



Better for everyone

Bishop Auckland & Shildon
Area Action Partnership

Annual Report

2023/24

Introduction



Councillor Elizabeth Scott

Portfolio Holder Statement

As the Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships I am proud to say that the Area Action Partnerships fall within my remit.

AAPs have been supporting work in local communities for 15 years now. Funding has helped to sustain and develop numerous local organisations right across County Durham. Nearly £30m has been allocated through Area Budget grants since AAPs were created back in 2009 supporting nearly 3000 different applications.

The 14 AAPs cover the whole of the county, each with effective boards of 21 people which are made up of partners, public, councillors and agencies. The Boards work on their specific priorities that reflect the needs of the county's varied localities. Over the last year they have again allocated nearly £2M which has supported over 190 local projects.

Fellow County Councillors and I are very grateful for the support we get from the AAPs in allocating our Neighbourhood Budget. This is funding every councillor gets to support good causes and projects in the areas we represent. Since 2009 over £37m has been allocated through nearly 8000 different applications. You can imagine the difference funding via the AAPs and Councillors has made to our towns, villages and city. This year councillors have supported well over 600 projects with over £2.4M of funding.

At a time when communities and families are having to deal with ongoing financial pressures AAPs have been able to help those organisations who are helping others. The strength of the voluntary and community sector in County Durham never fails to amaze me.

I do want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gives up their time and volunteers with local organisations. Be that with sports clubs, management committees at community centres, environmental schemes

or those people who volunteer on AAP Boards. County Durham would be a poorer place without you. However volunteering has to be supported and it's a key area that AAPs help with in terms of supporting groups with volunteer management, training and support.

There is no doubt that community organisations are struggling through the ongoing cost of living crisis so if you have ever thought about volunteering now could be the time. Local organisations give so much to their communities and they do need our help.

Since 2009 AAPs have been a feature of our communities but change is ahead. Last year the council concluded a review of its community engagement activities which included the AAPs. The outcomes of this review are now being implemented and this is going to lead to enhancements in 2025 with AAPs being replaced by new 'Local Networks'. The Local Networks will continue to bring local people, councillors and organisations together building on the legacy of the AAPs with the aim of broadening the reach within communities and developing Local Network Plans setting out the longer-term aspirations for our many towns and villages. Over the coming months we will keep people updated as we develop Local Network structures.

Prior to the launch of Local Networks in 2025, AAPs will continue to deliver over the next year which will only be possible with the hard work of all involved. So a big thank you from me to fellow councillors, AAP Board members, partner organisations, members of the public and the AAP staff. I look forward to continuing to work with you all over the next 12 months.

Councillor Elizabeth Scott,

Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships.

Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership 2023/24 Key Information



FUNDING

38

projects supported through AAP and Councillor funding.

Processed

£131,532

of AAP Area Budget Funding allocated to local projects with £114,804 of match / external funding generated.

1,241

beneficiaries supported through Area Budget AAP funding.

Processed

£166,429

of Councillor Neighbourhood Budget with £94,021 match / external funding generated.

6,333

beneficiaries were supported through Neighbourhood Budget funding.



Bishop Auckland Market Place



Bishop Auckland Town Hall



Auckland Castle

Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership

Established in 2009, Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP (BASH) brings together local people and partners to take action on local issues. The geographic areas covered include the wards of Bishop Auckland, Coundon, Shildon, West Auckland and Woodhouse Close.

Over the last year the key focus has been on 'Community/ Covid Recovery' and nearly **£131, 532** has been allocated to local organisations to help them take action on local issues.

The AAP has also been involved in consulting local people on issues such as:

- The Housing Conversation – Housing Strategy Principles and Priority Paper
- Wellbeing for Life
- Durham County Council – Budget Consultation
- Citizens Advice
- The Auckland Project – Volunteering
- No More Nowt
- County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan 2024 – 27
- Reed in Partnership – Work Routes

Welcome from the Chair

Councillor Shirley Quinn – Elected Member

It has been a very busy year in the Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP this year, with our communities continuing to face a multitude of challenges. I am pleased to have been part of an AAP Board that has supported communities in the BASH area to face these challenges.

