

Coalfield Activities Programme 2015/16**£10,000****The Project**

In line with previous years it is proposed a 'core activities' programme is developed to support events identified by Area Committee members as important to the local area. This will allow a planned approach to events and activities which take place each year.

The project will provide a central resource for those events, celebrations and heritage activities identified by elected members and Area Committee partners as important to the local area and will be delivered in partnership with the VCS Network and community organisations between October 2015 and September 2016. Funding will provide for a range of activities and costs associated with planned and historic events and include:

- Traffic management fees for Remembrance Parades in November 2015
- Traffic management fees for Miners Gala Parades in July 2016.
- Live Christmas lights switch on event at Shiney Row in December 2015
- Support for community Christmas activities in Fencehouses, Houghton le Spring, Easington Lane and Moorsley in December 2015
- Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network and Showcase Event (in partnership with Gentoo) in April 2016

The budget will also fund heritage activities and other events developed by the Place Board in partnership with local organisations (ideas for development include a volunteer celebration event and a summer musical showcase). The Area Community Officer will manage and co-ordinate the project under the direction of the Place Board and Area Committee.

Recommendation: Approve**Call for Projects – Volunteer and Community Support****£100,000**

A call for projects will be made via the VCS Network, for interested organisations to put forward SIB applications for a volunteer and community support project as specified by the People Board. A project brief will be developed to invite proposals which must:

- Be focused and specifically meet local need within the Coalfield area (wards of Copt Hill, Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row).
- Proactively work with local organisations who make a real difference in the area to ensure they have the correct procedures and mechanisms in place to sustain their activity and recruit, support and retain volunteers
- Identify, advise and support local and smaller VCS organisations to build their capacity
- Recognise and be familiar with existing support such as the Volunteer Centre and VCAS (Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland) to ensure partnership working and non duplication
- Ensure that the Coalfield area receives support from citywide infrastructure and support organisations and the proposed project complements and adds value to current initiatives being delivered within the City and across the Coalfield area
- Ensure the project delivers a partnership approach and establishes relationships with other organisations, local businesses and local voluntary and community sector groups.
- Employ a dedicated member of staff to deliver the project locally and be the point of contact for stakeholders of the project
- Include a forward plan/exit strategy to ensure the outcomes of the project continue once the SIB funded project is complete
- Evidence understanding, and potential solutions, to the issues faced by the voluntary and

community sector

- Develop criteria for a 'community capacity fund' which will be available to local VCS organisations to support their own capacity building (e.g. volunteer training)

Project outcomes

- Volunteers are recruited and supported to a) work within a specific organisation in the area, to contribute to the development of that organisation and b) form a 'bank' of volunteers who give time on an ad hoc basis to a number of volunteering opportunities and local activities such as fun days, guided walks, celebration events such as Houghton Feast and consultation with local people
- Local organisations are equipped to continue to deliver valuable services in the community and they have the capacity to recruit, support and retain volunteers
- A 'community capacity fund' is managed and administered with input from the Coalfield People Board
- Increased recognition and celebration of volunteering within the local Coalfield community
- A volunteering steering group specific to the Coalfield area is developed

One successful project will be selected using the standard SIB assessment and consultation process, with the final decision being made by Area Committee at the December 2015 meeting.

Recommendation: Approve the allocation of £100,000

Call for Projects – Youth Social Action Project

£15,000

A call for projects will be made via the VCS Network, for interested organisations to put forward SIB applications for a youth social action project as specified by the People Board. The aim of the project is to support young people in developing and taking part in activities which have the 'double benefit' of participating in social action – in other words, that both participants and others or the environment benefit from activities.

A project brief will be developed to invite proposals which must:

- Engage young people from all wards in the Coalfield area
- Work with existing groups and clubs
- Benefit the whole of the Coalfield area
- Provide a range of opportunities including fundraising, campaigning, giving time to a charity, supporting people, mentoring or tutoring and improving the local area
- 'Match' young people and their skills, to needs of the community
- Increase awareness of the benefits of social action and voluntary work
- Increase the number of young people involved in meaningful activity
- Engage with the Coalfield VCS Network members
- Develop a marketing and 'branding' campaign to raise awareness
- Promote and celebrate the positive actions of young people

One successful project will be selected using the standard SIB assessment and consultation process, with the final decision being made by Area Committee at the December 2015 meeting.

Recommendation: Approve the allocation of £15,000