



The Plan is a working document, which will include addition information from other public sector partners and VCS Area Network, where relevant.

The Plan commits the Area Committee to a significant number of priorities, which will be delivered within the Coalfield area of Sunderland, to address the key issues raised by residents. The Plan will be monitored by the Area Committee and actions will be addressed throughout the next three years via the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community.

Residents will be able to monitor delivery of the plan via the online activity tracker which will be available to access at www.sunderland.gov.uk as well as through quarterly Area Committee update reports. The Coalfield Area Priorities for 2020 – 2023 are:

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| 1. Tackle empty properties | 10. Vacant Properties as Cultural Hubs and Leisure Activities |
| 2. Derelict land and property | 11. Job Opportunities and Job Clubs |
| 3. Enforcement | 12. Social Prescribing – Reduce Social Isolation |
| 4. Bloom Activity | 13. Local Greenspace |
| 5. Transport and Parking | 14. Support voluntary and community sector |
| 6. Highways, pavements and street lighting | 15. Youth Clubs |
| 7. Parks, play areas, cycle and walking routes | 16. Reduce fear of crime |
| 8. Digital Learning | 17. Preserve and celebrate local heritage |
| 9. Shopping Centres and Local Businesses | |

It is now the responsibility of Coalfield Sunderland Area Committee to deliver their Delivery Plan and which will form the work programme for the Area Committee and the Neighbourhood and Community Board for the coming months and years.

NB: numbers are for reference only, they do not list priorities in order.

Neighbourhood Investment priority		
1 Tackle Empty Properties		
Action	Next Steps?	
Explore the feasibility of implementing a time limit on how long properties can be boarded up.	Request an update on current delivery in the area from the Empty Property Team and invite officers to attend a Board meeting	Officers will attend the Neighbourhood and Community Board meeting in November 2021
Explore all types of enforcement powers to improve neighbourhoods	Invite relevant officers to discuss where Area Committee can influence and add value to current services. Request update on enforcement reporting and feedback	The Enforcement Task and Finish group received updates from a number of officers on the various enforcement powers available. Actions by Environmental Enforcement and ASB teams has taken place, including the removal of a number of nuisance/derelict caravans which were causing a blight on neighbourhoods.
Improve the physical environment of areas with high levels of empty properties and transient tenants	Request information on what environmental services provide in terms of maintenance in problematic areas.	As above. The Environmental Enforcement team has employed a number of additional officers who can work across all areas to increase capacity in the Coalfield area.
2 Review derelict land and properties to further create green and cultural communities		
Action		
Request an update on derelict land and properties to Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board	Invite relevant officers to a future Board meeting to inform specific areas where Area Committee can provide additional resources	The Green Infrastructure programme (now re-named LinkTogether) will address some of the areas identified by Members. Other areas will be discussed at future meetings with the Local Services Manager.
Carry out environmental improvements at Flintmill Park and other identified greenspaces	Invite the lead on the Coalfield Green Infrastructure Strategy to attend Area Board	A request for funding for environmental improvements is presented to the September 2021

	in order to explore further project development	Area Committee as part of the Link Together project.
Look at open and green spaces across the wards where derelict land, where not identified for other use, can be improved and/or used for community activity	Invite the lead on the Coalfield Green Infrastructure Strategy to attend Area Board in order to explore further project development	<p>A report has been provided identifying a number of green spaces which can be improved or enhanced to encourage increased community use including Keir Hardie field, Newbottle and Barnwell field. Other sites have been assessed and projects will be developed using the information provided. The LinkTogether project is designed to engage local people and encourage community use.</p> <p>The N&C Board will explore development of a 'Clean and Green' project at the November 2021 meeting.</p>
3 Ensure all available enforcement powers are used to tackle those who continue to fly tip, drop litter and spoil the neighbourhood		
Action		
Consider dealing with unsightly caravans, unroadworthy cars and advertising vehicles taking up space on grass verges	Set up Enforcement Task Group to consider all enforcement powers the Council have. Invite relevant officers to discuss where Area Committee can influence and add value to current services	The Enforcement Task and Finish Group discussed the enforcement powers available and relevant actions were agreed, including tackling vehicle nuisance. Reporting mechanisms were discussed including a new Member 'Report it' system which will be implemented in late 2021.
Continue the multi agency approach to large and ongoing fly-tips at the former Forest Estate, Easington Lane	Invite relevant officers to provide information to the Task group (above) and continue to feed into LMAPS	The multi agency action at this site is ongoing. LMAPS continue to monitor and take action to maintain improvements
4 Bloom Activities and Supporting Residents to Grow Their Own		
Action		

