



# Annual Report of the Area Committees

2020-21



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# Foreword



Councillor Linda Williams  
Cabinet member for Vibrant City

As Sunderland City Council's Cabinet member for Vibrant City, I am incredibly proud to present the Annual Report of Area Committees for 2020-21. This report is produced specifically to highlight the combined achievements of the Area Committees and partners and to demonstrate the remarkable joint working which has taken place over the past year.

In 2019 Sunderland launched its Let's Talk Sunderland resident engagement campaign, and engaged with residents of all ages across all neighbourhoods in the city, to obtain their views on what they liked about their neighbourhood, what they would change/improve and how they would like to be involved in the future. The response was outstanding and the feedback was used to develop the Neighbourhood Investment Plans, for each of the five Area Committees, which were approved by the council's Cabinet in March 2020.

As we commenced 2020, no-one could have anticipated the impact the Coronavirus (Covid-19) would have across the world. The Covid-19 pandemic is like no other ever experienced in our lifetime, and this

crisis meant that some of the plans of Area Committees had to be re-prioritised with the emphasis being on supporting communities and ensuring residents were safe and protected. Sunderland residents and groups came together very quickly to work with the Area Committees and their partners, and still continue to come together as they always do during a crisis.

I would like to give my thanks and gratitude to the local Voluntary and Community Sector organisations and all partners in each of the areas, who have supported the work of the Area Committees. Area Committees are proud to support these groups and see the outstanding achievements they have delivered. People are delivering services and support in very difficult circumstances to ensure local residents have access to what they need. Volunteers have played a great part in the services offered, showing resilience and determination to help one another through difficult times.

Sunderland City Council continues to support the Voluntary and Community Sector across Sunderland, through the established five Area VCS networks, which are linked directly with each of the Area Committees. In the last 12 months, support to the sector includes:

- A Local Support Scheme to support our VCS during the pandemic, supporting 164 organisations, charities, sports clubs and groups with **£409,560** funding
- VCS Covid Community Hubs have received **£75,000** to-date to coordinate volunteers and deliver much needed one-one support to our isolated residents

- Funding of **£77,712** was allocated to our VCS organisations to deliver Christmas support and activities. Over 40 organisations supported 2,293 families and 1,602 adults across the City, distributing 1,672 hampers 1,506 hot meals and afternoon teas
- A Winter Covid Support fund of over **£52,000** was made available to support adults identified as socially isolated or lonely
- **£250,000** to our VCS to deliver Mental Health and Wellbeing Support across the city.

The above is in addition to many other projects and activities provided by local groups and funded by Area Committees as part of their individual Neighbourhood Investment Plan. Some of these activities and achievements are highlighted in each of the area sections of this report.

As the Coronavirus vaccine programme rolls out across the city, we can start to hope and think ahead for how Sunderland now prepares for life after the Coronavirus. The Area Committees continue to speak with residents, particularly those who have been most vulnerable during the pandemic, to understand their needs and to ensure our delivery plans meet those needs at a neighbourhood level, to re-build Sunderland's resilient communities for the future.

