

**East Durham Area Action Partnership AGM & Board Meeting Minutes
6pm on Wednesday 19th April 2023, Horden Social Welfare Centre**

PRESENT:

Elected Members

Cllr Angela Surtees (AS)
Cllr Kevin Shaw (KS)
Cllr Julie Griffiths (JG)
Cllr Terry Duffy (TD)
Cllr Rochelle Charlton-Lainé (RCL)
Cllr Isabel Roberts (IR)

Partner Representatives

Graham Easterlow (GE)
Chris Williams (CW)
Insp Phil Carter (PC)
Sgt Lucy Oxley (LO)
Joanne Angus (JA)

Public Representatives

Rona Hardy (RH)
David Blackwell (DB)
Gill Rodgers (GR)
Danny Dickinson (DD)
Alison Paterson (AP)

Co-opted Members

Amanda Moon (AM)
Edna Connor (EC)

Officer Attendance:

John Murphy (JM) – 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:

Chris Williams, County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue

Public Attendance:

1 member of the public was in attendance

Apologies:

Cllr Ivan Cochrane, Cllr Stacey Deinali, Cllr Jake Miller, Insp Joanne Eales, Susan Robinson, Jim Murray, Ian Porter

1. Introductions and Apologies

JM welcomed everyone to the meeting and ran through housekeeping and health and safety.

JM welcomed David Blackwell, returning, and Annabelle Lumsden in their Board Public Representative appointments.

Introductions were made.

Apologies were noted, as above.

GE thanked everyone for all of their support and added that a great deal has been done throughout the year, but there is still more work to be done going forward.

Annual General Meeting

2. Notification of Chair & Vice Chairs

JM acknowledged the expressions of interest which had been put forward for Vice Chair:

Elected Members: Cllr Angela Surtees

Partner Representatives: Graham Easterlow

Public Representatives: Rona Hardy

The Board approved the above as Vice Chairs.

On the rotation system, it is the turn of the Elected category to hold the Chair. This was offered to Cllr Angela Surtees for 2023/24. Cllr Surtees accepted.

AS welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked GE as outgoing Chair.

Co-option

The Board agreed that Amanda Moon's & Edna Connor's co-option to the Board should be continued for another year.

Priorities & Budgets

The Board agreed that the Maintaining the Social Fabric of our Communities (MSFOOC) and the Children, Young People & Families (CYPF) Priority Groups should continue.

The Board also agreed that the Towns & Villages Priority Group should change to the Neighbourhoods & Place Priority Group to look at themes such as safety, fire, housing and regeneration.

GE agreed that there seems to be a drive for regeneration and place-based work.

DD also agreed and noted that this links in with other work of the group eg Connecting the Coast.

The Board agreed to the following Priority Group Chairs and Vice Chairs:

Maintaining the Social Fabric of our Communities (MSFOOC)

Cllr Angela Surtees – Chair

Amanda Moon – Vice Chair

Children, Young People & Families (CYPF)

Rona Hardy – Chair

Gill Rodgers – Vice Chair

Neighbourhoods & Place (N&P)

Graham Easterlow – Chair

Danny Dickinson – Vice Chair

Funding

A total of £455,710 was allocated to 18 projects from the 22/23 Area Budget, plus T&V Budget. A total of NB allocated during 2022/23 was £1,183,681.26 across 25 Cllrs.

Total funding allocated during 2022/23 was £1,639,391.20.

There is £3,551 of funding remaining which has been ringfenced for the Connecting the Coast project.

For 2023/24, the AAP will have as its budget:

- Area Budget £100K, split into £76K revenue and £24K capital
- Welfare Reform Grant £10K
- Youth Fund £9.9K

There will be no OPSIF or Healthy Relationships funding this year.

Board Meeting

1. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous Board Meeting held on 8th March 2023 were approved by the Board as a true record of the meeting.

No matters arising.

2. Presentation – Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) – Chris Williams, CDD Fire & Rescue

The Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) provides the framework to ensure resources are in the correct place to combat risk.

