

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 16 March 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Leech (Chair), A. Cave, T. Cave, Howard, Hunt, Lofts, Pickering, Platts and Tattersall

48 **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

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

49 **Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 27th January 2020**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th January 2020.

It was highlighted that development of the Violence Reduction strategy was well underway and will be shared with Members when it is completed.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on the 27th January 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

50 **Stronger Communities Grant Outcomes report (March)**

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, updating Members about the North Area Council Stronger Communities Grant application and allocation process, the outcome of the grant panel meeting and the projects approved for funding, also outlining the performance management and monitoring arrangements for successful projects.

It was explained that it was a very competitive process, with 7 applications received before the deadline, totalling over £100,000. The Grants Panel met at the end of February, with each ward represented by a Councillor. Four applications were recommended for funding as follows: Emmanuel Methodist Church – Connections) £19,996.00; YMCA Youthwork £10,576.00; Making Space/Barnsley Dementia Gateway – Information, Advice and Wellbeing Café £10,000 and Citizens' Advice Bureaux – North Area Debt Advice Service £9,428.00. Members highlighted the difficulties of making decisions this year, as the same applications are submitted by organisations every year and the aim should be for projects to be self sustaining at the end of the grant funding. It was reported that the Making Space Café project was to be delayed until the summer, with reduced funding, due to the current Coronavirus pandemic. This may also impact on other projects which are aimed at similar age groups. The Area Council Manager is attempting to contact the Emmanuel Church about this issue. It is known that Berneslai Homes is planning to close some of its Community Centres due to Coronavirus. A Member raised a query about confidentiality of information and GDPR requirements. It was explained that

confidential information is not shared across projects, although larger organisations do retain their own information and are able to contact local stakeholders.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the NAC Stronger Communities Grant update;
- (ii) Members note the projects that have been approved for funding, and
- (iii) Members agree the performance and monitoring arrangements outlined in Section 7 of the report.

51 Young People's Health and Wellbeing Project Specification - procurement (verbal update)

The Area Council Manager gave a detailed update of discussions that took place at a recent workshop which explored the opportunity for a North Area Council funded young people's project. It was explained that when the commission went out to tender only one application was received, which did not meet the project criteria, rendering the procurement unsuccessful. Provider feedback indicated that problems had been experienced with the process, particularly YorTender. The procurement panel met on 12th March to discuss the outcome and way forward and along with other stakeholders, developed a number of recommendations to adapt the model. It is recommended that the focus of delivery shifts away from in-school delivery to after school and holiday provision in the community, with beneficiaries identified and informally referred by schools to ensure those most in need are supported. Members were made aware of the Beyond Words initiative. Beyond Words is a charity that provides books and training to support people who find pictures easier to understand than words, with resources to empower people through pictures. Kexborough Primary School currently have a staff member trained to use this resources and have found it beneficial when working with children with emotional needs, with positive results. It was felt that it would be of benefit for Beyond Words to be delivered in 3 geographical areas – St Helens, Darton and Old Town, with a programme of after school provision running in each area and school holiday provision. Across the area 6 junior schools will be involved, it has been suggested that at least two teaching assistants are trained from each school and after school delivery staff should receive the same training. It is anticipated that the project will lead to establishing better links between schools and communities in a positive manner. The children supported wouldn't necessarily meet the criteria for special educational needs, but would benefit from additional input to manage their emotions. Members were asked to note that the out of school provision may not be available until September to allow for transition work to be undertaken with Years 5 and 6 from September 2020.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the procurement update;
- (ii) the focus of the project be adapted to allow for great invest in community provision;

- (iii) the process be redesigned, and the opportunity converted into a more accessible grant, dividing the opportunity into smaller 'lots' based on geography;
- (iv) the feasibility of training key locality based staff to use 'Books Beyond Words' resources be fully explored, and
- (v) an additional budget of £10,000 be allocated to allow for staff training in the use of 'Books Beyond Words' and to buy resources

52 Environmental Education Contract

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, summarising the project development activity that had taken place regarding the North's Environment Priority and associated Environmental Education Contract and asking the North Area Council to consider next steps regarding future investment in this priority area.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The North Area Council note the key points identified at the priority workshop held on the 5th March 2020;
- (ii) The Area Council Manager be tasked with refining the specification of the project to improve the overall environmental appearance of the four wards that make up the North Area Council area and how to increase volunteering and engagement associated with this priority area;
- (iii) A further workshop be arranged for 16th April, and
- (iv) Councillors give some consideration to the educational outcomes they wish the redefined specification to include.

