



**TEESDALE ACTION PARTNERSHIP (TAP)
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY 15th MAY 2024, 6:00pm (UTASS)**

Present:

Elected Members:

Cllr Robert Potts
Cllr Ted Henderson
Cllr Richard Bell – Vice Chair
Cllr George Richardson
Cllr James Rowlandson
Cllr James Cosslett
Cllr Wendy Greenfield (Town & Parish Council's Representative)

Public Representatives:

Susan Bainbridge
Rachel Tweddle – Chair
Lynne Oxby
Christine Watters
Roger Peat

Partner Representatives:

Craig Jewkes
Linda Bird – Vice Chair
Rob Davisworth
Peter Locke

Officer Attendance:

Adam White, TAP Coordinator
Annalisa Ward, TAP Community Development Project Officer
Emma Walton, TAP Support Officer

Presenters:

Cllr Joan Nicholson, Chair of Durham County Council

Observers: 9 x Forum Members

Apologies:

Elaine Laurie
Robin Brooks
Insp Michael Summat

Teesdale Action Partnership Annual General Meeting

1. Welcome from Chair, Introductions and Apologies

RT welcomed everyone to the AGM / Board meeting of Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP).

EW confirmed that apologies for absence had been received, as noted above.

AW welcomed **Rob Davisworth**, Head of Corp Finance & Commercial Services - Durham County Council to the TAP Board. Rob will replace Jeff Garfoot and jointly share the role as the DCC representative with Alison Clark.

2. Chairman's Medal

RT welcomed, Chair of Durham County Council, Cllr Joan Nicholson to the meeting along with Richard Betton. **Cllr Joan Nicholson** presented Richard with the Chairman's Medal for his outstanding contribution to the local voluntary sector and his work as an advocate for the farming community. **Richard Betton** thanked Cllr Joan Nicholson for the award and highlighted the exceptional work taking place at UTASS.

3. Introduction from Ongoing Chair

RT gave an overview of her time as the TAP Chair for 2023/24 and highlighted the key achievements of TAP over the past year. **RT** thanked Board, Task Group and Forum members for their time and dedication throughout the year.

AW thanked **RT** for her time, support, and commitment to the TAP Board and team.

AW took the Chair for the remainder of the AGM.

4. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs

AW explained the procedure for the election of Chair for 2024/25. **AW** informed the Board that he had liaised with the three sectors of the Board to seek nominations for the roles of chair and vice chair for 2024/25. As a result, **AW** highlighted the following **recommendation** to the Board for ratification:

- Rachel Tweddle will be TAP Vice Chair representing the Public Sector.
- Cllr James Cosslett will be TAP Chair representing the Elected Member Sector.
- Linda Bird will be TAP Vice Chair representing the Partner Sector.

AW thanked all those who volunteered for the roles.

AW thanked the Chair, Vice chairs, the TAP Board, Forum members, project leads and organisations for their continued involvement with the AAP throughout the year. Finally, **AW** thanked the TAP team for their hard work.

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

5. TAP Annual Report 2023/24 and Budget Update

AW reminded Board members that they have previously received the Annual Report for comment. **AW** requested that the Board ratifies the Annual Report. The Board ratified the Annual Report. **AW** highlighted that copies of the report are available, this evening, for Forum members. Further copies can be requested by contacting a member of the TAP team.

The Annual Report will be available on the TAP website, promoted via Facebook, and circulated to the wider TAP Forum.

AW provided the Board with an overview presentation of the Annual Report and the funding allocated via; Area Budget, Holiday Activities with Healthy Food, Neighbourhood Budget, Towns and Villages and Cllrs Towns and Villages funding for 2023/24.

AW also gave an overview of the Towns and Villages funds along with a countywide perspective on how the scheme has benefitted communities across the county.

AW confirmed that a final statement of Area Budget spend for 2023/24 had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. **AW** referenced that a final statement for NB 2023/24 is included within the Annual Report.

AW thanked everyone and closed the AGM.

Teesdale Area Action Partnership Standard Board Meeting

6. Welcome from the Chair

Cllr JC took the Chair, and thanked **RT** as outgoing Chair. **Cllr JC** outlined his aspirations for the year during a period of change for AAPs.

AW reminded meeting observers they would be welcome to comment under item 11 on the agenda.

7. Declaration of Interest and Meeting Protocol

AW made the Board aware of the declaration of interest procedure and informed all Board members that this is a standard item on the agenda. **AW** informed the Board and Forum members of 'house rules/etiquette' for the meeting.

Cllr James Cosslett declared an interest in the Cockfield Primary School – Go Outdoors project.

8. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The draft minutes from the meeting held on 31 January 2024 have been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. **AW** reviewed the minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy.

AW confirmed there were no outstanding actions. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed by the Board as a true and accurate record.

9. TAP Forward Plan 2024/25

The Board were provided with the TAP Forward Plan 2024/25 report. A copy of the report was circulated, in advance of the meeting, with the meeting papers.

AW discussed the TAP Forward Plan 2024/25 report and highlighted the main areas of interest and outlined the key recommendations for the Board to consider.

