

MEETING:	North East Area Council
DATE:	Thursday 23 May 2024
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Hayward (Chair), Booker, Cherryholme, Coates, Green, Makinson, McCarthy, Peace, Richardson and Sheard

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

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

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on 21 March 2024 (Neac.23.05.24/2)**

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on 21 March 2024.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North East Area Council held on 21 March 2024 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 **Private Sector Housing Officer Update - Alan Heppenstall (Neac.23.05.24/3)**

Al Heppenstall, Housing and Case Management Lead, was welcomed to the meeting to provide Members with a presentation on the current neighbourhood challenges specific to the North East area.

Members were provided with an overview of the key functions of the Private Housing Enforcement Officer for the North East area. These included providing support, offering guidance or advice, building community engagements, undertaking housing related assessments with regards to disrepair and nuisance issues and tackling environmental problems such as fly-tipping.

During the last 12 months, waste in gardens and fly-tipping were the most commonly reported problem within the North East area. Members asked if reports of waste in gardens concerned Berneslai Homes properties or if they were received in respect of private rented/owned properties. In response, Al Heppenstall agreed to provide Members with information following today's meeting.

The presentation provided Members with an overview of national and local trends in relation to fly-tipping. The following key points were noted:

- Fly-tipping had increased by 1% nationally (2021/22 to 2022/23).
- 60% of fly-tipping was made up of household waste, and most of it was found on pavements and highways.
- Locally, fly-tipping had decreased by 29% (2021/22 to 2022/23).
- 91% of workload related to waste and fly-tipping.

- There were three areas within the North East area where fly-tipping was most common - Milgate Street (Royston) High Street (Grimethorpe) and Bloemfontein Street (Cudworth).

Members asked if information could be provided on the tonnage of waste which was fly tipped locally. In response, Al Heppenstall agreed to provide Members with details following today's meeting.

Members heard that the Housing Enforcement Officer had issued 11 Community Protection Warnings, 8 Housing Act Notices and participated in Operation Duxford.

Members noted that the Housing Enforcement Officer contract for the North East area was in place until March 2025 and that the role would be further developed through a deep dive. Future work would include identifying empty properties that could be brought back into use; identifying those suffering in hoarded homes; dealing with possible rogue landlords and disrepair; and preventing neighbourhood decline.

In the ensuing discussions it was noted that:

- Vehicles would be seized if they were found to be operating with no waste carrier license.
- The Enforcement Team continued to use CCTV at fly-tipping hotspots in the North East area.
- There was currently no appetite for introducing a Selective Licensing Scheme for private landlords in Barnsley, however, the benefits of such a scheme were noted.
- Referrals would be made to Adult Social Care and other external agencies and departments when required.

On behalf of the North East Area Council, Councillor Hayward wished to place on record their thanks to Chris Platts and to Al Heppenstall's Team for all their hard work undertaken in the North East Area.

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

4 The Local Approach to Health Inequalities Presentation - Cath Bedford & Cheryl Devine (Neac.23.05.24/4)

The Area Council received a presentation from Cath Bedford, Public Health Principal, to raise awareness of the work taking place around tackling health inequalities in Barnsley and how Members could get involved in work to make health inequalities everyone's business.

Members heard that due to social, economic, and environmental circumstances and other characteristics outside of their control, people living in Barnsley were more likely to spend more of their day-to-day lives in poor-health, in comparison to other people in areas of the UK and were more likely to die younger. Members received assurances that partners were all working hard to try and reduce this trend across Barnsley.

Members noted the following key points:

- Around 40% of adults in Barnsley are living with some form of chronic illness or disability.
- Nearly 25% (1 in 4) of Barnsley residents lived in the most deprived communities in England. In Barnsley, there was a clear correlation between deprivation and multi-morbidity.
- Life Expectancy for Barnsley was 1.7 years less than the England average for Females and 1.6 years less for Males.
- For males, there was 8.4 years difference between all wards in Barnsley with the highest and lowest life expectancy at birth. For females this difference was 7.5 years.
- For a male living in the North East ward, with a life expectancy of just over 75 years, 19 years would be spent in poor health.
- In Barnsley, the healthy life expectancy was lower than the national average. Rates of smoking and alcohol admissions to hospital were also higher.

