



All Together for Spennymoor

Date **Thursday 3 October 2024**
Time **3.00 pm**
Venue **Living', Farrell House, A2 Arlington Way, Spennymoor,
DL16 6NL - Meeting Room**

Business

- 1 Chair's Welcome / Introductions
- 2 Apologies for Absence
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 Minutes of meeting held on 15 August 2024 (Pages 3 - 10)
- 5 First Year Investment
- 6 Update from "You Said ,We Heard" Feedback Sessions
- 7 Programme Update (Pages 11 - 18)
- 8 Spennymoor Youth Working Group
- 9 Any Other Business
- 10 Date of the next and future meetings

Helen Bradley
Director of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
26 September 2024

To: **The Members of the All Together for Spennymoor:**

J Allen, A Boddy (Chair), I Geldard, B Graham, A Harhoff,
L Maddison, D Ranyard, E Scott, D Stone, A Strickland and M Tarling

Contact: Jo March

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Spennymoor Town Board** held in Livin', Farrell House, A2 Arlington Way, Spennymoor, DL16 6NL - Meeting Room on **Thursday 15 August 2024 at 3.00 pm**

Present:

Councillor A Boddy (Chair)

Board Members:

J Allen	County Durham and Darlington Police and Crime Commissioner
Councillor L Maddison	Local Member, DCC
Councillor D Ranyard	Spennymoor Town Council
I Geldard	Spennymoor Town FC
B Graham	Community Representative

Officers:

G Wood	Economic Development Manager, DCC
J Anson	Community Economic Development Manager, DCC
K Monaghan	Project Manager, DCC
A Kerr	Head of Economic Development, DCC
J Gilroy	Deputy Area Lead Cities and Local Growth Unit

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the fourth Spennymoor Town Board meeting and introductions were made.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from A Harhoff, D Stone, Revd Canon M Tarling and A Strickland.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

- Information from the Zen City Survey had been received by government and would be shared once it had been reviewed.
- There had been a suspension of the 1 August 2024 for the first tranche and 1 November 2024 for the second tranche deadlines for the submission. New deadlines were being awaited from Government. Work had still progressed which was positive.

5 Spennymoor LTPT Comms Update

The Community Economic Development Manager gave an update on the Spennymoor LTPT Comms. There had been 11 public engagement events held, 266 responses received to the online consultation along with presentations made to 900 secondary school pupils and 200 primary school pupils. The collated information had been used to shape the town's vision and was included in the summary engagement report by Urban Foresight. Further follow up sessions had begun and would continue engagement with local people.

The Economic Development Manager advised that a press release had been circulated to inform local people that the submission had not taken place on 1 August 2024. The social media platforms and the website had also been updated. There had been no adverse responses and interest remained high.

6 SWOT Analysis, Logic Chain and Vision Mission Statement

The Economic Development Manager reviewed the logic chain, SWOT analysis and the vision mission statements for each working group with the Board which provided information on bringing the programme together, how the programme would progress and demonstrated the long-term plan to progress forward. The vision mission statements for the three themes (High Street, Heritage and Regeneration; Safety and Security; Transport and Connectivity) contained words that had been constantly used throughout the consultation by local people across the town to provide an understanding of what was needed.

7 Update from "you said, we heard" Feedback Sessions

The Board were informed that various feedback sessions had been held to relay to local people that the programme was progressing well. The sessions had generated a real level of interest. The programme would be steered from government to embed the principles through co-design, co-development and co-delivery with key priorities created for the town. Once the submission deadline was clarified the engagement would continue to share the investment plan with the community. This was an opportunity to involve

board members, the community and stakeholders to look at the key issues identified and share proposed projects to be delivered. It was noted that quick wins were important so local people could see advancement in the programme through ideas like diversion activities for young people to reduce anti-social behaviour issues in the area.

8 Programme Update:

The Board considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth which provided a progress update of the draft initial project submission following the consultation period for the Long-Term Plan for Towns Programme and confirmed the 3 year investment plan and project prioritisation tool for project interventions for initial proposed areas of investment (for copy of report, see file of Minutes).

a) Submission

The Economic Development Manager advised the Board that further clarification was anticipated from government regarding the deadline and the formal template for the submission. Although there was a government delay on the submission work had continued with the community during the pre-election period. However, this meant the timeline for interviews with business representatives had been delayed. Due to summer holidays youth engagement was delayed and this work was pending as there was still a keenness to set up a youth focus group. The team had attended the Spennymoor Youth Fest and Board members were advised that the event had doubled the attendance from the previous year.

