



Better for everyone

GREAT AYCLIFFE & MIDDRIDGE PARTNERSHIP (GAMP)

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2024 (6:00PM) MICROSOFT TEAMS ONLINE MEETING

PRESENT:

Cllr Eddy Adam – DCC, Cllr Neville Jones – DCC, Cllr Ken Robson – DCC, Cllr Tony Towers – Midldridge Parish, Sue Cooke, Simon Hocking, Chris Hutchinson (Vice Chair), Peter Shovlin, Glenis Simmonds, Natalie Whitworth, Daniel Blagdon – Health Representative, Andy Coulthard – Livin Housing Representative (Chair), Insp Sarah Honeyman – Police, Andy Kerr – DCC Head of Service Representative, Malcolm Woodward – Fire Service Representative

OFFICER ATTENDANCE:

Brian Riley – GAMP Coordinator, Victoria Grieves – GAMP Community Development Project Officer, Paula Stockport – GAMP Support Officer

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Jim Atkinson, Cllr David Sutton-Lloyd, Jeff Watson

OBSERVERS:

Mr B Adamson, Ms K Ward, Ms S McCormick

Standard Board Meeting

1. Introductions & Apologies

AC opened the meeting, reminding Board members of the standard Declaration of Interest item on the agenda. AC informed observers they would be welcome to comment under Items 3 and 4 on the agenda.

Apologies for absence were noted, as above. BR noted that Cllr Jim Atkinson has been quite poorly recently and Board members wished him well with his recovery.

2. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 26.1.24 – Matters Arising

BR confirmed that the draft minutes from the Board meeting held on 26 January 2024 had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers.

There were no outstanding actions or matters arising, and the minutes of the last meeting were **AGREED** by the Board as a true and accurate record.

3. **Countywide Partner Issues**

3.1 Fire & Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan

Board members received a presentation in relation to the Fire & Rescue Service's Community Risk Management Plan for 2024-27. MW outlined the background to the consultation and some brief detail around the questions being posed as part of this year's consultation. All Board members were encouraged to read further detail and take part in the survey via the website:

[Community Risk Consultation](#)

The closing date for responses is 10 May 2024.

[NW joined the meeting]

The following discussion points were noted:

- Cllr EA commended the work of the team in and around Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas, and in particular their support to Elected Members when carrying out community walkabouts. Cllr EA asked how many dwelling fires the team usually deal with in a year in our area, and whether there have been any major incidents, e.g. around INEOS. MW clarified that the service do map and plan when and where fires happen, particularly deliberate secondary fires, and those areas are targeted on a weekly and monthly basis as directed by available data. MW gave an overview of the figures for domestic dwelling and deliberate secondary fires since 2021, which have seen an overall reduction.
- Cllr EA asked how the Newton Aycliffe/GAMP area compares to other areas in the County in terms of numbers. MW noted that Newton Aycliffe is pretty good, particularly when compared to the East Coast area where they have the highest number of deliberate fires in the whole country. Cllr EA asked whether, in that case, the Risk Plan would see resources pushed more towards those areas. MW clarified that resources are directed strategically, those areas wouldn't necessarily get extra firefighters/engines, but more work from the Arson Reduction Team and community-based firefighters to carry out more education work in the local communities.
- Meeting observer Mr Adamson asked whether there is 24-hour cover currently in Newton Aycliffe. MW clarified that there are 2 x shift systems; the day crew (whole time firefighters) work from 7am till 7pm, 7 days a week. From 7pm to 7am, cover is from on-call staff (who live within 5 minutes travel time to the station). Cover is always based around risk.
- Insp SH commented that the Police work closely with Fire colleagues, sharing weekly figures around antisocial behaviour etc. Insp SH added that multiagency practice events take place every few years linked to INEOS with a range of partners involved including the Police, Fire Service, Environment Agency etc.

3.2 County Durham Partnership Forum Update

AC update Board members following his attendance at the recent County Durham Partnership Forum meeting on behalf of GAMP. There had been two main agenda items; an update in relation to the Towns & Villages (T&V) funding programme, and a presentation from DCC's Humanitarian Support Team in relation to their work across the County. In relation to the T&V programme, there had been a great range of projects supported across the County, some multi-million and some smaller scale with a more local focus, and a significant amount of match funding levered in as well. In relation to the humanitarian support work, Forum members had received a presentation outlining DCC's approach and their links with a range

of partners, e.g. housing providers and VCS organisations etc. The Leader of the Council, Amanda Hopgood, had suggested that it would be worth considering delivering a version of this presentation to all AAPs at a future meeting, and AC clarified that BR has made arrangements to look into this for a future GAMP meeting.

BR confirmed, for the minutes, all information circulated by email from the GAMP team since the last meeting:

- DCC Consultation update x 2 (January & February 2024);
- Information on the A167 upgrade (9.2.24);
- Safe Durham Partnership consultation info (18.3.24).
- GAMP ebulletin (18.3.24) – this included information on the Fire Service Community Risk Management Plan consultation.

BR reminded partners to get in touch if they need space on a future meeting agenda.

