

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday 4 September 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Goldthorpe Library

MINUTES

Present Councillors Coates (Chair), Bellamy, Bowler, Cain, Moore and Morrell

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

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

18 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 17 July 2023 (Dac.04.09.2023/2)**

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of the Dearne Area Council.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting held on 17 July 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

19 **Cultural Strategy Update - Liane Holdsworth (Dac.04.09.2023/3)**

Members received a presentation from Liane Holdsworth, Development Manager, which outlined the reasons as to why Barnsley needs a Cultural Strategy to ensure its work around participation and engagement with culture and heritage, and its contribution to the visitor economy which is strategically aligned to the Barnsley 2030 priorities of the borough and B2030 outcomes.

In response to series of questions raised by Members regarding the potential for the Dearne Playhouse Theatre to be utilised as a creative space, L Holdsworth commented that it was intended to make the theatre a community and cultural hub. Plans were underway to refurbish the theatre to create a flexible space to include a recording room and a room for community and craft groups. The roof and electrical works had recently been completed and the internal works to the theatre and basement would commence in Spring 2024.

Members were requested to provide L Holdsworth with the contact details of any local artists, musicians etc.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

20 Youth Work Update - Verbal Report Angie Kelly

Jade Beevers, Early Intervention and Prevention Worker was welcomed to the meeting.

Members were provided with an update on the youth work undertaken during the summer period:-

- The Goldthorpe Centre had held sessions on photography, gaming and textiles, approximately 10 individuals had attended each session, with the intention to capture what culture and Goldthorpe meant to them. Follow up sessions would be held for photography and gaming. Recordings from each session would be combined into a video which would be shared with the Area Council in due course. Sheffield University students would come into the centre from September 2023 to create a digitised townscape of Barnsley.
- Activities had been ran for under privileged individuals to attend the youth centres to enable them to try different experiences.
- A trial had been held for a teenage mothers' group. Unfortunately the four individuals booked onto the trial had not attended. The trial would be re-run, with the aspiration for it to be held on a monthly basis.
- One-to-one perinatal care sessions had been held. The sessions were accessible for any young person. The figures for perinatal young people within the Dearne area had reduced and Dearne had one of the lowest figures for this within the borough. Prior to the 6 week holiday period, a Year 6 transition session had been held to introduce the service and support that was on offer. From 2024, the service would be opened as an evening provision.
- A special needs group was also in place, which was a protective group consisting of 12 individuals.
- There were currently 3 members of staff within the team and recruitment was underway for Assistant Youth Worker posts.

RESOLVED that Members noted the update.

21 Dearne Area Council Finance Update (Dac.04.09.2023/5)

The Area Council Manager submitted a report which provided an update regarding the Area Council's financial position.

The report outlined the carry forward from 2022/23, the committed spend for 2023/24 and 2024/25 together with information on the Dearne Development Fund. A detailed financial breakdown was included within an Appendix to the report.

It was noted that in total the Area Council had £57,429.91 to carry over into this financial year.

A discussion ensued in relation to the Housing and Cohesion Officer, who would be reducing his working hours from 5 days to 4 days per week. The Area Council Manager commented that additional resources were available through the

Core Service. She would make further enquiries and report back to Members in due course.

RESOLVED that the financial update and the impact on future budgets be noted.

22 Quarter 1 Performance Report (Dac.04.09.2023/6)

The Area Council Manager submitted her performance report for Quarter 1 and Members noted its contents.

