



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

Thursday 26 January 2023

Microsoft Teams

Present

Partner Representative

Rachel Edmunds (RE) – Believe Housing
Steven Robson (SR) – Business Representative – Vice Chair
Insp Andy Reeves (AR) - Durham Constabulary
Deborah Richardson (DR) - Community and Voluntary Sector Representative
Paul Cooper (PC) – Durham County Council
Mark Jackson (MJ) - Durham County Council
Colin Davis (CD) - County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

Public Representative

Peter Quinn (PQ)
Tony Bird (TB) - Chair
Kirstie Hutchinson (KH)
Bernadette Crooks (BC)

Elected Members

Cllr Samantha Townsend (ST) – Elected Member
Cllr Cathy Hunt (CH) – Elected Member
Cllr Shirley Quinn (SQ) – Elected Member – Vice Chair
Cllr Joanne Howey (JH) – Elected Member

Officers

Andrew Walker (APW) - AAP Co-ordinator
Sheilah Metcalfe (SM) - AAP Community Development Project Officer
William Lightburn (WB) - 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)
Cllr Andrew Jackson (AJ) – Elected Member

Cllr George Smith (GS) – Elected Member

Public / Other Attendees – 1

A1. Introduction and apologies

Introductions and apologies were made.

Please see page 1 & 2 for attendees and apologies.

APW informed the Board Andy Palmer, DCC has retired from the Board and will be replaced jointly by Mark Jackson or Paul Cooper, Durham County Council.

APW welcomed Board and Forum members to the meeting and introduced and welcomed the following:

- Paul Cooper (PC) – Head of Pensions - Durham County Council
- Mark Jackson (MJ) – Head of Transport & Contract Services - Durham County Council

A2. Agreement of minutes and matters arising from previous meeting held 17 November 2022

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

A3. Declaring an Interest

Cllr Shirley Quinn, Cllr Samantha Townsend and Peter Quinn declared an interest in the Shildon Town Council – Resurfacing Footpaths in Hackworth Park.

A4. Local Neighbourhood Issues

There were no neighbourhood issues.

A5. Priorities and Action Plans

➤ **Area Budget - Community / COVID 19 Recovery**

APW reminded the Board that at the November Board meeting they agreed to approve £177,403 Area Budget funding to 10 projects as identified in the Board report.

The team have been working on each application. To date 3 applications have received offer letters with the remaining 7 applications been submitted for appraisal with the DCC Funding Team.

As each project will be at various stages of development, regular updates will be provided to the Board. Project leads will be invited to future Board meetings to provide an update on the funding received.

➤ **Holiday Activities with Healthy Food**

SM stated that each AAP has secured additional funding for holiday activities with healthy food during the school half terms. Individual allocations to AAPs were based on the number of free school meal eligible children and child poverty rates for 5 –15 year olds. BASH AAP has been allocated £46,156. The funding available is to be allocated in 2023/24 and is for the February, May, October, and February 2024 half term periods.

The first round of funding was for the February 2023 half term. Following a call for projects 9 applications were received for approx. £15,000. Each application was assessed and considered by the funding panel which agreed 8 applications to the project value of £11,474.50. This would leave a remaining balance of £34,681.50 for the rest of the 3 half term holidays.

In addition, Durham County Council has secured additional funding from the Department for Education to continue to deliver holiday activities with healthy food during the school holidays. BASH AAP has been allocated £90,273. The funding available is to be allocated in 2023 and is for the Easter, Summer and Christmas holiday periods.

The next round of funding is for the Easter Holidays. This is now live. The deadline for applications and supporting documents is Wednesday 15 February 2023, 12 Noon.

Project leads will be invited to future Board meetings to provide an update on the funding received.

➤ **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. To date 3 projects have been approved by the Board to the value of £115k.

In addition, elected members have also received an additional £10,000 each to address Town and Villages Revitalisation.

The task group continues to meet and have 2 projects in delivery a further project was approved at the previous meeting and the remaining project will be discussed below. The projects are geographically spread across the BASH AAP area.

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

- **Hackworth Park Wi-Fi - Durham County Council**
BASH T & V Contribution: £26,715
BASH NB Contribution: £9,000 - (£3,000 each from Cllrs Matt Johnson, Shirley Quinn and Samantha Townsend)
Match Funding: £2,000

Total Project Cost: £37,715

AR asked what control measures are in place to prevent ASB. PH stated that the Wi-Fi can be turned off by contacting the contractors directly - 'North'.

APW suggested that a condition be added that direct contact details to 'North' are passed to the Police.

ACTION – BASH Team to feedback the comments from the Board meeting to the applicant via the appraisal process.

There were no further comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

The Board received the application and **APPROVED** the recommendation of £26,715 from the AAP's Towns and Villages allocation.

