MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday, 16 June 2017
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Wombwell Library

MINUTES

Present Councillors Stowe (Chair), Andrews BEM, Coates, Frost, Daniel Griffin, Markham, Saunders, Shepherd and R. Wraith.

1 Minute Silence for the Victims of Grenfell Tower

A minute silence was held to mark the recent tragic incident at Grenfell Tower in London.

2 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Shepherd declared a non-pecuniary interest in minutes 6 and 7 in relation to his position as director of Forge Community Partnership.

3 Minutes of the meeting of South Area Council held on 28th April, 2017 (Sac.16.06.2017/2)

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 28th April, 2017.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 28th April, 2017 be approved as a true and correct record.

4 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.16.06.2017/3)

The meeting received the notes from the following Ward Alliances:- Hoyland Milton and Rockingham held on 15th May, 2017; Wombwell held on 22nd May, 2017; and Darfield Ward Alliance held on 18th May, 2017.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

5 Report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.16.06.2017/4)

Members received the report which provided details of the latest expenditure and balances remaining from each of the Ward Alliance Funds.

The meeting was reminded that should any schemes require significant support, they should be progressed as soon as possible in order that the expenditure should occur within the financial year.

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

6 Performance Report (Sac.16.06.2017/5)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, drawing attention to Part A of the report, which provided a cumulative overview of performance. Noted were the indicators relating to the 'Improving our local environment', which now included those relating to the service provided by the Private Sector Housing Officer.

Members noted the income from enforcement activity, and that this had to be spent according to guidelines set by DEFRA. A number of Members mentioned that they knew of projects that could potentially benefit from this finance.

The meeting then considered Part B of the report which provided an update on each of the contracted services.

It was noted that the new contract for advice services would commence 1st July, 2017 and would be delivered by Citizen's Advice Bureau, who would be employing a welfare rights worker directly. It was hoped that there would be minimal disruption between contracts.

The meeting discussed whether variations could be made to where the advice sessions were held. It was noted that for this to be considered, there would need to be a proven need in the area in question, and access to an appropriate venue.

Members went on to consider the Tidy Team 2 contract, which had been in operation since 1st August, 2016. Within the quarter the team had engaged with 97 new volunteers, 45 of these were adults and 52 were young people.

Members commented on the responsive and high quality service provided by the Tidy Team, praise was also given for their work supporting apprenticeships.

The meeting noted that there were significant demands placed on the team, and it was essential to ensure the service was used appropriately. Members discussed the increase in fly tipping across the borough, and the need for this to be reported through the correct channels. It was suggested that contact details for reporting could be included in a future edition of the community magazine, and be distributed via social media.

Members noted the more recent statistics relating to the contract with Kingdom Security, with 2,120 Fixed Penalty Notices and 619 Parking Charge Notices issued since the inception of the service.

It was noted that the contract with C&K Careers was still in operation, and that the destinations of young people would be reported in autumn, 2017.

With regards to the Private Sector Housing Enforcement Officer, the meeting heard how the service was making a positive impact, supporting landlords and tenants. To date there had been 47 requests for service, and 35% of households engaged had been identified as vulnerable.

It was noted that the service had been rated as 'Amber' in relation to outcome indicator targets met, however it was recognised that the targets were stretching. Feedback from Members in relation to the service was extremely positive, and

qualitative feedback on the work of the officer was encouraged to provide a balanced view of performance.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

7 South Area Council update on commissioned work, other development work & finance update (Sac.16.06.2017/6)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the item, reminding Members that the new advice service delivered by Citizen's Advice Bureau would commence 1st July, 2017.

With regards to the Area Council Magazine, it was noted that this would be distributed by Smart Distribution week commencing 24th July, 2017.

In relation to the activities with young people, the South Area Council Manager had met with officers from Forge Community Partnership to discuss the finer details of the media project. In addition it was noted that Forge Community Partnership will be working with BMBC parks, and young people to plan 'pop up' sessions to take place in the summer.

Members noted the other development work undertaken by the South Area Council Manager, which included discussions with Public Health and Age UK to take forward the work around Social Isolation, culminating in the options paper considered later on the agenda. It also included support of the Principal Towns Project Manager, and further work on social return on investment with Rocket Science.

The meeting noted the work of the South Area Council Manager in showcasing the work undertaken in Barnsley for the Municipal Journal Award for Community Involvement. It was noted that Barnsley was highly commended, and thanks were given to all those involved in both competing for the award, and giving their time to improve Barnsley to make this possible.

The meeting discussed the scheme in the Dearne Area, which provided young people with Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) accreditation in order for them to work on sites. A number of applications had been received for the scheme from young people living in the South Area, and Members discussed the merits of such a scheme, including whether to ask beneficiaries to volunteer in return for accessing provision. It was a suggested that this be explored in more detail, and be discussed at a future meeting of the Area Council.

Members then considered the financial position of the Area Council. A total of £493,615 had been available in 2017/18, however taking into account allocations already made £47,346 remained. A number of areas where the Area Council may wish to invest were mentioned, including extending the Private Sector Housing Officer contract, and work to help overcome social isolation.

The meeting went on to consider the financial position in 2018/19, noting that current contractual obligations equated to approximately £405,000. This figure was set against an annual allocation of £400,000, noting that this did not include any income from enforcement activity. It was noted that a a workshop had been arranged in September, 2017 to discuss the priorities for the area, and the evaluate each of the

current contracts. It was also suggested that the Area Council may wish to explore other external funding streams.

The report circulated also proposed the establishment of an Area-Wide Partner Network, which would identify joint working and funding opportunities to address issues in the Area.

RESOLVED:-

(i) That the progress of commissioned projects be noted;
(ii) That the progress of other non-commissioned development be noted;
(iii) That the development of a project to provide young people with CSCS accreditation be further explored and the findings be presented to a future meeting of the Area Council;
(iv) That the financial position for 2017/18 and beyond be noted, and;
(v) That an Area-Wide Partners Network to identify joint working and funding opportunities be developed.

8 Social Isolation Workshop - options appraisal paper (Sac.16.06.2017/7)

Anna Tummon from Public Health was welcomed to the meeting to speak to the item, and members noted that her role included improving health outcomes at an Area Council Level.

Members were reminded of the recent workshop on social isolation, with the corresponding notes attached Appendix A of the report. The difference between isolation and loneliness were discussed, and it was acknowledged that isolation is not merely experienced by older people.

A number of options were discussed for taking forward the work on social isolation; however consensus was that additional capacity ought to be sought by employing a worker either on a full or part time basis. It was suggested that this be explored in more detail and be brought to a subsequent meeting of the Area Council.

All Members supported the provision of a grant search tool to support officers and groups in applying for funding, and it was agreed that Idox be invited to the next meeting of the Area Council to deliver a presentation about their products.

RESOLVED:-

(i) That options 4 and 5, the commissioning of an organisation to employ a part time or full time worker to support the establishment of activities to help address social isolation, be developed for further discussion by the Area Council;
(ii) That the Area Council supports the procurement of a grant search tool and invites Idox to the next meeting of the Area Council to deliver a presentation on its products.

Chair