

NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 26th June, 2025 at 5:30pm

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber of the City Hall,
Plater Way, Sunderland, SR1 3AA

Membership

Cllrs D. Wilson (Chairman), S. Foster (Vice Chairman), M. Bond, M. Butler,
K. Chequer, A. Chisnall, M. Hartnack, J. McKeith, D. Newey, A. Samuels,
A. Smith, P. Stewart, J. Usher, P. Walton and L. Vera

Part I

	PAGE
1. (a) Chairman's Welcome	
(b) Apologies for Absence	
(c) Declarations of Interest	
(d) Minutes of the last meeting held on 20 March, 2025	1
2. North Sunderland Area Committee Delivery Plan 2023 – 2026	9
(copy attached)	
3. Partner Agency Reports:-	
(a) Northumbria Police Update (copy attached)	38
(b) Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services Update Report (copy attached)	44
(c) Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Network (copy attached)	51
(d) Gentoo Report (copy attached)	53

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Information contained in this agenda can be made available in other languages and formats
on request.

**(e) Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance (SVSA)
Report** (copy attached) 61

4.* **North Sunderland Area Budget Report** 71
(copy attached)

* Denotes an item relating to an executive function

ELAINE WAUGH
Assistant Director of Law and Governance

18 June, 2025

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in HYLTON CASTLE, CRAIGAVON ROAD, SUNDERLAND on 20th MARCH, 2025 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Wilson in the Chair

Councillors Bond, Butler, Chequer, Chisnall, Foster, Hartnack, McKeith, Newey, Samuels, Smith, Stewart, Usher and Walton

Also in Attendance:-

Catherine Auld	-	Director of Economy, Culture and Sustainability, Sunderland City Council
Mark Barton	-	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS)
Peter Curtis	-	Area Network Representative
Tim Ducker	-	Engineer, Sunderland City Council
Insp. Chris Eccleston	-	Northumbria Police
Vicky Gamblin	-	Head of Neighbourhoods, Gentoo
Tracy Hassan	-	Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance
Vivienne Metcalfe	-	Partnership and Community Resilience Manager, Sunderland City Council
Joanne Stewart	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer, Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Vera and on behalf of Richy Duggan and Ruth Walker.

Declarations of Interest

Item 4 – Budget Report

Councillors Chisnall and Wilson made a DPI in the application for the battle reenactment at Hylton Castle and left the meeting whilst it was considered.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 12 December, 2024 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

North Sunderland Area Committee Delivery Plan 2023-2026

The Chairman of the North Sunderland Area Neighbourhood and Community Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against the North Sunderland Area Committee Area Plan priorities which would be the focus for the Committee during 2024-2025.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Foster presented the report which highlighted progress against the Committee's delivery plan, advising of areas of key action and progress. He also advised Members that the report attached the Committee's delivery plan which highlighted progress and shared good news stories and promotion of projects which were shared at every opportunity.

The report also gave an update on the Council's Service Plans, specifically relevant to the North Sunderland area, which included a quarterly update on progress and was for information purposes only.

The information in the report having been fully considered, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- The progress and performance updates with regard to the North Area Committee Plan 2023-2026 be received and noted; and
- The progress update with regard to Sunderland City Council Service Plans – Area Priorities be received and noted for information.

Partner Agency Reports - Northumbria Police

Northumbria Police submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with a community update and key performance information in relation to the North Sunderland Area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Inspector Eccleston took Members through their report, providing updates on the number of incidents in relation to anti-social behaviour, burglaries of residential and commercial properties, vehicle crime and violent crime. Members were also provided with an update in relation to motorcycle disorder in the area.

When asked what happened to those motorcycles that had been seized, Members were informed that it was dependant upon how they had been seized as sometimes the culprits could pay the costs to retain the bike, although this did not happen very often and they were eventually destroyed.

Councillor Newey referred to areas within his ward where residents had been reporting more incidents of anti-social behaviour and was advised that these areas were known to Officers and had been made a priority to investigate further. Neighbourhood Officers were aware of the problems around the Roker and Marina areas and had held a

community engagement event recently but they would continue to look for resolutions for those areas.

Councillor Hartnack referred to video footage that was circulating on social media of people trying car doors around the Seaburn, Fulwell and Roker areas, commenting that he did not think that it was being reported to Northumbria Police and was advised that Officers were aware of some of the posts being made and an individual had been contacted who did not want to engage with Officers or make a report. He explained that they would like to have community engagement teams going out to locations, talking to residents and providing them with a QR code so they could complete a questionnaire and the information could then be used to understand exactly what was going on in those areas.

In response to a query from Councillor Usher regarding the early release of repeat offenders of shoplifting in the Castle Ward, Insp. Eccleston could understand the frustrations of people but advised that it was a judicial issue as to when offenders were released. As part of the spring plans, the Morrisons store in Castletown was one of the priorities and they hoped to analyse the problem and see how it could be resolved. He explained that Civil Orders could be more effective than arresting individuals as they could then begin to control their behaviour.

Councillor Stewart asked when they could expect the team to be back up to full numbers and was informed that to date they had no update but he could let Members of the Committee know once he did. He explained that he had a sergeant who was currently working in the Ryhope area of the city but he would return to the team as soon as was possible.

In relation to comments from Councillor Bond around putting a post on social media postings that suggested residents contacted Northumbria Police direct, Insp. Eccleston advised that it was not possible on sites that were not owned by them but they had in the past contacted groups requesting that they remove false posts. What he did ask is that if Councillors did see anything that concerned them, they could send these posts to himself and he could forward it to the media department to look into but ultimately sites and posts were private and Northumbria Police could not influence them.

In response to a request from the Chairman for more MS Teams meetings, he was advised that they were looking at how better to engage with Councillors, communities and schools and Members would be advised accordingly of when meetings were arranged.

The Chair having thanked Inspector Eccleston for his report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report from Northumbria Police be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

The Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which gave performance monitoring details in relation to local indicators for the Committee for the period from 22 November 2024 to 28 February 2025.

(for copy report – see original minute)

Mr. Mark Barton, Station Manager, TWFRS, took Members through the report advising of the numbers of deliberate primary and secondary fires, giving a ward breakdown and providing an incident heatmap by ward.

Councillor Hartnack asked if there was any correlation between fires that had been set due to anti-social behaviour and the areas that the Police highlighted as being hotspots; and if they liaised with each other, as those areas could then be targeted as part of the detached youth work. Members were advised that within their LMAPS meetings they would discuss areas that partners were attending so that they could then put joint measures in place.

The Chairman requested that this be included as an agenda item for the next meeting of the Board so that the detached youth work could be discussed. Ms. Metcalf advised that Ruth Walker was attending from the consortium, so the issue could be raised with them and discussed further. Councillor Butler also advised that the Youth Provision Strategy was going out for consultation the following week to gain the views of professionals and would be published and reported back once complete.

Mr. Curtis advised he had been involved with youth work for sixteen years and there was a massive gap in qualified, professional, male youth workers who young males hanging around the streets could relate to and speak with. The Chairman agreed that it was around getting the best from the volunteers and youth workers that they had now.

Inspector Eccleston commented that they had been working with the Council on their community cohesion strategy which had taken three main strands; a community engagement survey, from 617 persons over 17 sites across the city which they wanted to roll out the findings of through the Neighbourhood Teams; they had also undertaken some work with Sunderland College around prevention which would reach 4,300 students every two years; and then with British Sports and the Foundation of Light they were running a pilot project, targeting 11-14 year olds who were at risk of getting involved in anti-social behaviour, violence or hate crime, providing them with a leadership qualification. He informed Members that there was a lot of work going on in the city and they were always continuing to look to expand this through further funding streams.

Members having fully considered the report and there being no further questions, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the update report from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports - Report of the North Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

The Voluntary and Community Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update with regard to the North Sunderland Area Voluntary and Community Sector network.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Peter Curtis, Area Network Representative, took Members through the report advising of how often the network had met and sharing the agenda items that had been covered. He advised Members that the rising costs in the living wage and the rise on SEN demands on voluntary organisations continued to be challenges faced by them all.

In closing, Mr. Curtis asked that his thanks be recorded for the vital help and support Ms. Metcalfe had given the voluntary sector, always being on hand to discuss issues they may have and working to get the groups working together and providing links where needed.

Councillor Wilson commented that previously youth workers had all been volunteers but now they all had to have qualifications and training which took up more time that they did not have. Councillor Butler commented that he felt that there was room for both types of volunteers, and professionally trained and qualified workers had a place, but safeguarding and the correct checks had to always be undertaken when working with young people.

Councillor Smith also added that Members had to remember that a lot of the training being undertaken by youth workers was for the protection of the workers as well as the young people.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Curtis for his report and invited questions and comments from Members.

Members having no further comments or questions, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports - Gentoo Update

Gentoo submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update with regard to the work undertaken by Gentoo between December 2024 and March 2025.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Vicky Gamblin took the Committee through the report updating them on Home England, the National Apprenticeship Week, the Homelessness Appeal, the Housing Options Team and Money Matters.

In response to a query from Councillor Samuels regarding the information from the Money Matters Team being broken down by Ward area, Ms. Gamblin advised that she could provide a copy of this for circulation.

With regards to the waiting list of 19,000, Councillor Samuels asked how many would be actively looking for properties and was advised that it would be around 8,000. They had recently undertaken a sweep of the register ensuring that the correct people were still on it.

With regards to a question from Councillor Bond, regarding the rental housing stock in comparison from now to 25 years ago, Ms. Gamblin advised that it was currently at around 29,000 houses but she would need to check the previous figures.

In response to queries from Councillor Walton regarding evictions of tenants by private landlords, Ms. Gamblin advised that there were changes in the delivery models for private landlords but they met regularly with them to better understand their challenges and support the needs of tenants in the city.

In relation to issues for residents with the newly installed heating systems in the blocks of flats in Roker, Ms. Gamblin advised that she would ensure it was flagged up with relevant officers to address it with them directly.

The Chairman referred to meetings with Gentoo that Members used to have regularly and asked if these could be rearranged quarterly so that they could continue to understand policies on issues together and Ms. Gamblin commented that this could be arranged.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance (SVSA)

Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance (SVSA) submitted a report (copy circulated) presented by Tracy Hassan, which provided an update for the period November 2024 to January 2025.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Hassan took Members through the report providing a general update on the work of the SVSA, information on funding and investment and sector support. She advised that a Trustee had been recruited to the vacancy and provided details of Members for each of the areas of the city and case studies for Members' information.

Councillor Samuels commented that they were lucky to have a wide and varied range of organisations involved, which was impressive.

In response to comments from the Chairman regarding the attracting of funding streams and how Sunderland could access those, Ms. Hassan advised that they were making good progress in their funding applications and were moving in the right direction. They were collaborating more on bids and being more ambitious in funding applications highlighting where there was real need which could be met with available funding.

Now that they had established the alliance and had a knowledgeable team in place they just needed to build on what they had already done. They had good relationships with funding providers such as the National Lottery and were building their reputation with local and regional funders.

There being no further questions or comments from Members, the Chair thanked Ms Hassan for her report, and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted for information.

North Sunderland Area Committee Budget Report

The Area Arrangements Strategic Manager submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Neighbourhood Funds and Community Chest, and presented proposals for further funding requests.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Metcalfe, Area Community Development Lead, presented the report drawing attention to the recommendations detailed therein.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statements as set out in tables 1 and 2 of the report be received and noted;

- (ii) the application for £50,000 of Neighbourhood Fund to Hylton Castle Trust for the Battle Re-enactment Project be approved;

- (iii) the application of £28,000 of Neighbourhood Fund to Sunderland City Council for the Hylton Dene Project be approved;

- (iv) the application for £5,154 of Neighbourhood Fund to Hylton Colliery Cricket Club for the Improvement Score Board Project be approved;

- (v) the application for £4,249 of Neighbourhood Fund for the Rotherfield Road Play be approved,

- (vi) the alignment of £20,000 of Neighbourhood Fund for the North youth Project be approved;

- (vii) the alignment of £100,000 of Neighbourhood Fund for the North Ranger Castle and Redhill Ward Project be approved;

- (viii) the approvals supported from the Ward Improvement Budget for 2024-2025 as set out in Annex 2 of the report be supported; and

- (vii) the approvals for Community Chest supported from the 2024-2025 budget as set out in annex 3 to the report be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting wishing Ms. Metcalfe a happy retirement, thanking her for all of her support and advice over the years.

(Signed) D. WILSON,
Chairman.

26th June 2025

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF NORTH SUNDERLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY BOARD

North Area Committee Delivery Plan 2023-2026

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is to provide an update of progress against the Area Committee's Area Plan priorities, which will be the focus for the North Area Committee during 2025-2026

2. Background

- 2.1 The Area Committees are part of the Council's Executive Function. The purpose of the Area Committees is to:

- Lead on the development, implementation, and effective delivery of an Area Plan, working closely with residents to ensure the plans include all main priorities for the Area, which enables residents to be resilient, The Area Plans are linked to the City Plan and other significant strategies for the city.
- Actively encourage local residents to become involved in shaping the Area Plan, ensuring delivery of activities to support matters which affect them.

- 2.2 The Article 10 Area Committee Area Plans for 2023 - 2026 were agreed by Area Committees in June 2023 and approved at Cabinet in July 2023.

- 2.3 It is now the responsibility of each Area Committee to deliver their agreed priorities to support the delivery of the Area Plan.

- 2.4 The Neighbourhood and Community Board supports the work of the Area Committee and specifically the delivery of the Area Plan. The Boards are chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Area Committee and are practical and action-orientated groups. The role of the Board is to respond to all priorities in the Area Committee Area Plan, as agreed by the Area Committee. They develop and implement plans for the delivery of each priority and make recommendations to the Area Committee based on information and research and working closely with partner agencies, particularly the VCS, to ensure effective delivery of the plan.

- 2.5 The Board is not a decision-making body, the work of the board is presented to each Area Committee via this Report of the Chair of the Neighbourhood and Community Board. The purpose of the report is to update on progress in relation to the delivery of the Area Plan in addition to making any recommendations of the Board to the Area Committee for final approval. Funding decisions to support delivery of the plan can be found at **Item 4 Area Budget Report**

- 2.6 Additionally all Sunderland City Council Service leads, when producing Service Plans this year, provided a list of Area Priorities, where relevant, for each of the five geographical Areas of Sunderland and have agreed that regular updates for those priorities will be appended to this report, to the relevant Area Committee, to provide quarterly performance updates (**Item 2 Annex 2**)

3. Area Committee Area Plan 2023-2026- Areas of Key Action and Progress

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood and Community Board are recommending to Area Committee the approval of **£75,000 (£15,000 per ward)** for the Ward Improvement Budget. The budget will be used for priorities to help improve the ward and for activity that is both in keeping with council policy and contribute to the Area Committee's Area Plan. A Maximum of 3 projects will be funded from the £15k budget.
- 3.2 Attached as **Item 2 Annex 1** is the North Area Committee Delivery plan which highlights progress against the Area Committee plan. Good news stories and promotion of projects are shared at every opportunity.
- 3.3 Attached as **Item 2 Annex 2** is an update on Sunderland City Council Service Plans - Area Priorities, specifically relevant to the area, including a quarterly update on progress for information purposes only.
- 3.4 In April 2025 the Board agreed a Call for Project for release to the Voluntary and Community Sector network for a Ranger Project to cover the Castle and Redhill Wards. The Board recommended, via correspondence, to approve the application from Community Opportunities and reject the other application. June Area Committee are to consider the applications received with full details included in **Item 4 Annex 1**.
- 3.5 In May 2025 the Board agreed, via correspondence, a Call for Project brief for a Ranger Project in the Fulwell Ward. June Area Committee are to consider the brief and to consider aligning £35,000 for this project, subject to the Ward Improvement Budget (at section **3.1**) being agreed. The proposed brief is attached at **Item 4 Annex 2**.
- 3.6 The April board invited an application for the Southwick Christmas Switch On Event. June Area Committee are to consider the application received from Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project to manage the event for 2025 and 2026. Full details are included in **Item 4 Annex 3**.

4. Recommendations - Members are requested to:

- 4.1 Consider the progress and performance update with regard to North Area Committee Area Plan 2023 – 2026 (**Item 2 Annex 1**).
- 4.2 Consider the progress update with regard to Sunderland City Council Service Plans - Area Priorities, for information purposes only (**Item 2 Annex 2**).

