

Cabinet

24 July 2012



County Durham Partnership Update Report

Report of Corporate Management Team
Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive
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. As the AAPs and the wider County Durham Partnership Framework continue to be embedded across the County it remains important that Cabinet receive regular updates on this work.

County Durham Partnership Forum

3. The June meeting of the CDP Forum took place at Spennymoor Town Hall with presentations from East Durham Rural Corridor and Three Towns AAPs. The thematic focus of this meeting was on Altogether greener with a presentation from Terry Collins showcasing the range of work that takes place across the environmental priority, with particular focus on the Pride theme.
4. The Armed Forces Community Covenant was also signed by partners alongside representatives from the armed forces. This is to complement the signing of the Covenant at Full Council in May.

Sustainable Community Strategy Action Plan

5. The SCS Action Plan is the delivery plan that supports the achievement of the objectives set out in the SCS. It is reviewed on an annual basis, with the third annual update attached. The changes to this document include updated information on the Children and Families Trust which has undergone an extensive review over the last 12 months as well as more minor changes to the other four thematic partnership action plans.
6. Also contained in the Action Plan is information on the renewal of the SCS which will take place during 2012/13 with a renewed document launched in September 2013. This timescale allows the impending changes regarding the

establishment of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner to be incorporated into the SCS.

7. The 2012/13 Action Plan is attached at Appendix two.

Altogether wealthier

8. The independent evaluation of the 2011 Lumiere Festival carried out by Miller Research and commissioned by Artichoke was presented to the CDEP Board in April. There were several positive points highlighted throughout the report including: excellent media coverage; positive effect on businesses; raised profile of Durham and generated tourist interest. A decision will be made by Cabinet at the end of July as to whether to commission the festival for a third time in 2013.
9. Defra have approved the North Eastern Farming and Rural Network's (NEFRAN) submission as a Rural Growth Network Pilot (RGN) the details and governance arrangements are currently in the process of being finalised and official offer letters are expected towards the end of June with the pilots lasting three years from the date of issue. The bid was submitted by NEFRAN on behalf of the North Eastern LEP. Northumberland County Council are acting as the accountable body and the Durham element of the RGN Pilot is represented on the RGN steering group.
10. In order to tackle the problem of rising youth unemployment, the Council's apprenticeship programme aims to assist in the creation of additional apprenticeship opportunities for unemployed individuals who live in the County and are aged between 16-24. Two programmes are running side by side, the first a £336,155 countywide scheme jointly funded by Area Action Partnerships, The Coalfield Regeneration Trust and the Council. The second a £109,440 programme funded jointly by the Council and The Coalfield Regeneration which aims to create apprenticeships with Social Enterprises and Community Anchor Organisations over several wards in the former district areas of Chester Le Street, Derwentside, Durham, Easington and Sedgfield.
11. For more information please contact Angela Brown, Partnership Support Officer on 0191 387 2117 or email angela.brown@durham.gov.uk

Altogether better for children and young people

12. The Children and Families Trust Annual Commissioning Plan for 2012/13 is finalised and sets out their commissioning intentions in line with the CYPFP. The Joint Commissioning Board, and ultimately the Children's Executive Board, will oversee two strategy developments which are 'Places to Go and Things to Do', and a 'Risk and Resilience strategy to tackle Teenage Pregnancy'. In addition commissioners will consider some service specific commissioning: services to disengaged learners; services to support vulnerable teenagers; positive activities for young people; specific programs to address risky behaviour, i.e. substance misuse, obesity and teenage pregnancy; programmes to develop resilience; services to support vulnerable families and One Point and Think Family Programme.
13. The Joint Disability Commissioning Plan was finalised in December 2011 and provides an overview of the needs of disabled children in County Durham.

The strategy includes the commissioning approach to Short Breaks for disabled children and demonstrates the impact of an effective Short Breaks menu. Since the implementation of the above approach in 2009/10, the Local Authority and the Health Service have seen a reduction in the number of new high cost cases (from nine cases in 2008/2009 to two cases in 2010/2011) through effective targeting of resources to specific at risk groups. This meant a reduction in spend on high cost placements of £1,988,857 when using 2008/2009 as a benchmark. This saving would have been an annual spend had those placements been made permanent. 157,000 hours of Short Breaks were delivered in 2011/2012, exceeding the target of 90,000 hours. 3,232 overnight breaks were set for 2011/2012 again exceeding the target of 3,000. The target set for 2012/13 is to deliver 110,000 hours of Short Breaks and achieve at least a 75% satisfaction rate of families accessing Short Breaks. Preparations are underway to ensure a comprehensive Short break menu is available over the summer holidays.

