

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday 13 March 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

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

40 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

41 Notes of the North Area Council meeting held on 16 January 2023 and to approve the recommendations contained therein (Nac.13.03.2023/2)

The Area Council received the notes of the previous meeting held on 16 January 2023.

RESOLVED that the notes of the North Area Council meeting held on 16 January 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

42 Area Governance 10 Year Celebration - Rachel Payling (Nac. 13.03.2023/3)

Members were provided with a presentation in relation to the 10 year celebration of Area Councils and Ward Alliances, in recognition of the significant amount of work that had been delivered to achieve the successes through the model.

The celebrations, which the Purple Cabinet had agreed to support, would continue throughout 2023. On 1 March 2023, the launch event had been held where display boards for each Area Council had been unveiled, and liaison had been made with members of the public regarding how they could become involved in the celebrations. Members were shown video footage from the launch event. The celebrations were scheduled to close with a series of floats during the Bright Nights event procession in November 2023.

There were a number of intended outcomes from the celebrations which included improving the understanding of the work of the Area Councils and Ward Alliances in local communities, the promotional opportunities and the awareness of where to access services, together with thanking and celebrating the local volunteers.

The LGA peer review, which was agreed as part of the 10 point plan, would be undertaken between 27 – 30 March 2023. A full report would be available after approximately 2 – 3 months, which would inform of the next steps.

RESOLVED that Members noted the presentation.

43 Environmental Priority Transition to Community Caretaker SLA - Matt Holdroyd (Nac. 13.03.2023/4)

A report was presented which appraised Members of the current position regarding future Environmental commissioning.

Following the agreement made by Twiggs GM Ltd and the North Area Council to conclude the current contract on 31 March 2023, a decision had been reached at the North Area Council meeting held on 16 January 2023 to change the direction and to develop a Community Caretaker model with BMBC Neighbourhood Service. An agreement had been made for a budget envelope of £125,000 p.a. over a two year duration, to commence from April 2023. The budget includes a contingency.

Discussions continued in relation to the TUPE implications with BMBC's Human Resources Department. It was envisaged that matters would quickly progress once the TUPE implications were fully understood.

The Community Caretaker model with BMBC Neighbourhood Service would include scheduled maintenance programme directed by the Ward Alliances. The service will complement both the BMBC core service offer and the valuable contributions of independent community groups. The workload would be prioritised in terms of seasonality, whilst being more ward and area specific. Provision would be made for a joint stall with the Area Team at the community galas to liaise with the local residents.

RESOLVED:-

- i) that Members noted the current position;
- ii) that Ward Members work with the Area Manager to develop the Clean and Green Agreements for each Ward.

44 Update on the 10 Year Celebration Planning for the North Area (Nac. 13.03.2023/5)

The North Area Manager presented a report to ensure that Members were aware of the intention to hold a North Area 10 Year Celebration event and the opportunity to participate in the planning. The objectives of the event were to inform residents of the unique structure of the Area Councils and Ward Alliances by showcasing and celebrating the work that had taken place over the last 10 years. The event would also raise awareness of the positive work undertaken by the Area Councils and Ward Alliances during this time which contributed to the Barnsley 2030 priorities, whilst promoting and encouraging individuals to become involved in their local community.

Following a consultation with Councillors on potential dates, it had been determined that Friday 15 September 2023 was the preferred date. A planning meeting would shortly be held to identify a suitable community based venue.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that Members noted the report;
- (ii) that Members identified Ward Alliance funded projects to showcase.

45 Project Performance Update (Nac. 13.03.2023/6)

A report was presented which provided an aggregate picture of how all the North Council contracted services contributed to the achievement of each of the North Area Council's agreed outcomes and social value objectives, which reflected upon the information gathered from each contract for the period October – December 2022.

Members noted that the case studies within the Performance Management Report were fed into the Annual Service Report, which built a picture of the work undertaken across Barnsley. The report was also accessible via the Council website and was circulated to all partners throughout the north area. The Area Manager would provide all Members with an electronic link to the report.

RESOLVED that Members noted the contents of the Performance Management Report.

46 Anti-Poverty Priority (Nac. 13.03.2023/7)

The Area Manager presented a report to ensure that Members were aware of the budgetary implications of funding an Information, Advice and Guidance Service beyond June 2023 and to ensure that they were informed in their decision to commit further funding for this priority area.

