

## **East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting**

**21 July 2021**

### **Key Messages**

The following are the key messages from the Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting held on Wednesday 21 July 2021 via Microsoft Teams:

- Jane Bellis, AAP Co-ordinator welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting of the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership.

Prior to the Election of Chair, the AAP Co-ordinator thanked the outgoing Chair, Malcolm Gray who had chaired the AAP for two years due to the pandemic. Jane had also thanked former Councillor John Robinson and Jen Straughan-Hawley for acting as Vice Chairs over the last two years, and for their help and support and standing in as Chair when needed.

Following the report circulated to Board Members on 25 June setting out the process the AAP follow to elect the Chair and Vice Chairs of the AAP Board, as per the Terms of Reference, it was confirmed that consensus had been reached via email that –

- Angela Stobbart will be the Vice Chair for the partner section of the Board
- Allan Blakemore will be the Vice Chair for the public section of the Board
- Councillor Chris Varty will be Vice Chair for the Elected Members section of the Board

This year the public representatives of the Board will hold the position of Chair. Board members were asked for consensus to the appointment of Allan Blakemore as Chair of the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership for 2021/22.

Board members agreed to the above appointments.

- Peter Maddison, the fire representative on the board shared a presentation on Deliberate Primary and Secondary Fires which is an issue across County Durham and something the fire authority is keen to tackle.
- A report on the AAP Countywide Funding had been circulated and provided Board Members with an overview of the process for the allocation of the 2020/21 AAP Countywide Funding and gave a summary of the projects supported from this resource. As part of the initial 2020/21 COVID-19 Recovery Emergency Funding allocated to AAPs, where each AAP received £100,000, there was an element of the fund made available for projects that delivered across multiple AAPs.

The Board agreed to the key administrative and operational recommendations as outlined in the report.

- Board Members had received a report on ‘Overview Summary’ Area Action Partnership and Member Neighbourhood Budgets – Proposed Operating Arrangements 2021/22. The purpose of this report was to provide an overview of the key points for the proposed operating arrangements for AAPs 2021/22.

The Board had been requested to note the information and agreed to the proposed key recommendations for the East Durham Rural Corridor AAP.

- A Towns and Villages Funding Update report had been circulated which provided Board Members with an overview of the newly aligned Towns and Villages funding that AAPs will receive to allocate from 2021.

£210,000 is available to support the Towns and Villages Programme for bigger grants of over £10,000 minimum grant, with 30% match needed and if the project is for feasibility work then it is capped at £30,000 maximum. This pot of money does not have to be spent this year; it can be spent over three years.

Further information on the Towns and Villages Programme can be found here <https://www.durham.gov.uk/townsandvillages>

- There were no neighbourhood budget projects to share with the Board.
- On behalf of Neighbourhood Insp Sarah Honeyman, Insp Andy Boyd provided an update on local policing issues.
- Date of next Board Meeting - Tuesday 28 September 2021

#### **Subsequent Board Meeting Dates**

- Thursday 21 October 2021
- Thursday 25 November 2021
- Tuesday 1 February 2022
- Wednesday 30 March 2022

Meetings will take place via Teams until further notice and will move back to the traditional 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm meeting time as soon as possible.