Contact Officer: Rhys.Stephens@sunderland.gov.uk
Rhys Stephens, Partnership and Community Resilience Manager

Item 2 Annex 1

North Area Committee Delivery Plan 2023 - 2026

Updated June 2025

The Area Plan commits the Area Committee to a number of priorities, which will be delivered within the North of Sunderland. This Delivery Plan provides an update on progress on the Area Committee's Area Plan and will be monitored by the Area Committee and actions will be addressed throughout the next three years via the North Neighbourhood and Community Board

Priority	Progress Update
Dynamic Smart City We Will Have	
North Ward Based Raising Aspiration Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ward Based Raising Aspiration Projects which ended December 2023 have been successful with funding applications via the Links for Life Programme until 31st December 2024 • Southwick, St. Peters, Redhill and Fulwell Ward Based Raising Aspiration Projects are now fully delivered and complete with full updates on the projects provided to Members. • Castle Raising Aspirations Project expected delivery up to March 2025
North Communication Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Newsletter Circulated May 2023 • Currently developing content for Newsletter to pick up celebrating projects awarded funding via Area Committee and delivery of funded projects
Benefit Advice/Guidance for Residents Focusing on Digital Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Inclusion linked to UKSPF Digital Hubs in the North (funding in place) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go Online Sunderland 1st Edition Digital Inclusion Newsletter shared with Area Committee 1st September 2023 • UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) Digital Health Hubs Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites across the North are currently undergoing surveys to identify upgrades required which will include enhancing wifi capabilities, upgrade of digital devices/furniture, upskilling of staff/volunteers • Locations shown in Amber are on a waiting list for future investment, subject to future funding being secured.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southwick Community Project: The Salvation Army, Southwick • Roker Life Church, Roker • Thompson Park Community Centre, Southwick • Friends of Fulwell / NE Sports, Monkwearmouth Academy, Fulwell • Downhill Community Hub, Downhill • Castle Ward Hub, Castle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 2024 Board received a presentation on Digital Dashboards for the Wards and members agreed the development of a Task and Finish Group to explore the support available for residents and the potential of adding value. • Priority for action 2024 – 2026. • February 2025 Board received an update on Smart City – Go Online and the support available for local residents.
<p>Regular Updates on the Delivery of Low Carbon Initiatives in the Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on Low Carbon initiatives received June 2023 • Ward Tree Planting Suggestions across the North submitted for consideration • Ward Tree Planting scheme expected Winter 2023 is at Roker Park with plans to plant 50 heavy standards subject to further checks and discussions with Natural England • Further tree planting schemes to be reported on for 2024 - 2026
Healthy Smart City We Will Have	
<p>Provision of a Wide Range of Youth Activities Particularly in Areas Suffering from Anti-Social Behaviour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £20,000 ring fenced for Youth • Feb Board received evaluations and an update on the 2022 – 2023 delivery of youth activities funded by Area Committee, members agreed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-invigorate the Task and Finish Group • Develop an updated Call for Projects • Recommend an alignment of £4,000 per ward to add to the remaining ward balances to March 2024 Area Committee • March 2024 Area Committee agreed the alignment • April 2024 Board to consider Call for Projects and release to the VCS Network. • April Board agreed the Call which was subsequently released to the VCS Network • June 2024 Area Committee to consider applications. Nine projects awarded funding.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining funding on hold pending the development of a Youth Strategy by Together for Children • Redhill Ward Councillors awarded £4,070 Ward Improvement Budget to Active Families to deliver St. Cuthberts Active Camp – School Holiday Activity for Children aged 6 - 11 • July Board considered an Expression of Interest from Castletown Scouts for a Minibus from the Castle Ward Improvement Budget and Neighbourhood Fund, members agreed full application to be considered at September Area Committee which was approved. • February 2025 Board considered the funding currently in alignment for youth provision within the North and agreed a proposal to invite the Youth Consortium to April Board to discuss how members can consider youth provision within their wards identified through ward engagement. The Board agreed to recommend to March Area Committee for consideration the alignment of the £20,000 funding for youth for 2024 – 2025 to be added to the existing aligned funds of £78,556 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March 2025 Area Committee agreed this alignment. • Redhill Ward members have engaged with the local community and are supporting a project from their Ward Improvement Budget and Ward Improvement Project funding which will deliver additional accessible play kit within Rotherfield Road Play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March 2025 Area Committee agreed the approval of previously aligned Ward Improvement funding towards the play project
A North Quarry Run	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park run is due to commence the end of September 2023 • Set up fees have been now paid to parkrun • Volunteers have been engaged and have begun to undertake core training • The project has received support from the parkrun ambassador in establishing the route and other areas of the required / necessary for the set up. • The volunteer project team have undertaken the required training • Equipment is purchased and routes finalised with run planned to be operational March 2024 • Project complete and park runs have commenced with 150 runners taking part in the first run and subsequent runs now have over 300 runners
Supported the Delivery of a Play Zone Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work has progressed and the design has been informed by a community engagement exercise. Residents want to see the new facility as a safe space

with the opportunity play sports such as football, basketball and netball. Football Foundation have approved application in principle and £50,000 secured from Health City Fund as match. Construction is hoped to start before the end of 2023 – currently in the planning process.

- Planning application successful. The Football Foundation have appointed a construction company to complete the works, awaiting start date once commenced it is envisaged 10-12 weeks for completion
- December 2024 Update
- The PlayZone is to be built on the old MUGA, off Church Street
- The PlayZone will be managed by Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project (SNYP)
- The build cost is £242,192 (net), including contingencies
- All match funding is in place including, £10,000 from North Area Committee
- Currently awaiting the signing of the JCT build contract
- Once the JCT contract is signed, a construction start date can be announced and the media release shared.
- There is a 4-6 week mobilisation period once the contract has been signed and a 12 week build programme
- SNYP to undertake training of the PlayZone online booking system
- An 'activation group' involving a range of partners will be established whilst the PlayZone is being constructed, to ensure a sport and physical activity programme is in place for when the PlayZone is ready
- A provisional construction start date has been agreed, 4 March 2025, pending the signing of the JCT build contract. This will be a 12 week build programme
- A media release has been drafted and will be released mid-February 2025
- A banner will be erected on the current MUGA fencing to let residents know the area will be refurbished
- Letters will be distributed to nearby residents notifying them of the work, prior to construction works starting
- A site welfare unit and cabin will be located on the car park overlooking the PlayZone site
- SNYP are undertaking training of the PlayZone online booking system

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PlayZone ‘activation group’ involving a range of partners is currently being established, to ensure a sport and physical activity programme is in place for when the PlayZone is open. • Works on site commenced on 10 March 2025 and it will be an approximate 12 week build programme. Members receive regular updates from the Health and Wellbeing Team • A PlayZone ‘activation group’ involving a range of partners has already met, to ensure an activity programme is in place for when the PlayZone is open. This group will continually evolve and currently includes the following partners – SNYP, Active Sunderland, Leisure United, Change the Game - Southwick, the Council’s Healthy Lifestyle Programme
Health Related Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £10,000 ring fenced for future health related projects- potentially air quality monitoring therefore on hold for now to be discussed at future Board
Wildlife, Walking, Cycling and Running Destinations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hylton Dene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ward members currently meeting with Environmental Services and feedback has been provided • Proposals for this priority were considered at November 2024 Board with members agreeing to receive proposals at February 2025 Board. • February Board received proposals on the opening up of pathways within Hylton Dene and making the Dene Accessible. The funding to cover the proposals is from Strategic Access Management and Monitoring funding and the Board agreed to recommend to March Area Committee consideration of additional funding of £28,000 to increase the works to be carried out. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March 25 Area Committee agreed the funding of £28,000
Wide Range of Social Prescribing Services and Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UKSP Funded Links for Life Call for Projects circulated to North VCS Network members 4th September 2023. The programme will build on the learning from the warm and welcoming spaces, ensuring we are able to offer services and support within our communities – support and activities which bring residents together, enable active engagement and improve health, wellbeing and financial resilience. • Successful projects within the North: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roker Life - Establish a portfolio of activities at the community hub - including specialist exercise, cookery, gardening, food growing, creative crafts, community fridge project, family activities, volunteer training, digital support (digital hub), to promote wellbeing and reduce the impact of the cost of living crisis, whilst bringing the community together and offering the opportunity to

make new social connections. Activities will be open to local adults and families and will be free to all. Quarterly blocks of delivery approx. 20 hours per week

- Sunderland Community Action Group - By working with local young people from all backgrounds we will engage and support them to make better informed choices, enabling them to take advantage of a range of positive opportunities made available to them. We want young people to become happier, healthier, safer and more linked for life. 4 x Youth Sessions per week 1 x Sports & Cycle Session per week
- Redby Community Centre - Links for Life will support the regeneration of Redby Community Centre as a fully inclusive community venue that will actively meet/target the needs of the most vulnerable within the community. Providing a cohesive approach via a range of programmes that will proactively improve holistically the health and wellbeing of local residents. 4 Sessions per week Jan - Dec. Exercise, Arts & Crafts, Walking, Talking, Sport, Family targeted activities and exercises, offer of transport of those that may find it difficult to get to the Centre
- Community Opportunities for Castle and Redhill Wards - A range of activities will be available including coffee afternoon, finance/benefit advice, household support, keep warm packs, employability, arts & crafts, walking, trips, parent and toddler groups, bingo etc from warm and safe spaces in Downhill Hub (Digital Hub), The Castle, Redhouse CA and Castletown Church. We will help residents to improve their health and well being and will signpost and work with external partners to access additional support as required. Weekly session (2hrs) alternating from 4 venues within Castle and Redhill Wards
- Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project - Using three themes we aim to improve the lives of the residents of Southwick; to do this we will address issues around the cost of living crisis; provide a community support hub and deliver a youth work programme. 12.5 hours per week. In partnership with Thompson Park CC (Digital Hub) Foodbank and Community Fridge Project, Cooking/Recipes, Benefits Advice, Support, Careers, Health & Wellbeing Activities - Exercise, Dance etc, Youth Work Projects
- North East Sport Fulwell Links for Life - Providing a Family/Community Wellness Hub offering a wide range of services and activities to the local community - youth support, digital inclusion/literacy, health and wellbeing,

	<p>cultural & community events, family support & community outreach, healthy lifestyle initiatives, volunteer engagement. 12 hours per week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects have commenced January 2024 and regular updates and promotion provided via project lead social media pages and North Sunderland social media page
<p>Vibrant Smart City We Will Have</p>	
<p>Delivery of a Wide Range of Heritage and Culture Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hylton Castle – Current NF Project Crossley Project Southwick Illumination Project – Current NF Project up to 2024 Fulwell Christmas Lights Redhill Community Christmas Cenotaph Area in Redhill Castle Mural Project Town End Farm Community Christmas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area Committee June 2023 funding awarded for Crossley Project. The project lead has advised that this project is no longer going ahead therefore the funds were returned at September 2024 Area Committee Area Committee June 2023 funding awarded Fulwell Christmas Lights Project Culture House – Leanne attended July 2023 Board Redhill Community Christmas – Ward members currently developing proposals via the Ward Improvement Budget. Decision on funding made via responsive decision with a Santa is Coming to Redhill event to be held on 30th November 2023 and lighting to be installed early December 2023. Successful Redhill event delivered and lighting installed on living tree December 2023. 2024 project currently being developed, funding applications presented and agreed at September Area Committee. Successful Switch on Delivered 20th November 2024 Successful Southwick Switch on Event held on Friday 24th November 2023. 2024 Switch on Event successfully delivered on Friday 29th of November. Castle Mural Project – Ward Improvement Project - November Board agreed for full application to be presented to December 2023 Area Committee. Area Committee December 2023 awarded funding for the Castle Mural Project. Mural and commemorative panel unveiled at event June 2024. Town End Farm Community Christmas – Ward members have developed proposals via the Ward Improvement Project Budget, funding applications were presented and agreed at September Area Committee. Successful Switch On event delivered 22nd November 2024. February Board 2025 Board discussed proposals for Southwick/Redhill/Town End Farm Illuminations to be delivered in 2026 and agreed to receive proposals at future Board.

<p>North Events programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battle Re-enactment • Thompson Park Event • Future Events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful Battle Re-enactment Event delivered 29th and 30th July 2023 with over 10,000 visitors • Thompson Park Event unfortunately cancelled twice due to the weather –to be rescheduled June 15th 2024. • July Board discussed the proposal for a Battle Re-enactment Event 2026 agreed to propose an alignment of £40,000 with agreement to secure additional £10,000 match funding from Sunderland City Council Events Team which was agreed at September Area Committee • February Board considered the full application and agreed for this to be considered at March Area Committee. • March Area Committee approved the full application
<p>Regeneration of Thompson Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thompson Park Refurbishment – Current NF Project • Accessible Kit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new play areas and refurbishment complete July 2023 • November Board received a funding proposal for the Thompson Park Toilets members agreed full application to be presented to December Area Committee . December 2024 Area Committee awarded funding for the Thompson Park Toilet refurbishment project.
<p>Support to VCS & Community Hubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downhill Hub – Current NF Project • Hylton Castle Community Hub • Redhouse Community Association • Community Warden Project to support community hubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redhouse Community Association Expression of Interest for Neighbourhood Fund to be presented to November Board • November Board agreed for Redhouse Community Association full application to be presented to December 2023 Area Committee • December 2023 Area Committee awarded funding for Redhouse Community Association Refurbishment Project. • April 2024 Board agreed to recommend full application to be presented to June Area Committee to support Veterans in Crisis with their Access for All Project from the St. Peters Ward Improvement Project NF. • June 2024 Area Committee awarded funding for the Veterans in Crisis Access of all Project from the St. Peters Ward Improvement Project NF. • November Board received an update on the potential of a Ranger project to be delivered within the Castle and Redhill Wards and members agreed to receive proposals to the February Board to deliver this project. February Board agreed a project brief to deliver a North Ranger Project for Castle and Redhill Ward and agreed to recommend consideration of the alignment of £100,000 to March Area Committee.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March Area Committee agreed the alignment of funds and the Call for Projects was released to the Voluntary and Community Sector Networks on 24th March 2025
<p>Redevelopment of Downhill Wheeled Sports Park Site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of site into a Great North Forest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Committee June 2023 funding aligned for the development of a project which regenerates the site. Meeting held 7th August to commence discussions and planning • Property Services are currently securing a cost for demolition of the Skate Park and an update will be provided to Ward Members at November 2024 Board • November 2024 Board considered the demolition proposal for Downhill Skate Park and agreed full application to be presented to December Area Committee. December 2024 Area Committee awarded funding for the Downhill Skate Park demolition project.
<p>Delivery of Roker & Seaburn Washing Facilities Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Committee June 2023 funding awarded for the delivery of the project. • Shower installation complete.
<p>Delivery of a Project which Addresses Motorcycle Disorder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2023 Board received a report on a Motor Cycle Disorder Taskforce Pilot and considered proposals to support Sunderland City Council with an additional ASB Officer, preventative measures and electric bikes for Northumbria Police – Board agreed full application to be presented to December 2023 Area Committee –December 2023 Area Committee awarded funding for the Motor Cycle Disorder Taskforce Pilot project • To date the project has delivered the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ASB Officer has focused on educating younger people ages 12+ on the dangers of riding off road bikes and attended Castle View Enterprise Academy along with Northumbria Police to deliver the Operation Capio presentation to over 150 students throughout 5 sessions. • 71 proactive patrols of the area have been carried out consisting of 2 leaflet drops to areas where intelligence received that offroad vehicle disorder was causing an issue. • 2 nights of action in the North in which ASB Officer worked with Northumbria police to conduct out of hours foot and vehicle patrols to show a visible presence within the community. As part of the nights of action in the North, enforcement action was taken against 2 individuals who had both been identified after reports from the public as causing Anti-Social Behaviour on a

	<p>motor-propelled vehicle, this was in the form of 1 Acceptable Behaviour Agreement and 1 Community Protection Warning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been 3 vehicles seized by the motorcycle disorder taskforce in the North and 2 arrests/summons made. • The ASB Officer has also been working to identify hotspot areas in the North by liaising with partner agencies to share intelligence and a meeting has taken place with the crime prevention officer and Environmental Services team to develop a plan for what measures can be put in place at these locations using the allocated AC funds to prevent access by those committing anti-social behaviour, these visits will be planned in for the next quarter with an update to follow. • 24 people who made reports to the council and police have received call backs from the op capio team to discuss the issues they are experiencing. • Full updates are provided within members Quarterly Monitoring Updates and North Sunderland Social Media page • November Board received a presentation on the Neighbourhood Funded Motorcycle Disorder project and agreed to recommend to Area Committee the realignment of the existing £6,000 Neighbourhood Funding preventative budget to be Officer costs and approve an additional £4,000 Neighbourhood funding to allow the project to be extended for a further 12 months. December 2024 Area Committee agreed the realignment and the additional funding to support the Motorcycle Disorder Project
Additional CCTV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2024 Board discussed a project to extend air time for existing CCTV purchased via North Area Committee. • June 2024 Area Committee awarded funding for the Sunderland City Council CCTV Airtime project.
Community Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July Board received an Expression of Interest for a Fulwell VAS project on Sea Road to be considered within the Fulwell Ward Improvement Neighbourhood Fund project, members agreed full application which was considered and agreed at September Area Committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Installation work has now commenced • A responsive decision was successfully progressed in March 2025 for an additional Fulwell VAS project for Dovedale Road within the Fulwell Ward Improvement Neighbourhood Fund Project.

June 2025

Sunderland City Council Service Plans – North Area Priorities, for information purposes only.

ECONOMY AND PLACE: Economic Regeneration

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
Low Carbon Framework and Action Plan	Range of city-wide low carbon programmes and projects across the seven strategic priority areas to include implementation within individual Area Committee areas		
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
<p>Additional green-infrastructure projects (over and above NE Community Forest activity) include 'Tiny Forests' schemes to be planted at Sandhill View Academy (West) and Hudson Road Primary (East) subject to feasibility and final approvals; Link Together Heritage Lottery bid for £915,000 has been submitted – if successful it will support greenspace uplift to 13 sites across the Coalfield.</p> <p>Sunderland City Council is working in partnership with energy suppliers Utilita and E.On on the current phase of Energy Company Obligation (ECO4), which requires energy suppliers to implement energy efficiency improvements in residents' homes. The scheme is aimed at lower income and/or vulnerable households and less energy efficient properties with the aims of tackling fuel poverty, reducing carbon emissions from the domestic sector and improving thermal comfort. The ECO4 scheme was launched in October and is available to residents in all areas of Sunderland (city-wide). Utilita will include a particular focus on engaging with residents in Southwick (North) and E.On with residents in Hendon (East) during Nov/Dec to raise awareness of the scheme and its benefits to residents. Eco-4 will run to 2026 across the city.</p>			

ECONOMY AND PLACE: Regulatory Services

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
SARA (currently national lottery funded until end of August 2025)	Continue delivery, take forward findings from evaluation and explore opportunities for sustainability	Sept 20	Aug 25

(09/20 – 08/21 funded by VRU)			
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
<p>Project continues to deliver agreed aims and outcomes via the SARA Strategic Board.</p> <p>External Evaluation is about to complete the final year of the Independent Evaluation - awaiting final report from the independent evaluators.</p> <p>Development of the intelligence platform continues to progress and we are working towards a 'go-live' date of July 2025. The platform will hold overnight data from Police and Council with an overlay from the Fire Service in one central area.</p> <p>Since SARA began in Sept 2020; we have directly secured and / or supported to secure over £1.23 million additional investment into the Southwick Ward area via actual funding or donations.</p> <p>June Update - Sustainability of SARA (and HALO and SAIL) is a main priority and proposed funding will support the continuation of the successful operation of the SARA, HALO and SAIL projects. Adopting the best practice established in the pilot projects, a proposal to implement an additional 3 locality hubs across the City, focussing on multi agency problem solving and aimed at tackling local priority issues is also proposed.</p>			

SMART CITIES AND ENABLING SERVICES – Smart City Team

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
Digital Inclusion	Delivery of a range of DI initiatives subject to interest/approval	04/23	04/26
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
<p>2 Databanks were launched, bringing the City total up to 39.</p> <p>189 digital devices deployed, overall total 536. (excludes City Hall/Libraries)</p> <p>15 VCS Organisation's received support, overall total 90.</p> <p>289 digital inclusion events and sessions delivered, overall total 1238.</p> <p>1145 people supported to build confidence, overall total 6686.</p> <p>31 volunteers recruited, overall total 145</p> <p>14,100 people connecting to Wi-Fi via Digital Health Hubs, overall 26,106 (*will include repeats)</p> <p>136,000 people counted entering digital health hubs, overall 272,000 (*will include repeats)</p>			

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Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
Smart Cities	Opportunities for a range of digital and data solutions e.g. interactive play, smart bins etc	04/23	
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
Significant work ongoing, further information can be found across our website and in the Innovation Challenges section: www.sunderlandoursmartcity.com . In addition, any specific briefings can be arranged as required.			

CORPORATE SERVICES - Property Services (Strategic)

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
Roker Park Bandstand	Refurbished Bandstand	May 25	Oct 25
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
Proposal includes refurbishment of the park's Victorian bandstand.			

