



Better for everyone

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

Thursday 12 May 2022

Civic Hall, Shildon

PRESENT

Partner Representative

Andy Palmer (AP) – Durham County Council
Insp Peter Lonsdale (PL) - Durham Constabulary
Rachel Edmunds (RE) – Believe Housing
Steven Robson (SR) – Business Representative – Vice Chair

Public Representative

Peter Quinn (PQ)
Bernadette Crooks (BC)
Tony Bird (TB) – Chair
Philippa May (PM)

Elected Members

Cllr Samantha Townsend (ST) – Elected Member
Cllr Shirley Quinn (SQ) – Elected Member – Vice Chair
Cllr Charlie Kay (CK) – Elected Member
Cllr Cathy Hunt (CH) – Elected Member
Cllr George Smith (GS) – Elected Member
Cllr Joanne Howey (JH) – Elected Member

Officers

Andrew Walker (APW) - AAP Co-ordinator
Sheilah Metcalfe (SM) - AAP Community Development Project Officer
Emma Walton (EW) - AAP Support Officer
Peter Henderson (PH) - CDPO Towns and Villages Team - Durham County Council

Apologies

Tommy Taylor (TT)
Claire Craft (CC) - AAP Community Development Project Officer
Cllr Andrew Jackson (AJ) – Elected Member
Colin Davis (CD) - County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
Andrew Coxon (AC)
David McCreedy (DM) – Voluntary Sector Representative

Public / Other Attendees – 21

Annual General Meeting

A1. Introduction from current Chair / Coordinator

RE welcomed and thanked Cllr Elizabeth Scott - Portfolio Holder for Economy and Partnership, Board and forum members, stall holders and project leads, for attending the meeting, the first face to face meeting in 2 years because of the pandemic. This was echoed APW.

RE gave an overview of her time as the BASH Chair for 2021/22, thanking past and present Board members, Forum members and the BASH AAP team for their time and dedication to the work of the partnership throughout another challenging year.

RE wished all the best to the new chair for 2022/23.

A2. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs

APW explained the procedure for the election of Chair and Vice Chairs. The Board agreed the Chair / Vice Chairs for the Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP for 2022/23 will be:

- Tony Bird – Chair – Public Representative
- Steven Robson – Vice Chair – Partner Representative
- Cllr Shirley Quinn – Vice Chair – Elected Representative

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

APW thanked RE for her time, support and dedication as Chair of BASH AAP. This was echoed by SQ. In addition, continued to thank the Vice Chairs, the BASH Board, Forum members, project leads and organisations for their continued involvement with the AAP throughout the year.

Finally, APW thanked the BASH AAP team for their hard work. This was echoed by JH.

A3. 2021/22 Progress and Finance Update

APW gave a presentation to the Board regarding the work carried out and the progress made by BASH AAP in 2021/22. A brief overview of the projects supported through Area Budget, Neighbourhood Budget and Holiday Activities with Healthy Food funding was provided. APW detailed budget spend and a number of projects supported.

APW highlighted that work continues to take place with the F & P Scotto Charitable Trust. The Trust has funded a further 4 projects to a value of approx. £25,000. To date 159 projects have been supported to the value of £1,127,192.

The Board were provided with a financial overview of the funding available to the AAP this year and were informed of the future opportunities and challenges faced.

Presentations were delivered on the following projects funded by BASH AAP:

- SDEA Pandemic Business Recovery Grant – SDEA – Steven Robson

CK asked when will the project programme end? SR stated that the programme will end in December 2022.

CH congratulated the project on its success.

- Shildon Alive – Paula Nelson

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

PQ thanked project leads for the delivery of some excellent projects. In addition, thanked the BASH AAP team.

Cllr Elizabeth Scott thanked the BASH Board and the BASH AAP team for the work that has been carried out.

APW thanked everyone and closed the AGM.

Board Meeting

A4. Introductions and apologies

Introductions and apologies were made.

Please see page 1 & 2 for attendees and apologies.

TB thanked RE for her time as Chair.

APW welcomed Cllr George Smith, newly elected member for the West Auckland division, to the BASH Board.

A5. Agreement of minutes and matters arising from previous meeting held 24 March 2022

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

A6. Declaring an Interest

Cllr George Smith declared an interest in the New Street Play Area Improvements project.

A7. Local Neighbourhood Issues

There were no local neighbourhood issues.

A8. Priorities and Action Plans

➤ Area Budget - Community / COVID 19 Recovery

The Board were provided with the AAP Budget update report.

As previously highlighted at the AGM, for the financial year 2021/22, the Board agreed to approve £244,237 Area Budget funding to 11 projects. Due to the reconciliation of underspend from two projects from a previous year there is a remaining balance of £22,501 to allocate. This balance will be carried forward and added to the 2022/23 Area Budget.

In addition to the carry forward outlined above, the AAP will have the following funding resources available to allocate in the financial year 2022/23:

- £210,000 Town and Villages Funding (to be fully allocated by the end of 2023/24)
- £100,000 Area Budget Funding
- £83,513 Fun and Food Funding for Easter, Summer and Christmas 2022 school holiday periods (there may be additional resources for half-term holidays however this is yet to be confirmed)
- £25,000 Older Peoples Social Isolation Funding
- £9,902 Youth Funding
- £10,000 Welfare Reform Funding
- £10,000 Young People's Healthy Relationships Funding

Further details/guidance on some aspects of this funding are still to be determined.

