



**GREAT AYCLIFFE & MIDDRIDGE PARTNERSHIP (GAMP)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY 29 MARCH 2022, 6:00PM (VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS)**

PRESENT:

Cllr Eddy Adam – DCC, Cllr James Atkinson – DCC (Vice Chair), Cllr Alan Jordan – Middridge Parish, Cllr Ken Robson – DCC, Cllr Tony Stubbs – DCC, Cllr David Sutton-Lloyd – DCC, Sue Cooke (Vice Chair), Julie Dudley, Simon Hocking, Chris Hutchinson, Peter Shovlin, Natalie Whitworth, Andy Coulthard – Livin Housing Representative, Insp Sarah Honeyman – Police Representative (Chair), Oliver Sherratt – DCC Head of Service Representative, Malcolm Woodward – Fire Service Representative, Brian Riley – GAMP Coordinator, Victoria Grieves – GAMP Community Development Project Officer, Angela Blanchard – GAMP Towns & Villages Link Officer

PRESENTERS:

Anne Davison – DCC Regeneration, Economy & Growth, Glenn Martin – DCC Regeneration, Economy & Growth

APOLOGIES:

Peter Gallone, Kate Hopper, Cllr Neville Jones, Paula Stockport ¹

OBSERVERS:

Mr R Forster, Ms K Ward, Ms H Brewster

Standard Board Meeting

1. Introductions & Apologies

Insp SH opened the meeting, reminding observers they would be welcome to comment under Items 3 and 4 on the agenda. Insp SH also reminded Board members of the standard Declaration of Interest item on the agenda. BR informed the Board that it would have been Kate Hopper's return to the Board this evening (as Public Representative), but Kate has submitted apologies. BR also confirmed that this will be Cllr Alan Jordan's last Board meeting in the role of Town & Parish Council rep, and thanked Alan on behalf of the Board for his contribution to GAMP over the years. BR will keep the Board updated on Alan's replacement, which will need to be agreed by the Local Council's Committee.

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

¹ Retrospective apologies noted from Carol Gaskarth

2. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 25.1.22 – Matters Arising

The draft minutes from the Board meeting held on 25.1.22 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 DCC – Libraries for You Presentation (Anne Davison)

Board members received a presentation in relation to the Council's current Libraries for You consultation.

AD gave an overview of Co Durham Libraries and what they have learnt during the COVID pandemic. AD also clarified why DCC are consulting and what they are asking people to do. The first phase of the consultation is open until 1 April 2022. Phase 2 will be 'Have your Say' from January 2023 – November 2023, with phase 3 to follow.

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

- Cllr DSL – will there be any special emphasis on consulting with youth and children? AD commented that DCC are working closely with the Youth Council to establish a child-friendly consultation questionnaire.
- Cllr EA – how much is the consultation linking in with schools? AD commented they are working with the Community Development Team and the Youth Networks and including consultation information on the County's school extranet system.
- Cllr TS – requested clarification on membership pre- and post-COVID, and also what defined an 'active member'? AD clarified that an 'active' borrower is a resident borrowing books, and also commented that members do not need to be active. AD also added that letters have been sent to all members without an email.
- AC – given the consultation is over 2 years, how do the library service plan to keep people engaged? AD commented that they will look at 'small fixes', such as pilot schemes, but commented that there will be other elements which will take longer, such as structural and major changes if Countywide.
- AD offered to return to a future GAMP board meeting with further updates on phase 2 of the consultation.

Insp SH thanked AD for attending.

3.2 DCC Economic Strategy Update (Glenn Martin)

Board members received a presentation in relation to the new Durham County Council Economic Strategy.

GM gave an overview of the new Strategy and how DCC plan to consult for its development. GM explained the development process timeline. The 'Big Conversation' consultation began in January and plans to run until late 2022 when it is hoped the new strategy will be adopted.

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

- Cllr EA – has the Levelling Up/Government agenda got potential to delay the new strategy timeline? GM responded there have been no specific timescales given from government, however this should not affect having final decisions down on paper within DCC given timescales, although this will be dependent on government timeframes.
- Cllr KR – is there any reason why Newton Aycliffe has been missed by previous developments? GM advised that the Council are looking at new ways of developing the strategy and are aware some areas have been neglected in the past.
- Cllr KR – invited GM to attend an Acorn Residents event to promote the consultation; GM to get in touch to arrange.
- JD – asked whether transport and public transport routes are being considered? GM advised that these are common occurring themes already and will be considered in the Strategy.
- Cllr JA – what is being done to involve schools and children? GM advised communication is ongoing with schools.
- SH – asked if DCC check whether money goes back into the local economy? GM stated that DCC are hot on this and also other large businesses are made aware that money spent in the economy stays in the County.

Insp SH thanked GM for attending.

BR confirmed, for the minutes, that the following information had been circulated to Board members by email since the last meeting:

- an update on the Greenfield Community College consultation (27.1.22);
- Armed Forces Outreach Service Drop-In Session information (7.2.22);
- an update on the AAP Countywide Funding allocation (18.2.22);
- information on the review of Community Engagement & Funding Processes (8.3.22) – see Item 5.5;
- consultation information in relation to Consuming Alcohol and Aggressive Begging in Durham City (22.3.22).

There were no additional partner updates. 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 ongoing antisocial behaviour issues, local PACT priorities and meeting dates, crime data, as well as current and emerging issues.

