

Cabinet

29 February 2012



County Durham Partnership Update Report

Report of Corporate Management Team
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Cllr. Simon Henig, Leader of the Council
Cllr. Brian Stephens, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Durham County Council's Cabinet on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP) Board, the five Thematic Partnerships and all Area Action Partnerships (AAPs). The report also includes updates on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the County.

Background

2. It is important that Cabinet continue to receive regular updates on the work being led by the County Durham Partnership. This report also includes information summarising briefly, at high level, the vast amount of work of the Thematic Partnerships as well as the 14 AAPs.

County Durham Partnership Forum

3. The CDP Forum in November saw the successful introduction of a new approach showcasing the activities and achievements of two AAPs. This approach will be repeated at the February Forum with a focus on the Teesdale and Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAPs and the Altogether Safer theme. An update on the preparation for the Olympics will also be given.

County Durham Profile

4. The County Durham and Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) 2011 Statistical Profile is a summary document of the 14 statistical profiles produced for the AAPs in 2011, all of which are available on the Durham County Council website (attached at appendix 2).
5. The profile contains a range of socio-economic and quality of life statistics for each AAP and, where available, the county, region and country for comparison. These statistics have then been grouped into seven themes including the five 'Altogether' priority themes. The purpose of this profile, and the more detailed AAP profiles, is to provide some local insight into the 14 AAPs and to set the wider context of how the AAP localities are performing in comparison to other parts the county along with highlighting some of the major issues facing the resident population.

Altogether wealthier

6. The County Durham Economic Partnership Board met in January and business included updates and discussion on an Employment Report for County Durham, agreeing the Apprenticeship Action Plan and the DCC Apprenticeship delivery programme. The board also agreed to bring the current Durham City Vision board arrangements under the structure of the Economic Partnership with the working title of Thriving Durham City Group.
7. Detailed discussion on the emerging Local Plan and the expected critical impact of Welfare Reform led to further actions through the working groups in support for continued job creation programmes.
8. Finally a paper was received detailing the appointment process for a new CDEP Chair, following Ken Jarrold's announcement in November, that he would not seek a further term of appointment. The process will be chaired by the current vice chair Sue Parkinson and will look to conclude by May – June 2012.
9. The North Eastern Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) is involved in a recruitment exercise to appoint to five newly created positions which will form the NELEP support team. Once this team has been established the NELEP will be able to develop operational documentation and working arrangements more quickly. It recently secured £16.7m from the government's Growing Places Fund and is likely to invite private sector proposals which will generate future financial returns that can be reinvested in other schemes. A transport strategy is being drafted by the NELEP which may also direct some of the Growing Places funding.
10. Work is ongoing to establish the conditions for the creation of a new Low Carbon Enterprise Zone (EZ) which will cover three sites including the North Bank of the River Tyne, the Port of Blyth, and the A19 corridor adjacent to Nissan. With backing from the NELEP, a new rural forum, NEFRAN, has been established within Defra's new Rural and Farming Network. NEFRAN has submitted a bid to establish a Rural Growth Network which, if successful, will lead to the creation of new business workspace in Alnwick and Hexham in Northumberland, Gibside in Gateshead, and the rural parts of County Durham such as Middleton-in-Teesdale as well as the provision of business support from these hubs for local rural enterprises.
11. A Memorandum of Understanding is due to be signed with the Government export and inward investment body, UK Trade & Investment, which will allow the NELEP to access their database of inward investment enquiries and help to develop a regular dialogue with the government. A proposal is being developed to establish closer working arrangements between the Northern Tourism Alliance and the NELEP for the coordination of tourism activities.
12. The NELEP is also considering how to coordinate bids to the third round of the Regional Growth Fund (RGF). This may include the LEP developing a small number of bids which bring together several business projects if the approach would improve the success rate in terms of securing Government support. Another proposal is to develop a bid for a cities programme which will

use RGF investment to accelerate private sector investments which support the economic growth of cities in the LEP area.