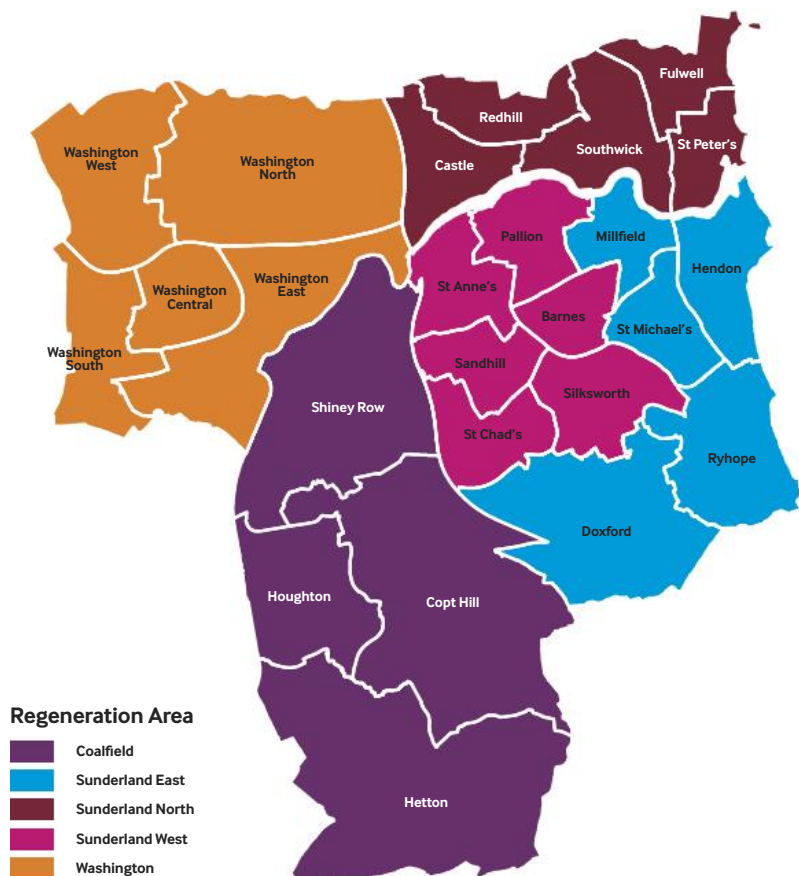
# Area Arrangements in Sunderland

As a Community Leadership Council, Sunderland Councillors are placed at the centre of decision making, with residents and communities at the heart of the decisions at a local level. The reality of Community Leadership at work is practiced through Area Arrangements and the work of the Area Committees with their supporting Neighbourhood and Communities Boards. The Area Committees are comprised of all Elected Members from the Area's wards and work closely with council officers, service delivery partners and members from the Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network (VCSN).

The role of the Area Committee is to:

- Identify the main priorities that reflect the biggest need in the area
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of services delivered by the council and other main providers in the area
- Develop efficient and effective solutions to local area priorities as well as supporting city-wide issues
- Encourage local residents to become involved in decision making on matters which affect them.

They do this in many ways one of which is providing funding to take forward projects that deliver their identified priorities. Each of the Area Committees hold delegated budgets in the form of the Neighbourhood Fund (NF), Neighbourhood Investment Capital programme (NIC) and Community Chest. These budgets are allocated to support projects and



initiatives that can demonstrate their work will support delivery of the areas identified priorities. The focus of this locally delegated funding is as follows

- Developing community capacity in localities, often involving volunteering to make things happen
- Funding 'one off' projects where work would not otherwise be taken forward
- Acting as a catalyst to lever funding from other sources
- Implementing specific local actions to deliver priorities

- Supporting council departments and partners to improve their services to the local community.

This year, in particular, has been challenging for everyone involved in Area Committees. Priorities have changed, and Area Committee focus has changed and adapted to meet the requirements and needs of each local community. The commitment and direction from all Elected Members, Officers and Partners is demonstrated in the outcomes and achievements highlighted in the individual area chapters. A flavour of local projects that are making a real difference in local communities can be found throughout this Annual





## Councillor James Blackburn, Coalfield Area Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the past year and on the challenges which the Covid 19 pandemic has brought.

The plans set out by Coalfield Area Committee at the start of 2020-21 were severely impacted by the pandemic and changed the way that Councillors, partners and community groups have operated their support and services.

The priority across our neighbourhoods has been to pull together to support each other to stay safe and protect

communities, whilst delivering essential services.

I want to offer thanks to all the key workers, my fellow Councillors, partners and volunteers who have supported our Coalfield residents. Within days all were galvanised to create the Coalfield Community Hub, which has provided a tremendous amount of support to local residents. Ordinary people have carried out extra ordinary things, by helping each other out and volunteering.

In addition to all of this, and despite the challenges and restrictions, actions from the Coalfield work plan have been delivered. Officers and partner organisations have found alternative ways to deliver these priorities and services for the benefit of the community. I am proud to present this Annual Report for the Coalfield Area which outlines some of the key achievements, despite the many difficulties faced by our neighbourhoods and communities.