The Community Economic Development Manager however confirmed that the first youth focus group would be held in the week commencing 26th August 2024 that would be considered as a fourth working group. This would link in with the work with schools when reengagement commenced in term time. Reassurance was given to Councillor L Maddison that engagement had taken place and would continue to do so with Middlestone Moor Primary School and other local schools. There were concerns raised at the lack of Youth Workers and their short-term work due to the lack of funding. It was suggested that Youth hubs would be an opportunity to look at the employment of Youth Workers. It was proposed that work could be carried out with colleges to gain employment connections to encourage Youth Worker positions. The Chair stated that the programme was for 10 years and the vision was to generate match funding that could put the foundations in place for Youth Workers as they were important to shape the future of the town. The North East's new Mayor had a similar vision that carried a lot of momentum for the common direction to move forward.

b) Feedback from Working Groups

The Project Manager gave an update from each working group which continued to meet on a monthly cycle and had good attendance from board members and stakeholders.

Safety and Security Working Group

The working group were looking to prioritise antisocial behaviour issues, safety and security issues, off road bikes issues and CCTV cameras. Work was in progress with Andrea Petty (Police and Crime Commissioners Office) to look at figures to cost up ideas to increase Neighbourhood Wardens and Police presence in areas such as the pathways and underpass leading to the Daisy Field, Spennymoor where people had voiced that they did not feel safe.

High Street, Heritage and Regeneration

The working group had a good handle on startups with support of retail space around the town. There had been a proposal to create a heritage trail and to employ an Events Officer. There was an opportunity to improve public realms in the town to provide events and activities.

The Chair mentioned the great joined up working underway and the additional projects being delivered outside this programme such as the 65 properties that were to be built on the former greyhound site in Spennymoor along with creative planting that would form a natural shield to the subway to reduce anti-social behaviour. Work was also to be progressed to develop a cycle way.

A document was being created to show other projects in the Spennymoor LTPT boundary that were also subject to additional aligned investment.

Transport and Connectivity

The working group were looking to improve walking and cycling routes within the town along with pedestrian crossings. There was a borrow a bike scheme to be implemented. The Clean and Green Team spanned all three working groups and were looking to create a fix it team to work specifically in Spennymoor. A walkaround had taken place to look at increasing accessibility for people with disabilities. It was found that there were issues with older parts of the town where kerbs were very high meaning people in wheelchairs could not access some areas. Newer developments had addressed this.

The Community Economic Development Manager confirmed that the budget was flexible as potentially this issue was greater than first anticipated. It was suggested that section 106 monies or open space provision monies could be included in the submission. This was opportunity not just to look for match

funding but to research other funding avenues as a priority to add additionality. An example of this would be to look to add additional electric vehicle charging points around town like near museums where people could visit while they waited for their cars to charge. This could link in with the Kerbo scheme that helped install electric vehicle charging points in streets of terraced houses where it had been difficult to do.

**c) Year 1-3 Investment Plan d) Project Longlist/Prioritisation Progress
e) Proposed investment Allocations**

The Board reviewed the Year 1-3 investment plan, the project longlist/prioritisation progress and proposed investment allocations in detail. The plan demonstrated the links to the on menu interventions and project priorities. It pulled together the work of the working groups and showed the priority groups, estimated costs and time scales involved. There was flexibility to carry money over between years and was a good starting point for a rounded programme. It was noted that the paused government deadline would affect time scales. The Chair proposed that Youth Workers were included as long-term along with sensory planting as a quick win. The Economic Development Manager agreed to speak to Groundworks and Steve Roberts in relation to Youth Workers. He confirmed that Durham County Council had now allocated time out for staff to volunteer which would be classed as in kind.

The Community Economic Development Manager confirmed that some figures in the plan had been estimated that had been taken from previous projects and some were accurate costs based on salaries and works costs. Figures included 5% contingency costs, inflation increases and capital uplifts.

