

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday 11 September 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Leech (Chair), A. Cave, T. Cave, Crisp, Denton, Howard, Newing, Pickering, Tattersall and N. Wright

70 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

71 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 10 July 2023 (Nac.11.09.2023/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 July 2023.

In relation to the Neighbourhood Warden and Community Safety Update that was provided to Members at the last meeting, Councillor A Cave commented that she was extremely concerned into the welfare of the dogs that accompanied the individuals that were begging at Asda, Old Mill Lane, Barnsley. At the last meeting, Councillor Cave had requested that C Fairweather ascertained whether the wardens had contacted the RSPCA regarding the welfare of those dogs.

In response to a query raised by Councillor Tattersall regarding the new logos for the Ward Alliances, Councillor Newing commented that she had attended the consultation event held on 11 September 2023, where everyone's opinions would be collated. The Area Manager added that she had seen the proposals for the new logos, and she would provide Members with an update in due course.

RESOLVED that subject to the above addition, the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on the 10 July 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

72 Family Hubs Consultation - Sam Cunningham/Tracey Fitzgibbon (15 minutes) (Nac.11.09.2023/3)

Members received a presentation from S Cunningham which provided an update on the Family Hubs and Start for Life Consultation. The following key points were noted:-

- The consultation had opened in August 2023 and would run until 23 September 2023.
- BMBC was one of 75 local authorities that had been successful in receiving funding from the DfE to transform the current family centre model into a family hub.

- The £3.6m funding would specifically focus on the following strands being perinatal mental health, parent school offer, infant feeding, start for life including the virtual offer, parent carer panels, home education packages and early language. Following which, focus would be given to an additional 18 strands. The funding would conclude in March 2025.
- The funding would not enable all of the family centres across the borough to become family hubs. It was proposed that 6 of the family centres would become family hubs and the remainder of the services would continue to run throughout the borough.
- A more co-ordinated approach would be given to the grass root services and to bring them under the family hub umbrella.
- Families would be able to access the additional services in a much more planned manner.
- To compliment the work, a local needs assessment had been undertaken for the service, families and for additional needs. The final version of the needs assessment was awaited.
- It was intended to develop a model that supported the peer support.
- The nursery provision would continue, together with the midwifery provision from the buildings that were not specifically the family hub buildings.
- A total of 320 responses to the consultation had been received to date.

The Area Manager would circulate the presentation slides onto Members outside of the meeting.

Councillor Howard referred to the Darton West area which did not have any libraries or a family centre. She queried how the individuals were consulted within the Darton West area and she wanted to ensure that there was provision within that area.

In response, S Cunningham commented that she would ensure the family centre staff were targeting the Darton West area. It was noted that midwives offered a range of services, and the early health practitioners made visits to family homes. She would ascertain where the officers were based and inform the Area Manager who would inform the Members.

Councillor Tattersall gave thanks to S Cunningham for attending the recent St Helen's gala. She queried whether a list of the parent and toddler groups was available and whether the officers would attend the groups to talk to parents, carers and grandparents.

Members noted that the practitioners continued to link with the early year settings and childminders, which included the grass root groups. The engagement of the practitioners' role was to undertake raising awareness to ascertain what was happening within the communities and to engage with individuals as much as possible.

Following a query raised by Councillor Pickering, S Cunningham referred to a number of leaflets and literature regarding mental health. Early identification of the perinatal mental health was identified as low to medium; she would share the literature with Members. The DfE had made clear that funding for the evidence lead was based low to moderate. Work had been undertaken with the Barnsley Maternity

Partnership and expectant mothers to produce a leaflet, a leaflet for expectant fathers and same sex couples.

Councillor Leech expressed his thanks for an interesting and informative presentation.

RESOLVED that Members noted the update.

**73 Cultural Strategy Update - Jon Finch and Coby Walsh (15 minutes)
(Nac.11.09.2023/4)**

Members received a presentation from J Finch, 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.