4. Local Neighbourhood Issues

4.1 Neighbourhood Policing Update

Insp SH updated Board members in relation to local PACT priorities, PACT meeting dates and current/emerging issues.

Insp SH noted that the team have now moved to the Glow Centre and are settling in well. Insp SH reiterated that the front office in the Town Centre is still open to the public between 10am-5pm, Monday to Friday.

Cllr KR asked whether the team will be looking at ways to increase attendance at PACT meetings. Insp SH highlighted that the team will continue to review this going forward, but often with the available time and resources the team's preference would be to be out and about patrolling. Too much time had been spent attending multiple meetings in the past where no one turned up.

AC noted that he had attended a meeting recently with Sgt Boyd and DCC colleagues around a reassurance/media campaign, which sounded really positive. This will probably start to take shape over the coming months and could be something that might be worth bringing to a future Board meeting for a wider conversation.

5. GAMP Coordinator's Update

5.1 2024-25 Funding Allocations

BR noted that for the coming financial year, 2024-25, Board members have already agreed that we will retain our overarching 'Community Recovery' priority, and that we will allocate our Area Budget funding by way of project callout.

BR added that the funding allocations/budgets for AAPs for 2024-25 have now been confirmed:

- £60k Area Budget revenue
- £30k Area Budget capital
- £10k Area Budget Youth Fund
- £10k Area Budget Poverty Action
- **Total AB allocation = £110k** (Boards have permission to amalgamate the different funding streams into one overall pot).

BR highlighted that AAPs have also been given a separate one-off 'Big Arts Project' funding allocation this year from Public Health colleagues (£10k). This funding has very specific criteria around mental health and the arts, and timescales are quite tight with some strict monitoring processes attached to the funding, which BR feels wouldn't realistically lend itself to our wider project callout. BR recommended, with the Board's permission, that he would propose the GAMP team make a direct approach to the Pioneering Care Partnership, who have the relevant knowledge and expertise, to identify a potential project which would see this funding allocated. This proposal has been provisionally discussed and agreed with the Chair and Vice-Chair at a recent pre-Board meeting. BR asked for Board members' views on this proposal.

Cllr EA asked whether the £10k allocation could be split into multiple projects, there could be other organisations that might be able to support projects, e.g. Hub of Wishes, who may want to get involved. BR responded that he has already given consideration to potentially opening up the funding to other interested parties, but would prefer the funding to be allocated to a group/organisation who have demonstrated they have the skills and experience to meet the complex monitoring requirements that are linked to this funding and will be required within a relatively tight timescale.

Board members **AGREED** with BR's proposal to approach the PCP and ask them to submit a project proposal to allocate the Big Arts funding (**Action 1: BR**).

BR highlighted that the Neighbourhood Budget (NB) allocation for each Elected Member for 2024/25 remains unchanged; each Cllr will have a budget of £19,400 (£14k capital/£5,400 revenue, and of the revenue up to £2k can be allocated to Small Grants).

BR reminded Cllrs that they have recently received an email from our Head of Service, Gordon Elliott (9.2.24), in relation to the timescales and deadlines for NB spend in the final year of the current electoral term. Cllrs are required to have all NB applications completed by **20 December 2024**, to allow our Funding Team sufficient time to have these processed before any pre-election publicity periods. As always, the GAMP team will support Cllrs to stay on track with spend.

5.2 Community Engagement Review

BR gave a brief update; the various workstreams are continuing to meet on a regular basis, covering issues such as governance, funding, four-year plans etc.

AC asked whether any official updates will be coming to AAP Boards in relation to progress/direction of travel at some point. BR will clarify (**Action 2: BR**).

5.3 GAMP Executive Arrangements for 2024/25

BR informed the Board of the Executive arrangements that will be made for the new financial year. Following our standard rotation, the Chair for 2024/25 will rotate to the Public Representative third of the Board. BR will contact each third of the Board separately by email after the meeting to seek expressions of interest for the Chair / Vice Chair roles, ready for these to be ratified at our AGM in May (**Action 3: BR**).

BR added that, in terms of the Elected Member third of the Board, the AAP Terms of Reference require us to rotate representatives where there are more Elected Members than the number of places available on the Board. BR noted that for the coming year, and with prior agreement from the Cllrs, it has been agreed that Cllr Eddy Adam will step down from the Board into the reserve role, which will allow Cllr Tony Stubbs (current reserve), to have a space on the Board, and these changes will take effect at the AGM. BR noted thanks to Cllr Adam on behalf of the GAMP team and Board members for his time and commitment to the Board, Cllr Adam has always been a really proactive and supportive Board member, taking part in a number of different subgroups and ranking panels over the years, and has been a pleasure to work with. Cllr EA thanked BR for his comments, noting that he will continue to attend meetings as an observer going forward. AC echoed BR's thanks to Cllr EA.

**6. Date/Time of Next Meeting (AGM):
Tuesday 21 May 2024, 6:00pm, Woodham Community Centre**

AC/BR thanked all attendees, and the meeting was closed.