



STANLEY AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP (AAP)

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

Held on Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 5.00pm

Councillor:

Cllr Joyce Charlton
Cllr Gordon Binney

Partner Organisations:

Martyn Stenton (Durham County Council)
N Insp Dave Stewart (Durham Constabulary)
Martin Osborne (Karbon Homes)
Dan Hodgson (Fire Service)

Public Representatives:

John Ullathorne, Chair
Darren McMahon
Olga Milburn
Frankie Ward

Officer Attendance:

Daniel O'Brien (AAP Coordinator)
Lesley Lines (AAP Support Officer)
Andrea Boyd (AAP Community Development Project Officer)
Joanne Ashworth (Town & Villages, Community Development Project Officer)

Apologies:

Barbara Edmundson (Integrated Care Board, NHS), Suzanne Jobson (Karbon Homes), Cllr Joan Nicholson, Nerise Oldfield-Thompson (Voluntary & Community Sector), Linda Tyman (Public Representative), Carl Gippert (Public Representative), Vicky Walton (Public Representative), Cllr Carole Hampson, Cllr Carl Marshall, Max Wright (Business Representative), Cllr Jeanette Stephenson (Vice Chair), and Cllr Angela Hanson.

Public Attendance:

Two members of the Forum/Public attended the meeting.

1. Introductions and Apologies:

John welcomed everyone to Stanley AAP's third hybrid meeting at Morrison Busty. Apologies are noted above.

2. Declaration of Interest:

None received.

3. Agreement of the Minutes – 7th November 2023 and matters arising not covered on this agenda:

The Minutes of 7th November 2023 were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

4. Consultation on the Draft County Durham Housing Strategy and Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

Peter Ollivere, Durham County Council, gave a presentation updating on both the strategies moving forward.

Housing Strategy Introduction

- Consultation undertaken on the Principles and Priorities Paper from 26 June to 18 August 2023
- Detail of comments received set out in the Feedback Report
- Feedback has informed the draft strategy wherever possible
- Consultation on the Draft Strategy will take place from October 30 to 18 December 2023
- Following consultation, Draft Strategy modified as necessary and adopted in Spring 2024
- Preparation of delivery plan and monitoring framework following adoption

Main messages coming from the consultation.

- **Overwhelming support** for the vision, principles and priorities
- **Concerns about anti-social behaviour** and crime is illustrated by 34% of respondents to the resident survey disagreeing that they thought that their area was safe
- Support for the delivery of homes to **meet specific needs**, including homes for older people, families and affordable homes
- The importance of **adaptation of houses** to meet changing needs over a lifetime illustrated by 1 in 3 respondents to the residents survey did not think their home would meet their needs in the future
- **Energy efficiency improvements** - 91% of respondents to the resident survey stating that they wanted to live in an energy efficient house in the future
- **Financial pressures** - 27% of respondents disagreed that they thought they would be able to afford to keep their home warm in the future
- Concerns raised about the impact of **concentrations of private rented properties**, which can be associated with anti-social behaviour, empty homes and absent landlords
- **Support for regulation of landlords**, including through selective licensing, but also an ask for more recognition of good landlords
- Whilst recognising that meeting the needs of all groups is important the impact of **student housing** on mixed and balanced communities was raised by many respondents

- **Recognition of the rising issue of homelessness** in the county expressed by 1 in 10 young people agreeing that they or their family was homeless or at risk of homelessness
- **48% of those with a disability disagreed** that their home allowed them to live independently
- **Importance of bringing empty homes back** into use but also recognition that some properties are beyond their useful life and demolition may be appropriate
- Agreement that **good quality housing** is a significant factor in supporting health and wellbeing outcomes
- A recognition that new housing needs to be provided alongside **sufficient infrastructure** to accommodate the impact of the development including schools, doctors, parking etc.

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy – how we got here.

- **Statutory requirement to have a strategy in place.**
- **In depth review of homelessness and rough sleeping carried out over a 3-year period.**
- **Consultation earlier in the year on proposed priorities with a range of partners and members of the public.**

Key Points

The draft strategy differs from the existing strategy:

- It has a more detailed evidence base to inform the strategy.
- Reviewed the housing needs across a range of cohorts to identify gaps and service offer.
- It is clear which landlords we need to engage with to assist in homeless prevention and access to the supply of accommodation.
- Large increase in number of people requiring early advice – (increased by 96%)
- Reduction in helping people remain in their existing home by 34%
- Increase of 13% in numbers of people with complex needs
- Access to some tenures for certain cohorts is difficult.
- Pressures on temporary accommodation with less Council stock, pressure going up by 47% in 5 years.
- Final approval in Spring/Summer 24
- Establishment of a Homelessness Forum
- Development of a delivery plan

Consultation for both draft strategies is between 30 October and 18 December 2023

Provide your feedback on the Housing Strategy and/or the Draft County Durham Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy:

- Online at www.durham.gov.uk/consultation
- Virtual meeting next week on this subject.
- By emailing comments to thehousingconversation@durham.gov.uk
- At any of the council's Customer Access Points and libraries

Peter opened the floor to questions and asked Board Members for comment:

N Insp. Stewart commented that new builds need to have appropriate parking.

