

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday 15 September 2022
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Penistone Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Barnard (Chair), Greenhough, Hand-Davis and Lowe-Flello

15 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

No Members declared an interest in any item on the agenda.

16 Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 21st July, 2022 (Pac.15.09.2022/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st July, 2022.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on the 21st July, 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

17 Notes from the Penistone Ward Alliances held on 14th July and 11th August, 2022 (Pac.15.09.2022/3)

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance meetings held on 14th July and 11th August, 2022.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance meetings held on 14th July and 11th August, 2022 be received.

18 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.15.09.2022/4)

Members received the report, noting its contents. The Area Council Manager drew particular attention to £3875 which remained in the Schools Out Fund which would be kept aside for the February Half Term. Members were informed that no further projects had been approved since the publishing of the report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

19 Quarter 1 (April - June 2022) Performance Report (Pac.15.09.2022/5)

The Area Council Manager provided members with an overview of performance for Quarter 1 and all contracted Services.

Members attention was brought to the comparison chart for the years 2020/21 2021/22 to 2022/23 showing a positive move in the right direction following the pandemic in all areas.

Members heard how the Clean, Green and Tidy service had seen a significant increase in volunteers and that all targets were being reached and in particular targets on work with groups and parishes were being exceeded. 13 individual projects based on requests had been completed, 18 social action initiatives had been led, 27 activities working with businesses and 250 whips had been planted at Hood Green. Activities with schools remained on hold but further work had been planned for the summer holidays including activities were possible. A number of staffing changes had taken place during the quarter but a Team Leader and Apprentice remained. Members raised concerns around the lack of communication on where and when works would be carried out in the area. The Area Council Manager informed members that this would be raised with the Twiggs Team.

Members were informed that the report on the Age UK contracts covered only April until the end of May 2022 due to the contract ending. For Lot 1 during the quarter there had been 26 active volunteers, 4 new service users and 40 existing service users and 71 people using the community car scheme which was a substantial increase. Information and advice had provided 7.25 hours of advice.

All community activities in Lot 2 were up and running with 23 new participants. Councillors had been invited to attend some of the groups to have a drink and chat with some of the service users. Men in sheds was going well and had links with Penistone Theatre Group and taken part in projects with Twiggs and the IKIC Centre.

Lot 3 had seen a site identified on Cubley Hill for a bench as part of the Take a Seat Campaign with others soon to follow.

Members were informed that the newly commissioned contract which commenced on 1st June, 2022 would be reported into the Quarter 2 performance report. Borough wide AGE UK Love Later Life events would be taking place week commencing 26th September, 2022 with members invited to attend events for the Penistone area including a walk around Wentworth Castle Gardens and a quiz and lunch event in Crow Edge on the 30th September. Planning had commenced into the winter warmth events with sloppy slippers. Members requested that 3 smaller events in both of the Penistone Areas would be more advantageous than the 2 larger more central events in order to reach those in the outlying villages who would not normally be able to attend.

Barnsley Citizen's Advice Bureau had supported 58 clients in the quarter and £394 of debt managed and £9,029 of benefits claimed. Conversations had taken place around holding drop in sessions alongside the offer of a phone and web service. The demand for help with the increase of energy costs had not shown within the quarter but it was expected to come through in the future.

The DIAL contract which was due to end in December, 2022 had resumed face to face appointments on Tuesday mornings alongside phone and web appointment and had dealt with 57 issues within the quarter. Members were informed that whilst the

numbers were significantly lower than quarter 1 in 2021/22 which were 170 they were still above target. The majority of issues were around blue badges, PIP and benefit appeals. Members heard how there was a shortage of qualified information and advice support workers and that there had been a drive to recruit more to the posts.

Members were informed that 3 of the first round of projects funded under the Supporting Young People Grant Fund had concluded including the Penistone FM, Girl Guides and the Leisure Centre. Three projects remained active including the Ad Astra, Penistone Grammar School and Angel Voices. The Penistone Grammar School – Mind for the Future project had resulted in a significant decrease in pupil referrals to the CAMHS service which was hailed as a big success.

Councillor Barnard temporarily left the meeting and Councillor Greenhough was elected as temporary Chair.

Angel Voices had carried out a number of outdoor events during the summer months which had resulted in improved mental health and wellbeing for the people who had taken part. A total of £1196 had been raised through the concerts held with money being returned to Cawthorne Hall, St Johns Church in Penistone and Springvale where the concerts had been held.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

20 Procurement and Financial Summary Report (Pac.15.09.2022/6)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager who drew members attention to the DIAL contract that was due to expire at the end of December, 2022. A further application had been received for a 12 month contract at a cost of £5198. Members were informed that following later consideration of what the future Welfare Advice Service offer would look like, it would be recommended to proceed with a grant panel to avoid any gaps between the new service coming into effect. An application had been received from Angel Voices at a cost of £8650, to carry out a similar project to an older age group due to the success of the Younger Peoples project. A grant panel would be arranged for the end of September.

