



Minutes of the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership Board Meeting

Thursday 24 March 2022

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present

Partner Representative

Andy Palmer (AP) – Durham County Council
David McCreedy (DM) – Voluntary Sector Representative
Insp Peter Lonsdale (PL) - Durham Constabulary
Rachel Edmunds (RE) – Believe Housing – Chair
Steven Robson (SR) – Business Representative

Public Representative

Peter Quinn (PQ)
Andrew Coxon (AC)
Bernadette Crooks (BC)

Elected Members

Cllr Samantha Townsend (ST) – Elected Member
Cllr Shirley Quinn (SQ) – Elected Member – Vice Chair
Cllr Charlie Kay (CK) – Elected Member
Cllr Andrew Jackson (AJ) – Elected Member

Officers

Andrew Walker (APW) - AAP Co-ordinator
Sheilah Metcalfe (SM) - AAP Community Development Project Officer
Claire Craft (CC) - AAP Community Development Project Officer
Emma Walton (EW) - AAP Support Officer
Peter Henderson (PH) - CDPO Towns and Villages Team - Durham County Council

Apologies

Cllr Cathy Hunt (CH) – Elected Member

Cllr Joanne Howey (JH) – Elected Member

Tony Bird (TB) – Vice Chair

Philippa May (PM)

Colin Davis (CD) - County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

Tommy Taylor (TT)

Public / Other Attendees – 1

A1. Introduction and apologies

Introductions and apologies were made.

Please see page 1 & 2 for attendees and apologies.

RE explained the protocol for Microsoft Teams Meetings this included:

- Attendees will be invited to speak by the Chair.
- All participants should mute their microphone if they are not speaking.
- Forum members were asked to turn their cameras off unless invited to speak by the Chair.
- If attendees would like to speak this should be done by using the raise hand function or alternatively the chat function. Board members will be invited to speak first followed by members of the forum, where appropriate.
- When finished speaking lower your hand and remute your microphone

RE also welcomed and introduced Graeme Smith, Regeneration Policy Team Leader – Durham County Council.

RE informed the Board that due to an election in West Auckland we are currently in a pre-election period. APW reminded Board members that the meeting can proceed with business as usual however the meeting must not be used as a publicity platform for any candidate and should focus only on the business of the agenda.

A2. Agreement of minutes and matters arising from previous meeting held 17 February 2022

The Board agreed the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

A3. Declaring an Interest

Cllr Charlie Kay declared an interest in the Binchester Community Association project to refurbish the washroom.

David McCreedy declared an interest in the Auckland Youth and Community Centre project to build a disability ramp at AYCC.

A4. Local Neighbourhood Issues

➤ Durham County Council - Economic Strategy

Board members received a presentation from Graeme Smith (GS), Regeneration Policy Team Leader – Durham County Council on the Economic Strategy.

GS gave an overview of the inclusive economic strategy, the 3-stage development process, the proposed framework and the timescales for delivery. The adoption of the strategy will take place in late 2022.

Board and Forum members were encouraged to submit their comments and promote the consultation through their networks. Further details in relation to the 'Our Big Eco-nversation' is available via the website: www.durhamecon-versation.co.uk. The deadline for comments is the 22 April 2022.

ACTION – BASH AAP team to circulate information on the Economic Strategy consultation to the Board.

The Board were asked to comment on the following:

- What economic issues should the strategy tackle?
- What economic opportunities should the strategy focus on?
- What should our investment priorities be?
- How can you help us promote the econ-versation?

The Board made the following comments:

CK asked if there is support available for individuals or to boost employment in the area? GS stated that there are opportunities to attract businesses, entrepreneurs and job creation. In addition, relevant training opportunities will be available for individuals.

ST stated that a thriving high street is key in supporting small businesses. Small businesses need support to flourish to boost the local economy.

SR commented that micro businesses, have traditionally, been hard to support however provide a huge economic impact. SR highlighted the importance of social enterprise and the support that they require to improve and become sustainable. SR encouraged this support to be included in the strategy. This was echoed by AC.

