

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 19 September 2016
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Leech (Chair), Burgess (Mayor), Cave, Charlesworth, Grundy, Miller, Platts, Spence and Tattersall

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

Councillor Burgess declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 3 on the agenda as she is a Director of the Barnsley Business Innovation Centre.

22 **Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 25th July 2016**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th July 2016.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 25th July 2016 be approved as a true and correct record.

23 **Economic Regeneration - Business Support Survey (presentation by representatives from BBIC)**

Adrian Waite and Kevin Steel from the Barnsley Business Innovation Centre (BBIC) were welcomed to the meeting. BBIC was commissioned by the North Area Council to carry out a small review of a representative sample of small independent businesses across the four wards to ascertain whether there was a need for any form of business support with a view to offering a pilot programme of business support for existing companies. Findings highlighted included:

- There are 1100 businesses in the North Area, 138 (13%) of these received specialist 1:1 support, with a value of more than £800,000.
- Between 2009-2016, 350 businesses have already received support from Enterprising Barnsley, equating to 2010 days of 1:1 support.
- 44 businesses took part in the survey, of which 23% had current business plans, 18% had apprentices, with a further 32% having opportunities in the short term. The average number of employees was 3.7 and the average trading time was 20 years.
- None of the businesses spoken to were currently mentoring a young person, although 13 businesses said they would consider this if approached. 16 (36%) of the businesses spoken to had already received some form of business support. There was very little evidence of proactive marketing.

Members raised a number of questions around feedback of information to the North Area Council, mentoring, apprenticeships, categories of business and business support from the Sheffield City Region (SCR).

Of the 44 businesses surveyed, these were predominantly from retail (28) and the service sector. Although a new programme of support through SCR is to be launched shortly, many local businesses will not be eligible for this support.

Kevin Steel and Adrian Waite were thanked for their attendance and contribution.

24 Private Sector Housing Enforcement (briefing by BMBC Safer Communities)

Jane Brannan and Cath Fairweather were welcomed to the meeting and provided Members with an overview of the Private Sector Housing and Environment Service. It was explained that the service proactively deals with all issues capable of having a detrimental impact on others in the community, including anti-social behaviour and criminal activity, environmental issues, property/housing conditions, fly-tipping and littering. This is done in conjunction with other agencies such as SYP, SYFRS, Social Care, Landlords/letting agents and local residents. A number of case studies were outlined, including the work that had been done and the outcomes from the intervention. The service has been commissioned by other area councils, including Dearne, Central and the North East.

A discussion took place around statutory responsibilities, including anti social behaviour and safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. In terms of private landlords, this becomes a statutory duty when offences are committed. Landlords have a duty to provide a safe home for every tenant and in some instances serious enforcement action has been taken. The Accredited Landlord Scheme was also discussed. It was felt that this scheme was imperfect and should be reviewed.

Members queried the size of the problem in the North Area Council area with regard to private landlords. Cath explained that she is aware of a number of streets in the area with a high concentration of private landlords. A huge proportion of her work relates to private tenants or landlords, with 65% of complaints received identified as emanating from privately rented properties. A similar problem sometimes occurs when Berneslai Homes properties have been sold under the Right to Buy scheme and then rented out privately. A number of new build properties have also been bought by private individuals and then rented out.

Jane and Cath were thanked for their attendance and contribution.

25 Stronger Communities Grants Projects - Quarterly Updates

The North Area Council Manager provided an update in respect of the performance of the North Area Council Stronger Communities Grant Projects, including the Ad Astra Barnsley CIC project, Emmanuel Methodist Church, Reds in the Community and Royal Voluntary Service for Older People.

A grants workshop will take place on 20th September which is open to all Members. It is envisaged that Members will agree at the workshop how the remaining £29,766.00 of the 2016/17 allocation will be utilised.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the update together with the outcome and learning from the evaluation and approval process and agree to an amendment to the approval process
- (ii) Members approve a revision of the guidance documentation both for applicants and the panel to provide clear instruction to applicants with regard to year on year applications from the same organisation
- (iii) Members note the forthcoming grants workshop, prioritise attendance and consider if they wish to run the grants programme in 2017/18.