Members received a summary of the factors that influence healthy life expectancy and noted that the relationship between behavioural risks and wider determinants such as income, employment, education were also very important factors. It was noted that people's ability to adopt healthy behaviours were often shaped by the circumstances in which they live. There were also other factors known as commercial determinants of health, that also influence behaviours through advertising and promotion.

It was concluded that the Council were aware that there was a lot of poverty in the Barnsley borough. Some of its residents suffer poor mental health. These issues were not an easy issue to address, but the Council's strengths lie in its sense of community, collaboration and desire to do the best for its residents.

There was an ask of assistance from Members in relation to how they could make a difference on inequalities and what input they would need from the Council's Public Health Team to make inequalities everyone's business.

Members suggested that Public Health could use case studies to demonstrate how interventions were having an impact on reducing health inequalities over a set period of time.

Members also suggested that it would be valuable for the Area Council to receive an update at a future meeting around the outcomes of the early preventative work being undertaken by the Council and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, together with the outcomes from the local 'How's Thi Ticker' campaign and from the work taking place at the local Family Hubs.

Members discussed that it would be beneficial for the Area Council Manager to undertake a piece of work to capture how the Area Council's commissioned projects and work were all contributing towards the Healthy Barnsley corporate priority contained in the Council's 2030 Ambitions to demonstrate how they were helping to narrow the health gap and reduce health inequalities. It was suggested that this information could then be passed onto the Barnsley 2030 Board.

The importance of the Family Hubs service within the North East Area was discussed. Councillor McCarthy agreed to circulate dates of future Family Hub Panel meetings and asked if any feedback could be provided to her.

The Chair thanked Cath for her informative presentation and requested that an update be provided to the Area Council in 6 months' time.

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

5 Jon Finch, Area Council Link Officer Feedback (Neac.23.05.24/5)

Members received an update on the work of the Council and some of the recent key developments. The following key points were noted:

- The April meeting of the Team around the Community had been cancelled. The next meeting was scheduled for 4 June 2024.
- The Council were supporting the Creativity and Wellbeing Week from 20-26 May 2024.
- A groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Barnsley Youth Zone had taken place on 13 May 2024.
- The MAYhem Street theatre and circus festival events had been held in the Principal Towns during May.
- The Medieval Mayhem weekend had taken place on 18-19 May 2024 at Monk Bretton Priory.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

6 Quarter 4 (January to March 2024) Performance Report (Neac.23.05.24/6)

Rachel Payling, Head of Service Stronger Communities, introduced the North East Area Council Project Performance Report, which gave an oversight and update on the delivery of the commissioned projects for Quarter 4 - 2023/24 (January to March 2024).

Members highlighted that no key performance indicator information had been included in the report (page 11 of the agenda pack) in relation to contributing to the Barnsley 2030 Ambitions - Sustainable Barnsley 'Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy'. In response, Rachel Payling reported that information had only just been received from Barnsley Community Build (BCB) and would be included in an updated version of the Quarter 4 Performance Report.

A Member discussion took place around how the Area Council could improve publicity and promote events taking place in the North East Area. Members proposed that consideration be given by the Area Council Manager to produce a newsletter or Spotlight magazine.

RESOLVED that the Project Performance Report for Quarter 4 – 2023/24 (January to March 2024) be noted.

7 Procurement and Financial Update Report (Neac.23.05.24/7)

The 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 outlined the financial position to date for the 2023-24 financial year and provided details of the future proposals and projected spend for the 2024-25 financial year as outlined in the appendices attached to the report.

The report indicated that, at the Area Council meeting held on 25 January 2024, Members had requested that they would wish to continue with current arrangements within their respective Ward Areas to fund the commissioning of Information, Advice and Guidance services for the financial year 2024-25.

It was recommended that £12,000 (£3,000 per Ward Alliance) from the Area Council Commissioning budget be devolved into the Ward Alliance budgets to fund Information, Advice and Guidance services within their respective Ward Areas based on identified needs. Members considered and unanimously agreed to support the recommendation.

Members noted that, at the Area Council meeting held on 8 March 2023, Members had agreed to the recommendation to extend the BMBC Housing Officer SLA with Safer Communities from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 at a cost of £40,000 per annum. Due to salary increases accumulated over recent years, the amount agreed did not cover the full costs of the Housing Officer.