The work of the AAP team and partners across the locality has had a significant impact on local residents and communities. As Chair of the AAP I have been delighted to see the partnership support a wide variety of Fun and Food projects delivering much-needed activities in the school holidays. This provision has been massively important to local residents and community groups. It is great to see as a partnership that this provision has reached a high percentage of young people on free school meals.

The partnership has continued to support projects under the Community / Covid Recovery priority. The allocation of Area Budget funding has supported communities tackle a wide range of local issues in areas such as Health & Wellbeing, Employability and Tackling inequalities.

Following on from last year it has been great to see the progress made on the Towns & Villages programme with the Partnership allocating £210,000 to projects with the aim of supporting local regeneration in the area. This funding has supported 7 projects in the BASH AAP area bringing in match funding of nearly £230,000.

As well as the funded work, it has been great to see some of the continued partnership working across the AAP area. This partnership working will be as important as ever as we work towards the development of Local Networks to improve the services delivered around community engagement.

It has been great to work alongside AAP Board members, partners, residents and the AAP team over the last 12 months and I am excited to see how things continue to develop over the next 12 months. Thank you to everyone involved in making a positive impact in the BASH AAP area.



Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. Currently over 800 people are part of our wider Forum who receive regular updates and who are invited to get involved in the work of the AAP.

Our Board is the decision-making body of the AAP. It is made up of local people, elected councillors and representatives for partner organisations. 2023/24 Board:

Cllr Shirley Quinn – Chair
Cllr Samantha Townsend
Cllr George Smith
Cllr Charlie Kay
Cllr Cathy Hunt
Cllr George Smith
Cllr David Bell / Cllr Mike Harker- Town and Parish Representative

Tony Bird (Public Representative) – Vice Chair
Bernadette Crooks (Public Representative)
Peter Quinn (Public Representative)
Jayne Nicholson (Public Representative)
Kirstie Hutchinson (Public Representative)
Nicola Craddock (Public Representative)
VACANT (Public Representative)

Rachel Edmunds (Housing) - Vice Chair
Insp Andy Reeves / Mark Edwards (Durham Constabulary)
Colin Davies (Fire and Rescue Service)
Deborah Richardson (Voluntary Sector)
Steven Robson (Business Representative)
Mark Jackson / Paul Cooper (Durham County Council)

We'd like to thank former Board members:

In August 2023, Tommy Taylor sadly passed away. Tommy was involved in the work of the AAP since its inception in 2009, first as a county councillor and then as public rep, who was eventually coopted onto the Board.

Insp Andy Reeves and Robert Simm who stepped down from the Board this year.

