

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 16 November 2015
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Goldthorpe Library

MINUTES

Present Councillors Noble (Chair), Gollick, Sixsmith MBE and Worton.

28 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

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

29 Minutes of the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 14th September, 2015 (Dac.16.11.2015/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 14th September, 2015.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting held on 14th September, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

30 Presentation from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust

Gemma Cobby from Coalfields Regeneration Trust was welcomed to the meeting.

A brief overview of the work of the trust was provided. This included investment in properties adjacent to Dearne Playhouse, support for people out of work to prepare CVs, provision of grants up to £500, supporting the development of a business forum in the area, amongst other things.

The meeting discussed support available to develop neighbourhood plans, with the prevailing view being that communities in the Dearne had been consulted widely, and a number of well developed plans were already available.

Members were very supportive of the work underway to develop a business forum to engage and support enterprise in the area. The meeting also acknowledged the positive impact of micro grants available to support communities in the area.

RESOLVED that Gemma be thanked for the presentation, and the work of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust be noted.

31 Performance of commissioned services and Area Council financial position (Dac.16.11.2015/4)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, referring to the current financial situation for the Area Council. Taking into account the income received to date from Fixed Penalty Notices, the finance remaining unallocated for 2015/16 was £57,438.

With regards to the Training For Employment contract, the meeting noted the continued success of the commission, which ran until the end of March, 2016. It was

noted that the project is undertaking an annual review and this would inform a discussion about the future of the project to take place in January, 2016.

It was noted that an organisation had been commissioned to review the Area Governance arrangements centrally, and as part of this would focus on analysing the social return on investment of a number of projects. It was suggested that this would include the Training for Employment commission.

With regards to the Environmental Enforcement commission, Members heard how, from August to end September, 2015, there had been 51 Fixed Penalty Notices and 25 Parking Charge Notices. It was noted that plans were in place to ensure patrolling hours were evenly distributed between Dearne North and South Wards.

Members discussed the Clean and Tidy contract that Twiggs Grounds Maintenance were delivering. It was noted that 137 areas had been targeted with time balanced between Dearne North and South Wards. Feedback from residents had been extremely positive, and Members were encouraged to continue identifying any areas requiring attention.

Members noted the feedback from the Housing Enforcement SLA, which highlighted that 182 complaints and requests for service had been dealt with. The meeting discussed a recent case which had gone to court, with an individual being fined £400 plus costs for not adhering to a Community Protection Notice.

The meeting noted that 7 applications had been received for the Dearne Development Fund, and that a panel would consider these on the 25th November, 2015.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the updated financial position for Dearne Area Council, including the amounts unallocated for 2015/16 and 2016/17 be noted;
- (ii) that the continued progress of the Dearne Area Council commissions be noted.

32 Update on the procurement of environmental enforcement (Dac.16.11.2015/5)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, referring to previous discussions at the Area Council, where Members expressed a desire to extend the provision.

Members noted that other Area Councils would also be procuring a similar service in a combined exercise, however each Area Council would performance manage the service applicable to their area.

The meeting was made aware of the timescales for procuring the service, with the desire for the contract to commence on 1st April, 2016.

RESOLVED that the specification of requirements and associated procurement strategy for the Environmental Enforcement Service be approved, to a value of £30,955 per annum, for one year with an opportunity to extend for two further year periods, and that delegated authority be given to the Service Director- Stronger, Safer and Healthier Communities to make minor amendments where necessary.

33 Housing enforcement (Dac.16.11.2015/6)

Following on from previous discussions, the meeting considered extending the posts of Private Sector Housing Officer, and Enforcement and Investigations Officer, for a further year. This would take the posts to March, 2017 and to November, 2016 respectively.

The significant impact of the officers was acknowledged and Members were supportive of the extension. It was noted that the finance required would be less than previously envisaged at £62,000 as opposed to £75,000. A suggestion was made to consider whether a third officer could be funded to further support the work.

RESOLVED:-

- (i)** that approval be given to extend the post of Private Sector Housing Officer, and Enforcement and Investigations Officer, each for a further year at a total cost of £62,000;
- (ii)** that consideration be given to funding an additional officer to further support private sector housing enforcement work.

34 Notes from following Ward Alliances (Dac.16.11.2015/7)

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 29th September, and Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 14th October, 2015.

Brief feedback was provided from Councillor Worton on the notes from Dearne North, and it was noted that action plans are in place and have been agreed.

Councillor Sixsmith updated Members on the work of Dearne South Alliance. It was acknowledged that plans were still in development but that this had not impeded delivery. The need to engage more volunteers and develop more group was acknowledged.

At this point in the proceedings Members held a two minute silence to mark the passing of those in recent attacks in France.

It was noted that arrangements were in place for the Christmas event in St. Andrew's Square and it was thought that this may help to stimulate more community action. Support available to assist group and project development was stressed, as was then need to stimulate this in order to allocate funds available to worthwhile projects.

Councillor Noble added that a trained potter had agreed to work with interested parties to ensure use of the kiln.

RESOLVED that notes from the respective Ward Alliances be received.

35 Report on the Use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.16.11.2015/8)

The report was introduced by the Area Council Manager and Members noted the amounts of finance still available for the 2015/16 financial year, which included any finance carried forward.

For Dearne North, £9,159.79 of the £10,109.49 Devolved Ward Budget had been allocated and £6,830 of the £13,938.85 of the Ward Alliance Fund.

For Dearne South, £6,472.68 of the Devolved Ward Budget had been allocated, and £2,800 of the £13,660.85 of the Ward Alliance Fund.

Members were reminded of the support available from the Area Team to help accelerate the development of projects to apply for relevant funds.

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

Members noted the recent success of local groups in the Pride of Barnsley Awards and the Chair praised the hard work of all involved.

Councillor Worton made Members aware of arrangements being made for a memorial bench to mark the passing of Councillor Dave Sim. Councillor Worton agreed to write to all members to invite them to the dedication ceremony.

Chair