13. Developers behind the Hitachi manufacturing plant are to hold a second open day for potential suppliers. The Hitachi-led Agility Trains consortium is to build its plant in Newton Aycliffe after being confirmed as the Government's chosen bidder for the Intercity Express Programme. Hitachi expects to finalise the £4.5bn deal in the first half of this year. Hitachi and developer Merchant Place Developments are now working with Durham County Council through its business development arm County Durham Development Company to organise an Open Day event similar to one held in May last year. The event in June will focus on the supply chain requirements for the construction phase of 465,000 sq ft factory at Newton Aycliffe.
14. Last May's event attracted more than 1,200 representatives from UK businesses, predominantly from the North-East. The first Newton Aycliffe built train is expected to enter passenger service in 2017. More information on the open day will be available shortly at www.HitachiRailProject.co.uk

Altogether better for children and young people

15. The creation of the new Children, Young People and Families Plan 2012-2016 is on target for completion by April 2012. The plan is available for consultation and members of the County Durham Partnership will have an opportunity to comment on the draft plan. The plan articulates the vision of the Children's Trust and its goals for the next four years. The period of the plan has been revised to fall in line with strategic plans for the Local Authority and wider strategic partnership to ensure alignment. Alongside this, a review of the Children's Trust has been undertaken and recommendations presented to the Children's Executive Board. The review will lead to changes in the way in which the Trust is structured at a locality level.
16. The implementation of One Point is making significant progress. 9 out of 10 hubs and the majority of spokes are now fully operational and there are many early signs of impact. A service plan has been developed for the One Point Service, setting out the main priorities for the next period. Included in this plan, is the recognition that so far change has been largely structural, with fortuitous service developments occurring as a result of staff enthusiasm and opportunism.
17. It is proposed that the transformative change required will be planned and that four areas are identified for action Safeguarding, Early Years, Vulnerable Teenagers and Think Family. These areas all offer considerable scope for service improvement and efficiency and were identified on that basis. Further progress has been made on the identification of children at risk of becoming vulnerable in order to enable the One Point Service to provide appropriate support. Data has been shared with Durham Constabulary, which is in the process of producing 'pen pictures' for families where the methodology identified children at risk.
18. A partnership between CYPS (lead), Public Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction (AWBH) has enabled the development of a joint tender to deliver a Social Norms project within schools. The project aims to challenge peer

perspectives and behaviours in relation to Sexual Health/Teenage Pregnancy, Alcohol and Smoking. A review of the Healthy School Drop-In programme is progressing and the outcome and recommendations will be available in March 2012.

19. The development of an 'ideal type' in relation to Places to Go and Things to Do has been undertaken through a partnership approach involving a number of services across DCC including CYPS, AWBH, RED and Neighbourhoods, health partners and local transport companies.

Altogether healthier

20. The Health and Wellbeing Partnership has considered the results of its recent partnership assessment and considers that its future role could focus on four areas: promoting and embedding the Marmot Review across a range of thematic and local partnerships utilising the principle of co-production; developing and promoting asset based approaches to supporting health; further development of health networks in providing local asset based responses to local health and wellbeing challenges; local public engagement on health and wellbeing issues feeding into JSNA and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies. The Partnership considers that alongside the development of this future role and an interim role will need to be maintained in three areas: monitoring of the Altogether Healthier Delivery Plan; monitoring of finance matters; continued reporting of linked partnership and subgroups until a decision is made about their future role and location.
21. Building on a Health Networks development day which identified that during their first 18 months of operation Health Networks have made good progress on developing and taking local action on locally identified health priorities a Health Networks development plan has been agreed.
22. The Partnership has considered in detail: 'Talking Changes' – The County Durham and Darlington Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT); veterans health and breast feeding research, which will underpin the development of a breast feeding strategy.

Altogether safer

23. The Total Home Safety project has been short listed for the Local Government Chronicle awards. Representatives from the Council and Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service delivered a presentation to the awards body in London as part of the judging process. The results will be known in March this year. The project received £360,000 of external funding and operated between January 2010 and June 2011. Its purpose was to find and protect vulnerable people from becoming victims of domestic fire and burglary, as well as helping people to remain independent in their own homes. Total Home Safety was taken over by Neighbourhood Watch in July using funding and the project continues to be delivered in a more limited format. The project achieved the following:
 - a. 4,563 vulnerable homes target hardened.
 - b. Reduction of 466 domestic burglaries and 26 domestic fires in those areas targeted.
 - c. Achieved cashable savings of £832,090.

