

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday, 28 April 2017
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Wombwell Library

MINUTES

Present Councillors Stowe (Chair), Coates, Dures, Franklin, Markham, Saunders, Shepherd and R. Wraith.

35 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors Franklin and Shepherd declared non pecuniary interests in minute number 40 due to their positions as directors of Forge Community Partnership.

36 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 24th February, 2017 (Sac.28.04.2017/2)

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 24th February, 2017.

The Area Council Manager made reference to the destinations of young people who had taken part in the Summer Holiday Internship in 2015. 100% of those completing the scheme had gone on to positive destinations of their choosing.

The situation with Kingdom Security and Barnsley Council Parking Services was discussed, noting that dialogue between the two continued, and feedback had been received that the relationship had improved.

The Chair referred to the item deferred at the previous meeting; the date and time of future meetings. The Chair made members aware that there were now no issues with the meetings being held on a Friday morning and therefore this arrangement would continue.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 24th February, 2017 be approved as a true and correct record.

37 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.28.04.2017/3)

The meeting received the notes from the following Ward Alliances:- Hoyland Milton and Rockingham held on 21st March, 2017; Wombwell held on 21st March, 2017; and Darfield Ward Alliance held on 16th March, 2017.

The Chair commented on the fantastic work being undertaken by the Ward Alliances, and the recent LGC award for Community Involvement across the borough was acknowledged. The Area Council Manager added that the Council has been shortlisted for a Municipal Journal award for its community engagement work, with the winner being announced on 15th June, 2017.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

38 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.28.04.2017/4)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. Attention was drawn to the expenditure from the 2016/17 financial year for each of the Ward Alliance Funds. Members noted the finance that could be carried forward:- Darfield Ward Alliance £6,509.46; Wombwell Ward Alliance £193.04; and Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance £193.10.

The finance available for the 2017/18 financial year was therefore:- Darfield Ward Alliance £16,509.46; Wombwell Ward Alliance £10,193.04; and Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance £20,193.10.

Members commented that the finance had supported a great number of groups, including helping new groups to establish themselves, and existing groups to deliver new projects.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

39 Performance Report (Sac.28.04.2017/5)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, drawing attention to Part A of the circulated report, which included performance indicators related to the Private Sector Housing Service Level Agreement.

It was noted that figures relating to the new service were positive, especially given that many of the targets had been aspirational. Members acknowledged that the service delivered largely on good will, rather than enforcement. Comments were received regarding the high numbers of households identified as vulnerable, and it was suggested that this could also be under recorded.

With regards to the provision of information and advice, the meeting was reminded that the current contract would finish at the end of June, 2017. At this time it was expected that both the amount of benefit gained and unmanageable debt would exceed the £2million mark. Members also noted that the number of cases of homelessness averaged three per quarter. The meeting discussed the number of vulnerable clients accessing the service, and whether this would increase if those socially isolated were engaged.

Members heard that the service continued to be very well subscribed, especially the twilight session, which reflected the numbers of clients on in-work benefits. The service had recently seen an increase in people seeking help with welfare rights issues due to DIAL services being withdrawn due to loss of funding.

It was noted that the information and advice service funded by the Area Council differed from that being offered centrally, with residents of the Area being offered more face to face and more intensive support. The centrally provided service was operated on a 'triage' basis with increased assistance only to those identified as most vulnerable. It was agreed that the Area Council Manager provides details of how the 'triage' of clients would work to Members.

Members were made aware that a slightly revised service would be operational from July after Citizen's Advice Bureau Barnsley was successful in their tender.

Unfortunately this meant that Phil Beer, the Welfare Advice Worker, would be returning to his substantive post within the Welfare Rights Service. The Area Council placed on record their thanks, and wished him well in his future endeavours. It was agreed that the Chair writes a letter of thanks on behalf of the Area Council.

Members commended staff on the success of the service, and the powerful case studies supplied.

With regards to the Tidy Team and Kingdom Security contracts, it was acknowledged that there had been no further monitoring since the previous meeting.

The meeting was reminded that although there was no current monitoring, there was a 'stay in touch' period for the Summer Holiday Internship and information on the destinations of the young people engaged would be received in November, 2017.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the report be noted; and
- (ii) that the Chair writes a letter to Phil Beer giving thanks for his work as part of the Information and Advice Service and wishing him well in his future endeavours.

40 South Area Council update on commissioned work, other development work & finance update (Sac.28.04.2017/6)

The Area Council Manager referred to the report circulated, and noted that the new contract for advice services had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

Members went on to discuss the Community Magazine and the possibility of producing two further editions. It was acknowledged that how the magazine was delivered was important, and noted that the previous edition was delivered on its own, as opposed to with a number of other leaflets. Members were supportive of producing further editions on the same basis as previous magazines, and £3,500 was approved for their distribution.

The Area Council Manager spoke about two projects which had been delayed largely as a result of her time off work due to illness, but in part due to the inappropriate nature of delivery through the winter. These were pop up sessions in local parks, and the development of a social media presence relevant to young people. The Area Council had already allocated £2,000 to each of these but they had yet to be progressed. As these were under appropriate procurement thresholds, it was suggested that Forge Community Partnership be asked to deliver both.

Attention was drawn to the development work undertaken by the Area Council Manager, which included work with Public Health, Social Prescribing, and Community Nursing to foster closer working in the area. Work had also been undertaken to organise an Area Council workshop to consider social isolation.

The meeting were made aware of work to embed Social Return On Investment methodology in procurement processes, and noted that the Area Council Manager now had line management responsibility for the Principal Towns Project Manager who covered the North, South and Penistone areas.

Members considered the headline financial figures for the Area Council noting that approximately £47,000 remained unallocated in 2017/18. For 2018/19 only around £9,000 remained unallocated; however this assumed that a number of contracts would continue and the Area Council may wish to review and amend some of the services delivered currently.

It was suggested that a workshop be held in the autumn for Members to consider the full range of contracts held, and the priorities of the Area Council moving forward.

RESOLVED :-

- (i) That the progress of commissioned projects under development, as detailed in the report submitted, be noted;
- (ii) That the progress of other non-commissioned development work being undertaken, as detailed in the report submitted, be noted;
- (iii) That the production and distribution of two further editions of the South Area Community Magazine be approved at a cost of up to £3,500;
- (iv) That Forge Community Partnership be approached to deliver the Pop Up Parks project at a cost of £2,000, and the Young Person Friendly Social Media project, at a cost of £2,000;
- (v) That the financial profile for the Area Council in 2017/18 including funding currently unallocated be noted;
- (vi) That the long term financial profile and potential implications for future commissioning work be noted; and
- (vii) That a workshop is arranged in the autumn for Members to consider Area Council contracts and future priorities.

Chair