APW reported that the AAP priority survey is now closed. There have been over 100 responses to the survey. APW provided a brief overview of the findings and the feedback received. 72.8% agreed that 'Community/ COVID Recovery' should remain as the BASH AAP priority for 2022/23. APW stated the results of the priority survey will be shared with the Board.

ACTION: APW to share priority survey results with the Board.

Board members discussed the findings of the survey.

PQ suggested continuing with the single priority of 'Community / COVID Recovery' for 2022/23. This was agreed by JH.

The Board **AGREED** to the single priority of 'Community / COVID Recovery' for 2022/23.

➤ Town and Village Revitalisation

APW reminded the Board that BASH AAP has an additional £210,000 funding to address the priority of Towns and Villages over 3 years.

The Towns and Village Revitalisation task group has met for the sixth time. The group are now working on several potential project proposals that will take place across the whole of the BASH AAP area. The funding panel has assessed and considered applications from King James Academy and Durham County Council. The panel have agreed to recommend the projects for Board approval.

However, APW explained that due to outstanding cost information the application from Durham County Council will be deferred to a future Board meeting.

The Board received the following Towns and Villages application for information, comment and approval. Each project is subject to a full application and satisfactory project appraisal.

- **King James Academy - Move@King James Academy**
BASH T&V Contribution – £13,575
Match Funding - £8,188
Total Cost - £21,763

CK asked which building the feasibility study will be taking place on.

ACTION – PH to send the site plans to CK.

There were no further comments from the Board

The Board received the application and **APPROVED** a recommendation of approval of £13,575.

➤ **Neighbourhood Budget**

Neighbourhood Budget - Towns and Villages

APW stated that in addition elected members have also received an additional £10,000 each to address Town and Villages Revitalisation. Elected Members are also working on allocating their NB T & V funding.

The Board received the following Towns and Villages Neighbourhood Budget application for information and comment. The project is subject to a full application and satisfactory project appraisal.

- **Durham County Council Clean and Green Team- New Street Play Area Improvements**
Towns and Villages Councillors NB Contribution - £15,680 - Cllrs Rob Yorke and Mark Idwal-Roberts – (£7,840 each)
Match Funding - £13,970
Total Cost - £29,650

GS has a declaration of interest in this project.

There were no comments from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

➤ **Holiday Activities with Healthy Food**

An update on Holiday Activities with Healthy Food was provided as part of the AGM.

A9. Coordinators Update

➤ **Public Rep Recruitment**

APW informed the Board that, partner representative, David McCreedy will be resigning from the BASH Board.

APW thanked David McCreedy for his time and dedication to the BASH Board. This was echoed by the Board who thanked and wished David well.

In addition, the Board were informed that Fred Langley's term as public rep is coming to an end. Recruitment for a public representative and a voluntary sector representative on the BASH Board will take place in the coming weeks.

Further details in relation to the vacancies are available by contacting a member of the BASH team.

Finally, APW notified the Board that Claire Craft will be leaving the BASH AAP team to join East Durham Rural AAP as a full time CDPO. A recruitment process is underway, to appoint a replacement. The board will be updated accordingly.

CK stated that Claire has been a fantastic asset to the team. This was echoed by the Board.

➤ **Future Board Meetings**

APW gave an overview of the how board meeting has taken place over the last 2 years during the pandemic. As restrictions have now been lifted and face to face meetings can now take place, the Board were asked how they would like to meet.

The Board discussed at length future Board meetings including their format, venues, schedule and timings.

The Board **AGREED** to continue to meet each month at 4pm on Microsoft Teams with a meeting each quarter to be held in person.

ACTION – BASH AAP Team to circulate a revised schedule of Board meetings for 2022/23.

➤ **AAP Countywide Funding 2021-22 Funding Report**

The Board were provided with the AAP Countywide Funding 2021-22 funding report. The report provides an overview of the AAP countywide funding allocation process for 2021-22 and gives a summary of the projects supported. The funding was overseen and agreed by an AAP countywide group which was formed from each of the Chairs of the 14 AAPs.

A10. Countywide Partner Issues

➤ Police / PACT Update

Insp Peter Lonsdale gave an update on the main priority issues for the BASH area.

- There will be 2 new PC's and 3 new PCSO's in place in the coming weeks. Once in post, SQ requested that the new PCSO's contact their local elected members.
- Work is taking place with DCC to rehome refugees.
- Appleby will be taking place in 4 weeks' time. Gurney Valley is now open. There are currently no issues at Bishop Auckland Rugby Club.
- There has been an increase in crime and metal theft.
- The main focus in the BASH AAP area has been mental health, ASB, off road biking, horse issues at West Auckland and drug related issues in Bishop Auckland Town Centre. PL stated that POT plans are in place.
- PACT meetings continue with Facebook PACT meetings taking place online. The Police are exploring improved ways of engaging with members of the public. JH suggested exploring different methods of promoting the PACT meetings such as posters and flyers.
- ASB has reduced at Coundon, Tindale and Eldon.
- Operation Trident has seen a series of achievements in the Cockton Hill area.

SQ asked if PACT meetings can be arranged in Eldon and Dene Valley. PL stated that a PACT meeting was held in Eldon on 22 Jan 2022 and on the 1st May 2022. Once staffing issues have been resolved it is hoped that a PACT meeting can be arranged for a future date.

TB stated that there is no sustainability or continuity with PACT meetings and encouraged communications in Eldon.

PQ thanked the police for the work that has taken place in Shildon.

A11. Date / Time / Venue for next Board Meeting

TB thanked Board and Forum members for attending the meeting.

Thursday 16 June 2022, 4pm, Microsoft Teams