Request further information regarding 'Gateway' improvements and how Area Committee may be able to enhance/further develop plans	ACDL to request further information on planned 'Gateway' improvements	Information on 'gateways' to the area is being gathered and will be presented to the Neighbourhood and Community Board and future Area Committee to identify actions
5 Transport routes and parking issues in residential and local shopping areas		
Action		
Work with Gentoo to explore solutions to parking issues on some estates		
Work with colleagues to ensure adequate parking is provided on new housing estates		This is part of the planning process and will be considered, as and when, developments are in the planning stage.
6 Highways, pavements and street lighting		
Action		
Consider possibility of removal of derelict planters and replace or pave over (e.g. Gravel Walks/Stamley Street area, Houghton)	Invite Highways officers to an Area Board meeting to discuss	
Progress the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) programme within the Coalfield area.	Highways colleagues developed and implemented a programme of 8 signs, deployed across 31 sites on a 3 month rolling programme.	The July 2021 Board meeting proposed that a further 4 vehicle activated speed signs (VAS) (one for each ward) were purchased to deploy in areas where there is a concern, from residents and members, that vehicles are speeding and causing safety issues for pedestrians and other road users.
7 Parks, play areas, cycle and walking routes		
Action		
Explore the feasibility of installing additional/improved signage at key locations	Request further information from the PROW Officer on current footpath and cycleway signage to inform next steps	New welcome signs will be installed at parks in the Coalfield area. The Stephenson Trail Task group will identify footpath and cycleway signage requirements on the route

Support renewal of bins in Hetton Lyons Country Park (and other areas where relevant)	Request location and condition information of rubbish/dog bins in parks to inform next steps	An audit has been carried out on the condition of bins. Bins will be replaced in Hetton Lyons Country Park as part of a Citywide programme.
Support the improvement and increased use of Hetton Park	Request further information on the future plans for Hetton Park to inform next steps and the potential development of a park management plan	A project to explore improvements and use of the park is to be developed. Consultation is currently underway and results will inform next steps. New signage and bins will be replaced as part of a Citywide programme.
Support improvements in Rectory Park, Houghton le Spring	Set up a Task group with ward members and partners. Allocate capital funding to assist improvements	£100,000 has been allocated for improvements in the park. Consultation will take place from October 2021 and a project steering group set up to consider the development of a park plan.
Provide additional, accessible, play equipment in key parks across the Coalfield area	Invite Assistant Director of Environmental Services to an Area Board meeting to discuss condition survey, future plans and areas where Area Committee can add value to planned provision	<p>A condition survey of all fixed play sites has been carried out and information was presented to the July 21 Board meeting. Costs and available budgets are being worked on to discuss feasibility of enhancing planned works.</p> <p>Improvements to the play area and installation of a skate park at Easington Lane Flatts is now complete and was well received during the Summer Holidays.</p>
8 Digital Learning Resources		
Action		

