

Cabinet

14 December 2011



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. 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.

Countywide AAP event

3. An inaugural Countywide AAP meeting was held on Wednesday 2 November in Spennymoor. This meeting was arranged to follow up on one of the recommendations of the recently completed review of AAPs for an annual event of this nature and for an opportunity to share best practice amongst AAPs.
4. Each AAP was given an opportunity to showcase some of their best initiatives and this was presented by the Principal AAP co-ordinator for the particular cluster. Not only was the event an opportunity to learn what others are progressing across the County, it allowed Cllr Simon Henig the opportunity to update on the latest position with regard to the Council's budget. This was followed by a question and answer session from the floor.
5. The general feedback on the event, because of the positive way in which all those attending willingly took part in the debates, has been extremely positive and some constructive comments were received from the 105 attendees which will shape the future format for events of this nature.
6. As highlighted by Councillor Simon Henig, given the scale of the willingness within all 14 partnerships, the Council is keen to continue with further annual meetings to improve learning between the AAPs. A letter will be sent to all

attendees asking for any suggestions for the second annual conference to help plan for the next agenda. The AAP team look forward to building on this first Conference and coming back with something bigger and better to engage people next year.

AAP Forums

7. The Autumn/Winter AAP Forums have all now taken place. An update was given to all Forum members on progression against the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) following on from the detailed consultation informed by the AAPs last year. Further issues have emerged since the consultation which means the Council needs to find additional savings in 2012/13. Information gathered from last year's consultation will continue to help inform this work.
8. Forum members also received a presentation on the Grant Aid element of the Community Buildings consultation. Forum members were asked to give their views on the proposed changes to the criteria for allocation of the funding as well as how this is distributed, and by whom. The information gathered from all AAPs will feed into the wider consultation and presented to Cabinet as part of the Community Buildings report in early 2012.

County Durham Partnership Forum and key developments

9. The autumn meeting of the CDP Forum took place on Tuesday 15 November in Chester le Street. Updates were given to Forum members on the recent AAP Review and CDP Board Away Day. Both of these reviews have highlighted that partnership working is strong across the county, however it could be further strengthened between the thematic partnerships and the AAPs. This information led to the agenda of the CDP Forum showcasing the achievements of the Mid Durham and Spennymoor AAPs with presentations from the Chairs. These were followed by a workshop discussion on how AAPs can use this information in their own areas and how they can communicate the plans and projects from the thematic partnerships to the people involved in the AAPs.
10. The second workshop had a health focus with Anna Lynch, Director of Public Health, giving a presentation on the Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post 2010, carried out by Sir Michael Marmot. This review has huge implications for partners and communities going forward. The focus of the workshop was on how AAPs and Health Networks that operate across the County can work closer together in the future as well as how the findings of the Marmot Review can be taking forward jointly.
11. Feedback following the Forum was very positive from all participants who found the presentations from AAPs very interesting and informative. They also appreciated the opportunity to link with the Chairs of the five Health Networks to look at more collaborative working in the future.

PartnershipLive

12. PartnershipLive was officially launched at the Forum. This is a web based tool, hosted by the CDP website, which allows all partners to share information on key projects, events and initiatives taking place across the

County. This information can be shown by AAP area and/or Altogether theme.

13. The main purpose of PartnershipLive is to allow everyone involved in the County Durham Partnership to communicate with each other through one central portal. The information picked up by partners can then be disseminated and cascaded through their own networks. The information submitted via PartnershipLive can be seen by the public if the person submitting it chooses it to be, alternatively, only people registered on the site can view it.

Altogether wealthier

14. The County Durham Apprenticeship Programme was launched on Friday 4th November 2011 and signals the start of an initiative which will encourage small and medium sized business to take on young unemployed people across the county, for a minimum of two years.
15. The initiative is funded by Durham County Council and the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) and will predominantly focus on creating up to 130 opportunities within enterprises employing less than 50 staff. However, an element of the scheme will also target opportunities within social enterprises or the community voluntary sector. (This element of the programme includes funding from the CRT). Tackling employability, deprivation and regenerating our communities, alongside wealth generation is a high priority for the County. A fundamental component of achieving our ambitions of sustainable places where people want to live, work, invest and visit, is enabling our young unemployed residents to become competitive, job ready and successful.
16. An analysis of the AAPs priorities for the current year indicates that 10 of the partnerships have identified job creation, training or young people as a priority. In order to target these priorities, a number of AAP groups have suggested the creation of 'apprentice bursaries' or 'wage subsidy' type arrangements to support the creation of jobs within local firms and organisations. As part of this 'countywide apprenticeship' programme, at least three of the AAPs have agreed to provide a contribution of funding to complement the overall apprenticeship budget and so provide a uniformed approach to this targeted employment scheme. To date, a total of £60,000 has been agreed.

