

<b>MEETING:</b>	North Area Council – Inquorate meeting
<b>DATE:</b>	Monday 16 January 2023
<b>TIME:</b>	2.00 pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

## Notes of a meeting of North Area Councillors

**Present** Councillors Leech (Chair), A. Cave, T. Cave, Crisp, Denton, Howard, Hunt, Platts and Tattersall

### 32 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

### 33 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 14 November 2022 (Nac.16.01.2023/2)

The North Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 November 2022.

**RECOMMENDED** that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 14 November 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

### 34 Age UK - Grant Delivery Update - Natalie Stokes (Nac.16.01.2023/3)

Members received a presentation from the social inclusion officers at Age UK which provided an overview of the work undertaken over the past year, the key milestones, the next steps which included training and development for volunteers, digital inclusion, the facilitation and support provided to additional community groups, together with continuing to support individuals during the cost of living crisis.

Age UK was linked to both the local food and clothing banks, where it would make referrals on behalf of individuals where deemed necessary. The foodbank had devised a package for older individuals.

Members were pleased to observe the work undertaken by Age UK to attract and engage with new/existing members through a variety of different methods which included attendance at the local Derby and Joan Club, Butterfly Dementia Group, Darton Wellbeing Group and through making house calls.

**RECOMMENDED** that Members receive the presentation.

### **35 10 Year Celebration - Area Governance Model (Nac.16.01.2023/4)**

The Area Manager presented a report which informed Members of the intention to hold celebration events to mark 10 years of Area Council, which included a North Area 10 Year Celebration event and the opportunity to participate in the planning.

The following Members volunteered to form part of a planning group in preparation for the celebration event:-

Darton West Ward Alliance – Councillor A Cave.

Darton East Ward Alliance – Councillor Denton.

Old Town Ward Alliance – To be confirmed. Councillor Howard offered to provide assistance in the event that a volunteer from the Old Town Ward Alliance could not be identified.

St Helens Ward Alliance – Mayor, Councillor Tattersall.

A discussion ensued which identified the positive benefits of holding the event in June 2023, which would be the national volunteering month, verses a date later in the year. With consideration to be given for the event to be held on a Saturday which would attract a wider family audience. An external provider would be utilised to produce a video to showcase the good work undertaken by the volunteers within the various ward alliances, which would be used in a variety of different environments.

#### **RECOMMENDED –**

- (i) that Members note the report.
- (ii) that Councillors A Cave, Denton, Tattersall and one Old Town Councillor take part in the planning of the celebration event on behalf of their Ward.
- (iii) that Members identify Ward Alliance funded projects to showcase.

### **36 Environmental Workshop - Future Direction (Nac.16.01.2023/5)**

A report was presented which appraised Members of the discussions that had taken place at a recent workshop which reflected on the current Environmental commissioning and considered the options available.

The current environmental contract with Twiggs GM Ltd will conclude on 31 March 2023. A discussion ensued to discuss the pro's and con's of the future options available. The preference of the Members present was to proceed with Option 1 to work with BMBC Neighbourhood Services to develop a Service Level Agreement (SLA) based upon the costs as detailed within the report. As not all Members were in attendance, an email would be sent out to all Members of the North Area Council to seek their support to progress Option 1 within a specified timeframe. Should the continued absence of Old Town Ward Members create a delay, it was suggested that a formal decision via the Cabinet Spokesperson for Public Health and Communities would be reached within the next few weeks which would enable the SLA to be signed off by the end of February 2023. In the meanwhile, the Area Manager would make the relevant provisions. This option

would involve performance management meetings with the operational supervisors of the internal partner for the first 6 month period to address any issues.

The Area Manager was asked to produce a timeline document for internal use, to show the key dates and determination which would provide an understanding of how Members had reached the selection Option 1. It was explained that the decision making timeline could be understood by referring to the previous North Area Council report, which document discussions and workshop outcomes.

In relation to the maximum contract value for the new service provision for a value of £125,000 p.a. over a two year duration, it was suggested that the SLA would be in place for a duration of 12 months, with an option to extend for a further year. Consideration would also be given to ascertain future providers in the event that the current providers did not wish to proceed beyond years 1 or 2.

