



Better for everyone

**GREAT AYCLIFFE & MIDDRIDGE PARTNERSHIP (GAMP)
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY 21 MAY 2024, 6:00PM, WOODHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT:

Cllr Eddy Adam – DCC, Cllr Jim Atkinson – DCC, Cllr Ken Robson – DCC, Cllr Michael Stead – DCC, Cllr Tony Stubbs – DCC, Cllr David Sutton-Lloyd – DCC, Sue Cooke, Chris Hutchinson, Peter Shovlin, Glenis Simmonds, Jeff Watson, Liz Fisher – Voluntary & Community Sector Representative, Insp Sarah Honeyman – Police, Oliver Sherratt – Durham County Council, Brian Riley – GAMP Coordinator, Victoria Grieves – GAMP Community Development Project Officer, Paula Stockport – GAMP Support Officer

APOLOGIES:

Andy Coulthard, Simon Hocking, Natalie Whitworth, Cllr Tony Towers, Daniel Blagdon, Malcolm Woodward

OBSERVERS:

Mr R Adamson, Ms P Chambers, Ms H Wightman

Annual General Meeting

a. Introduction from Outgoing Chair

BR opened the meeting on behalf of the outgoing Chair, Andy Coulthard, who had submitted apologies. BR reminded Board members of the standard Declaration of Interest item on the agenda. BR reminded meeting observers they would be welcome to comment under Items 3 & 4 of today's agenda.

BR read out a few words of thanks on behalf of Andy, thanking Board members and the GAMP staff team for their support during his time as Chair, and wishing Chris all the best for the coming year as Chair.

BR thanked AC on behalf of the Board and GAMP team for his time as Chair.

BR took the Chair.

b. Election of Chair & Vice Chairs

BR confirmed that he has contacted all three sectors of the Board by email to coordinate Chair & Vice Chair nominations ahead of today's meeting and noted the following:

- Cllr JA has volunteered as Vice Chair for the Elected Member third;

- AC has volunteered as Vice Chair for the Statutory Partner third;
- CH has volunteered as Vice Chair for the Public Representative third.

BR clarified that our standard rotation this year will see the Chair pass to the Public Rep third of the Board, and CH will therefore take the Chair. BR thanked all three volunteers.

The above roles were **AGREED** and ratified by the Board.

c (i). Final Area Budget Spend (AB) 2023-24

BR confirmed that a final statement of Area Budget spend for 2023-24, including Towns & Villages funding, had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers, for information. The vast majority of projects are now underway.

c (ii). Final Neighbourhood Budget (NB) Spend 2023-24

BR confirmed that a final statement of Neighbourhood Budget spend for 2023-24 for all DCC Elected Members had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers, for information.

BR also highlighted that Cllrs have been reminded recently by Gordon Elliott (Head of Partnerships & Community Engagement) that as this is the final year of the current electoral term for Cllrs, therefore all NB funding must be fully allocated by December 2024. Cllrs will continue to be supported with this by the GAMP team to ensure that spend stays on track within the required timescales.

d. 2023-24 Annual Report

BR confirmed that the draft Annual Report for 2023-24 will hopefully be ready to circulate for comment within the next couple of weeks. Board members will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft report, following which it will be published via the usual channels. BR thanked PSt for her work collating the information for the report.

e. GAMP Review 2023-24 and Looking Forward to 2024-25

BR gave Board members an update presentation, with a look back at the work of GAMP during the 2023-24 financial year, and looking ahead to this year, as well as the various funding allocations that we will manage this year. As GAMP Coordinator BR is proud of what the Board has achieved as a Partnership to help support our communities. BR thanked VG and PSt, and also Angela Blanchard our Towns & Villages Project Officer, for their work to support the Partnership.

Cllr EA noted thanks to BR, who has been a huge asset in leading GAMP and a fantastic ambassador for Newton Aycliffe.

Standard Board Meeting

1. Introductions & Apologies

CH took the Chair, and thanked AC as outgoing Chair. A brief round of introductions was given.

