

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 24 May 2021
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

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

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

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

2 **Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 15th March, 2021 (Nac.24.05.2021/2)**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th March 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on the 15th March 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 **Housing Cohesion Officer Update - Bradley Beatson (Nac.24.05.2021/3)**

Bradley Beatson gave an update about his recent work. It was highlighted that much of his work involves dealing with issues capable of having a detrimental effect on other, including Anti-Social Behaviour, environmental issues, property/housing conditions - private sector housing, fly-tipping, littering and social issues. Bradley works closely with other agencies (SYP, SYFRS, Adult & Children's Social Services, landlords / letting agents), voluntary agencies and with local residents within communities. Bradley has also been instrumental in facilitating the North Area Action Days that take place each month in all four wards. A number of case studies and photographs were shared, highlighting the work Bradley had been involved in. It was felt that a social media presence to raise the profile of the good work being done in communities might be beneficial. Legislation and enforcement is effective at resolving issues locally, when balanced with support for individuals.

RESOLVED that Bradley be thanked for his attendance and contribution and for the hard work and persistence he has shown in carrying out his role to sustain safe and pleasant communities.

4 **Public Health Covid 19 Update - Lucy Butcher and Leyla Brooke (Nac.24.05.2021/4)**

Leyla Brooke was welcomed to the meeting and gave a Covid-19 update. It was reported that although Barnsley is relatively stable, all age case rates are almost three times the national average and Barnsley is in the top ten local authorities with highest rates. There has been a rise amongst the 10 to 19 age group this week, with

a school outbreak and related household clusters driving rates in some wards. A further rise in rates is expected if further household mixing is permitted over the coming weeks. The highest number of cases (53%) remain in 10-39-year olds. The number of 40-59-year olds fell this week to 38, making up 22% of all cases. It is essential that the public health messages of 'hands, face, space and let fresh air in' continue to be reiterated to keep the road map moving forward. Testing continues, with mobile testing also available. Details of centres are on the website. Work is underway to target vulnerable and vaccine-hesitant groups through community engagement for both testing and vaccinations. Extra work is done in problem areas to dispel myths and encourage uptake of the vaccine. Work is done with Communications to try to understand why residents are reluctant to have the vaccine, which has to be handled carefully. Younger people seem to be concerned about infertility, the fear of being implanted with a 'chip' and tracking. Some believe that if their parents have had Covid and have recovered they do not need to be vaccinated. Information leaflets are also provided in other languages. Everybody can now access free home testing kits. 57 pharmacies have signed up to the testing services, with 12,500 tests collected since March 2021. Vaccination levels have improved, with 140,000 residents having received at least one vaccination and 74,000 having received their second dose. Those aged 30 to 35 are now eligible for vaccination. NEOs and Covid Marshalls continue to work closely with each other, with a focus on licensed premises recently. Work has now begun with the hospitality sector to provide support and guidance. It is a legal requirement to provide a QR code for customers, with the possibility of a £1000 fixed penalty notice if not displayed.

RESOLVED that Members note the update and Leyla be thanked for her attendance and contribution

5 Health and Wellbeing Workshop Outcomes (Nac.24.05.2021/5)

The Area Council Manager provided Members with an update with regard to the Health and Wellbeing priority, making Members aware of the current position of the review and of the current direction of travel for commissioning in the North Area. The multi-agency North Area Councils Health and Wellbeing Priority Working Group met on the 23rd April to reflect on the existing Social Isolation and Cold Homes project. The workshop considered if this was still a relevant priority area for the North Area's commissioning focus. Aims and objectives of the project were outlined together with potential beneficiary groups, anticipated outputs and outcomes. The Area Council Manager also updated Members with regard to current commissioned projects, some of which already have a health and wellbeing link. A discussion took place around who the beneficiary groups should be, the need for more information and whether it would be possible to include all groups in terms of Covid-19 recovery for the community as a whole.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Members note the procurement progress to date, and
- (ii) Members agreed to focus on young people whose employment prospects have been affected by Covid-19 and older people who have become increasingly isolated and

- (iii) A further workshop be arranged to clarify the project direction, using Microsoft Teams.

6 Performance Report (Nac.24.05.2021/6)

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, providing a comprehensive North Area Council Performance Report, including cases studies which demonstrated the impact various projects were having within the North Area Council area. It was also reported that Twiggs will attend the next Area Council meeting in July and supplementary information about the work they are doing will also be provided.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the update be noted, and
- (ii) Twiggs be invited to attend the next Area Council meeting in July.

7 Priority Working Groups (Nac.24.05.2021/7)

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, requesting that Members give some thought to ward representation on each of the Priority Working Groups.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The Area Council Manager provide a list of current working groups and
- (ii) Members decide between them who will be the relevant ward representative for each of the working groups.

8 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance (Nac.24.05.2021/8)

The 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) The North Area Council note the existing budget position and the existing funding commitments;
- (ii) Members confirm the extension of the Housing and Cohesion Officers post for a further 12 months from the 19th October 2021 at a cost of £35,000p.a.,
- (iii) Members be provided with a scope of service for the Twiggs contract
- (iv) Members note that Twiggs have assigned new team members to the North Area and that staff are currently undertaking area familiarisation and stakeholder consultation to plan a programme of work;
- (v) The North Area Council submits a waiver application for the Youth Resilience Grant providers to continue to deliver the programme for a further 12 months at £90,000 p.a. and that
- (vi) underspend is used to re-profile contracts that are re-tendered in line with inflation

9 Report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds (Nac.24.05.2021/9)

The Area Council Manager updated the North Area Council on the financial position of the Ward Alliance Budget for each ward for the 2020/21 period at the beginning of the new financial year.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the update be noted and
- (ii) the Ward Alliances pay particular attention to the Ward Alliance Covid-19 Recovery Plan document when developing projects during the remainder of 2021/22, with each Ward prioritising the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2021/22, in line with the guidance on spend.

10 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances (Nac.24.05.2021/10)

The North Area Council received the notes of the Darton East, Darton West, Old Town and St Helens Ward Alliance meetings for information purposes. Members were reminded of requirement for Ward Alliance minutes to be received by the Area Council. The following additional updates were provided:

Darton East - There has been a lot of interest in the hanging baskets. Litter has been a huge problem but the ward is now seeing more people volunteering, with an increased demand for litter picking equipment.

Darton West - There is a meeting tonight, with members looking at potential work for Twiggs. Darton Bowling Club are having an open day this Friday with Members invited and the Mayor in attendance. A new fence has been erected at Harry Road Rec to combat anti-social behaviour. This seems to be working well at the moment. The ward has also seen an increase in littering and volunteering, which is a credit to local communities.

Old Town - Money has been spent on a defibrillator and litter picking equipment, and on a replacement container for football equipment at Pogmoor. Litter picking has also increased. One member has been involved in developing work with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust regarding tracking of crayfish in the river (has licence).

St Helens - The ward has also seen an increase in regard to volume of litter during the lockdown. The Regimental Memorial bench will be installed outside Poundstretcher shortly, with thanks expressed to Cllr Leech for persevering with this issue. Hanging baskets are to be installed next week. The February half term food packs were well received.

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

Chair