



4 Together Partnership Minutes of the Board Meeting Wednesday 2 March 2022, (Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams)

PRESENT:

Mark Booth – Health Representative, Nigel Jones – Voluntary & Community Sector Representative, Mary Readman – DCC Head of Transactional Services, Insp Mike Sammut – Police Representative, Angela Smurthwaite – Livin Housing, Carole Atkinson, Liam Fellows, Susan Kirby, Oliver Peeke, Dennis Ramsey (Vice Chair), Andrew Shaw, Cllr Peter Atkinson – DCC, Cllr Curtis Bihari – DCC, Cllr Julie Cairns – DCC (Chair), Cllr Elaine Peeke – DCC, Cllr Joe Quinn – DCC, Callum Aitchison – Principal Community Development Project Officer, Paula Nixon – Community Development Project Officer, Paula Stockport – AAP Support Officer, Anne Davison – DCC Culture, Sport & Tourism, Glenn Martin – DCC Regeneration, Economy & Growth

APOLOGIES:

Lee Copeland, Cllr Joe Makepeace, Justin Parry, David Stothard

OBSERVERS:

Ms E Bruce

Standard Board Meeting

A1. Introductions & Apologies

Cllr JC welcomed everyone to the meeting of the 4 Together Partnership Board. New members were welcomed to their first meeting; Public Representatives Andrew Shaw and Oliver Peeke, and new County Councillor Curtis Bihari. A brief round of introductions was given.

Apologies for absence were noted, as above.

A2. Agreement of Minutes from Previous Meeting (5.1.22) - Matters Arising

CAi reviewed the previous minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy. The following points were noted:

- In relation to Action 2, DR had requested that local bus services be kept on the agenda for future meetings. DR commented that the No 56 service had recently returned from hourly to half-hourly. Cllr EP clarified that the next Local Bus Board meeting is scheduled for March, and she will provide feedback to the Board as appropriate.
- In relation to Action 4, MB confirmed he had looked into Cllr Crathorne's previous suggestion around making better use of links with AAPs, Town & Parish Councils etc to help promote the use of pharmacy services. MB clarified that the Local Pharmaceutical Committee have just been rebranded to Community Pharmacy County Durham, and MB suggested that he could make

contact to help establish a link with the AAP, and perhaps request a presentation at a future Board meeting if this is something Board members would be interested in. Board members were in agreement that a presentation would be helpful, and MB will liaise with LC/CAi to arrange (**Action 1: MB/CAi**).

There were no further matters arising, and the minutes were **AGREED** as a true record.

A3. Countywide Partner Issues

A3.1 DCC – Libraries for You (Anne Davison)

Board members received a presentation in relation to the Council's current library services consultation, which is seeking views to help make sure that library provision meets the future needs of our communities. AD set out the background to the consultation, and the proposed timeline.

Questions were invited from Board members and the following points were noted:

- Cllr PA commented that he sees the library in Ferryhill as absolutely vital and, as a regular visitor himself, is keen to see it thrive. Cllr PA added that he is currently looking into a possible project for children's activities at the library using his Neighbourhood Budget. He sees the library as a fantastic resource, which needs better promotion.
- MR asked whether the views of children and young people will be gathered as part of the consultation process, as well as those residents at the older end of the spectrum who may not have access to online services. AD clarified that extensive work has taken place to engage with children and young people, including working with the Youth Council. There has also been engagement with services such as Durham Carers, Age UK, County Durham Partnership etc to help promote the consultation across a range of outlets. Focus groups are also taking place over the next few weeks, where people can attend in person to hear more about the consultation.
- Cllr JC asked whether library usage in Co Durham is comparable to other areas. AD clarified that the figures for Co Durham are broadly in line with other areas, although there are certain pockets of more 'natural' reading communities than others.
- Cllr JC commented she has received enquiries from members of the community in relation to the consultation asking whether this is ultimately being used to look at potential future closures. AD clarified that the aim of the consultation is to find out what people want and will use from their library service rather than being about physical buildings.
- Cllr JQ commented that he sees a place for use of technology to complement what libraries can offer and to encourage increased usage, and this should be used as an advantage.

All Board members were encouraged to take part in the consultation; further information is available via: [Durham Libraries for You](#) The closing date for responses to the Phase 1 consultation is 5.00pm on Friday 1 April 2022. AD confirmed that hard copies of the survey are available on request. CAi confirmed that a copy of the presentation slides will be circulated with the minutes.

Cllr JC thanked AD for her presentation, and AD left the meeting.

