

## DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the **DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD** was held in the Salvation Army Hall, Consett on Wednesday, 18 July 2018 at 6.00pm.

**PRESENT:**               **Councillors**  
Derek Hicks, Ivan Jewell, Watts Stelling, Owen Temple and Alex Watson (Chair)

**Partner Organisations**

Craig Farrage – Co Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service, Rachel Rooney – Clinical Commissioning Group, Joanne Waller - DCC and Insp Keith Wardle - Durham Constabulary

**Public Representatives**

Marlene Boyles, Jeannette Harold, Helen Marley, Rosemary Morris, Shelley O'Brien, Donna Summerson and Christine Wotherspoon

**APOLOGIES:**       Cllrs Joanne Carr and Alan Shield – Elected Representatives, Phillip Curran - Karbon Homes and Gary Scott - Derwentside Business Network (DBN) – Partner Representatives

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Derek Snaith - AAP Co-ordinator, Fiona Kelly - Community Development / Project Officer and Lynn Dougal - Support Officer

**PRESENTERS:**     Peter Ollivere – DCC Spatial Policy Team

Members of the Public – 14

### 1.   **Introductions**

Cllr Watson welcomed everyone to the meeting and Board members introduced themselves.

### 2.   **Minutes of Previous Board Meeting (16 May 2018)**

*Matters arising*

Cllr Watson gave an update on the Town Centre Steering Group and advised that nothing has been set up yet but he attended a meeting with Councillors, Gordon Elliott, Head of Partnership and Community Engagement, DCC and Andy Palmer, Head of Transformation and Partnerships, DCC on 8 June. It was acknowledged that any steering group developed for the town centre would benefit from the private sector and elected member involvement. Further discussions are to take place with Cllr Carl Marshall (Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration) and the Director of Regeneration and Local Services and as a starting point would look at the proposal put forward by Project Genesis Trust.

There were no further issues raised and the minutes were AGREED.

### 3.   **County Durham Plan – Preferred Options Stage**

Peter Ollivere gave a presentation on the County Durham Plan (CDP) which sets out planned development such as housing, schools, transport, healthcare, jobs and the environment across the county until 2035 (a copy of the presentation is available upon request).

The Preferred Options Consultation is taking place during June and July 2018 and once this has ended, they will look at the feedback and make changes to the plan. A draft publication should be ready around January/February 2019 with the plan submitted to the Government Inspector in

May/June 2019. In September 2019 there will be an Examination in Public with adoption of the plan in spring 2020.

Peter said they will be making a note of any questions from tonight and will reply to the AAP.

Cllr Stelling wonders if the proposed primary school, as part of the Laurel Drive, Leadgate development, would be able to accommodate more than just Leadgate children. Peter said with any sites that come forward and those in the plan they will be speaking to the Education Department. In some areas there may not be a new school built but classroom extensions would be added, with a contribution made from the developers.

Jeanette Harold asked if any social housing is to be built. Peter said each housing site will have affordable housing and around 15% is planned for the Consett area.

Jeanette asked if this is with Karbon Homes or a private developer. Peter said it is with private developers and as 15% is a minimum they could develop more.

Cllr Temple said he sees the plan as being very Durham centric with most of the money and regeneration around Durham City and would find it difficult to welcome the plan. Also at a recent planning committee it was noted that Consett Academy is fully subscribed and a contribution is to be made for a new classroom. He said we cannot have new housing without the infrastructure in place as we only have one secondary school in the area and one secular school that covers the wider area. He also said that in the 2013 plan, the green belt area on the northern edge of Derwentside was protected but this seems to have disappeared from this plan.

Peter said there was protection of the green belt in North West Durham and that has now been removed. He is unsure of the reasons why but will get further information about this and get back to him.

Peter said if there is a need for secondary school places then this will need to be accommodated. However he said he was not aware there was a capacity issue at Consett Academy and this is something the Education service would look into.

Regarding Durham City, Peter said there has not been a lot of development for a number of years as the green belt was tightly drawn around the city. Therefore a large amount of housing is planned for the Durham City settlement compared to other areas. When looking at new completions and allocations they have been distributed across some of the larger towns with a lot of development completed/allocated in Consett over the last 5/6 years.