Altogether better for children and young people

17. The development of the new Children, Young People and Families Plan 2012-2015 is well underway. During September and October a number of workshops were held with partners to identify the key actions that need to be undertaken and how the plan ensures key linkages are made with other thematic groups in the County Durham Partnership. Young people have been central in shaping the content and design of the plan through dialogue and engagement. A first draft of the plan will be available for consultation in December 2011.
18. Integrated teams through the 'One point' Service have been fully operational within County Durham since September 2011. The 'One Point Service' has achieved the following:

- a. A joint NHS/Local Authority staffing structure now in place under a single line management arrangement affecting 1200 staff;
 - b. Completed estates programme delivering 10 new or refurbished buildings and making more efficient use of a further 20 existing buildings;
 - c. Operational procedures developed and implemented;
 - d. Performance Management Framework developed and in place (see above);
 - e. Partnership agreement developed, agreed and implemented;
 - f. Single IT solution for NHS and LA staff introduced.
19. In addition, the development of relationships with schools and GPs has been prioritised and a draft compact has been developed for engagement with schools and GPs. A full training and cultural programme has been developed and will be rolled out to all staff within the service over the next few months.

Altogether healthier

20. The **Health and Wellbeing Partnership** has carried out a partnership assessment through which the Partnership has considered its achievements and areas for development in the context of the changing landscape for partnership working on health and wellbeing. The partnership recognised its achievements in producing two robust evidence based delivery plans for which 78% of objectives are reported as being on target or making solid progress. Changes in the context for its work included, in the legislative context of Healthy People Healthy Lives: the transition of Public Health to the Local Authority and the establishment and role of Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health and Wellbeing Strategies. Further recent developments include: the Marmot Review recommendations 2010, the Public Health Outcomes Framework and the further development of Health Networks.
21. A report of the Health Networks development session 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. It was agreed that the development of Health Networks will be further supported through a development plan which is currently being finalised.

Altogether safer

22. The **Safe Durham Partnership** is currently undertaking the annual strategic assessment to inform the refresh of the Partnership Plan 2011-14. The Safe Durham Partnership has agreed to deliver against the priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy which run until March 2012. The improvement areas contained within the Partnership Plan 2011-14 will also remain for 2012/13 as work around the new areas of Organised Crime, High Impact Households and Localities has just started to embed. Alcohol and Anti-Social Behaviour continue to be causes of concern in communities.
23. The Strategic Assessment highlights those risks and threats that are emerging in communities across the County and aligns with the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. It has concluded that there are no new emerging risks or threats outside of the current priorities though metal theft has emerged as a growing concern and will be dealt with under the existing 'Reducing Serious Crime' priority. The public and stakeholders will be

consulted on the Safer Community priorities to ensure the Safe Durham Partnership continues to tackle those issues of most concern to them. Consultation on priorities with the public and stakeholders will run from 14th November to 1st December.

24. Work is ongoing in the 12 High Impact Localities (HILs) across County Durham, focussing on both strategic interventions and locality delivery. For example:
- a. All offenders sentenced to 12 months or less and returning to a HIL area are now automatically considered for the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Scheme.
 - b. Work is progressing to deliver 'The Word' event when over 1,200 children and young people, from schools across the 12 HIL areas, will see a theatre production which effectively engages with this age group to help them understand the harm that ASB can have on individuals and communities. The event will take place at the Gala Theatre on 26-27 January 2012.
 - c. The Countywide initiative to modernise the Neighbourhood Watch has resulted in the creation of the Easington Area Neighbourhood Watch Association which has submitted a £25k bid for Shotton Colliery based on the areas HIL problem profile. In the short term NHW Coordinators have referred 40 vulnerable and elderly residents of the HIL for dusk-till-dawn lighting as part of its drive to help those who suffer from ASB feel safer in the home, are setting up cold calling awareness zones and planning community payback schemes. Every HIL is showing increases in the number of schemes covered by NHW. The Association will continue to pursue funded projects in the other HIL areas it covers.
 - d. The Easington Safer Neighbourhood Unit have facilitated the creation of the ASDA Safe Stores Partnership in Peterlee Town HIL which was put in place to address issues of crime and anti social behaviour linked to the store. So far it has seen a 33% reduction in ASB and a 59% reduction in theft. The award winning Youth/Intergenerational Café in the Hordon HIL continues to attract additional funding and began running sessions on a Monday evening on 1st August 2011.
 - e. The South Durham Safer Neighbourhood Unit has developed a multi-agency project designed to initially focus on void properties and environmental issues in Coundon Grange HIL. The Unit was successful in its bid for over £17,000 from the Shildon and Bishop Auckland AAP which is match funded by Durham County Council, the Private Landlords Association and Housing Associations. Initial work will ensure properties are properly alarmed and benefit from polycarbonate windows and doors. Further planning meetings and walk-about sessions have taken place ahead of the start of the project. AAP funding has also been secured from the AAP for outreach workers in the Bishop Auckland HIL – each targeting specific hotspots.

