

MEETING:	Central Area Council
DATE:	Wednesday 1 February 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Williams (Chair), Bowser, Clarke, K. Dyson, M. Dyson, W. Fielding, Gillis, Lodge, Moyes and Shirt

26 Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

27 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Central Area Council held on 9 November 2022 (Cen.01.02.2023/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Central Area Council held on 9 November 2022.

With regards to the overall budgets for Area Councils, it was noted that this subject was due to be discussed at the next meeting of the Area Chairs.

In reference to any future delegation of funds to Ward Alliances, Members were made aware that an additional £3,000 per Ward Alliance had been attained from external sources and that any allocation to Ward Alliances would have a corresponding impact on the availability of future finance available for distribution by the Area Council. It was suggested that this subject be considered at the next meeting of the Area Council.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Central Area Council held on 9 November 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

28 Section 106 - Laura Sharman (Cen.01.02.2023/3)

Laura Sharman, Section 106 Programme Manager, was welcomed to the meeting. Members were reminded of the purpose of planning obligations, known as Section 106 agreements, which prescribed the nature of development, compensated for losses, and mitigated the impact of the development.

Section 106 agreements encompassed areas such as Affordable Housing, Education, Public Open Space, Highways/Sustainable Transport, and Biodiversity.

Members were made aware of the process for monitoring Section 106 agreements and associated expenditure.

Monies received and their potential use within the Central Area was discussed, together with future monies expected. Members were made aware that there was a

requirement to produce and publish an Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement, which described the use of Section 106 funding throughout the Borough for the previous financial year.

Questions were received relating to the composition of the Section 106 Panel, and Member involvement. It was noted that the Cabinet Spokespersons for Regeneration and Culture and for Core Services were both on the panel.

With regards to distance from site in which monies were required to be used, it was noted that this varied, and was dependent on the agreement itself.

Members questioned how they could put forward suggested schemes to utilise finance and were advised to contact the relevant Council department in order to discuss this.

Members also discussed the process of negotiation with developers around Section 106 agreements in line with Supplementary Planning Documents, which led to finance becoming available.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation, and attending to answer the questions of Members.

29 Procurement and Financial Update (Cen.01.02.2023/4)

The Area Council Managers spoke to the report, previously circulated. Members noted the current position with regards to all the services and projects funded by the Area Council, along with the financial position of the Area Council.

Members were reminded that a decision had been taken at a previous meeting for the £50,000 which had been allocated to environment education to be returned to the main Area Council budget. This was due to the need for this being surpassed by work on the boroughwide Litter and Envirocrime Strategy.

The attention of Members was drawn to the update within the report regarding the Supporting Vulnerable People Fund. The deadline for the first tranche of funding, which focused on providing welfare advice, was on 10th February, 2023, with that for the second tranche being 10th March, 2023. It was noted that the second tranche was broader in scope.

Members also noted that the contract to provide a service to build emotional resilience in children and young people had been awarded to Barnsley YMCA.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That Members noted the overview of Central Area Council's current priorities, and overview of all current contract, contract extensions, Service Level Agreements, and Well-being Fund projects, with associated timescales;

- (ii) That members note the actual financial position to date for 2022-23 and the projected expenditure, including future proposals, to 2023-24, as outlined in Appendices 1 & 2 of the report.

30 Celebrating the work of the Ward Alliances (Cen.01.02.2023/5)

Dawn Grayton, Community Development Officer, was welcomed to highlight the work of the Central and Dodworth Ward Alliances over the past year.

Central Ward Alliance had experienced number of recent changes including to the Chair, and Community Development Officer. Since April, the Ward Alliance had stabilised, and encouraged applications to the Ward Alliance Fund focused on the priorities of the Ward Alliance, Area Council and Council. The focus had also been on the positives within the community, as opposed to negatives.

At the start of the financial year the Ward Alliance had around £20,000 within the Ward Alliance Fund, and Members noted the variety of projects funded, and it was acknowledged that non-financial support was also provided to many groups.

Three projects were highlighted, the first being Information Boards from Barnsley Main Heritage Group where £1800 had been funded to provide information boards on the site using a local contractor, which had been designed and developed by the group. Members were also made aware of the Jubilee Celebrations, with a number funded in the ward and which helped to bring communities and neighbourhoods together to interact. A third project was also mentioned; Defibrillator Training by the Full House Pub Community Group. The Ward Alliance had matched funding raised by the group itself for a cabinet and training, which had provided essential as the device was used shortly after installation.

Dodworth Ward Alliance had started the financial year with around £21,000, and Members noted the variety of projects funded. Also noted was the work to support warm hubs in the area. Three projects receiving funding were highlighted. The first related to a Christmas events using £150 of small sparks funding to match funds raised by the Dodworth Church group. This included a free visit to Father Christmas, a present and a warm meal. The second involved providing costs to Dodworth Mother, Carers and Toddlers Group, to restart after Covid. 13 volunteers were involved in setting up, supervising and clearing down activity sessions, and finance was used for new toys and equipment.

