

**East Durham Area Action Partnership Board Meeting
6pm on Wednesday 14th December 2022 at The Glebe Centre, Murton**

PRESENT:

Partner Organisations

Graham Easterlow (GE) (Chair)
Chris Williams (CW)
Sgt Terry Hill (TH)
Ian Porter (IP)
Jim Murray (JM)

Elected Members

Cllr Angela Surtees (AS)
Cllr Julie Griffiths (JG)
Cllr Ivan Cochrane (IC)
Cllr Jake Miller (JMiller)

Public Representatives

David Blackwell (DB)
Danny Dickinson (DD)
Edna Connor (EC)

Officer Attendance:

John Murphy (JMurphy) – AAP Coordinator
Laura Towers (LT) – AAP Support Officer
Kaye Stephenson (KS) – Community Development/Project Officer
Peter Henderson (PH) – Towns & Villages Community Development/Project Officer

Presenters:

Jackie Stallard (JS), Business & Development Marketing Officer, NE First Credit Union

Public Attendance:

One member of the public was in attendance.

Apologies:

Cllr Leanne Kennedy, Cllr Stacey Deinali, Insp Joanne Eales, Insp Phil Carter, Susan Robinson, Joanne Angus, Rona Hardy, Gill Rodgers, Alison Paterson, Amanda Moon

1. Introductions & Apologies

JM ran through housekeeping and health and safety.

GE welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made.

Apologies were noted, as above.

JMurphy asked the Board whether it could be agreed for Edna Connor (Board Co-optee) to be moved as a Public Representative due to Jim Shand's absence. This was agreed by the Board.

2. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising

It was noted that GE's apologies had been missed from the previous minutes. LT to amend.

The correct Cllrs for the Santa's Wish project noted in the previous minutes are Cllrs Cochrane, Hawley & Howarth. LT to amend.

The minutes of the previous Board Meeting on 9th November 2022 were then accepted by the Board as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

JMurphy updated that £7,500 has now been received for the Utility Support Grants, with a minimum of £500 and maximum of £750 for each grant. The closing date for applications is 16th December 2022.

3. Police & Fire Reports

Seaham & Easington – Sgt Terry Hill

PCSOs from Easington will be delivering selection boxes. Local businesses have contributed to this.

Online safety talks have been delivered at South Hetton Primary School on topics such as cyber security.

Target hardening is planned for South Hetton pit heaps and Jade Business Park to prevent off-road bikes.

A local criminal was arrested in the Murton area in relation to burglaries.

Peterlee – Sgt Terry Hill

It has been very busy but proactive period.

Safer Streets 4 is underway and a Coordinator has been appointed. This will look at ASB and burglaries.

A stop resulted in a find of 1 kilo of pure cocaine.

A number of stolen vehicles have been retrieved from a garage.

The Community Action Team (CAT) are currently in Wheatley Hill for 6-7 weeks. Some good engagement work is taking place.

Shoplifting patrols are taking place. Shop Watch is being reinvigorated.

There has been a big push on Christmas gifts. There has been a positive impact from the supermarkets on this.

Overall, a busy month.

GE noted some figures from the ASB Strategy Group of the Safe Durham Partnership. In relation to the ASB figures for the last two years, there has been a decrease in environmental crime. Across the county, there has been a 4.5% decrease in ASB. GE will ask if the dashboards of statistics can be shared. The Board were asked to contact LT if they would like this information.

TH noted that himself and Insp Carter had taken the lead on ASB. Going forward, we should see more of victim package that coincides with crime. Hopefully there will be a bigger decrease next year.

Fire Report – Chris Williams

There has been a reduction in deliberate fires in the last few months.

The CAT Team's work is useful.

A water safety campaign will take place on frozen water.

The Fire Brigades Union are balloting on industrial action. The outcome of this will be available in January.

GE noted that it is good to get something out on frozen water at the current time.

JMurphy highlighted some underwater equipment which was available in Durham City. Is this available in East Durham? CW advised that there is water specialist resource based in Bishop Auckland.

GE thanked TH and CW for the reports.

4. Presentation – NE First Credit Union – Jackie Stallard, Business & Development Marketing Officer

JS delivered a presentation providing an overview of NE First Credit Union and its services.

