

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 20 September 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Leech (Chair), A. Cave, Hunt, Newing, Platts and Tattersall

20 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

No Member declared a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.

21 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 19th July 2021

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th July, 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on the 19th July, 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

22 YWT - Mike Winstanley and Lucy Brown in attendance

Unfortunately, Mike Winstanley and Lucy Brown were unavailable.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred to a future meeting of the Area Council.

23 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. Members were reminded of the recent review of the Safer Community Service and that the potential of including the Housing and Cohesion Officer's role in the core service was being explored. Members noted that this had not been possible, and therefore were asked to consider whether the Housing and Cohesion Officer should be continued to be funded by the Area Council. Members were supportive of the proposal and it was suggested that the officer could participate in ward walks with Berneslai Homes Officers as part of a partnership approach.

Members were reminded that the DIAL Barnsley Warm Connections contract to prevent winter deaths had now concluded, and that the final performance report relating to the service would follow in due course. Members placed on record their thanks for DIAL Barnsley and their delivery of the service. It was noted Barnsley MBC currently have a Warm Homes Team and DIAL have been successful in securing external funding to help address utilities debt.. Members noted that a survey into this area had been commissioned and feedback from this and the in-house service would be requested.

Members noted that the Stronger Communities Grant was still operational, and that the Covid Recovery project delivered by Age UK Barnsley would continue until November 2021.

Those present discussed the recent pre-market engagement event, which was well attended, however it was thought that this type of event may work better in person rather than digitally, and the low number of questions asked was noted. The timeline for the Connecting Communities Grant was also noted.

The Area Council Manager drew attention to the financial position of the Area Council as outlined in Appendix 1, and the underspend, although reducing year on year, was noted.

Members heard of the review of advice and guidance services, and the potential that this could be provided more centrally. It was noted that there may be a risk in relation to the delivery of this in the area, and questions were raised as to whether this would meet the needs of residents, given the forthcoming pressures in relation to the removal of the £20 universal credit uplift, energy price rises and the end of furlough.

The potential to supplement any centrally provided service was discussed and it was noted that this would be considered in due course.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Housing and Cohesion Officer be continued for a further two years at a cost of £35,000 per annum;
- (ii) That thanks be given to DIAL Barnsley for their delivery of the Warm Connections Service;
- (iii) That the update regarding the advertisement of the 'Connecting Communities' grant be noted;
- (iv) That the existing budget position and the existing funding commitments be noted;
- (v) That the projected spend, as outlined in appendix 1 be noted.

24 Priority Working Groups

The Area Council Manager reminded Members of previous discussion and the need to confirm membership of the working groups.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the North Area Council Members adopt at least one priority or project per member;
- (ii) In doing so the representative agrees to participate in priority working groups to ensure that each ward is represented in planning, development and delivery of projects that benefit the North Area as a whole; and
- (iii) that the membership of the working groups as in appendix 1 of the report be approved.

At this point in the proceedings the meeting became inquorate.

25 Public Health Covid-19 (North Area) - Leyla Brooke

The Neighbourhood Engagement Officer provided an update in relation to Covid-19. Members were made aware that cases were relatively high in Barnsley, but were stable. Home testing kits had been distributed throughout the area and were now the type only requiring a nasal swab.

With regards to vaccinations, it was noted that discussions had taken place around further vaccine locations, and that Priory Campus was still operating walk-in sessions for those aged over 16. However, there had been a slowing of the uptake. The vaccinate rate in Barnsley was slightly behind the national average with this more pronounced in under 40s. Consideration was being given to why this was the case.

Members noted that the flu vaccination programme would be launched shortly, and uptake would be widely promoted.

Members heard of the increase in anti-vax posters and graffiti and were urged to report any seen.

Questions were raised around the vaccination of those younger than 16, and it was noted that vaccinations in schools would commence shortly for those age 12-15. Booster vaccinations would also start imminently, with clinically vulnerable and those in social care prioritised.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

26 Cancer Screening Behavioural Insights - Emma Bates and Kaye Mann

Kaye Mann, Public Health Specialist Practitioner, BMBC, was welcomed to the meeting.

Members were reminded that 1 in 2 people get Cancer in their lifetime and that potentially 600 new cancers could be detected early or prevented each year in Barnsley. Members heard that the leading causes of death from cancer in Barnsley are lung, prostate and breast cancer.

It was noted that living a healthy life did make cancer less likely, including being smoke free, keeping a healthy weight, and being more active.

Those present heard of the importance of early diagnosis, which led to an improved chance of surviving cancer. The importance of attending screening was also stressed.