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: Bereavement Services

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
Cemetery Improvements	Prioritisation of improvement measures within area cemeteries according to an assessment of risk, need and local demand	June 22	ongoing
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
Future Meeting Format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A discussion about the future format of meetings considered integrating the Cemetery Improvement Board into Neighbourhood and Community Board meetings for better governance. 			

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: Local Services

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
Tree and Plantation Management	Progression of the Tree Management Strategy - Tree surveying and mapping. Continuation of plantation management programme. City wide tree planting scheme		Mar 26
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
Members now receive pre-notification on all tree works on a bi-monthly basis. - MAY 2025 UPDATE: next pre notification due 6th June 95,742 m2 of Plantation managed since March 2023 - MAY 2025 UPDATE: 195,186m2 now thinned The whole City's street & Green Flag Park tree population digitally mapped since May 2023 - MAY 2025 UPDATE: Second citywide cycle underway now picking up open space and cemeteries 28,396 Trees surveyed since June 2023 - MAY 2025 UPDATE: 46,232 trees surveyed			

STRATEGY & CORPORATE AFFAIRS: Area Arrangements

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by

<p>Ensure ongoing Delivery of Area Committee Area Plans to support the delivery of the City Plan and other significant strategies for the city. (year 2 of 3 year plans), Including commissioning activity to support the deliver of Area priorities and to improve local quality of life and public satisfaction in its areas.</p>	<p>Support all 5 Area Committees to develop, deliver and review Area Committee Area Plans. Working in partnership with all key local stakeholders, including local Members, residents, VCS, public and the private sector to maximise the local contribution to the delivery to the city's ambitions and priorities specifically in relation to Community Wealth Building, Health and Wellbeing, and any other strategies that would support the delivery of the City Plan at a neighbourhood level</p>	<p>Jun 23</p>	<p>Mar 26</p>
<p>Area Committee Quarterly Update</p>			
<p>Neighbourhood and Community Board reports and Area Plan progress updates provided at each Area Committee meeting. All Projects funded through Area Committee Resources monitored on a quarterly basis and performance update reports produced and provided to members. A combined Area Committee Annual Report to be presented to Full Council June 2025</p>			

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
<p>Developing the community support offer, working closely with the voluntary sector to help maximise positive outcomes including those identified as priorities in Area</p>	<p>Continue to work in partnership with the Voluntary Sector Alliance to maximise resources into the sector via external funding and grow social value resources. Commission activity via Area VCS networks to support the delivery of Area Committee Area Plans.</p>	<p>April 24</p>	<p>March 26</p>

Committee Area Plans			
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
Updates to be provided to Area Committee through performance reporting arrangements noted above. Any additional updates will be provided through this reporting framework			

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
Growing capacity of voluntary and community sector	Continue to work in partnership with the Voluntary Sector Alliance to maximise resources into the sector via external funding and grow social value resources. Continue to support and facilitate Area VCS Networks to develop the capacity and influence of the VCS across the city. Each Area Network is made up of over 100 local groups and strategic local/national/regional partners. The networks meet on a regular basis to share good practice, support one another and receive regular updates and information sharing.	April 24	March 26
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
Update report will be presented to Area Committees quarterly from Voluntary Sector Alliance. Area Network delegates will present a report to each Area Committee meeting informing Members of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.			

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING - Housing Development

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
HDIP	East: Empty Homes - 61, Bungalows - 60, Supported - 38 West: Empty Homes - 42, Bungalows - 38, Supported – 40 North: Empty Homes - 38, Bungalows - 40, Supported – 34 Coalfields: Empty Homes - 37, Bungalows - 36, Supported - 34 Washington: Empty Homes - 32, Bungalows - 19, Supported - 25	2020	March 2026
Area Committee Quarterly Update			

East: Empty Homes - 13, Bungalows - 23, Supported - 2
West: Empty Homes - 14, Bungalows - 18, Supported – 4
North: Empty Homes - 12, Bungalows - 23, Supported – 16
Coalfields: Empty Homes - 15, Bungalows - 5, Supported - 1
Washington: Empty Homes - 8, Bungalows - 4, Supported - 23

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING – Active Sunderland

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
PlayZones	Construction of five safe and inclusive area-based sports Play Zones with investment from the Football Foundation and Sport England (CP)	2023	2026
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
(Southwick) Worked commenced March 25 expected completion June 25. Activation Group established. Officer opening planned for late summer			

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
Change the Game	Change the Game-Southwick is a Football Foundation and Sport England 5-year funded project, to encourage residents to become more active and involved in their local community.	Sept 22	Sep 27
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
Over 14,928 attendances in the programme since it commenced. Funding proposal submitted to Football foundation for a potential Year 6 (27-28). New bootcamp session has been introduced in Thompson Park. CTG is involved in developing the PlayZone activation plan, ensuring the project has a regular and sustainable presence.			

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING - Public Health and Integrated Commissioning – Living Well

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by																												
Development of Social prescribing physical delivery hub	To deliver community level Social Prescribing 'activity to allow for localised presence of the offer	April 23	March 25																												
Area Committee Quarterly Update																															
<p>33 local delivery partners have been funded through UKSPF to strengthen the range and breadth of community level activity. Activities running Jan- Dec 24. Claim involving the submitted April 24. Evaluation being undertaken by the University of Sunderland.</p> <p>Links for Life exploring links to other geographical hubs (i.e. Family hubs / Community Mental Health hubs):</p>																															
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Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
Cycle scheme	Walking and Cycling activities for families in Southwick and Redhill	May 23	Mar 25
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
<p>July – Sept delivery started positively with good numbers of engagement.</p> <p>Sept to December focussing on more targeted work. Information has been shared with Links workers, TfC family hubs etc working in the north for referral routes.</p> <p>Engagement with residents carried out to identify barriers to engagement that will be used to inform the programme moving forward.</p>			

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
Stop Smoking Clinics	To deliver stop smoking clinics in the wards with the highest smoking rates.	Ap 23	On going
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
<p>SSSS are actively investigating clinic/drop in sites within the high prevalence wards. The following clinics are either established, planned to start or in discussion:</p> <p>Hendon: Riverview Health Centre (established) Back on the Map (in discussion) Millfield: The Salvation Army (established) Pallion: Lambton Street Youth Centre (established) Redhill: Bunnyhill Centre (established) Castle: Bunnyhill Centre (established) Southwick: SNYP (established) Sandhill: Grindon Primary Care Centre (established) St Anne's: Grindon Primary Care Centre (established) Washington North: The Millenium Centre (established) Central Sunderland: Betsy Jenny Wellbeing Café (established).</p>			

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING – Starting Well and Health Protection

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
Breastfeeding Friendly City	In Sunderland, we want to ensure that breastfeeding families are made to feel welcome wherever they choose to feed their babies. Through our Breastfeeding Friendly Sunderland Pledge, we are encouraging a range of public venues across the City to register and show support for breastfeeding, so families feel comfortable feeding their babies, anytime and anywhere. Information on how to be involved https://mybestlife.org.uk/Sunderland-Family-Hubs/resources/82	December 2024/Jan 2025	Ongoing
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
BFS was promoted via TfC's Baby Week on 14th November and was subsequently launched alongside The Big Latch in April 2025. Promotion continues to take place, with over 50 venues across the City signed up to the Pledge. Data for Sunderland (2023-24) shows baby's first feed breast milk is at 52.4% and breastfeeding continuation at 6-8 weeks continues an upward trend to 33.2%.			

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
Youth Health Summit Pilot	Utilised an opportunity to develop a method of engagement and participation that has potential to become an established event. Public Health worked with Sunderland Youth Council to deliver a Young People's Health Summit for Year 9 pupils. The aim of this Summit is to become part of the work plan of Sunderland Youth Council, to offer a cyclical programme of consultation and engagement involving the timeline of the Health Related Behaviour Survey, Make Your Mark and the State of the City Debate, culminating in the Youth Health Summit.	Oct 24	April 25
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
Seven schools participated in the pilot event held at City Hall. The 2024 State of the City Debate themes - National - General health & wellbeing Local - Culture, sport and media. Four partner providers Active Sunderland, Growing HEalthy Sunderland, Healthy Heads, Sexual Health Team delivered workshops to Y9 pupils. Inital feedback of the event was positive and an evaluation report is being prepared to recommend the Youth Summit is established as an event every 2 years.			

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
Health Related Behaviour Survey	<p>The Health Related Behaviour Survey is a method of collecting information from Sunderland's children and young people. It is carried out every 2 years with Y4 and Y6 in primary schools and Y8 and Y10 in secondary schools. It is an incredibly useful resource to provide schools with invaluable data, which can inform curriculum content, methods of lesson delivery and empower schools to better meet the needs of their pupils. The results are also used to inform the Sunderland Healthy City Plan and work programmes, to improve health outcomes for children and young people.</p> <p>Survey topics include drugs and alcohol, smoking and vaping, emotional health and wellbeing, healthy eating, life at school, physical activity and staying safe and bullying.</p>	Jan 25	Oct 25
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
In 2023, 5,970 children and young people told us about their health and behaviours. The 2025 survey will be carried out over the summer term			

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
Ageing Well Ambassadors	<p>An Ageing Well Ambassador is a voluntary role for an adult, aged 50+, who will take action to help raise awareness and spread the age-friendly message to others, so ageing well people's voices continue to be heard in communities across Sunderland.</p> <p>https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/ageingwell</p>	Already in place	ongoing

Area Committee Quarterly Update

The programme is delivered city wide: We have 253 ambassadors and we need more in Coalfields and Washington areas.
<https://www.linksforlifesusunderland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/oce23407-Ageing-Well-Ambassadors-2-years-on-report-2023-24.pdf>

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
Strength and Balance Programme	<p>Strength and Balance programme is an evidence based (OTAGO) exercise program, funded by Sunderland City Council for people who live in Sunderland. This exercise program targets vulnerable, mildly, and moderately frail over 50's who have a history of falls and/or fear of falling with the key aim of improving their independence and confidence and reduce falls, whilst promoting 'Healthy Ageing' and a lifelong participation in exercise and activity.</p> <p>https://www.healthwatchesunderland.com/sites/healthwatchesunderland.com/files/Sunderland%20Strength%20and%20Balance%20Programme%20September%202024.pdf</p>	Already in place	ongoing

Area Committee Quarterly Update

The programme is delivered from:

North - Downhill Centre, Fullwell Library, North East Sport @Monkwearmouth Academy, Grace House
 West - St Chad's Church, Lambton Street Youth and Community Hub, Broadway Youth and Community Centre
 East- St Michael's Community Centre, Sunderland Mind, Sunderland Bangladeshi International Centre
 Washington -Arts Centre, Springwell Village Community Venue, Albany Village Centre
 Coalfields - The Hut Low Moorsley, Penshaw Community Centre, Houghton Sports and Wellness Centre

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
We'ar Shining the Light	A Sunderland-wide news platform has been launched to shine the light on what it means to grow older in the city. Led by older people for older people, the We'ar Shining the Light news team – made up of community reporters aged 50 and above from across Sunderland – has joined forces to capture stories that break ageing stereotypes and gather positive stories of	Already in place	ongoing

	later life. As well as reporting on arts and culture, sport and nostalgia stories, the team will also shine a light on the challenges faced by the ageing population.		
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
Currently have 15 community reporters who write articles for a newsletter that goes out monthly to all the ageing well ambassadors. We have reporters from all areas of the city. https://wellbeinginfo.org/wstl-news/			

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
Dementia and Ageism training	The aim of the training is to co-produce using the two topics dementia awareness including ageism and prevention working with local people. Then after designed and delivery of the training, it will provide a range of resources that will raise awareness, dispel the myths around ageism and raise awareness of dementia to equip the local community to offer initial support and signpost to other appropriate services where needed. This will be achieved by developing skills, confidence and discussing techniques that can promote healthy lifestyles.	Already in place	2025/2026
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
The training has been funded by the city council and the award was to AgeUK Sunderland. They have delivered 6 months of the programme and the feedback and attendance at the training is very positive. There has also been a signposting booklet designed by healthwatch collaboratively with other partners. https://www.healthwatchesunderland.com/advice-and-information/2025-04-03/support-people-memory-difficulties-or-dementia			

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING - Public Health – Integrated Commissioning

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
DA safe accommodation redevelopment	Capital project to redevelop DA safe accommodation provision	April 24	March 26
Area Committee Quarterly Update			

A 'pre-mortem' risk planning exercise is scheduled for the 26/11, in order to test assumptions/biases within the existing scheme. This will be followed by the commissioning of a feasibility and options appraisal to agree the preferred design and operating model for the scheme before continuing.

TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN: Early Help Systems and Family Hubs

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
Family Hubs & Family Support	<p>The Family Hubs and Start for Life programme helps meet commitments in The best start for life: a vision for the 1,001 critical days, published as government policy in March 2021. This programme is jointly led by the Department for Education (DfE) and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).</p> <p>The aim of Family Hubs is to join up and enhance services, ensuring all parents and carers can access the support they need when they need it. To bring services together and make them more accessible, improve the connections between families, professionals, services, and providers, and put relationships at the heart of family support.</p> <p>Following a competitive bidding process, 14 trailblazers were selected and awarded additional funding to go further and faster in delivering some or all of the Start for Life services funded by the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme – peri-natal mental health and parent-infant relationships, infant feeding, and parenting support. Sunderland were one of the 14 local authority areas who were awarded trailblazer status.</p> <p>https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/article/27857/Start-for-Life</p> <p>Sunderland will have 5 Family Hubs across the city offering services from conception up until the age of 18 or 25 for young people with special educational needs. The face to face offer Sunderland Family Hubs offer is mirrored as a virtual offer to our children, young people and families, with access to activities, services and resources on a new digital platform called My Best Life. MBL will also provide families with information around childcare, SEND local offer, support for older children and young people in addition to interactive resources that families can access at home.</p> <p>Our Family hubs sits in line with the national vision of building an Early Help System offering support to children and families across universal services, community support and targeted services which will all be available in our family hubs.</p>	2022	2025

Early Help targeted family support teams are co-located within the family hubs. These teams provide targeted support to families with children aged 0 to 19. The Early Help workers complete a robust assessment and plan, provide interventions and work alongside our partners to address the needs of children young people and their families.

HAF continues to be available across all localities of the city during school holidays.

Area Committee Quarterly Update

Maternity services now have a presence in each Family Hub across Sunderland. Maternity and TfC continue to work together to increase the number of appointments families can access within the hubs.

Family Hub now have a presence at antenatal clinics at Sunderland Royal

Sunderland's first Baby Week launched 14th November. Families with babies and young children, stakeholders from several local and national services, elected members are attending a wide range of exciting and informative citywide events. The week has also been used to promote Sunderland's Family Hubs.

Summer HAF was funded by national DfE funding, local Household Support Fund Grant Funding and a number of additional smaller funding bodies. In total 5,118 children and young people attended sessions across the city, filling 37,740 places. Of those attending 2,494 children and young people were eligible for Free School Meals and 994 have SEND. Many other children were considered vulnerable and / or were impacted by cost of living.

A pilot project delivered in conjunction with The Children's Foundation to deliver Baby Boxes to 232 families will be launched by the end of December 2024.

MMR clinics delivered over 400 MMR vaccines across Sunderland, South Tyneside and Durham area. Sunderland had the highest rate of uptake and all taking place in the hubs.

65 active volunteers are supporting a wide range of family hub and community activities.

5 Community Voice Panels have been set up across the city (one in each locality) to support and drive improvement of services within the Family Hubs and other TfC services.

ECONOMY AND PLACE: Residential Development – Land and Investment

Project/Programme	Project Details	Start Date	Completion/ full expenditure by
New Wear Pedestrian Footbridge	Open the New Wear Footbridge linking Vaux and Sheepfolds		Aug 25
Area Committee Quarterly Update			
On Track			

NORTH AREA COMMITTEE

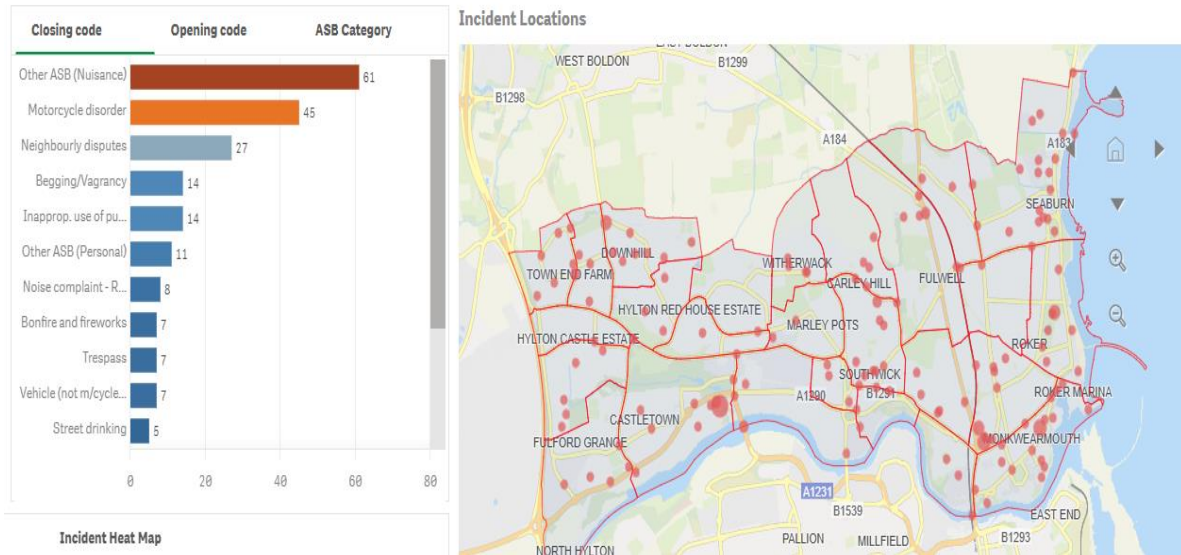
26th June 2025

REPORT OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Sunderland North Reporting Period 210325 to 060625

ASB

212 which is a reduction of 60 or 22.06% compared to the same period last year.

