



**TEESDALE ACTION PARTNERSHIP (TAP)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2024, 6:00pm (ST MARY'S PARISH HALL)**

Present:

Elected Members:

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

Public Representatives:

Rachel Twedde – Vice Chair
Elaine Laurie
Robin Brooks
Christine Watters
Susan Bainbridge

Partner Representatives:

Craig Jewkes
Insp Michael Summat
Linda Bird – Vice Chair

Officer Attendance:

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

Presenter:

Scott McNally, Assistant Assessment and Awards Manager – Durham County Council
Edward Pickering, Chief Officer – Citizens Advice County Durham
Craig Jewkes, Station Manager - County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

Observers: 4 x Forum Members

Apologies:

Roger Peat
Lynne Oxby
Peter Locke
Robert Davisworth
Simon Allen
Bob Danby
Alison Clark

Teesdale Action Partnership Board Meeting

1. Welcome from Chair, Introductions and Apologies

Cllr JC welcomed everyone to the Board meeting of Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP).

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

2. 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 Rowlandson declared an interest in the Café/Servery Witham People's Dispensary – The Witham Hall Ltd project.

AW reminded meeting observers they would be welcome to comment under Items 4,5,8 & 9 of today's agenda.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The draft minutes from the meeting held on 17 July 2024 have been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. **AW** reviewed the minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy.

Action 3 – page - 9 - Cllr RP requested information on the number of times and the areas that the Speed Watch van has been deployed. Insp MS to provide an update on the Speed Watch van at the next Board meeting. **AW** stated that an update will be provided under item 8.

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

4. Welfare Rights, Welfare Benefit and Debt management Information, Advice and Guidance Consultation

Board Members received a presentation from **Scott McNally (SM)** – Assistant Assessment and Awards Manager - Durham County Council on the Welfare Rights, Welfare Benefit and Debt management Information, Advice and Guidance consultation. **SM** gave the background to the consultation and highlighted that the feedback received will help to inform the services funded from 2025/26. The feedback will be used alongside information gathered from other partners, to deliver effective advice and support services in the future.

Board and forum members were encouraged to respond to the consultation. The deadline for comments is 5pm on the 20 September 2024. Further details in relation to the consultation are available via the website: www.durham.gov.uk/consultation

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

Cllr RB asked if there is any overlap between CAB and the services provided by DCC. **SM** confirmed there is an occasional overlap between the two services, however, DCC delivers a specialist service and can represent individuals at a tribunal.

LB asked how links are being made with vulnerable groups. **SM** stated stakeholder sessions are being held. **SM** to forward further details on the stakeholder consultation to **AW (ACTION 1: SM)**

Cllr GR asked what percentage of people access the services online? **SM** stated that there has been an increase in the number of individuals accessing the services online.

EL asked is face to face provision still provided? **SM** stated that face to face sessions are held as part of the commission team's role. In addition, home visits are also accommodated.

Cllr JC thanked **SM** for the presentation.

5. Citizens Advice County Durham

Board Members received a presentation from **Edward Pickering (EP)** - Chief Officer – Citizens Advice County Durham on Citizens Advice in Teesdale. Citizens Advice, a countywide service, is delivered from both Woodleigh, Barnard Castle and UTASS, Middleton in Teesdale in the TAP AAP area. **EP** gave an overview of the key statistics for 2023-24 including information on service users' issues, their age, and the outcome etc.

Further information on the Citizens Advice Service can be found via their website: <https://www.citizensadvicecd.org.uk/help/>

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

WG asked if a resident lived in Evenwood, where would their nearest CAB service be located? **EP** stated that the nearest CAB service would be Bishop Auckland.

AW asked if links are being made with voluntary sector organisations. **EP** stated that further work is needed to link in with the voluntary sector.

LB suggested linking in with North Star Housing Association.

The Board highlighted Evenwood and Cockfield as the key areas in TAP that would require support and advice. **CW** asked whether the YMCA at Cockfield could be considered for future delivery.

Cllr JC thanked **EP** for the presentation.

A copy of the presentations will be circulated to Board members. **(ACTION 2: EW)**

6. Area Budget

AW confirmed that a full copy of the Area Budget applications has been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. **AW** highlighted that Board members were given the opportunity to provide any comments to the TAP team in advance of tonight's meeting. No comments were received.

The applications have been considered by the Community Recovery Task and Finish Group and the relevant service providers and are recommended for Board approval.

AWard gave a brief outline of each application.

6.1 Path to meet the Teesdale Way – Winston Millennium Green

Amount of funding requested: £5,249

Total Cost of Project: £11,952

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

RP asked if the Council would adopt the pathway as a public right of way. **AWard** stated that the group were progressing this with the Rights of Way team at DCC. The works to make the path low maintenance were likely to strengthen the case for the path to be adopted.

