

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL

1st June, 2015

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

2. **Silence to mark the passing of Councillor Sim**

Members and officers in attendance stood and held a minute silence to mark the recent passing of Councillor Dave Sim.

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

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

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 30th March, 2015**

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 30th March, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

5. **Performance report on Dearne Area Council commissioned services**

The Tasking Officer provided an update to the meeting with regards to the Environmental Enforcement Contract. Members noted that within quarter three, until the end of April, 2015, there had been 487 hours of patrolling, and 129 penalties issued. Current rates of payment were at 72% and just over £9,000 had been received. Since this date approximately 20 further notices had been issued.

The team was commended for their flexibility, noting numerous operations which had started at 6am, and their involvement in community clean up events.

To date seven fly tipping cases had been passed to the appropriate team for investigation.

Members questioned the numbers of parking fines being 'written off' and it was agreed to provide this information for Members in future reports.

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It was suggested that the Area Council should have an in depth discussion before any future extension or re-contracting of the service, it was agreed that comparisons with other areas would also be useful.

An update on performance for the Training for Employment contract was provided by the Dearne Employment and Training Facilitator, employed by Voluntary Action Barnsley.

In quarter one and two of the contract all targets had been exceeded with 44 learners achieving a qualification against a target of 16, and 18 people securing local employment against a target of two.

Members noted positive examples where support had led to confidence being built, qualifications being achieved and people returning to work. It was noted that the majority of the qualifications achieved were ICT level 3.

The meeting heard that since quarter two the Enterprise Centre had closed and there had consequently been an increase in the numbers accessing the service. In addition members noted that provision had commenced in the Dearne Community Children's Centre, with additional session being considered in the Embankment Centre.

The meeting discussed the success of the project and the reasons behind this, which included the supportive environment at the Salvation Army centre. The support from the food and clothes banks was also noted as an attraction to draw people to the centre, and Members felt that the support services available worked well together.

Members commended those involved in the project on its success and the social return on investment. It was suggested that discussions take place with relevant officers in Job Centre Plus to highlight its success and promote future investment in the project.

RESOLVED

(i) that the continued progress of the two current commissions be noted;
(ii) that the Area Council Manager make contact with relevant officers in Job Centre Plus to discuss the merits of the Training for Employment commission.

6. Dearne Area Council future commissions, and use of Area Council finance

The report was introduced by the Area Council Manager and attention was drawn to a final draft of the specification of requirements for a Clean and Tidy Service.

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The specification had been developed in consultation with a wide range of groups and individuals, and would work closely with the Enforcement Officers and community groups.

The meeting discussed the prioritisation of workload for the service and it was suggested that the Lacewood site could be an early priority as not only was it overgrown but also suffered from large amounts of litter. It was noted that Ward Alliances would be involved in identifying 'hot spots' for the service to target once operational.

The composition of the Tender Evaluation Panel was discussed, and a suggestion made that it would be useful to involve community representatives alongside an officer from NPS and the Area Council Manager.

Members heard of the work being undertaken with regards to the possibility of commissioning a service for young people in the Dearne Area. It was noted that a workshop had been arranged to discuss the Area Council priorities and potential areas for further investment on 24th June, 2015.

The meeting discussed engagement with schools in the area, suggesting that regular meetings with school councils had historically worked well. It was noted that the relationships between Members and many of the Academies in the area required some improvement and it was agreed to raise this issue with the relevant Cabinet Spokesperson.

The Area Council reviewed the financial forecast circulated and noted that £107,439 remained for 2015/16. Members discussed the possibility of devolving an element of Area Council finance to a Ward level, with the potential to allocate up to £20,000 per ward. After exploring a number of options it was decided not to devolve any of the budget at the current time, but to monitor levels of expenditure at a Ward Level and discuss later in the year.

RESOLVED that

- (i)** the Specification of Requirements and Tender Evaluation Criteria be approved to establish the Dearne Area Clean and Tidy Service for 12 months to a maximum value of £75,000 with a price/quality ratio of 30:70 in favour of quality;
- (ii)** that approval be given for a community representative from each of Thurnscoe Park and Goldthorpe Development Group to be part of the Tender Evaluation Panel for the Dearne Area Clean and Tidy Service;
- (iii)** that the date of a workshop to discuss Area Council Priorities and future commissions be noted.
- (iv)** that the Chair discusses how relationships between Members and Academies could be improved with the Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Achieving Potential).

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7. Notes from the Dearne Approach Steering Group meeting held on 13th April, 2015

Members considered the notes from the meeting held on 13th April, 2015.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Dearne Approach Steering group be received.

8. Notes from the Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 26th May, 2015 and Dearne South Ward Alliance, held on 20th May, 2015.

In relation to Dearne North Ward Alliance, the inclusion Thurnscoe Park group on the tender evaluation panel for the 'Clean and Tidy' commission in addition to representation from Goldthorpe Development Group was thought to be valuable in providing a community perspective.

With regards to the Dearne South Alliance, the meeting heard that further detail was now available on the Cricket Club, Goldthorpe Football Club, and Prospect Road Bowling Club applications for Ward Alliance Funds. Plans were being put in place tailored to the needs and situation of each.

It was also noted that a letter of support had been provided for Dearne Bulldogs grant application.

Members heard how teenage pregnancy and childhood obesity were discussed with a view to prioritising these areas in Dearne South in the future.

RESOLVED that notes from the respective Ward Alliances be received.

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

The report was introduced by the Area Council Manager and Members noted the amounts of finance available for the 2015/16 financial year including any finance carried forward. This equated to a Devolved Ward Budget of £10,109.49 for Dearne North and £9,600.14 for Dearne South, and a Ward Alliance Fund of £13,938.85 for Dearne North and £13,660.80 for Dearne South.

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RESOLVED that the report on the Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds be received.

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Chair