



Better for everyone

Bishop Auckland & Shildon
Area Action Partnership

Annual Report

2021/22



Councillor Elizabeth Scott

Introduction

Portfolio Holder Statement

The local elections in May 2021 brought in some major changes to the leadership of Durham County Council, a change that has given me the opportunity to get more involved in the work of the AAPs through my role as the Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships.

As our communities emerge from the massive changes the Covid pandemic imposed on us all, the AAPs have been playing a key role in helping local people and organisations react to what for many is a new environment. Many of the hundreds of projects supported by the AAPs Area Budget this year have focused on supporting people's well-being and numerous initiatives providing youth work or older people's activities have been helped with funding, along with those that provide life-saving help to people living with mental health issues.

This year the AAPs and local councillors have received some significant additional funding, linked to the Council's 'Towns and Villages Programme'. This investment of nearly £4 million is helping local communities improve their environment and revitalise areas that may have become run-down.

As I have been a County Councillor for several years, I was already aware of the work being done by the AAPs to support local members in allocating their Neighbourhood Budgets. Over the past 12 months Councillors from all over County Durham have allocated over £840,000 that has in turn benefitted over 400 different community based projects.

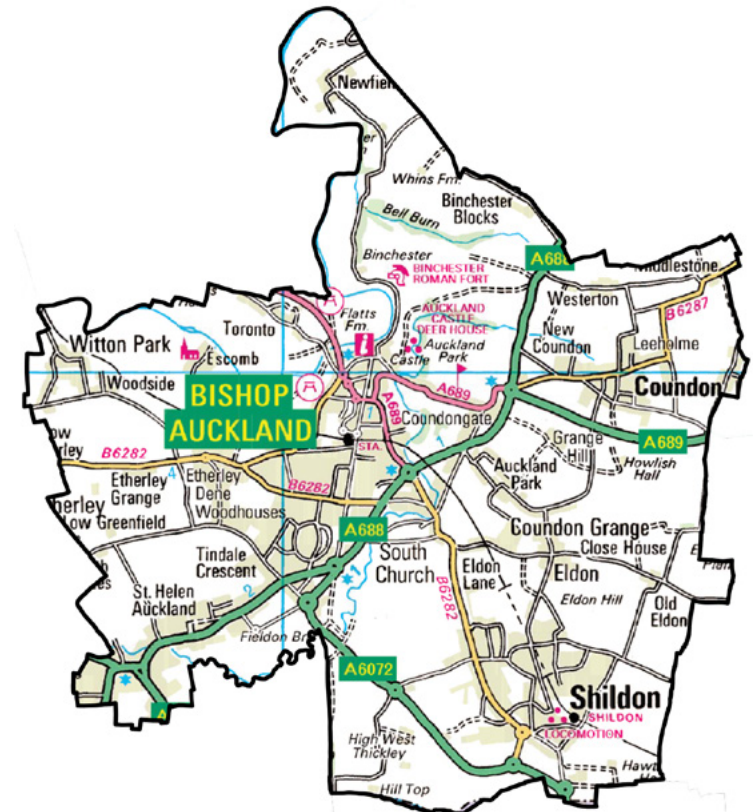
Moving into 2022/23 we will be taking the opportunity to review the council's approach to community engagement and this will include looking at how our area based services run. We are seeking external support to undertake the review and will be looking at best practise and the opportunities that exist to improve our services. We will want to involve staff, Board members, residents, businesses and the community and voluntary sector in discussions over the coming months.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who is involved in AAPs. The staff, fellow councillors, partner organisations and members of the public. The AAPs would not be what they are without your involvement and support!

Councillor Elizabeth Scott,
Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships.



Better for everyone



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Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership 2021/22 Key Information



FUNDING

£332,779

AAP Funding allocated to local Projects.

£562,447

Amount of match / external funding generated

1,501

beneficiaries supported through the main AAP funding

Processed

£58,225

of Councillor Neighbourhood Budget

56

projects supported through AAP and Councillor funding



South Durham Enterprise Agency



Jubilee Fields Playgroup



Butterwick Family Support

Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership

Established in 2009, Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP (BASH) brings together local people and partners to take action on local issues. The geographic areas covered include the wards of Bishop Auckland, Coundon, Shildon, West Auckland and Woodhouse Close.

Over the last year the key focus has been on 'Community/ Covid Recovery' and nearly £244,500 has been allocated to local organisations to help them take action on local issues.

The AAP has also been involved in consulting local people on issues such as:

- Leisure Transformation
- Sunnydale site of Greenfield Community College
- Durham Police and Crime Commissioner - Draft Police and Crime Plan for 2021 – 24
- Housing Strategy Targeted Delivery Plan
- Durham County Council – Budget Consultation
- Durham County Council – Library Consultation

Welcome from the Chair

Rachel Edmunds – Partner Representative

Whilst 2021/22 hasn't been as challenging as the previous year the AAP and the communities we support have still been impacted by the pandemic and the challenges of dealing with "pingdemics", lockdown and national guidance.

