

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL 25th January 2016

Report of the Dearne Area Council Manager

Dearne Area Council Performance Update including financial position

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides an updated financial position for all Dearne Area Council spend, and outlines the unallocated amount remaining for 2015/16 and 2016/17
- 1.2 This report provides members with an update on the delivery of the Dearne Area Councils current commissions.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Dearne Area Council members note the updated financial position for all Dearne Area Council spend and the unallocated amounts remaining for 2015/2016. Details are contained in Appendix One.
- 2.2 That members note the continued progress of the three Dearne Area Council commissions

3.0 Financial update

- 3.1 With agreement from the Dearne Area Council on the 16th of November 2015 £62,300 was allocated in order to maintain the level of service for a further year offered by the enforcement and investigation private sector housing officers.

Taking this allocation into consideration means that the Dearne Area Council have spent £230,930.00 of this year's budget bringing the total amount unallocated to **£24,508.00** This remaining amount does not include the **£15,720.00** income from fixed penalty notices. Therefore with income included a total amount of **£40,228.00** remains unspent in the Dearne Area Council's 2015/16 budget.

- 3.2 No clear indication has been given regarding the future budget allocations for Area Councils post 2016-17. Central Government's Summer Budget was announced on the 8th July 2015. This will inform BMBC's budget planning and further information will be available in the autumn. However within the financial breakdown for 2016/17 the cost of the enforcement service that was agreed at the Area Council is shown.

See appendix one for full break down

4.0 Current Commissions

4.1 Training for employment

The figures below are for the period 18th September to 20th November 2015. In the 14 months the service has been operational 48 people have now entered local employment. Based on the theory that each person going into employment was previously claiming job seekers allowance £73.10, the social return on each participant gaining employment would be an economic saving of £292 per month. £292 (JSA per month) x 48 (participants) = £14,016 (savings per month) If all of the individuals stayed in employment for 12 months the social return on investment for those individuals would be £168,192. This is a very basic costing the wider social return on investment is predicted to be much higher. This contract is due to end 31st March 2016 and an end of service letter was sent out December 2015.

VAB has submitted the service review which highlighted the contract barriers and achievements. It included

- Travel expenses as a barrier for those attending interviews
- Funding for specific training
- Hand holding was a necessity for those experiencing anxiety and low confidence levels.
- Referrals from job centre were increasing
- The embankment centre and salvation army were the perfect location for such a service

See appendix two for full report.

4.2 Enforcement

Since the start of this contract the team have issued 595 fixed penalty notices in the Dearne area, 430 for littering, 37 for dog fouling and a further 128 for parking offences. Officers concentrate their patrols around intelligence led information from the tasking process and also from complaints on the street, from the community at large.

The Revenue raised thus far from FPN's (Fouling and Littering) this quarter of the contract beginning August 2015 until end of September 2015 is **£1,610.00** bringing the total revenue raised from this contract to **£15,720.00** The total revenue raised from this contract will be available at the end of March 2016.

This service is currently out to tender and the evaluation panel are due to meet at the end of January 2016. The incoming providers will be in place in order to commence delivery by the 1st of April 2016.

4.3 **Twiggs**

Twiggs commenced delivery on the 1st of September 2015. They have been provided with a work plan that is updated on a weekly basis. To date Twiggs have engaged with nine businesses in relation to supporting local events. They have also worked alongside two established groups on clean up campaigns and led on three social action projects. Further the service has worked with 73 volunteers that have amassed 205 volunteer hours. Based on the calculation of £11.09 per hour per volunteer the return on investment so far is £2273.45.

Twiggs have spent an equal amount of time in both Dearne North and Dearne South. They have collected 243 bags of waste and reported 12 fly tipping incidents into the enforcement team. The service ran an educational session about the plight of littering for Hill Rose Primary and Goldthorpe Scouts. Twiggs in conjunction with the Community Development Officer also host an environmental steering group which was established to inform Twiggs work plan.

Although working really well the service are receiving relatively low requests for service this will be discussed during the contract monitoring meeting and an action plan will be put in place.

See appendix four for report

4.4 **Housing enforcement**

During the months October to December 2015 the service dealt with 165 complaints and requests for service. Some of these were dealt on an informal basis, either speaking to the tenant/occupier or just sending a general advice letter, others went to more formal action. All cases closed within quarter 3 are recorded as having a successful outcome.

The service expect future reports to include mental and physical ill health, isolation or exclusion, Age (young and old), victim and/or witness of ASB (anti-social behaviour) or criminal activity, affected by domestic abuse, poverty and issues relating to minority groups. The most abiding vulnerabilities identified this quarter are around poverty and disability, in particular mental health issues relating to depression. The service are still awaiting changes being made to the ASB case management system that will enable us to report accurately on the number of vulnerable persons identified

See appendix four for full report

4.5 **Dearne Development Fund**

At the Dearne Area Council on the 14th of September 2015, £80,000 was allocated to the Dearne Development Fund in order to meet the Dearne Area priorities. The allocation panel met in November to discuss all 10 applications and approved 5 applications totalling £31,910.00. The next panel meeting will be held on the 28th January 2016.

| Provider/group | Priority | Impact |
|---|---|---|
| Dearne Allotment Group | Improving health/Improving the environment | To provide a coordinator in order to continue with the development of the community allotment |
| Goldthorpe Development Group-Community Alliance Project | Improving Health (older people) Young people | To provide events and health awareness days in order to reduce loneliness and isolation of older people. Events also to engage with younger people. |
| DIAL- drop in advice project | Information and support | Independent advice service supporting disadvantaged people that are faced with financial exclusion |
| Salvation Army- Seasons hope project | Improving health/quality of life/ information and support | Supporting families in crisis across the Dearne area by providing support by way of information packs. The project will also provide cook and eat sessions. |
| Dearne Electronic Community Village-silver surfers | Information and support/ skills and learning for work | Engaging with local resident 55+ in order to promote social inclusion by delivering ICT sessions |

Appendices

- 5.0 Appendix One: Financial Update
Appendix Two: Training for Employment
Appendix Three: Twiggs
Appendix Four : Housing Enforcement

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