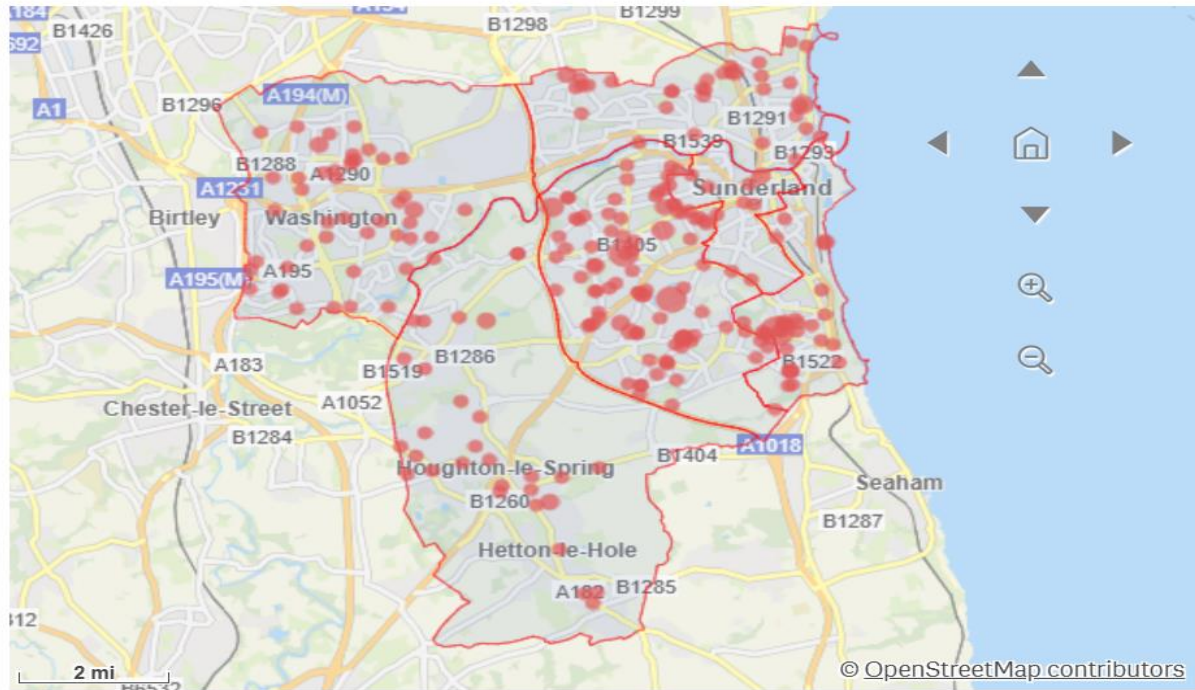


The top three ASB hotspots are Roker, Seaburn and Castletown.

MC ASB

339 reports of MC ASB across Sunderland during the current reporting period. 44 in Sunderland North, down from 54 in 2024. Top three Hotspots are Sunderland West, South and Washington.

Incident Locations

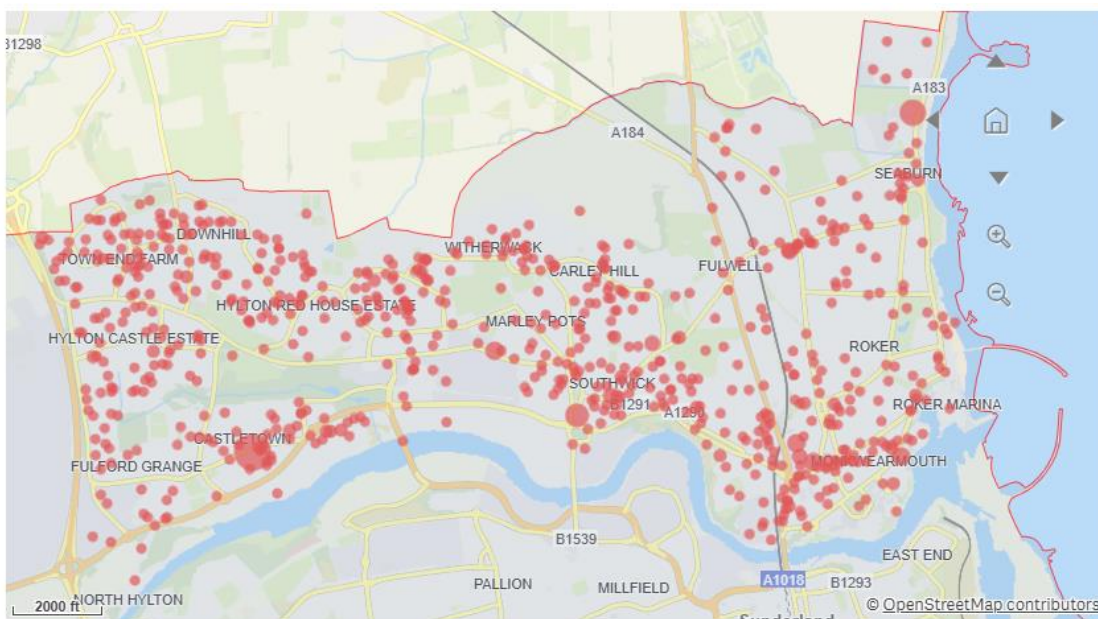


Total Crime

1353 reports, which is an increase of 228 or 16.85% compared to this period last year.

Theft and handling have increased from 204 reports to 375 for the current reporting period. Shoplifting is the main driver of the increase in crime.

Many of the reports originate at Morrisons Daily at Castletown and Morrisons at Seaburn. We continue to work with Morrisons to try to target harden the locations, together with increased patrols.



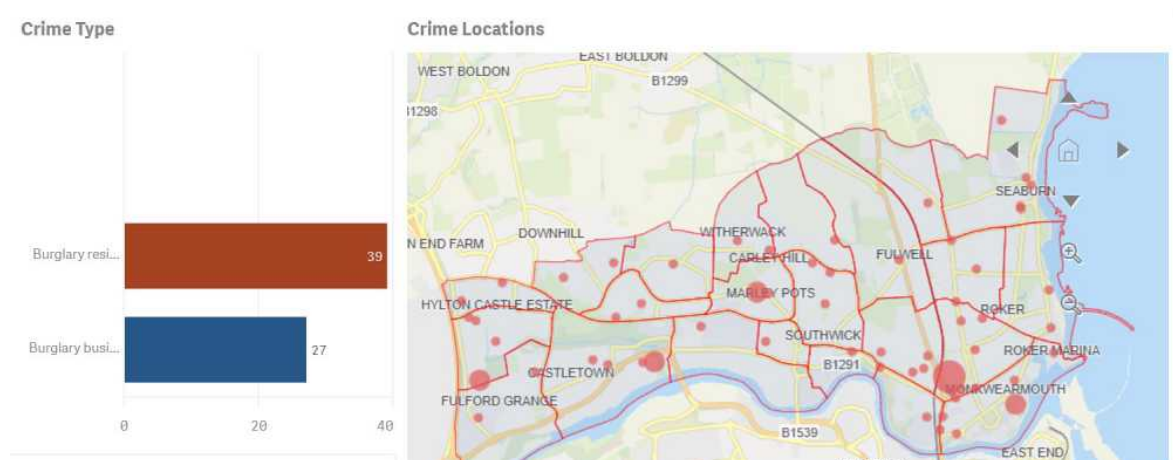
Notable arrests and charges made by Sunderland North NPT:

Mark Dagg	Shoplifting & common assault	8 weeks custodial
Owen Ashton Palmer	Burglary	
Neil Forster	Shoplifting at Morrisons	Conditional Bail
Mark Valentine	Shoplifting at Morrisons	18 Weeks custodial
Kevin Wood	Burglary	68 Weeks custodial

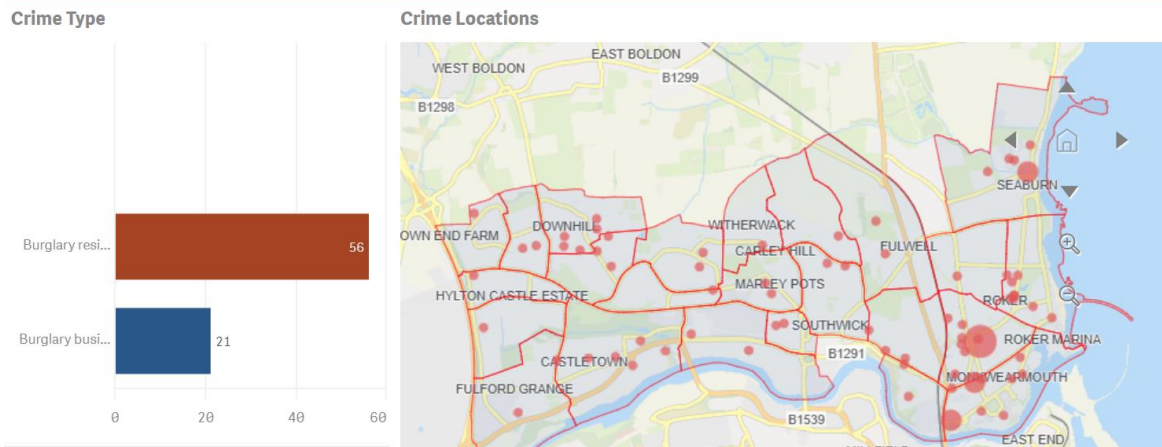
Residential & Commercial Burglary

66 Burglaries, down from 77 for the same period, a reduction of 14.29%

210325 to 060625



210325 to 060624

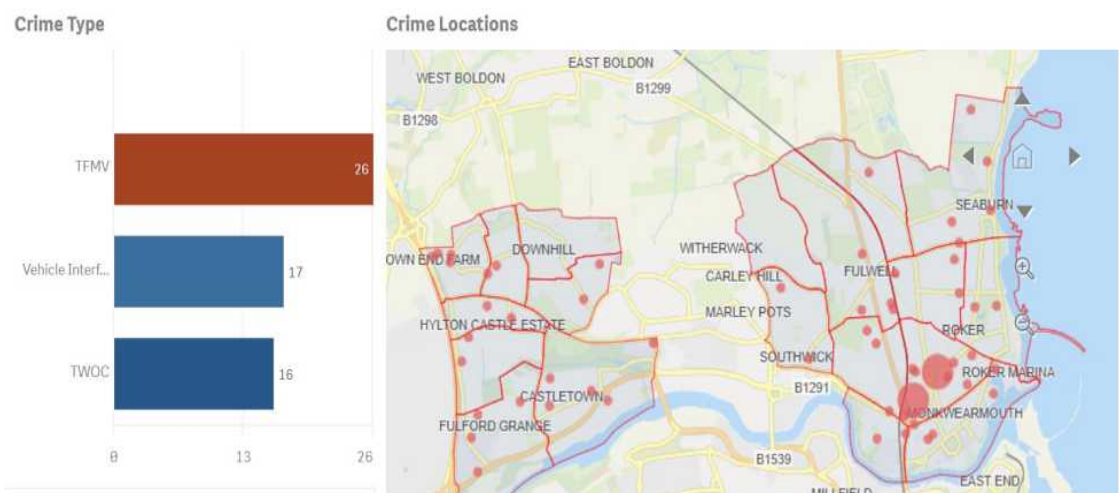


Burglary has reduced in Roker recently due to an ongoing police patrol plan in the locality.

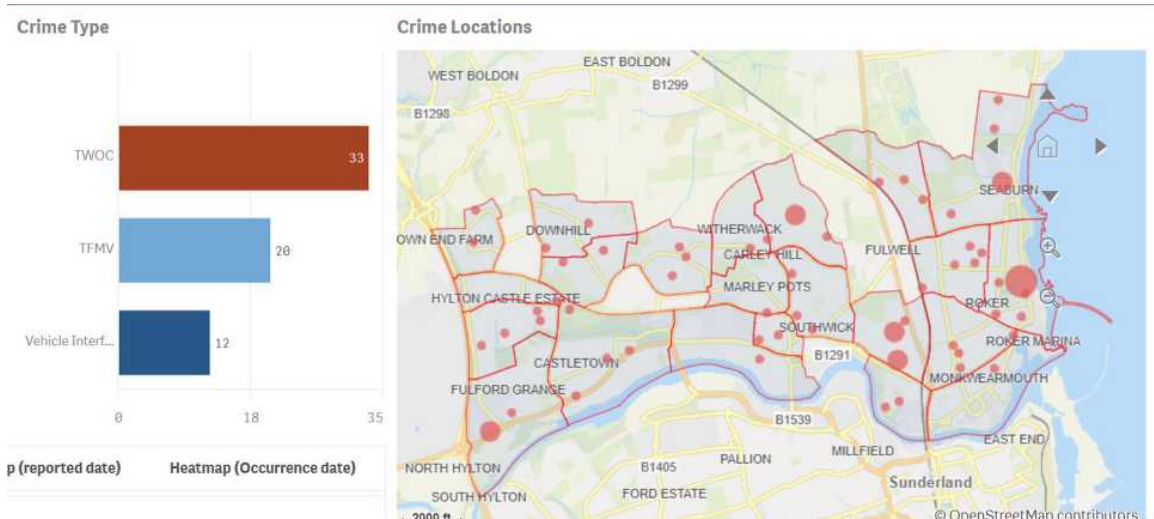
Vehicle crime

59 vehicle crimes, down from 65 for the same period in 2024, a reduction of 9%.

210325 to 060625



210325 to 060624

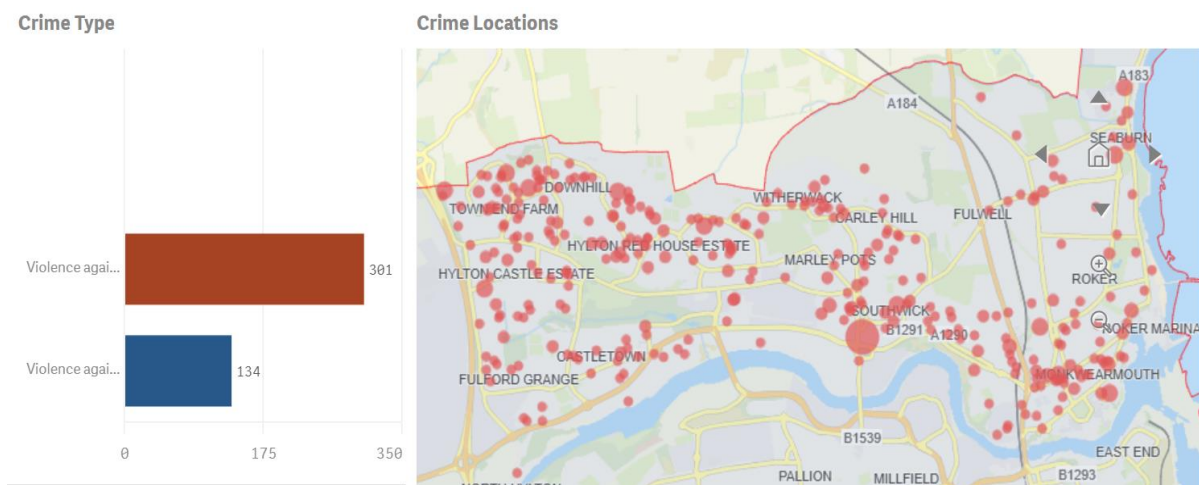


Vehicle crime in Roker has reduced further recently due to an ongoing police patrol plan in the locality.

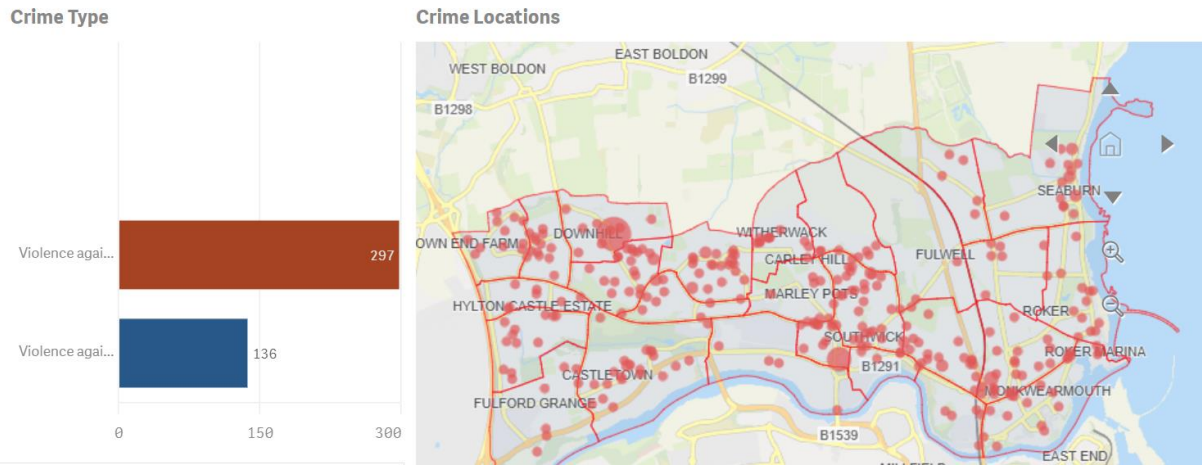
Violence against persons

435 which is up 2 from 2024, up 0.46% for the same period.

210325 to 060625



210325 to 060624



Violence against the persons has remained almost the same for the same reporting period last year.

SUNDERLAND NORTH AREA COMMITTEE

26th June 2025

REPORT OF THE TYNE & WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The following report gives performance-monitoring details in relation to Local Indicators for the Sunderland North Committee area from 1st March 2025 to 29th May 2025, compared with the same period in 2023/2024

2 Background

- 2.1 Area Committee agreed that regular updates on Crime and Community Safety would be presented to each committee meeting.
- 2.2 For this report, **Primary/secondary** fires are defined as such by TWFRS.

Primary fires are defined as fires that include all fires in buildings, vehicles, and outdoor structures, or any fire involving casualties, rescues, or fires attended by five or more appliances

Secondary fires are defined as fire incidents that did not occur at a primary fire location, was not a chimney fire in an occupied building, did not involve casualties (otherwise categorised as a Primary incident), and was attended by four or fewer appliances.

3 Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update

3.1 LI 02 Number of deaths from all fires

0 deaths were recorded during the reporting period.

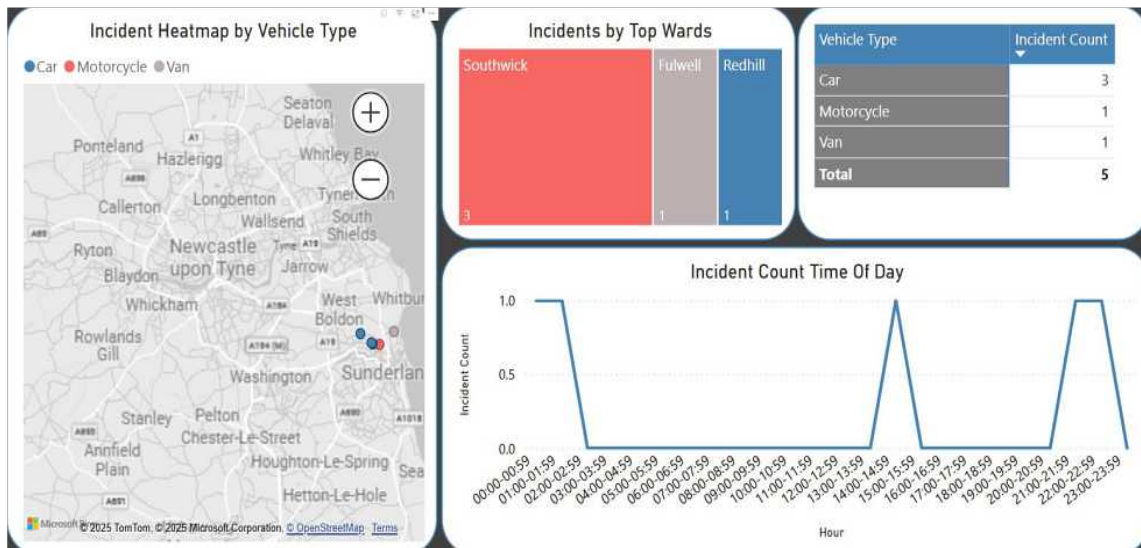
3.2 LI 14 - Number of deliberate primary fires excluding road vehicles

3 Incidents occurred within this reporting period; this compares to 2 in the same period last year, which is an increase of **50%**.



