

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 Communities Board.

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	The Assistant Director of Housing Services attended the November Board meeting to discuss issues and update the Board on current activity and plans. Further discussions will take place throughout the year.
Explore all types of enforcement powers to improve the neighbourhood around 'The Square' at Herrington	Request further information on future plans around 'The Square' at Herrington. 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 received updates from a number of officers on the various enforcement powers available. Actions by Environmental Enforcement and ASB teams has taken place and the Neighbourhood and Communities Board are discussing relevant project ideas using Area Budgets. Further discussions will take place at the March Board meeting, with recommendations presented to the June Area Committee
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 around 'The Square/Doorstep Green' at Herrington, including issues with unadopted road	As above
	Request further information regarding issues/solutions at Britannia Tce, Fencehouses	
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 Communities Board	Invite Housing colleagues and Property Services to a future Board meeting to inform specific areas where Area Committee can provide additional resources	
Look at tidying up the Doorstep Green and other areas adjacent to Herrington Country Park, including the rear of Southburn Tce	Request an update from Environmental Services to inform where Area Committee can provide additionality to existing arrangements	The March meeting of the Neighbourhood and Communities Board will discuss specific issues and actions with relevant Council services and develop a project to address this priority
Carry out environmental improvements at Flintmill Park	Request an update from Environmental Services to inform where Area Committee can provide additionality to existing arrangements	A request for funding for environmental improvements will be presented to the June 2021 Area Committee to include this location. In the meantime, work has commenced to identify specific issues and how they can be tackled
Look at other green spaces across the wards where derelict land, where not identified for other use, can be used for community activity	Invite the lead on the Coalfield Green Infrastructure Strategy to attend Area Board in order to explore further project development	The February 2021 Board meeting discussed issues and solutions for some aspects of greenspace. 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.
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. Officers from relevant services have worked

		together to arrange removal of a number of identified vehicles. An update report was presented to the February 2021 Board meeting.
Tackle private businesses carrying out and using the highway for vehicle repairs, including using the highway as a car park (e.g. Church Street, Shiney Row and Allendale, Penshaw)	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	Environmental Enforcement officers have received information on specific locations and begun to address the most problematic issues, resulting in some positive outcomes, such as vehicles/caravans being removed from the highway or greenspaces
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. Deployment of CCTV, patrols of the area, vehicle monitoring and investigation of waste has shown some improvement to the area. LMAPS continue to monitor and action the issue and the Council's Environmental Enforcement Officers are working with all relevant partners to maintain improvements
Request information on all types of enforcement powers available to the City Council	To be presented to the Task group (as above)	Officers from Northumbria Police and Sunderland City Council attended the Enforcement Task and Finish Group meeting in November 2020 to update the Group on enforcement powers relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways • Planning • Environment • Public Health • Crime • Civil and Parking

		Reporting and feedback mechanisms were discussed and an update was given to the Board at the February 2021 meeting.
Support a multi-agency/multi disciplinary approach to addressing a range of ASB and environmental issues at Railway Tce North and surrounding area	ACDL to request information regarding ongoing work and bring back to Task group (as above)	An ongoing multi-agency programme has been underway at this location. A number of actions have been taken and the reports of ASB and disorder have reduced significantly. The Coalfield ASB Officer, working with local police officers and police support officers, monitors the area regularly and retains contact with local residents. The issue remains on the LMAPS agenda
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 Communities Board to identify actions
Explore the feasibility of installing flower tubs/railing troughs in more locations across the Coalfield area e.g. Easington Lane memorial clock, Shiney Row shopping centre	ACDL to explore options/costs with Environmental Services	A request for funding to provide floral displays in key locations is presented to the March 2021 Area Committee
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		
Explore feasibility of additional resources to address persistent offenders around local shopping centres	Discuss enforcement powers and potential to provide additional resources at the	An update on parking enforcement was given to the Enforcement Task

