



Annual Report of the Area Committees

2017-18

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Foreword



Cllr Celia Gofton Portfolio Holder for Responsive Service and Customer Care until May 2018

I am incredibly proud to present the combined Annual Area Report for 2017/18. It is hard to believe that this is the 7th report produced specifically to highlight the combined achievements of the Area Committees and its partners and the last to be produced during my time as Portfolio Holder for Responsive Service and Customer Care.

Upon presenting to you the many marvellous achievements over the last year I can't help but reflect upon the changes that have taken place in Area Arrangements during my time as Portfolio Holder and how those changes have helped only to improve how we as elected members work alongside residents, council officers and other local partners to both understand, shape and deliver activity at a local level which always puts the needs of residents at the forefront of decisions made. During my time as Portfolio Holder I have seen:

- The introduction of Area Plans which identify the key priorities for each Area Committee. Developed through utilising elected members unique knowledge of their communities, listening to local people, understanding needs and working alongside council officers and other key partners to agree priorities to be delivered at a local level on a year by year basis.
- The establishment of the People and Place Boards which has been key to the delivery of those Area Plans. Set up in each of the 5 areas specifically to deliver the Area Priorities on behalf of the Area Committees. They are practical, action oriented groups which provide the opportunity for councillors, council officers and local partners to use local insight to deliver those local priorities. Working together to ensure the best use of resources available and achieve better outcomes at a local level.
- Area VCS networks are going from strength to strength. When introduced they provided, for the very first time, a recognised route for council engagement with the VCS in all 5 areas. The networks provide the opportunity for VCS organisations to come together at an area level to share best practice, build relationships and to develop both the capacity and influence of the sector. The Area VCS Networks are now an integral part of the city's Area Arrangements. Representatives from the networks attend Area Committee meetings to support and influence council policies and practice relevant to local communities and the VCS which include helping to identify and deliver Area Committee priorities.
- The Area Committee's role increasingly being about influencing how local services are delivered at a local level. Through engagement with key partners and services such as Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue, Northumbria Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group as well as our own council services, examples of which include Place Services, Highways Maintenance, Children's Local Advisory Boards and Activities for Young People. In doing so representing our residents to ensure services respond to the needs at a local level and within the resources available to us.

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2017/2018 Annual Area Report providing just a snapshot of the many activities that have been carried out across this last year. Those activities have only been made possible through the embedding of our Area Arrangements leading to successful partnership working at an area level and elected members directly influencing service provision to meet the local needs and requirements across each area of the city.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate everyone who has played a part in delivering Area Committee outcomes and helping to improve the quality of life for the residents of Sunderland. I wish you all continued success for the future.

Area Arrangements in Sunderland

As a Community Leadership Council, Sunderland Councillors are placed at the centre of decision making, with residents and communities at the heart of the decisions being made.

The reality of Community Leadership at work is practiced through Area Arrangements and the work of the Area Committees with their supporting People and Place Boards. The Area Committees are comprised of all Elected Members from the Area's wards and work closely with council officers, service delivery partners and members from the Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network (VCSN). The role of the Area Committee is to:

- Identify the main priorities that reflect the biggest need in the area
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of services delivered by the council and other main providers in the area
- Develop efficient and effective solutions to local area priorities as well as supporting city-wide issues
- Encourage local residents to become involved in decision making on matters which affect them

They do this in many ways, one of which is by providing funding to take forward projects that deliver their identified priorities. Each of the Area Committees hold delegated budgets in the form of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest. These budgets are allocated to support projects and initiatives that can demonstrate their work will support delivery of the areas identified priorities.

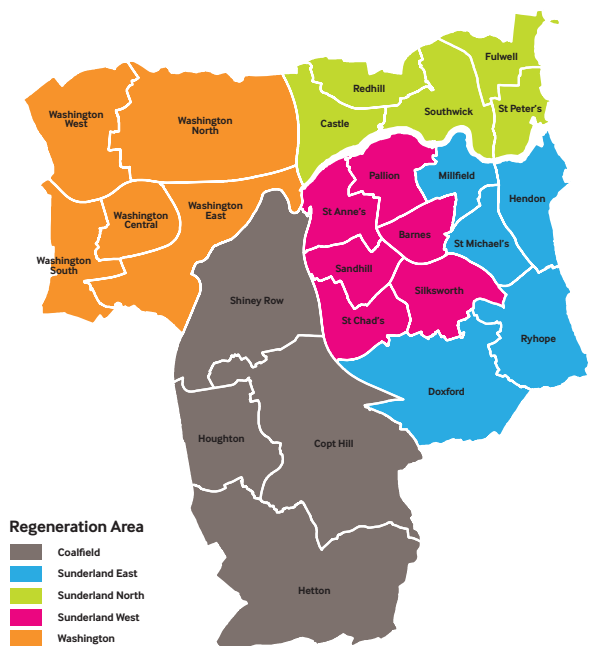
The focus of this locally delegated funding is as follows:

