

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday 24 June 2022
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Markham (Chair), Eastwood, Franklin, Frost, Higginbottom, Lamb, Osborne, Shepherd, Smith, Sumner and White

1 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors Markham and Frost each declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute number 6 due to their involvement with Age UK and Councillor Higginbottom declared a pecuniary interest in minute 6 due to being an employee of Age UK.

2 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 8th April, 2022 (Sac.24.06.2022/2)

The meeting considered the minutes of the South Area Council held on 8th April, 2022.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 8th April, 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.24.06.2022/3)

The meeting received the notes from the following Ward Alliances:- Hoyland Milton and Rockingham held on 25th May, 2022, Darfield held on 17th March and 19th May, 2022 and Wombwell held on 21st March and 16th May, 2022.

It was noted that the Wombwell High Street Jubilee event held on 3rd June had been a success and volunteers were thanked for their attendance and it had been a good demonstration of what could happen when the community came together.

Members were informed of the Darfield Gala due to take place on 26th July, 2022.

The Chair encouraged members to attend 2 future events of the Darfield Gala and Wombwell Picnic in the Park.

Members raised concerns around the hanging baskets containing peat free compost, it was confirmed that they did not and this would be looked into across the Borough for future hanging baskets and for Barnsley to become a peat free area.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

4 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.24.06.2022/4)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, noting the opening balance for each Ward Alliance for the 2022/23 financial year.

Members were informed of a number of applications that had been received through each Alliance and the amounts remaining for distribution were acknowledged

RESOLVED that the report be received

5 Annual Performance Report (Sac.24.06.2022/5)

The Area Council Manager presented members with the annual performance report containing an update of each of the contracted services and how they fit in with each of the Area Council's priorities.

It was reported that the Twiggs South Area Tidy Team's first year had been a difficult transitioning year from the well-established previous provider and it had taken a year to get an infrastructure in place and support for covid recovery. Members noted that it would be gala and events season coming up and to inform Twiggs of any support required prior to the event taking place and afterwards. Examples of a number of projects and regular work that Twiggs had worked on were given. Members praised the work Twiggs had done with regards to installing covid memorial planters.

Age UK Barnsley had achieved all its targets with 315 people receiving support and 23 new volunteers. 63 people had received support regarding fuel poverty which was predicted to rise significantly in the forthcoming months. A key area that had come out of the contract meetings was that an increase in referrals from external sources such as Social Prescribing, GPs and Social Care had been seen. Members recognised that there was a challenge to reach everyone that needed help and support and that they would look into how to be more successful in carrying that out.

The Civil and Environmental Enforcement contract had seen 1014 patrolling hours with 150 targeted operations resulting in 11 fixed penalty notices for dog fouling and 35 for littering. Members noted that 428 parking notices had been issued but that there was an imbalance across the area with the majority issued in Wombwell.

The Private Sector Housing Officer had made 261 initial contacts, 40 properties had been improved and 84 properties had been supported with waste disposal. It was reported that following concerns around the post being temporary which had resulted in a number of people leaving, this had been resolved and the post was now permanent which was deemed a bonus for the project.

Members heard how the Citizen's Advice Bureau Service had provided service to a large number of people and helped with a considerable amount of debt of £99,442. 194 new people had accessed the service with a variety of issues including benefits, tax credits and universal credit. Members were informed that work was underway to identify an alternate venue that could accommodate the service in Darfield for drop-in sessions and discussion were being held with the Darfield Community Centre. The service was also being delivered via drop in sessions in Hoyland Library and Wombwell library.

An update was provided with regards to the Stop Smoking Advisor who continued to hold sessions with people and attend events and pop-up events to promote and drive the service.

Members queried whether enforcement officers had to offer the 5 minutes observation time for illegal and inconsiderate parking which seemed to leave enough time for people to drive off and not be prosecuted. It was therefore queried if it was lawful to have to allow the 5 minutes observation time and if so could there be the option of noting down number plates and sending out a polite reminder of the dangers to elderly, vulnerable and young people with inconsiderate parking.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

6 Age UK Barnsley – ‘Better Together Service’ contract update – Debby Bunn (Sac.24.06.2022/6)

Unfortunately, Debbie Bunn was unable to attend the meeting. Therefore, it was suggested that this item be deferred to a future meeting of the Area Council.

RESOLVED that this item be deferred to a future meeting of the Area Council

7 Children and Young People - Mental Health and Physical Activity - Stuart Rogers - Senior Public Health Officer (Sac.24.06.2022/7)

Stuart Rogers, Public Health Practitioner was welcomed to the meeting and provided members with an overview of physical activity undertaken by young people in the South Area and how to take forward a proposed partnership project approach to tackling the issues set out in the presentation.

Members were informed that around 45% of adults in the Barnsley area were fairly inactive/inactive with 38.4% of those being in the most deprived communities. Physical activity for children and young people averaged around an hour a day split between school and out of school activities but that the vast majority of children did not meet that requirement.