The consultation will be open from 16th February to 11th May 2023 to gather views from the community, both online and face-to-face.

The population and area statistics have not changed. There are 15 fire stations, 310 wholetime firefighters and 168 on-call firefighters.

20 risks have been identified. The highest risk is accidental dwelling fires and the next is road traffic collisions.

The current MTFP covers 2023/24 to 2026/27 and shows a potential shortfall of £1m. Financial pressures mean that different ways of delivering services need to be looked at.

There is a proposal to crew all wholetime fire engines with four firefighters instead of five. This will result in a saving of £750,000. This proposal does not remove any fire engines or reduce current response times.

There is also a proposal to adopt the national inspection model for defining high-risk premises. This is on the recommendation of the HMICFRS.

AS asked where the fire crew would be going?

CW confirmed there would be no job losses as the posts are currently filled by overtime.

AP asked how the Fire Service establishes which commercial businesses will get a risk assessment and if buildings are part of an emergency plan, would a different risk assessment be required?

CW advised that a different assessment would not be required as it is carried out based on the number of people the building is suitable for. All commercial premises are required to have a risk assessment. The frequency depends on the industry.

GR asked how risks are calculated and how buildings which need to be assessed are identified.

CW advised that this relies on businesses contacting the Fire Service or the crews.

GR noted that the proposals would mean the remaining workforce would be stretched thinner.

RH asked what will be missing without the fifth person in terms of what is carried out.

CW advised that this depends on the incident. Tasks could include looking after hydrants or ladders, for example, but no vehicles or equipment would be lost.

TD noted that Tyne and Wear and Northumberland have been running with four for a while now.

KS highlighted that Durham is a rural and semi-rural Brigade. There were 412 firefighters in 2002. There is now 310 firefighters. The fifth person carries out a number of roles.

CW advised that the Service has a number of targeted response vehicles. Traditionally, it was a full fire appliance.

GE added that services are being forced into positions where they have to make stealth decisions. You can have all the equipment, but if there is not a person to operate it, it is a problem.

RCL asked re comparable data between four and five firefighters.

CW advised that accident rates may be a metric to consider.

GE added that there may be some baselining information out of the Safe Durham Partnership. GE will send any relevant information on to RCL.

DB asked whether the background information is available online.

CW confirmed the full plan is available online.

ACTION: LT to circulate the information and survey link to the Board and Forum members.

3. Police and Fire Reports

GE handed over to Inspectors Phil Carter and Sergeant Lucy Oxley to provide the police reports, and to Chris Williams to provide a fire report.

Inspector Phil Carter – Peterlee

There has been an increase in the number of incidents this month. This has been approximately 80 a day for Peterlee and the surrounding areas.

Three males have been charged with robbery and affray for an aggravated burglary in Seventh Street, Horden.

A female from Wheatley Hill has been charged with arson and remanded.

Three males linked to an OCG have been remanded on firearm offences in relation to an incident in Wingate.

The police are taking a robust approach in Horden. A closure order on a premises was obtained.

Three bikes were seized at the weekend in Blackhall, Hesleden and Eden Hill.

An operation was carried out in Wheatley Hill following an arson and an assault. Two suspects were locked up. Two people have also been evicted.

An illegal casino was found in Peterlee. 10 people were present. £9,000 cash was seized along with other items. Proceeds of crime can be kept for East Durham.

GE highlighted 'Clear, Hold, Build' - an 18-month programme with the Home Office - which has been piloted in Horden. East Durham Trust is a key partner. The crime is cleared from the area, the area is held and work done to build the community into a more prosperous area, less susceptible to the draw of crime groups, is carried out. It would be good to provide an update to the AAP on this.

Sergeant Lucy Oxley – Seaham & Easington

A lot of cross-team work has been undertaken re the OCG links. LO highlighted the importance of working together on bigger jobs and that intelligence from the community plays a key role.

A pilot scheme will take place together with Durham Agency Against Crime to go out and educate and look for any signs.