Members of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group highly valued the service and the benefit that it provided to individuals together with the socioeconomic impact to the wider community.

To retain the existing service level provision, it was recommended to increase the budget envelope to £107,500 for two years. This would ensure a budget of £105,000 for 2023/24 and £110,000 for 2024/25.

The report presented two service delivery options with costings for a 12 month period for the existing full service at a cost of £105,000 or the four F2F sessions plus ad hoc telephone/digital service at a cost of £90,000. Members noted the current pressures of the cost of living crisis which continued to impact on businesses.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that Members noted the report;
- (ii) that Members agreed to continue with the existing full service delivery option. Delegating responsibility to the Area Council Manager to oversee the procurement of the service;
- (iii) that Members agreed to commit a budget of £107,500 p.a. for a period of two years from July 2023 – June 2025, with the option to extend for a further year.

47 Commissioning and Procurement Update including the Financial Position (Nac.13.03.2023/8)

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

Members noted that interviews would shortly be held for two Housing and Cohesion Officer posts for both the Central and North areas.

A discussion ensued in relation to recommendation 2.4 of the report to agree to devolve £2,500 to each Ward Alliance to enable Cost of Living Support events/projects to be delivered during 2023/24. Members agreed to defer the recommendation, and for the matter to be discussed at a North Area priority and commissioning workshop.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the North Area Council noted the existing budget position and the existing funding commitments;
- (ii) that Councillors noted the discussion recommendations regarding the Anti-Poverty Outreach Provision Service. Full details were available at Item 7 of the agenda;
- (iii) that Councillors noted the update regarding the recruitment for the Housing and Cohesion Officer role;
- (iv) that Members agreed to defer the decision to devolve £2,500 to each Ward Alliance to enable Cost of Living Support events/projects to be delivered during 2023/24, for discussion at a North Area priority, budget and commissioning workshop;
- (v) that Councillors agreed to hold a North Area priority and commissioning workshop;
- (vi) that Councillors noted the updated projected spend at appendix 1 to the report.

48 Report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds (Nac. 13.03.2023/9)

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.

RESOLVED 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.

49 Notes from the Ward Alliances (Nac. 13.03.2023/10)

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 13 December 2022 and 10 January 2023; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 9 January 2023; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 26 January 2023. The Old Town Ward Alliance had not met during 2023 due to extenuating circumstances.

Councillor Hunt referred to the work undertaken by the Darton East Ward Alliance together with the support provided to a number of projects which included the activities at the pop in club, the awards night, cost of living events, North Gawber grass roots football, spring bulb planting, together with 48 hanging baskets (43 of which had been sponsored) and a swing set which had been installed at Bluebell Park, Woolley Colliery.

Councillor Howard referred to the work undertaken by Darton West Ward Alliance which included refurbishment of the notice boards. A fourth History Board had been implemented at Gawber Community Centre, and a fifth History Board was being developed by Gawber Primary School. Liaison had been made with the Safer Neighbourhood Team to resolve the issue of dog fouling opposite Vets4Pets. The Stars Awards event had been rescheduled to 17 March 2023 due to the inclement weather.

Councillor Tattersall referred to the work undertaken by St Helen's Ward Alliance during the past year which included the celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of Elizabeth II, installing approximately 40 hanging baskets around the area, the summer gala, repainting of the youth shelter, the cost of living event and Stars Awards event, installation of Christmas trees, and the training provided to the community volunteers. The women's support group and the Jolly Boys Club continued to go from strength to strength. Councillor Tattersall expressed her thanks to the volunteers and community groups for the work undertaken.

Councillor Leech referred to the memorial bench event. The Yorkshire Regiment had requested interested parties to contact them, with a view to memorial benches being situated in each village across Barnsley.

Grading work was currently underway to ascertain which lamp posts could be utilised for the installation of hanging baskets. The topic of Councillors sponsoring hanging baskets was raised. Councillor Howard advised that she intended to seek clarity on the subject and would update Members subsequently.

Members noted that this would be the last meeting prior to the election period. Councillor Leech wished everyone well during the election period. On behalf of the Council, Councillor Leech expressed his thanks to Councillor Platts for all of her work provided to the St Helen's Ward Alliance and he wished her well during her retirement.

Councillor Tattersall expressed her thanks to the Area Team for all of the work undertaken and the support provided to Members.

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

Chair