- d. 93% of customers felt safer, 88% felt more independent in their home and 36% said they were referred to other services as a result of their referral to Total Home Safety.
24. Around 1500 young people aged 13/14 years from schools across the county were invited to three inspirational hip hop and rap performances, delivered by 'The Word', a multi award winning group, at the Gala Theatre on 26 and 27 January 2012. The shows were organised by Durham County Council Civic Pride Team in conjunction with the **Safe Durham Partnership** which had funded the initiative. The interactive performances were aimed at getting across important messages about the consequences of anti social behaviour and enviro-crime. There was also a strong emphasis on raising aspirations, respect for one another and pride in the neighbourhoods in which young people live.
25. The Safe Durham Partnership has submitted an Expression of Interest to the Ministry of Justice to run Restorative Justice training in the Bishop Auckland area as part of the national Restorative Justice programme. Over the last year Restorative Justice had developed within County Durham primarily with Durham Constabulary, Durham and Tees Valley Probation and HMP Durham. Training has been provided by Restorative Solutions. Partnership involvement in Restorative Justice has centred around the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Teams. The work to introduce Restorative Justice stem from the Government intention to reduce short term prison sentences and improve community orders as stated in 'Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders' so they 'better punish, control and reform offenders'.
26. Organised Crime is a key area of improvement within the 2011/14 Safe Durham Partnership Plan. To strengthen its current joint working around the strategic priority to tackle Organised Crime and to support the national Organised Crime Strategy, the Safe Durham Partnership has implemented a range of initiatives including a Disruption Panel that draws partners from DCC, Environment Agency, Drug and Alcohol Action Team, Revenue & Customs, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and others; introduced High Impact Households as a key area for improvement, which presents an opportunity to work with young people and families who are at most risk of being drawn into Organised Crime; and improved its information and intelligence sharing processes through the quarterly scanning document which sets the local Safer Neighbourhood Unit priorities.

Altogether greener

27. A range of activity is being undertaken by the sub groups of the **Environment Partnership**.
28. The Built Group is in the process of delivering Building for Life training sessions for those involved in planning decisions to embed sustainable design within services. Discussions have also taken place with Economic Development in relation to large scale Physical Development and Place Shaping as part of the public realm scheme reviews

29. The Climate Change group has been working with the Business Enterprise Group to develop ideas for a pilot GD4Business scheme in relation to the Government's new Green Deal. Discussions have also taken place with Community Groups on the potential for Community Based initiatives around sustainable energy schemes, including community buildings. £400k of DoH funding has been awarded for Warmth on Prescription initiatives for very vulnerable households. This will be delivered in Partnership, building upon earlier successful schemes delivered in conjunction with the PCT. The Tees Valley and Durham energy advice centre have a new electric vehicle/photo voltaic (solar panels) scheme, delivered in partnership with Plugged in Places which has the potential to install a number of additional electric vehicle charging posts in accessible places offset by solar energy
30. As mentioned above, the Pride group has arranged for a hip hop rap group to hold 3 events at the Gala Theatre. Special guests from Durham Wildcats and Newcastle Falcons will also attend.
31. The 'Green Dog Walkers' scheme continues and during December the advert appeared on Agrippa panels. The scheme was launched in the East late last year in partnership with Belmont Parish Council with an event day including free dog chipping. 33 pledges were received on the day and co-ordinated enforcement action has taken place in line with the campaign (Fixed Penalty Notices issued in the target area). Latest data from the north area suggest there has been no increase in dog fouling reports since the withdrawal of free poop bags. Other dog fouling initiatives are taking place including poster competitions and school assemblies
32. Other activity being undertaken in partnership at a local level includes: funding secured through Stanley Town Council to commission an artist to work with local senior schools, encouraging 'ownership' of the artwork/Stanley Heart at the Bus Station, in turn combating ASB in this vicinity; the second Bulb Planting Challenge has taken place, during which 150,000 crocus bulbs were distributed - 352 groups and schools participated; the Golden Ticket Initiative continues - over 40 golden tickets were awarded throughout December in Bishop Auckland town centre and continued support is being provided to various groups in relation to Northumbria in Bloom and Green Flag submissions.
33. The Waste group continue to explore a possible solution for dealing with construction waste through a new facility – these discussions are in the early business case stage and are taking place with the regional network of business representatives
34. The Natural group has focussed on progressing their submission for the development of a new Local Nature Partnership (LNP), with the first LNP transition event for a proposed 3 Rivers LNP being held on 8th December at Beamish Hall. Attendance was good, with 59 representatives from a wide range of organisations. If the subsequent application for LNP status is successful it will cover the lowland areas of Durham, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland. The event on the 8th was used to measure overall support for the proposal and to assess identify the priorities the LNP needs to address. A second smaller event for the 3 Rivers LNP is to be held 21st

February, which will develop the proposal in more detail and confirm membership of the board that will set the strategic vision for the Partnership.

