

MEETING:	Central Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 7 September 2015
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Reception Room, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors D. Green (Chair), P. Birkinshaw, Bruff, G. Carr, J. Carr, Johnson, Mathers, Pourali, Riggs and Williams

8. Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

9. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Central Area Council held on 6th July, 2015 (Cen.07.09.2015/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Central Area Council held on 6th July, 2015.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Central Area Council held on 6th July, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

10. Service to improve the health and wellbeing of children & young people aged 8-12 years - presentation from YMCA

Members received a presentation from Andrea Battye and Christie Mc Farlane from YMCA about the programme being delivered to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people aged 8-12 years in the Central Area.

The meeting heard of the variety of activities undertaken, which offered new experiences, promoted the development of new skills, and helped to build the confidence of young people. This included Minecraft Club, outdoor experiences, environmental projects, dance workshops, sport, team games, and free play amongst other things.

Members heard how the project had been shaped through consultation with young people to ensure delivery was best suited to their needs.

The meeting heard how the project had recruited and trained a number of young volunteers and peer supporters, who had been integral to the success of the project. Members also heard how 90 young people had also successfully completed the IKIC award as part of their engagement with the project.

Members questioned the backgrounds of children engaged by the project and which ward they were from. It was noted that, due to the existing networks of the YMCA, young people from a variety of backgrounds engaged with the project and from across the Central Area.

Questions were raised about which activities and venues were used, and it was noted that certain areas had historically not been best served in terms of provision, which in part was due to the lack of appropriate venues. Members were made aware that the contract was extremely flexible, this allowed the team to respond to any concerns and to comments from young people, moving location and varying activities to suit.

Thanks were given by Central Area Council members for the hard work of YMCA staff and the positive impact the project had made.

11. Central Area Council Framework for Monitoring Progress and Challenging Performance (Cen.07.09.2015/4)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who referred to the report circulated. The report proposed that the reporting cycle of contracts be aligned so that each contract would report on a quarterly basis, aligned to the standard quarters in the financial year. A cumulative report would then be brought to the next Area Council meeting after the end of the quarter.

The meeting considered the proposed process to be used for the 'Check and Challenge' exercises, with that relating to the Targeted Youth Support Service to be started around November, 2015 and Neighbourhood Services in September, 2015. Members expressed concern as to whether deadlines for providing information would be adhered to, and it was agreed that if they were not, this could then be escalated.

To progress a 'Check and Challenge' exercise relating to schools, it was suggested that the Cabinet Spokesperson for People be invited to a future meeting of the Area Council.

With regards to considering fly tipping, Members heard how the Scrutiny Commission would be considering this topic. The meeting also discussed whether Police response times may be an area for further consideration. The Area Chair agreed to raise this with colleagues to ascertain whether this was an issue specific to the area or experienced elsewhere in the borough before progressing.

With any 'Check and Challenge' exercise being undertaken, it was agreed that the relevant Cabinet spokesperson ought to be made aware.

RESOLVED:-

- i)** that the proposed changes in performance reporting against contracts, service level agreements, Working Together Fund projects, and other programmes be approved;
- ii)** that the process to be used for 'Check and Challenge' exercises be noted; and
- iii)** that the scope of the 'Check and Challenge' exercise for the Targeted Youth Support Service and Neighbourhood Services be approved.
- iv)** that to progress a 'Check and Challenge' exercise relating to schools, the Cabinet Spokesperson for People be invited to a future meeting of the Area Council.

12. Central Council Priorities, Current Financial Position for 2015/2016 and Proposals for 2016/2017 (Cen.07.09.2015/5)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager who drew attention to the progress made against each of the priorities of the Area Council.

With regards to Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People, it was noted that discussions were taking place with relevant officers regarding health information for the area. Once the information is received it was suggested that it may be appropriate to invite the Health and Wellbeing Manager to attend a meeting of Central Area Council to discuss where resources could be most effectively used to address health related issues.

Members noted that the contract with Kingdom Security had successfully been extended until 31st March, 2016, and the Private Sector Housing Management SLA was now well underway.

