

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

South Area Council Meeting:

18th December 2015

Agenda Item: 8

**Report of South Area Council
Manager.**

South Area Council update on Recommissioning of Existing Commissioned Projects during 2016/17

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To update the South Area Council on progress towards the recommissioning of existing commissioned projects previously agreed at the Area Council meetings of 26th June, 4th September and 23rd October 2015

2. Recommendations

2.1 That members note the progress towards the recommissioning of existing commissioned projects as outlined in Section 4 of this report

3. Background

3.1 Following the approval of four priorities in September 2013, The South Area Council commissioned the following projects to tackle these priorities:

- One Stop Shop Advice Sessions
- Tidy Team & Tidy Team Apprentices
- Summer Internship Programme
- Environmental Enforcement contract
- Business Survey and Programme of courses for Local Businesses

3.2 The South Area Council discussed and agreed to recommission the following projects at its meeting on 23rd October. The outline costs agreed are in brackets:

- One Stop Shop Advice Sessions (£73,950 per year)
- Tidy Team & Tidy Team Apprentices (£165,000 for Tidy Team + £24,720 for Apprentices per year)
- Summer Internship Programme (£36,000 per year)
- Environmental Enforcement contract (£135,092 per year)

3.3 It was decided not to recommission the courses for Local Businesses, because takeup of the pilot scheme by businesses had been low.

4. Update on recommissioning of projects already agreed by the South Area Council

4.1 The following progress has been made towards the recommissioning of the existing projects outlined in Section 3.2 of this report.

One Stop Shop Advice Sessions:

The current contract finishes in June 2016, which means that it is not currently possible to put this contract out to tender because current Area Council funding is only in place until 31st March 2017. This means that the tender could currently run for only ten months, which is not considered good commissioning practice.

As a result of this, a waiver to standing orders has been produced and signed off by the Executive Director (Communities) which will enable the existing contract with Barnsley Citizen's Advice Bureau and BMBC Welfare Rights Service to continue in its current form until March 2017.

This allows time for the future funding of Area Councils to be clarified, whilst still leaving enough time for future commissioning of this work.

This will also allow time for the impact of the recent Welfare Review and recent cuts to funding for both services to be fully understood, to ensure that the South Area Council funding advice work works in a complementary way with new and emerging forms of service delivery by both organisations.

Tidy Team + Tidy Team Apprentices

This contract currently runs until August 2016, after which it will need to be recommissioned – this would mean beginning the commissioning process in March/April 2016 to avoid any break in service delivery. It is not currently possible to start the recommissioning process until the future funding of Area Councils after April 2017 is clear. As outlined above, commissioning only until 31st March 2017 would offer a contract of only eight months – again, not considered good practice.

The South Area Council Manager has discussed the possibility of a waiver similar to the One Stop Shop outlined above with the Executive Director (Communities). It is currently felt to be too early for a waiver to be signed off, and this will be reviewed again in the New Year once the budget position becomes clearer. If the budget position remains unclear into the early Spring, then a waiver to 31st March 2017 may be possible at this stage.

The South Area Council also requested information regarding the increased cost to the Tidy Team contract if all staff were paid the Living Wage. The staff are already paid the current Living Wage of £7.85 per hour, however the recent Budget announcement that this will increase to £8.25 per hour in April 2016 will affect the future cost of the contract. It is anticipated that the increased wages costs and concomitant increased oncosts will result in a further £6,000 in cost to the contract price.

Summer Internship Programme

The contract with C+K Careers to support the cohort of young people attending the Summer 2015 courses will continue into the autumn of 2016, to ensure they are all settled into a positive first destination after Year 11.

The contract for a future course and programme of support for the 2016 cohort has already gone out to tender with a closing date of 7th December. The organisations submitting a tender are currently being marked against the specification by the North, North East and South Area Council Managers, as this was a joint tender across the three Area Councils.

Interviews with these organisations will take place in mid-January 2016, which means that a contract can be awarded in February, leaving the successful organisation sufficient time to do the vital preparatory work in the schools.

Environmental Enforcement Contract

Kingdom Enforcement currently hold the Environmental Enforcement contract with the South Area Council. Their original contract was due to end in August 2015, but a waiver report was produced to extend this contract to 31st March 2016 to enable a recommissioning process to take place with no break in service delivery.

After significant negotiation with other BMBC departments (most notably Parking Enforcement and Community Safety) a revised joint specification with South, North, North East, Central and the Dearne Area Councils was put out to tender at the end of November 2015 with a closing date of 5th January 2016. Interviews will be held in January to enable the new contract to be awarded before 31st March 2016.

The current tender has gone out in 'lots' which means that although the successful organisation must be able to offer a service across all of the five areas within the specification, the result will be contracts which can still be managed separately by the respective Area Councils.

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