

15 MARCH 2022

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF WEST SUNDERLAND
NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY BOARD**

West Sunderland Area Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2020-2023

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report:

- a. Presents the West Sunderland Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2020-2023; and
- b. Provides an update of progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 Following the approval of the Neighbourhood Investment Plans in March 2020, the West Sunderland Area Committee has worked together to finalise their Delivery Plans. All priorities have been determined following significant resident consultation via Let's Talk Sunderland. The Council also undertook further consultation with residents, during June 2020, to ensure the priorities were still relevant post COVID-19.

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 the working group for the Area Committee and the Board will be Chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Area Committee. 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 and 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 June 2021.

4. Areas of Key Action and Progress

- 4.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of action and/or progress of the Board, up to February 2022, with greater detail set out in **Annex 1**, which informs the Area Activity Tracker to allow residents to monitor Area Committee's progress throughout the year.

Issue / Area Priority	Action / Update
Develop a plan for Green gyms – consider locations and equipment across the West	All 6 Outdoor Gym sites are now open. Each site has a variety of equipment to exercise arms and legs. The Site locations are, Hylton Road Playing Fields, King George Playing Fields, Silksworth Recreation Park, Barnes Park, East Herrington Park and Thorney Close
Carry out a review, audit and capital improvements across Sunderland Cemeteries.	The Bereavement Service Manager was invited along to the November 2021 Board meeting. An update was provided on improvements and service changes. Member were informed about a new joint working group being established across the City, between Officers and Councillors to improve the appearance and design of cemeteries. Members were invited to the working group. Update pending
Update to be provided on amount of investment planned by Highways Services for highways, pavements and street lighting replacement programme	<p>A report on proposed highways to include in the 2021 / 2022 Programme was considered by the Area Committee in March 2021 and agreed. Further updates have been received and Members have fed areas for consideration in the 2022-2023 programme. At the February Board meeting the Board considered the recommendations for 2022-2023 and made some changes. This revised report is being recommended for approval at the Area Committee Item 2 Annex 2</p> <p>Following the various Task and Finish groups on highway improvements, proposals were presented to the Board in February. Those proposals are being recommended for approval at the Area Committee. Details can be found in Item 4 Annex 2</p> <p>Applications have been received for improvements to Highways from across the West Area £270,971 Neighbourhood Capital funding and £17,913 Neighbourhood funding are being recommended to Area Committee for approval</p>
West Area Committee approved £120k to improvements to play areas in the West.	Area Committee agreed a Play Improvement project. The project has experienced delays due to market conditions and in some cases vandalism to play areas. 5 sites (Hylton Road Playing Fields, Silksworth Recreation Park, East Herrington Park, King George Playing Fields, Thorney Close, Grindon Lane and Barnes Park) are now complete and equipment is being used regularly. Portsmouth Road

	has experienced delays and vandalism, work is expected to complete in the coming weeks.
Consider improvements to the Stephenson Trail – working alongside other areas (Coalfield and East)	<p>A multi area Task and Finish group continues to meet. The action plan has been developed to support this project and work continues. At the September Area Committee £50,000 Neighbourhood Capital funding was approved.</p> <p>In February 2022, the Task Group received an update on the Walking the Routes results, which has been shared with key Council Services and Partners to identify what actions they can deliver against. This will identify outstanding works which will need additional resources to complete the works, which area funding will contribute towards.</p> <p>The Cultural Spring secured the contract to deliver the Educational programme and are aiming to engage with seven primary schools, whose location is near the Trail. The Schools will work with specialists from the creative sector to produce an Education Pack which will be shared with other Primary Schools within the City. In addition, there is an array of community activities on offer during 2022, which include: way markers competition; song writing; banners and flags project; photo competition; oral history recordings; pop up gigs across the Summer months; the West Area Committee will promote the Trail at their hugely successful annual Barnes Park event, as well as, the Hetton 2000 Group promoting it at the Hetton Steam Carnival.</p> <p>Discussions are being held with Highways about the feasibility of exploring options to connect the Trail to other routes (e.g. Laura's Loop / Lambton route), making it more varied and accessible. The Events Team are considering if the Trail should be used as part of the annual BIG bike or walk event in 2022 and have added the route to the Step Up app.</p> <p>The Task Group is liaising and co-ordinating plans with the Elemore Greenspace Project, including the installation of an iconic art feature at the beginning of the route, and the River Sunderland regeneration developments and events programme.</p>

5. Recommendation(s)

5.1 Members are requested to:

- i. Consider the progress and performance update with regard to West Sunderland Neighbourhood and Community Board Delivery Plan 2020-2023 and agree proposals for future delivery as contained within Annex 1.

- ii. Support the recommendation to approve the West Highways Improvements – details in Item 2 Annex 2
- iii. Support the recommendation to approve the Neighbourhood Capital Improvements and Neighbourhood Fund Highways improvements Project details in Item 4 Annex 1

Annex 1 West Sunderland Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2020-2023

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