

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL

3RD FEBRUARY, 2014

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

39. **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non pecuniary interest from Members present at this meeting.

40. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Area Council**

The Area Council considered the minutes of its meeting held on 18th November, 2013.

RESOLVED : (a) That the minutes of the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 18th November, 2013 be approved as a correct record,

(b) that the Chair and the Area Council Manager be invited to seek a meeting with Mark Lynam, Head of Regeneration, to discuss the funding possibilities through the Barnsley Economic Partnership to improve access to employment opportunities for local people, and to look to extend an invitation to Members of the Area Council to attend the meeting if they are able to, and

(c) that Gary Stott of the recently established Community Shop be invited to a future meeting of the Area Council to outline how the upper floor of the Shop is being used, particularly in order to explore if the Council and partners can assist in the future development of facilities for local people on this floor of the Shop.

41. **Notes of Ward Alliances**

RESOLVED: That the notes of (a) the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 25th November, 2013 and (b) the Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 27th November, 2013, be received.

42. **Commissioning and Procurement**

The Area Council Manager circulated a report setting out the progress to date on commissioning and procurement of services to support the Council's agreed priorities. The report indicated the priorities agreed by the Area Council were (a) improving the economy, (b) young people, (c) debt and benefit advice, (d) community involvement, and (e) skills and

learning for work. Members had subsequently agreed that the two priorities for the first round of commissioning should be (a) a youth training scheme linked to local Dearne businesses and (b) debt and benefit advice. The report indicated that the Area Council Manager had met with representatives of Job Centre Plus, the Department of work and Pensions, BMBC Regeneration and Barnsley Development Agency and following this meeting a detailed specification for the youth training scheme was now being produced for approval by the Area Council. Care was being taken to establish a specification that sought to avoid any duplication of service provision. In the case of the debt and benefits advice service, discussions were ongoing around whether to commission on the basis of a stand alone service or to link with similar services being contemplated by other Area Councils.

Appended to the report was a timeline of key milestones for the commissioning process, including the appointment of a Member tender evaluation panel.

RESOLVED: (a) That the role of the Area Council in the commissioning process as outlined in the report of the Area Council Manager, be noted,

(b) that the draft specification of requirements for an employability/confidence building/basic skills training initiative be noted and that support be given to its further development, including measures to ensure it is provided locally and geared towards the needs of local businesses and that further discussions be held with the Area Council Members to determine the final specification with a view to it being approved at an additional meeting of the Area Council in late February/early March 2014,

(c) that an elected Member from the Dearne North and Dearne South Wards be appointed to the Tender Evaluation Panel for the agreed project outlined above (Dearne North - Councillor Brook with Councillor Sixsmith as substitute and Dearne South - Councillor Warton), and

(d) that the joint working of Area Council managers in the provision of additional debt and benefit advice be noted and the need to determine whether to prepare a commissioning document on the basis of a stand alone service for the Dearne Area or in conjunction with other Area Councils, be recognised.

43. **Turning Point/Dearne Approach**

The Area Council considered a paper outlining the present position with regard to the Turning Point/Dearne Approach initiative, including the key milestones for year 2 of the project (2013/14) and the feedback from the 22 local people trained as Community Researchers who collected the opinions of 541 adults and 84 young people about the priorities for the area. The Area Council Manager explained that the representatives of Turning Point had been invited to the Area Council meeting but were

unable to attend, however the information collected by the Community Researchers had been very useful in establishing the commissioning and procurement priorities for the Area Council. It was explained that the paper would also be submitted to the next meeting of Dearne Approach and points of clarification could be discussed at that meeting, including the arrangements for the financing of the initiative up to September 2014.

RESOLVED: That the information contained in the paper now presented on the work of Turning Point/Dearne Approach, be noted.

44 **Use of Devolved and Ward Alliance Budgets**

The Area Council considered a paper outlining the current position regarding allocations from the devolved budgets which indicated the following information:-

(a) the Dearne Area Council has now committed £14,081 of its £40,000 devolved Ward budget allocation (£20,000 per Ward), of which £11,300 has been allocated in Dearne North Ward on four initiatives, including £10,000 on employability ICT skills for adults, and £2,781 has been allocated in the Dearne South Ward on four initiatives,

(b) the Dearne North Ward Alliance has committed £3,914.28 of its £10,000 budget on two initiatives and the Dearne South Ward Alliance has committed £1,120.05 of its £10,000 on three initiatives, and

(c) the Dearne North Ward Alliance has committed £698.34 of its £7,000 Public Health Funding and the Dearne South Ward Alliance has committed £1,858.95 of its £7,000 allocation.

RESOLVED: That the current position regarding expenditure from the devolved Ward budgets outlined above, be noted.

45. **General Performance Monitoring Information**

The Area Council considered a paper outlining the progress being made towards achieving agreed key milestones for the Area Council itself and for the Ward Alliances. The milestones included specific targets for the approval of the Area Plan, the determination of services for commissioning locally from 2014/15, and the appointment of community representatives on the Ward Alliances. It was explained that the milestones indicated in the paper were being met. Also appended to the paper were performance indicators for the initiatives for which money had been allocated from the devolved budgets

RESOLVED: That that the paper be noted.

46. **Next Meeting of the Area Council**

The Area Council Manager explained that the main work of the Area Council in the short term would be to determine the specifications for the commissioning outlined in minute 42 above and therefore steps would be undertaken to hold a special meeting as soon as possible. The topics for discussion for the next scheduled meeting on 31st March, 2014 will be determined in due course.

RESOLVED: That the information reported by the Area Council Manager regarding business at future meetings, be noted

.....
Chair