

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 25 January 2016
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Goldthorpe Library

MINUTES

Present Councillors Noble (Chair), Brook, Gollick, Sixsmith MBE and Worton.

36 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

37 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 16 November, 2015 (Dac.25.01.2016/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council, held on 16th November, 2015.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting held on 16th November, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

38 Dearne Area Council Performance Update including financial position (Dac.25.01.2016/3)

The Chair welcomed the Tasking Officer to the meeting to provide an update on performance against the Environmental Enforcement Contract. Members heard how 113 Fixed Penalty Notices and 17 Parking Charge Notices for parking had been issued in quarter 3, October – December, 2015. Of the 113 Fixed Penalty Notices, 102 of these had been for littering offences and 11 for dog fouling.

It was noted that 15 children had been witnessed littering outside the secondary school, and would therefore be undertaking supervised litter picks.

Members were made aware of a rise in anti-social behaviour in parts of the area, which were a cause for concern, especially when taking into account the impending changes to policing in the Dearne.

Enquiries were made with regards to increasing the amount of stencilling to discourage dog fouling. Members were encouraged to suggest any areas suitable for stencilling to the Tasking Officer.

The Private Sector Housing Officer, and Enforcement and Investigations Officer were then welcomed to provide an update on their work in the area. The meeting heard how many house and garden inspections had been undertaken. Officers had dealt with numerous cases of anti-social behaviour, engaging with landlords to help overcome issues.

Members noted that the team had referred individuals and families to other agencies such as victim support and the homelessness team, with positive results.

The meeting noted a number of occurrences of fly tipping, which the team had dealt with, engaging the tenant and landlord where possible. Where tenants had refused any support this had led, in some cases, to the issuing of fixed penalty notices and in a few cases to prosecution.

Members thanked the officers for their continued hard work.

The Area Council Manager provided a financial overview for the Area Council. £24,508 of the budget for 2015/16 remained unallocated, together with income from Fixed Penalty Notices of £15,720 this equated to £40,228 for use by the Area Council. Members acknowledged that the year end figure would be considerably higher, due to further income expected from Fixed Penalty Notices.

Members were advised that £31,910 of the Dearne Development Fund had been allocated, and that 10 further applications were due to be considered shortly.

With regards to the Training for Employment commission, the meeting heard that the service would finish at the end of March, 2016, but continued to deliver well against contracted outcomes. 48 people had entered local employment in the 14 months of operation. It was noted that an annual review had now been completed, which had highlighted a number of barriers for people to enter the labour market. These included, travel costs to interviews and the cost of specific training. Members noted the increasing number of referrals to the scheme from Job Centre.

Members discussed the success of the scheme, noting the impact of the service being based in the community made to reduce barriers for people to engage.

The meeting briefly discussed the contract with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance, noting that time had been equally distributed between Dearne North and Dearne South Wards. It was noted how a number of community groups were now working with Twiggs, and it was suggested that community members need to be encouraged to highlight areas requiring attention by the service.

Members discussed a potential issue regarding Twiggs inability to remove significant amounts of green waste from certain sites, which was thought may be due to the ownership of the site. It was agreed that the Area Manager discusses this issue with John Twigg.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the updated financial position for Dearne Area Council be noted;
- (ii) that the continued progress of the Dearne Area Council commissions be noted and;
- (iii) that the Area Manager discusses issues regarding the collection of green waste from certain sites with John Twigg.

39 Update on the Area Team work plan and allocation of finances for 2016/2017 (Dac.25.01.2016/4)

The Area Manager introduced the item, reminding Members of discussions earlier in the Month regarding the remaining 2015/16 financial allocation, and plans for delivery in 2016/17.

Members supported the arranging of a workshop to further explore health issues in the area, considering current data and the support already available to residents.

The meeting discussed the Dearne Development Fund, noting that £31,910 of the allocated £80,000 had been allocated but that 10 applications were yet to be considered. It was therefore agreed to allocate a further £50,000 for the 2016/17 financial year to the fund, to be awarded as per the process previously agreed.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that £50,000 be allocated to the Dearne Development Fund to be awarded in the financial year 2016/17;
- (ii) that the workshop to further discuss the issue of health in the area be supported.

40 Notes from the Dearne Approach Steering Group held on 11th January, 2016 (Dac.25.01.2016/5)

The meeting considered the notes from the meeting held on 11th January, 2016. It was noted that the group continues to develop and now action plans are in place for each of the themes, with relevant individuals engaged.

Members were encouraged to feedback any questions or queries prior to the next meeting of the group.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Dearne Approach Steering Group, held on 11th January, 2016 be received.

41 Notes from the Ward Alliances (Dac.25.01.2016/6)

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 26th November, 2015 and Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 16th December, 2015.

It was noted that Dearne South Ward Alliance had more recently met where self assessment, self improvement and flood resilience plans had been discussed. Members heard how a site had been identified to locate a container to act as a flood store.

The Christmas event had been extremely successful and a number of individuals had expressed an interest in joining the alliance.

The meeting discussed work around St. Andrew's Square, noting the plans to engage and encourage local people to help keep this area clean and tidy.

With regards to the Dearne North Ward Alliance, they too had also more recently met. All representatives had given feedback on their recent endeavours and £2,000 had been awarded to the Salvation Army for the provision of winter packs.

RESOLVED that notes from the respective Ward Alliances be received.

**42 Report on the Use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds
(Dac.25.01.2016/7)**

The report was introduced by the Area Council Manager and Members noted the amounts of finance remaining for the 2015/16 financial year.

With regards to the Devolved Ward Budget finance, Members heard how £449.70 remained for Dearne North to allocate and £2,627.46 for Dearne South. It was acknowledged that any remaining unallocated could not be carried forward to future financial years.

Members heard how £3,157.13 remained for Dearne North Ward Alliance to allocate while £7,428.85 was available for Dearne South Ward Alliance.

A discussion took place regarding the awarding of grants for the purchase of equipment and the need to ensure that any equipment remained available for the community to use. It was suggested that the equipment ought to be managed by the Area Team.

RESOLVED that the report on the Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds be received.

Chair