The County Durham and Darlington Police and Crime Commissioner noted it was crucial that Mr Strickman MP was present as the Boards voice in Parliament. She suggested he was written to with an update on the Board meeting. It was advocated that substitutes were identified as championed by the Bishop Auckland Town Board where Senior Case Workers attended meetings to provide live updates.

The Economic Development Manager stated that as the government had paused the submission there was further time to engage and improve documents. He confirmed that a Christmas event would be organised irrespective of the new deadline set by government. It was suggested that this could be an opportunity to launch the renaming of the Board. The event could be in addition to the Christmas light switch on as this was an event within itself. The Community Economic Development Manager agreed to circulate the dates for the Christmas and specialist markets that had been confirmed for the town. She agreed to speak to Andy Coulthard (Livin') regarding the organisation of further events.

Councillor D Ranyard mentioned that it had been proposed to turn the site at Daisy Fields into football pitches as Sports England had identified that there were not enough pitches in the area. It was suggested that a poppy field could also be planted in this vicinity as it was visible from the dual carriageway as the approach into town following the success of the planting of poppies at North park. It was uncertain if this was feasible in case seeds got into the pitches but there was an opportunity for joint up working with the Town Council, Livin' and Clean and Green and the Woodland Trust who gave free trees for children to plant and invest in the future. The Community Economic Development Manager agreed to speak to colleagues at Durham County Council to gain plans for the area at Daisy Fields and circulate.

d) Future consultation feedback sessions

The Community Economic Development Manager reiterated that there would be future feedback sessions held following confirmation of the submission deadline.

Resolved:

- i) That the continued progress with consultation and consultation feedback events to underpin the LTPT programme submission be agreed.
- ii) That the proposed investments be approved.
- iii) That the 3 Year Investment Plan be approved.

9 Spennymoor Town Board name change

The Community Economic Development Manager had spoken with the Comms Team at Durham County Council regarding the use of 'Spennymoor Together' as the new Board name. She had been advised that the proposed name would be confused with Durham County Council's 'Horden Together' Programme.

The Comms team had proposed the following suggestions as potential names:

- TEAM Spennymoor (**T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore)
- All together for Spennymoor
- Spennymoor - united as one
- Spennymoor collective
- Spennymoor as one

Upon discussion it was:

Resolved:

- i) That the Spennymoor Town Board be renamed 'All together for Spennymoor'.
- ii) That branding would be designed based on the new name.

10 Any Other Business

A question was raised by the Community Economic Development Manager regarding timescales upon receipt of government date for submission. It was advised that the Board should have at least 4 weeks notice or more.

11 Date of next meeting and future meetings

The next Board meeting would be held on Thursday 3 October 2024 at 3pm in the meeting room at Livin', Farrell House, A2 Arlington Way, Spennymoor, DL16 6NL - Meeting Room.

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All Together for Spennymoor

3rd October 2024

Programme Update



Report of

Amy Harhoff Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth

Purpose of the Report

1 The Purpose of this report is to

- (a) provide Board members with a progress update of the draft initial project submission following the consultation period for the Long-Term Plan for Towns Programme

2 Background

- 3 The Long-Term Plan for Towns was announced as an endowment-style approach. This means that funding, of approximately £20million, will be released against a profile to the Accountable body and the Board has the flexibility to spend it over 10 years.
- 4 To access their allocation, each Town is being asked to submit a Long-Term Plan to Government, for approval. This will comprise of a 10-year vision and 3-year investment plan with a date of submission to be confirmed.
- 5 The Programme update report to June's Board meeting identified the section headings for the vision document. To date a pro-forma template for setting out the investment plan breakdown has not been received.
- 6 The consultation period ended 31st May 2024 and via the consultation results and working group meetings several initial projects have been identified and will go through a project prioritisation process.
- 7 To assist with conveying the town vision to the public an intention of each theme has been created with the intention of how each theme will deliver against the vision detailed below;

High Street, Heritage, and Regeneration

This theme focuses on revitalising Spennymoor, and its town centre in particular, by supporting local businesses, building on the town's heritage, and supporting new social and economic development. There will be a focus on enhancing the appeal and functionality of the town centre, encouraging more footfall and increasing retail and leisure opportunities. By blending the town's heritage and existing offer with new and enhanced infrastructure and amenities, this theme aims to create a vibrant, economically prosperous town that attracts both residents and visitors, thus contributing to the town's thriving economy and inclusive community spirit.

