

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL

2nd June, 2014

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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58. **Present:** Councillors Noble (Chair), Brook, Gardiner, Sim, Sixsmith, and Worton.

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

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

60. **Minutes of the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 10th April, 2014**

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council.

RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting held on 10th April, 2014 be approved as a true and correct record.

61. **Notes of the Dearne North Ward Alliance, held on 11th March and 6th May, 2014 and Dearne South Ward Alliance, held on 26th March, 2014**

The meeting received the notes from the Ward Alliances held in March and May, 2014.

Members discussed the need to increase the number and diversity of community representatives on both Ward Alliances. A recruitment drive was suggested, with a number of business owners being put forward as potential representatives.

The meeting noted the need for Ward Alliances to include an element of training and development, helping to develop the skills and knowledge of their members.

RESOLVED:- that the notes of the Dearne North and Dearne South Ward Alliance meetings presented, be received.

62. **Report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds**

The meeting considered the report circulated, which highlighted expenditure in the 2013/14 financial year and that from April 14 to date.

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Members noted that 2013/14 was the first year the new governance structures had been in place, and therefore expenditure was necessarily delayed. This had resulted in finance being carried forward.

Although it was assumed that significant expenditure against ward priorities would occur during 2014/15, Members were of the opinion that some finance should be retained to form a contingency budget. This could then be utilised in emergency situations, such as following extreme weather.

RESOLVED:- that the report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds be received.

63. Review of Area Governance

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, referring to the milestones set for 2013/14. These included the agreeing of priorities, undertaking consultation and commissioning projects, all of which had been completed.

Members noted the priorities agreed for the Area Council, and £145,000 of the 2014/15 budget allocated.

The meeting considered the milestones set for the Ward Alliances, and it was noted that all had been achieved aside from the appointment of independent secretaries. It was noted that the Ward Alliances had funded 13 projects, to a total of £9,034.33, achieving £21,381.52 social action value added.

Members heard how the community mapping had been completed for both Dearne Wards, with 48 groups being identified. It was suggested the mapping could be extended to try to establish the amount of volunteering in the Dearne area.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the findings of the review of Area Governance be noted;
- (ii) that consideration be given to extending the community mapping to include recording numbers of volunteers.

64. Dearne Area Council update on priorities and commissioning

The report was introduced by the Area Council Manager. Members noted that the Training for Employment tender had closed on 6th May, 2014. The submissions had been evaluated and moderated. A preferred candidate had been identified.

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With regards to the provision of additional enforcement capacity, it was noted that the additional Private Sector Housing and Environment Officer would shortly be out for recruitment.

The meeting heard that the Environment Enforcement Officer post was currently out to tender, in a joint procurement exercise with Central Area Council. The meeting discussed Member representation on the tender evaluation panel, and it was agreed that Cllr Brook would take part in the panel on behalf of Dearne Area Council.

With reference to the economy and young people priorities, the meeting discussed the possibility of hosting an Enterprising Young People event in the area. This would promote and support young people with ideas to develop business plans, with a view to establishing their own enterprise. It was agreed that the Area Manager would undertake further research and report back to a future meeting.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the progress made in procuring interventions to deliver against the priorities of Dearne Area Council be noted;
- (ii) that Cllr Brook takes part in the tender evaluation panel for the Environmental Enforcement project on behalf of Dearne Area Council;
- (iii) that the Area Council Manager makes enquires regarding the hosting of an Enterprising Young People event in the Dearne, with a view to reporting the outcome to a future meeting of the Area Council.

65. Update from the Dearne Approach

The meeting welcomed Turning Point in order to provide an update from the Dearne Approach. Following the compilation of results of consultation, a workshop was recently held to engage local people and consider initial thoughts on a community led enterprise. This was well attended and it was noted that another more in depth session would be held to further develop thinking.

Members noted that a business plan would be developed and it was expected that this and the findings of all consultation would be available by August, 2014.

The meeting noted the desire for all organisations and individuals present at the workshop to work together for a common cause. A discussion ensued around the benefits of networking between groups and between officers. It was suggested that consideration be given to arranging a series of 'roadshows' to promote this, and to help engage volunteers.

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Chair