

MEETING:	North East Area Council
DATE:	Thursday 20 July 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Hayward (Chair), Booker, Cherryholme, Green, Houghton CBE, Makinson, Peace, Richardson, Sheard and Webster

10 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Peace declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 3 'Inclusive Offer Work presentation' as an employee of the Department for Work and Pensions.

11 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on 25 May 2023 (Neac.20.7.23/2)

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on 25 May 2023.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North East Area Council held on 25 May 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

12 Inclusive Offer Work Presentation - Neil Wilkinson (Neac.20.7.23/3)

Neil Wilkinson, Post 16 Provision and Partnership Manager, Barnsley MBC, was welcomed to the meeting and provided Members with a presentation which gave an overview of the Council's Inclusive Offer scheme.

Members heard that the Council works with various local partners, charities and services (such as Jobcentre Plus, NHS, Berneslai Homes, GXO and others) to create bespoke experience of work and employment opportunities for young people who need extra support to benefit from work.

The Inclusive Offer scheme supports people:

- Who have experience of being in care
- With Special Education Needs and/or disabilities (SEND)
- Aged 16 to 24 who are not in education, employment or training
- Who have experience of the Youth Justice Service
- Aged 16-19 and studying a T-Level with an education and training provider

Members were pleased to note that over 100 young people with multiple barriers to employment had been supported into either paid employment or an apprenticeship over the last 2 years.

In the ensuing discussion, particular reference was made to the following points:

- It was important for the Council to be supporting and advocating T- Levels due to the opportunities that they can create for young people who are of higher ability and motivated to pursue a particular type of career.
- T-Levels would replace many BTEC Level 3 qualifications by 2024 and this may drive young people into employment rather than into education. The Council was in the process of developing a Strategy to develop as many pathways as possible to support young people in education and training in order to reach their full potential.
- The suitability of Apprenticeship Schemes for young people who were not academic was discussed.
- Help and support was available from the Council to assist young people aged 14-16 with SEND onto the Direct Entry Scheme to college.
- From September 2023, the Government would no longer fund a national traineeships programme.
- During the last academic year (2022/23) the Inclusive Offer Team had worked in partnership with the local NHS to support ten internships over a 9-month work placement for those young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan. Positive feedback had been received from the NHS.
- The NHS was currently undertaking work to remove barriers around job qualifications criteria to make jobs more accessible to young people who do not have formal qualifications.

RESOLVED that Neil Wilkinson be thanked for his presentation.

13 Quarter 1 (April to June 2023) Performance Report (Neac.20.7.23/4)

Lisa Phelan, Area Council Manager, introduced the item making Members aware that there would be a delay prior to the Area Council receiving the Quarter 1 Performance Report.

It was noted that the Area Council Manager was starting to receive monitoring and evaluation information for the period covering April to June 2023, for inclusion in the report. Assurances were provided that monitoring meetings had been scheduled with project providers.

It was acknowledged that the Quarter 1 Performance Report would be submitted to the Area Council at their meeting in September.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

14 Matrix Team around the Community meetings - Link Officer Feedback (Neac.20.7.23/5)

Jon Finch, Head of Culture and Visitor Economy, Barnsley MBC, provided Members with an update on the Council's recent awards success and an update on the Team around the Community meetings.

Members were informed that Barnsley Council had been awarded Council of the Year for 2023 by the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) and The Municipal Journal (MJ).

Members were reminded and encouraged to attend the Members Market Place event which would be held this evening at Barnsley Town Hall. Colleagues from across Council services would be presenting the great work that they undertake.

Members heard that two Team around the Community meetings had been held with just over 20 attendees and partners in attendance. Updates had been provided at the meetings from a range of partners. The next Team around the Community meeting would be held on 7 September.

Lisa Phelan, Area Council Manager, reported that a Community Listening Survey had been developed by the Team around the Community and had been published on social media to obtain the views of local residents on community issues. The results from the survey would be used to help shape delivery for the future.

