

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 21 January 2019
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Leech (Chair), Burgess, Cave, Charlesworth, Lofts, Miller, Newing, Pickering, Platts and Tattersall

30 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

31 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 19th November 2018

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th November 2018.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 19th November 2018 be approved as a true and correct record.

32 Items for information

Deferred to next meeting.

33 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance Update - update financial profile

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, highlighting the various projects commissioned by the Area Council in line with priorities. These included the success of the Housing Migration Officer post, which works well from Royston Police Station. The contract for this post has been extended for a further 12 months from 22nd January 2018. The Opportunities for Young People project, highlighted in the report, is also very successful. It was pointed out that the contract for the Social Inclusion Project went 'live' on 1st January, with a 'soft launch' for the service planned for 31st January.

A new funding opportunity for the Stronger Communities Grant is currently out to advert, with a closing date for applications of 25th January. Members were encouraged to ensure any applications they are aware of are submitted as a matter of urgency.

The Area Council Manager reported that there is an underspend of approximately £189,028 for 2018/19, which includes underspend from previous years.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the existing budget position and forecast for funding commitments;
- (ii) Members note the update on the Social Inclusion and Fuel Poverty Reduction inception phase together with the report (included on the as a separate item) regarding the continuation of hOurbank, and
- (iii) Members note the current financial position.

34 Area Magazine continuation

The Area Council Manager provided Members with background information and outlined the challenges experienced through the commissioning, production, design stages and delivery of the community magazines across all five Area Councils. There have been issues regarding the quality of the magazine and the design and production processes, as highlighted within the report. A discussion took place regarding alternatives to production together with options for a way forward.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the report and implications therein, and
- (ii) A Workshop be organised to fully explore possible options in more detail.

35 Wellbeing grants - Public Health

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, advising that there is additional funding available to address Health and Wellbeing, courtesy of the Wellbeing Service Grant Fund from the Healthier Communities Team within Public Health. A discussion took place regarding the need for the funding to be targeted and cover all four wards– for example smoking cessation. The funding is based on lower SOA, which means that the North Area is eligible for £19,359.05 of funding and needs to be spent addressing the themes highlighted within the report – i.e. ‘Connect’, ‘Be Active’, ‘Take Notice’, ‘Keep Learning’ and ‘Give’. Members discussed the options for funding, including smoking cessation, cancer and teenage pregnancy. It was highlighted that whatever project is funded, this should involve all four wards within the Area Council.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members approve the recommendation to incorporate the additional Wellbeing Service Grant funding into the Stronger Communities Grant approval process for 2019/20;
- (ii) A Member of the Public Health Team sit on the North Area Stronger Communities Grants Panel in an advisor capacity in order to help identify and recommend projects that specifically address the Five Ways to Wellbeing and the Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes, and
- (iii) Any Wellbeing Service Grant Funded project recommended for funding will be monitored in the same ways as other Stronger Communities Grants funded projects
- (iv) A workshop be arranged to explore options in more detail, in conjunction with the Public Health Advisor, ensuring the chosen project is delivered in all four wards.

36 Continuation of hOurbank

The Area Council Manager outlined the background to the hOurbank project, highlighting that £10,000 remains unallocated from the social isolation and cold homes service and which Members had provisionally agreed to use to increase the contract value of the DIAL's Warm Connections contract to enable them to deliver hOurbank as a complimentary provision to their core Social Isolation and Warm Homes contract.

A discussion took place around the relative merits of the project, which is delivered in the St Helens Ward and has been very successful. It was felt that the project should be delivered across all four wards of the North Area Council.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The North Area Council will fund DIAL to deliver the hOurbank project as a complimentary provision running alongside the Social Isolation and Cold Homes service.
- (ii) The Area Council Manager will investigate the possibility of running the project across all North Area Council wards and will feed back to Members.

37 Report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds

The Area Council Manager updated the North Area Council regarding the financial position of the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2018/19 period. Members were advised to ensure that further projects requiring funding should now be a priority so that the funding is used within the financial year.

A Member felt that the process was unduly complicated and that the need for matched funding in volunteer time could be a barrier to some projects. There also seems to be some reluctance from community groups to apply for funding.

RESOLVED that each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2018/19 in line with the guidance on spend.

38 Notes from the area's Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 9th October, 13th November and 11th December; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 5th November and 10th December; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 6th November and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 8th November.

Darton East – It was reported that the Christmas lights switch on events were very successful. Planning is now underway for the Tour De Yorkshire events in the summer, as the race will be passing through Mapplewell on Friday 3rd May 2019. A meeting will take place at Mapplewell Village Hall on 22nd January at 6 o'clock. It had been suggested that there should be an open forum once a month run by the business community to which a local councillor should be invited.

Darton West – Christmas events had been very successful. The Darton Stars Awards ceremony will take place on 15th March at Barnsley Town Hall. There will be a problem with Christmas lights at Barugh Green lights this year as the local business which sponsored them is moving out of the area and will no longer be able to store them safely during the year either. Members felt that the Council should provide the storage. The Visit Darton project is doing really well, with funding in place to encourage spending in Darton. Birthwaite Hill is now being resurfaced. Local history groups, including the Heritage trail, are well supported by the Ward Alliance, and link to the Visit Darton project.

Old Town – It was reported that the Christmas events had taken place successfully despite the very windy conditions when children were helping to decorate the smaller tree. The planted trees were very small and Members felt that the decorations may be too big for the trees but larger trees would be more expensive. It was felt that permanent trees were a better use of public money than trees which were thrown away every year. Funding for Cresswell Street, Hollingsworth Park is being explored. A long term project is planned for the Fleets area. It is hoped that the project will be led by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and involve lots of volunteers to ensure that the area is well maintained for future generations. Barnsley College and ASDA are also engaged.

St Helen's – It was reported that the community bonfire and healthy holidays events across the ward had been very successful. A 'sloppy slippers' health event is planned for February and planning for the gala is underway. The new Ward Alliance Framework will be taken to the next meeting. There were four fantastic Christmas events across the ward, including light switch-ons and the memory tree, which were well supported by ward alliance members and local organisations. The Community church hall was used for one of the events free of charge.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Ward Alliance members be thanked for their hard work and volunteering commitment and
- (ii) The notes of the respective Ward Alliances be noted.

Chair