

MEETING:	North East Area Council
DATE:	Thursday 23 November 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Reception Room - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

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

27 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

28 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on 21 September 2023 (Neac.23.11.23/2)

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on 21 September 2023.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North East Area Council held on 21 September 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

29 Safer Neighbourhoods Presentation - Alan Heppenstall (Neac.23.11.23/3)

Alan Heppenstall, Team Leader, Safer Neighbourhoods, Barnsley MBC, provided Members with a verbal update on the services provided by the Safer Neighbourhoods Team to address antisocial behaviour issues in the North East area.

Members noted the following key points:

- There had been a change in the Team's management structure with Paul Stelling now responsible for leading the Team.
- The Team now had the flexibility, with the support of partners, to deal with low level anti-social behaviour issues informally, have robust conversations and offer advice to individuals.
- The Empty Homes Team were interested in receiving information from Members with regards to any empty properties within the North East Area they may be aware of. The aim was to bring empty properties back into use, due to there being considerable pressure for affordable homes in the area.
- Members were asked to make the Team aware of any properties within their areas which were overgrown and may be empty, as these properties often attracted individuals to commit low level anti-social behaviour.
- The Housing and Community Safety Team did undertake work with rogue landlords when damp and mould issues had not been addressed by them.
- Working in partnership with the Fire Service, the Team were aware that there were 110 (4%) hoarded and self-neglect properties in the borough. Individuals living in

these conditions often had mental health issues and other vulnerabilities. There were currently 4,000 people at risk in the borough due to hoarding and self-neglect increasing the risk of a fire occurring. Assurances were provided that the Team did work alongside partners and did visit properties reported to them in order to offer help and advice.

- Private rented properties were the biggest target for cannabis grows in Barnsley. The Team were working with partners and landlords as part of the Cannabis Grow Aware Scheme, which promotes property checks between 8 and 10 weeks to stop cannabis grows in the private rented sector.

A discussion arose in relation to preventing the fly-tipping of waste in the borough. It was noted that there was a duty of care placed on individuals to make sure that the person or company removing their waste was authorised to do so, if not, they could be prosecuted. Members noted that communications had been issued and were available to prevent the fly-tipping of waste.

Members raised concerns that reports of anti-social behaviour involving off-road bikers had increased significantly. In response, it was confirmed that the Team were working in partnership with the Police to tackle this issue. When reports were received, the Team did visit addresses and have robust conversations with individuals. When several reports were received regarding the same individual, the Team did have the power to seize their vehicle.

On behalf of the Area Council, the Chair thanked Alan Heppenstall for his update and requested that he attends future meetings on a regular basis to keep Members informed of the work taking place in their wards.

RESOLVED that Members noted the verbal update.

30 Jon Finch, Area Council Link Officer Feedback (Neac.23.11.23/4)

Jon Finch, Area Council Link Officer, provided Members with a verbal update on the proceedings from the recently held, first virtual Team around the Community meeting.

It was noted that one of the key areas of work for the Team around the Community was in relation to working with children and young people and food. Two Sub-Groups had been established to work on these two key areas of focus. At the recent Team around the Community meeting, it had been agreed that the two Sub-Groups would now join the main Group.

At the meeting, wider updates had been provided in relation to the 10 Year Celebration event, an update from South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau and updates from community and voluntary groups. A discussion had also taken place on the Pride of Place Grants. A meeting would take place in December to agree the applications which would receive Pride of Place Grants. It had also been agreed that there would be a mix of both physical and online future Team around the Community meetings.

RESOLVED that Members noted the verbal update.

31 Quarter 2 (July to September 2023) Performance Report (Neac.23.11.23/5)

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 - 2023/24 (July to September 2023).

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.

Members' attention was drawn to the following key highlights:

- There had been over 100 participants at Age UK's regular activities and events held in the North East area.
- The North East's Stop Smoking Advisor had facilitated a pilot information session looking at smoking and vaping at Outwood Shafton Academy in collaboration with the Youth Association.
- The Private Sector Housing Enforcement Officer had achieved 92 proactive initial property contacts during Quarter 2.
- There had been a total of 188 riders who had taken part in Ramp Up sessions during the Summer.
- There had been a total of 92 participants over the Summer taking part in activities run by Reds in the Community.

RESOLVED that the Project Performance Report for Quarter 2 – 2023/24 (July to September 2023) be noted.

32 Procurement and Financial Update Report (Neac.23.11.23/6)

Lisa Phelan, Area Council Manager, introduced 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 Healthy Lifestyles Panel had met on 11 September 2023 to explore a Healthy Lifestyles project proposal. The Panel had agreed that the project was feasible and meets the North East Area Council's 'Healthy Lifestyles' priority. The Panel were encouraged that significant match funding had been sourced and were pleased to note that there would still be funding remaining in the Healthy Lifestyles budget to pursue other small project ideas in the future.

Appendix A to the report provided Members with further details on a proposal to fund a North East Drugs and Alcohol Advisor, together with details on the match funding that had been purposed to support this project totalling £30,000 for the 2-year period.

