

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 Tackle Empty Properties A Dynamic Smart City More and better housing Links to: Action **Next Steps?** Explore the feasibility of implementing a time limit on how Request an update on current delivery in Officers from Housing Services gave the area from the Empty Property Team an update to the February 2022 N&C long properties can be boarded up. and invite officers to attend a Board Board meeting about the range of functions within the service, meeting including: Private Rented Sector - Officers work in partnership with Private Landlords to tackle poor property standards to improve management practices via a range of measures including accreditation, private sector leasing and deposit guarantee. Empty Homes - Officers work to tackle empty homes and return them back into sustainable occupation across the City. Further information regarding number of empty homes and strategies to improve problematic areas were discussed. Invite relevant officers to discuss where The Enforcement Task and Finish Explore all types of enforcement powers to improve group received updates from a neighbourhoods Area Committee can influence and add number of officers on the various value to current services. Request update on enforcement reporting and feedback 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. An update was given to the February 2022 Board meeting regarding

additional resources for the Coalfield area including 2 fixed term enforcement wardens and 5 additional street watch cameras which will be deployed and monitored for a 6 month period with results being presented to the Board.

To complement the work to date, and to encourage community ownership and resident participation, the N&C Board explored the development of a 'Clean it, Green it' project at the November 2021 meeting. Further information was requested and was presented to the February 2022 Board meeting. A recommendation to allocate a budget and develop a 'call for projects' was agreed at the March 2022 Area Committee. The Call went out via the VCS Network and VSA Alliance and applications received have been assessed against the project brief and scoring criteria. The June 2022 Area Committee approved a 2 year project commencing in September 2022. A Steering Group for the project will be set up.

The Clean it Green it project has now commenced. A project officer has been appointed and is working with residents, volunteers, apprentices and local groups to identify and improve local spaces which are important within the community.

Improve the physical environment of areas with high levels of empty properties and transient tenants 2. Povious descript land and properties to further of the second sec	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. Housing services updated the Board at the February 2022 meeting and highlighted work they are carrying out in areas with high levels of empty properties. Officers and their specific areas of expertise were introduced to the Board. Any issues should be reported to the team via the relevant processes in place.
2 Review derelict land and properties to further create green and cultural communities Links to: A Healthy Smart City Cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods		
Action	and neighbourhoods	
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. The Neighbourhood Fund environmental improvements project is delivering small scale projects to support this priority. Housing services updated the Board at the February 2022 meeting and highlighted work they are carrying out in areas with high levels of problematic properties
Carry out environmental improvements at Flintmill Park and other identified greenspaces	Invite the lead on the Coalfield Green Infrastructure Strategy to attend Area	A request for funding for £200,000 Neighbourhood Fund to deliver environmental improvements was

	Board in order to explore further project development	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. Funding for the development phase of the project has now been approved by Heritage Fund and an application for additional funding to bridge the gap between development and delivery phases was approved by Area Committee at the June 2022 meeting. A project officer for the project has now been appointed and is in the process of setting up a steering group including a representative from Area Committee.
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	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. The N&C Board explored the development of a 'Clean it, Green it' project at the November 2021 meeting. Further information was requested and was presented to the

		February 2022 Board meeting. A recommendation to allocate a budget and develop a 'call for projects' was agreed by the March Area Committee An application from Springboard to deliver the project was approved by Area Committee at the June 2022 meeting. The project has employed a Clean it, Green it project officer and a volunteer support worker. Delivery commenced in October 2022.
3 Ensure all available enforcement powers are used to		litter and spoil the neighbourhood
Links to: A Healthy Smart City Cleaner and more at	tractive 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	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. An update was given to the February 2022 Board meeting regarding additional resources for the Coalfield area including 2 fixed term enforcement wardens and 5 additional street watch cameras which will be deployed and monitored for a 6 month period with results being presented to the Board. The council 'report it' system should be used to report any incidents of ASB or environmental damage. Resources are deployed in areas of highest reporting and therefore it is

further information on improvements. Although been some successed prosecution/fines/vehr difficult to obtain evident to tackle the issue en a Council officers are in with other land owners strategic partnership.	chicle removal it is dence on which entirely. Senior in discussion ers to identify a	
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' ACDL to explore 'Gateway' improvements A number of initiatives, supported by		
improvements and how Area Committee may be able to enhance/further develop plans Area Committee function developed, including barrier displays at gashopping areas. New troughs/tubs have be various locations including and East Rainton.	iding, have been grailing and ateways to ew seats and een installed in	