The third project highlighted was Gawber Celebrates Christmas. This was a partnership between the Ward Alliance, St Thomas' Church Action Group and Love Gawber. This created a Christmas project at the community centre, with festive music provided, Gawber Primary School Choir in attendance, a donated tree in the community centre grounds and refreshments.

Craig Aubrey Community Development Officer supporting Kingstone and Stairfoot Ward Alliances was then welcomed to provide an update on their work.

Kingstone Ward Alliance had approximately £22,300 at the start of the financial year.

At this point in the proceedings the meeting became inquorate.

Noted were the projects funded by the Ward Alliance, and it was acknowledged that projects had also received support other than financial, for example the development of a newsletter which had just required volunteer time.

The attention of Members was drawn to the Kingstone Artwork Project, where Creative Recovery worked with volunteers and a local artist to create designs around Barnsley 2030 for street furniture, which aimed to reduce the prevalence of graffiti.

Members were also made aware of the funding provided to Locke Parke Bowling Club for a professional sprayer, to allow volunteers to work more effectively. It was noted that the group was open all day, every day and supports the reduction of loneliness. The group was considering a development in increase volunteers, in particular younger volunteers.

Also highlighted was the support provided to Educational Learning Support Hub (ELSH) for their International Food Festival. The event, hosted each year, celebrated the volunteers and students, and the diversity of those involved at ELSH.

With regards to the Stairfoot Ward Alliance, nearly £27,000 was available at the beginning of the financial year. The variety of projects receiving support, financial or otherwise, was acknowledged. This included Junior Wardens, Christmas Hampers, and Christmas concerts.

Attention was drawn to the Defibrillator Project. An incident had occurred in Kendray which led to the mapping of defibrillator provision in the area. This, together with relevant data, led to the selection of new sites for defibrillators, with fundraising matched to install a unit in the ward. It was noted that the project will aim to raise awareness and stimulate volunteers, working with local business to ensure the upkeep of the units. Work was set to continue to further improve defibrillator coverage within the ward.

Also mentioned was the Warm Space project in Christ Church, Ardsley which aimed to support people who may have difficulties due to the increasing costs of utilities. The facility had refreshments and wifi so people were able to use it as a base for work. The church provided the heating costs, which were matched by the Ward Alliance.

Members also heard about the Environment Project at the Swanee, which was just outside the Ward. The project developed from a single active volunteer, and subsequently there had been a number of clean ups, and Twiggs had support volunteers to reinstate paths. The project more recently engaged the museums service to consider the history of the area, and schools and the community were set to be involved.

Michelle Toone was welcomed to discuss the work of Worsbrough Ward Alliance. Members noted the broad priorities, with the Ward Alliance focusing on one or two over the course of 6-12 months. Noted was the breadth of projects supported, including those led by the Alliance, and those led by community groups.

Members heard of the Bottles for Benches initiative, which developed from the Ward Alliance Environmental Working group. The initiative engaged schools to support increased recycling, with BMBC Neighbourhood Services taking part; collecting

recycled bottles, and chatting about the impact of recycling. Schools taking part were then rewarded with a bench made from recycled bottles. It was noted that aside from the environmental impact, positive relationships with the local schools had been developed, with the ability to work more closely together in the future.

Also mentioned was the support to the Worsbrough Community Pantry. The Ward Alliance provided monies for refurbishment, which aided the pantry to continue its work, and to grow, enabling to support low-income households with financial pressures.

Members also were made aware of Worsbrough Local History Day, which had been developed by the Worsbrough Industrial and Social Heritage Group with the Ward Alliance. This has resulted in a two-day local history event, with the unveiling of a new mining memorial. Over 300 had attended over the course of the two days, with only £19.99 of Ward Alliance investment. It was noted that the group continued to meet to make the event an annual occurrence.

Many Councillors provided their thanks for the continued hard work of all of the Area Team, especially the work of the Community Development Officers, who were integral to the success of the Ward Alliances.

31 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Cen.01.02.2023/6)

The meeting received the notes of the meetings of the following Ward Alliances within the Central Area:-

Central Ward Alliance, held on 23 November 2022;
Dodworth Ward Alliance, held on 6 December 2022;
Kingstone Ward Alliance, held on 16 November 2022;
Stairfoot Ward Alliance, held on 14 November and 12 December 2022;
Worsbrough Ward Alliance held on 20 October and 24 November 2022 along with
Worsbrough Ward Alliance Environmental Working Group held on 16 November and 18 November 2022.

32 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Cen.01.02.2023/7)

The report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds was received for information.

Chair