



Teesdale Area Action Partnership - Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Held: 15 September 2021 (via Microsoft Teams)

Elected Members:

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

Public Representatives:

Christine Watters
Elaine Laurie
Linda Bird
Robin Brooks

Partner Representatives:

Jeff Garfoot
Peter Locke

Co-opted

Roger Peat

Officer Attendance:

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

Observers: 2 x Forum Members

Apologies:

Allan Hobson
Bob Danby
Cllr George Richardson
David Hand
Insp Ed Turner
Kelly Blissett
Rachel Twedde
Tim Viggars
Tracey Williams

Teesdale Action Partnership Board Meeting

1. Welcome from Chair, Introductions and Apologies

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

AW informed the Board that a recruitment process has taken place for the Public Representative vacancies on the Board. As a result of this, **Elaine Laurie** and **Christine Watters** have been appointed to the TAP Board. In addition, **Roger Peat** has been co-opted onto the Board.

AW welcomed **EL**, **CW** and **RP** to the TAP Board.

Cllr RB reminded meeting observers they would be welcome to comment under Items 4, 7 and 8 on the agenda.

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

AW informed the Board that as a result of the number of apologies received today's meeting isn't quorate. As a result, decisions covering item 5 and 6 on the agenda would have to be deferred and business conducted electronically.

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** reminded Board Members of the following: *'If they are aware of any personal or prejudicial interest in relation to any items on the agenda this should be disclosed at this stage of the meeting or when the declaration becomes apparent'*.

Roger Peat declared an interest in the Barnard Castle Christmas Lights CIC – Shine On project.

AW informed the Board and Forum Members of 'house rules/etiquette' for the meeting.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The draft minutes from the meeting held on 21 July 2021 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.

4. Towns and Villages Update

4.1 Towns and Villages Update - Graham Wood (GW) – Economic Development Manager - Durham County Council

Board members received an update on the Towns and Villages Programme. **Graham Wood (GW)** gave an overview of the Towns and Villages funding that AAPs will receive to allocate from 2021 and highlighted its strategy and focus. The five key themes include strategic investment, housing and community, environment, and health, built environment and transport and connectivity. **GW** reported the investments being made across County Durham and highlighted those specific to Teesdale.

GW reminded the Board of the Better for Everyone in Teesdale event that was held in October 2020 and highlighted the key issues that were raised through this consultation. Board members were provided with the Better for Everyone in Teesdale summary report alongside the meeting papers.

AW reminded the Board of the scheme criteria, the funding available, the Board's approach to this fund and the resources available to support scheme development. Additional staff are in place and will work alongside each AAP to provide specialist technical knowledge and support in the development, consultation, and implementation of project ideas. **AW** notified the Board that Peter Henderson has been aligned to support TAP, as and when requested. Peter will be attending a future Board meeting. **AW** reiterated that additional staffing costs aren't coming from the TAP budget allocation.

AW highlighted that TAP has already received an EOI from the Council's Regeneration Economy and Growth Team. This application has been circulated to the subgroup and is seeking full Board approval as part of tonight's agenda.

RB welcomed this new funding opportunity and Board members were encouraged to submit any project ideas or comments to **AW**.

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

Cllr RB asked if Teesdale specific data can be provided on education, training, unemployment, and economic activity etc? The data can then be used to inform TAP of the local issues that need addressing. **GW** highlighted the numerous levels of data that is available. **GW** to provide this information to **AW**. **AW** to circulate to the TAP Board. **(ACTION 1:GW/ AW)**

A forum member asked the extent of the WIFI availability in Barnard Castle and the surrounding areas. **GW** stated a coverage map and profile report is available. This map highlights the data that has been collected from visitors in and around the town. **GW** to provide this information to **AW**. **AW** to circulate to the TAP Board. **(ACTION 2:GW/ AW)**. In addition, **AW** informed the Board that Kathryn Watson, Regeneration, Economy and Growth – DCC will be providing an update on the Barnard Castle Wi-Fi project, supported last year by TAP Area Budget funding, at a future Board meeting.

AW gave a brief overview of some key information that has been collected over the past few weeks. This project has been promoted in the Teesdale Mercury.

A forum member asked if it was possible to obtain an update on the review of the bus service. **GW** stated that the bus service is vital in rural areas. **GW** confirmed he will obtain further information on bus services from the Sustainable Transport Team, DCC. **GW** to provide this information to **AW**. **AW** to circulate to the TAP Board. **(ACTION 3:GW/ AW)**

A forum member asked how fuel poverty / support to energy efficiency is being addressed in the Teesdale area. **GW** stated the council has benefitted from a number of large government grants over the last few years. The housing strategy ensures that homes across the county are fit to live in and don't reinforce levels of poverty through their historical construction. There are specific remedies in place for solid wall stone build properties. **GW** to contact the Housing and Regeneration Team, DCC to collect further information with regards to the funding available, target areas and the areas that have already benefitted from these grants. **GW** to provide this information to **AW**. **AW** to circulate to the TAP Board. **(ACTION 4:GW/ AW).**

Cllr RP asked what provision is in place to support resident and businesses with broadband access. **AW** stated that Alli Walker, Digital Durham – Durham County Council has attended previous Board meetings and highlighted the key issue areas. **AW** suggested inviting Alli Walker to a future Board meeting to provide an update on local broadband. **GW** stated that North East LEP are due to produce a report, this week, that has been commissioned to look into digital inclusion of residents and businesses. Once the report is available **GW** to forward to **AW**. **AW** to circulate to the Board. **(ACTION 5: GW/AW)**

AW confirmed that, in due course, a task group will be established to discuss initial ideas around how TAP will consider the allocation of this funding. **AW** notified the Board that due to the time constraints on Area Budget funding, this will take priority over the coming months.