BR highlighted that he has been contacted by Cllr Neville Jones who has expressed an interest in stepping back from the Board and reverting to reserve Cllr due to work commitments. BR has discussed this with Cllr EA, who had been due

to step down from the Board this evening and take up the reserve role; Cllr EA has confirmed he is happy to rejoin the Board, with Cllr NJ as reserve.

BR confirmed that apologies for absence had been received, as noted above.

2. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 26.3.24 – Matters Arising

The draft minutes from the Board meeting held on 26.3.24 had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. BR confirmed there were no outstanding actions. There were no 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 Lifeline Community Action (LCA) Update (Pauline Chambers)

Pauline updated Board members in relation to her role as Business Coordinator with Lifeline Community Action charity. PC began by thanking GAMP Board members for their funding support over the last few years. PC became involved with the charity back in 2015 and has seen demand for services continue to grow. The charity itself has also grown, now linking with around 70 referral partners, including NHS, Social Services, local foodbanks etc, and they provide support in a number of areas across the County. The existing premises at St Clare's Church limits delivery or expansion whilst demand continues to increase. Last year, PC was approached by a local Steering Group, which included reps from local charities and voluntary organisations, and also the Police, who were looking at the potential need for a new 'one stop shop' community hub, and PC was asked if LCA would be interesting in taking a lead on this. Lots of work has been taking place, and a possible unit in the Town Centre has been identified (the former Woolworths unit). There's still a lot of work to be done, including feasibility studies, negotiations with landowners, securing funding, community consultation etc. A number of service providers have expressed an interest in delivering from the hub. PC believes this is an exciting opportunity to support our local communities by providing a focal point in the Town Centre and bringing an empty building back into use.

Questions were invited from Board members and the following points were noted:

- Cllr DSL asked what partners/services have expressed an interest in potentially delivering from the hub. PC confirmed groups including Man Health, PCP, Police, Citizens Advice, Groundwork North East, Human Kind, The Cornforth Partnership, and some therapies have all expressed an interest.
- Cllr TS asked whether there could be a danger of having too many services based at the hub. PC clarified that a mapping exercise has been completed to find out who's doing what, and what organisations would be best placed delivering from the Town Centre which is ultimately where public say they want services to be. PC is also conscious that there will be a need to avoid duplication of provision, ultimately the hub would be looking to potentially generate income from room rental.
- Cllr EA commented that he believes the concept of a 'one stop shop' is essential and should be the focus, bringing in DCC services, and different charities and organisations who operate from the surrounding areas so that people don't have to travel.
- Cllr DSL commented that the Steering Group should decide which services will be based there rather than the building itself dictating this. PC noted the point, adding that it's very early stages at the moment.
- Cllr MS suggested that groups/services could perhaps be based at the hub for a short trial period and see how they go in terms of demand etc.

CH thanked Pauline for her update.

[PC left the meeting]

BR gave details, for the minutes, of all information circulated by email since the last Board meeting:

- Heighington Station appeal info (emailed 10.4.24);
- DCC Statement of Licensing Policy consultation (emailed 19.4.24);
- Copelaw Housing Development Site in Newton Aycliffe Consultation, which included details of an event at the Leisure Centre on 8.5.24 (emailed 29.4.24)
- DCC Consultations update (emailed 9.5.24);
- GAMP ebulletin (emailed 13.5.24).

4. Local Neighbourhood Issues

4.1 Neighbourhood Policing Update

Insp SH updated Board members in relation to PACT meetings, current and emerging issues. Insp SH gave an update on staffing.

Cllr EA asked if Insp SH had any update on the Police & Crime Commissioner's plans to establish a further police presence in Newton Aycliffe, and asked whether any progress had been made in relation to a possible site at Parsons Court. Insp SH that work is still ongoing to look at this, with a couple of options being considered, both of which could be costly. The situation is in the hands of the Executive and the PCC to consider.

