

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Penistone Area Council
December 2nd 2021

Summary report of the
Penistone Area Council Manager

Agenda Item:

Penistone Area Council Procurement and Financial updates

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report provides members with a summary update on the following commissioning and procurement activity:

- Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older people service
- Working Together Fund
- Supporting Young People Fund
- Clean & Tidy Service

1.2 The report outlines the current budget position of the Penistone Ward Alliance

1.3 The report provides members with proposals and options for the procurement of a new Private Sector Housing Support resource for the Penistone Area.

1.4 The report outlines the 2021/2022 financial position for Penistone Area Council and provides a current budget update for the financial year 2021/22.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 **That members note the update of contracts funded by the existing Supporting Isolated and Older People Grant fund and agree a further 3 month extension from January to April 2022 of existing contracts at a cost of £17,500 to accommodate the procurement process for future provision in support of this priority**

2.2 **That members receive the update and current financial position of the Penistone Working Together Fund.**

2.3 **That members receive the update on ringfenced funds within the existing Working Together Fund to establish specific activities that will support young people in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic**

2.4 **That members note the updates on the new Clean and Tidy contract started in April 2020 and agree the recommendation to receive a Year 2 update at PAC in February 2022.**

2.5 **That members note the update on the Ward Alliance budget, and agree the allocation of £10k from within the PAC budget 2021/22 to enhance current Ward Alliance funds.**

- 2.6 **That members receive the proposed options to procure a Private Sector Housing support officer resource and agree a preferred way forward which can then be presented for approval a later PAC meeting.**
- 2.7 **That Members note the current financial position for the 2021/22 budget in light of any decisions taken with this meeting.**

3.0 Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People Service

- 3.1 The current grant contracts held by Age UK have continued to perform satisfactorily, operating against flexed outcomes during the Covid-19 period which has been reflected in the performance reporting presented at previous meetings of PAC.
- 3.2 At the PAC meeting 1st October 2020 members were advised that current contracts to provide the existing service were due to end in January 2021, and it was agreed that £70K is made available from the 2020/21 Area Council budget to set up a further 'Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People Fund' (SVIOP) with devolved responsibility for the formal approval of the grants to the Executive Director for Communities, following recommendations from the grant fund Panel Members.
- 3.3 In light of the ongoing impacts of the Covid -19 pandemic, and the need to provide continuity of service to vulnerable members of the Penistone Community, members agreed at PAC December 3rd 2020 to the allocation of £35k from the 2020/21 PAC budget to allow a six month extension for current contracts held by Age Uk to June 2021 and to defer procurement activity for a new service until June 2021
- 3.4 Members were advised at PAC June 3rd 2021 that due to further impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, it had become necessary to make a further deferment of the procurement of a new service beyond the original intended date of June 2021. As a result members agreed the allocation of £35k from within the 2021/22 PAC budget to support a further 6 month extension to the current Age Uk Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older people grants contracts.
- 3.5 Following a Member workshop in August 2020 to review current provision by Age UK, a forward plan was agreed for the new grant specifications. In order to meet current procurement requirements to ensure wider market engagement, it has become necessary to recommend a further 3 month extension to April 2022 for the current contracts at a cost of £17,500 from within the current PAC budget. A further update to the procurement process will be provide to members in February 2022.
- 3.6 All grant contracts with Age Uk continue to perform satisfactorily, with a quarter two report presented at this meeting

4.0 Penistone Area Council Working Together Fund

- 4.1 At the Area Council meeting of October 1st 2020 members agreed that the Working Together Grant should be promoted to accept applications to fund activities which will support covid recovery intentions with a deadline of 27th November 2020.
- 4.2 At PAC June 3rd 2021 Members were advised that two applications have been approved by the Grant Panel to fund a continuation of the debt advice service to be delivered by Citizens Advice Bureau at a cost of £8118 and an information and advice service to be delivered by DIAL at a cost of £10,136. Both contracts have been supplemented by pandemic financial hardship funds, made available to support area council budgets, this has enabled extended provision to support higher demand in the last 12 months.
- 4.3 A further application from Penistone FM to support young people has also been approved as part of this grant this year at a cost of £8583, and £494 has also been taken from this grant to supplement the Supporting Young people ringfenced pot.
- 4.4 The Working Together grant continues to be promoted by the Area Team to encourage further applications and support with the community recovery process post pandemic. Members are reminded of the current total of £33,699 remaining in this pot and may wish to review this at a future meeting.

