

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 18 September 2017
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

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

11 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

12 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 17th July, 2017 (Nac.18.09.2017/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th July 2017.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 17th July 2017 be approved as a true and correct record.

13 Commissioning and Procurement Update including Finance Update (Nac.18.09.2017/3)

The Area Council Manager provided Members with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that have been proposed in order to establish which of the existing financial commitments the North Area Council wish to continue to fund. At the moment a surplus budget of £180,341 remains for 2017/18.

Key points included:

Anti-Poverty Community Outreach Project: Barnsley CAB successfully secured the contract and are looking at putting on a 'twilight' service, possibly in libraries. An update will be provided at a later meeting.

Clean & Green – Twiggs Ground Maintenance Ltd has secured this contract, with a start date of 2nd October. A representative from Twiggs will attend Ward Alliance meetings over the next few months to build relationships.

Environmental Enforcement – Members expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of the service, which they have agreed does not appear to offer value for money. Nor has it achieved the behaviour change the Area Council had hoped when the service was originally commissioned.

Private Sector Housing Officer – this post has not been recruited to, despite being advertised twice. The person specification will now be revised and advertised at a lower level to encourage more applications.

Opportunities for Young People – A decision was made at the meeting on 17th July not to proceed with the Positive Progressions Project as it appears that there would be some duplication with the Sheffield City Region European Social Fund.

Health and Wellbeing – At the moment no services are being commissioned focussing on this priority.

RESOLVED that:-

- I. The North Area Council note the existing budget position and forecast for the funding commitments.
- II. The North Area Council note that contrary to previous information the North Area received a budget of £400,000 for the period 2017/18.
- III. The Environmental Enforcement contract be terminated from April 2016.
- IV. Members note the procurement position of the Anti-Poverty and Clean and Green Tender.
- V. Members note the position on the recruitment of the Private Sector Housing and Environment Officer
- VI. Members note the current financial position.
- VII. Members note that the current contracts exceed the annual budget. Therefore changes must be made to enable variation in future commissioned services.
- VIII. Members need to look at budget profiles in greater detail, as highlighted in the Commissioning Forward Plan report.

14 Grant Panel Second Round - Update (Nac.18.09.2017/4)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who updated Members regarding the outcome of the grant panel meeting. Members were reminded that it was agreed at the April 2017 meeting that the unallocated Stronger Communities Grant Funding would be available in a second round of funding allocated from the 2017/18 period. The three recommended projects are Ad Astra, Emmanuel Methodist Church and Homestart Lifeline Project.

RESOLVED that:-

- I. Members note the NAC Stronger Communities Grant update.
- II. Members note the projects that have been approved for funding.
- III. Members agree the grant awards and performance monitoring arrangements outlined in the report.

IV. Members note the unallocated £20,797.50.

V. That the remaining funding is not rolled forwards for the next round.

15 Performance Management Report - Commissioned Projects & Grant Summary (Nac.18.09.2017/5)

Members were provided with a comprehensive North Area Council Performance Report for the period April to June 2017 (2017/18 Quarter 1) for contracted service providers – CAB & DIAL – Community Outreach Project; Forge Community Partnership; C & K Careers Summer Internship and Kingdom Security Services.

Part A of the report reflected information gathered from each contract for this period and Part B of the report provided a summary performance management report for each of the contracted services for this period. Part C of the report provided a summary of performance information from the Strong Communities Grants Projects, which includes Emmanuel – over fifty friends; RVS – Looking out for Older People; Reds in the Community - walking football and Premier League Kicks, YMCA Youthwork.

RESOLVED that:-

- I. Members note the contents of the Performance Management Report.
- II. A letter of thanks be sent to Forge Community Partnership thanking them for their hard work and commitment.

16 Commissioning Forward Plan (Nac.18.09.2017/6)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who provided a report outlining a summary of items that were discussed and recommendations made at a Members workshop held on 12th September 2017. The report identified the projects that the Area Council wishes to invest in over the next 12 months together with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that have been proposed.

A discussion took place regarding ensuring future projects and the need to identify which priorities should be taken forward to be of most benefit to the North area communities. It was suggested that a workshop should be organised and advice sought from performance experts to ensure that there is no duplication with what is already being provided by others and that value for money is achieved whilst meeting identified needs.

A discussion ensued regarding continuing the allocation of funding to Ward Alliances.

RESOLVED that:-

- I. The North Area Council note that contrary to previous information the North Area received a budget of £400,000 for the period 2017/18.

- II. The North Area Council note the projects and services that it is currently committed to delivering.
- III. The North Area Council note the existing budget position and forecast for the funding commitments.
- IV. Members note that the current contracts exceed the annual budget, therefore changes from 2018/19 are essential.
- V. Members agree to discontinue the Environmental Enforcement contract at the end of March 2018.
- VI. Members agree the two new project proposals that have been identified to meet the current priorities.
- VII. Members note that despite a review of commissioned services there is still substantial amount of unallocated budget that requires consideration to achieve best outcomes for the North Area.
- VIII. Allocation of £10,000 per ward devolved to Ward Alliances should continue.
- IX. The Community Magazine should continue to be published twice a year.
- X. The Area Manager and SMT Link Officer will explore the feasibility of two additional posts: Participation and Engagement Officer for both Young People and Older People.
- XI. A further workshop be arranged in due course to discuss allocation of the remaining budget to meet the identified needs of the area.

17 Report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds (Nac.18.09.2017/7)

The Area Council Manager provided the North Area Council with a financial position update regarding the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2017/18 period. Members were asked to be mindful of the need to identify projects which would ensure effective and efficient spending of this funding.

RESOLVED that

- I. each ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2017/18 in line with the guidance on spend.
- II. Sponsorship of hanging baskets across the wards should be investigated.

18 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances (Nac.18.09.2017/8)

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 11th July 2017; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 24th July 2017; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 5th July 2017; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 3rd August 2017.

Highlighted points included:

Darton East –Cllr Spence reported that 7 sponsors had been identified to sponsor 7 seasonal planters across the Darton East Ward.

Darton West – There has been a further fatal accident on Birthwaite Hill. A discussion took place regarding risk reduction but Highways have a limited budget to fund additional safety measures and cannot discuss the most recent accident until after the Coroner has reported. It seems that many accidents are due to driver error and would not be alleviated by additional signage etc.

Old Town – Nothing further to add.

St Helen's – a Health Event is planned for 28th Sept at New Lodge WMC. The Ward Alliance has 2 new members, one of whom has agreed to be Secretary. Spring bulbs will be organised through Lubbe & sons. It was reported that the Ward Alliance funded a 'Feeding Britain' pilot during the school holidays at a cost of £360 and was very successful.

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

Chair