

17 March 2021

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 March 2021.

Priority/Issue	Update
Enforcement	The Enforcement Task and Finish group met in December 2020 and received updates on the different types of enforcement roles, and reporting mechanisms for each. Specific issues were discussed and a longstanding issue of derelict/abandoned/nuisance caravans within neighbourhoods in the Coalfield was explored. Officers have worked together to communicate with owners of these vehicles and as a result have successfully arranged for the removal of a number of problem vehicles.
Improvement of Highways	The Highways Maintenance Programme for 2021-2022 is under development. Officers attended the February Neighbourhood and Community Board meeting to discuss the programme with Members and presented detail on proposals put forward. All suggested sites were assessed and prioritised for inclusion in the 2021-22 programme. A progress report on the current year's (2020-21) programme of work was presented to the Board. Recommendations from the Board are presented to Area Committee at Annex 2 .
Progress the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) programme planned for the Coalfield area	Following approval of Neighbourhood Fund resources, the VAS programme for the Coalfield area has acquired 8 signs which will be deployed across 31 sites on a 3 month rolling programme. Installation of the first signs has taken place and updates will be given to the Board at regular intervals.
Support the development of a commemorative mining statue/memorial on the old Houghton Colliery site	Further to approval of £50,000 at the December Area Committee, a procurement exercise has been undertaken and the Development Director of Land and Property, in partnership with developers of the site, has commissioned Ray Lonsdale to create an appropriate piece of artwork to be installed at the Gateway to the new retail development at Houghton. Now the main artwork for the site is secured, this can be included in the planning application and options will be explored for a mining memorial plaque. Final arrangements for this will be made once all permissions for the development have been confirmed.
Improve access to digital learning resources	A loan scheme to provide IT equipment to children and young people, who do not have access to computers at home, has been developed by the Board. Discussions with four secondary schools has taken place and detail was agreed by the Board in February 2021. It was agreed that funding would be allocated to Hetton, Kepier, Biddick and St Roberts schools, proportionate to the number of Coalfield students who attend each school. Further information and a request for funding is

	contained within Item 4, Area Budget Report.
Preserve and Celebrate Local Heritage including Hetton Colliery Railway 200 year anniversary (2022)	The Stephenson Trail Task and Finish group (with members also from the East and West areas) took place in January 2021. The group included Councillor representation from each area, Council officers and partners from relevant organisations and community groups. The group developed an action plan, listing key activities and projects they would like to take forward, and agreed that each of the three Area Committees would be approached for a contribution from their Neighbourhood Fund budget. Further information and a request for funding is contained within Item 4, Area Budget Report.
Vacant Properties and Land for Culture and Leisure	<p>The Task and Finish group met in January 2021 and discussed the buildings included in the Work Plan.</p> <p>Former Elemore Golf Club</p> <p>The site is currently unused and the building is deteriorating and subject to vandalism. The Elemore Greenspace Project group has been set up and £500k Capital Programme has been agreed by Full Council as part of budget proposals. It is proposed to develop the club house and the greenspace area. Progress to date includes: Planning restrictions info received, Environmental surveys commissioned, Survey of Club House underway, Consultation survey underway, Action plan to develop Social Enterprise being developed, Project steering group set up. Ideas being explored include visitor centre, café, nursery and garden centre, walking/cycling hub, wildlife area and importance of the site as historically important and the start of the Stephenson Trail. Further information and a request for Neighbourhood Capital Investment fund is contained in Item 4, Area Budget Report.</p> <p>Philadelphia Power Station – Members identified the potential of the building as a community or heritage centre and wish to move forward with a condition survey of the building to inform next steps. Further detail and a request for funding is contained in Item 4, Area Budget Report.</p> <p>Herrington Country Park – The building in the park is under utilised and there are plans to develop it to include a larger café area. A budget for the building was agreed as part of the 2020/21 Capital programme and an outline design is being drawn up by Design Services.</p>
Provide additional, accessible, play equipment in key parks across the	The Board received a report, at their February 2021 meeting, listing all parks in the Coalfield area, their current condition, repairs/upgrades required and suggestions for an enhanced

Coalfield area	offer. Costs and available budgets are currently being compiled and a further update will be provided to the Board to enable a decision to be made regarding Area Budgets.
Enhance Local Greenspace	<p>The Board discussed a number of areas where enhancement of greenspace would benefit communities. Improvements at a number of sites is being explored including 'The Square', Herrington, Flintmill Park and Keir Hardie field. This will be further discussed at the next Board meeting, with an update being given at the June 2021 Area Committee.</p> <p>The Board also identified the importance of Rectory Park, as a key park in the centre of the Coalfield area, and agreed to allocate funding to the improvement of this key greenspace to benefit the local community. Further information and a request for funding is contained in Item 4, Area Budget Report.</p>
'Bloom' activity and installation of flower planters/tubs	<p>It is proposed to install barrier troughs along the Shiney Row shopping parade to enhance the visual appearance.</p> <p>It is also proposed to enhance the area around the Easington Lane memorial clock, to include upgrades to the existing planters, and to provide a number of tubs planted up with flowers. The clock was built 100 years ago, and in addition to the environmental improvements a celebration will be held this year (restrictions permitting).</p> <p>It is proposed to align Neighbourhood Fund resources to this priority to enable works to be carried out as part of the seasonal planting. The request for funding is contained within Item 4 Area Budget Report.</p>

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
- Agree the recommendations for the 2021/22 Highways Maintenance Programme as contained in Annex 2
- Note the Area Committee video update

Annex 1 Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/2023

Annex 2 Highways Maintenance Programme 2021/22 recommendations

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