

COUNTY COUNCIL

22 JUNE 2016

QUESTIONS FROM AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIPS

QUESTION FROM CHESTER-LE-STREET AAP

Given the recent improvements at Wharton Park in Durham is there a plan to harness the learning from this major project and look at a series of improvements to other key destination parks such as Chester-le-Street Riverside Park?

Chester-le-Street and District AAP have been active in creating a 'Friends of the Riverside Park Group' who would be keen to help progress any external funding bids and also the initial success of the 'Splash Pad' opened in July 2015 has shown how valued the Park is as a regional asset.

What role can the AAP play in helping the Council move this agenda forward?

RESPONSE

Firstly may I take this opportunity to thank the Durham AAP for the financial support and indeed the inception of the Wharton Park project, without the partnership this project may never have been delivered.

Chester Le Street AAP will play an important role in supporting both the friends of Riverside Park and the Council in continuing to develop Riverside Park. The management of Riverside Park was recently aligned with Hardwick Park and the newly refurbished Wharton Park, this ensures that lessons learned from the management and development of one park can be shared with others.

Durham County Council Officers worked with the AAP in the setting up of the friends group, as the creation of such groups is vital in any funding bids. Our services will work with the friends of the park and the AAP to create a park development plan as well as a funding strategy to deliver the plan.

It is recognised that this will take time however, the Council will continue to invest in the park, with the recently installed Splash Pad and car park ticket machines being examples of this continued investment. Previously the installation of the skatepark was another great example of the Council working in partnership with the AAP to develop and create positive activity for young people in this area.

Partnership working is the key to success in developing parks and the Council will work with all AAP's, friends groups and other interested parties across the County to strengthen partnership working

QUESTION ONE FROM EAST DURHAM RURAL CORRIDOR AAP

The East Durham Rural Corridor was pleased to support the recent consultation on the Council's Youth Service Review. Whilst it is appreciated that the Council is still to take a decision on the outcome of the review, if it is agreed to go ahead with the recommendation to allocate funding for youth support via AAPs, will there be an opportunity for AAPs to help develop the criteria and procedures for this funding?

RESPONSE

The Council has published proposals for the future of youth support in County Durham. One of these proposals is that the Area Youth Support grant be distributed to Area Action Partnerships for the provision of activities to support young people.

The outcome of the consultation has not yet been considered by Cabinet and no decisions have yet been made, but the proposal as it stands would give AAPs the opportunity to decide how best to use the fund to meet the needs of young people in the AAP area.