

NORTH AREA COUNCIL

25th November, 2013

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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21. **Present:** Councillors Burgess (Chair), Cherryholme, Duerden, Howard, Leech, Miller, Platts, Spence and Tattersall.

22. **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non Pecuniary Interests**

No declarations were received.

23. **Minutes from the North Area Council meeting held on 3rd October, 2013**

The meeting noted the minutes from the previous meeting. It was acknowledged that under minute 19b, the name Freda Stretton should read as Freda Stenton.

It was noted that under the approval of representatives on the Ward Alliance, the name Molly Scorah had been submitted in error. It was agreed to cover this when discussing this matter later on the agenda.

RESOLVED:- that, subject to the name Freda Stretton being changed to Freda Stenton under item 19b, the minutes of the North Area Council meeting, held on 3rd October, 2013, be agreed as a true and correct record.

24. **Notes from the Ward Alliances**

The meeting received the notes from Darton East; Darton West; Old Town and St. Helen's Ward Alliances from September and October 2013.

Clarification was sought on whether it was the intention to invite Sergeant Bagshaw to become a representative on the Darton East Ward Alliance or merely to attend. It was confirmed that it was the latter.

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

25. **Report on the use of Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Fund**

The North Area Council Manager introduced the item, referring to the expenditure to date and that which remained. Members were encouraged to notify the Area Council Manager of any project needing to be completed within the financial year, in order to ensure adequate progress. However, it was noted that finance could be carried forward into 2014/15.

The meeting discussed delays between Members agreeing a project and the release of finance. It was suggested that this could take between 8-10 weeks. It was agreed that officers look into this, to see why this was the case, with a view to streamlining the process.

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Members discussed the role of Treasurer in the Ward Alliances and it was noted that this was to oversee grant funding which had been awarded from external sources, rather than the Ward Alliance Fund.

RESOLVED: - that the report on the use of Devolved Ward Budget and Ward alliance fund be noted.

26. Barnsley Economic Strategy - presentation by Mark Lynam

The Head of Regeneration introduced the item. A brief history was given of the development of the Economic Strategy, including the approval of the 6 economic priorities and the funding for the Economic Plan; and the establishment of Barnsley Economic Partnership in September 2013.

However, it was acknowledged that further work was required to arrive at a final published strategy. Many of the projects also required further development with additional input from partners, and it was noted that the funding profile would be reviewed to ensure focus on job and business creation.

The meeting noted the 6 economic priorities:-

- Develop a vibrant Town Centre;
- Create the conditions for economic growth and prosperity;
- Prioritise the economic renewal of Goldthorpe and the wider Dearne area;
- To create more jobs and businesses through appropriate provision of business, enterprise and employment programmes;
- To reduce worklessness amongst those currently unemployed and to increase skills levels of our current and future workforce;
- To significantly strengthen our visitor economy by further developing our key cultural assets and events.

Members noted the plans to review the Economic Strategy, which included the establishment of a robust programme management structure; comprehensive review of less established areas of work; introduction of a programme governance structure; re-profiling of the Economic Strategy budget; and the production of a final outwardly focused strategy, aimed specifically at the private sector.

The meeting noted the suggested timescales for the review, with the final strategy expected in February or March of 2014.

Members discussed the alignment to the work of the North Area Council, specifically the priority areas linked to alleviating poverty and rejuvenating high streets within the area.

It was acknowledged that these priorities would support the Economic Strategy. Where possible officers within Development, Environment and Culture would provide support for the Area Council to further develop projects in these areas; however it was noted that currently the level of support was limited.

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Members discussed the high employment rate in Barnsley and it was suggested that whilst this was high, this masked the large numbers of people only employed on a part time basis.

In terms of the large numbers of people on out of work benefits, the meeting acknowledged the need to change the culture in Barnsley and increase aspiration.

27. Community representatives on the Ward Alliances

The North Area Manager spoke to the report circulated, which recommended the following individuals from Darton East, Darton West and St. Helen's Ward Alliances.

Darton East - Father Jim Butterworth; Carl Snowden.

Darton West - Elizabeth Lunn.

St. Helen's - Patricia Hardcastle.

It was also noted that Molly Scorah had been submitted in error to the previous meeting. It was therefore agreed to rescind her membership of St. Helen's Ward Alliance.

It was noted that the proposal from Darton West had been approved at a previous meeting.

RESOLVED:-

i) that the individuals proposed act as community representatives on the relevant Ward Alliances;

ii) that the membership of Molly Scorah, on the St. Helen's Ward Alliance, is rescinded with immediate effect.

28. Priorities for North Area Council

An update on the progression of North Area Council priorities was given by the North Area Council Manager.

The meeting discussed a proposal for a healthy eating project, which had been raised as a potential area for investment at the previous meeting. This built upon previous successful work in the area, which had come to an end.

The Area Council Manager had met with a wide range of officers to develop the project which aimed to address diet and lifestyle problems which were a major cause of health problems in the area.

It was suggested that the project comprise of a 6 week programme with 2 hour sessions each week in each of the wards. This would look at budgeting, menu preparation and would produce a meal at each session. It was hoped this could commence in April 2014, subject to successful procurement.

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Members made a number of suggestions, such as the need to ensure the project linked with organisations such as Citizens Advice Bureau and the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme.

The meeting went on to discuss a proposal for a project for a 2 week Summer Holiday work programme for young people aged below 25, but was specifically aimed at children between year 10 and 11. The project aimed to build on the I Know I Can Employability Challenge and address levels of NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) in the area by enhancing the careers guidance given and making connections with employers.

20 young people would attend each block with one week considering CV writing, completing application forms, interview skills and setting personal goals and objectives. The second week would involve work experience in industry.

The meeting discussed who would be best placed to deliver such a scheme and it was noted that a meet the buyer event was being arranged to help raise the awareness of proposals which would soon be procured.

The meeting acknowledged that clear outcomes were needed for each project, alongside continued evaluation to assess the impact of the investment, and to ensure value for money was provided.

It was acknowledged that the project to provide a hub to deliver advice and guidance was also in development and it was hoped to share this with Members shortly.

It was suggested that a workshop may need to be held in order to further discuss the detail of projects before the next Area Council meeting in February 2014.

RESOLVED:-

- i) that Members note the progress in taking forward the Area Council Priorities;
- ii) that Members feed back any comments on the above projects to the North Area Council Manager.

29. **Area Plan Leaflet and promotion of the work of the Area Council**

Members considered the Area Council leaflet which had been circulated.

The meeting discussed the leaflet and its use to help promote the work of the Area Council and communicate the priorities for the area. It was noted that the document would be available for viewing and to download from the North Area Council website, but there was no intention to print large amounts for distribution.

The meeting was generally supportive of the document, but Members were encouraged to provide any feedback after more in depth consideration outside the meeting.

RESOLVED: - that the leaflet be approved, subject to any minor amendments made in consultation with the Chair.

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Chair