

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 25 March 2019
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Leech (Chair), Burgess, Howard, Lofts, Platts, Spence and Tattersall

39 Chair's Remarks

The Chair expressed his thanks to retiring Councillors Miller and Burgess for their hard work, dedication and support to the North Area Council.

40 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

41 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 21st January 2019

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st January 2019.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on the 21st January 2019 be approved as a true and correct record.

42 Empty Homes - Amy Forster

Amy Forster, BMBC Empty Homes Officer, was welcomed to the meeting and provided Members with an update regarding empty homes across the North Area Council. Currently there are 1659 empty homes across the Borough, 266 of which are in the North Area Council area, representing 16% of the total. Empty properties are categorised according to the length of time they have been empty, with the majority falling within the 6 months to 2 years category, although some have been empty in excess of 10 years. Issues include disrepair and overgrown gardens, which impacts negatively on other properties in the local area. Financial assistance of up to £15,000 is available to bring the properties back to an acceptable standard. Reasons behind the empty homes are numerous, ranging from absent landlords to family disputes, mental health problems and difficulties around probate, which can take many years to resolve.

The service currently works with Humankind Housing who offer quality accommodation with intensive housing management to help vulnerable tenants live independently by way of a 10 year lease. Joint work also takes place with Berneslai Homes on a purchase and repair scheme and use is made of Berneslai Homes' property management service. The service have a range of statutory powers, including enforced sale but prefers to work with owners and landlord on an amicable

basis. A number of Members were aware of concerns in their local areas and were asked to pass information on to Amy for further investigation where appropriate.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Amy be thanked for the work which she had been done to date on behalf of local residents, and
- (ii) The update be noted.

43 Outcome of Health and Wellbeing Workshop

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, apprising Members of the discussions that took place at a recent workshop regarding the potential for a Health and Wellbeing project to be funded by the North Area Council. Priority areas for a new project were identified as cancer, smoking prevalence and young people. It was felt that the Area Council must use its resources to produce maximum impact for the community and that any long term investment in a project should deliver sustained behaviour change. In terms of project characteristics, the 'coaching' model was well respected. It was felt that 'five ways to wellbeing' should be at the centre of a project (Connect, Be Active, Give, Take Notice and Stay Connected) and that building resilience particularly around emotional wellbeing was very important, especially for young people.

It was felt that some of the research information from the 'Make Your Mark' Survey may not be representative and that any commissioned project should be developed and owned by young people. The possibility of running a pilot project in the summer break was discussed, but it was felt that this could prove difficult in terms of commissioning and tight timescales.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The health and wellbeing needs of young people be identified as a priority area for future development;
- (ii) Young people should be consulted with as part of the project identification and development, and
- (iii) The Area Manager be tasked with arranging a further workshop on 17th April 2019 to work up a delivery model for the priority, with the support of specialist officers.

44 Outcome of Area Magazine Workshop

The Area Council manager updated Members with regard to future provision of the Area Magazine. The preferred option for Members would be a totally independent publication but the cost of this, at around £7000 per edition, would be prohibitive. It was reported that the next edition would be the Winter magazine and that summer events will have to be promoted by alternative means such as notice boards, the website, facebook etc rather than through the community magazine.

RESOLVED that more information will be provided by the Area Council Manager once this is available

45 Performance Management Report - Commissioned Projects & Grant Summary

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who provided Members with a comprehensive North Area Council Performance Report for the Period October – December 2018 (Quarter 3).

Contracted Service Providers include CAB and DIAL (Community Outreach Project), Twiggs Grounds Maintenance and DIAL (Social Isolation and Warm Homes). In addition, the North Area Council funds Housing Migration Officer and Youth Participation Worker posts. A number of case studies were provided within the report across all priorities.

It was reported that since the DIAL project started in September 2017 the total benefit gain has now reached £3,046,173 and the debt managed stands at £453,156. This represents value for money, as the North Area receives £25 back from every £1 invested in the project.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that Members note the update report

46 Outcome of Stronger Communities Grants Panel

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and updated Members with regard to the North Area Council Stronger Communities Grant. Recommended projects include: YMCA Youthwork (£19,315); Ad Astra – Taking Young People Seriously (£19,730); Darton Cricket Club cricket practice facility (£19,000); Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) Looking Out for Older People (£19,557); Emmanuel Methodist Church Ignite Barnsley (£13,205.67) and Reds in the Community Healthy Lifestyle Programme (£8,551.38). This bid will also cover some school provision for years 3 – 6.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Members note the NAC Stronger Communities Grant update;
- (ii) Members note the projects that have been approved for funding and
- (iii) Members agree the performance and monitoring arrangements outlined within the report.

47 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance Update - updated financial profile

The North Area Council Manager provided the Area Council with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that have been proposed.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the current financial and budget position and forecast for funding commitments;
- (ii) The Anti-Poverty Community Outreach Project be extended from September 2019 for a further 12 months;
- (iii) The Clean and Green Service be extended from September 2019 for a further 12 months
- (iv) The Youth Participation posts be extended from August 2019 for a further 12 months

48 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund

The North Area Council Manager updated the North Area Council regarding the financial position of the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2018/19 period, providing a full breakdown for each Ward.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The report be noted, and
- (ii) Each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds in line with the guidance on spend.

49 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 8th January and 12th February 2019; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 14th January and 11th February 2019; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 4th December 2018 and 5th February 2019; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 24th January 2019.

Darton East – Cllr Spence congratulated volunteers on the amount of litter collected and also explained that the Tour de Yorkshire is passing through the area on 3rd May and a number of related celebratory projects are underway, such as painting bikes with Greenworks. Local schools are to be involved. Safety rails are to be erected on Shaw Lane. Land art will be on display at Wilthorpe, at Darton and on the golf course.

Darton West – It was reported that the hanging basket sponsorship was proving popular. 'Stars of Darton' was held on 15th March, was well attended and very enjoyable. Cllr Burgess continues to be involved in local history groups. A third information board detailing the history of local schools is to be erected, then six more to complete the Kexborough and Darton Heritage Trail. A Barugh group will be set up shortly. The 'Visit Darton' project is ongoing. Areas which could benefit from investment for the Darton West in Bloom Project are being identified and planting of trees in Darton park is taking place with primary schools.

Old Town – The Bike Store project is currently on hold. Bulb planting for next year is in hand. Attempts are being made to speak to Pogmoor residents regarding planting. Work at Willowbank is out of legal scope. Information boards giving details of wildlife, flora and fauna etc., have been erected at the Fleets. Lots of work is ongoing.

St Helens –Planning for the Gala is underway for 23rd July. The recent Health and Wellbeing Event in the Community Shop was a great success. A total of 43 pairs of slippers were given out courtesy of the Fire Service. Lots of stalls were there, including Stop Smoking advice and male and female cancer screening. It was pointed out the St Helens Ward has the highest prevalence of all age cancers in Barnsley, therefore screening programmes are to be encouraged. It is likely that the Health and Wellbeing Event will become an Annual Event. Spring bulbs are to be machine planted across the Ward and hanging baskets will be put up.

RESOLVED that the notes of the respective Ward Alliances be noted.

Chair