

<b>MEETING:</b>	North Area Council
<b>DATE:</b>	Monday 10 July 2023
<b>TIME:</b>	2.00 pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

## MINUTES

**Present** Councillors Leech (Chair), A. Cave, T. Cave, Denton, Howard, Hunt, Lofts, Newing, Pickering, Tattersall and N. Wright

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

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

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### 61 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 22 May 2023 (Nac.10.07.2023/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 May 2023.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 22 May 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

### 62 Connecting Communities Grant Delivery Update - Reds in the Community (Sean Margison and Vikki Prendergast) (Nac.10.07.2023/3)

Members were provided with a presentation from S Margison and V Prendergast of Reds in the Community, which provided an update on the grant delivery for connecting communities which was funded through the North Area Council budget.

Through Reds Connect, residents within the North Area had the opportunity to engage, participate and connect, with a mission to inspire, improve and positively change lives within the community. A range of projects and activities were delivered that were aimed at encouraging active healthy lifestyles, improving physical and emotional health and wellbeing, improving learning, skills and life chances, increasing participation in sport/exercise and to tackle social isolation and loneliness. It was undertaken through an all age approach, over weekly day and evening sessions, which were facilitated by coaches and held at New Lodge Community Centre, St Helens Church and Staincross Methodist Church. The initiative was undertaken through a wide ranging partnership approach which included NHS Health and Wellbeing Coaches, Ad Astra, Barnsley Samaritans and Public Health Barnsley.

To date, total engagement had been made with 48 unique participants, Exercise with 32 registered participants, Team Talk with 10 registered participants and

1 volunteer, and the Extra Time Hub which had engaged with 6 registered participants and 1 volunteer. Members noted that a number of participants had extended their social circle since joining the initiative.

Councillor Howard requested that Members be provided with the numbers of participants from each area.

Chair based exercises and other activities would be offered to any participants with disabilities, which would be tailored to individual requirements.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Howard regarding the Reds in the Community Walking Football, S Margison commented that the sessions were now ran at Oakwell on Mondays and Wednesdays as part of the Central Connect Programme.

Team Talk sessions had been ran at Oakwell for a number of years with visits from a number of services which included the Samaritans.

Councillor Leech expressed his thanks for an interesting and informative presentation. He hoped that the initiative continued to grow stronger.

**RESOLVED** that Members noted the presentation.

### **63 Neighbourhood Warden and Community Safety Update (Cath Fairweather - Community Safety Coordinator) (Nac.10.07.2023/4)**

Members were provided with a presentation from C Fairweather, Community Safety Officer, which provided an update on joining forces for a safer Barnsley by creating a safe and welcoming place for all.

It was noted that changes had been made to the working arrangements for wardens in August/September 2022, who now operate centrally from Barnsley Police Station and go out into their respective areas. Town centre wardens continued to operate, and plans were underway to recruit additional wardens to provide for 12 wardens out in the neighbourhoods.

Following a number of queries received by Members, C Fairweather would provide feedback to Members via the North Area Manager in relation to:-

- To determine whether the wardens' working times had changed.
- To provide a warden structure chart.
- To ascertain whether the wardens contacted the RSPCA regarding the individuals that were begging with dogs at Asda, Old Mill Lane, Barnsley.
- To provide further information on the off-road bikes that were ridden on Harry Road Park, Barnsley.

During Quarter 1 2023, Op Voyager had ran in Athersley and New Lodge with the wardens alongside South Yorkshire Police Officers from the North Area Team. This had resulted in a total of 70 plus vehicles having been stopped and checked for speeding and other offences, and a total of 10 waste carrier license checks having been conducted.

Wardens carried out a range of duties which included addressing the begging issue at Asda, Old Mill Lane, Barnsley. They also undertook collaborative working with the homeless team and South Yorkshire Police to ensure better outcomes for victims, shoppers and staff, and patrolled the rivers and reservoirs daily following reports of children swimming. Targeted patrols continued at Darton Park with the CCTV van and anti-social behaviour surveys were completed. Approximately 42 hours of patrol and engagement had been undertaken at Mapplewell Park following reports of anti-social behaviour. Patrols at the park would continue to provide reassurance to the community.

During Quarter 1 2023:-

- 20 fixed penalty notices had been issued.
- 20 South Yorkshire Police incidents had been responded to.
- 13 environmental investigations/prosecutions had been undertaken.
- 3 vehicles had been seized for fly tipping.
- 70 anti-social behaviour targeted patrols had been undertaken.
- 6 abandoned vehicles had been removed.