- Developing community capacity in localities, often involving volunteering to make things happen
- Funding 'one off' projects where work would not otherwise be taken forward
- Acting as a catalyst to lever funding from other sources
- Implementing specific local actions to deliver priorities
- Supporting council departments and partners to improve their services to the local community

A flavour of local projects that are making a real difference in local communities can be found throughout this annual report.

Each Area Committee is supported by a Place and People Board which consist of Elected Members from each of the area wards and work in partnership with council services, local organisations and the VCSN. The Boards are practical and action orientated to deliver on the priorities set by the Area Committee.

Community involvement is at the heart of what the Boards and Area Committees do and, as successful community leaders, local councillors engage with their residents socially, through attending and chairing groups



and meetings and events and through their local surgeries, thereby possessing a greater understanding of their community's needs.

It is this insight that provides critical information to shape the future design and delivery of local services and contributes to influencing wider citywide delivery, examples of which include the highways maintenance programme and maximising the use of green spaces in order to benefit community health and wellbeing.



Cllr Anne Lawson
Chair of Coalfield Area Committee

Coalfield Area Committee

Our local priorities for Coalfield area were:

Work in partnership to address key issues that affect residents' emotional and mental wellbeing

Encourage and support local residents to eat healthily and take part in wellbeing activity

Increase opportunities to access training and learning to enhance life and employability skills

Support capacity building in local VCS organisations to promote volunteering and collaborative working

Support provision of activities for young people that increase their involvement in community and area events and projects

Support and develop traders groups and initiatives to increase footfall in local shopping centres, and support environmental improvements to local shopping centres

Deliver the environmental improvement and education project to encourage communities to get involved in, and take pride in, their local area

Celebrate and support long standing and historical events and celebrations taking place in local communities

Our year in numbers

We approved **£266,595** of projects to implement specific local priorities, supporting our voluntary and community sector organisations and supplementing funding of council departments and partner agencies to improve services to the local community.

£12,000 to set up a bursary fund to enable young people from the Coalfield area to take part in the Tall Ships Races 2018 as a Sail Trainees

£12,000 to develop a programme of activities for schools and local community organisations to take part in Tall Ships Races 2018 related initiatives

£50,000 to deliver an overarching Digital Inclusion project which will support organisations across the area to develop their digital offer to local people

£50,000 to enable six local organisations to extend and enhance public access to computers and digital help and support

£33,193 to provide a Coalfield wide programme of services, activities and events for older and vulnerable people to reduce social isolation, improve wellbeing and encourage integration into community activities

£10,000 to provide events, celebrations, and heritage activities important to the local area in partnership with the Coalfield VCS Network and community organisations

£20,000 for the development of initiatives and activities for children, families, and young people, to meet local need, support school holiday periods and involve young people in social action in their local community

£30,000 to address mental health, including support for people concerned about debt and financial issues and to provide activities to improve health (such as performing arts, poetry and dancing)

£49,402 for the development of the Coalfield Digital Network which will support residents during the roll out of universal credit and address emerging issues as they arise

We have also awarded community chest grants to the value of **£39,313** to 57 organisations. The average grant value is **£690**

Key highlights:

145 

The Step Up project has registered **145** new potential volunteers. **56** are currently actively volunteering in local organisations, **10** are signed up to a 'pool' of volunteers for one off events and activities and **5** have gone into employment

375 

local residents of all ages from **27** schools, groups and organisations took part in art and history workshops to celebrate George Stephenson's Hetton Railway

12 

organisations from across the area are delivering social activities and clubs for older and vulnerable adults benefiting over **150** people each week

7 

local organisations are being supported to provide additional public access computers and relevant training and support to local residents to improve digital inclusion in the community

569 

people have benefited from supported community transport and a shopping bus service to enable them to take part in activities independently and increase their social interaction

72 

local traders given support, advice and training to develop their business and increase footfall in their local shopping area

678 

individuals attended **44** additional youth and play sessions delivered during school holiday periods. Of those attending, **198** engaged in four sessions or more. All sessions were delivered to include a 'food' element to combat holiday hunger

74 

Community groups and projects have been supported to develop their organisation, seek funding, recruit and train volunteers and work in partnership with other local organisations