Safety and Security

Ensuring the safety and security of all of Spennymoor's residents is critical to fostering a strong community spirit and ensuring a high quality of life. This theme encompasses initiatives aimed at reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. This will be done by enhancing public safety infrastructure and supporting new programmes and initiatives. By creating a secure environment where people feel safe to live, work, and visit, the town can build community pride and encourage greater social cohesion, thereby supporting the overall vision of a supportive and inclusive community.

Transport and Connectivity

Improving transport and connectivity is essential for linking Spennymoor's residents to opportunities and services within and beyond the town. This theme addresses the need for more efficient public transportation, improved road networks, and enhanced walking and cycling. By facilitating easier access to employment, education, and recreational activities, these initiatives will help integrate the community, attract visitors, and support economic growth, thereby ensuring Spennymoor is a well-connected, thriving place to live and work

- 8 To further assist with project delivery, a 4th Working group has been set up which will have a youth focus. This will ensure that the views of local young people are taken into consideration and with the long term nature of the programme, that projects developed with their needs in mind.
- 9 This was following the consultation period when local youths were consulted with and it was highlighted that there was a need for more projects and opportunities for local youths in the area.
- 10 The working group has been created to provide expert information and in line with programme guidance to identify and align current and planned

activity across the LTPT area. Membership of this working group is set out at **Appendix 2** with the first meeting taking place Thursday 26th September.

Governance - structures

- 11 Technical officer and working group meetings have continued to take place in line with programme guidance to identify and align current and planned activity across the LTPT area.
- 12 Working groups have continued to provide highlighted issues within their specialist areas to make Spennymoor and vibrant and inclusive as it can be in line with the vision statement and also of the consultation summary and have been providing costings and areas of priority which help to facilitate project prioritisation.
- 13 Youth Council representation has now been concluded with a youth rep who attends Whitworth Academy due to attend the next board meeting subject to availability. In addition Spennymoor youth and community will work with the youth council representative to strengthen young people's voices and involvement. creating a fourth working group.
- 14 The final element of Board recruitment – Business representatives, was paused once we entered the pre-election period. Some initial expressions of interest were received and a range of potential representatives reflecting small and large employers as well as town centre based businesses have been identified to progress through to informal discussions. The process for confirming these will recommence once Government provide certainty around submission timescales.
- 15 Alan Strickland MP has been appointed as MP for Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor and as such has been invited to join Spennymoor Town Board in line with the published Guidance.

Submission

- 16 There is still no further update following the pause in submissions announced in July. There is still no formal template for submission, however the document is expected to follow the structure set out in guidance. Towns are being encouraged to make use of diagrams, maps, and charts to support the narrative and may make use of relevant sub-headings where required.
- 17 Work on project prioritisation to provide information for the template has not paused at any period during the pre-election period or since with working groups continuing to provide information and input to aid project development.

- 18 From an analysis of all available town data, including that provided by Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and from the results of the community engagement work, a SWOT analysis has been undertaken to help the Town Board inform the long-term town plan for Spennymoor which has been relayed to people during the consultation feedback exercises.
- 19 Due to this the initial tranche of projects has focused on menu quick wins that will deliver against the communities priorities. A business case is not required for on menu projects and will progress quickly during the first year of investment.
- 20 Investment will then be prioritised across the three themes and intervention categories which will be included in the investment Plan based on the feedback results of community engagement. To assist with this a project prioritisation tool has been implemented to assist with projects to be brought forward. The tool utilises priorities, investment themes, costs, geography, vision fit, strategy, “on menu” and timescales amongst other scoring criteria in order to see whether or not they come forward as an intervention and if so the year in which this is planned.

