

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday, 14 June 2019
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, The Hoyland Centre

MINUTES

Present Councillors Daniel Griffin (Chair), Eastwood, Franklin, Frost, Markham, Saunders, Shepherd, Smith, Stowe and Sumner.

1 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors Franklin and Shepherd both declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute numbers 7 and 8 due to their positions as directors of Forge Community Partnership, who hold the contract for the Tidy Team.

2 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 12th April, 2019 (Sac.14.06.2019/2)

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 12th April, 2019.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 12th April, 2019 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.14.06.2019/3)

The meeting received the notes from the following Ward Alliances:- Hoyland Milton and Rockingham held on 23rd May; Wombwell held on 20th May, and Darfield Ward Alliance held on 16th May, 2019.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

4 District Enforcement - Parking (Sac.14.06.2019/4)

Paul, Jane and Sarah from District Enforcement were welcomed to the meeting.

Members heard how the organisation had been formed in 2018, and currently held 6 contracts in the UK, one of which was to deliver parking enforcement in the South Area. The contract had started on 1st April, 2019 and concentrated on Hoyland and Wombwell town centres, with one officer employed 18.5 hours. To date 77 parking tickets had been issued, with the majority being issued in Wombwell.

Members noted the differences in road markings within the area, and that normal double yellow lines in Hoyland had a waiting period of five minutes, and therefore many people would park for less than this. However, the deterrent effect due to the visibility of officers was acknowledged by Members.

Those present discussed the issues with parking in the area, including around many schools, and parking near to pedestrian crossings. It was noted that there had been complaints from residents with regards to the parking in Darfield and it was

suggested that officers from District meet with Members from each Ward to discuss any issues and hotspots within their Ward.

Dog fouling and littering was discussed, and it was noted that District would issue notice for any violation seen, but this would not be the main focus of the contract. Members discussed what provision was available for enforcement from council resources centrally, for parking, dog fouling and for littering. It was agreed that the Area Manager would see clarification on this issue.

Members also noted the work of the Tidy Team, which would have an educational focus to make residents aware of the issues associated with littering and dog fouling.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That thanks be given for the officers for their attendance;
- (ii) That Ward briefings be arranged to discuss parking issues within each Ward with District Enforcement officers;
- (iii) That the Area Council Manager seeks clarity on the enforcement service to be provided by the Council from central resources.

5 Road Safety (Sac.14.06.2019/5)

Diane Lee, Head of Public Health, introduced the item making Members aware that road safety was now part of Public Health. Members heard how two road safety officers were employed and provided a range of training to schools which was age specific.

Members heard of the work undertaken in a number of schools in the area, and the details of a number of accidents in the area were also discussed, highlighting the need for increased road safety awareness.

It was agreed to circulate details of the schools in the South Area, and which had engaged with officers. A suggestion was made to map the schools who did not engage with either the service, with other Council departments or Members in order to make concerted efforts to address this issue.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That thanks be given for the presentation;
- (ii) That details of the service available to assist road safety in schools be circulated to Members;
- (iii) That details of which schools were engaged with the service be circulated to Members, in order to promote the service to those which were not.

6 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.14.06.2019/6)

Members received the report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

7 Performance Report (Sac.14.06.2019/7)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who reminded Members that the current contract providing advice services would finish at the end of June, 2019. From 1st July, 2019 a new contract would commence, which would provide a similar service, but with triage strengthened to ensure those not able to be seen would also be assisted.

The new Tidy Team contract commenced on 1st April, 2019, and featured an increasing focus on environmental education. Members noted that there would be a steering group convened shortly and the attendance of community activists and residents was encouraged.

Members heard how the contract with Kingdom Security to provide environmental enforcement finished at the end of March, 2019. Though there were no targets for issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) the numbers issued in the final quarter were drastically reduced when compared to previous quarters. Queries had been raised whether the target for patrolling hours had been met. Evidence for this was being sought, and currently payment was being withheld until this information was forthcoming.

The delays in recruiting the Private Sector Housing Officer were noted, and the candidate was expected to start in approximately 8 weeks, pending confirmation of appropriate checks. Members noted the difficulty in recruiting and the educational requirements of the post.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

8 Procurement and Financial Update (Sac.14.06.2019/8)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. Those present were reminded of the previous discussion regarding the recruitment of a Private Sector Enforcement Officer. The candidate had requested to work 30 hours per week, rather than 37. Members discussed the options in relation to the underspend that would result from the reduction in hours and it was suggested that this be utilised to extend the length of the contract.

An update was provided in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Fund, with a recent grant panel having been convened. 10 applications had been received with four recommended for approval. Members noted that those recommended would provide delivery across the area.

Those present heard of plans to re-advertise the fund and Members agreed to encourage groups to apply to the fund.

Members noted that the commission to tackle social isolation had recently been advertised on Yortender. Interest to date had been positive and it was noted that submissions would be evaluated on 16th July. Two Members were requested to take part in the tender evaluation panel.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the update on all procurement activity be noted;

- (ii) That Councillors Daniel Griffin and Saunders be nominated to take part in the Tackling Social Isolation tender evaluation panel;
- (iii) That the underspend associated with the post of Private Sector Housing Officer being reduced from 37 to 30 hours per week be ring-fenced to extend the term of the post subject to satisfactory performance and a continued need for the service.

9 Organisation of South Area Council Meetings (Sac.14.06.2019/9)

The Chair led a discussion on the organisation of South Area Council meetings. It was noted that venues in Hoyland and Wombwell had been used for the meeting, but that this sometimes led to confusion. In addition, recent changes meant that the meeting room in Wombwell was unavailable at the currently scheduled time.

Members discussed the day the meeting was held and the time, and it was generally felt that meeting on a Friday at 10.00am was well established, and avoided clashes with other engagements in the Council diary.

With regards to venue, the merits of meeting in the South Area were considered, together with positive and negative impacts of meeting at a variety of venues.

Following discussion Members agreed to hold meetings at a single venue, at it was agreed that this be Barnsley Town Hall.

RESOLVED that future meetings of South Area Council are held on the dates and at the times previously entered into the Council diary, and are held in Barnsley Town Hall.

Chair