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| MEETING: | Dearne Area Council |
| DATE: | Monday, 4 April 2016 |
| TIME: | 10.00 am |
| VENUE: | Meeting Room, Goldthorpe Library |

MINUTES

Present Councillors Noble (Chair), Gollick and Worton.

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

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

44 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 25th January, 2016 (Dac.04.04.2016/2)**

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting held on 25th January, 2016 be approved as a true and correct record.

45 **Dearne Area Council Performance Update (Dac.04.04.2016/3)**

The Head of Transport and Highways, and the Group Manager, Network Management and Resilience were welcomed to the meeting to discuss the delivery and performance of their service in the area. Members heard how their service was moving from a 'Worst First' prioritisation method towards a services led by intelligence provided by condition surveys, which informed the most efficient use of resources.

It was noted that surveying of all roads was currently underway, which would inform a short, medium and long term strategy for the maintenance of highways. This was expected to go live for the 2017/18 financial year, with a transitional plan for 2016/17.

Members noted that reports of defects would still be considered and dealt according to their urgency.

The meeting discussed a number of areas where the team could assist the Area Council, including signage in the area.

Members noted proposed changes improve the efficiency of how the service dealt with ad-hoc requests from Parish Councils, Area Councils, Councillors etc. It was suggested that there be an annual 'window' where applications could be considered, with the highest priority schemes being added to the capital programme for the service in the next financial year.

The Area Council Manager updated Members on the performance of services commissioned by the Area Council currently being delivered in the area.

It was noted that the Training For Employment contract had ended on the 31st March, 2016. A final report was being prepared and would be considered by the Area Council at its meeting on 6th June, 2016. Members questioned the ownership of the assets purchased by the project, and it was noted that these remained owned by the Council, but were currently being used by volunteers at the Salvation Army to provide assistance with basic job search.

With regards to the Environmental Enforcement Service, Members noted that since the start of the contract until 10th March, 2016, 717 notices had been issued, with 531 being for littering, 55 for dog fouling and 131 for parking. This had resulted in £25,552.95 of revenue raised which would be returned to the Area Council.

Members received an update on the performance of the contract with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance. All actions since the previous monitoring meeting had been completed and Twiggs had engaged 14 businesses to date.

It was noted that Twiggs had worked with 13 established groups on clean up campaigns and led three social action projects. Members heard how 209 bags of waste had been collected and 76 litter picks undertaken. Members commented how the impact of the project was now being seen wider, with residents now more likely to pick litter themselves.

Although there had not been any formal monitoring of the Housing Enforcement SLA, it was noted that for January and February, 2016 there had been 103 contacts with the service, 17 of which were from vulnerable households. Of 16 requests for action from private landlords it was noted that only one had required a formal notice.

Members discussed the media presence in the area, acknowledging that though the Council does support residents in private rented accommodation, most of the issues raised are the responsibility of the landlord or agent.

RESOLVED

- (i) that staff from Highways be thanked for their contribution;
- (ii) that the progress of the Area Council commissions be noted.

46 Update on the Dearne Development Fund (Dac.04.04.2016/4)

An update on the Dearne Development Fund was provided by the Area Council Manager.

Members were reminded that £80,000 was allocated to the Dearne Development Fund in September, 2015 and subsequently applications were invited. A panel met to discuss 21 applications in November, 2015 and subsequently 9 were approved, to a total value of £77, 646.

Members noted that one application was to provide match funding from Sport England, and the outcome of this was still pending. Therefore £62,646 would be allocated from the 2015/16 budget.

The meeting considered each of the 9 applications approved and noted the monitoring information provided by 4 of the projects to date.

It was noted that the Salvation Army had distributed 31 winter packs and engaged 12 volunteers. Goldthorpe Development Group had held 2 health and wellbeing events, with 21 volunteers working on both events.

The Dial drop in service had seen high levels of demand with 48 enquiries, the majority of which being related to benefits. Dearne Electronic Community Village had also high levels of demand with 22 individuals accessing the project against a target of 20.

RESOLVED that the continued progress of the Dearne Development Fund be noted.

47 Dearne Area Council Update on Financial Position, Procurement, and Health and Jobs Skills and Training Workshops (Dac.04.04.2016/5)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, drawing attention to the current financial position for the Area Council at the end of the financial year. Of the £255,428 available in 2015/16, £262,257 had been spent. This left a deficit of £6,819 to carry forward to 2016/17. However, taking into account the income from Fixed Penalty Notices of £25,522.95, there was £18,793.95 to carry forward to 2016/17.

After taking into account that £52,846 had already been allocated in 2016/17, the figure remaining was £165,847.95.

With regards to the procurement of an Environmental Enforcement Service, Members noted that the tender evaluation was completed on 22nd January, 2016, and that two providers were interviewed in late January. The meeting heard how Kingdom Security had been the preferred provider and the contract with them commenced on 1st April, 2016.

The meeting received feedback from the Health Workshop held on 4th February, 2016. 25 practitioners, officers and residents attended. Data relating to health in the area and current services being provided were considered.

Members noted the work planned to map provision in the area and identify any gaps in service where the Area Council may wish to intervene. It was noted that the CCG was looking to extend its social prescribing pilot which may dovetail with the work of the Area Council. It was also acknowledged that the workshop would also inform the health theme of the Dearne Approach.

The meeting considered the outcome of the Jobs, Skills and Training Workshop, held on 7th March, 2016. This had highlighted the significant amount of support available in the area, and it was noted that this would lead to mapping of the provision, the development of an action plan and potentially the production of a local directory.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the financial position for the Area Council be noted;
- (ii) the progress made in commissioning an Environmental Enforcement Service from 1st April, 2016 be noted and;
- (iii) the feedback from the Health, and Jobs, Skills, and Training workshops be noted.

48 Community Magazine (Dac.04.04.2016/6)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. It was noted that an editorial group had been established in order to assist with the production of the first edition of the Community Magazine, which would be reconvened for the second edition. This group was scheduled to meet on the 14th April, 2016, and Members were encouraged to contact the Area Council Manager with any ideas should they not be able to attend.

Members noted the timescales within the report, with articles to be submitted to Communications by 2nd May and the magazine going to print on 30th June, 2016.

RESOLVED that the timescales for the production of the Community Magazine be noted.

49 Notes from the Ward Alliances (Dac.04.04.2016/7)

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 12th January, 2016 and Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 20th January, 2016.

With regards to the Dearne North Ward Alliance, attention was drawn to a number of events being organised in the area. Praise was given regarding the finance update provided at every meeting of the alliance.

With reference to Dearne South Ward Alliance, Members noted discussion on the Community Resilience and Flood Plans, including the location of a container to be used as a flood store.

RESOLVED that the notes from the respective Ward Alliances be received.

50 Report on the Use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.04.04.2016/8)

The report was introduced by the Area Council Manager. Attention was drawn to the amounts of finance unallocated at the time of writing the reports.

For Dearne North £449.70 of Devolved Ward Budget remained unallocated, with £69.34 of the Ward Alliance Fund to be carried forward to the 2016/17 financial year.

For Dearne South the Devolved Ward Budget had been overspent by 54p, with £4,593.08 of Ward Alliance Fund to be carried forward to the 2016/17 financial year.

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

51 Appreciation of Retiring Councillors

The Chair took the opportunity to thank Councillors Brook and Worton, praising their work as Councillors and contribution to the Area Council, and wishing them a long and happy retirement.

Chair