

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 20 March 2017
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Leech (Chair), Burgess (Mayor), Charlesworth, Cherryholme, Grundy, Lofts, Miller, Spence and Tattersall

48 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Miller and Councillor Burgess (The Mayor) declared non-pecuniary interests with regard to Minute No. 50 on the agenda as they are BBIC Board Members.

49 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 23rd January and 21st February 2017

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meetings held on 23rd January and 21st February 2017.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meetings held on 23rd January and 21st February 2017 be approved as a true and correct record.

50 Economic Regeneration - Small Business Surgeries - development update

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and updated the North Area Council with respect to the progress of the small business development surgeries model. Business Surgeries will be provided by BBIC, targeted at small businesses based within the North area who have not previously received Enterprising Barnsley support and have been trading more than 2 years. Bookable appointments at Business Surgeries will be available from April 2017 on a fortnightly basis. Businesses will also be signposted towards a variety of monthly networking workshops held at the BBIC, including a Marketing Group, IT Group, First Friday Breakfast Networking and Crafty Biz Network. To advertise the project Ward Councillors had previously agreed to distribute a minimum of 50 leaflets within their own Ward, with 10 businesses identified as a priority.

RESOLVED that the Area Council note the progress to date for this project.

51 Opportunities for Young People - Positive Progressions Procurement Update

The Area Council Manager updated the North Area Council on the progress that has been made by the working group to develop a project to meet the priority 'Opportunities for Young People'.

A mixture of organisations tendered for the contract. Unfortunately the preferred organisation did not pass the required financial checks so the contract has not been awarded. A market consultation event is to be held at the end of April to attract more interest, with a view to the contract starting in September, which is later than anticipated. North Area Council Members will be involved in the market consultation event.

Contract length – the contract will last for between 18 and 24 months, depending on the outcome of the consultation event. The specification will be amended and the start of the project has been delayed.

Living wage/staff qualifications – Members were reassured that all project staff will be paid at least the living wage, as all Area Council contracts now stipulate this. Staff will be suitably qualified and experienced as they will be in a 'Key Worker' role.

RESOLVED that the North Area Council note the progress to date for this project.

52 Grants Panel Outcomes

The Area Council Manager updated Members with regard to the North Area Council Stronger Communities Grant application and allocation process; the outcome of the grant panel meeting and the projects approved for funding; identified unallocated funding for 2016/17 and 2017/18 and how it will be utilised together with the performance management and monitoring arrangements for successful projects.

It was highlighted that 7 applications had been received, an evaluation meeting took place on 28th February. Following robust and thorough discussions the applications were scored by Panel Members. Funding was allocated to 5 projects, totalling £64,658, leaving a significant unallocated underspend of £65,108.50.

Members expressed concern regarding the unallocated funding but assurances on recommendation from the Grants Panel representatives were given that the funding has been agreed for grant purposes and will be made available going forward. A discussion followed regarding the timeliness of the next round of funding.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the NAC Stronger Communities Grant update and the projects that have been approved for funding;
- (ii) Members agree the performance and monitoring arrangements outlined in Section 7 of the report;
- (iii) Members agreed to a second round of funding that will be available from October 2017, with a 12 month delivery period. This round will be advertised over the summer.
- (iv) Members note the unallocated £65,108.50 (including carry forward from 2016/17) and that this will not be rolled forward to 2018/19.

53 Private Sector Housing

The Area Council Manager updated the North Area regarding the progress of the intention to recruit a Private Sector Housing and Environment Officer. The

postholder will contribute towards creating and sustaining safe and pleasant communities within areas of private rented sector housing by proactively case managing issues that have a detrimental effect on others in the locality and by identifying and protecting the area's most vulnerable tenants and residents.

Performance information from the Central Area Council demonstrated how the role had evolved and was currently being delivered in this area, although it was acknowledged that the role would be bespoke to the North Area Council and issues identified may be different. Outline costings equate to £33,000 per year for one full-time equivalent (FTE) worker. There is no management fee. Jane Brannan from Safer Communities will lead on recruitment as the postholder will be employed by BMBC with a possibility that the post could be mainstreamed if BMBC.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the information about the North Area and specific neighbourhoods of interest for a private sector housing and environment officer.

54 Performance Management Report - (to follow)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. Members were provided with an aggregate picture of how all the North Council contracted services contribute to the achievement of each of the North Area Council's agreed outcomes and social value objectives (Part A) together with a summary performance management report for each of the contracted services for 2016/17 Quarter 3 (October – December 2016) – (Part B).

Regarding the C & K Careers contract, Members were informed that a meeting with the provider is due to take place later this week. Members will be informed as to the outcome of the meeting. It was highlighted that the young people involved in the programme will continue to be in contact until after they have sat their GCSEs.

With respect to the Kingdom Security contract, it was highlighted that there are some challenges, particularly around officer visibility and dog fouling. Members emphasised that they have not observed a marked improvement since the contract commenced and residents have continued to complain about these issues. Members were also concerned about the low number of parking PCNs issued – whilst acknowledging it would not be appropriate to set a target for this. It was pointed out that Members have local intelligence which could be useful to Kingdom but performance remains inadequate. The Kingdom Security contract has just been renewed and will run until the end of March next year. Advice will be needed from the Council's Procurement/Legal section if Members are considering termination of the contract prior to March 2018 but it may be difficult to do this due to poor performance as the issues are largely perception based and will be difficult to justify.