25. The Community Alcohol Partnership pilot in Stanley has provided some significant results. Between 1st July 2011 and 30th September 2011 there have been 373 alcohol seizures across County Durham, which has resulted in 324 referrals to the 4Real young persons drug and alcohol service for County Durham. 47% of all seizures took place in Stanley. The Pilot clearly had an impact on seizures in Stanley where a more proactive approach was taken. The impact of this is that children and young people in Stanley have had greater opportunity to benefit from a 4Real referral.

Altogether greener

26. The Built Group of the **Environment Partnership** continued positive development of the Sustainable Design SPD and have delivered Member training provided in collaboration between English Heritage and DCC covering 'The Role of English Heritage in the Planning System' and 'Design and Historic Environment in County Durham'. A total of 28 members attended. Officer training has also been agreed to be delivered at three levels, beginners/intermediate/ expert. Discussions have also taken place with housing in relation to housing improvement schemes and the expert involvement of the Group and with Economic Development in relation to large scale Physical Development and Place Shaping as part of the public realm scheme reviews.
27. The Heritage open days held between 8-11th September opened up 48 sites and buildings registered with English Heritage and DCC with 4,869 people attending. There were 13 new sites available this year, of which 50% of locations were outside Durham City compared to last years 46% of total outside Durham City.
28. The Climate Change group have focussed on revising the Climate Change Strategy which will involve driving forward a key communications campaign. Work on the Solar PV Project is progressing at speed. Installations have been completed on two buildings and two others are about to start. Progress on the second round of approximately 39 other buildings continues.
29. A Carbon Offset mechanism has been developed which will allow developers who cannot meet their 10% renewables obligation to pay into the offset fund
30. Discussions have also taken place with the Health and Wellbeing Partnership around identifying common actions, particularly in respect of Warm Homes and a Resilient Roads Project is under development to map road infrastructure that is at risk under extreme climate events especially in relation to delivery of essential services.
31. The Pride Group have continued to raise the profile of the national "Love Where You Live" campaign, arranging a programme of activity to tie in with their national media push; this included working with schools on a range of new initiatives to engage young people in looking after their neighbourhoods. Collaboration with the Safe Durham Partnership in East Durham led to a pilot of taking young people to a mock up site at Gateshead to allow young people to think carefully about the impact of their actions on the Environment.

32. The waste group now have a new Chair from the Environment Agency who is looking to revitalise the work of the group to address business waste and drive innovation in dealing with illegal waste.
33. The work of the Natural group has mainly focussed on the impact of the White Paper and the development of Local Nature Partnerships; a workshop of key organisations has been arranged in order to determine a new vision and focus of the regional agenda on the natural environment.

