

Participatory Budgeting in County Durham



Councillor Simon Henig

Leader of the Council

Gordon Elliott

Durham County Council

Altogether better



Outline

- Introduction to Durham County Council
- Our partnership approach
- Area Action Partnerships
- Area Action Partnerships and PB
- Linking PB and budget consultation
- Conclusion

Durham County Council

- Formed 2009
- We cover 223,260 hectares
- 219,000 households
- 518,000 residents
- Largest council in North East
- 6th largest council by population
- £1 billion organisation
- 18,800 employees

Altogether better

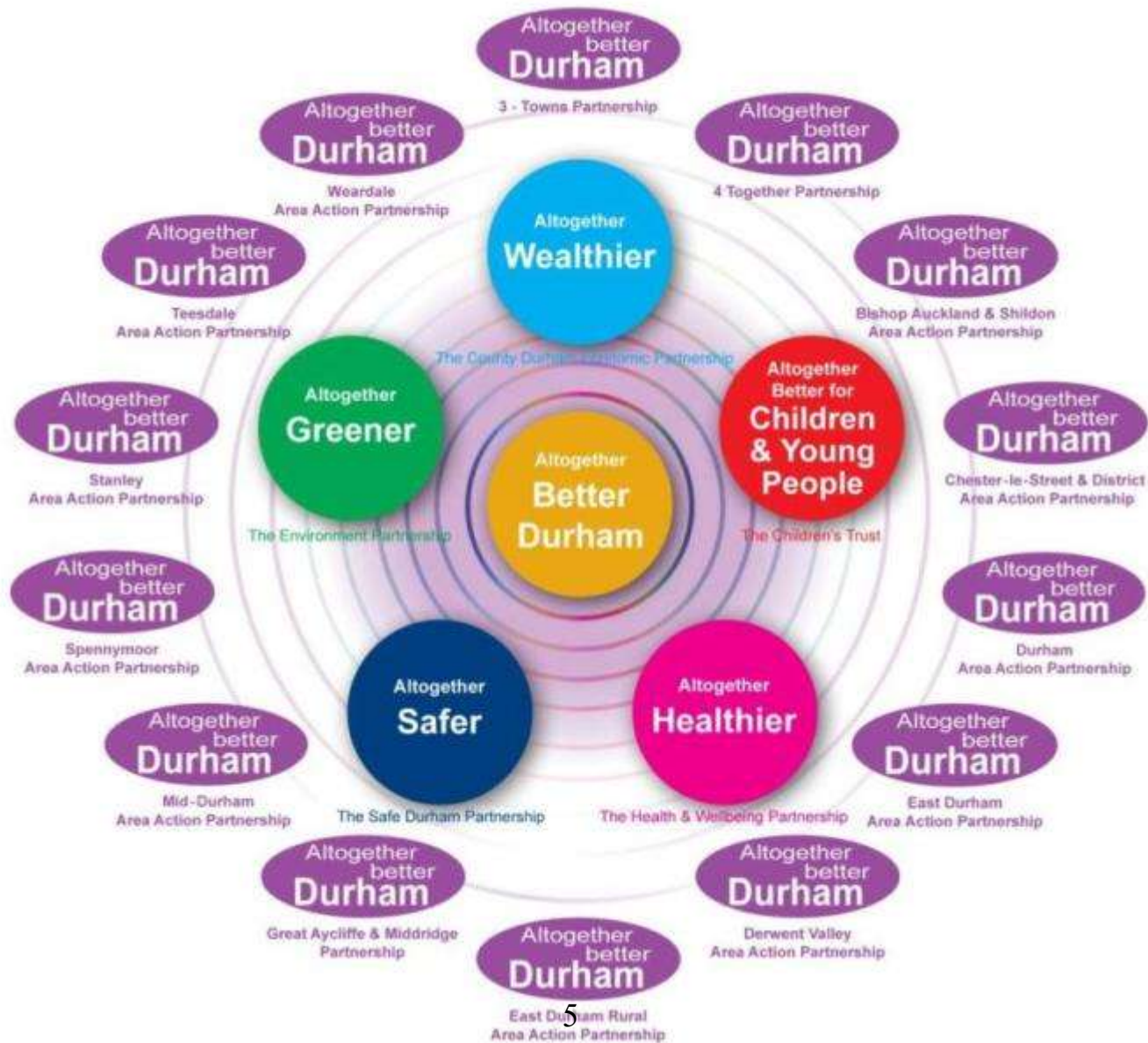


Our partnership approach

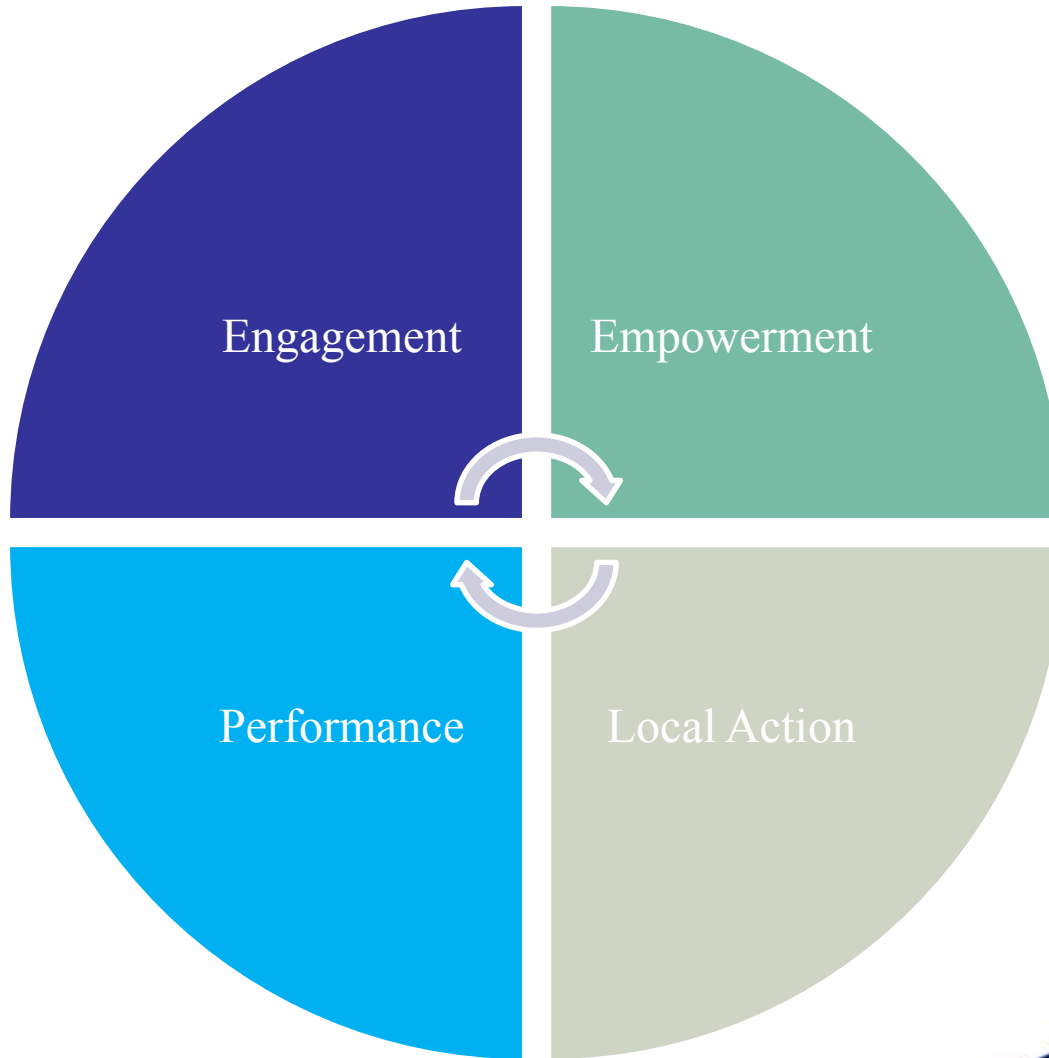
Five shared priorities agreed by partners:

- Altogether wealthier
- Altogether better for children and young people
- Altogether safer
- Altogether healthier
- Altogether greener