Cllr Ellen Ball
Chair of East Area Committee

East Area Committee

Our local priorities for East Sunderland were:

Deliver a range of environmental activity to improve local areas, including community clean ups, environmental education and recycling donated furniture and household goods

Support inward investment and tourism in the local area by delivering a series of events which promote historical buildings and places across the East area

Raise standards in the private/social sector to improve health and housing for vulnerable and homeless residents

Enhance employment opportunities and skills by delivering an employment and enterprise scheme that will support people who have a learning disability or autism into employment. Develop a digital network to support residents in terms of both access to equipment and building skills and confidence

Connect vulnerable people to services in their local community through a Community Connectors programme. This includes delivering: ward networking meetings with local groups and organisations to understand local issues, a range of activities to reduce social isolation, support young people, support people with disabilities and support volunteers, and also providing 'free' room hire space to enable door step services, or support new groups to be established

Deliver a Social Action and Volunteering Programme to; support delivery of activities for young people that maximise their role in delivery of area priorities, maximise opportunities for volunteers to get involved in local events and service delivery and residents to participate in The Tall Ships Races 2018 event to ensure a legacy in local communities

Our year in numbers

We approved **£376,133** of projects to implement specific local priorities, supporting our voluntary and community sector organisations and supplementing funding of council departments and partner agencies to improve services to the local community.

£15,000 to set up a Bursary Fund to support ten young people from East Sunderland to take part in The Tall Ships Races 2018

£15,000 for a cultural programme of activities linked to The Tall Ships Races 2018 called Set the Sails programme

£111,133 to deliver the first social action and volunteering programme lead by young people who are tackling ASB, litter, child poverty, social isolation and mental health issues

£125,000 will assist to deliver unique projects in each of the five wards from a 'place' perspective, called 'Think BIG, Act Local'

£50,000 to deliver the cleaner communities programme which carried out clean ups, litter picks, painting

schemes, gardening improvements, educational campaigns and guided walks

£60,000 was allocated to develop a digital inclusion project across East Sunderland

An additional **£71,217** was committed by partners to support the delivery of SIB funded projects in the area, and a further **£182,800** of external funding has been attracted into the area using Grantfinder software

We have also awarded community chest grants to the value of **£50,279** to 55 organisations. The average grant value is **£914**

Key highlights:

1,903 

volunteers have worked **15,908 hours** to deliver actions against the area work plan for both place and people based themes, which equates to **£174,988** in kind contribution

266 

place themed initiatives were delivered to clean communities with over **38 tonnes** of street waste being collected

1,789 

children, young people, parents and carers benefiting from activities which were fun, educational and provided access to a nutritional meal during the school summer holidays

20 

community groups got involved in celebrating the area's history and heritage by delivering **5** events. The events were delivered by **121** volunteers with over **1,750** people attending

78 

tonnes of household furniture has been donated by **357** people to deliver the Re-Use Community Furniture hub, which has benefited **190** vulnerable people in the East

94 

VCS groups benefited from the Community Connectors programme, involving **2,725** people participating in a range of activities to increase social inclusion, improve independence, boost confidence and connect to their community

1 

street waste recycling centre has been established in the city, within its first months of operation it had collected, sorted and sent off **2 tonnes** of street waste to be recycled and used again

21 

people who have learning disabilities and/or autism have become work ready as part of the Stepping Up project, as well as **10 people** being engaged in micro enterprise and a further **12** placed into paid employment



Cllr Denny Wilson
Chair of North Area Committee

North Area Committee

Our local priorities for North Sunderland were:

To improve the environment and greenspace through continuing to influence the design, delivery and review of Place Based Services devolved to Area Committee, including the Local Services' Area Delivery Plan and the Highway's Maintenance Programme

To contribute to support and influence the heritage offer in the North

To continue to support health and wellbeing

Activities for young people

Ensure that the North area benefits from Community Led Local Development (CLLD) funding through the provision of the required match funding for projects, to enhance opportunities for people to improve their job prospects and skills

To continue to support the development and engagement with Voluntary and Community Sector organisations through the North Area VCS Network

To encourage and raise the aspirations of local people by providing them with support, activities and resources to make positive changes in their local area, bring about behaviour change and reduce demand for services

Our year in numbers

We approved **£279,190** of projects to implement specific local priorities, supporting our voluntary and community sector organisations and supplementing funding of council departments and partner agencies to improve services to the local community.