Area Action Partnerships Update

34. A selection of the ongoing work that of the AAPs that meets the existing priorities is detailed in the following paragraphs.
35. Recent activity in the **4Together Partnership** has been very focused on winding up the Area Budget projects and the work of the Task and Finish groups. Seven projects, two of which were supported by the Neighbourhood budgets of elected members, have been chosen to be progressed by the partnership to address the needs of its current priorities.
36. £10,000 has yet to be allocated for the Environment and Regeneration priority and the Partnership's task and finish groups have been asked to consider further projects for funding. The projects that have been agreed are Story Tellers which is a series of community based arts and crafts which will culminate in the making of portable structures that can be used in the story telling processes. The project will run across the 4Together AAP areas and will include participation from over 60 0-13 year olds and their parent/carers.
37. Arts Enabled is a 1:1 drama and dance class with 24 SEN young people per session, with professional coaches who will encourage children and young people who have a wide range of learning difficulties to improve their social interaction, self worth, co-ordination and confidence.
38. The Shop Front Grants Scheme is a one off grant scheme to improve the appearance to the fabrication of buildings to a key site in the centre of Ferryhill. The project aims to add to the sustainability of the town centre as a service and shopping centre, improve the appearance of the town centre, and assist the increased security to the buildings.
39. Mainsforth Community Centre is a unique building valued and adored by people for its outstanding internal workmanship and dedicated in honour to all the miners including those who lost their lives. In the heart of the village built by a local master builder, funded by the Mainsforth miners and gifted to the local community. The project will restore an area of the building that will be then functional, and includes joint work with local artists and ex miners to ensure that the mining history of Mainsforth is never forgotten.
40. A project is being developed to increase the number of apprenticeships in the 4Together area by incentivising local small businesses to create additional opportunities that otherwise would not have existed. The project will address training and skills, building access to training and employment opportunities for up to 14 people from the area. The delivery of a training and work experience scheme to provide target individuals with a placement in a

business environment to full prepare them for the world of work. The project will focus on personal development and support the compiling of CVs, job search techniques, and mentoring advice.

41. The Big Lottery project in the **Bishop Auckland and Shildon (BASH) AAP** is progressing well. Big Lottery were managing the initiative through phase one which was designed to: inform the local community, support the local community to be actively involved in the research, design and development of the project. Five successful events and supporting publicity conduits were managed to promote and share information.
42. It is now into phase two, Big Local – Getting People Involved, this phase is being managed by The Community Development Foundation (CDF) whilst a consortium organisation is being set up. Working in partnership with the community the AAP is looking towards establishing the partnership board, profiling the areas of need, and building capacity within communities to develop a community plan which will be the vehicle to manage the spend over the duration of the fund.
43. Working with the local schools, police, youth providers and local children to identify what young people wanted to do, one of the suggestions from the young people was to set up a Scout Group in Leeholme and Coundon. The AAP team added benefit to the work of the locally elected members by supporting the development of the group and the parent volunteers. The investitures of the new Cub Scouts and their Leaders have recently taken place.
44. It has been previously reported to Cabinet that BASH was through to round two of the Changing Spaces Community Spaces. The AAP has recently found out that it has been successful, which is down to the hard work of the school children of Escomb School, the community association and the Outdoor play team. Including the Playbuilder two programme monies, the community of Escomb will enjoy a £100,000 play area. This project will help towards the long term sustainability of the community association, and more importantly the children will have a safe place to play and be active.
45. Working with local schools, the North East Japanese Women's Association and utilising a steam locomotive, an unusual project took to the tracks of the impressive Weardale Railway by allowing children to exchange stories about their cultural heritage and create some friendships for the future. Over 74 young people prepared for this exchange programme and carried out a selection of imaginative assignments, including researching into Japan's heritage, writing poetry, producing colourful art work, and trying their hand at some origami.
46. **Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP)** has been working hard over the last couple of months to ensure that the Area Budget for 2011/12 is allocated to projects covering TAP's three priorities, Children and Young People, Job Prospects and Tourism. Twelve proposals were agreed by the TAP Board at their meeting in October which are now being work up into full projects.
47. Projects approved under the Children and Young People's priority include Staindrop and Cockfield Youth Work Partnership and Gaunless Valley Youth.

Projects approved under the Job Prospects priority were a Rural Employability project and Local Business Network.

