

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 6 June 2016
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Goldthorpe Library

MINUTES

Present Councillors Noble (Chair), Gardiner, Gollick, C. Johnson, Philips and Sixsmith MBE.

1 **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

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

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 4th April, 2016 (Dac.06.06.2016/2)**

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting held on 4th April, 2016 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 **Performance Report (Dac.06.06.2016/3)**

The Area Council Manager introduced a report providing an update on the delivery of the Area Council's commissions, Service Level Agreements and services paid for through the Dearne Development Fund. Officers from the Safer Communities Service attended the meeting and presented detailed information on the private sector housing enforcement activity that had been undertaken during January to March 2016, including action taken in respect of fly tipping, noise complaints, anti-social behaviour, rat infestations, requests for service, advice and referrals and in identifying and supporting vulnerable households etc.

Members welcomed the work being carried out and in particular recognised the impact of working with families and individuals, getting to know communities and getting access to homes that previously have not had the benefit of any kind of support, which enabled valuable early intervention where necessary.

The comfortable achievement of performance targets, as set out in Part A of the report, was noted and it was suggested that the level of the targets for future commissions should be given careful consideration to ensure the correct level of challenge.

It was stated that the three Dearne Area Council contracts and the service level agreement with Barnsley MBC Safer Communities Service continue to perform satisfactorily with no significant issues identified. With regard to Skills and Learning for Work it was noted that, even though the contract had now ended, volunteers continued to provide assistance at the Salvation Army, providing a legacy from the commission. There was overall satisfaction that Kingdom was performing well in

respect of the Environmental Enforcement contract, despite the late submission of monitoring information. It was noted that a recent dog fouling operation had resulted in 14 fixed penalty notices being issued in the Dearne area.

It was reported that the nine Dearne Development Fund projects had got off to a very positive start. The Dearne Valley Bulldogs had been successful in their bid for £85,000 of funding from Sports England and they will now receive £15,000 from Area Council funds to enable them to progress their project. The work being carried out by TADS, who had received funding through the Development Fund, in order to give young people access to complimentary therapists to enhance their emotional wellbeing and leave them with better coping strategies, was noted. It was suggested that Jenny Britain from Phoenix Futures be invited to the next Area Council meeting.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the progress being made on the three Dearne Area Council commissions and service level agreement with Barnsley MBC, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report now submitted, be noted; and
- (ii) that the progress of the Dearne Development Fund applications, as set out in Part C of Appendix 1 of the report, be noted.

4 Dearne Area Council updated financial position (Dac.06.06.2016/4)

The Area Council Manager presented a report providing an updated financial position for all Dearne Area Council spending and outlined the unallocated amounts. At the end of the 2015/16 financial year the Area Council had spent £262,257 of its £255,438 allocation, leaving a deficit of £6,819. This figure was offset against £27,483, the year end income from fixed penalty notices, leaving £20,664 to carry forward into the 2016/17 budget.

The Area Council has an allocation of £200,000 to spend in 2016/17 and to date has spent and earmarked £122,846 on previously agreed projects/services. This, plus the income of £1,525 from parking fixed penalty notices leaves an unspent allocation of £99,343 to spend for the financial year 2016/17.

RESOLVED that the updated financial position for the Dearne Area Council and the unallocated amount remaining for 2016/17, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report now submitted, be noted.

5 Housing Enforcement Service Level Agreement (Dac.06.06.2016/5)

The Area Council Manager presented a report outlining the role of the Housing Enforcement and Investigations Officer and containing a proposal for funding the post until March 2017. This would extend the post in line with the Private Sector Housing Officer post, which was also funded to March 2017, and would maintain current service provision.

RESOLVED that approval be given to the funding of the Enforcement and Investigations Officer post until March 2017, as detailed in the report now submitted,

and to the allocation of approximately £12,000 out of the commissioning budget to continue the level of housing and enforcement provision that already exists within the Dearne area.

6 Clean and Tidy Service (Dac.06.06.2016/6)

The Area Council Manager presented a report setting out options for the future provision of a clean and tidy service for the Dearne area.

Following a formal procurement exercise the service was committed for a one year period in September 2015. The Area Council was provided with three options to take the service forward beyond September 2016: A) do nothing; B) put the contract out for three quotes for a period of six months; and C) undertake a full tender process for a period of one year.

RESOLVED that approval be given to seek three quotes for a contract for a period of six months for a clean and tidy service for the Dearne area (Option B), as set out in the report now submitted.

7 Notes from the Ward Alliances (Dac.06.06.2016/7)

The meeting received the minutes from the Dearne South Ward Alliance meeting held on 13th April, 2016 and the Dearne North Ward Alliance meeting held on 19th April, 2016.

With reference to the Dearne South Ward Alliance it was suggested that a discussion on the operation of the Alliance be held at the next Alliance meeting.

With regard to the Dearne North Ward Alliance it was noted that there was a need for representation from residents of Goldthorpe on the Alliance and noted that the Area Council Manager would follow-up the interest shown in this position.

RESOLVED that notes from the respective Ward Alliances be received.

8 Report on the Use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.06.06.2016/8)

The Area Manager presented a report confirming that both the Dearne North and Dearne South Wards had spent all of their Devolved Ward Budget allocation for 2015/16 and that there would be no Devolved Ward Budget for 2016/17.

For Dearne North, the 2015/16 Ward Alliance underspent by £69 and therefore would have a starting budget for 2016/17 of £10,069.

For Dearne South, the 2015/16 Ward Alliance underspent by £1,160 and therefore the starting budget for 2016/17 would be £11,160.

RESOLVED that the report on the Devolved Ward Budgets and the Ward Alliance Funds be received.

9 Allan Sneddon, Tasking Officer

RESOLVED that Allan Sneddon, Tasking Officer, be requested to attend the next Area Council meeting to discuss current service provision.

Chair