35. The proposed LNP covering a chain of upland areas stretching from North Yorkshire to Northumberland secured transition funding in December, and events to develop the partnership are to be held in March – one event in North Yorkshire and one in Hexham. The transition funding application was submitted by the North Pennines AONB Partnership on behalf of a group of organisations including the Nidderdale AONB Partnership, Yorkshire Dales National Park and the Northumberland National Park.

Area Action Partnerships Update

36. Throughout November and December the AAPs held their Forum meetings where they identified their priorities for the forthcoming year and received a presentation on the budget setting process for the council's Medium Term Financial Plan. Details of these priorities can be found on the Durham County Council website under the AAP section.
37. A selection of the ongoing work that of the AAPs that meets the existing priorities is detailed in the following paragraphs.
38. The newly refurbishment toilets in Barnard Castle Market Place were opened in December. **Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP)** contributed over £60,000 to the refurbishment and worked in partnership with Barnard Castle Town Council and Teesdale Disability Access Forum throughout the process.
39. The Dickens in Teesdale Group which is partially funded by TAP is running a number of events over the year to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Dickens birth and his visit to Teesdale in 1838. More information can be found on their website. www.dickensinteesdale.org.uk
40. A brand new boxing club for the area has been established with financial support from TAP. The club is based at the Rugby Club in Barnard Castle and already has a waiting list for new members. Working closely with the Council's Neighbourhood Services Team, TAP helped to put on a number of consultation events which allowed local people to discuss the proposed closures of two household waste recycling centres in the TAP area. This information will help to inform the final decision on the future of these sites.
41. The TAP Team have been working to revamp the web pages to ensure that more information is available on the work of TAP giving members of the public a greater insight into the AAP and how they can get involved with the partnership.
42. The aim of the Multi Agency Youth Delivery Project funded by **East Durham Area Action Partnership (AAP)** was to pilot a new approach to delivering outreach work with young people. The Multi Agency Delivery Youth Project took place between 26th July and 17th October 2011, working with young people aged 13-19 in four localities across East Durham in Peterlee, Easington, Colliery, Blackhall and Wheatley Hill. The Multi Agency Youth Delivery Project attracted a total of 367 participants over the ten weeks of delivery in the four identified areas with a further 85 attending celebration

events; giving a total of 452 participants. The long term outcome of increased participation in sport and physical activity amongst 'non-sporty' young people (13-19) has been achieved along with the supporting outcomes of providing exit routes and new ongoing opportunities for young people. Aside from the outcomes set out in the planning stage of the pilot, a strong partnership has also formed with this being the catalyst for future joint work to engage young people.

43. Membership of the Credit Union, supported by East Durham AAP, has increased, now totalling 350 new accounts with nine collection points in the area and also working with one school. The collection points are at Blackhall, Easington, Haswell, Seaham, Peterlee, South Hetton, Murton and Blackhall Rocks. There were a series of events in the end of January held in five areas of East Durham to promote savings for Christmas 2012, holidays, school uniforms, Welfare Benefit Cheques and the hazards of loan sharks. This is being achieved through the support of East Durham Homes who have secured funding from the Illegal Money Lending Team and East Durham Trust who have applied for funding to promote the Credit Union. Future work will concentrate on Payroll Deductions at four local companies and savings schemes at schools.
44. As requested children as young as four will get free training seminars in business and enterprise thanks to forward-thinking councillors and the **GAMP AAP**. Eight Durham County councillors have each pooled resources from their Neighbourhood Budget fund, along with a £4,000 donation from Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP), to finance the Schools Young Enterprise Project.
45. Young Enterprise, the country's largest business and enterprise education charity, will deliver workshops to young people from 12 schools in Newton Aycliffe, and three in Shildon. The courses, which will run throughout 2012, will cover a variety of subjects to give young people an early insight into the world of business, as well as teaching important life skills. A class will spend a full day every week, over a five-week period every term this year, going from the basics of business and its place in the community, to entrepreneurial thinking and global enterprise.
46. Michelle Postma, Extended Schools Co-ordinator for the Aycliffe and Shildon cluster, added: "We are lucky that GAMP, Shildon and Bishop Auckland AAP and the councillors in Shildon and Aycliffe are prepared to work with us by supporting our schools and helping provide opportunities to the children and young people that otherwise might not have benefited from such an opportunity. The enterprise activities will provide the children and young people with important life skills as well, especially when thinking about their future."
47. **Bishop Auckland and Shildon (BASH) AAP** is currently working with the community of Shildon West within the *Communities First* programme. This programme designed to help groups to help themselves and build local confidence and capacity to develop community led solutions. In Shildon West it is being integrated with the *Community Organiser* programme to help the local community to improve their area. Working with our voluntary sector partners and those people who have expressed initial interest, we will design