14. For more information please contact Claire McLaren, Planning, Quality and Research Manager on 0191 383 3604 or email claire.mclaren@durham.gov.uk

Altogether healthier

15. The Health and Wellbeing Partnership has held its last meeting as a subgroup of the County Durham Partnership. The Partnership has considered governance arrangements in relation to its future role as the Health Improvement Partnership, working as an operational group of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board. The Partnership has decided to use a development day, to take place on 17th July, to consider: vision; key areas of work; working practices; membership and success criteria. A wide range of partners will be invited to participate in the development day and the first meeting of the Health Improvement Partnership is planned for September 2012.
16. The partnership was appraised of work taking place across the County on Think Family, encompassing a range of programmes. The partnership will consider how Health Networks can begin to engage with this area of work.
17. For more information please contact Julia Bates, Partnership Officer on 0191 370 8749 or email julia.bates@durham.gov.uk

Altogether safer

18. The Safe Durham Partnership has made a successful bid to Baroness Newlove's 'Alcohol Fund' for £90k over two years. In County Durham the bid is centred on the **Three Towns Area Action Partnership** and is focused on more rural communities where, although they may have lower numbers of alcohol related incidents, the impact can be greater on smaller communities. The bid links the three rural communities to tackle alcohol issues together, reducing their experience of displacing alcohol related anti-social behaviour from one village or estate to another and increasing their capacity to interface with local services. Each community will receive a participatory budget and governance arrangements will be provided by the Area Action Partnership.

19. The multi-agency Organised Crime Disruption Panel has already experienced success. Following investigation, Police, the Council's Trading Standards, officers from the Regional Enforcement Unit and others executed a warrant on a business premises and action is being taken against the business owner for offences against the Enterprise Act. A new Organised Crime Strategy Group has been put in place to broaden the partnership approach in line with the new national Organised Crime Strategy. In addition to enforcement, there will be a focus on prevention and protection.
20. Counter Terrorism training and awareness-raising sessions are being delivered to front line practitioners; providing staff with the ability to interpret signs that someone may have been drawn into terrorism and understand how to refer the person for support. Most recently, training has been provided to County Durham Youth Offending Service, Public Health and Safeguarding staff and County Durham Acute and Community Health sector staff.
21. The total number of offences committed by County Durham's 239 most prolific offenders during 2011/2012 is down by 61% on the previous year total. New priority actions have been added to the development plan. These include an improvement to the 'Think Family' approach, the development of a desistance model and support for the abstinence agenda of health and substance misuse. There is concern about the potential impact of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 on re-offending and there is work ongoing to try and mitigate this.
22. For more information please contact Caroline Duckworth, Strategic Manager for Safer Communities, on 0191 3708734 or email caroline.duckworth@durham.gov.uk

Altogether greener

23. A range of activities took place in Altogether greener week from 28 May to 1 June. Each of the five days was dedicated to one of the thematic objectives: Built Environment; Waste; Natural Environment; Climate Change and Pride. Activities included market stalls to raise awareness of reducing waste, in particular, encouraging people to take their small items of e.g. toasters, hair driers, power tools etc for recycling and discouraging them from putting these in their household waste bin. Under the Natural Environment theme bees were under the spotlight. An online bumble bee survey on Durham Wildlife Trust's website was open to all as were bee friendly garden fact sheets. The focus of this is to change people's planting habits to bee friendly planting.
24. Pride saw a lot of activity through the AAPs, with volunteers from Durham AAP carrying out litter picking, painting and spring cleaning on the city centre riverbank. East Durham AAP had Jubilee themed hanging baskets planted by pupils of Yohden Primary School and given to older residents in Horden. Stanley AAP held a Jubilee parade and big lunch for 1500 residents which was supported by the Police, Catchgate Primary School, Derwentside Homes and Durham County Council civic pride and neighbourhood warden teams.
25. The Big Spring Clean 2012 (with Litter Free Durham and Darlington Borough Council) is drawing to a close. 46 litter picks have taken place and a further 13 have been rescheduled to take place following the official end of the

initiative. Based on activities to date, 776 people have taken part and 536 bags of rubbish collected.

26. Roll out of The Green Dog Walkers scheme continues with more than 230 residents signed up. New groups have been set up in West Cornforth, Sherburn Village, Hardwick Park, Sedgefield, and Newton Hall. Schemes in Teesdale, Ferryhill, and Shildon are being considered. 132 businesses have signed up to the Tidy Business Award scheme. Activities recently undertaken with gold award holders in Durham City include painting with the Radisson Blu and a litter pick with the Marriott Hotel.
27. For more information please contact Mary Readman, Customer Relations, Policy and Performance Manager, on 0191 3834692 or email mary.readman@durham.gov.uk

Town and Parish Council update

28. Lee Copeland (Principal Area Action Partnership Co-ordinator) was invited to attend the AGM of Ferryhill Town Council on the 3rd May. A presentation was given to highlight the achievements of the AAP over the last three years, to give local people further details of what the AAP can mean to them and how they are able to get involved. There were many new faces at this meeting and it provided the opportunity for networking and promotion to a wider audience through one of our local partners. Hopefully more partnership working will be carried out in the future with the Town and Parish Councils.
29. During the summer months the Mid Durham AAP and the associated Parish Council Committee for Mid Durham will be working together to meet up with local groups and residents to gain their views on life in a Mid Durham village. The AAP and the Parish Council Committee have set themselves a target of talking to 1,600 local residents (approx 5% of the Mid Durham population) thus providing solid local data that will indicate the key issues and in some cases the possible solutions to these issues. This will enable the AAP and its Parish Partners to work together to tackle the key issues throughout Mid Durham and its Parishes over the next two years (2013 to 2015).

