

MEETING:	North East Area Council
DATE:	Thursday 24 November 2022
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Hayward (Chair), Cherryholme, Ennis OBE, Green, McCarthy and Webster

26 **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor Hayward declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of agenda Item 3 'Barnsley Community Build Traineeships: Environmental Contracts Update' and at agenda Item 4 'Procurement and Financial Update' – regarding the award of a contract to Barnsley Community Build.

27 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on 22nd September, 2022 (Neac.24.11.2022/2)**

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on 22 September 2022.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North East Area Council held on 22 September 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

28 **Barnsley Community Build Traineeships: Environmental Contracts Update (Neac.24.11.2022/3)**

Sue Shaw, Manager at Barnsley Community Build (BCB), attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on the BCB Apprenticeship Programme.

The presentation gave details of:

- How BCB Trading Ltd was first established in 2001 with the support of Barnsley MBC and the Coalfield Regeneration Trust to devise a programme to support unemployed miners to be retrained with a different trade and support them back into employment.
- An overview of its apprenticeship programme, which provides opportunities for young people from hard-to-reach backgrounds, who may have come from families with a history of being benefit dependant, been excluded from full time education and are unable to take up a normal apprenticeship with a mainstream college, but could be offered a traineeship that would lead the successful candidate onto an apprenticeship programme with BCB.
- How BCB works in partnership with other educational institutes in the delivery of the apprenticeship programme to offer a full framework qualification to any young person on the programme.

- BCB's working environment, noting that BCB employs the trainees while on the programme with the same contractual rules that they offer their full-time employees.
- An overview of the work undertaken by the BCB teams in conservational areas to ensure that they are more environmentally friendly, safer and cleaner for all the community.
- The training provided to staff, noting that all staff receive the same training in order that BCB could use its pool of Construction staff to support the Environmental Teams. This helped to alleviate any seasonal issues in the delivery of the programme.
- The additional support provided by BCB and its Environmental Team at local events. For example, attendance at Christmas fayres, monthly litter picks, collection of waste bags and collection of volunteer waste bags.

In summary, Members noted the following key points:

- Each year BCB offers 24 trainee places with the opportunity of joining the apprenticeship programme on completion. Their work with the Environmental teams gives them a working knowledge of what activities are taking place within their communities and the chance to become more involved in local issues.
- Successful candidates on completing both the traineeship and apprenticeship may be offered the opportunity to join the BCB family.
- Throughout the length of the current contract, 5 apprentices have been offered permanent positions. 2 with the Construction teams and 3 with the Environmental teams.
- 84%+ of all the young people having taken part in both these opportunities have gone on to find permanent work.

Arising from the above, Members asked the following questions:

- Due to the current cost of living crisis and increased costs associated with travel, it was felt important that BCB recruited apprentices from the North East area to provide them with opportunities to progress.
- In response, it was confirmed that BCB did preliminary try to recruit apprentices from the Barnsley area. BCB had tried previously to recruit apprentices from other areas, but they had experienced problems if apprentices lived outside of Barnsley with regards to travel, arriving late and requesting concessions. The most recent recruits were from Birdwell, Grimethorpe and from the Central Area.
- There was a discussion if BCB provided any opportunities for young people who struggle in mainstream schools. In response, it was confirmed that BCB did not discriminate against any individual; everyone was welcomed and deserved a chance. If they had a learning plan etc., then BCB would support them, nurture them and work with them to achieve their full potential.

Members of the Area Council thanked BCB for the fantastic work they carry out in the local areas to keep the local villages clean and tidy.

RESOLVED that Sue Shaw be thanked for her presentation, for attending the meeting and for answering Members questions.

29 Procurement and Financial Update (Neac.24.11.2022/4)

Lisa Phelan, Area Council Manager, submitted a report providing Members with an up-to-date overview of the Area Council's current priorities. It provided an overview of all current contracts, contract extensions, Service Level Agreements and Grant Funded Projects together with the associated timescales.

It outlined the financial position to date for 2022-23 and gave details of the projected expenditure, including future proposals to 2023-2024 as outlined in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

The report indicated that, as in previous years, a Grant Panel had met to consider the award of grants from the Youth Development Fund. It was recommended that Great Houghton Youth Group receives Grant Funding of £8,853 to continue with weekly Youth Group sessions for both Junior and Senior Groups from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023.

Members considered and unanimously agreed to support the recommendation.

Members' attention was then drawn to the Youth Development Fund – Community Youth Services. The report indicated that, over many years, this fund had supported the development of community capacity for youth service provision, particularly for under 13's, via a myriad of projects and services across the North East Area Council.

In order to sustain and develop community groups at grassroots level and in schools; Members had previously agreed that it was vitally important to consider supporting the capacity of the voluntary and community sector across the NEAC who deliver high quality, innovative services that offer value for money and increase community capacity through volunteering and other social return on investment.

Members were provided with two options as set out in the report.

Members considered and unanimously agreed to support recommended option 2a, which was to commit to the Youth Work Development Fund via a budget allocation of £35k per year for two years from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025 with the possibility of extensions of one year to 31st March 2026, to commission youth work and activities via small grants aimed predominantly at Children and Young People under aged 13.

In agreeing this recommendation, Members also agreed that this is progressed by the Area Manager, in conjunction with a Panel made up of NEAC Elected Members, with responsibility for the procurement of these grants to the Executive Director.

