

**NORTH EAST AREA COUNCIL**

**31<sup>st</sup> July, 2014**

**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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10. **Present:** Councillors J. Hayward (Chair), C. Wraith, Tim Cheetham, Tracey Cheetham, Ennis, S. Green, Houghton, Higginbottom, Richardson, Makinson, and North.

11. **Declarations of pecuniary and non pecuniary interests**

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

12. **Minutes from the North East Area Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2014**

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of North East Area Council, held on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.

**RESOLVED:** - that the minutes of North East Area Council, held on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2014, be approved as a true and correct record.

13. **Notes from the Ward Alliances, with feedback from each Ward Alliance Chair.**

The meeting received notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston Ward Alliances, held throughout May and June of 2014. The following points were noted:-

Cudworth – The Fit Reds project will be starting in September at the Dorothy Hyman stadium and was focused on men aged over 30. Cudworth In Bloom was mentioned, noting it was the first year this had been undertaken, and it was hoped this would be built upon in future years. The Tea in the Park event was attended by over 1,000 people despite poor weather.

Monk Bretton – Carlton Gala would be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2014 and would incorporate a health aspect. A programme of summer holiday activities had commenced and had been well attended. It was noted that, anti-social behaviour had been reduced as a result of summer holiday activities held last year, and the same was hoped for this year.

North East – The Ward Alliance had held an away day and many ideas for projects had been suggested. A concentrated period of summer holiday activities had been arranged, but it was suggested that take up may be limited as Shafton Academy declined to distribute any leaflets within the school. Members noted that the gala unfortunately had to be cancelled due to lack of the availability of first aid services and the Police, who were called to assist with the Tour de France.

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Royston – The Ward Alliance had agreed to consider allotment provision in the area, support had been given to the Community Sports Activator project, and various elements of maintenance throughout the area were being taken forward. A number of free summer activities were now taking place. It was noted that a review of commissioned work already completed was now underway, quantitative data was available, but more qualitative feedback was being sought.

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

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

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. It was noted that financial information related to the first quarter of 2014/15, and that a number of projects were in the pipeline and would appear on the next financial report presented.

**RESOLVED:** - that the report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds be received.

15. **Update from the Area Chair**

The Area Chair provided an update on the following items:-

***Environmental Enforcement***

Members acknowledged that the enforcement team would be spending the current week becoming acquainted with the area, but will start in earnest on the 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. Members noted that officers would be using a branded van, and it was suggested that this also utilises the 'Love Where You Live' logo. It was suggested that Members forward their priority areas for enforcement to the tasking officer.

A recommendation was made that Councillor S. Green act as champion for this theme, on behalf of the Area Council. Members requested to meet enforcement officers as soon as possible.

It was noted that performance information would be received from the contractor on a monthly basis, and that this would feed into the Area Council approximately quarterly. However, Members suggested that this information mapped to the Area would be useful to highlight problem areas.

***North East Environment Team***

The meeting noted that the tenders had been awarded to Barnsley Community Build and pre-contract meetings had taken place. Adverts for operatives had been placed and approximately 145 applications had been received. Members heard how the service was expected to be operational in early September, 2014.

It was proposed that Councillor. C. Wraith acts as champion for this theme, on behalf of the Area Council.

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The meeting noted the importance of the service responding to the local intelligence provided by Members, and the need to be complementary to Neighbourhood Services, and to the enforcement service provider. Also noted was the need for flexibility in the workforce, in order to provide a level of service at weekends, such as after events.

***Youth Development Fund***

It was noted that application forms for the fund had now been circulated and a number had been completed and submitted. It was suggested that Members on the panel would be contacted and a meeting called to assess applications shortly.

***Community Safety***

Members noted recent discussions between the Chair and Police Chief Superintendent with regards to the arrangements for PACT meetings. It was noted that the intention was for the meetings to be led by the community. However, many of the Members present felt strongly that the current chair was ideal for the role and contributed to the success of meetings in the area.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i)** that the update be received;
- (ii)** that Members forward their priority areas for enforcement action to the relevant tasking officer for the area;
- (iii)** that Councillor S. Green act as Champion for Enforcement on behalf of the North East Area Council
- (iv)** that Councillor C. Wraith act as Champion for the Environment on behalf of the North East Area Council.

**16. The performance management role of Area Councils**

The item was introduced by the Council's Performance & Partnerships Improvement Officer.

Members noted that, a significant amount of data is currently collected and held by the authority, but that there are significant variations in the type and geographic level at which this was collected. Members heard how, as part of the reorganisation of the Council into business units, that service data would be available at an area level from April, 2015, and that Area Profiles would be produced. It was suggested that this information would be useful in the Area Council considering performance.

The meeting noted the performance management role of Area Councils, which included the management of contracted services. However a wider role whereby the performance of other council services provided in the area, and those of external partners, existed. As more services were provided at an area level, a key role of Area Councils would be to ensure these are delivered appropriately and provide value for money.

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It was noted that, should performance issues be severe or be experienced by more than one Area, this could be escalated to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was suggested that an ongoing dialogue between Cabinet Spokespersons, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair, and Area Council Chairs was required to ensure arrangements were used effectively and duplication avoided.

**RESOLVED:** - that the report be received and Members note the proposals contained within.

17. **Love Where You Live volunteering update**

A brief presentation was given, listing the amount of volunteers engaged over the previous 6 week period within the area. This included the following:-

With regards to Ward Alliances, 34 individuals had volunteered for 83 hours, with a social action value of £921.

109 people had taken part in Love Where You Live initiatives, pledging 611 hours with a value of £6,776 of social action.

16 volunteers had assisting in providing summer activities, pledging 26 hours of volunteer time, equating to £178 of social action value.

In community groups known to the Area Team 22 volunteers had pledged 59 hours of time, equating to £655 of social action value.

Cumulatively, over the 6 week period, this equated to 181 volunteers, 779 volunteering hours and £8,530 social action value.

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Chair