

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 11 February 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present Councillors Barnard (Chair), Greenhough, Hand-Davis, Kitching and Wilson.

7 **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests**

No Members declared an interest in any item on the agenda.

8 **Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 3rd December, 2020 (Pac.11.02.2021/2)**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd December, 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on the 3rd December, 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

9 **Notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 26th November, 2020 and 21st January, 2021 (Pac.11.02.2021/3)**

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 26th November, 2020 and 21st January, 2021.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 26th November, 2020 and 21st January, 2021 be received.

10 **Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.11.02.2021/4)**

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, drawing attention to the £20,000 annual allocation, the significant finance carried forward and the additional income from Covid Recovery funds. Though the number of applications was initially small, they had reassuringly increased over the past few months and more groups were now applying for funds. It was noted that £9,545.81 remained available for allocation, and that a number of applications had recently been received for consideration.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

11 **Performance Update (Pac.11.02.2021/5)**

The Area Council Manager delivered a presentation providing an overview of performance, which included that of contracted services.

Members were reminded of the current priorities, and the services funded by the Area Council, including the associated contract or grant timescales.

An overview of performance was provided, and it was noted that 10 businesses had been involved in clean and tidy activities during the year with two within previous quarter. Members noted that a number of performance measures, such as young people engaged in volunteers, were no longer being reported on due to the pandemic.

Community groups had continued to be supported by Age UK Barnsley and Twiggs Grounds Maintenance with 15 receiving support in the previous quarter. Members heard how 23 volunteers had been engaged throughout the quarter, including three who had newly volunteered, and that the community car scheme was now operation for essential journeys, with four being undertaken.

155 people had received advice and support within the quarter, contributing to a total of 570 throughout the year. Within the quarter three full time jobs had been created, and over 95% of expenditure was local.

With regards to the service provided by Age UK Barnsley, Members heard that there had been 148 service user contacts to provider support. 17 new referrals had also been received. The service had 18 active volunteers, with 5 additional micro volunteers, and they had been involved in delivering a range of activities at home, Christmas Day dinners, winter warmth packs and much more.

The service had provided information and advice to 15 new service users, with a total estimated benefit gain of over £14,000 for the quarter. 102 home based activities had been provided, and a new 'Walk for Health' group had been established, though it was noted that this would be paused during lockdown. Other groups had been supported to keep participants connected in different ways through activities at home.

Members heard of links being forged with the National Trust at Wentworth Castle and with Dial A Ride for service users to make use of the castle gardens. Also noted were efforts to establish more walking groups. The service also hoped to re-establish the pen pals project when schools reopened.

The SOPPA network had continued to meet virtually to share information and it was noted that age friendly work would be revisited at the earliest opportunity.

Despite the restrictions Twiggs Grounds Maintenance had continued to operate effectively with 11 groups and parishes supported during the quarter. The service had worked with two business and supported 24 individual projects. In the 15 litter picks conducted, 52 bags of litter had been collected. Members noted the new Team Leader in post and the recruitment of a new apprentice was progressing. The Tool Bank, funded by the Ward Alliance was now operational, but uptake had been slow.

Members heard that DIAL had moved to providing support via the telephone and online. During the quarter 110 residents had received support, which was slightly lower than in the previous quarter. Members heard that the project had supported residents to claim an additional £369,021 in benefits. Members noted that the most common query was in relation to attendance allowance, and that for every £1 the Area Council invested £76 had been brought into the area.

An update was provided with regards to the first quarter of the new contract with Citizen's Advice Bureau. 30 clients had been seen during the quarter, with a growing

trend for support with relationship and family issues. 40% of those supported had indicated they had a disability or long-term health condition. Clients had been assisted in claiming an additional £8,025 of benefits within the quarter and the service had assisted the management of £12,427 of debt. Though the service had been provided via the adviceline and through email, work to launch a video service was underway. Members noted that this was being supported through BMBC decommissioned laptops.

An update was then provided with regards to the work of the Area Team. It was noted that links had been maintained with community groups in the area, with support provided including in relation to safe operating practices and assistance to apply for lost income.

'Heathy Holidays' had been piloted with Springvale Primary school during the Christmas Holidays with fruit and veg vouchers supported by Penistone Fruit and Veg. The Children and Family Service also supported cooking at home and other activities.

Work continued with the Targeted Youth Support Service and partners to investigate what support is required for young people with a view to this being funded through the Working Together Fund.

Support had also been provided to residents to those Clinically Extremely Vulnerable through the Community Responder Service. Members noted that the team had supported the delivery of Winter Warmth packs, the further development of the Principal Towns Initiative, and had worked closely with Public Health and the Neighbourhood Engagement Officer.

