

BARNESLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

South Area Council Meeting:

23rd October 2015

Agenda Item: 9

**Report of South Area Council
Manager.**

South Area Council working effectively with Ward Alliances

Please note: it was agreed at the meeting of the South Area Council held on 4th September 2015 that this item should be deferred until the next meeting on 23rd October 2015

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To propose the introduction of an annual presentation by each Ward Alliance to the South Area Council about its progress in promoting social action and involvement within the ward and towards meeting locally identified priorities.

1.2 To propose the introduction of a process for feeding back progress on the work of Area Council projects by members as a regular standing item on Ward Alliance agendas

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the South Area Council approves the introduction of an annual presentation by each Ward Alliance as outlined in Section 3.4 of this report.

2.2 That the South Area Council agrees the process for providing information to Ward Alliances about Area Council projects from one of the options outlined in Section 3.5 of this report.

3. Background

3.1 During Spring and Summer 2015, all of the Ward Alliances undertook a self assessment exercise to come to a shared view about how well the Alliance was functioning.

3.2 Each of the three Ward Alliances [Hoyland Milton & Rockingham, Wombwell, Darfield] identified a number of areas in which development was needed and an action plan to tackle this has been produced by each Alliance supported by the South Area Team.

3.3 One of the key issues identified by all three self assessments processes was that there needed to be more information exchanged between the Area Council and the Ward Alliances, to ensure that the work being undertaken by each body against locally identified priorities was aligning as effectively as possible.

3.4 One of the suggestions made which could help this to happen was to introduce annual presentations by each of the Ward Alliances to the Area Council to include:

- The work of the Ward Alliance to engage local people in helping to meet the identified ward priorities and to promote local action and involvement
- Activities, events and projects undertaken by the Ward Alliance to contribute to this

- Activities, events and projects funded by the Ward Alliance to contribute to this
- Ideas under development by the Ward Alliance and possible areas where Area Council support may be needed in the future

3.5 In addition, the self assessment highlighted that many Ward Alliance members were unfamiliar with the Area Council and its commissioned projects, with others familiar only because they had come into contact with one of the projects through their work as a volunteer.

It is proposed that to overcome this, Ward Alliances in the South Area adopt a standing agenda item where a short verbal progress report on each of the projects is given by one of the elected members to the group.

South Area Council are asked to agree a process from one of the following options:

Option 1 – A short verbal report on the progress of each of the Area Council projects is given by the Ward Alliance Chair

Option 2 – A short verbal report as above is given by one elected member per meeting on a rota basis

The respective Community Development Officer from the South Area Team can also provide support to either option if required.

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Date: 7th August 2015