

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL

31st March, 2014

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

48. **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests**

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

49. **Minutes of the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 3rd February, 2014**

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting and, subject to correcting the spelling of 'Worton' under minute 42, approved them as a true and correct record.

It was noted that Gary Stott from the Community Shop was scheduled to attend the 2nd June 2014 meeting of Dearne Area Council.

RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting held on 3rd February, 2014 be approved as a true and correct record.

50. **Notes of the Ward Alliance Meetings**

The meeting received the notes of the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 20th January, 2014. It was noted that within those present 'T.L. Sims' should read 'T.L. Sim'.

Also received were the notes of the Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 15th January, 2014.

RESOLVED: - that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

51. **Commissioning and Procurement.**

Training for Employment

The meeting considered the Procurement Strategy and Specification of Requirements for the 'Training for Employment' project.

Concern was raised about utilising library computers for training; however it was acknowledged that organisations submitting tenders may highlight other appropriate facilities to undertake training.

Members were supportive of the project and the specification and procurement strategy were agreed.

Enforcement

The Area Manager introduced the item, referring to intelligence from Ward Plans, from residents and through Members, that had highlighted issues of litter and fly tipping in the area. It was noted that the issue had featured in the local and national press due to the severity of the problem.

All Members present also expressed concern with the recent changes to the Waste and Recycling Service, which had resulted in a number of problems being reported by residents. These not only included bins not being collected, but paper was also being dropped and bags were being blown away, adding to the problems with litter in the area. It was agreed that the Chair write to the Assistant Director, Operational Services, to express concerns on behalf of the Area Council.

The meeting discussed these issues and were strongly in agreement that 'Environment' should be added to the priorities for the Area.

The meeting heard that, in February 2014, a 'Private Sector Housing and Environment Officer' post had been agreed to be funded through finance associated with the Economic Strategy. Members considered whether this should be further supported through Area Council funds.

Members supported the notion of two additional enforcement officers, a Generic Enforcement Officer, and a Housing and Environment Officer at around £70,000 and initially for one year. It was agreed that the Area Manager should work with relevant officers and Members to further develop proposals for the Area Council to consider at their next meeting.

Other options for improving the environment were also discussed. These including using finance to further support 'Friends of' groups, or funding an 'Enablement Team' as other Area Councils had.

Councillors expressed a desire to see evidence of work that community groups had undertaken as part of their 'payback' from receiving a grant. It was noted that paperwork to support Ward Alliance Fund applications and monitoring had recently been reviewed to ensure evidence was captured. It was agreed that photographic evidence, where provided, should be circulated to Members.

RESOLVED:-

(i) that the Procurement Strategy and Specification of Requirements for the 'Training for Employment' project be approved to a value of £75,000 and with a price quality split of 30/70 in favour of quality;

- (ii) that, on behalf of the Area Council, the Chair writes a letter to the Assistant Director Operational Services, highlighting issues due to recent changes in the Waste and Recycling Service;
- (iii) that Dearne Area Council agrees that 'Environment' be an additional priority for the Area;
- (iv) that, in consultation with Members, the Area Manager prepares relevant paperwork for the proposed enhanced Enforcement Service to be considered at the next meeting of the Area Council.

52. Use of Devolved Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds

Members considered the report, which highlighted the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds. It was noted that 2013/14 had been the first year of the revised governance arrangements and therefore there had been some unfortunate delays.

However, the meeting noted that finance that had not been allocated would be taken forward into the 2014/15 financial year.

53. Next Area Council Meeting

Members agreed to hold a special meeting of the Dearne Area Council on 10th April, 2014 at 12.30pm, specifically to consider the further developed proposals for and enhanced Enforcement Service.

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Chair