

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PENISTONE AREA COUNCIL

31st July, 2014

10. **Present:** Councillors Barnard (Chair), Griffin, Hand-Davis, Rusby, Unsworth and Wilson.

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

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

12. **Minutes from the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 12th June, 2014.**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 12th June, 2014.

RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting, held on the 12th June, 2014 be approved as a true and correct record.

13. **Notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance, held on 17th July, 2014.**

The meeting received the notes from Penistone East and West Ward Alliance, held on 17th July, 2014. Members noted that the Tourism Hub, previously used as the office for Barnsley Connects, would continue to be open until after the Penistone Show.

RESOLVED:- that the notes from Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 17th July, 2014 be received.

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

The report was introduced by the Area Council Manager. Members noted the total Devolved Ward Budget allocation of £70,194 for 2014/15, of which £24,645.11 had been committed.

With regards to the Ward Alliance Fund, from an allocation of £28,720 for 2014/15, £5,887.45 had been committed. It was suggested that the Ward Alliance ought to consider their priorities, with a view to putting forward ideas for projects. To this end, details of the Ward Alliance Fund had been circulated to all Parish Councils and also been distributed through the Neighbourhood Network.

From the Public Health budget Members noted that £1,250 of the £5,387.50 allocation for 2014/15 had been committed. Members heard how there was a significant project linked to food and health currently being developed.

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

15 **Penistone Area Council update on priorities and commissioning.**

The report was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who made the meeting aware that Growforest had been selected as preferred contractor for the Countryside Skills Training Course. It was noted that a pre-contract meeting had been held with the provider, and the project was likely to start in early September, 2014. An open day was currently being planned.

With regards to the Rural Bus Pilot, this was due to be retendered as soon as possible. Members discussed the barriers to organisations tendering for work, and it was noted that relevant health and safety accreditation was required, though it was suggested that this was not overly onerous.

The meeting discussed the current financial forecast for the Penistone Area Council 2014/15 – 2016/17. It was noted that although £115,000 had been allocated within 2014/15, due to late project starts it was estimated that only £65,000 would be spent during the year and therefore, if required, a significant project could be funded.

RESOLVED:- that the progress made in procuring activities to deliver against the Area Council priorities be noted.

16. **The performance management and monitoring role of Area Councils**

The item was introduced by the Council's Performance & Partnerships Improvement Officer.

The meeting noted the different elements of Performance Management, which were part of the role of Area Councils. This included the management of commissioned services, which was already being undertaken. However, it was noted that this could also include considering the performance of Council services delivered within the area, and potentially that of partners, should they be amenable to this.

It was noted that, a significant amount of data was collected and held by the authority, but that there were significant variations in the type and geographic level at which this was collected. Members heard how, as part of the reorganisation of the Council into business units, that service data would be available at an area level from April, 2015. It was suggested that this information would be useful in considering performance.

The meeting discussed the ability to escalate issues to service directors, cabinet spokespersons and to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, if necessary.

Members expressed concern with the potential duplication with the Overview and Scrutiny committee, and that partner organisations had historically been reticent to engage.

Members were also concerned that they could be also inundated with data, which had been rationalised greatly in recent times.

However, it was noted that this did offer an opportunity to discuss the performance with services outside of those commissioned directly by the Area Council, should Members so wish. The availability of relevant data could assist in this greatly.

In addition it was suggested that an increased level of area based data could also help identify gaps, which could be addressed by the commissioning of services.

RESOLVED:- that feedback from discussions be given to the Head of Service Organisational & Workforce Development, Performance & Partnerships Improvement

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Chair