- **Town Rec Artwork and Improvements - Durham County Council**
BASH T & V Contribution: £27,000
Match Funding: £9,738
Total Project Cost: £36,738

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

The Board received the application and **APPROVED** the recommendation of £27,000 from the AAP's Towns and Villages allocation.

- **Oakely Cross Multi Use Games – West Auckland Parish Council**
BASH T & V Contribution: £14,000
Match Funding: £5,289
Total Project Cost: £19,289

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

The Board received the application and **APPROVED** the recommendation of £14,000 from the AAP's Towns and Villages allocation.

- **Escomb Car Parking – Durham County Council**
BASH T & V Contribution: £26,855

BASH NB Cllr T & V Contribution: £4,280 (£2,140 each from Cllrs Rob Yorke and George Smith)

Total Project Cost: £45,000

PH explained that there is a shortfall towards total project costs of £13,865. Both Cllrs Rob Yorke and George Smith have indicated that they wish to fund this from their 2023/24 Neighbourhood Budget.

The Board were supportive of the project.

The Board received the application and **APPROVED** the recommendation of £26,855 from the AAP's Towns and Villages allocation.

There were no further comments received from the Board who acknowledged the Towns and Villages Neighbourhood Budget contribution from Cllr's Rob Yorke and George Smith.

- **Shildon Town Council – Resurfacing Footpaths in Hackworth Park**

BASH NB Cllr T & V Contribution - £9,000 – (£3,000 each from Cllrs Matt Johnson, Shirley Quinn and Samantha Townsend)

Match Funding - £300

Total Cost - £9,300

Cllrs Matt Johnson, Shirley Quinn and Samantha Townsend and have 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** the recommendation of £9,000 from the Cllrs T & V Neighbourhood Budget.

APW reported that the AAP Towns and Villages and the Councillor's Towns and Villages Budget has now been fully allocated.

APW thanked Cllr Joanne Howey for chairing the task group meetings and thanked task group members, the funding panel and the BASH AAP team for the work that has taken place.

JH and CH thanked the BASH AAP team for their support.

JH suggested visiting the projects supported in Spring. This was welcomed by the Board.

➤ **Neighbourhood Budget**

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

- **Little Chef Big Chef – Outdoor Educational Building**

NB Contribution – £3,500 (Cllr George Smith)

Match Funding - £2,740

Total Cost - £6,240

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

- **St Wilfrid’s Catholic Primary School - St Wilfrid’s London Residential**

NB Contribution – £6,000 (£3,000 each from Cllr Joanne Howey / Cllr Cathy Hunt)

Match Funding - £7,290

Total Cost - £13,290

SQ commented positively on the application.

There were no further comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

A6. Coordinators Update

➤ **AAP Board Members**

BASH AAP currently has one public representative vacancy on the Board. A recruitment process will be taking place in the coming weeks.

APW reported attendance statics are being reviewed to feed in to any future recruitment process.

➤ **F & P Scotto Charitable Trust**

APW gave a brief overview of the Scotto Charitable Trust. APW reported that the next visit will take place in Spring 2023.

SQ commented positively on the funding received from the Scotto Charitable Trust.

➤ **Local Consultations**

APW stated that several consultations have been circulated to the Board and Forum. APW encouraged Board and Forum members to take part in the consultations.

➤ **Review of Community Engagement**

APW reported that the review of community engagement is now complete. The findings and recommendations will be presented to cabinet in June 2023. The Board will be updated accordingly.

➤ **Future Board Meetings**

APW stated that the timings, venues, format, and the frequency of future Board meetings will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

CD offered Bishop Auckland Fire Station as a future venue to host Board meetings.

A7. Countywide Partner Issues

➤ **Police / PACT Update**

Insp Andy Reeves gave an update on the main priority issues for the BASH area.

- The home office has changed how ASB is reported. AR is currently exploring how ASB statistics will be reported at future Board meetings.
- Overall crime, for Bishop Auckland is down 29% with Public Orders up by 8%
- Overall crime in Shildon is down 34% with Public Orders up 35%
- There are ongoing issues at Eldon and Coundon Grange.
- The Community Action Team, DCC are currently working in the Coundon area.
- This week is neighbourhood national police week. Several warrants have taken place in the Shildon area.
- The 'Wellbeing for Life' team will be attending the Police station to carry out resilience training.
- The 'Now You're Talking' event is taking place on Thursday 2 February 2023, 9.30am at Bishop Auckland Town Hall. AR stated that key information on community resilience is also being promoted through 'Keep in the Know'

ACTION - AR to circulate information on the above to the BASH AAP team. BASH AAP to promote through their networks.

- TB highlighted the ongoing issues at Eldon. AR stated that a survey, for residents in Eldon and Coundon, will be circulated in the coming weeks. The issue regarding how PACT meetings are promoted has been resolved.

A8. Date / Time / Venue for next Board Meeting

TB thanked Board and Forum members for attending the meeting.

Board - Thursday 23 February 2023, 4pm, Bishop Auckland Football Club.