

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 27 July 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

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

48 **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

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

49 **Election of a Chair**

As Councillor Noble was having issues connecting to the meeting, a Chair was elected from the floor.

RESOLVED that Councillor Gardiner acts as Chair for the meeting.

50 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 8th June, 2020 (Dac.27.07.2020/2)**

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 8th June, 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

51 **Performance Report (Dac.27.07.2020/3)**

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, reminding Members that many of the previously set targets had been disregarded due to the services being flexed in response to Covid-19.

Members heard how the Employability Support Service had provided support to 23 individuals and assisted 3 to gain employment. Within the quarter 10 people had also completed their qualification. Though there were no longer mandatory referrals from Job Centre Plus, numbers of learners remained high, and support continued to be provided via telephone or via zoom.

Those present were reminded of the recruitment of a Housing and Migration Officer at the beginning of the year. It was noted that the officer had been shielding, however they had made 88 initial contacts, had dealt with 22 cases of waste on premises, and 44 cases of fly-tipping had been reported.

Members noted that the work of Twiggs Grounds Maintenance with schools had ceased, however the team had concentrated on clean ups in a number of highlighted streets, supporting the work of Neighbourhood Services. In addition, they had been

supporting individuals who were keen to improve the environment by supplying relevant equipment.

B:Friend continued to promote social inclusion by offering a range of activities for residents to engage in, instead of face-to-face meetings. Wellbeing packs had been distributed to a number of residents, and socially distanced befriending had also taken place in gardens.

Members heard that 11 projects had been funded through the Dearne Development Fund, however it had not been appropriate for all to continue.

TADS had continued to support young people, with 9 of secondary school age accessing the service and 4 of primary school age. All bar one reported in improvement in their wellbeing.

Mission Muay Thai had recruited 20 young people with 15 completing the 10 weeks of the project. 5 had also remained with the project. All who had completed the course reported an improvement in wellbeing.

It was noted that DIAL had ceased providing support in person as soon as lockdown was announced but had supported residents on the telephone. Within the quarter 127 enquiries had been received and support had led to £117,888 of benefit gain. It was suggested that future reports could breakdown the outcome of each of the 127 enquiries, be it referral to another agency, signposting, or more in-depth support.

Similarly, CAB had moved to provide support through other means and within the quarter had supported 42 client contacts, helping them to draw down an additional £67,045 of benefits.

The work of all services in responding to the difficult situation was commended.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

52 Dearne Area Council Priorities (Dac.27.07.2020/4)

Members were reminded of the discussion at the Area Council on 8th June in relation to the Council's recovery priorities and the financial position of the Area Council.

Subsequently Members had met and had a more in-depth discussion to consider the alignment of the Area Council priorities with those of the Council.

Members had felt that the Area Council's current priorities aligned strongly with those of the Council but it was suggested that mental health could feature more prominently. Therefore it was suggested that the priority 'Improving Health' be modified to 'Improving Health and Wellbeing'.

RESOLVED that the priorities for the Area Council be as follows:- Skills for Work; Improving Health and Wellbeing; Young people; The Local Economy; and The Environment.

53 Dearne Area Council Commissioning and Financial Update (Dac.27.07.2020/5)

The Area Council Manager provided an overview of the financial situation. The Area Council had an opening balance of £204,730.67 for 2020/21 of which £176,557 had been allocated, leaving £28,173.67.

The Dearne Development Fund had funded 11 projects in 2019/20 and £3,650.68 remained to be carried forward in to the current financial year.

Members were reminded of the timescales for each of the contracted services, together with the opportunities to available to extend these should they remain a priority and finance be available.

It was recommended that the situation of Dearne Development Fund projects that were currently halted be monitored in order to inform decisions should these be delayed indefinitely.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

54 Dearne Development Fund (Dac.27.07.2020/6)

Members were reminded of the small amount of finance remaining in the Dearne Development Fund, and of its impact in previous years.

Noted was the recommendation to allocate £28,000 from the Area Council budget to add to the underspend within the Dearne Development Fund, to be allocated as per previously established protocols.

The need for ongoing monitoring of projects already supported, especially those halted due to Covid-19 was reiterated.

RESOLVED that £28,000 be devolved to the Dearne Development Fund to be allocated as per previously agreed protocols.

55 Notes from the Dearne Ward Alliance held on 5th March, 2020 (Dac.27.07.2020/7)

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne Ward Alliance held on 5th March 2020. A brief overview was provided of the financial situation at the time of the meeting and of the applications for Ward Alliance Fund finance. An update was also given in relation to the ongoing Ward Alliance projects.

RESOLVED that notes from the Ward Alliance be received.

56 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.27.07.2020/8)

The Area Council Manager provided an update in relation to the use of Ward Alliance Funds.

For Dearne North the opening balance for 20/21 was £10,527.12. One project had been funded, which left a remaining balance of £10,257.12.

For Dearne South there was an opening balance of £12,866.04 for 20/21, and one project had been funded leaving £11,345.64 to allocate.

Members noted that there may be some underspend returned should projects be unable to go ahead due to Covid-19, or that projects may need to be delayed. Also noted were the restrictions on funding, with only projects that supported recovery being eligible.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chair