

Coalfield Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2020 / 2023

The Plan was developed as a 3 year proposal which committed the Area Committee to deliver a significant number of priorities in the Coalfield area , to address the key issues raised by residents. The Plan has been monitored by the Area Committee and actions addressed over the last three years via the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Communities Board. Regular updates have been provided to the Board and to Area Committee over the last 3 years and the actions and priorities which continue to be delivered are outlined below.

Neighbourhood Investment priority		
Review derelict land and properties to further create green and cultural communities		
Action	Next Steps	Progress
Carry out environmental improvements at Flintmill Park and other identified greenspaces	Invite the lead on the project to attend Area Board to update on plans for the 13 sites. Include project in the Area Plan for 2023/24	A request for funding for £200,000 Neighbourhood Fund to deliver environmental improvements was 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

		<p>a steering group including two representatives from Area Committee has now been set up. The aims of the project are To restore habitats, helping nature recover, on 13 greenspaces across the Coalfields, and to work with local communities, to involve everyone with caring for and using greenspaces, with added benefits of promoting good health and well being</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Invite the lead on the Coalfield Clean it, Green it project to attend Area Board in order to discuss priority areas with Members. Include the priority in the 2023/24 Area Plan</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The Coalfield Clean it, Green it project commenced in November 2022. 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. The project manager will be developing</p>

		<p>an action plan to tackle priority areas in each ward. Working with Local Services colleagues, the project is designed to support and complement mainstream environmental works by carrying out community engagement and activity in identified areas, initial projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claremont Drive, Shiney Row In the hedgerow were tyres and cans and litter, which was bagged up and disposed of. Revisited since and a noticeable improvement and good feedback from locals on a good job done. • Mallard Way, close to Rainton Meadows. Both sides had hedgerows and ditches with lots of litter. The normal, cans, bottles also sofa cushions, paint pots and general rubbish, this was all bagged up and removed with regular follow ups. Good feedback from members of the public as this is the main access to the park and creates a good impression when litter free. • The lane rear of North view, off Murton Lane, Easington Lane. Litter picking normal cans, bottles etc, also tyres, old suitcases, plastic bags. Much improved and welcomed by The Head Teacher of the local school who was very happy we were cleaning up the area. Large items
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Ensure all available enforcement powers are used to tackle those who continue to fly tip, drop litter and spoil the neighbourhood		
Action	Next steps	Progress
Consider dealing with unsightly caravans, unroadworthy cars and advertising vehicles taking up space on grass verges	Receive updates via the Neighbourhood and Community Board	Actions by Environmental Enforcement and ASB teams has taken place, including the removal of

		<p>a number of nuisance/derelict caravans which were causing a blight on neighbourhoods.</p> <p>An update was given to the February 2023 Board meeting by the Enforcement Manager regarding resources available within the Coalfield area including street watch cameras and access to a drone.</p> <p>The council 'report it' system should be used to report any incidents of ASB or environmental damage.</p> <p>Resources are deployed in areas of highest reporting and therefore it is important that all residents ensure reporting is carried out.</p> <p>An officer has been employed to deal with nuisance and abandoned vehicles. A number of derelict or abandoned caravans and vehicles have been successfully removed from the Coalfield area in recent months</p>
Continue the multi agency approach to large and ongoing fly-tips at the former Forest Estate, Easington Lane	Invite relevant officers to provide and continue to feed issues into further information on	<p>The multi agency action at this site is ongoing. LMAPS continue to monitor and take action to maintain improvements. Although there have been some successes in terms of prosecution/fines/vehicle removal it is difficult to obtain evidence on which to tackle the issue entirely. Senior Council officers are in discussion with other land owners to identify a strategic partnership solution to the issue, including environmental</p>

		improvements to the site and options for disposal for development.
Bloom Activities and Supporting Residents to Grow Their Own		
Action	Next Steps	Progress
Request further information regarding 'Gateway' improvements and how Area Committee may be able to enhance/further develop plans	Local Environmental Services Manager to agree locations for bulb and wildflower planting with ward members	A number of initiatives, supported by Area Committee funding, have been developed, including railing and barrier displays at gateways to shopping areas. New seats and troughs/tubs have been installed in various locations including Hetton and East Rainton.
Highways, pavements and street lighting		
Action	Next Steps	Progress
Progress the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) programme within the Coalfield area.	Provide regular update reports for each ward	Highways colleagues developed and implemented a programme of 8 signs, deployed across 31 sites on a 3 month rolling programme
Parks, play areas, cycle and walking routes		
Action	Next steps	Progress
Explore the feasibility of installing additional/improved signage at key locations	Continue to receive information regarding	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 have been ordered and will be installed as part of a Citywide programme.