John O'Connor (Forum) said public realm works is not enough to draw people to Consett and hopes the plan does not make reference again to update the look of Consett. The town centre needs major regeneration to attract investment and he would like to see this reflected in the CDP. Peter said there is going to be another Master Plan review and acknowledges that Consett needs proper investment.

Donna Summerson said regarding social housing there is a big difference between a private contractor building houses for rent and a social housing provider. Also there is nothing in the plan about the east-west road links and wonders how we can link up with Crook and Weardale areas. Peter said the east-west links have been highlighted although not addressed and the northern relief road around Durham City forms part of the east-west link. Regarding public transport it is difficult to get bus routes in rural areas especially if there is not the demand.

Rosemary Morris said there needs to be a strategy for getting more people in to work in this area and asked what the Skills Strategy for Durham is beyond 2018. Peter said he would get back to

Rosemary regarding the Skills Strategy. Regarding employment, there is over 10 hectares allocated in Hownsgill with specific reference to Genesis in attracting businesses to Consett. If employers want to come to Consett, DCC will try and find available land even though it may not be marked on the map.

Rosemary asked if this could be added to the plan. Peter said the policies within the plan are flexible and if there is an employment location identified and provided it does not have a negative effect on residents, DCC will try to accommodate it.

Cllr Hicks said he is pleased to see that the plan includes addressing empty properties as they can have a detrimental effect on the area if they are left in disrepair. Peter said empty properties have a much higher profile and DCC are aware that these properties need to be brought back into use.

John Shaw (Forum) said there is no detail about the number of people in the plan which would inform what housing is needed or land for employment. He also asked if the criticisms highlighted by the inspector in the last plan have been addressed and are they easily identifiable in this one.

Peter said regarding the number of people, new housing is based on population projections and then split by settlements (hierarchy) and allocate housing around those settlements. There are various evidence based documents that can be accessed that show demographics such as older people's properties and single households and is happy to point him in the right direction.

Regarding the last report Peter said they have looked to address those issues, particularly around Durham City and have reduced the amount of green belt deletions. There is a new Sustainable Transport Delivery Plan that looks at accessing Durham City through more sustainable modes of transport.

Christine Wotherspoon asked where the figure of 10% for older persons housing came from. Peter said he is unsure what evidence that was based but said the Strategic Housing Market Assessment looks at the demographic need and that will have been used to justify the 10% and said statistical information can be provided

Christine asked if the council have any influence on the criteria for the standard of that type of housing ie adapted housing. Peter said some of that detail is dealt with under building regulations but there is a new design policy within the plan called 'building for life'.

Christine asked if social housing is provided by the private sector, is there a policy that ensures the rent is affordable. Peter said there is a specific definition of what is affordable housing and it stays in perpetuity.

Mike Clark (Forum) said regarding the last CDP the inspector said the Master Plan for Genesis should have been incorporated into it. He is wondering why it has not been included again in this plan, other than the employability site.

Also regarding the development in Leadgate, Mike wonders how this will be delivered if it has not been delivered in the last 15 years. He also asked why other sites in and around Consett that are more deliverable have not been looked at more closely.

Peter said there has been a deliverability assessment in relation to Laurel Drive based on the economics and local knowledge on the housing market included getting developers involved in the process. He said he could signpost Mike to information online.

Regarding Genesis being included in the plan, Peter asked Mike what they would like to see in the plan. Mike said Genesis will be resubmitting the same documentation as last time.

Mike also asked if the Laurel Drive site is under DCC ownership and how many other sites are owned by DCC. Cllr Stelling said the Laurel Drive site is part owned by DCC and part owned by another developer.

Craig Farrage asked if the developers are deliberately holding onto the land as the value of the land bought at the time would have been fixed but the projections of realising housing stock were not. Peter said the government has recognised land banking is an issue and in the future developers can be challenged about land banking and if they are holding onto land they may have planning permissions or allocations revoked.

