

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SOUTH AREA COUNCIL

19th December, 2014

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

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

Councillors Franklin and Shepherd declared a non-pecuniary interests in minute 21 as board members of Forge Community Partnership.

Councillor Franklin declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 23 as a member of Berneslai Homes Board.

17. **Minutes of the previous meeting of South Area Council, held on 18th November, 2014.**

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council, held on 18th November, 2014

RESOLVED: - that the minutes of South Area Council held on 18th November, 2014 be approved as a true and correct record.

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

Members considered the revised Terms of Reference, which had been approved by Cabinet on 22nd October, 2014. The revisions largely sought to clarify a number of points following 18 months of operation of the Area Councils.

The meeting discussed the changes in approval of community representatives on the Ward Alliances. These were now to be approved by the relevant officer in consultation with Members from the ward in question, as opposed to the Area Council. The changes were made to avoid unnecessary delays in appointment. Members were assured that this change would not alter their essential role in the selection and appointment process.

RESOLVED:- that the Terms of Reference be received.

19. **Notes of the Ward Alliances.**

The meeting received the notes of Wombwell Ward Alliance held on 17th November, 2014 and Darfield Ward Alliance held on 27th November, 2014. Unfortunately due to illness there had been delays in the production of the Hoyland Milton and Rockingham notes.

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

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

The meeting considered the report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds.

RESOLVED:- that the report be noted.

21. **South Area Council commissioned activity:-**

a) Performance Report

Members discussed the performance report and the format was thought to be inviting and easy to read. The time lag in performance information was acknowledged.

Members noted that the commissioned Environmental Enforcement Service had yet to commence enforcement of parking, due to a number of outstanding issues, however these were in the process of being resolved.

The potential duplication of roles between the Tidy Team and Neighbourhood Services was discussed. Members were assured that the Area Council Manager and Manager at Forge Community Partnership, regularly met with colleagues in Neighbourhood Services to ensure the work of the teams was complementary.

Members raised concerns regarding the performance of Neighbourhood Services, and whether the agreed schedules were being adhered to. It was suggested that Neighbourhood Services be invited to attend a Members' briefing to discuss the schedules for each ward.

The 'One Stop Shop' project was discussed and the high value of additional benefits residents were now claiming, and debt now being managed effectively was noted. Members heard how moving of the service in Darfield to the Children's Centre had been a success. Members suggested that it would be useful for the project to record the costs saved through helping residents avoid eviction.

The meeting discussed the difficulties the Tidy Team had experienced in recruiting an apprentice and it was agreed to discuss this further under item c.

RESOLVED:- that the format for the performance report be approved;

b) Business Survey

Members noted the business survey had now been concluded and that 88 of the 238 businesses approached had completed the survey, the

majority of which had been done face to face, with a small number over the phone.

The meeting considered the findings from the survey which had been discussed by the Local Business Working Group at their meeting on 12th December, 2014.

Members discussed the business perceptions of Yortender, which were mostly negative, that is was not supportive of small local business and was over complicated. The meeting considered a number of suggestions as to how this issue could be taken forward, and it was noted that what action to take was being considered by the Leader and the Cabinet Spokesperson for Corporate Services.

Members considered the recommendations from the working group which were as follows:-

- That the South Area Team work with Barnsley Development Agency (now Enterprising Barnsley) to put businesses surveyed in touch with existing help and support where it already exists, including working with known assets from within the community;
- To identify specific providers to run training workshops to run within the community for the 5 most popular requests, which were:
 - Promoting & Marketing your business
 - Support for business development
 - Social Media & web development
 - Health & Safety
 - First Aid
- To work with Forge Community Partnership/Anvil CIC and Jobcentre Plus to offer non-mandated training placements to those who are not taking part in Work Programme, with a view to offering a more formalised traineeship or apprenticeship to those who do well;
- To further explore how those businesses from the survey offering a work experience placement can best be 'plugged in' to systems allowing them to realise this;
- To develop further the links made through the survey with businesses who are interested in offering support within the community, and those who are keen to encourage local action;
- Utilise the Neighbourhood Networks to promote training available within the area, ensuring that mechanisms are in place with training providers so this information is forthcoming;
- To circulate the results of the survey and the actions resulting from it to those taking part within a reasonable timescale, to address the criticisms expressed by some businesses that 'nothing will come of it'.

