

Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2023 - 2026

Updated **September 2023**

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	A Call for Projects will be sent out to groups and schools during September to develop applications to present at the November Neighbourhood and Community Board. Deadline for applications is 31 October 2023. Members are requested to promote this opportunity which is available for groups of young people aged 11-19
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 July 2023.
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 residents to apply for and maintain their Universal Credit requirements including job search, journal upkeep and providing advice and guidance where relevant.

A VAS and Road Safety programme	The current VAS programme consists of 32 locations and 8 signs which are rotated on a quarterly basis. Members are provided with performance and data reports each quarter.
A Tree planting programme across the area	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.
Developed and delivered low carbon initiatives in the community	
Healthy Smart City We will have	
Provision of positive activities for young people during school holidays	The Coalfield Area Committee approved 12 project applications, totalling £55,932 at the June Area Committee to deliver a programme of holiday activities from July 2023 to May 2024. Projects will provide a wide range of activities such as sports, swimming, crafts, cooking, environmental activities and day trips and will all include a drink and snack. An update will be given following each holiday period, including a report in October 2023 outlining activities for the summer holidays.
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). Members were provided with an update via the project performance report circulated in July 2023. The project venues and finance/performance will be reviewed with the lead organisation during September/October 2023.
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 will engage 12 young people per quarter, 48 different young people over a year. The young people will be given a gym induction of the safe use of the equipment and will be free to come and use the gym and swim facilities at certain allocated times throughout the week. Everyone Active will also put on a regular weekly bootcamp for 15-19 year olds.

Activities to reduce Social Isolation	
Social Prescribing Services	
Vibrant Smart City	
We will have	
The Coalfield Clean it, Green It project	The two year Clean it, Green it project continues to deliver activity across all four wards on sites and locations which are not currently on a maintenance schedule and need environmental improvement. Following a request for an elected member from each ward to be part of the steering group, a meeting took place in September 2023 to 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 (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.
Heritage Activities and Community Events	
Delivered the Houghton Feast community programme	The planning for Houghton Feast 2023 has been ongoing since the beginning of the year. The Houghton Feast Steering Group is attended by Councillors from across the Coalfield area, Council Officers, partners and members of the community. A funding request is presented to the September Area Committee to support the Friday evening community programme on 6 October.
Improvements to Herrington Colliery Welfare Ground facilities	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 fencing will be installed to protect the site from unauthorised use.
Improvements to Houghton Rectory Park	Improvements at Rectory Park are ongoing and the next phase will see new benches being installed as part of the Area Committee funded works.
Delivered the Stephenson Trail heritage programme	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. A 12 month programme of maintenance

	works is now being developed with community organisations in each of the 3 areas. Waymarkers will be installed during September/ October, and information boards will be located in three locations in the autumn. A map/booklet has been designed and printed and is available in various venues and electronically.
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.
Continued the Proactive Coalfield Anti-social behaviour project	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 July 2023.
Held a Coalfield Pride Event at Houghton	The Coalfield Pride event was held on 19 August 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.
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 and signage. This will complement work to be carried out as part of the LinkTogether project. Further updates will be presented to members following the next site meeting, with Durham Wildlife Trust, to be held during September 2023.
Supported VCS organisations and Community Hubs	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.
Improved Community Assets	
Supported the celebration event at former Houghton Colliery site	

A Christmas Tree at Newbottle	A site survey has been undertaken to establish costs to include Newbottle as a 'new' location for a Christmas Tree. A proposal for funding will be presented to the September meeting of the Coalfield Area Committee. Working in partnership with the local community, a celebration event will be planned.
A Music Event at Elemore Park	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. The event attracted approximately 500 residents.