

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 21 September 2015
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Burgess (Chair), Cave, Cherryholme, Grundy, Howard, Leech, Miller, Platts, Spence and Tattersall

22 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Burgess declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute number 24 as she is a Trustee of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

23 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 27th July, 2015 (Nac.21.09.2015/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th July 2015. It was reported that members have now been provided with the RVS contact details. If anybody needs more copies of the information booklet they should contact Amy at RVS. Plans for the North Area Council Celebration Event are well underway.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 27th July 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

24 Anti-poverty and financial inclusion project - introduction by DIAL Barnsley and Barnsley CAB.

Jo Clark (Barnsley CAB) and Sharon Brown (DIAL Barnsley) were welcomed to the meeting. It was reported that a small informal partnership was formed two years ago between Age UK, Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and DIAL, arising out of community concerns around the sustainability of advice services. This has now evolved to 'Advice Barnsley', which is an accredited, high quality universal access service. An online referral system 'no wrong door' was developed for cross partner referral, thereby ensuring that people didn't get passed from pillar to post. The project started in the North Area Council area last week, providing an independent, free, impartial and non-judgemental drop-in service with timely interventions. As part of the delivery model advisers meet monthly to carry out research and identify networking opportunities. A presence will be maintained at local community events using intelligence from both the North Area Council and CAB. Advisors have direct referral routes into other projects and hope to engage with others in the area such as GPs, Councillors etc., to spread the word. Both DIAL and CAB have trained volunteers. Monitoring is carried out through contract management meetings and the Area Council Manager also sits on the project steering group. A framework to measure outcomes is being developed.

It was explained that home visits can be arranged, for which details will be provided. Members felt that the service should link in to both schools and Berneslai Homes Housing Managers. The representatives were thanked for their attendance and contribution.

25 Summer Holiday Internship 2015 Project Update - C&K Careers.

Katren North from C & K Careers was welcomed to the meeting to give an overview of the North Area's 'Employability for under 16s Summer Holiday Internship' project. 127 applications were received, with 112 students completing the 4 day employability programme across the three Areas that commissioned the service. This consisted of workshops covering CV production, interview skills, workplace behaviour and career options and pathways. Over 47 local businesses offered work placements, completed by 100 students. Members felt that follow-up with participants is essential to gauge the success of the project. Katren was thanked for her attendance and contribution.

**26 Commissioning and Procurement Update - Summer Holiday Internship.
(Nac.21.09.2015/5)**

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, giving an update regarding the Summer Holiday Internship delivered during July and August 2015, with a view to recommissioning a further Summer Internship Opportunity for summer 2016. Members were supportive but raised concerns regarding the sustainability of the project. The possibility of developing a model for schools to 'buy in' this service in the future was discussed. It was felt that future publicity for this programme should make it clear that funding was provided through the North Area Council.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that Members noted Appendix 1, Summer Internship 2015 Performance Update, giving consideration to the performance update presentation by C&K Careers at the beginning of the meeting.
- (ii) that the Summer Internship 2016 contract be advertised at a maximum contract value of £45,000. It was agreed that an optimum number of placements should be agreed with the most economically competitive provider. Members acknowledged the potential opportunity to run the project in partnership with the North East Area Council.

**27 Commissioning and Procurement Update - Environmental Enforcement.
(Nac.21.09.2015/6)**

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. The report included a performance report for the current Environmental Enforcement contract which runs until the end of March 2016. It was also explained that income generated by way of fines will be reconciled at the end of the financial year, and used to offset contract costs.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Environmental and Parking Enforcement contract be advertised for a minimum of 2 years at a value of £125,000 per annum for 4 Enforcement Officers on the understanding that it is 'let' one year at a time with 'break' clauses included, should funding be discontinued.
- (ii) that Members acknowledge that there will also be a fee payable to BMBC Enforcement Services to ensure that the procured enforcement service is operationally sound.
- (iii) that the Area Council Manger will check the legal position with regard to the inclusion of income generated from fines within the Area Council budget.

