

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday, 27 April 2018
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Wombwell Library

MINUTES

Present Councillors Stowe (Chair), Andrews BEM, Franklin, Markham, Saunders, Shepherd, Sumner and R. Wraith.

45 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors Franklin and Shepherd each declared a non pecuniary interest in minute numbers 49 and 50 in relation to their positions as directors of Forge Community Partnership.

46 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 23rd February, 2018 (Sac.27.04.2018/2)

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 23rd February, 2018.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 23rd February, 2018 be approved as a true and correct record.

47 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.27.04.2018/3)

The meeting received the notes from the following Ward Alliances:- Hoyland Milton and Rockingham held on 7th March; Wombwell held on 15th March; and Darfield Ward Alliance held on 19th March, 2018.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

48 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.27.04.2018/4)

The attention of Members was drawn to the final amount remaining in each of the Ward Alliance Funds at the end of the 2017/18 financial year.

Including carry forward of the remaining balances, the allocations for each Ward Alliance Fund in 2018/19 were as follows: - Hoyland Milton and Rockingham, £20,099.69; Darfield, £11,225.47; and Wombwell, £11,308.04. No finance had been allocated in the 2018/19 financial year.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

49 Performance Report Q4 (Sac.27.04.2018/5)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. The attention of Members was drawn to information relating to the contract with Kingdom Security for Environmental Enforcement. It was noted that information related to Quarter 4 had been delayed. This was as a result of the contract manager being on leave for 6

weeks, with no alternative contact provided. In addition a number of issues highlighted previously had failed to be acted upon.

Members noted that the payment for the contract had been withheld, and arrangements had been made with regards to breaching the terms of contract.

It was acknowledged that there were no issues with any of the remaining contracts. It was noted that the majority of the contracts were due to expire within 18 months, with no option to extend. Further consideration would be given to this later in the agenda.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

50 Procurement and Financial Update (Sac.27.04.2018/6)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report previously circulated. Members considered section 3 of the report which highlighted commitments to date.

Section 4 of the report provided a summary of the financial situation of the Area Council. It was noted that this did not currently include income from Fixed Penalty Notices. Information received by the Area Council Manager had suggested that this was significantly reduced.

The attention of Members was drawn to a number of projects which had been put forward by various Councillors within the South Area for funding through the Area Council budget. Also noted were the items for discussion later on the agenda that could lead to a call on finance from the budget. With many of the commissions coming to an end in around 12 months, it was suggested that a workshop be called for Members to discuss the priorities for the area and potential areas for investment in the future.

The background to the Traffic Regulation Order in Hoyland Town Centre was acknowledged and the reasons for its amendment considered. Members noted the anticipated costs of up to £5,000. Those present supported the proposal, with the exception of Cllr Shepherd, who wished to record his abstention.

Members noted the proposal for work around Milton Ponds, which could not be undertaken with volunteers due to the magnitude of the task. Questions were raised regarding the responsibility of the angling club with regards to maintenance, however it was noted that the work was required within certain timescales due to the nesting seasons of birds on the banking.

A further scheme was considered, which entailed remediation work on land which was the responsibility of the parks department. This would alleviate flooding in the area. A number of options were considered, with the preferred option being to solve the issue in the long term.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the current financial position be noted;
- (ii) That approval be given to pursue amendments to a Traffic Regulation order in Hoyland Town Centre up to a value of £5,000;

- (iii) That work to cut back the banking at Milton Ponds be approved up to a value of £1,080;
- (iv) That work to alleviate flooding on Sheffield Road, Birdwell be undertaken at a cost of up to £10,980;
- (v) That a workshop be arranged to consider the future priorities for the Area Council and potential areas for investment.

51 Addressing the Demand for Advice Services (Sac.27.04.2018/7)

David Andy from Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) was welcomed to the meeting. The background to the advice services being provided in the South Area were noted, with this first established as a joint venture between CAB and Barnsley Council, with the service more recently being wholly delivered by CAB following them being the preferred organisation at the conclusion of a tender exercise.

Members were made aware that a number of targets had been met, and greatly exceeded, such as number of clients seen, and amount of benefit gained. This success had generated a number of issues, including sessions being oversubscribed, with long waiting times with a number of clients unable to be seen. As a result the Area Council had requested for a number of options to be considered to respond to the demand.

The circulated report provided a number of options, which included the provision of additional services, and also the engagement of an apprentice to assist capacity. In addition to the options circulated, Members were also made aware of a further option to provide an additional session per week, provided by a generalist advisor. This was expected to cost £4,972 per year.

Members discussed the value for money of the service, with £12.60 net gain for every £1 invested. This rose to over £28 when undertaken an analysis of the wider social return on investment.

Questions were raised regarding how additional capacity could be provided, and it was noted that CAB were currently in the process of recruiting additional staff.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That David Andy be thanked for his presentation and providing the options contained within the report;
- (ii) That Members consider the information presented within the presentation, and report circulated, and that a formal decision to address the demand for advice services be taken at the next meeting of the Area Council.

52 Social Isolation (Sac.27.04.2018/8)

Anna Tummon, Health and Wellbeing Officer, was welcomed to the meeting, to present the findings of her research on social isolation in the South Area. Members were reminded of the work recently commenced in the Wombwell Ward by Age UK, which sought to reduce social isolation.

Members were reminded of the difference between social isolation and loneliness, and the impact on health. The research considered who was affected, the barriers to them being engaged, and support required for them to re-engage. The return on

investment in this area was also noted, with Public Health England suggesting £5.96 for every £1 invested.

Though data was limited, it was suggested that approximately 3,640 of the 9,100 residents aged 65+ in 2020 would be living alone and at risk of becoming socially isolated.

Further research was undertaken which included with service users, and professionals. The major issues contributing were found to be: - transport and geography; awareness and information; confidence and reassurance; and technology limiting interaction. For them to engage more easily, the following would make it easier:- increased awareness and advertising; transport; a friendly face. Members noted that there were community and individual factors that resulted in social isolation.

As a result of the research it was suggested that existing assets be utilised, but with efforts to reduce barriers. It was suggested that this would require a targeted and proactive approach. A number of options in order to do so were put forward and discussed, however it was recognised that the Area Council may wish to pause to consider the outcome of the Age UK intervention in the Wombwell area.

With regards to transport, suggestions were made for Ward Alliance applications to give consideration on how those at risk of social isolation could be engaged. Members discussed the difficulties in identifying those most isolated and the need for referrals from agencies they may be in contact with.

It was suggested that a decision on any significant intervention be paused pending the outcome of the work of Age UK in Wombwell, and they be invited to a future meeting of the Area Council to give an update on the project so far. However, in the interim it was thought to be beneficial to further develop a Winter Wellbeing Campaign, which would bring together many priorities to engage and improve the wellbeing of older and socially isolated residents.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the Health and Wellbeing Officer be thanked for her attendance and work so far;
- (ii) That Age UK be invited to give a presentation on the preliminary findings of their work in Wombwell after 3-6 months of delivery;
- (iii) That, working with relevant partners, a Winter Wellbeing Campaign be developed to bring together multiple priorities to address the needs of older and socially isolated people, and that this be considered in more detail by a future meeting of the Area Council.

Chair