Members noted that a Funding Surgery had been arranged by South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau to inform groups in the North East how they could apply for grants from EDF Energy's Park Spring Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund. The Funding Surgery had been very well attended.

RESOLVED that the verbal update be noted.

15 Procurement and Financial Update (Neac.20.7.23/6)

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.

The report also outlined the financial position to date for 2022-23 and gave details of the projected financial position to 2023-24 as outlined in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

Members were informed that the Youth Development Fund (YDF) Funding Panel had met on 11 May 2023 to consider and review three applications which had been received. The Panel had also reviewed the budget in detail and had agreed that they would support 75% of the three projects costs if match funding could be found for the remaining 25%. Ward Alliances had been asked to fund the 25% in the first instance.

It was noted that the North East Ward Alliance had not agreed to fund 25% of Exodus Youth Clubs in Brierley or at the Grimethorpe Activity Zone. This would now be considered at the next YDF Funding Panel on 8 August 2023, with a further report presented at the September meeting.

Members noted that Recommendation 1 from the YDF Funding Panel was that the Cudworth Ward Alliance had agreed to fund 25% of Exodus Youth Clubs costs. The Area Council was recommended to commit 75% of total costs totalling £10,512 for the period 1 June 2023 to 31 March 2025.

Members considered and agreed to support the recommendation.

Members' attention was then drawn to the Health and Wellbeing Fund. The report indicated that, historically, the North East Area Council had a fund available to fund projects to address health and wellbeing under the Healthy Lifestyles priority based on identified need. At the Area Council meeting on 30 March 2023, Members agreed a recommendation to commit a financial envelope of £30,000 per year for two years to progress this priority.

The Area Council Manager had been asked to develop aims and objectives for the fund based on a combination of business intelligence, professional partnerships and community listening and requested for this to be progressed by the Area Manager, through the development of a Panel made up of Area Council Elected Members, with delegated responsibility for the procurement of these grants to the Executive Director.

Further to the Members' Priority Setting and Business Intelligence Workshops held on 23 May and 6 June 2023, the Area Council Manager was currently working on a partnership proposal to address specific prevalence around addictive behaviours.

It was recommended that the Area Council support recommendation 2, which was to identify a Panel at today's meeting to be made up of NEAC Elected Members, with delegated responsibility for procurement to the Executive Director.

Members considered and agreed to support the recommended option. It was agreed that the Panel's membership would consist of Councillors Sheard, Webster, Booker and Cherryholme.

RESOLVED

- i) That the North East Area Council's current priorities, and overview of all current contracts, contract extensions, Service Level Agreements and Grant Funded Projects, with associated timescales, be noted.
- ii) That the actual 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 recommendation 1 from the Youth Development Funding Panel: Cudworth Ward Alliance agreed to fund 25% of Exodus Cudworth Youth Clubs' costs, as per 4.3.1 of the report and that the Area Council commits £10,512 for the period 1 June 2023 to 31 March 2025 be approved.
- iv) That the update to the Health and Wellbeing Fund be noted and recommendation 2: that the Area Council identifies a Panel at today's meeting made up of NEAC Elected Members consisting of Councillors Sheard, Webster, Booker and Cherryholme, with delegated responsibility for procurement to the Executive Director be agreed.

16 Notes of the Following Ward Alliances with Feedback from each Ward Alliance Chair (Neac.20.7.23/7)

The meeting received notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton and Royston Ward Alliances: Cudworth – 17 April 2023 and 22 May 2023, Monk Bretton – 19 May 2023, North East - 1 February 2023, 18 May 2023, 20 June 2023, Royston – 22 May 2023.

The following updates were noted:-

Cudworth – Carlton Marsh Nature Reserve had been awarded its first-ever Green Flag Award. Councillor Hayward paid tribute to the fantastic work undertaken by the volunteers of Carlton Marsh Wildlife Group.

A meeting would be held on the evening of 20 July 2023 to determine if Tea in the Park scheduled for 22 July 2023 would go-ahead due to thunderstorms forecast for 22 July.

The Ward Alliance had not entered this year's Yorkshire in Bloom competition but were currently preparing to enter next year's competition.