One cannabis farm was found in Seaham and two in Easington. This resulted in cannabis to the value of £3.5m being taken off the street. These are very labour-intensive jobs.

Youth workers will be in Easington two nights a week for a year. Something for Seaham is also being looked at.

Prevention is working and figures are decreasing.

RH offered thanks for all of the work.

GE thanked Police colleagues for their detailed reports and work.

Chris Williams, CDD Fire and Rescue Service

There were 8,833 calls last year. Peterlee was the busiest station with 1,438 calls. The majority were relating to secondary fires. Peterlee's numbers have gone down this year.

Prevention and school activities are very important. There is still a challenge. Figures are looking good. Empty buildings is something that the Fire Service is looking at.

RCL noted that talks in schools are very effective as young people sometimes aren't aware of the consequences.

4. Neighbourhood Issues

None noted.

5. ERS Community Engagement Review – Board Response

Discussion took place around the sessions for Board Members in relation to the review. A mix of stakeholder and public representatives attended. The feedback on the recommendations was not positive.

A letter providing an East Durham AAP Board response based on feedback from the Board was circulated prior to the meeting.

ACTION: Following discussion, it was agreed that the response should be submitted and that Board Members would also submit their individual responses via the survey link.

The Board agreed.

6. Priority Working Group Updates

Children, Young People & Families – Rona Hardy

The minutes were circulated to the Board prior to the meeting and taken as read.

RH updated that the May Fun and Food applications would be assessed on Monday 24th April.

Applications for the Summer Holidays open on 22nd May.

Towns & Villages – Graham Easterlow

AAP Towns & Villages funding requested: £20,000

The Wheatley Hill Towns & Villages application was circulated to the Board prior to the meeting.

GE asked whether the Board has any comments or questions on the application. None raised.

ACTION: The Board approved the application.

7. NBs for notification or endorsement of a declared interest

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: Haswell Pit Project

Councillors: Hood

Project Cost: £1,907.33

NB Amount: £1,800

Description: Purchase and installation of 2 interpretation panels and solar lights to illuminate in the dark.

Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Hood. Cllr Hood is a Parish Councillor and the Parish are the applicants. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: Let's Connect

Councillors: Hood

Project Cost: £5,031

NB Amount: £5,005

Description: Parent and child ICT project to develop family learning, to improve ICT, numeracy and literacy skills for the whole family.

Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Hood. Cllr Hood's partner is a School Governor. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: Peterlee and Horden Rugby Club T-shirts

Councillors: Howarth

Project Cost: £1,000

NB Amount: £835

Description: Purchase rugby shirts for the junior teams.

Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Howarth. Cllr Howarth's granddaughter plays for the club. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: The Welcome Centre

Councillors: Boyes & Surtees

Project Cost: £51,600

NB Amount: £20,000

Description: Towns and Villages Application - Easington Colliery Regeneration Partnership are applying for funding to renovate what will be the Welcome Centre, the former Methodist Church in Easington Colliery. The Welcome Centre will be a new community venue delivering a range of support services.

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

Project Name: Wingate Coronation Event

Councillors: Higgins

Project Cost: £500

NB Amount: £300

Description: Support Wingate Community Centre with funding for Coronation event.

Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Higgins. Cllr Higgins is also a trustee of the association. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: Coronation Activities

Councillors: Charlton-Lainé

Project Cost: £100

NB Amount: £100

Description: Seaham Scouts are applying for Coronation Funding to mark the King's Coronation.
Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Charlton-Lainé. Cllr Charlton-Lainé has a family member who attends the Scouts. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: Coronation Activities Garden Party Fete

Councillors: Boyes & Surtees

Project Cost: £600

NB Amount: £600

Description: Easington Colliery Regeneration Partnership are applying for funding to have a Garden Party Fete in June to celebrate the coronation of King Charles.

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

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

8. Any Other Business

None noted.

9. Date and time of next meeting

Wednesday 10th May 2023, 6pm, The Greenhills Centre, Wheatley Hill