

Coalfield Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2020 / 2023

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:

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

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		
Links to: A Dynamic Smart City <i>More and better housing</i>		
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 February 2022
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. The November 2021 Board Meeting discussed the development of a Coalfield Clean and Green project, funded via Neighbourhood Fund, and feasibility of linking to enforcement. Further information was requested and will be brought to the February 2022 Board Meeting.
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. Further information will be brought to the February 2022 Board Meeting
2 Review derelict land and properties to further create green and cultural communities		
Links to: A Healthy Smart City <i>Cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods</i>		

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 in order to explore further project development	A request for funding for £200,000 Neighbourhood Fund to deliver environmental improvements was approved by the December 2021 Area Committee as part of the Link Together project. This will be used as match funding for a project application for almost £1m which has been submitted to the Heritage Fund. The outcome will be reported to Area Committee as soon as a decision has been made.
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 explored the development of a 'Clean and Green' type project at the November 2021</p>

		meeting. Further information was requested and will be presented to the February 2022 Board meeting.
3 Ensure all available enforcement powers are used to tackle those who continue to fly tip, drop litter and spoil the neighbourhood		
Links to: A Healthy Smart City Cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods		
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. Further information has been requested and an update will be presented to the N&C Board early in 2022.
4 Bloom Activities and Supporting Residents to Grow Their Own		
Links to: A Vibrant Smart City More residents participating in their community A Healthy City Smart City Cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Community empowerment, engagement and involvement		
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		
Links to: A Healthy Smart City Great transport and travel links A Healthy Smart City More and better housing Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Business growth and investment in VCS		

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		
Links to: <i>A Vibrant Smart City People feeling safe in their neighbourhoods</i> <i>A Healthy City Smart City Cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods</i>		
Action		
Consider possibility of removal of derelict planters and replace or pave over (e.g. Gravel Walks/Stanley 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.	<i>The September 2021 Area Committee approved funding to purchase a further 4 vehicle activated speed signs (VAS) (one for each ward) 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. All Coalfield Sunderland Councillors receive a quarterly report containing analysis of results and future rotations.</i>
7 Parks, play areas, cycle and walking routes		
Links to: <i>A Vibrant Smart City More people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing and participating in cultural events, programmes and activities</i> <i>A Healthy Smart City Cleaner and more attractive City and neighbourhoods</i>		
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	<i>New welcome signs will be installed at parks in the Coalfield area. The Stephenson Trail Task group will</i>

		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 commenced in October 2021 and will continue throughout December 2021. A project steering group will meet to consider the development of a park plan. Costs for lighting in the park is being explored
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	A condition survey of all fixed play sites has been carried out and information was presented to the July 21 Board meeting. A further presentation was given to the November 2021 Board and available budgets are being worked on to discuss feasibility of enhancing planned works to include accessible equipment. 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.
8 Digital Learning Resources		
Links to: <i>A Dynamic Smart City A lower carbon City with greater digital connectivity for all</i> <i>A Dynamic Smart City More local people with better qualifications and skills</i> <i>Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Improving community resilience</i>		
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	<p>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 has now been expanded to additional local venues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday ELCAP • Tuesday Houghton Library • Wednesday ShARP • Thursday Houghton Racecourse CA
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		
Links to: <i>A Dynamic Smart City A stronger city centre with more businesses, housing and cultural opportunities</i> <i>A Vibrant Smart City More residents participating in their communities</i> <i>Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Business growth and investment in VCS</i>		
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.	The work of the Coalfield Community Hub (a partnership between Sunderland City Council and a range of VCS partners) has promoted the

	Use Coalfield Sunderland Community facebook page	<p>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.</p> <p>In addition to the local welfare provision, an Enhanced Winter Offer is being delivered across the Coalfield to support those who are struggling with food and fuel. Local shops in Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row are being used for vouchers where possible. A 'Christmas Cheer' project funding by all four Coalfield Wards via Community Chest will use local shops in Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row when purchasing vouchers</p>
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10 Vacant Properties and Land as Cultural Hubs and Leisure Activities

