



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

Thursday 23 May 2024

Bishop Auckland Football Club

Present

Partner Representative

Deborah Richardson (DR) - Community and Voluntary Sector Representative
Paul Cooper (PC) – Durham County Council
Rachel Edmunds (RE) – Believe Housing – Vice Chair
Sgt Ellie Jones (EJ) - Durham Constabulary

Public Representative

Peter Quinn (PQ)
Nicola Craddock (NC)
Jayne Nicholson (JN)
Tony Bird (TB) - Vice Chair
James Middleton (JM)

Elected Members

Cllr Shirley Quinn (SQ) – Chair
Cllr Samantha Townsend (ST)
Cllr Cathy Hunt (CH)
Cllr Charlie Kay (CK)
Cllr George Smith (GS)

Presenters

Paula Nelson (PN) - Shildon Alive
Catherine Hrynyszak (CH) - Bishop Auckland College

Officers

Peter Garrod (PG) – 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

Apologies

Insp Mark Edwards (ME) - Durham Constabulary
Cllr Mike Harker (MH) – Town and Parish Council Representative
Colin Davis (CD) - County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
Bernadette Crook (BC) – Public Representative
Cllr Joanne Howey (JH) – Elected Member

Public / Other Attendees – 17

Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership Annual General Meeting

A1. Introduction from current Chair / Coordinator

SQ welcomed Board and Forum members to the meeting.

SQ gave an overview of the structure of the meeting explaining that the AGM business would be the first part of the meeting followed by the standard Board Items. SQ thanked Board members, forum members and the BASH AAP team for their time and dedication to the work of the partnership.

SQ wished the new chair all the best for 2024/25.

A2. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs

PG explained the procedure for the election of Chair and Vice Chairs. The Board agreed the Chair / Vice Chairs for the Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP for 2024/25 will be:

- Cllr Shirley Quinn – Vice Chair – Elected Representative
- Jayne Nicholson – Vice Chair - Public Representative
- Rachel Edmunds – Chair – Partner Representative

The above roles were **AGREED** by the Board.

PG thanked SQ for her involvement, support and dedication as Chair of BASH AAP.

A3. 2023/24 Progress and Finance Update

PG gave a presentation to the Board regarding the work carried out and the progress made by BASH AAP in 2023/24. A brief overview of the projects supported through the following funds was provided:

- Area Budget
- AAP and Cllr's Towns and Villages Revitalisation
- Neighbourhood Budget
- Holiday Activities with Healthy Food

The presentation included a video of the Fun and Food projects supported Countywide throughout the Easter Holidays.

In addition, an update was provided on the following projects supported by Area Budget funding:

- Shildon Alive – The Fruit, Veg and Eggs Pledge - Paula Nelson
- Bishop Auckland College - Upskilling, Employability & Discretionary fund - Catherine Hrynyszak

The Board were provided with a financial overview of the funding available to the AAP this financial year and were informed of the future opportunities and challenges faced.

PG thanked the Chair, Vice Chairs, the BASH Board, Forum members, project leads and organisations for their continued involvement with the AAP throughout the year. Finally, PG thanked the BASH AAP team for their hard work.

The Board made the following comments:

CH commented positively on the work of the BASH AAP team.

SQ commented positively on the Upskilling, Employability & Discretionary fund project and the opportunities this funding brings to individuals.

PC asked how long the remaining funding, for the Upskilling, Employability & Discretionary fund, will take to allocate? CH stated that the project is anticipated to end in October 2024.

A forum member asked, for the Upskilling, Employability & Discretionary project, what the threshold for low-income employment is. CH stated that this decision is at the discretion of the panel and is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

TB asked how the project is publicised. CH stated the project is promoted through the Job Centre and National Career Advisors.

A copy of the presentation is available by contacting a member of the BASH AAP Team on bishopshildonaap@durham.gov.uk or 03000 268663.

PG thanked everyone and closed the AGM.

Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership Board Meeting

A4. Introduction and apologies

Introductions and apologies were made.

Please see page 1 & 2 for attendees and apologies.

RE thanked SQ for her time as Chair and her dedication to the work of BASH AAP. In addition, thanked TB for his time as Vice Chair.