Links to: A Healthy Smart City <i>Great transport and</i> A Healthy Smart City <i>More and better hou</i>		
Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy E		
Action	g	
Work with Gentoo to explore solutions to parking issues on some estates		Gentoo have worked with residents to deal with parking issues on an estate by estate basis.
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: A Vibrant Smart City People feeling safe in		
A Healthy City Smart City Cleaner and mo	re attractive city and neighbourhoods	
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	A number of local schemes, identified by the N&C Board, are planned or underway, as part of the Neighbourhood Fund Environmental Improvements project, including clearing, re-planting and re-instating concrete planters around the Gravel Walks area. The work commenced at the beginning of March 2022. The concrete planters in and around Gravel Walks have been planted with shrubs and bedding to improve the environmental aspect of the area. Despite a number of attempts to vandalise the area, the Local Services Team have reinstated damaged plants and encouraged residents to report any further damage

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 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.
7 Parks, play areas, cycle and walking routes		
Links to: A Vibrant Smart City More people visiting cultural events, programmes and activitie A Healthy Smart City Cleaner and more at		and participating in
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 signs have been installed at Hetton Park. The Stephenson Trail Task group will identify footpath and cycleway signage requirements on the route and an educational project/competition is now complete and a design for waymarkers has been finalised.
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. New bins for Hetton Lyons Country Park were ordered in August 2022 and will be installed 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	Following consultation (between July and November 2021) regarding Hetton Park, the initial designs have been revised to take in comments

		and views of the community and respond to consultation feedback. New signs and bins have been installed. Work to address drainage issues has been carried out, a community orchard has been planted. Picnic benches have been installed. New seating will be installed in the coming months, and a longer term plan includes outdoor gym equipment, and improvements to the play area.
Support improvements in Rectory Park, Houghton le Spring	Set up a Task group with ward members and partners. Allocate capital funding to assist improvements	Area Committee has allocated £100,000 for improvements in Houghton Rectory Park. Consultation was carried out between October and December 2021. A project steering group has been formed to consider the results of the consultation and develop a park plan. The top suggestion for improvement was lighting in the park. An audit has been carried out and a lighting plan with costs presented to the steering group. The March 2022 Area Committee approved funding of £35,000 as a contribution to the total cost of lighting the park. New bins have been installed in the park, the fountain has been cleaned and repainted. A new filter system was installed to the fountain but due to vandalism/theft of the new electrical unit the fountain remains out of action until the damage can be repaired. The lighting to the park has

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	now been installed consisting of the supply and installation of lighting on all footpaths. There have been 28 new heritage lighting columns with associated embellishments/lanterns plus relevant electrical and connections provided as part of the scheme. The lights will be fully operational at night from September 2022. Improvements and repairs have been made to the informal car parking area next to the Rectory Building. A longer term plan is to improve the play area and install new seats and benches. The project steering group met in September to review progress to date. A condition survey of all fixed play sites has been carried out and information was presented to the November 2021 Board. Available budgets are being worked on to discuss feasibility of enhancing planned works to include accessible equipment. The Assistant Director of Community Resilience will attend the next N&C Board meeting to discuss future developments. Keir Hardie play area is now complete, despite a number of set backs due to criminal damage and vandalism during installation. The area will be monitored for ASB.
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8 Digital Learning Resources		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. Improvements to Rectory Park play area will be carried out as part of the wider park plan. A draft design to upgrade Old Durham Road play area has been agreed. A request for funding to contribute to improvements was approved by the June 2022 Area Committee. A procurement exercise is now underway to obtain fixed play equipment and improvements.
Links to: A Dynamic Smart City A lower carbon City A Dynamic Smart City More local people of Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy II	vith better qualifications and skills	
Action		
Implement the next phase of the Neighbourhood Funded Digital Inclusion programme to enable support to residents within the community	To be discussed by the N&C Board	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 project continues to be delivered from a range of venues across various days with a spread of clients accessing the different venues. The project supports local residents in their use of IT. Support during the last quarter (to July 2022) has

