

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SOUTH AREA COUNCIL

5th September, 2014

4. **Present:** Councillors Stowe (Chair), Andrews, Franklin, Frost, Morgan, Saunders, and R. Wraith.

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

No member wished to declare any pecuniary or non pecuniary interests.

6. **Minutes of the previous meeting of South Area Council held on 24th July, 2014**

Members received the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 24th July, 2014

RESOLVED: - that the minutes of South Area Council held on 24th July, 2014 be approved as a true and correct record.

7. **Notes of the Ward Alliances**

Members received the notes of Wombwell, Darfield, and Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance meetings held in June and July, 2014.

RESOLVED: - that the notes of the Ward Alliances be received.

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

The South Area Council Manager introduced the item, which notes expenditure from the Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliances fund from April 2014 to date.

Members noted the significant amounts of finance remaining and the need to progress projects.

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted.

9. **South Area Council priorities and commissioning update**

The South Area Council Manager introduced the item. Referred to was the working group which had met to discuss how best to support the economy in the South Area.

The working group had included a number of Elected Members and representatives from Barnsley Development Agency, Business In the Community, and Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce.

The group recommended that a large scale, largely face to face, survey be conducted to find out the needs of businesses in the area. It was proposed that this be undertaken by providing finance to extend the hours of staff within the Area Governance Team and provide them with a small amount of additional funds for such as stationary and postage.

Although it was noted that the survey would target largely small and medium sized enterprises, Members were encouraged to put forward suggestions as to which business should be targeted.

It was agreed to circulate the survey to Members for comment. The meeting noted that the survey would not only would concentrate on what the needs of businesses were, but would also include a section on what businesses were willing to provide to the community.

Members received feedback on the progress of the One Stop Shop project. The project had made an extremely encouraging start, with 62 individuals accessing the Citizen's Advice Bureau service and 72 that delivered by Welfare Rights. It was noted that the majority of cases had been from elderly, those with health problems, or disabled individuals.

The meeting suggested that this offered a positive opportunity to promote the service and the work of South Area Council in the press.

With regards to the Tidy Teams, the meeting heard how both teams of 3 operatives had started on the 4th August and Members had fed their local intelligence into the system to task work. It was suggested that this also offered a positive opportunity to promote the work of the team and the Area Council.

Members noted the need to consider the tasking of the teams as part of the ongoing evaluation and monitoring process.

An update was received regarding the Environmental Enforcement commission. With the first three weeks of operation 67 tickets had been issued, with large concentrations around Wombwell High Street.

As it was more difficult to enforce dog fouling offences, Members were encouraged to forward any intelligence to tasking officers.

Members noted the delays in training to enforce parking offences, and it was suggested that, if necessary, the Area Council Chair could raise the issue with the Director of HR, Performance & Partnerships and Communications.

Also noted was the work the South Area Team were recently involved in to support recruitment to the new Tesco store. Two pop up recruitment sessions were organised to assist local residents apply for vacancies online. Members noted that 85% of vacancies were recruited from the local area.

RESOLVED: -

- (i) that Members note the progress made on activity commissioned to deliver against the Area Council priorities;
- (ii) that £4,000 be approved for the South Area Team to conduct a survey of businesses in the South Area over the next three months, with monthly progress reports on business contacted to members;
- (iii) where possible positive communications be circulated to promote the work of the South Area Council and the services commissioned;
- (iv) Members forward any intelligence to tasking officers to assist the Environmental Enforcement Team.
- (v) the Area Council Chair could raise the issue of delays in training related to parking enforcement with the Director of HR, Performance & Partnerships and Communications, if necessary.

10. **Appointment of Community Representatives on the Ward Alliances.**

The meeting considered the representatives proposed to act as community representatives on the joint Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance and Wombwell Ward Alliance.

RESOLVED: - that the individuals proposed be approved to act as community representatives on the respective Ward Alliances for the remainder of the municipal year.

11. **The performance management and improvement role of Area Councils**

Members welcomed the Performance & Partnerships Improvement Officer to introduce the item. Noted was the Area Council's role in performance management, which included externally commissioned contracts, but also the performance of borough-wide services delivered to the area.

It was noted that, although a great deal of information is collected and collated, the availability of this at an area level differs greatly. Alongside the restructuring of the Council into business units, work was underway to ensure each unit had data available at this level from April 2015.

In the interim period, it was noted that issues could be considered utilising available data and local intelligence.

Members noted the link to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the need to refer items, should the issue be found to be experienced by a number of Area Councils.

RESOLVED: -

- (i) that the proposals for performance management within the report be approved;

(ii) that members give consideration to the areas, where they may wish to consider levels of performance.

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Chair