Noted was the recruitment of a Project Officer within the Area Team, which was a shared resource with the Dearne Area.

Members discussed the issues with fly-tipping, litter and dog-fouling in the area. It was acknowledged that there were no easy solutions to any of the issues. Careful consideration would be given to providing covert cameras in fly-tipping hotspots, and to increasing signage and providing free dog waste bags to help reduce dog fouling.

Praise was given to the services providing information and advice in the area, and also those supporting those requiring assistance throughout the pandemic.

RESOLVED:- that the report be received.

12 Procurement and Financial Update (Pac.11.02.2021/6)

The Area Manager spoke to the item, reminding Members that a further £70,000 had been allocated to a Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People Grant Fund, though this had been paused and the original service had been extended. Members were made aware of the revised grant timeline. The process would commence in March 2021 with new services expected to commence in June.

As agreed previously there were no application deadlines associated with the Working Together Fund, with the Area Team working to encourage applications for post lockdown provision. In the previous quarter grants had been approved for

Citizen's Advice Bureau and DIAL. Members noted that there remained £42,776 for allocation.

Members heard about progress to utilised finance set aside to support Children and Young People, with research being undertaken in conjunction with the Targeted Youth Support Service.

Those present discussed the Clean and Tidy Service which had commenced in April, 2020. Unfortunately, the service had to be flexed due to the Covid-19 pandemic but had performed well in delivering the service. The service had been procured for an initial year, with an option to extend this for two further 12-month periods, subject to satisfactory performance, a continued need for the service and available finance. Members were asked to consider the extension of the service into a second year. It was noted that the service would usually be asked to attend a meeting to provide an update on the work undertaken, and it was suggested that this be placed on the agenda of the meeting in June.

Members were provided an overview of the current financial position. It was noted that £15,225 would remain at the end of the current financial year, which would be carried forward into 2021/22.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the update on procurement activity be received;
- (ii) That the update on contracts funded by the existing Supporting Isolated and Older People Grant fund be noted;
- (iii) That the proposed grant procurement timeline to establish future provision to support vulnerable and isolated older people in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic be noted;
- (iv) That the update and current financial position of the Penistone Working Together Fund be noted;
- (v) That the update on ringfenced funds within the existing Working Together Fund to establish specific activities that will support young people in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic be noted;
- (vi) That the updates on the new Clean and Tidy Contract, started in April 2020, be noted;
- (vii) That approval be given for the Clean and Tidy Service continue in to year two of the contract from April, 2021 at a cost of £100,000 and that a full update of the service to date be presented to Penistone Area Council at the meeting in June, 2021;
- (viii) That the financial year end position for the 2020/21 budget be noted.

13 Superfast South Yorkshire - Julie Tattersall (Pac.11.02.2021/7)

Julie Tattershall, Projects and Contracts Manager, was welcomed to the meeting to provide an update on Superfast South Yorkshire (SFSY) and Accelerating Digital Barnsley.

Members heard how SFSY was a partnership between the four South Yorkshire local authorities, Building Digital UK, Openreach and the Local Enterprise Partnership. So far SFSY had increased availability of superfast broadband from 80% to over 90% bringing nearly 120,000 new connections. In addition support had been provided to

SMEs on how to gain the benefits of connectivity and advice relating to infrastructure had also been provided to developers and to planning departments.

Members noted the current activity being undertaken, including working with Openreach to provide fibre to the premises for 8,000 homes, inputting into digital strategies in Barnsley and the City Region and also being consulted on digital connectivity as part of the planning process.

Noted was the work undertaken in the Penistone Area with over 5,500 properties now having improved connectivity.

Those present heard of the work of Accelerate Digital Barnsley which included efforts to increase gigabit-capable broadband infrastructure from commercial providers such as City Fibre, to stimulate demand through voucher schemes, and to ensure all new residential and commercial sites were future proofed with gigabit capable infrastructure.

Members also were made aware of Internet of Things (IoT) work to utilise technology in smart ways, collecting data to be used for strategic decision making. An example of temperature sensors being used to help decide when to deploy gritters was given.

It was noted that officers worked with network providers to plan the installation of 5G provision over the next two years. It was noted that liaison included supporting the planning process to ensure smooth roll out.

Members acknowledged the strategic linkages being made and social value opportunities created, and noted the example given of utilising technology to allow video calling in care homes. The work to address digital exclusion was also acknowledged.

Questions were asked relating to 5G and whether this would replace physical connections, and it was noted that the technologies were expected to work together to provide widespread gigabit capable coverage.

