

**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**SOUTH AREA COUNCIL**

**6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013**

10. **Present:** Councillors Stowe (Chair), Dures, Franklin, Key, Lamb, Markham, Morgan, Saunders, R. Wraith

11. **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.

12. **Minutes of the meeting of South Area Council, held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

The minutes of the previous meeting of South Area Council were accepted as a true and correct record.

Regarding minute 3, the Chair reminded those present that an All Member Briefing on Area Council commissioning guidance would take place on 19<sup>th</sup> September. All members were encouraged to attend if possible.

13. **Notes of previous Ward Alliance meetings**

Members received the notes from the area's most recent Ward Alliance meetings, held in July 2013.

**Darfield, held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013** - The Chair drew members' attention to Darfield Ward Alliance's plans to recruit a secretary through Barnsley College or the Council's modern apprenticeship scheme. Members agreed the position could provide valuable work experience to a young person interested in administration, and hoped other Alliances would consider taking a similar approach if appropriate.

**Hoyland Milton/Rockingham, held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2013** - Cllr Franklin indicated that he was present at the meeting, and it was agreed that the notes be amended accordingly.

Cllr Lamb informed members that, in his role as a Northern College lecturer, he was in talks with local people about setting up a new community group in Jump. The College planned to host a foundation event for 8 to 10 people in early October, and the Area Team would also be offering their support. The Chair indicated that the project offered an opportunity to develop new ways of supporting embryonic groups, which could potentially be rolled out to other areas in future.

The Chair also thanked Joan Whittaker for agreeing to act as Secretary to the Ward Alliance.

**Wombwell, held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013** - Cllr Wraith indicated that a meeting had now been arranged between Wombwell members and the Police and Crime Commissioner. A meeting was also due to take place with the We Love Wombwell group on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Members welcomed the opportunity to engage with the community but expressed concern about the pressures multiple meetings placed on member and officer time, particularly in light of recent service cutbacks.

Members also noted that the Ward Plan consultation at the Picnic in the Park event had been successful, but that a further exercise was planned for Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September to ensure as many residents as possible had an opportunity to comment on current proposals. Indiscriminate parking had emerged as a key concern, and ward members agreed to seek advice from officers about the possible deployment of a mobile enforcement unit to help tackle the problem.

**RESOLVED:** that the notes of the Darfield, Hoyland Milton/Rockingham, and Wombwell Ward Alliances be received.

14. **Report on the use of devolved ward budgets**

Members considered a report by the Area Council Manager on agreed spend to date from devolved ward budgets within the south area. No member wished to raise any issues regarding the report.

**RESOLVED:** that the report on devolved ward budgets be noted.

15. **Appointment of community representatives to Ward Alliances**

The Area Manager presented three reports nominating community representatives to join the Darfield, Hoyland Milton/Rockingham, and Wombwell Ward Alliances respectively.

It was noted that Hoyland Milton/Rockingham Ward Alliance still had two vacancies for community representatives, and that ward members were actively engaging with local groups to encourage further nominations.

**RESOLVED:** that the individuals proposed be approved as members of their respective Ward Alliances for the remainder of the municipal year.

16. **Area Plan development**

(i) **Integrated Youth Support Service presentation**

Members received a presentation from Tom Smith, Head of Extended Services and Support for the Children, Young People, and Families

Directorate (CYPF), regarding the restructured Integrated Young Support Service (IYSS).

Members heard that IYSS included a range of functions, from the Youth Service to support for young offenders. The Youth Service itself targeted its activities predominantly at 13 to 19 year olds (and those aged up to 24 who had learning difficulties), although there was also provision for under 13s. However, members were reminded that the IYSS budget had been reduced by almost £1.7m this year. Whilst it would continue to directly provide some services, members were told that in future it would focus on enabling community groups to become providers themselves.

The presentation noted that the restructured IYSS would be delivered on a 'hub and spoke' model, with The Wombwell Centre acting as the 'hub' for the south area. Members were told that the service was actively developing 'spokes' across all four wards, and that these would include both Kirk Balk and Netherwood Advanced Learning Centres (ALCs). The service had developed detailed proposals for a local offer, but it was stressed that further dialogue was needed with both members and young people themselves about how best to target reduced resources.

Concern was expressed about the closure of Highfields Youth Centre in Wombwell, though members noted that the Panda Special Needs Youth Club would continue meeting and would in future be based at the Barnsley Road Community Education Centre. Wombwell members agreed to discuss the possible future use of the Highfields Centre with the borough Council's Head of Strategic Property and Procurement.