£22,500 to set up a Bursary Fund to support young people from the North to take part in the Tall Ships Races 2018

£13,488 for a cultural programme of activities linked to The Tall Ships Races 2018

£1,546 additional support for Summer Holiday Activities for Young People Project 2017 – providing a comprehensive programme of activities for young people over the summer holiday period. (Added to the £25,000 approved during 2016/7)

£4,930 The first 'North East Festival of Transport' to showcase local vintage vehicles from across the North East, in Recreation and Cliff Park

£5,000 Energy Audits for Community Facilities in the area to become more energy efficient and support sustainability

£25,000 Creating a Community Hub at Dame Dorothy Primary School

£24,446 Refurbishments to Fulwell Community Library

£30,000 to purchase 4 mobile 4G cameras for location in hotspots in the area to identify and alleviate problems in relation to anti-social behaviour, crime and environmental crime

£17,150 Redhouse Community Association to support its refurbishment and continue to develop its capacity as a Community Hub

£7,850 St. Cuthbert's Church to develop its outdoor space for community events and intergenerational activities

£25,000 Southwick Community Association improvements to help to improve usage and develop its capacity as a Community Hub

£25,000 St. Bede's Community Venue to support the expansion and upgrade to the building to offer additional services and activities to the local community

£57,280 additional support to the Community Led Local Development Programme in the North

£20,000 Activities for young people delivered through the 5 Raising Aspiration's Partnerships in the North

An additional **£89,289** was committed by partners to support the delivery of SIB funded projects in the area

We have also awarded community chest grants to the value of **£48,143** to 37 organisations. The average grant value is **£1,301**

Key highlights:

2,099 

young people participated in the Summer Holiday Activities Programme

6 

Community Hubs supported to help to develop those facilities for improved local use

10 

Community Organisations approved Energy Audits to enable them to become more energy efficient and support sustainability

14 

young people supported to take part in The Tall Ships Races 2018. **13** community organisations supported to deliver events and provide the opportunity for residents to get involved in The Tall Ships Races and its cultural programme

529 

people engaged in the Friends of Fulwell Project Healthy Lifestyle initiatives with **62** volunteers involved

5 

local partnerships established to focus on specific challenges and opportunities that mean the most to communities in each of the 5 wards in the North of the city

1,600 

people attended the first ever North East Festival of Transport in Recreation Park and Cliff Park

248 

young People engaged in Youth Provision

4 

Sails installed on Fulwell Mil



Cllr Linda Williams
Chair of Washington Area Committee

Washington Area Committee

Our local priorities for Washington were:

Establish and develop a Washington Support Partnership comprising of a network of partners who will deliver a range of 'crisis support' to come together and commit to a joined up approach to supporting Washington residents in crisis

Continue to improve the physical and environmental appearance of Washington through a coordinated 'Clean and Green' approach which will be achieved by engaging residents, the local community and partners in an active volunteering programme

Continue to support the 'Time to Care' Self-harm project; working in partnership with schools, health professions, voluntary and community organisations, young people and their parents

Develop and deliver activities for children and young people in the 2017 holiday periods for each of the Wards of Washington through a Positive Activities for Young People project

Delivering a community led approach to supporting local residents aged 50+ to live a healthier lifestyle. This is via detailed health checks and MOTs and tailored physical activity programmes.

Influencing delivery and design of Place based services devolved to Area Committee

Connect communities and heritage to improve health and well-being

Developing a co-ordinated heritage and culture approach to develop the Washington offer

Continuing to support the established Washington Voluntary and Community Sector Network

Our year in numbers

We approved **£354,184** of projects to implement specific local priorities, supporting our voluntary and community sector organisations and supplementing funding of council departments and partner agencies to improve services to the local community.

£50,000 for the Washington VCS Support Project to assist the local Voluntary Community Sector to develop and co-ordinate support for Washington VCS organisations and groups, particularly smaller grassroots groups, and for all aspects of volunteering in Washington.

£50,000 to provide a varied programme of activities for children and young people during Summer, October, and Christmas holiday periods

£50,000 to deliver the Washington Ward Improvement Project which helps the local community to find solutions to environmental and neighbourhood issues

£17,500 for a cultural programme of activities linked to the Tall Ships Race 2018

£13,184 to continue the Time 2 Care Project which supports young people who self-harm, and their families and carers.

£68,000 to support the local VCS to deliver a programme of events throughout the year – this includes the Springwell Village 1940s Weekend, the Washington Summer Carnival, the Washington Illuminations and Switch On, and the Washington Village Christmas Festival.

£5,500 to continue to support the delivery of the Washington Heritage Action Plan

£100,000 to provide additional support to the Community Led Local Development Project in Washington

We have also awarded 43 Community Chest grants totalling over **£32,500**, benefiting over 27,500 local residents.