RE introduced James Middleton newly appointed Public Representative to the BASH Board and Sgt Ellie Jones who is standing in for Insp Mark Edwards.

RE explained the protocol for Board Meetings:

- Attendees will be invited to speak by the Chair.
- Board members will be invited to speak first followed by members of the forum, where appropriate.

RE informed the Board that due to the upcoming general election we will be soon entering the pre-election period. RE reminded Board members that the meeting can proceed with business as usual however the meeting must not be used as a publicity platform for any political party and should focus only on the business of the agenda.

A5. Agreement of minutes and matters arising from previous meeting held 21 March 2024

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

A6. Declaring an Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A7. Local Neighbourhood Issues

There were no Neighbourhood Issues.

A8. Priorities and Action Plans

- **The Big Arts Funding**

The Board were provided with The Big Arts Funding report. A copy of the report was circulated, in advance of the meeting, with the Board papers.

PG reported that each AAP has received £10k from Public Health to deliver culture and arts-based projects that enhance mental health, wellbeing, and resilience in our local communities.

PG discussed the report and highlighted the salient areas of interest, outlining the key recommendations for the Board to consider.

The funding panel met and as a result, the following project proposal was presented to the Board for funding:

- **Daisy Arts – Arts in Action**
Amount Requested: £10,000
Match Funding: £1,000
Total Project Cost: £11,000

The Board received the project proposal and **AGREED** the recommendation of approval for a Big Arts funding Allocation of £10,000. The project is to subject a final application which is subject to a full appraisal.

➤ **Area Budget – Thriving Communities**

PG reported that the funding panel have met and agreed the priority of 'Thriving Communities' and the key themes for the brief. The brief was circulated to the Board and agreed. As a result, the call for projects is now live with the closing date for applications being 12pm, Monday 10 June 2024.

PG welcomed an initial conversation with a member of the BASH AAP team before submitting an application.

The AAP will have the following funding resources available to allocate in the financial year 2024/25:

- Area Budget - £110,000 - Inc Welfare Reform (£10,000), Youth Fund (£10,000)

Each application received, with the support of the AAP team, will be assessed and considered by the funding panel. The panel will make recommendations on which projects to support, and these will then be presented at a future Board meeting.

PG thanked those Board members that volunteered to be part of the task group and asked if any other Board members would like to be involved to inform a member of the BASH team.

➤ **Holiday Activities with Healthy Food**

The Board were provided with Holiday Activities with Healthy Food report. A copy of the report was circulated, in advance of the meeting, with the Board papers.

SM gave a brief overview of the report and highlighted the main areas of interest.

SM reported that DfE funding of £99,562 is available to the AAP to allocate across the Easter, Summer, and Christmas 2024 holiday periods. £20,211.80 was allocated for the Easter period leaving a balance of £79,350.20 available for the 2024 and Summer and Christmas holidays periods. Additional funding has been secured from DCC UK Shared Prosperity funding of £49,371 to support the Summer and Christmas holiday delivery. This additional funding aims to support those young people not eligible for free school meals but who have been identified as having other vulnerabilities.

The Summer programme was launched on Wednesday 1st May 2024 with a closing date of 12 noon, Wednesday 22nd May 2024. Each application will be assessed and considered by the funding panel who will meet on Thursday 6 June 2024, 10.30am.

SM gave an overview of the monitoring visits carried out, by the BASH AAP team, held over the Easter holiday period.

The Board noted the content of the report.

➤ **Neighbourhood Budget**

The Neighbourhood Budget report was circulated, in advance of the meeting, with the Board papers.

SM discussed the report and highlighted that the following Neighbourhood Budget applications are for information only.

- **Bishop Auckland Redecoration Project – Butterwick Hospice**
Total Project Cost: £12,000
NB Allocation: £9,881 (Cllr Andrew Jackson £2,500, Sam Zair £2,500 and Councillor Joanne Howey £4,881)

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

- **Bishop Auckland Town Cemetery Entrance Road – DCC, Bereavement Services**
Total Project Cost: £3,930
NB Allocation: £3,930 Cllr Sam Zair

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

- **Brass Festival 2024 – Big Brass Bash**
Total Project Cost: £19,445
NB Allocation: £6,500 (Cllr Matt Johnson £2,167, Cllr Shirley Quinn £2,167, Cllr Samantha Townsend £2,166)

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

- **Art in Action – Daisy Arts**
Total Project Cost: £4,675
NB Allocation: £1,075 (Cllr Cathy Hunt £511, Cllr Joanne Howey £564)

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

Each project is subject to a full application and satisfactory project appraisal.