Altogether better

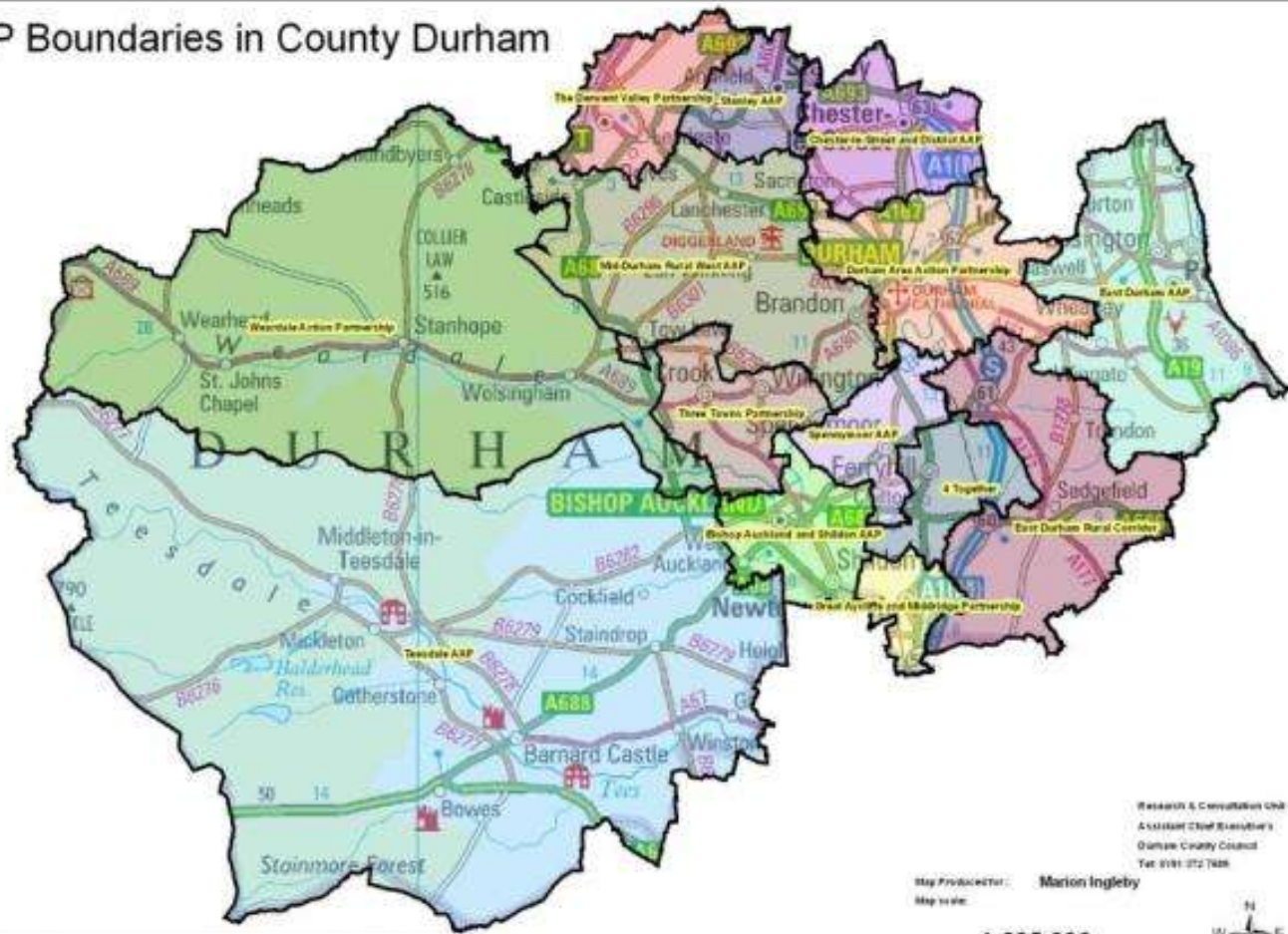


Purpose of AAPs



Altogether better

AAP Boundaries in County Durham



Research & Consultation Unit
 Assistant Chief Executive's
 Durham County Council
 Tel: 0191 372 7486

Map Producer: Marion Ingleby
 Map scale: 1:285,000

© Crown Copyright and database rights 2012, Ordnance Survey LA 10004095



Altogether better



Structure AAPs

AAP Forum

Over 8,500 people across the County.

Meet twice a year

AAP Board

7 Public Reps, 7 Partner agencies, 7 Councillors

Minimum requirement 6 meetings annually

AAP project groups

Over 53 groups meeting monthly to develop local Action Plans
attended by over 1000 participants

Funding AAPs

- Each AAP has Area Budget of £120,000
- Plus pooled from each County Councillor
- Neighbourhood Budget= £20,000
- Member Initiative Funding= £2,000
- Highways Budget= £6,000

AAP key facts

Area Budget (AB)	
Total Number of Projects	685
Actual Spend plus Commitments	£7,559,800
Match Funding	£14,114,990
Match per £1 AB	£1.87
Neighbourhood Budget (NB)	
Total Number of Projects	1,450
Actual Spend plus Commitments	£12,593,896
Match Funding	£19,190,878
Match per £1 NB	£1.52

PB Events – Key Facts 2011/12

- Three AAPs held five 'It's Up 2 U' events
- Different amounts allocated:
 - Derwent Valley AAP - £20,700 (turnout 600)
 - Stanley AAP - £100,000 (turnout 895)
 - Three Towns Partnership - £30,000 divided x 3 events (turnout 210) plus event for school children of £3,000
 - **Overall total of £153,000 allocated**
- 108 applications
- 38 projects funded
- All projects met AAP's priorities
- Total of over 2,000 people attended

