

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 29 July 2019
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Goldthorpe Library

MINUTES

Present Councillors Noble (Chair), Danforth, Gardiner, Gollick, C. Johnson and Phillips.

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 13th May, 2019 (Dac.29.07.2019/2)**

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 13th May, 2019 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 **Performance Report Q1 (Dac.29.07.2019/3)**

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, focusing on feedback on performance from the first quarter of 2019/20.

In general performance was positive; however Members noted that the Housing and Migration Officer post remained vacant. The first attempt to recruit had been fruitless, however more recently advertising the post had led to 10 applicants responding. It was noted that shortlisting would be taking place shortly and Members would be informed of the outcome. It was acknowledged that the post was only ever for a maximum of one year and therefore this may reduce the number of interested parties, but it was imperative to ensure there was an officer with the correct skills for the post.

Members discussed the impact of the post being vacant with issues seen on Coop Street, Victoria Street, Poplar Avenue and Wellington Street.

With regards to the contract held by DECV, within the quarter 28 learners had been enrolled and seven had gained employment. 20 had received qualifications and 20 had gone on to further education. There had been a rise in the numbers being referred who had complex issues and needed intensive support for them to re-enter the labour market.

Over the quarter Twiggs Grounds Maintenance had arranged 30 social action events, supported 22 groups, engaged 100 volunteers and 9 businesses, and delivered 15 impact sessions to groups and schools.

Twiggs had assisted the very successful days held on the embankment project with 243 young people each gaining 5 AQA awards.

Members heard that referrals to B:Friend were still low, and a number of the referrals were inappropriate for those with complex needs such as dementia. However, the social groups were thriving across the area. Within the quarter there had been 12 requests for service, 16 pairings with volunteer befrienders, 24 volunteers engaged, and 7 referrals to existing groups. Members noted the significant social return on investment provided by the project.

An update on the progress made by those projects funded through the Dearne Development Fund was given.

The DIAL drop in had achieved a benefit gain of £84,141 within the quarter, with £17.98 brought in for every £1 invested. The service remained busy and in high demand, and it was agreed that this would be carefully monitored going forward.

CAB had exceeded targets set, with 169 client contacts within the quarter, enabling £241,975 of benefits to be gained. Members discussed the potential crossover with the service provided by DIAL, however it was noted that both produced excellent results and were in demand.

Goldthorpe Development Group continued to meet monthly, engaging a wide range of partners, including such as the Community Health Team. The number of attendees ranged from 70-90 each month, with young people from the choir at Astrea Academy Dearne now performing each month in addition to chatting and supporting the attendees.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

4 Twigg's Presentation (Dac.29.07.2019/4)

John Twigg and Corey Sanders, from Twigg's Grounds Maintenance were welcomed to the meeting.

Members noted that the service now rotated, targeting Bolton on Dearne, Goldthorpe and Thurnscoe areas in rotation. In each area social action would be encouraged, working with groups, businesses and schools. Each month, a plan for the month ahead would be developed, but it was noted that this was flexible and could change. Where possible the team would work with volunteers and groups in order to build community responsibility and resilience, however occasionally the team would work alone where persistent issues needed addressing.

Members discussed the complaints received regarding the high volume of litter and weeds, especially on main routes, and it was noted that hotspots in each area were targeted, with a view that, in time, the community would take more responsibility and Twigg's could reduce their support.

Discussion centred around the visibility of the service in order to recruit further volunteers, with suggestions of hi-visibility jackets and A-boards to show that anyone could join in.

Those present discussed how to change the mind-set of residents, and although the volume of litter picked had reduced in recent years, this remained a problem.

Members highlighted a number of issues of overflowing litter bins near businesses, and it was suggested that businesses could be encouraged to have their own bins for the waste they helped to create.

It was noted that Neighbourhood Services communicated with the service to avoid duplication and work complementarily. Members heard of the bin and grass cutting trackers recently introduced by Neighbourhood Services, which seemed to be working positively.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That thanks be given to Twiggs Grounds Maintenance Officers for their attendance;
- (ii) That monthly and weekly schedules of work planned by Twiggs are circulated to Members.

5 Dearne Area Council Financial Update (Dac.29.07.2019/5)

The Area Council Manager made Members aware that £15,770.20 was carried forward from 2018/19 to the current financial year, which led to a starting balance of £215,770.20.

From the allocation funds had been approved for contracts with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance, B:Friend, and the service level agreement for the Housing and Migration Officer. Funds had also been allocated to the provision of a newsletter and to the Dearne Development Fund. £3,172.44 remained for allocation.

From the Dearne Development Fund £53,655.46 remained for allocation, and it was noted that a number of projects came to an end around November and December.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6 Notes from the Dearne Approach Steering Group held on 13th May, 2019 (Dac.29.07.2019/6)

Members considered the notes from the meeting held on 13th May, 2019.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Dearne Approach Steering Group be received.

7 Notes from the Dearne Ward Alliance held on 9th May, 2019 (Dac.29.07.2019/7)

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne Ward Alliance held on 9th May, 2019. At the meeting 'Beat the Street' was discussed positively.

Members discussed the financial support for the bulky waste collection, and it was noted that this is now being prioritised for those most in need following referrals from appropriate agencies. The situation will be carefully monitored going forward.

Those present discussed the persistent issues with waste on premises and littering, and it was acknowledged that attitudes to fly tipping were changing with residents working with the Council to report incidents.

The Chair requested a more detailed discussion on the approach taken on these issues, which would include encouraging positive behaviour change, with enforcement for persistent offenders.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That notes from the Dearne Ward Alliance held on 9th May, 2019 be received;
- (ii) That a meeting be convened to discuss potential solutions to persistent environmental issues in the area.

8 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.29.07.2019/8)

The Area Council Manager provided an update on the current position of Ward Alliance Funds.

From an opening balance of £11,787.29, Dearne North had allocated £4,757.11 to 9 projects leaving £7,027.18 remaining to allocate.

Dearne South had allocated £3,439.71 of the £13,027.02 opening balance to 7 projects leaving £9,587.31

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chair