



Minutes of the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership Board Meeting

Thursday 19 September

Bishop Auckland Football Club

Present

Partner Representative

Colin Davis (CD) - County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
Deborah Richardson (DR) - Community and Voluntary Sector Representative
Insp Mark Edwards (ME) - Durham Constabulary
Paul Cooper (PC) – Durham County Council
Rachel Edmunds (RE) – Believe Housing – Chair
Steve Robson (SR) – Business Representative

Public Representative

Nicola Craddock (NC)
Peter Quinn (PQ)
Jayne Nicholson (JN) - Vice Chair
Tony Bird (TB)

Elected Members

Cllr Charlie Kay (CK)
Cllr Joanne Howey (JH)
Cllr Shirley Quinn (SQ) – Vice Chair

Presenters

Scott McNally (SMcNally), Assistant Assessment and Awards Manager – Durham County Council

Officers

Peter Garrod (PG) – AAP Co-ordinator
Sheilah Metcalfe (SM) - AAP Community Development Project Officer
Emma Walton (EW) - AAP Support Officer

Apologies

Cllr Cathy Hunt (CH) – Elected Member

Cllr Mike Harker (MH) – Town and Parish Council Representative

James Middleton (JM) – Public Representative

Cllr Samantha Townsend (ST) – Elected Member

Cllr George Smith (GS) - Elected Member

William Lightburn (WB) - AAP Community Development Project Officer

Public / Other Attendees – 9

Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership Board Meeting

A1. Introduction and apologies

Introductions and apologies were made.

Please see page 1 & 2 for attendees and apologies.

RE welcomed Board and Forum members to the meeting.

A2. Agreement of minutes and matters arising from previous meeting held 11 July 2024

Matters Arising:

PG confirmed Cllr George Smith was present at the last board meeting.

ACTION: EW to amend the minutes accordingly.

The Board **AGREED** the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

A3. Declaring an Interest

Debbie Richardson declared an interest in agenda item 5 Area Budget report, section 3.7.

Cllr Shirley Quinn and Peter Quinn declared an interest in agenda item 5 Area Budget report, section 3.5.

Cllr Shirley Quinn declared an interest in agenda item 5 Neighbourhood Budget report, section 3.8.

A4. Local Neighbourhood Issues

- **Welfare Rights, Welfare Benefit and Debt management Information, Advice and Guidance Consultation**

Board Members received a presentation from Scott McInally (SMcInally) – Assistant Assessment and Awards Manager - Durham County Council on the Welfare Rights, Welfare Benefit and Debt management Information, Advice and Guidance Consultation. SMcInally gave the background to the consultation and highlighted that the feedback received will help to inform the services funded from 2025/26. The feedback will be used alongside information gathered from other partners, to deliver effective advice and support services in the future.

Board and Forum members were encouraged to respond to the consultation. The deadline for comments is 5pm on the 20 September 2024. Further details in relation to the consultation are available via the website: www.durham.gov.uk/consultation

The Board made the following comments:

SQ asked can the consultation deadline be extended? SMcInally stated it is not possible to extend the deadline.

TB asked if the Cree clubs been included in the consultation? SMcInally stated he was unsure if the Cree clubs have been involved in the consultation.

TB raised concerns with outstanding claims from individuals and asked how can these be progressed? SMcInally stated that he was not aware of any back logs and suggested contacting the team.

ACTION: SMcInally to forward contact details to PG. PG to forward to TB.

PQ raised concerns with the deadline of the consultation. PC stated that it was unfortunate that the consultation could not be raised at a board meeting, well ahead of the consultation closing date to give appropriate response time. PG stated the consultation have been promoted on social media and a link to the consultation was circulated, last week, with the meeting papers.

SQ raised concerns with consultations been held during the recess period. SMcInally stated that the original consultation period was changed due to pre-election period.

JH asked is support available to those that are unable to complete the applications online. SMcInally stated that due to the large geographical area and limited staffing resources this is restricted. He reported that DCC are contacting those residents that may be eligible for additional welfare benefits.

DR confirmed that groups from Woodhouse Church have taken part in the consultation.

RE thanked SMcInally for the presentation.

A copy of the presentation is available by contacting a member of the BASH AAP Team on bishopshildonaap@durham.gov.uk or 03000 268663.

➤ **Local Neighbourhood Issue**

PG stated there has been one neighbourhood issue raised, in advance of the meeting. The issue raised was regarding the use of catapults and broken glass in Shildon. PG reported that the issue has been raised with the relevant partners and is awaiting a response.

