

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL

29th May, 2013

1. **Present:** Councillors Noble (Chair), Brooke, Gardiner and Worton.

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

After welcoming Members to the meeting, the Chair asked for any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests. No declarations were received.

3. **Terms of Reference, purpose of the Area Councils and the role of Elected Members.**

The Chair referred to the documents circulated, specifically drawing out a number of points included in the Terms of Reference.

Referred to was the need to develop an Area Plan, which will then be utilised to allocate the Area Budget towards the end of the financial year and into future years.

Noted was the Area Council's role as a reference point for local consultation and increasing public engagement. The meeting heard how a website was being developed containing information on volunteering and groups within the area in order to assist people who wished to become more involved.

Also mentioned was the Area Council's overview of Ward Budgets, receiving information on decisions that had been made and the finance utilised.

The meeting briefly discussed how the Dearne Approach may be integrated into arrangements. It was acknowledged that this provides a rich source of information which needs to be utilised along with other sources.

Resolved:- That the Terms of Reference and related paperwork be noted.

4. **Work programme for 2013/14, including key milestones.**

The item was introduced by the Dearne Area Council Manager. The report circulated gave a brief resume of what each of the Dearne Area Council meetings in the financial year 2013/14 would cover.

It had been suggested that the second meeting in the cycle be held as a workshop to consider relevant data and information in order to arrive at a draft list of priorities. These would form the basis of a draft Area Plan which the third meeting would be asked to agree in order to go out to consultation.

By the beginning of 2014 it was envisaged that the Area Council will consider which services to commission and assign appropriate budgets.

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL**29th May, 2013**

With regards to arriving at a set of priorities, Members discussed the need to have cognisance of the Council's three priorities of growing the economy; changing the relationship between the council and the community; and improving people's potential and achievement.

It was also noted that the services commissioned should support local needs whilst also delivering corporate priorities: for example through commissioning social enterprise.

A potential solution to environmental issues such as fly tipping, which would stimulate local enterprise, offer value for money and promote people taking responsibility for their actions, was discussed.

Resolved:- that the Work Programme be noted and be utilised as the basis for future meetings of the Dearne Area Council.

5. **Standard agenda format for Area Councils.**

The meeting noted the draft agenda format, which had been previously circulated.

Resolved:- That the standard agenda format be used as a basis for future meetings of the Area Council.

6. **Deadlines for Area Councils.**

The deadlines for the Area Council and the subsequent submission of minutes to Full Council was noted. However, it was acknowledged that these would be subject to change as meeting were only indicative and could be moved.

A number of Members suggested that Wednesdays were not the most convenient. A proposal was made to hold the meetings on Mondays at 10:00am, with which all Members present were in agreement.

Resolved:-

- i) That future Dearne Area Council meetings be held on Mondays at 10:00am
- ii) That the revised times and associated deadlines be circulated to Members

7. **Planning and Format for the next Area Council meeting.**

Previously discussed briefly under item 4, Members considered preparation for the next meeting and the proposal to hold an exploratory workshop.

It was agreed that the Dearne Area Council Manager would work with other Area Council Managers to establish a portfolio of data and information available. This would be augmented by available consultation information including that collected by the community researchers as part of the Dearne Approach. This information could then provide a robust picture of the area in order to discuss priorities.

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL**29th May, 2013****Resolved: -**

- i) that the Dearne Area Council Manager works with other Area Managers to establish a broad range of data and information to present to the next Area Council meeting.
- ii) that the Dearne Area Council Manager liaises with the Chair to plan the workshop session in more detail.

8. Venue for future meetings.

Members discussed the location for future meetings, noting the need for venues to have access for members of the public and be able to publicly display notices giving details of the meeting.

There was some discussion about the benefits of meeting in a single place vis-à-vis rotating the meeting around the Dearne villages. Various venues within the Dearne were suggested. However, a consensus was reached to hold the forthcoming meetings in Goldthorpe Library with other possible venues and locations being discussed in due course, once cost and access implications were known.

Resolved:- that future meetings of the Dearne Area Council be held in Goldthorpe Library, but that this be subject to review.

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Chair