

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NORTH AREA COUNCIL

1st June, 2015

1. **Present:** Councillors Burgess (Chair), Cave, Cherryholme, Davies, Grundy, Leech, Miller, Platts, Spence, and Tattersall

2. **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.**

No Members declared an interest in any item on the agenda.

3. **Minutes from the North Area Council meeting held on 30th March, 2015.**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 30th March, 2015.

It was noted that a workshop had been held so that Members could discuss the proposal of a Community Magazine in more detail. The outcome of this would be discussed later on the agenda.

With regards to parking enforcement by the Environmental Enforcement Service, it was acknowledged that discussions are being held at a senior level to address any issues and seek clarity about the roles of Kingdom Security vis-à-vis BMBC Enforcement.

Members heard how Darton West Members had chosen to reduce the usage of Speed Indicator Devices and the Ward Alliance would discuss where they would be sited.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting, held on the 30th March, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

4. **Children and Family Centres.**

A presentation was given by the Head of Early Start, Prevention and Sufficiency, on developing a model of early help for families.

Members were made aware of proposals in relation to the savings target of £2million for Children's Centres by 1st April, 2016, and the details surrounding the consultation process along with associated timescales.

Members heard how current users will continue to be able to access the service across the borough, which will be based on assessed need both in the home, and community. It was proposed that community provision would be based around main Family Centre sites, with linked and outreach sites. It was also proposed to extend the age range of the service to 0-19 years (25 with a disability). Noted was the Council's intention only to provide childcare provision in areas where the private or community sector had not done so.

The meeting discussed the sites run by the Council, and the proposed changes to provision in the North Area. However, it was noted that there was further provision in community venues that had not been detailed.

Members were keen to be provided with full details of proposed provision in the Area, in order to provide constructive feedback. Feedback from groups, individuals and agencies in the borough was encouraged.

RESOLVED:-

(i) that the Head of Early Start, Prevention and Sufficiency,

Early Start, Prevention and Sufficiency be thanked for the presentation;

(ii) that Members be provided with full details of proposed provision in the area, including that to be delivered in community venues, in order that they can provide appropriate feedback.

5. Research and data profiles.

The Research and Business Intelligence Manager gave a presentation on data and information for the North Area. A caution was given that some of the data provided was from small cohorts and may only be over a small time series. The Chair mentioned the need for decisions made by the Area Council to be evidence based, and suggested that data can assist with this.

The presentation considered the demography of the area, including the proportion of ethnic minorities in the area and levels of deprivation.

Community safety was considered, noting that crimes per 1,000 population had reduced in Barnsley as a whole, and in all wards in the North Area.

Cleanliness statistics presented were from a single source but highlighted only a small number of incidences of dog fouling and littering in the Area.

The meeting considered a variety of health and wellbeing indicators including those related to childhood obesity. It was suggested that childhood obesity be considered in more detail with data over a longer time period where possible.

Housing tenure and affordability was discussed, and the differences in affordability within the area noted.

Education, skills, training and employment were discussed noting that attainment at early years stage; Key Stage 2; and Key Stage 4 were inline with the Barnsley average.

Poverty statistics were considered and it was noted that the rate of children living in lone parent families who are claiming out of work benefits fluctuated over time, but the general trend between 2010 and 2012 was downwards. In addition, the proportion of individuals claiming working age benefits had decreased in all wards in the North Area between 2012 and 2014.

Thanks were given to the Research and Business Intelligence team for the presentation. The meeting discussed the use of data and statistics and the ability to consider key areas in greater levels of detail. It was thought that this would be useful in workshops which would review current priorities and set priorities for the future.

6. **Notes from the Ward Alliances.**

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 12th March and 16th April, 2015; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 9th March, 2015; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 4th March, 1st April and 6th May, 2015; and St. Helen's Ward Alliance held on 2nd April, 2015.

With regards to the Darton East Ward Alliance notes from 2nd March, 2015 it was noted that the project referred to was 'Greenworks' not 'Greenspace'.

Members noted that Darton West had recently arrived at a new set of local priorities which would form the basis of the new Ward Action Plan.

