

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 17 January 2022
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Noble, Cain, Coates and Danforth (Chair)

Attending Virtually Councillor Gardiner

35 Election of Chair

As Councillor Noble had notified Members that she would be late, a Chair was elected from the floor.

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

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 25th November, 2021 (Dac.17.01.2022/2)

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 November, 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

38 Dearne Area Council Financial Update (Dac.17.01.2022/3)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the item reminding members that the Dearne Area Council had commenced the 2021/22 financial year with a budget of £208,783.34 followed by the receipt of an additional £31,638 from the practical support grant. Members were informed that following the spending commitments made throughout the year a budget of £56,980.34 remained to carry over into the next financial year.

Attention was drawn to the budget for the 2022/23 financial year with the assumption that the Area Council would receive the same allocation, giving a starting total of £256,980.34. Members were reminded that finances had already been committed to a number of services to a cumulative figure of £213,401 leaving £43,579.34 to spend on further priorities in the Dearne area during 2022/23.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

39 Dearne Area Council Commissioning Update (Dac.17.01.2022/4)

The Area Council Manager provided an update on the current position of services funded by the Area Council.

The B: Friend commission was due to end on the 31st July, 2022 and members had agreed at the Area Council meeting held on 15th November, 2021 that social inclusion remained a priority and to go out to tender for a service to meet the needs of those most vulnerable at a cost of £28,000. The specification had been developed and agreed with some minor amendments made to reflect the need to target more men.

Members were asked to review and approve the procurement timeline showing various deadlines in order for the contract to commence 1st July, 2022.

The Housing and Cohesion Officer post was in place until the end of March 2023 with the amendments being made to the service level agreement which had been signed off by the Area Chair, Area Manager and the Group Leader for Housing Management, Regulation and Service Improvement.

Assisting Employment and Skills commission contract had been awarded to Dearne Electronic Community Village for a period of 3 years following a moderation meeting held on 25th November, 2021 with points being scored based on the questions set during the tender process.

The Neighbourhood and Engagement Officer role was in place until the end of March 2024 due to further funding being agreed at the Area Council meeting held on 25th November, 2021.

Members were informed that a workshop would need to be convened to discuss future priorities in relation to the Environment, Education and Volunteer Service, as Twiggs had around 14 months left on their contract.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the report be noted: and
- (ii) that the procurement timeline for the Social Inclusion Service be approved.

40 Notes from the Dearne Ward Alliances (Dac.17.01.2022/5)

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 16th November, 2021 and noted that no meeting of the Dearne South Ward Alliance had taken place due to staff illness.

The Dearne North Ward Alliance received an update from Adam from Twiggs on future projects and work undertaken during 2021. A Covid-19 update was shared with Alliance members along with a list of future events being held over the Christmas period. Members had received a reminder of the new area priorities for 2022 with a view to holding individual member meetings for their input on the action plan.

Ward Alliance members were informed that no new applications had been received for funding.

RESOLVED that notes from the Dearne North Ward Alliance be received.

41 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.17.01.2022/6)

The Area Council Manager provided an update in relation to the Ward Alliance Funds for the 2021/22 financial year.

Dearne North started the financial year with £10,182.92 and had funded 5 projects at a cost of £6,880.00 leaving £3,302.92 to carry forward

Dearne South had an opening balance of £11,317.72, had funded 4 projects at a cost of £5,500 and had £5,817.72 remaining.

RESOLVED that the report on the Ward Alliance Funds and the Performance Reports be noted.

42 Community Listening Report - Craig Taylor (Dac.17.01.2022/7)

Craig Taylor, Stronger Communities Project Officer, was welcomed to the meeting.

Members received an update on the Community Listening exercise which had taken place in order to reengage with Groups that had lost contact or closed down due to the pandemic as well as engaging with the wider public.

In total 234 responses had been collected which were evenly spread over the two Wards with the demographic hitting a wide range of age groups from working age up to 80 years old. However, it was reported that the majority of those taking part were female and minority groups had been underrepresented. Members were informed that the answers had been sorted into categories that aligned with the Ward Alliance and Area Council priorities.

A brief overview was provided of some of the questions and answers given showing the opportunities given to members of the community to talk about their concerns. Particular reference was made around the anti-social behaviour in the community and what could be done to combat that in collaboration with partner agencies.

In conclusion, members heard how people were generally happy with what was happening in the area and that there was a good sense of community spirit and neighbourliness. Community Groups were building back up with support within the wards and green spaces and facilities around the area were valued with a determination to keep things tidy and looking nice.

Members raised concerns and acknowledged that anti-social behaviour in specific areas of the Dearne was alarming and included criminal damage to properties which was regularly being reported to the Police and Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Members were informed that the Police and Crime Commissioner was aware of the issues and had invested £10,000 to help tackle the problem through a variety of resources such as police in the area, more notice boards particularly in Thurnscoe to

tackle the anti-social behaviour and litter picking equipment for distribution to groups in the area.

Members also commented that the perception of some members of the public was that gangs of youths congregating meant they would automatically be causing anti-social behaviour when they were just young people meeting up to socialise.

Members were informed that following the community listening exercise the Area Council Team had worked through the comments to pull together an action plan to tackle some of the issues raised and to show that the community were being listened to.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation and update.

Chair