AC highlighted the importance of linking young people into small businesses. This would provide young people with the opportunity to learn valuable skills, and experience that would increase their knowledge. AC stated that transport is also an issue. GS stated that transport is an ongoing issue and welcomed any specific issues within the local area.

SQ reported that many services, such as the fire service and the police, are unable to recruit and asked how the strategy can support this? GS stated that the strategy would need to identify the skills gap and align colleges etc to provide the relevant skills to match the key sectors across the County.

RE stated that due to technological advances to tackle climate change there maybe a potential skills gap. GS accepted this as an area of development.

APW highlighted information on the Economic Strategy consultation will be promoted through the BASH AAP networks.

APW asked if the consultation been promoted with the Chambers of Trade, business networks and town and parish councils. GM stated he has visited AAP'S, business networks, large and smaller parish councils, business parks and communities however is happy to visit any local organisations or arrange for a facilitator pack to be sent.

A copy of the presentation is available by contacting a member of the BASH AAP Team on bishopshildonaap@durham.gov.uk or 03000 268663.

RE thanked GS for the presentation.

A5. Priorities and Action Plans

➤ Area Budget - Community / COVID 19 Recovery

APW reminded the Board that at the November Board meeting they agreed to approve £244,237 Area Budget funding to 11 projects. Due to the reconciliation of underspend from 2 projects from a previous year there is a remaining balance of £22,501 for any emerging projects. This balance will be carried forward and added to the 2022/23 Area Budget. Funding for 2022/23 will be confirmed at the BASH AGM.

APW reported that the AAP priority survey is now closed. There have been over 100 responses to the survey. BASH AAP will report the findings of the survey and the feedback will help BASH decide which priorities the AAP will concentrate its efforts on for the coming year.

➤ **Town and Village Revitalisation**

APW reminded the Board that BASH AAP has an additional £210,000 funding to address the priority of Towns and Villages over 3 years.

The Towns and Village Revitalisation task group has met for the fifth time. The group are now working on several potential project proposals that will take place across the whole of the BASH AAP area. 3 applications have been submitted from King James Academy, Durham County Council and West Auckland Parish Council. The applications will be presented to the funding panel and will then be presented to the Board for approval. APW highlighted a funding panel will be arranged in late April to assess and consider the applications. The recommendations will then be presented at the May Board meeting.

APW stated that in addition elected members have also received an additional £10,000 each to address Town and Villages Revitalisation. Elected Members are also working on allocating their NB T & V funding. To date one application has been approved at the Board, with one application being presented at tonight's meeting.

If any Board members not already involved would like to attend the funding panel, they should inform a member of the BASH team.

➤ **Holiday Activities with Healthy Food**

APW reminded the Board that funding from Public Health was secured to deliver holiday activities with healthy food over the February Half term 2022. Following a call for projects 6 applications were received totalling £13,377.97. Each application was assessed and considered by the funding panel who agreed to support the following projects:

- King James 1 Academy – Multi sports fun with food project
- St Andrews Primary School - February Half Term Holiday Club with Food
- ATOMS Education CIC - Play to Learn
- AYCC- AYCC February 2022 - Half Term Project
- 1st St Helens Auckland Brownies - February Half Term fun afternoon

- GRTS and Community Cohesion Team, Safer Communities, Durham County Council - Winter Walk, Arts and Craft activity – Fun and Food Session

DM gave a brief overview of the delivery of holiday activities over the February Holiday period at AYCC.

APW highlighted Durham County Council has secured additional funding from the Department for Education to continue to deliver holiday activities with healthy food in 2022. BASH AAP has been allocated £83,513. The funding available is to be allocated in 2022 and is for the Easter, Summer and Christmas holiday periods. This funding can not be used for half terms.

The first round of funding was for the Easter Holidays. Following a call for projects 5 applications were received totalling £12,541. Each application was assessed and considered by the funding panel who agreed to support the following projects:

- 1st St Helens Auckland Brownies – Easter Fun Day
- ATOMS Education CIC - An Easter Extravaganza
- AYCC – AYCC Easter Holidays Project
- Shildon Town Council – Easter Family Activities Club
- Shildon Alive – Easter Activities with Food

APW reported that 1 application was ineligible. The AAP are working with the group, and a revised application maybe submitted in the Summer.