a toolkit of engagement methods to build greater involvement in the programme. We will report back to the CDP in the summer and advise on progress.

48. Sunnydale Community College identified that school attending young people were missing out on extra curriculum activities due to a lack of transport. Working with the school children and the governors, the AAP have supplied a mini bus that fits the new EU regulations. The mini bus one of the first of the Ford production line, will offer the young people the opportunities to broaden their cultural and sporting activities.
49. All of the eleven elected members aligned to the BASH AAP have clubbed together to fund "Tunstall Alarms", these alarms are placed in the homes of vulnerable clients, to offer some peace of mind and practical assistance. The alarms are equipped with a method of attracting priority police attention.
50. The innovative Employment and Job Prospects programme adds value to the geographical area of Bishop Auckland and Shildon. The task and finish group, after undertaking a robust gap analysis agreed to address three interconnected interventions of Tackling Youth Unemployment, Supporting Employability and Supporting Enterprise.
51. To tackle youth unemployment the AAP are supporting 14 new apprenticeship places focused on SMEs within the engineering sector. To support Employability, we are working with the mentors who will assess work readiness and have access to a "tool kit" of interventions and discretionary fund, an exciting part of this project is around utilising skill sets to support volunteering opportunities. Two enterprise advisors will support employers and business from start up phase to retaining employees.
52. Following the success of **Stanley AAP's** "It's Up 2 U" scheme in 2011, Stanley Area Action Partnership and Stanley Town Council (STC) are working together to deliver a joint participatory budget event. 'It's Up 2 U 2012' was launched on Monday 23rd January 2012 when the project opened for Expressions of Interest. 'It's Up 2 U 2012' will give local organisations, schools and community and voluntary groups in Stanley the opportunity to apply for funding of between £2,000 and £12,000 to deliver their local project. The overall funding pot for the project is £120,000.
53. The project's overall aim is to support projects in the Stanley area that have the potential to improve the lives of residents, to increase the activities and opportunities on offer and enable change by addressing one or more of Stanley AAP's & STC's Priorities. All applicants must demonstrate how their project meets one or more of the above priorities.
54. Following this, an event will be held on Saturday May 26 that will allow Stanley residents to vote for the projects which they think should be given the go-ahead.
55. **Derwent Valley Partnership (DVP)** also held a successful 'It's Up 2 U' scheme in November 2011 and the projects which were un-successful at the main community voting event have since gone on to receive funding from a variety of sources with the help and support of the AAP. The legacy of 'It's Up

2 U' has created stronger partnership working across the area, an increased awareness of the activities and projects being delivered and improved confidence for many groups and individuals. A full evaluation report detailing the scheme and its outcomes is now available and the AAP Board will be developing a similar participatory budgeting scheme in 2012/13 based on their learning.

