

MEETING:	North East Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 3 December 2015
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Hayward (Chair), Cheetham, Clements, Ennis, S. Green, Hampson, Higginbottom, Makinson, Richardson, Sheard and C. Wraith MBE

31 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Hayward declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute no. 38 on the agenda – ‘North East Area Council Priorities and Financial Consideration’ in view of his position as Chair of Barnsley Community Build (BCB). He left the meeting during discussion and voting on this item.

32 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on Thursday 1st October 2015 (Neac. 03.12.15)

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on 1st October 2015.

In respect of Minute no. 29 (ii) it was reported that residents are querying when the self closing gate on the Shafton Green Play area will be replaced. The Area Council Manager agreed to chase this up.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North East Area Council held on 1st October 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

33 Notes of the Following Ward Alliances with Feedback from each Ward Alliance Chair (Neac.03.12.15/3)

The meeting received notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston Ward Alliances held throughout August September and October. The following updates were noted:-

Cudworth – The Christmas Event was very successful, attended by over 400 people.

Monk Bretton – 94 poppies are to be placed at the War Memorial, one for each fallen soldier. The History Group will meet at the Community Centre early in the New Year to collate the history of the soldiers. Christmas events will take place at Burton Grange tonight and at St Paul’s tomorrow.

North East – It was reported that a community payback scheme had led to the replacement of the paving slabs on the walk to the Cenotaph, which had been well received by the Royal British Legion. Three of the community notice boards have been replaced, with the Great Houghton notice board to be installed imminently.

The Christmas Tree switch on community events have been held in Brierley and Grimethorpe and were supported and enjoyed by the local residents. The events included Choirs from the local Primary Schools singing Christmas carols. Shafton Ward Alliance has appointed 2 new members and it is hoped that the Ward Alliance will now work more closely with Shafton Parish Council.

Royston – It was reported that schools have been involved in planting bedding plants. Work on the community orchard is ongoing. Recently funded projects include Royston Canal Club and a new Guide group. The 'Adopt a Planter' scheme will be entering Yorkshire in Bloom next year. The Christmas event at the Albert Shepherd centre took place last Monday, with local schools, a band, a choir and Santa in attendance. It was reported that there are ongoing problems with fly-tipping at Carlton, which have been highlighted in the Barnsley Chronicle. The Scrutiny Task and Finish Group are looking at the issue of fly-tipping, the outcomes from which will be considered by Cabinet for implementation Borough-wide at Area Council/Ward Alliance level. It was highlighted that the problem is reaching 'epidemic' proportion in some areas.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

34 Changes to the Community Representation on the North East and Monk Bretton Ward Alliances (verbal reports from the Ward Alliance Chairs)

It was reported that Derek Dyson and Peter Makinson have been appointed to the North East Ward Alliance and Tom Sheard has been appointed to the Monk Bretton Ward Alliance.

RESOLVED that this information be noted.

35 NEAC Financial Position and Procurement Update (Neac 03.12.15/5)

The Area Council Manager provided the North East Area Council with the current financial position and forecast for expenditure into 2016-17 together with an update regarding the procurement of the Employability for Under 16's 2016 initiative and the Environmental Enforcement procurement for service provision post March 2016.

Based in the current profiled spend agreed with providers, the North East Area Council has £133,836 uncommitted from the 2015/16 budget together with £168,712 uncommitted from the 2016/17 budget. Due to the uncertainty surrounding future budget allocations, future contracts will be let on a year by year basis, with break clauses, for the foreseeable future. An agreement is in place whereby Area Councils could devolve up to £20,000 to Ward Alliances.

It was explained that any income raised from enforcement activity by way of fines will be reconciled at the end of the financial year for each Area Council.

RESOLVED that the report regarding the financial position of the Area Council be noted, together with the procurement progress update with regard to the Employment for Under 16's initiative 2016 and Environmental Enforcement after March 2016.

36 Report on the use of Area Council Budgets, Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds (Neac 03.12.15/6)

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and highlighted the spend to date.

Details of the Area Council funding are included in the Project Performance Report (Neac. 03.12.15/7)

The North East Area Council has a Devolved Ward Budget grant allocation of £81,939.54 for the 2015-16 financial year, made up of a £40,000 allocation for 2015-16 and a carry forward allocation of £41,939.54 from the 2014-15 financial year.

The Ward Alliances are all on track with regard to spend, and further details can be found in the report (Neac.03.12.15/5)

RESOLVED that the report on the use of Area Council Budgets, Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds be received and noted.

37 North East Area Council Project Performance Report - update on the delivery of commissioned projects (Neac 03.12.15/7)

The Area Council Manager explained that to date 3 contracts have formally completed contract monitoring and contract management reporting. These are Barnsley Community Build, Kingdom Security and C and K Careers. The Barnsley Community Build and Kingdom Security contracts are meeting their milestones and outcome indicator targets and the Councillors commented on how pleased they were with these initiatives. There is overall satisfaction with delivery against the C & K Careers project although a couple of the outputs are 'amber' RAG rated, and these are being addressed.

A discussion took place regarding anti-social/youth nuisance problems being experienced in local parks. It was felt that the restructure of the Police and associated reduction in resources has led to an increase in problems of this nature, which will take some time to settle down. It was felt that Berneslai Homes and Housing Associations also have a part to play in tackling this problem. Members were urged to continue to report problems to the Police.

RESOLVED that the North East Area Project Performance report be received and noted.

38 North East Area Council Priorities and Financial Considerations (Neac 03.12.15/8)

Due to his previously declared interest in respect of this item, Councillor Hayward left the meeting during discussion and voting on this item. In view of the absence of the Chair, Councillor Cheetham was appointed as Chair for this item only.

Members considered an extension to the contract for the North East Environment Team initiatives for the Cudworth and North East areas, and the Monk Bretton and Royston areas for a further 6 months going forward from 1st March 2016 to 1st

September 2016 to ensure continuity of provision, pending the review of the Commissioning and Procurement Framework, which should lead to a co-ordinated approach to commissioning.

It was highlighted that the provider was meeting and surpassing targets.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the North East Area Council continues to fund the North East Environment Team initiatives for the Cudworth and North East areas, and the Monk Bretton and Royston areas for a further 6 months from 1st March 2016 to ensure continuity of provision under the contract, and
- (ii) that authorisation be given to the Interim Service Director of Safer, Stronger, Healthier Communities, in conjunction with the Interim Head of Strategic Commissioning and Procurement to complete the paperwork to extend the contract.

39 Community Magazine update

The Area Council Manager provided Members with a draft copy of the 'Village Life' community magazine, which will be printed and distributed before Christmas. A discussion took place around the issue of adopting a 'hedgehog' mascot for the North East Area Council and possibly including a 'children's page' in the next issue of the magazine. It was felt that the map on the front of the draft copy would benefit from the addition of village names in the North East.

RESOLVED that the draft copy of the community magazine be approved.

40 Volunteering Celebration Event

The Area Council Manager explained that the Volunteering Celebration Event will take place in February/March 2016. One Member from each Ward will be required to sit on the Steering Group, which will convene early in the New Year. The event will be an opportunity to say 'thank you' to all volunteers for their hard work together with a chance to reflect on all the good work and initiatives which have taken place over the last year.

The Chair also took the opportunity to thank the North East Area Council officers for their hard work over the year and to wish all those present a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chair