

**22 June 2023**

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES**

**North Area Committee Area Plan 2023 - 2026**

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To present for consideration and approval North Area Committee Area Plan for 2023-26 and update on Area Committee Area Plan Governance arrangements.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 Area Committee's role is to lead on the development, implementation and effective delivery of an Area Committee Area Plan which includes all main priorities for the area, (Subject to approval of the Area Committee Area Plan by the Cabinet in July 2023).
- 2.2 Area Committee does this through consultation, engagement and collaborating with local residents and partners (including the voluntary and community sector, public and private sector).
- 2.3 The Area Committee Area Plans are 3-year plans and are directly aligned to the themes of the City Plan and other significant strategies for the city, with a focus on influencing the delivery of services and activities at a local level, which support and maximise the resilience of its residents and communities.
- 2.4 Through the delivery of the Area Committee Area Plans Sunderland has a real opportunity to transform and create more resilient communities and to influence and enable positive community behaviours, through active co-production. Area Committees will be at the heart of this transformation journey.

**3 Development of Area Committee Area Plan and Area Priorities**

- 3.1 At its workshops held in April and June the North Area Committee members considered data relevant to the area, they:-
  - I. reviewed previous priorities from their 2020-23 Neighbourhood Investment Plans in terms of impact and whether there remains a need to continue to deliver against any of those priorities.
  - II. considered current priorities through working collaboratively with services and partners (including the voluntary community sector, public and private sector), and in the context of local data and intelligence and listening to resident feedback and their lived experience.
  - III. ensured the priorities identified in Area Committee Area Plans help to influence delivery of services and activities at a local level which support the resilience of residents and communities.

- 3.2 Council Services and Partners (currently including Gentoo, Police, TWFRS, North VCS Network and the Voluntary Sector Alliance) are committed to working in collaboration with Area Committees.
- 3.3 All Council Service leads, when producing Service Plans this year, are providing a list of Area Priorities, where relevant, for each of the Areas and have agreed that those priorities be appended to the Area Committee Area Plans and to provide quarterly updates in terms of performance against those priorities.
- 3.4 Key partners (currently including Gentoo, Police, TWFRS, North VCS Network and the Voluntary Sector Alliance) have agreed to provide their plans for future activity in all five areas for the coming months and years. All have agreed that those plans be appended to the Area Committee Area Plans. Providing quarterly updates to Area Committee.
- 3.5 The quarterly reports will allow Area Committee/Council Service Leads/Partners to review and consider opportunities to influence as well as shape delivery within communities, with elected members bringing their local knowledge and intelligence, informing future decision making, as well as considering where they wish to support projects with 'added value.' Organisations are working together collaboratively to ensure the best outcome for the resident.

#### **4. Area Committee Area Plan Delivery and Performance Monitoring**

- 4.1 Area Committees will ensure the delivery of their priorities over the lifetime of the Area Plan (2023 – 2026), this will include the monitoring of performance of projects funded via Area Committee resources and receiving update reports from Council Services and Partners on a quarterly basis. Additionally, Area Committees will undertake an annual review of performance and priorities at the end of each financial year to ensure priorities remain in keeping with local need.
- 4.2 The 5 Area Committee Area Plans and City Plan will form a suite of strategic documents for the City. All will be produced using Folian software having the same format, look and feel so it is clear to our communities that the Area Committee Area Plans help to both deliver to, and inform, the priorities of the City Plan which, is the blueprint for all partners and communities to work together, to address the economic and social challenges that Sunderland faces, so that the city and its people can achieve their full potential. All Plans will be monitored internally via the council's corporate performance management system used by the Area Arrangements Team and Service Leads.
- 4.3 Area Committee Area Plan performance will not only be shared with Area Committees but more widely to provide an increased opportunity to share the learning from the delivery of Area Committee projects and ensure that Area Committees can inform transformational change in a systematic way. This will include connecting with the City Plan and sharing the learning with the City Board, Children's and Adults Partnerships, Health and Wellbeing Board and associated Delivery Boards, partner plans including emerging Integrated Care Board Place Planning, Safer Sunderland Partnership, Community Wealth Strategy and Steering Group and helping to influence future Council Service Plans.
- 4.4 **Annex 1** identifies the proposed North Area Committee Area Plan and Area Priorities for Area Committee consideration and approval.

- 4.5 External priorities are those that Area Committee wish to use its own resources and commission and fund projects and initiatives working in collaboration with the VCS and partners.
- 4.6 Internal priorities are currently proposals where Area Committee wish to influence/add value to existing service provision and will be shared with Service Leads within the Council or with Partners, for further discussion regarding feasibility of delivery, through future discussion with Area Board.

## 5. Area Committee and Area Committee Area Plan Governance

- 5.1 The Area Committees are part of the Council's Executive Function and have two key roles:-
- a. Influencing decisions on services delivered at a neighbourhood level; and
  - b. Identification of key priorities for their areas, in the context of supporting the delivery of the Council's City Plan at a neighbourhood level and ensuring maximum impact where necessary, through utilising its own resources.
- 5.2 Following the approval of the Area Committee Area Plan at Cabinet in July 2023, it is the responsibility of each Area Committee to ensure the effective delivery of the Area Committee Area Plan.
- 5.3 The Neighbourhood and Community Boards will be Chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Area Committee. All North Area Committee City Councillors are invited to attend all board meetings. (Terms of Reference attached as **Annex 2**)
- 5.4 Members will work in collaboration with key officers and partners in what will be practical action orientated groups. It should be noted that the Board is not a decision-making body, and the work/ recommendations of the Board will be presented to the Area Committees for final endorsement. The Area Committee Chair and Vice-Chair were agreed at Annual Council in May 2023.

## 6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Committee is requested to:
- Consider and agree the attached draft Area Committee Area Plan for 2023–2026, External Priorities for referral to Cabinet for approval. (**Annex 1**)
  - Agree that the Internal priorities, which were discussed and agreed at the Area Committee Workshop in June, are shared with Council Service Leads and Partners to consider the feasibility of delivery and provide feedback. The priorities are currently proposals where Area Committee wish to influence/add value to existing service provision.
  - Agree to continue to discuss Service Plans with Sunderland City Council Service Leads and develop a list of Area Priorities for the North area. To be appended to the Area Committee Area Plans and arrange for quarterly updates.
  - Agree to continue to collaborate with key partners (currently including Gentoo, Police, TWFRS, North VCS Network and the Voluntary Sector Alliance) to provide their plans for

future activity in the North area. To be appended to the North Area Committee Area Plan and arrange for quarterly updates.

- Note the Terms of Reference (**Annex 2**)

Annex 1      Draft Area Committee Area Plan  
Annex 2      Terms of Reference

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