

East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership Board Meeting 23 November 2023 Key Messages

The following are the key messages from the Board Meeting held on Thursday 23 November 2023:

- Angela Stobart, Chair welcomed everyone to the online Board Meeting of the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership.
- Steph Rich – Senior Policy Officer, Durham County Council delivered a presentation on the Housing and Homelessness Strategy. The purpose of this presentation was to provide an overview of the vision and principles of the draft Housing Strategy and the key points and priorities of the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and to obtain feedback as part of the joint consultation on the draft strategies.

Consultation for both draft strategies run until 18 December 2023. You can provide feedback on the Housing Strategy and/or the Draft County Durham Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy online at www.durham.gov.uk/consultation email your comments to thehousingconversation@durham.gov.uk or at any of the council's Customer Access Points and libraries.

- In the absence of Neighbourhood Insp Sarah Honeyman, Sgt Daniel Lake provided an update on local policing issues.
- Board members approved the following Area Budget/Towns and Villages Fund projects –
 - ❖ Re-Powering Coxhoe Village Hall, Coxhoe Village Hall Association - £10,176.37
 - ❖ Rose Cottage Community Warm Space Food Hub, Rose Cottage Community Hub CIC - £8,907.00
 - ❖ Fighting Loneliness Through U3A Activities, Sedgefield and District U3A - £6,800.00
 - ❖ Coxhoe - Linden Grove Park Refurbishment, Durham County Council - £32,000.00 Area Budget and £20,000.00 Towns and Villages Fund
 - ❖ Replacing Lighting in the Parish Hall, The Sedgefield Players - £11,892.00

The following project was not approved -

- ❖ Community Success, Hinson Wellbeing & Fitness Centre CIC - £25,523.00
- We received one Fun and Food application for Christmas 2023 which the Board was happy to support -
 - ❖ STARS Community Learning CIC, An Enchanted Experience - £1,899.00

- Jeff Garfoot – Head of Corporate Finance & Commercial Services, Durham County Council delivered a presentation on the 2024/25 County Council Forecast Revenue Budget Consultation which included an update on the Council's medium term financial forecasts; the major reasons for changes to the financial forecast and impact and the additional savings options to help close the forecast budget shortfall.

The deadline for feedback is 5.00pm on Sunday 3 December 2023. Feedback from both budget consultations will be taken to Cabinet in January 2024 with the budget report presented to Cabinet on 14 February 2024. Cabinet budget proposals will then be presented to Full Council on 28 February 2024 where budget approval and Council Tax for 2024/25 will be set. Work is underway to identify further budget savings to meet the shortfall expected for the MTFP 2024/25 – 2027/28.

- The following Neighbourhood Budget projects were shared with the Board –

Name of Scheme: Bradbury Signage – DCC Traffic

Councillor(s): David Brown / Chris Lines

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £1,019.41

Name of Scheme: Deaf Hill New Miner's Banner

Councillor(s): Lucy Hovvels / Jake Miller / Chris Varty

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £11,000.00

Name of Scheme: Coxhoe, Linden Grove Park Refurbishment

Councillor(s): Jan Blakey / Gary Hutchinson

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £28,000.00

The Board was happy for these projects to go ahead.

- Date and Time of Next Board Meeting – Wednesday 24 January 2024 - Bowburn Community Centre

Subsequent Board Meeting Date

➤ Thursday 21st March 2024, 5.00 pm at Cassop Community Centre

Please make every effort to attend and promote amongst your contacts.