4 As a result of this, the Dearne Ward Alliances approached Attain Skills & Knowledge in Goldthorpe to develop a training package for 15 young people aged 18-25 and not in work for them to gain:

- Level 1 Health & Safety in Construction Environment
- Asbestos awareness training
- Manual Handling awareness training

- Working at Height awareness training
- A mock CSCS test
- A full exam which provided CSCS accreditation

4.1.5 The cost to train and accredit 15 young people for 5 years was £3,000, which was funded by the two Dearne Ward Alliances.

4.1.6 When these opportunities were advertised locally, they were inundated with those wanting to take up the opportunity and all places were filled within 24 hours. They also received 3 applications from young people living in the South Area, and informed us of this.

4.1.7 It is clear that funding a similar project would help all three of the South Area Ward Alliances to meet their targets around both supporting young people and a thriving local economy, by removing a barrier to employment which clearly exists for first time entrants to the job market, even after they have completed their vocational training.

4.1.8 However, to fund this project at a similar level to that offered in the Dearne would cost the Ward Alliances £1500 per ward, which is 15% of their budget for the whole year.

4.1.9 Although not previously done, it would be possible for the South Area Council to offer to match fund some of these costs, so that it would fund a percentage of the costs to be matched by the Ward Alliance. Alternatively, the Ward Alliances could be asked to find the full costs. It should be noted that any funding approved for this project has **not** been factored into the Area Council's budgetary position as outlined in Sections 5 and 6 of this report.

4.1.10 Although this was not required by the Dearne scheme, it is also proposed that in line with the eligibility requirements of the Ward Alliance Fund, young people benefiting from the project in the South Area could potentially be asked to 'give back' to their community in the form of volunteering in return for their CSCS card having been funded.

4.1.11 The South Area Council Manager requests a steer from the Area Council at this meeting as to whether this is a project which they would like to explore further or whether they would prefer the Ward Alliances to discuss proceeding without any financial support from the Area Council. If there is an interest in the project, the South Area Council needs to consider:

- Is this a project they would like to potentially part fund, along with the Ward Alliances if there is interest from them?
- What percentage of match funding would they like to potentially offer?
- How many places would they potentially like to fund?
- Do they want to pursue the idea of young people who benefit from the scheme 'giving back' volunteering time to their community? If yes, how much time would be reasonable?

Once the wishes of the Area Council are clear, the South Area Council Manager proposes bringing a more detailed appraisal paper for approval to the September 2017 meeting of the South Area Council.

5. South Area Council Financial Position for 2017/18

NB: Section 5 contains the same information as was provided in the paper to Area Council on 28th April 2017, this is because the financial profile remains unaltered since that date.

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 issued 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.

6.3.3 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.

6.3.4 This means that with a sufficient notice period, the South Area Council can decide to review, amend or terminate any of its existing contracts at end of each financial year.

6.3.5 At the Area Council meeting held on 28th April 2017, it was agreed that a workshop would be held at the end of its meeting on 1st September 2017 to review the achievements and impacts of its projects to date, with the potential to agree altered contract budget profiles at the following meeting on 20th October. This will give a sufficient notice period for the Area Council Manager to negotiate any required changes to contracts before the end of the financial year.

6.3.6 At this workshop, it is suggested that the following discussions are held for each of the major projects commissioned by the South Area Council to date:

- What was the project initially commissioned to do and achieve?
- What impact has it had in practice? What has the social value/social return on investment been?
- What needs was the project initially commissioned to meet?
- To what extent has it met these needs and to what extent does the need still remain?
- What have been the project's main successes and shortcomings?
- If we were required to reduce/get rid of any of our projects, would we want to retain this one and why?
- What else might we want to fund if we are no longer funding this project?

6.3.7 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. This can also be discussed at the workshop to be held on 1st September

6.3.8 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.

6.3.9 With this in mind, the South Area Council Manager is currently developing plans for an Area-wide Partner Network, where representatives of voluntary and statutory sector organisations working across the Area can come together on a quarterly basis for a half day workshop (using the asset based model previously used at our previous conferences) to identify joint working opportunities and funding to tackle the key issues for the Area. It is envisaged that some members of the Area Council might also wish to join this group in their capacity as community leaders, and would be warmly welcomed as key members of the Network. If approved, the plan would be to hold the first meeting in September 2017.

6.3.10 There is no cost to the Area Council for the Partner Network. Free venues will be used and refreshments provided either through local business sponsorship or using the small South Area Team working budget.

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Date: 24th May 2017

Appendices:

**Appendix 1 South Area Council Commissioning Budget – Financial Analysis
2014/15 – 2019/20**
Appendix 2 – Finance overview – projections 2017/18 – 2019/20