

15 March 2023

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF COALFIELD SUNDERLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY BOARD

Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report:-

- a. Provides an update of progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan, which will be the focus for the Coalfield Area Committee during 2022-2023.
- b. Provides an update on Neighbourhood and Community Board Governance Arrangements for 2022 -2023.

2. Background

- 2.1** Following the approval of the Neighbourhood Investment Plans in March 2020, the Coalfield Area Committee has worked together to finalise their Delivery Plans. All priorities have been determined following significant resident consultation via Let's Talk Sunderland.

3. Area Committee and Neighbourhood Investment Plan Governance Arrangements

- 3.1** The Area Committees are part of the Council's Executive Function and have two key roles:

- a. Influencing decisions on services delivered at a neighbourhood level; and
- b. Identification of key priorities for their areas, in the context of supporting the delivery of the Council's City Plan at a neighbourhood level and ensuring maximum impact where necessary, through utilising its own resources.

- 3.2** The Article 10 Neighbourhood Investment Plans were approved at Cabinet in March 2020.

- 3.3** It is now the responsibility of each Area Committee to deliver their agreed priorities to support the delivery of the Neighbourhood Investment Plan. Area Committee Delivery Plans have been developed to enable this to happen.

- 3.4** The Neighbourhood and Community Board will be Chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Area Committee. Neighbourhood and Community Board meetings will be held in July, November, February and April and dates are included in the council diary. If required, the Board may convene a further meeting(s) should there be a business need to do so and essential to ensuring delivery of the Area Neighbourhood Investment Plan Delivery Plan. All Committee members are invited to attend all board meetings.

- 3.5** Members will work alongside key officers in what will be practical action orientated groups. It should be noted that the Board is not a decision-making body, and the work / recommendations of the Board will be presented to the Area Committee for final endorsement. The Area Committee Chair and Vice-Chair were agreed at Annual Council in May 2022.

- 3.6** Area Plans from 2023/24 onwards are being developed, with data/intelligence gathering underway. Members will take part in a series of workshops and discussions to recommend

priorities and actions for inclusion in these plans, which will be agreed at June 2023 Area Committee.

4. Neighbourhood Investment Delivery Plan 2020-2023- Areas of Key Action/Progress

4.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of action/progress of the Board up to March 2023. Further updates are contained in Annex 1, Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan

Priority/Issue	Update
Digital Learning Resources	<p>Following approval at the September 2022 Area Committee, two Neighbourhood Funded projects being delivered across the area will continue until March 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A partnership project, between Springboard and ShARP, provides a much needed Universal Credit (UC) support service to assist residents who are applying for, or managing, their Universal Credit benefit, including job searches and maximising of income. During the period from April 2022, 38 people have been supported into employment or training. Springboard continues to deliver the 'Communities Connected' project in four local Hubs across the Coalfield area, supporting residents to get online and access services. Venues are reviewed regularly to ensure that the best reach across all wards is being achieved and that services are accessible to people where they are most needed. During the period from April 2022, the project has worked with 206 people, supporting with e.g. pension credits, application for a disabled bus pass, council tax application and downloading forms. This quarter has also seen the project support clients who have personal barriers in IT use. For example a client's dexterity was a barrier, so the tutor was able to provide the most appropriate support to overcome that issue. Clients also have physical barriers such as broken phone or an asylum seeker with no IT access so the Hubs are able to provide the tools to have access to IT. In all hubs in which the project is delivered, participants have access to laptops and PCs, they also get support in improving their knowledge on the use of their personal mobile phone and tablets (using venue's wifi) to enable them to access online services such as shopping and banking and to use their devices for hobbies and recreation purposes.
Parks and Play Areas	<p>Further work has taken place at Houghton Rectory Park and a phased programme of work including installation of new seats and benches, improvements to the play area and new signage will be implemented between February and April 2023. Work on the play area has now commenced.</p> <p>Following approval of £35,000 Neighbourhood Capital Investment Programme funding at the June 2022 Area Committee, match funding has now been identified to carry out a programme of works at Old Durham Road fixed play site. Work has commenced on site and will be complete by April 2023.</p>

