

**22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014**

**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**NORTH AREA COUNCIL**

**22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014**

9. **Present:** Councillors Burgess (Chair), Cave, Davies, Duerden, Howard, Platts and Spence.

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

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non pecuniary interests.

11. **Minutes from the North Area Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2014**

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting, held on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2014.

**RESOLVED:** - that the minutes of North Area Council, held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014 be approved as a true and correct record.

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

The meeting received the notes of various Ward Alliance meetings held in July, August and September, 2014.

Members heard that an awareness day was held on 13<sup>th</sup> September in Darton West regarding the role of Ward Alliances and details of the Ward Alliance Fund.

It was reported that the Old Town Ward Alliance had recently visited Todmorden as part of the Grobot scheme; schools in the area had adopted the flower beds in the park; and Morrisons were giving unwanted 'grow it' vouchers to the Ward Alliance; Members noted the operation in the tool bank where groups can borrow equipment following registration.

It was noted that a gala had been held in the St Helens ward , which was a bit disappointing because of a conflicting event and the poor weather. A community bonfire is now being organised and Christmas events are also being planned. An activity sub-group is being developed. 8 'Love Where You Live' projects have been undertaken, including clearing the bowling green.

The Chair thanked Councillors for the work they were doing in their wards as part of the Ward Alliances, which are already making a difference in communities. Because of the diversity of projects being undertaken, it was felt that it would be valuable to continue to share good practice and learn from each other. It was reported that a 'Love Where You Live' borough-wide event was taking place on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 with 11 different community groups taking part. Members were urged to confirm their attendance.

**RESOLVED:** - that the notes of the Ward Alliances be received and that Members discuss the work of the Ward Alliances in more detail at future meetings of the Area Council.

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

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who highlighted that the North Area Council has committed £31,269.38 of its £118,825 Devolved Ward Budget allocation,. Members were asked to notify the Area Council Manager of projects in the pipeline as soon as possible to ensure they are delivered before the end of March 2015, using Devolved Ward Budget finance in the current financial year.

The Chair highlighted the importance of spending public money appropriately and in accordance with priorities. Clear and realistic commitment for projects is needed by November/December, 2014. Members were reminded that the Council is facing a budget reduction of £28m and all potential areas for savings will be looked at, which may impact on future allocations to Area Councils.

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

14. **Safer Neighbourhood Teams/Partners and Communities Together (PACT) update**

Cath Fairweather, Tasking Officer covering the North Area Council wards, was welcomed to the meeting. It was highlighted that South Yorkshire Police boundaries were not in line with Council boundaries, which could be problematic but arrangements were being made to ensure any problems are minimised. Members noted the possibility of using offices in Mapplewell as a base was being explored, but was dependant on the IT infrastructure.

The Chair pointed out that a regular interface is needed between the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) and the wards. This has been fragmented in the past, with poor police attendance at Crime & Safety Group meetings in some areas. The Tasking Officer agreed to meet with Members of each ward individually to collate information to aid future planning. This information will be brought to the November meeting. Duplication needs to be avoided and more streamlined ways of working implemented.

Attempts are being made to increase community participation at PACT meetings. At the first meeting 5 people attended, which increased to 13 at the next meeting. Speeding vehicles (particularly around Honeywell and Old Town), anti-social behaviour in Honeywell and Smithies and crime trends were discussed at the meeting.

The reporting framework is still being modified. The finalised report will be provided monthly in written format with outputs tailored to each ward. Priorities will be reported both qualitatively and quantitatively.

**RESOLVED:** that the Tasking Officer will meet with all Ward Councillors and collated information will be scheduled for discussion at the November meeting of the Area Council

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

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. An individual was proposed to act as community representative on the Darton West Ward Alliance. Members were also asked to note that one representative has resigned from the Darton West Ward Alliance.

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**RESOLVED:** - that the individual proposed within the report, be approved to act as community representative on the Darton West Ward Alliance for the remainder of the municipal year.