3.3 LI 15 - Number of deliberate primary road vehicle fires

Incidents occurred within this reporting period; this compares to 12 reported incidents in the same period last year, which is a reduction of **58.3%**.

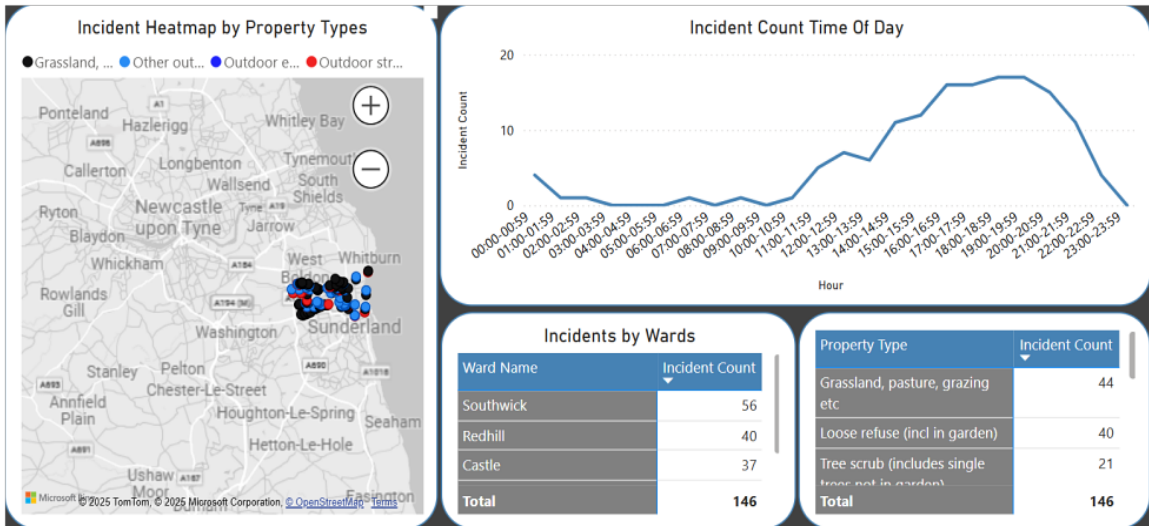


TWFRS continue to work with Northumbria Police reporting all suspected malicious vehicle fires and shall continue to monitor any identified patterns or trends. Where malicious fires are identified, a tier two Fire Investigation is undertaken by TWFRS in collaboration with Northumbria Police's Forensic Services.

3.4 LI 16 – Number of deliberate secondary fires

146 incidents occurred within this reporting period; this compares to 62 reported incidents in the same period last year (SPLY), which is an increase of **135.5%**. A breakdown of incidents occurring in wards can be found below:

- Redhill 40 incidents up from 22 SPLY. An increase of **81.8%**
- Southwick 56 incidents up from 13 SPLY. An increase of **330.8%**
- Castle 37 incidents equal to 20 from SPLY. An increase of **85%**
- St. Peters 9 incidents equal to 6 from SPLY. An increase of **50%**
- Fulwell 4 incidents up from 1 SPLY. An increase of **300%**



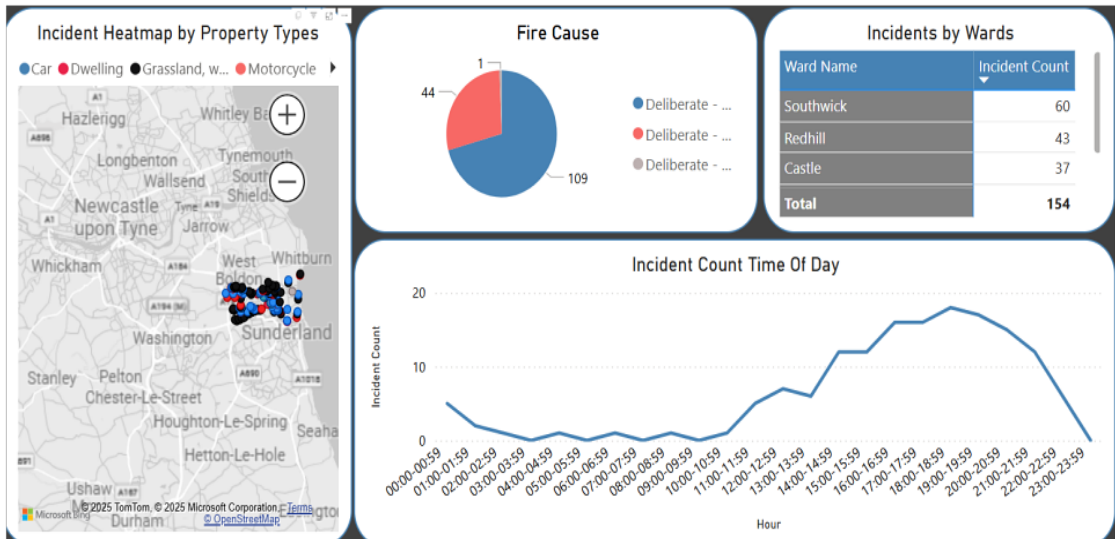
Fire crews are continuing to implement strategies to address anti-social behaviour in all wards and are reporting all cases of fly-tipping or excessive waste through the ReportIT tool.

The Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) has recently transitioned from its "Darker to Lighter Nights" activities. The rewilding efforts and the dry weather conditions have affected the number of incidents involving grassland and woodlands.

3.5 LI 33 - Number of deliberate fires (incorporating LI's 14, 15 and 16)

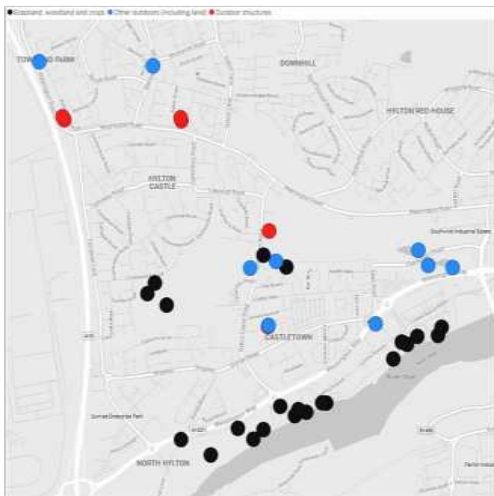
There have been 154 deliberate fires over this period compared to 76 in the same period last year, which equates to an increase of **102.6%**. Improvements continue to be made in Castle, Fulwell, Redhill and St. Peter's wards showing a decrease in fires and work continues in the Southwick ward that has shown a slight increase in incidents recorded.

TWFRS will proactively concentrate reduction strategies in all areas.



Ward breakdown and hotspot analysis

Castle Ward – 37 Incidents, up from 21 = 72% increase



A high percentage of incidents can be identified in the Hylton Castle/ Castletown areas. The peak times tend to be between 15:00 - 21:00 hrs. A number of which occur along the banks of the River Wear involving grassland, woodland and crops.

These incidents are of an ASB nature, TWFRS will conduct reduction strategies during the peak times.

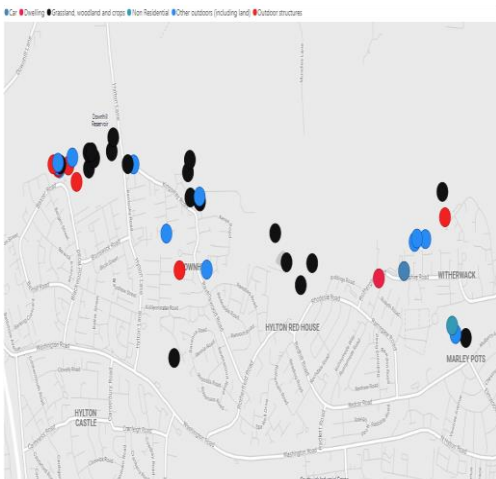
Fulwell Ward - 5 Incidents, up from 1 = **400% increase**.



These incidents were found to be of an ASB nature involving grasslands, loose refuse and a vehicle.

No trends could be identified.

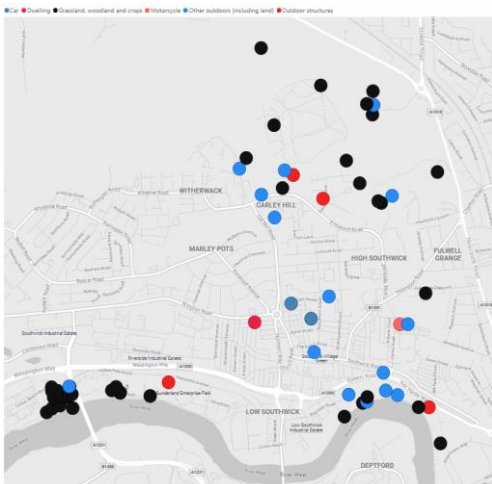
Redhill Ward - 43 Incidents, up from 15 = **59% increase**.



The main areas of ASB has been found to be on land North of Washington Rd and Hylton Red House near Rhodesia Rd. Incidents are occurring between 15:00 and Midnight.

Previously a ten day trigger plan saw incidents reduce dramatically.

Southwick Ward - 60 Incidents, up from 18 = **233% increase**.



A cluster of incidents are taking place in Hylton Dene, south of Hylton Park Road, involving grassland, woodland, and crops.

TWFRS will continue to collaborate with the SARA project team for support and engagement. Incidents peak between 19:00 and 21:00

St. Peters Ward - 9 Incidents, up from no incidents = **900% increase**.



Incidents spread across the ward but mainly along the river involving refuse.

Regular ASB reduction continues to be carried out in this locality.

Fire crews will continue to undertake ASB reduction in these areas and collaborate with partners.

4 Fire Stoppers Hotline

4.1 It is essential that any fire related issues are reported utilising the Fire Stoppers hotline; 0800 169 5558. Crews from Marley Park Community Fire Station are encouraged to foster strong working relationships with community groups and partner agencies. Our aim is to positively impact deliberate fire reduction and deter anti-social behaviour, as these activities have a direct and detrimental impact on life risk, property, the environment and the entire Sunderland community.

Any questions: please feel free to contact the below TWFRS Station Manager.

5 Summary

5.1 Marley Park Community Fire Station crews have completed 93 Safe and well visits since 1st April 2025 and there have been a single attack on firefighters in comparison to none in the same period last year resulting in a **100% increase**., this was reported to Northumbria Police at the time of the incident, through joint working and collaboration, an individual was identified.

5.2 TWFRS will continue to work with Northumbria Police and Local Authority Representatives to investigate and identify trends, create action plans and evaluate activities. Crews at Marley Park Community Fire Station utilise intelligence led data to target areas of increased activity, allowing resources to be utilised efficiently and effectively. Continued support from the SARA partnership working is having very positive results for TWFRS.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Sunderland North Area Committee are requested to note the content of the report.

7 Contact Officer:

Name: SM Terence Griffin
Sunderland Central Community Fire Station
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Mobile Tel: 07917505418

Email: terence.griffin@twfire.gov.uk



NORTH AREA COMMITTEE26th June 2025**REPORT OF NORTH AREA VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR NETWORK****1. Purpose of the Report**

1.1 The report provides an update with regard to the North Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

2. Background

2.1 To develop the capacity and influence of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) across the City, Area Networks have been established and delegates represent each Area Network at Area Committee taking forward issues on behalf of the whole VCS in the area, reporting on area priority delivery by the VCS, and reporting back, providing a two-way flow of communication.

2.2 North Area Network delegates will present a report to each Area Committee meeting informing Members of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

2.3 The North VCS Network is made up of over 100 local groups and strategic local/national/regional partners. The network meets on a regular basis to share good practice, support one another and receive regular updates and information sharing.

3. North Voluntary and Community Sector Network (VCSN) Progress Report

3.1 The North VCS Network met in March 2025 & May 2025 at Marley Park Community Fire Station

3.2 The meetings included the following agenda items:

- Community & Corporate volunteering opportunities
- Carer Awareness
- Loan Shark Awareness
- Information on the Sunderland App

3.3 The Network received the North Area Committee Call for Projects for the Castle & Redhill Rangers project and a decision will be made the June Area Committee.

3.4 The Network representatives regularly consult with the Network to ensure that the agenda items reflect their requirements.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Members are requested

- To note the contents of the report and consider the opportunities and issues raised by the North VCSN.

Contact: Ruth Walker, Area Network Representative.
Email: ruth@snyp.co.uk
Richy Duggan, Area Network Representative
Email: sunderlandcommunityactiongroup@hotmail.com
Peter Curtis, Area Network Representative
Email: peter@northeastsport.co.uk

NORTH AREA COMMITTEE

June 2025

REPORT OF GENTOO

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The following report provides an update from Gentoo for the North Area Committee for the period March 2025 to June 2025.

2 Background

- 2.1 Area Committee agreed that regular updates from Gentoo would be provided to each Committee meeting to enable members to be up to date on current Gentoo developments, projects, and priorities and to ensure members are fully aware of their opportunities to work collaboratively with Gentoo.

3 Update on Neighbourhood Services

- 3.1 **New Delivery Model:** In June 2024 we started gathering views and opinions from colleagues to understand what help they needed to help our customers. They told us that the role of housing and support services has changed and presents new challenges with customer interactions becoming more complex and that their patch sizes were too large to really understand who some of their customers were, potentially not understanding any vulnerability they may have.

Starting July 1, 2025, we will implement new ways of working, our service offer will focus on providing comprehensive and effective housing management, designed to support customers at every stage of their housing journey. With a strong emphasis on care, engagement, and proactive assistance, we aim to address customer's unique needs, ensuring they feel supported and empowered in their homes and communities.

Key Features of Our Service

- Effective Housing Management
- Tailored Customer Support
- Access to Expert Partners
- Caring and Proactive Approach
- Stronger Community Cohesion

The new delivery model will reduce patch sizes for Neighbourhood Coordinators and there will be a 50% increase in support roles (37 in post) to meet growing demand. There will be 78 patches across the city and we have worked with an external consultant to draft these, they have used information such as key performance indicators e.g arrears levels, empty homes turnover, deprivation, anti-social behaviour and complaints.

Appendix 1 shows the city plan of patches, and we will update you in the coming weeks of who the team are for your wards and their contact information.

- 3.2 **Mobile Bus:** We have secured a mobile unit on an initial three-month trial period, which will be used to engage with and support customers across the city. This initiative has been developed in direct response to feedback we've received from customers over the past 12

months. Many have told us they would like to see Gentoo take a more visible and accessible role within local communities, particularly within our estates.

By bringing our services directly to neighbourhoods, we aim to remove barriers and make it easier for customers to connect with us in a way that feels informal, approachable and convenient. We believe this approach will help us reach those customers who are often less likely to engage through traditional channels – sometimes referred to as 'seldom heard' voices – and encourage them to share their views, concerns or ideas.

The primary aim of the mobile unit is simple: to support as many customers as possible. Whether it's providing advice, answering questions, signposting to other services, or simply offering a friendly face and someone to talk to, we want to create meaningful opportunities for engagement. This mobile presence will help us better understand the needs of our communities and continue shaping our services around what matters most to our customers.

4. Property, Investment and Renewal

4.1 Property Update: update from Steve Lowther, Head of Property see appendix 2

5. Recommendations

5.1 Note the content of this report.

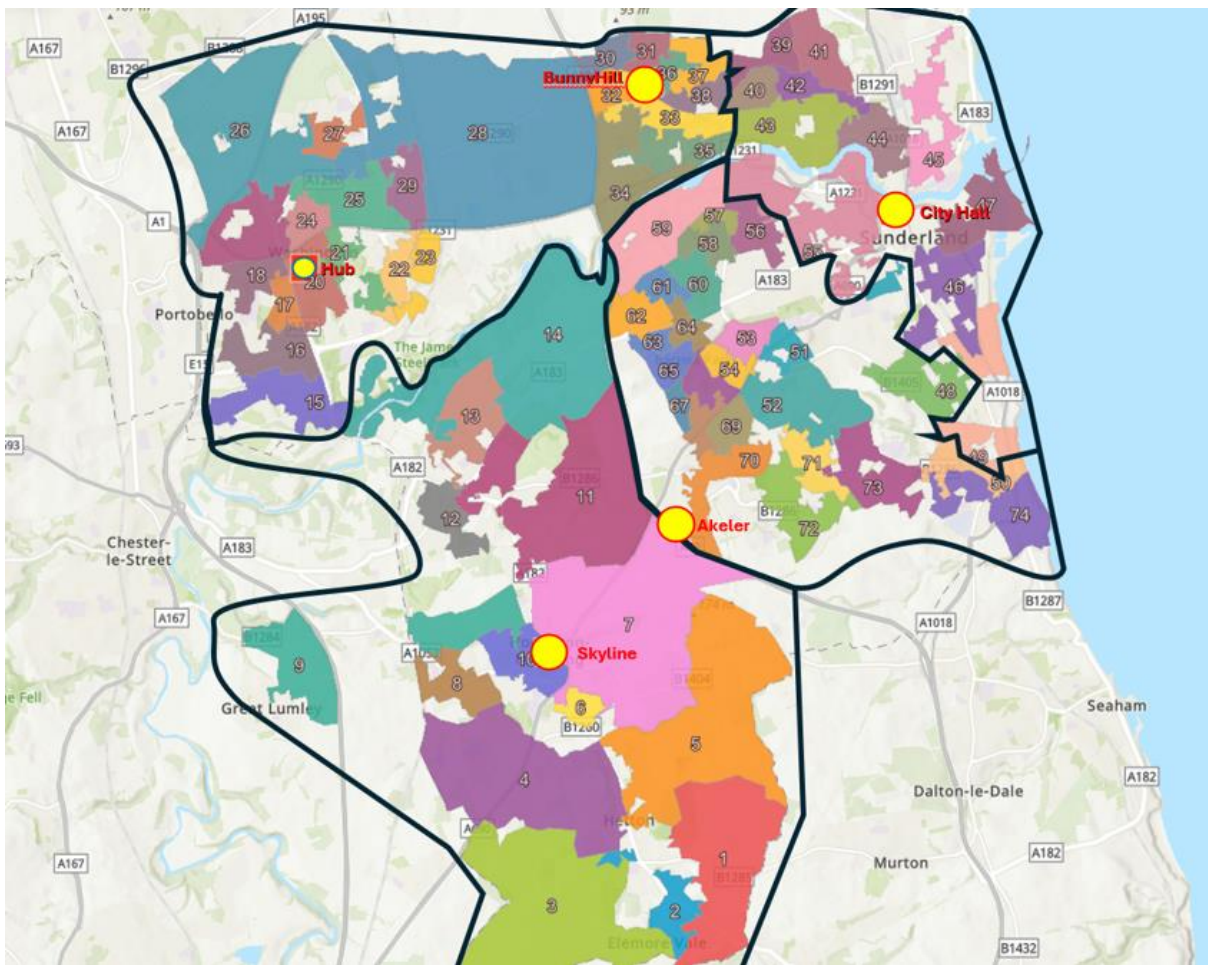
Contact Officer

Kelly Patton, Head of Neighbourhoods.