All of which were supported, with an agreement that the South Area Team undertakes further work to develop each and arrive at a set of costed proposals

RESOLVED:- that the recommendations from the Local Business Working group be supported, and further work be undertaken to progress each with a view to discussing proposals in more detail at a future meeting of South Area Council .

c) Possible investment in projects to address opportunities for Young People

The report was presented by the South Area Council Manager, who drew the attention of Members to the current levels of finance remaining unallocated. This included £145,000 from slippage in 2014/15, due to delays in the start of a number of projects, and from the agreed contingency fund. Members noted the ability for finance to be rolled forward between financial years.

Members were reminded that early in 2014 officers had explored the possibility of funding apprenticeship provision. However, advice was received that this need would be fulfilled by provision funded through Sheffield and Leeds City Regions.

The meeting noted that the Tidy Team had experienced problems with the recruitment of apprentices. Firstly they had only been able to secure funding for a single place when capacity for up to five was available, and secondly they had not been able to fill that place with a suitable candidate. It was acknowledged that the latter was, in part, was due to the requirement for apprentices to be already educated to level 2 or to demonstrate a capability to reach this level.

Members considered a number of options in order to address the issue of support and opportunities for young people to enter the labour market. These included the provision of a Summer Internship Programme; funding 4 apprenticeship/traineeship places for people at a lower academic level than mainstream apprenticeship provision; and the commissioning of a localised 'pre-apprenticeship' project for those who were unlikely to meet the requirements to access current apprenticeship provision.

RESOLVED:-

(i) that the provision of a 2 week Summer Internship Programme with an approximate cost of £45,000 be supported, and that further detailed proposals be considered by South Area Council at a future meeting;
(ii) that the provision of 4 apprenticeship/traineeship places at South Area Tidy Team with a cost of up to £24,000 be supported, and that further detail be considered by South Area Council at a future meeting.

22. **Wellbeing Navigator.**

The meeting welcomed colleagues from Rotherham and Barnsley MIND, who were the contract holders for the Wellbeing Navigator Pilot in the South Area.

It was noted that the pilot had been in operation for approximately 6 months and 21 people had accessed the service. Members heard how some surgeries had supported fully supported the service, whilst a number of others had not engaged to date.

It was noted that individuals accessing the service did so through being referred by GPs, and therefore there had not been a great deal of open promotion of project.

It was reiterated that, whilst the service was not in place at every GP in the area, it could be accessed by any patient.

It was suggested that Members could use their networks and contacts to try to encourage all GPs to take part in the pilot; this extended to raising the issue through suggestion boxes at surgeries.

RESOLVED:- that the report be noted.

23. **Housing Strategy and Affordable Housing Programme.**

The meeting welcomed colleagues from the Housing and Energy Team to discuss the Housing Strategy and Affordable Housing Programme for the South Area.

Members noted the recent production of the Housing Strategy 2014-33, which was linked to economic and transport plans for Barnsley. The strategy contained 5 key objectives.

1. To support new housing development which creates a thriving and vibrant economy;
2. To ensure the design and delivery of new high quality, desirable and sustainable homes;
3. To make best use of improve existing housing stock in Barnsley;
4. To develop strong, resilient communities;
5. To support younger, older and vulnerable people to live independently.

Members discussed the need for bungalows and other suitable and affordable accommodation for older and vulnerable people. It was noted that an Older and Vulnerable People Needs Assessment would commence shortly and provide evidence, in addition to that contained within the Strategic Housing Market Needs Assessment, to frame discussions with developers.

It was noted that, although the strategy was a 20 year document, 4 year delivery plans would be developed in conjunction with colleagues in regeneration and Children, Young People and Families. Members also noted the need to link with the plans of Sheffield and Leeds City Regions.

The meeting went on to discuss a number of housing schemes going forward in the area including those containing affordable housing. Members noted the expression of interest submitted for the Hoyland/Dearne area to become a housing growth zone. However, it was acknowledged that all sites being proposed were included in the Local Plan, which was out to consultation until 11th January, 2015.

The meeting discussed the relationship between the Council and Berneslai Homes and Members heard how the relationship was now closer than before, with Berneslai Homes plans having more direct alignment to the priorities of the Council.

The Our Street project was discussed briefly and it was noted that it would be operational in the area in January, 2015.

RESOLVED:- that the presentation be noted.

24. **South Area Review**

The meeting received the South Area Review, and noted the change in colour of the branding for the South Area Council, which was now red.

RESOLVED:- that the review be noted.

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Chair