**Cllr James Blackburn**  
Chair of Coalfield Area Committee

# Coalfield Area Committee

## Coalfield Area priorities set out in the Delivery Plan

- Improve housing and neighbourhoods
- Improve the physical and natural environment, and local greenspaces
- Increase access and improve support to digital resources
- Support local shopping centres and businesses
- Improve access to education and employment opportunities
- Reduce social isolation and improve health and wellbeing
- Invest in local voluntary and community sector organisations/assets
- Support young people and provide positive activities and opportunities
- Preserve and celebrate heritage

## Key highlights

From our 2019-20 and 2020-21 allocated budgets, we approved over **£495,000** to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Examples of funding awarded are:

**£39,700** Community Chest was awarded to local groups, delivering a total of 27 community projects including afternoon tea, football kits, outdoor sports equipment and garden renovations. The average grant was **£1,470**

**£40,000** was approved for four secondary schools to deliver a Laptop loan scheme for pupils from the local area. Each school will identify pupils resident in the Coalfield area who would most benefit from the use of a laptop or device to support their learning at home

**£34,200** awarded to implement a Vehicle Activated Sign programme in each ward. Signs are deployed on a rotational basis in locations where speeding has been identified as an issue

**£50,000** allocated towards the development of an iconic Mining statue to be located at the gateway to the proposed new retail development at Houghton le Spring

**£97,000** approved to deliver a 2 year Youth Support project providing activities, clubs and support to young people across the Coalfield area. An outreach service to target specific areas will also be delivered

**£50,000** to provide a range of projects to promote and celebrate the historic Stephenson Trail. Activities and improvements taking in a wide range of subjects such as environment, education, heritage and health will be developed

**£100,000** has been allocated for environmental works in Rectory Park, Houghton le Spring. Improvements will include, for example, new bins and improved signage

**£20,000** approved to develop and deliver 'Love Where You Live' and 'Bloom' activity including new planters at Easington Lane to celebrate 100 years since the Memorial Clock was built, and barrier troughs at Shiney Row shopping area

# Year in numbers

83 

older or vulnerable adults were given 1-2-1 'doorstep' visits to reduce isolation

1,322 

children aged between 7–11 engaged in environmental education sessions

4 

schools were awarded funding to purchase devices to loan to pupils to learn at home

500 

Hot lunches and afternoon teas (including Christmas lunch) were delivered to older or vulnerable people

167 

volunteers registered to support local people during lockdown or shielding

114 

families were supported with gifts, selection boxes and luxury food items over Christmas

234 

children were provided with Christmas gifts and treats

90 

people were given one to one advice and support to apply for and manage Universal Credit

185 

Weekly or fortnightly befriending calls were made to people who were lonely or isolated

144 

wellbeing sessions encompassing a variety of creative activities with free counselling, mindfulness and meditation were delivered

149 

Face to face holiday activities using a variety of methods were delivered to young people during the summer

120 

IT support was provided to residents, by telephone and in person



# Year in images







## Councillor Elizabeth Gibson, East Area Chair

As Chair of the East Area Committee, I am proud to present this Annual Report which highlights the key achievements delivered in partnership with groups and organisations from across the East area, over the past year.

When we carried out consultation via the Let's Talk Sunderland campaign, we could not have known that plans we put in place would be changed so drastically by the Covid 19 pandemic which has impacted all sectors of our community.

I want to offer thanks to my fellow Councillors, partners, local groups and volunteers who came together to give help in whatever way they were able to ensure that residents of the area were given access to support and care in the community.

The East VCS Network, and a number of East Area Committee funded projects, became galvanised within days after the lock down was declared and transformed their services ensuring they continued to support those in need from across the

area. Without their involvement more people would have suffered.

In spite of the challenges outlined above, new projects have been developed, and action has been taken, to deliver the priorities and actions outlined by Area Committee at the beginning of the year. This report contains just a snapshot of the key outcomes and achievements.





**Cllr Elizabeth Gibson**  
Chair of East Area Committee

# East Area Committee

## East Area priorities set out in the Delivery Plan

- Tackle empty properties
- Review derelict land
- More affordable new homes
- Love Where You Live
- More enforcement
- Invest in Highways
- Invest in Parks
- Community Cohesion
- Support the voluntary and community sector
- Volunteer platform
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Reduce the fear of crime
- Preserve heritage

## Key highlights

From our 2019-20 and 2020-21 allocated budgets, we approved over **£930,000** to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Examples of funding awarded are::

**£48,070** Community Chest was awarded to local groups, delivering a total of 43 community projects including youth activities, repairs and improvements. The average grant was **£1,100**

