

Weardale Action Partnership
Area Action Partnership (AAP) Board Meeting – 23rd July 2009

Key Messages:

The following are the key messages coming out of the first Board meeting held on 23rd July 2009 at The Dales Centre in Stanhope:

- Gordon Elliot, Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement, Durham County Council (DCC) welcomed everyone to the first meeting and was delighted that so many people had applied to become Members of the Board and Forum.
- Pam Forbes (Public Rep) was elected as Chair of the Board for 09/10.
- The Board meeting structure was agreed as the opening 30 minutes (approx) to be an opportunity for the Partnership to consider any local neighbourhood issues that have come to the attention of the Co-ordinator outside of the main priorities. Members of the public should forward issues to Andrew Walker, AAP Co-ordinator at least 10 working days prior to the Board meeting in order for them to be researched and information provided at the meetings. The next section lasting approx. 60 minutes will be for consideration of the action plans for the Partnerships' annual priorities, and will be owned by the Partnership and its Chair. The closing 30 minutes (approx) will be for Countywide partner issues that impact on the AAP.
- The Board agreed the following priorities for 2009/10:
 1. Support for Voluntary Sector - Focusing on Youth,
 2. Employment and Job Prospects
 3. Housing - Affordable Decent Homes
 4. Transport/Access to Services *including Highways issues*

Four Task and Finish groups (time limited groups) for each of the priorities will be formed with volunteers from each section of the Board. Relevant partners/services will be also be approached along with forum members who have expressed a specific interest to support these groups.

- The Board considered a report outlining specific budgets aligned to the AAP. The AAP Area budget has £150,000 per AAP for 2009/10 to support the effective operation of the AAP and new/ additional projects, services or facilities identified in the AAP Action Plan. The Neighbourhood budget of £25,000 per elected DCC Councillor, to support the improvement of social, economic and environmental well being activities in their area. In addition each County Councillor also has a Highways budget of £6,000 and a £2000 Members Initiative Fund (MIF) – designed to tackle priorities in a dynamic proactive way. It is intended that Councillors engage with AAP Board for the use of the Neighbourhood budget, however final recommendation for spend are made by the respective Durham County Council Elected member. The Board doesn't have a direct role in the decision making process of the Highways Budget and MIF.
- Highways staff from Durham County Council delivered a presentation including information on winter gritting, and Carole Payne, Durham County Council delivered a presentation on the Durham's City of Culture bid.
- Future Board meeting dates are as follows: 17th September 2009 and 15th October 2009, both commencing at 6pm, venues to be arranged.