

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CENTRAL AREA COUNCIL

8th September, 2014 2:00pm

12. **Present:** Councillors D. Green (Chair), D. Birkinshaw, P. Birkinshaw, Bruff, G. Carr, J. Carr, Clarke, K. Dyson, Mathers, Mitchell, Johnson, Perrin, and T. Sheard.

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

Councillor Johnson declared a non pecuniary interest in minute number 19, as Chair of Oaks Millennium Technology Initiative, Councillor G. Carr declared a non pecuniary interest in minute number 19 as Vice-Chair of Homestart, Barnsley, and Cllr T. Sheard declared a non pecuniary interest in minute number 21 as a member of the board of Berneslai Homes.

14. **Minutes of the previous meeting of Central Area Council, held 23rd July, 2014.**

The meeting considered the minutes of the previous meeting of Central Area Council, held on 23rd July, 2014.

RESOLVED: - that the minutes of Central Area Council held on 23rd July, 2014 be approved as a true and correct record.

15. **Notes of the Ward Alliances.**

The Lead Locality Officer introduced the item, noting that all the Ward Alliances in the area were progressing at a similar pace. Over the past few months, it was noted that a number of galas had been arranged to engage with the community throughout the area, and that social media was being used as an effective form of communication.

The meeting noted that the latest notes from Kingstone Ward Alliance were missing, as was the attendance list from the Dodworth Ward Alliance held on 2nd June, 2014.

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

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

The Lead Locality Officer introduced the item, stressing the need for project development to be accelerated in order to maximise spend this financial year.

Members questioned whether any unallocated finance could be taken forward into 2015/16, it was agreed that clarity would be sought on this issue.

RESOLVED: - clarity to be sought was to whether unallocated Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds can be carried forward to 2015/16.

17. **Appointment of community representatives to the Ward Alliances**

Members considered the individuals proposed to act as community representatives on the Dodworth, Stairfoot and Worsbrough Ward Alliances.

It was suggested that, where community representatives had resigned, the Area Team were notified to keep records up to date.

RESOLVED:-

(i) that the individuals proposed be approved to act as community representatives on the respective Ward Alliances for the remainder of the municipal year;

(ii) that Members ensure the Central Area Team is notified of the resignation of any Ward Alliance community representative.

18. **Central Area Council contract and procurement**

The Lead Locality Officer introduced the item and the following points were noted:-

Service for reducing isolation and loneliness in older people –

Members noted that the contract with Royal Voluntary Service had commenced on the 2nd June, 2014. Inclusion workers had been appointed, and made contact with relevant agencies, individuals and Ward Alliances in the area. Referrals were now starting to be made. It was noted that a performance management update for this contract would be provided at the Central Area Council meeting on 10th November, 2014.

Concern was expressed that workers were targeting residential homes and sheltered accommodation, which already received a level of support, and therefore provision was being duplicated.

Members raised questions as to why the deployment of inclusion workers was not even throughout the wards of the Area Council. It was suggested that this may be discussed in more detail at the next meeting when performance is considered.

It was also noted that there had been some resistance from GP surgeries when workers had asked to display posters advertising the service. It was agreed that the Chair would raise this with the CCG representative.

Service for children and young people aged 8-12 years –

Members noted that the contract with YMCA to deliver this service had commenced on 21st July, 2014. Consultation events with young people had taken place in each of the Wards with the Area to inform future provision. It was noted that the performance management update for this service will be presented to the Area Council on 19th January, 2015.

Dialogue between officers delivering this service and Members was encouraged, to ensure locations and times were appropriate to engage the greatest numbers of young people.

Service for children and young people aged 13-19 –

It was noted that the contract with Core Assets in partnership with Active Barnsley had commenced on the 28th July, 2014. A range of activities across the Central Area had taken place to carry out early consultation with young people about the delivery of this

new service. Members heard how the performance management of this service will be considered at the 19th January, 2015 meeting of the Area Council

Members encouraged an increased amount of communication in order to be aware of the times and locations that activities were taking place in their ward.

Environmental Enforcement Service –

Members noted that the contract with Kingdom Security had commenced on 4th August, 2014, all staff had been appointed and were fully operational. The service level agreement with BMBCs Community Safety and Enforcement Service was also operational.

The meeting heard how the first performance management update for this service was expected at the Area Council meeting on the 19th January, 2015.

Members requested information on the staff in post, how the service would operate and how to report issues to be addressed. Given that the service provided 2.5 staff for the Dearne and Central Area, but with 1.5 staff funded by Central, Members were keen to ensure an appropriate proportion of the service was delivered in the Central Area.

