

NORTH AREA COUNCIL

21st July, 2014

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

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

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

3. **Minutes from the North Area Council meeting held on 2nd June, 2014**

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting, held on 2nd June, 2014.

The Chair made Members aware of a recent meeting with officers from South Yorkshire Police. It was noted that there are no immediate plans to align Safer Neighbourhood Team Boundaries with those of Area Councils.

Members noted that the Chair and Area Council Manager had planned to meet with relevant Tasking Officers to ensure appropriate connectivity between Area Councils, Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Crime and Safety Subgroups, and Ward Alliances.

A suggestion was made that the Police and Crime Commissioner could be invited to a future meeting of the Area Council to discuss the relationships in more detail.

Members noted that Communications had been suggested to be put on the agenda; however the Council's Head of Corporate Communications had been unavailable to attend so the item was deferred.

RESOLVED: - that the minutes of North Area Council, held on 2nd June, 2014 be approved as a true and correct record.

4. **Notes from the Ward Alliances – for information**

The meeting received the notes of various Ward Alliance meetings held in June and July, 2014. Members heard how Darton West Ward Alliance had recently held a consultation event and agreed their Ward priorities. This information would now be disseminated through the Neighbourhood Network and Ward Alliance Fund applications to deliver against the priorities encouraged.

It was noted that the St. Helen's Ward Alliance now meets monthly. Members heard how an awards event had been organised on the 8th and a gala on the 13th August, 2014.

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The meeting noted that the membership of the Old Town Ward Alliance now represented each of the communities within the Ward. It was hoped that this would help ensure the interests of each community would be championed.

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

5. **Report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds – for information**

The item was introduced by the North Area Council Manager. It was noted that there would be a promotion of Ward Alliance Funds, and that members of the Area Team were available to assist applicants complete forms.

With regards to the Devolved Ward Budgets, members noted that significant amounts of finance remained.

Thanks were given to Councillor Miller, who had secured finance for the memorial to Private Thornton, which ensured Ward finance was not required.

Issues regarding delays in the approval processes were discussed, and it was agreed to report any delays to the Area Council Manager, in order to resolve any problems as soon as possible.

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

6. **Community representatives on the Ward Alliances**

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. A number of individuals were proposed to act as community representatives on each of the Ward Alliances in the North Area.

It was suggested that membership be reviewed towards the end of 2014, to ensure all Alliances had appropriate representation. Members were reminded that if an individual fails to attend 3 consecutive meetings of the Ward Alliance without appropriate notice, they could be removed from the membership.

RESOLVED: - that the individuals proposed within the report, be approved to act as community representatives on the respective Ward Alliances for the remainder of the municipal year.

7. **North Area Council commissioning and procurement update**

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager.

Reference was made to Summer Holiday Internship programme which recently commenced. 52 Young people were now enrolled, which compared to a target of 60. Members discussed issues experienced ascertaining the eligibility of pupils, and it was noted that postcodes for the North Area were used to help this process..

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A meeting with contractors had been arranged to take place in September and a final report was expected in November, 2014. It was noted that the hosting of a celebratory event at the end of the programme was part of the contract.

Members discussed the Environmental Enforcement project. It was noted that all 5 Area Councils that had commissioned additional enforcement provision had selected Kingdom Security as the preferred provider. Contracts were being finalised and a cross Barnsley launch on 1st August, 2014 had been suggested.

Concern was expressed about the lack of involvement of Members in the organisation of the launch, and it was agreed that this should be communicated to officers involved in the planning.

The meeting noted that a strong communications message was planned to coincide with the start of operations and Members felt that this ought to be focused at an Area Council level. Members also noted that they would be instrumental in defining 'hot spot's' where Enforcement Officers may want to focus their efforts.

Members received a progress update regarding the Healthy Eating, Healthy Lifestyles commission. It was noted that the deadline for tenders had passed, 6 returns had been received, and a tender evaluation panel had been organised for 22nd July, 2014.

Members heard that a well attended workshop had been held to look at the Anti-Poverty priority. The Community Shop model in Goldthorpe was seen as good practice and a suggestion was made as to whether a similar model could be applied to the North Area, with a single community hub with outreach services.

The meeting was supportive of the proposal and suggested an indicative amount of £100,000 a year for 2 years for project. It was noted that detailed proposals would be brought to a future meeting of the Area Council.

Members noted the workshop held to ensure that the needs identified during the development of Ward Plans were appropriately reflected in the Area Council priorities. It was acknowledged that this was largely the case, but a suggestion was made that the Area Council may wish to consider adopting a priority around the needs of older people.

A financial breakdown of committed finance and expected expenditure for 2014/15 to 2015/16 was considered. It was noted that, including the indicative allocation to the Anti-Poverty priority, over the 2 year period £332,590 remained to be allocated. Members discussed potential uses of this finance and suggestions made. These included the following areas: - community caretakers; young entrepreneurs; a community grant scheme; and support for older people.

It was noted that not all Wards had confirmed their representative on the Area Council priority working groups. It was agreed that, where relevant, Members would discuss and forward details to the Area Council Manager.

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- (i) that the update on delivery against priorities within the Area Plan be noted;
- (ii) that proposals to deliver against the Anti-Poverty priority be further developed with an indicative figure of £100,000 per annum over two years;
- (iii) that community caretakers; young entrepreneurs; a community grant scheme; and support for older people be considered as potential areas for use of Area Council finance;
- (iv) that Members confirm representation on the Area Council priority working groups.

8. The performance management role of Area Councils

The Performance & Partnerships Improvement Officer spoke to the report, previously circulated.

Members considered the roles of Area Councils linked to performance management. These included the performance management of contracts and service level agreements, but also area based, and borough wide services which may be delivered locally. It was noted that this could include those provided by the Council, but also could potentially include that of partners, should they be amenable to this.

The availability of data at appropriate levels was discussed at it was noted that, following the reorganisation of the Council into business units, data should be available at a local level for all services from April 2015.

With regards to the performance management of non-contracted services, the use of local data and information in the interim period was acknowledged.

Members discussed the escalation of concerns with performance, and it was suggested that these ought to be directed to Heads of Service in the first instance, rather than to Executive Directors, or Cabinet Members.

The link to Overview and Scrutiny for further investigation was discussed; with the potential referral of issues should they be found to be experienced by a number of areas.

It was noted that the details of the data to be collected and made available for performance management still required finalising, and that this ought to be fit for purpose to be used by services, by the Area Council and by Ward Alliances.

When considering the performance management of services, the offer of support from officers in Performance and Partnerships was acknowledged.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the report be noted;
- (ii) that comments on the document be reported back to the Head of Organisational Development, Performance and Partnerships.

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Chair