

26<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF WEST SUNDERLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY BOARD

### West 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 West Area Committee during 2024-2025.

#### 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 (**Annex 2**).

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

3.1 The Neighbourhood and Community Board discussed a range of Area Priorities. In the March Board meeting the following was discussed.

- 3.2 The Clean and Green/Ranger projects were discussed, and project leads were invited to apply to extend the project by 1 year. Applications have been received and the Neighbourhood and Community Board are making a recommendation to approve the 6 applications, details in **Item 4 Annex 1**.
- 3.3 The school parking priority has also been a key focus for the Board, with site meetings taking place at 6 schools across the West, feedback will be discussed at a future meeting.
- 3.4 Community Assets applications have been received to improve 15 community assets from across the West. The budget aligned from 23/24 Neighbourhood Fund was £60,000 and applications were received for £93,443. The Board are recommending approval of all applications and asking Area Committee to consider approving £36,443 from 24/25 Neighbourhood Fund.
- 3.5 Following the approval of £20,000 to work up designs and consider schemes for safer spaces phase 1 information and options were received at the June Neighbourhood and Community Board. The Board are recommending the alignment of £150,000 (£25,000 per ward) to this priority with a focus of making spaces safer and improved play. Each ward will meet and discuss improvements and ideas will be presented to a future Area Committee for a decision.
- 3.6 The Neighbourhood Community Board are recommending to Area Committee the approval of the £90,000 (£15,000 per ward) for the Ward improvement Budget. The budget will be used for priorities to help improve the ward and for activity that is both in keeping with council policy and contribute to the Area Committee's Area Plan. A Maximum of 3 projects will be funded from the £15k budget.
- 3.7 Following the alignment of £100,000 at March Area Committee for Improving Highways. The members have considered the officer recommendations for each ward and are supportive of the officer recommendations. The Area Committee are being asked to consider the Approval of these schemes with the detail in **Item 4 Annex 1**.
- 3.8 Attached as **Annex 1** is the West Area Committee Delivery plan which highlights progress against the Area Committee plan. Good news stories and promotion of projects are shared at every opportunity.
- 3.9 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 and performance update with regard to West 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.

Annex 1 - West Area Delivery Plan

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

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