48. Projects approved under the Tourism priority include Barnard Castle Tourist Information which is support for local volunteers to take on elements of tourist information support; Middleton in Teesdale Tourist Information which is support for local volunteers to take on elements of tourist information support; Barnard Castle Meet which offers support to a volunteer led annual event and Dickens in Teesdale which will support a number of events to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens birth and his time in Teesdale.
49. TAP have also been instrumental in bringing together local people and partners to discuss the impact of Arriva's proposed cuts to local bus services. Two public meetings were held with over 200 local people attending and a working group has been established to work with partners on potential solutions and alternative provision.
50. Current projects continue to deliver positive outcomes for the people of Teesdale. The Sustainable Sports project in Cockfield and Evenwood has led to the formation of an under 11s football team in Evenwood for the first time in many years, a team who are currently (as of November) top of the league. The Children and Young People's Grants fund has allocated over £13,000 of funding to 18 local groups with all decisions on funding being made by a panel of young people. The refurbished toilets in Barnard Castle Market place have opened to the public with TAP contributing over £60,000 to the work.
51. The **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP)** Board has just agreed to fund their biggest project to date for an Employability Skills Fund project for local people to access. The aim of the project is to have two funds designated to supporting any unemployed person over the age of 16 in the GAMP area. These two funds are: an 'Employability Skills Fund' aimed at responding to specific training needs and a 'Discretionary Fund' aimed at removing barriers that prevent clients from accessing training.
52. The type of training that could be funded would be specialist and linked to employment opportunities: for example: Fork Lift Truck Training; Specialist Gas Training; Tiling, Plumbing and Plastering; Hazardous and Off Shore Training and HGV Training. In addition, a number of barriers to accessing training will be removed by providing 'Discretionary Funding', for example, childcare, travel and equipment.
53. The project has been funded via GAMP Area Budget allocation (£30k) and additional funding from all of the Aycliffe Councillors who have agreed to fund this exciting project. Further funding has also come from a range of partners: Bishop Auckland College, Sedgefield Borough Homes (Livin), South Durham Enterprise Agency and MEARS. The total cost of the initiative is £147,910. The project is being led by the Learning & Skills Coordinator, based at Bishop Auckland College, and was launched on November 1st.
54. The Youth Workers project in the **East Durham Rural Corridor** aims to train six local people from across the AAP to Level three Youth Work status through the YMCA course that will enable them to deliver youth work across the whole AAP area. It is difficult to recruit youth workers in this rural area as

it involves people travelling for sessional work that is not financially viable. This project will offer 'grow your own' workers who would have a commitment to the place they live and as they live locally and will be an asset to the area.

55. These trainee staff will then be employed as Workers in Training throughout the length of the course and deliver the targeted youth work that is required to build relationships with the young people in the AAP area and support and encourage them to engage in positive activities that are available across the area. These workers will liaise with the police and AAP to identify hotspot areas and will go into those areas for approximately ten weeks (negotiable) to work with the young people who have been identified.
56. The aim of the Apprenticeship project is to increase the number of apprenticeships in the area by incentivising small businesses to create additional opportunities that otherwise would not have existed. By concentrating on apprenticeships this project will address both the Training and Skills Building and Access to Employment opportunities priorities that were identified by the Job Prospects Task & Finish Group. This will be achieved by working with SMEs with less than 50 staff (possibly even fewer staff) to create 14 new apprenticeship opportunities in the East Durham Rural Corridor AAP area.
57. The project will work with local firms from the AAP area from any sector although every effort will be made to work with firms identified as being part of future growth sectors where possible. The apprenticeship programme will offer a wage subsidy of £2,500 and supervision costs of up to £350 to SMEs to create apprenticeship opportunities that last 24 months with the wage subsidy being paid in months 1-3 and months 15-18 to improve job sustainability. The project will focus on unemployed 18-24 year olds who are residents of the AAP area.
58. The **Mid Durham AAP** has now produced a summary report following its engagement with children and young people over the summer which will act as a point of reference for the 'activities for children and young people' and 'support for older people' task groups as well as feeding into the 'road safety' education and marketing project. Work is already underway to engage more young people at a task group and project development level with further links being explored with local youth groups and schools. Local Parish Councils have also been approached to combine efforts with regard to young people's engagement.
59. Board, forum members and partners are currently working on a number of projects that will help address issues identified by the forum regarding the AAPs newest priority theme – support for older people. Feedback from various older people's focus groups managed by Age UK County Durham will provide more detail needed by the task and finish group who are currently examining the potential to develop a form of befriending service, along with intergenerational work and the promotion of relevant service information.
60. The railway path master plan for Mid Durham is complete and a number of village exhibitions are being planned. The plan highlights a number of potential actions for various stretches on the three railway paths after over 600 residents, groups, services and local businesses provided feedback on

what they thought would improve the paths usage. Each stretch will seek to engage relevant and interested parties to take forward and implement some of the proposals. Residents who highlighted an interest in getting involved in delivering and maintaining some of these proposals will be contacted soon. The project is being led by Durham County Council's Countryside Team.