Participatory Budgeting

30. **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** has embarked on a Participatory Budgeting exercise with the deadline for receipt of applications now passed. 27 applications have been received and these are currently being appraised. The community voting event will be held on 21st July at the active life centre@coxhoe (formerly Coxhoe Leisure Centre) with this also being the Summer Forum where successes of the AAP will be celebrated. The Sports Apprentices who the AAP funded last year, five of which we have managed to place at the active life centre, will be carrying out sports related activities with children, young people and families, as well as promoting how they enrolled on the scheme and how other young people can. There will also be a litter pick, Tidy Ted will be in attendance and families will be able to pot a marigold (official flower of the Olympics) to take home. The active life centre will also provide some activities which will help promote the centre and hopefully increase membership.

31. **Stanley Area Action Partnership (SAAP)** and Stanley Town Council (STC) have been working together on 'It's Up 2 U' 2012. Local organisations were invited to apply for funding to deliver projects requiring between £2,000 and £12,000. Thirty four projects met the criteria after being subject to a full appraisal.
32. 1,400 people attended a Public Vote Event on 26 May 2012 where residents from the Stanley area had the chance to walk around the project market place talk to the project leads and volunteers, view project display boards, discuss projects with fellow voters and vote for their five favourite projects. The 17 projects that received the most votes and will receive funding range from schools, sports and youth clubs, allotments and environment groups.
33. The first of three PB projects have been completed by **Three Towns AAP**. People living in Willington have had their say on how money is spent in their local area. The AAP in partnership with Greater Willington Town Council held a public vote event on May 28 and invited local residents along to choose from their seven favourite projects hoping to secure a share of the £8,000 available.
34. 'It's Up 2 U' 2012 gave local organisations, schools and voluntary and community groups in Willington the opportunity to receive funding from £1,000 to £2,000 to deliver a local project. The groups behind the initiatives presented their ideas and the public were then given the chance to vote for their projects with 5 projects receiving funding. The event was open to anyone living and working in Willington and was attended by over 100 people. The next public voting event will be held in Tow Law on the 27th of June where a further £8000 will be allocated.

Jubilee and Olympic Celebrations

35. **Chester-le-Street & District AAP** developed a 'Lets Join In' Jubilee and Olympic celebration Fund to ensure communities across the AAP area could deliver quality local events to mark the Jubilee and the Olympics. In total £5,700 was allocated to 14 separate events across the AAP area. Many events were delivered to celebrate the Jubilee with another 3 events planned to commemorate the Olympic opening ceremony at the end of July. Funding enabled groups to buy in appropriate entertainment and also cover important issues such as insurance costs or any temporary licensing costs.
36. Many of the successful community groups have worked in partnership with local organisations such as Parish Councils in planning and delivering these events. Over £13,500 of additional funding will be levered in to support event costs. All groups who approached the fund benefitted from support and advice from the Council's Event Team in planning and delivering events.
37. Similarly the **Spennymoor AAP** Olympic and Jubilee Community Events Fund provided grants of up to £500 for events in the Spennymoor AAP area to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and/or the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Provision for grants above the £500 were also considered if a project displayed significant impact across the whole AAP area. All Resident Associations, Community Groups and other not-for-profit organisations in the area are eligible to apply.

38. Spennymoor AAP 'Let's Join in' Fund was launched on Friday 27th April 2012 after gaining approval from the AAP. The first round of applications ended with eight local community events being funded which ranged from local community/street party events to a large scale 'Big Lunch' event for the community in Jubilee Park, Spennymoor. There will be a second round application stage that will open up further funding opportunities for the local community to access.
39. **East Durham AAP's** Maintaining the Social Fabric of Our Society Priority Group members also recognised the value of communities coming together to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympic torch relay and London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It was felt that these national events would provide great opportunities to inspire people to take part in sport, physical or cultural activities in their community. By making a small grant available to groups in the area, the AAP would be encouraging and assisting groups to seize this opportunity whilst enhancing local community spirit and cohesiveness.
40. Additionally, this project complements the County-wide 'Join In' campaign being led by the Council's Leisure Services team, the aim of which is to encourage as many people across the County as possible to partake in activities and events in the run up to the London 2012 games. There are also synergies with national campaigns such as 'The Big Jubilee Lunch' where the aim is to get as many communities as possible to sit down and have lunch together on the Sunday of the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend.
41. The events around the Jubilee and the Olympics are all about community, friendship and fun, this small grants fund will help to ensure that residents of the East Durham AAP area are able to fully participate in the festivities so that they'll remember these momentous occasions for years to come.
42. The Community Event Project has been administered through the East Durham AAP Team as the timescales for delivery of this project were very challenging. The process for administering the fund included legal and Health and Safety guidelines for community groups and linking with the Council's Events Team to ensure that all events were fully compliant with the Safety Advisory Group.
43. There have been 25 successful applications to date ranging from small street parties to large community events. The total number of anticipated beneficiaries is over 30,000. The community panel brought together to appraise and approve applications has noted how the fund has brought communities together and has been impressed by the involvement of Town and Parish Councils. The fund has also generated community action, in the case of Easington Colliery has resulted in a new community group that has committed to developing local delivery of services in their community, their last meeting was attended by over 50 community members prepared to get involved in local action.