The Board noted the report and **AGREED** the following:

- The Board **AGREED** to continue to work towards a single theme of ‘Community Recovery’. An overarching theme to also support bespoke ‘emerging community issues will also remain.
- The Board noted all key information in relation to TAP budgets for 2024/25.
- The Board **AGREED** to capping the maximum Area Budget grant at £12,000. Consideration will be given to exceeding this level if a project is an exceptional Teesdale wide initiative.
- The Board **AGREED** to top slice £30,000 Area Budget to be spent on a single capital project or multiple small projects.
- The Board **AGREED** the allocation of grants through a rolling programme delivered through a ‘single’ task and finish group.
- The Board **AGREED** that the Holiday Activities with Healthy Food Funding will continue to be managed by the AAP Co-ordinator and the Fun and Food Team.
- The Board noted and **AGREED** the key administrative and operational recommendations outlined in the report.

A Q&A session took place, and the following points were noted:

LB stressed the importance of the task group and the involvement of Board and Forum members.

10. Neighbourhood Budget

AWard confirmed that a summary sheet of the NB proposals was circulated, in advance of the meeting, with the meeting papers.

AWard gave a brief outline of each proposal.

10.1 St Mary's Parish Hall Improvements – Hall Improvements

AWard confirmed that the request for NB is **£3,000** (£1,500 each from Cllr Bell and Cllr Henderson)

No comments were raised.

10.2 Durham County Council – Culture and Sport – Little Brass Bash (Barnard Castle)

AWard confirmed that the request for NB is **£1,200** (£300 each from Cllr Bell, Cllr Henderson, Cllr Rowlandson, and Cllr Richardson)

No comments were raised.

10.3 Cockfield Primary School – Go Outdoors

AWard confirmed that the request for NB is **£1,000** (£500 each from Cllr Potts and Cllr Cosslett)

Cllr James Cosslett has a declaration of interest in the Cockfield Primary School – Go Outdoors project.

No comments were raised, and the Board **APPROVED** the application.

AWard to forward the NB applications to the DCC Funding Team for technical appraisal.
(ACTION 1: AWard)

AWard highlighted that there are several projects in development these will be circulated to the Board, shortly. **AWard** stated that where there is a 'declaration of interest' the proposal would need to be approved by at least three members from each sector of the Board. This is to ensure a 'quorate' decision. If a 'quorate' decision isn't reached the application won't progress towards technical appraisal by the DCC Funding Team.

AWard thanked the Durham County Council 'Find and Fix it' team for the work that has taken place in the Teesdale area.

11. Locality Neighbourhood Issues

11.1 Locality Policing Issues

In the absence of Insp Michael Sammut **AW** gave an update on the key issues for the TAP area:

- The only significant crime trend for the Teesdale area has been shoplifting which has seen an increase particularly in Barnard Castle town. This has

been due in part to some local offenders, but in more cases travelling criminals targeting outlying areas. In the past 2 months officers from Barnard Castle Neighbourhood Policing Team have arrested, charged, and remanded 15 offenders for a total of 25 shopliftings in the town. A further 4 offenders are to be dealt with for aiding and abetting shoplifting. A recent article The Teesdale Mercury covered the arrests. There have also been recent break in's at Galgate News and Baboul's, however, suspects have been arrested and charges are expected in due course.

- Recorded crime has risen in Teesdale by 8% the past month but is down by 14% year to date. The force has seen a year-on-year increase in reported crime, but the Teesdale area has an above average solved rate of around 25-36% compared with an 18% average. Nationally Durham outperforms most forces in terms of how many crimes we detect.
- Reported incidents to the police locally are down by 4% compared with the previous month and down 13% year to date.

AW confirmed there have been two neighbourhood issue raised, in advance of the meeting.

- 1) Cotherstone Parish Council has raised concerns regarding ASB at The Hagg, Cotherstone by river users. **AW** welcomed the Chair of the Parish to the meeting, Cllr Vince Bendin. **Cllr Vince Bendin** gave an overview of the ASB activities that has been taking place at Cotherstone. Cotherstone Parish Council are currently considering their options in dealing with the issues raised. **CJ** suggested reporting any issues of ASB through the 101-service including the submission of any photographic evidence.
- 2) A shopkeeper has raised issues, with **Cllr RB**, regarding the increase in shop break ins and shoplifting in Barnard Castle. **Cllr RB** asked for reassurance from the police that this issue is being dealt with.

AW confirmed both neighbourhood issues have been forwarded to Insp Michael Sammut and an update will be provided at the next Board meeting.

12. Coordinators Update

12.1 Quarterly Monitoring Updates

AW stated that the quarterly updates (Jan – March 2024) will be circulated to Board members shortly. **AW** stressed; if any Board members would like to submit individual comments for circulation that they are more than welcome to do so.

12.2 TAP Press Articles

The Board were provided with an update on the press coverage TAP has received in Teesdale Mercury over the November 2023 – January 2024 period.

12.3 Community Engagement Review

AW stated that an update on the Community Engagement Review has been circulated to Board members via an email from Gordon Elliott (Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement). The email outlined that **GE** will be retiring from the council.

AW 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.

Cllr RB notified the Board that cabinet will be meeting tomorrow afternoon to discuss the review.

Cllr RB asked if the workstream meetings have started to take place. **AW** confirmed that the workstreams are continuing to meet and make progress. **AW** reiterated that there will be 12 Local Networks. Further information on boundaries and staffing will follow in due course. It is still anticipated that the first Network meetings will take place in June/July 2025.

Cllr JR commented positively on the exemplary work of TAP and the team.

12.4 AONB

LB informed the Board she recently attended the Wellbeing for Life event. A number of organisations attended the event and updated on the work taking place. The event was very well attended.

13. Date/Time/Venue for Next Meeting

Cllr JC thanked Board members for attending the meeting.

The TAP Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 July 2024, Hamsterley Village Hall, 6pm.