

MEETING:	Central Area Council
DATE:	Wednesday, 10 November 2021
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Williams (Chair), Bowser, Clarke, K. Dyson, M. Dyson, Fielding, Gillis, Lodge, Ramchandani and Wright

15 Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 18 due to his wife being on the board of the YMCA.

16 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Central Area Council held on 1st September, 2021 (Cen.10.11.2021/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Central Area Council held on 1st September, 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Central Area Council held on 1st September, 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

17 Performance Management Report Q2 (Cen.10.11.2021/3)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item which covered quarter 2 of 2021/22. Thanks were given to Katie Ashworth who had helped to produce the report. It was noted that, in places, the report referred to contract management meetings that had taken place in quarter 1, however assurances were given that meetings had also taken place with regards to quarter 2.

Members noted the overall snapshot of performance that reflected the impact of Central Area Council investment.

In relation to the YMCA unity project, 64 term time sessions had been delivered, with 32 holiday sessions provided in addition. In total there had been 1,176 attendees to the sessions.

Under the environmental priority the Clean and Green service had engaged 51 new volunteers, contributing to a total number of 165 volunteers. 5 businesses had been supported in the quarter, and there had been 15 interventions with groups. Members noted that Twiggs Grounds Maintenance had made links with the NHS and individuals were being referred as part of social prescribing.

District Enforcement had continued to patrol, responding to complaints about dog fouling. 18 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued for this within the quarter. However, it was noted that addressing dog fouling did become more difficult as days

became darker. Members were encouraged to continue to report issues, including key times and locations.

Both Service Level Agreements with the Safer Neighbourhood Service continued to perform well. Figures in relation to flytipping were high with 346 cases being dealt within the quarter, and 12 written warnings issued. However, it was felt positive that issues were being reported in order to be dealt with.

30 new tenant households had been supported by the Private Sector Housing officer with 18 households requiring intervention within the quarter. It was acknowledged that this was lower than previous quarters, however this reflected the complexity of cases and the degree of support required.

Following changes made to widen the scope of the contract, Family Lives had seen an increase in referrals, with 10 being received in the quarter. It was noted that families accessing the service did have multiple and complex issues and therefore required longer term support than originally envisaged.

The DIAL Advice Service continued to deliver effectively with 436 residents supported across the Central Area. £36,492 of unclaimed benefit had been generated in the quarter, with 436 residents receiving support from the service.

Members noted that Hope Connects was in their third year of finance, and support was being provided by the area team to apply for community fund finance in order to extend the service and provide sustainability.

In the quarter, Citizen's Advice Bureau had supported 327 clients to claim an additional £66,587 in benefits and manage £55,187 in benefits. Advice given was largely in relation to benefits, employment, and debt, but the service also provided support with a number of enquiries related to housing and legal issues.

Members heard how the Thriving Communities Project, Delivered by Mind, had fully mobilised, with 20 clients receiving one-to-one support and groups now being well attended.

In the quarter Age UK Barnsley had supported 84 individuals with personalised plans, and had engaged 27 volunteers within the area. Noted was the spread of activity throughout the central area.

Reds Connect had amended and altered provision as weather dictated, and was developing new services with service users. Exercise classes regularly saw 35 attendees, with around 27 attending walking football. Attendance at the supporting memories group was also increasing each week.

It was suggested that Members be kept informed of activities, in order that these can be promoted widely.

Both The Youth Association and Barnsley YMCA continued to provide user led street based youth work, with each ward having relevant provision. The Youth Association had successfully responded to request for a greater presence on the days leading up to bonfire night.

Members raised questions in relation to the Private Sector Housing SLA and the prevalence of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs). It was noted that the majority of the focus of the officer was not related to HMOs.

Questions were raised in relation to direct contact with the officer allocated to assist with flytipping in the Central Area. It was noted that due to current pressures all work was being reported centrally and then allocated on a priority basis.

With regards to the Clean and Green Service, concerns were raised regarding the service spending significant time supporting the same areas, and also addressing areas which may be the responsibility of Neighbourhood Services. In addition, Members requested that they be made aware of activities in their ward in order to encourage engagement and support.

