

15 July 2020

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF COALFIELD NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITY BOARD

Area Committee Annual Update; Coalfield Area Neighbourhood Investment Plan Delivery Plan 2020-2023 and Neighbourhoods and Community Board Governance Arrangements for 2020 / 2021

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report:-

- a. Provides an annual update of the 2019/20 Work Plan, including Neighbourhood funded projects.
- b. Presents the Coalfield Neighbourhood Investment Plan Delivery Plan 2020-2023
- c. Provides an update on Neighbourhood and Community Board Governance Arrangements for 2020/21.

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. The Council also undertook further consultation with residents, during June 2020, to ensure the priorities were still relevant post COVID-19.
- 2.2 This report also provides an update for the Area Committee's previous work plan for 2019/2020, in addition to presenting the governance arrangements for the year 2020/21.
- 2.3 During the last year a number of discussions have taken place, including with Area Chairs, to consider the most appropriate governance arrangements and processes which would support effective delivery of the Neighbourhood Plans. In response to those discussions and other changes, the Area Committee now has a Neighbourhood and Community Board, which will usually meet monthly, attended by all Committee members, to ensure priorities are delivered throughout the coming months and years.
- 2.4 The Neighbourhood and Community Board will work hard, analysing intelligence, undertaking site visits and engaging with residents and partners, to ensure performance updates are presented to each Area Committee meeting, highlighting the action taken, key areas of influence/ achievements during that period and making recommendations to approve funding.

3. Update of 2019/20 Coalfield Area Committee Work Plans

- 3.1 The 2019/20 Coalfield Area Committee Work Plan is attached at **Item 2 Annex 1** and provides an update on performance. Any remaining actions within the Coalfield Area Committee Work Plan have been incorporated into the Coalfield Neighbourhood Investment Plan Delivery Plan.

4. Coalfield Neighbourhood Investment Delivery Plan 2020-2023

- 4.1 Following the approval of the Coalfield Neighbourhood Investment Plan at Cabinet in March 2020, no-one could have anticipated the impact the Coronavirus (COVID-19) would have across the world. The Area Arrangements service, who were working directly with elected members and Area Committees to finalise the Investment Plan Delivery Plans,

were immediately mobilised into forming the Covid-19 Area Community Hubs, this was a full time role often involving late evenings and weekends to support our most vulnerable communities alongside our voluntary and community sector partners.

- 4.2 As the Covid-19 lock down began to ease in late May, the service was able to reflect on the learning from community hub delivery, as well as reconsult with residents using the Sunderland Let's Talk resident engagement methodology. This insight, then enabled officers to work alongside the Area Committee to finalise the Delivery Plan for the Coalfield Neighbourhood Investment Plan. The Plan is attached at **Annex 2**.
- 4.3 The Plan, which includes an introduction from the Chair of the Area Committee, commits to a significant number of priorities, which will be delivered within the Coalfield area, to address the key issues raised by residents. The Plan will be monitored by the Area Committee and actions will be addressed throughout the next three years via the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Communities Board.
- 4.4 Residents will be able to monitor delivery of the plan via the online activity tracker which will be available to access at sunderland.gov.uk as well as through quarterly Area Committee update reports. Funding to support delivery of the plan has been allocated and further information can be found at Item 4 Area Budget Report.

5. Area Committee and Neighbourhood Investment Plan Governance Arrangements

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 It is now the responsibility of each Area Committee to deliver their Neighbourhood Investment Plan, which was written in consultation with residents and partners. To enable the Area Committee to deliver their priorities, Delivery Plans have been developed.
- 5.4 The Delivery Plans form the work programme for the Area Committee for the coming months and years, and to enable the committee to work swiftly and efficiently, in partnership with both the sector and residents, Neighbourhood and Community Boards have been established and will replace the previous Area Place and People Boards.
- 5.5 The Neighbourhood and Community Boards will be the task and finish working group for the Area Committee and the board will be Chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Area Committee. All Committee members are invited to attend all board meetings. The Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood and Community Board is attached at **Item 2 Annex 3**.
- 5.6 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.

- 5.7 Other local groups / boards where Coalfield Sunderland Area Committee has Elected Member representation are outlined below: -

Group	Elected Member Representatives
Coalfield Sunderland Local Multi Agency Problem Solving (L.M.A.P.S)	Cllr Juliana Heron
Coalfield VCS Area Network	Cllr James Blackburn – Co-chair
Children's Local Advisory Board	Cllr Juliana Heron

6. Recommendations

6.1 Members are requested to: -

- a. Consider the Annual Performance Update with regard to the Coalfield Area Committee's Work Plan for 2019/20 attached as **Item 2 Annex 1**.
- b. Approve the Coalfield Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2020-2023 and agree to work together as a Committee alongside partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to deliver the priorities within the Delivery Plan over the next three years. **Item 2 Annex 2**
- c. Note the Area Committee Governance arrangements for 2020/21 outlined in **Section 5 and Item 2 Annex 3**

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