

NORTH EAST AREA COUNCIL

30th July 2015



BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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9. **Present:** Councillors Hayward (Chair), Clements, Ennis, S. Green, Hampson, Higginbottom, Makinson, Richardson and C. Wraith MBE.

10. **Declarations of pecuniary and non pecuniary interests**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non pecuniary interests.

11. **Minutes from the North East Area Council meeting held on 11th June 2015**

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council, held on 11th June 2015.

RESOLVED: - that the minutes of North East Area Council, held on 11th June 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

12. **Notes from the Ward Alliances**

The meeting received notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston Ward Alliances, held throughout May and June 2015. The following updates were noted:

Cudworth – The Academic Achievement Awards event has taken place and had been very successful and enjoyable. The Cook and Eat sessions were oversubscribed at the Cudworth Centre of Excellence and the Summer Holiday Activities programme is going ahead. The ‘Tea in the Park’ event was attended by over 3000 people, and was well attended by local residents, community groups and supported by the local businesses. Yorkshire in Bloom judges have visited the Park, Robert Street allotments and Carlton Marsh with members of the Cudworth Environment Group. Positive comments were received and it is hoped that Awards may follow in September. The park gates are now in situ and look impressive.

Monk Bretton – It was reported that the summer bedding planting at the War Memorial by schoolchildren and Volunteers was successful, and very favourable comments have been received from the local residents about the improvements to the area. There is a strong possibility that the area will be judged as part of Yorkshire in Bloom next year. The Gala at Monk Bretton Priory was well attended and thanks were expressed to Officers, local Volunteers and Community organisations for making the day a great success.

North East – There are a number of vacancies in the Ward Alliance and it is unlikely that Chris Sykes will be able to attend in the future due to his illness. Efforts are

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being made to recruit new members and some local residents have expressed an interest in joining the Ward Alliance. £600 is being spent to improve the Cenotaph in Grimethorpe, and the Ward Alliance members are working on a variety of projects to be considered.

Royston – The Summer Gala was well attended by over 2000 people. Thanks were expressed to Officers, Volunteers and Community Groups for their efforts in making the day a great success. The Summer Activities programme is underway and opportunities for young people to go swimming are being promoted. Section 106 monies will be used to refurbish the play equipment, provide car parking, and improve drainage and fencing at the Park. A bid is being put together to develop a Community Orchard in the Park. Significant concerns were expressed regarding the level of grass cutting and maintenance as there are no primary gateways areas identified in the Royston Ward.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the notes from the Ward Alliances be received

13. Report on the use of Area Council Budgets, Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and highlighted the spend to date. The North East Area Council has a Devolved Ward Budget grant allocation of £81,939.54 for the 2015 - 2016 financial year. This allocation is made up of a £40,000 allocation for 2015 - 2016, and a carry forward allocation of £41,939.54 from the 2014 - 2015 financial year. Members were asked to note the amounts committed to date across their Wards along with the amounts not yet allocated.

A discussion took place around the issue of future funding of Community Caretakers, particularly in the North East Ward. Councillor Ennis said that the reduced Devolved Ward Budget funding had resulted in the local Parish Councils having to reduce the hours worked by the Community Caretakers.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the report on the use of Area Council Budgets, Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds be received and noted, and
- (ii) that future discussions take place to discuss and agree the possibility of the Area Council increasing the amount of Ward Alliance funding in the future.

14. North East Area Council – Performance Report

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and gave an overview of the performance of the North East Area Council commissioned projects relating to the Environment, Health and Wellbeing and Economic Regeneration priorities.

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The Councillors were pleased with the outputs and outcomes of the initiatives that have been funded through the Area Council. They felt that the North East Environment Teams, the Enforcement initiative, the Employability for under 16's and the Youth Development Fund were all delivering very good value for money.

Concerns were highlighted about the increase in fly tipping across the area. A Councillor informed the meeting that reported that fly-tipping is to be investigated by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was highlighted that a recent case which went to Court resulted in a conditional discharge, which was very disappointing given the time and effort taken to bring the case to court.

RESOLVED:-

(i) that the Performance Report be noted, and all concerned be thanked for the positive impact the initiatives are having in the local communities.

15. Luncheon Club Initiative

The Chair introduced this item, highlighting that the contract ends in August. A discussion followed and the Councillors felt that Luncheon Clubs had been appreciated in some areas but not in others. It was felt that overall the Luncheon Clubs did not represent good value for money. Disappointment was expressed that a performance report had not been produced to aid decision making around future commissioning. It was felt that Afternoon Tea sessions could be funded to replace Luncheon Clubs in areas where this was more appropriate.