Area Action Partnerships Review

44. Progress has been made on the 14 specific recommendations arising out of the recent Scrutiny Review of AAPs, presented to Cabinet in September, 2011.
45. In order to review the AAPs, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) established a cross- party Working Group to examine practices and processes to establish:
 - the difference that they have made;
 - areas for further improvement;
 - the potential for further refinements, in light of a changing policy and partner environment.
46. The scope of the Review was framed within a series of Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs) covering governance arrangements; resources; community involvement and engagement and impact and performance management.
47. The Scrutiny Summary Review Report presented the key findings in relation to these topics and identified a number of conclusions and recommendations that aimed to improve AAPs and provide an evidence base to ensure that they remain “ Fit for purpose, Fit for the Future.”
48. A summary of these 14 recommendations is contained as Appendix 3. A summary of the work packages are set out in an Action Plan – this is included as Appendix 4.
49. The scope of the work for each working group is based on the review findings, the action plan and the subsequent action time line reflects the priority attached to each recommendation. Members will note that as highlighted in Appendix 4, progress has been made in a number of the recommendations, with priority being given to addressing the recommendations regarding improving the performance management for locality budgets.
50. For a number of the outstanding actions, to ensure an inclusive approach is adopted, it is proposed to involve AAP Board Members in this work. This approach worked well through the Scrutiny Review process and will assist in gaining feedback from Board Members about how the recommendations are embedded into regular AAP work.
51. Board Members from across the County will be given the opportunity to feed into a Board Member Sounding Board that will be brought together for activity of certain working groups. This will ensure that before the work is finalised and signed off, Board members have had an opportunity to comment and influence. It is proposed that this will be done for recommendations; 1 – Terms of Reference, 8 – Media Engagement, 10 and 11 – Performance Management and 12 – Sharing of Best Practice.
52. Given the nature of AAPs and the need to respond to issues as they arise, this has resulted in a number of recommendations being concluded already. These are detailed further in the AAP Action Plan – Appendix 4.

53. In addition to completing implementation on the recommendation, significant progress has been made to improve the performance monitoring associated with the locality budgets associated with AAPs (i.e. Neighbourhood and Area Budgets). These changes were set out in a Members' Seminar in May and included the adopting of a common set of project outputs and programme of project monitoring visits. The next key phase of implementing the scrutiny report will be to focus on amending the Terms of Reference in order that the changes are in place for the review of AAP public member representatives from 2013/14 onwards.

Area Action Partnerships Update

54. The annual rotation of AAP Chairs has recently taken place across the majority of the Partnerships. This has seen a new raft of experienced and knowledgeable individuals becoming more involved in the AAP leadership.
55. The **Derwent Valley AAP** will shortly be working in partnership with the Durham Wildlife Trust, community groups and school children across Derwent Valley to set-up hidden cameras in local green spaces to capture images of elusive wildlife. This project aims to encourage Derwent Valley residents of all generations to become more engaged with their environment and to instil a sense of pride in the area's open spaces.
56. Each host school/community group will benefit from a half day learning session which will be tailored to complement the national curriculum and will enrich the experience with hands-on conservation activities. The project will culminate in two community events where the highlights of the footage will be screened and participating groups/schools will have the opportunity to showcase what they have achieved through the project.
57. The equipment purchased as part of the project, including cameras, will be retained by the local schools who will receive specific training so that activities can continue beyond the duration of the project; additionally, each library in the area will receive a Derwent Valley Wildside DVD for future use by the community.
58. The Derwent Valley AAP is working with Leadgate Youth Centre to promote health and wellbeing and activities for young people in Derwent Valley. The Fit for Life project will enable young people to access a wide range of new fitness equipment whilst the updating of kitchen facilities at the Centre will provide opportunities to produce healthy snacks and smoothies.
59. This project will enable staff to deliver a high quality range of sporting programmes and to promote healthy eating and exercise with a particular focus on young people who are currently in secondary education or who are not in employment, education or training (NEET). The project will be linked to the Youth Achievement Awards and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and will serve to motivate young people and encourage them to access training and educational opportunities.
60. Led by Derwentside Enterprise Agency, the Derwent Valley AAP has funded and supported the development of local enterprise clubs which are designed to encourage and support local people considering enterprise as an

employment option. The project serves to address a gap in mainstream provision as existing initiatives such as the New Enterprise Allowance Scheme are all focused on Job Seekers Allowance claimants leaving non-claimants without a route into enterprise.