With regards to Old Town Ward Alliance, it was noted that planning applications were discussed due to the nature of their potential impact on the community.

In the notes from St. Helen's Ward Alliance it was acknowledged that 'Robert Newman' should read 'Richard Newman'.

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

7. **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.

With regards to the significant amount carried forward in the Darton East Ward, the meeting was assured that plans were in place to utilise the finance.

The meeting discussed the requirement for Ward Alliance Fund finance to be matched with volunteer time, and noted that this may impact on the numbers of people volunteering for Love Where You Live. The difficulties faced by some groups, especially the elderly, in committing volunteer time were discussed and it was noted that each application is considered on its merits.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

8. **Commissioning and procurement update including financial position and project performance update.**

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, with reference to the financial profile at Appendix 1. It was noted that £89,048 of the Area Council budget remained for 2015/16. Together with a provisional allocation for £400,000 in 2016/17, this gave a total of £489,048.

The Environmental Enforcement contract was discussed and Members heard how to extend the contract may require retendering, the complexities of which were being explored. The meeting discussed the time consumed through procurement and officers were thanked for their hard work ensuring the process ran effectively.

The need to ensure the procurement processes of the authority were as streamlined as possible was mentioned, and it was agreed to take this forward with officers in finance and through the Area Chairs meeting.

Members heard how there was a limited response from providers interested in delivering the Clean and Green Service. It had therefore been put back out to tender.

With regards to the procurement of the Financial Inclusion Service, the meeting was made aware that a preferred provider had been identified, and the details of the contract were being finalised.

The meeting went on to consider appendix 2 of the report, the Project Performance Report. Members noted that the Summer Holiday Internship project was still in its establishment phase and therefore had no current rating of performance. There were still places for students available, but it was hoped these would all be taken by the end of June.

Performance for quarter three for the contract with Kingdom Security was discussed, noting that 268 fixed penalty notices and 19 parking notices had been issued within the period. Performance had been given a 'green rating' with no areas for concern.

The income raised from notices from the commencement of the contract to the end of March, 2015 was £19,065. Following discussion, it was agreed that this be shown in future versions of the financial summary, and it was suggested that this be utilised towards any future contract for enforcement linked to the environment.

The contract with SWYPFT was discussed. Although performance against the contract was adequate, Members expressed concern about the numbers engaged in the project and its impact. It was agreed to invite the provider to a future meeting for further discussion.

It was suggested that a workshop be held to discuss the priorities of the Area Council, whether they remained valid, and the use of currently unallocated finance.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the updated financial position for North Area Council be noted;
- (ii) that the progress made in procuring a Clean and Green and a Financial Inclusion service be noted;
- (iii) that the content of the Performance Report be noted;
- (iv) that SWYPFT be invited to a future meeting of the Area Council to discuss the performance of the Healthy Eating Project;
- (v) that a workshop be organised to discuss the priorities for the Area Council and potential future commissions.

9. **Community Magazines.**

Members discussed the outcome of the recent North Area Council Workshop to consider the production of a Community Magazine.

The recommendation of the workshop was to support the production of two issues over the course of a year as a trial. These would be produced at no cost to the Area

Council, and would be funded through the provision of advertising space in the magazine.

It was suggested that the document be 24 pages in total, with 50% being editorial content and the remainder advertising. The only cost associated with providing a magazine was officer time and distribution, with the latter estimated to cost £2,262 per year for distribution to households in the North Area.

Members noted that the Area Council had the ability to oversee who would be advertising in the magazine in order to ensure all were appropriate.

The meeting discussed the establishment of an editorial group for the magazine, and it was agreed to forward the details of representatives from each Ward to the Area Council Manager.

RESOLVED:-

(i) that the production of a Community Magazine for the North Area be piloted for 2 issues over the course of a year;

(ii) that up to £2,262 be approved for the distribution of 2 issues of a Community Magazine for the North Area.

10. **Future Agenda Items**

Members were encouraged to forward any items they wished to see on a future agenda to either the North Area Council Manager or the Chair.

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Chair