Implement the next phase of the Neighbourhood Funded Digital Inclusion programme to enable support to residents within the community	ACDL to develop project brief and invite applications via the VCS Network	The Coalfield Communities Connected project, delivered by Springboard, provides 1-2-1 and small group support to local residents who require advice or help with anything digital. The service is to be expanded in to two additional local venues.
Develop a 'loan' scheme to provide IT equipment to children and young people who do not have computers at home.	Funding was approved at the March 2021 Area Committee to purchase devices for loan.	Hetton, Kepier, Biddick and St Roberts schools now have the equipment in place and are allocating to pupils resident in the Coalfield area.
9 Shopping Centres and Local Businesses		
Action		
Encourage use of Shop Local and using smaller traders in the community	Build on the support for local business messages developed during lock-down. Promote the benefits of local shopping. Use Coalfield Sunderland Community facebook page	The work of the Coalfield Community Hub (a partnership between Sunderland City Council and a range of VCS partners) has promoted the services provided by local retailers within the Community. Shopping support to those who are isolated or vulnerable has been carried out by local groups and volunteers and has supported, where possible, shops and services within the local community.
10 Vacant Properties and Land as Cultural Hubs and Leisure Activities		
Action		
Explore opportunities for Elemore Golf Course e.g. community farm, community forest and space for mini-festivals, training and apprenticeships. Area Committee to consider funding a feasibility study/business plan	Set up a Task Group to explore vacant properties and feasibility for future use for cultural and leisure activity.	Sunderland City Council has set up a project group to protect and develop the site, now known as 'Elemore Park'. It is proposed to develop the club house and the greenspace area for the benefit of

		the local and wider community as a location of natural and historic importance. March Area Committee approved a sum of £100k to support the planned work. The project group continue to meet regularly to develop and implement the agreed action plan. A logo for the site has now been identified and all documentation for the planning application is being collated.
Explore the feasibility of creating a heritage centre at the former Philadelphia Depot		Area Committee approved a project to carry out a condition survey of the building. Results of the survey will be presented to the November 2021 N&C Board to determine next steps
Identify vacant sites and their current and future use	Task and Finish Group members to identify any other key sites for discussion	The Group discussed the currently underutilised building in Herrington Country Park, and the potential for future use. Funding was agreed by Council to develop the building and an outline design for a café has been drawn up by Design Services
11 Job Opportunities and Job Clubs		
Action		
Support local residents with employment-related information and training in local venues via VCS organisations	Set up a Task Group, and liaise with VCS partners, to explore what is currently available and where additionality can be provided to enhance support locally	
Provide relevant information to support small and artisan business and encourage development of CIC companies where appropriate		

Support residents back into employment and maximise job opportunities		
12 Social Prescribing and Reducing Social Isolation		
Action		
Continue to provide affordable wellbeing activities to reduce social isolation and improve health (e.g. Zumba, dance fit, walking football etc...)	Area Board to discuss allocation of Neighbourhood Fund via a Call for Projects to the VCS Network	<p>The Coalfield Community Hub partners are supporting residents to take part in activities and services across the area. A network of partners, working with the Coalfield GP Alliance social prescribing team, offer a range of social and community support to those who need it</p> <p>A City Council funded Covid 19 Mental Health and Wellbeing project is being delivered in the Coalfield area by 5 organisations who have come together to form a 'mental health partnership'. One element of the project is telephone befriending.</p> <p>A number of Neighbourhood Fund projects were approved at the June 2021 Area Committee and have now commenced activities to engage and support local residents. The first lunch club of the year provided by Hetton New Dawn attracted over 40 residents, ELCAP social trips are proving extremely popular and may be the first outing some have had in over a year. The Down at the Pit project is providing</p>