Support improvements in Rectory Park, Houghton le Spring	Environmental Services Manager to provide an updated plan to include details on future works (with timescales)	Area Committee allocated £100,000 for improvements in Houghton Rectory Park. Consultation was carried and a project steering group formed to consider the results of the consultation and develop a park plan. The top suggestion for improvement was lighting in the park. Area Committee approved further 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 re-painted. The lighting to the park has now been installed consisting of the supply and installation of lighting on all footpaths.. Work is underway on the play equipment and new seating will be installed during the next phase of improvements
Provide additional, accessible, play equipment in key parks across the Coalfield area	Receive an updated report from Capital team regarding progress and planned works	<p>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.</p> <p>Improvements to the play area and installation of a skate park at Easington Lane Flatts is now complete and was well received during school holidays.</p> <p>Improvements to Rectory Park play area will be carried out as part of the wider park plan.</p>

		<p>A draft design to upgrade Old Durham Road play area was agreed and additional funding to contribute to improvements was approved by the June 2022 Area Committee. Work on the site is now underway and expected to be complete by late Spring 2023</p> <p>Inclusive play equipment will be installed at all sites</p>
Carry out improvements to Herrington Colliery Welfare Ground	Provide update report to members via the N&C Board	Following approval of three projects totalling £91,000 from Neighbourhood Capital Investment Programme, work will be carried out at Herrington Colliery Welfare ground in three phases. Works to the pavilion will commence in April 2023, followed by improvements to the Class A football pitch and a programme of environmental improvements in the wider grounds area.
Digital Learning Resources		
Action	Next steps	Progress
Implement the next phase of the Neighbourhood Funded Digital Inclusion programme to enable support to residents within the community	Receive regular reports. Include project in 2023/24 Area Plan	Springboard continues to deliver the 'Communities Connected' project in four local Hubs across the Coalfield area, supporting residents to get online and access services. Venues are reviewed regularly to ensure that the best reach across all wards is being achieved and that services are accessible to people where they are most needed. During the period from April 2022, the project has worked

		<p>with 206 people, supporting with e.g. pension credits, application for a disabled bus pass, council tax application and downloading forms. This quarter has also seen the project support clients who have personal barriers in IT use. For example a client's dexterity was a barrier, so the tutor was able to support in the use. Clients also have physical barriers such as broken phone or an asylum seeker with no IT access so the Hubs are able to provide the tools to have access to IT. In all hubs in which the project is delivered, participants have access to laptops and PCs, they also get support in improving their knowledge on the use of their personal mobile phone and tablets (using venue's wifi) to enable them to access online services such as shopping and banking and to use their devices for hobbies and recreation purposes.</p>
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.	Continue to receive updates and include in Area Plan for 2023/24	Sunderland City Council has set up a project group to protect and develop the site, now known as 'Elemore Park'. Work to create a visitor centre and garden centre is almost complete and is due to open in April 2023. Resident forums took place in September and following site visits with residents in November 2022, work to the lakes area was agreed.

		<p>Work commenced at the beginning of March 2023 including:</p> <p>Dredging around the outside of the lake & for the silt to be levelled in a localised area</p> <p>Installation of a floating island.</p> <p>Partial removal of wall to create new entrance / exit point for wildlife</p> <p>Pipe cover to protect duckling loss has been manufactured and installed</p> <p>Contractors undertaking the works are proficient in ensuring the safety of wildlife and will be liaising with the City Ecologist throughout the works to ensure the Swans are safe.</p>
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 the landscape team	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	As above	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	As above	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
Support the voluntary and community sector to provide additional services within local community venues as well as host community events/activities		
Action	Next steps	Progress

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Support Youth Clubs and spaces for young people to be together and feel safe		
Action	Next steps	Progress
Support the development of a 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. Include in 2023/24 Area Plan	The Coalfield Youthie Project, funded via Neighbourhood Fund, currently delivered by Community Opportunities in each of the four wards, provides at least two youth sessions per ward per week at a variety of indoor and outdoor venues, appropriate to the needs of the young people. The project is due to end in June 2023 and following budget allocation at the September 2022 Area Committee, a call for projects was carried out and recommendations for approval are contained within Item 4 Budget Report.

Support activities for children and young people during school holidays	Carry out a Call for Projects following Area Committee approval	Holiday Activities funded via Neighbourhood Fund have been delivered by 10 organisations during holiday periods since July 2022. The programme is due to end in May 2023 and a recommendation for funding is contained in Item 4 Budget Report.
Reduce fear of crime by working in partnership across neighbourhoods to bring communities of all ages together		
Develop long term strategies, with partners, for dealing with ASB	Include in Area Plan for 2023/24	Following a meeting of the ASB Task and Finish group, the Board received further information regarding current initiatives and services available to tackle ASB across the area. It was agreed funding would be provided to employ an additional ASB Officer to strengthen a proactive and partnership approach. An additional ASB Officer dedicated to working proactively in the Coalfield area has now been appointed and commenced the role on 5 December 2022.
Explore the feasibility/benefits of setting up a boxing club in Hetton		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.
Preserve and celebrate local heritage		
Action	Next steps	Progress

Support the development of a commemorative mining statue/memorial on the old Houghton Colliery site	ACDL to liaise with colleagues in Land and Property development to receive an update	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. Work to develop a new retail offer is due to commence on site in Spring 2023.
Explore the feasibility of creating a mining 'map' at the site of the new retail development at Houghton		As above
Continue to support local events and celebrations via Neighbourhood Fund	Consider inclusion in 2023/24 Area Plan	<p>A number of projects have been delivered during 2022/23 including Remembrance parades, Miners banner parades and Christmas events.</p> <p>A request for funding to carry out environmental improvements at Seven Sisters, Copt Hill, is contained in Item 4 Budget Report</p>