children and young people who do not have computers at home. Are loar	housing allocating participal update their CV search and appliage on a wide remaking referrals appropriate. Through the product access to mobil (using venue's which they utilis over 280 local reservice. Dust of 2022/23 95 personal supported, inclusion who have move training following advice from the ding was approved at the March 2021 and Committee to purchase devices for access to mobil (using venue's which they utilis over 280 local reservice. Dust of 2022/23 95 personal supported, inclusion advice from the ding was approved at the March 2021 and Committee to purchase devices for access to mobil (using venue's which they utilis over 280 local reservices.) Hetton, Kepier, Roberts schools equipment in plants.	lications. Offering ange of topics and s to other services if oject participants have e phone and tablets wifi), laptop and PCs e. During 2021/22 esidents accessed ring the first quarter ecople have been uding 13 residents ed into employment or g guidance and project. Biddick and St	
	9 Shopping Centres and Local Businesses		
Links to: A Dynamic Smart City A stronger city centre w A Vibrant Smart City More residents participate	th more businesses, housing and cultural opportunit	ies	
Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Busin			
Action Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Busin	soo growur and investment in voo		

Encourage use of Shop Local and using smaller traders in the community 10 Vacant Properties and Land as Cultural Hubs and	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. 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
10 Vacant Properties and Land as Cultural Hubs an Links to: A Vibrant Smart City More people visiting		and naviainating in
cultural events, programmes and activities	Sunderland and more residents informing	and participating in
Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Socially productive asset management		
Action		
Explore opportunities for Elemore Golf Course e.g.	Set up a Task Group to explore vacant	Sunderland City Council has set up a
community farm, community forest and space for minifestivals, training and apprenticeships.	properties and feasibility for future use for cultural and leisure activity.	project group to protect and develop the site, now known as 'Elemore Park'. It is proposed to develop the

Explore the feasibility of creating a heritage centre at 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 2021 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. 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 have taken place. Work on the building has commenced and is due to finish in Spring 2023. Plans for the wider site have been submitted and resident forum events took place in September 2022. A site visit to the lakes with stakeholders, including residents, took place in November 2022 and work to the lakes area will be carried out in coming months. Area Committee approved a project
former Philadelphia Depot	to carry out a condition survey of the building. The final survey results have now been reviewed by the N&C Board and passed on to Northern

Identify vacant sites and their current and future use	Task and Finish Group members to identify any other key sites for discussion	National Restoration Group (NNRF who currently occupy the building. NNRG can now use this document, along with their business plan to plan next steps for the group, and the building. 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. Work is now underway to remodel and extend the café within the building, providing more indoor and outdoor seating.	
11 Job Opportunities and Job Clubs			
Links to: A Dynamic Smart City <i>More and better jobs</i> A Dynamic Smart City <i>More local people with better qualifications and skills</i> Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy <i>Improving community resilience</i>			
Action			
Support local residents with employment-related information and training in local venues via VCS organisations	Liaise with VCS partners, to explore what is currently available and where additionality can be provided to enhance support locally	Initial discussions with Springboard have taken place and employment related support is provided to local residents. The Voluntary Sector Alliance have a range of training opportunities on offer to local groups and residents/volunteers which are offered regularly in local community venues. Both the Digital Support, and RU Ready for UC projects provide employment related training and support, and are delivered in local community organisations.	

Support residents back into employment and maximise job opportunities		The NF Communities Connected project (see Priority 8, above) provides job relate support in a number of community settings. The Clean it, Green it, project will	
		encourage volunteers, work with apprentices and teach skills to improve employment opportunities.	
12 Social Prescribing and Reducing Social Isolation Links to: A Healthy Smart City Reduced health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives A Healthy Smart City People enjoying independent lives Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Improving community resilience Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Business growth and investment in VCS			
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 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	
		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.	
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	

13 Enhance Local Greenspace and encourage wide	T USE	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. Happy to Chat benches have been created in Hetton in partnership with Hetton New Dawn. This is the first of a series of identified seating across the City to invite people to take time to chat to others. Signs have now been installed in Houghton ward in partnership with The Old Rectory, and in Shiney Row ward in partnership with ShARP	
Links to: A Healthy Smart City Cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods			
A Vibrant Smart City More residents particle Action	paung in their communities		
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. Outdoor gym equipment for Hetton Park has been ordered and will be installed as part of the overall park improvements	
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 LinkTogether project, which commenced in October 2022, will further develop this as part of the 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. New signage for Hetton Bogs has been installed. The Stephenson Trail project will also develop appropriate signage	

14 Support the voluntary and community sector to provide additional services within local community venues as well as host community events/activities			
Links to: A Vibrant Smart City More residents participating in their communities Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Increasing social value through procurement and wider activity Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Business growth and investment in VCS			
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	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.	
		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 retirement of one of the VCS Representatives left a vacancy which was promoted at the November 2021 and March 2022 meetings. Nominations have been invited and the group will select a rep at the next meeting.	
		At the May 2022 meeting of the VCS Network meeting two new representatives to Area Committee were selected by the Group.	