NE First Credit Union has been operating for over 20 years and takes a distinct community approach. It is a not-for-profit organisation and provides savings and loan accounts. Their aim is to put members in control of their own finances while promoting social responsibility and providing access to affordable finance as an ethical and patient lender.

NE Credit Union currently has £6m as savings and £2m on loans, working with 45 companies and organisations to provide payroll deductions while also trying to promote health and wellbeing in organisations. There are over 10,000 adult members and 2,000 youngster account holders. Between July and September 2022, there were 526 new members from Durham, including 141 from East Durham. NE First Credit Union is looking to develop links and signposting and is keen to share ideas and best practice.

NE First Credit Union covers the whole of the North East. Anyone, including family members, who live in the North East, are eligible to join. There are no hidden charges and fees and this includes free life insurance. There are branches in Stanley and Gateshead and Volunteer Service Points across the whole of the North East. A mobile app is also available.

During the cost of living crisis, there has been an increase in low value loans and an increase in applications to assist with living expenses and household bills.

JS is looking at business development, including collection points eg Heart on the Terrace, Illegal Money Lending Team partnerships, visibility at various community centres, including The Glebe Centre, Eastlea, The Lisa Dixon Centre & Dawdon YCC. Horden is also being looked at. The hope is to increase opportunities to reach residents and support financial education whilst also raising the profile of NE First Credit Union. JS also highlighted some bus shelter adverts in Peterlee.

EC noted that she is the Horden YCC facilitator. JS/EC to pick this up after meeting.

AS, as a Trustee of NE First Credit Union, reiterated that it is an ethical lender with a high responsibility not to lend to those who might put themselves in a worse position. It is about working with partners to signpost people. There is national confidence in NE First. AS also highlighted that a lot of funders look for bank accounts with two signatories and NE First can offer a corporate account for £5 a year.

DB asked how the Credit Union links into a cashless society. Are people disadvantaged if they have to pay by cash? JS advised that they try to have collection points and branches to have that type of access. It is also about looking at which partnership to signpost people to.

DD asked whether there are corporate deals for loans also and whether the Credit Union could be the default people for postgraduate loans, even if people move out of the area. Season tickets for transport could also be a possibility. DD also asked whether any research had been done on why people join. JS advised that collective involvement is needed. DD to email information over to JS. AS also added that a breakdown on reasons why people join can be obtained.

GE thanked JS for the presentation.

5. Neighbourhood Issues

None noted.

6. Priority Group Updates

Maintaining the Social Fabric of our Communities (MSFOOC) – Cllr Angela Surtees (Chair)

The minutes of the previous MSFOOC meeting on 23rd November were circulated to the Board prior to the meeting and taken as read.

The Safer Homes application from Durham Constabulary was circulated to the Board.

AB request: £10,000

Sgt Terry Hill declared an interest.

Safer Homes Scheme provides basic home security items to individuals who are most vulnerable in our communities. The scheme is a joint initiative with the Fire Service and Police to offer assistance, advice and equipment within the community who are identified as vulnerable or victims of crime. GE noted that confirmation had been given at the MSFOOC meeting that the funding would go to those most in need.

TH confirmed that the criteria is very strict, based on victims of harassment and crime and also in target areas.

AS added that community volunteers support this and the Police are looking for more volunteers.

GE noted that there are high numbers of outputs as this is household-based, therefore, it provides good value for money.

GE asked the Board whether they agreed to the project or whether there were any further comments.

ACTION: The Board approved the application.

Children, Young People & Families (CYPF)

The CYPF update was deferred to February's meeting as RH had given apologies.

Towns & Villages (T&V) – Graham Easterlow (Chair)

A T&V meeting had taken place on 1st December 2022. The following projects were discussed.

Wingate Parish Council, Welfare Park Play Equipment

The application was circulated to the Board. This application is for Welfare Park play equipment. The application is for £20,000 of T&V funding with the scope for match funding to include more work.

GE asked the Board whether they agreed to the application or there was comments or anything to add.

ACTION: The Board approved the application.

Haswell Plough to Blue House Junction

The scheme details involve creating a public footpath which would improve Rights Of Way and feed into safe routes to schools.

PH updated that they are currently looking at options for surfacing and PH will attend a meeting tomorrow on final costings.

