BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
1st February 2021

Agenda Item: 4

Report of North Area Council Manager

Commissioning, Project Development and Financial Update

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report provides the Area Council with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that have been proposed.

2. Recommendation

2.1. **The North Area Council should note the existing budget position the existing the funding commitments.**

2.2. **That Members note the intention to advertise the Stronger Communities Grant 2021/22 opportunity.**

2.3. **That Members confirm that they wish to devolve funds to the Ward Alliances during 2021/22.**

3. Background highlighting all significant financial commitment

3.0 The Anti-Poverty Community Outreach Project

Contract 1 commenced on the 14th September 2015. This is a one-year (plus one year) contract valued at £149,000 in total. The initial contract has now concluded.

Contract 2 commenced on the 14th September 2017 for a two-year term at a contract value of approximately £95,000 per annum. On the 25th March 2019 the Area Council took the decision to utilise the contract extension clause and extend the contract until the 13th September 2020.

The Area Council have agreed to continue to fund this project. Due to procurement pressures during Covid-19 the decision was taken to submit a waiver and extend the existing contract by 12 months until 13th September 2021.

N.B. If the contract is renewed this will require either a further waiver or open tender in May/June 2021.

3.1 The Clean and Green Service

Contract one was delivered by Forge Community Partnership commenced on the 14th September 2015. The initial two-year contract has now concluded.

The second environmental contract commenced on the 2nd October 2017 at a value of £85,000 per annum. The provider is Twiggs Grounds Maintenance Ltd, who commenced service delivery on the 2nd October 2017. On the 25th March 2019 the Area Council took the decision to utilise the contract extension clause and extend the contract until the end of September 2020.

N.B. The Area Council agreed in March 2020 that they wish to continue with an Environmental Education commission. Due to procurement pressures during COVID-19 a waiver has been submitted to extend the contract by 6 months to March 2021. The new contract opportunity is current out to tender at the time of writing.

3.2 Housing and Cohesion Officer (Private Sector Housing) – At the November meeting 2017 it was agreed that the North Area would fund a private sector housing officer post at Grade 6 for 12 months fixed term. The successful candidate started on the 22nd January 2018 and proved to be a great asset to the area. The officer left the North Area council at the end of June 2019 for a promotion within BMBC.

The new Housing and Cohesion Officer started in post on Monday 19th October 2020. The Area Council have committed to fund the post for at least 24 months.

In addition to the salary fees the Area Council agreed to fund uniform, PPE including IT, phone and bodycam, plus a £5k annual working budget.

3.3 Health and Wellbeing – At the November 2017 meeting The North Area Council agreed to consider a Social Inclusion Project with a Prevention of Winter Deaths focus. This would complement the work of Housing and Energy Colleagues who are looking at developing a Housing and Energy Advice Hub with housing energy advice. Aligning a 3 year pilot in North Area would be a fantastic opportunity to combine resources and realise positive outcomes for residents in the North Area. A workshop of took place on the 10th of April which informed the specification that was signed off at the 14th May meeting.

The procurement process for this project was conducted during June and July 2018. DIAL Barnsley was the preferred provider when the process concluded. This contract is valued at £75,000p.a. (with a ceiling of £85,000) for two years, with the option to extend a third year. The contract commenced on the 3rd September 2018 and the project went live from 1st January 2019. The service is be called 'Warm Connections'.

It has been recognised that the existing hOurbank project that DIAL deliver in the North Area would complement the Warm Connections Service. The North Area Council has agreed to contribute £10,000p.a. for the duration of the Warm Connections contract.

N.B. The Area Council have agreed to extend the funding for the final year of the contract. This would enable service to continue until 2nd September

2021. A decision if they wish to recommission the service will need to be made no later than March 2021.

3.4 Stronger Communities Grant –
The total funding available for 2020/21 is £50,000. A total of 7 applications were received, totalling £107,554.00
At the Grant Panel on Friday 28th February 2020, four projects were recommended for funding however only one of the projects received the full grant amount that they originally applied for.

Successful projects:

- Emmanuel Methodist Church – Connections **(*postponed until September 2020 due to Covid-19)***
- YMCA – Youthwork
- Making Space – Dementia Café ***(project has been remodelled to aid Covid-19 Recovery and will commence in October 2020)***
- Citizens Advice Bureaux – Specialist Debt Advice

N.B. The Area Council requested that the CAB specialist debt advice service be extended for 6 months, from October 2020-March 2021.

It is intended to advertise the Stronger Communities Grant 2021/22 opportunity from 20th January 2021. The total funding pot is £40,000. It recommended that the grant opportunity is tailored to assist with Covid-19 Recovery. With applications between £5,000 and £10,000.