During the last year the AAP office has worked hard to deliver over £322,000 of funding to 47 community projects across the Bishop Auckland and Shildon area, including providing food and activity funding for school holidays, supporting upskilling and employability in the local area and a pandemic recovery grant aimed at local businesses.

Our funding has helped community groups and providers to access over £564,000 in match funding meaning that for £1 spent by the AAP groups have been able to access a further £1.70 from other providers.

As an AAP we have a key relationship with the Scotto Trust and during the last year the team have facilitated a further 7 organisations to secure over £37,000 of funding for much needed community activity.

I've been proud to be the Chair of BASH AAP over the last year and thank both the Board and the team for their dedication to securing a better future for the Bishop Auckland and Shildon areas.



Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. Currently over 1,000 people are part of our wider Forum who receive regular updates and who are invited to get involved in the work of the AAP.

Our Board is the decision-making body of the AAP. It is made up of local people, elected councillors and representatives for partner organisations. 2021/22 Board:

CLlr Shirley Quinn – Vice Chair

CLlr Samantha Townsend

CLlr Andrew Jackson

CLlr Cathy Hunt

CLlr Joanne Howey

Town and Parish Representative – Vacant

Tony Bird (Public Representative) – Vice Chair

Bernadette Crooks (Public Representative)

Stephen Nicholson (Public Representative)

Fred Langley (Public Representative)

Philippa May (Public Representative)

Peter Quinn (Public Representative)

Andrew Coxon (Public Representative)

Tommy Taylor (Public Representative) – Co-opted

Rachel Edmunds (Housing) – Chair

David McCreedy (Voluntary Sector)

Rob Milner (Health)

Andy Palmer (Durham County Council)

Inspector Peter Lonsdale (Police)

Clive Dobson (Fire and Rescue Service)

Steven Robson (Business)

We'd like to thank former Board members

CLlr Joy Allen

CLlr David Fleming (Town and Parish Rep)

CLlr Charlie Kay

CLlr Christine Wilson

CLlr John Lethbridge

CLlr Sam Zair

David Campbell (Public Representative)

Tracey Bellas (Public Representative)

Lee Brown (Fire and Rescue Service)

Bee Davidson (Business)

who stepped down from the Board this year.

2021/22 Funding Allocation

Area Budget	£2,209.92 – AYCC May Half Term Holiday Project, AYCC £1,199 – Eldon Picnic and Play Day, Gateway Northeast	£3,900 – February Half Term Holiday Club with Food, St Andrews Primary School
The Area Budget is used to support projects that address local AAP priorities. During 2021/22 BASH AAP focused on 'Community/ Covid Recovery' as a priority.	Summer Holidays 2021 £1,485 – Shildon Healthy Holidays, Shildon AFC £2,470 – Activities with ATOMS, ATOMS Education CIC £1,356 – Too Cool to Cook, Shildon Alive	£1,100 – Play to Learn, ATOMS Education CIC £3,556 – AYCC February 2022 - Half Term Project, AYCC
£7,876 – Elevate Youth Group / Breakfast Scheme, Influence Church	£8,080 – Summer School Journey, Daisy Arts £4,470.16 – Summer Spectacular, Shildon Early Years	£1,690 – February Half Term Fun Afternoon, 1st St Helens Auckland Brownies
£15,345 – Get Connected, The Cornforth Partnership	£4,386 – Fun, Film and Food, Shildon Town Council	£509.97 – Winter Walk, Arts and Craft Activity – Fun and Food Session, GRTS and Community Cohesion Team, Safer Communities, Durham County Council
£8,205 – Dene Valley Forward, Dene Valley Community Partnership	£1,600 – TAP into Summer, Auckland Project £10,450.16 – AYCC Summer Holiday Project, AYCC	Neighbourhood Budget
£31,393 – Covid Family Support, Butterwick Hospice	£856 – Summer Holiday Trip to the Seaside, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre	Neighbourhood Budget is an annual allocation of £19,400 that each County Councillor gets each year to spend on Community Projects. The process is supported by the AAP team.
£13,460 – Covid Recovery - Improvement to Outdoor Facilities, St Helen Primary School	October Half term 2021 £3,580 – October Half Term Holiday Club, St Andrews Primary School	The projects listed below have been supported by Neighbourhood Budget:
£16,558 – Volunteer Coordinator, Richmond Fellowship	£1,006 – Outing to Beamish Museum, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre	£3,000 – Bishop Auckland Food Festival Activity School Packs, Durham County Council – Cllrs Jackson, Zair, Quinn, Townsend, Hunt and Howey
£30,000 – Upskilling, Employability and Discretionary Fund, Bishop Auckland College	£795 – Halloween Fun, ATOM CIC	£18,863 – Pandemic Business Recovery Grant, South Durham Enterprise Agency – Cllrs Johnson, Zair, Hunt, Townsend plus 4 Spennymoor AAP Councillors
£18,863 – Pandemic Business Recovery Grant, South Durham Enterprise Agency	£2,170 – Multi Sports Fun with Food Project, King James 1 Academy	£15,000 – Shildon AFC Community Garden, Shildon AFC Ltd – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn and Townsend
£30,000 – Extension to Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre	Christmas Holiday 2021 £2,941 – Christmas Party and Pantomime, Woodhouse Close Community Church £1,250 – Get Creative at Christmas, ATOM CIC	£5,000 – Shildon Youth Initiative, Shildon Children and Young People's Action Network – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn and Townsend.
£13,299 – Hub at the Heart of the Community, Livin Housing Ltd	£1,395 – Family Christmas Adventures and Food, Gateway North East	£2,027 – Coundon Christmas Tree, Durham County Council – Cllr Kay
£59,238 – Bishop Auckland and Shildon Youth Offer, AYCC	£1,780 – Come Together at Christmas, Dene Valley Community Partnership	£9,339 – Washroom Refurbishment, Binchester Community Association – Cllr Kay
Holiday Activities with Healthy Food	£1,670 – Christmas Eve Project, Shildon Early Years	£1,599 Jubilee Fields Playgroup, Jubilee Fields Community Association – Cllr Quinn
The scheme aims to support local community groups and organisations, based in the BASH AAP area, to deliver enriching holiday activities with healthy food.	£4,800 – AYCC Christmas 2021 Project, AYCC February Half Term 2022 £2,497 – Multi Sports Fun with Food Project, King James 1 Academy	£1,897 – St Helen Christmas Tree, South Durham Enterprise Agency – Cllrs Roberts and Yorke
Easter 2021		£1,500 – Seating Improvements, Durham County Council – Cllr Yorke
£1,697.74 – AYCC Easter Holiday Provision 2021, AYCC		
£970 – Bake and be Healthy, ATOMS Education CIC		
£657.50 – Easter Grow and Craft with Breakfast, Gateway Northeast		
£2,203.92 – Eggciting Easter Activities, Shildon Early Years		
£4,470 – Easter Holiday Enrichment Programme, Groundwork NE & Cumbria		
May Half Term Holidays 2021		
£1,120 – Activities with ATOMS, ATOMS Education CIC		