Members raised questions about the support and the eligibility of properties with Huddersfield addresses but within the Barnsley borough. It was noted that all properties within the borough would be eligible for voucher schemes. Members heard of a number of options for rural areas with poor connectivity, including establishing community funded partnerships. A suggestion was made to make contact with the SFSY team with any specific enquires.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation, that its content be noted, and that an update be provided to the Area Council in the future.

14 Principal Towns Update - Fiona O'Brien (Pac.11.02.2021/8)

Fiona O'Brien, Project Management Officer, was welcomed to provide an update on the Principal Towns programme in the area.

Work to weather proof the Market Barn, including glazing at the back of the barn, had been quoted for and programmed to take place. Consideration was being given to

replacement stalls, which would complement the facility. Members discussed the need to solve issues with the roof to avoid water on stalls.

With regards to the Heritage Trail, existing installations had been considered and work was being undertaken with the local history group to update information, and to provide complementary boards where appropriate.

Unfortunately, the meeting to discuss wayfinding and art installations had been cancelled but was to be rearranged. Northern Rail had agreed to fund an additional sheep for the sheep trail, and other businesses would be approached to contribute to the expansion of the trail. Costs would be circulated to Members in order for them to make enquiries.

Work with schools had been curtailed but pupils at Penistone Grammar School will be involved in wayfinding design and stone carving workshops were being considered.

In relation to Penistone Town Hall an architect had been engaged, but access to the roof was still required to assess the condition.

Match funding was being considered with a number of previously paused funds now reopening for applications. It was suggested that an ambitious investment plan for the town, similar to that developed in Goldthorpe, could be produced which could be used to attract further funding to the town as it became available.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That thanks be given for the update;
- (ii) That details of costs to contribute to the sheep trail be circulated to Members.

15 Covid-19 Update - Lucy Butcher and Rana AlKubesi (Pac.11.02.2021/9)

Lucy Butcher, Public Health Practitioner and Rana AlKubesi, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer, were welcomed to the meeting.

Members were made aware that rates of Covid-19 were slowly decreasing though there was still the need to remain vigilant. The highest case rates were seen in the 50-59 age range and also those aged 20-29. However, it was thought that the statistics could also highlight that those aged 50-59 were more likely to get a test.

Most neighbourhoods in Barnsley had similar case rates but further analysis was being undertaken. It was acknowledged that approaches taken were boroughwide, though if more localised data indicated a different approach, relevant discussions would be taken with Ward Members.

The message of 'Hands, Face, Space' was still being given, and opening windows to allow fresh air was also being promoted.

Members were made aware of the situation report meeting which considered case data twice a week, looked at issues and assigned actions. Intelligence from Neighbourhood Engagement Officers (NEOs) was fed into the analysis, but Members were encouraged to report any intelligence to Public Health officers.

16 Covid Marshals were now in place, working in pairs across the borough. The Marshals had no enforcement powers, but worked closely with South Yorkshire Police. The Marshals had worked with NEOs and Regulatory Service to visit supermarkets to ensure compliance, providing support with queuing structures where required.

Issues with open spaces and with retail had been reported, and signage had been displayed with increased patrolling in these areas to support adherence to the guidelines.

Work to provide community insights, including a survey and workshops, were noted, with the outcome of this work to be shared when available.

Members noted the support in place to monitor Covid in vulnerable settings and provide assistance. Also noted was the support available to those self-isolating through the Covid support service, which had received positive feedback.

Those present heard that there remained capacity at symptomatic testing centres throughout the borough, and within the asymptomatic community testing facility at the Metrodome. The community testing facility had identified 11 cases which would not otherwise have been detected.

The vaccine programme was being successfully rolled out in Barnsley, with a push to ensure all those aged over 70 and those clinically extremely vulnerable receive their vaccine by mid-February.

Questions were asked regarding vaccinating the 65-70 age group, and it was noted that the focus was currently as previously mentioned but would shortly move to those aged 65-70. It was also noted that take up was very positive with only small numbers declining the vaccine.

Members heard of the six NEOs now in post. 34 licensed premises had been contacted to offer support, and visits would recommence to offer support in ensuring Covid safety compliance following the relaxation of restrictions. A number of businesses had also been referred to Enterprising Barnsley for financial support. Businesses in the area were being mapped with a view to offering more widespread support when restrictions allowed.

The NEOs had provided support to Community Development Officers and to community groups to ensure Covid safe practices. The team had also supported the delivery of winter warmth packs and also assisted the Community Responder service.

Supermarkets in the area were being visited to ensure compliance, with a positive level of cooperation being seen.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the report and its content be noted.

Chair