

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SOUTH AREA COUNCIL

24th July, 2014

1. **Present:** Councillors Stowe (Chair), Andrews, Frost, Lamb, Morgan, Saunders, and Shepherd (Mayor)

2. **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests**

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

3. **Notes of the meeting of South Area Council members, held on 20th June, 2014**

The meeting considered the notes of the meeting of South Area Council members, held on 20th June, 2014, as at appendix 1, and discussed the recommendations.

In addition a brief update was provided on the services commissioned by South Area Council.

The meeting noted that the 'One Stop Shop' was now fully operational, and approximately 20-25 people each week were accessing the service. It was noted that alternative venues were being considered in Darfield to avoid any issues with volunteers opening and staffing the library.

It was noted that the Tidy Teams were in the middle of recruiting staff and that 5 teams would shortly be in operation within the South Area. One team would be assigned to each Ward, with an additional peripatetic team. It was suggested that Councillors may wish to do a 'walkabout' with the team allocated to their Ward, once fully operational.

With regards to the Environmental Enforcement Service, Members noted that this would be operational from 4th August, 2014, and that the first week would be dedicated to inducting new staff. The meeting discussed the launch event for the team. It was noted that communications will be issuing statements regarding the launch of this service in the South Area, alongside similar services in other areas. However, it was suggested that a bespoke launch event to mark the beginning of the service in the South Area was the appropriate course of action.

RESOLVED: -

- (i) that the minutes of South Area Council, held on 25th April, 2014 be approved as a true and correct record;
- (ii) that the notes of the Ward Alliances be received;
- (iii) that the report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds be noted;
- (iv) that the Annual Review for 2013/14 be received;

- (v) that the progress made in implementing the various projects to deliver the Area Plan be noted;
- (vi) that Option 3 as proposed within the report, be approved for the Tidy Team Steering Group;
- (vii) that the membership of the Tidy Team steering group be as proposed;
- (vii) that £10,000 be made available for environmental improvements, and that the Assistant Director Neighbourhoods Access and Support be authorised to approve expenditure in consultation with members on the Tidy Team steering group;
- (iv) that the proposed contract monitoring arrangements outlined in the report be approved;
- (v) that the September meeting of the Area Council receives a further report on the Area Council's role monitoring progress and challenging performance;
- (vi) that the individuals proposed, be approved to act as community representatives on the respective Ward Alliances for the remainder of the municipal year;
- (vii) that a review of the membership of the Ward Alliances takes place towards the end of 2014, with a view to recommending community representatives for the 2015/16 municipal year.

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Chair

Appendix 1

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTH AREA COUNCIL MEMBERS

20th June, 2014

1. **Present:** Councillors Stowe (Chair), Franklin, Frost, Morgan, Saunders, and R. Wraith.

2. **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests**

Cllr Franklin declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6, as a member of the management committee of Forge Community Partnership.

3. **Minutes of the meeting of South Area Council, held on 25th April, 2014**

The meeting considered the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 25th April, 2014.

RECOMMENDED: - that the minutes of South Area Council, held on 25th April be approved as a true and correct record.

4. **Notes of the Ward Alliances**

Members considered the notes from Darfield Ward Alliance, held on 15th May, 2014, and Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance, held on 5th June, 2014.

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

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

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, referring to spend to date from Ward Alliance Funds and Devolved Ward Budgets.

Members noted the need to accelerate expenditure where possible, before the end of the 2014/15 financial year. It was acknowledged that there were a number of significant projects planned.

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

6. **South Area Council Annual Review 2013/14**

The Area Council Manager introduced the item. This followed on from the previous meeting, which considered the progress made by the Ward Alliances and Neighbourhood Networks.

The meeting noted the milestones for 2013/14, all of which had been achieved with the exception of 'beginning the delivery and performance monitoring of commissioned activities', which was due to start in June and July, 2014.

Members were reminded of the commissions already agreed:-
Environment enforcement – at a cost of £128,000 for one year with the potential to extend.

Tidy Teams - at a cost of £150,000 for one year with the potential to extend. It was noted that the preferred provider would provide far more staff than suggested in the specification, providing value for money.

One stop shop – at a cost of £72,500 per annum for 2 years.

The meeting noted that this left a remaining balance for £49,500 for 2014/15, which was suggested to be used as a contingency budget.

Members discussed the need for the publicity of commissioned services to recognise that they were funded from South Area Council, in order to make residents aware.