RESOLVED:-

(i) that the Luncheon Club contract will not be renewed when it ends in August and the Provider will be contacted with regard to this decision.

16. North East Area Council Future Commissions

The Area Council Manager updated Members on the proposed future commissions for the North East Area Council.

Fit Reds

Following the success of the Fit Reds healthy lifestyle programme for men 35 and over which had been piloted through the Ward Alliances in Royston and Cudworth, the Health and Wellbeing Working Group recommended the commission of a Fit Reds programme for men and women across the four Wards of the North East Area Council, as agreed at the meeting of the North East Area Council on June 11th, 2015.

Fit Me

'Fit Me' is a 9 week course offering a supportive yet challenging environment for women to set and achieve their own personal wellbeing goals. PSS UK would like to deliver the

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Fit Me programme across the North East, using community venues and with 10 – 20 participants attending each course.

Shopability

The Shopability project proposal to help elderly and vulnerable residents has been considered by the Health and Wellbeing Working Group. The project would include a befriending service, personal shopping, home shopping, community care service, home from hospital service and coffee mornings.

Environmental Enforcement

The waiver for the North East Area Council Environmental Enforcement contract with Kingdom Security for a further period of nine months (August 2015 – March 2016), at a total cost of £44,732, has been signed off. In order to ensure economies of scale are realized it was felt that it might be appropriate to carry out a full re-tender of the service from April 2016 onwards, working in partnership with the other Area Councils. This would ensure Contract Procedure rules and European Guidelines are followed and would also allow for a year on year contract to be awarded to the successful provider.

Concerns were expressed that this type of open tender process might lead to a national provider coming forward for the contract, which could mean that quality of service could be compromised due to lower cost and at the detriment of local providers. It was explained that the contract is weighted towards social value in order to encourage local businesses to come forward. Whilst it was acknowledged that economies of scale could be realised through working in partnership with the other Area Councils, it was felt that this course of action may not be appropriate for the North East Area Council.

RESOLVED: -

- (i) That 5 x 'Fit Red' programmes at a cost of £3,931 per programme, with the total cost of the contract at £19,655, will be commissioned. 2 will be delivered in 2015 -2016, and 3 in 2016 – 2017.
- (ii) That 10 x 'Fit Me' programmes, at a cost of £1,160 per programme, with the total cost of the contract at £11,600, should be commissioned. 4 will be delivered in 2015 - 2016 and 6 in 2016 – 2017.
- (iii) That a 6 month pilot project for Shopability, at a cost of £7,824, be commissioned
- (iv) That authorisation be given to the Executive Director Communities to complete the necessary paperwork in order to waive the relevant contract procedure rules to allow the 'Fit Reds', the 'Fit Me' and the 'Shopability' contracts to be awarded, with contract values of £19,665, £11,600 and £7,824 respectively.
- (v) That re tender of the North East Environmental Enforcement contract should be left in abeyance subject to further information.

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17. Love Where You Live

A presentation was given which depicted the significant variety of activities undertaken by the North East Area Council in conjunction with community Volunteers in the period from March to date. Activities included environmental improvements, community clean ups, summer bulbs and summer bedding planting, improvements to local flower planters and barrels, the enjoyment and appreciation of community open green open spaces by local School children, and individual Ward Celebration Events such as Galas, Proms and local Heritage tours.

The Area Council Manager highlighted the phenomenal amount of Volunteering which had taken place across the communities, led by Elected Members as Community Champions. All age groups had joined in and local residents, community groups and businesses had contributed to the activities and taking a pride in the areas where they lived. Thanks were also expressed to Officers from the North East Area Council team for their ongoing input into the success of the Area Council.

The Area Manager highlighted the significant success of the Social Media publicity in the North East Area Council. Since March 2015, 85,335 people have viewed our Facebook pages, and the largest individual reach for one Facebook article was 9,100 which was for a Love where You Live activity. Between March and September we have had a 39% increase in Facebook activity. With regard to Twitter the number of Tweet impressions, which is the number of times someone could have viewed one of our Tweets was 9502, and since March 2015 we have had 157 new followers.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the update on Community Volunteering Activities, Love where You Live initiatives and Social Media be received and noted.

The Chair thanked all present for their continued support of the work of the North East Area Council.

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Chair