61. The clubs will take the format of informal gatherings such as coffee mornings at which there will be speakers from the local business community as well as mentors/business coaches who will be on hand to offer advice and guidance on subjects such as accessing funding. Additionally, the AAP funding will be used to provide a discretionary small grants fund through which funds of up to £200 will be available to start-up businesses.
62. As highlighted in the previous CDP Update Report Derwentside Homes in partnership with **Mid Durham AAP**, Durham City Homes, Durham and Darlington NHS, Durham County Council's Adults, Health and Wellbeing and the Durham CVS Volunteer Bureau applied to the Lotteries Silver Dreams Fund to develop a pilot volunteer led telephone befriending service with several other support services for older people. In June the partners were notified that they had been one of 37 successful projects across the country and were awarded £99,475 from the Lottery. The service will commence in August/September and has funds for the first 18 months. This particular Lottery scheme has partnered up with The Daily Mail to offer a further £5million to flagship projects that can show through the initial Lottery monies that they can successfully meet the challenges set out by the Silver Dream Fund to support older vulnerable people to deal with life-changing events. The project has with the support of the AAP commissioned Northumbria University with the internationally renowned Professor Mima Cattan and her team to monitor, evaluate and prepare a Lottery report to evaluate the difference we make against the challenge set by Silver Dreams.
63. The Mid Durham AAP has produced their 2011/12 Annual Report which highlights support to over 180 different projects throughout Mid Durham. The AAP has allocated its full £120,000 Area Budget which in turn has helped to attract a further £515,858 into Mid Durham in Matched funding (for every £1 of AAP money spent a further £4.30 of matched has been attracted). For more details on this and the numerous projects our associated County Councillors have supported please visit our web pages on the Durham County Council web site.
64. The Mid Durham Small Grants Fund administered by Durham CVS and the AAP team have had another successful year (2011/12) supporting 54 community groups to access £20,151 of AAP funding. On top of this the community groups and their projects also brought in a further £34,445 (every £1 of AAP money allocated a further £1.71 has been attracted into Mid Durham). Sports Clubs benefited the most from the fund with 13 accessing £4,950. The most popular reason for applying was for new equipment with 20 applications totalling £7,815. Examples included new fridge, tables and chairs, sports equipment, lawn mowers, gardening equipment, instruments and projection equipment.
65. **Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP's** Task Groups have been meeting to ensure that projects best meet the partnerships priorities for 12/13. The Board has agreed to split its £120,000 Area Budget Allocation between the

priorities with £60,000 being allocated to Employment and Jobs with the remaining £60,000 being split evenly between Community Safety and Transport. The partnership has also continued to support Councillors with Neighbourhood Budget projects as well as facilitating the Big Local Lottery and Communities First Programmes.

66. As part of its work in 2011/12 the Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP supported a Small Grants fund targeted at children and young people ensuring that young people in the area benefited from AAP funding for the third year in a row. This was funded with a combination of Area Budget and Neighbourhood Budget and proved to be a tremendous success. A small grants fund has supported a wide range of initiatives that will be delivered across the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area. The scheme was launched in January this year and was hugely successful with 2D who managed the scheme. 66 requests for funding were submitted from which 16 projects received funding. Projects funded ranged from outdoor activity trips, provision of Youth Club equipment, boxing, dance, and football projects.
67. The 'Do you need a seat in your street?' project engaged with the local communities within the **Three Towns AAP** Area to identify areas in need of additional street furniture provision such as benches, dog bins, notice boards etc. Communities have been encouraged to suggest areas for additional furniture, these were then assessed by a Board sub group then passed onto Street Scene who managed it from this point. Following requests from the public 11 new seats have been installed, 3 seats repaired and repainted, 9 new litter bins and 3 dog waste bins have been installed in locations suggested by community members.
68. The AAP has funded Jack Drum arts to work with a group of 25 young people from The Three Towns area to develop their skills in design and construction through a creative mentoring project which will enable them to make at least two new theatre sets over the next 12 months.
69. Out of the 25 young people taking part, as part of the project ten young people are currently working to gain accreditation via an Arts Award. These ten young people are all at risk of being excluded from school, or are low academic achievers. (NB: Arts Award is accredited by Trinity College and recognised by UCAS)
70. The aim of the project is to offer new opportunities for young people in The Three Towns AAP area to learn about construction and design in a fun and creative environment, equipping them with many transferable skills and developing their CVs and portfolios of achievement, thereby making them more employable and contributing to their wellbeing. The main outcomes of the project will be: to have increased and improved young people's skills in design and construction through a hands-on approach, operating in a real work environment; to have increased young people's engagement with accreditation and training and to have raised awareness of the wider role of theatre in the lives of young people with parents, carers and the wider community.
71. Since the turn of the year **Durham AAP** has agreed its priorities for 2012/13. This includes Villages Development as an addition to the previous priorities.

