

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Notes from discussions between Members of the South Area Council
17th October, 2014

1. **Present:** Councillors Stowe (Chair), Dures, Frost, Morgan, Shepherd (the Mayor), and R. Wraith.

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

The Mayor declared an interest in item 10 as a director of Forge Community Partnership.

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting of South Area Council held on 5th September, 2014**

Members received the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 5th September, 2014.

RECOMMENDED: - that the minutes of South Area Council held on 5th September, 2014 be approved as a true and correct record.

4. **Notes of the Ward Alliances**

Members received the notes of Wombwell, Darfield, and Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance meetings held in September, 2014.

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

5. **Community Representatives on the Ward Alliances**

Members noted that there had been a number of resignations from both the Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance and the Wombwell Ward Alliance. The meeting also heard that there were also changes to those holding Treasurer and Chair roles within the Wombwell Alliance.

RECOMMENDED:- that the changes to the membership of the Ward Alliances be noted.

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

The report was considered, noting expenditure from the Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance funds from April 2014 to date. Members noted that there had been an additional £6,000 of Devolved Ward Budget expenditure agreed from each of the Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Wards since the report was published. The meeting noted the significant amounts of finance remaining and the need to progress projects, however it was acknowledged that unallocated finance could be taken forward into 2015/16 if necessary.

RECOMMENDED: - that the report be noted.

7. **South Area Council commissioned activity**

The item was introduced by the South Area Council Manager, noting the projects commissioned to a value of £361,592.53, with £38,407.47 remaining from the £400,000 allocation for the current financial year. An update regarding the delivery of all commissioned projects was received and the following points noted:-

One stop shop – 205 clients had been assisted to date, with many being seen a number of times. The project had become well established in a very short time, and the numbers accessing the service were expected to rise nearer to Christmas. During the first 3 months workers had helped to achieve a benefit gain figure of over £94,000.

Members noted the demographics of people assisted, including significant numbers of disabled/sick and those who owned their own homes. Only 8.5% of those assisted were registered as unemployed.

It was noted that the service in Darfield had been relocated to the Children's Centre, due to issues with the retention of volunteer receptionist when using the library building. Promotional material had been produced to make people aware of this.

Members considered the extension of the project to provide Information, Advice and Guidance and that the organisation 'Prospects' would be providing support one day a week initially in Hoyland with a view to extending to Wombwell.

Tidy team – It was noted that the team had started in July 2014 and had since completed 80 separate jobs reported through the email system and through the steering group.

It was noted that the focus throughout October, would be around cenotaphs and war memorials in preparation for the armistice commemorations. Members heard how schools and other community members were being encouraged to get involved, with a view to the Tidy Team becoming much more of an enabler, rather than just a service provider. Feedback about the project had been incredibly positive and it was suggested that the success ought to be publicised.

Environmental Enforcement – Members noted that between the start date of 12th August and the end of September, 2014 132 fixed penalty notices had been issued. These had largely been for littering but some had been for dog fouling. Members were encouraged to continue forwarding intelligence on suspected offenders to the tasking officer.

Members noted that there had been issues with regards to ensuring the officers employed were able to enforce parking violations, but these were now being resolved and training would be undertaken by officers in

early November, 2014. It was acknowledged that the project was delivering on budget and that money from fixed penalty notices for litter and dog fouling would be recycled back to the Area Council.

Support to local businesses – Members heard how 27 surveys had been completed with 19 additionally awaiting a call back. Completed surveys would be input into a bespoke database for interrogation. Initial feedback was positive with the potential of a business network in Hoyland being suggested.

Additional work – Members heard of the proactive work undertaken with Tesco to help encourage local employment in their new store. It was confirmed that this had resulted in 85% of the 140 jobs being filled by people from Hoyland with the remaining being accessed by residents within a 3 mile radius.

RECOMMENDED: -

- (i) that Members note the progress made on activity commissioned to deliver against the Area Council priorities;
- (ii) Members continue to forward intelligence for the Environmental Enforcement and Tidy Teams to act on, through the relevant channels.

8. **Performance management arrangements for South Area Council**

The item was introduced by the Area Manager, referring to previous discussions at the Area Council. It was noted that information about Council services and data associated with their delivery would be available from April, 2015. However it was suggested that this only provided part of the information relating to services delivered in the area.

It was proposed that a conference could be arranged in order to map the services and organisations within the area. This would necessarily include those services delivered by the Council, but also the voluntary and community sector, Police, Berneslai Homes and others. It was noted that this would help to provide a baseline of assets and services currently provided in the area, and also help identify any gaps which may benefit from intervention or investment by the Area Council.

It was suggested that the conference be held in March, as details of Council services would be finalised by this time.

As the organisation of a conference would require the hire of a venue, refreshments and other associated costs, it was suggested that £500 of the Area Council budget could be utilised.

RECOMMENDED: -

- (i) that a conference be organised to map the assets in the area and that £500 of the Area Council budget be used to facilitate the conference;
- (ii) that the Area Team considers what date and which venues might be suitable;

(iii) that details of suggested attendees be forwarded to the Area Manager

9. **Branding for South Area Council**

Members considered the draft logo prepared by the Communications department. Consensus was that the logo was simple and effective, but that the colour ought to be changed.

RECOMMENDED: - that the South Area Council logo be approved, subject to substituting the blue colour for a shade of red.

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

The item was introduced by the Executive Director, Adults and Communities. The meeting heard of the work being led by the Chief Executive to consider smarter ways to provide services. This was part of a wider conversation with staff and the public about different models of delivery, with the Council in a more enabling role and the resident at the heart; recognising assets and utilising them.

A number of examples were given, whereby needs could be met, but with a more resident focused approach, often more efficiently, without the Council necessarily being at the centre of delivery.

The meeting discussed the role of social enterprises, noting that Forge Community Partnership in the area provided an excellent example, one which could be used to stimulate social enterprise growth in other areas. It was noted that an event was being arranged on this subject for later in the year.

It was noted that a workshop on Future Council/Barnsley's Community Offer was arranged for 12th November, 2014, in order to discuss this in more detail with Members

RECOMMENDED:-

(i) that the report be noted;

(ii) that Members continue to engage as Future Council/Barnsley's Community Offer develops.

11. **Housing Strategy and Affordable Housing Programme**

Unfortunately officers from Housing were unavailable to attend. It was therefore suggested that the item be deferred to a future meeting.

RECOMMENDED: - that the item be deferred to a future meeting of the Area Council.

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Chair