61. On 20th October the **Chester-le-Street & District AAP** held their third annual young people focused 'Have Your Say Event'. This year saw the most engagement with 17 schools (13 primary schools and all four local secondary schools) participating in the event. Over 340 young people attended in total. The event was facilitated and led by young people. The AAP used an engagement tool called the 'Washing Line Game' where, through a facilitated roundtable discussion, we asked what young people felt was 'Pants' in their area (things they weren't happy with), what was 'Tops' (good, need to maintain) and finally what needed to be changed; 'Socks'. This also included them outlining how things should be changed by developing project solutions and what involvement they may want in this.
62. The results were that the main issues prevalent within the younger primary school age range 7-11 was environmental issues such as litter, graffiti and dog waste as well as feeling safe in their community. The secondary school age range 11-17 outlined a lack of respect for young people as the key issue followed by concerns over health related to both young people and adults who have smoking and alcohol issues. Full results are currently being written up and they will be made available to the County Durham Partnership so that our service partners can use them in their work programme where appropriate. It is hoped that this exercise and the projects that stem from it will help support the AAP retain their Investing in Children Membership for the coming year. The event was supported by staff from CYPS - Positive Activities for Young People and the Clean and Green Team (Education and Enforcement).
63. A new fund aimed specifically at young people has been launched by the AAP. The fund of £10,000 is for young people to apply for activities to be carried out and organised by young people. The criteria for applying is very young person led and the fund is open to youth clubs, after school groups and local residents group who work with young people, and application forms can be accessed via the Chester-le-Street and District AAP website page. The project will be delivered by the local Extended Services Coordinator for the Chester-le-Street area.
64. A new fund aimed specifically at health and emotional wellbeing, and in particular looking at older people and reducing social isolation, has also been launched. The fund is now available, and will be administered by Chester-le-Street & District Council for Voluntary Service and Volunteer Bureau. Small grants of up to £500 and larger grants of up to £1,500 will be available for voluntary and community groups to apply for. This project has been developed in partnership with the Chester-le-Street and Durham Health Network and additional match funding has been attracted to the pot from the County Durham Community Foundation.
65. Following the success of **Stanley AAP's** 'It's Up 2 U' Participatory Budgeting (PB) Event held in June 2011, the Stanley AAP Board are proposing to hold another PB Event in 2012. Discussions have now started to take place

between the AAP and Stanley Town Council via a PB Steering Group with representatives present from both organisations. It is hoped that Stanley Town Council will become an equal partner in the PB Event for 2012.

66. At the Stanley AAP Board Meeting held in October 2011 a number of successful 'It's Up 2 U' 2011 applicants attended to update the Board about their project's progress, with others providing written update reports. Updates received included Single Homeless Action In Derwentside (SHAID) Beamish & East Stanley Sports Club, Shield Row Allotment Society and Annfield Plain Cricket Club.
67. At the October Board Meeting the Board agreed to support a Lumiere Community Engagement Project in Stanley via their Area Budget. The project delivered workshops that linked directly into the Lumiere Festival in November 2011. One workshop enabled young people to create lanterns that were carried by them in The River of Light lantern parade which was a river-themed, community lantern parade that took place through the centre of Durham City to launch this year's Lumiere Festival.
68. The second workshop is a Lightwriting workshop where local young people and community groups were able to work with writer Ira Lightman to produce stories or a story that were used in an original installation named Lightwriting by artist Richard Wolfstrome that was presented in Durham's Millennium Place during the Festival. The installation was cube shaped and displayed the stories written in short bursts of colourful text.
69. The November 2011 Stanley AAP Board Meeting also saw the Board give support to a 'Weeks in Action' project via their Area Budget for 2011/12. The 'Weeks in Action' will be delivered in the High Impact Locality areas of Stanley; New Kyo, Havanah and South Moor
70. The aim of the 'Week in Action' is to bring together all sectors of the community to deliver a high quality and cost effective campaign to improve the local environment, promote community cohesion and ensure a cleaner, safer and greener local neighbourhood.
71. The **Derwent Valley Partnership**, as one of 3 PB pilots, held its community voting event for the Derwent Valley 'It's Up 2 U' scheme, on Saturday 5th November 2011. The event was well attended with 584 local people coming along to vote for their favourite projects. 26 local community groups and organisations attended the event to showcase their work and were commended for their creativity in producing their information displays. Further to the public vote, nine projects were successful in receiving a share of the £20,700 made available by the Partnership. Due to the excellent attendance at the event, the Partnership signed up a further 147 local people to its Forum and has since been approached by a number of groups requesting that a similar community event be held in the future.
72. The Derwent Valley Partnership has recently pledged its support for the development of an activity programme for Consett Town Centre which will aim to revitalise Consett and promote it as a market town. The Partnership will be contributing £10,000 towards the activity programme which will include the development of themed markets and the provision of seasonal activities such

as an ice rink, beach and environmental events. Our funding contribution could result in the development of a local programme worth £100,000.

