

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 6 June 2016
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Leech (Chair), Burgess, Cave, Charlesworth, Cherryholme, Grundy, Howard, Lofts, Miller, Platts, Spence and Tattersall.

1 Appreciation

Councillor Leech gave thanks to Councillor Burgess as outgoing chair, praising her hard work in establishing North Area Council and helping it develop to its current position. This sentiment was echoed by those Members present.

2 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Burgess declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute numbers 6 and 9 as a trustee of Barnsley Citizen's Advice Bureau.

3 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 4th April 2016

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th April, 2016.

With regards to minute 58, the development of a pilot project to establish the needs of small businesses, it was noted that a meeting was to be held imminently to progress this,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on the 4th April, 2016 be approved as a true and correct record.

4 Clean and Green Project Update

Neil Spencer and Martyn Hall from Anvil CIC were welcomed to the meeting to present progress on the Clean and Green commission.

Work had commenced in late September, early October 2015, but much of the winter had been used to build relationships within the area. Within the second quarter the team had been more active in engaging the community to improve areas with a 'doing with' approach. This had included working with existing groups but also beginning to nurture and stimulate new groups.

To date 103 volunteers had been engaged and a total of 603 bags of waste collected. Members were made aware of work with schools in the area to engage young people and a number of activities had been planned for the summer holidays.

The meeting heard about a number of activities planned throughout the North area, and also links with Coalfields Regeneration Trust and with Barnsley College to develop skills and employability.

It was suggested that it would be useful for the details of groups and individuals engaged be circulated to Members, and it was noted that in the future volunteering hours would also be collated.

Members gave thanks for the positive impact the commission was making, and complemented the team on their engagement of residents in improving the community.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Thanks be given to Neil Spencer and Martyn Hall for their attendance;
- (ii) Details of groups engaged be circulated to Members;
- (iii) Moving forward the volunteer information collected be more tangible.

5 Data Review

Liz Pitt, Research & Business Intelligence Manager, was welcomed to the meeting to give a presentation on the most recent data for the area, linked to the Area Priorities.

A caution was given highlighting issues with using data at a very small level; due to low numbers there could be considerable variation.

Members were made aware of current population estimates within the area and the proportion of residents who were ethnic minorities. Also considered was the deprivation in the area using data from the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, noting that 16% of the North Area was within the 10% most deprived area in England. Changes in deprivation between 2010 and 2015 were discussed, noting that the two sources of data were not directly comparable.

Members noted the changes over time and also the significance of health deprivation and disability in the overall figures.

The meeting was presented with information relating to poverty in the area, and it was noted that 21% of children aged under 16 in the North Area lived in low income families, compared to 24% in Barnsley. However, there was significant variation within the North Area itself.

With regards to environmental data, the meeting considered the number of dog fouling and litter incidents, recognising that these were only those that had been recorded by Neighbourhood Services. It was noted that incidences of fly-tipping had increased in all Area Councils apart from North, though Members said that this did not resonate with their experiences locally.

Presented were the causes of death between 2009 and 2013, and it was noted that cardiovascular diseases and cancer figured highly. The risk factors for health were noted, with smoking, high blood pressure and high cholesterol being the three main risks. With regards to smoking prevalence it was noted that rates were lower in the North Area than was average in Barnsley. However, Members acknowledged the high rates of smoking in pregnancy in the St. Helen's ward.

Excess weight in children was discussed and it was noted that there was a general upward trend in 4-5 year olds, but no consistent trend in 10-11 year olds, though rates were thought to be generally high.

Members went on to consider data relating to the economy in the area, and heard how the percentage of working age population had generally reduced over the past two years, however the number of new business starts had been declining year on year since 2010.

The meeting received information on the academic performance of young people both resident and in schools in the area, and went on to consider levels of NEETs in the area, noting a decrease in Barnsley as a whole, and in each of the Wards of the North Area.

Thanks were given for the presentation, and it was agreed to share the contents of the presentation with Ward Alliances in the area. It was also suggested that more information at a Ward level would be useful for Members.

6 Commissioned Project Update

The item was introduced by the North Area Council Manager. Members attention was drawn to recent quarterly report submitted by Kingdom Security. During the final quarter 128 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued with 10 of these being for dog fouling, and the remaining for littering. A further 32 notices had also been issued for parking violations. As a result the Area Council had received £70,765 income.

The meeting discussed administration costs associated with Parking Charge Notices. It was noted that any costs associated with the processing of Fixed Penalty Notices was covered in the Service Level Agreement with Community Safety and Enforcement, this was not the case for Parking Charge Notices.

The meeting then went on to consider the performance of the contract with CAB and DIAL. Members noted the sessions being held in each Ward, and the 251 people who had already accessed the service this quarter, leading to a total of 456 client contacts and a benefit gain of £577,019. This equated to £15 for every pound invested in the project.

Members discussed the current levels of demand and it was agreed to monitor levels to ensure all interested parties could access the service. A suggestion was made to make enquiries as to whether the sessions held in the area impacted on the numbers attending town centre sessions.

The contract with The Forge – Anvil CIC was discussed very briefly, as much of this had been covered earlier in the meeting. Two of the performance measures were rated as ‘Amber’ due to additional information being requested to evidence the outputs claimed.

Members noted the final performance report for the ‘Now you’re cooking’ contract with SWYPFT. The Area Council Manager made members aware that an extensive end of contract final report was available on request. The meeting discussed the legacy of the project, highlighting a number of cook and eat sessions continuing to be run by volunteers in the area. The celebration event held on the 31st of March had been a huge success, well attended with presentation delivered from groups that had benefited from the project.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

7 Stronger Communities Grant Performance

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager.

