

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday 9 February 2024
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Markham (Chair), Eastwood, Franklin, Frost, Higginbottom, Osborne, Shepherd, Smith, White and A. Wray

31 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Frost declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda insofar as it related to his position as trustee of Age UK Barnsley.

Councillor Higginbottom declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute number 34 in relation to his position as Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways.

Councillor Markham declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda insofar as it related to her position as trustee of Age UK Barnsley.

Councillor Osborne declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute number 34 due to his position as Cabinet Support Member for Environment and Highways.

32 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 15/12/2023 (Sac.09.02.2024/2)

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 15 December 2023.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 15 December 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

33 Private Sector Housing Officer Discussion (Sac.09.02.2024/3)

As Al Heppenstall, Team Leader, was unavailable, it was agreed to defer consideration of this item to a future meeting.

34 South Environmental Caretaker Team Discussion (Sac.09.02.2024/4)

Matt Holdroyd, Assistant Service Manager, and Andrea Walker, Environmental Project Officer, were welcomed to the meeting.

Members were reminded that there were three members of staff working within the Caretaker team and given their late inception the project would now finish three months later.

Within the first quarter of the project 888 hours had been invested with 1,332 in the second quarter; the lower numbers in the first quarter reflecting the delay in the apprentice starting. Within the first quarter the team had spent equal time in each ward, however there had been slight variations following, which had been impacted by reactive work. However, there had been less than 10 hours variation between wards.

Reporting highlighted 77 tonnes of litter and environmental waste had been collected and 92% of tasks had been completed. The latter being less than the 100% expected due to staff members undertaking training on such as pesticide and weed control.

With regards to the budget, this was on profile, and some bespoke equipment had been shared with the team in the North Area to reduce costs.

It was noted that a number of groups had been supported across the area, and the feedback from Members on this and the rest of the work of the team was welcomed.

A number of Councillors praised the work of the team, highlighting the responsive and proactive work. It was suggested that, where possible, partners could be engaged in planned work to maximise the impact.

With regards to the composition of waste, this was not known, but confirmation was given that approximately 70-80% would be able to be recycled.

A question was asked in relation to the engagement of young people and schools. It was noted that Andrea had been recruited to take forward work such as this, building on the successful work seen in other areas.

With regards to supporting community groups, questions were raised around the time spent with each group and it was noted that scheduling was taking place to ensure that time was split equally between groups throughout the area.

Discussion took place regarding the responsibility of takeaways and shops to reduce their waste and take responsibility and for residents to dispose of their waste correctly.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for attending the meeting, and for the work of the team in the Area.

35 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.09.02.2024/5)

The meeting received the notes from the Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance held on 8 November 2023.

Those present discussed the issue of hanging baskets in the area, and it was noted that a response to all queries raised had been issued. This would be circulated to all interested parties.

Concerns were expressed around the increased costs, and the impact on numbers wishing to sponsor baskets unless a subsidy could be provided. Subcontracting arrangements for watering were also discussed.

It was noted that the tender had been awarded in an open and transparent manner and that contract management of this was imperative to ensure the service commissioned was provided. If this was not the case appropriate action could be taken in line with the contract.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

36 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.09.02.2024/6)

RESOLVED that the report be received.

37 Procurement and Financial Update (Sac.09.02.2024/7)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, reminding Members of the workshop held on 19 January 2024. Here the performance of all contracted services and those provided under Service Level agreement had been discussed.

For each service, performance to date and the contract end dates had been considered, together with options for the future of the service. With regards to the Welfare Rights and Debt Advice Service, it was recommended that an updated tender specification be used to commission a service at £88,000 per annum, on a one year plus one year basis, subject to an annual review which would consider performance, continued need and the availability of funds. In addition, should Members approve this recommendation it was suggested that responsibility for any necessary details be delegated to the Executive Director Public Health and Communities following consultation with Members of South Area Council, and that two Members of the Area Council take part in the tender evaluation panel.

With regards to the service to tackle loneliness and isolation, it was suggested that a different model of delivery be explored with £34,000 per annum for two years allocated to a service supporting individuals on a one-to-one basis, signposting to providers and agencies

Should this be approved, it was suggested that, the tender panel should included two elected Members from South Area Council, and that responsibility for the procuring both the service and grant fund to reduce social isolation and loneliness be delegated to the Executive Director Public Health and Communities.

It was proposed that the service would be supported with a grant fund to support volunteers, groups and community organisations to tackle loneliness and isolation.

With regards to the SLA to provide Private Sector Housing support, it was suggested that the that this be extended for a further two years at a cost of £46,000 per year.

The recommendation in relation to the contract with District Enforcement to support schools, providing educational support to improve parking around schools was to extend the provision for a further year.

RESOLVED:-

- i) That the advice drop-in service be recommissioned on an updated tender specification, that the tender specification should include the points

- outlined at 5.4 of the report and be for a value of £88,000 per annum for a one plus one year contract, allowing for an annual review of performance, continued evidence of need and funding availability;
- ii) That responsibility and authority to procure the advice drop-in service in line with a specification agreed by the South Area Council be delegated to the Executive Director Public Health and Communities following consultation with Members of the South Area Council and that two Members take part in the tender process, scoring and sit on the tender interview panel for the procurement;
 - iii) That agreement be given to procure a social isolation and loneliness support service, delivering one to one support based on a new specification with a different model of delivery, with the tender specification including the points outlined at 6.4 of the report, with a maximum contract value of £34,000 per year for a one year plus one year contract allowing for an annual review of performance, the and subject to continued evidence of need and funding availability;
 - iv) That responsibility for the procurement of a social isolation and loneliness support service be delegated to the Executive Director Public Health and Communities following consultation with members of South Area Council and that two Members are nominated to take part in the tender process, scoring and sit on the tender interview panel for the procurement;
 - v) That approval be given to deliver a social isolation and loneliness grant scheme, which includes the points outlined at 6.4 of the report, and offers support to volunteers, groups, communities and organisations to tackle loneliness and isolation;
 - vi) That responsibility to develop and implement a social isolation and loneliness grant scheme in line with the report be delegated to the Executive Director Public Health and Communities following consultation with Members of the South Area Council, and with a total fund value of £30,000;
 - vii) That the Private Sector Housing Officer Service Level Agreement be extended for a further two years at a cost of £46,000 per annum for a two year period from 1st April 2024;
 - viii) That the Service Level Agreement with District Enforcement Ltd be extended for one year from the 1st July 2024 at a cost of £6,666 for 5 hours per week supporting schools and providing educational support to improve parking around schools and £24,000 (plus £1740 Barnsley Council Service Level Agreement for administration) for parking enforcement and educational support for hotspot locations identified by the South Area Council.

Chair