

MEETING:	North East Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 23 July 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	VIRTUAL

MINUTES

Present Councillors Hayward (Chair), Cheetham, Cherryholme, Green, Higginbottom, Houghton CBE, Makinson, Richardson and Wraith MBE

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

The Chair welcomed participants, the Press and the public to the meeting, highlighting that this meeting was to be streamed live over the internet and that a recording would be available on the Barnsley MBC website shortly after the conclusion of the meeting.

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

55 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on 4th June 2020.**

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on 4th June 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North East Area Council held 4th June 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

56 **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. The following updates were noted:-

Cudworth – It was reported that it has been quiet recently. The Principal Towns project is moving on with the off-road parking at Bow Street nearly finished. The old toilet block site has been completed and just needs a few finishing touches. Lots of work has been carried out by volunteers across the Ward litter picking and helping to keep the area tidy. David Gill has now left the Council after working for BMBC for over 35 years, with the last 7 working with the North East Area Council and Ward Alliances. Members and officers contributed towards a selection of leaving gifts for him, and he was thanked for his significant contribution and expertise to the community work of the North East Area Council.

Monk Bretton – There was not a lot of additional information to report other than 3 out of 4 defibrillators have now been fitted and registered at locations across the Monk Bretton Ward. Additionally, over 100 activity packs for local children were distributed across the Ward.

North East – A successful ‘Zoom’ catch up meeting has been held with the Ward Alliance. The hanging baskets have been put up and Principal Towns work is ongoing.

Royston – The Ward Alliance held a successful ‘Teams’ meeting and agreed some funding to support groups that had been struggling because of the Covid-19 crisis. Plans are in place to deliver a virtual Royston masterplan consultation. Principal towns work has continued, 21 shop fronts have been completed, with a further 10 in the pipeline. An ecological report for Rabbit Ings is awaited as part of the Principal Towns funding scheme. Although the Great British Spring Clean was put on hold, there is a possibility that it may be reorganised for later in the year, although socially distanced weekly litter picks have continued, with equipment funded through the Ward Alliance. It was highlighted that the Royston Pavilion project had won a Regional award and thanks were expressed to the Area Manager and the Team for their valuable contribution to the project.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

57 North East Area Council Project Performance Report - update on the delivery of commissioned projects

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this item, highlighting progress in regard to projects aligned to the agreed outcomes and social value objectives of the North East Area Council and specifically the summary performance management report for the Social Isolation and Dementia project delivered by Age UK, Quarter Four from 1st April 2020 to 30th June 2020 and the District Enforcement performance management report for Quarter One, from 1st April 2020 to 30th June 2020.

Specific items of note include:

The Social Isolation and Dementia service has supported 111 people in the North East Area since the lockdown period started. This includes 36 people who needed Age UK Barnsley to shop for them on a regular basis so they could stay safe at home, 93 socially isolated people needing telephone befriending and 3 people who needed their prescriptions picking up. Residents were also helped to access information and benefits advice, and many were signposted to other organisations who could help them. Fish and chips and afternoon teas were delivered to older and vulnerable people as a treat to brighten up their week. 25 volunteers have provided over 283 hours of volunteering time. Age UK has also provided a wide variety of home-based activities, with different packs distributed every week. Very positive feedback has been received from both volunteers and those receiving support. The next step will be to support those who are currently shielding, and those who want to start to get back out into the community.

District Enforcement have flexed their commission to help with reporting fly tipping during the lockdown period and have also been working closely with Parks Services to make sure the Parks are safe, signs are in place, and reporting back any problems that they see. They have also been active on the High Street, offering advice about social distancing and other measures to help to keep people safe.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

58 NEAC Financial Position and Procurement Update

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this item, updating Members regarding the commissioning budget and financial analysis for the period to 2020/21. It was reported that spend is currently on target for the 20/21 financial year. Advice has been taken to ensure that all project meet the revised guidelines, for example provision of hanging baskets. Insurance for Carlton Marsh is being explored and Members will be informed when this has been resolved. It was highlighted that the Pocket Park remains locked up at the moment. Alex Forest has expressed a desire to erect a bench in the Pocket Park with a plaque remembering those who have died due to Covid-19.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The update be noted; and
- (ii) Permission be granted to erect the bench in the Pocket Park

59 Report on the use of Area Council Budgets, Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this item, updating Members regarding the North East Area Council Budget and Ward Alliance Funds. It was reported that all Ward Alliances are flexing projects to meet the needs of the community during the Covid-19 crisis and action plans are being developed. Following a meeting of Area Council Chairs, it was suggested that a workshop should be organised in late August/early September to look at Covid-19 impact and recovery work. It is likely that this will be held virtually,

RESOLVED

- (i) that the report be noted, and
- (ii) the Area Council Manager organise a date for the Covid-19 impact and recovery workshop.

60 The North East Area Council Local Responses to the Recovery Period

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this item, explaining how the Commissions and Grants of the North East Area Council continue to be flexed to meet the needs of the local communities. The North East Area Council has helped with the Community Responders initiative, dealing with 100 requests for support, 48 for shopping and 52 for befriending. Very positive feedback has been received from those volunteering and contributing to helping others. All volunteers gained new skills and were provided with PPE and sanitising equipment.

430 Activity Packs tailored to the needs of Tots, Juniors and Teens have been distributed, with minimal cost. The Library Service has provided books and the Parks Service created activity booklets, Public Health helped with toothbrushes/toothpaste,

and the Sports and Active Recreation Team have provided table tennis sets. Very positive feedback has been received from the families who received the Activity Packs, and the community groups who have helped to deliver the packs. The members agreed that this initiative indicates the value of what can be done in the local communities through partnership working. Thanks to were passed on to the Area Team for organising this project.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The report be noted, and
- (ii) Thanks be expressed to the Area Team for pulling everything together.

61 Staffing Update

The Area Council Manager updated members with regard to filling the vacant post following David Gill's retirement. The post is due to be advertised in the next two to three weeks but in the meantime the workload will be covered by The Area Manager and other staff within the Area Team.

RESOLVED that the staffing update be noted.

62 Healthy Holidays Funding Update

The Area Council Manager provided a verbal update about the funding of the Healthy Holidays project. Plans are in place to work with local providers to provide community projects (such as nature walks and treasure hunts) during the holidays whilst adhering to Government guidelines around handwashing and social distancing. £14,000 of funding has been secured through Fare Share and Public Health to support vulnerable families across the North East Area Council communities. The Family Centre has been funded to help support 40 families to make healthy meals through the 'slow cooker' project. The North East Area Team is looking into the provision of 'breakfast bags' for distribution to vulnerable families through existing groups. Ad Astra, Exodus, Grimethorpe Action Zone (GAZ) and Gt Houghton youth group continue to provide socially distanced holiday activities in their local areas. Healthy lunch packs are also provided as part of this initiative.

Members were pleased with the positive way in which the community and local organisations have supported each other during the pandemic, reminiscent of the Miners' strike and WWII, and hoped it would continue.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

Chair