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

The Area Council Manager updated Members on the North Area Council commissioned projects, the procurement process and associated spend.

*Summer Holiday Internship* – a celebratory event was to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014 to celebrate achievements and thank providers. The project involved organisations and local businesses such as the Barnsley Chronicle, the MPs Office, Barnsley Council, Barnsley Hospital, libraries and others offering work placements. Pupils were given an individual, bespoke service, attending a workshop for one week followed by a one week work placement. The Chair reported that the project had been very well received, with schools indicating that it had ‘changed lives’ and some pupils obtaining part-time jobs as a result of the project. A formal evaluation of the project will be brought to the November meeting of the Area Council.

*Environmental Enforcement* – a photo opportunity was scheduled for Members and a quarterly report is to be produced and brought to the Area Council meeting. Members were encouraged to continue to feed back ‘hotspots’ to Tasking Officer.

*Healthy Eating, Healthy Lifestyles* – the preferred provider had been identified although the contract had not yet been signed. The project did not just involve low budget cooking, but encompassed seasonal goods; changing the relationship with food; intergenerational cooking and learning and ‘from plot to plate’. Two volunteer healthy eating champions are to be identified from each ward to provide a sustainable, lasting legacy to the project. The same officer will work across all four wards, using community centres and will provide two ‘cook and eat’ sessions per ward.

*Anti-Poverty* – It was reported that Members had visited the community shop/community hub in Goldthorpe which provides cheap food to its 400 members conditional on accessing support and personal development. . The meeting considered whether a similar facility could be provided in the North Area. Although St Helen’s had the highest deprivation levels, all wards had residents who could benefit from the community shop approach and accessibility will have to be considered. It was pointed out that the community shop approach was not intended to replace food banks but can be viewed as a ‘step up’ approach. It can support the food banks and help people to move on. Members supported the development of the approach, noting the likely location of a shop would be in St. Helen’s but accessibility for all Wards would be taken into account.

Members were reminded that a further workshop is to be held to help to identify projects for use of Area Council funds. Reducing isolation of older people; environmental maintenance and improvement; educational recreational activities and a community grants opportunity were already suggested as potential areas for consideration.

**RESOLVED:** -

- (i) that the update on delivery against priorities within the Area Plan be noted;

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- (ii) that a formal evaluation of the internship project will be brought to the November meeting of the Area Council;
- (iii) that location options for the community shop/hub in St. Helen's ward will be explored by the Area Council Team and brought to the November meeting;

that a workshop be held to consider priorities for the use of the Area Council budget and Members contact the Area Council Manager with suggested priorities prior to the workshop.

**17. The performance management and monitoring role of the Area Council**

The Chair gave a verbal update on this item. It was reiterated that Area Councils will monitor commissioned projects and the performance of services delivered by the Council and other agencies across their area. Under the Future Council structure, individual ward data and information will be available from April 2015 to help them to do this. It was felt that a workshop session would be beneficial to consider performance monitoring in more detail, which could potentially be held at the same time as that to consider use of remaining Area Council funds.

**RESOLVED:** - that a workshop should be organised to look in more detail at the issues which the Area Council may wish to performance monitor across the Wards.

**18. Future Council/Barnsley's Community Offer**

Martin Farran, Executive Director, Adults and Communities, was welcomed to the meeting and introduced this item. It was explained that a number of 'talkabout' workshops have been held with staff, the Chief Executive and the Leader focusing on Barnsley's 'Community Offer'. The 'Community Offer' essentially encompassed a proposed set of principles detailing the approach of the Council, valuing assets in all our Communities, and enabling residents and communities to shape their own futures.

Staff engagement has been very good and there is now a recognition that Councillors, and community members need to be involved, including communities of interest..

A discussion took place as to how best to do this, including building customer service capacity; and the role of Members as community leaders.

It was suggested that Members could be engaged through Area Councils, through an All Member Information Briefing, or through Talkabout Events specifically aimed at Members.

**RESOLVED:** - that Barnsley's Community Offer be discussed In more detail with Elected Members,

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Chair