**£75,000** was awarded to deliver the Walk and Talk Programme. The grant was split equally across the five wards, enabling local Councillors to work with residents to find solutions towards historical neighbourhood issues

**£49,900** was awarded to ten VCS Groups to deliver the Community Connectors programme, for its fifth consecutive year, which focuses on reducing social isolation across all age groups and encourages people to volunteer in their local community

**£99,250** was awarded to a Partnership made up of six VCS Groups to deliver the Go! Get Online programme, which supports community buildings to open up and provide access to WiFi and IT equipment by offering 1-2-1 support to build digital skills and confidence levels

**£95,913** was awarded to six VCS Groups to deliver the Street and Park Rangers programme. The programme delivers three elements: working alongside Local Services to improve the cleansing and ground maintenance of the Area; working alongside Environmental Enforcement Team to tackle environmental crime i.e. fly tipping, and working alongside the public to deliver a series of Task Days and litter picks to Love Where you Live

**£214,800** was awarded to the Highway's Task Group, made up of Highway Engineers and Local Councillors to identify speeding hotspots and agree the best way forward to reducing dangerous driving by installing speed bumps, tables and give way signs at several locations

**£205,886** was awarded to carry out a series of enhancements in Burn, Backhouse, Doxford, Barley Mow and Ryhope Recreation Parks, which includes new bins, benches, paths, signage, etc

**16,500** was awarded to a local charity to enable them to transform an un-used car park into a place where children and young people could play safely in a built-up neighbourhood

# Year in numbers

3,000 

volunteers involved in area activities

552 

environmental days of  
action delivered

165 

litter picks carried out

95 

tonnes of waste removed  
off the streets

48 

new bins and benches installed to  
improve your local parks

123 

holiday hunger sessions delivered  
to families in poverty during the  
school holidays

995 

children and young people received  
a meal and accessed activities that  
were educational and fun throughout  
the school holidays

11 

ICT community hubs opened up  
providing the public with access to  
free WiFi and digital equipment

600 

people supported to GO! Get Online  
to reduce the digital divide

2,133 

people supported to connect  
to their community and reduce  
social isolation

10K 

m<sup>2</sup> of potholes in roads resurfaced

232 

members of the East VCS  
Area Network



# Year in images







## Councillor Denny Wilson, North Area Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the 2020-21 North Sunderland Annual Report, highlighting some of the activities and achievements delivered in what has been a very challenging year for everyone.

North Area Committee set out their work plan at the beginning of the year, based on a large scale consultation and evidence collected over the previous months.

The Covid 19 pandemic brought about more pressing needs in the community and meant that we all had to

change our focus and pull together to ensure residents were safe and cared for, especially the most vulnerable in the community.

The amount of support and dedication shown by local community and voluntary groups who formed the North Community Hub cannot be underestimated, and my gratitude goes to North Area Councillors, partners and officers who worked with the voluntary sector, coming together to pool resources and share skills.

Although the focus and priorities changed as a result of the pandemic, North Area Committee and partners have continued to deliver the work plan set out at the start of the year, albeit in a different way with methods of delivery and activity being adapted to meet the challenges and restrictions placed upon us. I am proud to present just some of the key achievements delivered.





**Cllr Denny Wilson**  
Chair of North Area Committee

# North Area Committee

## North Area priorities set out in the Delivery Plan

- Tackle empty properties
- Derelict land
- Affordable homes
- Love Where You Live
- Transport routes and parking
- Highways, pavements and street lighting
- Parks, play, cycle and walking routes
- Social prescribing
- Support voluntary and community sector
- Support youth clubs and spaces for young people to be together and feel safe
- Volunteer platform
- Support communities to deliver local events
- Improve CCTV and enforcement
- Promote heritage assets and deliver heritage activities
- Preserve and celebrate local heritage

## Key highlights

From our 2019-20 and 2020-21 allocated budgets, we approved over **£760,000** to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Examples of funding awarded are:

**£49,840** Community Chest was awarded to local groups, delivering a total of 28 community projects including devices for learning, reading area, CCTV and community garden. The average grant was **£1,780**

