

MEETING:	North East Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 26 November 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Hayward (Chair), Cherryholme, Ennis OBE, Green, Higginbottom, Makinson, McCarthy, Richardson and Wraith MBE

1 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Hayward declared a non-pecuniary interest with respect to Item 9 on the agenda. Councillor Ennis took the Chair for this item and Councillor Hayward left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on 24th September 2020

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on 24th September 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North East Area Council held on 24th September 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 Notes of the Following Ward Alliances with Feedback from each Ward Alliance Chair

The meeting received notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston Ward Alliances held throughout September, October and November. The following updates were noted:-

Cudworth – It was reported that the new Development Officer will be in post from 7th December. Veggie boxes and pumpkin packs went out to people in need and activity packs have gone out to vulnerable families in the area. The pilot programme for toddlers toilet training packs is ongoing. The annual Christmas tree and motifs have been erected. Thanks were expressed to all volunteers for their ongoing support and the fantastic job they do throughout the year.

Monk Bretton – There was a live stream of the service at St Pauls church for Remembrance Sunday. Winter warmer packs are ready to give out. Santa will be turning on the Christmas lights remotely this year.

North East – A number of funding applications have been agreed, including picnic tables at Shafon and spring bulbs. 50 veg boxes have been distributed (including 20 at Grimethorpe), whilst following safe Covid guidelines. Winter warmer packs will be going out soon following advice from health visitors.

Royston – 30 extra DIAL sessions have been funded in addition to the usual weekly sessions. Green space volunteers have continued to meet and there is a new tenant in the Pavilion, which is very good news given the hard work that has been done. Christmas tree lights and new decorations will be switched on tonight. Distribution of Winter Warmer packs and the Christmas toy donation project is underway.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

4 The North East Area Council update about the Young People's initiatives with Ad Astra

Michelle Cooper was welcomed to the meeting and updated Members about the work of Ad Astra with young people across the communities of the North East Area Council. For the Outwood academies, listening support continues to be provided, now with 3 groups of 6/8 students supported by 2 staff. Topics covered include anxiety levels (which have increased exponentially through the lockdown), problems with access to IT/no internet provision; estranged families, with some families breaking down during the pandemic; job losses and financial worries; bereavement and associated guilt. Careers, sexuality, relationships, confidence building, conflict in friendship groups and lack of access to services eg youth clubs have also been covered. Support provided seems to be highly valued by the children, young people and the schools. Of the children who have been involved with Ad Astra, 68% have self harmed; 55% have reported feeling suicidal and 93% report being anxious at the moment. Period poverty has also been addressed, with delivery of health packs which are discreetly packaged so as not to draw attention to what is in the package. A Facebook appeal led to a huge influx of products for the project. An elderly Royston gentleman recently donated £1000 worth of goods, which were delivered to the centre at New Lodge and are now stored safely by Cllr Leech. Cllr Makinson expressed a wish to thank the gentleman personally in her role as Mayor and Royston Councillor. Summer holiday provision has continued in the Royston area and it was reported that over 5 weeks in the summer 149 activity packs were provided (with a different topic each week) along with 170 lunch packs. There was also a socially distanced litter pick in Royston Park, which was well received despite the heavy rain. During the October half-term Halloween activities took place with crafting sessions, packed lunches and a 'Tinky dance session' for preschool children which was very well received by families

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Michelle be thanked for her attendance and the excellent work she has been doing with young people across the area;
- (ii) Liaison take place with the Mayor's Office regarding arranging an official 'thank you' from the Mayor for the gentleman who donated £1000 of goods for the Period Poverty Project;
- (iii) Councillor David Leech be thanked for his help with storage of products, and
- (iv) £2000 of funding be provided by the Area Council for purchase of sanitary products.

5 North East Area Council Project Performance Report - update on the delivery of commissioned projects

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this item, highlighting progress regarding projects aligned to the agreed outcomes and social value objectives of the North East Area Council and drawing attention to a number of projects and case studies, including the work of Age UK, District Enforcement and the Exodus project.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

6 NEAC Financial Position and Procurement Update

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this item, updating Members regarding the commissioning budget and financial analysis for the period to 2020/21. Spend is on target, however some projects which are in the pipeline have been delayed due to the current situation with Covid.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

7 Report on the Use of Area Council Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this item, updating Members regarding the North East Area Council Budget and Ward Alliance Funds. It was reported that all Ward Alliances are flexing projects to meet the needs of the community during the Covid-19 crisis and action plans are being developed.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

8 Staffing Update

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, highlighting that the new Development Officer, Lawrence, starts on 7th December, with virtual meetings involving Councillors hopefully taking place before Christmas. Louise Hunt has also joined the team. Louise is aligned to public health and will work to support local communities with the ongoing Covid situation. A new Performance Monitoring officer is due to start in January and Councillors will be kept up to date with regard to this.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

9 Report of the North East Area Council about the Community Traineeship commission

At this point in the meeting Councillor Ennis took the Chair due to a declaration of non-pecuniary interest from Councillor Hayward in this item. Councillor Hayward removed himself from the meeting and was not involved in any discussions on the subject.

The Area Council Manager outlined the proposed North East Area Council 's specification for the Environmental Education Community Traineeship commission, explaining that the Environmental Steering Group had met to consider the specification for the Trainees, with a view to giving as many young people as possible a chance to get work experience in communities through working with the Environment Team. The first recruits should be in post by the beginning of the next financial year, April 2021. Members were reassured that despite the possible

implications of leaving Europe in 2021, due process will continue until any new legislation is in place.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the North East Area Council approve the specification for the Environmental Education Community Traineeship commission, and
- (ii) that the contract price shall not exceed £223,000 per annum.

10 Report of the North East Area Council about the Environmental Enforcement Commission and Service Level Agreement

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this report, seeking a decision from Councillors regarding continuation of the Environmental Enforcement commission with District Enforcement, and the Service Level Agreement with Barnsley MBC's Enforcement Services contract for a further year, from April 1st, 2021 to the 31st March 2022.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The Environmental Enforcement commission with District Enforcement continue to be funded to run from April 1st, 2021 to the 31st March 2022, at a cost of £65,000 per annum;
- (ii) the Service Level Agreement with Barnsley MBC's Enforcement Services continues to be funded for a further year, from April 1st, 2021 to the 31st March 2022, at a cost of £14,840 per annum, and
- (iii) printed dog bags should be given to dog owners to encourage them to pick up after their dog by the Enforcement Officers at a cost of £1,000.

Chair