

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NORTH EAST AREA COUNCIL

3rd OCTOBER 2013

17. **Present:** Councillors Hayward (Chair), T.J. Cheetham, J.Ennis, S. Green, Higginbottom, North, M. Sheard, C.C. Wraith

18. **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.

19. **Minutes of the previous meeting of North East Area Council, held on 1st August 2013**

The minutes of the previous meeting of North East Area Council were accepted as a true and correct record.

20. **Notes of previous Ward Alliance meetings**

Members received the notes from the following Ward Alliance meetings:

- a) Cudworth, held on 23rd September 2013
- b) Monk Bretton, held on 12th September 2013
- c) North East, held on 19th September 2013
- d) Royston, held on 16th September 2013

The business representation on the Ward Alliances was noted. The Royston Ward Alliance is actively seeking a business representative, a youth representative and a female member. Royston will also have a 'Scrutiny Steering Group', the purpose of which will be to scrutinise the organisations carrying out Ward Alliance initiatives and the outputs and outcomes of the initiatives, and to promote Volunteering Activities and link in with the Volunteering Database.

The Chair noted that the priorities received from each Ward Alliance were very similar and that they represented the needs of the North East communities. The Equalities monitoring data will now be pulled together and a borough wide report produced.

RESOLVED: that the notes of the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East, and Royston Ward Alliances be noted.

21. **Performance - report on the use of devolved ward budgets**

Members considered a report on agreed spend to date from the devolved ward budgets within the North East area. The Area Manager explained that £40,497 of the £80,000 allocation had been committed.

RESOLVED: that the report on devolved ward budgets be noted.

22. **Appointment of community representatives to Ward Alliances**

The Area Manager presented two reports nominating community representatives to join the Monk Bretton and Royston Ward Alliances.

RESOLVED: that John Townsend be appointed as community representative on the Monk Bretton Ward Alliance.

RESOLVED: - that Howard Lavender, Mick Birkinshaw, Father Matt Bullimore, Martyn Guilcher, Stephen Croft, Graham Kyte, Fred Harston and John Openshaw be appointed as community representatives on the Royston Ward Alliance.

Community representatives on Ward Alliances have been appointed until the end of the 2013/14 municipal year.

23. **Area Plan Development**

(a) *Integrated Youth Support Service*

Tom Smith, Principal Adviser, Children, Young People and Families Directorate and Julie Hammerton, Open Access Service Manager, Children, Young People and Families Directorate, were welcomed to the meeting to deliver a presentation on the proposals for creating an Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS). It was explained that there is a need to look at the youth service offer due to the efficiency agenda coupled with a desire to 'future proof' the service and ensure its sustainability. A report was also distributed which outlined both borough-wide resources and the provision in the North East Area Council locality in order to map out what is available. The following points were highlighted during the presentation:

(i) Total approved KLOE savings for 2013/14 were £1.687m. Further savings of £451,000 have been identified for 2014/15, bringing the total savings/reductions across the IYSS service area to £3.2m since 2011/12.

(ii) An option appraisal identified 'Whole Service Reconfiguration' as the preferred option. The revised structure of the new IYSS will bring together the resources of Youth Services (including youth clubs); Youth Justice (YOT); Targeted Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG, formerly Connexions), Positive Activities and Participation and Inclusion under a 'hub and spoke' model.

(iii) It is proposed that there will be six hubs for the new model, with the buildings at Worsborough Youth Centre, Wombwell Highfields Youth Centre and Darfield Centre 17 Youth Centre no longer required for direct delivery purposes.

(iv) It was highlighted that for every £1 spent in Open Access Services (available to the general population), a saving of £8 will be made in terms of Youth Justice Services.

(v) The 'I Know I Can' (IKIC) initiative will work as part of the IYSS and will be an opportunity to raise young people's aspirations within communities and making sure their voice is heard. The Open Access Service provides free information, advice, guidance and start up support for groups wanting to establish new activities for children and young people.

Members proceeded to discuss the proposals and a number of points were raised:

(a) It was reported that independent advice and guidance will now come from schools. However, those with more complex needs will still be able to access bespoke support from the IYSS.

(b) All the Area Councils will be covered in the consultation. Resources are finite but they will be used flexibly based on priorities within Wards. It was felt that existing youth resources which have been established through grant funding (such as Children in Need) should also be supported, as a lot of hard work has gone in to developing such schemes. They can also be a model of good practice when getting new schemes off the ground.