26 Commissioning and Procurement Update including Financial Position and Project Performance Update

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who provided the Area Council with a financial position and forecast for expenditure. It was highlighted that £53,997 remains unallocated. The financial implications of the Opportunities for Young People: Positive Progressions – Stronger Futures pilot together with the funding considerations required for a project that would build on the Small Business Survey results were reported. If the Environmental Enforcement project for 2017/18 and the Positive Progressions project both go ahead the Area Council will have committed £80,000 of the 2017/18 allocation. As yet there is no clear indication regarding future budget allocations post 2016/17 so for the foreseeable future contracts will be let on a year by year basis with break clauses.

A discussion took place regarding whose responsibility it is to clean graffiti from bus shelters and boxes. A member asked if the Clean and Green Team could do this but it was felt that this is not sustainable and that it needs to be established if it should be SYPT. If the graffiti is of an obscene or prejudicial nature this should be reported to SYPT for speedy removal.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) The Area Council note the existing budget position and give consideration to how the funding is utilised to meet the needs of the North Area;
- (ii) Members consider which priorities they wish to concentrate on for the design and procurement of further commissioned projects which will address the Area priorities.

27 Economic Regeneration Project Development - agree next steps

Concerns were expressed regarding the marketing campaign, targeted mail shots and web-based booking system recommended by BBIC in respect of the business support review. It was felt that more information was required.

A discussion took place regarding the next steps in respect of the Private Sector Enforcement Service. Members were generally supportive of progressing the project, as there appears to be a need for this in the North Area, with the proviso that there will be a legacy.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) The Area Council Manager be tasked with providing more information regarding the marketing and promotion for the North Area Business Support Review together with the level of involvement and commitment required from the North Area Council;
- (ii) The Area Council Manager be tasked with taking the Private Sector Enforcement Service to the next stage in order to establish the level of need, working with Council services for advice regarding setting up the specification.

28 Opportunities for Young People Project - decision to procure

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who updated Members on the progress that has been made by the working group to develop a project to meet the priority 'Opportunities for Young People'. Although the Area Council was pleased with the Summer Internship project it was felt that a more targeted piece of work might be more appropriate.

To this end, a project proposal has been developed, working with up to four local schools to target 20 young people at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) for a period of 18 months with the option to extend this by a further two years. The contract value is approximately £55,000 - £60,000 per annum for programme staffing and contract management, activities for the participants and overheads. A further meeting is to be held next week to establish local schools involvement.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The North Area Council note the procurement strategy
- (ii) The North Area Council Chair will sign off the procurement strategy to enable the procurement advert to be placed in October 2016.

29 Report on the use of Ward Alliance Fund

The Area Council Manager provided an update with regard to progress in each Ward in expending the Ward Alliance Fund. Various projects across the wards were discussed, together with the positive impact they had generated in the community.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The update be noted
- (ii) Each Ward prioritises the efficient expenditure of the remaining Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Funds in line with the guidance on spend.

30 Notes from the following Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 14th July 2016; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 1st August 2016; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 13th July 2016 and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 21st July 2016.

Darton East: The post box on Shaw Lane will be moved as soon as approval is received from the Highways department. The project on Shaw Lane with Greenworks and Neighbourhood Services for 15 trees is underway.

Darton West: The defibrillator has now been fitted in Darton, although it is not operational at this time.. A blue plaque has been installed at the site of the old Gawber glass works.

Old Town: The LWYL events have been very positive. The Friends of Wilthorpe Park won a silver gilt award in the recent Yorkshire in Bloom Competition. Details of how to enter will be provided.

St. Helens: The Gala was a great success. The St Helens Ward directory has been posted to all residents but will be particularly useful for isolated and vulnerable residents. Work on the two community allotments on Marston Crescent is ongoing.

RESOLVED that the notes of the respective Ward Alliances be noted.

Chair