56. The Derwent Valley AAP has been working with a number of youth based organisations to provide a range of equipment and activities for young people living in the area. With funding from the AAP, a new flight simulator has been purchased for the Consett Squadron Air Training Cadets which will offer free taster sessions to local schools in the area. The aim of the project is to increase membership to the Cadets, provide a much needed local training facility and promote the Air Force as a potential career opportunity for young people.
57. The Derwent Valley Allstars Cheerleading Club have benefited for the support of the Derwent Valley AAP, purchasing much needed training equipment which will enable the Club to compete in local and national competitions. The AAP has also worked with the Club to help them review their constitution, access other sources of funding and recruit more young people.
58. The Derwent Valley AAP has promoted the Chairman's Medal over the past months and has sought nominations from across the area. Six nominations were received which included both individuals and groups.
59. The **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** agreed at their meeting in January that a portion of Area Budget would be used for a Participatory Budgeting event in the summer; the details of which are currently being developed.
60. The Sports Apprenticeship Project which aims to create 45 apprenticeship opportunities within the AAP area currently has seven young people engaged. The apprenticeships are in sports coaching and apprentices will gain NVQs in Leadership Activities, Community Sports Leader Award Level 2, FA Level 1 Coaching Award. They will also gain a certificate in Employment Awareness and 2 Key Skills equating to GCSE Grade C. Esprit Football Academy (the organisation leading the project) would also like to create a new employment position for a part time Sports Development Officer. They aim to do this by utilising local facilities within the community and by providing work experience in schools within the geographical area for the apprentices to work in.
61. Sessions are being delivered across the AAP area to ensure equity. The sessions from Fishburn Youth and Community Centre are running well, and the sessions from Coxhoe Leisure Centre will be on line by the end of January. Esprit Football Academy is funding additional sessions in Bowburn Community Centre following meetings with the Youth Worker in the area, due to issues with travel.
62. The work experience element is going well, and participants are working out of Deaf Hill and Coxhoe Primary School. The Saturday morning club has started at Fishburn, Coxhoe, and Trimdon Village Primary Schools. In the spirit of partnership working, an apprentice is also now being utilised at Active Leisure In Coxhoe (Coxhoe Leisure Centre).

63. During the last months the **Durham AAP** has undertaken its priority setting exercise for 2012/13. The Board have taken the decision to retain Support for VCS, Activities for Young People and City Centre Development. To this they have added Villages Development to provide a focus on communities outside of the City Centre. As an overarching theme the Board have insisted that climate change ideals must run through the four priorities as a 'golden thread'. To date Durham AAP has approved 14 projects bringing in match funding in the order of £1.25 for every pound of area budget spent.
64. The AAP is supporting a number of local voluntary organisations to put a bid in to the Homes and Communities Agency to tackle a combination of empty homes and homelessness. Area budget has been used to support initiatives ranging from Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA) to the Durham Constabulary's safer city initiative. The winner of this year's Stepping Up was presented at the Durham Retail Awards held at Ramside Hall.
65. Much needed research into the little known needs of the mainstay of visitors to Durham City, the Group Travellers, has been taken up by Durham Indoor Markets and Visit County Durham. The findings should inform the Durham Destination Plan which is currently being developed.
66. The AAP alongside the Council's Get Out There team is organising a talent competition that will help with the re-launch of the Get Out There website. It is anticipated some 600 young people will be involved.
67. The Bishop Middleham Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) project will cost £42,867 and the **4Together AAP** Board was asked to approve the allocation of £5,000 to cover a shortfall in the budget. Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth Parish Council had worked hard with the community to raise over £37,000. The Parish Council will be responsible for future maintenance of the MUGA. DCC Councillors Robinson and Brown allocated a further £5,000 from their Neighbourhood Budget to provide additional funds.
68. The Board agreed to approve the allocation of £5,000 to the DCC Economic Regeneration service to provide retail training and employment support to retailers in Ferryhill in addition to the current shopfront improvement scheme which is currently being supported by the AAP.
69. The overall aim of the Healthy eating - healthy lives project in the **Three Towns AAP** area is to promote healthy eating and activity amongst visually impaired people in the area, promoting not only physical health but having a great impact on mental health as well. By producing a cookery book with simple, manageable recipes, hints and tips, the aim is to boost confidence and independence in addition to promoting healthy eating, work is progressing and should be ready for publication in the spring.
70. Linked to this is the promotion of healthy exercise through the purchase of some New Age Bowling equipment, gentle but beneficial exercise using light weight foam balls which can be played with on a large variety of surfaces this builds on an existing activity run by Blind Life of New Age Kurling.