In relation to the District Enforcement contract and dog fouling, the issue of overflowing bins was raised, and the Area Chair agreed to take this issue forward.

Concerns were raised that the report featured individuals and residences that could be easily identified. It was suggested that assurances would be sought that appropriate approvals had been received for this and future reports.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the report be received;
- (ii) that services be reminded to circulate dates and times of their activities to Elected Members to allow wider promotion;
- (iii) that the Area Chair discusses the issue of emptying public litter and dog fouling bins at the next meeting of the Area Chairs.

18 Procurement and Financial Update (Cen.10.11.2021/4)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, previously circulated. The attention of Members was then drawn to the overview of all contracts. Thanks were given to all those who had attended workshops, where a review of all activity under the Clean and Green priority had taken place.

Those present discussed the indicative expenditure associated with the priority, and the recommissioning of a Clean and Green service. In addition, Service Level Agreements for services to support the reduction in flytipping, and to support those in private sector housing were also considered. In relation to the latter, it was suggested that the scope of this service be broadened to include all those living in private sector accommodation.

Members went on to consider the extension of Creative Recovery. Support had been provided through the Area Team in order to develop phase 2 of the project, which would sustain the employment of two posts and be delivered throughout the area. Finance of £15,000 per year, for two years, was required to match an Arts Council bid for £60,000.

An overview of finance was then provided, and a suggestion was made to discuss a number of areas for investment at the next meeting of the Area Council.

RESOLVED:-

- (i)** that the overview of Central Area Council's current priorities, and overview of all current contracts, contract extensions, Service Level Agreements and Wellbeing Fund Projects, with associated timescales be noted;
- (ii)** that changes be made to the Clean and Green Priority, as detailed in the report;
- (iii)** that an indicative spend of £230,000 per year for 3 years, plus an additional £15,000 for enforcement if required, be approved for the Clean and Green priority;
- (iv)** That the Private Sector Housing SLA be approved to continue for 3 years, subject to annual review, at a cost of £35,000 per year, and that approval be given to make changes to the Private Sector Housing SLA to include all private properties including those with tenancies longer than 6 months;
- (v)** That the Flytipping SLA be approved to continue for 3 years, subject to annual review, at a cost of £35,000 per year;
- (vi)** That approval be given to procure a Clean and Green Services at a cost of £160,000 per year for 3 years, subject to annual review, as detailed in option 2 within the report, and that the Executive Director Adults and Communities be authorised to agree all necessary documentation in order to procure the services, following consultation with Members of Central Area Council;
- (vii)** That approval be given for Creative Recovery to deliver Uplift Phase 2, and that £15,000 per year for 2 years be approved, subject to securing Arts Council England match funding;
- (viii)** That approval be given to YMCA to deliver the service to build emotional resilience and wellbeing in children and young people aged 8-14 years for a further year until 31st March, 2023 at a cost of £140,330;
- (ix)** That the additional income of £113,272 from the Practical Support Grant be noted;
- (x)** That the actual financial position to date for 2021/22 and the projected expenditure, including future proposals, to 2023/24 as outlined in the appendices to the report, be noted.

19 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Cen.10.11.2021/5)

The meeting received the notes of the following Ward Alliance meetings:-
Central Ward Alliance, held on 25th August, and 22nd September, 2021;
Dodworth Ward Alliance, held on 28th September, 2021;
Kingstone Ward Alliance, held on 22nd September, 2021;
Stairfoot Ward Alliance, held on 7th September, and 10th October, 2021; and
Worsbrough Ward Alliance, held on 16th September, 2021.

Members were made aware that Worsbrough Ward Alliance had invested in four defibrillator devices and a case for a fifth. Other Councillors were urged to invest in these life saving devices.

Congratulations were also provided to Worsbrough Community Pantry in celebrating its first anniversary supporting families.

The work of Bank End Friends was also celebrated with their contribution noted by a recent Ofsted visit.

Congratulations was also given to Hope in The Community on the opening of their support hub, and praise given to their work supporting over 150 families.

RESOLVED that the notes and feedback from the Ward Alliances be received.

20 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Cen.10.11.2021/6)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chair