

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL

27th July, 2015

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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10. **Present:** Councillors Noble (Chair), Gardiner, and Worton.

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

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

12. **Minutes of the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 1st June, 2015**

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council.

With reference to the discussion about the Training for Employment contract, it was noted that the Enterprise Centre had not closed, but skills provision in the Enterprise Centre had ceased.

RESOLVED that, subject to the amendment above, the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting, held on 1st June, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

13. **Update on Performance and Commissioning**

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who drew the attention of Members to the success of the Training for Employment contract. Referred to were the figures from quarter 3, where 26 people had been supported into local employment during the 8 months of the contact. A very basic social return on investment calculation showed £91,104 of JSA would be saved if those individuals stayed in employment for 12 months. It was noted that this figure would be higher if other benefits, such as housing benefit or council tax benefit, were also included.

Members noted the case studies circulated and were made aware that the success of the commission and its contribution towards the Corporate Priorities would be included in the next edition of the Council's Corporate Plan.

The meeting discussed promotion of the service. It was suggested that coverage in the press and within the community newsletter would help to encourage more people to access the service.

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL

27th July, 2015

An update on the Enforcement Service was circulated at the meeting. It was noted that, from the 4th May to 5th July, 2015, 44 notices for littering, dog fouling or parking violations had been issued in Dearne North and 21 in Dearne South Wards. Also noted were the details of operations which were currently ongoing. These included a focus on Thurnscoe Cemetery, on Church Street, and on Commercial Road.

Members discussed the low numbers of fixed penalty notices issued for dog fouling and the prevalence of the problem. It was acknowledged that often successful prosecution is as a result of intelligence received, and the reporting of intelligence was to be encouraged.

Also discussed were the figures for disputed parking notices and it was agreed to provide details of these to the next meeting of the Area Council.

The meeting heard how a number of security cameras had been funded by the Ward Alliance Fund, Big Local and Thurnscoe Crime and Safety Subgroup to help deter people committing environmental offenders.

RESOLVED:-

- (i)** that the continued progress of the two current commissions be noted; and
- (ii)** that future updates on the Environmental Enforcement Service contain details on disputed PCN notices.

14. Update on the Procurement of a Clean and Tidy Service

The Area Council Manager gave an update on procurement of a Clean and Tidy Service for the Dearne Area. Two organisations had submitted tenders and had subsequently been invited to interview.

A preferred organisation had been identified, but could not be identified as the contracting process was currently within the 10 day stand-still period.

Members noted that each Ward Alliance would ultimately inform the work plan of the service. However, as the service was due to start at the beginning of September and Ward Alliances would not meet until after this date, it was agreed that Members would meet to discuss an initial workplan.

Members were reminded that the service would not only assist with cleaning the area, but would also have a focus on the prevention of littering.

RESOLVED

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL

27th July, 2015

- (i) that the progress to date regarding the procurement of a Clean and Tidy Service be noted;
- (ii) that arrangements be made for Dearne North and Dearne South Ward Alliances to discuss the work plan for the Clean and Tidy Service;
- (iii) that Members meet to discuss and interim workplan for the Clean and Tidy Service.

15. Dearne Area Council update on priorities, work plans and financial position

The report was introduced by the Area Council Manager. Members were reminded of the workshop held on 24th June, 2015 where a range of data and intelligence was considered by Members of the Area Council.

Based on the information provided and the knowledge of Members, it was suggested that the current priorities remained valid, but that an additional priority of Improving Health be added. It was suggested that that the priorities Community Involvement and Benefit Advice were important but were currently being delivered at a Ward, rather than Area Council, level.

The meeting noted a variety of discussions taking place between the Area Team and other agencies in order to map the health initiatives currently available in the area and identify any gaps in service.

Members noted the current financial position. Taking into account the extensions of the Environmental Enforcement and Training for Employment contracts, and the expected revenue from Fixed Penalty Notices, an amount of £126,562 of the Area Council budget for 2015/16 remained.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the following be approved as priorities for Dearne Area Council for 2015/16 – Environment, Skills and Learning for Work, Improving the Economy, Improving Health, and Young People;
- (ii) that the priorities of Community Involvement and Benefit Advice continue to be important for the Area, but they be more appropriately delivered at a Ward level;
- (iii) that the financial position for the Area Council be noted.

16. Dearne Area Council update on an Environmental Enforcement Service for 2016/17

The Dearne Area Council Manager introduced the item. Members were reminded of their recent decision to extend the contract with Kingdom Security to the end of March, 2016.

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL

27th July, 2015

However, Members noted that to continue to provide a service after this date would require the contract to be re-tendered. As many of the other Area Councils had commissioned a similar service, and had expressed an interest in this being provided post March 2016, this would exceed EU thresholds and therefore would necessitate a more involved tendering process to comply with relevant legislation.

This would involve commissioning a single contract with 'lots' assigned to each Area Council. Members were encouraged to consider the current service with a view to discussing the issue in more detail at the September meeting.

The meeting noted that an officer group was in the process of reviewing the service currently being provided and the outcome of this would inform future discussions.

RESOLVED that further consideration be given to the future provision of an Environmental Enforcement Service at the Dearne Area Council meeting to be held in September, 2015.

17. Notes from Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 8th July, 2015

The meeting considered the notes of the Dearne South Ward Alliance meeting held on 8th July, 2015. It was acknowledged that this was a very brief meeting and that work was to be undertaken to generate more interest in the group.

Officer support was in place to help review the work of the Ward Alliances and assist in their development.

RESOLVED that the note from Dearne South Ward Alliance be received.

18. Report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds

Members considered the report detailing expenditure from the beginning of the financial year to date.

It was noted that Dearne North had allocated £3,781.75 of its £10,109.49 Devolved Ward Budget, and Dearne South had allocated £2,803.36 of its £10,000 Devolved Ward Budget.

Neither ward had utilised any Ward Alliance Fund finance in the current financial year.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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Chair