

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL

22nd September, 2014

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

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

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

13. **Minutes of the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 21st July, 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 21st July, 2014, be approved as a true and correct record.

14. **Notes of the Ward Alliances**

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 12th August, 2014 and the Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 13th August, 2014.

Members noted the funding workshops arranged in order to publicise the Ward Alliances and the Ward Alliance Funds.

RESOLVED: - that the notes of the Ward Alliances, be received.

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

The report was introduced by the Dearne Area Council Manager. Noted were the significant amounts of Devolved Ward Budget remaining. A number of ideas and opportunities were suggested, which included the potential for extending existing projects.

Members noted the remaining Ward Alliance Fund finance, and that a number of projects were being developed with a view to accessing the funds.

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

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16. Dearne Area Council update on procurement and commissioning

The item was introduced by the Dearne Area Council Manager. Members noted that the expected start date for the 'Training for Employment' contract was 1st October, 2014, but preparatory work had already commenced.

The meeting discussed an issue concerning the equipment at the Renaissance Centre. It was suggested that if the problem could not be rectified, then alternative venues would need to be found.

It was noted that the first performance report for this commission was expected at the next meeting of the Area Council.

Feedback on the Enforcement commission was provided by the Tasking Officer. It was noted that in the period 11th August to 7th September, 2014, 31 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued. In addition 'walkabouts' with Members had taken place, and officers had introduced themselves to local businesses and schools. Plain clothes operations were now taking place and officers were engaging with relevant Council departments in reporting fly tipping.

An issue was raised with regards to a number of parking signs in the area. These required replacement for any Fixed Penalty Notices to be enforceable. It was agreed that the Area Council Manager would discuss this issue with staff in the Highways department.

A number of ideas for further commissions were put forward for discussion. It was agreed that a workshop session be organised in order to discuss these in more detail.

RESOLVED: -

- (i) that the update on procurement and commissioning be noted;
- (ii) that the Area Council Manager discusses the issue of parking signs with relevant officers in the Highways department;
- (iii) that a workshop be held to discuss potential Area Council commissions.

17. Dates and times of future meetings

Following discussion at the previous meeting, Members discussed the date and times of future meetings. It was noted that Councillor Sim could now attend meetings held on a Monday. Therefore it was decided that the Area Council would remain meeting on a Monday morning as originally arranged.

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RESOLVED: - that future meetings of the Dearne Area Council remain held on a Monday at 10.00am.

18. Housing Strategy 2014-33 and Affordable Housing Programme 2015-18

Members welcomed the Housing Growth Development Manager to give a presentation on the Housing Strategy and Affordable Housing Programme.

Members noted the following objectives within the Housing Strategy:-

1. To support new housing development which creates a thriving and vibrant economy;
2. To ensure the design and delivery of new high quality, desirable and sustainable homes;
3. To make best use of and improve existing housing stock in Barnsley;
4. To develop strong resilient communities;
5. To support young, older and vulnerable people to live independently.

The meeting heard that the strategy covered a 20 year period, but that 4 year delivery plans would be produced. Members noted the numerous partners with which the Council worked, including Berneslai Homes and other authorities within the Sheffield and Leeds City Regions.

Ongoing and currently affordable housing schemes in the Dearne were discussed, and Members noted changes to Section 106 arrangements.

Also discussed was the ongoing activity to address the numbers of empty homes in the area and the work with partners to help regenerate the area.

It was noted that there had been considerable success in increasing the housing supply in the area with 875 new homes in Thurnscoe at 'Seasons'. Members heard how the Goldthorpe Masterplan also identified key sites for housing growth, and that discussions were taking place for the Hoyland/Barnsley Dearne area to apply to become a Housing Zone area.

Members gave thanks for the presentation and suggested that an increase in communications around planned and ongoing developments would be positive, specifically ensuring residents were made aware of the progress being made on the school development.

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Chair