The Area Council Manager then drew Members' attention to the Youth Development Fund – Outreach/Detached Services. Following the North East Area Council held on 22nd September 2022, Members had asked the Area Manager to work with the Youth Development Fund Panel to consider commissioning options for a more equitable service for children and young people across the area. The report provided further details on the work which had been undertaken.

Members were provided with two options as set out in the report.

Members considered and unanimously agreed to support the recommended option 3a, which was for the Youth Development Fund Panel to commission a new Area Wide Children and Young Peoples Youth Work Service with a financial envelope of £45,000 per year for two years from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025 with the possibility of extensions of one year to 31st March 2026.

In agreeing this recommendation, Members agreed this is progressed by the Area Manager, in conjunction with a Panel made up of NEAC Elected Members, with delegated responsibility for the procurement of these grants to the Executive Director.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Green took the Chair due to a declaration of non-pecuniary interest from Councillor Hayward in the following item. Councillor Hayward left the meeting and was not involved in any discussions thereon.

The Area Council Manager informed Members that the North East Community Traineeship Programme was a contract currently held by Barnsley Community Build (BCB). As outlined in the report and earlier presentation, the contract includes a trainee programme as well as improving local environments and community engagement.

Members noted that the current BCB contract had commenced in April 2021 and would expire on 31st March 2023. There was provision for a 12-month extension to take the contract to 31st March 2024. Members were provided with two options as set out in the report.

Members considered and agreed to support recommended option 4a, which was for BCB to continue the contract for 1 more year from the 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 at a cost of £222,988.33.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Hayward resumed as Chair.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the current priorities and overview of all current contracts, contract extensions, Service Level Agreements and Grant fund projects, together with the associated timescales, be noted.
- ii) That the financial position to date for 2022-23 and the projected expenditure, including future proposals to 2023-24 as outlined in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report be noted.
- iii) That the recommendation from the Youth Development Fund Panel to fund the following project be approved:
 - Great Houghton Youth Group Grant Funding of £8,853.00 from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023.

- iv) That the recommendation to commit to the Youth Work Development Fund via a budget allocation of £35k per year for two years from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025 with the possibility of extensions of one year to 31st March 2026 to commission youth work and activities via small grants aimed predominantly at Children and Young People under aged 13 be approved, and

Request and agree that this is progressed by the Area Manager, in conjunction with a Panel made up of NEAC Elected Members, with delegated responsibility for the procurement of these grants to the Executive Director.

- v) That the recommendation for the Youth Development Fund Panel to commission a new Area Wide Children and Young Peoples Youth Work Service with a financial envelope of £45,000 per year for two years from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025 with the possibility of extensions of one year to 31st March 2026 be approved, and

Request and agree that this is progressed by the Area Manager, in conjunction with a Panel made up of NEAC Elected Members, with delegated responsibility for the procurement of these grants to the Executive Director.

- vi) That the recommendation for Barnsley Community Build (BCB) to continue the contract for 1 more year from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 at a cost of £222,988.33 be approved.

30 Quarter 2 (July to Sept) Performance Report (Neac.24.11.2022/5)

Lisa Phelan, Area Council Manager, submitted the North East Area Council Project Performance Report, which gave an oversight and update on the delivery of the commissioned projects for Quarter 2 - 2022/23 (July to September 2022).

The report outlined, amongst other things, how the projects within the Area Council area were meeting the Council's Corporate Priorities and the 2030 Ambitions. It also gave details of how projects were being delivered together with performance data against targets where appropriate.

RESOLVED that the Project Performance Report for Quarter 2 – 2022/23 (July to September 2022) be noted.

31 Notes of the Following Ward Alliances with Feedback from each Ward Alliance Chair (Neac.24.11.2022/6)

The meeting received notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston Ward Alliances held throughout September and October 2022. The following updates were noted:-

Cudworth – the annual Cudworth Christmas tree light switch on would take place on 2nd December 2022 at 4pm.

Monk Bretton – on Sunday 13 November 2022, the Ward Alliance had supported a Remembrance Sunday event, which had been very well attended.

The Lundwood Christmas tree light switch on and Carol Service with children from Littleworth Primary School would take place on 25th November 2022 from 4:30 pm at St Mary Magdalene Church, Lundwood.

The Monk Bretton Christmas tree light switch on would take place on 2nd December 2022.

North East – it was a busy time in the North East area due to a number of planned events taking place in the run up to Christmas.

Royston – the Ward Alliance had supported a number of local groups in the last 3 months and would continue to do so.

A Christmas tree had now been installed at the Wells. A Christmas Carol Service would be held at St John the Baptist Church, Royston involving three local primary schools on Thursday 1st December 2022.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

32 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Neac.24.11.2022/7)

Lisa Phelan, Area Council Manager, submitted a report which outlined the funding that remained for each of the Ward Alliances and which should be spent during 2022-23.

RESOLVED that the report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds be noted.

33 Ms C Donovan - Area Council Manager

Rachel Payling (Head of Service Stronger Communities) provided Members of the Council with an update in relation to Ms C Donovan (Area Council Manager) who was currently off work ill.

Members were informed of the temporary staffing arrangements which were in place to provide cover whilst Ms Donovan was indisposed.

Ms Donovan had requested that Members of the Area Council be thanked for their gifts, cards and kind thoughts.

The Chair and Members of the Area Council requested that their regards be passed onto Ms Donovan.

Chair