

East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership Minutes of the  
Board Meeting  
Wednesday 30 March 2022  
(Virtual Meeting - held via Microsoft Teams)

**Present:** Cllr Chris Varty, Cllr David Brown, Sarah Honeyman, Malcolm Gray, Christine Carter, Stuart Dunn, Mel Carr, George Storey, Tony Cutmore, Cllr Gary Hutchinson, Angela Stobbart

**Officer Attendance:** Jane Bellis – AAP Co-ordinator  
Lyndsey Hunter – Community Development Project Officer  
Marie Ainscough – AAP Support Officer

**Presenters:** Anne Davison – Durham County Council  
Dr Matt Shield - PCN Clinical Director  
Graeme Smith – Durham County Council  
Joy Allen – Durham’s Police and Crime Commissioner  
Louis Hurst – Investing in Children  
Katy Bambridge – Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office

**Forum Members:** 3 forum members attended the meeting

**Apologies:** Allan Blakemore, Shirley Wells, Jayne Gibson

## 1 Introductions and Apologies

In the absence of Allan Blakemore, Cllr Chris Varty chaired the meeting. Everyone was welcomed to the virtual Board Meeting of the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership. A round of introductions followed and everyone was reminded of the Teams meeting etiquette.

Apologies [see above].

The Chair highlighted that although the names of Board and Forum members are not included in the body of the minutes; advice given in relation to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), is that the board minutes are made public, therefore should anyone wish to remain anonymous they were to state this.

Anyone present who had a conflict of interest in any item on the agenda was asked to declare an interest at the start of the agenda item to ensure this was formally recorded in the meeting minutes.

It was noted that a group had been set up to review the Terms of Reference which are included in the Induction Pack for new Board Members. The current

Induction Pack is available for any Board Members who want it, on the understanding that it's subject to review.

A warm welcome was offered to Joy Allen, Durham's Police and Crime Commissioner, Louis Hurst from Investing in Children, Anne Davison and Graeme Smith, Durham County Council colleagues and Dr Matt Shield, Primary Care Network Clinical Director who were all presenting at the meeting.

## 2 [Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 January 2022 & Matters Arising](#)

The Chair reviewed the previous minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy. There were no matters arising.

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

## 3 [Countywide Partner Issues:](#)

### 3.1 [Joy Allen – Police and Crime Plan](#)

Joy Allen, Durham's Police and Crime Commissioner gave a verbal update on the Durham Police and Crime Plan 2021/24.

The Plan can be found here -

[https://global-uploads.webflow.com/5fda6a31bca106741c9e1ee2/61f93828877dbc0b016131a6\\_New%20PCC%20Policing%20Plan%202021-2024%20Final-compressed%20for%20website-compressed.pdf](https://global-uploads.webflow.com/5fda6a31bca106741c9e1ee2/61f93828877dbc0b016131a6_New%20PCC%20Policing%20Plan%202021-2024%20Final-compressed%20for%20website-compressed.pdf)

2000 people had informed the Plan and the top five priorities for residents of County Durham and Darlington were anti-social behaviour followed by drug use and drug dealing, fly tipping, speeding and vandalism.

Joy went on to explain the Fair Funding section of the Plan on pages 36 and 37. She highlighted that on 31 March 2010, Durham Police Force had 1,507 Police Officers compared to 1,099 on 31 March 2020; 408 less Police Officers / a 27.1% change.

The meeting was open for questions/comments –

- Are the fair funding criteria in the public domain? It is important that people are aware of what is happening in our area compared to other areas of the country and what the effects are of the levelling up agenda.
- How are you going to address anti-social behaviour; and do you have funding to tackle the issue? Will any funding be put aside for youth workers?

The Chair suggested that if anyone had any questions; they were asked to post them in the chat function and they would be passed onto Joy.

Joy was thanked for her presentation.

### 3.2 Libraries Consultation

Anne Davison delivered a presentation on Durham's Libraries. Durham County Council want views on what people need from County Durham libraries and want to hear on how library services should be delivered in the future.

