

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SOUTH AREA COUNCIL

24th April, 2015

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

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

No member wished to declare an interest in any item on the agenda.

41. **Minutes of the meeting of South Area Council, held on 27th February, 2015**

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council, held on 27th February, 2015.

RESOLVED that the minutes of South Area Council held on 27th February, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

42. **South Area Council Community Magazine**

The Lead Locality Officer spoke to the item, referring to the previous discussion at the Area Council.

The original proposal was to produce two issues of a Community Magazine as a pilot over the course of a year. The magazine was to be funded through the sales of advertising in the publication, with distribution costing approximately £2,600 for the two issues.

It was confirmed that the proposed method of distribution would pay any employee the minimum wage. Costs were also provided for producing a magazine without any advertising content.

Concerns were expressed about the prominence and appropriateness of advertising, and Members were in agreement that the emphasis ought to be on the articles, and that officers ought to make final editorial decisions on advertising.

Members discussed the merits of producing a magazine without advertising, yet on balance felt that this was not a good use of resources.

It was suggested that a future meeting considers a number of 'mock-ups' before agreeing on a final design and layout. It was noted that the first issue is expected to be distributed in December, 2015.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Area Council approve the production of a community magazine for a trial of two editions for one year;
- (ii) that £2,600 be allocated for the distribution of two editions of the community magazine;
- (iii) that the Area Council discusses a number of 'mock-ups' of the community magazine before agreeing a final layout.

43. **South Area Council performance management report**

The report was introduced by the South Area Council Manager. It was noted that the figures for the Tidy Team and Environmental Enforcement contracts had not been updated as the quarterly monitoring meetings were not due until mid May, 2015.

For the One Stop Shop, Members acknowledged the figures achieved against outcome indicators. The project was on track to achieve over £1m of benefit gain over the 2 year period, with the majority of the beneficiaries being either in work, in retirement or disabled. Noted was the success of the evening session being held.

The numbers of cases being referred to other money management or specialist help services had significantly increased, as had homelessness cases being averted and the amount of unmanageable debt dealt with through financial settlements. Members noted the case studies supplied, which suggested a lack of leniency from the Department of Work and Pensions.

With regards to the number of community groups visited to promote advice services, it was acknowledged that this had not increased significantly as many of the groups in the area had already been visited. It was noted that more targeting of underrepresented groups was now taking place. Members heard how previous issues with confidentiality at Darfield Children's Centre had been resolved. The meeting acknowledged that all the areas associated with the One Stop Shop contract were rated as 'Green'.

Members noted that specifications were currently being drafted for local business courses, which would include providing libraries in the area as a venue for the training free of charge.

With regards to the Tidy Team, 3 apprentices had now joined the team and all areas of performance were now rated as 'Green'. The meeting discussed the recent work of the Team, which included their involvement in a large scale clean up of Wombwell Woods and working with a number of local businesses to clean up the area near their premises.

Members noted that the working relationship between Council departments and the Tidy Team was very positive.

The meeting noted the future plans identified by the Tidy Team Steering Group. These included working to engage larger businesses in the area through their head office, and also working with two emerging Community Garden/Community Growing Schemes in Hoyland and Wombwell.

Members considered performance against the Environmental Enforcement contract and it was noted that all of the performance indicators were rated as 'Green'. It was reported that it had recently been agreed that any income from notices associated with parking would now be recirculated to the Area Council minus administrative costs.

It was noted that the preparation for the Summer Internship Programme was underway with 30 places allocated to young people from each of the Netherwood and Kirk Balk Schools, and a number of local businesses were interested in taking a placement. It was acknowledged that some of the children from the schools taking part may be from outside of the South Area, but it was felt that the majority would be South Area residents, and all business taking part would be local.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

44. **Review of South Area Council Priorities for 2015/16**

A presentation was received from Mark Wood from the Research and Business Intelligence Team.

This provided information with regards to customer insight data for the area. In addition Members noted key statistics for the South Area, which included trend data and comparisons with the borough and national averages, where possible.

Members were reminded of the current priorities which were agreed approximately 18 months previously and the need to review them to ensure the priorities for the Area remained current.

The meeting considered the financial position for the Area Council, noting £152,672 to carry forward to 2015/16. This comprised of unallocated monies, underspent slippage, and fixed penalty notice income. This was to be spent alongside an allocation of £400,000 in 2015/16, making a total of £552,672. However, taking into account finance already allocated, it was noted that the unallocated amount for 2015/16 was £106,080.

Members discussed the data provided, noting that additional information was available alongside their own knowledge and experience of the Area. Following discussion it was decided that the existing priorities remained relevant for 2015/16.

It was generally thought that the current commissions remained relevant, but that they should be closely monitored and consideration given to their extension or renewal in the future. It was acknowledged that the impact of reductions in public sector budgets would more likely be known at this time.

However, the discussion raised a number of areas of concern, including how Council services worked seamlessly with those provided by the Police. It was agreed to invite the Police and Crime Commissioner to a future meeting of the Area Council to discuss this issue.

The prevalence of smoking in pregnancy was also felt to be an issue for the area warranting further consideration. It was agreed that the Area Council Manager liaise with relevant services to understand further what support was available in the Area and any insight in to why rates were still so high. It was agreed that the outcome of this be discussed in more depth at a future meeting.

The meeting considered the possibility of extending the Environmental Enforcement contract through the use of a waiver, and it was agreed to do so at the current level for an additional year.

Members noted the ability to transfer up to £20,000 of the Area Council budget to a Ward level should they so wish. Following a brief discussion, the meeting agreed that this should not currently be pursued due to the current levels of Ward Alliance Fund and Devolved Ward Budget available in each of the Wards. However, it was agreed to discuss this again in future should the need arise.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the South Area Council agrees to retain the current priorities for 2015/16;
- (ii) that the current commissions remain relevant and that they continue to be closely monitored with a view to discussing their re-commissioning or extension in the future;
- (iii) that the financial position for 2015/16 be noted;
- (iv) that the Police and Crime Commissioner be invited to a future meeting of the South Area Council;
- (v) that the Area Manager liaises with relevant services regarding the prevalence of smoking in pregnancy with a view to the Area Council considering the issue in more depth at a future meeting;
- (vi) 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 'Environmental Enforcement' contract to be extended without the need to retender for an additional year, to a value of £135,092;

45. **Notes of the Ward Alliances**

The meeting received the notes from the following Ward Alliances:-
Hoyland Milton and Rockingham, held on the 10th March, 2015;

Wombwell Ward Alliance, held on the 10th March, 2015; and Darfield Ward Alliance, held on 19th March, 2015.

RESOLVED:- that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

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

Members received the report which provided details of the latest expenditure from the Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds.

Noted was the amount of expenditure to be carried forward and the budget for each Ward for the 2015/16 financial year.

Clarification was given that the work at Jump Park was for refurbishment and not replacement due to fire damage.

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

47. **Thanks to Councillors retiring**

The Chair made the meeting aware that Cllr Key would be retiring as a Councillor at the forthcoming election. Thanks were given by all for his work in the Area.

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Chair