Total allocations to date (since the grant started in 2014)

4.5

Penistone FM	£ 15,627.00
Penistone Round Table	£ 11,660.00
Penisone Scout Group	£ 8,050.00
Sporting Penistone	£ 16,230.00
DIAL (Information and Advice service 2017)	£ 4,275.00
Barnsley Market – BMBC Market Barn additions lighting and Wi-fi	£ 6,740.00
Penistone Youth Project (TYS)	£ 8,730.00
The People Focussed Group (Bumping spaces)	£ 19,836.00
Cycle Penistone CIC	£ 5,990.00
Penistone FM Community Radio Older people	£ 19,840.00
South Pennine Community Transport CIC 2017 pilot	£ 5,000.00
Trans Pennine Trail Conservation Volunteers Penistone Station project	£ 6,630.00
Allocation to Ward Alliances	£ 10,000.00
DIAL (Information and Advice service 2018)	£ 4,395.00

South Pennine Community Transport CIC 2017 Pilot extension	£ 6,538.00
South Pennine Community Transport CIC Service Delivery 2018/19	£ 20,000.00
TPT conservation volunteers Penistone Station project extension	£ 2,890.00
Penistone FM Young Voices	£ 7,644.00
DIAL (Information and Advice service 2019 with option to extend to 2020)	£ 9,700.00
CAB Barnsley (Information and Advice Debt support 6 month Pilot to Sept 2019)	£ 2,115.00
South Pennine Community Transport CIC Service Delivery contribution 2019/20	£ 14,000
Barnsley CAB debt advice service operational costs to September 2020	£ 3566
Barnsley CAB debt advice service operational costs to September 2021	£8118
DIAL (Information and Advice service 2021 with option to extend to 2022)	£10,136
Penistone FM Young Minds project	£8583
Total Allocations to date	£236,293
Additional amount allocated to cover YP grant overspend	£594
<i>Current Amount remaining for allocation</i>	£33,599

5.0 Working Together Grant fund – Supporting Young People

- 5.1 At PAC meeting October 1st 2020 members agreed to an additional £40k allocated from within the current 2020/21 PAC commissioning budget to be ringfenced within the Working Together Fund and promoted solely for the use of activities which will support the physical and mental wellbeing of young people.
- 5.2 Following grant panel assessment of applications in late April /early May 2021 five project proposals were approved for funding at a total cost of £40,594. The additional £594 outside of the ringfenced grant allocation is recouped from the main Working Together Fund grant pot as show in 4.5 within this report.
- 5.3 The impact of the pandemic has meant that some of the projects funded have been delayed in starting, however four out of the five were able to make a start from July and updates on performance to date are included within this meeting

5.4 Breakdown of allocations for Supporting Young people grant

Ad Astra – supporting young people pre16 in Penistone Grammar school	£8640
Penistone Leisure Centre	£6454
Angel Voices	£10,000
Penistone Girl Guiding	£5,500
Penistone Grammar – supporting Young people post 16	£10,000
Total allocations	£40,594

6.0 Clean, Green and Tidy Service

- 6.1 Following a robust procurement process, in which members participated, Twiggs Ground Maintenance Ltd were successful in being appointed as the preferred provider for the Penistone Clean, Green and Tidy service and started their contract on the 1st April 2020 at a cost of £100,000 for the year from within the 2020/21 area council budget allocation.
- 6.2 The current Clean Green and Tidy service contract started during the lock down period for Covid-19 and as a result it was agreed to flex this to meet immediate needs during the crisis period. The contract performed satisfactorily within the flexed terms with performance highlighted at PAC meetings during 2020.
- 6.3 Members at PAC February 11th 2021 agreed to the continuation of this service to year two of the contract from April 2021 at a cost of £100k from the 2021/22 PAC budget. A full update of this service, and performance during the pandemic period was received by members at PAC June 3rd 2021. Performance continues to be satisfactory, and a full quarter two summary is provided to PAC within the performance report presented to this meeting.
- 6.4 It is recommended that a full report of Yr2 of this contract's performance is presented by Twiggs to PAC at it's meeting of 10th Feb 2022 ahead of any decision to continue with a further years delivery from April 2022.

7.0 Penistone Ward Alliance

- 7.1 A budget allocation of £20k (£10k for each ward within the Penistone area) has been made available to the Ward Alliance outside of Area Council funds for the financial year 2021/22. This, together with underspend of £6,925 from the previous financial year 2020/21 provided the Ward Alliance with a working budget of £26,925 for the 2021/22 financial year.
- 7.2 Applications to the Ward Alliance for funding have continued to increase as community groups start to become active following the Covid-19 pandemic. Projects totalling **£6000** were approved at the last meeting on 11th November 2021, leaving a budget total of **£12,295.13**.

- 7.3 In light of the growing demand on the Ward Alliance funds it is therefore recommended that PAC agree to allocate an additional sum of £10k to support the Ward Alliance Budget to the end of the current financial year.
- 7.4 At PAC June 3rd Members approved £10k from within the PAC budget 2021/22 to be allocated to the Ward Alliance budget to provide a small ring fenced funding pot to encourage applications from groups to provide activities during the school summer holiday period 2021. Projects totalling £1590 were approved leaving a total of **£8410** still within this pot. Members are reminded that any unspent monies may be returned to the PAC budget within the financial year.

8.0 **Private Sector Housing support to the Penistone area**

- 8.1 At a briefing workshop held on November 4th 2021, PAC members were presented with information from the Housing Stock Modelling and database report commissioned by BMBC and produced in October 2020 to provide a detailed housing stock condition survey for Barnsley. The findings from this report are being used to inform a Private Sector Housing Plan for the borough.
- 8.2 Members were made aware at the briefing that the stock condition survey highlighted that private sector properties in both Penistone East and West wards demonstrated the highest incidence of risk to occupants from excess cold and fuel poverty when compared to the rest of the borough. This accounted for a higher than average number of owner occupiers across the two wards, many of whom are older and have limited means to maintain properties to ensure energy efficiency.
- 8.3 Discussion of the impacts of this revealed the detrimental effects to individual health and wellbeing and individual cases were shared with members where home owners were no longer coping with properties and had allowed them to become a health hazard to themselves and others in the area.
- 8.4 The role of a private sector housing officer was discussed as a means to mitigate this by providing a first point of contact within the community to identify early indications of neglect and an inability to cope. Examples of how this operates in other areas across the borough were shared with members. Additional information can be seen at Appendix B and C within this report.
- 8.5 It was agreed that a range of options for any private sector housing support would be presented for discussion at PAC on 2nd December. Members are referred to appendix A within this report and asked to agree how they would prefer to take this forward. Once a preferred option is agreed further information will be presented to PAC at its meeting in February 2022 and approval will be sought for any associated costs.

9.0 Current Financial Summary Position

- 9.1 A PAC budget allocation of £200k was made available for spend within the financial year 2021/22. This, together with carry forward from the 2020/21 budget of £15,225, gave a total working budget of £215,225 (plus £10k financial hardship monies) .
- 9.2 A self Isolation fund made available to support the most clinically vulnerable during the pandemic, was successfully drawn down to support people in the Penistone area at a revised value of **£13,845** which has been added to the income giving a total budget of £239,070.
- 9.3 Approved spend currently totals £145,000 and should members approve recommended spend at 3.5 and 7.3 within this report this will leave a remaining budget total of **£66,570**

9.4 2021/22 Budget allocations

Approved spend items in operation in 2021/2022	Current approved expenditure from 2021/2022 budget
New Clean Green and Tidy contract Year two	£100,000
Age UK grant contract extensions to December 2021	£35,000
Allocation to WA for ringfenced summer holiday activities	£10,000
Total allocated spend to date	£145,000
<i>Proposed recommended spend</i>	
Additional monies to Ward alliance budget	£10,000
Age UK grant contract extension to April 2022	£17,500
Budget 2021/22	
Base budget	£200,000
Additional income to base budget	
Underspend from 2020/21 budget	£ 15,225
Financial hardship monies (earmarked)	£ 10,000
Self Isolation Funds	£13,845
Total budget available for spend 2021/22	£239,070
Current remaining total available for spend if recommended spend approved	£66,570

PAC Financial summary

PENISTONE AREA COUNCIL - COMMISSIONING BUDGET 2021/22						
Contract Name	Commissioning Budget 2019/20		Commissioning Budget 2020/21		Commissioning Budget 2021/22	
	Budget		Budget		Budget	Spend
Base Expenditure	£200,000.00		£200,000.00		£200,000.00	
Underspend from previous year	£63,358.75		£115,224.75		£15,225.00	
Countryside Skills Training						
Countryside Skills Training Extension						
Clean & Green						
Clean & Green extension						
Working Together Fund	£50,000.00					
Allocation to Ward Alliances/DWB 15-16						
Allocation to Ward Alliances 16-17						
Reducing Isolation in older people						
Public Health Funds	£3,820.00					
Supporting Older People Fund						
Supporting Older People Fund ex	£17,500.00		£52,500.00			
Supporting Older People Fund ex 2			£35,000.00			
Supporting Older People Fund ex 3					£35,000.00	£17,500.00
Supporting Young People Fund			£40,000.00			
Community Magazine distribution costs						
Allocation to Ward Alliances 17-18						
Allocation to Ward Alliances 18-19						
Allocation to Ward Alliance 19-20	£10,000.00					
Clean & Green 2017/18 (Y1)						
Clean & Green 2017/18 - extension Nov 19 (Y2)	£57,171.00					
Clean & Green 2017/18 - extension April 2020 (Y2)	£40,836.00					
Clean & Green April 2020 (Y1)			£100,000.00			
Clean & Green April 2021 (Y2)					£100,000.00	£70,000.00
Penistone Living Inserts	£2,664.00		£3,000.00			£921.60
Supporting Vulnerable & Older People Grant 2021			£70,000.00		£10,000.00	
Allocation to WA for ringfenced summer holiday activities						
Income						
Public Health Monies						
financial hardship monies					£10,000.00	
Practical Support Grant					£18,880.00	£5,035.60
Expenditure Incurred in Year						£93,457.20
What funds are available					£200,000.00	

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