Active in Barnsley 2022-2026 is a collection of partners and officers that collaborate on ways to improve active living in Barnsley as part of everyday life for everyone. Some examples were provided of ideas such as building the school run into the day and walking or cycling to the shops. Members were informed that it had been carried out in other areas of the Borough so there would be a blueprint to take forward to follow those successes. The process involved identifying the need in order to rectify the issues rather than just mask over them and to not just look at young people being inactive but also how to use physical activity in terms of mental wellbeing.

Discussions held with the South Area Team had resulted in the Game Changer Project being proposed which would develop an action plan by looking into understanding problems and issues that sit behind the problems. It would scope providers and provisions in the area to see why things are happening and where the gaps are. It would be a consortium approach of external partners, local members and Officers to develop an action plan and would be externally funded with partner contributions.

Members commented that it would be key to engage with clubs already established such as cricket and football clubs and would be worthwhile trying to involve all the family in various activities.

Members raised concerns around the lack of exercise in schools and academies and whether anything could be done to encourage schools and academies to increase physical exercise in their curriculums. It was reported that work was being undertaken to create an after schools framework, how to use physical activity in schools to improve attendance and how to support Head teachers to make decisions around physical activity.

Concerns were raised around the provisions offered and costs involved as an offer of only football would not engage with all young people. It was reported that football was an example of a project and that a variety of activities would be offered to scope out an appropriate project.

Members queried as to what the exact ask was and it was reported that this was a suggestion of how to take forward a co-ordinated approach in connecting various agencies and to look collectively at what investments would be available, what needs fixing, how to fix it and what steps would need to be taken. Once a plan for approach is completed it would then be reported to a future meeting of the South Area Council.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation.

8 Bulky Rubbish Scheme report - Lucy Raynor - Private Sector Housing officer (Sac.24.06.2022/8)

Lucy Raynor, Private Sector Housing Officer, presented members with proposed recommendations to fund a bulky rubbish scheme.

Members were informed of a proposed bulky waste scheme which would help financially struggling residents in the South Area to dispose of bulky items that were often left on drives or in front gardens creating an eyesore. The scheme would be targeted to residents who were in most need and would be identified by the Private Sector Housing Officer following discussions. The scheme would also create the opportunity to assess residents and potentially sign post to other services if there were further needs identified. It was recognised that the clearing up of bulky items would have an added positive impact on other services such as pest control by removing items before further issues emerged.

Whilst most members thought the scheme positive and would help residents in need, the environment, other services and the potential reduction of illegal waste carriers being used. Some concerns were raised around what guidelines would be used in order to determine who qualified for free waste removal and who would not. It was reported that it would not be means tested but that it would be at the discretion of the Private Sector Housing Officer who would use their experience to assess residents on their individual needs.

Members felt there could be the potential of upsetting residents who felt they should be entitled to free waste removal but had been denied. Members also voiced their concerns as to the potential of undermining all the good work in the Community that

the Private Sector Housing Officer had already done with bringing this scheme in and wished for further clarification on how the decisions would be made.

Members were informed that a similar scheme had been running in the Dearne area for 8 years with success and that there would be more positive outcomes than negatives from the scheme.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that thanks be given for the presentation and the report be noted; and
- (ii) that further information be gathered from the Dearne Area in order for members to make a more informed decision and that it be reported to a future meeting of the South Area Council for decision.

9 Procurement and Financial Update (Sac.24.06.2022/9)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item and referred member to the 2 items for recommendation.

Members were reminded of the Best Bar None presentation provided by Garreth Robinson at the meeting held on 8th April, 2022. A pilot in the Dearne had taken place where 18 licensed venues had been accredited and 2 Members of staff had received training. In total 63 venues had been identified across the South Area and a list would be circulated to members in order to identify any possible missing from the list. Members were made aware of the costs for the Area Council to run this and training of staff members. It was proposed that 3 members of the Team would be trained and a maximum of 20 venues would be targeted in the first year. Areas to target first would be decided in collaboration with members where there was a lack of confidence in the night-time economy to build relationships and build confidence back up or venues where the team work to deliver community events and have an established relationship.

Members were updated on the District Enforcement contract which was due to come to an end 30th June 2022. This was an additional resource procured by the South Area Council to the central borough wide contracted service in order to provide 18.5 hours of parking patrols. It was reported that appointing a Team Leader would be preferable as they would have a wider remit and have the flexibility to carry out parking enforcement and work with businesses.

The options set out in the report were reiterated to members who were minded to approve option 3 for a 9 month period in order to bring this in line with the Borough wide single provider contract and allow the Borough wide contract to be reviewed alongside the additional South Area Council funding at the same time.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the information regarding the Best Bar None Scheme be noted and that the recommendations for funding the scheme to enable the South Area Team to work with Public Health to deliver the scheme in the South be considered;

(ii) that Option A to agree funding to assess up to 20 venues in the South and fund 3 Best Bar None Assessors at a total cost of £1175.56 be agreed;

(iii) that the update on the District Enforcement Ltd contract which ends on 30th June, 2022 and options to purchase in additional resources be noted; and

(iv) that the options set out in 4.8 of the report for purchasing additional resources for parking enforcement be noted and that the preferred Option 3 to buy in a Team leader for 18 hours per week for a period of 9 months at a cost of £17,500 be agreed with a review to be held in line with the first year end date of the Borough wide contract.

Chair