

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PENISTONE AREA COUNCIL

16th April, 2015

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

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

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

44. **Minutes from the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 19th February, 2015.**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 19th February, 2015.

It was noted that an officer had been invited to a future meeting of the Area Council to discuss affordable housing in the area. Members commented that an example business case showing the impact of affordable housing on the viability of a site had yet to be received and it was agreed that this be pursued.

Regarding the Cycle Penistone funding, Members heard how full monitoring information had been received for their first grant and that of their second was not yet due. Officers reported that there were currently no areas for concern.

Members noted that a number of the Area Councils had approved the production of a Community Magazine but that it had been suggested that deadlines be put back in order to produce a Christmas edition in December. Members were concerned that residents may be too busy around the Christmas period to read a magazine, and it was agreed to feed this back to Corporate Communications.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting, held on the 19th February, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

45. **Notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance, held on 19th March, 2015.**

The meeting received the notes from Penistone East and West Ward Alliance, held on 19th March, 2015.

It was noted that the Area Team's move from Penistone Town Hall to Penistone Library was currently on hold pending confirmation of a new tenant in the Town Hall.

With regards to the speed survey in Millhouse Green, the meeting was made aware that a discussion between Members and officers in Highways was being pursued.

RESOLVED that the notes from Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 19th March, 2015 be received.

46. **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.

Members noted that there were only very small amounts of finance to carry over to the 2015/16 financial year, and that in 2014/15 a wide range of groups had been supported across the area.

RESOLVED that the report detailing the use of Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Fund be noted.

47. **Penistone Area Council update on performance, commissioning and procurement.**

The item was introduced by the Penistone Area Council Manager, referring to the recent quarter 2 monitoring for the Countryside Skills commission. Members noted that performance against targets was good. The meeting heard how cohort two had six new learners, and six of the current learners were on track to achieve LANTRA Level One by the end of May, 2015. It was acknowledged that the contractor had also provided a number of case studies as per the contract.

A number of Members had attended the open day and were impressed by the project. A proposal was discussed to slightly alter the project in order to work at a number of high profile walling sites, which would provide very visible examples of the work of the project. Members offered support in brokering links with either organisations or with landowners.

The meeting also noted the links being established with other community organisations to work collaboratively, and with Penistone Grammar School and the Youth Service.

Members discussed the opportunity to extend the project until March, 2016 and noted other opportunities to finance the scheme subsequently. The meeting was supportive of this, highlighting the positive impact the scheme had made to a number of individuals socially, and the impact of increasing countryside skills and stimulating enterprise.

The meeting heard how a workshop involving Parish Councils to develop a Clean, Green and Tidy tender specification had been organised. The intention for the June meeting of the Area Council to consider a final draft of the specification was noted.

The possibility of a scheme offering grants to community groups and organisations to deliver against the Area Council and Council Priorities was discussed, as was the possibility of devolving an amount of finance to supplement funds at a Ward level. Both were supported and it was agreed to consider a more developed proposal at the next meeting of the Area Council.

It was noted that the Area Team was in discussion with a number of agencies including VAB, Age UK and Barnsley Development Agency regarding the possibility of a project to provide positive activities for young people.

Members considered the current financial position for 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years and noted the potential impact of proposed commissioning.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that 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 Countryside Skills Commission contracts to be extended without the need to retender; and that contract be extended to the end of March 2016, at a cost of £46,800;
- (ii) that the June meeting of the Area Council considers a tender specification for a Clean, Green and Tidy commission;
- (iii) that the June meeting of the Area Council receives a proposal to increase the provision of grants in the Penistone Area.

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Chair