		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: A Healthy Smart City Access to equitable opportunities and life chances A Vibrant Smart City More people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods 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)	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, 90 sessions have been delivered, with 257 unique participants attending.
		Following alignment of £200,000 at the September Area Committee to develop ward based youth projects, a Call for Projects is now underway. The February N&C Board will consider applications and agree the way forward. An update will be given to the March 2023 Area Committee.
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. The ASB Task and Finish group met in February 2022 and discussed the need for more proactive and partnership working. A proposal to fund an additional ASB Officer for the

		area was agreed at the March 2022 meeting of Area Committee. An additional ASB Officer dedicated to	
		working proactively in the Coalfield	
		area has been appointed and commenced the role on 5 December	
		2022.	
Support activities for children and young people during	Based on consultation, Coalfield Area	A total of £37,431 was allocated to 8	
school holidays	Committee made a Call for Projects for	projects across the Coalfield area.	
	local groups and organisations to deliver a	During the Summer 2021 and	
	series of 'activity with food' sessions during	October half term 2021 holidays a total of 76 sessions were delivered to	
	school holidays from July 2021 to May 2022.	556 children and young people aged	
	2022.	4-14. The programme has now	
		ended and a further 11 projects	
		totalling £47,075 for delivery during	
		holiday periods from July 2022 to	
		May 2023 were approved at the June	
		2022 Area Committee meeting. An	
		update regarding summer holiday	
		was provided to the Neighbourhood	
		and Community Board in November 2022.	
16 Reduce fear of crime by working in partnership a	across neighbourhoods to bring communit		
Links to: A Vibrant Smart City More people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods			
Action			
Develop long term strategies, with partners, for dealing	Set up a Task group to look at ASB	Following a meeting of the ASB Task	
with ASB	prevention	and Finish group, the Board received	
		further information regarding current initiatives and services available to	
		tackle ASB across the area. It was	
		agreed that a proposal to fund an	
		additional ASB Officer to strengthen	
		a proactive and partnership approach	
		would be brought to Area Committee	

		and recommend approval of an
		application for funding (as above).
Explore the feasibility/benefits of setting up a boxing club		Potential premises are currently
in Hetton		being explored and Council Officers
		are working with Councillors to liaise
		with England Boxing to gather more
		information. With the support of the
		Voluntary Sector Alliance, Houghton
		Boxing Club has been successful in
		an application to Biffa to carry out
		repairs to the roof and interior of their
		building to enable the club to re-open
		the centre. A match funding
		contribution to the project has been
		agreed as part of a previously
		approved Neighbourhood Fund
		project.
17 Preserve and celebrate local heritage		
	Sunderland and more residents informing	and participating in
cultural events, programmes and activities		
• • •	Community empowerment, engagement and	d involvement
Action	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
Explore opportunities to celebrate Hetton Railway 200	Area Co-ordinator to discuss with other	A Stephenson Trail Task and Finish
year anniversary	areas of Sunderland, who have also	group with members from the
	identified this opportunity	Coalfield, East and West areas has
		developed an action plan and each
		of the three Area Committees have
		approved £50k funding.
		In February 2022, the Stephenson
		Trail Task Group received an update
		on the Walking the Routes results,
		which identified environmental and
		physical improvements required.
		Working with Council services and

developing an action plan to improve the route of the trail.

The Cultural Spring will deliver an Educational programme and are engaging with seven primary schools, whose location is near the Trail. The Schools in the Coalfield area (St Michaels, Hetton Primary, Easington Lane Primary) 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 and pop up gigs.

Three local community organisations (one from each of the Coalfield, East and West areas) are supporting the project by carrying out environmental and physical improvements with the support of volunteers. The groups will also assist in the design of interpretation boards for each area, at relevant points along the route. The groups will work in partnership with colleagues from Local Services who are also carrying out work to improve the trail. A graffiti artist has been commissioned to redesign the

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	Barnes subway, proposed design works include outlining a map of the Stephenson Trail highlighting key points of interest. A celebration event took place at City Hall in November 2022. All groups, schools and volunteers who have contributed so far took place. 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
Explore the feasibility of creating a mining 'map' on the paving of the new retail development at Houghton		explored. 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