A3.2 DCC Economic Strategy Update (Glenn Martin)

Board members received a presentation in relation to the Council's current 'Big E-Conversation' consultation. The economy means different things to different people, it influences how much money we take home, the opportunities available to our children, the kinds of jobs that are out there and whether our businesses can recruit the right people with the right skills. The economic strategy will:

- Balance economic growth with the need to reduce carbon emissions and improve socio-economic sustainability
- Define priorities for growth and recovery from Covid-19
- Enhance and create opportunities across the county
- Align with the County Durham Vision 2035, which sets the ambition of generating more and better jobs across the county

A brief Q&A took place, and the following points were noted:

- Cllr PA commented that he is extremely concerned about the cost-of-living crisis facing many people, which could result in changes to peoples' responses. The consultation will need to be flexible also to reflect the fast-moving nature of our economy. GM clarified that the initial phase of the consultation process will be to produce a draft strategy and action plans, and there will be plenty of opportunities to re-engage throughout the process. Ultimately, this will need to be a 10-20 year strategy.
- MR commented that this consultation should be used as an opportunity to get younger people talking, they are ultimately fundamental to the future of Co Durham. GM confirmed that contact has been established with the Youth Council as part of the consultation.
- Cllr JC commented there can be a lack of interest from members of the public around consultations if they have no background information, and a feeling of 'what has this got to do with me?'. Cllr JC suggested that better use could perhaps be made of the AAPs and Cllrs in particular to help support public engagement around consultations of this nature. GM clarified that a member of the Economic Strategy team would be happy to attend any local focus group/community network meetings if needed to talk in more detail about the consultation.
- CA suggested that hard copies of the survey should be more widely available, as well as posters/leaflets etc as not everyone has online access. This could potentially mean a large section of the local demographic is excluded from giving their views. GM confirmed that hard copies of the survey, posters etc are available and can be provided as needed.

All Board members were encouraged to take part in the consultation; further information is available via: [Our Big E-Conversation](#) The closing date for responses is 22 April 2022.

Cllr JC thanked GM for his presentation, and GM left the meeting.

A4. Neighbourhood Issues

A4.1 Neighbourhood Policing Update

Insp MS updated Board members in relation to recent work that has taken place to help with antisocial behaviour issues in both Ferryhill and Chilton, including Dispersal Orders, which have proved successful. A number of young people have been issued with orders and the situation will be monitored going forward. Insp MS reiterated that the Police and partners are doing what they can in relation to

ASB, but that this is a long-term issue with no easy resolution. Insp MS feels it could be beneficial to potentially have a rep from DCC's ASB Team to attend a future Board meeting to give an update.

Insp MS commented there have been a number of good crime results recently, and urged everyone to help promote the importance of continuing to report incidents to the Police. This helps to support with allocation of resources.

Cllr JQ commended the Police on their recent efforts, particularly the Dispersal Order, which helps 'send a message' to those involved that action will be taken. Cllr JC echoed this thanks to the Police, which has been appreciated by the residents of Chilton as well.

A5. Area & Neighbourhood Budget Update

A5.1 2021-22 Area Budget Funding Update

PN briefly updated Board members in relation to the recent Area Budget callout. There were 12 x eligible project applications submitted, with a total funding request of £129,721 for the £100k we have available. PN clarified that an email will be circulated later this week to those Board members with no Declarations of Interest in the projects to be ranked, to look at progressing with the ranking process as soon as possible.

A5.2 2021-22 Neighbourhood Budget Funding Update

CAi briefly updated Board members in relation to NB spend to date for Elected Members and their current balances, for information. CAi clarified that Cllrs will be receiving their new NB allocations in April.

A5.3 Holiday Activities with Healthy Food/Fun & Food Funding Update

CAi briefly updated Board members in relation to the Christmas round of funding.

CAi advised that the Easter round of funding recently closed for applications. We received 1 x Expression of Interest which will be sent to the Fun & Food project lead for review. Any future monitoring information will be shared with Board members after collation by the Fun & Food team.

A5.4 Towns & Villages Funding Update

CAi updated Board members in relation to the recent Towns & Villages subgroup meeting which was held on 9 February. Various options were discussed in relation to allocation of the £210k T&V funding. The subgroup felt that the best approach would be to ensure that all organisations across our AAP area have an opportunity to express an interest in the funding, with a view to potential project ideas being presented to the subgroup for further consideration and discussion. All projects must be from eligible organisations, based on an identified need and in line with the T&Vs funding criteria. CAi clarified that LC and AB could look at the finer details of the process with a view to getting underway as soon as possible. Board members were in agreement with this approach. CAi confirmed that Board members will be kept updated in relation to this funding in due course.

AB reminded Cllrs they have their additional £10k Neighbourhood Budget allocation for Towns & Villages schemes, and AB will be happy to work with Cllrs on any potential ideas.

A5.5 2022-23 Board Meeting Dates

CAi confirmed that a list of the 2022-23 Board meeting dates had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers, to note for information. DR asked whether there are any plans for a resumption of face-to-face Board meetings. CAi clarified that arrangements for possible hybrid-style meetings are currently being considered and Board members will be kept updated.

**A6. Date & Time of Next Meeting (AGM):
Wed 4 May 2022, 6.00pm (venue tbc)**

Cllr JC thanked everyone for their attendance, and the meeting was closed.