

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
25th March 2019

Agenda Item: 8

Report of North Area Council
Manager

Commissioning, Project Development and Financial Update

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. **Members should confirm if they wish the Anti Poverty Community Outreach Project to be extended from September 2019 for a further 12 months.**
- 2.3. **Members should confirm if they wish the Clean and Green Service to be extended from October 2019 for a further 12 months.**
- 2.4. **Members should confirm if they wish to extend the Youth Participation posts from August 2019 for a further 12 months.**
- 2.5. **Members should note the current financial position.**

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.

Decision: Members should confirm if they wish the Anti Poverty Community Project to be extended from September 2019 for a further 12 months.

- 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.

- 3.1. **Decision:** Members should confirm if they wish the Clean and Green Service to be extended from October 2019 for a further 12 months.

- 3.2 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.

Members have agreed at the September 2018 meeting to extend the post from 22nd January 2019 on a fixed term basis for a period of 12 months.

- 3.3 Opportunities for Young People – Two 18hr Youth Participation Support Worker Grade 4 posts were advertised in May 2018. Interviews were conducted on 12th June 2018. References and DBS checks have been received. The officers started at the beginning of August. The posts are 12 months fixed term.

The funding for this project includes staff salaries and on-costs plus a mobile phone and laptop each. A working budget of £5,000 has also been agreed. The workers commenced their contract at the beginning August 2018.

Decision: Members should confirm if they wish to extend the Youth Participation posts from August 2019 for a further 12 months.

- 3.4 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. 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. A workshop took place on the 10th of April which informed the specification that was signed off at the 14th May meeting.

The procurement process for this project was conducted during June and July 2018. DIAL Barnsley was the preferred provider when the process concluded. This contract is valued at £75,000p.a. (with a ceiling of £85,000) for two years, with the option to extend a third year. The contract commenced on the 3rd September 2018. The contract will go live from 1st January 2019. The service will be called 'Warm Connections'. A soft launch is planned for Thursday 31st January.

It has been recognised that the existing hOurbank project that DIAL deliver in the North Area would complement the Warm Connections Service. The North Area Council has agreed to contribute £10,000p.a. for the duration of the Warm Connections contract.

- 3.5 Stronger Communities Grant – The total funding available for 2018/19 is £80,000. A total of 7 applications were received. The grant was oversubscribed by in excess of £44,000. At the Grant Panel on the 15th March 5 projects were recommended for approval delivering a broad range of services up until March 2019.

In November 2018 the North Area Council agreed to run the grant funding opportunity again in 2019/20. This is profiled in the annual budget at a cost of £80,000.

- 3.6 Devolved Funding to Ward Alliances
The Area Council has consistently devolved funding to Ward Alliances. This equates to £10,000 per ward, £40,000 in total. This money is only devolved down to Ward Alliances where the Ward Alliance budget is less £10,000 at the end of March of the last financial year.

- 3.7 Community Magazine – The Area Council funds the distribution costs of the North Area Magazine. This is a twice yearly distribution costing approximately £3,200 per issue.

The Area Council is currently reviewing the options available regarding Community Magazines.

- 3.8 Health and Wellbeing 2019
The North Area Council has been exploring the possibility of commissioning a new service to help address health and wellbeing inequalities across the North Area. This is in the early stages of scoping, there is further information available in agenda item 8.

4. Financial Position

- 4.1. It is forecast that there will be an **underspend of approximately £189,028 for 2018/19 (this includes underspend from previous years). However the in-year balance exceeds the annual budget by £36,976.**
- 4.2. 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, and recycled FPN income of £31,073 for 2017/18 now received.
- 4.3. **The forecast for 2019/20 shows that the underspend (including underspend from previous years) will be reduced to £119,610.** This is because the in-year balance exceeds the annual budget by £ £69,418.

4.4. The Health and Wellbeing Group acknowledged that there is an underspend at the January 2019 meeting. The Area Council are keen to put the budget to good use and have held a workshop to explore project opportunities for the North Area. This may lead to a new commission, recommended value £60,000p.a for two years.

4.5. Outlined 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 – Grade 6 (+laptop and phone)	£35,000
Stronger Communities Grant	£80,000
Magazine Delivery (Inc. x2 deliveries p.a.)	£7,200
Support Worker - Youth Participation Grade 4 – two officers working 18hours (+laptop and phone) (+participation budget)	£26,000 & £5,000
Social Isolation and Cold Homes Project (+ hOurbank)	£75,000 + £10,000
Devolved funding to Ward Alliances (<i>where March 2019 balance is less than £10,000</i>)	£40,000
TOTAL	£458,200

5. Risks

- 5.1. Members please note that the Area Council has benefited from £112,294.00 in recycled FPN income since 2014. This ceased in March 2018 following the decision to decommission the service.
- 5.2. The proposed budget would take the Area Council approximately £58,000 over budget pa for from 2019/20 – 2020/21. However taking into account the current under spend of £189,028, the investment profiled in 4.4 would be feasible for the next three years.
- 5.3. If the Area council decides to commission a new service to help address the priorities identified in agenda item 8 the Area Council will have to rationalise the services that are currently commissioned. This could also mean reducing the

Stronger Communities Grant Funding pot and/or the monies devolved to Ward Alliances.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. The Area Manager will work with the Members and Public Health colleagues to help address the priorities identified in Item 8.
- 6.2. Ensure that the Area Manager is alerted to any proposed commissioning profile variations so that feasibility considerations can be made at the earliest opportunity.

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