

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SOUTH AREA COUNCIL

27th February, 2015

28. **Present:** Councillors Stowe (Chair), Andrews, Franklin, Frost, Lamb, Morgan, Saunders, Shepherd (Mayor), and R. Wraith.

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

Councillors Franklin, Lamb, and Shepherd declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 36 in respect of their positions as directors of Forge Community Partnership.

Councillor Lamb declared a pecuniary interest in minute 36 in respect of his employment at Northern College and took no part in discussion or voting on the item.

30. **Minutes of the meeting of South Area Council, held on 19th December, 2014**

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council, held on 19th December, 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes of South Area Council held on 19th December, 2014 be approved as a true and correct record.

31. **Minutes of the special meeting of South Area Council, held on 5th February, 2015**

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council, held on 5th February, 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes of South Area Council held on 5th February, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

32. **Notes of the Ward Alliances**

The meeting received the notes of Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance held on 18th November, 2014, and Wombwell Ward Alliance held on 10th February, 2015.

It was noted that the Darfield Ward Alliance had been cancelled due to inclement weather.

RESOLVED that the notes of Hoyland Milton and Rockingham, and Wombwell Ward Alliance be received.

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

The meeting considered the report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

34. **South Area Council performance report**

The report was introduced by the Area Council Manager, noting that there was a slight delay in some of the figures due to contract monitoring taking places only quarterly and that dates of Area Councils do not correspond to the dates when contracts began.

The meeting firstly considered the overview of performance and many of the figures to date relating to 'Improving our Local Environment' were thought to be impressive, though it was noted that Fixed Penalty Notices for littering and dog fouling were decreasing as had been predicted.

Notices for parking violations were now being administered; focusing on areas identified through intelligence submitted.

With regards to the 'Access to Local Information and Advice' priority, Members noted the achievements to date, and that the figure for benefit gain was likely to exceed £1m for the 2 year project.

The Area Council Manager made the meeting aware that assisting a resident to avoid homelessness avoided costs of approximately £24-30,000 per year. It was suggested that this positive work ought to be expanded to help show the impact of the Area Council commissions and the Social Return on Investment. It was suggested that this information could be shared widely to other agencies and charities, with a view to potentially seeking further investment in the project.

The meeting discussed the agencies that people were referred to from the One Stop Shop such as the Credit Union, which would help break the cycle of debt.

Members noted that 94% of finance from tenders had been spent in the borough and that over £9,000 had been received from Fixed Penalty Notices. It was noted that heard that 2 apprenticeship positions had been created to date, both as part of the Environment Enforcement contract.

With regards to the One Stop Shop contract, Members noted that all areas were rated 'green'. Members heard how the evening sessions held had been very positively received, highlighting the numbers of people working yet still in poverty. Demand was expected to continue to increase due to the imminent roll out of Universal Credit for single new claimants in Barnsley.

With reference to the Tidy Team contract, each performance area was 'green' with the exception of outcome indicator target being 'amber' to reflect that there had been issues in recruiting apprentices, due to issues with the brokerage systems available to support organisations like Forge. Members noted the need for the team to move to a more supportive role, assisting groups and individuals and equipping them with the relevant skills.

Members considered the impressive number of litter picks held and noted that the group had worked with 19 schools in the area. It was acknowledged that the relationship with Neighbourhood Services was now functioning much better.

All performance indicators related to the Environment Enforcement were all 'green' and Members heard how parking was now being enforced. The payment rate for notices had increased to 73%, and 45 cases of non-payment of fines were progressing to prosecution. Members were encouraged to continue forwarding intelligence to the Tasking Officer.

Members noted that a waiver had been granted to extend the Summer Holiday Internship programme contract procurement by North and North East Area Councils to include South, which would enable the successful provider to establish good relationships with the schools and local employers before the summer holiday programme takes place. The successful organisation was C&K Careers.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the report be noted;
- (ii) that the Area Council Manager, together with Cllrs Stowe and Lamb consider how best to promote the provision of information and advice, highlighting the costs avoided, to encourage investment from other agencies.

35. Performance of borough-wide services delivered locally

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. The Terms of Reference of the Area Council were noted and attention was drawn to the two strands of performance management work; that of services commissioned directly and that of boroughwide services delivered locally.