Tel: 0191 525 5000

Email: Kelly.patton@gentoo.com

Appendix 1



Housing Area Committee Updates Q1

June 2025

Property Maintenance

gentoo

Maintaining and improving our homes FY 2526 to date



25,281

Servicing,
maintenance and
repair visits



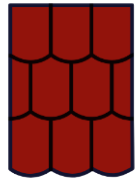
79.07%

Percentage of
Homes meeting
EPC-C



2316

Damp and mould
remedial works



88

Roof replacements in
progress



0

New kitchens or
bathrooms until July



168

Replacement
Heating Systems



0

Double glazed
windows installed



182

Empty homes
restored



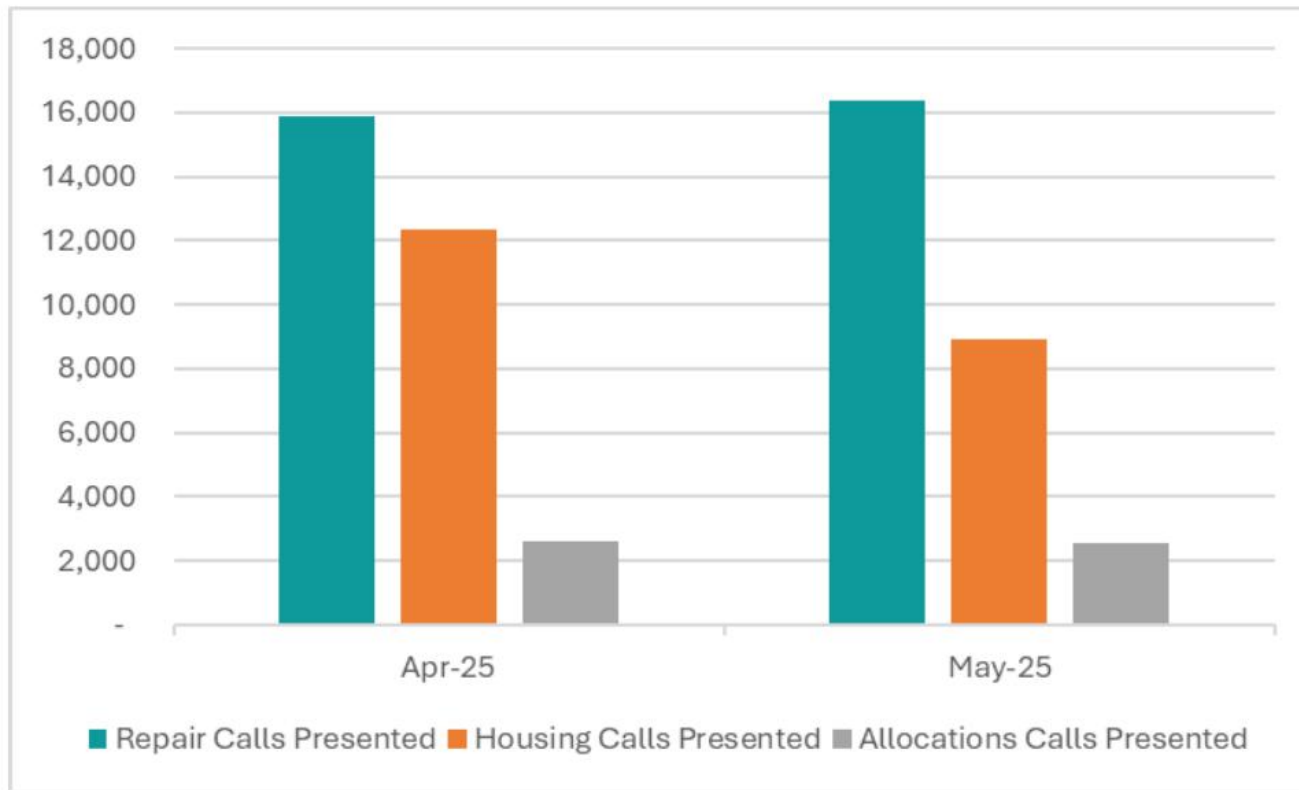
94.28%

Repairs Completed
Right First Time

General Repairs Update – end May 2025

- Average days for a routine repair appointment - 24
- Emergency repairs completed on time – 99%
- Non-emergency repairs completed on time – 67%
- Repairs completed right first time – 94.28%
- 8 severe cases of damp and mould
- Satisfaction with the Repairs Service – 86.80%

Contact Centre 25/26 Q1 position summary (to date)



58,655 calls presented

Average Speed to Answer 2.43 minutes

32,250 Repair Calls Presented

26,405 Housing Calls Presented



Thank you

Area Committee Report – City Wide

26th June 2025

PREPARED – 30/05/2025

REPORT OF SUNDERLAND VOLUNTARY SECTOR ALLIANCE

1 Purpose of the report

1.1 The following report provides a City Wide update from Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance (SVSA) for Area Committees, reporting period from February 2025 to May 2025.

2 Background

2.1 Area Committees requested regular updates from SVSA at each Committee meeting to enable members to be up to date on current SVSA developments, projects, and priorities and to encourage collaborative working and 2-way communication.

3 General Update

3.1 Tracy Hassan, who has led the Alliance for 4 years is leaving us in June 2025. The Board of Trustees are currently recruiting an Interim CEO to lead the organisation through this transition period.

3.2 The final version of the project report: *Social Prescribing and Community Assets in Sunderland: A Current State Evaluation 2024 – 2025*, has been completed.

3.3 Held a Volunteer Co-ordinator Network which focused on Neurodiversity and Volunteering. This event was supported by Luminary Photography CIC and hosted at St George's Church.

3.4 Focus on Communication and Engagement with the development of our new look E Bulletin and an increased presence on Facebook and Linked In.

4 Funding and Investment

4.1 Following the success of our 2nd Grant Distribution focusing on capital grants, we have secured a further £53,562 Capital fund from UKSPF to distribute to Voluntary Sector Organisations based on delivering in Sunderland looking to renovate, repair or refurbish their Community Building. This will be distributed later in 2025.

- 4.2 Facilitated a 'Meet the Funder' online event with Bernard Sunley Foundation.

5 Sector Support

- 5.1 We continue to work through new ways of engaging organisations and offering more face-to-face meetings and support, raising the profile of SVSA ensuring organisations are not missing out on support and opportunities. We have achieved some great outcomes working with organisations across the city appendix 1.
- 5.2 Membership figures have increased since the last report from 213 to 236 unique VCSE organisations.
- North - 55
 - West - 35
 - Coalfield - 31
 - East - 61
 - Washington - 29
 - Outside of Sunderland - 25
- 5.3 We facilitated the following training sessions:
- Bid Writing for Beginners in partnership with ABL.
 - DBS Eligibility Workshop in partnership with DBS service.
 - Developing a Health and Safety Policy in partnership with IQMS.
 - Governance Workshop in partnership with ABL.

6 Trustee update

- 6.1 The Board of Trustees held a Development Day in May focusing on achievements to date and what's next for the Alliance.

Contact Officer

Lindsey Hall, Investment and Commissioning Manager, Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance.

Email: lindsey.hall@sunderlandvsa.co.uk

Mobile: 07435753979

Case Study 1: Invigor8 (East)

Over the past 12 months, Sunderland Volunteer Sector Alliance (SVSA) has provided tailored support to Invigor8 North East CIC, helping the organisation strengthen its foundations, expand its network, and secure essential funding to achieve its goals of community development and engagement.

Areas of Support

1:1 Support with a Sector Support Development Worker

SVSA's dedicated Sector Support Development Worker collaborated closely with Invigor8 North East CIC, offering personalised guidance in several key areas:

- **Business Planning Development:** Supported the creation a robust business plan to guide strategic growth and operational decisions.
- **Policy and Procedure Development:** Assisted in developing essential policies, including safeguarding, to ensure compliance and promote best practices.
- **Project Planning and Budgeting:** Supported the development of detailed project plans and associated budgets, enabling structured and effective project execution.
- **Funding Identification and Bid Writing:** Identified relevant funding opportunities and provided comprehensive support in crafting compelling funding applications.

Networking Opportunities

SVSA facilitated meaningful connections for Invigor8 North East CIC through a range of networking opportunities:

- **Face-to-Face Events:** Provided platforms for direct interaction with other community organisations and stakeholders.
- **Volunteer Coordinators Quarterly Events:** Enabled connections with peers and professionals, fostering collaboration and shared learning.
- **Themed Networking Events:** Encouraged relationship-building with other VCSE organisations, broadening Invigor8's network and potential for partnerships.

Training Support

SVSA delivered a variety of training sessions to equip Invigor8 North East CIC with vital skills and knowledge:

- **Bid Writing Training:** Enhanced the organisation's ability to craft strong funding proposals.

- **Governance Structures Training:** Provided insights into effective governance models to improve organisational resilience.
- **Safeguarding Training:** Ensured adherence to safeguarding standards, prioritising the safety of beneficiaries and staff.

Funding Support

SVSA's efforts contributed to Invigor8 North East CIC's funding success:

- **Meet the Funder Events:** Participation in five funder events, enabling direct engagement with funding organisations.
- **Regular Funding Updates:** Access to SVSA's E: Bulletin, providing timely and relevant funding information.

Outcomes

Thanks to SVSA's comprehensive support, Invigo8r North East CIC achieved significant milestones:

- **Stronger Organisational Framework:** Improved governance, safeguarding, and operational structures.
- **Enhanced Project Delivery:** Clear and actionable project plans with well-defined budgets.
- **Increased Funding Success:** Leveraged SVSA's guidance to secure vital funding for key initiatives.
- **Expanded Network:** Built connections with other VCSE organisations and stakeholders, laying the groundwork for future collaborations.
- **Skill Development:** Improved internal capacity through targeted training sessions.

Conclusion

SVSA's multi-faceted support has positioned Invigor8 North East CIC for continued growth and success. By strengthening their organisational foundation, facilitating funding opportunities, and fostering valuable relationships, SVSA has empowered Invigor8 to effectively serve their community and achieve their goals.

Case Study 2: District Youth ABC (Washington)

Overview

District Youth ABC is a long-established community boxing club based in Concord, Washington. Since opening in 2013, the club has provided a lifeline to young people in the area through discipline, structure, and belonging. In 2021, the club moved into its current premises, supported by a 25-year lease from Washington Stove and Fireplace.

The club is a constituted group and registered with Boxing England, ensuring all coaches are DBS checked, safeguarding trained, first-aid qualified, and supported by a Welfare Officer. Up to 60 young people attend sessions weekly, with many boxers progressing through the England Boxing Pathway.

Support Provided by Sunderland VSA

Sunderland VSA has worked closely with Michael (club founder) to help strengthen the club's foundations and plan for long-term growth and sustainability. Key areas of support included:

- **Governance Advice:** Guidance on transitioning to a Community Interest Company (CIC) to formalise operations, secure new income streams, and enable Michael to take on a paid gym manager role—allowing the gym to open during the day for expanded programming.
- **Funding :** Initial research into relevant funding opportunities, including Sport England grants that could help with a proposed that could support with the purchase of new equipment and travel to competitions. An application was sent and the project was called “More Than Boxing” and £5980 has been award from Sports England.
- **Letter of Support Development:** Co-developing a £750 funding bid to support travel and entry fees for an upcoming national competition—ensuring that financial barriers don't prevent local talent from competing on a national stage.
- **Long-term Visioning:** Helping to shape a broader vision for the club, including new income streams through daytime fitness classes, and an inclusive community offer for all ages. This would be part of the income raised whilst as the CIC model.

Impact

District Youth ABC has become a safe haven for young people facing disadvantage, bullying, or low confidence—offering not only sport but structure, inspiration, and belonging.

Thanks to Sunderland VSA's intervention:

- The club is actively pursuing CIC status, unlocking future sustainability.
- Michael is exploring paid management options, increasing capacity and reach.
- Funding routes have been identified to support elite competition and international travel.
- The club now has a clear, compelling narrative for future funders and stakeholders.
- They have received £5,980 from Sports England
- Michael has been nominated for volunteer of the year in the BBC regional awards.
- VSA has also made the club aware they can apply for the boxers as individuals under a scheme called Sunderland Sports Fund Grant.

Conclusion

District Youth ABC is more than a boxing club—it's a community asset. Under Michael's leadership, and with guidance from Sunderland VSA, the club continues to grow stronger, more sustainable, and better equipped to serve the next generation of young people in Washington. Sunderland VSA will continue to support District Youth ABC for a period of time until they become more self-sustaining.

Case Study 3: The Old rectory (Coalfield)

The Old Rectory is an historic building in the heart of Houghton-le-Spring, providing a space for community groups and social entrepreneurs to work together to create a vibrant hub and co-working space. It offers a range of services, activities and events for the community.

VolkerStevin is an industry-leading civil engineering company helping to improve neighbourhoods across the UK by building infrastructure that transforms the environment. They are currently building the new Wear footbridge, part of regeneration scheme for the banks of the River Wear in Sunderland:

What was offered?

A call came into Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance one Friday morning – *“we have a large fridge-freezer and under the counter fridge and free delivery if you can find a home by 12 noon today!”*

The difference it made to The Old Rectory

Time was of the essence and an email to our members quickly found a deserving recipient in The Old Rectory in Houghton le Spring.

The fridges helped store food for the warm spaces and youth activity sessions. Food is an important part of engagement for people in the community who often either eat alone or struggle to eat healthy hot meals on a regular basis. The fridges provided added value incorporating food into the sessions to help more people to thrive.

Corporate social responsibility isn't about grand gestures - it's about meaningful ones. When done through the right channels, even the smallest contribution can create lasting change. A small act of corporate kindness can create a ripple effect into society. For a company, it may just be a couple of fridges and a few hours of staff time. For an organisation with finite resources and a community in need it can make a big difference.

For enquiries on how SVSA can support you regarding social value and corporate volunteering please email volunteer@sunderlandvsa.co.uk

Case Study 4: Grindon Community Church Project (West)

Social Value Offer

About the corporate organisation

Hadrian Technology are a local company based in Newcastle and are one of the UK's leading CCTV security design, supply and installation companies. They combine pioneering security camera technology with expert knowledge, and act as consultants for a diverse range of well-known retail, leisure, hospitality and public sector companies and organisations across the UK and Ireland.

Through collaborations with Sunderland City Council and Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance, Hadrian Technology showcases a significant dedication to social value. They have gone the extra mile to support the local voluntary and community sector, aiding in enhancing outcomes for the community.

What was offered?

Hadrian Technology provided a £550 cash donation to a voluntary or community sector organisation committed to enhancing the local environment or contributing to Sunderland's goal of becoming Carbon Neutral by 2040. The Social Value initiative was enthusiastically embraced by local organisations, leading to numerous applications from diverse groups.

Grindon Community Church project based within the United Reformed Church (URC) was successful. The church actively engages with the community in numerous ways. Grindon URC serves as both a church for everyone and a bustling community centre. The £550 contribution from Hadrian Technology will help the Grindon Community Church Project enhance its energy efficiency and eco-friendly practices, ultimately benefiting the local community it serves.

How the Donation was delivered

Hadrian Technology's generous donation replaced the outdated heaters in the Sanctuary Hall, which have been in service for over 30 years and are inefficient, non-eco-friendly, and prone to breakdowns. This upgrade addressed the challenges faced by groups utilising the hall, such as toddlers, participants in the over 50's long-term illness exercise class, and those attending free sound baths.

The donation covered 25% of the total cost needed to rewire and replace the faulty heaters, with the rest of the funds coming from the church's reserves and matching

funding. By installing new heaters, the church aims to reduce environmental impact, enhance efficiency, and cut costs.

It's great to see Social Value positively impacting local communities. This serves as a prime example of how corporate organisations can benefit the voluntary and community sector whilst encouraging other organisations to contribute their resources to the VCSE in Sunderland.

Case Study 5: Airedale Forestry exceeds expectations to deliver Social Value to support local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Organisations (VCSE). (Citywide)

About the corporate organisation

Airedale Forestry offered to provide advice and skilled labour to an organisation to support their garden, land development or maintenance, they also pledged to supply the necessary materials for the project. Their offer was cascaded to local VCSE organisations through Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance (SVSA) which generated an enthusiastic response.

What was offered?

Jim Kelso, Managing Director at Airedale Forestry identified 6 potential organisations that could benefit from the offer. He visited each site to assess the work required. After careful consideration and discussions with other Directors at Airedale, they agreed to assist five organisations, while the sixth would receive surplus plants and bulbs for their Mediterranean Garden.

How the Donation was delivered

The organisations Airedale Forestry selected to support were:

- Chapel of Light - to fell and remove Ash Tree
- Fulwell Library - to supply surplus plants for Mediterranean Garden
- Harraton Community Association - to cultivate area to rear of the building & apply herbicide
- 2nd Herrington Scouts - to clear area of scrub and lay landscape fabric and stone
- St Marks Community Association - to provide labour to assist with erection of paladin fence

Overall, Airedale Forestry has contributed £7,978 in social value, far surpassing their initial commitment of £1,000.

Sharon Quinn, Social Value and Investment Officer from SVSA said:

“These are fantastic examples of how working together to develop social value, attracting, and distributing funding and in-kind resources across the sector can maximise outcomes and deliver sustainable investment.”

NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE
26th June 2025
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

North Sunderland Area Budget Report

Author(s):

Area Arrangements Strategic Manager

Purpose of Report:

Area Committee has delegated budgets to allocate to specific strategic priorities identified in the Area Plan, with the overall aim to respond to the needs of residents and ensure the delivery of activities and projects to support matters which affect residents and enable them to be resilient. The report provides a financial statement as an updated position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Neighbourhood Funding and Community Chest and presents proposals for further funding requests.

