

MEETING:	North East Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 24 September 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	VIRTUAL

MINUTES

Present Councillors Hayward (Chair), Cheetham, Cherryholme, Felton, Green, Higginbottom, Houghton CBE, Makinson, McCarthy, Richardson and Wraith MBE

63 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

The Chair welcomed participants, the Press and the public to the meeting, highlighting that this meeting was to be streamed live over the internet and that a recording would be available on the Barnsley MBC website shortly after the conclusion of the meeting. There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

64 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on 23rd July 2020

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on 23rd July 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North East Area Council held on 23rd July 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

65 Notes of the Following Ward Alliances with Feedback from each Ward Alliance Chair

The meeting received notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston Ward Alliances held throughout July and August 2020. The following updates were noted:-

Cudworth - PPE and hand sanitising equipment has been sent out to organisations across the ward. It was reiterated that help is available to all organisations. Veg boxes have been distributed and seasonal activities such as pumpkin carving/soup making are planned – these will be live streamed. Preparations are underway for winter warming packs. Thanks were expressed to all volunteers and staff from Bow Street for the wonderful work they have done in such difficult times.

Monk Bretton – All 4 defibrillators have now been installed. Thanks were expressed to Vicky for help with the appliance at Sainsburys. The winter warmer packs are being put together. Work is underway to the memorial gates. It is hoped that the service on Remembrance Sunday will be live streamed.

North East – A few funding applications have been received as thoughts turn to Christmas. Tree planting has taken place in Grimethorpe. Lots of plans are on hold until the current situation becomes clearer, although some planning for next year is

taking place. 120 iris bulbs are to be planted in the shape of a rainbow as a thank you to all key workers. Thanks were expressed to Gt Houghton Youth group who had organised a scheme to deliver fish and chips, cream teas etc to local residents.

Royston – At the last ward Alliance meeting the Young People’s ‘Make our mark 2019’ report was shared. The report is broken down into ward level and documents young people’s thoughts, wishes and priorities. Work is underway with the targeted support youth scheme and the Youth Council to explore how this can be taken forward. Hanging baskets are now in place with winter bedding, with volunteers planting beds and planters up. Funding has been agreed for Christmas lights. Two Section 106 steering group meetings have taken place and went very well, with funding approved for Royston MUGA improvements, new litter bins and access steps for football at Rabbit Ings. The Scarecrows project in the village this year has been very well received by the local residents.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

66 Noth East Area Council's Private Sector Housing Management Initiative

Chris Platts, Private Sector Housing Management Officer was welcomed to the meeting to update Members about the North East Area Council’s Private Sector Housing Management Initiative.

Chris explained that his role had changed over the last few months in unexpected ways. Rather than working door to door and carrying out visits he has been working from home and picking up reactive work, using emails, telephone and photographic evidence much more. Inspections have still been necessary (using full PPE) but have been more difficult. Mental health issues have come to the fore during the lockdown, with more than 30 families referred to other organisations and bodies for help and support. The majority of cases have now been sorted. Waste in gardens has been a problem due to people creating more food waste and undertaking DIY and garden projects. The closure of the waste and recycling sites meant that people were unable to dispose of their waste but now the sites have reopened formal enforcement action can recommence. Lots of work has been done with landlords on the waste and recycling issue. Chris has also worked closely with Berneslai Homes. Burning household waste is an offence and some community protection notices have been issued for this. It is likely that issues of disrepair, damp and mould will start to increase once the winter is upon us.

Chris outlined a case study of someone he had been working closely with for a number of months to illustrate the type of work he had been doing. Thankfully the person’s situation was now improving thanks to Chris’s intervention and joint working with other organisations and bodies. Members expressed their thanks to Chris for the valuable work he has done, and continues to do, in the community.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Chris be thanked for his attendance and contribution, and
- (ii) Members note the update.

67 North East Area Council Project Performance Report - update on the delivery of commissioned projects

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this item, highlighting progress regarding projects aligned to the agreed outcomes and social value objectives of the North East Area Council and specifically the Healthy Holidays initiative, the Exodus Project, the Ad Astra activity bags, happy wellbeing and science experiment bags and reading books and the work of the Gt Houghton youth club, who gave out lavender pots to residents in the village. It was also reported that Ad Astra are looking at working in partnership with the Area Team live streaming dance and craft projects over the October half term holidays with a Halloween/pumpkin theme.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

68 NEAC Financial Position and Procurement update

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this item, updating Members regarding the commissioning budget and financial analysis for the period to 2020/21. It was reported that just over £30k is not committed. The Area Council Manager will keep members up to date with the financial situation.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

69 Report on the Use of Area Council Budgets, Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this item, updating Members regarding the North East Area Council Budget and Ward Alliance Funds. It was reported that all Ward Alliances are flexing projects to meet the needs of the community during the Covid-19 crisis and action plans are being developed.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

70 Staffing Update

The Area Council Manager informed members that shortlisting had taken place for the Community Development post and that 10 candidates would be interviewed over the next few weeks. It was reported that the applicants were all of a very high calibre. It was also reported that the Performance Monitoring post will include contract evaluation and monitoring. The closing date for this post was last Friday and shortlisting will be carried out soon.

RESOLVED that members note the staffing update.

71 CVS Covid Hardship Fund across the North East Area Council

It was reported that the North East Area Team have worked closely with local community groups to help them to access the Barnsley CVS Covid Hardship Fund, which represents almost £19k of extra funding for groups. The fund was set up to support Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations who are struggling financially as they cannot hold events or fund raise due to Covid-19 and to

provide Resilience and Recovery Funding for the Third Sector. All groups applying for funding were asked to consider accessing free membership to Barnsley CVS as this will give them access to a wealth of information and support which will help them become sustainable. The North East Area Team have supported the following local community groups to access this funding stream: Grimethorpe Community Farm; Royston Scouts; Love Life UK Outreach; Great Houghton Village Hall Committee and New Options. Other commissions are currently being considered and members will be updated in due course.

RESOLVED that members note the report.

Chair