

13 March 2024

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF COALFIELD SUNDERLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY BOARD

Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2023-2026

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report is to provide an update of progress against the Area Committee's Area Plan priorities, which will be the focus for the Coalfield Area Committee during 2023-2024.

2. Background

2.1 The Area Committees are part of the Council's Executive Function. The purpose of the Area Committees is to:

- Lead on the development, implementation, and effective delivery of an Area Plan, working closely with residents to ensure the plans include all main priorities for the Area, which enables residents to be resilient, The Area Plans are linked to the City Plan and other significant strategies for the city.
- Actively encourage local residents to become involved in shaping the Area Plan, ensuring delivery of activities to support matters which affect them.

2.2 The Article 10 Area Committee Area Plans for 2023 - 2026 were agreed by Area Committees in June 2023 and approved at Cabinet in July 2023.

2.3 It is now the responsibility of each Area Committee to deliver their agreed priorities to support the delivery of the Area Plan.

2.4 The Neighbourhood and Community Board supports the work of the Area Committee and specifically the delivery of the Area Plan. The Boards are chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Area Committee and are practical and action-orientated groups. The role of the Board is to respond to all priorities in the Area Committee Area Plan, as agreed by the Area Committee. They develop and implement plans for the delivery of each priority and make recommendations to the Area Committee based on information and research and working closely with partner agencies, particularly the VCS, to ensure effective delivery of the plan.

2.6 The Board is not a decision-making body, the work of the board is presented to each Area Committee via this Report of the Chair of the Neighbourhood and Community Board. The purpose of the report is to update on progress in relation to the delivery of the Area Plan in addition to making any recommendations of the Board to the Area Committee for final approval. Funding decisions to support delivery of the plan can be found at **Item 4 Area Budget Report**

2.7 Additionally all Sunderland City Council Service leads, when producing Service Plans this year, provided a list of Area Priorities, where relevant, for each of the five geographical Areas of Sunderland and have agreed that regular updates for those priorities will be appended to this report, to the relevant Area Committee, to provide quarterly performance updates. Please see **Annex 2**.

3. Area Committee Area Plan 2023-2026- Areas of Key Action and Progress

- 3.1 The last meeting of the Neighbourhood and Community Board, held in February 2024, received an application from one group of young people as part of the CAN DO project. The group presented their idea to the Board and were awarded £750 to produce a video and educational resources highlighting the dangers of knife crime.
- 3.2 The Board further discussed provision and installation of 'bleed kits' across the Coalfield area, and recommend providing funding to the Connor Brown Trust to lead on this project. Further information is contained in **Item 4 Budget report**.
- 3.3 The importance of providing positive activities for young people during school holidays was discussed by the Board. A recommendation for alignment of funding is contained in **Item 4 Budget report**. Should this funding be approved, a Call for Projects will be made with a maximum of £5,000 per application.
- 3.4 Colleagues from Highways attended the November 2023 Neighbourhood and Community Board meeting to consult with members regarding the development of the Coalfield highways maintenance programme for 2024/25. Further updates were received, and Members put forward areas for consideration in the 2024/2025 programme. The suggested locations have been assessed and following discussions at the February 2024 Board meeting, recommendations are contained at **Annex 3 to this report**.
- 3.5 The February meeting also discussed the need to continue the RU Ready for UC and Coalfield Communities Connected projects which are both due to end in the coming months. Further information is contained in **Item 4 Budget Report**.
- 3.6 Key local events were also discussed and funding proposals recommended for approval are contained in **Item 4 Budget Report**.
- 3.7 Attached as **Annex 1** is the Coalfield Area Committee Delivery plan which highlights progress against the Area Committee plan. Good news stories and promotion of projects are shared at every opportunity.
- 3.8 Attached as **Annex 2** is an update on Sunderland City Council Service Plans - Area Priorities, specifically relevant to the area, including a quarterly update on progress for information purposes only.

4. Recommendations - Members are requested to:

- 4.1 Consider the progress, performance update and proposals with regard to Coalfield Area Committee Area Plan 2023- 2026.
- 4.2 Consider the progress update with regard to Sunderland City Council Service Plans - Area Priorities, for information purposes only.
- 4.3 Approve the locations contained in **Annex 3** to be included in the Highways Maintenance Programme for 2024/25.

Annex 1 - Coalfield Area Delivery Plan

Annex 2 – Sunderland City Council Service Plans – Coalfield Area Priorities

Annex 3 – Highways Maintenance Programme 2024/25

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