

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**North East Area Council****Meeting:****1st October, 2015****Agenda Item: 9****Report of North East Area Manager****The North East Area Council `Home Grown Apprentices` Scheme****1. Purpose of the Report**

To provide an update on the proposed Home Grown Apprentices Scheme, as previously agreed to be taken forward at the meeting of the North East Area Council held on June 11th, 2015 (NEAC 30.7.2015).

2. Background

The proposal is to develop a pilot initiative that would commission a Horticultural Apprenticeship scheme, which would work closely with Parks Services in the local area. There would be one Supervisor and three apprentices, and the scheme would run for 12 months, with an option to extend for a further year subject to the satisfactory achievement of outcomes measures and outputs. The apprentices would learn about flowers, shrubs, shrub bed maintenance, keeping the path ways edged and clear of detritus, and Health and Safety with regard to both the maintenance of play equipment in the Park and all green spaces in the Park. The apprentices would be involved in Love Where You Live Volunteering initiatives, and other Social Action activities in the Parks such as the School Holiday activities organised through the Ward Alliances, Community Clean Ups, Galas and Proms. The apprentices would also link in with any Lets Grow initiatives in the local communities. Additionally It would be possible for local people to gain work experience through this initiative.

NPS Barnsley recommended that the best way to take this initiative forward would be through a Service Level Agreement with Parks Services. Following subsequent meetings held with Parks Services and NPS an attached draft Service Level Agreement, to include both General Conditions and Standard Work Specifications has been drawn up.

3. Recommendations

- (I) That Members approve the Service Level Agreement with Parks Services for the Home Grown Apprentice Scheme, at a cost of £98,000 per annum.**
- (II) That Members approve using an established Barnsley MBC Service to deliver this initiative**

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Date:

October 1st, 2015

Attachments

- Appendix A Home Grown Apprentices Service Level Agreement
- Appendix B Home Grown Apprentices General Conditions
- Appendix C Home Grown Apprentices Standard Work Specifications