Cllr RB thanked **GW** for the update.

5. Area Budget

AW confirmed that a copy of the full 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.

All applications have been considered by the relevant task group leads and service providers and are recommended for approval.

AW stated that due to the meeting not being quorate all Area Budget applications will be circulated to the Board for their consideration, via email, tomorrow. The need for a quick response was highlighted. **AW** stressed that all applications 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 an application won't progress towards technical appraisal by DCC Funding Team **(ACTION 6:AW / Board members).**

Cllr RB encouraged all Board members to respond accordingly and the need for a quorate and quick response was highlighted. Once a quorate decision is made the above 3 x applications will be forwarded to the Funding Team for technical appraisal.

The following projects were presented to the Board, for information purposes only. **AW** gave a brief overview of each application:

5.1 Barnard Castle Christmas Lights CIC – Shine On

Area Budget request: £12,292

Match Funding: £9,536

Total Project Cost: £21,828

No comments were raised.

5.2 Gainford C of E Primary School and Preschool – Community Computing

Area Budget request: £12,835

Match Funding: £2,255

Total Project Cost: £15,090

No comments were raised.

Towns and Villages

5.3 Teesdale Business Improvements Grants

Area Budget request: £65,000

Match Funding: £46,000

Total Project Cost: £111,000

The Board raised the following comments.

- Query relating to the jobs being FTE.
- Support that the scheme will cover the whole of Teesdale.

6. Neighbourhood Budget

AWard confirmed that a summary sheet for both NB proposals has been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. **AWard** gave a brief overview of each proposal.

6.1 Saint Mary's Church, Gainford

AWard confirmed that the request for NB is £2,500 (£1,250 each from Councillors Rowlandson and Richardson).

No comments were raised and the proposal was **approved**.

6.2 Bowes Football Club

AWard confirmed that the request for NB is £3,000 (£750 each from Councillors Rowlandson, Richardson, Bell, and Henderson).

No comments were raised and the proposal was **approved**.

6.4 Greener Barningham

AWard confirmed that the request for NB is £3,597 (£1,798.50 each from Councillors Rowlandson and Richardson).

No comments were raised and the proposal was **approved**.

6.5 Shine On Barnard Castle Christmas Lights

AWard confirmed that the request for NB is £8,000 (£1,536 each from Councillors Rowlandson, Richardson, Bell, and Henderson).

No comments were raised and the proposal was **approved**.

AW confirmed that the NB applications will be forwarded to DCC Funding Team for technical appraisal.

(ACTION 7: AWard) **AWard** to forward the NB applications to the Funding Team for technical appraisal.

7. Locality Neighbourhood Issues

In the absence of Insp Ed Turner, a policing report will be circulated to Board members in due course.

AW confirmed that the following Neighbourhood concerns have been raised:

- Speeding in the Whorlton and Westwick Area. The local Parish Clerk brought the matter to the attention of the AAP. The AAP team has liaised with local police and DCC Highways. DCC Highways will provide a direct response to the Parish Clerk.
- Elected Members have also had potential speeding issues brought to their attention in the following villages: Hamsterley, Ramshaw Village, High Lands. If Elected Members are happy, we will flag this up with the local Police and DCC Highways.
(ACTION 8:AW)

8. Coordinators Update

8.1 Libraries Consultation

Due to the absence of Alison Clark, Durham County Council there was no update available.

9. Partner Update

9.1 Area Budget Update

The Board were provided with the Area Budget Spend Profile for 2021/22. The report includes the status of each project. A copy of the spend profile was circulated, in advance of the meeting, with the meeting papers.

AW gave an overview of the projects supported and the funding allocated.

9.2 Positive News Article

The Board were provided with an update on the press coverage TAP has received in Teesdale Mercury over the May – August 2021 period.

10. AONB

Cllr RB outlined the forthcoming consultation exercise regarding the A66 upgrade. The Board were informed of the consultation events from 24th September to 6th November and were encouraged to attend. If necessary, further discussion would take place at a future Board meeting. **AW** to circulate details of the consultation to Board members. **(ACTION 9: AW)**

Cllr RB outlined the work of the Countywide Funding group that he sits on as part of his role as TAP Chair.

11. Date/Time/Venue for Next Meeting

Cllr RB thanked Board members for attending the meeting.

The TAP Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 November 2021, 6pm on Microsoft Teams.