

NORTH AREA COUNCIL

2nd June, 2014

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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47. **Present:** Councillors Burgess (Chair), Cave, Davies, Duerden, Grundy, Howard, Leech, Platts, and Tattersall.

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

No member wished to declare any pecuniary or non pecuniary interests.

49. **Minutes from the North Area Council meeting held on 31st March, 2014**

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of North Area Council, held on 31st March, 2014.

The meeting discussed the use of income from Fixed Penalty Notices which would be forthcoming from the Environmental Enforcement project. It was confirmed that any income will be fed back into the Area Council finances, but would need to be spent in line with DEFRA requirements. Details of which would be circulated in due course.

Members noted that, unfortunately, the workshop to discuss the Anti-Poverty priority had to be rearranged, and now would take place on the 25th June, 2014.

RESOLVED:- that the minutes of North Area Council, held on 31st March, 2014 be approved as a true and correct record.

50. **Wellbeing Navigator Pilot**

The Chair drew attention to the items for discussion on the agenda. It was hoped that this section of the meeting would help to improve understanding of how services are organised, and provide some feedback on how they are performing. Suggestions were welcomed for items for future meetings along this theme.

The Chair welcomed the Senior Mental Health Commissioner, a joint appointment to Barnsley Council and NHS Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group, together with colleagues from Together for Mental Wellbeing.

Members heard of the background to the project; of was a risk of GPs medicalising social problems and over prescribing medication such as anti-depressants. A need for more early intervention and prevention was noted, and a pilot was suggested to trial this way of working.

It was noted that two pilot areas had been selected, one in the North Area, alongside South. Together for Wellbeing had won the contract for North, and a brief resume was given of the work in which they were currently involved.

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Members heard about the support the pilot would provide to individuals, including one-to-one support; peer support; signposting to specialist groups; and also signposting to community resources. The GPs surgeries involved were discussed and it was noted that these served a wider geography than that covered by the North Area. Members heard how drop in sessions were being arranged in community venues, and the benefit of a holding these throughout the North Area was discussed.

Members discussed the path for referral, through GP practices, noting that patients themselves could be asked to be referred.

The meeting discussed the ongoing evaluation of the pilot, which would take place quarterly and be shared with commissioners and practice managers. It was suggested that this information should be presented to North Area Council at an appropriate juncture.

RESOLVED:- that a future meeting of North Area Council receives feedback from the Wellbeing Navigator Pilot.

51. Update from the Safer Neighbourhood Teams

Unfortunately the Head of Community Safety and Enforcement could not be present at the meeting. However, it was noted that discussions continue about the relationship between PACT meetings and the Area Council.

Members made known the confusion around responsibilities within the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT). This was thought to be largely down to the boundaries of the SNT and Area Council not being co-terminus.

The meeting noted the role of the Area Council in performance monitoring services such as the SNT, and Members were encouraged to make any issues known.

52. Update from Neighbourhood Pride

The Chair welcomed the Operations Manager and Commercial and Purchasing Manager from Neighbourhood Pride to discuss changes to the service.

Members were made aware that a number of changes had been made within the service, including the move to functional rather than area based working. It was noted that there was some confusion about who was the appropriate officer to contact with any query. Members were assured that they could contact the Operations Manager - Mike Egnor if they were in any doubt, though contact details of all managers in Neighbourhood Pride would be made available.

The meeting was made aware that plans of work schedules were available. Officers noted that arrangements were being made to discuss these with Members, and encouraged any comments or potential amendments.

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Members discussed the responsibilities with regards to issues with cleanliness of parks, and were assured that Parks officers would be the key contact with Neighbourhood Pride being involved as necessary.

53. North Area Council update on priorities and commissioning

The North Area Manager introduced the item, by recapping progress made to date. This included the process of considering data and intelligence, arriving at a number of priorities for the area, and publishing an area plan.