A project summary and narrative update was provided for each of the projects funded. Case studies had also been provided as part of the monitoring process. The information provided constituted a final report for all bar the RVS and Romero projects, noting that they had both been delayed for different reasons.

Members discussed the impact each project had made in the area, with beneficiaries including residents both young and old, and also helped build relationships with other organisations in the area such as schools.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

8 Opportunities for Young People Project Proposal

The Area Council Manager referenced two working groups held on 25th April and 18th May, 2016 to discuss and refine the proposed idea, which built on the positive results of the Summer Holiday Internship.

The working groups involved Members, and representatives from Targeted Information Advice and Guidance, and from the Young People's Skills and Enterprise Service. Together a positive way forward was arrived at, and the basis of a coproduced specification that would be additional and complementary to existing services.

The initial project was outlined in appendix 1 of the report, and it was proposed that the service would engage 20 people, but it was thought this should be higher. It was suggested that the project would require engaging 2 part time staff for approximately 18 months. It was therefore suggested that an indicative figure of £50,000 per annum be allocated to the project.

Members agreed that a more developed specification for the project be developed, with a further meeting of the working group being convened if required.

RESOLVED

- (i)** that the draft project proposal be endorsed;
- (ii)** and that a detailed specification be developed for consideration at a future meeting of the Area Council, with an indicative allocation of £50,000 per annum.

9 Commissioning - Contract Extensions: (i) Anti-Poverty, (ii) Clean and Green

The meeting considered the report which reminded Members of two contracts that were let on the basis of one year, with an extension for a further year if Members so wished. The contracts were for the Clean and Green Service, and for the Anti-Poverty Outreach Service, both of which commenced in September, 2015.

Both projects were thought to be delivering effectively and therefore it was agreed to extend both for a further year until September, 2017.

RESOLVED:- that

- (i) The Clean and Green Service be extended by a further year to September, 2017 at a cost of £75,096;
- (ii) The Anti-Poverty Outreach Service be extended by a further year to September, 2017 at a cost of £74,060.

10 Priority Working Groups - ward representation

Members were reminded of the purpose of the priority working groups, which assisted with the design of projects and often acted as a steering group once were operational.

It was noted that the following working groups existed:- Young People; Health and Wellbeing; Environment; Anti-Poverty; Community Magazines – Editorial Group, and SCG Grants Panel. In addition it was proposed that a group be convened to support the Economic Regeneration Priority.

The meeting agreed the following memberships:-

Young People – Councillors Charlesworth, Burgess, Lofts, and Tattersall.

Health and Wellbeing – Councillors Spence, Cave Grundy, and Platts.

Environment – Councillors Spence, Howards, Lofts, and Tattersall.

Anti-Poverty – Councillors Miller, Burgess, Cherryholme, and Leech

Economic Regeneration – Councillors Tattersall, Grundy, Charlesworth and Burgess.

Community Magazines – Councillors Leech (Chair), Miller, Cave, Cherryholme and Tattersall.

SCG Grants Panel 2016/17 – Councillors Spence, Howard, Grundy, Tattersall, and Phil Hollingsworth (Chair) Membership for 2017/18 to be revised following a review of the criteria and approval process by the existing panel.

RESOLVED that the membership of the working groups be as detailed above.

11 Report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds

The report was introduced by the Area Council Manager, and attention drawn to the levels of finance carried forward, and current levels of expenditure. It was noted that most wards had a number of projects pending.

Members were made aware of the changes in how the Ward Alliance Fund could now be utilised, with only half of the finance available requiring funds to be matched with volunteer time or from other sources.

RESOLVED that each Ward prioritises the efficient expenditure of the remaining Ward Alliance Funds in line with the guidance on spend.

12 Notes from the Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 10th March, and 14th April, 2016; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 14th March, 11th

April, and 9th May, 2016; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 2nd March, 6th April, and 4th May, 2016; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 7th April, and 12th May, 2016.

Councillor Spence provided a brief overview of the work of Darton East Ward Alliance, noting that two business representatives had joined the Ward Alliance. A dementia support social club had been established, which was going well. Members spoke about the proposed clean-up of land near Birkinshaw's, Darton. It was also noted that work was underway to try to move the mailbox on Shaw Lane to improve safety.

Councillor Burgess gave an update on the work of Darton West Ward Alliance. An action plan has been agreed for the current year, with each priority area assigned a lead member of the Ward Alliance and a lead Councillor. Members noted that the Community Choir was going well and was open to all to join. The Alliance had discussed Christmas lights and would be looking for business sponsorship. Also discussed was litter, with litter being thrown from passing cars an issue.

Councillor Cherryholme made Members aware of a recent event held by the Old Town Ward Alliance which was well attended and also helped to raise money. The Alliance was working at reviewing the Ward plan, and a website had been established for residents to forward their priorities. Members noted that the Wilthorpe Park play area had now been opened, and that Old Town Carnival had been arranged for 3rd July, 2016 on St. Paul's Field.

Councillor Platts highlighted some of the recent work of St. Helen's Ward Alliance. A gala had been arranged to take place on 29th July, 2016 on the Memorial Field and with lots of stalls confirmed. An update was provided on the work of Coalfields Regeneration Trust and the intention to open a Community Shop in Athersley in August. The Ward Alliance was still receiving bids for funding and had recently supported the guides in to purchase 3 PCs and a printer.

RESOLVED that the notes of the respective Ward Alliances be noted.

Chair