A5. Priorities and Action Plans

➤ **Area Budget – Thriving Communities**

The Board were provided with the Area Budget proposal report.

PG reported the AAP Board agreed to launch a 'Call for Projects', based on the priority of Thriving Communities to generate project proposals that will address the brief.

A total of 33 applications were requested, and 23 applications received. Applications were submitted from a wide range of organisations. From these applications, the total request for funding was £244,910.

The AAP will have the following funding resources available to allocate in the financial year 2024/25:

- Area Budget - £110,000 - Inc Welfare Reform (£10,000), Youth Fund (£10,000)

Each application received was assessed and considered by the funding panel on 16 July 2024. The panel which is a sub-group on the BASH AAP Board reached a consensus on which projects to recommend to the Board for approval.

PG reported that after extensive consideration, the panel agreed 9 project proposals from the 23 submitted. Each project is subject to a full application and satisfactory project appraisal. Further recommendations were made on the unsuccessful projects and support is being offered by the AAP team.

PG stated that due to the number of declarations of interest and apologies the meeting will not be quorate for section 3.5 and 3.8 of the report. PG stated that the decision will be made in principle for these projects and circulated to Board members not in attendance for approval / non approval.

The following project proposals were presented to the Board for consideration, and for any added value or comments:

- **Hiyed CIC – Broadening Engagement and Work Opportunities**
Area Budget Request: £13,920
Match Funding Contribution: £20,800
Total Project Cost: £34,720

The Board received the project proposal and subject to full appraisal **AGREED** the recommendation of approval for an Area Budget allocation of £13,920.

- **Livein – Boost (Build your own opportunities to succeed and thrive)**
Area Budget Request: £5,000
Match Funding Contribution: £45,000
Total Project Cost: £50,000

The Board received the project proposal and subject to full appraisal **AGREED** the recommendation of approval for an Area Budget allocation of £5,000.

- **Eric Knows – Inclusive Futures**
Area Budget Request: £10,000
Match Funding Contribution: £10,000
Total Project Cost: £20,000

The Board received the project proposal and subject to full appraisal **AGREED** the recommendation of approval for an Area Budget allocation of £10,000.

- **Bridge Creative – The E & O Project**
Area Budget Request: £8,434
Match Funding Contribution: £843
Total Project Cost: £9,277

SR encouraged the project to link with South Durham Enterprise Agency.

The Board received the project proposal and subject to final application and full appraisal **AGREED** the recommendation of approval for an Area Budget allocation of £8,434.

- **Shildon Town Council – Shildon PlayZone Facility**
Area Budget Request: £24,000
Match Funding Contribution: £229,455

Total Project Cost: £264,000

PG notified the Board that the panel have recommended supporting this project to the value of £34,545. There was £10,545 remaining once all the projects had been reviewed. The panel felt recommending this project will support the Town Council in securing the required match funding and that the grant would provide good value for money.

Due to a number of declarations of interest and apologies the meeting is not quorate as such this project will be circulated via correspondence for one more councillor approval.

The Board received the project proposal and subject to full appraisal **AGREED**, in principle, the recommendation of approval for an Area Budget allocation of £34,545.

- **Family Action – The Bridge Young Carers**
Area Budget Request: £24,000
Match Funding Contribution: £229,455
Total Project Cost: £264,000

JH praised the work of Family Action.

The Board received the project proposal and subject to full appraisal **AGREED** the recommendation of approval for an Area Budget allocation of £24,000.

- **Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre – Crisis Intervention Worker Salary**
Area Budget Request: £14,206
Match Funding Contribution: £45,000
Total Project Cost: £59,206

CK asked where the match funds will be sourced from. PG stated that the match funding is from Greggs Foundation Community Grants Programme.

JH commented positively on the project.

The Board received the project proposal and subject to full appraisal **AGREED** the recommendation of approval for an Area Budget allocation of £14,206.

- **Jubilee Fields Community Association – Community Centre Security Improvements**

Area Budget Request: £7,984
Match Funding Contribution: £1,000
Total Project Cost: £8,984

Due to a number of declarations of interest and apologies the meeting is not quorate as such this project will be circulated via correspondence for one more councillor approval.

The Board received the project proposal and subject to full appraisal **AGREED**, in principle, the recommendation of approval for an Area Budget allocation of £7,984.

- **Shildon Children and Young People's Action Partnership (SCYPAN) – Youth Initiative (Group)**
Area Budget Request: £5,000
Match Funding Contribution: £16,328
Total Project Cost: £26,328

The panel are recommending that this project receive £10,000 to utilise the Youth Funding available.

