

**15 June 2022**

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF COALFIELD SUNDERLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY BOARD**

**Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023**

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 This report:-

- a. Provides an update of progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan, which will be the focus for the Coalfield Area Committee during 2022-2023.
- b. Provides an update on Neighbourhood and Community Board Governance Arrangements for 2022 -2023.

**2. Background**

2.1 Following the approval of the Neighbourhood Investment Plans in March 2020, the Coalfield Area Committee has worked together to finalise their Delivery Plans. All priorities have been determined following significant resident consultation via Let's Talk Sunderland.

**3. Area Committee and Neighbourhood Investment Plan Governance Arrangements**

3.1 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.

3.2 The Article 10 Neighbourhood Investment Plans were approved at Cabinet in March 2020.

3.3 It is now the responsibility of each Area Committee to deliver their agreed priorities to support the delivery of the Neighbourhood Investment Plan. Area Committee Delivery Plans have been developed to enable this to happen.

3.4 The Neighbourhood and Community Board will be Chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Area Committee. Neighbourhood and Community Board meetings will be held in July, November, February and April and dates are included in the council diary. If required, the Board may convene a further meeting(s) should there be a business need to do so and essential to ensuring delivery of the Area Neighbourhood Investment Plan Delivery Plan. All Committee members are invited to attend all board meetings.

3.5 Members will work alongside key officers 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 Committee for final endorsement. The Area Committee Chair and Vice-Chair were agreed at Annual Council in May 2022.

3.6 Other local groups / boards where Coalfield Area Committee has Elected Member representation are outlined below: -

Group	Elected Member Representatives
Coalfield Local Multi Agency Problem Solving (L.M.A.P.S)	Councillor James Blackburn
Coalfield VCS Area Network	Councillor Juliana Heron – Co-chair

#### 4. Neighbourhood Investment Delivery Plan 2020-2023- Areas of Key Action/Progress

- 4.1 The Plan, which includes an introduction from the Chair of the Area Committee, commits to a significant number of priorities, which are being delivered within the Coalfield area of Sunderland, to address the key issues raised by residents. The Plan is monitored by the Area Committee and actions will continue to be addressed up to 2023, via the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board.
- 4.2 Residents will be able to review the Area Committee Delivery Plan and monitor delivery of the plan via the Council’s website which is available to access at [www.sunderland.gov.uk](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk), as well as through quarterly Area Committee update reports. Funding to support delivery of the plan has been allocated and further information can be found at **Item 4 Area Budget Report**
- 4.3 Progress against the Delivery Plan has been reported regularly to Neighbourhood and Community Board and Area Committee. Good news stories and promotion of projects and local information have been posted on the Coalfield Sunderland Community facebook page. An overview of some key statistics and achievements from 2021/22 is contained in **Annex 3 – year in numbers**, and **Annex 4 – Communications Plan**.
- 4.4 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of action/progress of the Board up to June 2022.

Priority/Issue	Update
Digital Learning Resources	<p>There are currently two Neighbourhood Funded projects being delivered across the area. Springboard, in partnership with ShARP, are providing a Universal Credit (UC) support service to assist residents who are applying for, or managing their Universal Credit benefit, including job searches and maximising of income. Over the past year 231 individuals have accessed the service, 209 of whom have received guidance on UC, with 125 of those now able to manage their benefit independently.</p> <p>Springboard also deliver a ‘Communities Connected’ project in four local venues across the Coalfield area, supporting residents to get online and access services. During the past year 286 residents have been supported with digital access, 39 of whom have either accessed accredited training or moved into employment. The project’s delivery has been continuing to grow and with COVID restrictions lifting new clients are accessing the facilities resulting in favourable outcomes. The project continues to be delivered from a wider range of venues across more days, this has seen an increase of new participants. The project</p>

	<p>supports local residents in their use of IT in a wide range of ways, such as helping participants to produce and update their CVs and doing job search, offering information, advice and guidance on a wide range of topics and making referrals to other services if appropriate and supporting clients in using IT and the different Microsoft programmes including Excel to equip them with the necessary skills in a digital age. Although project participants have access to laptop and PCs which are provided, some also bring personal devices and are supported to use them.</p> <p>The July Neighbourhood and Community Board will consider the progress and performance of the two Neighbourhood Fund projects and assess the ongoing need for digital support within the Coalfield community.</p>
<p>Parks and Play Areas</p>	<p>An outline plan has been developed for <b>Rectory Park</b> to include lighting of all footpaths in the park, installation of new play equipment, new signage, replacement bins and benches, improvement of the water fountain and horticultural improvements. Working in partnership with Environmental Services, a programme of works will be planned with the support of three apprentices who are gaining experience within a number of parks in the Coalfield area. Discussions with the Bloomin' Marvellous volunteer group and Friends of Rectory Park are ongoing to ensure collaborative and partnership working for the benefit of the community. Once the lighting has been installed, other works will be scheduled.</p> <p>Following discussions at the March Neighbourhood and Community Board a draft design for upgrade to the <b>Old Durham Road</b> play area has been agreed. Further details and a request for funding is contained in Item 4 Budget Report.</p>
<p>Preserve and Celebrate Local Heritage</p>	<p>To celebrate 200 years of the Hetton Colliery Railway, the <b>Stephenson Trail</b> project, a joint initiative with Sunderland West and East Area Committees, is underway. A Steering Group for the project developed an action plan which is progressing well. There are two elements to the project a) Culture, Arts and Education, b) Environmental Improvements. In partnership with Cultural Spring a series of community projects are underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools Resource Pack</li> <li>• Banners and Flags</li> <li>• Music programme</li> <li>• Photography project</li> <li>• Immersive coal mining stories and oral histories</li> <li>• Trailmarkers project</li> <li>• Community Exhibition</li> <li>• Community celebration event</li> </ul> <p>Working with Environmental Services, Highways and local organisations, improvements such as removal of vegetation, tree and shrub pruning, painting of railings and seats and tarmac repair has been carried out. A full update on all works will be given to the Steering Group at the next meeting.</p>

