

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**Agenda Item 8****North East Area Council Meeting****December 3rd, 2015****Report of North East****Area Council Manager****North East Area Council Priorities and Financial Considerations****1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 For Members to consider an extension to fund the North East Environment Team initiatives for the Cudworth and North East areas, and the Monk Bretton and Royston areas, for a further 6 months going forward from March 1st 2016 to September 1st 2016. This is to ensure that each of the Team Leaders and their assistants, in addition to apprentice positions in each of the Teams, do not lose their jobs, whilst the Area Council Framework for Commissioning and Procurement is being reviewed.

1.2 For Members to request a distinct waiver to extend the current contact to Barnsley Community Build, for the North East Environment Team initiatives for the Cudworth and North East areas, and the Monk Bretton and Royston areas for a further 6 months from March 1st 2016 to September 1st 2016.

1.3 It can be noted that the urgency of this decision is to ensure that no jobs are lost whilst Barnsley MBC carry out their review of the Area Council Framework for Commissioning and Procurement.

2. Background

2.1 The initiative delivers the North East Area Council priorities for the Environment, and Economy and Regeneration, in addition to the Corporate Priorities of:

- a thriving and vibrant economy
- people achieving their potential
- strong and resilient communities

2.2 Significant positive feedback has been received with regard to the outputs and outcomes delivered by the North East Environment Teams, for the Cudworth and North East, and the Monk Bretton and Royston areas, as can be confirmed via the North East Area Council Project Performance Reports. The Teams have met all the Contract requirements, and have significantly exceeded the outputs with regard to the development of Apprenticeships.

2.3 It can be noted that the course of action recommended by the Interim Head of Strategic Commissioning and Procurement, is to extend the contract for a further 6 months, at a cost of £47,500 per area, to allow time for the review of the current Area Council Framework for Commissioning and Procurement to be carried out. It can also be noted that there is currently no mechanism in place within the Framework with regard to Grant funding, and this will be explored as part of the Review.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the North East Area Council continues to fund the North East Environment Team initiatives for the Cudworth and North East areas, and the Monk Bretton and Royston areas, for a further 6 months going forward from March 1st 2016 to September 1st 2016, to ensure continuity of the provision made under this contract pending the finalisation of the Area Council Commissioning Framework.

3.2 That authorisation be given to the interim Service Director of Safer, Stronger, Healthier Communities, in conjunction with the Interim Head of Strategic Commissioning and Procurement, to complete the necessary paperwork in order to extend the contract for the North East Environment Teams, for the Cudworth and North East areas, and the Monk Bretton and Royston areas respectively, until September 2016, to a value of £47,500 per contract.

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25th November 2015