6.2 Sailing Club Safety Boat – Teesdale Sailing and Watersports Club

Amount of funding requested: £8,000

Total Cost of Project: £15,890

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

6.3 Café/Servery Witham People's Dispensary – The Witham Hall Ltd
Amount of funding requested: £5,000
Total Cost of Project: £25,736

Cllr JR has a declaration of interest in this project.

Cllr RB commented positively on the application.

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

AWard to forward the AB applications to the DCC Funding Team for technical appraisal.
(ACTION 3: AWard)

Cllr RB requested that the full applications be provided as part of the printed meeting papers. **AW** noted that all applications were provided electronically in advance of the meeting. He suggested having the applications on the screen in the meeting as an alternative. The Board agreed.

7. Neighbourhood Budget

There were no Neighbourhood budget summaries presented at tonight meeting.

AWard reported that work continues to take place to allocate Cllr's Neighbourhood Budget. The deadline for allocating Neighbourhood Budget is December 2024.

8. Locality Neighbourhood Issues

8.1 Locality Policing Issues

➤ Durham Constabulary

Insp Michael Summat gave an update on the key issues for the TAP area:

- **AW** reminded the Board that the issue of speeding at Woodland was raised at the last Board meeting. **Insp MS** stated that from that meeting the speed watch van has been deployed twice. Speedwatch data has been collected, however, the software to collect the data is unavailable. As a result, an update will be provided at the next Board meeting **(ACTION 4: Insp MS)**.
- **Cllr GR** raised the issue of speeding in Staindrop. **Insp MS** reported he will be attending the parish council meeting. **Insp MS** reported that the parish council have purchased a speed tracking camera and are providing the data collected to the police. **Insp MS** stated that this information is useful to assess speeding issues in the village, however, enforcements cannot be issued.
- **Cllr GR** raised the issue of live stock thefts.

- There has been an 8% increase in crime in Barnard Castle. The crime trends include farm thefts, vehicle thefts, oil thefts and targeted lorry thefts.
- Concerns were raised about the recent incidents on the County Bridge.
- Issues regarding the 101 service were raised.

➤ **County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service**

Board Members received a presentation from **Craig Jewkes (CJ)**, Station Manager - County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service on Fire Safety in your home. **CJ** highlighted the main causes of fire in the home, what to do in the event of a fire and the importance of having working smoke alarms.

CJ stated a self-assessment link is available. **EW** to circulate the link to board members. **(ACTION 5: EW)**

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

LB asked due to the increase in energy costs has there been an increase in fires due to individual heaters. **CJ** reported that several fires have been caused by individual heaters. Residents were instructed to follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Cllr JC thanked **CJ** for the presentation.

AW confirmed that no neighbourhood issues have been raised in advance of the meeting.

8.2 Task Group Update

LB gave an update on the first meeting of the task group. **LB** stated that she will chair the task group during 2024/25. A number of projects were discussed, some of these were presented at tonight's meeting. **LB** commented positively on the work of the group and thanked members for their work and commitment.

9. Coordinators Update

9.1 Area Budget Spend Profile

AW gave an overview of the Area Budget spend profile for 2024/25. A copy of the spend profile was circulated, in advance of the meeting, with the meeting papers. **AW** stated that there are several projects in the pipeline.

9.2 TAP Press Articles

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

9.3 Community Engagement Review

AW confirmed that the workstreams are continuing to meet and make progress. As it stands, the new Local Network terms of reference and the Boundary Review consultation findings will be presented to Cabinet at their November meeting. If agreed, an update report will be tabled at upcoming AAP Board meetings. It is still anticipated that Local Networks won't be in a position to allocate their funds until the first planned Network Panel meetings in September 2025. Our task group has discussed this, and concerns were raised. Local Network spend will be driven by bespoke Local 4 Year Plans. Consultation will need to be undertaken on the plans which will then be presented at the first Network Panel meeting. Local Networks will need to be established and new members will need to be recruited. Further information on boundaries and staffing will follow in due course. Cllrs Neighbourhood Budgets will still be available.

Cllr RB asked if clarity has been given to fund churches. **AW** stated this will be reviewed through the workstreams.

Cllr RB welcomed the 4-year plan's, however, Local Networks need to be reactive to local needs. **AW** stated the workstreams are currently working on the delivery of Local Networks.

10. Date/Time/Venue for Next Meeting

AW reported that as a result of the Councils MTFP timeframes a number of AAPs have been requested to change Board dates to fit into the consultation period. Unfortunately, this affects our AAP and as a result, the TAP Board meeting will now take place on Wednesday 30th October, 6pm at the Witham, Barnard Castle.

The MTFP consultation runs from 20th September until 1 November 2024.

In addition, the task group has also been rearranged and will now be held on the 9th October 1pm – TCR the Hub.

Cllr JC thanked Board members for attending the meeting.

The TAP Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 30 October 2024, 6pm, at The Witham, Barnard Castle.