

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CENTRAL AREA COUNCIL

16th March, 2015 2:00pm

41. **Present:** Councillors D. Green (Chair), D. Birkinshaw, P. Birkinshaw, Bruff, Clarke, K. Dyson, Johnson, Mathers, Mitchell, Perrin, and T. Sheard.

42. **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests.**

Councillor T. Sheard declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute number 47 due to his position on Berneslai Homes board.

43. **Minutes of the previous meeting of Central Area Council, held 19th January, 2015.**

The meeting considered the minutes of the previous meeting. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Services maps had not yet been completed but would be circulated when available.

With regards to the videoing of 'stories' to provide case studies, members heard how an example of reducing isolation and loneliness in the Central Council area would shortly be recorded. Other suggestions for 'stories' were encouraged.

RESOLVED that the minutes of Central Area Council held on 19th January, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record;

44. **Community Magazines.**

The item was introduced by Central Area Council Manager, who spoke to the paper prepared by the Head of Communications.

As Open Door had now ceased, a more local approach to providing information had been discussed and a proposal developed. The publication proposed was 24 pages, comprising of 12 pages of editorial, and 12 pages of adverts, which would be produced at nil cost to the Area Council. It was noted that the risk of failing to sell advertising would be that of the provider, not the Council, and if advertising space was unfilled the magazine would still be produced.

It was proposed that two editions would be produced in a year as a pilot, and it was noted that there would be a significant lag between preparing the stories and publication of the magazine.

With regards to distribution, a number of options were put forward with the preferred method being delivery covering approximately 98.4% of households at a cost of approximately £2,600 per year.

Members discussed the proposal in some detail, noting that a number of Ward Alliances already produce a newsletter, and debating whether residents are likely to read such a publication.

After consideration Members chose to reject the proposal, but felt that producing a publication that provided useful contact information may warrant further discussion.

RESOLVED: - that Central Area Council discusses the provision of a publication providing useful contact information at a future meeting.

45. **Central Area Council – Financial Update and Review of Priorities for 2015/16**

The item was introduced by the Central Area Council manager, and the attention of Members was drawn to the financial summary. The amount of unallocated expenditure of £128,005 for 2015/16 and £482,671 2016/17 was highlighted.

Previously it had been suggested that the Central Area Council should consider up to date data and information on the area, with a view to reviewing the priorities for the area and considering the use of remaining finance.

As this information had yet to be provided, it was suggested that a workshop be held in April to consider this information, and review the current priorities. It was agreed that prior to the workshop, confirmation be sought from finance about levels of finance in future years.

RESOLVED: -

(i) that the updated financial position be noted;

(ii) that the process for reviewing Central Area Council priorities and associated spend against these priorities be approved.

46. **Performance management report**

The item was introduced by the Central Area Council Manager, noting that the report contained revised information as Q2 contract management meetings had taken place YMCA, Core Assets, and Kingdom Security and a Q1 monitoring meeting had taken place with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance. Information on the contract with Royal Voluntary Service remained the same as the last report, reporting on progress in Q1 and Q2. The report also contained progress information on four of the Working Together Fund projects.

Members considered the overview of performance. It was noted that for the outcome 'Reduction in loneliness and isolation in older people' the numbers achieved were under target, but that the percentage of older people reporting improvement in their health and wellbeing was above target.

With regards to improving the 'Health and wellbeing of children and young people', indicators showed that outcomes were broadly on target, and those associated with 'Creating a cleaner and greener environment' had met or exceeded targets.

Considering the 'Growing the economy' priority, the targets, which included number of jobs created and recruited to, local organisations/SMEs supported and number of apprenticeship placements, were all either met or very close to being.

Many of the targets associated with the priority 'Changing the relationship between the Council and the Community' had been met or exceed, with the exception of the number of adult volunteers engaged, which was 20 against a target of 22.

The summary performance for each contracted service was then considered. For the RVS contract it was noted that the Q3 contract management report was expected on 13th March, 2015 and the subsequent contract management meeting would take place on 25th March, 2015. The Q3 meeting would also incorporate an annual review including the original procurement evaluation panel.

Members discussed the YMCA contract, noting that all areas were rated 'green' with the exception of outcome indicator targets being 'amber'. Assurances were given that there were no major issues.

The contract with Core Assets was discussed in some depth, acknowledging that a number of the performance indicators were 'red'. Concerns were expressed with the service and Members felt that in some cases the provider failed to offer anything additional to existing provision and that the service was poorly organised. It was noted that advice was being sought from NPS regarding giving notice on the contract, should performance fail to improve.

Members considered the performance information relating to contract with Kingdom security. It was noted that information at Ward level would be circulated to Members and that there was a link between the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued and the levels of intelligence supplied.

A concern was raised as to whether smokers were being targeted as they were easier to catch. It was agreed to feed this information back to Kingdom with a view to providing a breakdown of the type of offences.

With regards to the service provided by Twiggs, all areas were rated as 'green' and all feedback received about the service was very positive.

