

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday, 22 April 2016
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, The Hoyland Centre

MINUTES

Present Councillors Stowe (Chair), Andrews BEM, Franklin, Frost, Morgan, Saunders, Shepherd and R. Wraith

47 Appreciation

On behalf of the Area Council, the Chair gave thanks to Councillor Morgan for her contribution to the Area Council and to Wombwell Ward Alliance, and wished her well in her retirement.

In addition it was noted that Michael Potter was unlikely to carry on acting as link officer for the Area Council. Thanks were given for his commitment and contribution.

48 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

No Member wished to declare an interest in any item on the agenda.

49 Private Sector Housing Management and Enforcement - Presentation

The Head of Community Safety and Enforcement was welcomed to the meeting to give a presentation relating to the management and enforcement of housing in the private rented sector.

Members noted the growing number of low cost and low quality houses in the private rented sector, and the associated issues which were previously generally associated with larger council housing estates.

It was noted that Central Area Council and Dearne Area Council had agreed service level agreements to provide officer support additional to this to help manage social and environmental problems, within the private rental sector.

It was acknowledged that waste in gardens was the most visible issue, however once officers had engaged with residents often further issues associated with individuals being more isolated or vulnerable were found, and other appropriate agencies engaged.

This more proactive approach was considered to be making a significant difference in both Central and Dearne Areas, and it was suggested that this could be replicated in the South Area.

Members discussed concentrations of private sector housing in the South Area and the problems associated with this. Also noted were a number of issues associated with private sector commercial premises and it was suggested that this was dealt with via other means, and would be outside the scope of the proposed project.

Enforcement action was discussed, noting that there are a number of different powers that existed, which could be used as a last resort, should residents and landlords be unwilling to engage. It was confirmed that any income from enforcement directly attributable to this engagement, would be returned to Area Council, however it was unlikely that this would be of the same magnitude as for the Environmental Enforcement commission, as enforcement was not intended as the primary outcome for this project.

The issue of education was discussed, noting that many issues could be avoided by residents using the correct bins, and it was confirmed that this was part of the work of officers in the Dearne and Central Areas.

A question was asked about why this work had not become part of the mainstream delivery of the Council, since the problem was clearly so serious. It was suggested that this case is being made as part of the business planning process in the longer term, yet investment by the Area Council would see delivery take place much sooner and would allow the approach to be tested as part of an Area Council funded pilot.

Thanks were given for the presentation, and it was agreed to discuss this further under minute 57.

RESOLVED that the Head of Community Safety and Enforcement be thanked for the presentation.

50 Presentation from Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance

Neil Spencer and Andy Hodgkinson were welcomed to the meeting to update Members on the work of Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance.

The presentation focused on the work to deliver winter warmer packs to those in fuel poverty. In addition support was given to refer individuals to the One Stop Shop for additional advice regarding benefits, and a 'pop up' session with Barnsley Citizen's Advice Bureau was arranged to support changing fuel suppliers.

The project delivered 500 packs to those in the wards with an income of less than £7,000 per annum, and at least 27 volunteers were engaged as part of the initiative.

Initially data was used the Research and Intelligence Team to identify those, in, or at risk of, fuel poverty, but this had to be enhanced with local intelligence when the available data sources did not provide sufficiently accurate information.

The response from recipients was positive, with many saying they were lonely and appreciated the company. It also allowed volunteers to have a discussion with residents and gather intelligence about the area. It was stressed that the project helped to show that the Council cared about its residents.

Members heard how plans were being developed to undertake a similar initiative this winter, which was likely to be around tackling the social isolation, an issue which was identified by volunteers throughout the project.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That thanks be given for the presentation;
- (ii) That loneliness and isolation in the South Area be an item for discussion on a future agenda.

**51 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 19th February, 2016
(Sac.22.04.2016/3)**

The meeting considered the minutes of the meeting of South Area Council held on 19th February, 2016.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of South Area Council held on 19th February, 2016 be approved as a true and correct record.

**52 Minutes of the Special Meeting of South Area Council held on 24th March, 2016
(Sac.22.04.2016/4)**

The meeting considered the minutes of the meeting of South Area Council held on 24th March, 2016.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of South Area Council held on 24th March, 2016 be approved as a true and correct record.

53 Notes of Ward Alliances (Sac.22.04.2016/5)

The meeting received the notes from the following Ward Alliances:-Hoyland Milton and Rockingham held on 7th March, 2016; Wombwell held on 15th March, 2016; and Darfield Ward Alliance held on 17th March, 2016.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

**54 Report on the Use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds
(Sac.22.04.2016/7)**

Members received the report which provided details of the latest expenditure from the Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds.

It was noted there would be no carry forward of any unallocated Devolved Ward Budget from 2015/16 into the 2016/17 financial year.

Members noted the amounts of Ward Alliance Fund to be carried forward from 2015/16 to be added to the 2016/17 allocation: - Darfield, £ 7,259.62, Hoyland Milton and Rockingham £25,116.05, and Wombwell, £10,453.53

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

55 Performance Report (Sac.22.04.2016/8)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. Attention was drawn to the re-commissioning or extension of existing commissions.

