

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North East Area Council

Report of the Area Manager

Agenda Item 8

November 25th, 2021

Interim Financial Report

The Councillors are asked to consider the following initiatives:

1. Environmental Enforcement Services

The Safer Neighbourhood Service is responsible for dealing with environmental enforcement issues across the Borough. This includes everything from the issuing of fixed penalty notices for issues such as littering through to prosecutions for matters such as fly-tipping. Over previous years the Safer Neighbourhood Service have commissioned an enforcement contractor for the Town Centre and some Area Councils have commissioned a different provider for their area of responsibility. The contractor's main responsibility has been to provide uniformed staff to issue fixed penalty notices for low level offences such as littering, parking and dog fouling. The contracts currently in place are due to end in March 2022.

Following re-approval of the Environmental Enforcement Policy the Safer Neighbourhood Service has identified that a single contract providing a Boroughwide service needs to be procured and steps are underway to build the specification for this. It is anticipated that the single contract will support the service in issuing fixed penalty notices across the whole Borough on a range of issues such as littering, dog control, fly-tipping, duty of care and more.

There will be no request from the Area Council's to pay for this single service. However, if the Area Council require additional specific resource for their area then this can be paid for by contacting the Safer Neighbourhood Service direct and as part of the new offer it will be commissioned from the single provider at the relevant costs.

2. Stop Smoking Outreach Service

The Councillors are asked to note that the North East Area Council's Stop Smoking Outreach Service has been recognised as a Good Practice initiative. This initiative is now being replicated across some of the other Area Councils. As a result of this Public Health will now fund the Stop Smoking Outreach Service across the North East Area Council communities for a period of 1 year from September 30th, 2021 until September 30th, 2022 at a cost of £28,215

3. Practical Support Grant

The Practical Support Fund has been allocated to areas of need and has been requested by the Area Manager to be used as additional funding to help the residents of the North East Area Council as part of the post Covid recovery plans. Members are asked to note that the additional £57,000 that has been requested via the Practical Support Fund will be reimbursed into the budget.

4, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer

The Neighbourhood Engagement role, although initially COVID specific, has developed and become an integral role within the North East Area Team. It is recognised that adding more capacity and being able to engage with services and businesses that have not had a voice previously is even more important going into the Covid recovery period within our local communities. All of the added value work feeds into other departments within the Council and supports initiatives and projects through a grass roots, partnership approach.

Some of the added value projects that the Neighbourhood Engagement Officer has supported within the North East communities includes:

- Undertaken a complete audit of the community Notice Boards across the communities of the North East Area Council. Sourced funding to repair or replace the notice boards as required. Ensure that the Notice Boards are regularly updated, clean and fit for purpose.
- Working with Age UK Barnsley and the Dementia Alliance to encourage all the businesses on the High Streets of the North East Area Council to become Dementia Friendly.
- Working to support the Ward Alliances with the electricity supply, and the installation of 12 Defibs across the North East communities.
- Working with the Ward Alliances and linking in with the local business to sponsor Christmas Lights and Hanging Baskets on the High Streets
- Business mapping all hospitality venues the North East Area Council
- Business mapping of all local businesses in the North East Area Council
- Attend local community groups as required and support with regard to risk assessments, accessing funding and accessing hand sanitiser, gloves, masks etc.
- Working out in the community talking to people and inputting the community listening surveys
- Best Bar None accreditation scheme, working with the night time economy and assessing their venues, working directly with senior public health officer
- Support with 'beat the street trails' in the summer holidays, working with public health
- Designing of posters and communication resources to support the Area Team
- Support BCB on community Volunteer litter picks
- Linking in with Licensing and Regulatory Services
- Supporting the Stop Smoking Outreach project.
- Supporting the Grimethorpe Community Farm to move premises.
- Supporting the Elmer project across the communities

The primary focus of the Neighbourhood Engagement Officer role going forward will be Community Engagement, building Community Capacity and Cohesion, and reducing social isolation, as part of the North East Area Council's post covid recovery plans. It is recommended that this contract is extended until April 1st, 2023, on a 1 + 1 year extension basis until April 1st, 2024, at a cost of £35,000 per annum. Members are asked to note that this figure includes increments, redundancy payments and any on costs.

5. The Private Sector Housing Management Officer's Service Level Agreement

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 North East 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. This service level agreement is now due for renewal. It is recommended that this service level agreement is renewed until April 1st, 2023, on a 1 + 1 year extension basis until April 1st, 2024, at a cost of £37,750

Recommendations

1. Environmental Enforcement Services

That the Councillors note that the Safer Neighbourhood Service has identified that a single contract providing a Boroughwide service needs to be procured. There will be no request from the Area Council to pay for this single service however, if the Area Council require additional specific resource for their area then this can be paid for by contacting the Safer Neighbourhood Service direct, and as part of the new offer it will be commissioned from the single provider at the relevant costs.

2. Stop Smoking Outreach Service

As a result of the Stop Smoking Outreach Service being recognised as a Good Practice initiative Public Health will now fund the Stop Smoking Outreach Service across the North East Area Council communities for a period of 1 year from September 30th, 2021 until September 30th, 2022 at a cost of £28,215.

3. Practical Support Fund

Members are asked to note that the additional £57,000 that has been requested via the Practical Support Fund will be reimbursed into the budget.

4. Neighbourhood Engagement Officer

It is recommended that the Neighbourhood Engagement Officer contract is extended until April 1st, 2023, on a 1 + 1 year extension basis until April 1st, 2024, at a cost of £35,000 per annum.

5. Private Sector Housing Management Officer

That the Private Sector Housing Management Officer service level agreement with Enforcement Services is renewed until April 1st, 2023, on a 1 + 1 year extension basis until April 1st, 2024, at a cost of £37,750

**Caroline Donovan
Area Council Manager**

25th November 2021