Craig asked if there will be a deadline for holding onto land and would they have to submit fruition profits, ie if they bought and planned for x amount of profit, could some be clawed back by DCC if the increase in the value of housing stock on completion increased significantly. Peter said with each planning application there is a viability assessment and from the residual that is left over for profit, the council can claw back money towards development contributions.

Cllr Watson thanked Peter for the presentation and his contribution to the meeting.

#### **4. Project Call out**

A project call out was undertaken for the 3 task groups with 44 application packs requested across the task groups. Twenty five applications were received totalling £227,633 with 34% allocated to capital spending and for every £1, we have achieved £1.21 in match funding.

Each task group reviewed their respective applications, formulated questions that were forwarded to the applicants to respond to prior to being invited to attend the task group meeting to discuss their project. A scoring mechanism was used as a guide to assess the projects.

Following an intensive process by the 3 task groups, 9 project proposals totalling £75,909 have been recommended by the task groups for the Board to consider funding from the 2018/19 Area Budget:

##### ***Employment, Enterprise and Training*** (total funding request of £25,000)

1. *Apprentice Hub* delivered through County Durham Engineering and Manufacturing Network.

Funding request of £7,000.

2. *Raising Aspirations for STEM* delivered through New College Durham Academies Trust (Consett Academy).

Funding request of £8,000

3. *Family Learning* delivered through Training Development Resource Ltd

Funding request of £10,000.

##### ***Environment*** (total funding request of £25,159)

1. *School Apple Project (SAP)* delivered through Outdoor and Sustainability Education Service (OASES).

Funding request of £10,779.

2. *Leadgate Forest School Club* delivered through Stomping Grounds Forest School North East.

Funding request of £7,435.

3. *Burnopfield Trails* delivered through Durham Wildlife Trust.

Funding request of £6,945.

***Health and Wellbeing*** (total funding request of £25,750)

1. *Permanent outdoor practice area for Leadgate Cricket Club* delivered by Leadgate Cricket Club.

Funding request of £8,000.

2. *Consett Hiking Group* delivered by Consett Hiking Group.

Funding request of £10,000.

3. *Angry Artists* delivered through Delta North.

Funding request of £7,750.

Derek said Children, Young People and Families, as a cross cutting priority, also featured in some of the applications. He also said the scoring mechanism process will be reviewed to ascertain its helpfulness and merit.

The organisation and input from the task groups was acknowledged and the Board AGREED to fund all 9 project proposals.

## **5. Partner Updates**

### ***Police update by Inspector Keith Wardle***

Keith gave an update on the Bradley Open Cast Site and said work has now commenced but there are reports on social media that further disruption is planned for around September.

Over the last 6-8 weeks, and with the warmer weather and the World Cup, there has been an increase in violence/alcohol related incidents.

There was a nasty assault in Consett Town Centre involving ammonia being thrown into a male's face. A female has been arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

An occupant in Hamsterley Mill found an intruder in his property, he was able to restrain the offender and summon assistance from a neighbour who was an off duty police officer. A male, from the Rowlands Gill area has been arrested. Keith said it is very unusual to have dwelling house burglaries as they tend to be opportunist burglaries targeting garden sheds/outbuildings.

Jeanette asked if there was a significant increase in domestic violence over the summer/football period. Keith said there has been a huge increase in domestic violence. He said he worked the Saturday evening when England won and said it was busier than New Year's Eve with 55 people

arrested and filled all the cells across County Durham. In Consett it took 3 days to clear the backlog with the majority of cases domestic violence related.

John O (Forum) said at a recent PACT meeting he noted there seemed to be a reluctance / inability to have seriously violent people remanded in custody. Keith said they would always go for a remand in custody if it is a serious violent crime/domestic issue/history of abuse but it is the CPS who would authorise the charge. Unfortunately the prisons are full and bail has changed, in the past they could bail people with conditions but bail is limited to those with serious offences.

Keith said he is available after the meeting should anyone wish to speak to him.

