

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PENISTONE AREA COUNCIL

12th December, 2013

27. **Present:** Councillors Barnard (Chair), Hand-Davis, Millner, Rusby, Starling and Wilson.

28. **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.**

No Members declared an interest in any item on the agenda.

29. **Minutes from the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 10th October, 2013.**

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting.

RESOLVED:- that the minutes from the Penistone Area Council meeting held on the 10th October, 2013 be approved as a true and correct record.

30. **Notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 17th October and 14th November, 2013.**

The meeting considered the notes from the Ward Alliance meetings. With regards to the notes of the 17th October, 2013 meeting, Members discussed the British Gas Pools 4 Schools programme. Members heard that there had been little interest in the programme from most schools as all primary schools in the area had programmes of swimming lessons already scheduled. It was suggested that Kingswood may offer a potential venue for the location of a temporary pool and to pursue this option.

With regards to the notes from the 14th November, 2013 meeting, Members discussed a number of grants made, including one to Penistone and District Community Partnership for £5,000. It was suggested that they be invited to a future meeting of the Ward Alliance in spring 2014 to provide a report on progress.

RESOLVED:- that the notes from Penistone East and West Ward Alliance on 17th October and 14th November, 2013 be received.

31. **Report on the use of Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Fund.**

The meeting received a report which detailed the expenditure from April 13 to November 13. It was noted that the progress in bring forward projects was slow. In relation to Ward Alliance Fund expenditure, it was acknowledged that the Ward Alliance had only met a small number of times and was still in a formative stage, however, it was noted that the Ward Alliance should not just be about finance and should primarily focus on action.

RESOLVED:- that the report on the use of Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Fund be noted.

32. **Changes to the waste and recycling collection service to rural properties.**

The Chair introduced the item, referring to a recent communication from the Customer Services Manager in Waste Management Services, on behalf of the Cabinet Spokesperson for Development, Environment and Culture. Unfortunately a representation from Waste Management Services was unable to attend the Area Council meeting, but officers had agreed to meet with Penistone East and West Members to discuss their concerns.

Members discussed the withdrawal of the Assisted Collection Scheme and were concerned about the disproportionate impact which would be felt by a number of groups within the rural area, including older people and those with a disability. It was noted that the Equalities Impact Assessment for the changes had been requested.

Aside from this a number of concerns were expressed about the implications from the implementation of the changes. It was thought that some of which may not have been considered. These included certain residences where a large number of bins could cause obstructions, preventing access and egress and which, in areas of high wind, could potentially block the highway.

It was suggested that a meeting with the Customer Services Manager be arranged as soon as possible, with a view to discussing the implementation of changes on a location by location basis and suggesting potential solutions.

RESOLVED:- that the Chair arranges a meeting between the Customer Services Manager in Waste Management Services and Penistone East and West Councillors.

33. **Barnsley Economic Strategy.**

The presentation was introduced by the Head of Regeneration. A brief history was given of the development of the Economic Strategy, including the approval of the 6 economic priorities and the funding for the Economic Plan; and the establishment of Barnsley Economic Partnership in September 2013.

However, it was acknowledged that further work was required to arrive at a final published strategy. Many of the projects also required further development with additional input from partners, and it was noted that the funding profile would be reviewed to ensure focus on job and business creation.

The meeting noted the 6 economic priorities:-

- Develop a vibrant Town Centre;
- Create the conditions for economic growth and prosperity;
- Prioritise the economic renewal of Goldthorpe and the wider Dearne area;
- To create more jobs and businesses through appropriate provision of business, enterprise and employment programmes;
- To reduce worklessness amongst those currently unemployed and to increase skills levels of our current and future workforce;
- To significantly strengthen our visitor economy by further developing our key cultural assets and events.

Members noted the plans to review the Economic Strategy, which included the establishment of a robust programme management structure; comprehensive review of less established areas of work; introduction of a programme governance structure; re-profiling of the Economic Strategy budget; and the production of a final outwardly focused strategy, aimed specifically at the private sector.

The meeting noted the suggested timescales for the review, with the final strategy expected in February or March of 2014.

Members discussed the need for plain English in documentation and it was noted that the externally focused final strategy document will take this into account.

The meeting heard of the deficit of jobs in Barnsley, with between 30,000-40,000 fewer jobs than similar sized towns. However, it was acknowledged that the employment rate was favourable, due to the number of people employed in part time work. Further information on the economic position of Barnsley was requested and it was agreed to circulate the Corporate Performance Report.

Discussion took place on the skills of the Barnsley population and the need for more intensive pre-work training in order for residents to be best placed to secure jobs from businesses locating in the area.

Members agreed with the need for focus on what would give greatest return on investment for the borough, but urged for the strategy not to overlook areas such as Penistone, which may provide a useful location for smaller schemes such as managed workspace.

34. **Penistone Area Council Priorities.**

The report was introduced by the Penistone Area Council Manager, noting that the 10th October 2013 meeting had approved a number of draft priorities for consultation.

It was acknowledged that dialogue with Parish Councils within the area was still ongoing and that Parish Plans had not been received from every Parish Council. The meeting noted that to date 'Community Involvement' had emerged as a high priority from a number of Parishes.

The meeting agreed to formally adopt the priorities suggested, noting that others could be considered for adoption by the Area Council, should additional information be put forward which highlight the case for this.

RESOLVED:-

(i) that Penistone Area Council approves Environment; Improving the Local Economy; Roads and Transport/Road Safety; Access to Healthcare Services; and Activities/Support for Young People as its priorities for 2014/15.

(ii) that projects, schemes and tenders are developed to respond to the agreed priorities;

(iii) that the Area Council reviews the priorities during 2014/15;

(iv) that the Area Council considers information emerging from Parish Councils in order to add to its list of priorities where appropriate.

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Chair