**£28,977** was approved for the delivery of Phase 1 of the Southwick Green Regeneration which has led to the installation of new memorial benches, removal of shrubbery, removal of dead trees and planting of new, refurbishment of the monument, railings painted and wildflower and bulb planting

**£40,000** awarded to implement a Vehicle Activated Sign programme in each ward. Signs are deployed on a rotational basis in locations where speeding has been identified as an issue

**£35,000** awarded for the delivery of school holiday activity for young people across Sunderland North

Over **£34,000** awarded to community groups to deliver Health Action Projects

**£110,000** was approved for the delivery of a North Area Enforcement and CCTV project which has seen additional CCTV deployed across Sunderland North and an additional Enforcement Officer in post dedicated to the North area to carry out enforcement, education, advice and support and supporting communities and community groups in promoting a sense of environmental responsibility

**£18,250** awarded to Fulwell Community Library for the Raising the Roof project to support the roof refurbishment and installation of solar panels thereby ensuring a vital community resource can continue to offer a wide range of services and activities

**£100,000** awarded to support the refurbishment of the former Downhill School into a Youth and Community Hub in order to deliver additional services and activities to the local community

**£200,000** in place to significantly increase CCTV provision in Sunderland North to include 4g Panoramic Cameras, HD Cameras with Blue Light and Speech Units and enforcement cameras

# Year in numbers

63 

Environmental Investigations  
carried out

249 

Section 46 notices served regarding  
misrepresentation of waste

20 

Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN)  
issues for littering

29 

FPN notices issued for dogs not on  
leads in prohibited zones and allowing  
dogs into prohibited zones

7 

Fly tipping fines issued

254 

Volunteers registered to support local  
people during lockdown or shielding

365 

Families received Activity  
Packs and Support

666 

Young people benefitted from youth  
activities via online provision and  
within centres

10 

Vehicle activated signs installed  
across Sunderland North

124 

People accessed the  
On Your Bike Project

18 

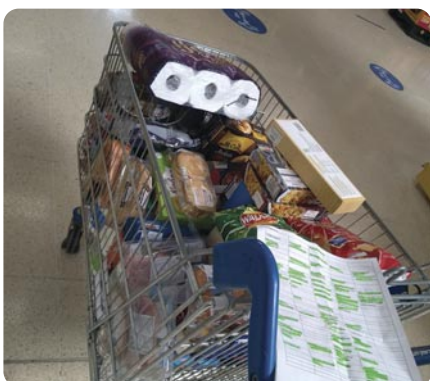
Disabled young people supported at  
sessions delivered by Grace House

30 

Individuals engaged with a  
supported gardening and  
environment project



# Year in images







## Councillor Len Lauchlan, Washington Area Chair

As Chair of the Washington Area Committee, I would like to highlight some of the key areas of work delivered over the last year.

The Area Committee agreed their workplan following extensive research and consultation amongst all communities and neighbourhoods across the area, but could not have known how much their priorities would be changed as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic which hit us at the beginning of last year.

The priority became ensuring that services and support to help our local communities were in place and that residents who were vulnerable or isolating had the help and care they needed.

I offer my thanks and appreciation to all of the organisations and volunteers who came together to support Area Committee to provide essential services to residents through the Washington Area Hub.

This way of working has strengthened existing partnerships and developed new ones which we will build upon, moving forward to next year's plan.

I would like to add that in the face of all outlined above, the Washington Area Committee has continued to deliver to the actions outlined in the delivery plan and achieved much more than could have been anticipated in what has been a challenging year. Just some of the key highlights are contained in the following pages.





**Cllr Len Lauchlan**  
Chair of Washington Area Committee

# Washington Area Committee

## Washington Area priorities set out in the Delivery Plan

- Invest in parks, play, cycle and walking routes, open spaces and Love Where You Live activities
- Improve housing, tackle empty properties and ensure enforcement is used to manage neighbourhoods effectively tackling flytipping, litter and dog fouling
- Road safety, highways, pavements and street lighting
- Increase 5G access and support digital learning to improve employment opportunities and basic skills
- Health and Wellbeing - including social isolation and emotional wellbeing
- Support and invest in the Voluntary and Community Sector and volunteering
- Support the VCSE to deliver local services such as social care and welfare
- Support for young people
- Events, culture and local heritage
- Create safe neighbourhoods

## Key highlights

From our 2019-20 and 2020-21 allocated budgets, we approved over **£840,000** to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Examples of funding awarded are:

**£53,693** Community Chest was awarded to local groups, delivering a total of 38 community projects including equipment for volunteers, equipment and improvements to community venues, therapy sessions and targeted workshops. The average grant was **£1,400**

**£172,000** to provide activities, outreach and support to children and young people across the Washington area. The Washington Safe Care Project is also delivering help, advice and guidance to young people at risk of unhealthy relationships and risky behaviours.

**£88,000** has been approved to help improve our parks and open spaces, and proposals to invest another **£180,000** in Washington parks and play facilities have already been agreed

**£193,000** allocated to strengthen neighbourhood enforcement and tackle fly tipping, litter and anti-social behaviour

**£20,000** has been allocated to Washington Healthy Lifestyles, a local programme of activity which helps address long term health issues.

**£70,000** approved to support local heritage, culture and the Washington Events Programme. This includes funding to help with repairs at Bowes Railway Museum, the first industrial site to be recognised as a Scheduled Ancient Monument

**£65,000** to support local residents into employment and to provide welfare support through information advice and guidance

# Year in numbers

1,200 

children and young people have been supported and accessed a range of activities and projects

30 

Clean and Green volunteers have carried out 45 community clean ups and litter picks collection 150 bags of litter

52 

tonnes of street waste have been collected by Keep Washington Tidy volunteers which is more than 3,440 bags

44 

environmental improvement projects across the area

213 

people who were lonely or isolated have received weekly or fortnightly calls from our VCS volunteers in the Area Hubs

109 

people either received a food parcel or had a regular shop delivered

233 

people were supported through the Area Hub with either shopping, befriending or picking up prescriptions

104 

Christmas food hampers or Christmas dinners were provided

89 

people receiving employment support and guidance

350 

residents in crisis receiving one to one support

970 

Washington residents benefitting from health projects and activities

14 

separate health programmes and initiatives to tackle health inequalities



# Year in images







## Councillor Peter Gibson, West Area Chair

As Chair of West Area Committee I would like to introduce this year's Annual Report, beginning with acknowledgement that 2020-21 has been like no other we have experienced.

The Covid 19 pandemic hit us all, and we very quickly had to come together and pool whatever resources were available to ensure that our families, communities and neighbourhoods were given the best care and support in a very difficult situation.

Voluntary and Community Sector organisations from the West area worked tirelessly, alongside Councillors, services and partners to adapt projects and ways of working to meet the changing and challenging needs in the area.

The West Community Hubs were quickly formed to provide a central point for residents who required help and support.

I would like to offer my thanks and admiration to all who have worked with us over the last year, not only to provide Covid related support and projects, but

also to deliver on some of our original key priorities set out on the work plan.

In spite of the challenges outlined above, new projects have been developed, and action has been taken, to deliver the priorities and actions outlined by Area Committee at the beginning of the year. This report contains just a snapshot of the key outcomes and achievements.





**Cllr Peter Gibson**  
Chair of West Area Committee

# West Area Committee

## West Area priorities set out in the Delivery Plan

- Invest in the voluntary and community sector
- Work with Private landlords across the West
- Improve the feel and look of neighbourhoods
- Enhance green spaces
- 'Love where you love' and In Bloom
- Invest in Highways, pavements and street lighting
- Support the Voluntary and Community sector
- Improve Health and Wellbeing and financial resilience
- Improve activities for young people
- Increase 5G access and support digital learning to improve employment opportunities and basic skills
- Invest in local shopping centres and support local business
- Events, Culture and heritage

## Key highlights

From our 2019-20 and 2020-21 allocated budgets, we approved over **£540,000** to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Examples of funding awarded are:

**£60,000** Community Chest was awarded to local groups, delivering a total of 48 community projects including community venue repairs and improvements, sports equipment for youth activities and projects to address social isolation. The average grant was **£1,250**

**£152,000** was allocated to provide five pieces of outdoor gym equipment at each of the 6 identified sites in the West area

**£36,529** was awarded to replace and improve litter bins in a number of locations across the area

Works to the value of **£120,000** will be carried out to play areas across the West, including improvements and painting of existing equipment and purchase of new equipment