71. Funding is being granted to assist with a local crime prevention initiative and to help promote the feeling of safety and reduce the fear of crime amongst people residing in the Three Towns area. The money has been used to purchase a wide range of crime prevention devices which can be given out by the local police and PCSOs to local residents and victims of crime. Items such as window alarms, light timers, door chimes, padlock alarms and smart water will be used along with appropriate signage warning criminals of their use. All of the above items are low in cost when bought in bulk and will be given out free of charge to a large number of residents and victims. The initiative will help reduce dwelling burglaries, shed burglaries, vehicle crime and will help people feel safer in their own home.
72. The **Mid Durham AAP** task group looking at the theme of support for older people have supported the development of a Silver Dream Lottery bid for £95,000 which will see Derwentside and Durham City Homes lead on a project entitled 'Silver Knowledge'. The initial project bid submitted in November saw the project reach the final application stage (last 80 nationally). The project stems from research and feedback provided through Age UK and officers from Durham County Council's Adult, Wellbeing and Health Service Grouping which identifies a gap in service which looks at supporting older people through telephone befriending. The project will also examine, through a multi partnership approach, links to advice on money and health as well as providing physical support through Derwentside homes social enterprise scheme (SHED) who can deliver such services as gardening, decorating and shopping. The bid will see several partners coming together to oversee the project including health, Derwentside CVS and Durham City District CVS and volunteer bureaux. The bid outcome will be known by mid May.
73. Work is also ongoing with Durham Agency Against Crime (DAAC) to look at implementing their horticulture and agriculture youth diversionary programme HAGGRID into Ushaw Moor alongside the newly funded community garden. The Ushaw Moor Action Group has been successful alongside Groundwork in raising £53,000, to develop the community garden. DAAC have recruited a local police officer to start and look at the scheme as they are hoping to take this into other AAP areas.
74. Finally, the Board have decided to keep their existing task groups, with one of them providing a monitoring role only - road safety and highways whilst the other three will still have developmental roles - activities for children and young people, support for older people and support for the VCS. However, Board members decided to explore the theme of employment and job prospects as both young people, adults and service partners identified a concern over access to further education, training and employment as a key issue for young people and Mid Durham has shown a rise NEETS (Not in Education, Employment or Training) over the past year. The Board will await the outcome of a current scrutiny review on employment and look at possible areas in which it can make a realistic impact upon this locally.
75. Members of **Chester-le-Street and District AAP's** Improved Environment Task Group together with members of the community and parish councils, alongside DCC officers have been busy over the winter months completing a programme of 17 neighbourhood walkabouts across the AAP area as part of

the Grot Spot Project. As a result, five localities in the Chester-le-Street and District area will be now be chosen to receive an intensive "Week of Action" where a multi agency approach will be adopted to 'clean up' these areas through activities such community skip days, litter picks, dog chipping events and enforcement activity.

76. As part of the work of the Green Dog Walker Project task group young people in primary schools have designed an A5 'sticker' which will be placed on all dog and general waste bins to inform the public to pick up their dog waste and put it in the bin. The Environment is also a key priority for our young people evidenced at the Have Your Say event in October last year. This is linked to the Green Dog Walker project which is designed to help educate dog owners and encourage them to take the 'green dog walker pledge'. Large advertisements on local waste collection vehicles for this project have just recently been completed, so local residents will become more familiar with this in their neighbourhoods.
77. The Ability not Disability Holiday Programme for children and young people project involves people from six local venues coming together in partnership to provide an Activity Holiday Programme for children and young people of the Chester-le-Street & District AAP area throughout school holiday periods in 2012, utilising six venues throughout the AAP area.
78. The activities would be inclusive of age and ability and would include sports, dance, and arts. The activities would be delivered by fully qualified coaches and facilitators with experience of delivering to such a wide age range of children and who have links to local clubs should the children and young people wish to join a more permanent setting. The inclusion of Mencap and Lumley Methodist Church in this programme ensures access to activities for young people with a disability and we hope to build on this programme to become more inclusive in AAP and other provision for those who may have access issues. It is anticipated that up to 4000 young people may attend these activities, any child or young person from within the AAP area would be able to access any of the venues activities. Most importantly, these activities will be delivered free to the children and young people to enable all to attend despite financial circumstances.
79. Some of the outcomes expected from this project it includes:
 - a. Reducing childhood obesity through a healthier and more active lifestyle.
 - b. Engaging children and young people in positive activities therefore less inclined to become involved in anti social behaviour, alcohol and drugs, therefore creating positive outcomes for themselves.
 - c. Increasing confidence, self esteem and social skills.
 - d. Enjoying and achieving whilst engaging with positive role models.
 - e. A safe place to be away from bullying, discrimination, maltreatment, neglect, violence and exploitation.
80. The Number 15 project in the **Spennymoor AAP** area occupies a vacant shop in Festival Walk for community use under a 'meanwhile use' lease. The shop has three functions; an information point for community activities and groups, culture, sports, AAP activities etc, a centre for community activity, with workshops, rehearsals, craft sessions etc and a gallery for local artists.

