

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL

24th November, 2014

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

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

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

21. **Minutes of the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 22nd September, 2014**

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

Members noted that training had now commenced at the Renaissance Centre.

The meeting noted that issues regarding parking signage had now been resolved.

RESOLVED: - that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting, held on 22nd September, 2014, be approved as a true and correct record.

22. **Notes of the Ward Alliances**

The meeting considered the notes from the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 30th September, 2014 and the Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 22nd October, 2014.

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

23. **Notes of the Dearne Approach CLE steering group meeting, held 20th October, 2014**

Members considered the notes from the recent Dearne Approach CLE steering group meeting, held on 20th October, 2014

RESOLVED: - that the notes of the Dearne Approach CLE steering group be received.

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24. Revised Area Council Terms of Reference

The item was introduced by the Council Governance Officer, who made members aware that a revised version of the Area Council Terms of Reference had been approved by Cabinet on the 22nd October, 2014.

Members heard how the document sought to give clarity to the roles of the Area Council, rather than provide any significant changes.

It was noted that proposed Community Representatives on the Ward Alliances would now not need the approval of the Area Council, but that this function would be delegated to the Assistant Director Neighbourhoods Access and Support, in consultation with Members from the relevant ward.

RESOLVED: - that the report and the changes to the Area Council Terms of reference be noted.

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

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, and attention was drawn to the breakdown of expenditure of the Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Funds.

Though it was noted that finance could be carried forward into the 2015/16 financial year, Members were encouraged to avoid delaying any expenditure on any worthwhile projects, where possible.

Members discussed the use of finance for flood prevention stores in the area, and recognised the need for a local flood plan to be developed in consultation with local Members.

The meeting heard that increasingly core services were suggesting that items could be funded through either the Devolved Ward Budgets or the commissioning budget of Area Councils. It was noted that this situation should only occur when items are not provided for in the core service budget.

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

26. Dearne Area Council update on procurement and commissioning

The Tasking Officer provided an update on the work of the commissioned Environmental Enforcement Team. The team were delivering the contracted hours of patrolling, with certain areas of focus determined using local intelligence.

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Members noted that 23 Fixed Penalty Notices for dog fouling and littering had been issued in October, with 39 in September, 2014. Performance monitoring for the first quarter of this contract would commence shortly with Kingdom Security, with the findings being considered by the Area Council on 2nd February, 2015. Members heard how officers would shortly be in a position to issue penalty notices for parking violations, and the issue of parking around schools was discussed in some depth.

The impact of the contract was discussed, and anecdotal evidence pointed to a definite improvement in the amount of litter in certain areas. It was suggested that this could form part of a positive press release about the service.

The Area Council Manager made the meeting aware of the venues in which the Training for Employment contract was now being delivered. It was noted that a formal contract monitoring report was due in January, 2015 and would feed into the Area Council meeting on 2nd February, 2015.

Following on from previous discussions between Members on 11th November, 2014, the meeting considered potential areas for investment by the Area Council. The following were considered:- A Clean and Tidy Team; a Young People's Work Experience programme; additional activities for young people aged 13-19 years; and the provision of a small grants fund, supporting projects that help to deliver the objectives of the Area Council.

The meeting were supportive of the proposals, and it was suggested that the Area Manager drafts a specification of requirements for a Clean and Tidy Team, in consultation with Members, with a view to seeking approval to proceed to tender at a future meeting of the Area Council.

Members discussed the provision of work experience and were in favour of supporting the commissioning of a programme locally. It was suggested that this could potentially be a joint tender with other Area Councils to achieve the best value for money. It was also suggested that sources of match funding should be considered, such as the Key Fund.

RESOLVED: -

- (i)** that the progress to date of the current contracted activity be noted;
- (ii)** that the Dearne Area Council Manager drafts a specification of requirements for a Clean and Tidy Team, in consultation with Members;
- (iii)** that the Dearne Area Council Manager progresses the project proposals referred to above.

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27. Future Council/Barnsley's Community Offer

The item was introduced by the Executive Director Adults and Communities. The meeting noted the reductions in finance available to the Council as a whole, and the need to think differently about how services are delivered. In doing so this included giving appropriate recognition to the assets within communities and building on them. The meeting noted a need to move from direct delivery of service, to supporting communities to provide for themselves.

It was suggested that this thinking needed adopted across the Council, and some examples were given whereby services could be delivered differently, often with additional social value, whilst also saving money.

One example discussed in more detail was the use of community buildings and the need to ensure they were fully used. It was suggested that the contracts with ALCs needed to be considered, to promote community access to the facilities outside school hours.

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted.

28. Dearne Area review

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, noting that the primary audience for the document was the public.

The review provided examples of work undertaken in the area since the inception of the Area Council and Ward Alliances. Included were case studies where people had engaged in social and community action, and noted were the positive impacts on the life of residents taking part and on the community.

Members praised the document and building on this it was suggested that a cross-Dearne newsletter of good news stories, opportunities within the area and future plans may provide a useful means of communication.

RESOLVED: -

- (i)** that the content of the draft Dearne Area review be noted;
- (ii)** that officers in the Dearne Area Team be thanked for their work in producing the review;
- (iii)** that hard copies of the review be placed in accessible places around the Dearne area.

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Chair