It was acknowledged that there had been problems with this year's hanging baskets, which had now been rectified ready for next year.

The Ward Alliance had hosted its monthly Coffee Morning on Saturday 15 July 2023 at the Exodus Centre in Cudworth.

The Ward Alliance was currently making plans to hold a Sloppy Slippers event and an Autumn fair.

Monk Bretton – The Ward Alliance had not entered this year's Yorkshire in Bloom competition but were making plans to enter next year's competition.

The Ward Alliance would be supporting the Friends of Monk Bretton Park's 'Brass on the Grass' event taking place on Sunday 13 August 2023.

North East – Four new Members had now joined the North East Ward Alliance. During in October, the Ward Alliance would be hosting a meeting at Shafton Outwood Academy and would be inviting its pupils to observe the meeting. At this meeting, a place would be offered for a young person to become a member of the Ward Alliance.

A number of events were scheduled towards the end of Summer 2023, including an outdoor cinema event. Historically, the Ward Alliance had not organised a large number of events. However, this year, it would be the largest number the Ward Alliance had supported. All events were free of charge and accessible to all children.

On 12 August 2023, the first-ever Pride event would be hosted at the Welfare Hall in Great Houghton. Work had taken place with the organisers of Barnsley Pride to ensure that the Great Houghton Pride event would be a great success.

RampUp and Reds in the Community Sports Van would be travelling around the local parks and open spaces to deliver free bike and scooter sessions and multi-sports activities for children and young people during the summer school holidays.

Royston – The Royston Gala had been held on Saturday 1 July 2023. The Gala had been well-attended, with almost £500 raised from the Ward Alliance’s tombola stall and from other fees. The funds would now be used by the Green Spaces Group at Royston Park.

Councillor Makinson expressed her thanks to the Royston Ward Alliance volunteers, Christie McFarlane and to Green Team Barnsley for all their help and assistance at the Gala.

The Ward Alliance had entered this year’s Yorkshire in Bloom competition in two categories – ‘It’s your Neighbourhood’ (for the blooms and planters in the village) and ‘Open Green Spaces’ (for Royston Canal). The Yorkshire in Bloom Judge had visited Royston village on 18 July.

The Ward Alliance was currently planning the next Green Spaces meeting and were grateful to Royston Co-op for the receipt of funds.

The Friends of Royston Group had arranged activities at Manor Court Community Centre including Ta Chi sessions and Age UK’s Men in Sheds project. Work was taking place with Berneslai Homes to install a disabled toilet and to improve access around Manor Court Community Centre for mobility scooters.

In partnership with Barnsley Premier Leisure, the Ward Alliance had part funded three sessions (Monday, Wednesday & Friday) of free-swimming places per week at Royston Leisure Centre throughout the summer holidays for the first nine children who attend.

A RampUp session would be held at Royston Park during the summer holidays.

Free fishing permits for use at Royston Canal would be available during the summer holidays with volunteers available to help children learn how to fish.

The Ward Alliance would be focusing its attention on Royston Park in the near future, with planning currently taking place around a day of action to address areas requiring attention in the park.

The Ward Alliance had received an update at its last meeting on the Stop Smoking initiative.

The Area Council highlighted that smoking and alcohol misuse was higher in the North East area than in any other area of Barnsley. Members asked what support was available for young people to encourage them to stop vaping. Lisa Phelan agreed to investigate.

The Area Council Manager reported that work was taking place to develop a training programme for all Ward Alliances. The aim was to train multiple people on food hygiene, first aid, health and safety and safeguarding. Discussions were also taking place with Northern College to offer a volunteer passport.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

**17 Report on the Use of Area Council Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds
(Neac.20.7.23/8)**

Lisa Phelan, Area Council Manager, submitted a report which outlined the agreed spend to date from the 2023/24 Ward Alliance Fund budget within the North East Area. The appendices attached to the report outlined the spend for each Ward Alliance together with the remaining allocations carried forward from the 2022/23 financial year.

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

Chair