

**NORTH EAST AREA COUNCIL**

**30<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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**9. Present:** Councillors Hayward (Chair), Clements, Ennis, S. Green, Hampson, Higginbottom, Makinson, Richardson and C. Wraith MBE.

**10. Declarations of pecuniary and non pecuniary interests**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non pecuniary interests

**11. Minutes from the North East Area Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council, held on 11th June 2015.

**RESOLVED:** - that the minutes of North East Area Council, held on 11th June 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

**12. Notes from the Ward Alliances**

The meeting received notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston Ward Alliances, held throughout May and June 2015. The following updates were noted:

*Cudworth* – The Academic Achievement Awards event has taken place and was very successful and enjoyable. The Cook and Eat sessions were oversubscribed and the Holiday Programme is going ahead. The ‘Tea in the Park’ event was attended by over 3000 people. Yorkshire in Bloom judges have visited the park, Robert Street allotments and Carlton Marsh. Positive comments were received and it is hoped that awards may follow. The park gates are now in situ and look impressive.

*Monk Bretton* – It was reported that the planting up of the War Memorial by schoolchildren and volunteers was very successful and the plants are now growing. There is a possibility of being judged as part of Yorkshire in Bloom next year. The Gala at Monk Bretton priory was well attended and thanks were expressed to officers and volunteers for making the day a great success.

*North East* – There are a number of vacancies in the Ward Alliance and it is unlikely that Chris Sykes will be able to attend in the future due to his illness. Efforts are being made to recruit new members. £600 is being spent on the cenotaph in Grimethorpe, which has caused a disagreement with Shafton Parish Council as the memorial is owned by Brierley Town Council.

*Royston* – The Summer Gala was well attended by over 2000 people. Thanks were expressed to officers and volunteers for their efforts. The Summer Activities programme is underway. Section 106 money has been used to refurbish the play equipment, provide car parking, drainage and fencing at the park. A bid is being put

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together to develop a community orchard. Concerns were expressed regarding the level of grass-cutting and maintenance for 'primary gateways' and roundabouts across the area. Lee Lane in Royston is not a primary gateway but has been maintained by Neighbourhood Services following the death of a pedestrian. The path is only two feet wide and grass is growing across it, which is a health and safety issue.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the notes from the Ward Alliances be received, and
- (ii) That Paul Castle be invited to a future are council meeting to discuss grass-cutting and maintenance across the North East Area Council, particularly those areas not designated as 'gateways'.

**13. Report on the use of Area Council Budgets, Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds**

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and highlighted the spend to date. The North East Area Council has a Devolved Ward Budget grant allocation of £81,939.54 for the 2015-2016 financial year. This allocation is made up of a £40,000 allocation for 2015-2016, and a carry forward allocation of £41,939.54 from the 2014-2015 financial year. Members were asked to note the amounts committed to date across their Wards along with the amounts not yet allocated.

A discussion took place around the issue of future funding of community caretakers, particularly in the North East Ward.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the report on the use of Area Council Budgets, Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds be received and noted, and
- (ii) that future discussions take place to discuss and agree Ward Alliance funding in the future.

**14. North East Area Council – Performance Report**

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and gave an overview of the performance of the North East Area Council commissioned projects relating to the Environment, Health and Wellbeing and Economic Regeneration priorities.

A discussion took place about the prevalence of fly-tipping in the area. It was highlighted that a recent case which went to court resulted in a conditional discharge, which was very disappointing given the time and effort taken to bring the case to court. It was reported that fly-tipping is to be investigated by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee shortly.

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**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the performance report be noted.

**15. Luncheon Club Initiative**

The Chair introduced this item, highlighting that the contract ends in August. It seems that luncheon clubs are successful in some areas but not in others and does not represent value for money. Disappointment was expressed that a performance report had not been produced to aid decision-making around future commissioning. It was felt that coffee mornings/afternoon teas could be funded to replace luncheon clubs in areas where this was more appropriate.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the Luncheon Club contract will not be renewed when it ends in August and a letter will be sent to the Provider concerned.

**16. North East Area Council Future Commissions**

The Area Council Manager updated Members on the proposed future commissions for the North East Area Council.

*Fit Reds*

Following the success of the Fit Reds healthy lifestyle programme for men 35 and over which had been piloted through the Ward Alliances in Royston and Cudworth, the Health and Wellbeing Working Group recommended the commission of a Fit Reds programme for men and women across the four Wards of the North East Area Council, as agreed at the meeting of the North East Area Council on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

*Fit Me*

'Fit Me' is a 9 week course offering a supportive yet challenging environment for women to set and achieve their own personal wellbeing goals. PSS UK would like to deliver the Fit Me programme across the North East, using community venues and with 10 – 20 participants attending each course.

*Shopability*

The Shopability project proposal to help elderly and vulnerable residents has been considered by the Health and Wellbeing Working Group. The project would include a befriending service, personal shopping, home shopping, community care service, home from hospital service and coffee mornings.

*Environmental Enforcement*

The waiver for the North East Area Council Environmental Enforcement contract with Kingdom Security for a further period of nine months (August 2015 – March 2016), at a total cost of £44,732, has been signed off. In order to ensure economies of scale are realized it was felt that it might be appropriate to carry out a full re-tender of the service from April 2016 onwards, working in partnership with the other Area

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Councils. This would ensure Contract Procedure rules and European Guidelines are followed and would also allow for a year on year contract to be awarded to the successful provider.

Concerns were expressed that this type of open tender process might lead to a national provider coming forward for the contract, which could mean that quality of service could be compromised due to lower cost and at the detriment of local providers. It was explained that the contract is weighted towards social value in order to encourage local businesses to come forward. Whilst it was acknowledged that economies of scale could be realised through working in partnership with the other Area Councils, it was felt that a full re-tender of the Environmental Enforcement contract was not appropriate for the North East Area Council.

**RESOLVED: -**

- (i) That 5 x 'Fit Red' programmes at a cost of £3,931 per programme, with the total cost of the contract at £19,655, will be commissioned. 2 will be delivered in 2015 -2016, and 3 in 2016 – 2017.
- (ii) That 10 x 'Fit Me' programmes, at a cost of £1,160 per programme, with the total cost of the contract at £11,600, should be commissioned. 4 will be delivered in 2015 - 2016 and 6 in 2016 – 2017.
- (iii) That a 6 month pilot project for Shopability, at a cost of £7,824, be commissioned
- (iv) That authorisation be given to the Executive Director Communities to complete the necessary paperwork in order to waive the relevant contract procedure rules to allow the 'Fit Reds', the 'Fit Me' and the 'Shopability' contracts to be awarded, with contract values of £19,665, £11,600 and £7,824 respectively.
- (v) That a full re-tender of the Environmental Enforcement service from April 2016 onwards, is NOT undertaken.

**17. Love Where You Live**

A presentation was given which depicted the activities undertaken by the North Area Council in conjunction with communities in the period from March to date. Activities included environmental clean-ups, bulb planting and individual ward events such as galas.

The Area Council Manager highlighted the phenomenal amount of volunteering which had taken place, led by Elected Members as Community Champions. Thanks were also expressed to officers from the North East Area Council team for their on-going input into the success of the Area Council.

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**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the update on community activities be received and noted.

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Chair