

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

South Area Council
17th December 2021

Report of South Area Council Manager

South Area Council – Procurement and Financial Update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide a financial and procurement update and provide a steer on future commissioning intentions for the:
- Environmental Enforcement contract
 - Private Sector Housing Officer Service Level Agreement (SLA)

2. Recommendations

Private Sector Housing Service Level Agreement

- 2.1.1 That Members note the update on the Private Sector Housing Officer SLA and recommends that the post be extended for a further two years until 31st September 2024 at a cost of £34,000 per year.
- 2.1.2 That Members recommend option b to approve a variation to contract to extend the current provider for a further 6 months at a cost £10,831. It is also recommended that £21,662 be ringfenced to purchase additional resources from the new provider as part of the Borough wide offer. The risk that the current provider, District Enforcement Ltd, may not have the staff to extend is acknowledged.

3. Private Sector Housing Service Level Agreement

- 3.1 The South Area Council currently fund a Private Sector Housing Officer through an SLA with BMBCs Safer Neighbourhood Services. The annual costs for this service are currently £33,528 per year. The SLA finishes at the end of the September 2022.
- 3.2 At the South Area Council meeting on the 25th June 2021 a full review of this post was carried out by the South Area Council. Based on performance, continued need and funding the post was extended until 31st September 2022. Since this review BMBCs Safer Neighbourhood Services have completed a review of these posts as part of the SLA held with this service. As a result, the post will become a permanent post rather than fixed term contracts from the 1st April 2022 and a new SLA will be issued. This was an opportunity for the South Area Council to look at its future intentions of the post.
- 3.3 Members of the South Area Council held a workshop on the 2nd December 2021 and agreed that this post is still relevant and provides a much needed reactive service to tackling need in the area. As such the workshop has recommended option b below and the post be extended for a further two years until September 2024 at a cost of £34,000 per year.
- 3.4 The following options were considered:
Option a) The post be extended for a further two years until September 2024 at a cost of £34,000 per year.

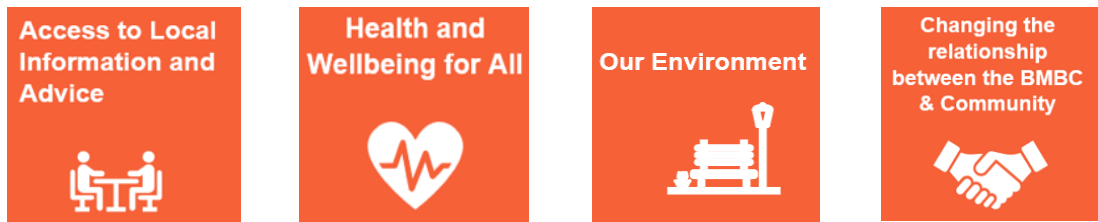
Option b) SLA to be terminated 31st August 2022. All support as part of the SLA would cease from 31st August 2022.

Option c) The post be extended for a further one year until September 2023 at a cost of £34,000 per year.

Background

3.4 The officer works in partnership with residents, letting agents and landlords across the South Area Council communities to improve the quality of tenants lives and tackle poor quality rented housing stock. The post works proactively supporting landlords and tenants carrying out property inspections and signposts vulnerable tenants to appropriate support, encouraging tenants and landlords to take responsibility for the areas they live. No referrals are needed to work with the officer, and they have the powers to issue formal notices where needed. The officer has delivered a number of environmental projects in partnership with agencies and partners where issues have been identified locally.

3.5 This SLA delivers helps to address the following South Area Council priorities:



3.6 The service has adapted its delivery to target people in need throughout the Pandemic and changing Government guidance. The service had to be adapted to ensure social distancing and lockdown rules were being followed. The officer, however continued to play a fundamental role in helping to identify vulnerable people and properties throughout the pandemic. The local knowledge, contacts in the area, relationships with partners, Elected members, tenants, agencies and landlords meant the officer was able to act as eyes and ears to help the communities within the South Area Council. The support has included ensuring support services were targeted in the areas of need, helping with licensed premise visits, delivering Covid 19 contact centre information to properties across our area and supporting the community responder scheme when we have been unable to make contact with people and urgent welfare checks have been needed.

