

Durham Area Action Partnership Minutes of the Board Meeting
Thursday 13 July 2023
(Virtual Meeting - held via Microsoft Teams)

Board Members

Attendance: Cllr Liz Brown, Cllr Bill Kellett, Sheela Bell, Parish Cllr Maureen Boettcher, Tony Hockey, Cllr Lucy Hovvels, Gary Tidbury, Sgt Kevin Hall (for Dave Clarke), Cllr Richard Ormerod, Sam Humble, Lee Alexander, Cllr Eric Mavin, Georgia Donohue, Paul Howard, Rebecca Ashby, Jen Straughan-Hawley, Paul Lysaght, Mick Henderson, Hannah Shepherd, Chris Tindale

AAP Officer

Attendance: Craig Morgan – AAP Co-ordinator
Wendy Lavelle – Community Development Project Officer
PJ Harding – Community Development Project Officer (Towns and Villages Team)
Marie Ainscough – AAP Support Officer

Presenter: Graeme Smith, Housing Development Manager, Durham County Council (DCC)

Apologies Board and AAP Team:

Cllr Lesley Mavin, Lyndsey Hunter, Victoria Ashfield

Forum Members: 9 forum members attended the meeting

1 [Welcome from the Chair, Introductions and Apologies](#)

Jen Straughan-Hawley (Chair) welcomed everyone to the online Durham AAP Board Meeting and a round of introductions followed.

A warm welcome was offered to Paul Lysaght who had replaced Alice Wilkes as the new public representative on the board. Thanks were offered to Alice for her commitment to the board.

Apologies for absence, [as above].

Everyone was reminded of the Teams meeting etiquette.

2 [Presentation: Durham County Council Housing Strategy](#)

Graeme Smith, Housing Development Manager, DCC delivered a presentation on Durham County Council's Housing Strategy, which will provide a strategic framework to inform the actions and investment of the Council and its partners and will also ensure we are well positioned to maximise future opportunities for funding support.

The County Durham Housing Strategy was adopted in July 2019 and delivery had included:

- Development of targeted delivery plans to guide interventions and support mixed and balanced communities.
- Delivery of older persons housing in line with County Durham Plan requirements.
- Selective licencing covering at least 29,000 properties / 43% of the private rented sector.

The Housing Strategy principles will establish the foundation and rationale underpinning decisions and actions to deliver the vision.

Consultation will ask whether we have the right principles and priorities but also ideas around how we can deliver them. The consultation will run from 26 June – 18 August 2023 and the Draft Strategy Consultation will run from October – November 2023 and the Housing Strategy will be adopted in Spring 2024.

Further information and the surveys can be found on the DCC website at:

www.durham.gov.uk/thehousingconversation or

Email: thehousingconversation@durham.gov.uk

- ❖ What do you think are the housing issues in your area?
- ❖ What do you think the potential solutions are?

The meeting was opened for discussion and comments were made around student HMOs; selective licencing; the demolition of old housing stock and the flexibility around Section 106 monies.

Graeme confirmed that he had captured the comments included in the ‘chat function’ and encouraged everyone to complete the survey.

Craig said he was happy to hold a separate meeting to discuss this further if board members felt there was a need for one.

The Chair thanked Graeme for his presentation, and he left the meeting.

3 [Presentation: Project Update Monitoring Report Quarter 1 23/24 \(April to June 2023\)](#)

Craig delivered a presentation on the Quarter 1 project progress report for the period 1 April 2023 – 30 June 2023. Durham AAP is required to monitor all area budget projects it had funded on a quarterly basis and at their completion by the AAP funding team. Neighbourhood budget projects over £10,000 are also monitored.

A comprehensive report on all projects currently being monitored had previously been circulated to board members for information. Craig thanks Marie for her work on the report.

4 [Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 17 May 2023 and Matters Arising](#)

The Chair reviewed the previous minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy.

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

Durham AAP are looking for a volunteer from the Partner section of the board to act as Vice Chair.

Applicants had received their offer letter for the following projects -

- Durham City Cricket Club
- Durham Learning Library
- Belmont Disabled Play Equipment

5 [AAP / DCC Community Engagement Review Update](#)

Craig Morgan provided a comprehensive update on the Community Engagement Review update.

Board members had received a copy of the presentation prior to the meeting.

There were reservations about '*Community Reps will serve a maximum of a 4-year term and cannot hold the position of Community Rep or Partner Representative within 12 months of a previous term*'.

Craig explained that there would be a lot of work being done to make sure the review finding could be implemented.

6 [AAP Funding Update](#)

An update on the current funding position had been included in the papers.

£38,430 of Area Budget projects had been approved; and there is £99,365* left to allocate.

*This figure may change depending on whether the applications are approved by the board at this meeting.

Towns and Villages Funding

£170,307 of Towns and Villages Fund projects had been approved; there was no applications to consider at this meeting, and there is £39,694 left to allocate.