Description of Decision:

Committee are requested to:-

- (a) Note the financial statements set out in **Tables 1 and 2**.
- (b) Approve the Ward Improvement Budget **£75,000** as set out in **Section 2.4**
- (c) Approve the brief and subsequent Call for Projects for the Fulwell Ranger Project as set out in **Section 2.5** and **Item 4 Annex 1**
- (d) Approve the alignment of Neighbourhood Fund of **£35,000** for the Fulwell Ranger project as set out in **Section 2.6** and **Item 4 Annex 1**
- (e) Approve the allocation of Neighbourhood Fund of **£100,000** for the Castle and Redhill Ranger Project, Community Opportunities, as set out in **Section 2.8** and **Item 4 Annex 2**
- (f) Reject the application for Neighbourhood Fund of **£98,255** for the Castle and Redhill Ranger Project, Durham Wildlife Trust, as set out in **Section 2.8** and **Item 4 Annex 2**
- (g) Approve the application for Neighbourhood Fund of **£7,600** for Southwick Illumination Switch On Events 2025 and 2026, Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project, as set out in **Section 2.8** and **Item 4 Annex 3**
- (h) Note the Ward Improvement Budget approvals supported from 2024-2025 as set out in **Item 4 Annex 4**
- (i) Note the Community Chest approvals supported from 2024 – 2025 and 2025 – 2026 as set out in **Item 4 Annex 5 and Annex 6**

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?

Yes

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The Area Committee has an allocation of £540,587 (inc Youth allocation and carried forward) for 2025/2026 from the Neighbourhood Fund to deliver key priorities identified in the relevant Area Plan and to attract other funding into the area.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

The circumstances are such that there are no realistic alternatives that could be considered.

Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution? No

Relevant Scrutiny Committees:

Is it included in the Forward Plan? No

NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE

26 June 2025

REPORT OF THE AREA ARRANGEMENTS STRATEGIC MANAGER

North Sunderland Area Budget Report

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Area Committee has delegated budgets to allocate to specific strategic priorities identified in the Area Plan, with the overall aim to respond to the needs of residents and ensure the delivery of activities and projects to support matters which affect residents and enable them to be resilient. The report provides a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Neighbourhood Funds and Community Chest and presents proposals for further funding requests.

2. Area Committee Neighbourhood Fund

- 2.1 The table below shows the financial position of Area Committee Neighbourhood Fund for 2025/ 2026:

Project Name	Committee Date	Returned	Aligned	Approved	Remaining
Starting Balance for 2025 / 2026 (£404,516 inc Youth Allocation, plus £123,314 carried forward and £12,757 Neighbourhood Fund returns)					£540,587
Downhill Project	22.06.23		68,100		£540,587
Youth Activities	11.04.22 21.03.24 20.03.25		98,556		£540,587
Castle & Redhill Ranger Project	20.03.25		100,000		£540,587
					£540,587

Table 1 – Area Committee Neighbourhood Fund Balances 2025-26

- 2.2 North Sunderland Area Committee has been allocated **£540,587** Neighbourhood Funding for capital and revenue projects for 2025/2026
- 2.3 Table 2.1 shows Neighbourhood Funding budget which includes returns of £12,757 from older projects, including Southwick illuminations, Youth Activities, Southwick Green Regeneration and Ward Improvement Project.
- 2.4 The Neighbourhood Funding awarded for 2025/26 includes an award of **£15k** per ward for a Ward Improvement Budget - total Neighbourhood Funding of **£75,000**. The budget will be used for priorities to help improve the ward and for activity that is

both in keeping with council policy and contribute to the Area Committee's Area Plan. A Maximum of 3 projects will be funded from the £15k budget. For project proposals that will involve council delivery an agreement will be sought initially from the relevant service lead, to be assured that the activity can be accommodated, and agree timescales and cost. The decision making process will follow the same approach as community chest. A list of WIB approvals will be appended to the Area Committee's budget report and performance updates provided as part of the current performance update process.

If approved, the remaining balance will be **£465,587**.

2.5 The Neighbourhood and Community Board agreed, via correspondence, to recommend to Area Committee to approve a brief for the Fulwell Ranger project. The proposed brief is detailed in **Item 4 Annex 1** for consideration and a decision on whether to release a Call for Projects.

2.6 There is **1** alignment proposal presented to Area Committee for consideration from the 2025-26 Neighbourhood Fund.

- Fullwell Rangers project **£50,000** in total (**£35,000** Neighbourhood Fund and the remaining **£15,000** being funded by the Fulwell Ward Improvement Budget). Applications received as a result of the Call for Projects, outlined in 2.5 above, will come back to Area Committee for decision.

2.7 The total Neighbourhood Fund budget requested for alignment is **£35,000**. If approved, the remaining balance will be **£430,587**.

2.8 There are **3** application(s) to the Neighbourhood Fund presented to Area Committee for consideration and a decision which are detailed in **Item 4 Annex 2** and **Item 4 Annex 3**

Castle and Redhill Rangers

- **Approve** - Castle and Redhill Rangers Project, Community Opportunities - **£100,000**
- **Reject** – Castle and Redhill Rangers Project, Durham Wildlife Trust - **£98,255**

Southwick Christmas Switch On 2025/26

- **Approve** – Southwick Christmas Switch On 2025/26, Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project - **£7,600**

2.9 The total Neighbourhood Fund budget requested for approval is **£107,600 (£100,000 previously aligned)**. If approved, the remaining balance will be **£422,987**.

3. Community Chest

- 3.1 Each ward has been allocated a ward budget of **£10,000** to support projects which complement the Area Plan. Ward Councillors lead on seeking suitable project proposals and making decisions on applications received. Where it is difficult to make a majority decision and discussions cannot be resolved at a ward level, the outcome will be escalated to Area Committee for a final decision.
- 3.2 A list of Community Chest approvals from the 2024 – 2025 budget is shown in **Annex 2**

Ward	2024/2025 Allocation	Returned	Approved	Remaining
Castle	£10,000	£575.00	£10,000	£0
Fulwell	£10,000	£0	£10,000	£0
Redhill	£10,000	£0	£9,850	£150
Southwick	£10,000	£0	£9,960	£40
St Peter's	£10,000	£0	£8,562	£1,438
Total	£50,000	£575.00	£48,372	£1,628

Table 2: Community Chest Funding Statement 2024 / 2025

- 3.3 The Table below details the Community Chest awards starting balance for 2025 - 2026. **Annex 3** shows the approvals, supported to date 2025 – 2026

Ward	2025/2026 Allocation	Returned	Approved	Remaining
Castle	£10,000		£995	£9,005
Fulwell	£10,000		£2,102	£7,898
Redhill	£10,000		£600	£9,400
Southwick	£10,000		£3,893	£6,107
St Peter's	£10,000		£3,100	£6,900
Total	£50,000	£0.00	£10,690	£39,310

Table 3: Community Chest Funding Statement 2025 / 2026

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Note the financial statements set out in **Tables 1 and 2**.
- 4.2 Approve the Ward Improvement Budget **£75,000** as set out in **Section 2.4**.
- 4.3 Approve the brief and subsequent Call for Projects for the Fulwell Ranger Project as set out in **Section 2.5** and **Item 4 Annex 1**.

- 4.4 Approve the alignment of Neighbourhood Fund of **£35,000** for the Fulwell Ranger project as set out in **Section 2.6** and **Item 4 Annex 1**.
- 4.5 Approve the allocation of Neighbourhood Fund of **£100,000** for the Castle and Redhill Ranger Project, Community Opportunities, as set out in **Section 2.8** and **Item 4 Annex 2**.
- 4.6 Reject the application for Neighbourhood Fund of **£98,255** for the Castle and Redhill Ranger Project, Durham Wildlife Trust, as set out in **Section 2.8** and **Item 4 Annex 2**.
- 4.7 Approve the application for Neighbourhood Fund of **£7,600** for Southwick Illumination Switch On Events 2025 and 2026, Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project, as set out in **Section 2.8** and **Item 4 Annex 3**.
- 4.8 Note the Ward Improvement Budget approvals supported from 2024-2025 as set out in **Item 4 Annex 4**.
- 4.9 Note the Community Chest approvals supported from 2024 – 2025 and 2025 – 2026 as set out in **Item 4 Annex 5 and Annex 6**.

Contact Officer: Rhys Stephens, Partnership and Community Resilience Manager
rhys.stephens@sunderland.gov.uk
Mobile: 07901599345

- Annex 1** Fulwell Rangers Project Brief
- Annex 2** Applications to Neighbourhood Fund for Castle & Redhill Rangers Project
- Annex 3** Application to Neighbourhood Fund for Southwick Switch On Project
- Annex 4** Ward Improvement Budget 24-25
- Annex 5** Community Chest 24-25
- Annex 6** Community Chest 25-26

North Ranger Project – Fulwell Ward Project Brief

CALL FOR PROJECTS

North Area Committee would like to invite Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups, and public and statutory providers to submit a full application that will deliver a ranger service through a dedicated member of staff. A grant is available for a project which complements and work in partnership with Sunderland City Council's Local Services team in the Fulwell ward.

North Area Committee wish to see proposals which address the following:

The delivery of a ward-based approach to neighbourhood management and environmental improvements, responding to local concerns across the area. Project proposals will enhance local neighbourhoods, encourage community partnerships and volunteering, and improve the use of green spaces particularly focussing on Cut Throat Dene, Mere Knolls Cemetery, Seaburn Recreation Field, Fulwell Skate Park area and surrounding fields.

Applications will be considered from VCS groups with objectives that include the following:

- Nature Conservation/Protection of Wildlife
- Environment Improvement and Protection
- Involving Communities
- Training/Education
- Volunteer Development and Support

VCS groups must have a management committee, constitution and bank account with dual signatories. VCS groups must adhere to accounting requirements in accordance with the Companies Act.

Introduction and Background

- The Area Committee want an attractive, clean and cared for environment where people choose to invest, live, work and spend their leisure time.
- The project should provide residents and other groups with the opportunity to get involved in a variety of environmental improvements, based on local needs and address local concerns.

Expected Outcomes

- Work in partnership with existing services and initiatives to deliver environmental improvements and involve the local community facilitating community ownership with regards to the local environment
- Work alongside local elected members and Sunderland City Council Environmental Services.
- Working with communities and partners to understand local issues and help to identify their own solutions and take more responsibility for their local community and sites.
- Improve the visual appearance of Fulwell Ward with practical maintenance and conservation work including but not limited to activities such as strimming, bulb planting, planter maintenance, graffiti removal and painting.
- Develop a steering group with elected member representation from the Fulwell Ward and provide regular updates.
- Comply with all necessary health and safety requirements
- Within the ward a particular focus should be:

- Cut Throat Dene – pathways and general environment with litter picks and environmental improvements and potentially establishing a Friends of Group
 - Mere Knolls cemetery – litter picks and supporting with the reporting of ASB
 - Fulwell Skate Park area and surrounding fields – litter picks and supporting with the reporting of ASB.
 - Seaburn Recreation Park – general green space
 - Support with ongoing maintenance as and when required across the Ward (litter picks, environmental improvements, painting, graffiti removal, planter maintenance)
 - Coastal Area – linking with existing groups and organisations on environmental projects.
- Proposals should include and co-ordinate the following activities:
 - Community clean ups
 - Reduce littering and fly tipping, recruiting volunteers to take part.
 - Facilitating local groups to carry out a range of activities and develop additional skills by providing a well co-ordinated Equipment Bank Loan Scheme
 - Improve the use and maintenance of local green spaces and support the painting of street furniture
 - Recruiting, training and supporting volunteers and volunteering groups

Budget:

Based on feedback from the North Voluntary and Community Sector Network survey and event in November 2024 the Area Committee advise the total budget available will be **£50,000** in order to deliver a 36 month project with a dedicated member of staff.

All applications will be subject to formal assessment and scoring. A proposal which delivers a range of activities would be preferred. If a collaborative partnership bid is submitted a single organisation must be identified as a lead agent, acting and managing the proposal on behalf of the other identified partners. However, all applications will be assessed and weighted accordingly with regards to partnership working, co-ordination with other services and initiatives, and the range of activities delivered.

Assessment

Each project application will be assessed against set criteria. The results of that assessment and a recommendation will be presented to the September 2025 Area Committee.

Timescale

Call for Projects invitation released	X June 2025
Deadline for completed applications	Noon on x July/August 2025
Consultation and assessment completed by	July 2025
Approval of grant (September Area Committee)	September 2025

Next Steps

Any interested group or organisation should complete the application form and return to area.arrangements.team@sunderland.gov.uk

Return Date

The deadline date to return the completed application, along with necessary documents is **Noon on the xx 2025**

After the deadline date, all received applications will be assessed against a scoring matrix and consulted upon, with recommendations being presented to North Area Committee to agree and endorse the recommendations outlined.

26 June 2025

Application 1

Organisation Details	
Organisation Name	Community Opportunities
Address Line 1	Winchester House
Address Line 2	Baxter Road, Town End Farm
City	Sunderland
Postcode	SR5 4LW
Project Details	
Project Title	Castle and Redhill Ranger Project
Project Overview (max. 50 words)	Community Opportunities will work with residents and local partners to deliver an environmental support scheme in the Castle and Redhill ward providing community clean-ups, litter picking, planting and forestry projects, refurbishing park and green space equipment, effectively engaging residents to volunteer and improve the appearance of their neighbourhoods by reducing littering and fly tipping and managing overgrown greenspaces.
Total Project Cost	£107,260
Match Funding	£7,260
Total NF Requested	£100,000
Project Start Date	1 st July 2025
Project End Date	30 th June 2028
Where will the project be based/delivered from?	Across a variety of locations in the Castle and Redhill wards
Assessor's Notes	<p>This was a good application which covered many of the objectives of the project. However, there were sections that could have been more specific and could have provided more details as to how the project was going to meet the objectives.</p> <p>There is an indication that the applicant will work in partnership with other organisations but how this will work in practice is not specified. The project is ambitious and would represent good value for money if it achieves the outputs stated. The outputs are subject to clarification with the applicant.</p>
Project Description	

26 June 2025

Community Opportunities propose to deliver a neighbourhood management and environmental improvement project in the Castle and Redhill wards which contribute to the North Sunderland area plan priority of creating and sustaining an attractive, clean and cared for environment contributing to the City plan objective of enabling Sunderland to be a place where people chose to invest, work and spend their leisure time

We propose to run a three-year project from July 2025 onwards, recruiting 30 local volunteers and delivering 810 environmental sessions, with additional educational, planning and project promotion sessions, through 33 hours of Ranger time per week provided by a dedicated, appropriately experienced and qualified Ranger who will be managed by our Community Services Manger, and directed by a project steering group comprising local Councillors, representatives of Gentoo, SCC Partnership and Community Services Manager and Environmental Services and will invite specialist support from such as Tyne and Wear Fire, Police as required. Minuted meetings will be held quarterly with the Ranger taking forward actions in a documented work plan, including risk assessments and identifying any impact to habitat, requirements of working on public land, Countryside Act, adhering to by-laws, health and safety requirements, identifying resource and tool requirements and any seasonal influences of pruning, nesting etc. The plan will be shared with the steering group and reviewed and updated in meeting and this will include timetabling re-visiting sites identified to address such as re-growth, littering etc in turn creating a sustainable local environmental management strategy. Any issues identified in planning are discussed with Council staff, eg: falling trees to be removed by SCC Arboriculture Team.

These services are led by the Community Services Manager manage other similar projects and would manage the Ranger to ensure peer support and sharing of good practice, training opportunities and volunteer input. Delivery will include community clean-ups, litter picking, planting and forestry projects, refurbishing park and green space equipment, effectively engaging residents to volunteer and improve the appearance of their neighbourhoods, reduce littering and fly tipping, managing overgrown greenspaces and this will lead to the collection of 1450 bags of rubbish. The Ranger will identify and remove areas of graffiti, improve 53 items of street furniture, fencing and railings by sanding and repainting. We will sustain the maintenance of areas by working with groups to develop additional skills, such as working with VCSE Organisations and their volunteers and we will continue to encourage corporate volunteering opportunities and reinforcing business/corporate responsibility for the appearance of neighbourhoods.

26 June 2025

We will provide an educational offer, communicating the importance of correct residential waste disposal, keeping their neighbourhood clean/tidy and reporting issues. We support local 'Friends of Groups' to lead smaller community clean ups and link with local schools to deliver environmental projects in school and local neighbourhoods. We also raise awareness of local recycling schemes, community furniture donation centres etc. We have worked with local holiday activity providers, attending holiday clubs to deliver litter picks and recycling / environmental workshops with the young people in the area.

We will bring knowledge and expertise from other similar projects into the Ranger project. 40 volunteers will be recruited and deliver 2200 hours of support, following a documented Volunteer Pathway, with an induction including project aims and objectives, verbal and practical individual assessment of skills, considering potential health issues and providing regular supervision. Volunteers receive a 'toolbox talk' to understand the correct/appropriate use of tools and equipment. We discuss generic and specific risk assessments, provide on-site volunteer training, explore conservation matters, grounds maintenance, habitat management and infrastructure maintenance. Case studies from our existing environmental work demonstrates how volunteering has reduced social isolation, improved physical and mental health, improved confidence and led to some volunteers accessing job opportunities. We will pursue new links with businesses.

Our proposal promotes community ownership, will raise awareness of green spaces and develop walking maps, introducing local signage describing wildlife, benefits of flowers etc and is founded on community partnership and encouraging residents to develop their own solutions and take more responsibility for local sites through developing friends groups, watering/weeding rotas agreed by a local group of residents etc. We will enable wildlife to move/colonise freely to access water, food, shelter and breeding habitat, and will allow natural communities of both animals and plants to roam the Dene, Downhill Pond, Castle grounds and other green spaces in the ward. Participants will have the opportunity to attend environmental courses, gain a first aid qualification and provide peer mentoring support to newly recruited volunteers across the programme life.

FUNDING BUDGET	
Budget Heading/Item	NF
Salaries	£ 89,199

26 June 2025

Management Costs (indirect costs associated with the management of project- not covered by any other budget headings)	£	3,090
Overheads (e.g. fuel, mileage, travel, venue hire, volunteer costs, marketing and publicity)	£	7,710
NF Funding Total	£	100,000

OUTPUTS		Overall Target Total
CODE	<u>Dynamic Smart City Outputs</u>	
104	number of low carbon initiatives supported (talks on protecting the environment)	12
CODE	<u>Healthy Smart City Outputs</u>	
204	number of items purchased (renewed items for equipment loan scheme)	11
208	amount of highway, cycle, pathways, greenspace improved by area (m2)	725(m2)
209	number of litter picks/community cleans up carried out	810
210	Number of bags of waste cleared from neighbourhoods	172
211	Issues reported via www.sunderland.gov.uk/report-it	24
213	number of street furniture and / or equipment funded to repaired/replaced/renewed	53
CODE	<u>Vibrant Smart City Outputs</u>	
305	number of NEW volunteers recruited	40
306	number of volunteers participating - counted each quarter	142
307	number of volunteer hours delivered	2200

Recommendation – Approve

26 June 2025

The Neighbourhood and Community Board recommend approval of this project, which delivers to the North Sunderland priority to provide support to the VCS and Community Hubs.

