

BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL 16th November 2020

Report of the Dearne Area Council Manager

Finance and commissioning update

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update members regarding the 2020/21 financial position, receive an update regarding current commissions and approve the Twiggs and Employability service for a further year.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members note the current financial position and the impact on future budgets.
- 2.2 That member's note the latest position with regards commissioned services.
- 2.3 That members agree with the recommendation to continue with the education, environment and volunteer service and employability service into their third year from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 at a cost of £85,000
- 2.4 That members agree with the recommendation to continue with the employability service in their thir year from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2020 at a cost of £33,000.

3.0 Area Council Financial update

3.1 2020/21

During the 2020/21 financial year the Area Council had a starting budget of £204,720.67. They have agreed to fund the education, environment and volunteer service, housing and migration officer, employability contract and social connectivity service. At the Dearne Area Council on the 27th of July members also agreed to earmark £28,000 to the Dearne Development Fund and had an additional £10k from the hardship fund. This brings the total amount already allocated out of the Dearne Area Council budget for 2020/21 to £214,557, leaving £163.67 unallocated. Further in September the Area Council had the final Nesta payment of £9,500 paid into the account, leaving a total of £9,663.67 unallocated.

3.2 Dearne Development Fund

Eleven projects were successful through the Development fund process in the 2019/20 financial year and the amount spent was £84,940.20 leaving £3,650.68 to carry forward spend on Dearne Area priorities in the 2020/21 financial year. At the Dearne Area Council on the 27th of July the Dearne Area Council agreed to earmark £28,000 to the Dearne Development Fund for the 2020/21 financial year leaving £31,650.68 to spend on area priorities.

- 3.3 In addition, the Area Council/team have recently received £10,000 from the financial hardship fund which was allocated to address the needs of the local area for those experiencing hardship brought about by the current pandemic. After discussions it was agreed that this would be added to the Dearne Development Fund in order to continue with services that addressed financial hardship and the needs of Dearne residents. Therefore the total earmarked for applicants to the Dearne Development Fund is £41,650.68.
- 3.4 Dial and CAB have been successful through this process in offering their services for a further year. The total cost of both these services amounts to £18,223 leaving a total of £23,427.68 in the Development Fund.

See Appendix 1 for financial breakdown

Commission update

- 4.0 The Housing and Migration officer will be starting his second and final year in January. He continues to work on a variety of issues, such as waste on premises and contaminated bins. Officers are not allowed in premises due to COVID but are still working proactively across the area.
- 4.1 The B: Friend service are a couple of months into their first year of the new two-year contract. They have been extremely busy during COVID taking their activities and support online. Referrals have seen a slight increase from professionals and volunteers are engaging well with the service. Some face to face support has resumed, albeit outdoors and adhering to social distancing.
- 4.2 The Dearne Electronic Community Village employability service second year will come to an end in March 2021. The service was given the contract on a 1+1+1 basis. Initially due to COVID the officer had to cease all face to face interventions. That said he has been seeing learners in the building, the learners on site at any one time has reduced and obviously the service were adhering to all guidelines in relation to COVID. Now that Barnsley have entered tier three the service will go back to working virtually with their learners. The recommendation would be for members to approve the continuation of this service into its third and final year of delivery, at a cost of £33,000.
- 4.3 The environmental service delivered by Twigg's was commissioned on a 2+1+1 basis. At the end of March 2021 the service will have been operating for two years. During the first few months of COVID they flexed their service to assist the neighbourhood's team in targeting areas of blight. Although they cannot work in schools and with large groups, they are still assisting groups and working with individuals around the area. They have been contacted by

individuals who have requested equipment to go out and clean their area, therefore Twigg's have provided advice and equipment to assist in this process. The recommendation would be for members to approve the continuation of this service into its third year of delivery, at a cost of £85,000.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Financial update

Officer

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Date: 16th of November 2020