

**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**DEARNE AREA COUNCIL**

**23rd SEPTEMBER, 2013**

19. **Present:** Councillors Noble (Chair), Sixsmith and Worton

20. **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non pecuniary interest.

21. **Minutes of the previous meeting of the Area Council**

**RESOLVED :** That the minutes of the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 22nd July, 2013 be approved as a correct record.

22. **Notes of Ward Alliances**

**RESOLVED:** That the notes of (a) the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 12th August, 2013 and (b) the Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 11th September, 2013, be received.

23. **Devolved Ward Budgets**

The Area Council considered a paper providing details of the current breakdown of expenditure from the Devolved Ward Budget allocation of £40,000 (£20,000 per Ward) and the Ward Alliance Fund of £20,000 (£10,000 per Ward). The paper explained that no monies had yet been allocated from the Ward Alliance Fund. Allocations earmarked from the Devolved Ward Budget for Dearne North Ward included £500 for bulky rubbish collection and for the Dearne South Ward £500 for bulky rubbish collection and £520 for cricket and football pavilion maintenance.

Reference was made to the expectation that those seeking funding would have access to matched funding

It was explained that expenditure would continue to be regularly monitored and further discussions would take place regarding the processing of applications seeking large grants, bearing in mind the limited monies available

It was acknowledged that following construction of the website organisations will be able to apply on-line and that should make the process more accessible in local communities.

**RESOLVED:** That the information now reported regarding the current position regarding the allocation of the Devolved Ward Budget and the Ward Alliance Fund, be noted.

24. **Dearne North Ward Alliance - Appointment of Community Representatives**

The Area Manager submitted a report explaining that the Dearne North Ward elected members put forward 6 applicants from the Community for inclusion onto the Dearne North Ward Alliance in accordance with the procedures approved by Full Council on 8th November, 2012.

**RESOLVED:** That the following be appointed as community representatives on the Dearne North Ward Alliance until the end of the 2013/14 Municipal Year:-

Antony Fretsome  
Sandra Pennington  
Charlotte Williams  
Teresa Sim  
Andrew Hainey  
Kelly Hall

25. **Area Plan Development**

**(i) Integrated Youth Support Service**

Tom Smith, Principal Adviser - Children, Young People and Families Directorate gave a presentation on the proposals for creating an Integrated Youth Support Service aimed at ensuring the Council fulfils its statutory duties and maintains quality provision for young people, identified as aged 13 to 19 years (up to 24 for young people with disabilities) whilst delivering the necessary savings. He highlighted the following points during the presentation:-

(a) the Youth Service budget savings approved for 2013/14 amounts to £1,687,000 and a further £451,000 is earmarked for 2014/15. This will mean that the number of posts in the Service will be significantly reduced,

(b) the revised structure of the Integrated Youth Service will bring together the traditional youth services (including youth clubs), the Youth Offending Team (YOT), Information, Advice and Guidance (formerly Connexions), positive activities and participation and inclusion initiatives.

(c) the revised Service would be based on a hub and spoke model using one base within each Area Council boundary to provide services in local communities. For the Dearne Area this will be the Dearne Youth Centre at Goldthorpe. The existing organisation of the Service in the Dearne area has been used as the basis of the model for other areas and therefore, in comparison with other parts of the Borough, the reorganisation for the Dearne is comparatively minor.

At the conclusion of the presentation members received a pack containing more detail about the provision proposed in the Dearne area following the reorganisation together with information about young people not in employment, education and training (NEETs), who are an important target for the Youth Service to liaise with..

A discussion ensued following the presentation with the following topics mentioned:-

- (a) there will be some staffing changes as the re-organisation is rolled out and Councillors along with other interested people/organisations, will be circulated with key contacts for the Youth service in due course,
- (b) discussions to take place about young people being represented on the Ward Alliances,
- (c) liaison will continue with the 'Great Mates' initiative, although they are organised separately from the Youth service. However they do have expertise in child protection that could be very useful when working in local communities,
- (d) there is a possibility that a new scout group might be established in the area shortly,
- (e) worklessness continues to be a big issue in the area and the Youth Service has a priority to help young people with the skills needed to find employment, particularly as those who are older (over 24) cannot receive assistance from the Service and are in danger of being long term NEETs if they have had periods of unemployment since leaving schools,
- (f) it is important that local people are in a position to apply for jobs at the new ALDI store and efforts are being made to talk to other key employees in the area about the skills they are looking for in local people for them to be offered employment,
- (g) young people are encouraged to do volunteering as a means of demonstrating good skills to employers but discussions are required with the Department for Work and Pensions to check benefit implications. The time people have for volunteering is also constrained by a requirement to attend the Job centre on a regular basis, and
- (h) the decision to take out the local Job Centre facility has made it more difficult for young people in the Dearne area to access employment opportunities and discussions around the Dearne approach initiative might help to address this issue.

**RESOLVED:** That Tom Smith be thanked for his presentation on the proposals for the future configuration of the Integrated Youth Service and the profile of local Services in the Dearne area.

(ii) Draft Dearne Area Plan

The Area Manager submitted a draft leaflet of the Area Plan Priorities which sets out the emerging priorities for Area Council. Five key themes have been identified. The Area Manager explained that In addition 22 community researchers trained in consultation had collected the opinions of 541 adults and 84 young people and the results had been used in shaping the draft Plan, as had other forms of statistical information previously presented to the Area Council.

The Area Council briefly discussed the issues around access to GPs, the first priority identified by local residents during the research exercise. Members recognised there were particular difficulties in Dearne North Ward and that NHS England are the point of contact around this issue. The Clinical Commissioning Group are also active in seeking to improve the situation. Members recognise that for some issues the Area Plan will be used to influence other agencies and not the subject of direct funding from the Area Council.

Members also referred to the priorities identified by local residents relating to dog fouling, littering and general nuisance behaviour. It was acknowledged that there were particular challenges in this area of activity, including effective enforcement, due to the cuts in resources being faced by the Council.

The Area Manager explained that the draft Plan required further work. She indicated that copies of photographs depicting activities in local communities would be very welcome and would be considered for inclusion in the final version.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That the current draft of the Plan be supported and be the subject of further consultation involving the Dearne Approach Researchers and Ward Alliances, with a view to the Plan being submitted to the meeting on 18th November, 2013 for final approval, and

(b) That the Area Manager be invited to consider adding key contacts within the Plan, including local Elected Members and the Area Team.

26. Planning and Format for the Next Meeting of Dearne Area Council

**RESOLVED:** That the next meeting of the Dearne Area Council on 18th November, 2013 consider again the Area Plan following the consultation process to be undertaken during the Autumn.

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Chair