

MEETING:	North East Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 1 February 2018
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

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

36 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

The meeting was informed that Paul Jolley, Community Development Officer for the North East Area Council had recently passed away. Paul will be sadly missed, and a one minute silence was observed as a mark of respect.

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

37 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on Thursday 30th November 2017.

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on 30th November 2017.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North East Area Council held on 30th November 2017 be approved as a true and correct record.

38 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 in October, November, December and January. The following updates were noted:-

Cudworth – It was highlighted that CAB had assisted 53 clients across 12 sessions. The Environmental Group will take part in the spring clean later in the year. A Spring Fayre is planned in the Methodist church. The Academic Achievement Awards ceremony will take place on 12th June.

Monk Bretton – It was highlighted that the Christmas lights switch on and the pantomime had been a big success, all the seats had been taken. Burton Grange Christmas Fayre had also been very successful.

North East – Katherine Green had attended the January meeting to talk about future libraries provision. The Great British Spring Clean will take place on 2nd – 4th March, involving local organisations and the parish council. A Love Grimethorpe Volunteers Poster competition is taking place and Brierley Community Group is doing well.

Royston – It was reported that the Principal Towns shop front scheme had been approved. A feasibility study is to be carried out at Rabbit Ings. A consultation event delivered by Katherine Green regarding future library provision was well attended. More refreshed 'what's on' guides are to be printed. Works funded through S106 monies are continuing on the park Pavilion and volunteers have been painting the entrance. The Great British Spring Clean takes place on 2nd March. The Academic Achievement awards are to be held on 13th March involving all Royston primary schools. The Gala is planned for 30th June.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

39 Lisa Smith, Head of Benefits, Taxation and Income will provide a presentation to Members about Universal Credit.

Lisa Smith, Head of Service, Benefits, Taxation and Income, Wendy Betts (Benefits Manager), Michelle Kaye (Service Manager – Housing and Welfare) and Joanne Dearnley (Local Partnership Manager, DWP) delivered a presentation to Members about Universal Credit Full Service.

Key points included:

- Universal Credit (UC) replaces JSA, ESA, WTC, CTC, Income Support and Housing Benefit.
- UC applications, claims and appointments are made online, paid monthly in arrears and is only for working age people.
- UC went 'live' from 13th September 2017. There are currently 3000 people in Barnsley on UC, 1855 claimants have moved from HB to UC.
- Claimants are responsible for paying their own rent.
- Advances are available before the first payment is due and a further payment is issued at week 5.
- UC tapers off as wages increase
- A grant has been given to Barnsley Council for budgeting and IT support, which is widely available through Berneslai Homes 'device doctors', digital champions and the CAB.
- IT support is available

Members asked a number of questions and appropriate responses were given, including the following:

- Information is shared between organisations within 5 days and is processed as soon as possible. Over 90% of payments are made within 5 weeks.
- There is no evidence of an increase in homelessness, arrears or increased use of hostel provision.
- It will no longer be possible to obtain information regarding mapping of benefits/need/criteria across wards, which raises a policy planning issue and is of concern to members.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Attendees be thanked for their attendance and contribution;
- (ii) The presentation and Implications thereof be noted, and

- (iii) Copies of the presentation and details of Digital Champions offering IT support across wards be circulated.

40 Keith Dodd, Project Manager (Universal Information and Advice) will provide a presentation to Members about the Live Well Barnsley website.

Keith Dodd, Project Manager (Universal Information and Advice) and Claire Beecroft (Community Development Officer) delivered a presentation to Members about the Live Well Barnsley website.

It was explained that Live Well Barnsley is an online service directory containing information on over 900 service providers across health, wellbeing, care and support related services across the Borough.

Key points to note include:

- Live Well Barnsley focusses on staying well and keeping independent, using community based services such as clubs, groups, drop-ins and peer support.
- It is available for public, professionals and first contact staff – one trusted source used by all and designed to be the ‘go to’ resource for Barnsley
- It is searchable, updated regularly, free for providers and links to CQC inspection reports.
- In terms of ‘vetting’ service providers, there is a disclaimer on the site so that the Council is legally protected. If concerns arise, details of providers can be removed.
- There is a potential for revenue advertising, which could be pursued with the site hosts.
- It is essential that the site is kept up to date. Organisations will be ‘hidden’ if they do not respond to enquiries
- Links to LiveWell should be placed on local information leaflets as Members felt that there will always be a need for paper copies.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Representatives be thanked for their attendance and contribution;
- (ii) The presentation and implications thereof be noted;
- (iii) Members promote the site widely and encourage services to register, and
- (iv) Keith Dodd be tasked with making enquiries regarding potential for increased revenue for the Council from advertising.

41 North East Area Council Project Performance Report

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this item and provided Members with a detailed update report regarding performance of the North East Area Council’s commissioned projects together with a summary performance management report and individual case studies for each service. Key points to note include:

- The young man who was taken on as an apprentice in the North East Environmental Team has now successfully secured full time employment as a direct result of his work experience with the Team.
- The Lets Grow Community Allotment in Gt Houghton is a brilliant example of the Great Houghton Parish Council and Ward Alliances working well together to address corporate priorities of 'People achieving their potential' and 'Stronger and resilient communities'.
- The Sloppy slippers in Cudworth, to address falls within the elderly population, has been very successful and will be replicated across other wards.
- Grimethorpe Activity Zone (GAZ) is a young people's advice charity which also provides summer holiday activities and extra activities through the North East Area Council Youth Fund.
- The Monk Bretton One Stop Shop meets every Thursday at 10 a.m. to address the 'Health and Wellbeing' and 'Anti-poverty' Ward Alliance priorities, with a focus on gentle exercise and provision of light refreshments and health and wellbeing advice.
- An editorial group has now been set up to look at future editions of The Village Life Community Magazine.
- There have been 45 applications for the post of Stop Smoking Specialist Advisor. Interviews will be carried out in mid- February in conjunction with SWYFT.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

42 Report on the Use of Area Council Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this item and updated Members regarding the North East Area Council budget and progress in each ward in expending the Ward Alliance Fund in line with priorities. It was highlighted that current spend is on target. Final figures will be shared with Members when they are available. Ward Alliance spending is also on target.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the current position of the Area Council Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Funds, and
- (ii) Each Ward prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance funds in line with the guidance on spend.

43 North East Area Council Priorities 2018-2019

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this item. Members were asked to consider whether they would like to retain the same priorities for their work going forward – i.e. 'Thriving and Vibrant Economy', 'Love Where You Live', 'Healthy Lifestyles' and 'Young People' for the year 2018-19.

RESOLVED that Members retain the same priorities for their work going forward – i.e. 'Thriving and Vibrant Economy', 'Love Where You Live', 'Healthy Lifestyles' and 'Young People' for the year 2018-19.

Chair