

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 14 February 2019
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Penistone Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Barnard (Chair), David Griffin, Hand-Davis, Kitching, Millner and Wilson.

33 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

No Members declared an interest in any item on the agenda.

34 Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 6th December, 2018 (Pac.14.02.2019/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th December, 2018.

The Area Council Manager made members aware that the implications of the recent review of Ward Alliance governance were due to be considered at the next meeting of Penistone Ward Alliance.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on the 6th December, 2018 be approved as a true and correct record.

35 Notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 6th December, 2018 and 17th January, 2019 (Pac.14.02.2019/3)

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 6th December, 2018 and 17th January, 2019.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 6th December, 2018 and 17th January, 2019 be received.

36 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.14.02.2019/4)

Members received the report detailing the expenditure of the Ward Alliance Fund. It was noted that just over £8,000 remained in the budget for allocation as per the report. However, Members noted that, more recently, £1,000 had been returned from Penistone Town Council, and the Ward Alliance meeting had also recommended a number of further applications for approval.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

37 Performance Report Q3 (Pac.14.02.2019/5)

The Area Council Manager introduced the report, which provided an update on performance for quarter 3.

Members noted that the report now included initiatives funded through the latest round of Working Together Fund and also those successful as part of the Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People Fund.

It was noted that performance against all contracts was satisfactory. The number of businesses involved had increased, as had the percentage of local expenditure.

Members heard how the number of young people volunteering was relatively low, however this did not include the numbers of young people engaged through schools in school time.

The numbers achieving accreditation and qualifications was down in quarter 3, but it was noted that the 'Your Town, Your Community' project had now ceased. However, this would again increase due to the 'Young Voices' project.

Members noted the significant number of people having received advice, and noted that this would further increase once the contract CAB commenced in April, 2019.

The performance of DIAL delivering the advice drop in was considered, with 47 residents receiving advice within the quarter. Overall the project had brought £34 into the area for every £1 the Area Council had invested. Those present heard of the significant number of volunteer hours pledged and the impact this had on the support given to those in need by reducing waiting times. Also noted was the improvement in wellbeing of users of the service. Members considered the case studies provided and praised the work of the service.

The Clean, Green and Tidy Team contract was then considered, with all areas of performance considered satisfactory. It was noted a number of outcomes required reconsideration, such as those relating to work with the probation service, due to lack of interest from the service. Members noted that the emphasis would be to generate new volunteers moving forward, and the figures for the quarter showed a number of residents now taking responsibility for the upkeep of green areas.

Work with Tesco continued with the 'Marketeers' making a positive impact in the market barn. Members heard of the plans to erect signs highlighting that 'the area is maintained by volunteers' in order to help reduce littering. The work of Twiggs Grounds Maintenance to support Incredible Edible was also acknowledged, with the Penistone area being highlighted as a good example.

The performance of the final quarter of the contract with Age UK was positive, with the focus on being warm over the winter period. The Winter Warmth event was well attended, although it was noted that more people had attended previously, perhaps due to the big knit event being held on the same day previously. The commission had worked with Penistone Grammar School in order to provide Christmas lunches. Age UK had also provided information and advice, primarily in relation to benefits in retirement or self-funding of care.

Members noted the support to establish community groups, and the Health Mind group at Tankersley was highlighted as a good example, which was now self-supporting. This model which was set to be replicated elsewhere in the area.

The continued increase in use of the Community Car Scheme was acknowledged, and Members hoped that this would continue to be publicised in order to grow.

Noted was the impact that Age UK had on the improvement of wellbeing of users, however it was noted that the majority of users were female, an issue which was looking to be address by delivery through the Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People Fund.

Members noted the performance report for the final quarter of funding for Sporting Penistone. The Volunteer Coordinator role had provided much needed support to the organisation, with a much improved volunteer offer and increased engagement of young volunteers being evidenced. The Area Council Manager made Members aware of the discussions taking place to connect Sporting Penistone with Age UK. Members commented on arrangements in Stocksbridge where GPs referred patients to the sports centre for exercise, and suggested this could be explored for the area.

The Penistone FM Young Voices project had recently commenced, with excellent links made with Penistone Grammar School and the 6th Form to provide young people with experience, accredited training, and access to professionals working in broadcasting.

The meeting went on to consider the performance of the South Pennine Community Bus Service. The service had been very well used, and had been featured on Look North. There had recently been a more focused volunteer offer, and greater links made with the community with such as social prescribing and Age UK. The service had created a community in itself, reducing social isolation for many people, and was well valued.

The Area Council Manager made Members aware of arrangements being made to discuss the future of this service with SYPTE, and it was suggested that relevant officers from Transportation in BMBC be invited. It was thought that smaller services such as this and the community car scheme offered solutions to some of the problems found in rural areas.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

38 Update on Priorities, Procurement and Finance (Pac.14.02.2019/6)

The Area Council Manager reminded Members of the previous decision to establish a Supporting Isolated Older People Fund to provide services after the contract with Age UK came to an end, with £70,000 being allocated to the fund.

An assessment panel met to consider applications, and had recommended that Age UK be allocated funds to deliver three programmes in the area. Pre-contract meetings had been held to finalise details, and the impact of these would begin to be seen over the course of the next few months.

