

East Durham Area Action Partnership Board Meeting
6pm on Wednesday 8th March 2023 at The Lisa Dixon Centre, Haswell

PRESENT:

Partner Organisations

Graham Easterlow (GE) (Chair)
Chris Williams (CW)
Insp Phil Carter (PC)
Ian Porter (IP)
Jackie Stallard (JS) (standing in for Joanne Angus)
Jim Murray (JMurray)

Elected Members

Cllr A Surtees (AS)
Cllr Jake Miller (Cllr JM)
Cllr Ivan Cochrane (IC)

Public Representatives

Rona Hardy (RH)
David Blackwell (DB)
Edna Connor (EC)

Co-opted Members

Amanda Moon (AM)

Officer Attendance:

John Murphy (JM) – AAP Coordinator
Laura Towers (LT) – AAP Support Officer
Wayne Gibson (WG) – Community Development/Project Officer
Peter Henderson (PH) – Community Development/Project Officer

Public Attendance:

2 members of the public were in attendance

Apologies:

Cllr Julie Griffiths, Cllr Isabel Roberts, Insp Joanne Eales, Susan Robinson, Danny Dickinson, Gill Rodgers, Alison Paterson, Andy Cammiss, Joanne Angus

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.

2. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous Board Meeting on 8th February 2023 were accepted by the Board as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Following a more lenient period returning to meetings after Covid, JM noted that in line with the Terms of Reference, the three meetings missed rule will be implemented again more stringently from April 2023 onwards.

The Vice Chairs will also stand down before the AGM and will require support from the other representatives if they wish to stand again as Vice Chair.

ACTION: JM to circulate an email regarding this.

3. Police & Fire Reports

Insp Phil Carter – Seaham & Easington

Insp Carter provided a report on behalf of Insp Eales who had submitted apologies for the meeting.

In Murton, a prolific offender has been sentenced to two years in prison for a series of offences after pleading guilty in court. Another male has been charged and remanded in Murton and the wider area.

A further two males were arrested for thefts of motor vehicles.

Two people have been detained for intent to supply. A vehicle was seized and the enquiry is ongoing.

The Police are aware of ASB around Church Street and are looking at the feasibility of a PSPO for the area with local Cllrs. Patrols have been increased in the area. One youth has already been spoken to. The CCTV has been beneficial in helping to identify offenders.

Insp Phil Carter – Peterlee

It has been a busy month with a number of people being remanded and arrested.

Following the operation in Horden, Insp Carter offered thanks to the public in Horden and Peterlee for their assistance.

A male who is out on licence has been recalled for a further nine years.

Another male has also been arrested and recalled for at least a year for dealing drugs.

A male has been recalled for five months for shoplifting.

Members of an Organised Crime Group (OCG) have been arrested for a number of burglaries.

Five off-road bikes have been seized in the last week. There is further information on others in Peterlee.

Intelligence led to a quantity of drugs being found. The drugs dog was used in a couple of locations in the area. There was a further drugs warrant in Blackhall.

Two main offenders have been removed from their homes for ASB.

A CBO is place and is going to court re a youth in the Trimdon area.

A male has been sentenced to 2-3 years for burglaries and shoplifting in the Blackhall and Horden areas.

The Police are liaising with Humankind on a new relationship.

Operation Grouse will look at rural crime. A new meeting has been convened.

Cllr JM offered thanks for the police work.

Chris Williams, CDD Fire & Rescue

There are two main impacts in response to fires – the weather and who has been locked up.

The number of fires dropped to 112 in January 2023 from 155 in January 2022. This has allowed the Fire Service to undertake some pro-active work, including fire safety work.

The Fire Brigades Union has agreed a pay deal and the strikes have been removed.

4. Neighbourhood Issues

None noted.

5. PowerED Presentation - Graham Easterlow

GE delivered a presentation on PowerED.

Community Energy England is working with PowerED which will be community-owned and led. It will lead the net zero and green agenda for East Durham.

Community energy refers to the delivery of community-led renewable energy, energy demand reduction and energy supply projects, whether wholly-owned and/or controlled by communities or through partnership with commercial or public sector partners.

Horden Heat is the creation of a mine water scheme in Horden. There is a commercial aspect to this and PowerED will oversee how the energy is distributed. It will expand and look to grow. Community events have been taking place. Horden Heat has a direct link to PowerED. £87k is in place to carry out a full technical feasibility study. The light industrial buildings in Horden are a ready-made market to look at providing heat and energy, directing investment back into Horden and to look at more sustainable business models. It will also be the only mine water project to look at food growing nationally.

The aim is for County Durham to be a Carbon Neutral County by 2045.

JM asked what sort of food the project would be looking to grow. GE advised that anything can be grown – standard vegetables as well as those you would normally expect to grow in warmer climates.

PC asked how the project works. GE advised that it is based on tunnels carrying geothermal heat. Attaching a heat exchange pump allows heat to be generated.

EC asked where it is located and noted it would be good to bring businesses back to the industrial estate. GE advised it is at the pumping station. The Coal Board has already invested money in cleaning the water up.