Attention was drawn to the signs and symptoms of common cancers and the need for residents to have themselves checked if they experienced these symptoms or experienced any changes and were unsure.

An overview of behavioural insights and nudge theory was provided, and examples given of where this could be utilised to increase numbers accessing cancer screening.

Members heard of the behaviour science trial being conducted. Based at the food bank in the Dearne, this would see staff and volunteers speak to clients, and where appropriate offer to refer them to Care Coordinators at GP surgeries. They would then be able to proactively book appointments. It was noted that promotion of the trial would commence shortly, and, if successful, elements could be rolled out across the borough.

The meeting heard of the support services available for those recently diagnosed with cancer living in a Barnsley postcode or accessing services at a Barnsley Hospital.

Members were asked to promote healthy lifestyle messages, raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer and encourage the uptake of screening. This included sharing positive messages on social media.

The important message of consulting a GP if something did not feel right was also emphasised. It was noted that GPs were extremely busy, but it was suggested that awareness could be raised that if residents highlighted that their symptoms may be linked to cancer, this would help prioritise appointments.

Those present discussed the difficulties in securing an appointment with a GP, and it was agreed that these would be fed back to the CCG. However, it was also stressed that it may be more appropriate for residents to see other health professionals. It was noted that discussions were taking place regarding provision within the Glassworks to help increase the uptake of screening.

RECOMMENDED that thanks be given for the presentation, and that Councillors respond to the asks of them.

27 Health and Wellbeing - Connecting Communities Grant - Verbal Update

The important message of consulting a GP if something did not feel right was also emphasised. It was noted that GPs were extremely busy, but it was suggested that awareness could be raised that if residents highlighted that their symptoms may be linked to cancer, this would help prioritise appointments.

RECOMMENDED that the update be noted.

28 Performance Report Q1 2021/22

The Area Council Manager introduced the new format of the report, which had been developed by the Project Officer. The report considered the Council priorities and how the area priorities and commissions contributed to their delivery.

The report also provided an overview of all contracts, but also gave information on each contract, including highlights and the percentage of targets hit. It was noted that further information was also available from the Area Council Manager should Members wish.

Feedback on the revised format was positive, and a request was made for figures to be provided as well as percentages.

It was noted that the report highlighted that one of the services was overcapacity, with this being that providing advice and guidance delivered by CAB and DIAL. It was acknowledged that the service provided was a significant investment from the Area Council, and that demand was affected by a number of external factors. However, it was suggested the ongoing demand for this service would be monitored.

Members wished to place on record their best wishes to the Harry from Twiggs who had been unwell.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

29 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund

The Area Council Manager reminded Members that around six months of the financial year remained, and Members noted the information provided in relation to each Ward Alliance Fund. It was acknowledged that there were issues with the figures in 4.2 of the report, however those in Appendix 1 were correct.

It was suggested that the requirement for matched funding may be reinstated at some point in the near future as volunteer time would be available as match with many groups now more active. The need to balance managing covid safety with promoting meeting to improve health and wellbeing was acknowledged.

Members discussed tree planting, including that as part of the 10,000 trees project. It was suggested that this would initially be focused on Council and Berneslai Homes land, and that careful consideration would be given to the type and location of trees, including the need for ongoing maintenance.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

30 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 13th July, 2021; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 14th July, 2021; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 10th August, 2021; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 29th July, 2021.

Councillor Hunt provided an update in relation to Darton East Ward, commenting that there were more hanging baskets in the ward than the previous year and all had been provided through sponsorship.

The Ward Alliance had also match funded the replacement of some safety matting. The activities in Mapplewell Park held in the school holidays had been well received, as had the disco held in the school hall.

Councillor Newing made members aware that the most recent meeting of the Ward Alliance had not been quorate. The Ward Alliance had deferred an application from the Café Choir, with a request that they attend a future meeting to explain their project.

Funding had been approved, pending clarification, for the Youth Council to erect a plaque where tree planting had taken place and the Ward Alliance discussed the potential of seeking sponsorship, and erecting hanging baskets in the near future.

Councillor Platts said that sponsored hanging baskets had been well received in the St Helen's Ward, and that the Ward Alliance had resumed face to face meetings, although these were socially distanced. The Ward Alliance had discussed spring bulbs and where to plant these around the estates.

An event to commemorate the jubilee was also discussed, as was the provision of Christmas trees, and organising of Carol singing.

Councillor Leech noted that plaques had been installed outside Poundstrecher providing the history of the area, and work to instal a bench as a memorial to the Yorkshire Regiment was also noted.

RECOMMENDED that the notes of the respective Ward Alliances be received, and the updates noted.

Chair