

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dearne Area Council Meeting

Report of Dearne Area Council Manager

The Dearne Area Council Commissioning decisions

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides members with option to extend the social connectivity project post for a further year in the Dearne.
- 1.2 This report also provides members with the option to extend the housing and migration officer post until the 31st March 2022.
- 1.3 This report provides members with the options regarding the assisting employment contract.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members of the Dearne Area Council approve the extension of the social connectivity project for a further year until 1st August 2022 at a cost of £27,000.
- 2.2 That Members of the Dearne Area Council approve the extension of the housing officer post in the Dearne until 31st March 2022 at a cost of £5,432.
- 2.3 That members approve the re-commissioning of an assisted employment contract which would start on the 1st of April 2022 at a cost of £ 34,000 per annum with the ability to extend this for two further periods of one year..

3.0 Social connectivity

- 3.1 In 2018 Stronger communities were successful in gaining external funding from Nesta for two years in order to pilot a social isolation project that focussed on residents 60+. Nesta's contribution was £25k per year and the Area Council £2k per year.
- 3.2 On the 20th of January 2020 the Dearne Area Council agreed to finance a further two years in order to reduce isolation and loneliness in the Dearne Area. B: friend was the preferred provider at a cost of £27k per year on a 1+ 1 basis. The service has received some very positive coverage both locally and nationally and have adapted their service delivery in order to meet the needs of those accessing the service but also staying within the parameters of COVID Government guidance. The service has now completed their first year of the current contract, therefore this report seeks approval to deliver the

service for the second year of this contract which will end in August 2022.

Options	Risks	Benefits
Give notice and stop the service	People accessing the service will not receive support Reputational damage to the Council and possible legal challenge based on the service performing	More money in the Area Council budget
Consider commissioning something else	Timescales to develop a service within this financial year could be challenging	More money in the Area Council budget to look at alternative provision
Extend for the final year	None	Continued support for those accessing the service

It is recommended that the Area Council approve the services second year of the contract.

4.0 Housing and migration officer

- 4.1** The Private Sector Housing Management Officer's service level agreement with Enforcement Services ensures the Housing Management Officer works in partnership with residents, letting agents and landlords across the Dearne Area Council communities. He signposts vulnerable tenants to appropriate support agencies and encourages the tenants to take responsibility for the areas they live, keeping them clean and tidy. He also works with volunteers on environmental projects to help clean residential communal back street areas. The service level agreement is due to end on the 6th of January 2022.

Options	Risks	Benefits
End the post in January as previously stated	People already accessing the service will not receive support	More money in the Area Council budget
Extend until April	None	Continued support for those accessing the service More housing issues in the Dearne are dealt with Extending until April brings this intervention in line with the financial year

It is recommended that this agreement is extended until 31st March 2022 at a cost of £ 5,432.

5.0 Assisted employment

The Area Council members and Area Manager had a meeting on the 12th of July 2021 in order to discuss future commissions. Members have been provided with local data and intelligence as well as recent performance reports based on the current service. Employability and assisting people preparing for work remains an Area Council priority, especially considering the pandemic and how this could impact on employment within the Dearne.

The current assisting employment contract finishes at the end of March 2022. This is a service that has been very successful in giving people the skills to access employment opportunities and gain ICT accreditations.

As part of the previous process the Area Manager was able to go out for three quotes, however the threshold as now been lowered, therefore the option that is taken by members will dictate the process taken.

5.1 Options

Options	Risk	Benefit	Cost
A, Go out for three quotes for two years	Lack of competition Restricted to two years because of costings	Less officer time in not having to do a full commissioning process	£34k per annum
B, Do a full three-year commissioning exercise	Lack of competition	The preferred provider will have more time to embed the service within the community TUPE may apply to staff already delivering this project	£34k per annum
C, Do not re-commission	Less people accessing one to one employment support in the Dearne at a time when its most needed	More money left in the Area Council budget to spend on other priorities	£0

It is recommended that members of the Area Council approve the option of re-commissioning the service, the specification will then be presented at the Area Council on the 6th of September 2021. Once agreed the service will go out to market at the end of the year in time inception on the 1st of April 2022.

The service will cost approximately £34k per year and will operate on a one-year timeline with the ability to extend the contract based on performance and finances for a further two years.

Officer:

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Date:

26th July 2021