

**East Durham Area Action Partnership Board Meeting**  
**6pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at The Hazelwell Centre, Haswell**

**PRESENT:**

**Elected Members**

Cllr Angela Surtees (Chair) (AS)  
Cllr Ivan Cochrane (IC)  
Cllr Isabel Roberts (IR)

**Partner Organisations**

Jim Murray (JM)  
Ian Porter (IP)  
A/Sgt Martin Thursfield (MT)  
Sgt Alex Gibson (AG)  
Dr Kelly Rose (KR)

**Public Representatives**

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

**Co-opted Members**

Amanda Moon (AM)

**Officer Attendance:**

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

**Presenters:**

Emily Ross (ER), Stronger Shores, South Tyneside Council

Jim Murray (JM), Head of Education & Skills, Durham County Council

**Public Attendance:**

2 members of the public were in attendance

**Apologies:** Cllr Julie Griffiths, Cllr Jake Miller, Cllr Kevin Shaw, Graham Easterlow, Insp Joanne Eales, Insp Phil Carter, Alison Paterson, Annabelle Lumsden, Ian Hankin, Edna Connor

**1. Introductions and Apologies**

JMurphy ran through housekeeping and health and safety.

AS welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made.

Apologies were noted, as above.

The Board acknowledged the input of former councillor Leanne Kennedy over the years. A minute's silence was held in recognition of Cllr Kennedy.

## **2. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the previous Board Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were accepted by the Board as an accurate record of the meeting.

No matters arising.

## **3. Police Report**

### **A/Sgt Martin Thursfield – Seaham & Easington**

A female has been remanded and will attend court at the end of this month.

A male was arrested and charged for several offences and has been remanded into custody. Hopeful for significant sentence.

Another male will attend court tomorrow.

There are some issues with ASB in St John's Square and at Seaham Harbour. Partners have been involved in assisting with this and police have changed their shifts. CPNs and CPWs have been issued. They are issued on behalf of the Council and there is a potential of an injunction and going to court and a fine, but they are not usually taken forward.

AS asked whether there is anything that can be done re taking the CPNs and CPWs forward. MT advised that this would be a matter for the Legal Departments. The long-term benefits need to be considered.

Cannabis grows have been found in Seaham and Blackhall.

There has been a decrease in reported ASB incidents in Easington Colliery following the start of the youth work.

Work is being undertaken with Northumbria and Cleveland Police looking at cross-border criminals.

A defib has been installed in the Murton area as a result of the golf day in the summer.

### **Sgt Alex Gibson – Peterlee**

Cannabis grows were found in Blackhall and Horden worth around half a million pounds each. Another site will be looked at.

Business Crime Week was a success. Seven prolific shoplifters were caught.

There have been some issues with the allotments at Lowhills Road.

The cameras are now up and running in Peterlee town centre.

The police attended the rugby club opening.

The Clear, Hold, Build survey has gone out in Horden and several responses have been received. They will be sorted and reviewed.

Operation Zeus is ongoing in relation to OCG land and vehicles.

An intoxicated male who was carrying a fake firearm in Peterlee has been remanded.

A great result where drugs were found following a vehicle stop.

IR offered thanks for the work on the large haul of cannabis which was found in Horden.

AS asked how much input the police get on takeaways and club premises.

MT advised this would be limited unless they are licensed premises or highlighted.

Ian Hankin had submitted apologies, so there was no fire report available at the meeting.

#### **4. Presentations**

##### **Stronger Shores – Emily Ross**

ER delivered a presentation on the work of the Stronger Shores project which is looking at making British coastlines and communities stronger in the face of flooding, coastal erosion and climate change. Work is being done from Redcar to Northumberland looking at seagrass, kelp and native oyster reefs using innovative monitoring techniques. The wider benefits for areas are also being looked at. There is a variety of delivery partners, including universities, as well as seven local authorities and some collaborative partners.

Stronger Shores are working with organisations in Seaham and want to utilise networks and also work with hard-to-reach groups. This could also be taken into schools. Please contact ER with any possible groups.

JM advised that he could refer ER to the Primary Curriculum Network which 190 schools are part of.

DD highlighted the Connecting the Coast project is looking at walking routes. Engagement will take place around these. Part of the structure of the project is to bring in partners, so Stronger Shores are welcome to link in.

KR highlighted it would also be good to link in with Moving Together and SeaScapes.

**ACTION: LT to share any information from ER with Forum Members.**

##### **Budget Update Consultation – Jim Murray, DCC**

JM delivered a presentation providing an update on the Budget Consultation.