Four of the Working Together Fund projects had reported back and were progressing well with no issues, with a further two expected to become established in the Spring.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

47. **Boroughwide services delivered locally – Targeted Youth Support Service**

The Central Area Council Manager introduced the item, reminding Members of the process to consider the performance of boroughwide services delivered locally.

As part of this the Area Council had decided to consider the Integrated Youth Support Service in late 2014/early 2015; however this was postponed due to service reorganisation which had resulted in a revised Targeted Youth Support Service.

The meeting considered further areas for 'check and challenge'. It was agreed that a presentation from Neighbourhood Services be considered at the Area Council meeting in July, 2015, and the Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Achieving Potential) be invited to a meeting of the Area Council to discuss how a 'check and challenge' exercise may be performed for schools in the area.

In addition it was suggested the performance of Berneslai Homes in the area may warrant further consideration, but that this should be more closely defined before being taken forward.

The meeting welcomed Ben Finley, (Youth Justice Service and MST Manager), and Julie Hammerton, (Early Intervention and Prevention Service Manager), to give an overview of the offer from the Targeted Youth Support Service from April 2015, with a view to this feeding into a 'check and challenge' session in October, 2015.

Members noted the changes to the service, with a focus on young people who are at risk of adverse outcomes, such as involvement in the Criminal Justice System, poor attendance at school, behavioural problems, drug misuse or child sexual exploitation.

Questions were raised about vulnerable children who may have previously engaged through open access provision and whether they would cease to be able to access support. Reassurances were given that the revised service would still engage with these children, through self referral or referral through other means.

The issue of mental health and emotional wellbeing of children was raised, and it was noted that officers were looking at how better to support this, and how this could be integrated into referral systems.

Members also noted that the revised service will work closely with the Troubled Families programme, and had close links to the Community Safety Partnership and the Safeguarding Children's Board.

The meeting heard how workers would be assigned an area, but there would be flexibility to respond to 'hot spots' when required. Though areas were not currently assigned, Members were assured that, when finalised, the details would be circulated.

Thanks were given to the presenters, for their attendance at the meeting and engagement with the 'check and challenge' process.

RESOLVED: -

(i) that the role of the Area Council to consider issues about the delivery of boroughwide services delivered locally, also known as 'check and challenge', be noted;

(ii) that the content of the Targeted Youth Support Service presentation be noted and form the basis for the 'check and challenge' exercise to be carried out in October/November 2015 after 6 months operation of the revised service;

(iii) that the 'check and challenge' programme for 2015/16 proposed be adopted, subject to moving the presentation on Neighbourhood Services to the Area Council meeting in July.

48. **Notes of the Ward Alliances.**

The meeting received the notes from Ward Alliances in the central area held in December, 2014, January, 2015 and February, 2015. Feedback on progress was provided from Central, Dodworth and Kingstone Ward Alliances.

Cllr D. Birkinshaw made the meeting aware that Central Ward Alliance was progressing well, and generally making positive progress.

Cllr. P. Birkinshaw provided feedback from Dodworth Ward Alliance. Members noted that the membership includes a representative from each of the neighbourhoods within the Ward. The meeting heard how the Alliance is invited to discuss both Ward Alliance Fund and Devolved Ward Budget proposals.

Due to the Ward Alliance three new community groups had been established, with three galas held to date. Members were made aware of the support given to many groups in the area, which included those concerned with sport, activities for young people, and history amongst many other things. Initial indications suggested 7,107 additional volunteer hours equating to £78,816 of volunteer time from £28,000 of investment. However, it was envisaged that together the projects would surpass these figures.

Cllr T. Sheard provided an update on the work of Kingstone Ward Alliance, and members were made aware that the Alliance comprised of nine community members and three councillors. It was noted that the levels of community involvement were not quite as anticipated with some neighbourhoods proving difficult to engage. A lot of learning had taken place since establishment and work continued to try to encourage community action, supported by Ward Alliance Funding.

The Alliance had supported many groups and activities which included such as Singing for fun, Friends of Locke Park, a Luncheon Club and had held a well attended Summer Fun Day.

Members noted that a review of the Kingstone Ward Alliance had recently taken place and the findings of which would be discussed further and acted upon.

Comments were made that the Ward Alliances provided a useful mechanism to engage local people to solve local issues, and that, although progressing well, many have yet to reach their full potential.

RESOLVED: - that the notes and feedback from the Ward Alliances be received.

49. **Report on the use of the Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds.**

The meeting received the report detailing expenditure from April 2014 to date. It was noted that unallocated finance could be carried forward to 2015/16 financial year.

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted.

50. **Progress in arranging the Central Area Council Celebration Event.**

The Area Council Manager provided an update on progress made in arranging the celebration event. The date of 25th June, 2015 had been agreed. Though there were concerns about access, the Metrodome had been booked for the venue as it was the only central venue which could accommodate the numbers anticipated.

150 people were expected and award nomination forms would be distributed shortly. Four award categories were proposed, with interactive voting on the night to establish an overall winner.

As they would be standing down at the next election, the Chair gave thanks to Cllrs Barlow, Perrin, and T. Sheard for their contribution to the work of Central Area Council since its inception.

.....
Chair