To ensure that the number one priority is embedded across the work of the AAP, Climate Change is contained within all four priority working groups.

72. The inaugural meeting of the Villages Development group has been held and a definition of a village has been considered as a settlement distinct from the boundary of the city and its hinterland. The Voluntary and Community Sector group is holding a celebration day of the sector with the Diverse Durham event in the Market Place on the 7th June.
73. In terms of the AAP Area Budget a new Small Grants Fund has been launched and money has been ring fenced towards the Heritage Lottery application for Wharton Park. The Durham's Got Talent event has received wide publicity and prospective entrants have been lodging their submissions on the Get out There website with the grand finale on 8th July.
74. There has been a tremendous amount of Neighbourhood Budget activity on a wide range of subjects including Friends of Old Durham Gardens, regeneration of Front Street in Pity Me and providing artwork for the Cock o' the North roundabout.
75. **Teesdale Action Partnership's (TAP)** continues to deliver on a number of projects relating to tourism, jobs and young people. Thanks to TAP, volunteers are now being recruited in Teesdale to deliver support to Tourist Information; youth workers are supporting young people in Cockfield and Staindrop and a survey of the needs of small businesses is about to take place. Other projects are tackling rural employability, supporting voluntary youth work, producing a video of local achievements, supporting tourism initiatives around Charles Dickens and Jeremiah Dixon, promoting tourism through a local events guide and supporting the recent Barnard Castle Meet.
76. Local Elected Members have recently helped local communities on projects such as improvements to Toft Hill and Etherley Village Hall and supporting a science fair at Teesdale School. Initiatives to tackle the 2012/13 priorities of environment, jobs and enterprise, children and young people and tourism are currently being explored. These include small grants funds, marketing of Teesdale and Gaunless Valley tourist opportunities and play work.
77. TAP have also been helping local people to get a better understanding of the issues relating to wind farms. Meeting with the planners, developing and opposition groups have been organised with good support from the local community.
78. The Schools Enterprise Challenge project carried out by the **Spennymoor AAP**. The aims of the project were to provide an introduction to the workplace, to develop enterprise skills, knowledge and experience, to promote the Engineering and Manufacturing Sector as a career choice, to give an insight into key business functions, to develop personal communication skills and to build confidence.
79. The project worked with both Spennymoor secondary schools with twenty participants being split into four teams. Within the project there were after school workshops which included: a visit to CORE at South West Durham Training; generating business ideas; business planning, finance, sales and

marketing; design and build a remote controlled car; communication and developing a project website and PR and radio. Each school also had access to an engineer mentor for the design and build phase as well as a session on each of the business topics from a specialist. The project ended with the final taking place on July 11 2012 at the Xcel Centre Newton Aycliffe.

80. The 'This is Where it's Art' project took place on June 8, 9 and 10 2012. This exciting new festival brought together artists, crafters and performers from the whole of the North East into one amazing weekend of exhibitions, talks, discussions, productions and hands on workshops for all the family. It was free to the public, encouraging all people to meet the artists and get involved in a host of workshops and activities.
81. Flyers and posters for the event were distributed throughout the region. The Northern Echo also gave the project editorial coverage and has promised further coverage on the festival. BBC Tees also gave the project radio coverage on their Drive Time programme with further contact with local papers and journalists taking place.
82. The Building Improvement Project has now awarded six Commercial Building Improvement grant offers on behalf of the Spennymoor AAP to the total value of £19,815 with a private contribution of £22,028. Five of the shop improvements are now complete and payments have been made to the businesses in question. The final project has planning issues and we are in the process of dealing with this appropriately.
83. Press coverage has been achieved on this project highlighting the improvements made to the relevant buildings in the town. This has led to an increase in enquiries and the need for additional funding. To enable an increased number of enquiries to potentially benefit from the building improvements scheme, the AAP have just recently awarded a further grant of £20,000 to aid further improvements to the town centre in the coming year.
84. **Weardale AAP (WAP)**, are working in partnership with CDC Development Agency and Teesside University to offer the people in Weardale the opportunity to take part in two free training opportunities/
85. WAP, in partnership with CDC Development Agency, offered a free 'Get Mentoring' workshop earlier in July at Frosterley Village Hall. The outline to the workshop was to explore the background to mentoring, the tools and skills required to be a mentor and understanding the legal and ethical requirements. The workshops included: introduction to enterprise mentoring; a course designed to highlight the skills, tools and knowledge needed to become a successful mentor and an interactive workshop delivered by CDC Enterprise Agency.
86. The AAP also worked with Teesside University to offer the opportunity to attend a free Digital Awareness workshop. This presentation/workshop delivered by Steve Thompson of Digital City Innovation (Teesside University) gave a broad overview of the wealth of digital tools and practices that are available to assist small organisations and businesses. It also looked at social media marketing as well as other practical digital tools.

