

28 September 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.

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

- 4.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of action/progress of the Board up to August 2022. Further updates are contained in Annex 1, Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan

Priority/Issue	Update
Digital Learning Resources	<p>There are currently two Neighbourhood Funded projects being delivered across the area. Springboard, in partnership with ShARP have, until recently, provided 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. During the year 2021/22 over 230 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 year 2021/22, 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.</p> <p>The July Neighbourhood and Community Board considered the progress and performance of the two Neighbourhood Fund projects and agreed that there was an increased and going need for both projects. Further information, and a request for funding, is included in Item 4 Budget Report.</p>
Parks and Play Areas	<p>Following allocation of funding to improve Houghton Rectory Park work has now commenced. During resident consultation the highest priority identified was lighting of footpaths in the previously unlit park. This work, consisting of 28 heritage lighting columns with associated embellishments/lighting plus relevant electrical connections, has now been completed. Lighting is now operational during hours of dark. Improvements to the fountain was also identified as high priority and works commenced to clean, paint and improve the operation of the fountain. Unfortunately, the newly installed electrical supply for the new filter system suffered vandalism/theft days after installation and this will now need to be replaced at considerable cost. Installation of new bins has taken place and the informal car parking area has been repaired. Working in partnership with Environmental Services, a programme of environmental and horticultural works is taking place and ongoing discussions with the Bloomin' Marvellous volunteer group and The Old Rectory will further develop collaborative and partnership working for the benefit of the community. Installation of new seats and benches, improvements to the play area and new signage will be planned during the next phase of the project.</p>

<p>Provide Support to the Voluntary and Community Sector</p>	<p>The Voluntary and Community Sector Network, Chaired by the Vice Chair of Area Committee, continues to meet monthly to share information and give support to local organisations across the area. The development of the Voluntary Sector Alliance (VSA) 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>A 'Taking Stock' survey has been sent out to all VCS Network members to gather information and assess gaps in local provision. The results will be used to identify areas where further support can be given to help sustain valuable resources within the community.</p> <p>Additional funding via Public Health has been identified to provide grants to local VCS organisations who have buildings in the community which can be identified as 'warm spaces' where residents can go to socialise and obtain advice and support during the winter period. A call for projects was promoted via the VS Alliance and applications have been received from a number of local organisations to deliver the project commencing October 2022. The Neighbourhood & Community Board will discuss whether Area Committee can add any value to the programme.</p>
<p>Improve Local Greenspaces</p>	<p>At the July meeting of the Neighbourhood and Community Board, discussions took place regarding development of a proposal for improvements to New Herrington Colliery Welfare Ground and sports pavilion. Meetings have taken place to discuss the development of a Trust to manage the site and this will be taken forward alongside environmental and building improvements. Further information and a request for funding is contained in Item 4 Area Budget Report.</p>
<p>Support for children and young people</p>	<p>The Coalfield Youthie Project, delivered by Community Opportunities in each of the four wards, delivers 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. The project, supported via Neighbourhood Fund is due to end in March 2023 and was discussed at the July 2022 Neighbourhood and Community Board. The Board recommend that a budget of £50,000 per ward (total of £200,000) is aligned from the 2022/23 Neighbourhood Fund budget to further develop a project brief for ward based or area based activities and provision for children and young people (see Item 4 Budget Report). Ward based meetings will take place and further discussions will be held at the November Board meeting, followed by a Call for Projects. Recommendations will be brought to the December Area Committee with a view to provision/projects commencing from April 2023.</p> <p>Holiday Activities funded via Neighbourhood Fund were provided by 11 organisations during the summer 2022 holidays. Further information will be provided following the collation of</p>

	data from the projects at the end of the current quarter (July – September 2022)
Improve highways, pavements and street lighting	The Neighbourhood and Community Board recommend that funding is approved to deliver a phased improvement programme to a footpath in New Herrington . The footpath will be renewed and lighting installed. Further information and a request for funding is contained in Item 4 Budget Report

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**

Annex 1 Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/2023

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