

Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2023 - 2026

Updated March 2024

The Area Plan commits the Area Committee to a number of priorities, which will be delivered within the Coalfield Sunderland area. This Delivery Plan provides an update on progress on the Area Committee's Area Plan and will be monitored by the Area Committee and actions will be addressed throughout the next three years via the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board

Priority	Progress Update
Dynamic Smart City We will have	
A Can Do Project to develop skills of young people	Three groups of young people attended the Neighbourhood and Community Board on 14 November to present their proposals to Councillors. Kepier School, Houghton Boxing Club and Philadelphia Cricket Club were all successful in their applications for funding. A further round of funding opened in January 2024 and The Old Rectory Youth Club were awarded funding after presenting their ideas to February 2024 N&C Board meeting. A further three groups will present their ideas to the April 2024 meeting.
Coalfield Communities Connected Project to develop digital skills of residents	The Coalfield Communities Connected IT project is delivered by Springboard in four locations, 'Community Hubs', each week. In all hubs, participants have access to laptops and PCs, and also get support in improving their knowledge on the use of their personal mobile phone and tablets (using venue's wifi). It has been identified that digital poverty is a factor for many residents so the project offers free data via the databank to be able to offer additional resources to clients to support their digital development. Hubs are reviewed regularly to ensure the best coverage for all sectors of the community. Members were provided with an update via the project performance report circulated in February 2024. The February N&C Board meeting considered the benefits of this project and invited Springboard to submit an application for funding to continue the project until December 2025. See Item 4 Budget Report
Support to residents to improve financial resilience via R U Ready	The RU Ready for UC project, funded by Coalfield Area Committee, and delivered in partnership by Springboard and ShARP continues to support

	<p>residents to apply for and maintain their Universal Credit requirements including job search, journal upkeep and providing advice and guidance where relevant. Members were provided with an update in February 2024. The need for the project continues and has been demonstrated by the number of new clients accessing the project, and existing clients needing ongoing support. The February N&C Board meeting considered the valuable support to residents that this project brings, and invited Springboard to submit an application for funding to continue the project until December 2025. See Item 4 Budget Report</p>
<p>A VAS and Road Safety programme</p>	<p>The current VAS programme consists of 32 locations and 14 signs which are rotated on a quarterly basis. Members are provided with performance and data reports each quarter. The December 2023 Area Committee approved a further sum of funding to enable the project to continue until March 2026.</p>
<p>A Tree planting programme across the area</p>	<p>In addition to proposals put forward to plant trees on a number of the 13 sites included in the LinkTogether project, members have been asked to submit relevant locations within their ward for consideration for inclusion in a 'community orchard' programme.</p>
<p>Developed and delivered low carbon initiatives in the community</p>	<p>Discussions are underway with Durham Wildlife Trust and Wear Rivers Trust to develop an educational project with local schools. The 'Source to Sea' initiative highlights the 'journey' of a plastic bottle (or other items) through waterways to the sea and the coastline.</p>
<p>Healthy Smart City We will have</p>	
<p>Provision of positive activities for young people during school holidays</p>	<p>The Coalfield Area Committee approved 12 project applications, totalling £55,932 at the June 2023 Area Committee to deliver a programme of holiday activities from July 2023 to May 2024. Over the summer and October school holidays, projects have provided a wide range of activities such as sports, swimming, crafts, cooking, environmental activities and day trips. All included a drink and snack. The Fun and Float sessions at Hetton Pool were a new addition to the holiday programme, and this year, to date 227 children and young people from all four wards across the Coalfield accessed these free sessions. Children from Shiney Row ward could also access Washington pool. In total over 1400 children and young people have benefited from these holiday activities. The N&C Board recommend a further £50,000 of funding is aligned for activities during school holidays between July 2024 and May 2025. See Item 4 Budget Report.</p>