Members noted that the Tidy Team Commission had now been advertised on Yortender, and the tender evaluation panel had been arranged consisting of the Chair, Area Manager, and a representative of Parks Services. It was expected that the new contract would be awarded towards the end of June, 2016, and that there would be no breaks in provision when the current contract finishes on 3rd August.

Members noted that the new contract with Kingdom Security to provide Environmental Enforcement had commenced, and that the One Stop Shop project had been extended to the end of March, 2017. This was to allow for the project to be recommissioned if Area Council funding was available beyond this date.

With regards to the Summer Holiday Internship, it was noted that two contracts were in place. The first contract for the 2015 cohort would run until November, 2016, to enable the provider to maintain contact with the young people until settled in their first destination after leaving school. The second contract had commenced, with C&K Careers already engaged with schools to recruit the 2016 cohort. Feedback was that schools had been more accommodating, recognising the difference the project had made to those who had participated in the first phase.

With regards to the courses for businesses, it was noted that these had now all been held, and the take up rate had only been 18%. Feedback from training providers had suggested that businesses were more likely to engage if drop-in training sessions were held, and it was agreed to take account of this in the future.

Members noted the finance returned to the Area Council from fixed penalty and parking charge notices, with the total income to date being £68,210.

The Area Manager noted that the number of clients that the One Stop Shop had engaged with was now approaching 1500 after a lull around Christmas time. The amount of additional benefit gained due to advice given and amount of debt managed were both now in excess of £1million.

With regards to the Environmental Enforcement contract, Members noted that they would now be working more closely with the Tidy Team to ensure that once an area had been cleaned, littering and dog fouling would be discouraged. To this end, it was suggested that a representative from Kingdom Security be invited to the Tidy Team steering group meetings.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

56 Review of the South Area Council Community Magazine (Sac.22.04.2016/9)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. It was noted that there had been some issues with the delivery of the first issue, but it was hoped that these had now been rectified. Members were encouraged to forward any issues with distribution to the Area Team as soon as possible, in order that they could be rectified.

With regards to content and layout, Members were broadly happy. However, it was suggested that the cover features an image identifiable with the area, and that the

contact details of all Members of the South Area be added to the content, although member photos were not wanted.

Members were asked to submit any photos of community events for the magazine, and were encouraged to take them at future events for this purpose. It was agreed that guidance be sought from Communications regarding any requirements for permission to take photos and use the images.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) The timescales for the second edition of the community magazine #lovebarnsley be noted;
- (ii) That guidance be sought from Communications on the permissions required to take photos and use images.

57 South Area Council Future Commissions (Sac.22.04.2016/10)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item by giving an update on a number of projects funded by the Area Council.

Members noted that the signs 'This area is maintained by volunteers' had been ordered and the placement of them had been discussed at the Tidy Team steering group. It was noted that the signs would be erected by the Tidy Team at the agreed locations over the forthcoming few months.

It was noted that Youth Asset Mapping events had been planned for April and May, with results from the full mapping exercise to be presented to the Area Council in June, 2016.

Members noted that the Health Asset Mapping event would now be held on 16th June, 2016 at the Rockingham Centre.

The meeting heard how discussions with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service & the Integrated Youth Support Service had suggested that a cadet scheme may take up to two years to establish and therefore insufficient time was available to set up the scheme properly within existing Area Council budget timescales. It was noted that support could be given to interested individuals to access provision currently provided in Cudworth.

Members heard that the ARC course would commence on 13th June, 2016, and a suggestion was made to repeat this course in the autumn as an alternative to funding the cadets provision.

Following discussion at the February meeting of the Area Council, costs to deliver a training course on Social Return on Investment for South Area Council and the South Area Team staff, and to perform an analysis of all South Area Council projects had been sought. The figure for this would be £2,975.

The meeting went on to consider a proposal to extend a programme called 'Lifeskills' which was being arranged by Berneslai Homes and the Integrated Youth Support Service. The programme had been developed following consultation with young people and would cover such topics as citizenship, DIY, and how to pay bills. It was noted that Berneslai Homes had committed £2,000 to the project, but that if the Area

Council matched this amount, the project could be expanded and more young people would therefore benefit. It was suggested that the programme be held in venues away from schools in order to increase the likelihood of young people engaging.

Following on from discussions earlier in the meeting, Members discussed private sector housing management and a proposal to use Area Council finance to employ an officer through a service level agreement. This was unanimously supported.

Members noted that, should the projects discussed be supported, approximately £18,000 remained for the 2016/17 financial year.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) The progress of projects under development be noted;
- (ii) That approval be given to hold training events on Social Return on Investment and undertake further analysis of South Area Council, to a value of £2,975,
- (iii) That a further Achieving Respect and Confidence course be held in the autumn at a cost of £5,000;
- (iv) That £2,000 be allocated to provide match funding to hold a 'Lifeskills' programme;
- (v) That an SLA with BMBC Community Safety and Enforcement be entered into to provide a Private Sector Housing Management and Enforcement Service at a cost of £32,000 for a 12 month period.

Chair