

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NORTH AREA COUNCIL

30th March 2015

45. **Present:** Councillors Burgess (Chair), Cave, Cherryholme, Grundy, Howard, Leech, Platts, Spence and Tattersall.

46. **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non Pecuniary Interests**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non pecuniary interests.

47. **Minutes from the North Area Council meeting held on 2nd February 2015**

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting, held on 2nd February 2015. A discussion took place in respect of Minute No. 43 and the removal of waste from the commissioned environmental project. It was explained that removal of waste will be built into contract specifications.

It was highlighted that as the Community Magazine item (Minute No. 44) was tabled at the meeting there had not been enough time to fully consider the issue. Members were asked if they had any further thoughts around production of a North Area Council Community Magazine. Darton West and Old Town wards already produce magazines and Darton East is in the planning stages. It was felt that care should be taken to ensure an area council-wide publication does not duplicate these existing publications. The area council-wide publication would be produced twice per year and would focus on area council-wide issues, themes and areas of spending.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the minutes of North Area Council, held on 2nd February 2015 be approved as a true and correct record;
- (ii) that the Area Council Manager should explore options for the production of a North Area Council Community Magazine, taking care not to duplicate existing publications and should bring a proposal to the next meeting.

48. **Environmental Enforcement Provider Update – Service Refinement Update - Kingdom Security Services**

Mr Leslie Dare (Kingdom Security) and Cath Fairweather (Tasking Officer) were welcomed to the meeting. Mr Dare provided an overview of the work which Kingdom Security has been doing across the North Area Council. Kingdom are currently dealing with parking, littering and dog fouling (which represents 80% of the workload). Referrals are received via the Tasking Officer and sent on to officers as soon as possible. Within 5 days actions are reported back, with on-going complaints revisited and updated by the Team Leader on a regular basis. All email referrals automatically get email feedback which quotes the job reference number. All contacts are recorded and at the end of each Quarter it is possible to identify problem areas and repeat location from the information received. Members reported that response times are very good and feedback is received regularly in a timely manner. Not all referrals receive a fixed penalty notice as some complaints are not enforceable and may be referred on to either the Police or Highways. The Enforcement Team are encouraged to work in pairs whenever possible following a recent assault as they are often mistaken for Police Officers but do not have any type of protection other than their vests and 'body cams'.

A discussion took place regarding the enforcement teams' attendance at community meetings, events and Berneslai Homes estate walkabout, for intelligence purposes. However, the team cannot attend everything in the wards, particularly estate walkabouts as the number of Berneslai Homes properties differs across wards and this could lead to an inconsistent approach. It is felt strongly that deployment should be via the formal chain of command which is intelligence led. There has been a delay in getting parking enforcement started as there is a need to identify smart ways of working in conjunction with BMBC.

Mr. Dare and Cath Fairweather were thanked for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the contract be re-examined in respect of parking enforcement and clarification obtained about the responsibilities of BMBC enforcement officers; that
- (ii) clarification be sought from Highways with regard to yellow lines/signage etc., so that enforcement can take place and that
- (iii) Members receive regular update reports and feedback for their wards through structured information sharing.

49. **Youth Service Update**

Nina Sleight and Julie Hammerton were welcomed to the meeting and delivered a presentation with regard to creating a sustainable targeted youth support service in the light of significant resource reductions across the Local Authority and partner agencies. The Youth Service and Youth Offending Team have merged to form the Targeted Youth Support Service, part of the 'Early Intervention and Prevention Service' with the aim of working with young people who are most vulnerable at an early stage to prevent their difficulties escalating. Community and street-based teams will continue to work with young people on a targeted basis, offering support advice and guidance. The views of young people will be taken on board through the Youth Council, Care for Us and Children's Rights. 830 consultation responses have been received from family centres, which will be used to remodel that service, which may mean a reduction in the number of centres. The next phase will be completed by the end of June.

Members proceeded to ask questions as follows:

- (i) Why is the service provided for ages 11 – 19? What about younger children who may be at risk?