Councillor Hunt suggested that it would be beneficial to Members for future reports to contain targets to enable comparisons to be made.

On numerous occasions Councillor Lofts had reported criminality and anti-social behaviour at the bottom of Woodstock Road and under the bridge to Tinkers Pond. He suggested that a presence from the wardens was required at those locations.

Councillor Leech advised Members to contact C Fairweather directly via email with any additional questions. He expressed his thanks for an interesting and informative presentation.

**RESOLVED** that Members noted the presentation.

#### **64 10 Year Celebration - Area Governance Model (Nac.10.07.2023/5)**

Members were provided with an update on the 10 Year Celebration event which would be held on Friday 29 September 2023 at Staincross Working Men's Club, Barnsley commencing at 7.00pm.

The North Area Manager had recently attended a working group meeting where the arrangements for the event had been discussed which would include a karaoke machine and performances from the Café Coffee Choir, Debbie Angel and Daniel Price, and the Angel Voices Community Choir which would be introduced by Councillor T Cave. Save the date invitations had now been sent to existing and historical Ward Alliance members. Long standing members of the voluntary community sector would also be invited to the event to thank them for the work provided.

The Ward Alliance projects to be showcased on the display boards at the event had now been confirmed by Members.

A raffle would be held on the evening, with one ticket issued to each attendee. Members were requested to each supply one raffle prize or more; all contributions would be gratefully received. Councillors A Cave and Lofts would coordinate gathering the raffle prizes. Members were requested to take the raffle prizes to the Cabinet Secretary's Office in the Town Hall, which would be transferred into Councillor A Cave's office. Councillors Howard and Tattersall had volunteered to call out the raffle prize numbers on the night.

Councillors Leech and Denton had volunteered to introduce the Ward Alliances showcase presentations.

The North Area Manager and her team would set up the room from 4.30pm, and clear it down at the conclusion of the event at 11.00pm. Councillor Leech requested Members to provide assistance wherever possible.

**RESOLVED** that Members noted the update.

## **65 Priorities, Commissioning, Project Development and Finance - Workshop Outcomes (Nac.10.07.2023/6)**

The North Area Manager presented a report which provided Members with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that had been proposed. The report also highlighted the need to agree a clear plan for commissioning against the priorities.

In relation to the Clean and Green Service, Members were requested to inform the North Area Manager by 14 July 2023 of any jobs to be prioritised during August 2023. Consideration was required for key performance indicators, and a record would be kept of the number of groups and dedicated hours that the Environmental Community Caretaker dedicated to supporting the volunteering activity.

The Environmental Caretaker Team Leader G6 had commenced in post on 3 July 2023 to work with an apprentice in the north area. The North Area Manager expressed her thanks to those Members that had arranged meet and greet sessions with the individuals. A total of 4/5 applications had been received for the driver post G4. Following a shortlisting process, the interviews would be held on 21 July 2023.

In response to a question received from Councillor A Cave, the North Area Manager would ascertain whether the Environmental Community Caretaker Team could meet with the women at Springfields estate / Dayhouse Court in July 2023.

Councillor Hunt suggested that given the Environmental Community Caretaker Model would be 80% scheduled maintenance with priorities identified by the Ward Alliances, it would be helpful for the reporting to be percentage based on the performance schedule by ward.

Members were referred to the health and wellbeing connecting communities grant. It was noted that the Age UK Barnsley project would conclude in December 2023, and the DIAL Barnsley and Reds in the Community projects would conclude at the end of March 2024. A decision would be sought at the North Area Council meeting on

11 September 2023 to determine whether there should be a continuation of the programmes. The North Area Manager would schedule for Members to meet with the Grants Panel to review the performance information to ascertain whether value for money was being achieved.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) Members noted the progress on the Environmental Community Caretaker Service recruitment.
- (ii) The North Area Council noted the existing budget position and the existing funding commitments. At Section 4 of the report.
- (iii) Members noted Section 5 of the report following the Priorities, Budget and Commissioning workshop held on the 23 June 2023.
- (iv) That the Connecting Communities Grant Panel meet to review the outcomes of the grant delivery projects and consider the continuation of the funding from January/April 2024.
- (v) That the priority working group for Young People meet with the Area Manager and Senior Link Officer to review the Youth Resilience Grant.

