

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Penistone Area Council Meeting

**Report of the
Penistone Area Council Manager**

Date: 3 September 2015

Agenda Item: 6

Penistone Area Council Review of Area Priorities

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide members with a summary of previous discussion relating to area priorities in order for them to review any proposed changes.

2.0 Recommendation

- That in light of receiving the additional information requested by members at the Penistone Area Council Meeting held on 18 June 2015 and considering a suggestion put forward by Penistone East and West Ward Alliance and referred to in item 3.5 of this report, they discuss and agree any proposed changes to the current Penistone Area Council priorities.

3.0 Background.

- 3.1 During 2013 Penistone Area Council received statistical information in relation to the known demographics of the Penistone Area from BMBC Research and Intelligence Team and used this information as well as local intelligence from the Town and Parish Councils to determine the following priorities against which to target funding during the financial year 204/15.

- The environment
- The local economy (including the visitor economy)
- Roads and Transport (including road safety)
- Access to healthcare services
- Activities and Support for Young People

- 3.2 Penistone Area Council has allocated funding accordingly against the above priorities from its commissioning budget as follows:

- Commissioned the current Countryside Skills Training Project (£100,000) – against the **Environment, Economy and Activities for Young People** priorities. The Area Council also agreed to extend this project from the planned end date of 9 September 2015 to 31 March

2016 at a further cost of £56,400.

- Agreed to commission a subsidised rural bus service which related to the **Transport and Local Economy** priorities. Unfortunately no tenders were received following two YORTender advertisements so the project was shelved.
- Allocated £160,000 for a Clean and Tidy Team, an 18 month Commission which relates to the **Environment** priority. The procurement process recently completed and the new service is due to start mid-September 2015 following the successful appointment of BMBC, Environment and Transportation as the provider.

- 3.3** In addition, the Penistone Ward Alliance has also funded a variety of projects relating to the above priorities with the Environment, and Activities and Support for Young People making up the majority of successful applications. During the financial year 2014/15 the Ward Alliance awarded 58% of their funding allocation to the Environment priority, 32% to Activities/Support for young people, 5% towards the Local Economy and 5% to Neighbourhood Network Activity with 0% of Ward Alliance funding going towards Access to Health Care or Roads and Transport.
- 3.4** Members will also recall that at the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 18 June 2015, following a presentation from the Research and Business Intelligence Team, that although they acknowledged that the information remained relatively unchanged for the Penistone Area they would like to receive more information on rural isolation and business support. The available information was subsequently provided by the Research and Business Intelligence Team and circulated to members in advance of this meeting.
- 3.5** A general discussion on the current priorities also took place at the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance Meeting held on 13 August 2015. As members are aware the Ward Alliance priorities currently mirror the Area Council Priorities. The suggestion was put forward for members to consider changing the '**Access to Healthcare**' priority to '**Improve/maintain Health and Well Being**' which they agreed would attract a wider variety of projects but to maintain the other priorities as they stand i.e.
- The Environment
 - The Local Economy (including the visitor economy)
 - Roads and Transport (including road safety)
 - Activities and Support for Young People

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