2023/24 Funding Allocation

Area Budget	£1,594 - Little Chef Big Chef, LCBC Holiday Activities	Christmas Holiday 2023
The Area Budget is used to support projects that address local AAP priorities. During 2023/24 BASH AAP focused on 'Community/ Covid Recovery' as a priority.	£1,863 - STARS Community Learning, It's All About the Story	£1,875 - Little Chefs Big Chefs, LCBC Festive Fun
£12,833 – West Auckland Memorial Community Association, West Auckland Memorial Hall Renovation	Summer Holidays 2023	£614.50 - Woodhouse Church, Children's Christmas Party Celebration
£7,653 – Bishop Auckland Community Partnership, Bump, Beyond and Toddlers	£6,094.50 - Woodhouse Church, Woodhouse Summer Activities Programme	£2,646 - Stars Community Learning, An Enchanted Experience
£50,000 – Bishop Auckland College, Upskilling, Employability & Discretionary Fund	£1,880 - Shildon AFC, Summer Holidays Activities Programme	£1,147 - Jubilee Fields Community Association, Family Fun Christmas Party
£11,307 – Aclet Close Nursey School, Sensory Secret Garden	£7,220 - Wear Rivers Trust, Bishop Auckland Holiday Provision	£2,756 – AYCC, Christmas Holiday Programme
£11,955 – Influence Church, Breakfast Hub/Elevate	£5,325 - Angel Trust Cookery School, Angel Trust Cooks with Books	£1,420 – Shildon Alive, Christmas Holidays with Shildon Alive
£5,000 – Nifty Fifties, Community Walking Group	£4,213 - Stars Community Learning, STARS Adventures	February Half Term 2024
£20,944 – Shildon Alive, The Fruit, Veg and Eggs Pledge	£630 - Dene Valley Community Partnership, Summer Activities	£4,110 - King James 1 Academy, Multi Sports Course at King James with AJ Sports
£11,840 – Bishop United CIC, Local Broadcasting Promotion of Bishop United Performances	£7,356 - Daisy Arts, Wild and Free	£1,132 - Little Chefs Big Chefs, LCBC FEB FUN
Holiday Activities with Healthy Food	£2,845.45 - Shildon Alive, Summer Holiday Club	£2,179 - Stars Community Learning, Eat Well, Think Smart, Keep Fit
The scheme aims to support local community groups and organisations, based in the BASH AAP area, to deliver enriching holiday activities with healthy food.	£9,608 – AYCC, Summer 23 Fun and Food	£530 – YMCA, Shildon Youth Group - February Fun
Easter Holidays 2023	£3,352 – OASES, Nature Explorers	Neighbourhood Budget
£503 - Dene Valley Community Partnership, Easter Activities	£5,485 - Little Chefs Big Chefs, LCBC Summer Holiday Activities	Neighbourhood Budget is an annual allocation of £19,400 that each County Councillor gets each year to spend on Community Projects. The process is supported by the AAP team.
£1,996 - Woodhouse Church, Easter Activities	£1,030 - Influence Church, Summer Activities	The projects listed below have been supported by Neighbourhood Budget:
£941 - Shildon AFC, Easter Holiday Football activity course	£1,340 - Eldon Community Partnership, Eldon Summer Activities	£6,000 – Bishop Auckland NPT Bikes, Durham Constabulary – Cllrs Howey and Hunt.
£2,713.50 - Stars Community Learning CIC, Let's Invent	October Half Term 2023	£1,125 – DACC Centre Refurbishment, Durham Alliance for Community Care – Cllrs Howey and Hunt.
£1,207 - Little Chef Big Chef, LCBC Holiday Activities	£1,249 - Little Chefs Big Chefs, LCBC Half Term Activities	£3,000 – Pantomime Trip, Cockton Hill Infant School – Cllrs Howey and Hunt
£1,586 – AYCC, Easter Fun and Food	£2,501.80 - Angel Trust , Angel Trust - Trick or (Tr)Eat	£17,825 – Jane Armstrong Play Area Improvement, Durham County Council, Neighbourhoods – Cllr Howey and Hunt
£1,629 - Jubilee Fields Community Association, Easter Fun Extravaganza	£740 - Stars Community Learning, STARS Science Mystery	£2,512 – Kitchen Floor Replacement, Durham Alliance for Community Care – Cllrs Howey and Hunt.
£2,070 - Wear Rivers Trust, Bishop Auckland Holiday Provision	£2,529 - Wear Rivers Trust, Autumn Crafts and Campfire at Binchester	£2,000 – SSAFA South West Durham Division Social Isolation, SSAFA The Armed Forces Charity – Cllrs Jackson and Zair
£1,808 - Eric Knows CIC, Easter crafts and sensory work for primary and secondary	£560 - Eldon Community Partnership, Eldon Half term fun and fitness	
£1,564 - Daisy Arts, TIME TRAVEL ARTS	£1,730 - Daisy Arts, Fall into ART: Autumn Creativity for Young People	
May Half Term 2023	£4,110 - King James 1 Academy, Multi Sports Course at King James with AJ Sports	
£2,343 – AYCC, May Fun and Food	£706 - Eric Unites, Oct 2023 Half term fun and food	
£991 - Eric Knows, May Half Term Crafts and Sensory for Primary and Secondary Schools		