(c) It was pointed out that there is a high level of youth unemployment within the area, and more work needs to be done with job centres. Work is on-going with Job Centre Plus and the Troubled Families agenda around helping people into work and young people to school.

(d) IKIC has secured European Regional Development Fund to appoint 'Champions' who will work in localities and make connections with schools etc. Business mentors will also be available to work with young people who are interested in setting up their own businesses.

(e) Transport can be an issue in some areas. The Mi Card is a good scheme if venues are on bus routes and are not just in the town centre.

(f) There is a need to increase the use of the Advanced Learning Centres (ALCs), not just for sports but as a community facility. The Council contributes towards the heating and lighting of the buildings after 6 o'clock. It was felt that charges levied for groups to use the ALCs were prohibitive and that reduced rates should be offered through negotiation with the relevant Governing Body. There are also several ALCs in close proximity in some areas, which means they can be in competition with each other.

(g) ALCs are being advised to employ someone to promote use of the facility, with a fee for those organisations who can afford to pay. A Member was of the opinion that schools should focus on education of children rather than marketing and income generation.

RESOLVED: that Tom Smith and Julie Hammerton be thanked for their attendance and presentation on the proposals for the future configuration of the Integrated Youth Support Service.

(b) *Draft North East Area Council Plan*

The Area Manager outlined the draft North East Area Council Plan, which contains demographic and statistical information about the Council area. The four priorities which have been recommended by the Ward Councillors for the North East Area Council are:

- The Environment
- The Local Economy and Regeneration
- Health and Wellbeing
- Young People.

It was highlighted that effective communication should be a thread which runs through all the priorities.

RESOLVED: that the priorities identified for the North East Area Council now be adopted, and

that the draft area plan presented is a suitable document for consultation and should be taken forward.

The next stage will be to find out what local people think about the priorities through a series of road shows, community group consultation and social media.

24. **Volunteering Activities report**

The Area Manager delivered a presentation outlining the volunteering activities which had taken place in the North East Area Council locality. Key points to emerge included:

(i) Galas and community events encourage community cohesion and can provide volunteers with new skills such as communication, team building and cash handling.

(ii) Over twenty community groups actively took part in the summer events which, assuming a minimum of 3 residents in each Community Group, equates financially to £3327 of social action for the area.

(iii) Environmental initiatives provided Councillors with an opportunity to enhance their role as Community Champions.

(iv) Residents were able to see the difference which the clean-ups had made and this positively raised awareness of their local environment.

(v) Over sixty five local residents took an active part in the environmental initiatives throughout the North East Area Council, which equates financially to £2163 of social action.

(vi) In financial terms, a total of £5490 of social action has taken place across the North East Area Council through partnership working with the Councillors as Community Champions, local residents and businesses and partner agencies.

Members proceeded to discuss the volunteering activities report and a number of points were raised:

(a) Information about the events and environmental activities were distributed widely across the North East Area Council locality. This included putting flyers in carrier bags, the one stop shop, the use of telephone calls, Facebook and text messages, in addition to the involvement of partner agencies, and community organisations such as the local Church Groups.

(b) It was felt that the success of the environmental initiatives now has to be built on, encouraging active citizenship and less reliance on the Local Authority. There is a strong possibility that the same people who did litter-picking and environmental clean-ups may also help with other initiatives such as snow clearing. The Chair reported that enforcement action should be implemented where appropriate and that a fining regime had already started in Cudworth.

(c) Members expressed concern that litter picking in public areas such as grass verges and cemeteries is often done by contractors after the grass has been mowed, which is not acceptable. It was felt that contractors need to adhere to the specification and that Councillors will have more control over this when the Area Councils commission services from April 2014.

RESOLVED: that Caroline Donovan, Paul Jolley and David Gill be personally thanked for their efforts in bringing about this level of volunteering activity for the North East Area Council.

25. **Next steps for North East Area Council**

The Area Manager explained that there is now a need to drill down into the identified priorities and decide how best to allocate funding. It was suggested that as timescales are tight this could be best done in a 'workshop' format, with two of the priorities explored at each session.

RESOLVED: that a workshop session will be arranged to take place immediately after the next full Council meeting.

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Chair