

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
16th March 2020

Agenda Item: 5

Report of North Area Council
Manager

Environmental Education Contract Specification - Refection and Refinement

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report summarises the project development activity that has taken place regarding the North's Environment Priority and associated Environmental Education Contract. The report asks the North Area Council to consider next steps regarding the future investment in this priority area.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **The North Area Council should note key points identified at the priority workshop held on the 5th March 2020.**
- 2.2. **The North Area Council should indicate if they wish the Area Council Manager to proceed with the refinement of the specification of the project designed to improve the overall environmental appearance of the four wards that make up the North Area Council area and increase volunteering and engagement specifically associated with this priority area. A further workshop, provisionally planned for the 14th April, will be integral in this process.**
- 2.3. **Councillors give some consideration to the educational outcomes they wish the redefined specification to include.**

3. Background

- 3.1. The Clean and Green Service commenced on the 14th September 2015. This was a two-year contract delivered by Forge Community Partnership. In 2017 the contract opportunity was retendered and was awarded to Twiggs Grounds Maintenance Ltd. commencing on the 2nd October 2017 on a term of two years, plus one year extension option.
- 3.2. The project has been live for 29 months and will reach the end of its contractual lifespan on the 1st October 2020.

- 3.3. In November 2019 the North Area Council agreed funding for a continuation of a similar project for the remainder of 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- 3.4. On the 5th March the following Environmental priority working group representatives (hereafter referred to as the 'working group') of the North Area Council met to reflect on the existing service and discuss possible refinements to a future specification. The workshop was attended by Cllr Leech, Cllr Trevor Cave, Cllr Tattersall, Cllr Lofts, Cllr Howard, Cllr Alice Cave, Cllr Hunt and Cllr Pickering. The group conducted a SWOC (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges) Analysis on the existing service provision.

4. Existing Service's Aim and Objectives

- 4.1. To improve the physical appearance of the North Area in partnership with local residents and/or local community groups/organisations.
- 4.2. Contribute to maintaining a clean, safe, well presented and welcoming physical environment through the provision of both proactive and reactive work as agreed with Ward Alliances.
- 4.3. Inspire local people and encourage sustainability through engagement with volunteers, residents, local community groups and organisations.
- 4.4. Reduce the amount of littering, dog fouling in the area through education in schools and within local communities.
- 4.5. N.B. THE PROVIDER DOES NOT have a maintenance contract for North Area. BMBC Neighbourhood Services retain this function and every effort must be made to prevent duplication.

5. Findings from the SWOC Analysis

| Strengths | Weaknesses |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engagement with volunteers is fantastic 2. Developing a volunteering culture 3. Establishing positive relationships with local people 4. Approachable and supportive 5. Explain technical aspects in a way that can be understood by others 6. The team is hard working and good to work with 7. Open and flexible to new ways of working 8. Easy to contact 9. Quick resolutions to issues 10. Starter finishers 11. Ability to remove waste at the end of a task 12. Right Equipment for the job 13. Referral process generally works | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project start times aren't as punctual as they could be – always on site at the time but not ready to begin at stated time 2. Not enough forward notice of activities (commissioner and volunteers can't attend at short notice) 3. Short notice means opportunities can't be widely publicised eg Chronicle 4. Forward planning dates are not routinely logged with central team 5. Delivery across the area is not consider equitable 6. Not all activities that the Ward Alliances want to complete are included in the contract 7. Responding to work requests without insisting that the referrer goes through the referral process 8. Synergy with Neighbourhood Service could be improved 9. More feedback on completed work is needed. 10. More before and after reporting on social media and beyond 11. Use of the North Clean and Tidy Facebook Page has reduced |
| Opportunities | Challenges |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work more closely with local stakeholder inc YWT. 2. Increase communication with local Councillors to ensure that projects can be promoted 3. Opportunity to develop a programme of work with groups to maintain engagement over a longer time period 4. Refine project coordination skills to rally and to rally and direct volunteers 5. Include weed spraying in the contract (consider contract purpose and cost) 6. Actively look for more volunteers 7. Support the planting of '10,000 trees' 8. Could be used to help and do projects around climate emergency – education worker? 9. Education around pot to plate, recycling, growing skills, tool use, climate change etc. could link with Incredible Edible 10. Identify opportunities and support NCS and Princes Trust projects 11. Support strategic priorities: 2030 vision and planning, carbon reduction, Integrated health and wellbeing | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Producing a programme of work (a forward plan of activities) 2. Weekend working - missing opportunities to work with volunteers at weekends 3. Attracting brand new volunteers to avoid working with the same people repeatedly 4. Setting up new groups 5. In St Helen's there are a lack of groups willing to engage and will only do so with additional incentives e.g. a meal |

6. Redefining the service specification

6.1. A further workshop will take place that will enable further discussion about the new specification prior to a decision being made on the 11th May. It is suggested that this workshop is broken down into 6 sections.

- Adding Value
- Function
- Education
- People and Organisation
- Process (How the service is delivered)
- Performance Monitoring (Data)

7. Next Steps

7.1. Councillors have been asked to give consideration to the education outcomes and outputs they wish to see included in the redefined specification. Essentially, what do we want to achieve (how will we know that we have made a difference) and what actions are required to achieve the outcomes.

7.2. The Area Manager has arranged a further workshop (provisionally) on the 14th April with colleagues from Neighbourhood Services and representatives from the Procurement Team to discuss refinements to the current service offer. This will be influenced by the BMBC core offer, strategic properties and local priorities. It will also enable Councillors to discuss the practicalities commissioning a refined service for the North Area.

7.3. The revised specification will be submitted to the Area Council on the 11th May.

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6th March 2020