

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday, 17 December 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Andrews BEM, Eastwood, Franklin, Frost, Lamb, Osborne, Shepherd, Smith, Stowe and Sumner

Members in virtual attendance: Councillors J Higginbottom and Markham

20 Election of Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor Stowe be appointed Chair for the purposes of this meeting only.

21 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors Markham and Frost both declared an interest in minute number 27 due to their positions on the board of Age UK Barnsley.

22 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 22nd October, 2021 (Sac.17.12.2021/2)

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 22nd October, 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 22nd October, 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

23 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.17.12.2021/3)

The meeting received the notes from the following Ward Alliances, Hoyland Milton and Rockingham held on 3rd November, 2021; Darfield held on 16th September and 18th November, 2021; and Wombwell held on 20th September, 2021.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

24 Public Health Update - Smoking Cessation - Dayna Towns (Sac.17.12.2021/4)

Dayna Towns, Community Stop Smoking Advisor (South), provided an update in relation to Yorkshire Smokefree Barnsley.

Members were informed that Dayna had been in post since August, 2021 and her main role was to promote and develop Yorkshire Smokefree Barnsley across the South Area.

Smoking prevalence in the South Area was reported as lower than the overall average across the Borough, but that smoking was one of the latest contributors to death in England and one of the leading causes of a wide range of cancers.

Yorkshire Smokefree provided 12 weeks of support including a combination of face to face clinics and free replacement therapy products such as nicotine patches and chewing gum in order to help clients achieve their goal of stopping smoking. Members noted that there were plans for group clinics to be held in the New Year in Darfield and the Hoyland Centre. It was noted that this would be achieved with close working relationships with the Area Council, GPs, Pharmacies and neighbourhood partners in order to open up pathways for referrals, plus promotional events would be held around the area to aid in the work towards a smokefree society by 2025.

Lisa Lyon, South Area Council Manager provided members with a background to how the posts had come about, informing them that 3 had been recruited in total for the South, Dearne and Central Areas. The roles had been devised from a pilot scheme that had been held in the North East area that had taken a traditional smoking cessation post and embedded it within community work with GPs, schools and community groups which was then rolled out to other area councils. The key being to work with members to find opportunities to embed the roles locally rather than in GP surgeries. It was noted however, that there had been some difficulty in holding events and any suggestions from members would be welcomed.

Members gave an indication that they would welcome the service in Wombwell and that the library had rooms available to hold some sessions plus there would be an opportunity for a market stall on Wombwell high street on market day.

Dayna informed members that clients could be referred through a number of pathways including calling themselves, their GPs who have a specific referral system they can use and also through hospitals. There was a desire to also have referrals through dentists but this was still being looked into.

The Yorkshire Smokefree Barnsley 12 week programme was welcomed by members, however concerns were raised around the use and safety of vaping devices and whether this was also used as an alternative to smoking. They were informed that vaping was relatively new and research on the safety was continually being undertaken but that the NHS did not provide vaping devices and the use of which was client choice. Diane Lee, Head of Public Health, informed members that smoking remained the one of the biggest causes of death and illness and the aim of the work being done around smoking cessation was to create an environment where people would want to quit. Members were offered a presentation of the latest research report on vaping at the next area council to which they agreed.

Members raised questions around the age demographic of clients and whether there was a particular age range that were affected the most. It was confirmed that in general it was the older age ranges that had been smoking for most of their lives and had illnesses such as COPD that were being referred and that it could take some clients more than one 12 week course to quit.

It was recognised that there was a desire and a need to push for advisers to return to schools in order to aid pupils in stopping smoking.

The Chair and members thanked Dayna for the presentation and hard work being undertaken.

25 Procurement and Financial Update (Sac.17.12.2021/5)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item and referred members to the two items for recommendation following a member workshop held on 2nd December, 2021.

Members were reminded that funding for the Private Sector Housing Officer was in place until the end of September, 2022 following a review at a previous meeting held on 25th June, 2021. Following that decision, a review of the posts had been carried out through BMBCs Safer Neighbourhood Services resulting in the post becoming permanent rather than fixed term contracts from the 1st April, 2022. This was deemed a positive move in order to keep Officers in post who had been out in the Community creating positive relationships and gathering intelligence and become familiar with the area.

Members were supportive of Option A in the report to extend the post for a further 2 years until September, 2024 at a cost of £34,000 per year.

Discussion then turned to the District Enforcement Limited contract and members were given a number of options based on the fact that Barnsley MBC would be providing Borough wide enforcement through one contract from 1st April, 2022 with the possibility of add on services being commissioned by Area Councils. Following discussions members were minded to approve a variation to the contract for 6 months. This would allow for members to see what the Borough wide provider offer would be and look like, as it was anticipated that parking enforcement would not be in the offer which was vital for Wombwell High Street, Hoyland Town Centre and Darfield Local Centre.

Members requested further information around where parking enforcement activities had taken place and how many tickets were issued or whether there were no tickets due to there being no problems. The Area Council Manager agreed to circulate the report from the workshop and would contact the Contract Manager for further information to be circulated to members.

An update was provided on the Area Councils financial situation with £24,800 remaining to be allocated in the current financial year. Members noted that an additional income of £37,996 had been received from the Healthier Communities Covid Pot with a further £20,000 from the Covid Practical Support Fund. Following the receipt of this money, work with Berneslai Homes was being undertaken to get support out for people struggling with food and fuel costs. An update would be provided in the next quarterly report to see what that would mean and what could be done to aid that support.

RESOLVED:-

(i) that the update on the Private Sector Housing Officer SLA be noted and that the post be extended for a further 2 years to 30th September, 2024 at a cost of £34,000 per annum be agreed;

(ii) that a variation to extend the Environmental Enforcement contract with the current provider for a further 6 months at a cost of £10,831 and that £21,662 be ringfenced to purchase additional resources from the new provider as part of the Borough wide offer be approved; and

(iii) that the risk that the current provider, District Enforcement Ltd, may not have the resources to extend be acknowledged.

26 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.17.12.2021/6)

Members noted the available finance in each Ward Alliance funding pot and questioned whether any remaining funds would be eligible to be carried forward if unspent. They were informed that this would not be confirmed until around February, 2022.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

27 Performance Report Q2 (Sac.17.12.2021/7)

The Area Council Manager presented members with the Quarter 2 performance report.

Members noted the recently added red, amber and green rag rating in the report in order to see at a glance when commissioned services were achieving their targets.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chair