73. The AAP is helping to set up local Enterprise Clubs in the area which will offer advice and support to those people wanting to set up in business. The project will also offer a small start up grant for businesses who are struggling to get off the ground, for the purchase of equipment and materials. The Partnership will be working with the Derwentside Enterprise Agency to develop the Clubs and will also be financially contributing to the County Durham Apprenticeship Programme to create 14 apprenticeship opportunities in the area.
74. 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. Sports coaches and youth workers would work in partnership to deliver a ten week outreach programme thus enabling the maximum offer to young people during the summer.
75. The project worked with 452 young people aged 13-19 in four localities across East Durham that were identified as 'areas of need' (where there was a balance between the need and gaps in provision alongside the opportunities to link young people into ongoing physical activity at the end of the project) and where youth work provision already existed, PAYP were able to offer the youth worker time 'in kind'. The four areas identified for delivery are Peterlee, Blackhall, Wheatley Hill and Easington Colliery.
76. In each area a team of four staff included a youth worker, lead coach, trainee youth worker and volunteer coach (provided by the East Durham Trust Mentorship Programme). At the end of the ten week programme, a celebration event took place within an indoor venue in each area. The aim of this event was to give young people the opportunity to take part in some of the activities they had requested throughout the previous weeks, such as boxing, table tennis and dance. Where possible, these activities were delivered by local providers to try and ensure the young people could be signposted to their local club if they wanted to continue to participate outside of youth club.
77. Another key aim of the project was for Youth Workers to be skilled up and resourced through this programme to enable them to continue to provide sports activities once the programme had been completed and link young people into existing provision. To further support continued participation the funding allowed a bag of sports equipment to be purchased for each of the identified areas including things such as kwik cricket, rounders, basketball football, athletics, rugby and tennis. On completion of the project this equipment remains with the youth worker to be used at youth club.
78. The lessons learnt from this project will inform similar project across the County. All those involved felt that the project has been successful, attracting 452 young people including those who would not previously engaged with PAYP or Sports Development.
79. The **Three Towns Partnership** aim to give young people from local communities in the Three Towns area, a greater say in how public funds are allocated, encouraging young people's involvement in decision making, within Parkside School and the AAP, and to publicise the AAP to young people. The

sum of £3,000 has been allocated to the school for a Participatory Budgeting exercise. Pupils within the school will be invited to put forward project proposals which meet one or more of the AAPs priorities and compete for a share of the £3000. The whole school will vote to decide on which projects will receive the funding.

80. The Three Towns team were involved in the first Inspire day of the new school term in September, working with 125 year 11 pupils during five workshops. The priorities of the AAP were introduced and groups worked up project ideas using starbursting techniques based on their issues for their group's given priority. The exercise will be repeated in tutor groups throughout the whole school in December, with several of the year 11 volunteering to help out with this. Each tutor group will then chose their project to go forward to be considered by Student Voice. They will then look at the projects in more detail before choosing five to go forward to the final all school vote. Each pupil at the school will then be given the opportunity to vote as to which projects receive funding from the £3,000 allocated.
81. A new gym run by committed volunteers opened in Tow Law on the 1st of November. Treks gym received funding from the Three Towns AAP to open up the interior of the current adult gym to create a junior gym inside the building. The gym received funding through Neighbourhood Budget funding to purchase special equipment for the Junior Gym and is working in partnership with local primary schools who do not have this kind of equipment available to them. The overall aim is to increase the number of children and young people involved in physical activity in the area improving health and wellbeing.
82. The charity operating the Spectrum Leisure Centre has opened the new BMX track, built on the foundation of the ski slope. The thrill-seeker's course is in keeping with its roots as a place for visitors to enjoy extreme sport. The track is already proving popular with local residents of all ages who have been enjoying the track day and night. A recent addition to the Olympics, BMX riding is a growing sport which we hope will encourage young people to drop the games consoles, get fit and inspire them to become future champions. As the track at Spectrum is of regional standard with possibilities to hold national competitions this could be an achievable ambition. The design and build of the track was partly funded through Three Towns Elected members Neighbourhood Budgets in 2010. The project has also recently received Area Budget support from the Three Towns for fencing and signage, essential to keep riders safe now due to phenominal usage and also to deter them from using the track at night aswell as to protect the track from damage which could be caused by mini motos or motorbikes.
83. Following a successful promotion and recruitment campaign over the summer months the Weardale Action Partnership has increased its forum membership to over 500 people. Given the small population of the rural area this represents approximately 5% of the population and 10% of all AAP forum members across the County.
84. The **Weardale Action Partnership (WAP)** Board has committed all of its Area Budget allocation for 2011/12 on a total of 11 projects. These projects include a joint project with Three Towns and Teesdale AAPs to continue the

