

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 14 September 2015
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Goldthorpe Library

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Noble (Chair), Gollick and Worton

19 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

20 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 27th July, 2015 (Dac.14.09.2015/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 27th July, 2015.

The meeting was made aware that there were ongoing discussion between senior officers within the Council and Kingdom Security to address any issues with parking enforcement.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting held on 27th July, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

21 Clean and Tidy Service

The meeting welcomed John Twigg from Twiggs Grounds Maintenance, the contractor delivering the Clean and Tidy Service. It was noted that the service had commenced on 1st September, 2015 delivering an interim work plan, with arrangements in place to develop more substantive work plans with both Ward Alliances in the Area.

Members noted that a steering group would be convened shortly, which would promote working relationships with other environmental groups in the area, and avoid duplication.

The meeting heard how three full time members had been allocated to the area as part of the contract. This included an apprentice who had initially started with Twiggs on a work placement delivering a contract for Central Area Council.

It was noted that feedback from Members and residents had been positive in the first two weeks of the contract, and the area was already improving visually.

22 Dearne Area Council Performance Update including financial position (Dac.14.09.2015/4)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. Members were reminded of the contracts currently operating; Training for Employment running until 31st March, 2016; Environmental Enforcement running until 31st March, 2016; the Clean and Tidy

Service which had recently commenced; and the Private Sector Housing Management contract.

£121,718 of the Area Council budget for 2015/16 remained unallocated. In addition £14,110 of income from Fixed Penalty Notices was forthcoming, leaving £135,828 to allocate in the current financial year.

The meeting considered the performance of currently funded contracts. It was noted that performance against the Training for Employment contract continued to be positive, and there were no issues to report. Members stressed the need to ensure DECV received appropriate credit for the success of the project in addition to VAB.

Members stressed the desire for training to remain in the current venue and, if possible, would also like to see DWP return to undertake complementary job search alongside the project.

The meeting noted that a presentation on Area Arrangements was being prepared for Barnsley Leadership Team, in which the success of the Training for Employment contract would be highlighted as a case study.

With regards to the Environmental Enforcement contract, it was noted that 58 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued, of which 50 were for littering and 8 for dog fouling. In addition 40 notices had been issued for parking violations. Members noted that many of the offences were as a result of intelligence being provided, and the meeting heard of a campaign being organised to highlight the issue of dog fouling and encourage reporting. It was suggested that this issue also be included in the community magazine.

Members noted that the Clean and Tidy service, as discussed under the previous item was making significant progress despite only recently starting.

The Area Council Manager made the meeting aware that mechanisms for reporting the performance of the Housing Management service level agreement had now been finalised, and this would be reported into future Area Council meetings.

RESOLVED the report be received.

23 Environmental Enforcement Service (Dac.14.09.2015/5)

The Area Chair introduced the item, referring to the existing contract, which was being delivered until 31st March, 2016. It was noted that the contract had an annual cost of £32,118 for one full time officer, currently employed by Kingdom Security, and relevant support from BMBC Community Safety to provide uniforms, and to process fines and payments.

It was acknowledged that a further procurement exercise would need to be undertaken if Members wished for a service to continue after 31st March, 2016. It was noted that a number of other Area Councils were in a similar position, and were interested in continuing to provide an Environmental Enforcement service. Combined, this would exceed EU financial thresholds and therefore would need to go through a more extended procurement process. However, it was noted that though it

would be a combined commission, this would be separated into smaller 'lots' with associated contracts, enabling more local management.

Members were supportive of re-commissioning an Environmental Enforcement Service at the current level for an additional year, with the opportunity to extend this should the need remain, and the finance be available.

RESOLVED

- i) that the Environmental Enforcement Service be re-commissioned for a year, with an opportunity to extend for an additional year, at a cost of approximately £30,955 per annum to provide one officer and associated costs, with a view to commencing 1st April, 2016;
- ii) that further detail be brought to a future meeting of Dearne Area Council for discussion.

24 Dearne Development Fund (Dac.14.09.2015/6)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, referring to an exercise recently having been undertaken to map community action and services in the area against area priorities.

The exercise showed the significant amount of action in the area. The paper circulated proposed the adoption of a 'Dearne Development Fund'. Two slightly different process were suggested, one for grants of £1-5,000 and another for £5-15,000, with a total allocation of £80,000. The fund would build on the positive work already being undertaken and support existing groups and agencies to further contribute to delivering against the Area Council priorities.

It was suggested that the Area Council holds two rounds of the fund, with applications sought prior to November and January deadlines, in order to allocate funds before the end of the financial year.

It was proposed that a panel be established to assess grants, and make recommendations as to which should be approved, with final approval being delegated to the Service Director Stronger, Safer and Healthier Communities.

Members supported the establishment of the fund, acknowledging the ability to extend the good work already being undertaken in the area. The composition of the panel was discussed, and it was agreed that this comprise of an Elected Member from each Ward, alongside a resident from each Ward and a member of the Area Team.

The meeting discussed the draft application guidance notes and application forms circulated. It was noted that the guidance suggested that beneficiaries should primarily be from the Dearne North and South Wards. It was noted that there may be small numbers from just outside the area benefitting, but that to monitor projects to ensure only residents in the two Wards in the area benefitted would be unduly bureaucratic.

RESOLVED:-

- i) that the research and scoping exercise carried out by the Area Team be noted;

- ii) that £80,000 be allocated to establish the 'Dearne Development Fund' with organisations able to apply for grants from £1-15,000 in the 2015/16 financial year;
- iii) that the Dearne Development Fund guidance notes and application forms be approved;
- iv) that a Dearne Development Fund panel be established to consider applications and make recommendations for approval with a membership comprising of one Elected Member and one resident from Dearne North, one elected Member and one resident from Dearne South, and a member of the Area Team;
- v) that the Service Director, Stronger, Safer and Healthier Communities be authorised to approve grants of between £1,000 and £15,000, up to a combined total for £80,000 following consultation with the Dearne Development Fund panel.

25 Notes from the Dearne Approach Steering Group held on 24th August, 2015 (Dac.14.09.2015/7)

Members considered the notes from the meeting held on 24th August, 2015.

It was suggested that, in Councillor Gardiner's absence, Councillor Worton attends the meeting.

Members heard how the meeting was very positive, with lots of action and community involvement.

The meeting discussed engagement with landlords in the area and the positive steps being made. It was noted that landlords are now networking with each other and a 'Renting Ready' course being organised.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Dearne Approach Steering Group be received.

26 Notes from the following Ward Alliances (Dac.14.09.2015/8)

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 28th July, 2015. A number of comments were made about the positive nature of the meeting, with self assessment/improvement plans being developed and roles for Ward Alliance members being assigned.

RESOLVED that the notes from Dearne North Ward Alliance be received.

27 Report on the Use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.14.09.2015/9)

The report was introduced by the Area Council Manager and Members noted the significant proportion of Devolved Ward Budget allocated in both wards. It was noted that £3,268.88 remained in the Dearne North Ward and £4,196.64 in Dearne South. Members acknowledged that the decision to devolve Area Council funds to the Ward level could be revisited should there be a need in the future.

Due to the success of the bulky waste collection scheme, it was suggested that further finance be allocated to this, should the current allocation be exhausted.

With regards to Ward Alliance Funds remaining, it was noted that £11,928.85 remained for Dearne North and £10,470.65 for Dearne South, and the need to accelerate project development to make use of the funds was stressed.

Members noted that the Area Team had established a means by which to monitor the expenditure of the Ward Alliance Fund, and the volunteer hours generated, which would be used to feedback to Ward Alliances.

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

Chair