

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SOUTH AREA COUNCIL

26th June, 2015

1. **Present:** Councillors Stowe (Chair), Andrews, Franklin, Saunders, and R. Wraith.

2. **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.**

No member wished to declare an interest in any item on the agenda.

3. **Minutes of the meeting of South Area Council, held on 24th April, 2015.**

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council, held on 24th April, 2015.

RESOLVED that the minutes of South Area Council held on 24th April, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

4. **Notes of the Ward Alliances.**

The meeting received the notes from the following Ward Alliance meetings: Hoyland Milton & Rockingham held on 12th May, 2015; Darfield held on 14th May, 2015; and Wombwell held on 21st May, 2015.

RESOLVED that the notes of the Ward Alliances listed above be received.

5. **Report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds.**

Members considered the allocations for each of the Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds for 2015/16, which included previously unallocated in the 2014/15 financial year.

Members acknowledged the finance already allocated in each Ward in the current financial year and the corresponding amounts remaining.

It was noted that the format of the report had changed slightly, when compared to those presented previously, which Members thought was positive.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the content of the report be noted;
- (ii) that the format of the report be endorsed.

6. **South Area Council Performance Management Report.**

The item was introduced by the South Area Council Manager, and attention was drawn to Part A of the report containing the overview of performance.

With regards to the Improving our Local Environment priority, Members noted, amongst other things, the doubling of numbers of litter picks from 438 to 706. Also significant was the increase in the number of environmental projects completed, many of which were now being delivered alongside volunteers. Members noted the continued increase in the number of notices for parking, dog fouling and littering.

Under the Access to Local Information and Advice priority the meeting heard how the One Stop Shop had exceeded all expectations in the first year, which attributed to correctly identifying the need, using local accessible venues, and having dedicated and knowledgeable staff in place. Members wished to record their thanks to the staff involved.

The meeting discussed the likely impact of Universal Credit and the move to monthly payments, rather than fortnightly as currently provided. In addition housing benefit payments will go to tenants, rather than direct to the landlord. Also discussed were the number of referrals to money management help, and the long term aspiration to work more closely with food banks to assist with this.

The increase in the number of volunteers engaged was noted, acknowledging that the majority of these were engaged with the Tidy Team. Also noted was the significant number of businesses now engaged in maintaining their own environment.

Members went on to discuss the performance of each of the services contracted in Part B of the report.

One Stop Shop Advice Sessions – it was projected that at the end of year one of the two year project, over £2million will have been recouped, the majority of which will have been benefits for those in work, in addition over £2million will have been saved through averting homelessness. It was noted that all measureable performance indicators were rated as 'Green' and feedback from the satisfaction surveys was very positive.

Tidy Team – all performance measures for the contract were rated as 'Green'. The meeting noted that though one apprentice had now left, recruitment of two was now taking place. The team was also working with the Prince's Trust to engage young people.

Members noted the operational relationships with other Council departments were now working very well with referrals to and from the Tidy Team.

Attention was drawn to the significant amounts of material recycled, and it was noted that the money gained from this had been reinvested in the project.

A number of future plans identified were referred to, including proposed projects at Owd Martha's Garden in Hoyland and the Community Garden in Wombwell.

Environmental Enforcement – it was noted that all performance indicators for the project were rated as 'Green' and that Barnsley had recently featured in the national press due to the high number of notices for dog fouling issued in the area. Members heard how intelligence leading to prosecution was increasingly supplied by the public, which was thought positive. It was suggested that Kingdom email Members on a monthly basis so that Members can identify any 'hotspots' to target patrols.

The meeting was made aware of discussions between officer responsible for parking enforcement within the Council and Kingdom Security in order to avoid duplication of roles.

Business Survey – the meeting heard how quotes had been sourced for the training courses identified, and the following providers had been successful: Emergency Response Limited for Health and Safety, and First Aid; Northern College for Social Media and Marketing, Basic IT Skills, and Website Development; and BBIC for Business Development.

It was hoped that courses would start in September, 2015, and run over the following six months. It was suggested that the courses be publicised widely, but respondents to the business survey be targeted in the first instance.

It was noted the Wombwell Library, which had previously been suggested as a venue for the training, was no longer thought to be appropriate for courses requiring IT. However, arrangements had been made with Highview Primary School to make space available there for IT based courses.

Summer Internship – despite efforts from the provider, the project had made a relatively slow start, however it was noted that progress was now being made. A number of young people had been identified by Netherwood School and discussions were now taking place with Kirk Balk.

RESOLVED that the content of the Performance Report be noted.

7. **Community Magazines.**

The Lead Locality Officer spoke to the item, referring to previous discussions at the Area Council. The magazine would be A5 size, with 12 pages of editorial and 12 pages of advertisements.

Members considered a number of examples of publications produced by the contracted supplier, and preferred the format of the City Life magazine of Worcester City Council.

It was suggested that a group be formed to oversee the production of the magazine on which each Ward ought to have representation.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) the format of the City Life magazine be preferred;
- (ii) that an editorial group be convened to oversee the production of the magazine, with representation from each of the Wards in the South Area.

8. **South Area Council Environmental Enforcement Contract**

The Area Council Manager drew attention to the previous decision made by the Area Council to extend the contract by 12 months, by way of a waiver to contract procedure rules. However on subsequent receipt of advice from NPS it was noted that this would exceed EU thresholds.

A number of options to extend the project were discussed, and it was agreed to extend the contract until the end of January, 2016 and to retender the service with a view to the successful provider starting on 1st February, 2016.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that authorisation be given to the Executive Director Communities to complete necessary paperwork in order to waive the relevant contract procedure rules to allow the 'Environmental Enforcement' contract to be extended without the need to retender until January, 2016, to an annual value of £135,092 pro-rata;
- (ii) that the Environmental Enforcement project be approved and be put out to full open tender with a view to commencing 1st February, 2016 with a year on year contract awarded to the successful tenderer at an annual cost of £135,092, with continuation dependent on satisfactory performance by the provider, a continuing need for the contract agreed by the Area Council, and the continuing availability of Area Council budgets.

9. **South Area Council future commissions for 2015/16 and 2016/17**

The Area Manager gave an introduction to the report circulated, which contained a number of potential areas for investment by the Area Council.

Given the impending emergency budget in July and the anticipated impact on the budget of the Council, it was suggested that this item be deferred to a future meeting for discussion.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred to the September meeting of the Area Council.

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Chair