Links to: *A Vibrant Smart City More people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing and participating in cultural events, programmes and activities*
Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Socially productive asset management

Action		
Explore opportunities for Elemore Golf Course e.g. community farm, community forest and space for mini-festivals, training and apprenticeships.	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

		<p>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. Ecology surveys have been completed and designs for the building and the site have been drawn up, in preparation for a planning application. A visitor centre, horticultural activity and a coffee shop, as well as walks, wildlife activities and educational provision, are part of the proposals for development. School and community action days including bird watching, tree identification and tree planting are taking place.</p>
Explore the feasibility of creating a heritage centre at the former Philadelphia Depot		<p>Area Committee approved a project to carry out a condition survey of the building. The results of the draft survey were discussed at November 2021 N&C Board. The Board will receive the final reports during December 2021 and will discuss at the February 2022 meeting.</p>
Identify vacant sites and their current and future use	Task and Finish Group members to identify any other key sites for discussion	<p>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</p>
11 Job Opportunities and Job Clubs		
<p>Links to: <i>A Dynamic Smart City More and better jobs</i> <i>A Dynamic Smart City More local people with better qualifications and skills</i> <i>Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Improving community resilience</i></p>		

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		
Links to: <i>A Healthy Smart City Reduced health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives</i> <i>A Healthy Smart City People enjoying independent lives</i> <i>Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Improving community resilience</i> <i>Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Business growth and investment in VCS</i>		
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, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Down at the Pit • Men's Shed at Elba Park • Our Day Out • Coalfield Singing Project • Penshaw Pals
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. Neighbourhood Fund projects including Our Day Out and Encouraging Participation include an element of 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 with the support of Hetton New Dawn will be in place in December 2021
13 Enhance Local Greenspace and encourage wider use		
Links to: A Healthy Smart City <i>Cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods</i> A Vibrant Smart City <i>More residents participating in their communities</i>		
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	The N&C Board will further develop this as part of the LinkTogether project
Look into improved signage for footpaths and cycle routes	Discuss as part of the Green Infrastructure Strategy	This is being developed as part of the wider LinkTogether project. Signage for Hetton Bogs is currently being developed
14 Support the voluntary and community sector to provide additional services within local community venues as well as host community events/activities		
Links to: <i>A Vibrant Smart City More residents participating in their communities</i> <i>Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Increasing social value through procurement and wider activity</i> <i>Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Business growth and investment in VCS</i>		
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 Network via information sharing from the Area Team	<p>A regular bulletin including information sharing and funding opportunities is circulated to all 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 November VCS Network meeting was held in person and was extremely well attended.</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.
15 Support Youth Clubs and spaces for young people to be together and feel safe		
Links to: <i>A Healthy Smart City Access to equitable opportunities and life chances</i> <i>A Vibrant Smart City More people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods</i> Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Improving community resilience		
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>A two year programme of youth support is currently being delivered by Community Opportunities. Clubs and activities for 11-19 year olds are being delivered twice a week in each ward. This year, to date, 65 sessions have been delivered, with 105 unique participants attending.</p> <p>The Coalfield Area Committee funded CHAT programme offers physical activity sessions for 13-19 year olds. The programme includes a Teen Gym at Hetton Wellness Centre and Houghton Sports Centre, and twice a week evening football for a nominal charge of £1 per session.</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 Summer 2021 and October half term 2021 holidays a total of 76 sessions were delivered to 556 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		
Links to: A Vibrant Smart City <i>More people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods</i>		
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		
Links to: A Vibrant Smart City <i>More people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing and participating in cultural events, programmes and activities</i> Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy <i>Community empowerment, engagement and involvement</i>		
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. A Task and Finish group meeting in December received information on the educational programme which will take place from January to September 2022

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 was agreed, and has been included in the planning application which was approved at the November 2021 Development Control meeting. Further options for a mining memorial plaque are being explored.
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