

BARNESLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**North East Area Council****Report of the Area Manager****November 29th 2018****Interim Financial Update****1. Background**

1.1 The North East Area Council have previously agreed that the Area Council should focus on the following priorities during the financial year 2018 - 2019

- Love Where You Live
- Young People
- Health Lifestyles
- Thriving and Vibrant Economy

1.2 The Councillors agreed that these priorities would help to progress the Corporate Vision of

- Strong and Resilient Communities
- People Achieving Their Potential
- Thriving and Vibrant Economy

1.3 The Councillors have also agreed the underpinning principle to:

- Strive to promote and encourage Community Cohesion and integration in all projects that the North East Area Council is involved in.

2. Current Financial Position

2.1 Based on updated information relating to the North East Area Council procured services to date, and the Youth Development Grant fund, Appendix 1 provides a current position statement for the North East Area Council. The Councillors are asked to consider the following updates:

3. Procurement of an Environmental Enforcement Service Update to include littering, dog fouling and parking.

3.1 Further to formal approval for the procurement of an Environmental Enforcement service with a focus on littering, dog fouling and parking agreed at the last meeting of North East Area Council on 27th September 2018, this tender opportunity was advertised on 19th October 2018.

3.2 The closing date for tender submissions was 19th November 2018 with the Evaluation Moderation Panel and presentations scheduled to take place on 27th November 2018.

3.3 The outcome of this procurement process will be reported to the North East Area Council at its meeting on February 7th, 2018.

3.4 As previously agreed by the North East Area Council, and to ensure that the proposed Environmental Enforcement Service currently being procured operates as part of the Council's broader approach, complements the Council's "core offer", operates within the same degree of integrity, benefits from existing local infrastructure and can legitimately act on behalf of the Council as the primary enforcement agent in the North East Council Area, a Service Level Agreement with BMBC's Safer Neighbourhoods Service is currently being revised. The cost formally agreed by North East Area Council at its meeting on 27th September 2018 for the delivery of this Environmental Enforcement SLA was approximately £5,000 per annum.

3.5 Since this amount was agreed, it has come to light that this figure does not include the leasing of a vehicle which is essential for the effective operation of the service.

3.6 Members note the update provided about the Environmental Enforcement procurement, and approve the allocation of an additional £5,000 for the Service Level Agreement with Barnsley Council's Safer Neighbourhoods Service, to cover the cost of leasing a vehicle for the service.

3.7 That the Environmental Steering Group of the North East Area Council consider proactive methods of encouraging members of the community to be responsible dog owners to complement this commission.

3.8 That a variety of marketing and publicity campaigns is considered to try and help to address this problem. That dog owners are encouraged to pick up after their dogs, and for dog bags to regularly distributed at volunteering events, galas and community events.

3.9 That the responsible dog owner project is taken forward, and managed by the Environment Steering Group of the North East Area Council at a cost of £1,000.

4. Stop Smoking Initiative

4.1 Further to the satisfactory performance of the Stop Smoking initiative, as highlighted in the Area Managers Performance Report, and the Service Presentation at the meeting of the North East Area Council held on 29th November 2018, it is recommended that the Councillors consider an extension to this commission with SWYFT for a further 12 months, from May 2019 until May 2020 at a cost of £30,000.

4.2 That the Stop Smoking initiative is extended for a further twelve months with SWYFT, from May 2019 until May 2020, at a cost of £30,000

5. Devolving Funding to Ward Alliances for 2019 – 2020

5.1 Following the withdrawal of Devolved Ward Budgets and the revised Ward Alliance Fund introduced from 1st April 2016, an allocation of £10,000 per Ward was allocated from the Council's core budget to the Ward Alliances in each year since 2016 - 2017. It is anticipated that the same amount will be allocated in 2019 - 2020.

5.2 In addition to the above, there was an option for Area Council's to allocate up to £20,000 per Ward Alliance from the Area Council budget. This option was discretionary to each Area Council and the allocation could be flexible up to this amount, as long as the Ward Alliance balance remaining was under £10,000 at the end of the year.

5.3 For the last 3 years (2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, and 2018 - 2019), the North East Area Council has devolved an amount of £10,000 to each of its four Ward Alliances, with an agreement that any money devolved to the four Ward Alliances that is not spent be returned to North East Area Council.

5.4 The following table outlines the Ward Alliance Fund 2018 - 2019 starting balances, and amounts of Ward Alliance Fund funding remaining as at 1st November 2018, for each of the four Ward Alliances:

Ward	Starting Balance	Balance Remaining
Cudworth	£20,861	£2,436.72
Monk Bretton	£20,556	£4,268.88
North East	£21,663	£8,573.60
Royston	£20,000	£161.41

5.5 Given the current budget situation, and the WAF balances remaining for each of the four Ward Alliance seven months into the financial year, it is proposed that the North East Council members consider allocating a further £10,000 to each Ward Alliances from the North East Area Council funds for the 2019 - 2020 financial year, at a total cost £40,000

5.6 That a further £10,000 is allocated to each of the four Ward Alliances of the North East Area Council, from the North East Area Council funds, at a total cost of £40,000.

