

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL

30th March, 2015

37. **Present:** Councillors Noble (Chair), Sixsmith, and Worton.

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

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

39. **Minutes of the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 2nd February, 2015**

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting, held on 2nd February, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

40. **Notes of the Ward Alliances**

The meeting considered the notes from the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 27th January, 2015 and the Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 11th February, 2015.

With regards to the action from Dearne South Ward Alliance to send a letter of appreciation to officers from the probation service in order to acknowledge their hard work, the Area Council Manager agreed to follow this up to ensure it had been completed.

RESOLVED that the notes of the Ward Alliances be received.

41. **Notes from the Dearne Approach CLE Steering Group meeting held on 16th February, 2015**

Members received the notes from the meeting held on 16th February, 2015. It was noted that the properties adjacent to Dearne Playhouse would be demolished and 12 new homes built by Barnsley Community Build and made available to rent. Once completed, priority would be given to ex-service personnel, but should demand be unfulfilled then it was noted that these would be let to those on the Berneslai Homes waiting list.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Dearne Approach CLE Steering group be received.

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

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who made Members aware that the Devolved Ward Budget for Dearne North had £109.49 remaining and that for Dearne South had been over allocated for 2014/15.

Members noted the 50% reduction of the Devolved Ward Budget for 2015/16 and the possibility of using Area Council finance to support action at the Ward level.

The meeting acknowledged the small amounts of Ward Alliance Funds and Public Health funding to be carried forward.

Members were made aware of the BDR Community Grant which was recently launched and provided finance from £1-3,000 for community groups.

Members noted a piece of work due to be undertaken shortly to map the range of grants available to community groups in the Borough, in order that the grant finance applied for and received was maximised.

RESOLVED that the report on the Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds be received.

43. Update on performance, procurement and commissioning

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. For the Skills to Work contract, it was noted that the second quarter monitoring meeting was due to take place in April, 2015, the outcome of which would be reported to the Area Council in June, 2015.

Members noted that the second quarterly monitoring meeting had taken place with Kingdom Security on 12th February, 2015 to discuss the Environmental Enforcement contract. Patrolling hours were approximately even between Dearne North and South Wards, though there was a concentration of prosecutions around Goldthorpe.

The possibility of extending the current contracts; 'Skills for Work' and 'Environmental Enforcement' was discussed, utilising a waiver rather than re-tendering. Members considered options which included financing contracts for an additional year or extending to finish on 31st March, 2016.

The meeting noted that a specification had been drafted for a 'Clean and Tidy' service, but that further work was required especially in light of recent coverage in the media. A more targeted community development approach was suggested; working more closely with residents in specific

areas. Members noted work currently ongoing using this approach in Highgate.

On this subject Members heard that the Chair was meeting colleagues from the Salvation Army regarding the work undertaken with families, with a view to discussing whether the issue of the environment could be incorporated into their work.

Members noted a number of successful prosecutions for fly-tipping and other environmental offences, and it was suggested that these be publicised widely in order to act as a deterrent.

It was suggested the Tasking Officer be asked to place mobile CCTV equipment around Beevor Street to help discourage fly tipping. Members asked for a report back to the Area Council on the effectiveness of mobile CCTV on this operation and similar in the area.

The financial position was noted, acknowledging intentions to allocate a proportion of the remaining finance to Environment, Young People and Health themes.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the continued progress to the two contracted services be noted;
- (ii) that authorisation be given to the Service Director Stronger, Safer and Healthier Communities to complete necessary paperwork in order to waive the relevant contract procedure rules to allow the 'Skills for Work' and 'Environmental Enforcement' contracts to be extended without the need to retender;
- (iii) that the 'Skills for Work' contract with Voluntary Action Barnsley and Dearne Electronic Community Village be extended to finish 31st March, 2016, to a value of £74,381 per annum pro rata;
- (iv) that the 'Environmental Enforcement' contract with Kingdom Security be extended to finish 31st March, 2016, to a value of £27,181 per annum pro rata;
- (v) that a report be received detailing the use of the mobile CCTV equipment in the area and its effectiveness;
- (vi) that the Tasking Officer be asked to locate CCTV to the Beevor Street Area to help reduce fly tipping offences;
- (vii) that the work taking place in preparing new Area Council commissions be noted;
- (viii) that the current financial position be noted.

44. Dearne Area Council Networking Event

The Area Manager made members aware that a number of Area Councils were making arrangements to hold celebration events, recognising the commitment of volunteers in the area.

As celebration or awards events were already held in the area, it was suggested that it would be beneficial to hold a networking event for officers and community groups to share information.

RESOLVED that a networking event be organised for the Dearne area, with the Dearne Playhouse as a potentially suitable venue.

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Chair