

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:

16th March 2020

Agenda Item: 6

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 the existing the funding commitments.**
- 2.2. **That Members agree to fund the Anti- Poverty IAG contract for two years (+1yr) from September 2020.**
- 2.3. **That Members agree to fund the environmental education provision for two years (+1yr) from October 2020 will meet for a 2nd workshop to redefine the environmental specification prior to a decision to re-commission.**
- 2.4. **That Members note 3.2 regarding the Housing Migration Officer**
- 2.5. **That Members agree to the final year's extension of the Warm Connections Project (Sept 2020 – Aug 2021)**

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. On the 25th March 2019 the Area Council took the decision to utilise the contract extension clause and extend the contract until the 13th September 2020.

N.B. The Area Council will need to agree if they wish to continue to fund this type of service provision and advertise the tender opportunity. Recommendations based on budget workshop is that this will have a contract value of £95,000 p.a. and a contract length of 2 years (+1yr extension), from September 2020.

- 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. On the 25th March 2019 the Area Council took the decision to utilise the contract extension clause and extend the contract until the end of September 2020.

N.B. The Area Council will need to agree if they wish to continue to fund this type of service provision and advertise the tender opportunity. Recommendations based on budget workshop is that this will have a contract value of £85,000 p.a. and a contract length of 2 years (+1yr extension), from October 2020.

- 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 and proved to be a great asset to the area. The officer left the North Area council at the end of June 2019 for a promotion within BMBC.

Members agreed on the 27th June to commit to fund the post for at least 24 months (12 month contract, plus 12 months). It is hope that this will make the post more appealing to applicants. The delegated report has been approved.

*Please be aware that the Housing Migration Officer post is currently vacant. A the post was advertised in July however following a shortlisting process it was agree that none of the applicants were suitable for the position. The role profile was subsequently reviewed and amended to include relevant experience, rather than relying solely on qualifications. The post was re-advertised October, and closed for applications on the 25th October. There were 8 applicants, following shortlisting 3 applicants have been invited to attend interview on the 11th November. The recruitment process was unsuccessful. **The post was re-advertised on the 22nd November, shortlisting took place on the 9th December. Two candidates were be interviewed on the 17th January. A preferred candidate has been identified and is undergoing police vetting.***

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.

- 3.3 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 took place on 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.

N.B. The Area Council will need to agree if they wish to extend the funding for the final year of the contract. This would enable service to continue until 2nd September 2021.

- 3.4 Stronger Communities Grant –
The total funding available for 2019/20 is £99,359.05. This includes a total of £80,000 from the Area Council and Wellbeing Grant funding, of value £19,359.05 was also made available to address the Five Ways to Wellbeing. A total of 6 applications were received totalling £106,152.38. At the Grant Panel on Thursday 28th February all six projects were recommended for funding however one of the projects did not receive the full grant amount that they originally applied for. This will ensure that a broad range of services are delivered up until March 2020.

Please note that following the workshop on the 8th October 2019 it is recommended that the grant funding pot is scaled down over the next three years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23.

2020/21 – four organisations have been awarded funding

- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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. The North Area Council did not release a Summer 2019 edition and it has come to notice that BMBC will be publishing a community magazine as part of the 2030 visioning process.

3.7 Health and Wellbeing 2019 – focus on Young People

In November 2019 the North Area Council agreed to fund a project for up to three years. The project entitled 'An Empowerment Programme Enabling Resilient Transitions for Children and Young People Aged 8-14 Years' has been advertised as a competitive grant.

N.B. The opportunity was advertised on the YORTender system and closed on the 28th February 2020. However it has failed to identify a provider. At the time of writing the Area Manager is scheduled to meet with the procurement panel on the 12th March to identify a solution.

4. Financial Position

- 4.1. At the end of 2018/19 there was a significant **underspend of £189,028 (this includes underspend from previous years).**
- 4.2. This is a significant excess caused by the decisions to stop the Positive Progressions project £55,000, the difficulty 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 £156,433.** This is because the in-year balance exceeds the annual budget by approximately £32,595.
- 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 series of workshops during 2019 to explore project opportunities for the North Area. A specification for a young people's project has been developed. It is recommended to combine the £60,000p.a earmarked for this project with the youth participation budget of £30,000pa.

4.5. Outlined annual commitments from April 2019:

| 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. Commissioning programme from April 2020

- 5.1. A workshop took place on the 8th October attended by Cllr Leech, Cllr Spence, Cllr T Cave, Cllr Lofts and Cllr Platts. Members were asked to give review the existing budget commitments, and plan ahead.
- 5.2. Appendix 1 lays out the proposed spend. On the 18th November 2019 the North Area Council agreed to the forward plan for the next two years 2020/21 and 2021/22.

6. Risks

- 6.1. The proposed budget would take the Area Council approximately £60,000 over budget pa for from 2020/21 and 2021/22. However taking into account the current under spend, the investment profiled in Appendix 1 would be feasible.
- 6.2. The current vacant post of Housing Migration Officer will increase the underspend.

7. Opportunities

- 7.1. Based on the existing Area Council Priorities the recommend commissioning programme the only gap that remains in provision is around economic regeneration. This may be an area that the Ward Alliances could give some consideration to over the coming years.

8. Next Steps

- 8.1. Redefine the specification for the Environmental Education contract at workshop in April 2020.
- 8.2. 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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06/03/2020

Appendix 1:

| Project / Service | Annual Value | Projection - Sept 2019 | | | | Balanced |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
| Anti- Poverty – Community Outreach <i>Retender Anti- Poverty</i> | 95,000.00 | 95,000.00 | 95,000.00 | 95,000.00 | 95,000.00 | 95,000.00 |
| Creating a Cleaner, Greener Environment in Partnership with Local People | 85,000.00 | 85,000.00 | 85,000.00 | 85,000.00 | 85,000.00 | 85,000.00 |
| Housing Migration Officer – Grade 6 (+laptop and phone) | 35,000.00 | 35,000.00 | 35,000.00 | 35,000.00 | 35,000.00 | 35,000.00 |
| Stronger Communities Grant | 80,000.00 | 80,000.00 | 50,000.00 | 40,000.00 | 20,000.00 | - |
| Magazine Delivery (Inc. x2 deliveries p.a.) | 7,200.00 | 7,200.00 | - | - | - | - |
| Support Worker - Youth Participation Grade 4 – two officers working 18hours (+laptop and phone) (+participation budget)£26,000 + £5,000 | 31,000.00 | 31,000.00 | - | - | - | - |
| Social Isolation and Cold Homes Project (+ hOurbank) 2018-2020 (+1year) £75,000 + £10,000 | 85,000.00 | 85,000.00 | 85,000.00 | 85,000.00 | 85,000.00 | 85,000.00 |
| Devolved funding to Ward Alliances (where March 2019 balance is less than £10,000) | 40,000.00 | 40,000.00 | - | 20,000.00 | 20,000.00 | - |
| Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing - Resilient Transitions | 60,000.00 | - | 90,000.00 | 90,000.00 | 90,000.00 | 90,000.00 |
| The Fleets - Nature Park | 30,000.00 | - | 20,000.00 | 10,000.00 | - | - |
| TOTAL | | 458,200.00 | 460,000.00 | 460,000.00 | 430,000.00 | 390,000.00 |