Face To Face Consultation Feedback Programme

- 21 An important aspect of the Co-design process is the ongoing dialogue and feedback with communities. Commencing 6th July officers have been available across several community venues and events in the town to discuss the LTPT consultation programme results and advise how the identified priorities have been used to shape potential interventions.
- 22 Community and Stakeholder feedback sessions have now concluded following six events across the town:
 - Spennymoor Gala , Jubilee Park
Saturday 6th July 1:00pm- 3:00 pm
 - Spennymoor Brass Festival ,Spennymoor Market Place
Monday 8th July 6:00pm – 8:00pm
 - Spennymoor Youth Fest Spennymoor Youth & Community Centre -
Saturday 20th July, 11:00am – 2:00pm
 - Spennymoor Youth and Community Centre
Monday 22nd July 10am – 2:00pm

 - St Pauls Centre
Thursday 25th July 11:30 – 2pm

 - Spennymoor Family Fun day ,
Saturday 7th September 10-3pm

- 23 The programme of community venue face to face opportunities has been supplemented by attendance at other community venues in the town.
- 24 Urban Foresight will also be holding consultation events at the local schools to demonstrate how pupils' opinions have been taken into consideration.
- 25 Additional information gathered or commissioned through the early stages of the programme is being used in support of the consultation responses. A series of car park surveys have been undertaken to assess car park usage across the town which took place 9th -11th July. This has provided information potential areas for interventions, and if issues regarding car parking that were highlighted in the public consultation are an issue.
- 26 Town Centre survey – annual vacancy assessment has been provided.
- 27 Retail and Leisure Gaps and Capacity Study has been provided which compares against national statistics. This has provided potential areas for interventions, and identified issues regarding vacant buildings that were highlighted in the public consultation as an issue.
- 28 Asset Mapping of DCC Land and Buildings has been undertaken, including Industrial and Commercial Land.

Next Steps and Ongoing Activity

- 29 Further background data is currently being collected to support the investment plan. This includes:
- 30 Asset & investment mapping of Partners Town Council, Livin– identifying public assets and known planned investments to support the vision submission.
- 31 Aligned/proposed investment – details of recent and proposed expenditure across the area which supports Programme priorities is being developed and will continue until submission date confirmed.
- 32 Continued face to face public consultation events at various community centres.
- 33 Press releases, media coverage and social media communication have been used to inform the public of the current position of the submissions. This informs of the delay in submission but also be used to focus on the high level of work provided by working groups, other officers and town board members.

- 34 The next scheduled Spennymoor Town Board meeting is Thursday 5th December 3-5pm at Livin offices. Subject to government announcement confirming timescales / next steps for the programme, a further special Board meeting may be required in the intervening period.

Recommendation(s)

- 35 Board is recommended to:

- a) Note the continued progress with consultation and consultation feedback events to underpin the LTPT programme submission.
- b) Agree to hold a special Board meeting once programme timescales are confirmed.

Author(s)

Graham Wood, Economic Development Manager

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None associated with this report.

Finance

Government have confirmed the ability of local areas to carry forward unspent allocations in line with their Investment Plans.

An initial £50,000 Capacity funding allocation was received in 2023/4 with a further £200,000 released in April, linked to commencing Board meetings and confirming initial governance requirements are in place. It is understood Spennymoor was one of the first Town Boards to pass the governance checks and receive this further funding.

Consultation

The LTPT programme has co design and extensive consultation at its core. Co-design programme being delivered by sector specialists with feedback sessions commencing in July and continuing into August with schools to be visited in the new academic year

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

As a publicly funded programme activities in developing and delivering this programme are required to support the public Sector Equality Duties

Climate Change

None associated with this report.

Human Rights

None associated with this report.

Crime and Disorder

None associated with this report. Safety and Security are a core theme for the programme and the subsequent investment plan.

Risk

None associated with this report.

Procurement

Specialist Co-design capacity has been procured following the Council's established procurement methodology.

Appendix 2: Spennymoor Youth Working Group

Michael Fishwick – Spennymoor Youth and Community Association

Claire Bissett - Holiday Activities with Healthy Food Development • Children & Young Peoples Services

Cllr Liz Maddison – County Councillor

Cllr Billy McAloon – County Councillor

Cllr Pete Molloy – County Councillor

Catharine Harwood - Participation and Engagement Officer
Children & Young Peoples Services

Andy Coulthard – Community Regeneration Manager - Livin

Julie O'Connor - Livin

Ian Morris - Spennymoor Town Clerk

Jeanne Trotter - Police and Crime commissioners office

Katherine Ward – Senior Safer places officer

Julie Anson – Community Economic Development manager

Karl Monaghan – Project Manager - Community Economic Development