Altogether better



PB Events – Key Facts 2012/13

- Four AAPs held eight 'It's Up 2 U' events.
- Different amounts allocated:
 - Derwent Valley: £40,000 (turnout 800)
 - Stanley: 2x £60,000 + £60,000 from Town Council (turnout 1400 and 1603)
 - Three Towns Partnership: 1 x £8,000 (turnout 104) + 1 x £500,000 (turnout 1353)
 - East Durham Rural Corridor: £60,000 (turnout 650)
 - **Overall total of £848,000 allocated**
- 139 applications
- 75 projects funded
- All projects met AAP's priorities
- Total of 5,910 people attended

Altogether better



Match Funding Comparison

Fund data	Area Budget (AB)	Neighbourhood Budget (NB)	Its Up to You events
Total number of Projects funded	718	1528	115
Actual spend plus commitments	£7,977,377	£13,056,425	£881,700
Match funding	£13,702,162	£20,240,906	£896,104
Match per £1	£1.71	£1.55	£1.01

Altogether better



Benefits



Altogether better

Public Feedback



Altogether better

Participatory Budgeting

The Questions as at Summer 2013



Altogether better



Do we need a common set of rules or let many flowers bloom?

- Minimum voting age
- Who can vote
- Voting techniques
 - Voting forms
 - Tokens
 - Ranking and non ranking systems



Altogether better

Hardy Perennials



Altogether better

Common set of rules?

Publicity by DCC

- Posters distributed widely
- Special edition newsletter to 23,000 homes (Derwent Valley AAP)
- Leaflets delivered (15,000 in Stanley)
- Articles in local press and partner's newsletters
- Project videos (3 Towns AAP)
- Council's website and AAP webpages
- Roadshows
- Banners
- Twitter, Facebook
- Presentations to schools

Altogether better

It's Up 2 U £500K!

£500,000 is available,
12 organisations are bidding....
Have Your Say on who receives the funding!

Drop in to vote for your favourite project on
23rd February 2013 between 10.30am and 2.30pm
at Crook Primary School, Croft Avenue, Crook, DL15 8QG

*To be eligible for a vote - you must live,
work or volunteer within 3 Towns area.
Young people from the area who attend
secondary school are also eligible to vote.*

Beat the queues by Pre-registering to vote -
Contact us on 03000 267539 or
threetownsaaap@durham.gov.uk

For details on the projects and to view a short film on
each project, please visit the It's Up 2 U £500K website -
www.durham.gov.uk/itp2u3towns

**£500,000
Your Vote
Counts**

Altogether
better
Durham
3 - Towns Partnership

Durham
County Council

Common set of rules? Publicity by applicants

- Word of mouth
- Market stalls
- Leafleting at the entrance to event
- Door knocking
- Leaflets delivered to homes in the area
- One enlisted the services of a call centre to contact people
- Advert on the back of a bus
- Some bad tactics



Altogether better

Should we set a standard fund amount?

- Does the amount of the funding available matter?
- Should there be a standard minimum or maximum for individual projects?
 - Can the minimum amount be so small so projects don't apply?
 - Can the maximum amount be so high that it causes divisions in communities?

Altogether better



Can we make better use of non traditional voting techniques?

- Postal?
- Online?
- Others?

- Does this deter from the experience?



Altogether better

Approaches Elsewhere?

Danish Delegation

- Amazed at level of voluntary action
- Cost of running PB
- Why is PB not more widespread

Chicago PB 49

- Assemblies – community meetings - votes

PB Next Steps in Durham

Altogether better



Your Money, Your Area, Your Views

- PB exercise in all 14 AAPs
- County Plan
- AAP Priorities
- Budget Consultation

Altogether better



Demand

AAP	No. of Projects	Request Amounts £	Available Resources £	% overbid
Chester-le-Street	49	175,000	42,000	316
3 Towns	34	100,000	25,000	301%
BASH	54	95,000	25,000	280%
GAMP	37	87,000	27,000	202%
Spennymoor	41	141,813	25,000	467%
East Durham	30	105,000	20,000	425%
EDRC	44	150,000	80,000	72%
Durham	31	131,000	50,000	162%
Derwent Valley	42	142,000	40,000	255%
WAP	53	£93,471	£25,000	274%
Teesdale	47	173,000	30,000	476%
Stanley	41	83,583	40,000	108%
4 Together	13	£36,986	£20,000	85%

Altogether better



Standardisation of Procedures (13 out of 14)

- Age – 11 plus
- One point per project
- Maximum of five votes
- Minimum - £1,000
- Maximum - £5,000
- Not standardised – focus of grant

Altogether better



Conclusion

- Not the answer for every decision
- Ideally suited to small grant funds
- Never have the ideal approach
- Need to build on the additional benefits
- Difficult to stop once started

Altogether better

