

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Dearne Council Meeting:
14th September**

Agenda Item: 5

**Report of Dearne Area Council
Manager**

Dearne Area Council – Enforcement Service

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides members with an opportunity to reach a decision about whether the Dearne Area Council will continue to commission an Environmental Enforcement Service.
- 1.2 The report also considers options regarding the scale of a future commissioned service.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 **Members agree if they wish to continue to commission an environmental enforcement service to help address the Area Environment priority after March 2016.**
- 2.2 **Members agree the scale of the service provision.**
- 2.3 **Dearne Area Council members agree the maximum contract value and length.**

3. Background and Proposal

- 3.1 As part of its commissioning of projects based on local priorities, the Dearne Area Council following a tender exercise appointed an external contractor (Kingdom Security) for an initial period of one year to provide additional enforcement activity around the areas of:
 - Littering
 - Dog fouling
 - Parking

The contract for the Dearne Area was agreed at the following contract price over one year:

- A total contract price of **£32,118** for the provision of 1 full time Enforcement Officers
- Of this, a total of **£27,180** payable to Kingdom Security to recruit, employ, train and manage the 4 full time staff
- The remaining **£4,938** payable to BMBC Community Safety and Enforcement for the provision of uniforms, vehicles, body cameras, accommodation and administration costs relating to the processing of fines and payments

Because the appointment of an external contractor was a new approach for BMBC and for the Dearne Area Council, it was decided to appoint for a period of one year only, to act as a pilot which would enable the project to be terminated if not successful or appropriate.

- 3.2 This contract commenced on 4th August 2014 and has been operating successfully across the Dearne Area. A thorough process of quarterly contract management meetings with the Dearne and Central Area Council Managers have ensured that the provider is operating effectively, appropriately and in conjunction with existing mainstream provision and intelligence. Feedback from the public has also been positive, as environmental issues consistently top the list of issues of concern to the public raised during community consultations.
- 3.3 The original contract draws to a close on the 3rd August 2015. At the request of the Area Council the contract has been extended until 31st March 2015. If the Area Council wishes to continue this provision it is recommended that procurement commences as soon as possible.

4.0 Next Steps

- 4.1 Members need to agree:
- i. If they wish to continue to commission an environmental enforcement service.
 - ii. The scale of the service i.e. the number of officers
 - iii. The length of the contract
 - iv. Total contract value

5.0 Funding

- 5.1 To recommission a service which is similar to the existing provision would require one officer and support services from BMBC Community Safety. The total value would be approximately £30,955 per annum.
- 5.2 Members are asked to consider if they wish to reduce/increase the number of officers working within the Dearne.

6.0 Contract Length

6.1 Procurement is a time consuming and costly process. Therefore it is recommended that any contract be advertised for a minimum of two years on the understanding that it is 'let' one year at a time.

7.0 Risks

7.1 The Area Councils are awaiting further information regarding ongoing budget allocations. It is recommended that any future commissioned service contracts include break clauses that will help to mitigate any financial risk. These include considerations for: availability of funding, satisfaction with the service delivered and perceived need of the service.

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Date:
14th Sept 2015.