Councillor Howard welcomed the Cultural Strategy. At a Cabinet Meeting, she had raised the point that Members had wide knowledge of their respective communities, and she had highlighted the need for Members to be at the forefront of discussions. Councillor Howard agreed that focus should be given to local engagement initiatives i.e. the Youth Choir and Angel Voices. Funding had been provided to the Community Choir to provide arts, crafts and singing workshops etc. during the school holiday period, and an older persons' afternoon club had been ran to tackle social isolation.

Councillor Denton welcomed the engagement made with the Ward Alliances and Members of the Area Councils. He considered that engagement with the wider community and getting people involved would prove to be a real challenge.

In response, J Finch commented that initially engagement would be made with the Area Councils and Ward Alliances, part of the process would be to assess which groups were/were not engaged with and to identify the gaps to enable further work. Further work would be undertaken in 2024 to ensure that engagement was made with as many groups as possible.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Tattersall as to how a judgement was made of which groups should receive funding, J Finch commented that although there was not a huge amount of resourcing available, there was an option to secure additional investment i.e. for choirs, theatre groups etc. There would also be an opportunity to allow individuals to work together more productively, rather than in investment terms. Thought would be given to creating additional performance and/or work spaces in a more efficient way.

Councillor Leech expressed his thanks for a very comprehensive presentation and report.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

74 10 Year Celebration Event - Area Governance Model - Verbal Update

The Area Manager provided Members with an update on the 10 year celebration event that would be held on Friday 29 September 2023, at Staincross Working Men's Club, commencing at 7.00pm.

A provisional running order for the evening had been devised and a number of raffle prizes had started to be received in advance of the event. Members were requested to contact Councillor A Cave or the Area Manager with any further raffle prizes.

Performances on the evening would be provided by the Café Coffee Choir and the Angel Voices Community Choir which would include individual performances. The main act for the evening was DNA, which was a collaboration between Debbie Angel and Adam Price.

Members were requested to provide the Area Manager with the contact details of any additional community groups that could be invited to the event.

RESOLVED that Members noted the update.

75 Performance Report - 2023/24 - Q1 (Nac.11.09.2023/6)

A report was presented which provided an aggregate picture of how all the North Council contracted services contributed to the achievement of each of the North Area Council's agreed outcomes and social value objectives, which reflected upon the information gathered from each contract for the period April – June 2023. The report provided a summary of the performance management report for each of the contracted services for 2023/24 Quarter 1 (April – June 2023). The report provided a link between the commissioned services and the Public Health Outcomes.

Members were referred to the case studies for each contracted service.

Councillor Denton referred to the 10 week Reds in the Community initiative which he had attended at Athersley Recreational Ground, which had made a huge difference to his health. He requested an insight into the metrics within the performance report, in particular to the direction of the five arrows within the red section.

The Area Manager commented that the volunteering opportunities were down for the last quarter due to the gap with the Twiggs contract coming to an end and the break with the Environmental Caretakers which did not commence until the end of July 2023.

Councillor Leech referred to the successful negotiation with Ad Astra which would move from New Lodge into Athersley Library until the refurbishment was undertaken. He had liaised with the contact at New Lodge regarding the transition.

RESOLVED that Members noted the contents of the Performance Management report.

76 Connecting Communities Grant Review Report (Nac.11.09.2023/7)

A report was presented which provided Members with an update on the delivery of the Stronger Communities Grant funded programmes. The report provided an opportunity to review delivery of the providers and their funded projects, to evaluate whether the providers were delivering good value for money, and to deliver the priority working group's recommendation as to whether the grant programme should revive further investment from the Area Council.

The Grant Review Workshop had been held on 31 August 2023, where qualitative information had been gathered and a discussion had ensued regarding value for money. Due to exceeding the available budget, the Area Manager had commented that it would not be possible to continue to commission the whole programme as currently funded by the North Area Council during 2024/25.

The grant panel consisted of the following Members:-

Councillor S Hunt – Darton East
Councillor T Cave – Darton West
Councillor C Pickering – Old Town
Councillor N Wright – St Helen's

Councillor Tattersall expressed her thanks for an informative report. She queried whether any information was available following the Sports Van initiative that had been held during the 6 weeks school holiday period, which she hoped would be ran again in 2024.

The Area Manager commented that a number of the sports van sessions had been interrupted due to the inclement weather. The sessions had to be pre-booked and the ramp up sessions had been very popular. She would ascertain the demographical information to determine where the attendees resided.

