

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday, 4 September 2015
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, The Hoyland Centre

MINUTES

Present Councillors Stowe (Chair), Andrews BEM, Franklin, Frost, Lamb, Saunders, Shepherd and R. Wraith

10 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

Councillor Shepherd declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 16 in his capacity as a board member of Forge Community Partnership, and Councillor Andrews declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 16 in his capacity as Chair of South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

11 Minutes of the meeting of South Area Council held on 26th June, 2015. (Sac.04.09.2015/2)

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting of South Area Council held on 26th June, 2015.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of South Area Council held on 26th June, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

12 Notes of the Ward Alliances. (Sac.04.09.2015/3)

The meeting received the notes from the Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance, held on 13th July, 2015; Wombwell Ward Alliance, held on 14th July, 2015; and Darfield Ward Alliance, held on 16th July, 2015.

RESOLVED that the notes of the Ward Alliances be received.

13 Report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds. (Sac.04.09.2015/4)

Members received the report detailing Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Fund expenditure from the start of the financial year to date.

As many Wards were underspent, Members were urged to accelerate project development to ensure monies are allocated to meaningful projects and the impact seen in the community accordingly.

RESOLVED that the report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds be noted.

14 South Area Council Performance Management Report. (Sac.04.09.2015/5)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who drew attention to part A of the report, which provided an overview of performance.

With reference to the 'Improving our Local Environment' priority, Members noted that the figures represented the first year of delivery. It was noted that there had been 942 litter picks, the majority of which had included significant amounts of volunteering, as did many of the 362 environmental projects completed. 626 Fixed Penalty Notices for littering had been issued, and 39 for dog fouling, with 150 PCN notices for parking violations.

The Area Manager made Members aware of the ongoing dialogue between senior officers and staff at Kingdom Security to ensure that parking enforcement was delivered in the most efficient way, without duplication. Officers agreed to ensure that the Cabinet Spokesperson for Place was aware of the discussions taking place.

Members noted that a review of the enforcement services was currently taking place, the results of which would inform future commissioning.

It was noted that, whilst the numbers of notices issued were not broken down per Ward, patrolling hours were for each Ward were available. It was noted that the majority of notices issued were based on intelligence provided, and all Members were encouraged to continue to provide this.

With regards to the 'Access to Local Information and Advice' priority, Members noted that £613,846 of benefits had been gained to date as a result of advice given, and 836 people had received advice. The meeting heard how those accessing the service were often either elderly, or those in work. £660,416 of debt was now being successfully managed through financial settlements, and significant numbers of clients had been referred to the Credit Union, and other sources of help and support. 19 cases of homelessness had also been averted

It was noted that the service had recently had some positive exposure in the Barnsley Chronicle.

Members discussed the positive impact the project had on the Mental Health of clients and, although the extent of this could not currently be measured, a piece of work was being undertaken to map the impact of Area Councils on Public Health outcomes.

It was noted that 94% of the Area Council budget had been spent in the local economy, a figure which compared favourably with other Council departments, and with other Area Councils.

Members noted that 68 additional volunteers had been engaged, but it was stressed that this figure was not representative, as many residents had given their time for one-off projects and therefore may have not been counted. A discussion took place about the merits of recording volunteer hours, and it was noted that this would take place in the future.

The Area Manager then drew Members' attention to part B of the report which provided more detail about the performance of each contract.

With regards to the One Stop Shop project, the project had been very successful and client satisfaction had been extremely high. It was noted that the use of local venues had been highlighted as a factor contributing to its success. Members heard how links with food banks were now being developed to help identify those most in need of assistance.

Referring to the Tidy Team, the Area Manager made the meeting aware that two apprentices had now passed their NVQs, and the team had now recruited two more apprentices. The team had been involved in all the summer galas, generating interest and promoting volunteering opportunities.

Members heard how take up of the business courses had been disappointing, despite them being free of charge, and being held in local venues at appropriate times. In order to fill places and maximise the impact, the courses had therefore subsequently been offered to the general public, being publicised widely through the Neighbourhood Networks.

The meeting were updated on the Summer Holiday Internship. 43 young people had taken part in the programme, and feedback was extremely positive. A celebration event had been arranged to take place on 23rd September, 2015.