6. ERS Community Engagement Review – discussion and feedback

GE noted that it is important the review is on the Agenda now it is in the public realm for initial feedback.

JM provided an overview of the report.

The Board made the following observations:

In terms of the funding allocation to AAP areas, East Durham received £3.39 per head in 18/19 whereas Weardale received £18.46 per head. It does not take account of population size or IMD%. Possible recommendations are for the geography to remain the same, to split East Durham into two or three areas or to split areas according to PCN networks.

The report hasn't looked at AAPs separately. AAPs operate differently, so it does not necessarily reflect how our AAP works.

The report recommends funding is centralised which would remove local, place-based decision-making on funding, with the exception of smaller grants of Community Chest funding.

It is important to look at aims and moving AAPs forward in a constructive way as part of the review.

JM noted there will be an opportunity to have a say on this over the next couple of months.

GE noted that is important to individually and collectively present thoughts as part of the consultation.

It was agreed that a working group would be convened to think about key themes for response.

ACTION: Dates to be circulated.

7. Priority Working Group Updates

Maintaining the Social Fabric of Our Communities – Cllr Angela Surtees

The last MSFOOC meeting on 1st March was poorly attended.

Discussion took place on the ERS review and convening a Safety Carousel working group with stakeholders, looking at ASB and what we can do as neighbourhoods and communities. This will come to the next meeting.

GE noted that is important to ensure the Safer Homes project is joined up with Safer Streets work.

Towns & Villages – Graham Easterlow

The final villages application for Wheatley was brought forward to the group.

Cllr Deinali delivered a presentation on transport.

Children, Young People & Families – Rona Hardy

The next meeting will take place later in March.

There were 17 returned applications for the Easter Fun & Food holiday allocation, totalling £39,450. Some of the areas covered are Easington, Shotton, Haswell, Station Town, Horden and Seaham.

AS noted that match seems to be getting lower. RH advised that this is not always a true reflection as there is usually more at the monitoring stage.

GE noted that East Durham Trust applies for funding via NEPO and this has been delayed until Friday.

8. NBs for notification or endorsement of a declared interest & AB position

JM noted that £1.3m of funding has been awarded this year from East Durham AAP across 631 projects. The average award is around £3,500.

The NB spreadsheet was circulated to the Board prior to the meeting, as per the spreadsheet below.

JM highlighted the following NB projects with conflicts of interest. The Board approved these projects.

Project Name: Youth Shelter

Councillors: Batey & McKenna

Project Cost: £15,000

NB Amount: £15,000

Description: Seaham Town Council are applying for funding to install a youth shelter in the town park.
Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Batey. Cllr Batey's daughter in law works for the town council. The Board approved the project.

Project Name: Murton Welfare Association

Councillors: Adcock-Forster & Griffiths

Project Cost: £7,560

NB Amount: £7,200

Description: To purchase and install new picnic benches and seating for the outdoor area of Parkview Pavilion which is the residency of Murton Cricket Club.

Conflicts of interest declared by Cllr Adcock-Forster & Cllr Griffiths. Cllr Adcock- Forster is a trustee on the Murton Welfare board and Cllr Griffiths works for the Welfare. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: Bread and Butter Thing - Clothing

Councillors: Hood

Project Cost: £500

NB Amount: £500

Description: Clothing for the volunteers for the Bread and Butter Thing in Haswell. Clothing to enable volunteers to carry out duties and responsibility in a safe way.

Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Hood. Haswell Mencap are the applicants and Cllr Hood is an employee. Cllr Hood will not benefit from this project. The Board approved the project.

Project Name: Replacement Bin

Councillors: Batey & McKenna

Project Cost: £371

NB Amount: £371

Description: Seaham Town Council are applying for funding for a replacement bin at the Lodge Garage.

Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Batey. Cllr Batey's daughter-in-law works for the town council. The Board approved the project.

The Board made no comment to the other NB projects which were presented.

The AB position was circulated to the Board and JM gave an update.

All of the funding is allocated apart from £3,551 of Towns & Villages which has provisionally been allocated to the Connecting the Coast project.

9. Any Other Business

Cllr JM highlighted some changes to Arriva bus services which will come into effect on 2nd April 2023:

Service 23 Sunderland to Hartlepool – the 05:59 Monday – Friday and 06:57 Saturday journeys from Easington to Hartlepool will be withdrawn following the expiry of tender to operate them.

Services 57, 57A & 58 – all journeys will run as 58 giving an hourly Monday – Saturday service from Durham to Hartlepool via A181 between Cemetery Road, Wheatley Hill and Wingate Fir Tree, with one Monday morning journey operating direct from Fir Tree via A181 to Cassop. DCC are looking for a replacement bus service for the Trimdon area to connect to Service 58.

GE highlighted that it is important to report any examples of where buses are not aligning with people's needs, for example, employment. This can be fed back to Bus Board. Cllr Deinali has further information.

GE thanked everyone for attending and noted that it has been good to be Chair.

10. Date and time of next meeting

6pm on Wednesday 19th April 2023, 6pm at Horden Social Welfare Centre