	<p>A Stephenson locomotive and tender artwork project, funded by Area Committee and managed by the Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park, manufactured from Corten weathering steel is now complete. The artwork has been installed alongside the limestone track on Lyons Wildflower Meadow where it will be easily visible and accessible to all park visitors and users of the Stephenson Trail, providing an insight into the areas past and associated cultural heritage. It will provide an additional visitor attraction in the park encouraging visitors to spend more time in the park and associated Lakeside Cafe. The Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park, in partnership with Springboard and local volunteers arranged an unveiling ceremony which was attended by pupils from local schools.</p> <p>The theme for this year's significantly historic <b>Houghton Feast</b> is Platinum Jubilee. A request for funding for a community programme is contained in Item 4 Budget Report.</p>
<p>Provide Support to the Voluntary and Community Sector</p>	<p>The <b>Voluntary and Community Sector Network</b>, Chaired by the Vice Chair of Area Committee, continues to meet monthly to share information and give support to local organisations across the area. At the May meeting of the Network, two new representatives to Area Committee were selected by the Group.</p> <p>Funding opportunities are promoted through the Network and there are a number of funding requests for support contained in Item 4 Budget Report.</p> <p>The development of the <b>Voluntary Sector Alliance (VSA)</b> is progressing and continues to develop and grow. The VSA is now in the process of exploring various models of governance for its future operations. The Community Support Worker for the Coalfield area is available to support local groups with funding, governance, training etc....</p>
<p>Improve Local Greenspaces</p>	<p>At the last meeting of the Neighbourhood and Community Board, discussions took place regarding development of a proposal for improvements to <b>New Herrington Colliery Welfare Ground</b>. Meetings have taken place to discuss the development of a Trust to manage the site and this will be taken forward alongside environmental improvements. Costs are being explored for improvements to the club house and changing facilities, reinstatement and protection of the class A football pitch, a community orchard and wildflower meadow, and repair/infill of boundary shrub hedging. The July 2022 Neighbourhood and Community Board will further discuss and report progress/requests to the September Area Committee.</p> <p>Heritage funding has been secured for the first phase of the <b>LinkTogether project</b>, jointly delivered by Durham Wildlife Trust (DWT) and Sunderland City Council. To ensure a smooth transition from development to delivery phase, a request for funding is being proposed at Item 4 Budget Report.</p>

<p>Support for children and young people – Youth Clubs</p>	<p><b>The Coalfield Healthy and Active Teens (CHAT)</b> programme, delivered by 5 local organisations has provided 146 young people aged 13-19 with the opportunity to access a range of activities including football, gym sessions and outdoor pursuits such as canoeing, either free of charge or for a nominal £1 fee. This has resulted in majority of those young people sustaining their involvement in organised physical and sporting opportunities for the benefit of their health.</p> <p><b>The Coalfield Youthie Project</b>, delivered by Community Opportunities in each of the four wards, has engaged with 659 children and young people over the last year. The project has delivered at least two youth sessions per ward per week at a variety of indoor and outdoor venues, appropriate to the needs of the young people. Of the young people engaged 273 have received information, advice and guidance on a range of issues and subject areas. Outreach work has also been delivered on a number of occasions, at locations determined by issues arising in the community at any given time. The project has recently reviewed activity and new locations and delivery options are being trialled. More information will be provided by the project Lead Agent, Community Opportunities, at the Area Committee meeting.</p> <p>Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board will discuss project performance and future provision of support for children and young people at their next meeting.</p> <p>Following a Call for Projects to deliver Holiday Activities for children and young people there are 11 projects recommended for approval to this meeting. Further information contained in Item 4 Budget Report.</p>
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**5. Recommendations - Members are requested to: -**

- 5.1 Consider the progress and performance update with regard to Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/23 and agree proposals for future delivery contained within **Annex 1**
- 5.2 Note the Area Committee Governance arrangements for 2022-2023 outlined in **Section 3 and Annex 2**
- 5.3 Note the Year in Numbers outlined in **Section 4 and Annex 3**
- 5.4 Note the Communications Plan outlined in **Section 4 and Annex 4**

Annex 1	Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/2023
Annex 2	Neighbourhood and Community Board Terms of Reference
Annex 3	Year in Numbers
Annex 4	Communications Plan

Contact Officer: [pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk)  
Pauline Hopper, Coalfield Area Community Development Lead