The meeting considered the milestones for 2014/15, which included the self-evaluation of the first year of activity. Also suggested was the further exploration of Area Council roles around performance management.

RECOMMENDED: - that the Annual Review for 2013/14 be received.

7. **South Area Council priorities and commissioning update**

The South Area Council Manager introduced the item and provided an update on progress in delivering the priorities of the Area Council.

It was noted that the One Stop Shop had commenced with a week of extensive promotion, but had also engaged with 11 clients within the week.

With regards to the Environment Enforcement, a preferred contractor had been awarded the contract, with final contractual details being finalised. It was noted that other Area Councils had also selected the same contractor, so it was hoped that some economies of scale could be achieved.

Members were keen to ensure that the requisite signage and lineage were all in good order to ensure penalty notices could be issued.

The meeting discussed the Tidy Teams and noted that the same organisation scored highest for each of the tenders and had been awarded the contract. Pre-contract meetings had been arranged for early July, 2014.

The arrangements for the Tidy Team steering group were discussed and a number of options considered. Option 3 within the report was preferred; to hold a single meeting split into two parts to discuss each contract. It was suggested that the steering group membership be as proposed, and that the group themselves discuss whether any provision for gardening should be provided.

Members discussed the need for the teams to engage with schools and young people to address the blight outside schools. Also discussed was the need to work closely with Neighbourhood Services and the Enforcement Team.

A suggestion was made that part of the contingency funding should be accessible by the Tidy Team, following relevant consultations, should they find a need for environmental works outside the scope of their contract and that of centrally provided Council services. Members suggested that an amount of £10,000 be allocated.

RECOMMENDED:-

- (i) that the progress made in implementing the various projects to deliver the Area Plan be noted;
- (ii) that Option 3 as proposed within the report, be approved for the Tidy Team Steering Group;
- (iii) that the membership of the Tidy Team steering group be as proposed;
- (iii) that £10,000 be made available for environmental improvements, and that the Assistant Director Neighbourhoods Access and Support be authorised to approve expenditure in consultation with members on the Tidy Team steering group.

8. **Monitoring progress and challenging performance**

The item was introduced by the Head of Organisational Development, Performance and Partnerships.

Members noted that the contract monitoring role of the Area Council was of paramount importance. This was now being taken forward as part of the contracting process.

In addition, the Terms of Reference of the Area Councils also included the monitoring and performance management of other area based services, or borough wide service delivered locally. This included escalating issues to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee if required.

It was noted that discussions are taken place between officers and members to more adequately define the roles and inter-relationships between Corporate Performance, Scrutiny and Area Councils.

Members heard that, due to the reorganisation taking place, there were varying levels of performance information available from services. It was noted that this was scheduled to be far more developed from April, 2015 from when the reorganisation would take effect. However in the interim period services could be asked to provide information or attend an Area Council to discuss their performance.

RECOMMENDED:-

(i) that the proposed contract monitoring arrangements outlined in the report be approved;

(ii) that the September meeting of the Area Council receives a further report on the Area Council's role monitoring progress and challenging performance.

9. **Appointment of community representatives on the Ward Alliances**

The meeting considered the report, which proposed a number of individuals to act as community representatives on the three Ward Alliances covering the South Area.

Darfield

Margaret Barlow
Brian Moore
Donald Bishop
Geoffrey Hutchinson
Lee Parkinson
Rev David Hildred
Deborah Murray
Kevin Osbourne
Colin Ward

Wombwell

Brian Whitaker
Rev Nigel Elliot
Alan Taylor
Paul Dawson
Jordan Ramsey
Paul Tingle
Phil Jenkins
Rebecca Wilson
Richard Ulyott
Tony Dutton

Hoyland Milton & Rockingham

Joan Whittaker
Ann Edgar

Andrew Hodgkinson
Janet Cartwright
Ian Warhurst
June Walker JP
Neil Spencer
Dave Graham
Fiona Tennyson
Albert Bishop
Anne Sanderson

RECOMMENDED: -

(i) that the individuals proposed, be approved to act as community representatives on the respective Ward Alliances for the remainder of the municipal year;

(ii) that a review of the Membership of the Ward Alliances takes place towards the end of 2014, with a view to recommending community representatives for the 2015/16 municipal year.

10. **Date and times of future meetings**

Friday 5th September, 2014 10:00 am
Friday 17th October, 2014 10:00 am
Friday 19th December, 2014 10:00 am
Friday 27th February, 2015 10:00 am
Friday 24th April, 10:00 am
Friday 26th June, 10:00 am