Members also raised questions about provision for young people who lived in the south area but went to school elsewhere, including in neighbouring boroughs. However it was noted that, whilst some services would be provided through the ALCs, they would be targeted at all young people who lived in the area.

Members were reassured that the borough Council had exclusive use of some areas within every ALC under existing contracts, and that service delivery should not therefore be affected if some ALCs became academies in future. However, it was stressed that not all young people would want to access services through their school, and that a blend of local provision was needed. Concern was expressed about the under use of existing community buildings in the area despite past offers of help, and members agreed this should be addressed to ensure the widest possible range of services was available to young people in future.

The presentation indicated that the IYSS offer to community groups was still being developed, and would aim to support and enable both existing and emerging groups. Small grants were available for training and other set up costs, with the aims of helping community groups build confidence and deliver services safely to young people. Members heard

that the Council had a statutory duty to promote all positive activities for young people regardless of who provided them, and agreed to share knowledge of existing community providers with the IYSS to help map current local provision.

The Chair noted that the Area Council was in the process of refining the priorities in its draft Area Plan, and that youth provision was emerging as a key concern. It was further noted that the IYSS could help support the Area Council in scoping contracts for services identified as commissioning priorities, and that members would shortly be provided with a named contact. Members acknowledged that the IYSS could provide a 'price list' for existing services to help the commissioning process, but that most future providers would be community groups rather than the Council itself.

Members gave their thanks for the presentation, and welcomed the opportunity for an ongoing dialogue with the IYSS as the South Area Plan developed.

**RESOLVED:** that the headteachers of local Advanced Learning Centres be invited to a future meeting of South Area Council, along with their community development officers, to share ideas about future service provision for young people.

(ii) Draft Area Plan priorities and next steps

The Chair drew members' attention to the three overarching Area Plan priorities that the Area Council had identified at its workshop on 1<sup>st</sup> August, namely opportunities for young people, business and the local economy, and information and guidance.

The Area Manager introduced a list of common themes that had also emerged from the 1<sup>st</sup> August workshop, and members discussed whether these were best addressed at ward, Area Council, or multi-area level. The following points emerged:

Apprenticeships

Members noted that both Sheffield and Leeds City Regions had identified apprenticeship opportunities as a key priority, and agreed that the Area Council had an important role to play in influencing local provision. In particular, members were keen to hear from Barnsley College about initiatives already underway with Leeds City Region support. A discussion also took place about the possibility of ward level mapping of existing mentoring opportunities offered by local businesses, where appropriate.

Locally based information and guidance

Members agreed that advice and guidance, particularly regarding financial issues, was a key commissioning priority for the Area Council. The meeting heard that the Citizens Advice Bureau was actively recruiting volunteers to join its outreach service, and hoped that best practice could be shared as this developed. It was agreed that a 'roadshow' model might be the best approach as it would ensure no area missed out, and members also noted the importance of engaging the Credit Union in any such project.

Inward investment/J36 Enterprise Zone

Members were reassured that the Area Council's contribution to the developing J36 Enterprise Zone would not be financial. Rather, members would seek to influence decision making as and when appropriate. Concern was expressed about past use of industrial land, particularly the construction of large warehouses that employed relatively few people, and members were keen to ensure lessons were learned from such experiences as the Enterprise Zone took shape.

11 to 16 attainment

The Chair stressed the importance of influencing local schools to help drive up educational standards wherever possible, and members agreed that an ongoing dialogue with the area's headteachers and other key staff was crucial to achieving this.

In light of their discussion, members also identified several outline Area Council commissioning priorities for the coming year. These included seedcorn funding to help stimulate local business and community interest in protecting the environment, and youth provision. In particular, members heard about an educational theatre initiative in Jump that had successfully worked with young parents, which it was felt could potentially be rolled out to other areas at relatively little cost.

Members agreed that further meetings were needed to discuss their priorities in more detail, and that expert advice should be sought from relevant borough Council departments and external partners where appropriate.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that opportunities for young people, business and the local economy, and information and guidance be identified as the three overarching priorities of the South Area Plan;
- (ii) that the South Area Manager arrange an informal half day workshop before the next meeting of South Area Council on 18th October, so members can discuss their Area Plan priorities in more detail;

- (iii) that the South Area Manager invite relevant officers to attend such workshops, including representatives of the borough Council's planning department, Barnsley Development Agency, the Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, JobCentre Plus, the South Yorkshire Credit Union, and Barnsley College.

17. **Venue for next meeting**

**RESOLVED:** that the next meeting of South Area Council take place at the Barnsley Road Community Education Centre on 18th October at 10am, if available.

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Chair