The Board noted the content of the report.

A9. Coordinators Update

➤ Review of Community Engagement

PG stated that as a result of the Community Engagement Review consultation the AAPs will transition into Community Networks from May 2025. As it stands AAP Co-ordinators are on various workstreams looking at Terms of Reference, community engagement plans, streamlined funding process, AAP boundaries etc.

PG reported that several changes will take place to the funding process including:

- Neighbourhood Budget - Where there are no declarations of interest, the application is presented for information only. Any added value comments would still be encouraged. Where a 'Declaration of Interest' has been made by a Councillor, the AAP Board is asked to consider the funding application and recommend it for approval/non-approval.
- Technical Appraisal – Applicants must provide all approvals i.e planning permission, landowners consent etc before been submitted to the DCC Funding team. It is hoped this will reduce the amount of time a project is waiting for payment due to a condition of grant. In addition, application and funding processes will be streamlined to deliver improved efficiencies for applicants.

The Board will be updated accordingly, once further information is available.

➤ **PACE Changes**

PG reported that after 15 years of the Partnerships and Community Engagement Service (PACE) being a part of the Council's overall structure, as from this month the constituent elements of the service have been realigned to other council services. These changes involve AAPs be realigned to Economic Development (Head of Service, Andy Kerr). These changes have been made with the aim that the new management arrangements will provide an opportunity for greater synergy with closely related functions within the aligned areas.

PG notified the Board that these changes have provided our current Head of Service, Gordon Elliott, the opportunity to retire. Gordon has asked that we pass on his thanks for all the support from the AAPs over the years. RE thanked Gordon for the support received throughout the time of AAP's.

➤ **F & P Scotto Charitable Trust**

PG provided a brief overview of the work that has taken place with the F & P Charitable Scotto Trust. PG reported that the last visit was cancelled. A meeting has been arranged to consider funding for local organisations. Any feedback will be presented at a future Board meeting.

➤ **Public Rep Recruitment**

The recruitment for public representatives is now complete. PG stated that the public rep vacancy has been occupied by James Middleton.

PG thanked SQ and RE in supporting the public representative interview process.

A10. Countywide Partner Issues

➤ Police / PACT Update

Due to the absence of Insp Mark Edwards, Sgt Ellie Jones gave an update on the main priority issues for the BASH AAP area.

- New Technology – ‘Community Axon’ allows for the direct upload of CCTV footage and other digital material to Police systems by members of the community. Individuals can be invited to provide evidence to the Police which works by sending a link via either text message, or email to a member of the community who can then use that link to upload their material directly.
CK commented positively on the work that has taken place at Coundon through ‘Community Axon’.
- Community Speedwatch – There have been Community Speed watch activities at Binchester, Hamsterley, and Evenwood. If there are members of the public interested in volunteering and becoming involved with the NPT’s Speedwatch activities, please get in touch with a member of the policing team.
- The Police team have executed several magistrates search warrants over recent weeks in respect of the supply of controlled drugs.
- Crime trends over recent months include vehicle thefts, from outside of locations, and groups of what are suspected to be youths trying car and house doors during the night.
- ‘Operation Trail blazer’ was set up to combat anti-social behaviour in key locations across the County Durham and Darlington areas involving a multi-agency approach with partners and is in line with the Governments Anti-social Behaviour Action Plan. Dedicated Officers from all Neighbourhood Policing Teams are assigned patrols daily to support operation Trailblazer.

CH commented positively on the police services response time.

➤ Fire Service Update

Due to the absence of Colin Davies a fire service update was circulated to Board members, as part of the Board papers.

A11. Date / Time / Venue for next Board Meeting

RE thanked Board and Forum members for attending the meeting.

Board - Thursday 11 July 2024, 4pm, Civic Hall, Shildon