		social and health benefits to local males.
Provide befriending and welfare support to local residents via telephone, facetime or 1-2-1 in person	Area Board to discuss allocation of Neighbourhood Fund to address this priority	The Coalfield Community Hub, set up in response to the Covid 19 pandemic, has continued to provide befriending support and keep in touch calls to residents who require them. A Call for Projects was made in May 2021, and successful projects will commence in September, including befriending support. A number of seats or benches in the area have been identified as 'Happy to Chat' benches as a pilot for a Citywide project. The first bench identified is in the Hetton ward and this will commence in September 2021
13 Enhance Local Greenspace and encourage wider use		
Action		
Explore the expansion of green gyms and adult exercise equipment in parks	ACDL to request further information from colleagues in Sport and Leisure	Equipment has been installed in Hetton Lyons Country park. Other venues will be explored if a need is identified
Consider the improvement and promotion of local greenspaces, not identified for other use, for community activity	Invite the lead on the Green Infrastructure Strategy to discuss with the Area Board to inform next steps	
Look into improved signage for footpaths and cycle routes	Discuss as part of the Green Infrastructure Strategy	
14 Support the voluntary and community sector to provide additional services within local community venues as well as host community events/activities		
Action		
Continue to provide funding opportunities to local organisations via the VCS Network	All funding opportunities (internal and external) to be circulated to the VCS	A regular bulletin including information sharing and funding opportunities is circulated to all

	Network via information sharing from the Area Team	<p>VCS Network members. The VCS continue to be supported by the Area Committee, the Community Hubs receive on-going support and the VCS Network continues to be supported to ensure they have access to all internal and external funding opportunities.</p> <p>Regular VCS Network meetings and contact with VCS Representatives to Area Committee ensure that views and input are incorporated into project ideas and actions. The September VCS Network meeting is the first to be held in person for over 18 months.</p> <p>Sunderland City Council continue to support a thriving voluntary sector and is a key partner in the VCS Alliance which is set up to support and build capacity in the sector.</p>
15 Support Youth Clubs and spaces for young people to be together and feel safe		
Action		
Support the development of the 2 year Neighbourhood Funded Youth Activity project	ACDL to monitor the project closely, ensuring members have the opportunity to feed in views/proposals to the lead agent (SNCBC)	<p>The NF Youth project is now underway, employing alternative engagement methods due to Covid 19 restrictions.</p> <p>As restrictions are lifted 2 sessions per week are being delivered in each ward</p>
Explore the development of a responsive service that can deal with problematic areas as they arise	Set up a Task group to look at ASB prevention and longer term strategies	The NF youth project is designed to respond to areas of need/concern and provides outreach work in

		those areas. A Task group will be arranged to discuss further
Support activities for children and young people during school holidays	Based on consultation, Coalfield Area Committee made a Call for Projects for local groups and organisations to deliver a series of 'activity with food' sessions during school holidays from July 2021 to May 2022.	A total of £37,431 was allocated to 8 projects across the Coalfield area. During the July/August 2021 Summer Holidays a total of 69 sessions were delivered to 428 children and young people aged 4-14
16 Reduce fear of crime by working in partnership across neighbourhoods to bring communities of all ages together		
Action		
Develop long term strategies, with partners, for dealing with ASB	Set up a Task group to look at ASB prevention	
Explore the feasibility/benefits of setting up a boxing club in Hetton		Potential premises are currently being explored and Council Officers are working with Councillors to liaise with England Boxing to gather more information
17 Preserve and celebrate local heritage		
Action		
Explore opportunities to celebrate Hetton Railway 200 year anniversary	Area Co-ordinator to discuss with other areas of Sunderland, who have also identified this opportunity	A Stephenson Trail Task and Finish group with members from the Coalfield, East and West areas has developed an action plan and each of the three Area Committees have approved £50k funding.
Support the development of a commemorative mining statue/memorial on the old Houghton Colliery site	ACDL to liaise with Development Director of Land and Investment to explore how Area Committee can enhance proposals for the site	Further to approval of £50,000 at the December 2020 Area Committee, the artwork for the site can be included in the planning application and options will be explored for a mining memorial plaque.

Explore the feasibility of creating a mining 'map' on the paving of the new retail development at Houghton		As above
Continue to support local events and celebrations via Neighbourhood Fund	Celebrate 100 year anniversary of Easington Lane memorial clock which was unveiled by Lord Joicey on 27 August 1921	The event took place on 28 August 2021