It was noted that working groups had been established for each of the priority areas, though not all Wards had nominated a Councillor to act as lead member for that group. It was agreed that this would be remedied.

With reference to the Summer Holiday Internship programme, members noted that the contract commenced on the 28th April, 2014 and will run until the end of November 2014. Members were assured that the contractor is very experienced in the field, and had already met with the schools in the area.

The meeting noted that the closing date for the procurement relating to the Environmental Enforcement project had passed. Evaluation of tenders had been undertaken, and a preferred provider had been identified.

Members heard how the Healthy Eating, Healthy Lifestyles project specification was currently out to tender. It was noted that a market awareness day was being held on the 12th June, 2014 for prospective applicants.

With regards to taking forward the Anti-Poverty priority, members noted the date of the revised workshop, which would take place on 25th June, 2014.

The meeting considered the levels of finance allocated, and that remaining for 2014/15. It was suggested that a workshop be held to discuss whether the current priorities were still valid, and consider possible projects for delivery in the remainder of 2014/15 and in to 2015/16. It was agreed that current local intelligence about the area ought to feed into the process, and that the workshop ought also to be mindful of the contribution to the delivery of the Corporate Priorities of the Council.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) the progress in taking forward the North Area Council priorities be noted;
- (ii) that each Ward nominates a Lead Member for each of the priority working groups
- (iii) that a workshop be arranged to review priorities, and discuss project proposals for the remainder of 2014/15 and 2015/16.

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

The meeting received the report detailing expenditure from April 2013 to March 2014, and noted the budget being carried forward to 2014/15.

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Members were encouraged to accelerate the development of projects in order to ensure finance was allocated and spend. A suggestion was made that Members could champion the development of projects to ensure expediency.

The meeting noted that large scale capital projects, such as those involving highways, would need to proceed quickly in order to be completed in this financial year.

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

55. **North Area Council Annual Review**

A presentation was given by the North Area Manager which summarised work over the past 12 months.

The meeting considered the milestones for the first year of Area Councils. This included agreeing indicative priorities, undertaking consultation, agreeing an area plan, and commissioning work to deliver against the priorities.

Members considered the projects commissioned to date, and those currently in development. Of note was the focus on quality, rather than price during procurement.

From Devolved Ward Budgets, it was noted that £41,180 had been committed to 51 projects.

Members considered the progress made in establishing a Ward Alliance in each of the 4 Wards in the North Area. All had achieved their milestones agreed at the start of the year. The meeting noted that £11,568 of Ward Alliance Funds had been allocated in 2013/14, which had supported 15 projects.

The meeting considered a number of projects that had been undertaken at Ward level. These including a great deal of work with the community, which included projects with young people in schools; within sheltered housing to establish coffee mornings; and also a number of initiatives to improve the environment. The work to increase volunteering at all ages, and to support festive celebrations was noted, and the support from the area team to publicise through various media was discussed.

Members considered the networking undertaken across the area, noting that host organisations are in place for the Neighbourhood Networks. Community mapping activity has been completed, but it was acknowledged that both networking and mapping are necessarily ongoing.

Of importance was the significant consultation and engagement undertaken at an area level. It was agreed that this information should feed in to the Area Council to ensure the priorities reflect the views of the community.

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56. Notes from the Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from recent Darton East, Darton West, Old Town and St.Helen's Ward Alliances, held from March to May, 2014.

The meeting discussed the funding of a defibrillator by Darton West Ward Alliance. It was suggested that other areas may wish to replicate this, noting that these were now easy to use, and could save lives.

Attention was brought to the volunteer coordinator employed for the St. Helen's Ward by SWYPFT.. An event was recently held, and a number of enquiries about volunteering had been received.

The meeting discussed the need to promote Ward Alliances and the funding available, it was agreed that Communications be added to the agenda of the next Area Council meeting.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the notes of the Ward Alliances be received;
- (ii) that Communications be added to the agenda of the July meeting of North Area Council.

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Chair