

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
19th March 2018

Agenda Item: 5

Report of North Area Council
Manager

Procurement Update, Financial Position and Forecast

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides the Area Council with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that have been proposed.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **The North Area Council should note the existing budget position and forecast for the funding commitments.**
- 2.2. **The North Area Council should note that contrary to previous information the North Area received a budget of £400,000 for the period 2017/18.**
- 2.3. **Members should note the update regarding the proposed recruitment of a Young Peoples Participation Worker.**
- 2.4. **Members are asked to refer to point 3.7 and indicate their preferred option for compensation.**
- 2.5. **Members should note the current financial position.**
- 2.6. **Members should note that forecasted annual budget commitments based on the decisions that were made at the September and November 2017 meetings.**

3. Background highlighting all significant financial commitment

- 3.0 The Anti-Poverty Community Outreach Project commenced on the 14th September 2015. This is a one year (plus one year) contract valued at £149,000 in total. The initial contract has now concluded.

The decision was taken to retender the opportunity for a further 2 years (+ 1 year) at a contract value of approximately £95,000 per annum. The provider commenced service delivery on the 14th September 2017. This contract will run until at least September 2019 provided the conditions of the contract are met.

- 3.1 The Clean and Green Service commenced on the 14th September 2015. This was a one year (plus one year) contract valued at £150,000 per annum. The initial contract has now concluded.

The decision was taken to advertise an enhanced tender opportunity for a further 2 years (+ 1 year) at a contract value of approximately £85,000 per annum. The provider commenced service delivery on the 2nd October 2017. This contract will run until at least September 2019 provided the conditions of the contract are met.

- 3.2 Environmental Enforcement contract commenced in April 2016. This is a one year (+ one year + one year) contract. This has financial implications of up to £146,000 per annum. The decision was taken at the September 2017 meeting NOT to utilise the final year of the contract extension. This will mean that the contract will have run for two years and will end on 31st March 2018.

- 3.3 Housing Migration Officer Private Sector Housing Officer – At the November meeting 2017 it was agreed that the North Area would offer a Housing Migration Officer post at Grade 6 for 12 months fixed term. The successful candidate started on the 22nd January 2018. In addition to the salary fees the Area Council agreed to fund uniform, PPE including IT, phone and bodycam, plus a £5k annual working budget.

- 3.4 Opportunities for Young People – At the September 2017 meeting the Area Council requested that the Area Council Manager and Senior Link Officer look into the feasibility of the North Area recruiting a Youth Participation Worker which would help to increase links with the local schools and increase the participation and social action involvement of young people across the area. At the November 2017 meeting the North Area Council agreed to the recruitment of a Support Worker for young people at grade 4 FTE, however based on further discussions with the Early Intervention Service they have recommended that to fulfil the requirement of the Area Council the post would need additional skills. It is advised to devise a new role profile for a part time post at Grade 5/6. This would not require an increase in funding allocation but will require a longer lead in time. This development process requires the cooperation and support of HR colleagues because the proposed post would need to go to a panel for approval before a request to recruit is authorised. If this new post is not permitted then it may be necessary to revert back to the grade 4 proposal.

- 3.5 Health and Wellbeing – At the November 2017 meeting The North Area Council agreed to consider a Social Inclusion Project with a Prevention of Winter Deaths focus. This would complement the work of Housing and Energy Colleagues who are looking at developing a Housing and Energy Advice Hub with housing energy advice. They are currently applying to the Warm Homes Fund for a three year project. Aligning a 3 year pilot in North Area would be a fantastic opportunity to combine resources and realise positive outcomes for residents in the North Area. The proposal was supported at the January 2018 Area Council meeting pending further development work. The earliest this could be anticipated to start is July 2018.

- 3.6 Stronger Communities Grant – The total funding available for 2018/19 is £80,000. A total of 7 applications were received. The grant is oversubscribed by in excess of £44,000. At the time of writing the Grant Panel has been postponed from 1st March to the 15th March. Consequently information documenting the panel outcome will need to be tabled at the Area Council meeting on the 19th March.
- 3.7 Community Magazine – The Area Council fund the distribution costs of the North Area Magazine. This is a twice yearly distribution costing approximately £2,500 per issue.

There were some concerns raised regarding the delivery of the magazine for the December 2017 issue. There were reports of non-delivery and delays. The provider has apologies for the inconvenience and offered a reimbursement. A credit of £1,000 has been offered as an apology. Alternatively they will delivery to the postcodes that experienced problems (S75 5, S75 2, S75 6, S71 3) free of charge for the next edition, this is equivalent to £1,837. Members are asked to indicate their preferred option.

4. Financial Position

- 4.1. At the September 2017 meeting The Area Council took the decision to reconfigure its annual financial commitment to ensure that the annual spend is in-line with the budget allocation. It was agreed to cease the Environmental Enforcement Service and proposed to introduce a Participation Worker for Young People.
- 4.2. At the time of writing there is an **underspend of £167,186 for 2017/18 (this includes underspend from previous years). However the in-year balance exceeds the annual budget by £85,000.**
- 4.3. This is a significant excess caused by the decisions to stop the Positive Progressions project £55,000, the delay in recruiting to the Private Sector Housing Support Officer role, the unallocated Grant funding £20,797.50 and recycled FPN income of £42,143 for 2016/17 now received.
- 4.4. The decision to terminate the Environmental Enforcement contract from March 2018 means that the Area Council will need to commit to at least one large scale project make efficient use to the outstanding budget. This has provided an opportunity to develop the social isolation project.

4.5. The proposed annual commitments from April 2018:

Contract	Annual Value
Anti- Poverty – Community Outreach	£95,000
Creating a Cleaner, Greener Environment in Partnership with Local People	£85,000
Housing Migration Officer	£35,000
Stronger Communities Grant	£80,000
Magazine Delivery	£6,000
Participation & Engagement Officer – Young People FT (+participation budget)	£26,000 & £5,000
In Development (<i>Social Isolation Project Healthy Homes</i>)	£75,000
Devolved funding to Ward Alliances	£40,000
TOTAL	£447,000

5. Risks

- 5.1. Members please note that the Area Council has benefited from £112,294.00 in recycled FPN income since 2014. This will cease in March 2018 following the decision to decommission the service.
- 5.2. Members please note that the financial position of the Area Council has altered significantly and there is a substantial sum currently unallocated for 2017-18.
- 5.3. The proposed budget would take the Area Council £47,000 over budget pa for the next 3 years. However taking into account the current under spend or £167,183, the investment profiled in 4.5 would be feasible for the next three years and still leave £26,183 unallocated.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. Ensure that the Area Manager is alerted to any proposed commissioning profile variations so that feasibility considerations can be made at the earliest opportunity.

Officer Contact:
Rosie Adams

Tel. No:
01226 773583

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7th March 2018