The Difference We Have Made

Projects supported by Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP have been making a difference in 2021/22



Area Budget – Community/ Covid Recovery

It was agreed that our priority for 2021/22 would be Community/ Covid Recovery and Area Budget funding was made available for projects that addressed the following issues:

- Supporting Children, Young People and Families
- Supporting individuals and families through a programme of crisis intervention
- Health and wellbeing
- Supporting Older People
- Employment support for the unemployed
- Support for the Voluntary and Community Sector.

A total of 11 projects were supported across a wide range of initiatives and organisations. Projects covered issues such as crisis and food bank support, activities for children and young people, IT equipment for schools, care and employability and training support.

Holiday Activities with Healthy Food

HAHF funding ensures that as many children and young people as possible have access to healthy food and enriching activities during school holidays.

This fund provides opportunity for groups and organisations to apply for small grants to help them deliver projects locally.

Projects were required to provide a healthy snack, breakfast, lunch, or tea as part of the activity.

A total of 36 projects were supported during 2021/22 including Summer 2021, October half-term 2021 and February half-term 2022. Projects covered a wide range of holiday activities and delivery organisations.

Towns and Villages

BASH AAP has received £210,000 of AAP Towns and Villages funding to support local projects which aim to revitalise and enhance towns and villages in the BASH AAP area. The funding is to be committed by March 2024.

Successful projects can be capital and revenue and must aim to make a real difference and a significant impact to beneficiaries within their communities.

The AAP team is supporting applicants with the development of projects to apply for this funding, which can be more complex and require longer development time.

A Task Group has been set up consisting of local partners, elected members and town and parish councillors to oversee and identify projects for the Towns and Villages Programme.

The Difference We Have Made

F and P Scotto Charitable Trust

BASH AAP continues to work with and develop our partnership with the F and P Scotto Charitable Trust. This is an excellent and unique opportunity for the BASH AAP to provide additional support and funding to groups in the area.

As a result of this ongoing relationship an additional £1,154,067 has been invested into the area by the Trust since 2014 and a total of 163 projects have been supported.

In 2021/22 the Trust supported a further 7 projects to a value of £37,310. Primarily the funding has gone to groups in the BASH AAP area however support has also gone into other AAP areas.

Bishop Auckland College Employability Upskilling and Discretionary Project

Funding support to help residents aged 16+ in the BASH area to progress/ move closer to or into employment, further training or volunteering.

Ronald Andrews was unemployed. He was determined to gain employment but finances were an issue to complete relevant training, to secure available jobs.

“Thankfully through the BASH funding, I was able to undertake fork lift truck training, and secure relevant qualifications.

I completed the training with Forklift Truck Academy, Seaham, and Scott Court and his team were brilliant and would highly recommend them, without hesitation. This training has assisted me tremendously in my current employment.

I am very grateful, to say the least, for the assistance I have received. This included Bishop Auckland College, National Career Service, Funding Provider, Course Tutors etc. I'm very happy working for my employer and can actually see myself retiring there. Again, much appreciation for the assistance, support and funding provided. ”



Ronald Andrews

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