28 Parks Contingency Fund (Nac.21.09.2015/7)

The Area Council Chair introduced this item. The report proposes that a small allocation of Area Council funding should be made available to help maintain the North Area play areas at their existing standard. It was explained that there are twenty three sites in the North Area. If items are damaged and likely to cost more than £500 to repair they will be removed due to budget limitations, leading to an eventual decimation of the play areas over time. This will be a 'last resort' fund, normal wear and tear will be paid for by the Parks Service. A discussion took place around the funding of play area safety inspections.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that a contingency funding allocation of up to £10,000 per annum should be made available to Parks Services to help maintain the North Area play equipment;
- (ii) that a meeting with the Parks Supervisor is required to work through the detail;
- (iii) that the Service Director, Stronger, Safer and Healthier Communities be authorised to approve expenditure for repairs; and
- (iv) that the Stronger Barnsley Locality Manager investigate funding for play area safety inspections.

29 Devolving Area Council Funds to the Ward Alliances (Nac.21.09.2015/8)

This report introduced the option for the Area Council to devolve funding from the Area Council to each of the four Ward Alliances. It was explained that a budget saving has been agreed, meaning that the Devolved Ward Funding element for Ward Alliances will reduce to £10,000 for each ward in 2015/16 and will cease in 2016/17. It is proposed that the Area Council will have the option to allocate up to £20,000 per ward from the Area Council budget. This is discretionary and flexible. Sound financial management by the Ward Alliances will be required.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the North Area Council devolves £10,000 per ward to the Darton East, Darton West, Old Town and St Helens Ward Alliances from the 2016/17 allocation as a pilot, provided that the combined devolved ward budget and ward alliance budget for 2015/16 is less than £10,000 by 31st March 2016.
- (ii) £5,000 of the funding will require volunteer match funding for community projects. The remaining £5,000 will not require match funding, as with the present devolved ward budget arrangements;
- (iii) in both cases the Ward Alliance will be responsible for recommending which projects to fund; and that
- (iv) all projects will need to address the priorities of the North Area Council and/or the corporate priorities.

30 Celebration Event Update (Nac.21.09.2015/9)

The Area Council Manager provided Members with an update on the North Area Council Celebration Event. The event will be held on 26th November 2015 at the Metrodome. It will be an opportunity for the Ward Alliances to showcase their work, alongside the Stronger Communities Grants projects and the Area Council commissioned projects.

31 Community Magazine update (Nac.21.09.2015/10)

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and provided an update on the development of the North Area Council Community Magazine. The Editorial Group met on 10th September, with a further meeting scheduled for 17th September. Drafts of the document are now available and the producer's artwork will be available to view on 23rd November before the Area Council meeting, prior to printing. It was pointed out that it will be on A4 pages, not A5. The title of the magazine will be 'North Area Council – focusing on your local area'. Thanks were expressed to Members who were part of the Editorial Group for their valuable contributions.

32 Report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds (Nac.21.09.2015/11)

The report was introduced by the Area Council Manager. Updates on progress in each Ward in expending the Devolved Ward Budget, Ward Alliance Fund and Public Health financial contribution were provided.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the remaining Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds in line with the guidance on spend.

33 Notes from the Ward Alliances (Nac.21.09.2015/12)

The meeting received the notes from the Darton West Ward Alliance held on 6th July, 17th August and 7th September 2015; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 1st July, 5th August and 2nd September 2015 and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 3rd September 2015.

It was reported that between 500 and 600 people attended the Darton East Gala, which was very successful.

Jason Gardner from Barnsley College has now joined the Darton West Ward Alliance and has been doing projects involving young people. A successful coffee morning has been held, work with Darton Bowling Club is underway. It was reported that theatre lighting equipment belonging to the young people had been stolen from the Darby and Joan Club. Planning for Christmas events is already underway.

It was reported that the St. Helens Gala, which was attended by the Mayor and the MP, was well supported by the community. Christmas events are being planned.

RESOLVED that the notes of the respective Ward Alliances be noted.

Chair