## 6. Coordinators Report

Before outlining the report, Derek gave an update on Party in the Park which took place on Sunday 15 July in Blackhill and Consett Park and said it went very well and was well attended with lots of positive feedback. The DVP had a stall in the marquee and the team were able to engage with members of the public and promote the work of the DVP. We also asked the public to vote for their top 3 local priorities that would help inform the work of the DVP over the next 2 years. Around 168 people voted and these results will feed into the winter Forum and priority voting we plan to have later this year. We also asked the public if they would like to see this kind of event held in the future with the majority of people (161) saying they would.

Regarding funding (£5k) linked to local community events celebrating the centenary of WW1, 5 local groups have been successful:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Date of event</b>	<b>WW1 Funding</b>
Leadgate Area Partnership	Leadgate Remembers	Series of events ending 11 November 2018	£475
Consett, Blackhill and Shotley Bridge (CBS) Theatre Group	WW1 production to tour area	Series of shows this year	£1000
BB&SB Partnership	Fun Day incorporating WW1 celebrations	27 August 2018	£1000
Medomsley Village Residents Association	WW1 Centenary celebrations	July – November 2018	£600
St Patricks Hall Volunteer Group	WW1 Themed Tea Party	3 November 2018	£600
<b>Totals</b>			<b>£3675</b>

The funding for the Derwent Valley News (DNV) has ended; each edition costs around £3k which requires around £9k from the Area Budget. A short survey was included in the last edition with a very low response but early indications say the DVN is a good way of keeping informed about the area.

Derek said further information about the future of DVN will be provided at the September Board meeting but asked the Board for their initial thoughts.

A discussion took place with suggestions of linking in with the Advertiser/Northern Echo, placing DVN in public places rather than send to every household, only do 1 or 2 editions per year and looking at sponsorship to help pay for costs.

Due to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Board members were asked if they wish to have their name removed from Board minutes and the DCC AAP website – no Board members objected to this. Further changes are being implemented that will see the removal of Task Group minutes from the DCC AAP website.

A new online funding tool called 'Durham 4 Community' is available for local voluntary and community groups/organisations and is available through DCC's website. Those applications that were not successful in the DVP project call out will be signposted to this site. The website is available at <http://www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/durhamcc?bcr=MTIzNA> and groups/organisations need to register to gain access to the database of funding opportunities.

The DVP will be holding a winter Forum, possibly in November which will include local priority voting. As in 2016, an electronic survey will be available for local priority voting for the public as well as one for young people, however this survey will be a simplified version. More information about the Forum will be available at the September Board meeting.

Derek asked the Board if they would like to support Christmas in Consett this year. It has been suggested that we look at alternate years for Party in the Park and Christmas in Consett which would reduce the demand on the budget as well staff and volunteer resources. A Christmas tree and lights would still be provided for Consett Town Centre.

The Board agreed NOT to hold a Christmas event in Consett this year.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Cllr Watson gave a brief update from the Shotley Bridge Reference Group (SBRG) which met on 25 June. No decision has been made yet on the future of Shotley Bridge Hospital (SBH) but they are still building a case for Derwentside. There is a possibility the 'Paediatric Outpatients Dept' will be moved to Stanley Primary Care Centre and Stanley would become a children's centre as well as an admin base for district nursing staff, which would mean new build costs would be reduced.

At the meeting, Cllr Watson referred to a press release from 1996 that provided on-going support for acute services at SBH following the opening of the new University Hospital of North Durham. Although the contents were noted it was acknowledged that health care provision, technology, etc had moved on significantly.

The next meeting will take place on 23 July at County Hall and a business case approval is expected in September 2018 with a public consultation taking place at the end of 2018/beginning 2019.

Rachel Rooney said she could do an update about SBH at the September Board meeting. She also said that although there has been engagement with the SBRG, we need to demonstrate we have widened the engagement before we get to consultation. This would be done through different kind of media such as face to face, surveys and publicising events.

Shelley O'Brien thanked the DVP Board for funding her one woman show 'She Wins All the Races'. She performed in Derwentside College and to 400 Year 9/10 students and it has been very well received. She also praised the young people she worked with in the workshops she ran and thanked them for their contribution.

Derek welcomed Fiona back to work.

**8. Meeting Close and Date of Next Meeting**

Alex thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 September 2018 in the Salvation Army Hall, Consett at 6pm.

Signed as a correct record: .....

Date: .....