Members discussed the process proposed to consider boroughwide services, which included the establishment of a 'local services delivery panel' comprising a Member from each ward, the Area Council Manager and a representative from Performance and Partnerships to consider the issue in more depth. The outcome and any associated action would then feed into a future meeting of the Area Council.

The meeting discussed which services they would like to consider in more detail. A consensus was reached that youth and targeted family support provision would be the first service area to be considered, with services for the elderly and isolated a potential topic for the future.

RESOLVED

(i) that the process for performance monitoring of boroughwide services delivered locally be approved, and that that performance of youth and family provision in the South Area be approved as the first subject for consideration.

(ii) that the Area Council Manager pulls together a group comprising Cllrs Stowe, Saunders, Frost and Lamb or Dures to consider the scope for the youth and targeted family support 'Check & Challenge' during April 2015

36. **South Area Council provision of training for local businesses and apprenticeships**

Members were reminded of a previous discussion at the Area Council which detailed the findings from the Business Survey and the possibility of arranging training courses to address needs identified by the business community.

The meeting considered the courses proposed, which included First Aid, Health and Safety, Web Development, Social Media, and Business Development. It was noted that General IT skills had been added in response to feedback from a number of providers suggesting this may be a prerequisite for further more specific IT training.

Members noted the proposal to provide the training in community venues wherever possible and also acknowledged the significant difference in price from those organisations which had provided quotes.

The meeting discussed businesses supplementing the costs, but it was noted that this may not be practical administratively.

Following on from earlier discussions about the 'Tidy Team' Members discussed the provision of apprentices as part of the contract. It was noted that there had previously been difficulties, but now funding had been sourced for one placement inclusive of wage and training costs, with additional finance for the training of four apprentices. Therefore a recommendation was received for South Area Council to provide an additional £24,000 to fund the wages costs for four apprentice posts within the 'Tidy Team.'

RESOLVED:-

(i) that authorisation be given be given to the Service Director Stronger, Safer and Healthier Communities, following consultation with the Chair and Area Council Manager, to approve expenditure for training courses for local businesses, taking into account price and the ability to meet the needs identified in the business survey, to a maximum total value of £20,000;

(ii) that the proposed venues for training courses for local businesses be approved;

(iii) that approval be given to provide the wages costs for four apprentice positions within the 'Tidy Team' to a value of £24,000 for a year.

37. **Community Magazines**

The item was introduced by the Lead Locality Officer who noted that Cabinet had recently agreed to cease the production of the Open Door magazine.

A proposal had been developed by Corporate Communications for a more locally based publication to publicise the positive work happening in the South Area.

The recommended method for producing the magazine was through a private contractor, at nil cost. This would comprise of 17,500 copies of a magazine with 24 pages. This would include 12 pages of editorial and the remaining would be filled with local advertisements. Members were assured that control of all content would be retained by the Area Council.

The meeting considered delivery methods for the magazine and it was suggested that a distributor could deliver to 98.4% of households for a maximum of £3,000.

Members questioned the delivery methods and whether the preferred distributor would pay minimum wage to employees.

It was also suggested that in publishing the advertisements the public may assume South Area Council endorses the company, which could lead to issues in the future.

In view of the issues raised, it was decided to defer the item to a future meeting, pending additional information.

RESOLVED that a future meeting of South Area Council reconsiders the production of a Community Magazine with additional information provided around the wage levels of staff employed in the delivery of the magazine, and the cost to produce the magazine without advertisements.

38. **Review of South Area Council priorities for 2015/16**

The South Area Council manager introduced the item, noting that it had been 16-17 months since the Area Council had identified its priorities. Since this time the Research and Business Intelligence team can now provide more sophisticated information on the area.

The meeting also considered the current financial position for the South Area Council, and the budget remaining for 2015/16.

It was suggested that the South Area Council, at its meeting on 24th April, 2015, considers all available information to review its current priorities and discuss possible uses for unallocated finance in 2015/16 and beyond.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the information regarding expenditure to date against South Area Council commissioning budgets be noted;
- (ii) that South Area Council priorities are reviewed at the meeting scheduled for 24th April, 2015, using available data and intelligence, with a view to considering the potential use of unallocated finance and budget slippage from 2014/15.

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Chair