

Durham Area Action Partnership Minutes of the Board Meeting
Monday 8 July 2024
(Virtual Meeting - held via Microsoft Teams)

Board Members

Attendance: Cllr Liz Brown, Cllr Eric Mavin, Cllr Lesley Mavin, Cllr Lucy Hovvels, Gary Tidbury, Gary Tough, Rebecca Ashby, Dasha Murphy, Victoria Ashfield, Jen Straughan-Hawley, Paul Howard, Chris Tindale, Dave Clarke, Paul Lysaght

AAP Officer

Attendance: Craig Morgan – AAP Co-ordinator
Wendy Lavelle – Community Development Project Officer
Lyndsey Hunter – Community Development Project Officer
Marie Ainscough – AAP Support Officer

Presenter: Sarah Welsh, Strategic Manager (Customer Relations) - Durham County Council

Apologies Board: Maureen Boettcher, Lee Alexander, Sam Humble, Georgia Donohue, Katie Binks

Forum Members: 8 forum members attended the meeting.

1 Welcome from the Chair, Introductions and Apologies

Cllr Lesley Mavin (Chair) welcomed everyone to the online Durham AAP Board Meeting.

Apologies for absence, [as above].

2 Presentation: Durham County Council Advice Services

Sarah Welsh delivered a presentation on Durham County Council's Advice Services which included managing money, debt management and access to benefits, as well as welfare, employment, housing, consumer rights and health and social care.

To have your say in how advice services are offered to County Durham residents in the future either go to the consultation website for more information and to complete the survey online <https://www.durham.gov.uk/consultation>; visit one of the libraries or CAPs to complete a paper survey or take a paper survey.

The deadline for feedback is 5.00 pm on Friday 20 September 2024.

Following Sarah's presentation, the meeting was opened for discussion.

- How do you reach those people who can't access the survey online, taking into consideration the transport issues in some AAP areas? We need to be making it easy for people to participate. Craig said he would raise this conversation with colleagues in the consultation and engagement team.
- Does DCC have out of hours provision for this type of service?
- Gary Tough, the Fire Representative on the Board said if paper copies of the survey could be dropped off at Durham fire station, officers could distribute them when they do home fire safety visits. Sarah to liaise with Gary to arrange this.

The Chair thanked Sarah for her presentation, and she left the meeting.

3 [Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 21 May 2024 and Matters Arising](#)

The Chair reviewed the previous minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy.

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

Some applicants had received their offer letters whilst others were awaiting theirs following pre-election guidance.

4 [Funding Update](#)

An update on the current funding position had been included in the papers.

There was one application being considered at this meeting (see item 6 below) and if approved, there would be £0 Area Budget remaining.

There was £0 Big Arts Mental Health Funding left to allocate.

5 [Project Monitoring Report – Quarter 1 2024/25 \(April – June\)](#)

Craig delivered a presentation on the Quarter 1 project progress report for the period 1 April 2024 – 30 June 2024. Durham AAP is required to monitor all area budget and towns and villages fund projects it had funded on a quarterly basis and at their completion by the AAP funding team. Neighbourhood budget projects over £10,000 are also monitored.

A comprehensive report on all projects currently being monitored had previously been circulated to Board members for information.

6 Area Budget Applications to consider.

Durham Paddle Sports Club

An application had been received for £4,000 towards a total project cost of £5,500.

Queries were raised in relation to –

- Whether members paid subs
- What their membership costs were
- How many members there were and if they were from the Durham AAP area.
- Has the applicant taken advice from crime prevention and considered CCTV?

Board members were happy to support this project and it was approved.

7 Budget Updates

Neighbourhood Budgets updates and approvals

The following neighbourhood budget projects were shared with the Board -

Name of Scheme: Summer Holiday Provision
Councillor(s): Eric Mavin
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £1,990

Name of Scheme: A181 Sherburn House Vehicle Activated Sign
Councillor(s): David Stoker
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £9,710

The Board was happy for the projects to go ahead.

Fun and Food (Holiday Activities with Healthy Food)

Five fun and food applications for summer 2024 were submitted on time, and one rejected as it was received late. The following applications totalling £55,922 were approved –

1. Durham University
2. MK Youth Sport
3. Laurel Avenue Community Centre
4. Durham Area Youth
5. Harbour Support

There are two pots of funding available DCC funding and DfE funded places.