In terms of littering, planned educational programmes for schools have not yet taken off although restorative justice litter picks with young people have already taken place. However, the issue seems not to be just due to young people.

The Forge Community Partnership report was in a different format for this quarter and contained visuals and case studies with visuals. A discussion took place

regarding health and safety risk assessments prior to community clean- up work as a syringe had been found in an area. Provision of PPE equipment and risk assessments are crucial as young people are involved in the clean-up operations.

Performance seems to be mixed, with some evidence of improvements in some areas whilst other areas are not satisfactory such as the Stocks Lane and Canal Street footpaths. Concerns were also raised regarding work done for private landowners - this is a grey area as although they are not public open spaces they do impact on the community.

It was reported that the CAB/DIAL contract is performing very well. Benefit gains amounted to £245,225 per quarter, with £1,687,545 reported benefit gains for the project so far, which is a substantial contribution to the area.

The Area Council Manager highlighted that all four Community Grants projects (delivered by Ad Astra, Emmanuel Church, Fit Reds and RVS) were performing well against targets.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that Members note the contents of the Performance Management Report; and furthermore
- (ii) that all Ward Councillors provide the Area Council Manager with their top 3 hotspots for dog fouling so that these areas can be targeted by Kingdom and
- (iii) the Area Council Manager be tasked with making enquiries around how poor contract performance can be challenged when hard contract performance targets have not been set

55 Anti-Poverty Steering Group Recommendation

The Area Council Manager provided Members with an update from the Anti-Poverty Steering Group regarding the opportunity to increase the service provision for the remaining six months of the contract. The Anti-Poverty Community Outreach Project has been extremely successful and is currently working over capacity, such that an additional outreach service is needed. . The highest levels of need are in Darton East and St Helens Wards. Home visits are possible for those people who are unable to attend. A number of options were put forward, including, the Community Shop, Mapplewell Village Hall, the village hall and the Methodist Church. A private space is needed for outreach services at minimal cost for room booking.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The North Area Council agrees to increase the capacity of the outreach provision currently commissioned
- (ii) The North Area Council continue the service after the end of the existing contract.

- (iii) Councillor Miller to make enquiries regarding private rooms available on Mondays at Mapplewell Methodist Church and feed back to the Area Manager.

56 Improving the Environment - Specification refinement and decision to procure

The Area Council Manager outlined the report which summarises the project development activity that has taken place regarding the North 'Improving the Environment' Priority and potential next steps regarding the future investment in this policy area, highlighting recommended project refinement. Commissioning a service for a further three years would extend the life of the project to 5 years in total. This would include an expectation that 50% of the proactive projects would include work with schools and community behaviour change would need to be evidenced. Concerns were expressed regarding volunteering capacity and engagement as it can be very difficult to engage some sections of the community in volunteer work. An option to terminate the contract, if not satisfied with performance, would be built into the contract.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The NorthArea Council note the key points recommended at the priority workshop held on 15th February 2017
- (ii) The North Area Council proceed with the procurement of a service designed to improve the overall environmental appearance of the four wards that make up the North Area Council are and look to sustain and increase volunteering and engagement specifically associated with this priority area.

57 Financial Position and Forecast including second round of grants panel 2017/18

The Area Council Manager provided the Area Council with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that have been proposed with a view to determining which of the existing financial commitments the North Area Council wishes to continue to fund.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The North Area Council note the existing budget position and forecast for the funding commitments and that the North Area will receive a budget of £400,000 for the period 2017/18.
- (ii) All North Area Ward Alliances are eligible for an additional £10,000 devolved from the Area Council budget.
- (iii) Members note the recommendations from the Anti-Poverty Steering Group regarding an intention to continue with a similar service.
- (iv) Members note and implement the recommendations from the Environmental Priority Working Group to continue with a refined service from September 2017.

- (v) The Area Council use the uncommitted Stronger Communities Grant funding for 2016/17 and 2017/18 totalling £65,108.50 as follows:
 - (a) YMCA – YMCA Community Youthwork: £6735
 - (b) Reds in the Community – Walking Football Fit Reds: £7062
 - (c) Reds in the Community – Premier League Kicks: £11,503.50
 - (d) Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) – Barnsley North Looking Out for Older People: £19,557.

58 Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Fund

The Area Council Manager updated the North Area Council on progress in each Ward in expending the Ward Alliance Fund.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the remaining Devolved ward Budgets and Ward Alliance funds in line with the guidance on spend.

59 Notes from the following Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 10th January 2017; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 16th January 2017 and 13th February 2017; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 4th January 2017 and 1st February 2017; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 5th January 2017 and 16th February 2017.

All Members highlighted the good work taking place in communities across all wards. Councillor Leech highlighted that this would be his last North Area Council meeting as Chair before full Council and expressed thanks to his colleagues for their support.

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

Chair