Procurement process for appointing a provider to deliver a service to create a cleaner and greener environment in partnership with local people -

Members noted that, following discussions with NPS a tender for £150,000 for 18 months, (equivalent of £100,000 per annum) was advertised and 5 applications had been received by the closing date of 15th August, 2014.

The evaluation panel had been briefed on 21st August, 2014 with subsequent interviews held with organisations submitted tenders. Members noted the potential contract start date of the end of September, 2014.

Members encouraged staff appointed to make contact with Members and Ward Alliances in order to identify specific 'hot spots' requiring attention.

Private rented sector housing management/ enforcement service

A recap of previous discussions about this service at earlier meetings of Central Area Council was received. The meeting noted that a working group, consisting of Members of the Area Council had convened to discuss various options to take this project forward.

It was noted that Central Ward Members had discussed funding any shortfall from Devolved Ward Budget, but it was reinforced that this was an option of last resort, following the exploration of all other options.

Members considered a number of options proposed and agreed that the shift allowance be funded, but that the length of the contract should be reduced by 2 months.

RESOLVED: -

(i) that the update regarding Central Area Council contracts currently being delivered, and associated dates for contract monitoring/performance management update reports be noted;

- (ii) that the Chair discusses the issue of advertising the service for reducing isolation and loneliness in older people at GP surgeries with the Clinical Commissioning Group representative;
- (iii) that approval be given for Central Area Council to enter into a Service Level Agreement to provide a Private Sector Housing Management and Enforcement Service for a period of 22 months, to the value of £141,708 inclusive of shift allowance.

19. **Central Working Together Fund update**

Members noted that, 27 applications to the fund, to a value of approximately £400,000, had been received by the closing date of 27th June, 2014.

Members were reminded of the decision of the Area Council on 23rd July, 2014 to allocate an indicative amount of £100,000 to the fund.

The panel, consisting of a community representative from each of the Ward Alliances, supported by members of the Area Governance Team considered the applications and selected 7 for further development.

Applications not selected were given feedback and offered bespoke funding advice from the Social Action Development Officer.

The 7 preferred applications were supported and developed with support from the Communities and Area Governance Team. The meeting considered those proposed, alongside proposals for payment of finance and monitoring of projects.

As all the projects supported volunteering, it was suggested that all projects should record the social action value added through this.

RESOLVED: -

- (i) that approval be given to fund the 7 projects recommended by the Working Together Fund Evaluation Panel at the proposed level of finance;
- (ii) that approval be given to the performance and monitoring arrangements for all 7 projects, subject to the recording of social action value added through volunteering.

20. **Provision of appropriate insurance**

The Lead Locality Officer introduced the item, noting the key role of volunteers in supporting public service delivery and helping to build strong and resilient communities.

The Council's 'Working with Volunteers' policy was considered, and it was noted that more regular supervised volunteering to support Council activities would be covered by the Council's insurance, provided appropriate training and supervision was provided.

Where one off community action projects were taking place, it was suggested that the level of insurance cover would need to be proportionate to the project. The Love Where You Live toolkit aimed to provide a checklist to support the effective planning of community activities and it was noted that support was available from the Community and Area Governance Team to consider insurance requirements.

Members raised a number of questions, which included whether activities that may have been in existence for some time would still be insured. Also queried was whether Elected Members themselves provided adequate supervision under the Council's policy, which was a requirement of activities to be covered by the Council's insurance.

It was agreed to provide clarity around the points raised, and Members were encouraged to seek support from the Communities and Area Governance Team if they had any queries at any time.

RESOLVED:- that clarity be sought on the points raised, specifically the status of Members with regards to the Council's 'Working with Volunteers' policy.

21. **Area based performance management and monitoring**

The Head of Service for Organisational & Workforce Development, Performance & Partnerships Improvement introduced the item, which followed on from discussion at the previous meeting.

A process for considering the performance of services delivered in the area, other than those directly commissioned by the Area Council, was discussed. It was proposed that the process could be piloted in the Central Area, and Members noted that it would naturally evolve. The roles and responsibilities of Members and various officers were also discussed.

A number of services where the further consideration of performance could be beneficial were suggested and discussed. These included Barnsley Council Youth Services and Berneslai Homes. However, many Members felt that the Central Area Team was currently under resourced and that taking this proposal forward should be postponed until appropriate staffing levels are resumed.

RESOLVED: - that discussion takes place between officers in the Communities and Area Governance and Performance and Partnerships departments to identify appropriate staffing capacity to enable the area based performance management and monitoring pilot in the Central Area Council to progress.

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Chair