26 June 2025

Application 2

Organisation Details	
Organisation Name	Durham Wildlife Trust
Address Line 1	Rainton Meadows
Address Line 2	Chilton Moor
City	Sunderland
Postcode	DH4 6PU
Project Details	
Project Title	Castle & Redhill Ranger Project
Project Overview (max. 50 words)	Durham Wildlife Trust proposes to deliver a three year ranger service in the Redhill and Castle Wards areas between July 2025-2028 that will bring together community stakeholders and residents in collaboration with Sunderland City Council contributing to a clean, safe and natural-thriving area which local people feel proud of.
Total Project Cost	£101,901
Match Funding	£3,647
Total NF Requested	£98,255
Project Start Date	1 st July 2025
Project End Date	31 st July 2028
Where will the project be based/delivered from?	Castle & Redhill Wards

26 June 2025

<p>Assessor's Notes</p>	<p>This application was specific in which tasks would be carried out and who the beneficiaries are. However, there was little information on the local area or demonstration of research into the areas covered by the project. Some aspects of the brief were not covered in the application.</p> <p>The application mentions other organisations that could be worked with, however there was no demonstrable knowledge of the local area or existing provision. The project is ambitious and would represent value for money if the outputs stated were achieved (though further clarity on the profiling of these outputs is required).</p>
<p>Project Description</p>	
<p>Durham Wildlife Trust proposes to deliver a ranger service that will directly address the needs outlined by the North Area Committee. This service will contribute to creating a clean, cared-for environment that inspires community involvement, attracts investment, and improves the quality of life for residents. The ranger will be on a 0.6 contract, they will be initially supported by our Nextdoor Nature Officer to kickstart community group action; this will act as a match funding. Durham Wildlife Trust is dedicated to hyper-local working in Sunderland, and has made its 2030 mission to improve 30% of all land and sea by 2030 as well as engaging 1 in 4 people in our area to take meaningful action for nature; providing this ranger service will help us to better realise this goal and demonstrate our passion for protecting Sunderland's environment. Durham Wildlife Trust is also familiar with the different land-types and habitats in the Castle and Redhill Ward and can therefore plan strategically, with over 50 years of wildlife and environmental experience as a given track-record.</p> <p>What the Project Will Deliver and the Difference It Will Make -</p> <p>Community Empowerment: Facilitate community ownership by engaging local residents and groups in environmental improvement activities, fostering stewardship and pride in their local neighbourhoods. This will be done through a collaboration between the Redhill and Castle ranger and our Nextdoor Nature Community Organising Officer, who is a highly-trained community organiser with a solid track record of forming community groups and getting community projects off the ground.</p> <p>Environmental Enhancements: Improve the visual and ecological health of Castle and Redhill Wards through activities such as litter picks, bulb planting, pathway maintenance, pond management, graffiti removal, painting, and installation of planters.</p> <p>Education and Awareness: Deliver educational initiatives in schools and community settings to promote understanding of environmental issues and the value of green spaces. This will be done through a collaboration between the Redhill and Castle ranger and our Senior Education leader who is experienced in delivering in and with Sunderland Schools both at primary and secondary level.</p>	

26 June 2025

Volunteer Recruitment and Training: Develop a robust volunteer network, providing training and support to enable sustainable involvement in ongoing maintenance and conservation efforts. These efforts will be supported through our Volunteer Support Assistant who is able to provide 1-on-1 with our volunteers, including on-boarding and safety as well as using an online volunteer system to gain insight into volunteer trends.

Partnerships and Collaboration: Work alongside Sunderland City Council Environmental Services, elected members, and local groups to ensure a cohesive approach to neighbourhood management and environmental improvements. This is core to our mission at Durham Wildlife Trust who believes that to achieve its 2030 goal of getting 1-in-4 people meaningfully engaged in taking action for nature, community groups and individuals must feel empowered to take action in their local area.

The project aims to inspire positive change, reduce littering and fly-tipping, enhance local green spaces, and instil a lasting appreciation for the environment among residents.

Where the Project Will Be Delivered –

The project will primarily focus on key green spaces within Castle and Redhill Wards:

Castle Ward Green/Blue Space: Hylton Dene/Pond area(s)

Redhill Ward Green/Blue Space: Downhill Pond/wildlife area(s)

Additional activities will be conducted in various neighbourhood spaces as identified by local needs and concerns.

When Delivery Will Take Place –

The project will operate over 3 years (July 2025-July 2028), with specific activities aligned to seasonal needs:

Spring/Summer: Planting, pond management, and community events.

Autumn/Winter: Pathway maintenance, litter picks, and conservation work. Regular schedules will be developed in coordination with the steering group and community partners.

Who Are the Beneficiaries –

Local Residents: Improved local environment, opportunities to participate, and enhanced quality of life.

Schools and Community Groups: Education and engagement in environmental stewardship.

Volunteers: Skills development and a sense of contribution to their community.

Visitors: Enjoyment of cleaner, more attractive green spaces.

26 June 2025

FUNDING BUDGET	
Budget Heading/Item	NF
Salaries	£ 65,957
Management Costs (indirect costs associated with the management of project- not covered by any other budget headings)	£ 6,306
Overheads (e.g. fuel, mileage, travel, venue hire, volunteer costs, marketing and publicity)	£ 25,992
NF Funding Total	£ 98,255

OUTPUTS		Overall Target Total
CODE	<u>Dynamic Smart City Outputs</u>	
104	number of low carbon initiatives supported	0
CODE	<u>Healthy Smart City Outputs</u>	
204	number of items purchased (renewed items for equipment loan scheme)	0
208	amount of highway, cycle, pathways, greenspace improved by area (m2)	4250(m2)
209	number of litter picks/community cleans up carried out	208
210	Number of bags of waste cleared from neighbourhoods	1020
211	Issues reported via www.sunderland.gov.uk/report-it	0
213	number of street furniture and / or equipment funded to repaired/replaced/renewed	0
CODE	<u>Vibrant Smart City Outputs</u>	
305	number of NEW volunteers recruited	255
306	number of volunteers participating - counted each quarter	425
307	number of volunteer hours delivered	2550

Recommendation – Reject

26 June 2025

The Neighbourhood and Community Board recommend that this application is rejected.

June 2025

Application 1

Organisation Details	
Organisation Name	Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project
Address Line 1	271-273 Southwick Road
Address Line 2	
City	Sunderland
Postcode	SR5 2AB
Project Details	
Project Title	Southwick Illumination Switch On Events 2025 & 2026
Project Overview (max. 50 words)	This project will deliver the Annual Christmas Light Switch-On event in Southwick for the next two years, transforming the heart of the community into a festive, welcoming space that brings people together during the holiday season.
Total Project Cost	£8,600
Match Funding	£1,000
Total NF Requested	£7,600
Project Start Date	01-Nov-25
Project End Date	31-Dec-26
Where will the project be based/delivered from?	SNYP & Southwick Green
Assessor's Notes	
Project Description	
<p>What the project will deliver and what difference it will make</p> <p>This project will deliver the Annual Christmas Light Switch-On event in Southwick for the next two years, transforming the heart of the community into a festive, welcoming space that brings people together during the holiday season. The project will:</p>	

Organise two, family-friendly events featuring a light switch-on ceremony, live music, local performers, children's activities, and festive activities. Involve young people from SNYP (Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project) in all aspects of planning, organising, and compering the events—developing their confidence, leadership, and event-management skills.

Create a sense of community pride, belonging, and celebration, combating social isolation during the winter months.

Boost the local economy by supporting small businesses and local traders participating in the event.

The difference it will make:

Strengthen community ties by bringing residents of all ages together to share in a festive celebration.

Empower local young people by giving them a leading role in organising and running the event, fostering ownership and transferable skills.

Enhance the local area's identity and spirit, encouraging ongoing community participation and pride.

Provide accessible, free, and inclusive activities for families, children, and residents, ensuring that no one is left out of the festivities.

Where the project will be delivered:

The event will be delivered on Southwick Green, a central, well-loved community space in Southwick, utilising the green and surrounding local venues to host activities, performances, and activities. This ensures the event is visible, accessible, and welcoming for the entire community.

When delivery will take place

The Christmas Light Switch-On events will be delivered annually in late November each year, aligning with the start of the festive season. Each event will run from tea time into the early evening to maximise accessibility for families and residents.

Year 1: Friday 28th November 2025

Year 2: Friday 27th November 2026

Preparation and planning with SNYP and community partners will begin approximately three months prior to each event to ensure a well-organised and inclusive celebration.

Who are the beneficiaries

Young people from SNYP who will be directly involved in planning, organising, and hosting the event—gaining valuable skills and confidence.

Families and children from Southwick who will enjoy free, inclusive festive activities in a safe, local environment.

Local businesses and traders who will benefit from increased footfall and the opportunity to showcase their products.

The wider Southwick community, including older residents and isolated individuals, who will experience a renewed sense of belonging, pride, and seasonal joy.

FUNDING BUDGET	
Budget Heading/Item	NF
Resources (Equipment, Materials, Refreshments, Out of Centre Activities, Entertainment/Performers, PA Hire, PPE etc)	£ 7,200
Management Costs (indirect costs associated with the management of project- not covered by any other budget headings)	£ 400
NF Funding Total	£ 7,600

OUTPUTS		Overall Target Total
CODE	<u>Vibrant Smart City Outputs</u>	
306	number of volunteers participating	6
307	number of volunteer hours delivered	30
309	number of cultural, heritage and community events supported and delivered	2
310	number of visitors footfall at neighbourhood events	300

North Area Committee

26th June 2025

Ward Improvement Budget 2024/2025

Castle Ward Budget		£15,000		
Project	Approval Date	Purpose of Grant	Returned	Approvals
Castletown Scouts - Minibus	26/09/2024	Grant towards equipment	-	£15,000.00
		Total Spend	£15,000.00	
		Remaining Balance	£0.00	

Fulwell Ward Budget		£15,000		
Project	Approval Date	Purpose of Grant	Returned	Approvals
SCC - Sea Road bus shelter	05/11/2024	Grant towards improvements	-	£6,989.00
Friends of Fulwell - Memorial	10/04/2025	Grant towards improvements	-	£8,011.00
		Total Spend	£15,000.00	
		Remaining Balance	£0.00	

Redhill Ward Budget		£15,000		
Project	Approval Date	Purpose of Grant	Returned	Approvals
Active Families - St. Cuthberts	05/08/2024	Grant towards activities	-	£4,070.00
SCC - Additional Play Rotherfield	28/02/2025	Grant towards improvements	-	£10,930.00
		Total Spend	£15,000.00	
		Remaining Balance	£0.00	

Southwick Ward Budget		£15,000		
Project	Approval Date	Purpose of Grant	Returned	Approvals
SCC - Thompson Park Toilets (joint with WIP)	18/12/2024	Grant towards improvements	-	£15,000.00
		Total Spend	£15,000.00	
		Remaining Balance	£0.00	

St Peter's Ward Budget	£15,000			
Project	Approval Date	Purpose of Grant	Returned	Approvals
SCC - Sculpture Trail	22/10/2024	Grant towards improvements	-	£7,257.00
SCC - Roker Park Play Kit	13/03/2025	Grant towards improvements	-	£7,743.00
		Total Spend		£15,000.00
		Remaining Balance		£0.00

North Area Committee

Thursday 26th June 2025

Community Chest Awards April 2024 - March 2025

Castle Ward Budget	£10,000			
Project	Approval Date	Grant for Transparency Code	Returned	Approvals
Hylton Colliery Cricket Club	22/04/2024	Grant towards equipment	0	£380
Verda Hylton CA	22/04/2024	Grant towards equipment	0	£444
Castletown Methodist Church	31/05/2024	Grant towards equipment	0	£540
Sunderland City Council	10/06/2024	Grant towards improvements	0	£2,229
Sunderland City Council - Remembrance Road Closure	22/10/2024	Grant towards an event	£575	£0
Hylton Castle Trust	16/12/2024	Grant towards improvements	0	£2,443
Castletown Primary School	27/11/2024	Grant towards activities	0	£1,500
Seaburn Detachment - Durham Army Cadet Force	13/02/2025	Grant towards equipment	0	£370
Sunderland City Council	13/03/2025	Grant towards equipment	0	£288
Golden Gloves	13/02/2025	Grant towards equipment	0	£800
Sunderland City Council	13/02/2025	Grant towards improvements	0	£501
The Bunker	13/03/2025	Grant towards improvements	0	£505
Total Spend				£10,000.00
Remaining Balance				£0.00

Fulwell Ward Budget		£10,000		
Project	Approval Date	Grant for Transparency Code	Returned	Approvals
Monkwearmouth Academy	25/04/2024	Grant towards equipment	0	£2,109.00
Fulwell Community Association	03/07/2024	Grant towards equipment	0	£750.00
Sunderland MAC Trust - Joint with St. Peters	03/07/2024	Grant towards an event	0	£1,140.00
Redby Childminders Group	02/08/2024	Grant towards activities	0	£1,512.00
Sunderland City Council	02/08/2024	Grant towards equipment	0	£490.00
607 Wearmouth Squadron Air Cadets(Joint with St Peter's)	14/08/2024	Grant towards equipment	0	£542.00
Sunderland City Council	26/11/2024	Grant towards improvements	0	£1,930.00
Seaburn Detachment - Durham Army Cadet Force	13/02/2025	Grant towards equipment	0	£370.00
Seaburn New Church	13/03/2025	Grant towards improvements	0	£1,157.00
Total Spend				£10,000.00
Remaining Balance				£0.00

Redhill Ward Budget		£10,000		
Project	Approval Date	Grant for Transparency Code	Returned	Approvals
St Cuthbert's Church Hall	20/06/2024	Grant towards improvements	0	£2,165
Sunderland City Council	11/11/2024	Grant towards improvements	0	£702
Sunderland City Council	11/11/2024	Grant towards improvements	0	£3,300
Community Opportunitites	11/11/2024	Grant towards an event	0	£813
Seaburn Detachment - Durham Army Cadet Force	13/02/2025	Grant towards equipment	0	£370
Willow Wood Community Primary School	07/03/2025	Grant towards improvements	0	£2,500
Total Spend				£9,850.00
Remaining Balance				£150.00

Southwick Ward Budget		£10,000		
Project	Approval Date	Grant for Transparency Code	Returned	Approvals
Grace House	07/06/2024	Grant towards an event	0	£1,000
North Star Community Boxing Club	07/06/2024	Grant towards equipment	0	£1,000
SARA	11/09/2024	Grant towards improvements	0	£995
SCC - Remembrance Day Parades	22/10/2024	Grant towards an event	0	£470
ESPA	20/12/2024	Grant towards an event	0	£838
Sunderland Young Peoples Bike Project	18/11/2024	Grant towards equipment	0	£966
Seaburn Detachment - Durham Army Cadet Force	13/02/2025	Grant towards equipment	0	£370
Citizens Advice	13/02/2025	Grant towards activities	0	£996
Weights & Cakes CIC	13/02/2025	Grant towards an event	0	£900
Thompson Park Community Centre	07/03/2025	Grant towards activities	0	£1,000
Southwick Village Green Preservation Society	07/03/2025	Grant towards equipment	0	£500
Southwick REACH	07/03/2025	Grant towards an event	0	£925
Total Spend				£9,960.00
Remaining Balance				£40.00

St Peter's Ward Budget		£10,000		
Project	Approval Date	Grant for Transparency Code	Returned	Approvals
Friends of Roker Park	25/04/2024	Grant towards improvements	0	
St Benet's RC Primary School	31/05/2024	Grant towards equipment	0	£899.00
Sunderland MAC Trust - Joint with Fulham	03/07/2024	Grant towards an event	0	£1,140.00
607 Wearmouth Squadron Air Cadets	14/08/2024	Grant towards equipment	0	£542.00
Whitburn Parish Church	28/10/2024	Grant towards equipment	0	£333.00
Seaburn Detachment - Durham Army	13/02/2025	Grant towards equipment	0	£370.00
SCAG	13/02/2025	Grant towards activities	0	£1,003.00
Roker Marine Bowling Club	13/02/2025	Grant towards improvements	0	£780.00
Roker Park Model Boat Club	27/03/2025	Grant towards equipment	0	£528.00
The Bunker	27/03/2025	Grant towards equipment & activities	0	£1,000.00
Roker Life	27/03/2025	Grant towards activities	0	£1,967.00
Total Spend				£8,562.00
Remaining Balance				£1,438.00

North Area Committee

Thursday 26th June 2025

Community Chest Awards April 25 - June25

Castle Ward Budget		£10,000		
Project	Approval Date	Grant for Transparency Code	Returned	Approvals
The Bunker	11/04/2025	Grant towards equipment & activities	0	£495
Sunderland City Council	11/04/2025	Grant towards improvements	0	£500
Total Spend			£995	
Remaining Balance			£9,005	

Fulwell Ward Budget		£10,000		
Project	Approval Date	Grant for Transparency Code	Returned	Approvals
Seaburn New Church	11/04/2025	Grant towards improvements	0	£1,102
Fulwell CA	16/05/2025	Grant towards improvements	0	£1,000
Total Spend			£2,102	
Remaining Balance			£7,898	

Redhill Ward Budget		£10,000		
Project	Approval Date	Grant for Transparency Code	Returned	Approvals
Redhouse CA	16/05/2025	Grant towards activities	0	£600
Total Spend			£600	
Remaining Balance			£9,400	

Southwick Ward Budget		£10,000		
Project	Approval Date	Grant for Transparency Code	Returned	Approvals
Southwick Village Green Preservation	11/04/2025	Grant towards equipment	0	£500
SARA	11/04/2025	Grant towards improvements	0	£1,000
Northumbria Police	11/04/2025	Grant towards equipment	0	£998
North Star Boxing Club	16/05/2025	Grant towards improvements	0	£1,000
Sunderland Community Transport	16/05/2025	Grant towards an event	0	£395
Total Spend				£3,893
Remaining Balance				£6,107

St Peter's Ward Budget		£10,000		
Project	Approval Date	Grant for Transparency Code	Returned	Approvals
Friends of Fulwell	22/04/2025	Grant towards improvements	0	£2,000
Chillingham House Residents Association	22/04/2025	Grant towards equipment	0	£1,100
Total Spend				£3,100
Remaining Balance				£6,900