

**3 Towns Partnership Board Meeting**  
**5.30pm on Thursday 16 May 2024 at Crook Civic Centre**

**PRESENT:**

**Partner Organisations**

Gordon Elliott  
Liz Bradley  
Helen Ward  
Jono Holmes

**Public Representatives**

Mary Hall  
Fiona Nicol  
David Dixon

**Elected Members**

Councillor Richard Manchester, Durham County Council  
Councillor Olwyn Gunn, Durham County Council  
Cllr Mike Currah, Durham County Council

**Presenters**

Paul Davies, Durham County Council

**Officer Attendance:**

Sandy Denney	AAP Coordinator
Nicola Woodgate	Community Development Project Officer
Sue Richardson	AAP Support Officer

**Public Attendance:**

18 members of the public were in attendance.

**AGM**

**A1. Welcome and Introductions**

**RM** opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and introductions of the Board were made.

**A2. 3 Towns Annual Report**

**SD** confirmed the 3 Towns Partnership Annual Report has been produced by **NW** and circulated electronically to the board. Further electronic copies are available on the 3 Towns webpage and printed copies are available on request.

The group was informed that this financial year there has been a total of £435, 920 allocated from the 3 Towns Partnership across all budgets with additional match funding of £617,808.55 which is an increase of £272,811 from last year. There have been 89 projects supported in the previous year. There have been 92,214 engagements through social media and 16 e-bulletins.

SD thanked the community organisations for attending the two networking events which provided valuable insights, bringing people together to discover new organisations and fostering new relationships for the future.

### **A3. Presentations by 3 Towns Partnership Funded Projects**

The following presentations were given by 3 Towns funded projects:

- Karl Brown, Willington Cricket Club gave a presentation on “The Old Pavillion”.
- Jackie Gent, Village Friends reviewed their previous years’ events with “our journey so far”.
- Cormac and Emily, 3 Towns Youth Panel discussed projects they have funded from the Children and Young People’s Small Grants.
- Sue Shine, Willington Open Door Church gave a presentation on Our Confident Community
- Leah and James Lane, Jack Drum Arts discussed the Rock Band Sessions and gave a presentation which featured a video “Cookie Crimes”.

SD thanked the presenters and all other organisations and individuals that have provided opportunities for the residents of the 3 Towns area.

SD thanked the current chair (RM) and vice chairs (MH and GE) for their support and for representing the partnership over past year.

### **Refreshment Break**

### **3 Towns Board Meeting**

#### **A1. Welcome and Introductions**

SD introduced the new chair and vice chairs. **MH** was announced as the new Chair, **OG** and **LB** were announced as the Vice Chairs for the coming year.

SD welcomed SR to her first meeting as Support Officer.

#### **Apologies:**

Councillor Patricia Jopling, Durham County Council, Councillor Fraser Tinsley, Durham County Council, Councillor Anne Reed, Durham County Council, Cllr Paul Stokes, Parish Councillor Tow Law , Cllr Margaret Elgie, Greater Willington Town Council. Insp Michael Sammut / Sgt Grant Cockerill, Police. Pauline Moger, Dianne Mackay, Chris Ebdon.

**The Board formally agreed** to co-opt Greater Willington Town Council to the board and Tow Law will take the 7<sup>th</sup> elected member seat.

#### **A2. Agreement of Minutes from Previous Meeting – 14 March 2024**

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

#### **A3. Presentation by Paul Davies – Customer Access Points (CAP) consultation**

**PD** gave a presentation on the Customer Access Points consultation which is currently open. The consultation is available on the DDC website and paper copies are available in libraries and CAP’s. The consultation will run to the end of July with discussions taking place in August-September and a decision is expected to go to Cabinet by December 2024.

