

MEETING:	North East Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 1 December 2016
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Hayward (Chair), Cheetham, Clements, Ennis, S. Green, Hampson, Makinson, Richardson, Sheard and C. Wraith MBE

33 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

34 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on Thursday 29th September 2016

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on 29th September 2016.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North East Area Council held on 29th September 2016 be approved as a true and correct record.

35 Notes of the Following Ward Alliances with Feedback from each Ward Alliance Chair

The meeting received notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston Ward Alliances held throughout September and October 2016. The following updates were noted:-

Cudworth – Details of recent grants were given. The Christmas Lights switch on takes place on 2nd December at the Methodist Church. The Christmas Event is one of the biggest events for the Ward Alliance each year and officers were thanked for their help and support.

Monk Bretton – It was noted that an application has been received from Redfearns junior football club for a new lawnmower. Twenty children from St Helens school have been busy working on getting the planters and raised beds ready for the winter bedding. Christmas activities are due to take place over the next two weeks. The Don Booker magazine about the history of Monk Bretton is currently being distributed. The Archives at Town Hall will be getting a copy of the magazine.

North East – Various funding projects were highlighted, including the Milefield Community Farm which had been granted £1000 for resource centre equipment. Recent projects include the Christmas lights switch on and associated celebrations which were attended by around 700 people.

Royston – Work has started on forty new allotment plots and people on the waiting list will be contacted. A Love Where You Live event took place in Royston park. Staff from the Benefits and Taxation Department, the NEET team and others were involved in bulb planting and work in the Rose Garden to develop the Community Orchard. Following a session at Royston library a new Park Group has been formed. There was a lot of interest in environmental projects and 3 representatives have been selected to be part of the S106 group. Two Christmas trees are to be lit, one at Albert Shepherd, one at the Wells. BPL has contributed to the cost of one of the trees and has also given out free family swim tickets to the children in the school choirs who sang at the Christmas event. Thanks were expressed to the Area Council Team for help with repairs to the play area.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

36 North East Area Council Performance Management Report

The Area Council Manager updated Members in respect of the performance of the North East Area Council contracted services and associated outcomes. It was reported that the Private Sector Housing Management service is going from strength to strength. From 20th June to 30th September, 176 contacts were received, some of which were resolved on an informal basis. A number of case studies were provided.

The Fit Me project in Great Houghton appears to be a success and should be sustainable in the long term. Future potential venues for Fit Me include Carlton ALC and Priory Campus, possibly in January 2017. Members felt that the report underlines how far the North East Area Council has travelled in terms of delivering high quality outcomes whilst representing value for money.

RESOLVED that Members note the contents of the Performance Management Report.

37 NEAC Financial Position and Procurement Update

The Area Council Manager provided a financial analysis of the North East Area Council's commissioning budget. It was highlighted that the Shopability service has now ceased.

It was proposed that a workshop will take place at the 2nd February meeting to look at Area Council priorities and budgets going forward. This aligns to the Council's budget decision making, which takes place on the morning of the same date.

RESOLVED that Members note the financial position and procurement update.

38 Report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds

The Area Council Manager provided members with 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 the update be noted.

39 Review of Parks equipment damaged by anti social behaviour

The Area Council Manager highlighted the audit of equipment in the parks and open spaces across the North East Area Council damaged through anti-social behaviour. The cost of replacing the damaged equipment is £5,250 and includes replacement of a cantilever swing, water safety signs, 'no dog fouling' signs, litter bins and dog bins.

Members queried if litter bins in park should be paid from S106 money rather than the Area Council budget and also highlighted concerns that dog bins, litter bins, water safety and dog fouling signs should not be included either as this was the responsibility of the parks department, not the Area Council as it is not equipment damaged through anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED that funding for the cantilever swing replacement at a cost of £1500 is approved.

40 Milefield Farm Report

The Area Council Manager updated Members with regard to the Milefield Community Farm Project which is a Volunteer it Yourself (a not for profit Community Interest Company) which has been supported by Milefield School, Voluntary Action Barnsley, the North East Area Council's Youth Development Fund and local businesses.

11 young people achieved their City and Guilds Entry Level 3 Introductory Award in Employability Skills through working on this scheme. Further funding is now being sought for a Farm Manager (Reaching Communities), 2 alpacas plus shelter (crowd funding) and a poly tunnel and interactive TV (EDF funding). Leaflets highlighting the crowd funder initiative were distributed with a view to increasing engagement as part of the publicity campaign. It was highlighted that there are rewards for donating - for example, if an individual donates £25 they can visit the farm, whilst a £100 donation would qualify the donor to take tea with the Mayor.

RESOLVED that Members note the contents of the report and share information about the crowd funder initiative throughout their networks.

41 NEAC Foster Care Pilot - presentation by John Banwell, Interim Head of Service, Children in Care.

Jon Banwell, Head of Children in Care, delivered a presentation regarding the recruitment of foster carers. A large number of foster carers live in the North East Area Council wards and it was felt that it may be possible to recruit foster carers via word of mouth. It was pointed out that the care population is increasing and the demographics have changed, with an increase in older children and teenagers. Neighbouring authorities are facing similar problems. Barnsley remains a net importer of children in care, which means there is an increased need to be met. Evidence suggests that children placed locally with in-house foster carers achieve better outcomes and costs are significantly reduced in comparison to using an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA).

Members asked questions about a number of issues including:

- Initial stages of assessment and associated 'drop out' rate
- Training and ongoing support for foster carers (including staff capacity)
- Timescales and removing unnecessary delays
- Profile of children in care and profile of foster carers
- Effective marketing including Facebook/Twitter and sponsorship by Barnsley Football Club.
- CAMHS services for looked after children and their carers

RESOLVED

- (i) That the NEAC support the recruitment of foster carers in the area, acting as a pilot for the new campaign which could then be shared to other area councils.
- (ii) That a working group be established comprising Councillors Sheard, Ennis, Makinson and Hayward to take the project forward, with a meeting planned for early in the New Year.

Chair