In response to Members questions, the Area Council Manager provided assurances that the funding would allow for a dedicated Drugs and Alcohol Advisor to be based

within the core team at Barnsley Recovery Steps. The Advisor would visit community locations based on local intelligence and the needs of each area.

Members considered and agreed to support recommended Option 1 to fund a North East Area Drugs and Alcohol Advisor via Barnsley Recovery Steps for a 24-month period, likely to start from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2026, at a total cost of £41,000.

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 Option 1: to fund a North East Area Drugs and Alcohol Advisor via Barnsley Recovery Steps for a 24-month period, likely to start from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2026, at a total cost of £41,000 be approved.

33 Notes of the Following Ward Alliances with Feedback from each Ward Alliance Chair (Neac.23.11.23/7)

The meeting received notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston Ward Alliances held throughout September and October 2023. The following updates were noted:-

Cudworth – The Christmas lights switch on would take place on Friday 1 December 2023. Due to the expense of the Christmas lights at £159.14 per light, it was noted that this may be reviewed for Christmas 2024.

The repair of Elmer the Elephant had now been undertaken following damage and vandalism in its former home of St John's Gardens. Elmer was now situated in the library grounds and would be locked-off behind gates during the evening to prevent damage.

An Outreach Worker had recently been undertaking work with children in Cudworth Park to assist with litter picking etc. It had been agreed that the boulders in the park would be removed when work commenced on the demolition of the bungalow in Cudworth Park.

Three mosaics had been installed in Cudworth village highlighting notable parts of its local culture. The collection of mosaics depicts Cudworth's Canadian twin-town, its historic linen industry and native Sir Michael Parkinson.

Monk Bretton – The Remembrance Sunday Parade held on Sunday 12 November 2023 had been very well attended. The Parade had commenced at the Methodist Church to the War Memorial Remembrance Garden, followed by a Special Service of Remembrance at St Paul's Church in Monk Bretton.

The Ward Alliance had received two funding applications. One from Carlton Bowling Club and the second from the Dementia Club.

The Christmas light switch on at St Mary's Magdalene Church, Lundwood would take place on Tuesday 28 November 2023.

The Monk Bretton Christmas light switch on would take place on Monday 4 December 2023.

The Christmas light switch on at St John the Evangelist Church, Carlton would take place on Monday 4 December 2023.

A Christmas Market would be held at Monk Bretton Priory on Saturday 9 December 2023.

North East – The October Ward Alliance meeting had been held at Shafton Outwood Academy. Five students and a member of staff had joined the meeting as part of their learning about the Ward Alliance and its role and responsibilities within the community.

The Ward Alliance had discussed possible Christmas events and had agreed to fund a Winter Warmth event.

The Ward Alliance's October half term provision had been very well attended.

At the November Ward Alliance meeting, Members had received a presentation from the University of the Third Age (U3A) to discuss the work of the U3A.

Royston – The Ward Alliance had been very busy preparing for Christmas events in the community, including the preparation of Christmas lights for the installation on lampposts in the village.

Three Remembrance Services had been held in Royston on 11, 12 and 13 November 2023, which had all been very well attended.

Students at Carlton Academy were currently making baubles for the Christmas trees at Carlton and Royston.

A Christmas light switch on would be held on 5 December 2023 at St John the Baptist Church, Royston. All four local primary schools had been invited to join the event and had been asked to select hymns they wish to sing. A Christmas tree light switch on at the Wells was also scheduled.

The Ward Alliance had received an 'Outstanding' Award for its entry in the Yorkshire in Bloom competition 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category. Royston Canal Club had been awarded 'Platinum' for its entry in the 'Open Green Spaces' category of the competition.

A meeting had recently taken place with the Land Trust to discuss improving facilities at Rabbit Ings and the possible use of Principal Towns funding.

The Ward Alliance had been working in partnership with the volunteers at Royston Friends Association to help set up a Good Food Pantry. The Good Food Pantry, located at Manor Court Community Centre had been officially opened on 20 October 2023 to make it easier for local people to access quality food regardless of their budget.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

34 Report on the Use of Area Council Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds (Neac.23.11.23/8)

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.

35 Reflection on 10 Year Celebration (Neac.23.11.23/9)

Councillor Hayward referred to the 10 Year Celebration event which had been held on Thursday 16 November 2023 at West Green Working Men's Club in Monk Bretton. He requested Members to provide their feedback.

All Members considered it to have been a fantastic evening, which had provided an excellent opportunity for the Area Council to celebrate and thank community groups and volunteers for all the good work they have undertaken in the last 10 years, and continue to undertake in the North East Area.

On behalf of the Area Council, Councillor Hayward wished to thank the Area Council Manager and her Team for all their hard work in arranging the event. He also expressed thanks to Councillor Peace for undertaking the role of event compere and quiz master, to Councillor Webster for organising transport and to Councillor Richardson for photographing the event.

Members agreed that a letter of thanks be sent on behalf of the Area Council to all the staff at West Green Club to thank them for all their hard work and helping to arrange the event.

The Area Council Manager thanked Members for their excellent feedback and reported that the overall budget for the event had been underspent. It was noted that funds would be returned to each Ward Alliance shortly.

RESOLVED that Members noted the update.

Chair