

**17<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**NORTH AREA COUNCIL**

**17<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

19. **Present:** Councillors Burgess (Chair), Cave, Cherryholme, Davies, Duerden, Grundy, Howard, Leech, Miller, Platts, Spence and Tattersall

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

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non pecuniary interests.

21. **Minutes from the North Area Council meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2014**

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting, held on 22nd September, 2014.

**RESOLVED:** - that the minutes of North Area Council, held on 22nd September, 2014 be approved as a true and correct record.

22. **Summer Holiday Internship Evaluation Presentation**

Katren North and Jill Ellis from C & K Careers were welcomed to the meeting and gave an overview of the Summer Internships project, which was commissioned by the North Area Council. 400 employers were contacted and 50 work placements were offered to students from Darton, Carlton and Holy Trinity schools. Excellent feedback has been received from the young people, employers and parents.

Members proceeded to ask questions and a number of points were raised:

- Although there was no requirement for mentoring as part of the contract, C & K Careers will send out a regular email to those on the programme and will look at them again when examination results are received.
- Realistic timescales and securing engagement and commitment from local schools and employers are key requirements for project success.
- Employers, schools, participants and parents agreed that the project had made a huge difference.
- It would be possible to run a project for 90 participants over a 3 week period (30 per week split into 2 groups of 15).

Katren and Jill were thanked for their hard work throughout the project and attendance at the meeting.

23. **Healthy Eating, Healthy Lifestyles Launch Presentation**

Representatives from SWYPFT attended the meeting and provided an overview of the project. The aim of the 'Cook and Eat in the Community' project is to engage local people, providing information and advice on how to eat a healthy, balanced diet at a reasonable price. Two sessions have initially been planned for Darton and St. Helens wards.

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It was highlighted that needs across the wards differ greatly, and for this reason local councillors were asked to feed local knowledge into the project. For example, 'cooking for one' sessions will be held in areas where this is identified as a need, which might be particularly suitable for the elderly. Portable cooking equipment will be used for venues which do not have cooking equipment. Quarterly meetings will be held to monitor progress on the project.

Representatives were thanked for their attendance and contribution.

**RESOLVED:** - that local councillors will feed in local knowledge to ensure that the project will be tailored to the individual needs of wards. Area Council Manager to pass details on enabling SWYPFT staff to meet with Councillors from each ward. will set up a meeting with the team to ensure this happens.

**24. Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) & Police and Communities Together (PACT) Update**

Chief Inspector Mahmood provided an update. It was reported that there is a significant amount of change within the organisation at the moment. This includes changes to the Command Team structure, retirement of Andy Brooke and a reduction from three Chief Inspectors to two. Boundaries are also changing and may become co-terminous with ward boundaries. A discussion took place around the effectiveness of current arrangements for joint working between the Area Council and the PACT. It was felt that there should be easy connectivity between the two, using telephone and email rather than reliance on meetings. It was highlighted that there is a need to work smarter, not harder, and that the Ward Alliances have responsibility for gathering local intelligence to feed into the process. Chief Inspector Mahmood was thanked for her attendance and input.

**RESOLVED:** That the Tasking Officer will meet with Councillors from each ward to provide regular updates.

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

The meeting received the notes of various Ward Alliance meetings held in September, October and November.

Members heard that a resident from the Darton West Ward is working with the Council to design signs for dog fouling and litter bin stickers. It was also reported that a defibrillator has been installed at Thompson's garage, Darton.

The seven district structure of Old Town Ward has now been organised. The number of 'Friends' groups are steadily growing and children in the area have recently been engaged in planting cherry trees.

It was reported that the St. Helens Ward Alliance is going from strength to strength. Funding has been granted for Fireworks for the football club and a number of Christmas events are scheduled to take place in early December, which will also be used to gather ward priorities for the next year.

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A discussion took place about the possibility of having a strategic ward alliance 'affiliate group' with an 'umbrella' bank account, as sometimes attempting to get treasurers, secretary, insurance etc., for each individual group can be difficult.

**RESOLVED:** that the notes of the Ward Alliances be received and noted and that the Lead Locality Officer will look to identify opportunities for Ward Alliances representatives from different wards to meet and share best practise at regular intervals.