The Board received the project proposal and subject to full appraisal **AGREED** the recommendation of approval for an Area Budget allocation of £10,000.

RE commented positively on the thorough and transparent process of allocating BASH funds when considering all applications for funding.

NC encouraged the support to grassroots organisations.

PG reported that in the next few months, a session will be held with the employability projects to ensure a partnership approach is delivered.

TB asked if the projects supported will be promoted and delivered to local groups and organisations. PG stated that where possible links will be made with local groups and organisations.

PG thanked those Board members that volunteered to be part of the funding panel.

The Board **AGREED** the content of the report.

The Board **AGREED** the proposals detailed in the report and is recommended to approve £110,000 Area Budget funding allocation to the projects as identified in the report.

➤ **Holiday Activities with Healthy Food**

The last round of funding was for the summer holidays. Following a call for projects each application was assessed and considered by the funding panel which agreed 10 applications. The following projects were supported:

- STARS Community Learning CIC - STARS Adventurers
- King James - Multi Sports Coaching Course with AJ Sports at King James I Academy
- Shildon AFC CIC - Summer Holidays - Football, Fun & Food programme
- Wear Rivers Trust - Wear Rivers Trust Holiday Provision
- OASES - Forest Fun
- Timothy Hackworth School - HAF Summer holidays 2024
- Jubilee Fields Community Association - Shildon Summer of Fun
- Angel Trust - Fun and Food 2024 – Angel Trust
- Eldon Community Partnership- Eldon Summer Camp
- West Auckland FC - Football, Fun and Food at West

The Board was presented with a range of photographs from the summer holiday delivery.

PG made the Board aware that one project that didn't fully deliver was Timothy Hackworth School - HAF Summer holidays 2024. This funding will be clawed back and reallocated accordingly. The Board will be updated accordingly once this information is available.

The next round of funding is for the Christmas holiday period. The funding will be launched on Monday 23 September 2024. Each application will be assessed and considered by the funding panel. An update on the projects supported will be provided at a future Board meeting.

SQ commented positively on the delivery at Jubilee Fields Community Association.

➤ **Neighbourhood Budget**

The Neighbourhood Budget report was circulated, in advance of the meeting, with the Board papers.

SM discussed the report and highlighted that the following Neighbourhood Budget application is for information and approval.

- **The Grand Hotel, Bishop Auckland – Highways, Durham County Council.**
Total Project Cost: £12,476
NB Allocation: £12,476 (Cllr Cathy Hunt and Joanne Howey £6,238 each)

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

- **Trip to the Pantomime - Cockton Hill Infants School**

Total Project Cost: £3,000

NB Allocation: £1,500 (Cllr Cathy Hunt)

Cllr Cathy Hunt has a declaration of interest in this project.

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

The Board received the application and **APPROVED** a recommendation of approval of £1,500.

- **Redecoration of Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre – Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre**

Total Project Cost: £3,000

NB Allocation: £3,000 (Cllr Cathy Hunt)

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

- **Play Out System and PC Upgrade – Prince Bishop Community Broadcasting Ltd.**
Total Project Cost: £3,700
NB Allocation: £3,700 (Cllrs Cathy Hunt, Joanne Howey, Andrew Jackson, Samantha Townsend and Sam Zair £740 each)

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

- **Salt Bin, Wesley Grove – Highways, Durham County Council.**

Total Project Cost: £1,405
NB Allocation: £1,405 (Cllr Sam Zair)

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

- **Flooring – Butterwick Hospice Care**
Total Project Cost: £2,857
NB Allocation: £2,857 (Cllrs Sam Zair £1,500, Cllr Andrew Jackson £500, Cllr Joanne Howey £857)

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

- **Shildon Summer Beach Trip – Shildon Alive**
Total Project Cost: £1,829
NB Allocation: £1,279 (Cllr Shirley Quinn £853, Cllr Samantha Townsend £426)

PQ stated this was a very popular event and well received in the Shildon area.

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

- **Memorial Tree – Shildon Town Council**
Total Project Cost: £17,721
NB Allocation: £15,795 (Cllrs Matt Johnson, Shirley Quinn, Samantha Townsend £5,265 each)

Cllrs Matt Johnson, Shirley Quinn and Samantha Townsend have a declaration of interest in this project.

Due to a number of declarations of interest and apologies the meeting is not quorate as such will be circulated via correspondence for one more councillor approval.

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board received the application and **APPROVED**, in principle, a recommendation of approval of £15,765.

