

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 23 November 2020
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

Present Councillors Leech (Chair), A. Cave, Hunt, Lofts, Newing, Pickering, Platts, Spence and Tattersall

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

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

Councillor Leech welcomed attendees to the meeting, which is being streamed live on the internet. Introductions were made for the benefit of those attending.

2 **Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 14th September 2020**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th September 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 14th September 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 **Housing and Cohesion (Bradley Beatson and Carolyn Nicholls)**

Carolyn Nicholls and Bradley Beatson were welcomed to the meeting and gave an overview of Bradley's role of Housing and Cohesion Officer. Bradley has been in post since 19th October and has already done a number of walkabouts and is becoming familiar with Council systems. Bradley has created a letter for tenants which explains his role and the help and support he can provide. He has already established a presence in the community, familiarising himself with the area. People in the community seem keen to have a conversation with Bradley while he is out and about, which gives him an opportunity to explain his role. Whilst acknowledging that he has lots to learn, Bradley is clearly enthusiastic and is looking forward to the role and working with the Councillors in the future. It is likely that Bradley will be funded to do the HHSRS qualification, which will enable him to be able to categorise hazards and chase up problems with landlords once he is able to enter premises.

RESOLVED that Bradley and Carolyn be thanked for their attendance and contribution to the meeting. Councillors also expressed their gratitude at having both officers on board to support the work of the North Area Council.

4 **Young People's Resilience Grant - update**

The North Area Council Manager introduced this item and apprised Members of the current position regarding the outcome of the Young People's Emotional Resilience

Grant Panel. The opportunity will support Covid-19 Recovery in the short term and transition work in the longer term.

Since the last Area Council meeting, the, multi disciplinary panel of experts with reps from junior and senior school has been very busy. Two providers have been asked to come on board - YMCA and Ad Astra, with a geographic split. The model has been slightly adapted due to Covid and budgetary requirements. All schools identified for the projects have been offered flexible support but some are experiencing difficulty with bubbles etc. and keeping students and staff safe. New relationships and trust is being established between schools and our voluntary and community sector organisations, which will take time to embed.

It was explained that the 6 primary schools were identified and approached through looking at indices of multiple deprivation, free school meals eligibility, special educational needs and layered the statistical information on top of each other. The Area Council Manager also confirmed that funding given to Emmanuel Church was in the last financial year and has come to an end and so will not duplicate funding.

RESOLVED that Members note the progress in this priority area

5 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance

The North Area Council Manager introduced this report, providing Members with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that have been proposed. Some projects have had to be flexed due to the impact of Covid. The report explains what this has looked like and where additional funding has been applied to projects.

Items of specific note included:

The Anti-poverty community outreach project has been waived for a further 12 months and may be put out to tender in the early summer of next year unless there is an opportunity for a further waiver. The Clean and Green service may be advertised as a new opportunity from April of next year with an adapted specification. Members have now met the new Housing and Cohesion Officer Bradley Beatson. DIAL's Warm Connections project is now in the 3rd year of delivery and may be retendered next summer. In terms of the Stronger Communities grant, some projects have had to be postponed or adapted so that they could continue to provide a service during the emergency situation where appropriate. Age UK has been working hard in the area, endeavouring to ensure that older people stay mentally and physically active whilst being as independent as possible. The project is to be extended until June 2021 after a hard winter. The grant opportunity for the Environmental Contract should be advertised at the end of the month.

Members were made aware of the adaptations to the budget contained within the report which have occurred as a result of projects requiring more funding or starting later than envisaged. A Member commented that substantial progress has now been made on the Fleets project and that the report should be published on the North Area Council web page to reassure residents.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The North Area Council should note the existing budget position and funding commitments;
- (ii) Members also note the update regarding the Housing and Cohesion Officer,
- (iii) Members note the updated table showing the proposed spend versus the current forecasted spend for the year, and
- (iv) The Fleets progress report be published on the North Area Council web page for the benefit of residents

6 Area Commissioning Performance Report

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, providing the Area Council with a comprehensive Performance Report for the period July – September (2020/21 Quarter 2) together with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that have been proposed.