2023/24 Funding Allocation

£500 – Durham Pride UK, Durham Pride UK – Cllrs Jackson and Quinn
£200 – Lumiere Recycling Project, The Artichoke Trust – Cllr Jackson
£2,957 – Four Clocks Centre Flooring, Bishop Auckland Community Partnership – Cllrs Jackson and Zair
£11,360 – Cockton Hill Play Area Access Surfacing Improvement, Durham County Council, Neighbourhoods – Cllr Zair
£11,000 – Dressing Room Refurbishment, West Auckland Town AFC – Cllrs Smith and Yorke
£5,675 – Escomb Car Park, Durham County Council, Neighbourhoods – Cllrs Smith and Yorke
£4,625 – All the Worlds a Stage, Escomb Primary School – Cllrs Smith and Yorke
£1,104 – Fire Safety Improvements, Witton Park Community Association – Cllrs Smith and Yorke
£5,998 – Renovation of West Auckland Memorial Hall, West Auckland Memorial Com-munity Association – Cllr Smith
£1,850 – Garden Enrichment, Little Chefs Big Chefs – Cllr Smith
£1,380 – St Helen Christmas Tree, South Durham Enterprise Agency – Cllr Smith
£4,412 – New Lights - Coundon Christmas Tree, Durham County Council Neighbour-hoods & Climate Change – Cllr Kay
£11,813 – New Shutters, Coundon Cricket Club Clubhouse. Durham County Council Neighbourhoods & Climate Change – Cllr Kay
£1,600 – New Ropes for St Andrew’s Church Bells – St Andrew’s Church – Cllrs Kay and Quinn
£1,084 – Shildon AFC 125 Celebrations – Durham Amateur Football Trust – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn, and Townsend
£2,000 – Shildon Beach Project – Shildon Town Council – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn, and Townsend
£6,000 – Big Brass Bash – Durham County Council, Regeneration, Economy & Growth – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn, and Townsend
£2,150 – Fun4All 23 – Shildon Town Council – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn, and Townsend

£27,002 – Jubilee Road, Shildon, Parking Provision and Pedestrian Safety – Durham County Council Neighbourhoods & Climate Change - Cllrs Johnson, Quinn, and Town-send
£9,354 – Grasscutter and Net – Shildon Railway Sports & Social Club – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn, and Townsend
£3,404 – Tables, Chairs, and capital Equipment – Eldon Community Partnership – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn, and Townsend
£10,000 – Civic Hall Stage Lighting Upgrade – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn, and Townsend
£7,000 – Shildon NPT E-Bikes – Durham Constabulary – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn, and Townsend
£1,499 – MiDAS Trainer Qualification – Shildon Community Bus – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn, and Townsend
AAP Towns and Villages
£26,855 – Escomb Car Park Project, DCC Highways
£13,575 – Move @ King James 1 Academy, King James 1 Academy
£75,000 – Henknowle Community Improvement Scheme, DCC Highways
£26,855 – Eldon and Eldon Lane ASB, DCC Safer Communities
£27,000 – Bishop Auckland Recreation Area Artwork and Improvements, DCC Clean and Green
£26,715 – Hackworth Park Wi-Fi, DCC Regeneration
£14,000 – Oakley Cross Multi Use Games Area, West Auckland Parish Council
Councillor Towns and Villages Funding
In addition to Neighbourhood Budget, councillors have also received an additional one-off allocation of £10,000 to spend on projects that aim to revitalise and enhance towns and villages. The process is supported by the AAP team. The project listed below has been supported by Councillor Towns and Villages funding:
£15,680 – West Auckland-New Street Play Area Improvements, Durham County Council – Cllrs Smith and Yorke

£4,280 – Escomb Car Park, Durham County Council – Cllrs Smith and Yorke
£20,000 – Surfacing of Unadopted Roads, Northumberland Avenue and Ravensworth Avenue – Cllrs Jackson and Zair
£20,000 – Watling Road, Bishop Auckland-Drainage and Verge Hardening – Cllrs Hunt and Howey
£10,000 – Leeholme Play Area Refurbishment – Cllr Kay
£21,000 – West Road Cemetery Building Replacement, Shildon Town Council – Cllrs Johnson, Townsend and Quinn
£9,000 – Footpath Improvements in Hackwork Park, Shildon, Shildon Town Council – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn and Townsend



Holiday Activities with Healthy Food project



Holiday Activities with Healthy Food project

The Difference We Have Made

Projects supported by Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP have been making a difference in 2023/24.