Key highlights:

1,324 

young people participated in **124** events, sessions or activities through the Positive Activities Holiday Programme. In addition **9** groups of young people have accessed the Washington Young Peoples Can Do Fund designing and delivering a range of different events and activities

159 

young people have accessed Information Advice and Guidance and **35** young people were helped into employment through the School and Youth Opportunities project. A further **94** received job training

174 

Washington residents aged 50 years or more have registered on the Washington Healthy Lifestyle Programme in the first 9 months of the project. There have been **5,820** attendances at the gym, gentle circuits and pilates sessions

3,000 

local residents attended the 2017 Washington Carnival

9 

community led projects are underway as part of the Healthy Places Healthy People Project and to date more than **£6,600** additional funding raised to help those groups sustain the projects

337 

community volunteers have been identified and supported through the Community Volunteer Development Project

2,300 

residents attended the Washington Village Xmas Fete

2,000 

local people attended the Concord Switch On



Cllr Peter Gibson
Chair of West Area Committee

West Area Committee

Our local priorities for West Sunderland were:

It's your Neighbourhood – roll out to a community group in each ward and promote to ensure maximum take-up and use of available growing spaces

Improving the physical and environmental appearance of shopping centres and support increase in footfall through innovative approaches - use of local intelligence to support enforcement activities to reduce fly-tipping

Develop a programme of community clean-up activities, targeted communication campaigns and love Sunderland events to change behaviours, to improve neighbourhoods and reduce litter

Walk and Talk – mobilising communities to take sustainable action to support their neighbourhoods

Delivery of the SEE School and Family Event in Barnes Park

Ensure West communities are involved in and benefit from The Tall Ships Races 2018

Create healthy lifestyles through targeted activities, events and communication

Influencing health services to ensure they work with the third sector to support a sustainable approach to prevention

Activities for young people – to improve community cohesion, reduce anti-social behaviour and holiday hunger

Working with Vulnerable Communities - particularly those who are elderly, socially isolated and lonely or who have long-term care responsibilities

West School Transition Project – enabling enterprise and improving mental health as young people move from Year 6 into Year 7

Our year in numbers

We approved **£331,887** of projects to implement specific local priorities, supporting our voluntary and community sector organisations and supplementing funding of council departments and partner agencies to improve services to the local community.

£60,000 activities for young people - to reduce ASB and holiday hunger and improve community cohesion

£10,000 School Transition Project

£5,000 Safety Works Transport – provide transport for all schools within the West to enable the children in years six and eight to take part in preventative safety activities

£60,000 Walk and Talk – fund available to enable Area Committee to be responsive to local issues

£3,000 Voluntary and Community Sector Network – training to support VCS to enable them to successfully develop and write external funding applications

£28,887 Community Led Local Delivery (CLLD) Support Programme

£9,000 to fund six Sail Trainee Ambassadors

£30,000 Tall Ships School and Family Event 2018 – 28, 29 and 30 June 2018

£60,000 NEET Project – working with young people not in employment, education and training

£60,000 Social Isolation Programme of local community-based projects

£6,000 Development, manufacture and installation of various types of 'Keep Sunderland Tidy' signage

We have also awarded community chest grants to the value of **£60,827** to 63 organisations. The average grant value is **£965**

Key highlights:

6,000 

local residents attended the West Area Science, Engineering and Environment event during 2017, plus 700 school children took part in free science, engineering, environment, history, sports and healthy lifestyles activities

15 

green spaces improved and cleaned up, reducing derelict land and enhancing the environment

18 

schools attended Safety Works to ensure young people understand how their behaviour affects not only themselves but also their local community

£200k 

external funding secured (supported by GrantFinder) for the Voluntary and Community Sector with 12 community groups supported

15 

VCS organisations trained to enable them to further develop large scale external funding applications

18 

schools have been trained and are delivering a sustainable School Transition Programme to support young people moving from Year 6 into Year 7. The programme is preparing young people to increase their confidence, raise aspirations and support their mental health and wellbeing

160 

young people attended 125 Youth Activities which included a healthy meal during school holidays, reducing holiday hunger for the most vulnerable

95 

socially isolated and lonely people were able to attend targeted ward-based activities, supported through the Social Isolation programme. Delivery is on-going and will continue throughout 2018

50 

young people 'Not in Employment, Education and Training' NEET will benefit from dedicated support during 2018/2019 to enable them to move into employment, education or training as a result of the NEET project

Area Committees 2018-2019

