



Better for everyone

GREAT AYCLIFFE & MIDDRIDGE PARTNERSHIP (GAMP)

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING TUESDAY 30 JANUARY 2024 (6:00PM) MICROSOFT TEAMS ONLINE MEETING

PRESENT:

Cllr Eddy Adam – DCC, Cllr Jim Atkinson – DCC (Vice Chair), Cllr Ken Robson – DCC, Cllr Michael Stead – DCC, Cllr David Sutton-Lloyd – DCC, Sue Cooke, Simon Hocking, Chris Hutchinson (Vice Chair), Glenis Simmonds, Jeff Watson, Natalie Whitworth, Daniel Blagdon – Health Representative, Andy Coulthard – Livin Housing Representative (Chair), Liz Fisher – Voluntary & Community Sector Representative, Insp Sarah Honeyman – Police, Andy Kerr – DCC Head of Service Representative, Malcolm Woodward – Fire Service Representative, Rosie Woodward – Business Representative, Brian Riley – GAMP Coordinator, Victoria Grieves – GAMP Community Development Project Officer, Paula Stockport – GAMP Support Officer

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Tony Towers, Cllr Neville Jones, Peter Shovlin, Carol Gaskarth

OBSERVERS:

Mr B Adamson, Ms K Ward, Ms S McCormick, Mr T Armstrong

Standard Board Meeting

1. Introductions & Apologies

AC opened the meeting, reminding Board members of the standard Declaration of Interest item on the agenda. AC informed observers they would be welcome to comment under Items 3 and 4 on the agenda.

Apologies for absence were noted, as above.

BR highlighted to the Board that he has recently been approached by Carol Gaskarth, our VCS Representative. Carol has proposed that she steps down from this role and has nominated Liz Fisher (PCP Deputy Chief Executive) to replace her on the Board. BR noted that at the recent GAMP pre-Board meeting, this was discussed with the Chair and Vice Chairs who were in agreement with Carol's proposal, and BR asked Board members to agree to the change. Board members **AGREED** that Liz will replace Carol as the Board's new VCS rep going forward.

For the minutes, BR thanked Carol on behalf of the Board and the GAMP team for her dedication and commitment to the role whilst she has been Board member.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting Held on 28.11.23 – Matters Arising**

BR confirmed that the draft minutes from the Board meeting held on 28.11.23 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.

[With the agreement of the Board, Agenda Item 4 was brought forward so that Insp Honeyman could leave the meeting early]

4. **Local Neighbourhood Issues**

4.1 **Neighbourhood Policing Update**

Insp SH updated Board members in relation to local PACT priorities, PACT meeting dates and current/emerging issues.

Insp SH gave an update on staffing within the team. Insp SH also gave an update in relation to the team's temporary move to the Glow Church unit, which should be taking place before the end of February. There are still longer-term plans to find a permanent location somewhere on the Industrial Estate.

Meeting observer TA asked whether there was any update in relation to potential acquisition of a drone to help tackle issues with offroad bikes/quads etc across Newton Aycliffe. Insp SH clarified that the team are still keen to progress with this and continue to try to source and secure external funding, but there is currently a force-wide hold on this whilst the various related legalities are explored.

Meeting observer TA asked whether Durham Constabulary have any plans to introduce cameras to traffic lights to help with policing traffic offences. Insp SH was unsure on this, the force has invested in a number of 'speeding vans' which can be moved around the County.

Insp SH and RW left the meeting.

3. **Countywide Partner Issues**

3.1 **Pioneering Care Partnership Update** (Liz Fisher)

Board members received a presentation in relation to work at the Pioneering Care Centre on the new hydrotherapy pool and extension to the Options Social Club.

Work started on site in November 2023, and is progressing well. The new pool will be delivered shortly and will hopefully start to take shape. The Centre has stayed open during the works. A new programme for the pool will be introduced, and the aim is for a soft launch early summer with a view to an official opening early autumn.

LF thanked Board members/GAMP for their funding contribution to the project.

Meeting observer TA asked what size the new pool will be, and whether discounted rates for carers will continue to be offered for pool users. LF clarified that the new pool will be double the capacity, and concessions will be part of the offer going forward.

BR reminded Board members that the GAMP team will be vacating our office at the PCP from the end of March 2024, having had our premises budget withdrawn as a result of MTFP savings targets across the Authority. DCC's accommodation team are currently looking into alternative options for the team, but we will obviously still all be contactable and able to meet with Board members in our locality as and when needed.

BR confirmed, for the minutes, all information circulated by email from the GAMP team since the last meeting:

- An invitation to attend a meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner's office in relation to their Precept Consultation (29.11.23 and 11.12.23);
- A summary update from DCC's Consultations & Engagement team in relation to current and recent consultations (19.12.23);
- DCC Warm Spaces information (9.1.24).

BR reminded partners to get in touch if they need space on a future meeting agenda.

5. GAMP Coordinator's Update

5.1 2023-24 Funding Update

BR gave a brief funding update; our 2023-24 Area Budget (AB) and Towns & Villages (T&V) funding are both fully allocated, and Neighbourhood Budget (NB) spend continues to progress steadily.

In relation to Fun & Food (F&F) funding, BR highlighted that some changes are expected to be imposed by the Department for Education from Easter this year, with a shift towards the funding solely supporting children who are in receipt of free school meals. Our wider F&F programme manager is currently looking at the process to support this change via the AAP teams and BR will keep Board members updated on progress.

Looking ahead to 2024-25, BR noted that details of our AB allocation have not yet been confirmed, so until then we can't really plan too far ahead. Board members have already agreed in principle at a previous meeting to keep the AAP's priority focus on Community Recovery allocated by way of project callout. BR will keep Board members updated on next year's budgets going forward.

Cllr EA asked whether Cllrs will be permitted to carry forward any unallocated NB from 2023-24 into 2024-25. BR clarified this will be permitted, but no carry forward will be possible beyond 2024-25. Cllrs are always encouraged to allocate their NB funding within each respective financial year.

5.2 Community Engagement Review

BR advised that AAP Coordinators had a development day at County Hall in late November where they discussed the issues to be addressed as we transition from AAPs to Local Networks, including increased engagement, and the different workstreams that are ongoing (which BR has mentioned at a previous Board meeting). Work is ongoing behind the scenes, but there isn't anything specific to update Board members on currently.

BR asked if Cllrs had received any further updates in relation to the Review, but no Cllrs had anything to add.

**6. Date/Time of Next Meeting:
Tue 28 March 2024, 6:00pm, Microsoft Teams**

BR highlighted that MW will be giving an update at the March meeting in relation to the County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan.

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