Cllr Miller noted that Cllrs Miller, Hovvels and Varty had not been included in this NB project. PH to speak to JM after the meeting.

GE asked the Board whether they were happy to proceed in allocating the £20,000 of T&V to this project.

ACTION: The Board approved this project in principle, with the final application to be circulated to the Board with a short turnaround time for comments.

Wheatley Hill Public Realm Improvements, Community Action Team (CAT)

The project in Wheatley Hill is from the DCC CAT Team around public realm improvements. Final consultation will be carried out in January.

GE asked the Board whether they are happy for the £20,000 of AAP T&V funding to be allocated to this project in principle, with a full application to come back to the Board for approval at a future meeting.

ACTION: The Board agreed to this.

7. NBs for notification or endorsement of a declared interest

JM highlighted the following NB projects for notification and highlighted the conflicts of interest, as noted below:

Project Name: Keep Easington Warm

Councillors: Boyes & Surtees

Project Cost: £700

NB Amount: £500

Description: ECRP are applying for funding to deliver a project to keep residents in Easington warm with knitted blankets. The funding is for materials to create the blankets that will be made by local volunteers.

Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Boyes & Cllr Surtees. Cllr Boyes is the Chair of the ECRP, Cllr Surtees is the Vice Chair and Treasurer. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: Emergency Response Plan

Councillors: Hovvels, Miller & Varty

Project Cost: £393

NB Amount: £393

Description: Printing of the Emergency Response Plan. Copy for each household.

Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Miller. £131 Each. Cllr Miller is also a Chair of the Parish Council who is the applicant. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: Peterlee Community Car Parks

Councillors: Hawley

Project Cost: £21,216.25

NB Amount: £20,000

Description: Peterlee Town Council is applying for funding to resurface 2 of their community car parks in Peterlee.

Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Hawley. Cllr Hawley is a Peterlee Town Councillor. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: Eden Lane Car Park

Councillors: Howarth

Project Cost: £25,968

NB Amount: £25,500

Description: Peterlee Town Council is applying for funding to resurface the road and car park at Eden Lane.

Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Howarth. Cllr Howarth is Peterlee Town Councillor. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: A Warm Welcome Café

Councillors: Hawley

Project Cost: £24,152.63

NB Amount: £8,346.68

Description: Peterlee Town Council is setting up a weekly warm hub and food at Peterlee Pavilion. Mix of capital equipment and revenue ingredients.

Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Hawley. Cllr Hawley is a Peterlee Town Councillor. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: Christmas Community Fayre

Councillors: Surtees

Project Cost: £400

NB Amount: £200

Description: Rosemary Lane Nursery School are applying for funding to host a Community Christmas Fayre to improve links with the local community.

Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Surtees. Cllr Surtees is Chair of the Governors. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: New Flooring

Councillors: Kennedy & Shaw

Project Cost: £1,740

NB Amount: £1,740

Description: Dawdon Youth and Community Centre have an open application 22MTVF-EDUR006 to the T&VNB to increase their foodbank. As part of this project it has become apparent that the flooring in one or the new foodbank rooms needs replacing. This funding is for new flooring and will uplift the existing project

Cllr Kennedy declared a conflict of interest. Cllr Kennedy is chair of the centre and Cllr Shaw is a trustee. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: Thornley Primary School

Councillors: Varty

Project Cost: £70

NB Amount: £70

Description: To help with the purchase of equipment for year 6 peer mentors afterschool provision.

Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Varty. Cllr Varty is a school governor. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: Thornley Primary School - ICT Project

Councillors: Varty

Project Cost: £2,500

NB Amount: £2,500

Description: To support the equipment costs of an afterschool ICT project to support families to access online courses and education, support with financial situations eg bills etc.

Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Varty. Cllr Varty is also a school governor. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: Christmas Party

Councillors: Charlton-Lainé & Purvis

Project Cost: £400

NB Amount: £400

Description: Groundwork are applying for funding to host a Christmas party for the Seaham youth group.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: Peterlee Youth Club

Councillors: Duffy & McDonnell

Project Cost: £8,040

NB Amount: £8,040

Description: To create a new youth club in the centre of Peterlee aimed at 13-18 year olds. One two-hour session every week for 12 weeks starting in February 2023. Funding for venue hire and youth workers.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: Kids' Christmas Packages

Councillors: Charlton-Lainé & Purvis

Project Cost: £999

NB Amount: £999

Description: Seaham Youth and Community Centre are applying for funding to deliver emergency support packages to children and young people in the area.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: East Durham Running Club - Easington

Councillors: Boyes & Surtees

Project Cost: £333

NB Amount: £333

Description: Run leader training costs to support the setup of a running club in Easington.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: East Durham Running Club - Seaham

Councillors: Batey, Charlton-Lainé, Shaw, Kennedy, Purvis, McKenna

Project Cost: £333

NB Amount: £333

Description: Run leader training costs to support the setup of a running club in Seaham.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: East Durham Running Club - Shotton

Councillors: Cochrane & Hood

Project Cost: £333

NB Amount: £333

Description: Run leader training costs to support the setup of a club in Shotton.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: South Hetton Christmas Party

Councillors: Cochrane

Project Cost: £500

NB Amount: £500

Description: Provide food and entertainment for an Older Residents' Christmas Party in South Hetton.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: Horden Landscaping Project

Councillors: McLean & Roberts

Project Cost: £9,125

NB Amount: £9,125

Description: DCC Clean and Green to carry out a landscaping project to improve the area and provide a focal point for residents. Towns and Villages Neighbourhood Funding. Cllr T&V funding.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: Shotton Play Area

Councillors: Hood

Project Cost: £150,000

NB Amount: £10,000

Description: To support the installation and additional costs of the new play area in Shotton Welfare Park. This is an up lift on a previous grant before Cllr Hood was an elected member.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: Haswell Salt Bins

Councillors: Hood

Project Cost: £1,940

NB Amount: £1,940

Description: To pay for eight salt bins to be located in Haswell. Supply and delivery of the bins to site.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: Ropery Walk Primary School Defibrillator

Councillors: Kennedy & Shaw

Project Cost: £3,606.83

NB Amount: £3,606.83

Description: Ropery Walk Primary School are applying for funding to install a community access defibrillator onto their perimeter fence.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: Improving the Resilience of the Centre

Councillors: Charlton-Lainé & Purvis

Project Cost: £10,068

NB Amount: £10,068

Description: Eastlea Community Centre are applying to the T&VNB for salary costs to secure the centre caretaker for 14months. The cost of living crisis has resulted in greater need for the centre and without a caretaker the centre would struggle to deliver a service.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: Community Meal

Councillors: Boyes & Surtees

Project Cost: £350

NB Amount: £200

Description: St Mary's Church in Easington Village are applying for funding to purchase cooking equipment and to host a community meal for around 60 members of the community in February 2023. The project aims to bring together residents of Easington Village.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: Haswell to Blue House Path

Councillors: Hood

Project Cost: £85,000

NB Amount: £10,000

Description: DCC Highways are applying for T&VNB to create a path running from the Blue House pub to Haswell as a safer route to school. Match funding is coming also from the AAP T&V funding.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: Winslow Crescent Dog Bin

Councillors: Charlton-Lainé & Purvis

Project Cost: £350

NB Amount: £350

Description: Clean and Green are applying for £350 to install a metal dog bin on Winslow Crescent Seaham.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: Football Strips

Councillors: Adcock-Forster & Griffiths

Project Cost: £760

NB Amount: £760

Description: Seaham Coast Youth are asking for help to fund their team with matching strips. Most of the members reside in Murton.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: Heart on the Terrace

Councillors: Adcock-Forster & Griffiths

Project Cost: £299.95

NB Amount: £299.95

Description: The Heart on the Terrace are after a new pool table to support their youth work activity.

No conflict of interest.

Project Name: Murton Cricket Club

Councillors: Adcock-Forster & Griffiths

Project Cost: £1,100

NB Amount: £900

Description: The cricket club want to purchase a new TV as they want to encourage members and the community to visit the club to socialise especially through the winter months.

No conflict of interest

8. Any Other Business

GE highlighted that a Northern Powergrid briefing would take place at 9:30am tomorrow morning re emergency power cuts preparation.

Feedback to be provided on this meeting.

The AAP will be the central coordination point for any information. Please send any information to JMurphy or LT.

GE thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a good festive break.

9. Date and time of next meeting

6pm on Wednesday 8th February 2023 at The Glebe Centre, Murton