Councillor Newing had observed a couple of the ramp up sessions, which had been well attended.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The update provided by the Connecting Communities Grant Panel on the discussion that took place at the review workshop on 31 August 2023, as at Sections 7 and 8 of the report be noted.
- (ii) The preferred option to help address social isolation in the community as at Section 8.5.3 of the report be approved with contracts for two of the providers to be extended for a period of 12 months.
- (iii) That a total funding allocation of £75,000 for a period of 12 months, with all services profiled to conclude in March 2025 be agreed.
- (iv) That the responsibility for procuring the grant extension be delegated to the Area Council Manager to progress, with regular updates to the Grant Panel.

77 Priorities, Commissioning, Project Development and Finance (Nac.11.09.2023/8)

A report was presented which provided an aggregate picture of how all the North Council contracted services contributed to the achievement of each of the North Area Council's agreed outcomes and social value objectives, which reflected upon the information gathered from each contract for the period April – June 2023. The report provided a summary of the performance management report for each of the contracted services for 2023/24 Quarter 1 (April – June) 2023. The report provided a link between the commissioned services and the Public Health Outcomes and a summary of the performance information.

Members were referred to the devolved funding of the Ward Alliances. The current Housing and Cohesion Officer had commenced in post on 15 May 2023, and he was enjoying the new opportunity.

Councillor Newing raised a query in relation to section 3.2 of the report regarding the Housing and Cohesion Officer (Private Sector Housing). In response, the Area Manager commented that she would update section 3.2 of the report to indicate there was a 12 month provision.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Members noted the progress on the Environmental Community Caretaker Service recruitment.
- (ii) Noted the recommendations of the Connecting Communities Grant Review conducted by the Grant Panel and agreed regarding further investment in this grant stream or an alternative project. Full details agenda item 7. This required an investment of £75,000 to enable two grant providers to continue provision for a 12month period, concluding March 2025.
- (iii) The Youth Resilience Fund required a review. It was recommended that this takes place in October 2023 with a decision on the continuation of the grant to be agreed at the January 2024 meeting of the Area Council.
- (iv) The North Area Council noted the existing budget position and the existing the funding commitments. Section 4 of the report.

78 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund (Nac.11.09.2023/9)

A report was presented which provided an update on the financial position of the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2023/24 period.

In response to a query raised by Councillor Howard, regarding an article in the Barnsley Chronicle which stated that the Old Town Ward Alliance had not spent any of its budget, the Area Manager commented that the article is representative of the current situation.

RESOLVED that each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2023/24, in line with the guidance on spend.

79 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances (Nac.11.09.2023/10)

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 13 June 2023 and 11 July 2023; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 17 July 2023; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 8 June 2023 and 13 July 2023; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 1 June 2023 and 13 July 2023.

Councillor Denton referred to the work undertaken by the Darton East Ward Alliance which included the signing off for application funding for the Holiday Hunger Club for £500 at Staincross Methodist Church. Activities had been delivered for children during the summer school holiday period in Mapplewell Park. Funding had been achieved for an additional CCTV camera at Mapplewell Park.

Councillor Howard referred to the work undertaken by the Darton West Ward Alliance and she referred to the disappointment experienced by the other Ward Alliances in relation to the installation of the hanging baskets. A group would shortly be established to consider the Christmas events.

Councillors Pickering and Newing referred to the work undertaken by the Old Town Ward Alliance. Difficulties had been encountered in recruiting individuals to become members of the Ward Alliance, and work continued to increase the membership. It was envisaged to relocate the meetings from the Town Hall to Honeywell Sports Centre.

Councillor Tattersall referred to the work undertaken by the St Helen's Ward Alliance. She expressed her thanks to all the community groups that had come forward with bids. Work was underway on the Ward Plan for delivery in 2023 and 2024. Discussions were underway in relation to the Halloween and Christmas events. It was necessary to appoint new members onto the Ward Alliance, with the potential to use the St Helen's Gala as an opportunity for recruitment.

RESOLVED that the notes of the respective Ward Alliances be noted.

Chair