Peter advised that parking would be considered when building i.e. a 4 bedroomed house would have spaces for 3 cars.

Darren asked what the Council defined as rough sleepers. There needs to be a quicker response from the Council so that homelessness is not a choice. It takes far too long to get support and people are left fending for themselves; it needs a smoother transition.

Peter advised there would hopefully be more resources to support homelessness in the restructure.

Daniel said that he would work with Darren and Frankie regarding sheltered accommodation support and the issues tenants face locally in such accommodation.

The Chair thanked Peter for the presentation.

5. Neighbourhood Issues and Locality Policing Issues:

N Insp. Dave Stewart highlighted the recent incident that had started outside of Asda and moved through the Town ending on Clifford Road. He advised an arrest had been made. He added that the Bus Station had received some bad press in relation to the incident. He assured people that the incident had not occurred in the bus station.

The Chair asked if he thought there was enough CCTV in Stanley and if it was of a good enough standard. N Insp Stewart advised that they were looking into mobile CCTV units.

Daniel also advised that the AAP are to fund seven camera upgrades on the CCTV network in Stanley.

6. Joint Cadet Forces Presentation Feedback

John and Daniel updated everyone about the event that was held on Monday 13th November 2023 at Tanfield School where over over 160 Year 8 pupils experience the adventures of being a cadet for the day during an action-packed presentation.

Representatives from the Air Cadets, Army Cadets, Police, and Fire Service came together to demonstrate the cadet opportunities that are available in the region and the potential for these experiences to pave the way for future careers within the respective services.

The Institute for Social Innovation and Impact at the University of Northampton have carried out a four-year research project that found that participation in the Cadet Forces has significant positive impacts on young people, increasing their performance at school and improving their employment and career prospects. The impact is particularly strong for those cadets that suffer economic and other disadvantages. This finding is based on quantitative data gathered from c. 5,500 cadets on their level of self-efficacy as well as qualitative data.

Self-efficacy is a concept that relates to an individual's confidence, motivation and self-esteem and their belief in their ability to exert control over their environment.

Board Members that had attended the event said it was a fantastic day.

John advised he hoped to involve more organisations in the next event which would be held next April at North Durham Academy.

7. AAP Coordinator Update:

Daniel updated on a range of initiatives that the AAP had been working on.

Area Budget Application for approval:

Welfare Rights Officer at The Venue

Project Description: The project seeks continuation of the Welfare Rights Officer. The Welfare Reform funding will be used to place a Durham County Council Welfare Rights Officer in The Venue, Wear Road, Stanley every Wednesday to provide seven hours of one to one appointments with residents who reside within the Stanley AAP area.

Project cost £10,000

Daniel asked the Board for any comments. No Comments were received.

Board Members who were present at the meeting approved the application.

Daniel highlighted that Board Members were only able to make a decision in principle regarding the Welfare Rights Officer as the Board was not quorate. He added that he would email all Board Members **as it is necessary to seek Board Approval via email when the Board is not quorate.**

Community Engagement Review

Daniel advised that workstreams had now begun and he was working on the Funding, and Local Plan workstreams. He advised Board Members he would involve them whenever he could.

Poverty Task Group:

The next meeting of the Task Group is due to be held Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 5pm in the Louisa Centre. The Task Group continues to work on the Cost-of-Living issues encountered by local residents and publicity for 'Welcome Spaces in Stanley'. Daniel advised there was Welcome Spaces (formerly Warm Spaces) funding available to community groups of between £750 - £3k via County Durham Community Foundation.

Fun & Food Christmas 2023:

Daniel advised that he had received two applications: Oxhill Youth Club, and Stanley Young Peoples' Club.

Darren commented that this was disappointing as the need does not stop because it is Christmas.

8. Partner Work Update / Stanley specific items of interest:

Karbon Homes – Martin Osbourne, gave an update advising on the Board School. He advised this would be at least a two-year project. He would be organising Stakeholder Forums which would meet regularly and invited Board Members to take part. He advised the

first meeting would be held in January 2024 where updates on Karbon Homes other works would be discussed.

Cllr Joyce Charlton asked if Karbon had engaged with the businesses and residents in the surrounding the area?

Martin advised he had tried to identify a group and had emailed Love Beamish and Stanley but had no reply. He advised someone could be invited to receive regular reports.

Go Ahead North East – Free travel all this week to encourage people back on the buses.

9. Neighbourhood Budget Summaries:

Small Grants:

Applicant: White-Le-Head Bowls Club – Recruitment & Development

Project Brief: To Purchase new equipment & Uniforms.

Total Cost: £671.00

Councillor Gordon Binney Contribution: £671.00

10. Pre-Notified Any Other Business:

No pre-notified any other business had been received.

11. Next Meeting:

Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 5.00pm – Morrison Busty Depot fully Hybrid.

For further details about these minutes please contact Stanley AAP office,
Tel: 03000 265323 or Email: Stanleyaap@durham.gov.uk