

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 19 September 2016
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Goldthorpe Library

MINUTES

Present Councillors Noble (Chair), Gardiner, Gollick, C. Johnson, Philips and Sixsmith MBE.

19 **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

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

20 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 25th July, 2016 (Dac.19.09.2016/2)**

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council, held on 25th July, 2016.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting held on 25th July, 2016 be approved as a true and correct record.

21 **Community Safety in the Dearne**

Allan Sneddon, the Tasking Officer for the Area, was welcomed to the meeting to provide an update on Community Safety.

Members were notified of the hotspots in each of the PACT areas. Much of the problem was associated with youths, which included graffiti, cannabis use and criminal damage.

The meeting noted the issue of reporting, which had been raised at PACT meetings, and the need for correct and timely reporting of incidents to the authorities by victims was stressed.

The Tasking Officer gave feedback on the use of CCTV cameras in the area, which had been successful in detecting and preventing dog fouling, littering, parking violations and fly tipping.

The meeting heard how plans were already in place to organise diversionary activities with schools and youth providers around Halloween and bonfire night.

The meeting discussed the recent visit from the Police and Crime Commissioner, where a number of issues were raised including the number of off-road motorcycles riding through the area.

Members were pleased to hear that there would shortly be a greater Police presence in the area. It was noted that there was a planned restructure in Community Safety within the authority, and the Area Council would be made aware of any changes within due course.

RESOLVED that thanks be given to the Tasking Officer for his attendance, and that the report be noted.

22 Dearne Area Council updated financial position (Dac.19.09.2016/4)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, providing an overview of the financial position of the Area Council.

Including monies carried forward £220,664 was available for 2016/17. Of this the Area Council had allocated £178,582. When taking into account income from Fixed Penalty Notices so far, this left £45,957 remaining to allocate in the current financial year.

It was noted that additional income from Fixed Penalty Notices would be credited in due course, but that this was likely only to be in the region of £5,000.

RESOLVED that the current financial position for the Area Council be noted.

23 Community Magazine (Dac.19.09.2016/5)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who reminded Members that the Area Council had previously approved the production of two issues of a community magazine, funded through advertising space in the publication. Also approved were costs for distributing the magazine to every household in the area.

The meeting was reminded that the Salvation Army had received £500 as a result of a feature in the magazine and the allotment group had also received donations.

Feedback received on the publication had been positive, though it had been suggested that feedback on Council services and projects, in addition to those delivered by the community, could also be included.

It was proposed that the Area Council should commit to producing and distributing two further editions of the magazine, reconvening the editorial group in order to assist the process. One issue would be produced to be distributed in the summer, with another in the winter.

It was suggested that feedback ought to be sought from businesses advertising in the magazine, which would help to highlight the reach of the magazine. It was also suggested that the magazine could be more forward thinking, advertising planned events for example.

Members were in support of the proposal, though it was suggested that the possibility of using community organisations to distribute the magazine be explored.

RESOLVED:-

- (i)** That approval be given to produce two further issues of the Community Magazine with the editorial group being reconvened to assist the process;
- (ii)** That up to £2,667 be approved for distribution of two issues of the community magazine; and
- (iii)** That the process for the production of the magazine be noted.

24 Future Commissions and use of Area Council finance (Dac.19.09.2016/6)

The Area Council Manager presented the item. Members were made aware that the current environmental service provided by Twiggs would finish 31st March, 2017. For the service to continue after this date a recommissioning exercise would need to be undertaken. The meeting discussed the merits of recommissioning a Clean, Tidy, and Volunteering Service, the draft specification for which was attached, and all were in support of recommissioning. A number of suggestions were made in order to improve the service specification, and it was agreed to amend the final version in order to take these into account.

The meeting went on to discuss the Dearne Development Fund, which in the previous financial year had allocated around £80,000 to a number of projects that delivered to the priorities of the Area Council. For the current financial year, £50,000 had been allocated. Members noted the high quality of projects being delivered as a result of the fund, and the impact seen in the area. A proposal was made to allocate a further £30,000, with this being used as match funding to draw additional monies into the area where possible. All members were supportive of the proposal.

It was noted that officers had recently held discussions with Community Link Officers, recently employed by Dearne ALC, around possible support from the Fund. The meeting discussed possible future possibilities, but noted the historical issues with the ALC, including the cost and inaccessibility of the ALC as a venue. It was suggested that relationships with the ALC could help improve this.

The Area Council Manager referred to the work undertaken to improve the railway embankment. Many partners had been involved with Network Rail providing £20,000 towards the scheme. The meeting heard how students from Sheffield University had also been involved in undertaking a feasibility study around the design of the scheme and future funding possibilities.

Members heard how many residents had been involved in the work and the area had improved considerably as a result, with a sustained reduction in fly tipping and graffiti. The work had featured in social media, and feedback had been extremely positive. It was noted that the biodiversity in the area was being mapped and newts had been discovered.

Members praised the scheme and the impact seen in the area. A suggestion was made to record the good practice undertaken in delivering the project to replicate in other similar areas. The Area Council Manager proposed that £10,000 of Area Council finance be allocated to the railway embankment scheme in order to support further work, using this finance for match funding wherever possible.

Members noted the current levels of finance within Ward Alliance Fund budgets, and a decision was taken to devolve an additional £10,000 per fund, to be allocated through existing approval mechanisms.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That approval be given to procure a Clean, Tidy and Volunteering Service, to a value of £75,000 per annum for a one year period, with the possibility to extend this for a further year period;

- (ii) That the specification of requirements for the Clean, Tidy and Volunteering Service be approved, subject to minor amendments made by the Interim Executive Director Communities, in consultation with the Service Director Environment and Transport;
- (iii) That a further £30,000 is allocated to the Dearne Development Fund, to be allocated through the process previously agreed;
- (iv) That £10,000 per ward be delegated to Dearne North and Dearne South Ward Alliances, to be allocated through existing Ward Alliance Fund procedures; and
- (v) That £10,000 be allocated to support the railway embankment scheme, with final approvals for expenditure delegated to the Interim Executive Director Communities.

25 Notes from the Dearne Approach Steering Group held on 11th July, 2016 (Dac.19.09.2016/7)

Members considered the notes from the meeting held on 11th July, 2016.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Dearne Approach Steering Group be received.

26 Notes from the following Ward Alliances (Dac.19.09.2016/8)

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 21st July, 2016 and Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 8th August, 2016.

RESOLVED that notes from the respective Ward Alliances be received.

27 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.19.09.2016/9)

Members noted the expenditure to date from Dearne North and Dearne South Ward Alliance Funds. Dearne North had allocated £5,352.50 of its £10,069, with £4,716.50 remaining. Dearne South had allocated £6,613.50 of its £11,160 allocation, with £4,546.50 remaining. It was noted that the figures presented did not take into account the £10,000 additional finance devolved from the Area Council budget earlier in the meeting.

The meeting discussed the bulky waste collection scheme jointly funded by both Ward Alliances. It was noted that the scheme started on 1st September, 2016 and had been well advertised.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

28 Appreciation

The Chair gave thanks to Joe Micheli, the Stronger Barnsley Locality Manager for the area, for his contribution to the work of the Area Council and Ward Alliances. Members of the Area Council echoed the sentiment and best wishes were given for his future employment in York.

Chair