Members questioned the types of young people accessing the course and it was acknowledged that a variety attended, including many that the schools identified would be more likely to benefit from such a scheme.

RESOLVED that the content of the Performance Report be noted.

15 South Area Council Environmental Enforcement contract. (Sac.04.09.2015/6)

Members were reminded of various discussions at previous meetings of the Area Council on this subject.

The meeting was made aware that necessary paperwork had been completed to waive contract procedure rules to extend the contract with Kingdom Security until 31st March, 2016.

However, should the Area Council wish provide an environmental enforcement service, this would need to be retendered, with a view to starting on 1st April, 2016 to ensure a seamless service.

Members discussed the proposal, noting the success of the commission and the high priority given to the environment in recent consultations. A decision was therefore made to continue the service, at the current level.

As a number of Area Councils wished to procure a similar service, the procurement exercise would inviting tenders from a single provider but divided into 'lots' and therefore individual contracts per Area Council. The contracts would also be able to be renewed on an annual basis, subject to the continued need for the service, satisfactory performance and funding being available.

RESOLVED:-

- i) that the information relating to the continued provision of an Environmental Enforcement Service be noted;
- ii) that approval be given to retender for an Environmental Enforcement Service at a cost of £135,092 per annum, with a view to the service commencing on 1st April, 2016, and continuation of the service being dependant on satisfactory performance, a continued need for the service, and the availability of Area Council finance.

16 South Area Council future commissions for 2015/16 and 2016/17. (Sac.04.09.2015/7)

The Area Manager introduced the item, which had been deferred at the last meeting. Members noted the current commissions, and committed expenditure. It was acknowledged that £106,080 remained unallocated in the current financial year, in addition to that unallocated in 2016/17.

A number of potential development ideas were discussed. These included the provision of universal youth activities locally; extending the Fire Cadets programme; commissioning an extension to the One Stop Shop to provide careers advice; undertaking additional environmental maintenance work to replace that lost due to central reprioritisation to gateway areas; piloting a scheme to provide small household jobs on a subscription basis through an extension to the Tidy Team; hosting a conference to identify gaps in health and wellbeing provision in the area; and developing a support pack for veterans returning to the area, amongst others.

The merits of each were discussed, and the following were suggested as areas for the Area Team to progress, with a view to considering proposals in more detail at a future meeting:-

- 1) To re-commission the Summer Holiday Internship for 2016;
- 2) To hold a small, focused health conference to consider provision in the area and identify any gaps;
- 3) To support the production of a support pack for veterans returning to the area, should other grant finance not be forthcoming;
- 4) To extend youth provision in the area, potentially funding an extension to the Fire and Rescue Service Cadet scheme;
- 5) To re-commission the One Stop Shop;
- 6) To provide signage to highlight that areas were maintained by volunteers, and to alert residents that fixed penalty notices had been issued in that area.

RESOLVED that the proposals above be developed with a view to more in depth discussion at a future meeting of South Area Council.

17 South Area Council Community Magazine. (Sac.04.09.2015/8)

Members were reminded of previous discussion and agreement at South Area Council to produce and distribute a Community Magazine. The Area Council Manager referred to the report circulated, which included a list of suggested names for the publication.

After some discussion it was agreed to call the magazine #LoveBarnsley with a subtitle of 'Brought to you by South Area Council' and that the front cover detailing the towns and villages in the area.

The meeting discussed a proposed outline for the magazine, which included a Welcome from the Area Chair; details of the work of the Tidy Team, Environmental Enforcement, Advice, and Internship contracts; and information on the work of the Ward Alliances. The outline was supported, with a suggestion that the piece on the Advice Sessions ought to include further information on the Credit Union, following a recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee that this ought to be more widely promoted.

Members discussed the possibility of convening an editorial group with representation from each Ward. However, after discussion it was agreed for the Area Team to produce a draft magazine on which all Members could comment prior to publication.

RESOLVED:-

- i) that '#LoveBarnsley – Brought to you by South Area Council', be approved as the name for the Community Magazine;
- ii) that the proposed content for the first edition of the magazine be approved;
- iii) that the Area Team produces a draft of the magazine for South Area Council Members to comment on prior to publication.

18 South Area Council working effectively with Ward Alliances. (Sac.04.09.2015/9)

Due to lack of time, it was agreed to discuss the item at a later date.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred to a future meeting.

Chair