6. Health and Wellbeing Steering Group

6.1 It is recommended that a Health and Wellbeing Steering Group should be formed, with a Councillor representative from each of the four Wards, to identify and consider potential activities with a Health and Wellbeing focus.

6.2 Members are asked to note that the Apprenticeships and Employability commission included a £20,000 contingency amount to be used for additional services, and to date this funding has not been required. It is proposed that this funding is re allocated by the Health and Wellbeing Steering Group.

6.3 Health and Wellbeing Fund - it has recently been brought to the attention of the Stronger Communities Service that a proposal for the development of community based support for people to improve their physical and emotional wellbeing is currently in development, with funding allocations to be awarded accordingly, should the proposal be formally approved.

6.4 Part of this proposal is to help people engage with their well-being through: *“Locally defined population based support services, groups, projects delivered through Area Council’s where local needs can be identified and services and projects can be built to address well-being outcomes in local communities”*.

6.5 That the Health and Wellbeing Steering Group identify and consider initiatives and projects for delivery in their local communities with a Health and Wellbeing focus, as listed, and report their recommendations to a future meeting of the Area Council

7. Parks Maintenance

7.1 Royston

Members are asked to approve the request to repair the vandalised DDA hand rails at the Bowling Green in Royston at a cost of £475.

Members are asked to approve the request to repair the roof to the bandstand at Royston Park with reinforced netting. It is hoped that this will provide a sustainable method of preventing further occurrences at a maximum cost of £1,000.

7.2 Grimethorpe

The Skate Park at the Dell in Grimethorpe is in urgent need of repair due to anti-social behaviour damage to the tarmac near the skate park units. It is proposed that local young people are consulted about the repairs, and that they are encouraged to take ownership of the area through outreach youth development work. The young people will be encouraged to volunteer to take part in litter picks, and environmental improvements, of the surrounding area.

This skate park is frequently used by young people in the area and provides diversionary activities and opportunities for health and fitness. Several requests to have this area repaired have been received from local residents as there is a concern that there are limited numbers of local facilities for young people in the area.

The maximum cost of the project to include the repairs is £9,000

7.3 That the repairs listed to improve the park areas in Royston and Grimethorpe are approved.

8. Community Magazine

8.1 The North East Area Council Editorial Steering Group met on Friday 9th November to discuss the latest edition of the Village Life Community Magazine. Following several publishing problems with this edition, and after careful consideration, the Editorial Steering Group would like to recommend to the North East Area Council that a single, A5 size, annual `stand-alone` edition of the magazine is published at a cost of approximately £5,000. This will include design work, printing and delivery costs.

8.2 Members' area sked to note that the Head of Stronger Communities is currently liaising with Corporate Communications, and the current provider with regard to this matter

8.3 That, if possible, a single, A5 size `stand alone` edition of the community magazine is published at an annual cost of approximately £5,000.

9. Voluntary Action Barnsley Training Packages

9.1 As part of their new offer to the Voluntary and Community Sector , Voluntary Action Barnsley have bought in a substantial training package of online accredited short courses from CLC for community groups and organisations, which are geared to the needs of the Voluntary and Community Sector (Appendix 2).

9.2 The courses will be available individually, but Voluntary Action Barnsley wants to make an offer to groups and organisations that they could buy online access in bulk. For £300 per year, they could offer 50 logins to the CLC platform, with access to 300 accredited online courses – and each person could then complete as many courses as they feel would be beneficial.

9.3 It is recommended that the Area Council trial this training package for use by the Ward Alliance members, at a cost of £300 per year, and review the take up of the courses, with feedback from the Ward Alliance members, after a 12 months period.

10.0 That the North East Area Council notes the updates provided in this report, and approve the following recommendations:

- **That Members note the update provided about the Environmental Enforcement procurement, and approve the allocation of an additional £5,000 for the Service Level Agreement with Barnsley Council's Safer Neighbourhoods Service, to cover the cost of leasing a vehicle for the service.**
- **That the responsible dog owner project is taken forward, and manged by the Environment Steering Group of the North East Area Council at a cost of £1,000.**

- That the Stop Smoking initiative is extended for a further twelve months with SWYFT, from May 2019 until May 2020, at a cost of £30,000
- That a further £10,000 is allocated to each of the four Ward Alliances of the North East Area Council, from the North East Area Council funds, at a total cost of £40,000.
- That the Health and Wellbeing Steering Group identify and consider initiatives and projects for delivery in their local communities with a Health and Wellbeing focus, as listed, and report their recommendations to a future meeting of the Area Council
- That the repairs listed to improve the park areas in Royston and Grimethorpe are approved.
- That, if possible, a single, annual 'stand alone' edition of the community magazine is published at an annual cost of approximately £5,000.
- It is recommended that the Area Council trial the CLC online training package for use by the Ward Alliance members, at a cost of £300 per year, and review the take up of the courses, with feedback from the Ward Alliance members, after a 12 months period.

**Caroline Donovan
Area Council Manager**

19th November, 2018.