It was acknowledged that the service has been traditionally provided for ages 11 to 25 when necessary. Provision for younger children is a potential gap which will be addressed later, linked in to early childhood services. An enhanced and coherent offer will be provided within a reduced resource envelope.

- (ii) Will the new Service be linked in with the Youth Offending Team (YOT)?

It was explained that the YOT will be incorporated within the new service, as will Troubled Families provision. The sexual health contract is up for renewal and the service will work with the chosen provider.

(iii) Is the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) process working?

There is a process in place although the service is in a pilot stage at the moment. A mentoring relationship is being developed together with assessment, raising awareness and building self-esteem.

50. **Area Celebration & Networking Events Discussion**

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, highlighting that a celebration event of achievement would be beneficial to help demonstrate how the Area Council is fulfilling its priorities. This is good practice for all Area Councils. It was also felt that this would fulfil an important networking function to share good practice across the wards enabling Ward Alliances to learn from each other.

RESOLVED:

(i) that the Area Council Manager should identify a central location for the event, to take place in the early evening, if possible in the Town Hall in early September.

51. **Notes from the Ward Alliances, for information**

The meeting received the notes of Darton East, Darton West, Old Town and St. Helen's Ward Alliance meetings held in January, February and March 2015.

Caution was advised around planning applications and S106 spending agreements being discussed at Ward Alliance meetings.

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

The Area Council Manager updated the North Area Council on progress in each Ward in expending the Devolved Ward Budget, Ward Alliance Fund and Public Health financial contribution, highlighting that there is still some underspend. The devolved ward budgets are being cut by 50% and will then be removed. The importance of informing the Area Council Manager of future priorities was reiterated. A discussion took place in respect of the speed indicator device readings and the possibility of an analysis of speed from the Highways department.

RESOLVED:

(i) that each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the remaining Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance funds in line with the guidance on spend.

53. **Project Performance Update**

The Area Council Manager presented this item which gave an overview and detailed summary of the performance of projects commissioned by the North Area Council in line with the Young People, Health and Wellbeing and Economic Regeneration priorities. A summary of the 'Now You're Cooking' Project was also provided. Feedback from the wards was varied and it would appear as if uptake has been inconsistent across the area.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the report be received and that individual wards raise specific performance issues with the Area Council Manager to assist with effective contract management.

54. Stronger Community Grant Update

The Area Council Manager provided a detailed report to update members about the outcome of the panel meeting, outlining performance management and monitoring arrangements for successful projects whilst thanking panel members for their hard work. It was highlighted that it had been a pilot process and lessons had been learned. However the performance management of the six projects will be key over the next 12 months.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Members note the NAC Stronger Communities Grant update; the outcome and learning from the evaluation and approval process; the project that have been approved for funding and
- (ii) that Members agree the performance and monitoring arrangements outlined in section 7 of the report.

55. Commissioning Budget & Financial Forecast

The Area Council Manager provided a detailed report on the financial position for all North Area Council spend, also outlining the unallocated amount remaining for 2015/16 together with the proposed approach for reviewing North Area Council priorities and allocating potential spend against these priorities. The remaining underspend of £89,047 will be carried forward and future commissioning is dependent on the budget allocation for 2016/17. A discussion took place about the environmental and parking enforcement service. It was explained that the budget is insufficient for one enforcement officer per ward unless the 2016/17 budget is confirmed. Clarification is still required regarding the appropriate use of the recycled fines income, which will need to be compliant with DEFRA guidelines. It was felt that the dog-fouling and littering elements of the service had been very well received whereas more information is required in respect of parking enforcement.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Members noted the updated financial position for all North Area Council spend together with unallocated amounts remaining for 2015/16 and 2016/17;
- (ii) that the proposed approach for reviewing North Area Council priorities and associated spend against these priorities is agreed; that
- (iii) the Area Manager explore options for procurement of commissioned services in respect of the environmental and parking enforcement service at an estimated cost of £140,000 per annum, now that a clear steer has been given
- (iv) that the Anti-poverty and Cleaner and Greener projects are currently out to tender
- (v) that a workshop be organised to enable members to determine future priorities.

.....
Chair