

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL

21st July, 2014

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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1. **Present:** Councillors Noble (Chair), Brook, Sim, and Sixsmith.

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

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

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 2nd June, 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 2nd June, 2014, be approved as a true and correct record.

4. **Notes of the Dearne South Ward Alliance, 25th June, 2014**

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 25th June, 2014.

Concern was expressed that the Dearne North Ward Alliance had not recently met, it was suggested that the possibility of appointing a vice chair be discussed with Councillor Worton.

RESOLVED: - that the notes of the Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 25th June, 2014, be received.

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

The report was introduced by the Dearne Area Council Manager. Members noted the large amounts of finance still not allocated, and the need to accelerate expenditure.

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

6. **Community representatives on the Ward Alliances**

The meeting considered the report, which presented the following individuals to act as community representatives on the respective Ward Alliances:-

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Dearne North

Andrew Hailey
Sandra Pennington
Charlotte Williams
Teresa Sim
Paul Haines

Dearne South

Alan George
Maxine Grainger
Pete Finnegan
Andy Cole
Angie Kelly
Ian Chappel
Graham Jarvis
Bobbi Perry
Terry Walton

RESOLVED: - that the proposed individuals be approved as community representatives on the respective Ward Alliance for the remainder of the municipal year.

7. Dearne Area Council update on procurement and commissioning

The Dearne Area Council Manager introduced the item. Members noted that Voluntary Action Barnsley/Dearne Electronic Community Village were selected as the preferred provider for the Training for Employment commission. It was acknowledged that pre-contract meetings were being arranged, these would ensure delivery complemented existing provision, and was held in appropriate venues.

Members heard how the Private Sector Housing and Environment Officers, one funded through the Area Council and the other through the Economic Strategy, were now being recruited through the Community Safety and Enforcement Service.

In addition, the procurement exercise to secure additional generic Environmental Enforcement Officers had been concluded, and Kingdom Security was the preferred contractor. It was anticipated that the contract would start in early August, 2014.

Members considered the current financial position for the Area Council, noting that £55,619 of the £200,000 provided in 2014/15 was currently not allocated. It was also noted that, based on current forecasts, only £96,253 was expected to be spent in year.

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The meeting noted that a business case for a social enterprise was being developed by officers involved in the Dearne Approach, and that this may be something that the Area Council wishes to support financially. It was suggested that this be discussed at a future meeting of the Area Council when more details are available.

It was suggested that Members may wish to hold a workshop session to discuss future Area Council project proposals.

RESOLVED: -

- (i) that the update on procurement and commissioning be noted;
- (ii) that a future meeting considers proposals for a Social Enterprise, developed by the Dearne Approach.

8. Dates and times of future meetings

The meeting considered current arrangements, and whether the date and time could be altered to reduce the difficulty some Members faced in attending. It was suggested that Tuesday mornings may be suitable, subject to avoiding any clashes with other items in the Council diary, such as Planning Regulatory Board, Overview and Scrutiny, or Fostering and Adoption Panels.

RESOLVED: -

- (i) that future meetings of Dearne Area Council be held on Tuesday mornings, subject to avoiding clashes with other meetings;
- (ii) that the Council Governance Officer circulates prospective dates for comment.

9. Community Shop

The meeting welcomed The Head of Community Engagement from Company Shop, Gary Stott. Members heard about the Company Shop operation and the establishment of a sister company Community Shop, run as a social enterprise. It was noted that the Community Shop was registered as a Community Interest Company, and any profits made were reinvested.

Members heard that the shop had been established 7 months ago, with the area selected due to it being highlighted as deprived by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. The shop sold food at discounted prices, but required individuals to become members and undergo a personal development programme. The programme was designed to help build stronger individuals and communities with a will and desire to succeed.

The 'Success Plan' was mandatory in order to access the facilities provided by the shop, but additional support was available. This included a Skills Academy, working with Barnsley Council and Barnsley

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College, which guaranteed participants a job interview following completion of the course. Whilst this was being linked to retail opportunities planned in the area, it was suggested that this could also be linked to the care sector.

Members noted the positive working relationships with, and referral paths to, other organisations such as Phoenix Futures, Citizen's Advice Bureau and the Credit Union.

Praise was given for the positive work being undertaken by the Community Shop and Gary was thanked for his attendance.

10. The performance management and monitoring role of Area Councils

The Performance & Partnerships Improvement Officer spoke to the report, previously circulated.

Members noted the roles of Area Councils linked to performance management. This included the performance management of contracts and service level agreements. It was noted that the execution of this function was already well underway.

Reference was made to the performance management of services other than those commissioned by the Area Council. These included those area based, and borough wide services which may be delivered locally.

It was noted that this could include those provided by the Council, but also could potentially include that of partners, should they be amenable to this.

Members noted that, whilst a myriad of data and intelligence about Council delivered services existed; this was not in a single place and was not always available at an appropriate geographical level. It was acknowledged that, coinciding with restructuring and the implementation of business units, work was ongoing to address this situation, and it was suggested that this would be completed by April 2015.

After some discussion it was suggested that the Area Council concentrates on the performance of commissioned services in the first instance. However, it was acknowledged that the performance of other services be considered in the future, when appropriate. It was suggested that this may consider, not only the impact of the service in the immediate term, but also the sustainability of the service.

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RESOLVED:-

(i) that the report be noted

(ii) that future meetings of the Area Council consider the performance of services provided in the area, when appropriate.

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Chair