very successful Rural Employability Project which has already directly supported 20 people into employment in Weardale.

85. The Weardale Action Partnership is also making very positive attempts to engage Young People and their Families and the Board has recently committed £15,934 Area Budget into a Young People and Family Participation Project.
86. The overall aim of this project is to support the WAP in the engagement process with children, young people and their families (CYPF) through a range of diverse but clearly-linked processes. This will enable the WAP to reach new Forum members and also to develop ways of enabling the younger generations to participate in the AAP agenda. The engagement of CYPF will help address the identified generational gaps within the more formal processes.
87. The nature of such a project will address each of the existing AAP priorities whilst also identifying new priorities to be considered by the board and forum members in the future. The project will be delivered by 2D and will give the partnership the equivalent of two days a week of staff time to carry out the work.
88. It will therefore be of benefit to the whole of the WAP area with a particular benefit to the children, young people and parents who are not currently engaged in this process. It is anticipated that the 2D will engage with all primary and secondary schools covered by the Weardale AAP Area.
89. **Durham AAP** is supporting research into the habits of group travellers to the city and has given its support and money to the Police led initiative to make Durham City the safest in the country.
90. The Armed Forces are showing interest in the Wharton Park proposals in terms of providing potential work experience for engineers. The Housing group has now encompassed a broad spectrum of stakeholders and a much greater understanding of the housing needs of the city is coming to the fore, especially the interaction between the needs of students and residents in developing sustainable communities with which the AAP is cooperating with the MPs office on.
91. The joint venture between the Activities for Young People and Supporting the VCS sub groups in promoting a mobile cinema is making returns far greater than initially anticipated. The City Centre sub group is supporting Visit County Durham in researching the needs of group travellers to the city, a cohort whose habits have been previously overlooked whilst the Business Improvement District continues to near its potential with a vote set for around Easter 2012.
92. Finally the VCS group in conjunction with the CVS and Durham Markets Co. ran a successful event in the market place in support of 'make a difference week'. The groups and organisations were able to display to busy shoppers what the sector has to offer.

93. The **Spennymoor** Horticultural Show took place on September 3rd 2011, with town centre shops and retailers were offered the opportunity to have market stalls to promote their businesses and sell produce on the day. The local shops/businesses which held stalls on the day included local butchers, greengrocers and bakers. A grant of £65 was given to help support shops with bringing their stalls to the park and all of the businesses have indicated they did very well and would be really interested in future events.
94. The main show marquee was run by local a horticultural group who organised all the entrants. The produce at the event was of a very high standard and well supported. It was noted however that only a small amount of entries were received for the home produce section and this would need to be well advertised for future events. In total the prize money for all the categories totalled £1,021. The children's competitions had some really creative pieces and hopefully this will receive even more entrants in the future. There was also free entertainment for all the family including Birds of Prey displays, Face Painting, Craft Workshops, Fairground Rides and a Bouncy Slide.
95. The whole event was a great success and from the responses received it is hoped this event can be a regular attraction for the town. The public supported the event well and it is estimated there were over 500 in attendance.
96. The Spennymoor Art Gallery is continuing to be a great success with a high number of visitors each day. The new exhibition, 'Art in Spennymoor Today', opened on 27th August 2011 with a special evening opening which attracted over 150 visitors and ran until 29th October. All the administration and organisation is carried out by the volunteer curator. Recent promotional work has attracted more visitors to the Gallery which we hope subsequently had a positive knock on affect for the Town Centre. The Gallery also continues to be advertised through local newspapers and media. Future exhibitions have been organised and these are usually carried out on a three monthly basis.

Recommendations and reasons

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

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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