



Better for everyone

Bishop Auckland & Shildon
Area Action Partnership

Annual Report

2022/23



Councillor Elizabeth Scott

Introduction

Portfolio Holder Statement

As the Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships I am happy to say that the overview of the Area Action Partnerships falls under my remit.

Over the last 13 years AAPs have helped local community organisations to thrive through practical support and funding. 2022/23 has been no different. The 14 AAPs across County Durham have helped to fund over 230 projects through their Area Budgets allocating £2.6m to these good causes. This is making a massive difference when like the rest of us, local organisations are being adversely impacted by the continued long term impacts of the Covid pandemic and the cost of living crisis.

County Durham is a diverse place, and each AAP is led and directed by local people, councillors, and partners. This means they can adapt to local circumstances whether they be in Wingate or Westgate, Castleside or Coxhoe. This local engagement means AAPs are firmly rooted in, and valued by their communities.

Throughout County Durham AAP funding has supported a wide variety of projects including, youth work, mental health support, environmental projects, activities for older people, sports clubs, children's play, village halls and community centres, parish councils, community safety initiatives and employment schemes, just to name a few.

The AAPs also support myself and my fellow councillors in allocating our annual Neighbourhood Budget. The 126 County Councillors have allocated over £2.2m to over 820 local projects in County Durham over the past year, again supporting a wide range of local schemes.

As with any service, it is always good practice to consider if any improvements can be made. Having remained largely unchanged for the last 14 years, the need for an independent view as to how the service might be enhanced led to the recently completed community engagement review. While consultation is still ongoing on the proposals contained in the review, it comes as no surprise that the consultants found many strengths of the AAPs that we could build upon in the future.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of AAP Boards, fellow councillors, partner organisations, members of the public and the AAP staff. So, thank you one and all. The AAPs would not be the success they have been without your continued support.

Councillor Elizabeth Scott,

Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships.



Better for everyone



Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership 2022/23 Key Information



FUNDING

£454,798

AAP Funding allocated to local Projects.

£347,520

Amount of match / external funding generated

2,847

beneficiaries supported through the main AAP funding

Processed

£257,516

of Councillor Neighbourhood Budget and Councillor Towns and Villages Funding

79

projects supported through AAP and Councillor funding



BASH AAP Board



Shildon Town Council



Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre

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 £177,403 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:

- Durham County Council – Budget consultation
- Durham Light Infantry Museum and Art Gallery consultation
- Durham County Council – Review of Customer Access Points
- Review of the Public Space Protection Order for dog ownership 2023
- Durham County Council – Review of traffic sensitive streets
- Development of a new play area at Hardwick Park
- Moving Together in County Durham
- Durham County Council – Planning consultations
- Improved infrastructure in Bishop Auckland
- Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy
- Government Boundary Commission – Electoral Boundaries
- North East Devolution
- Police Precept Consultation
- Warm Spaces
- Draft Strategy to tackle anti-social behaviour

Welcome from the Chair

Tony Bird – Public Representative

The Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP (BASH) Board brings together local people and partners with many views, assisted by guidance of Andrew and his coordinating team. The BASH Board continues to achieve positive measurable results on local issues which improve the quality of life for people and effectiveness of organisations working in their communities.

Working together the Board also ably plan for the future by identifying potential local issues and how to reduce their impact on the local communities and organisations.

The many achievements of BASH in the 2022 to 2023 period are clearly documented and communicated within the body of this report.

I would like to thank all those involved with the BASH AAP Board including the members of the public who regularly give up their time in support our endeavours.

On a personal note, I am very proud to have served as Chair for a second time and to have enjoyed the privilege of being involved with the BASH AAP. With the knowledge that changes are planned, I sincerely hope the BASH AAP Board will be able continue well into the future making a positive difference in our communities coupled with the ability to motivate the involvement of people into the future.

Lastly, but not least, I thank Andrew and his team for the professional and effective manner in which they coordinate the work of BASH and their dedicated application in achieving successful outcomes of the BASH Board objectives.



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. 2022/23 Board:

Cllr Shirley Quinn – Vice Chair

Cllr Samantha Townsend

Cllr Andrew Jackson

Cllr Charlie Kay

Cllr Cathy Hunt

Cllr George Smith

Cllr David Bell - Town and Parish Representative

Tony Bird (Public Representative) – Chair

Bernadette Crooks (Public Representative)

Peter Quinn (Public Representative)

Tommy Taylor (Public Representative) – Co-opted

Jayne Nicholson

Kirstie Hutchinson

Robert Milner (Health)

Rachel Edmunds (Housing)

Insp Andy Reeves (Durham Constabulary)

Colin Davies (Fire and Rescue Service)

Deborah Richardson (Voluntary Sector)

Steven Robson (Business Representative) – Vice Chair

We'd like to thank former Board members:

Andrew Coxon (Public Representative)

Stephen Nicholson (Public Representative)

Philippa May (Public Representative)

Andy Palmer (Durham County Council)

who stepped down from the Board this year.