It was recommended that the BMBC Housing Officer SLA with Safer Communities be extended from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 at the estimated revised cost of £45,750 which was an increase of what was previously agreed of £5,750 per annum. Members considered and unanimously agreed to support the recommendation.

RESOLVED:-

- i) That the 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 2023-24 and the projected expenditure, including future proposals to 2024-25 as outlined in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report be noted.
- iii) That £12,000 from the 2024-25 Area Council Commissioning budget be devolved into Ward Alliance budgets (£3,000 per Ward Alliance), to be restricted for use to provide Information, Advice and Guidance Services within Ward Areas through Ward Alliance Fund arrangements be approved.
- iv) That the BMBC Housing Officer SLA with Safer Communities from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 be extended at the revised cost of approximately £45,750 per annum be approved.

8 Notes of the Following Ward Alliances with Feedback from each Ward Alliance Chair (Neac.23.05.24/8)

The meeting received notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston Ward Alliances held throughout January to April 2024. The following updates were noted:-

Cudworth – Jordan Bunny had arranged a week of clean-up in Cudworth Park commencing on 3 June 2024. The Ward Alliance would be supporting Cudworth's Tea in the Park on 20 July 2024. Members of the Ward Alliance were preparing for taking part in the Yorkshire in Bloom competition. Orders for hanging baskets had now been placed. A MAYhem Street Circus Festival event had taken place on 4 May 2024 at Cudworth Park. Attendance at the Ward Alliance's monthly coffee mornings continued to grow. A Ramp Up Session would be held on 29 May 2024 in Cudworth Park. The Ward Alliance would be supporting the return of Brass on the Grass on 14 July 2024 at Cudworth Peace Park with music from Grimethorpe and District Band. The Ward Alliance had agreed to fund a Cinema in the Park event during the summer school holidays.

Monk Bretton – The Ward Alliance had been a stall holder at the Medieval Mayhem weekend at Monk Bretton Priory held on 18-19 May 2024. The event had been extremely successful. Confirmation of visitor numbers over the weekend would be confirmed shortly. Members gave praise to Victoria Agnew at Jolly Good Communities for all her hard work in arranging this year's Medieval Mayhem weekend.

Orders for hanging baskets had now been arranged. The Ward Alliance would be entering this year's Yorkshire in Bloom competition for the Memorial Gardens. The Dementia Club and table tennis club continued to do well. The Ward Alliance had funded a Food Hygiene course for community groups within the ward. Volunteers at the Dementia Café had all passed the Food Hygiene course. Jolly Good Communities had been contracted to arrange events for the school holidays and this was now included in the Ward Alliance's Forward Plan.

North East – Planning was currently taking place for holding an outdoor cinema in Brierley Park during the summer holidays. The Ward Alliance continued to encourage members of the community to join events. Grassroots in the Park sessions had taken place on 11 and 18 May 2024, supported by the Ward Alliance.

Royston – A new Ward Alliance Member had now been recruited from the swimming community. The Ward Alliance was making plans to part fund free swimming places at Royston Leisure Centre throughout the summer holidays. Ward Alliance Members had agreed to develop the old youth club site with the installation of planters. A MAYhem Street Circus Festival event had taken place on 12 May 2024 at Royston Park. The Royston Green Spaces Group had received funding to develop and improve areas within Royston Park and in the community orchard. The Ward Alliance would be entering this year's Yorkshire in Bloom competition. Hanging baskets had been ordered and sponsorship had been received from a number of new people and local businesses. The Achievement Awards scheduled for 9 May 2024 had been cancelled, a new date would be confirmed in due course. Royston Gala would take place on 13 July 2024.

Members of the Area Council raised concerns that anti-social behaviour was increasing in the Wards of Royston and Grimethorpe. Members requested that the Chief Inspector for the Barnsley District be invited to attend the next Area Council meeting.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

**9 Report on the Use of Area Council Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds
(Neac.23.05.24/9)**

Members gave consideration to a report which outlined the agreed spend to date from the 2024/25 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 2023/24 financial year.

RESOLVED that Members receive the Ward Alliance Fund Report and note spend to date for the Wards of Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston.

Chair