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

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who gave an update in respect of progress in each Ward in expending the Devolved Ward Budget, Ward Alliance Fund and Public Health financial contribution. The full grant allocation for the North Area Council is £209,993 for the 2014/15 financial year. This is made up of a £118,825 Devolved Ward Budget allocation, a £68,432 Ward Alliance allocation and a £22,736 Public Health allocation. To date the North Area Council has committed £69,002.85 of its £118,825 Devolved Ward Budget allocation.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that the report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance funds be noted; and
- (ii) that each Ward prioritises the efficient expenditure of the remaining Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds in line with the guidance on spend and
- (iii) that each ward gives consideration to projects, particularly where Area Team resourcing is required

27. **Service Monitoring and Evaluation Role**

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, explaining that the Area Council Terms of Reference have been revised and amended. However, the Area Council retains a responsibility to monitor progress of area based services both internally and externally. It was reiterated that the Area Council has a responsibility to consider local issues identified by Members about the delivery of area based services and those Borough wide services provided locally and to identify issues for attention or action, including reference to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees where strategic or policy issues are raised. Councillors were asked to identify service areas for consideration. These included:

- The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Planning
- Berneslai Homes – Environmental Focus
- Local Development Frameworks – Local Plan.

It was highlighted that there may be other suggestions for consideration such as Highways, Waste and Recycling. It was explained that this is a learning curve for a new way of working and that Area Councils will have access to local area level information, not Borough wide.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that Area Councillors note the amendments to the Terms of Reference;
- (ii) that the Area Council gives consideration to a structured process for reviewing and monitoring services; and
- (iii) that the Area Council agree two service areas of interest for monitoring and evaluation in terms of local priorities at the next meeting.

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**28. North Area Council priorities and commissioning**

The Area Council Manager provided a financial position statement for North Area Council funding and projected expenditure, based on current commissioning and commitments to date.

*Summer Holiday Internship* – Members agreed unanimously that the Summer Holiday Internship project had been very successful and should be repeated next year, at a contract value of £45k over an 18 month period. The project could be replicated across the Borough as it made a huge difference to the young people involved whilst representing value for money.

*Environmental Enforcement* – It was reported that 49 fixed penalty tickets have been issues since the service became operational, mainly for littering offences. Concerns were expressed about the perceived lack of visibility in some wards and poor flow of information. More detailed information will be provided at the next meeting, broken down by ward, together with visual mapping GIS information. It was highlighted that fly tipping needs to link in to enforcement. All members were asked to pass on information in respect of fly tipping and ‘hotspots’ to the Tasking Officer.

*Healthy Eating, Healthy Lifestyles* – Members were reminded that the contract valued at £99,835 was awarded to SWYPFT and will be delivered over an 18 month period.

*Commissioning workshop (28<sup>th</sup> October)* – A discussion took place regarding taking forward the remaining priorities and projects arising out of the workshop. The Anti-Poverty – One Stop Shop IAG would deliver outreach provision in each of the four wards at a contract value of £145k over 2 years. The Environment (Clean and Green) project would enable further community involvement, in conjunction with the ward alliances, in keeping the areas clean and green, at a contract value of £150k over 2 years. The Community Grants Allocation scheme would provide opportunity and mobility for community organisations to gain experience which could help them competitively tender for larger contracts in the future, at a cost of £100k.

**RESOLVED: -**

- (i)** that Area Councillors note the current financial position statement of the Area Council in relation to live projects and associated spend;
- (ii)** that the update on the progress of the Environmental Enforcement commissioned service and the Health and Wellbeing commissioned services are noted;
- (iii)** that the Area Council Manager investigates repeating the Summer Holiday Internship Project in the summer of 2015 as a joint project with another Area Council;
- (iv)** that the Area Council Manager provide a detailed breakdown of Enforcement activity by ward; and
- (v)** that the recommendations of the commissioning workshop held on 28<sup>th</sup> October in respect of the Anti-Poverty, Environment (Clean and Green) and Community Grants Allocation projects are taken forward and project development work should now commence involving Members from the priority working groups working with the Area Manager and service specialists.

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29. **Area Council Terms of Reference**

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and explained that the Area Council Terms of Reference have been revised, amended and agreed at Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014.

**RESOLVED:** that Members note the changes to the Area Council Terms of Reference.

30. **Communities and Area Governance Performance Review**

The Area Council Manager presented this item. The review gives an overview of the work of the Area Council and each of the Wards over the last six months, highlighting the progress made by the Ward Alliance and all the Love Where You Live community action that took place over the summer. Members were asked to consider the draft version of the report and send any amendments to the Area Council Manager.

**RESOLVED:** that Members receive the six month review.

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Chair