Youth clubs in each of the four wards	The two year Neighbourhood Fund project 'Youth Choices', delivered by Community Opportunities, provides two sessions of youth activity, per ward, per week. Current sessions are delivered at outdoor and indoor venues including Flatts Youth Centre (and field), Shiney Row CA (and Claremont Drive field), Houghton Racecourse CA (and Kirklea field) , Houghton Sports Centre (and MUGA). 430 individual young people accessed youth services/activities in the previous quarter. A total of 84 sessions were delivered and attendance at all sessions has begun to increase. The sessions in each of the four wards provide our young people with a safe space to meet, where they can engage in discussions and talk about issues that are relevant to their lives. They also develop life skills such as cooking, and participate in various sporting or creative activities. Members were provided with an update via the project performance report circulated in February 2024.
A Coalfield Healthy and Active Teen (CHAT) programme	Delivered by Everyone Active, the project offers the opportunity for 11-15 year olds in the Coalfield area of the city to participate in a programme of junior gym and wellness sessions at Hetton and Houghton Sports Centres. The project is engaging 12 'new' young people per quarter, 48 different young people over a year. The young people are given a gym induction of the safe use of the equipment and are free to come and use the gym and swim facilities at certain allocated times throughout the week. Everyone Active is also delivering, on a regular weekly basis, bootcamp for 15-19 year olds.
Activities to reduce Social Isolation	The Links for Life programme will support increased social and wellness activity. The Neighbourhood and Community Board discussed this priority in February 2024, and will further consider allocation of Neighbourhood Fund budget at the April 2024 meeting.
Social Prescribing Services	Links for Life is Sunderland's social prescribing programme. Further information is contained within the Links for Life update in Annex 2
Vibrant Smart City We will have	
The Coalfield Clean it, Green It project	The two year Clean it, Green it project, delivered by Springboard, continues to deliver activity across all four wards on sites and locations which are not currently on a maintenance schedule and need environmental improvement. One Councillor from each ward sits on the steering group, alongside SCC and Gentoo colleagues. The meetings discuss progress and propose locations for action by the team. Volunteers and residents are supported to carry out improvements within their own neighbourhood, and Springboard and Community Opportunities

	<p>(in partnership) tackle larger scale works. The project complements mainstream cleansing schedules and works alongside Sunderland City Council Environmental Services and Gentoo. A Clean it, Green it facebook page is under development. Members were provided with an update in February 2024 and the project was discussed at the February N&C Board meeting. The project will make a presentation to the March Area Committee. Members are keen to continue the project beyond the planned end date and therefore will make a recommendation for funding to the June 2024 Area Committee (pending confirmation of the 2024/25 budget)</p>
Heritage Activities and Community Events	<p>The Stephenson Trail project is ongoing and a number of events and activities have taken place to highlight the heritage aspect of the trail. Local community events throughout the year are supported by Community Chest and Neighbourhood Fund. The February N&C Board meeting discussed their continued support for the successful Coalfield Pride and Elemore Music Events and recommend funding to deliver both events in 2024. Please see Item 4 Budget Report for further details.</p>
Delivered the Houghton Feast community programme	<p>The 2023 Houghton Feast was delivered successfully in October 2023. The opening ceremony, and parade saw hundreds of community groups, schools and residents engaged in activities and entertainment. The planning for 2024 will commence early in the new year.</p>
Improvements to Herrington Colliery Welfare Ground facilities	<p>Following allocation of Neighbourhood Fund and Neighbourhood Capital Improvement Programme, works are underway to improve the pavilion at Herrington Colliery Welfare Ground. The Class A football pitch has been improved and encroaching trees have been removed and pollarded. Repairs to the spectator rail has been completed and external fencing to protect the site has been installed.</p>
Improvements to Houghton Rectory Park	<p>Improvements at Rectory Park are ongoing. The railings around the park have been repainted and the large tree restricting access near the entrance to the Old Rectory has been removed. As part of the Area Committee funded project, new benches have now been installed and future works including creation of a reflection garden and planting ground covering plants are planned for Spring 2024.</p>
Delivered the Stephenson Trail heritage programme	<p>The Stephenson Trail programme has delivered a wide range of environmental and educational activity across the Coalfield, East and West areas. A comprehensive update was sent to members of all 3 Area Committees in August 2023. Waymarkers have been installed along the route and information boards have been erected in three locations. A map/booklet has been designed and printed and is available in various</p>