At this point in proceedings, Councillor Barnard returned to the meeting and resumed Chair.

Members noted that a total of £24,834 remained in the grant pot and were advised that should both applications for funding be approved, a total of £10,986 would remain.

The Working Together Grant Fund – Supporting Young People had 4 projects approved at a total cost of £40,574 resulting in an overspend of £574 which would be added from the main Working Together Grant Fund budget.

Members had taken part in a robust review workshop for the future Clean, Green and Tidy Service during August 2022 to consider future requirements for the service. Members agreed to allocate £100,000 from the 2023/24 Penistone Area Council budget for the first year of a one plus one plus one contract commencing on 1st April, 2023. Members were presented with 2 options for how they would wish to progress the procurement exercise as outlined in the report and opted for the more flexible

approach of giving the Executive Director Public Health and Communities delegated powers with a view to being consulted and providing input on the specification outside of the formal Area Council meetings.

The Penistone Ward Alliance had an overall total of £14,665.23 remaining in the 2022/23 budget. This was to be reviewed by members at the next Area Council Members as to whether they would wish to allocate additional funds from the main budget for future spend.

A workshop had been held on 8th September, 2022 to review Area Council Priorities and it had been agreed to keep the existing priorities with a view to focus on the cost of living pressures.

Members were provided with an overview of the 2022/23 budget. It was noted that of the £101,904 remaining that £13,845 was ringfenced money from the Self Isolation Fund covid pot and remained to be allocated.

RESOLVED:-

(i) that the update on contracts funded by the existing Supporting Isolated and Older People Grant fund and new contract position be noted;

(ii) that the update on the current financial position of the Penistone Working Together Fund be received and the applications requiring a decision for funding be noted;

(iii) that the update on the Supporting Young People ringfenced funds within the existing Working Together Grant Fund and the update on the progress with round 2 of the funding be received;

(iv) that the updates on the Clean and Tidy contract started in April 2020 be noted;

(v) that £100k from the 2023/24 Penistone Area Council budget to procure a future service of the Clean and Tidy Contract on a one plus one plus one basis to commence for 12 months from April, 2023 be approved;

(vi) that, in relation to the Clean and Tidy Contract, the option to give the Executive Director Public Health and Communities devolved responsibility to agree all necessary paperwork to take forward the procurement of the service following consultation with members of the Penistone Area Council be approved;

(vii) that the outcomes from the workshop held on 8th September, 2022 in relation to the review of Penistone Area Council Priorities be agreed;

(viii) that the update on the Ward Alliance budget be noted;

(ix) that the current financial budget position for 2022/23 and record of allocated spend be noted.

21 Welfare Services Review (Pac.15.09.2022/7)

The Area Council Manager provided members with an update and background information to the Welfare Services Review.

Members were informed that the Healthier Communities Service funded a town centre based core welfare provision which offered information and guidance through a consortium of services such as CAB, DIAL and Age UK and were looking at the feasibility of a universal borough wide provision.

A review of the existing provision funded by all the Area Councils and Ward Alliances across the Borough was held and it was deemed that there were insufficient funds to expand the centrally commissioned provision to cover all areas.

Each Area Council had provided data on their locality-based advice services to evidence the level of demand spanning from 2019 to 2022 which had indicated a significant need across the borough for the services commissioned.

A number of opportunities were set out to members if they were to opt for combined commissioning including condensing management fees, encouraging collaborative tendering by providers to co-deliver, all providers operating to the same standards and AQS accredited, the approved provider list would be concise and would give the opportunity to collect performance data in a standardised way between the areas.

Threats identified would be the unknown impact for the cost of living crisis which would require an uplift in contract values to ensure the same standard of provision is provided or a reduced delivery expectation.

A number of options were set out to members on how they could progress. Members raised concerns around the option to align commissioning cycles, with the potential to lose control of funding to other areas that would be deemed more in need.

The consensus of members was to continue to commission a welfare provision for Penistone on an independent cycle based on local need through the Penistone Area Council grant funds.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the report be noted;
- (ii) that Option 7.2 set out in the report, to continue to commission a welfare provision service for the Penistone Area on an independent cycle, based on local need through the Penistone Area Council grant funds be the preferred choice for the Penistone Area; and
- (iii) that the proposal to take the preferred option to an Area Council Workshop to be arranged in the future be agreed.

Chair