Cllr EA suggested that the Board may wish to consider inviting the PCC to come along to a future meeting to give an update and hear our concerns in relation to a permanent Newton Aycliffe police base.

Cllr KR asked if Insp SH had any update on when the new Custody Suite at Spennymoor may be opening. Insp SH clarified that this is not her area, the latest update she is aware of is this will likely be the start of next year, or at very best the end of this year.

Cllr TS asked about the timeline for the GAMP funded drone to be in place. Insp SH clarified that the funding application is now with the GAMP team for processing. There have been some hold ups internally with the police whilst economies of scale were explored by the procurement department.

Cllr DSL commented that the community speedwatch van is taking a really long time. In addition, the GAMP funded CCTV was planned to be moved down to the Woodham area previously and Cllr DSL asked whether this is still the case. Insp SH confirmed that the speedwatch van is currently going through procurement and hopefully shouldn't be too much longer. In terms of the CCTV being moved, this takes a while to sort out but is still planned.

5. GAMP Coordinator's Update

5.1 2024-25 Area Budget (AB) Project Callout Update

BR confirmed that this year's AB Project Callout is currently open for Expressions of Interest. We've had a decent level of interest this time round, we've sent out 21 application packs to date. BR reminded Board members that the closing date for

applications is 12.00 noon on **Friday 31 May**, and asked Board members to signpost any potential applicants to the GAMP team.

Cllr DSL asked whether there will be a ranking panel, as in previous years, who will be considering the funding applications. BR confirmed he will be seeking volunteers from the Board to sit on a panel in due course (ideally 2 x representatives from each third).

5.2 Fun & Food (F&F) Funding Allocations

BR clarified this year's Fun & Food funding allocations:

- £58,149 Dept for Education (DfE) funding, which is aimed solely at supporting children in receipt of free school meals;
- £28,835 DCC UK Shared Prosperity Funding, which is available to match the DfE funding to support those children who do not meet the DfE free school meal criteria.

BR noted that this funding is to cover Easter, Summer and Christmas 2024 holidays (and confirmed that we allocated £6,183 at Easter).

BR also noted that the F&F funding is allocated separately to our main Area Budget funding, to fit in line with school holiday periods and the DfE timeline.

Cllr TS commented that the amount allocated at Easter allocation seems low in comparison to the overall budget, and asked whether this level of spend is typical. BR advised that we have had a much higher funding request for Summer. BR added that the funding is allocated to AAPs based on the numbers of free school meal children in each area, and Newton Aycliffe is quite high hence the high allocation. BR commented that application/monitoring processes and the strict criteria can be off-putting, particularly for smaller groups. The funding processes will be reviewed again centrally after the Summer holidays.

5.3 Community Engagement Review

BR confirmed that Board members recently received an update email from Gordon Elliott, who will be leaving the Authority and his post as Head of Partnerships & Community Engagement from the end of May 2024. Effective from 7 May, the Area Action Partnerships service was relocated to Economic Development, Regeneration, Economy & Growth, and our new Head of Service is Andy Kerr (who is also a partner representative on our Board, alternating attendance with Oliver Sherratt). Board members will hopefully get to meet Andy in person at the next meeting.

In terms of the transition to Local Networks, BR noted that there's a lot of work taking place internally with various workstreams to look at the different areas of work that will be needed as we move towards Networks. A Cabinet report which outlines details of proposed boundary changes for the 12 x Local Networks will be considered in the near future, and BR is hopeful that more of an update on this will be available at our July meeting.

6. **Date/Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 23 July 2024, 6:00pm, Pioneering Care Centre**

BR highlighted that for anyone who may be interested, there could be an opportunity (depending on timescales) for Board members to have a look around

the new hydrotherapy pool facility and Options room at the Pioneering Care Centre before the meeting starts, say from 5.30pm; details will be confirmed closer to the meeting date.

BR confirmed that Board members will be receiving an update on DCC's Customer Access Point consultation at the July meeting.

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