2022/23 Funding Allocation

Area Budget	£1,150 – Healthy Moves, NHS GRT Support	£2,910 – Multi-Skills Course with AJ Sports, King James 1 Academy
The Area Budget is used to support projects that address local AAP priorities. During 2022/23 BASH AAP focused on 'Community/ Covid Recovery' as a priority.	£2,110 – Exploring the Outdoors with ATOMS, ATOMS Education CIC	£512 – Eco Warriors, Groundwork NE
£16,001 – John Muir in the Gaunless, Wear Rivers Trust	£996 – Summer Roller Bootcamps, Spectrum Roller Skating Club	£2,431.50 – Feb Half-Term Holiday Camp, Shildon Alive
£14,994 – Emotional and Mental Health Supporting Young People, If U Care Share Foundation	£800 – GFS Eldon Summer Camp, Girls Friendly Society	£2,070 – Bishop Auckland Holiday Provision, Wear Rivers Trust
£12,420 – Grief and Bereavement, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre	£900 – GFS, GFS AYCC	£530 – Family Brunch, Influence Church
£15,000 – Shildon Alive Food Solidarity, Shildon Alive	£7,862 – Outing to Flamingo Land, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre	£1,584 – All Things Visual, Daisy Arts
£11,550 – Breakfast Hub/ Elevate You Group, Influence Church	£10,440 – Lets do Nature, Shildon Alive	Neighbourhood Budget
£11,580 – Life after Deaf, Durham Deafened Support	October Half term 2022	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.
£56,551 – Upskilling, Employability and Discretionary Fund, Bishop Auckland College	£975 – October Half Term, AYCC	The projects listed below have been supported by Neighbourhood Budget:
£12,275 – 'NOW' social prescribing project, Northern Heartlands	£629 – Bishop Auckland Holiday Provision, Wear Rivers Trust	£13,446 – Angel Trust Cookery School, The Angel Trust – Cllrs Howey, Hunt, Jackson and Zair
£14,720 – Day Club, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre	£1,836 – Bishop Auckland Holiday Provision, King James 1 Academy	£2,487 – Watling Road, Bishop Auckland-Drainage and Verge Hardening – Cllrs Howey and Hunt
£2,312 – Sometimes it Hurts Creative Support Resources, Changing Relations CIC	£578 – October Half Term Breakfast Club, Little Chef Big Chef	£10,000 – Extension, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre – Cllrs Howey and Hunt
Healthy Relationships Fund	£669 – Half Term Spooktacular, ATOMS Education CIC	£6,000 – St Wilfred's London Residential, St Wilfreds Catholic Primary School – Cllrs Howey and Hunt
£10,000 – Sometimes it Hurts Creative Support Resources, Changing Relations CIC	£750 – Half Term Roller Bootcamps, Spectrum Roller Skating Club	£23,192 – Surfacing of Unadopted Roads, Northumberland Avenue and Ravensworth Avenue, DCC – Cllrs Jackson and Zair
Holiday Activities with Healthy Food	£3,697 – Half Term Holiday Camp, Shildon AFC CIC	£6,000 – 49 Pitch Refurbishments Cockton Hill, DCC – Cllrs Jackson and Zair
The scheme aims to support local community groups and organisations, based in the BASH AAP area, to deliver enriching holiday activities with healthy food.	Christmas Holiday 2022	£1,500 – Little BRASS Bash, DCC – Cllrs Jackson and Zair
Easter Holidays 2022	£1,644 – Christmas Fun and Food, AYCC	£1,000 – Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland Community Partnership – Cllr Jackson
£2,720 – Easter Fun Day, 1st St Helens Auckland Brownies	£2,042 – Bishop Auckland Holiday Provision, Wear Rivers Trust	£7,500 – Rugby Club Car Park and Standing Area, Bishop Auckland Rugby Club – Cllrs Jackson, Johnson, Quinn, Townsend, Yorke, Zair and 4 Teesdale Cllrs
£1,205 – An Easter Extravaganza, ATOMS Education CIC	£3,632 – An Enchanted Experience, STARS Community Learning CIC	£4,000 – Shildon Railway Bowls Improvements to Sustain & Grow Club Memberships, Shildon Railway Bowling Club – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn and Townsend
£5,391 – AYCC Easter Holidays Project – AYCC	£980 – Christmas Cooking with Cake Ninja, ATOMS Education CIC	£4,644 – Thornhill Primary School Library, Thornhill Primary School – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn and Townsend
£935 – Easter Family Activities Club – Shildon Town Council	£525 – Christmas Time, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre	
£2,290 – Easter Activities with Food – Shildon Alive	£300 – Christmas Project Tie-dye T-shirt Session, NHS GRT Support	
Summer Holidays 2022	February Half Term 2023	
£865 – Influence Church/ Breakfast Hub, Influence Church	£630 – February Fun and Food, AYCC	
	£807 – LCBC Breakfast Club, Little Chef Big Chef	