#### **66 Priority Working Group - Member Representation (Nac.10.07.2023/7)**

A report was presented which highlighted the purpose and function of the Priority Working Groups and to ensure that each ward was represented on each of the working groups.

Through the working groups, each ward was represented in the planning, development and delivery of Area Council services and projects which were designed to benefit the North Area as a whole, and enabled information sharing to all North Area Council Members to increase understanding and ownership.

Councillor Leech requested Members to contact the North Area Manager if they wished to swap their representations from any of the Priority Working Groups as detailed within the report.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) 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.

#### **67 North Area Cost of Living - Connectivity Support (Nac.10.07.2023/8)**

The North Area Manager presented a report which appraised Members of the proposed response that would be available to provide cost of living support for residents during winter 2023. Following the May Area Council Meeting, Members

had requested that the North Area Manager work with the existing Connecting Communities Grant providers to enhance food access provision.

The report provided a summary of the workshops that had ran since July 2022. The most recent workshop had been held at Roundhouse Library on 10 May 2023 which had discussed a range of matters including the household support grant, food access, healthy activities and food, and sport and recreation. At the North Area Council Meeting held in May 2023, Members had agreed that the Sport Van would be funded with the aim to secure Ramp Up sessions to run across the area during the summer holiday period, and that a micro grant opportunity working with the Connecting Communities Grant providers would be utilised from the £10,000 identified, to deliver communal eating opportunities for communities during winter 2023/24.

In relation to DIAL providing fortnightly sessions for existing Connect Together and new members at Emmanuel Church and Kexborough Community Centre, Councillor Lofts considered that whilst Emmanuel Church is an excellent facility, it was located in the wrong area in terms of accessibility. He suggested that consideration should be given to St Paul's Church and Honeywell Community Centre.

Councillor Hunt expressed concern that the priority working groups were all based within two locations, which would essentially result in the Darton East Ward missing out on all three proposals and the St Helen's Ward not being well represented.

In response, the North Area Manager would make enquiries with a view to spreading the provision to include the Darton East and St Helen's Wards, and to ascertain whether the DIAL priority working group would be able to extend the offer to the Parish Church of St John the Evangelist.

Councillor Leech requested if possible, for a couple of options to be made available for Members' consideration under the existing £10,000 budget.

The North Area Manager would provide Members with a revised version in due course.

In relation to the recommendations highlighted within the report, Councillor Leech suggested that the decision in relation to the cost of living be devolved to the working group, rather than to be brought to the next North Area Council meeting.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) Members confirmed that they wished to commit £10,000 to provide communal eating opportunities for residents experiencing social isolation and financial hardship during the winter months 2023/24.
- (ii) Members referred to the proposals submitted by the Connecting Communities providers, Appendix 1, and agreed to commit the funding to realise the proposals.

**68 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund (Nac.10.07.2023/9)**

A report was presented which provided an update on the financial position of the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2023/24 period.

**RESOLVED** that each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2023/24, in line with the guidance on spend.

**69 Notes from Ward Alliances (Nac.10.07.2023/10)**

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 9 May 2023; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 24 May 2023 and 21 June 2023; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 13 April 2023 and 11 May 2023; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 20 April 2023 and 1 June 2023.

Councillor Denton referred to the work undertaken by the Darton East Ward Alliance which included updates on resolving the anti-social behaviour in Darton Park and grants issues including funding for a children's film club at Darton Village Hall over the summer holiday period.

Councillor T Cave referred to the work undertaken by the Darton West Ward Alliance. He was pleased to observe the developing relationship between the Gawber History Group and Gawber Primary School. Work continued to make improvements around Darton Park. Unfortunately, a long respected member of the Ward Alliance had recently passed away, and new members were actively being sought.

Councillor Lofts provided an update as the Chair of the Old Town Ward Alliance. The last meeting had been held as an informal Members update due to no community members being present, and a discussion had ensued regarding increasing the membership.

Councillor Wright provided an update on the St Helen's Ward Alliance. Planning arrangements were coming together for the upcoming gala.

Councillor Tattersall referred to the email received from the North Area Manager regarding refreshing the logos for the Ward Alliances, and she queried when the rebranding would be undertaken.

In response, the North Area Manager commented that there was not a timeline in place. There was an opportunity to consider whether more uniform logos were required for the Ward Alliances.

Councillor Leech commented that the St Helen's Ward Alliance Secretary had recently resigned. It was hoped to recruit into the vacancy as soon as possible.

**RESOLVED** that the notes of the respective Ward Alliances be noted.

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Chair