87. WAP is working across the Weardale area to improve the lives and environment of the residents, including the business community. As part of that work, forum members have voted that employment and job prospects is a key priority which requires their focus. To facilitate this priority the AAP undertook a comprehensive survey of the business community.
88. All of the information will be treated with the strictest confidence and was gathered using the Marketing Research Society's guidance and code of practice on such projects. South Durham Enterprise Agency facilitated the service for the Weardale Action Partnership and will collate all results. The general findings will then be shared with the AAP Board and presented at a joint event.
89. The rationale for the **East Durham AAP** Community Response Coordinator, hosted by East Durham Trust, project was to encourage a wider spread of community response initiatives such as Winter Squads and to stimulate collaborative working between community groups and increase community action through volunteering.
90. Work undertaken to date has included: supporting the development of an East Durham Community Buildings network and progressing a community buying collaborative initiative delivering economies of scale for community, Parish Councils and voluntary groups, particularly the purchasing of utilities; reviewing Winter Squads project work; engaging community groups with a Digital TV switchover workshop and delivering Understanding Safety at Spectator Events stewarding course to community groups.
91. **4Together's** task and finish groups for Environment and Regeneration; Crime and Community Safety and Children and Young People have really picked up pace with the groups being at the project development stage with some innovative suggestions for Area Budget spend. All groups have a focus on employment and job prospects for every project they consider and are working with partners such as the Police, Regeneration, Ferryhill Town Council, Livin' and local community organisations in order to pull the 2012/13 profile together for the Boards' consideration.
92. After advertising a vacancy for a public representative the Partnership is now back up to full capacity since appointing a local Bishop Middleham representative, Gail Anderson to the position.
93. After a successful small grants application, local organisations are just beginning to work with local youth groups, schools and young people on the AAPs behalf. The AAP had the review to see if it is fit for future and now 4Together is seeing if it is fit for young people. The AAP is gathering as much information as possible from the views of young people to see how it could shape the future of the AAP to make it more appealing to children and young people in order for them to fully participate and make sure their voices are heard in the decision making for their local communities. The groups will be planning mini youth forums throughout the areas culminating in a wider area event and will also be looking at such things as publications to give a fresh perspective on how the AAP should be marketing to all in the community. The AAP is looking forward to seeing what changes these comments will suggest

and to making sure that the AAP is reaching out to all sectors of the community and giving them the opportunity to become more involved.

94. The **Stanley AAP** Small Grants Fund was established to provide relatively small grants for locally based not for profit groups. These will include community and voluntary groups, organisations, associations, ward and community partnerships and social enterprises wishing to develop relevant projects of up to £2,000.
95. An Awards Panel made up of AAP Board Members met recently and awarded a range of projects and initiatives with funding which included: Tantobie Cricket Club; Stanley Indoor Bowls Centre; Quaking Houses Village Hall Association; North Road Gym and Everest Climbing Club.
96. Stanley AAP Board Members approved an Area Budget application for a Brass 2012 in Stanley project at their Board meeting in March 2012. The project is part of BRASS: Durham International Festival 2012, an annual celebration of internationally acclaimed brass artists featuring outdoor arts, new commissions, challenging collaborations, outreach work and the very best of contemporary brass playing, taking place annually in July. The £17,500 of Area Budget funding granted to the Brass 2012 in Stanley Project will deliver a bespoke package of activity that will contribute to the AAP's regeneration of Stanley and its villages, and opportunities and activities for young people priorities.
97. The project involved Durham County Council's Arts Team working with Stanley AAP to develop an outdoor event in Stanley town centre. The event on Stanley Front Street on Friday 20th July featured Le Snob, an international street theatre company based in France who delighted Durham audiences during BRASS 2011 with the magical 'Glissssendo'. Le Snob performed Glissssendo Opus II that features nine figures playing uplifting and popular music (such as Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and Frank Zappa) with uniquely shaped brass instruments and spouting smoke. The players ignore the laws of gravity and glide among the crowd and over streets in a vibrant and engaging choreography. To ensure genuine community involvement, local businesses and bands were offered the opportunity to be involved.
98. To complement the town centre activity, local children were given the opportunity to see International performers in their school and to build excitement for the Le Snob event. 15 schools in the Stanley AAP area hosted performances by international street bands from the 9th - 20th July.
99. Northumbria in Bloom is the voluntary regional organisation that administers the Britain in Bloom competition in Northumberland, Durham, Tyne & Wear and Teesside. Planting flowers in otherwise drab grey streets, the landscaping of derelict and marginal land, the enhancement of towns and pride in villages is the aim and indeed the success of the competition. Stanley AAP have funded the Civic Pride Team with a limited bloom pot of money, to help various groups within Stanley, set up and enter the various categories of Northumberland in Bloom.
100. Villages within Stanley taking part in this competition will hopefully find it a rewarding experience that will improve the environment for local residents,

encourage tourism and businesses to come to our area, and develop community spirit and a pride in the local environment. Stanley, participating in the Northumbria in Bloom competition, will improve the appearance of many places in the area enormously. It is also worth noting that winners of the National Competition have benefited from an increase in local awareness and tourism.