Picture taken at Herrington Country Park.

Nifty Fifties - Community Walking Group

Nifty Fifties are a community walking group based in Shildon who meet fortnightly on Wednesdays and enjoy both local walks and walks further afield. The group has been in existence since 2002 and is well supported with members who attend walks regularly.

Walks take place locally but the group also enjoy trips to places of interest using Shildon Community transport. The group secured Area Budget funding of £5,000 to support bus hire to enable the trips to take place. The group have since enjoyed trips and walks to Herrington Country Park, Seaton Carew to Hartlepool, Whitley Bay and Richmond, to name a few, as well as plenty of local walks in and around Shildon.

Walking offers numerous health and wellbeing benefits and enables people to socialise. Group members have commented:

"I so look forward to our walks"

"The trips take me to new places, that I couldn't otherwise have got to"

"Its great having good company and lots of chat whilst walking"

"Gets me out of the house"

This project aimed to support 26 beneficiaries.



Shildon Alive - The Fruit, Veg and Eggs Pledge

Shildon Alive is a St John's Church initiative based in Shildon with the aims of supporting local communities.

Shildon Alive was awarded Area Budget of £20,944 to support the Fruit, Veg and Eggs Pledge that was set up to ensure over 1000 individuals received fruit, veg and eggs on a weekly basis, either as part of a meal, a food parcel or a pantry basket.

Shildon Alive have developed a large network, rescuing, and redistributing surplus food and have collaborated with five other local organisations (The Well, Little Chefs Big Little Chefs, Woodhouse Close Church, Journey and Shelve For All). This partnership feeds families and individuals for free or heavily subsidised on a weekly basis across the BASH AAP area.

Shildon Alive order fruit, veg and eggs weekly to be delivered to a central distribution point, and then food is divided between the partners, adding extra items which they have rescued from their #feedbelliesnotbins project.

The programme involved coordinating one paid driver and ten volunteers to collect and sort the food as well as liaising with partners to distribute food and support within the AAP area. The project aimed to support 501 beneficiaries.



King James 1 Academy

King James School was supported by Holiday Activities with Healthy Food funding to deliver activities during holiday periods throughout the year.

The programme has an emphasis on Multi Skills and works with a specialist sports provider to deliver a wide range of sporting and broader physical activities to children of both primary and secondary school age.

All activities take place at the school with use made of the extensive range of indoor and outdoor facilities, with participants drawn from both King James itself and schools throughout the AAP area.

Total daily attendances for sessions delivered in 2023-24 were 1,894, with an average of 84% of attendees being in receipt of free school meals.

The Difference We Have Made

Projects supported by Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP have been making a difference in 2023/24.

Bishop Auckland College - Upskilling, Employability & Discretionary Fund

Bishop Auckland College were funded via Area Budget funding to support residents in finding employment or to progress in their career. This has had a positive impact in building their confidence, self-esteem and had a positive impact in contributing to the local economy. The project enables residents to develop the skills, qualifications, and attributes they will need, if they are to secure employment or improve their employment status. The project supports a vast range of training and to date has supported training including:

- Counterbalance & Reach Forklift Training & Licence
- HGV Class 1 training and licence
- HGV Class 2 training and licence
- SIA Door Supervisor training with mandatory First Aid and licence.
- IPAF training and card
- CNN1 Gas Safety training, UVHWWRA Reassessment, L3 LCL Award in Air Source Heat Pumps
- NPORS Telescopic Handler training
- NPORS Excavator 360 above & below 10 tonne training
- NRSWA Streetworks Operative Course and Card
- CISRS Scaffolding Refresher and tickets
- Hair Extension Course
- H&S L1, CSCS Test and Blue Skilled CSCS Card
- CSCS Test and Green Card
- Licence for Tattooing
- Tattoo equipment
- Viper Gas Safety books

The project has supported the development of strong partnership working between the college and the referral organisations and has seen several clients gain employment because of the training provided via the employability project.



Contact Details

Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership

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 Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership