

9 December 2020

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF COALFIELD NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITY BOARD

Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report:-

- a. Presents the Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023
- 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 Coalfield Area Committee has worked together to finalise their Delivery Plan. 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 Following the approval of the Article 10 Neighbourhood Investment Plans at Cabinet in March 2020, the Neighbourhood Investment Plans replaced the former Article 10 Local Area Plans.

- 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 (attached at Annex 1).

- 3.5 The Neighbourhoods 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 Coalfield Sunderland Councillors are invited to attend all board meetings.

- 3.6 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 / recommendations of the Board will be presented to the Area Committees for final endorsement. The Area Committee Chair and Vice-Chair were agreed at Annual Council in June 2020.

4. Areas of Key Action/Progress

4.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of action/progress of the Board up to December 2020.

Priority/Issue	Update
Tackle empty properties and explore enforcement powers to improve neighbourhoods	<p>The Assistant Director of Housing Services attended the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board in November 2020 to give Members an update on empty properties and affordable housing.</p> <p>The Council became a Registered provider in November 2019 and became Investor Partner with Home England in February 2020. The Council approved the Housing Delivery and Investment Plan of £59m in February 2020 to deliver new social housing across three areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empty Properties (64 in Coalfield area)• Bungalows (20 in Coalfield area)• Supported Accommodation (19 units in Coalfield area) <p>The Housing Service has restructured to enable delivery across all service areas and Area Committee areas and has a strengthened team to tackle empty properties, target empty homes acquisition, and undertake enforcement. New Environmental Health Officers are designated for investigation and enforcement.</p> <p>A Council new build project to deliver 5 bungalows is underway at Boulton Tce, Shiney Row. The project value is £897,552, with a Homes England grant of £195,000. Works are expected to be complete in May 2021.</p> <p>The Council's first tenant in 20 years moved into a newly refurbished property in Dene Street, Hetton in October 2020. The property had stood empty for 3 years prior to be acquired by the Council.</p> <p>A Task and Finish Group has been set up by the Board to look at various types of enforcement powers available to tackle issues within neighbourhoods.</p>
Improvement of Highways	<p>The Highways Maintenance Programme for 2021-2022 is under development. Officers attended the November Neighbourhood and Community Board meeting to discuss the programme with Members and ask for proposals to be put forward. All suggested sites will be assessed and prioritised for inclusion in the 2021-22 programme. Recommendations</p>

	<p>from the Board will be 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 Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) programme planned for the Coalfield area	All sites have now been agreed and a procurement exercise has been completed to acquire 8 signs for the Coalfield area, which will be deployed across 31 sites on a 3 month rolling programme. Delivery of the signs is expected in December 2020 and installation of the first signs will commence thereafter.
Support the development of a commemorative mining statue/memorial on the old Houghton Colliery site	Further discussions have taken place with the Development Director of Land and Investment who will commission an appropriate piece of artwork once all permissions for the development have been granted and funding is in place. A request for a financial contribution from Coalfield Capital Investment Programme funding is contained in Item 5 Area Budget Report.
Improve access to digital learning resources	<p>The Neighbourhood Fund Coalfield Communities Connected programme, delivered by Springboard on behalf of Area Committee, is providing training, support and access to IT within the community. A progress report will be presented to the Neighbourhoods and Community Board at the end of the current financial year.</p> <p>A loan scheme to provide IT equipment to children and young people who do not have computers at home is under development. Discussions with local secondary schools will take place in the next term to establish need and cost of implementing a project. The Neighbourhoods and Community Board will discuss the detail and provide an update and request for funding to the March 2021 Area Committee.</p>
Preserve and Celebrate Local Heritage including Hetton Colliery Railway 200 year anniversary (2022)	<p>At the October Board meeting it was agreed to form a Stephenson Trail Task and Finish group with members from the East and West areas. The group will include key stakeholders and link with the HCR 200 group already established.</p> <p>In line with previous years it is proposed a 'core activities' programme is developed to support events identified by Area Committee members as important to the local area. The project will provide a central resource for those events, celebrations and heritage activities identified by elected members and Area Committee partners as important to the local area and will be developed/delivered in partnership with the VCS Network and community organisations between January 2021 and March 2022. Further information is contained in Item 5 Area Budget Report.</p>

Set up Task and Finish Groups to look at specific priorities/issues and feed back to the Board	<p>The November Board agreed the scope and membership of each of the four Task and Finish Groups to be set up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement • Stephenson Trail • Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) • Property and Land available for use as leisure and culture facilities <p>The Enforcement Task and Finish group met in November 2020, the remaining three groups are due to meet in January 2021. Progress and feedback will be provided to Area Committee in future Board reports.</p>
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5. Recommendations

5.1 Members are requested to: -

- Consider the progress and performance update with regard to Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/23 and agree proposals for future delivery as contained within Annex 1

Annex 1 Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/2023

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