For further information and to have your say visit the Durham County Council website

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/25827/Durham-Libraries-For-You-get-involved->

The deadline for comments is 5.00pm on Friday 1 April 2022.

The meeting was open for questions/comments –

- Could Phase 2 include the potential of closing some library sites?
- Is there going to be an opportunity for the libraries to link with other community organisations/groups to avoid duplication of activities?
- Delighted to see craft and storytelling on the agenda.

Anne was thanked for her presentation.

### 3.3 Primary Care Network (PCN) Update

Board members had previously received a copy of the Sedgefield North PCN presentation. Dr Matt Shield talked through some of the key points contained within the presentation.

### 3.4 Community Risk Management Plan Update

Peter Maddison from Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service was not in attendance to provide an update on the 2022/23 CRMP Consultation.

### 3.5 Big Econ-versation Presentation

Graeme Smith delivered a presentation on the Big Econ-versation on issues that matter to them most and which will help shape its Inclusive Economic Strategy.

Residents and businesses can find out more and have their say by visiting [Our Big Econ-versation](#) and completing the econ-versation online survey, emailing [econ-versation@durham.gov.uk](mailto:econ-versation@durham.gov.uk) or calling 03000 26 0000.

The deadline for views and comments is 5.00pm on Friday 22 April.

The meeting was open for questions/comments –

- How successful do you think the views from people are and how realistic is your aim to fill the gap?

#### 4 Priority Updates (from Task Group and Projects)

##### 4.1 COVID-19 Recovery Project Summaries – agreement of Task Group recommendations. *(Task Group held 17<sup>th</sup> March)*

Board Members had previously received the project summaries which were discussed in detail at the Covid-19 Task Group meeting held on 17 March 2022.

The task group recommended that five of the six applications received be brought to the Board for wider consideration.

*[Tony Cutmore and Stuart Dunn declared an interest]*

1. Trimdon Village Hall – Trimdon Village Hall COVID Recovery Scheme
2. Active Life Centre, Coxhoe – Entrance and Gym Improvements
3. Fishburn Bowling Club – Fishburn Bowls Club Premises Re-development
4. Cornforth Partnership – Youth Links
5. Sedgfield Primary School PTFA – Mental Health and Wellbeing Project

The Board was happy to support all five projects.

For information the project that the task group did not recommend be brought to the Board was from Rose Cottage CIC for an Evolve Employability Project. Task group members felt that they needed to have sight of satisfactory monitoring from the last project they were funded for prior to allocating anymore. Jane and Lyndsey had visited Rose Cottage to explain this to the applicant and offer some advice and support for going forward.

With these projects agreed, and subject to technical appraisal, there is £53,269.86 Area Budget remaining.

With the £210,000 Towns and Villages Fund allocation, a total of £263,269.86 is left to allocate.

##### 4.2 Easter Holiday Activities with Healthy Food and Christmas Video – agreement of recommendations from Panel meeting which was held on 9th March

Board Members had previously received the project summaries which were discussed in detail at the panel meeting. Panel members recommended that 4 of the 5 applications be brought to the Board for agreement.

- **Fishburn Youth and Community Centre** – Fun and Food Easter Holidays 2022
- **Trimdon Grange Community Association** – Easter Fun and Outdoor Orienteering

- **DJ Evans Youth Club, Bowburn Youth Project** – Easter Half Term 2022
- **Deaf Hill Ward Regeneration Partnership** – Easter Fun)

The Board was happy to support the HAWHF projects for Easter 2022.

For information the panel recommended that an application from Rose Cottage CIC not be progressed for the same reasons as the Area Budget application (see 4.1 above).

A meeting of the Towns and Villages Fund Task Group is being arranged as we are expecting an application for Cassop Play Park matched with Section 106. We continue to work with colleagues in other departments to ensure projects, or elements of projects currently in the pipeline are not already being picked up, or that there are other pots of funding available.

Board members will be updated on progress in due course.