3.5 Covid-19 Recovery

- Age UK – Supporting Older People in the North Area
  To support Covid-19 Recovery the Area Council have awarded additional grant funding of £10,000 to Age UK to support older people who have been adversely affected by lockdown. The award is intended to provide an enabling service that will assist the local community to return to normal actively when it is safe to do so.
  N.B. At the September meeting the Area Council requested to extend this provision by a further 6 months. January – June 2021, this has been negotiated.

3.6 Devolved Funding to Ward Alliances
The Area Council has profiled £20,000 to be devolved to Ward Alliances during 2021/22.

N.B. Members are asked to confirm this funding proposal.

3.7 Health and Wellbeing – focus on Young People
In November 2019 the North Area Council agreed to fund a project for up to three years. The project entitled 'An Empowerment Programme Enabling Resilient Transitions for Children and Young People Aged 8-14 Years' was advertised as a competitive grant in early 2020. The process was unsuccessful. It was agreed in on the 16th March that the opportunity should be chunked down to allow the VCS to respond.

N.B. Note that this opportunity will have to be tailored to help address the fall out of COVID-19 lockdown and aid in the delivery of the COVID-19 Recovery Strategy. The grants went live on the 1st November and two providers are in place. However some aspects of delivery may be delayed due to the additional pressures of the pandemic.

4. Financial Position

4.1. At the end of 2019/20 there was a significant **underspend of £156,433 (this includes underspend from previous years).**

4.2. **The forecast for 2019/20 shows that the underspend** (including underspend from previous years) **reduced to £122,517**. This is because the in-year balance exceeded the annual budget by approximately £32,595.

4.3. The Area Council acknowledged that although annual spend is above the annual budget there was still opportunity to develop and new project to address the area priorities. Keen to have a young people's specific project in place a project has been developed. £90,000 per annum has been allocated to this project for the next three financial years, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23.

4.4. Outlined annual commitments from April 2020 (Please note these have altered significantly due to Covid-19):

Contract	**Proposed Spend 2020/21**	**Actual Spend 2020/21**
Anti- Poverty – Community Outreach	£95,000	£95,000
Creating a Cleaner, Greener Environment in Partnership with Local People	£85,000	£85,000
Housing Migration Officer – Grade 6 (+laptop and phone)	£35,000	£16,500
Stronger Communities Grant	£50,000	£60,000
Social Isolation and Cold Homes Project (+ hOurbank)	£75,000 + £10,000	£75,000 + £10,000
Children and Youth People Resilience Grant	£90,0000	£50,000
Fleets Nature Park	£20,000	£20,000
Older People & Winter Warmth	£0	£22,000
TOTAL	**£460,000**	**£433,500**

4.5. **As a result of delays to project during 2020 the underspend will be reduced but not as much as originally intended. It is recommended that some of this funding is used to increase the value of longstanding contracts with considerations for inflation.**

5. Commissioning programme from April 2020

5.1. Appendix 1 lays out the proposed spend. On the 18th November 2019 the North Area Council agreed to the forward plan for the next two years 2020/21 and 2021/22.

6. Risks

6.1. The proposed budget would take the Area Council approximately £60,000 over budget pa for from 2020/21 and 2021/22. However taking into account the current under spend, the investment profiled in Appendix 1 would be feasible.

7. Next Steps

7.1. At the time of writing the Area Council Manager is preparing the Stronger Communities Grant Fund documentation for advertisement following today's meeting.

7.2. Ensure that the Area Manager is alerted to any proposed commissioning profile variations so that feasibility considerations can be made at the earliest opportunity.

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Appendix 1: North Area Council Proposed expenditure April 2020-March 2023

Project / Service	**Annual Value**				
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Anti- Poverty – Community Outreach *Retender Anti- Poverty*	95,000.00	95,000.00	95,000.00	95,000.00	95,000.00
Creating a Cleaner, Greener Environment in Partnership with Local People	85,000.00	85,000.00	85,000.00	85,000.00	85,000.00
Housing Cohesion Officer – Grade 6 (+laptop and phone)	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00
Stronger Communities Grant	80,000.00	50,000.00	40,000.00	20,000.00	-
Social Isolation and Cold Homes Project (+ hOurbank) 2018-2020 (+1year) £75,000 + £10,000	85,000.00	85,000.00	85,000.00	85,000.00	85,000.00
Devolved funding to Ward Alliances *(where March 2019 balance is less than £10,000)*	40,000.00	-	20,000.00	20,000.00	-
Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing - Resilient Transitions	60,000.00	90,000.00	90,000.00	90,000.00	90,000.00
The Fleets - Nature Park	30,000.00	20,000.00	10,000.00	-	-
TOTAL		460,000.00	460,000.00	430,000.00	390,000.00