

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 15 May 2017
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Goldthorpe Library

MINUTES

Present Councillors Noble (Chair), Gardiner, Gollick, C. Johnson and Phillips.

51 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

52 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 20th March, 2017 (Dac.15.05.2017/2)

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting held on 20th March, 2017 be approved as a true and correct record.

53 Performance Report (Dac.15.05.2017/3)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item drawing attention to Part A of the report, which provided an overview of performance. It was noted that future reports would show cumulative contract figures, in addition to those relating to the quarter.

The contract with Kingdom Security was discussed and it was noted that the contact had only received an 'amber' rating for 'satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting', as a number of outstanding actions had not been completed. However, these had subsequently been actioned.

Members noted the numbers of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for dog fouling and littering, and the numbers of Penalty Charge Notices for parking. The numbers of the latter had increased significantly as a result of responding to concerns expressed by residents, and also responding to a number of accidents in the area.

The meeting noted the end of year balance for 2016/17 in relation to Fixed Penalty Notices, which stood at £13,173.

Members then discussed the performance of the Private Sector Housing Enforcement SLA. It was noted that 244 requests for service had been received within the quarter. 71 reports of waste on premises had been received and investigated. 63 occupiers responded, with 8 receiving a CPN warning, with only 3 cases leading to a Community Protection Notice being issued.

A number of Members commented on the visibility of officers and this had been discussed with the service. Members recognised the changes in the service, and the need to continue to report areas of concern through the necessary channels.

The meeting was made aware of a request from the media to film in the area, with the focus being fly tipping and any associated enforcement. Based on the emphasis of previous exposure of the area by the media, Members did not wish to support this.

The original contract with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance concluded 31st March, 2017, and within the quarter January – March 2017 Twiggs had provided 4 work placements, held 8 social action events, and recruited 44 volunteers. In addition the organisation had engaged with 9 local businesses, conducted 819 litter picks, and had worked with many of the local schools.

An update was provided in relation to the Dearne Development Fund. In 2016/17, 14 applications were considered, with 11 being successful. 6 of the organisations had match funded their applications. Awards had been granted to the value of £68,172.50.

Members were made aware of the performance of DIAL, who had delivered 13 sessions within the quarter, to 77 residents. In the main, they had assisted residents within the 41-55 age group, and those who were long term sick.

Citizen's Advice Bureau services continued to be well used with 61 residents accessing the service. 388 different enquiry issues had been dealt with in the quarter. Together both advice services had seen a total of 390 people to date, with an associated benefit gain of £393,156 and £113,461 of debt managed.

Members noted that Reds in the Community were only 9 weeks in to the programme but had worked with 86 young people.

The Alzheimer's Society programme had commenced and 9 carers had attended. Feedback had been extremely positive, and the organisation had been successful in applying for external funding and would be replicating the programme elsewhere.

Members noted that the Goldthorpe Development Group had received funding for 12 events during 2017, but with less finance than previously, with a view to the project becoming sustainable in the longer term. 99 people had attended the event in March, with 9 people volunteering, and 1 new volunteer.

The website for Goldthorpe Town centre, funded by the Dearne Development Fund, was now operational. A database of businesses in the area had been developed, to be used for communication and promotion, and it was hoped that the work of the group would feed into the Principal Towns Programme. Over 60 volunteer hours had been given so far.

Members noted the statistics associated with the hOurbank, now that the Dearne Development Funding for the project had come to an end. With 14 people engaged every week on average, 5203 hours has been banked by members from the inception of the project to 31st December, 2016.

The meeting briefly discussed the 'Who is your neighbour' scheme, and it was agreed that this is put on an agenda of a future meeting.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the report be noted; and

- (ii) thanks be given to the Dearne Area Team for their continued hard work which had helped contribute to the successes contained within the report.

54 Community Safety in The Dearne (Dac.15.05.2017/4)

Due to the sensitive nature of the item, this item was withdrawn for discussion in a more appropriate arena.

55 Dearne Area Council Financial Position and Progress of Projects (Dac.15.05.2017/5)

The Area Council Manager drew attention to the report, referring to financial commitments in 2016/17, including that associated with the Dearne Development Fund.

It was noted that the Dearne Development Fund was underspent within 2016/17, but plans had been made for this to be carried forward to 2017/18, subject to necessary approvals.

Members noted that, due to approximately £13,000 of Fixed Penalty Notices, the figure expected to be carried forward to 2017/18 financial year was £16,478.

Taking into account the carry forward figure, the annual budget allocation, and commitments already made, Members noted that Area Council had £72,499 unallocated for use in 2017/18.

In addition, a brief update was provided on the Railway Embankment Project. The Area Council Manager had attended a Network Rail event to speak about the project, with many of the audience being suitably impressed and enquiries were made to visit. Initial drawings for the access into site had been produced, with detailed drawings subsequently being developed by the architects.

Members heard how an application had been submitted to Tesco Superstore in Wath, and the project had been shortlisted. Subject to voting in store, it was due to receive £1-4,000.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

56 Dearne Development Fund (Dac.15.05.2017/6)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. Members noted the success of the Dearne Development Fund in 2016/17, which had allocated £68,172.50 of an £80,000 fund,

Given the success of the fund, a recommendation was received to allocate a further £70,000 for distribution in 2017/18 as per the current regime, together with any remaining balance from the 2016/17 financial year.

RESOLVED that a further £70,000 be allocated to the Dearne Development Fund for distribution through previously agreed mechanisms.

**57 Notes from the Dearne Approach Steering Group held on 13th March, 2017
(Dac.15.05.2017/7)**

Members considered the notes from the meeting held on 13th March, 2017.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Dearne Approach Steering Group be received.

**58 Notes from the Dearne Ward Alliance held on 2nd March, 2017
(Dac.15.05.2017/8)**

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne Ward Alliance, held on 2nd March, 2017. Members remarked how the merging of Dearne North and Dearne South Ward Alliances had been extremely positive.

Members received the performance report relating to activities in both of the Dearne Wards and positive comments were received regarding both the content and format.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that notes from the Dearne Ward Alliance be received;
- (ii) that the Dearne North, and the Dearne South performance reports be received, and that these continue to be received on a six monthly basis.

59 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.15.05.2017/9)

The Area Council Manager referred to Ward Alliance Fund expenditure, detailing the amounts spent in 2016/17 and that remaining to be carried forward to 2017/18, subject to relevant approvals.

The Dearne North Ward Alliance Fund had a total budget of £20,069 in 2016/17, of which £19,018.47 was spent. 16 of the projects funded were match funded to a value of £11,021.48. As the carry forward figure was £1,050.53, the allocation for 2017/18 was £11,050.53.

For the Dearne South Ward Alliance, in 2016/17 from a budget of £21,160, allocations were made of £19,435.10. 10 of these were match funded to a value of £10,363.60. The carry forward figure of £1,724.90 would be added to the annual allocation to give a budget for 2017/18 of £11,724.90.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chair