- **Coundon Festive Lighting – Durham County Council**
Total Project Cost: £1,989

NB Allocation: £1,989 (Cllr Charlie Kay)

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

- **Refurbishment of the Food Bank – Angel Trust**
Total Project Cost: £54,930
NB Allocation: £15,593 (Cllr Andrew Jackson)

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

- **Installation of fence - Bishop Auckland Rugby Club**
Total Project Cost: £25,069

NB Allocation: £24,500 (Cllrs George Smith, Rob Yorke, Andrew Jackson, Cathy Hunt £5,000 each, Sam Zair £2,000, Charlie Kay £2,500)

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

The projects are subject to a full application and satisfactory project appraisal.

PG stated that due to number of declarations of interest and apologies the meeting will not be quorate for section 3.8 of the report. PG stated that the decisions will be made in principle for these projects and circulated to Board members not in attendance for approval / non approval.

PG stated that the end of the electoral cycle for county councillors is approaching. PG stated the applications will be circulated to the Board for their consideration. Applications with a declaration of interest, are to be approved by at least three members from each sector of the Board to be quorate. If a 'quorate' decision isn't reached the application cannot be progressed through to appraisal.

The Board noted the content of the report.

A9. Coordinators Update

- **F & P Scotto Charitable Trust**

PG provided a brief overview of the work that has taken place with the F & P Charitable Scotto Trust. PG reported that a range of projects have been supported. An update will be presented at a future Board meeting.

➤ **Public Rep Recruitment**

PG stated due to the resignation of Kirstie Wilkinson and Bernadette Crooks there were two public representative vacancies on the Board.

PG reported that the recruitment process concluded on Monday 16 September. As a result, Josh Railton and Jackie Osuagwu were appointed as public representatives.

PG thanked the Board members who supported the recruitment process.

➤ **Budget 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2026-2029 consultation.**

PG reported that previously the Councils MTFP budget consultation has been presented at AAP board meetings. However, this year the consultation runs from 20th September until 1 November 2024. Unfortunately, this does not fit around this year's board meetings. A special meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 October, 4pm on Microsoft Teams to discuss the budget consultation. This will be a joint meeting with GAMP AAP.

➤ **Environment Conference**

The Derwent Valley Partnership is hosting its first Environment Conference on Friday 27 September 2024, 10am – 2pm at Consett Rugby Club. The conference is free to attend, and a buffet lunch provided.

➤ **Man Health**

A leaflet was provided on the activities provided by ManHealth.

➤ **Towns & Villages**

PG stated that the Town and Villages (T&V) programme came to an end in March 2024 from an AAP programme perspective. All projects will be monitored and reviewed by the T&V central steering group. PG reported that due to a contractual issue the Shildon Wi-Fi project was unable to be delivered. The T&V steering group have agreed to reallocate these funds to the PlayZones project as requested by Shildon Town Council.

➤ **Community Engagement**

PG stated that the boundary consultation closes tomorrow. PG informed the Board that as a result of the Community Engagement Review consultation the AAPs will transition into Community Networks from May 2025. As it stands AAP Co-ordinators are on various workstreams looking at Terms of Reference, community engagement plans, streamlined funding process, AAP boundaries etc.

A10. Countywide Partner Issues

➤ **Police / PACT Update**

Insp Mark Edwards gave an update on the main priority issues for the BASH AAP area.

- Staffing recruitment is now complete. A new Chief Inspector, Dave Turner, has been recruited.
- The Woodhouse Church PACT meeting has been reinstated.
- In the coming weeks several Speedwatch sessions will be held in the BASH area.
- The issue of burglaries at West Auckland and St Helens was raised. There have been 22 burglaries in the last 5/6 weeks. This has been significantly reduced in the last week due to some targeted work. ME reported that doorbell footage is currently being collated and is providing valuable information.

➤ **Fire Service Update**

Colin Davis gave an update on the main priority issues for the BASH AAP area.

- There has been no spike in primary or secondary fires.
- Areas of focus include Bishop Auckland Town Centre and Cockfield.
- Work is taking place on the bridges in the area. Modifications have been made to Newgate Bridge.
- An Open Day will be taking place on 28 September 2024, 11am – 3pm at Bishop Auckland Fire Station

A11. Date / Time / Venue for next Board Meeting

PG reported this will be Colin Davis last meeting as he will be retiring. RE thanked Colin for his time on the Board.

RE thanked Board and Forum members for attending the meeting.

Board - Thursday 21 November 2024, 4pm, Civic Hall, Shildon