PD opened the floor to questions:

- You stated that the offer would be spread over more areas? Are there any locations identified for this?  
We are asking for recommendations for locations as part of the consultation.
- Would suggest that the other towns of 3 Towns are considered – Willington and Tow Law
- Why was Wednesday chosen as the day for Crook CAP to be open. Tuesday is generally the busiest day in the town.  
Please feed that information into the consultation. Wednesday was chosen as the busiest day using the current appointment data.
- Need to consider issues of outlying areas where public transport is an issue. How would DCC look at other areas in terms of premises? Access to services online needs to be considered if there is to be a reduction in face-to-face services.  
DCC wants to pop up in more locations – suggestions for locations are asked in the consultation. A mobile CAP (like the mobile library) for example could be an option.

#### **A4. Local Neighbourhood Issues**

##### **Neighbourhood Budget Applications and Neighbourhood Budget Report**

NW informed the Board that the process has changed slightly. Applications with declarations of interest need to go to the Board for decision but all other projects will go to the Board for information only.

NW reminded the Board that there had been 4 applications circulated electronically since the last meeting. She then presented 5 Neighbourhood Budgets and directed the Board to the report in their packs.

##### **1. Electrical work for Christmas Tree, Wolsingham Road, Brancepeth**

Councillor Olwyn Gunn and Councillor Fraser Tinsley

NB £7,691; (£3845 each)

The Board were informed that the project is for comment only.

No comments were given.

##### **2. Willington Little BRASS Bash**

Councillor Olwyn Gunn and Councillor Fraser Tinsley

NB £2250 (£1125 each) with £6220 match funding

The Board were informed that the project is for comment only.

No comments were given.

##### **3. Springfield Allotments Improvements**

Councillor Olwyn Gunn and Councillor Fraser Tinsley

NB £4000 (£2000 each) with £199 match funding

The Board were informed that the project is for comment only.

No comments were given.

##### **4. The Village Circus Project**

Councillor Richard Manchester

NB: £3000 with £500 match funding. RM raised the issue that he sits on the Board of Tow Law Community Association which would benefit from room hire in the project. He therefore asked for the project to be dealt with as though he had a declaration of interest. The Board approved the project. No comments were given.

#### **5. Xmas Tree Light batteries and Defibrillator**

Councillor Olwyn Gunn and Councillor Fraser Tinsley

NB: £4190 (£2095 each) and £229.58 match funding

The Board were informed that the project is for comment only.

No comments were given.

### **A5. Priorities and Action Plans**

#### **Action Plan and Project Updates**

The Board were given an update on current projects:

- The **Call for Projects** deadline was the 15 May. 9 applications were received, with a total request of £108,361.
- **SD** reminded the Board that £124,283.70 is available for community recovery split between £94,283.70 revenue and £30,000 capital. They are currently undergoing appraisal and almost ready for queries to go out to organisations. These will go to the Board Funding Panel for decisions week commencing 24 June. A call for panel volunteers will go out shortly.

**The Board agreed** to delegate all decisions on funding allocations to a subgroup of volunteers from the 3 Towns Board.

- **Big Arts Funding** (£10,000) is a new funding stream this year. 1 application was returned, it was agreed at panel and the offer letter has been received by JDA. HW gave a description of the new project – Man Made, working with Willington Open Door Church.
- The **Fun and Food** deadline for the summer holidays is 22 May 2024. The changes to the DFE criteria have been discussed previously. 1 project was funded for the Easter holidays. Group discussion took place around new criteria and the availability of UK Shared prosperity funding for children who do not receive Free School meals but who have other vulnerabilities. The Fun and Food Team can be available this week to discuss any concerns that groups may have. Board members were asked to encourage groups to apply for the summer holidays.
- **Transport Task Group**, the first meeting will take place on 6 June 2024, 2pm-3.30pm at Crook Civic Centre, to identify issues and how consultation takes place going forward. Following meeting(s) to be held at other locations. Further details to be circulated.

**A6.** Massive thank you to GE who is retiring at the end of the month. SD shared anecdotes and slides from his time as a representative on the 3 Towns Board and thanked him for his support and encouragement over the past 12 years.

#### **A7. Date and time of next meeting**

**5.30pm on Thursday 13 July 2023 at Crook Civic Centre**