Arising out of the discussion, particular reference was made to the following:

- The Area Council Priorities, the commissions including Twiggs, the B:Friend service, the Dearne Electronic Community Village and the work of the Private Sector Housing and Cohesion Officer.
- Since the last quarter, Twiggs had worked with 258 volunteers which had included 639 volunteer hours at Twiggs' events, a total of 362 rubbish bags had been filled and 99 areas had been targeted in proactive and reactive work.
- During the quarter, the B:Friend service had supported 187 isolating older neighbours, provided 65 hours of staff visits/calls, had a total of 90 volunteers which included 7 new volunteers and had provided 52 hours of group social activities.
- The Dearne Electronic Community Village had provided learning to 29 individuals during the quarter, with 21 learners achieving qualifications, 6 learners had moved into employment and 21 learners had progressed into further training.
- A total of 153 reports had been made by the Housing Enforcement during the quarter, 35 contacts had been made with household waste on premises, 135 fly tipping incidents had been reported and 6 vulnerable homes had been identified.
- During the quarter, DIAL Barnsley had received a total of 75 enquiries and 95 individuals had reported reduced anxiety as a result of using the service. From the outset of the project, each £1 spent had returned £24.08 into the Dearne, which was an excellent social return on investment.
- A total of 281 individuals had attended the Older Generation Get Together within the Goldthorpe Development Group during the quarter, and 40 volunteers had provided assistance across 3 events.

Councillor Coates expressed her thanks to the team for the Dearne 10 year celebration event, which had been well organised and a fantastic evening.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Coates, the Area Council Manager would ascertain the total number of volunteers within the Dearne area and inform Members accordingly.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

23 Future Environmental Service (Dac.04.09.2023/7)

The Area Council Manager submitted a report which provided the current position regarding the Dearne Area Council environmental commission, funding and contract timescales. The report also provided information regarding the recent Member briefings which discussed the future direction and provided several options for the Dearne Area Council to consider.

L Hamilton would liaise with Members outside of the meeting with a view to arranging visits at the family centres in Thurnscoe and Bolton Upon Dearne.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Members received the background information set out in section 3.0 of the report.
- (ii) That Members agreed to delay making a decision on the proposed options for the future direction of the environmental priority until the next Area Council Meeting in November 2023.

24 Notes from the Dearne Ward Alliances (Dac.04.09.2023/8)

The meeting received the notes from Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 25 July 2023 and the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 1 August 2023.

Members received a brief update from the Area Council Manager of the main items discussed and the activities promoted at the meetings:

(a) Dearne South

- Five applications for funding had been approved.
- The Treasurer had given an update on the working funds balances and projects against the committed spend.
- There had been a discussion regarding the summer provision and activities in Bolton Upon Dearne, which included an outdoor cinema that had been very well received.

Councillor Coates suggested that the Ward Alliance funding be put into the winter planning, which would be discussed at the next Ward Alliance meeting.

Councillor Bowler expressed her thanks to the Dearne Area Team for the work undertaken over the summer period which had received fantastic feedback from all participants including children, parents and carers. She also expressed her thanks to the Community Development Officer and her team for the outdoor cinema, together with BMBC for the funding provided.

(b) Dearne North

- Three applications for funding had been approved.
- T Hughes from Healthwatch had given an update of the work within Dearne North and explained how the community groups, Ward Alliance, their families and individuals that attend could assist to provide the relevant health opinions on the services on offer within the Dearne area.
- The Community Development Officer provided an update on the project planning for Autumn/Winter, which had been referred until January 2024.
- Group updates had been provided on the excellent work undertaken during the summer holidays and Autumn period in Dearne North.

RESOLVED that notes from the respective Ward Alliances be received.

25 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.04.09.2023/9)

The Area Council Manager submitted a report on the spend to date from the Ward Alliance Funds within the Dearne North and South Area.

It was noted that within the Dearne North Ward Alliance there was a starting balance for 2023/24 of £12,270.17 which included the underspend of £2,270.17 from 2022/23. Eleven projects had been funded at a cost of £8,088.49, leaving a balance of £4,181.68. Within the Dearne South Ward Alliance there had been a starting balance for 2023/24 of £16,031.04 which included an underspend of £6,031.04 from 2022/23. A total of nine projects had been funded at a cost of £9,468.57, leaving a balance of £6,562.47.

RESOLVED that the Dearne Area Council received the Dearne North and South Ward Alliance Fund Report and noted any spend to date for the Dearne North and South Ward.

Chair