### **Recommended -**

- (i) that Members note the current position, section 4 of the report;
- (ii) that the discussion that took place at the workshop on 20 December 2022, at section 6 of the report be noted;
- (iii) that the draft specification as at Appendix 2 of the report be approved;
- (iv) that robust Clean and Green Agreements be developed with each of the Ward Alliances, to mitigate duplication risk, as detailed in section 7 of the report;
- (v) that the Environmental Priority and how value will be added to BMBC's core offer, as detailed in section 8 of the report be approved;
- (vi) that the proposed BMBC Neighbourhood Service's Community Caretaker model be noted;
- (vii) that approval be given for a Service Level Agreement with Neighbourhood Services, based on the Community Caretaker Model, and specification at Appendix 2, at a contract value of £100,803 per annum for an initial period of one year with an option to extend for a further year, with a £24,197 per annum contingency, the use of which to be approved by the Service Director Communities following consultation with the North Area Councillors.

## **37 Commissioning, Project Development and Financial Update (Nac.16.01.2023/6)**

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, which provided Members with the financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that had been proposed.

The Anti-Poverty Community Outreach Project had received approval for a contract extension to the existing waiver until 30 June 2023. Members would be provided with an update at the next meeting.

At the last meeting held in November 2022, B Beatson, Housing and Cohesion Officer had announced that he would depart the Housing and Cohesion position in December 2022. Following an unsuccessful recruitment round, an advertisement for the vacant North and Central Housing and Cohesion Officer posts would shortly be readvertised.

In relation to the Stronger Communities Grant 2022/23, the financial position would form a key point for discussion at the next Area Council meeting due to the cost of living crisis, inflation increase and the impacts this could have on the contract prices. At the Area Chairs Meeting scheduled to be held on 18 January 2023, Councillor Leech would ascertain whether any of the other Area Chairs had encountered an increase in the contract prices.

The Area Manager confirmed that Appendix 1 to the report, which provided a proposed expenditure for the North Area Council from April 2022 to March 2024, would be reconfigured for the next meeting to provide an understanding of the surplus budget and the profiled projects/services.

**RECOMMENDED:-**

- (i) that the existing budget position and the existing funding commitments be noted;
- (ii) that the discussion regarding the Clean and Green Contract, section 3.1 be noted. Full details were available in Item 5 of the agenda.
- (iii) that the update regarding the recruitment for the Housing and Cohesion Officer role be noted.
- (iv) that it be noted that following two workshops in October, the North Area's Cost of Living Crisis response was on hold, section 5.2.
- (v) that the updated projected spend at Appendix 1 be noted.

**38 Report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds (Nac.16.01.2023/7)**

A report was presented which provided an update on the financial position of the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2022/23 period.

**RECOMMENDED** that each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2022/23, in line with the guidance on spend.

**39 Notes from the Ward Alliances (Nac.16.01.2023/8)**

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 8 November 2022; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 7 November 2022; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 7 November 2022; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 3 November 2022.

Councillor Hunt referred to the work of the Darton East Ward Alliance which had a very good year in terms of spend on various projects; a small amount of funding remained to be spent by the end of the current financial year. A number of events had been held across the ward during the Christmas period which had been well attended by the local community.

In relation to the Darton West Ward Alliance, Councillor T Cave provided an update on the busy pre-Christmas period, where residents had shown an increased interest in the community events post the Covid-19 pandemic. The events had included the opening of the Christmas trees across the ward, together with other successful events that had been held in collaboration with the local community groups and schools.

Councillor Platts referred to the work of the St Helen's Ward Alliance. Three Christmas events had been held within the ward which had been well attended by the community. A Memory tree would be planted within the grounds of St Helen's Church. Pending approval, it was envisaged that the St Helens More Money in Your Pocket Roadshow would be held at Laithes Primary School. A working group had been established to plan for the summer gala in 2023.

**RECOMMENDED** that the notes and feedback from the respective Ward Alliances be received.

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Chair