

14 December 2022

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF COALFIELD SUNDERLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY BOARD

Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report:-

- a. Provides an update of progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan, which will be the focus for the Coalfield Area Committee during 2022-2023.
- b. Provides an update on Neighbourhood and Community Board Governance Arrangements for 2022 -2023.

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 Plans. All priorities have been determined following significant resident consultation via Let's Talk Sunderland.

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** The Article 10 Neighbourhood Investment Plans were approved at Cabinet in March 2020.

- 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.

- 3.4** The Neighbourhood and Community Board will be Chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Area Committee. Neighbourhood and Community Board meetings will be held in July, November, February and April and dates are included in the council diary. If required, the Board may convene a further meeting(s) should there be a business need to do so and essential to ensuring delivery of the Area Neighbourhood Investment Plan Delivery Plan. All Committee members are invited to attend all board meetings.

- 3.5** 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 Committee for final endorsement. The Area Committee Chair and Vice-Chair were agreed at Annual Council in May 2022.

4. Neighbourhood Investment Delivery Plan 2020-2023- Areas of Key Action/Progress

4.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of action/progress of the Board up to November 2022. Further updates are contained in Annex 1, Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan

Priority/Issue	Update
Digital Learning Resources	<p>Following approval at the September 2022 Area Committee, two Neighbourhood Funded projects being delivered across the area will continue until March 2024. Springboard, in partnership with ShARP will provide a much needed Universal Credit (UC) support service to assist residents who are applying for, or managing, their Universal Credit benefit, including job searches and maximising of income.</p> <p>Springboard will also continue delivery of the 'Communities Connected' project in four local venues across the Coalfield area, supporting residents to get online and access services. Venues are being reviewed to ensure that the best reach across all wards is being made, and that services are accessible to people where they are most needed.</p>
Parks and Play Areas	<p>Further work has taken place at Houghton Rectory Park and a phased programme of work including installation of new seats and benches, improvements to the play area and new signage will be implemented between February and April 2023</p> <p>Following approval of £35,000 Neighbourhood Capital Investment Programme funding at the June 2022 Area Committee, match funding has now been identified to carry out a programme of works at Old Durham Road fixed play site. Work will be carried out in the Spring of 2023.</p>
Open spaces, walking and cycling routes	<p>The Stephenson Trail project continues to be delivered in two phases. The educational and cultural phase and the environmental improvements phase. Working with Councillors, Council Officers and partners, improvements to the trail are ongoing to encourage people to use and celebrate the Stephenson Trail which follows the route of the former Hetton Colliery Railway. A presentation from our Key Partners, Cultural Spring, will be given to identify some of the outcomes, to date, of the project.</p>
Provide Support to the Voluntary and Community Sector	<p>The Voluntary and Community Sector Network, Chaired by the Vice Chair of Area Committee, continues to meet monthly to share information and give support to local organisations across the area. The development of the Voluntary Sector Alliance (VSA) is progressing and continues to develop and grow. The VSA is now in the process of registering as an independent organisation and developing models of governance for its future operations. The Community Support Worker for the Coalfield area is available to support local groups with funding, governance, training etc...</p> <p>Additional funding via Public Health has been identified to provide grants to local VCS organisations who have buildings in the community which can be identified as 'warm spaces' where</p>

	<p>residents can go to socialise and obtain advice and support during the winter period. There are now 15 warm spaces across the Coalfield area, each providing a range of activities and support to local residents. Coalfield Sunderland Councillors have offered to provide further funding to these 15 organisations via Community Chest.</p>
Improve Local Greenspaces	<p>The Neighbourhood Funded Clean it Green it project delivered by Springboard is implementing a series of clean up events and educational programmes across each ward in the Coalfield area. The project manager is now in post and will be developing 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.</p>
Support for children and young people	<p>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.</p> <p>During the last quarter July – September 2022, 338 individual young people accessed youth services/activities in the Coalfields locality area, with an engagement of 1020 engagements in this quarter. During the summer period, one session of youth work was delivered per week in each ward through HAF funds matched into the wider Coalfields Youth delivery.</p> <p>All sessions provide young people with a safe space to meet, and all sessions delivered have appropriate measures in place to minimize exposure to Covid-19. Young people have been provided with a small card detailing how to contact the youth staff if they are struggling and need someone to talk to and they know that they can contact a member of the youth team through private message on social media (Facebook and Messenger), What's App and telephone.</p> <p>Community Opportunities youth staff continue to deliver informal education through issue-based workshops in sessions on a range of topics including – how to keep yourself safe, family relationships, school, bullying, friendships, peer pressure, health and well-being, risk taking behaviour etc.</p> <p>With the above project due to end in March 2023, a call for projects has been made to deliver ward based programmes from April 2023, further information is contained in Item 4 Area Budget report.</p> <p>The CHAT programme was designed to provide physical activity opportunities to teenage young people. The programme delivered by 5 organisations has delivered over 250 sessions and engaged with around 800 different individuals over the course of the past 12 months. Some elements of project delivery are now complete, with the remaining sessions currently being delivered during this quarter.</p>

	<p>Holiday Activities funded via Neighbourhood Fund were provided by 10 organisations during the summer and October 2022 holidays. Neighbourhood Fund provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 50 sessions delivered • Engaged 300 children and young people in activities ranging from cooking, crafts, sports and environmental projects. • Snacks and refreshments for over 300 young people • Trips and days away • Support to parents/carers <p>The project is due to run until May 2023.</p>
Improve highways, pavements and street lighting	<p>Colleagues from Highways attended the November 2022 Neighbourhood and Community Board meeting to consult with members regarding the development of the Coalfield highways maintenance programme. A report on what proposed highways to include in the 2022 /2023 Programme was considered by the Area Committee in March 2022 and agreed. Further updates have been received and Members have put forward areas for consideration in the 2023/2024 programme. The suggested locations will be assessed, and further discussion will take place at the February Board meeting, with a recommendation being brought to March 2023 Area Committee.</p>
Local Events and Celebrations	<p>Neighbourhood Fund and Community Chest from all Coalfield wards, supported the Community Programme, Ox Roasting and Feast Programmes for the 2022 Jubilee Houghton Feast. The successful event commenced on Friday 7 October with a host of entertainment from local groups and schools.</p> <p>Hetton Colliery Railway 200 project has delivered a series of lectures, events and celebrations, including a gala dinner held in late November. The Neighbourhood Funded Community Loco was unveiled at the dinner.</p> <p>A programme of Christmas events and lights switch on celebrations have been held during November and December, with support from Community Chest and Neighbourhood Funding. Events in Easington Lane and Shiney Row, a Christmas Cheer project and support and gift packs for users of warm spaces are just some of the projects which have been delivered thanks to Area Committee funding.</p> <p>Following the successful Coalfield Pride event this year, the Neighbourhood and Community Board agreed to progress an application for Pride 2023 to the Area Committee. Further information is contained in Item 4 Area Budget Report.</p>

5. Recommendations - Members are requested to: -

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

Annex 1 Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/2023

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