	venues and electronically. Further information boards and badges will complete the capital spend of the project. A further 12 months of maintenance costs has been allocated to community organisations across all three areas.
Contributed to habitat and ecological improvements via Link Together	Development proposals for each of the 13 sites have now been prepared. Consultation on each site plan has been carried out and will be used to inform the final spec for each site. This development stage of the project has engaged residents and groups across the area. The delivery phase of the project is planned to commence in 2024. To gain more value for money it is proposed that the funding allocated to this project is held by Sunderland City Council's Low Carbon team, jointly managed with Durham Wildlife Trust.
Continued the Proactive Coalfield Anti-social behaviour project and worked in partnership to tackle Motorcycle ASB	<p>The additional, proactive, ASB Officer for Coalfield is working alongside partners, businesses and residents to identify and target problematic areas in a planned way. A performance update with specific ward based information was provided to members in February 2024. The February N&C Board will recommend continuation of the project to the June Area Committee (subject to confirmation of budget allocations).</p> <p>A Coalfield Task and Finish Group has been set up to look at the motorcycle disorder problem in more detail.</p> <p>A Northumbria Police force-wide team will be in place from late November 2023 to deal with the issue. The team will work closely with Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Borough Council ASB teams. At the December 2023 Area Committee a £25,000 contribution to the project was approved. Further updates will be presented under 'service updates', at Annex 2, each quarter.</p>
Held a Coalfield Pride Event at Houghton	The Coalfield Pride event was held on 19 August 2023 at The Rectory Field, Houghton le Spring. It was a successful family focused event, building on the inaugural event in 2022. In addition to headline music and drag acts, craft stalls, children's entertainment, food court, wrestling and dance displays were provided. The N&C Board discussed the 2024 event at their meeting in February and recommend approval of funding for 2024. Further information in Item 4 Budget Report.
Developed environmental improvements at Copt Hill and Seven Sisters	Following approval of Neighbourhood Capital Improvement Programme funding, a number of site visits have take place at the Copt Hill/Seven Sisters site. Proposals for improvements include information boards,

	<p>signage, path clearance and repair. This will complement work to be carried out as part of the LinkTogether project. Durham Wildlife Trust will lead on the project and carry out the work in consultation with Members, and in partnership with Springboard.</p>
Supported VCS organisations and Community Hubs	<p>A Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector Network meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month. The meetings are chaired by the Vice Chair of Area Committee and continue to be well attended, participative and informative and provide a mechanism for attendees to network with Council Officers, partners and community organisations. The last meeting in February was attended by 51 people. Further information is contained within Item 3c VCSN Partner report.</p> <p>The PCRM has supported a number of groups with advice and support on funding, governance and project development.</p>
Improved Community Assets	<p>The November 2023 meeting of the Neighbourhood and Community Board discussed support for organisations delivering services in local community buildings. The December Area Committee agreed to align a sum of funding, initially £75,000, to this priority and carry out a call for projects which organisations could apply to for improvements to their building. The N&C Board discussed all applications at the February 2024 meeting, and recommend approval of 11 applications. Further information contained in Item 4 Budget Report.</p>
Supported the celebration event at former Houghton Colliery site	<p>Work on the new retail development at Houghton is underway. The mining heritage artwork is complete and in storage until the site is at a stage to incorporate the installation. A celebration event and unveiling of the artwork will be planned in 2024.</p>
A Christmas Tree at Newbottle	<p>Further to approval of funding at the September Area Committee to deliver the 'Coalfield Christmas' project, arrangements were made to install infrastructure to accept delivery of a 30ft Christmas tree in November 2023. The tree lights were switched on at a community event on Friday 1 December. The local community, including St Matthews, provided entertainment and refreshments.</p>
A Music Event at Elemore Park	<p>The first live event took place at Elemore Park on Saturday 26 August 2023. The event included a number of acts such as Marty Longstaff (Lakes Poets), Houghton Brass, Dennis and James Thoroughgood. Fun entertainment and activities for all of the family were also provided. This successful event attracted approximately 500 residents. A proposal for funding for the 2024 event is contained in Item 4, Budget Report</p>