The council consulted with AAPs in September and October based on the financial forecasts included in the July 2023 Medium Term Financial Plan Cabinet report. A revised medium term financial forecast was presented to Cabinet in October. Based upon the revised forecasts, the council is now forecasting a funding shortfall of £16.3 million in 2024/25, with a shortfall of £67.6 million over the four years 2024/25 to 2027/28. If all savings were agreed, the base budget shortfall is now forecast to be £8.3 million in 2024/25 with a £52.3 million shortfall forecast over the period 2024/25 to 2027/28. In total,

the forecast shortfall across the medium term period has deteriorated by £8.8 million, mainly as a result of inflation and revised assumptions on tax base growth.

New savings are included in the October 2023 Cabinet report of £2.9 million over the next four years with £1.9 million in 2024/25, mainly in the following areas:

Savings from back office and operational efficiencies - £0.4 million in 2024/25 with £0.5 million over the four years, with proposals including staff restructures and review of catering services.

Income generation - £1.3 million in 2024/25 and over the four years, with proposals including a review of car park charges at coastal destinations and in Durham City with the removal of the free after two car park initiative.

Savings in the way front-line services are provided - £0.2 million in 2024/25, with £1.1 million over the four years, with proposals including an initial reduction of £10k for each AAP which will consist of a £16k reduction in the revenue sum available but a £6k increase in the capital sum available, reviews of AAP provision as they move towards Local Networks and reviews of council-run nursery services, neighbourhood protection and allotments.

Consultation is open until 5pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

AS encouraged everyone to feed into the consultation. There are some issues which we could respond to, including possible changes to AAP funding amounts and car parking charges, which affect the AAP area.

AS also noted that a housing consultation is also currently open which Board Members are encouraged to feed into.

## **5. Neighbourhood Issues**

None noted.

## **6. Priority Group Updates**

### **Maintaining the Social Fabric of our Communities – Cllr Angela Surtees (Chair)**

The last MSFOOC meeting took place on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

DurhamLearn attended this meeting to deliver a presentation their offer. The minutes will be available at the next meeting.

### **Children, Young People & Families – Rona Hardy (Chair)**

The last meeting took place on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Presentations were delivered on the Learning Library and the English Gambling Education Hub.

We were awaiting the Fun and Food data at the time of the meeting.

The AAP Fun and Food funding requested for October Half Term was £32,504, for an AAP budget of £22,365.

Christmas Holidays Fun and Food is currently open for applications. The closing date is Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 12 noon.

AS asked whether it was the same groups who apply for each holiday period. WG advised that it was a mix of new and existing groups. Some groups did not meet the criteria for funding.

AS noted that the holiday periods being different for different schools and areas during October Half Term has been challenging in terms of providing activities and staffing.

RH noted that the monitoring forms have changed.

### **Neighbourhoods & Place & Capital Grants Call Out – John Murphy (AAP Coordinator)**

The minutes of the last Neighbourhoods & Place meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October were circulated to the Board for information.

JMurphy ran through the process for capital grants which would culminate in five £5,000 projects. The process would be launched next week and the information had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting. Applications would be reviewed by a panel which would be chaired by Danny Dickinson.

**JMurphy asked the Board for approval of £25,000 being ring-fenced against this process.**

**The Board agreed.**

### **AB Update**

JMurphy updated that there is currently £24K of revenue available until the end of March.

### **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 above.

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

#### **Project Name: Cotsford Primary School Play Equipment**

**Councillors:** McLean & Roberts

**Project Cost:** £4,500

**NB Amount:** £4,500

**Description:** To install a range of play equipment. The project was previously agreed, but Cllr McLean is now a school governor.

**Conflict of interest declared by Cllr McLean. Cllr McLean is now a school governor. The Board approved this project.**

#### **Project Name: Murton Pantomimes**

**Councillors:** Adcock-Forster & Griffiths

**Project Cost:** £2,049

**NB Amount:** £2,049

**Description:** Murton Colliery Social welfare association would like to host 2 performances of a pantomime near Christmas for the children of the 2 local primary schools. Event would be held at The Glebe Centre.

**Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Adcock-Forster and 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: Heaters**

**Councillors:** Boyes & Surtees

**Project Cost:** £128

**NB Amount:** £128

**Description:** Focus Easington (Charity) Limited are applying for funding for four heaters for warm the Welcome Centre in Easington.

**Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Surtees. Cllr Surtees is a trustee of Focus Easington (Charity) Limited. The Board approved this project.**

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

**8. Any Other Business**

JMurphy asked that if any Board Members are available to attend the CDP health event on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November at Ramside Hall to please email him by tomorrow noon. If there were no takers we would send a couple of officers on our behalf.

**9. Date and time of next meeting**

**6pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at The Glebe Centre, Murton**