53 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, providing Members with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that have been proposed. Detailed information was provided with regard to projects attracting significant commitment, including the Anti-Poverty Community Outreach Project, the Clean and Green Service and the Housing Migration and Private Sector Housing Officer post. Health and Wellbeing projects, the Stronger Communities Grant and devolved funding to Ward Alliances were also discussed.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The North Area Council note the existing budget position and funding commitments;

- (ii) Members agreed to fund the Anti- Poverty IAG contract for two years (+1yr) from September 2020, at a value of £95,000.00 p.a.
- (iii) Members agreed to fund the environmental education provision for two years (+1yr) from October 2020, at a value of £85,000.00 p.a.
- (iv) Members will meet for a 2nd workshop to redefine the environmental specification prior to re-commission.
- (v) Members noted information regarding the Housing and Cohesion Officer, and
- (vi) Members agreed to the final year's extension of the Warm Connections Project (Sept 2020 – Aug 2021), at a value of £85,000 p.a.

54 Performance Management Report - Commissioned Projects & Grant Summary - Q3

The Area Council manager introduced this item, providing Members with a comprehensive North Area Council Performance report for the period October to December 2019. Projects were discussed in detail and case studies were provided for a number of projects including CAB/Dial; Twiggs Grounds Maintenance; the work of the Housing Cohesion and Participation Officers and the Reds in the Community Healthy Lifestyles project.

RESOLVED that Members note the contents of the Performance Management Report

55 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund

The Area Council Manager updated the North Area Council with regard to the financial position and the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2019/20 period. Information included base budget allocations; carry forward from 2018/19 and funding devolved from the Area Council.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The update be noted, and
- (ii) each Ward in the North Area Council area continues to prioritise the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2019/20, in line with the guidance on spend.

56 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 14th January and 11th February 2020; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 15th January and 5th February 2020; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 29th January and 11th February and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 16th January 2020. Additional updates were provided as follows:

Darton East: The local action plan for the year has now been agreed. A number of applications for funding have now been agreed, including £500 for the defibrillator at the LIDL supermarket. The pantomimes took place at Greenside church hall, raising money for both the church and for charity. The Greenspace group is to carry out litter picking on alternative Saturdays, focussing on three areas – Mapplewell park, the War Memorial and the Community Gardens. Hanging baskets are to be sponsored by local businesses this year.

Darton West: Fencing at Dearne Hall Road is still awaited, as Twiggs need to get a licence to work on Highways land, although funding was agreed last July. The Darton Village in Bloom project is underway and 2 projects are to be chosen to work on, which will be entered into the Barnsley in Bloom competition next year. A defibrillator has been installed at Redbrook Community Centre, with another coming on stream in Priestley Avenue. Officers were thanked for their assistance with this.

Old Town: Various applications for funding have been agreed, including funding for a disability football challenge and a Writing competition prize of £100. Community groups are being approached for help to purchase 'live' Christmas trees. The writing group supported by Lee Swift is very positive. Two information boards have now been erected at the Fleets. The cost of using mains electricity for Christmas tree lights has been explored but this is very expensive due to the initial connection fee.

St Helens: The Christmas events were very well received in the community, with local schools all involved. A number of funding applications have been agreed, including £365 to reduce Carlton Road bollards to knee height for safety reasons and an Environmental working budget of £5000. Galas are in the planning stage and the ward plan is being developed. Ideas for the Great British Spring Clean are being put forward. An event for young people is to take place at the end of the summer holidays. Good discussion about mental health, self-harm etc. event for yp – at end of summer holidays. Two events are being planned to restore the Barnsley PALS flags with input from an organisation in Manchester. Thanks were expressed to all who had contributed to this.

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

Chair