**£90,000** was awarded to a consortium of organisations to deliver 468 youth activity sessions to 10–19 year olds across the West

Positive activities with food provided were delivered across the School Holidays, with a total of **£54,000** awarded to deliver 230 sessions

**£100,000** was awarded to deliver a three year Project in the community to improve digital skills, reduce isolation and build the digital capacity of local residents and organisations

Recognising the increased demand for residents to know their rights and improve financial resilience, **£150,000** was awarded to support residents over a three year period

# Year in numbers

3,581 

children accessing 'activity with food' sessions during summer holidays

94 

people received employment support and guidance

290 

volunteered in the local community

500 

volunteer hours supporting the Environmental project West Clean and Green

20 

Ward based improvement projects which focused on reducing anti-social behaviour, reducing crime and improving the physical environment

48 

community chest grants with an average grant of £1,250 awarded to groups across the West

457 

residents supported during Covid-19 with shopping support, dog walking and prescriptions

1,000 

residents received social support

20 

young people leaving care supported

60 

VCS groups supported

455 

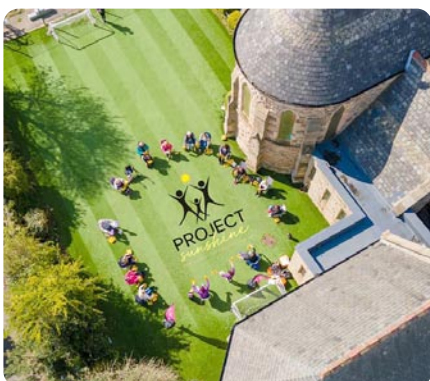
young people aged 10–19 from the west area have participated in regular youth activities

9 

young people aged 16–18 years from the west area have been supported into employment, training and education



# Year in images



# The year ahead

Over the coming year, the work of Area Committees will continue to support delivery of the City Plan and its vision 'By 2030 the City will be a connected, international City, with opportunities for all'. The objectives in all three themes within the City Plan - Dynamic Smart City, Healthy Smart City and Vibrant Smart City - are addressed and referenced in the Area Delivery Plans, and continued consultation with all sectors of our communities, throughout the coming year, will help to deliver them.

In the year ahead, each of the Area Committees will focus on ensuring that the second year of their individual Neighbourhood Investment Plan and associated Delivery Plan are moved forward at pace. Each Area Committee will make sure that actions against the priorities are delivered to meet the needs of residents and communities. Identified actions will be picked up through the Neighbourhood and Communities Boards - delivering the priorities in the work plans, to meet the needs of communities, will be at the forefront of the work of each Area Committee.

Continued engagement with Council services and partners to influence and enhance delivery will also be a priority for the Area Committees. Further themed consultation will be carried out to ensure that the plans are delivered in line with changing needs, particularly as we move forward into a post-covid world. We recognise the need to be flexible and prepare for ongoing challenges, aligning area budgets to meet these challenges where relevant. Communication across all elements of area working is vital and we will continue to make a commitment to our Voluntary and

Community Sector partners who have supported Area Committees, during what has been a very difficult period.

The year ahead will see the implementation of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Alliance which has been developed with key partners across the City. Sunderland City Council, alongside Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Gentoo are committed to the development and funding of a VCS Alliance.

The Alliance will ensure the VCS within Sunderland is supported and resourced, increasing capacity and enabling the VCS to grow and deliver vital services at a neighbourhood level to support communities - the Alliance will also work hard to increase funding into the sector.

Working in partnership with the key stakeholders in the City has made a significant difference to the delivery of services and the VCS have a vital role to play within our communities. The facilities and services they offer, their local knowledge of the communities of which they are such an integral part and their understanding of the needs of residents within those communities are all invaluable to supporting the work of Area Committee to meet the objectives set out in each area's plans.

It is also important that the Area Committee outcomes and successes are shared widely, to not only ensure residents are aware of what the Council are doing, but also to inform change, supporting Digital Poverty, Reducing Health Inequalities, Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing, building on the Community Wealth agenda and contributing to the City's Low Carbon target. Each of the

Area Committees have a great challenge ahead in ensuring all of the above is delivered, but also a great opportunity to step up to the challenge, together.

We look forward to working with you.



# Area Committees 2021-22

