

**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL****PENISTONE AREA COUNCIL****11<sup>th</sup> December, 2014**

25. **Present:** Councillors Barnard (Chair), Griffin, Rusby, Unsworth and Wilson.

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

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

27. **Minutes from the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2014.**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2014. With regards to the representation from Penistone Grammar School on the Ward Alliance, it was agreed that the Chair write to the Board of Governors, asking them to consider the issue.

**RESOLVED:-**

(i) that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting, held on the 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 be approved as a true and correct record;

(ii) that the Chair writes to the Penistone Grammar School Board of Governors asking them to consider representation on the Ward Alliance.

28. **Revised Area Council Terms of Reference**

The item was introduced by the Council Governance Officer. It was noted that the Terms of Reference had been revised now that the Area Councils had been in operation approximately 18 months, largely to provide additional clarity, rather than to fundamentally change the role.

Attention was drawn to the approval of representatives on Ward Alliances, which would now be an officer function in consultation with relevant Members rather than requiring the approval of the Area Council.

**RESOLVED:-** that the report and the revised terms of reference be noted.

29. **Notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance, held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2014.**

The meeting received the notes from Penistone East and West Ward Alliance, held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2014.

**RESOLVED:-** that the notes from Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 be received.

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

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who provided up to date figures detailing expenditure from the Devolved Ward Budget, Ward Alliance Fund and from funds allocated from Public Health.

It was noted that from the Penistone West Devolved Ward budget, £0 remained, and £5,173 from that of Penistone East.

It was noted that £8.315 remained in the combined Ward Alliance Fund and £2,563 of the Public Health Fund budget. It was agreed to re-circulate the eligibility criteria for using the Public Health finance to Members, including information on the 5 Ways to Wellbeing.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the report detailing the use of Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Fund be noted;
- (ii) that the criteria for the use of Public Health finances be circulated to Members.

31. **Penistone Area Council update on procurement and commissioning.**

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. Members heard that the Countryside Skills Training programme now had a full cohort of 6 on the programme and was progressing well. Members noted that formal quarterly reporting of the project would take place in January, 2015 and would feed in the next meeting of the Area Council.

With regards to the Rural Bus Pilot, Members noted that discussions had recently taken place with officers in Community Transport who had agreed to provide statistics on the usage of the shopper bus service available on Monday and Thursday. It was hoped with some promotion that usage of the service would increase and options how to take forward the project could be considered in 2015.

Members considered possible areas for investment from the remaining 2014/15 Area Council budget and that for 2015/16. These included a 'Clean and Tidy Team', additional activities for young people aged 13-19, and a work experience programme for year 10 students.

The meeting gave approval for the Area Council Manager to progress the development of all the proposals, noting the possibility of finance from other sources for the 'Clean and Tidy Team.' Members also discussed the possibility of a wider work experience programme that would benefit all age ranges.

**RESOLVED:-** that the Area Council Manager progresses the suggested projects, with a view to more detailed consideration at a future meeting of the Area Council.

32. **Barnsley Housing Strategy and Affordable Housing Programme.**

A presentation was given by the Housing Growth Development Manager, who made Members aware of the recently published Housing Strategy 2014-33. The meeting noted the 5 key aims of the strategy:-

- To support new housing development which creates a thriving and vibrant economy;
- To ensure the design and delivery of new high quality, desirable and sustainable homes;
- To make best use of improve existing housing stock in Barnsley;
- To develop strong, resilient communities and;

- To support younger, older and vulnerable people to live independently

Though the strategy covered a 20 year period, it was noted that 4 year delivery plans would be developed. A Housing Board, with representation from the public sector, social housing and the private sector, was being established to oversee delivery.

In addition to the Housing strategy it was noted that the Local Plan was currently out for consultation and as part of that changes to the policy on affordable housing. 30% of any development above 15 units should be affordable was being proposed, an increase from 25%.

With regards to affordable housing, the meeting heard how the Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2014 highlighted a shortfall of 295 houses per annum over 5 years across all property types of 1,2, 3 bedroom houses and bungalows.

Members were reminded of recently completed developments, including on Saunderson Road and Hartcliffe Road.

With regards to housing growth, Members were made aware of recently approved planning permission, or that currently being negotiated, which included Lairds Way, Church Lane in Hoylandswaine, Chapel Lane and Nether mill Farm, all of which either had affordable housing provision either onsite or via other means.

The meeting also noted the allocations of land for housing within the Local Plan and were urged to provide feedback through the consultation period.

Members discussed in some length section 106 arrangements and the current and proposed affordable housing policy. Concern was expressed that the proportion of affordable housing suggested within the policy is never realised and that often a commuted sum is paid, which can be used for affordable housing outside the Penistone wards.

It was noted that the proportions within the policy are subject to negotiation, and often developers will produce a business case highlighting viability issues with meeting the proportion of affordable houses set out in the policy.

It was suggested that to circulate an example of such a business case to Members would be useful.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the presentation be noted;
- (ii) that copies of the Housing Strategy 2014-33 be circulated to Members;
- (iii) that an example of a business case highlighting the impact of the viability of a development with due to affordable housing be circulated to Members.

**33. Penistone Area Review.**

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, noting the intention to produce a review document periodically to showcase the work of the Area Council and of the Ward Alliance. The document circulated covered the past few months, highlighting a number of positive impacts being made in the area.

Members were supportive of the review, noting the positive progress made.

**RESOLVED:-** that the review be noted.

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Chair