2022/23 Funding Allocation

£9,000 – Adventurous Play, St John's Primary School – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn and Townsend
£5,000 – ParkPlay, ParkPlay – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn and Townsend
£1,283 – Replacement Litter Picking Equipment & Event Recycling, Shildon Town Council – Cllrs Johnson and Townsend
£9,000 – Hackworth Park Wi-Fi, Shildon Town Council – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn and Townsend
£10,000 – Newfield Play Area Refurbishment, DCC – Cllr Kay
£7,000 – Leeholme Play Area Refurbishment, DCC – Cllr Kay
£832 – The Coronation Meadow, Shildon Town Council – Cllr Quinn
£8,078 – West Auckland Christmas Lamppost Illuminations, West Auckland Parish Council – Cllr Smith
£11,856 – Witton Park Playpark MUGA, Witton Park Community Association – Cllrs Smith and Yorke
£2,969 – LCBC Community Action Project, Little Chefs Big Chefs CIC – Cllr Smith
£1,376 – Target Hardening at Selby Close, DCC – Cllr Yorke
£3,173 – Fencing for All, St Helen Auckland Allotment Society – Cllr Yorke
£10,000 – Middlewood Avenue Play Area Refurbishment, DCC – Cllr Yorke
£2,500 – St Helens Christmas Tree and Escomb Lights, South Durham Enterprise Agency – Cllr Yorke
AAP Towns and Villages
The AAP Towns and Villages funding is used to support local projects which aim to revitalise and enhance towns and villages in the BASH AAP area.
£26,855 – Escomb Car Park Project, DCC Highways
£13,575 – Move @ King James 1 Academy, King James 1 Academy
£75,000 – Henknowle Community Improvement Scheme, DCC Highways
£26,855 – Eldon and Eldon Lane ASB, DCC Safer Communities

£27,000 – Bishop Auckland Recreation Area Artwork and Improvements, DCC Clean and Green
£26,715 – Hackworth Park Wi-Fi, DCC Regeneration
£14,000 – Oakley Cross Multi Use Games Area, West Auckland Parish Council
Councillor Towns and Villages Funding
In addition to Neighbourhood Budget, councillors have also received an additional one-off allocation of £10,000 to spend on projects that aim to revitalise and enhance towns and villages. The process is supported by the AAP team. The project listed below has been supported by Councillor Towns and Villages:
£15,680 – West Auckland-New Street Play Area Improvements, Durham County Council – Cllr Roberts and Yorke
£20,000 – Surfacing of Unadopted Roads, Northumberland Avenue and Ravensworth Avenue – Cllrs Jackson and Zair
£20,000 – Watling Road, Bishop Auckland-Drainage and Verge Hardening – Cllrs Hunt and Howey
£10,000 – Leeholme Play Area Refurbishment – Cllr Kay
£21,000 – West Road Cemetery Building Replacement, Shildon Town Council – Cllrs Johnson, Townsend and Quinn
£9,000 – Footpath Improvements in Hackwork Park, Shildon Shildon Town Council – Cllrs Johnson, Quinn and Townsend



Bishop Auckland College Event



Shildon Alive

The Difference We Have Made

Projects supported by Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP have been making a difference in 2022/23



Area Budget – Community/ Covid Recovery

It was agreed that our priority for 2022/23 would be Community/ Covid Recovery and Area Budget funding was made available for projects that addressed the following issues:

- Employability initiatives
- Advice and Guidance
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Organisational sustainability
- Food provision and support
- Social Isolation
- Support for the Voluntary and Community Sector, or
- Support to small businesses (through a third party, not-for-profit)
- Young Peoples Healthy Relationships

A total of 10 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 35 projects were supported during 2022/23 including Summer 2022, October half-term 2022 and February half-term 2023. 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.

A total of 7 projects have been supported by AAP Towns and Villages funding.

The Difference We Have Made

Projects supported by Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP have been making a difference in 2022/23



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 £1,189,357 has been invested into the area by the Trust since 2014 and a total of 169 projects have been supported.

In 2022/23 the Trust supported a further 6 projects to a value of £35,290. Primarily the funding has gone to groups in the BASH AAP area however support has also gone into other AAP areas.



Healthy Relationships Funding

For this year, BASH AAP was given an additional £10,000 of Young People's Healthy Relationships Funding.

The funding was to support projects that promote healthy relationships targeting 11–18-year-olds (up to 25-years-old if the participants are care leavers or have special educational needs or disability) who live in the AAP area.



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