

29 September 2021

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF COALFIELD SUNDERLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY

Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report:-

- a. Provides an annual update of the Coalfield Neighbourhood Investment Plan 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 worked together to finalise their Delivery Plans. 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.

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.

3.4 The Neighbourhood and Community Boards will be Chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Area Committee. All Coalfield Area Committee City Councillors 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 Committees for final endorsement. The Area Committee Chair and Vice-Chair were agreed at Annual Council in May 2021.

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 September 2021.

Priority/Issue	Update
Vacant land and properties – explore opportunities for the former Elemore Golf Club	The project group continue to meet regularly to develop and implement the agreed action plan. A logo for the site has now been identified and all documentation for the planning application is being collated.
Social prescribing and reducing social isolation	<p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A number of Neighbourhood Fund projects were approved at the June 2021 Area Committee and have now commenced activities to engage and support local residents. The first lunch club of the year provided by Hetton New Dawn attracted over 40 residents. ELCAP social trips are proving extremely popular and may be the first outing some have had in over a year. The Down at the Pit project is providing social and health benefits to local males.</p>
Transport and Highways – Installation of VAS	The July 2021 Board meeting proposed that a further 4 vehicle activated speed signs (VAS) (one for each ward) were purchased 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. Further information contained in Item 4 Area Budget Report
Support the Voluntary and Community sector and continue to provide funding opportunities to local organisations via the VCS Network	<p>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>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 September VCS Network meeting is the first to be held in person for over 18 months.</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. A presentation was given to the September meeting of the Neighbourhood and Community Board</p>

	<p>The VCS Alliance Community Support Worker for Coalfield, Sandra Stephenson, is proactively supporting a number of local VCS organisations.</p>
<p>Support activities for children and young people during school holidays</p>	<p>Based on consultation, Coalfield Area Committee made a Call for Projects for local groups and organisations to deliver a series of 'activity with food' sessions during school holidays from July 2021 to May 2022. A total of £37,431 was allocated to 8 projects across the Coalfield area. During the July/August 2021 Summer Holidays a total of 69 sessions were delivered to 428 children and young people aged 4-14. Further information provided in the animation clip to be played at the end of this report.</p>
<p>Consider improvements to the Stephenson Trail – working alongside other areas (West and East)</p>	<p>A Stephenson Trail Task Group, made up of Members from the three relevant areas, partners and officers was formed. To enable the Task Group to be proactive Coalfields, West and East Area Committees each aligned £50,000 to the Task Group to allow them to deliver future proposals.</p> <p>In July 2021, the Group identified the need for educational and recreational activities to be available to promote and celebrate the route. An outline proposal for Schools Resource Pack, and Art Project Ideas, with further detail on other proposed works is outlined in Item 4 Area Budget Report.</p> <p>The July 2021 meeting also considered an expression of interest to install steel artwork in Hetton Lyons Country Park. It was agreed the proposal would progress to a full application which is presented under Item 4 Area Budget Report</p>
<p>Digital Learning Resources – develop a laptop loan scheme for pupils from the Coalfield area</p>	<p>Funding was approved at the March 2021 Area Committee to purchase devices for loan. Hetton, Kepier, Biddick and St Roberts schools now have the equipment in place and are allocating to pupils resident in the Coalfield area.</p>
<p>Improve parks and play areas</p>	<p>Initial designs ideas have been drawn up for Hetton Park and will be open for consultation until mid October 2021. Views of local park users and non-users will inform next steps. Park improvement is contained in the proposed LinkTogether proposal outlined in Item 4 Area Budget Report.</p> <p>The March 2021 Area Committee aligned £100,000 capital budget to improvements in Rectory Park. Consultation will take place in October/November 2021 and a project steering group will be formed.</p> <p>To support the maintenance of Hetton Lyons Country Park a project proposal for a utility vehicle is contained in Item 4 Area Budget Report</p> <p>A planned programme of works to improve and upgrade parks and play areas across the Coalfield area was discussed with the Board at the July 2021 meeting. The detail and timescales of which will be shared with members as the schedule progresses.</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 the Summer Holidays.</p>

5. Recommendations: Members are requested to: -

5.1 Consider the progress and performance update regarding Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/23 and agree proposals for future delivery as contained within Annex 1.

5.2 Note the Area Committee video update

Annex 1 Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/2023

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