

Area Arrangements
Annual Report 2020/21

AREA ARRANGEMENTS ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present the combined Area Committee Annual Report which summarises the work of the five Area Committees during 2020/21.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 This is the tenth year that all Area Committee reports have been brought together into one combined report and presented to Full Council.
- 2.2 The Annual Report provides an overview of the work undertaken by the five Area Committees throughout 2020/21. It provides details of where the Members, through Area Committees and the supporting Neighbourhoods and Community Boards, have influenced local service delivery, and delivered a range of other activities and projects to meet the agreed neighbourhood priorities as set out within their Area Neighbourhood Investment Plan, for the benefit of residents and communities.
- 2.3 The report demonstrates how the Area Arrangements process is integral to supporting local councillors in their role as community leaders and how Area Committees continue to meet challenges and take forward opportunities to meet the needs of the local people and to develop more resilient, stronger communities. As we commenced 2020, no-one could have anticipated the impact the Coronavirus (COVID-19) would have across the world. The COVID-19 pandemic is like no other ever experienced in our lifetime.
- 2.4 Elected Members, alongside officers from across the Council, key partners and our Voluntary and Community Sector quickly and pragmatically established Area Community Hubs. These hubs coordinated supported to our residents, ringing them to check on their welfare if they were shielded, knocking on their door if we were unable to contact them by phone. A leaflet was posted through the letter box of every household, advising residents how to ask for help and also how to offer their help and support.
- 2.5 Area Committees were kept up to date on delivery of the Community Hubs via a weekly briefing. The weekly performance monitoring enabled the Area Committees and Area Arrangements service to ensure it was supporting residents most in need and mobilising resources as required. The partnership working within the community hubs between the Council, Voluntary and Community Sector Area Networks, GP Alliance, Sunderland Care and Support, Together for Children, Sunderland CCG, Sunderland Public Health, Gentoo, Northumbria Police, Pharmacy network and Foodbanks and Welfare Rights,

enabled each of the partners to maximise their resources efficiently for the benefit of all residents.

3. Operation of the Area Committees

- 3.1 The Area Committees are appointed by the Council to ensure improved service delivery at a neighbourhood level in the context of value for money and more efficient, transparent and accountable decision making. They deliver this role through:

(a Identifying the main priorities for the improvement of a neighbourhood, based on resident consultation which has informed the Neighbourhood Investment Plans and subsequent Area Committee Delivery Plans;

(b Actively encouraging local residents to become involved in decision making on matters that affect them, such as through Let's Talk consultation;

(c Working in partnership to develop efficient and effective solutions to city-wide issues as well as supporting neighbourhood priorities.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 During 2020/21 the Area Committees have been involved in shaping and delivering a wide range of activities against key priorities to meet the needs of local communities and neighbourhoods. During 2021/22 Area Committees will continue to work hard to deliver the priorities within the Neighbourhood Investment Plans, as requested by the residents of Sunderland.
- 4.2 The Annual Report should be viewed as a collaborative achievement of work. All five Area Committees would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the outcomes achieved this year, particularly our voluntary and community sector.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Members are asked to consider the achievements and impact of the work of the Area Committees and their supporting Neighbourhood and Community Board during 2020/21 as outlined in the Annual Report.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 Area Committee Annual Report for 2020/21.

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