

MEETING:	Central Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 11 March 2019
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Reception Room, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Riggs (Chair), D. Birkinshaw, P. Birkinshaw, Bruff, G. Carr, Clarke, W. Johnson, Pourali, Williams and Wright

31. Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

32. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Central Area Council held on 14th January, 2019 (Cen.11.03.2019/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Central Area Council held on 14th January, 2019.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Central Area Council held on 14th January, 2019 be approved as a true and correct record.

33. RVS Presentation (Cen.11.03.2019/3)

This item was withdrawn due to the presenter being unable to attend due to illness.

34. Performance Report Q3 (Cen.11.03.2019/4)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, which referred to quarter 3 performance in 2018/19.

Members noted part A of the report, which provided a cumulative update of performance from 1st April, 2017 to 31st December, 2018.

The main body of the report provided an update on performance of the four major contracts held by the Area Council.

The performance against the contract with RVS was positive with all areas rated as 'Green'. Within the quarter there had been 134 new users of the service, with 24 of these being referred from the My Best Life social prescribing service.

Members noted that the number of individuals in the 50-60 year group accessing the service continued to rise as organisations began to become aware of the increased age range.

13 new volunteers had been recruited and deployed, and Members noted the number of successful events held to celebrate Christmas.

It was noted that the steering group had not recently met and assurances were given that this would be remedied. Members requested to be provided with details of which wards users lived in, and also the retention rate of volunteers. A request was also made that venues in the Central Council Area be used for events wherever possible in future.

The performance of YMCA in delivering their contract was positive in all areas. Within the quarter 33 additional young people had taken part., with a total of attendances during the quarter. Members noted that the evaluation showed a 28% increase in general wellbeing following engagement with the service, with the figure being higher in youth provision than when compared to after school clubs.

Members discussed the age group accessing the service, and the rationale behind this focus. Also noted was the more intense nature of the project, working with young people to build resilience over a longer period. It was noted that whether the focus was still appropriate would be discussed as part of the review of Area Council priorities.

The contract with Kingdom was discussed, with performance considered positive in all areas. Within the quarter 156 fixed penalty notices had been issued, with 20 of these being for dog fouling. Members noted the targeted work around Birk Avenue in Kendray and in the Dodworth Area to address the issue of dog fouling.

Those present discussed the impact of the contract, with high levels of litter and dog fouling still evident in many areas. It was acknowledged that catching owners who did not pick up their dog fouling was difficult with many owners exercising their dogs in the early morning or late evening. Members discussed the relatively small cost to the Area Council of the commission, and its deterrent effect. The need for intelligence to inform patrols was noted, and Members felt that information on how to do so should be more readily available. However also noted was the reticence of some residents to provide detailed information.

Members acknowledged that the new provider would start on 1st April, 2019 with a focus on litter other than cigarette ends.

With regards to the contract with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance, it was noted that performance was positive in all areas. Within the quarter 110 pieces of additional work had been undertaken, and 10 social action projects had been led by the team. 13 new adult and young volunteers had also been engaged.

Members praised the work of the team and the impact this had made within the area, working alongside volunteers.

With regards to the Service Level Agreements to provide a Targeted Household Flytipping Service, and a service to Support New Tenants in Private Rented Housing, provision had only recently commenced and therefore reports on performance would commence at the next Area Council meeting.

With reference to the contract with Family Lives, members noted that there had been delays in establishing the provision and therefore this would not report performance until July, 2019 following the first quarter of delivery.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

35. Priorities, Procurement and Financial Update (Cen.11.03.2019/5)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item referring to the previous item and the discussion about the performance of Royal Voluntary Service. Members noted that the contract was due to come to an end on 30th June, 2019 and approval was required in order to extend this for a final 9 month period.

A further update was provided on the contract with Family Lives. The recent recruitment exercise had been unsuccessful, so therefore the post had been re-advertised together with a more targeted recruitment campaign. Discussions were currently taking place to move the contract start date to 1st April, 2019.

Discussions had recently taken place with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance regarding the targets associated with their next contract, and the need for these to be more challenging.

The Area Council Manager updated Members on the issues associated with the new Environmental Enforcement contract which would be delivered by District Enforcement from 1st April, 2019. The contract was supported by a Service Level Agreement with the Council's Safer Neighbourhood Service which provided the relevant infrastructure for processing fixed penalty notices (FPNs), uniforms and transport. Members were made aware that, given the reduced numbers of Area Councils procuring an enforcement service, and the desire to move to an integrated electronic system, a further £3,000 was required.

Members noted the number of variables associated with the contract, including the increase of FPNs to £100 and the focus on litter other than cigarette ends. It was acknowledged that the contract would be carefully monitored and decisions would be made in due course whether to continue with this contract in the longer term.

An update was provided on the arrangements made in relation to the Central Area Council Wellbeing Fund. The fund was launched at the end of January, and a workshop was subsequently held with 32 people attending, representing 24 organisations. Feedback from the event had been positive and it was noted that the closing date for applications was the 22nd March, 2019. A report on the successful applications would be provided to the Area Council at its meeting on 29th April, 2019.

An overview of the current financial position was provided, and Members heard that approximately £25,000 remained for 2019/20. This would be reduced with the increased cost of the SLA for the Environmental Enforcement Contract, but may also increase from income from Fixed Penalty Notices.

Feedback was provided from the recently held workshop where the priorities for the Area Council had been discussed. The workshop attendees considered where finance had been invested and what this had achieved. Members had discussed the strengths of the Area Council and areas for improvement. In addition consideration had been given to the changing demographic and future demand predicted in the area.

The workshop had felt that the existing priorities were still largely appropriate, but that further exploration was required on the area of employability and skills.

Members discussed how to take this work forward and it was suggested that workshops be convened to discuss each priority in more detail with a detailed report to be considered by the Area Council in due course.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the overview of the current Central Area Council priorities be noted;
- (ii) that the overview of all Central Area Council contracts and Service Level Agreements be noted;
- (iii) that the contract with RVS to address loneliness and isolation in adults and older people be extended for a further 9 month period (1st July, 2019 – 31st March, 2020) at a cost of £100,000;
- (iv) that an additional £3,000 be approved for the Service Level Agreement with the Safer Neighbourhood Service to provide relevant support for the Environmental Enforcement Contract during April 2019 – March 2020;
- (v) that the update about the development, launch and implementation of the Central Area Well-being Fund be noted;
- (vi) that the financial position for 2018/19 and the projected expenditure for 2020/21-2022/23 be noted; and
- (vii) that the update from the workshop to review priorities be supported and the proposed way forward be supported.

36. Notes of the Ward Alliances (Cen.11.03.2019/6)

The meeting received the notes of following Ward Alliances within the Central Area:-
Central Ward Alliance held on 23rd January, 2019;
Dodworth Ward Alliance held on 18th December, 2018 and 22nd January, 2019;
Kingstone Ward Alliance held on 23rd January, 2019;
Stairfoot Ward Alliance held on 14th January, 2019;
Worsbrough Ward Alliance held on 10th January, and 7th February, 2019.

RESOLVED that the notes of the Ward Alliances be received.

37. Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Cen.11.03.2019/7)

Members received the report, noting the remaining finance for each of the Ward Alliance Funds.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chair