	<p>Following approval of three projects totalling £91,000 from Neighbourhood Capital Investment Programme, work will be carried out at Herrington Colliery Welfare ground in three phases. Works to the pavilion will commence in April 2023, followed by improvements to the Class A football pitch and a programme of environmental improvements in the wider grounds area.</p>
Open spaces, walking and cycling routes	<p>The Stephenson Trail project continues to be delivered in two phases. The educational and cultural phase and the environmental improvements phase. Working with Councillors, Council Officers and partners, improvements to the trail are ongoing to encourage people to use and celebrate the Stephenson Trail which follows the route of the former Hetton Colliery Railway. The Coalfield 'Clean it, Green it' project has been carrying out environmental improvements to a number of locations on the Coalfield section, including barrier painting, repairing of seats and removal of overgrowth to footpaths.</p> <p>To complement the above project and to enhance a local area of significant historic and environmental interest, the Neighbourhood and Community Board recommend the development of an improvement scheme at Copt Hill/Seven Sisters. Further information contained in Item 4 Budget Report.</p>
Provide Support to the Voluntary and Community Sector	<p>The Voluntary and Community Sector Network, Chaired by the Vice Chair of Area Committee, continues to meet monthly to share information and give support to local organisations across the area. The Community Support Worker for the Coalfield area is available to support local groups with funding, governance, training etc...</p> <p>Coalfield Sunderland Councillors have provided Neighbourhood Fund support to 20 organisations to deliver activities and projects within the area since June 2022. Over £350,000 Neighbourhood Fund budget has been awarded to voluntary and community organisations including Shiney Row CA, Durham Wildlife Trust, Springboard, Community Opportunities, Hetton Buddies and Coalfield LGBTQ+. Further recommendations for funding are included in Item 4 Budget report including support to Philadelphia Community Cricket Club.</p>
Improve Local Greenspaces	<p>The Neighbourhood Funded Clean it Green it project delivered by Springboard is implementing a series of clean up events and educational programmes across each ward in the Coalfield area. The project manager is now in post and will be developing an action plan to tackle priority areas in each ward. Working with Local Services colleagues, the project is designed to support and complement mainstream environmental works by carrying out community engagement and activity in identified areas, initial projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claremont Drive, Shiney Row; this is the lane by the football field. In the hedgerow were tyres and cans and litter, which was bagged up and disposed of. Revisited since and a

	<p>noticeable improvement and good feedback from locals on a good job done.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mallard Way, close to Rainton Meadows. Both sides had hedgerows and ditches with lots of litter. The normal, cans, bottles also sofa cushions, paint pots and general rubbish, this was all bagged up and removed with regular follow ups. Good feedback from members of the public as this is the main access to the park and creates a good impression when litter free. • The lane rear of North view, off Murton Lane, Easington Lane. Litter picking normal cans, bottles etc, also tyres, old suitcases, plastic bags. Much improved and welcomed by The Head Teacher of the local school who was very happy we were cleaning up the area. We also returned to an area to the side of the school with a large trailer to spots where there had been fly tipping. Old plastics toys, bed frames, bottles, cans, plastic delivery trays etc. All taken to Houghton Depot and disposed of. Litter and environmental activities to be carried out with the school in the Spring. • Area near The Blind Centre, Houghton le Spring, We cut back overgrown vegetation around the trees at the entrance. Also along the side of the building small trees and bushes had overgrown and were blocking light from the windows, making access to clean them impossible and lots of mess with leaves. All the small trees/shrubs were cut down and the side of the building cleared using a large trailer to dispose of them at Houghton Depot. The lady running the centre was very happy and will return to keep on top of the situation in the future. <p>The above are projects carried out in the first quarter of delivery. During this short period of time 11 clean ups have taken place, removing 9 tons of rubbish from local neighbourhoods. Members will be asked for priority locations within their own wards which will be reviewed by the project in partnership with Gentoo and Sunderland City Council local services.</p>
Support for children and young people	<p>The Coalfield Youthie Project, funded via Neighbourhood Fund, currently delivered by Community Opportunities in each of the four wards, provides at least two youth sessions per ward per week at a variety of indoor and outdoor venues, appropriate to the needs of the young people. The project is due to end in June 2023 and following budget allocation at the September 2022 Area Committee, a call for projects was carried out and recommendations for approval are contained within Item 4 Budget Report.</p> <p>The CHAT programme has been delivered over the course of the past 12 months. Project delivery is now complete and, following a review of all activity, the Neighbourhood and Community Board agreed to receive an application to continue and develop a successful element of the programme. A recommendation for funding is contained in Item 4 Budget Report.</p>

	<p>Holiday Activities funded via Neighbourhood Fund have been delivered by 10 organisations during holiday periods since July 2022. The programme is due to end in May 2023 and a recommendation for funding is contained in Item 4 Budget Report.</p> <p>Further to discussions at the Neighbourhood & Community Board, a proposal to deliver a bespoke Phoenix/Spark programme to young people across the Coalfield area is presented at Item 4 Budget Report. The Board recommends approval of funding to deliver the programme which is designed to provide diversionary activities and build skills of young people.</p>
Improve highways, pavements and street lighting	<p>Colleagues from Highways attended the November 2022 Neighbourhood and Community Board meeting to consult with members regarding the development of the Coalfield highways maintenance programme for 2023/24. Further updates have been received and Members have put forward areas for consideration in the 2023/2024 programme. The suggested locations will have been assessed and following discussions at the February 2023 Board meeting, recommendations are contained at Annex 2 to this report.</p>

5. Recommendations - Members are requested to: -

- 5.1 Consider the progress and performance update with regard to Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/23 and agree proposals for future delivery contained above, and within **Annex 1**
- 5.2 Agree the recommendations contained in **Annex 2** in relation to Highways Maintenance Programme 2023/24

Annex 1 Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/2023

Annex 2 Highways Maintenance Programme 2023/24

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