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

- Cllr TS – asked for clarification around ASB figures and could he have a collective figure for the decrease in ASB? Insp SH responded that ASB is collectively 14% down in the GAMP area year on year, and the figures are collated per ward as per Cllrs' previous request.
- Cllr JA – commented on young children wearing balaclavas, which he finds intimidating, and is there anything that can be done? Insp SH advised that although it is not illegal to cover the face with a balaclava, Neighbourhood

Officers would advise that it is not always appropriate if or when they came across any incidences.

BR confirmed that a copy of Insp SH's update report will be circulated with the minutes.

5. GAMP Coordinator's Update

5.1 2021-22 Area Budget (AB) Update

BR confirmed that an Area Budget spend update had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers, for information. BR noted there was a small error in the figure listed for the School Aycliffe Disabled Toilets (Towns & Villages) project; the funding figure allocated was reduced to £20,208, which leaves a T&V Area Budget balance of £129,242.

BR also highlighted that the total main AB starting balance this year was slightly higher than the planned £244,902 due to a small underspend from a 2018 project which was returned to us part way through this financial year (£3,943.50), hence why there is a small AB balance still remaining.

BR commented that the Towns & Villages AB funding allocation (£210k) can cover a three-year period, and confirmed that the T&V subgroup continue to meet.

5.2 2021-22 Neighbourhood Budget (NB) Update

BR confirmed that a Neighbourhood Budget spend update had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers, for information. BR reminded Cllrs they are permitted to carry forward any unallocated NB from 2021-22 into 2022-23, but no further carry forward beyond this date is allowed unless Cllrs can demonstrate a clear spending plan, and this will require approval from the Head of Partnerships & Community Engagement, and BR encouraged Cllrs to start giving consideration now to allocating this funding, especially given that the Year-2 allocation will be coming soon, i.e. a further £19,400. This helps avoid a 'bottleneck' at the end of the financial period.

BR confirmed that VG has recently circulated details of NB balances to all 7 x Cllrs for information.

BR reminded Board members that Cllrs also have an additional £10k to enhance their Neighbourhood Budget this year, for T&Vs schemes, and are being supported by Angela Blanchard on this.

5.3 AAP Community Priorities Survey

BR confirmed that the online Community Priorities survey was available countywide from Monday 31 January until Friday 11 March, and the GAMP team also issued some paper copies of the questionnaire to several local community groups. BR confirmed we had a total of 190 responses for the GAMP area, which is pretty good.

BR confirmed that the majority of responses opted to retain the overarching 'Community Recovery' priority theme for GAMP to focus on for the coming financial year, and as Coordinator, this would also be BR's preferred option, being broad enough to cover most of the key issues affecting our communities.

BR asked if Board members were in agreement to focus on the 'Community Recovery' priority for 2022-23, and this was fully **AGREED**.

5.4 2022-23 AAP Funding

BR clarified that at the current time, AAP Coordinators have received no formal notification of what our AAP budgets will be for the coming financial year. It's likely that the core AB of £100k will be allocated again, probably alongside £10k Welfare Reform funding and £9,902 Youth Funding, but we are currently unsure on the £25k Older Peoples Social Isolation Fund – none of this is officially confirmed, and BR will keep Board members updated on this as soon as further information is available.

BR clarified therefore that, until our budgets have been confirmed, it would be difficult to agree a clear way forward for allocation of funding for next year, i.e. progressing with a project callout. BR asked Board members whether they would agree in principle that we would progress with a project callout once we have received clarification of our budgets, and this was fully **AGREED**.

5.5 Community Engagement & Funding Processes Review

BR confirmed that a copy of the Cabinet Report in relation to DCC's Community Engagement & Funding Processes review was circulated for information on 8 March. At the moment this is as much as we know, DCC are currently looking into appointing a consultant to carry out the review. BR asked Board members to take time to read through the report, as it will definitely impact on future Board membership and working arrangements.

Cllr EA stated that the report only highlights 'Community Engagement' within AAPs but does not mention how it will engage across the whole authority. BR commented that this point has also been highlighted at AAP Coordinator meetings.

5.6 2022-23 GAMP Executive Arrangements

BR informed Board members that the Chair for 2022-23 will rotate from Statutory Partners to Elected Members. BR clarified that we will also be giving Cllrs the option to rotate so that our reserve rep (Cllr Michael Stead) has an opportunity to take up a place on the Board if he wishes; this rotation has previously been discussed and agreed with DCC Cllrs.

BR will contact each sector of the board 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 1: BR**).

5.7 Format for Future GAMP Board Meetings

BR clarified that there has been discussion centrally in relation to the format for AAP Board meetings going forward, now that COVID restrictions are easing and a return to face-to-face meetings can be considered. Should AAP Boards be given authority to choose their preferred format for future meetings, i.e. whether to remain holding meetings via Teams or return to a face-to-face format, BR asked Board members to consider what their preferred option would be. BR also asked for Board members' views around the possibility of hosting winter meetings via Teams.

Board members discussed the various options and the respective pros and cons, and the majority would prefer to go forward with meetings still taking place via

Teams. This could be reviewed again at a later date should circumstances relating to COVID change.

Items not on the Agenda

- NW briefly updated Board members in relation to the new 'Reunite & Reconnect' project which was recently awarded GAMP funding. Sessions will start at St Clare's church from Monday 25 April between 10-12 noon. Flyer to be sent with meeting minutes (**Action 2: BR**).

6. Date/Time of Next Meeting (AGM):

Tuesday 24 May 2022, 6:00pm (via Teams)

- Cllr KR submitted apologies for the May meeting.

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