(Shiney Row and Newbottle Street) where inappropriate parking can damage business for local traders	Enforcement Task Group (as in 1 and 3 above)	and Finish Group in November 2020. Colleagues from Parking Services provided information on available powers, and reporting mechanisms
6 Highways, pavements and street lighting		
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	
Explore the feasibility of removing bollards at Edwin Street, Gravel Walks.		
Update to be provided on amount of investment planned by Highways Services for highways, pavements and street lighting replacement programme	Highways Maintenance Programme for 2021 - 2022 to be presented to Neighbourhood and Community Board for discussion and recommendation to Coalfield Area Committee	<p>The Highways Maintenance Programme for 2021-2022 is under development. Officers attended the February Neighbourhood and Communities Board meeting to update Members on the assessment of all sites put forward. Recommendations from the Board are presented to the March 2021 Area Committee.</p> <p>A progress report on the current year's (2020-21) programme of work was presented to the Board.</p>
Progress the VAS programme planned for the Coalfield area consisting of 8 signs deployed across 31 sites on a 3 month rolling programme	Highways colleagues to complete a procurement exercise and provide an update to the November 2020 Area Board meeting	8 signs have been procured for the Coalfield area and are now installed as a first phase of the project. The signs will be deployed across 31 sites on a 3 month rolling programme.
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	
Support the development of the Lakes Café in Hetton Lyons Country Park	Pledge support via Spacehive	The Area Committee pledged £950 to ensure that the Lakes Café reached it's target before the deadline date. Improvements to the Café will provide a great facility for visitors to the park all year round.
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 and seats in parks across the area. The results of this audit are being assessed by Local Services to prioritise renewal and repair. Once this exercise is complete, the Neighbourhood and Communities Board will consider where Area Committee can add value by allocating Area Budgets
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	
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. The February Neighbourhood and Communities Board received a report which identified required/suggested works. Costs and available budgets are being worked on and further information will be presented to the Board at their March meeting to discuss feasibility and costs of enhancing planned works.

Support cycling proficiency in schools and with youth providers. Provide prizes to local schools. Encourage young people to take up cycling to school etc..	ACDL to request information on what is currently delivered and how AC can enhance the road safety offer to young people	Highways colleagues have attended the Neighbourhood and Community Board to provide information on current schemes. Meetings have taken place with the Road Safety Team to discuss enhancing existing programmes.
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 was approved by Area Committee in September 2020. The project, delivered by Springboard, commenced in December 2020 and provides 1-2-1 and small group support to local residents who require advice or help with anything digital.
Explore the feasibility of developing a 'loan' scheme to provide IT equipment to children and young people who do not have computers at home	ACDL to gather information from schools and groups to inform next steps	In partnership with Hetton, Kepier, Biddick and St Roberts schools, The Neighbourhood and Communities Board has developed a 'Laptop Loan Scheme'. A request for funding is presented to the March 2021 Area Committee.
9 Shopping Centres and Local Businesses		
Action		
Continue to support improvement of the physical environment in local shopping centres	Area Board to discuss opportunity of aligning Neighbourhood Fund budget to environmental improvements	Funding is requested at the March Area Committee. If approved, floral displays will be installed in Easington Lane and Shiney Row
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. Supporting the local economy has become more important than ever to the community.
Support improvement of parking issues in shopping centres (as in 5 above)	Discuss enforcement powers and potential to provide additional resources at the Enforcement Task Group (as above)	
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 the 'Elemore Greenspace Project'. The group, made up of officers, partners, Councillors and members of the local community has developed a comprehensive action plan. 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. Ideas being explored so far include a visitor centre/café, nursery and garden centre, walking/cycling hub, wildlife area and initiatives to promote the site as historically important and the start of the Stephenson Trail.

		A request for funding from the Area Committee Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme is presented to the March Area Committee.
Explore the feasibility of creating a heritage centre at the former Philadelphia Depot		The Task and Finish group reported potential opportunities to the February Neighbourhood and Communities Board and Members identified the potential of the building as a community or heritage centre and wish to move forward with a condition survey of the building to inform next steps. A request for Neighbourhood Fund is presented to the March Area Committee
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 is being 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	

Provide relevant information to support small and artisan business and encourage development of CIC companies where appropriate	available and where additionality can be provided to enhance support locally	
Support residents back into employment and maximise job opportunities		
Continue the Neighbourhood Funded RU Ready for UC project (partnership between Springboard and ShARP) to support people claiming Universal Credit to move further towards the employment market	ACDL to work with the project leads to adapt the project to current need. ACDL to provide update reports to the Area Board	The next phase of the RU Ready for UC project (delivered jointly by Springboard and ShARP) commenced on 1 December and will support claimants by telephone, on line or in person on a 1-2-1 basis (appointments only)
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	The Neighbourhood and Communities Board will discuss at the March 2021 meeting.
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. The Hub partners also provide a range of support and services including emergency food, shopping support, prescription collection and debt/budgeting advice. As restrictions ease, projects and groups will support residents to be reintroduced to activities and services in person. A City Council funded Covid 19 Mental Health and Wellbeing