An update on the HAHF projects supported throughout the year will be provided at the AGM.

The next round of funding will be for the Summer Holidays. This funding will be launched next week.

➤ **Neighbourhood Budget**

The Board received the following Neighbourhood Budget applications for information and comment, with one application requiring Board approval. Each project is subject to a full application and satisfactory project appraisal.

- **Binchester Community Association - Washroom Refurbishment Binchester Community Centre**
NB Contribution – £9,339 (Cllr Kay)
Match Funding - £8,000
Total Cost - £17,339

Cllr Charlie Kay has a declaration of interest with this project and as such this project requires Board approval.

There were no comments from the Board.

The Board received the application and **APPROVED** a recommendation of approval for the Neighbourhood Budget allocation of £9,339.

- **Auckland Youth and Community Centre (AYCC) - AYCC Disability Ramp Project**
NB Contribution – £12,500 (Cllrs Howey and Hunt - £6,250 each)
Match Funding - £6,000
Total Cost - £18,500

There were no comments from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

A6. Coordinators Update

➤ **F & P Scotto Trust**

APW reported that work continues to take place with the Scotto Charitable Trust. The next visit will hopefully take place in April 2022. The team are currently working on identifying projects to present to the Trust.

Project ideas were welcomed, by early next week, however APW suggested an initial conversation with a member of the BASH AAP team.

➤ **BASH AGM**

APW proposed the BASH AGM be held as a face-to-face meeting. The Civic Hall, Shildon has been provisionally booked and asked if board members were happy with this. The proposal was well received by the Board. The Board **AGREED** for the AGM / Board meeting to be held face to face.

As a result, the BASH AGM will take place on 12 May 2022, 4pm at the Civic Hall, Shildon. At the AGM a presentation will be delivered to the Board regarding the work of the AAP over the past year and will highlight the future challenges going forward. In addition, projects will be invited to provide an update on the funding received from BASH AAP.

APW reminded the Board that the Chair and Vice Chairs for BASH AAP will be elected for 2022/23 at the AGM. It is the turn of the Public

Representative to take the Chair for this year. APW explained the process and encouraged Board members to consider the roles of Chair and Vice Chair. An email will be circulated to the Board in due course.

RE was happy to speak with any Board members that were considering the role.

ACTION - APW asked that any members of the Board interested in the role of Chair / Vice Chair are to contact a member of the AAP team.

➤ **Proposed Review of Community Engagement**

The Proposed Review of Community Engagement report has been circulated to the Board. APW gave a brief overview of the review. The review will cover the AAP roles, funding, remit, governance and geography etc. External independent consultants will be appointed. APW advised that he had offered to invite the appointed consultants to a Board meeting. This was welcomed and supported by Board.

The review is scheduled to start in April / May with the initial findings expected in Autumn 2022.

SQ commented positively on the work of the AAP and the support available to the community. SQ congratulated the work of the BASH AAP team.

SR stated that AAP's are the key locality link between the community and the council.

A7. Countywide Partner Issues

➤ **Police / PACT Update**

Insp Peter Lonsdale gave an update on the main priority issues for the BASH area.

- The police are currently going through a restructure. It is hoped that new PC's will be in place by April 2022. There will also be 3 new PCSO's covering the Eldon and Coundon area.
- The main focus has been mental health and problematic families. These issues create a huge demand on Police time.
- Off road biking continues to be an issue. This is a countywide issue.
- PACT meetings have resumed with Facebook PACT meetings continuing online. The option of Cyber PACT meetings is also being explored.

- PL is working with the AAP to purchase 2 electric bikes.
- The ANPR coverage in the BASH AAP area is very poor. Initial conversations to purchase ANPR cameras are taking place with BASH AAP.
- A partnership meeting to assist the relationship between the police and local councillors is being explored. SQ reported that she meets with Insp Sarah Honeymoon every 6 weeks and welcomed the partnership meeting. This was also echoed by AJ.

A8. Date / Time / Venue for next Board Meeting

RE thanked Board and Forum members for attending the meeting.

Board / AGM - **Thursday 12 May 2022, 4pm, Civic Hall, Shildon.**