The report demonstrated how all the North Council contracted services contribute to the achievement of each of the North Area Council's agreed outcomes and social value objectives and making a massive positive intervention in people's lives, particularly during this very difficult time. Case studies demonstrated the difference that is being made to individual families.

Projects highlighted included the CAB & DIAL Community Outreach Project; Twiggs Grounds Maintenance and DIAL Social Isolation and Warm Connections project.

It was reported that Darton Cricket Club has not yet had the opportunity to use sports equipment purchased last year, it is anticipated that a report will be submitted by the end of June 2021. 'Reds in the Community' has struggled in some areas, the programme that started in October is now being delivered virtually. This will give an opportunity to engage virtually with Fit Reds, which is helpful for people who may suffer from low mood.

In terms of this year's grant funding, some remodelling has had to be done and providers have had to meet many challenges in this period. Members were provided with detailed information about the Emmanuel Church projects; CAB and DIAL; YMCA youth work and the Dementia café.

RESOLVED that the contents of the Performance Management Report be noted.

7 Covid-19 Recovery Older People's Resilience

The Area Council Manager introduced this report, which proposes to extend funding that will support older people in the COVID-19 Recovery Phase whilst trying to ensure that money contributed to the projects get well utilised. All providers are continually adapting their service delivery to reflect the current Covid safe working practises and lockdown restrictions. Really strong partnerships have been formed,

with partners talking to each other for the benefit of older people in the community, supported by the Health and Wellbeing group and the Community Matron.

An additional £2000 has been provided for winter warmer packs to be distributed to older people in the community. The packs will also include falls prevention and exercise information; reminiscence activities; toothbrush packs and information on local organisations providing help and support.

It was reported that when vaccines are rolled out, possibly as early as next month, there may be a role for the Area Council in terms of providing transport to vaccination centres. Once more is known, this will be brought to the North Area Council, as it is likely that older and vulnerable people will be a priority group.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The North Area Council continues to fund Age UK Barnsley to provide support for older people in the North Area for a further 6 months; and
- (ii) Provides £2000 of additional funding for the Winter Warmer Packs.

8 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund

The Area Council Manager updated the North Area Council with regard to the financial position of the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2020/21 period. Members were asked to keep aware of what is happening in communities and to help to identify any projects which may need funding during this difficult situation.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Ward Alliances pay particular attention to the Ward Alliance Covid19 Recovery Plan document when developing projects during the remainder of 2020/21, and
- (ii) Each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2020/21, in line with the guidance on spend.

9 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 8th September and 13th October 2020; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 16th September and 21st October 2020; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 8th September and 13th October 2020; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 19th September 2020.

Further updates included:

Darton East – There will be a solo Christmas lights switch on by Cllr Spence. Christmas trees have been funded for outside the Co-op in Mapplewell, at Woolley colliery and one at Windhill. Spring bulbs have been funded, planted by the Greenspace group across the area with the help of volunteers. There has also been a campaign to promote shopping locally in Mapplewell, which initially led to an upturn in business. It is hoped that this can continue.

Darton West – Three projects have been recently completed: the car park at Darton park has been well received and has led to a noticeable increase in use of the park; the Dearne Hall Road project is now complete with low fencing around some green space and Harry Road Rec now has new fencing which should help combat anti-social behaviour.

Old Town – 4 of the 5 Christmas trees have now been planted, a 9ft tree has been donated by a resident together with 500 crocus bulbs and 200 snowdrop bulbs donated by residents. Lights for the trees have been provided by Council and they will be dressed shortly. The community planter will be installed and planted up shortly. The Blackburn Lane play area has now been recovered and spring bulbs planted by the Yorkshire Wildlife Team.

St Helen's – Lots of community groups have been bidding for Covid recovery funding. £1687 has been returned from St Helens church as they no longer needed the funding which can now be put to good use elsewhere. Spring bulbs have been planted around the area. Christmas tree events will take place shortly but may be online. Laithes Chapel is planning to hold a memory tree service under Covid guidelines but if this does not go ahead people will still be able to put their own tags on. Activity packs and selection boxes have been agreed and will come from Good Food Barnsley CIC and will be distributed to families in need throughout the ward.

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

Chair