		project is currently 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 a telephone befriending service. The Neighbourhood and Communities Board will discuss at the March 2021 meeting.
Work with GP Alliance Social Prescribing Team and VCS Network to identify gaps in local provision	ACDL to liaise with VCS Network to identify local need, and feed back to Area Board to inform next steps	Regular contact with the Coalfield Social Prescribing Team has enabled a joined up approach to supporting residents who would like to have more social contact and participate in clubs, services and activities. As restrictions ease, more in-person activities will be available and VCS Network members will share information at their monthly meetings.
Continue to provide support to ELCAP Community Transport project to develop new ways of working to provide social opportunities to those most at risk of isolation	Area Board to receive an update from ELCAP Community Transport regarding current and proposed transport services	At the September Area Committee, the 'Lifeline' project was approved to enable ELCAP Community Transport to provide a limited shopping bus service to residents who wanted to re-engage socially, following a period of self isolating/shielding as a result of Covid 19 restrictions. The project has been on hold since January, due to social distancing requirements. However, regular contact has been made with users of the service, and once guidance allows, the service will re-commence.

Continue with the development of the Neighbourhood Fund Coalfield Healthy and Active Programme (CHAP) projects	Area Board to receive an update on current and planned projects and support delivery of the Programme	Due to restrictions regarding meeting in person/group activity/social distancing, projects have employed alternative methods of delivery to support residents with physical and mental wellbeing. The Coalfield Community Hub and Coalfield Social Navigator (B Active N B Fit) continue to provide befriending calls and visits to those who require them.
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	To be discussed by the Neighbourhood and Communities Board at the March 2021 meeting.
Explore feasibility of dog exclusion areas for Herrington Country Park	ACDL to request information on current restrictions/legislation to inform next steps	To be discussed by the Neighbourhood and Communities Board at the March 2021 meeting.
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	To be discussed by the Neighbourhood and Communities Board at the March 2021 meeting.
Look into improved signage for footpaths and cycle routes	Discuss as part of the Green Infrastructure Strategy	To be discussed by the Neighbourhood and Communities Board at the March 2021 meeting.
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 support the VCS Network and its member organisations	Area Board to ensure links with VCS Network are further strengthened and views/input from the sector are considered when developing projects	Regular VCS Network meetings, and contact with VCS Representatives to Area Committee ensure that views and input are incorporated into project ideas and actions.

		Sunderland City Council continue to support a thriving VCS and seeks to bring additional capacity to the sector through the recruitment of 5 Community Support Workers.
Explore a way of saying thank you to the VCS organisations formally	Area Board to discuss a marketing campaign, or celebration event	
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	A weekly bulletin including information sharing and funding opportunities is circulated to all VCS Network members each week
Develop a community and volunteer programme across the Coalfield to support local residents	ACDL to provide Area Board with information regarding the recently completed Neighbourhood Fund 'Step up' project to inform next steps	The Coalfield Community Hub is supported by community groups and volunteers who are providing essential and social support to local residents. The recruitment of a Community Support Worker for the area (as above) will strengthen this work
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)	The NF Youth project is now underway, employing alternative engagement methods due to Covid 19 restrictions. Activities and support is available to young people aged 11-19. Between September and December 2020, a total of 251 young people accessed the service. Holiday provision for young people, families and children is also funded. Short break sessions for those with disabilities and learning difficulties is still being provided.

Identify suitable venues for youth clubs and sessional work	SNCBC to consider and assess local venues for delivery	The Safe Places, Safe Spaces project provides counselling sessions at four local venues (Houghton Racecourse CA, Flatts Youth Centre, Penshaw CA, and Houghton Blind Centre). The project provides emotional support for up to 8 young people per session by invitation only due to Covid restrictions.
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.
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		
Explore and research neighbourhood watch-style initiatives.		
Set up regular meetings between the Police and Sunderland City Councillors	ACDL to discuss with Area Board and Police Inspector to develop a programme of meetings	Police/Councillor meetings have commenced and will take place quarterly.
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 now met. The group includes key

		stakeholders and links with the HCR 200 group already established. A comprehensive action plan has been developed and in order to progress the plan each of the three Area Committees are requested to provide 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 Area Committee, a procurement exercise has been undertaken and the Development Director of Land and Property, in partnership with developers of the site, has commissioned Ray Lonsdale to create an appropriate piece of artwork to be installed at the Gateway to the new retail development at Houghton. Now the main artwork for the site is secured, this can be included in the planning application and options will be explored for a mining memorial plaque. Final arrangements for this will be made once all permissions for the development have been confirmed.
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	A community celebration will be arranged, the format of which will be explored in line with any restrictions in place at the time regarding gatherings and events. Environmental improvements

		including the installation of floral displays will be made.
	ACDL to bring a proposal for funding to Area Committee to support local groups via VCS Network	Neighbourhood Funding was approved at the December 2020 Area Committee. ACDL to work with the Neighbourhood and Communities Board and the VCS Network to develop ideas and projects relevant to the local area