There was a total of £60,763 available and this amount included the Christmas holidays. The panel decided that it was more important to support the fun and food projects for the summer as it spread over a longer period which left £4,840 for the Christmas period.

8 Presentation: Local Network Boundaries

Craig delivered a comprehensive presentation on the above. For further information and to have your say, please visit [Proposals for new Local Network boundary areas - Durham County Council](#)

The deadline for comments is 5.00pm on 18 August 2024.

Everyone requested a copy of the presentation and felt they needed time to digest and consider it.

The meeting was opened for discussion –

- Will there be any job losses?
- Concern was raised in relation to the disparity between the areas.
- This new way of working will be a big learning curve for local county councillors in terms of getting to know new groups.
- Will this go ahead bearing in mind we have a new parliamentary government?
- Can the consultation document be shared with other people?

9 Chair and Coordinators Update

Chair's Update

No update.

Coordinator's Update

- Gordon Elliott, Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement had retired, and our new Head of Service is Andy Kerr, Head of Economic Development.
- Craig had attended meetings around The World Heritage Site and the management plan and been involved with the Durham University Community Engagement Task Force.
- Work continued around the Local Network planning.
- Jim Welsh from Blind Life in Durham had invited Craig to their 20-year anniversary celebration event.
- Craig along with Katie Binks had jointly hosted the Durham University Volunteer Awards.

10 Partner Updates

Dave Clarke – Police

Dave Clarke provided the following written update –

No real update from me other than the PSPO consultation is now closed and hopefully, everyone affected by antisocial behaviour in the city centre will have used this opportunity to make their feelings known. We continue to have a small cohort of people who come into the city to beg, take drugs and drink alcohol then act in an aggressive manner with no concerns about the other people trying to use the city in a peaceful and lawful manner.

As the most recent incidents have been Saturday and Sunday mornings, so we have been putting staff out on Op Trailblazer to cover these times. There have been significant arrests and action taken as part of this operation over the past few months, but the perpetrators are relentless, some have been arrested over 200 times for similar public order offences and the law and any outcomes is no deterrent to them.

We continue to try and make a difference, but really need legislative change to be able to deal with these people robustly.

I'm sure you will agree that police are acting to address concerns with the following deployment outcomes below, however, despite the arrests and time taken to process, most people are back the following day and have little concern for their fleeting incarceration.

Month	Total Number of Arrests (Month)	Total Number of Stop Searches (Month)	Number of Days Trailblazer Patrolling	Number of Weekends Patrolled	Number of arrests on a weekend
February	16	28	Every day	Every weekend-majority of weekends had two shifts on 07:00-15:00 and then 12:00-22:00.	5 arrests, 7 stop searches
March	20	12	Every day-Thursdays two shifts on 07:00-15:00 and 12:00-22:00 as it is Market Day.	Every weekend-two shifts on 07:00-15:00 and 12:00-22:00.	4 arrests, 3 stop searches
April	16	13	Every day-Thursdays two shifts on 07:00-15:00 and 12:00-22:00 as it is Market Day.	Every weekend-majority of weekends had two shifts on 07:00-15:00 and then 12:00-22:00.	2 arrests, 5 stop searches

May	8	4	17 Days- Trailblazer on when NPT on rest days/ short staffed.	2 Weekends	1 arrest, 2 stop searches
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Craig to share this information with those present.

Dasha Murphy – Durham University

Term time ended in June and students will return in September. Dasha took part in the graduation ceremonies.

Gary Tough – Fire

This year’s Community Risk Management Plan consultation was now closed. There had been 120 incidents (in total) within the Durham AAP area over the last few months.

Paul Howard – Durham BID

Several new businesses had opened in the city and more leisure and hospitality businesses would be coming in.

Footfall is down pre-Covid, but Paul said he was not overly concerned.

Struggling with retail generally and working on how they deal with this and increase footfall throughout the year.

Durham Restaurant Week will take place from 23 August – 30 August 2024.

Durham Independents is back from 27 July – 30 August with a chance for shoppers to win vouchers.

11 [Any other Business](#)

None.

12 [Date and time of next meeting](#)

Thursday 26 September 2024; 6.00 pm online

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.