Members were reminded of the establishment of the Working Together Fund, and subsequent allocations of finance. More recently the Working Together Panel had recommended around £17,000 be approved to support the delivery of the Area Council priorities. The finance would provide of an extension to the Transpennine Trail Station Project, an extension to the Dial Advice Service, a debt advice pilot

delivered by CAB and two projects to support young people. Members noted that £4,428 remained for allocation, but this would increase as difficulties with one of the projects to support young people meant that this would not go ahead.

The meeting discussed the current levels of underspend of Area Council finance, with £18,448 remaining in the 2018/19 budget. It was suggested that this be transferred to the Working Together Fund budget.

Members discussed the contract with South Pennine Community Transport, which was due to finish at the end of the financial year. The prevailing opinion was that the service should continue but should look to either provide the same service for less finance, or a wider service for the same amount of finance as it looked towards becoming more self-sufficient.

The Area Council Manager reminded Members that the contract for providing a Clean, Green and Tidy Team was in its second year. To provide a similar service from November, 2019 would require discussion and arrangements to be agreed at the next Area Council meeting in April.

Members considered the outcome of the recent workshop where the Area Council priorities had been reconsidered in light of recent data and information. It was recommended that the current priorities be endorsed for a further year and more in depth consultation takes place over the next 12 months.

The attention of Members was drawn to the update provided in relation to the production of a community magazine. It was noted that the production of any further magazines had been halted due to dissatisfaction with the provider. Members discussed potential options for highlighting the work of the Area Council and Ward Alliance, and consensus was that providing articles in the Penistone Living supplement would reach much of the intended audience, whilst providing relative value for money.

The Area Council Manager gave an update on the current financial situation of the Area Council, and it was noted that, if £18,448 was moved to the Working Together Fund, no finance remained for allocation in 2018/19.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the update on procurement activity be noted;
- (ii) That the update and progress for the allocation of the Supporting Isolated and Older People Grant Fund be noted;
- (iii) That the update on the Penistone Working Together Fund be noted and that £18,447.75 from the Area Council budget be transferred to the Working Together Fund be allocated through previously approved mechanisms;
- (iv) That a further application to the Working Together Fund from South Pennine Community Transport be supported, which should focus more on the future sustainability of the service.
- (v) That the update on the Twiggs Clean and Tidy Contract be noted;
- (vi) That the proposed priorities for the Area Council for 2019/20 and the development of a consultation plan to inform the setting of future priorities be approved;
- (vii) That the update on the community magazine be noted, and that the option of purchasing space in Penistone Living Magazine be pursued;

(viii) That the financial position for the Area Council be noted.

39 Empty Homes (Pac.14.02.2019/7)

Amy Forster, the Empty Homes Officer, was welcomed to the meeting.

A brief overview of the issues associated with empty homes was given, and Members noted that figures for quarter 3 of 2018/19 showed that 1,659 properties in the borough had been empty for over 6 months.

Members heard of the ways in which support could be provided in order to bring these back into use. These included providing advice including with probate, sales and lettings, and financial assistance through grants and loans. Other options included the Berneslai Homes purchase and repair scheme, or letting through a charity known as Humankind.

Should support be rejected, Members heard of the possibility of using statutory powers such as enforcing sales where buildings may be unsafe or in disrepair. It was noted that this could often be a long process, but often had a positive outcome.

Based on quarter 3 statistics, Members heard how there were 169 empty homes in the Penistone area. It was recognised that many of these would have complex issues associated with them, such as family disputes, which may not easily be resolved, however Members were encouraged to forward the details of any empty property to the Empty Homes Officer to make contact and offer support.

RESOLVED That the feedback be noted and thanks be given to the Empty Homes Officer for their attendance.

40 Community Safety (Pac.14.02.2019/8)

Councillor David Griffin introduced the item, referring to previous discussions at the Ward Alliance and Area Council regarding the provision of Traffic Regulation Orders to prevent inconsiderate parking and increase safety in certain areas of both wards.

Following discussions with officers and cabinet members, a suggestion was made that Community Safety be adopted as a priority for the Area Council, with a financial allocation to support delivery against this being made available from Area Council funds. A Community Safety Panel could then be established to oversee the strategic allocation of these finances in line with criteria agreed by the Area Council.

The proposal was discussed in some detail, noting that Community Safety was not currently a priority and it had not emerged in previous discussions on the subject of priorities. However, it was recognised that it had the potential to do so through the consultation planned.

Concern was expressed that the panel could be inundated with applications, the majority of which could not be funded if the budget allocated was only relatively small. However it was recognised that, if the application of criteria was transparent, then the reasons behind decisions could be easily understood and communicated.

Members noted the lack of resources to enforce any parking violations on yellow lines, but it was acknowledged that they often encouraged responsible parking.

It was acknowledged that the proposal would allow the funding of such as Traffic Regulation Orders which had been highlighted as an issue for the area, but were not considered a priority to fund from central budgets. Suggestions were made to more fully develop the proposal, consulting with relevant officers, in order to ensure this was not contravening any protocols and was within the powers of the Area Council.

RESOLVED that the proposal be more fully developed, before being discussed at a future meeting of the Area Council.

Chair