#### 4.3 [Investing in Children \(IiC\) Online Safety Animation Project Update](#)

Louis Hurst from Investing in Children provided an update on the Online Safety Animation project and a video was shared.

#### 4.4 [Supportive Social Car Scheme Project Update](#)

Jack Ball was unable to attend the meeting and had submitted his apologies; but we will endeavour to arrange for him to update at a future meeting.

### 5 [Co-ordinators Report including Quarterly Performance Management](#)

There is still a vacancy for a public representative on the Board. The AAP team had advertised it via their usual routes and Board members were asked if they could continue to get the message out in the community. Jane said that she was considering drafting a press release and if Communications and Marketing will allow it, a quote from a willing Public Representative speaking about their experience of being a Board Member would be included.

At a previous meeting, the Board had discussed the Durham Savers project which the AAP had funded a few years ago; it was delayed due to Covid, then pulled by the applicant. The AAP team had met with Tony at The Cornforth Partnership and Annette who works across the Trimdons and a revised project is expected soon.

The priority vote is now closed. We received 191 responses, which was the fifth highest across the County and only a few votes off fourth place. Looking at the breakdown, there was a good split of returns across the main settlements within the AAP area. Over 80% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the priorities should remain the same, and 91.4% did not think that any further priorities needed including.

## Quarterly Monitoring

With regards to quarterly monitoring of Area Budget projects the AAP had funded, we will continue to invite project leads to future meetings to showcase their project.

### 6 Local Neighbourhood Issues (LNI)

#### 6.1 Locality Policing Issues

Neighbourhood Insp Sarah Honeyman provided an update on local policing issues.

- There had been thefts of motorcycles in the Trimdon(s)
- The main issue re anti-social behaviour had been around the community hall in Trimdon Village
- There had been some dwelling burglaries in Sedgfield
- Off road bikes – Peterlee and Darlington had run a trial where the Police do not have to issue warnings anymore before they cease the bikes. Section 59 notices are put up and these warnings give the Police to power to take the bikes away.

Sarah was asked –

- What is the plan to tackle anti-social behaviour in Trimdon Village?
- Can we do a Crimestoppers Campaign?
- Have you considered using drones?
- Emma McLoughlin mentioned the Fearless Project which is to be rolled out shortly.

### 7 Neighbourhood Budget Projects

The following Neighbourhood Budget projects were shared with the board -

**Name of Scheme:** Trimdon Colliery Recreation Ground Fencing

**Councillor(s):** Varty / Hovvels / Miller

**Interest Declared:** No

**Amount:** £4,926 (inc. £1,000 contingency – no match - £1,642 each Cllr)

**Name of Scheme:** Trimdon Community College Association Perimeter Fencing

**Councillor(s):** Varty / Hovvels / Miller

**Interest Declared:** No

**Amount:** £3,495.00 (Total project cost £7,156 - match £3,661 - £1,165 per Cllr)

**Name of Scheme:** DIDO – Days in Days Out

**Councillor(s):** Lines / Brown

**Interest Declared:** No

**Amount:** £1,500.00 (Total project cost £1,650 – match £150 - £750 per Cllr)

**Name of Scheme:** Community Activities

**Councillor(s):** Lines / Brown

**Interest Declared:** No

**Amount:** £2,000.00 (no match - £1,000 each Cllr)

**Name of Scheme:** St. Helen's Church Nave North Roof

**Councillor(s):** Hutchinson / Blakey

**Interest Declared:** No

**Amount:** £4,000 (£2,000 each) Match funding: £26,000 Total Project Cost: £30,000

The Board was happy to approve the projects.

## 8 [Date and time of next board meeting](#)

The next board meeting is to be arranged. Board Members were asked their thoughts on Board meetings and the timing of them now that we were back to some normality after Covid restrictions had been eased and if they preferred Teams meetings and/or face to face meetings.

Some Board members said they would like to get out to meeting people face-to-face and liked the idea of rotating meetings on a morning then night-time.

Jane explained that the AAPs did have some hybrid equipment; but this was only good for small group meetings.

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.