The meeting noted that only £65,000 of the Core Assets contract had been spent. After the Target Youth Support Service summer programme, approximately £126,000 remained still allocated to this priority. Members noted that, with income from fixed penalty notices, this resulted in £104,473 remaining unallocated in the current financial year, and £354,683 in 2016/17.

Members discussed a proposal, circulated under appendix 2 of the report, to address the Health and Wellbeing of Young People aged 13-19. It was noted that a working group had been convened to consider the best way forward. A number of steps were proposed, which would hopefully lead to provision being delivered from early January, 2016.

The proposal contained five steps:-

1 – to establish a stakeholder group to identify needs and develop a framework for the young people's programme. The membership of the group was discussed, including the merits of including someone to represent churches in the area. Whilst Members did not wish to support any religion over another, it was recognised that many youth clubs and groups are organised through local churches.

2 – to hold a stakeholder/provider workshop session. The session would help foster collaboration and innovation, identify and make plans to address local challenges and encourage a joint way forward to deliver the programme.

3 – inviting proposals to meet the identified need. Organisations would be invited to put forward proposals with timescales for delivery and associated costings.

4 – agreeing successful proposals. A number of options were discussed, which included holding a participatory budgeting exercise, and convening a small evaluation panel. The meeting discussed this issue in some depth and it was suggested that one member from each Ward Alliance, with knowledge or experience in this area, be invited to take part in an evaluation panel. It was acknowledged that this could be an Elected Member or Community Representative. The panel would then make recommendations, which could be brought back to the Area Council for final approval, or this could be delegated to an officer.

Members noted that, following the meeting of the stakeholder group and the workshop, a report with further detail would be submitted to next meeting of the Area Council

5 – programme implementation and performance management. It was suggested that projects would run between January, 2016 and 31st March, 2017 and that performance and financial information would be reported on a quarterly basis.

The meeting went on to consider the current commissions and proposals to extend provision, ensuring continuity wherever possible. This included the following proposals which had been developed following procurement advice from NPS:-
To extend the contract with RVS to 31st March, 2017 by seeking a waiver to contract procedure rules, at a cost of approximately £80,000;
To extend the contract with YMCA to 31st March, 2017 by seeking a waiver to contract procedure rules, at a cost of approximately £75,000;
To re-tender the project to 'Create a cleaner and greener environment in partnership with local people' for one year with the possibility of extending for a further year at an annual cost of approximately £85,000;
To re-tender the Environmental Enforcement service for one year with the possibility of extending for a further year at an annual cost of approximately £55,000;
To extend the service level agreement with BMBC Housing for the Private Sector Rented Housing Management and Enforcement service to 31st March, 2017 by seeking a waiver to contract procedure rules, at a cost of approximately £13,000.

The meeting discussed each of the proposed actions and all were supported. However, it was noted that other Area Councils were seeking to re-commission an Environmental Enforcement Service, and that this could result in it being advertised as one tender due to European rules, but with individual 'lots'. Members were keen to ensure that this contract continued to meet the distinct needs and requirements of the Central Area Council and these may be different to those of other Area Councils. Members were keen to ensure their role in the decision making process and governance is not undermined and that it does not become centralised.

RESOLVED:-

- i)** that the update on progressing the delivery against Central Area Council priorities be noted;
- ii)** that the proposal for developing and agreeing projects to improve the health and wellbeing for young people aged 13-19 years be supported, including the establishment of an evaluation panel consisting of one representative from each Ward Alliance;
- iii)** that the current and projected financial position for 2015/16 and 2016/17 be noted;
- iv)** that the proposed way forward for each of the current Central Area Council contracts be supported, and that further detailed proposals be brought to a future meeting of the Area Council for approval, including a detailed analysis of the Environmental Enforcement project going forward

13. Notes of the Ward Alliances (Cen.07.09.2015/6)

The meeting received the notes of the meetings of the Ward Alliances within the Central Area held in June and July, 2015.

RESOLVED that the notes and feedback from the Ward Alliances be received.

**14. Report on the Use of the Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds
(Cen.07.09.2015/7)**

The meeting received a report detailing expenditure from the Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Funds for the year to 12th August, 2015. It was noted that significant amounts of finance remained unallocated, and Members were urged to accelerate project development to make use of finance where possible.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chair