101. **Chester le Street AAP** has teamed up with the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust's 'Talking About Cancer Service' and McMillan Cancer Care to support the role out of a Cancer Champions projects in targeted communities in Chester-le-Street, Sacriston, Pelton Fell and the Central ward. The project will work with local volunteer 'champions' to support a programme of dedicated work looking at screening programmes around bowel cancer and cervical cancer and to promote early dedication and consultation with GP practices. Based on national target take up rates these communities where well below the take up for the level of screening. The AAP resources will match funding already committed from the Durham and Chester-le-Street Health Network.
102. A lot of progress has been made since the Great North Resource Project was officially launched in April by the **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP**. To date, five volunteers have been brought into the project. The tasks undertaken, include: Conducting walks in Hardwick Park with young people affected by a range of physical and mental conditions; progressing to phase two of the Sedgefield GP Consortium, social prescribing initiative; contact made with all Primary Schools in AAP area, with a volunteer in place to give 'Responsible Ownership' presentation; volunteer in place to engage with local youth groups; discussions entered into to expand education facilities to include more students in need of alternative curriculum provision and a meeting held with Mental Health North East (MHNE) to progress the pilot, engaging with groups across the Mental Health spectrum.
103. The targets for the next two months include: meeting with Durham and Darlington NHS to agree appropriate pilot scheme; conclusion of GP Consortium Social Prescribing initiative and implement pilot; commence a litter picking on Limestone Linx; continue to attract diverse range of volunteers and develop a facility accessible by all user groups for educational and social interaction.
104. Feedback from user groups taking part in the Hardwick Park pilot has been very positive. Various young people have been able to enjoy the experience of walking and petting dogs and this has acted as an incentive to them to get exercise, which in some cases was not something they would willingly do. Timescales in making progress with some larger organisations has proved longer than anticipated, but the initial inertia now seems to have been overcome and good progress is expected in the coming months.
105. Many young people don't get the opportunity to try new sports or activities because of the tight financial position their family find themselves in. Others come from backgrounds where sport is not important and are often expected to find their own entertainment. **GAMP**, in partnership with Leisure Services, is offering young people the chance to participate in a wide range of sports.

106. The aim of the project is to provide opportunities for young people in and around Newton Aycliffe to try new sport and leisure activities. The sessions will be conducted by qualified staff at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre and will also work in conjunction with local sports clubs that would allow youngsters the opportunity to continue with the sport if they wish. The type of activities proposed include kayak, rock climbing, bootcamps, DJ workshops, swimming, pool inflatable, aquajog, Bokwa, Zumba, fencing, dance mats, trampoline and fitness suite.
107. In addition to trying out new sports, young people in the GAMP area will also be offered the opportunity to meet socially on a weekly basis with the support of youth leaders to help them address any concerns they wish to discuss.
108. Durham County Council's Sport and Leisure Services Strategy identifies the need to improve participation, particularly amongst young people. Outside of Children and Young People's services, Sport and Leisure Services has more contact with young people than any other. A priority of Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAP is to provide activities for young people, and this project addresses both these issues.
109. The Community Building Media Project aims to promote community buildings within the GAMP area to a new audience through 'new media' technology. GAMP is working with the newly established 'Aycliffe Community Media Partnership'. The partnership includes a number of the town's community buildings:
 - a. Woodham Community Centre (project lead and accountable body)
 - b. Agnew Community Centre
 - c. Neville Parade Community Centre
 - d. Greenfield Arts Centre
 - e. Burnhill Way Methodist Church
 - f. Neville Parade Methodist Church
 - g. St Clare's Church
110. There are now many different ways to communicate with individuals in the community. The tried and tested newsletters, posters, fliers, articles in local newspaper and announcements on local radio only reach some sections of the community. Computers and digital technology allow us to use different medium. Moving pictures, graphics and sound are now available to the majority of people, which means a wider range of communication 'tools' are available. By using these 'new' approaches, the partnership will explore the idea of reaching new sections of the community.
111. The project has developed six short films promoting the diverse range of activities that take place within Aycliffe's community buildings, pod casts involving young people's perceptions of community buildings are also being produced along with a new website: www.communityscenes.com. Once the media has been developed, 'screenings' will be held in each centre for those who may not have access to the internet in their homes. The project also represents the development of a local network of community buildings within the GAMP area and has the potential to also develop future projects in response to the GAMP priority of Support to Community and Voluntary Sector.

Recommendations and reasons

112. Cabinet are asked to note the content of the report and review the recommendations of the AAP review put forward by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (contained in Appendix 3) and agree to the approach adopted as detailed in the Recommendations Action Plan – Appendix 4.

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