7 [Task Group Updates / Review](#)

Healthy and Resilient Communities Project Approvals

At the Healthy and Resilient Communities Task Group meeting held on 20 June 2023, task group members were happy to support three projects and recommended that they be brought to this board meeting for wider consideration. Board members had received a copy of the area budget applications and a project record form for each project prior to the meeting.

- **Waddington Street Centre**

An application had been received for £13,000 towards a total project cost of £26,000.

Craig provided a brief overview on the project and highlighted comments made by task group members.

The board was happy to support this project and the application was approved.

- **St Margaret's Centre**

An application had been received for £16,888 towards a total project cost of £66,704.

Wendy provided a brief overview on the project and highlighted comments made by task group members.

The board was happy to support this project and the application was approved.

- **Lumiere**

An application had been received for £5,000 towards a total project cost of £20,888.

Craig provided a brief overview on the project and highlighted comments made by task group members.

The board was happy to support this project and the application was approved.

Improving Our Villages and City

There were no Towns and Villages Fund (TVF) applications to consider at this meeting. All TVF must be fully committed by 31 March 2024.

£170,000 (TVF) had been approved to 12 projects, 11 of which had received their offer letters.

Two projects are in development –

1. Whinney Hill
2. Hallow Green / Peskies Park

8 [Budget Updates](#)

Neighbourhood Budgets

The following neighbourhood budget projects were shared with the Board -

Name of Scheme: Brasside and Newton Hall Walk History and Heritage Project

Councillor(s): Hopgood / Wilkes / Simmons

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £1,500

Name of Scheme: High Street North Resurfacing

Councillor(s): Stoker

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £8,450

Name of Scheme: Extension to Grounds Project

Councillor(s): Stoker

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £4,000

Name of Scheme: Crossgate Triangle Bollards

Councillor(s): Freeman / Ormerod

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £3,504

Name of Scheme: Merryoaks Community Hall - Running Costs

Councillor(s): Scott

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £2,627

Name of Scheme: DCC - 20mph scheme, Hastings Avenue
Councillor(s): Scott / Brown
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £6,568

The board was happy for the projects to go ahead.

Fun and Food (Holiday Activities with Healthy Food)

£29,870 was allocated to Fun and Food projects for Summer 2023. We received applications from 3 new groups/organisations. There is £5,214 left to allocate to projects over Christmas 2023.

9 Chair and Coordinators Update

Chair's Update

Jen and Craig had attended the County Durham Partnership Forum meeting in Horden. The focus was on anti-social behaviour within the county.

Coordinator's Update

Craig continues to chair the County Durham and Darlington Resilience Group and encouraged people to check out information on keeping safe in emergency situations that is available on the Local Resilience Forum Website.

<https://www.ddfire.gov.uk/protect-yourself-and-your-community>

Craig reported he had been honoured to be asked to host Durham Universities Volunteer Awards. There had been over 300 nominations from staff and students and it had been a very positive event.

Craig had also attended the 'Youth Print' meeting which is bringing together local youth work and support organisations.

10 Partner Updates

Sam Humble – Believe Housing

Anti social behaviour is an issue especially in city centre. Some people are getting into empty properties which is causing problems. Believe are working very closely with Police, social services and other partners to look to resolve these issues. They are advertising how to report things anonymously and a leaflet drop has been done in some areas.

The warm weather brings problems with drink and drugs, and they are working with partners re these issues.

Hannah Shepherd – Durham University

In Summer vacation period

Events calendar on the 'Things to Do' page <https://www.durham.ac.uk/things-to-do/>

Summer Holiday Camps from 24 July – Friday 1 September at Maiden Castle
<https://pay.durham.ac.uk/event-durham/summer-holiday-camps-multisports-5-12-years>

The new Chancellor had been installed and graduation ceremonies held

Durham City Run Festival 13-15 July 2023

Two Shakespeare plays are being held at the Assembly Rooms Theatre
<https://www.theassemblyroomstheatre.org/whats-on/>

Lee Alexander – Durham County Council

Junior doctors will strike for 5 days. Thus far they had been able to manage this.

Paul Howard – Durham BID

Football is doing remarkably well in Durham City

Redevelopment at Prince Bishops – the consultation will go live in the next couple of weeks

Independence Campaign will be starting again and Restaurant Week coming back in September - October

Health

Tony Hockey delivered a PowerPoint presentation on health issues and agreed to forward his presentation to the AAP for wider circulation and information.

Sgt Kevin Hall (for Dave Clarke)

Durham is one of 16 new 'trailblazer' areas to receive funding from the Home Office to pilot urgent action to tackle anti-social behaviour and step-up the punishment of those caught committing it.

Sheela Bell – VCS Update

They are putting a lot of effort into digital initiatives
Still facing issues around recruitment and retaining staff

11 [Any other Business](#)

None.

12 Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 26 September 2023, 6:00 pm, Sherburn Community Centre

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.