4. District Enforcement Limited – Environment Enforcement

4.1 Over previous years the Safer Neighbourhood Service have commissioned an enforcement contractor for the Town Centre and the South Area Council have commissioned a different provider. 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 for the Town Centre and for the South Area Council are currently in place and are due to end in March 2022.

4.2 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.

- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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 as part of the new offer and it will be commissioned from the single provider at the relevant costs.
- 4.5 The South Area Council currently contract with District Enforcement Ltd to deliver 18.5 hours of parking patrols per week to encourage behavioural changes and keep traffic flowing safely at Wombwell High street, Hoyland Town Centre and Darfield Local Centre. An additional 4 hours per week funds patrols across the South Area to reduce dog fouling and littering.
- 4.6 The current contract runs until 31st March 2022. As the new borough wide provider will be in place from 1st April 2022 the South Area Council held a workshop on the 2nd December 2021 to consider its future commissioning intentions for environmental enforcement.
- 4.7 The South Area Council considered the following options at the workshop:

Option a) Contract to be terminated on 31st March 2022. All enforcement as part of the South Area Council contract would cease from 1st April 22. Any enforcement offer would be through the Borough wide offer.

- No cost implications.
- Service wide provision unclear until Borough wide offer and new provider in place.
- £21,662 would be available to be reallocated to alternative priorities for spend.

Option b) Contract with District Enforcement Ltd be extended for a period of 3 or 6 months in order to consider what the new provider can offer and £21,662 be ringfenced to buy in future support.

- This would be subject to District Enforcement Ltd agreeing to extend the contract and able to extend staffing for this period.
- This option would allow time for the South Area Council to consider the Borough wide offer and ensure the level of parking enforcement and additional littering and dog fouling enforcement are maintained at the current level.
- £5416 3 month extension, £10,831 6 month extension and ringfence £21,662.

Option c) Allocate £21,662 to buy in additional service from the 1st April from the new Borough wide contract.

- Provider and services won't be known until the contract is awarded.

- The Borough wide offer may include a wider offer than currently available i.e., to include fly tipping offences and evening and weekend operating hours

4.8 The South Area Council recommended option b and requested the South Area Council Manager to discuss and approve a variation to contract to extend the current provider for a further 6 months at a cost £10,831. It was also recommended that £21,662 be ringfenced in order to purchase additional resources from the new provider as part of the Borough wide offer. The risk that the current provider, District Enforcement Ltd, may not have the staff to extend the contract was acknowledged.

49 Until a provider has been awarded the new Borough wide contract and the subsequent offer for the South Area is unknown. The South Area Council felt it was important not to have a gap in service or level of enforcement, particularly in terms of parking enforcement on the high street. Option b was therefore the preferred option.

5. South Area Council Finances

5.1 The South Area Council currently have a commissioning budget for 2021/22 of £24,800 which is unallocated. The list below outlines committed funding to date.

Contract / Service / Project	Contract start / end date	Value
Welfare rights drop in service	1 st July 21 – 31 st August 24	£81,261 per year
South Tidy Team Service – Twiggs	1 st April 21 – 31 st March 24	£181,721 per year
Private Sector Housing Officer SLA	1 st October 21 – 30 th September 22	£33,528 per year
Environmental Enforcement – District Enforcement Ltd	1 st April 2020 - 31 st March 22	£21,662
Environmental Enforcement SLA	As above	£1740
Better Together service – Age UK Barnsley	1 st April 21 – 31 st March 24	£59,935
Health & Wellbeing Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age UKB – Men in Sheds in Wombwell • Reds in the Community (Fit Red session left to deliver in a community setting) 	Allocated in 2019 – 2020. Some activities delayed due to Covid.	£10,000
Tackling off Road Biking initiative	Ongoing	£2130
Healthier Communities Covid Pot	In development	£37,996 Income
Covid Practical Support Fund	Allocated based on need	£20,000 Income
Functional Fitness MOT training	TBA	£1200

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