81. The overall aim of the project is to create a hub for the community that can be utilised for a number and range of activities whilst also improving the appearance and vibrancy of the Festival Walk area of the town. It has now been open for business since 9th November 2011. Once all legal issues had been agreed, it took Creative Communities (NE) and a band of volunteers only a few weeks to totally redecorate and refurbish the two storey premises. The shop now has seven resident artists, each with studio space and who contribute towards the delivery of community workshop activity.
82. Part of the shop's community attraction has been a programme of creative workshops which, between November and the end of December, have attracted over 100 people. A feature of the programme was a Japanese workshop held on 10th December which was delivered by Japanese students currently studying at Teikyo University of Japan in Durham.
83. A full weekly programme of workshops for the general public are now available in painting, singing, textiles, life drawing, DIY survival, sewing and stitching. The shop currently is displaying a range of paintings, sculpture, jewellery, pottery, embroidery, ceramics, glasswork, woodwork, textiles and photographs. Number 15 was used as the base for the recent Winter Gala and hosted a range of community and school creative programmes during December.
84. Interest in the Number 15 model of operation has been shown from neighbouring towns and work is underway to attempt to secure the shop's future as a community resource. In the meantime, facilities at the shop are available to be used by partner organisations which may be planning public consultation events or public information activities which require town centre premises. More information about these opportunities is available on the Number 15 web site www.number-15.org
85. The Cornforth Partnership obtained funding from the Spennymoor AAP to deliver The Reach Project, its comprehensive Community Learning/Job Search/Mentoring Scheme. A progress update on this project shows that 18 new clients have been registered to the scheme since September 2011 and eight clients have now progressed on to complete accredited training at Levels one and two in CSCS Site Safety, Health & Safety, Customer Care and Door Supervision.
86. The project has continued to run a programme of one-to-one mentoring support and has supported clients with a wide range of sensitive issues. Action plans have been developed with clients to identify a plan for their progression. All clients also receive help with the preparation of CVs and completion of application forms. The project ran a CV Workshop in partnership with Next Step at Spennymoor Library with 10 people attending. The project has also now developed a pathway of referral for clients needing additional support and has recently referred a client, who needed help with anger issues, to Salus. The project has also been receiving referrals from Jobcentre Plus and Next Step.
87. **Weardale AAP** has committed all of its Area Budget allocation for 2011/12 on a total of 11 projects which address the priorities of Support for the

Community and Voluntary Sector, Employment and Job Prospects, Tourism and Transport, Traffic Management and Highways.

88. Projects include a joint project with 3 Towns and Teesdale AAPs to continue the very successful Rural Employability Project and the Personal Progression Fund which is grant to help individuals over come barriers to employment. These two projects have already directly supported over 50 people into employment in Weardale and with the continuation it is hoped that many more people will benefit over the coming months.
89. In addition to the work on Employment and Jobs the Weardale Action Partnership has also supported a number of Tourism related projects which it is hoped will help stimulate the local economy as well as show casing the area as a tourism and visitor destination. Projects supported include events such as the Tour of the Reservoir Cycle Race and a Weardale Triathlon. Together these sporting events will attract in excess of 250 participants and an estimated 2500 spectators.
90. It is a condition of funding that all participants will be provided information on the Weardale Area and will be provided with details places to stay, eat and visit. To support and complement these events a separate project has been developed to produce a map and promotional information to promote Weardale. With support from partners such as Visit County Durham this project has been led by the private and voluntary sector who have come together in partnership to produce the publication.

Recommendations and reasons

91. Cabinet are asked to note the content of the report.

**Contact: Clare Marshall, Principal Partnerships and Local Councils Officer,
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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - Area and Neighbourhood budgets are utilised and delivered through the 14 AAPs.

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - Altogether safer is the responsibility of the Safe Durham Partnership.

Human Rights - None

Consultation - The County Durham Partnership framework is a key community engagement and consultation function of the Council and its partners.

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications - None