

Item 3

EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE

20 September 2021

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF EAST SUNDERLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY BOARD



East Sunderland Area Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2020-2023

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report:

- a. Presents the East Sunderland Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2020-2023; and
- b. Provides an update of progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan.

2. Background

2.1 Following the approval of the Neighbourhood Investment Plans in March 2020, the East Sunderland Area Committee has worked together to finalise their Delivery Plans. All priorities have been determined following significant resident consultation via Let's Talk Sunderland. The Council also undertook further consultation with residents, during June 2020, to ensure the priorities were still relevant post COVID-19.

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 the working group for the Area Committee and the Board will be Chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Area Committee. All Committee members are invited to attend all Board meetings.

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 and 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 June 2021.

4. Areas of Key Action and Progress

- 4.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of action and/or progress of the Board, up to August 2021, with greater detail set out in **Annex 1**, which informs the Area Activity Tracker to allow residents to monitor Area Committee's progress throughout the year.

Issue / Area Priority	Action / Update
1: Empty Properties	<p>In August 2021, Members received an update on Empty Properties (empty for 6m+) and the Private Rented Sector (PRS). Between Jan-Jun 21 there were over 3,000 empty properties across the city, with over a third being located within the East area. (Hendon 494; Millfield 247; St Michael's 252; Ryhope 86 and Doxford 56).</p> <p>They are numerous challenges faced by the Council as there is no control over properties becoming empty, in addition, processes can be lengthy and absentee Landlords who live outside the city add to the issues. The Team are actively addressing the problem by providing advice and guidance; implementing the Empty Properties Strategy and Action Plan; providing financial support; developing effective Partnerships (Thirteen, Gentoo, Back on the Map); Using enforcement powers and buying empty properties to bring them back into use and are currently developing a proposed two year leasing model – update due Autumn 2021.</p>
3: Private Landlords	<p>In August 2021, Members received an update on the Council's voluntary Private Landlord Accreditation Scheme, which is free to access and open to Private Landlords. There are numerous benefits for both the Landlord and Tenant e.g. free vetting services, results in improved tenancy behaviour and neighbourhoods. The Council deliver an Eviction Prevention Support Services (EPSS), created as a result of Covid-19 Eviction Ban. Since inception 130 cases have been opened, with 97 relating to rent arrears, resulting in repayment plans being developed, revoking eviction notices and developing an educational programme for both landlords and tenant(s) to avoid future disruption through mediation, awareness of rights, benefits and support services.</p> <p>Further PRS inventions under development relate to: Tenant Passport – matching tenants, providing a deposit guarantee, adhering to housing and legal standards; reviewing access to grants and loans; enhanced cross department co-ordination (Environmental Health; Planning Compliance; Council Tax; Housing Options; ASB Team, etc.); Proactively monitoring and targeting the top 10 most problematic empty properties and associated landlords; updating and reviewing the Communication Plan; Carrying out area renewal interventions and engaging with Landlords, and developing a proposed lease scheme.</p>

	<p>Members referenced previous work delivered by the Area Committee in relation to the Accreditation Scheme. It was agreed that PRS and ACDL pull together a proposal on delivering five roadshows around the East area to promote the Accreditation Scheme and provide an update at a future meeting.</p>
5 a):East Street and Park Rangers	<p>In August 2021, a data log of activities was presented to Councillor on the achievements delivered on the Programme, since April, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 257 children and young people, and 191 volunteers have been involved in 46 environment community clean ups and 63 litter picks removing 13.75 tonnes of street waste. • 2,659 hours of voluntary work has been clocked up, equating to £32,298 of in-kind funding. • 14 other organisations have benefited from the Programme. • 25 community cleans have been completed on behalf of Local Services • The top ten streets with the highest number of complaints relating to dog fouling, poor waste management, fly tipping and litter have been targeted, with 100s over warning letters and stickers on wheelie bins, warning tenants to change their behaviour or face a fine.
5b): Walk and Talk	<p>In July 2021, the Neighbourhood and Community Board reviewed the Walk and Talk Programme, with a recommendation to seek approval from the September 2021 Area Committee for a further £75,000 which will be split evenly across each ward and added onto existing budgets.</p>
6a): Fly tipping Ryhope Task Group	<p>At the March Board a list of key actions was presented, which were delivered from November 2020 onwards.</p> <p>Environmental Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 investigations in relation to fly-tipping have been carried out • 3 x Section 46 notice issued to residents mis-presentation of household waste • 510 Advisory notices reminding residents of their reasonability in presenting household waste for refuse collection, targeting Beechbrooke, Lynthorpe, Edmond Court, Grey terrace, Dinsdale Cottages, St Pauls Terrace (work undertaken by East Rangers) • 2 Fixed Penalty Notice for failure to have a dog on a lead (Dog Control Order) in Sunderland Cemetery • 3 Fixed Penalty Notice for littering in Ryhope Ward • 1 Fixed Penalty notice for failure to ensure household waste was transferred to an authorised waste carrier

	<p>which subsequently was fly-tipped</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new fly-tipping signage now been erected throughout the Ryhope ward. • CCTV camera to be relocated from Ryhope Road to Thomas & Smith Street within the next couple of weeks. • 1 written warning issued • 4 Community Protection Warnings issued to land owners requiring clearance of waste from private land.
6b): Caretaker House Ryhope Task Group	Ryhope Recreation Park: Confirmation has been secured that the disused caretakers house, which has stood empty for over a decade will be demolished in October 2021.
6c): King George 5 th field Ryhope Task Group	<p>King George 5th Field: Confirmation has been secured that the open greenspace will be reinstated as a playing pitch, with local football teams accessing the site from September 2021.</p> <p>A 12m knee high barrier has been installed at the West side of the field, to prevent motor bike access.</p>
6d): Environmental Enforcement Team	In July 2021, the Environmental Enforcement Manager provided Members with an update on the city wide / force approach on tackling nuisance vehicles (off road bikes, quad bikes, 4x4 vehicles, etc). One meeting has been held between Sunderland and South Tyneside local authorities and policing teams. Visitors from Scotland will attend a future meeting to share best practice and explain how they have tackled the issue and desktop research and discussions are ongoing to set up Petrol Watch scheme, which works with petrol stations who supply fuel to nuisance drivers. Update pending. A further discussion was held in August, on how best Area funding can be used to bolster the Enforcement Team covering the East and City Centre areas, with a future reported due in October 2021.
7a): Adopt A Planter	<p>In August, Members received a report on 'In Bloom Activities'.</p> <p>Members received an update on similar funded planter schemes delivered in the East and propose to Area Committee, that an 'In Bloom Task Group' be established, which will carry out further work, consider lesson's learned, check legal requirements and agree a process to enable the Scheme to programme, either in the East or rolled out across the City.</p>
7b): In Bloom Competition	In August, Members proposed that the 'In Bloom' Task Group consider how best to launch a 'mini' East in Bloom completion in the July and August 2022.

	<p>Further details will be announced in Autumn 2021 to allow time for people to plan, plot and plant their entries between Autumn and Spring, ready to apply and be judged in the Summer.</p> <p>To contribute towards the running of the competition, it was proposed that the underspend relating to the OSCAR's Volunteer's Award scheme totalling £5,682 is used to deliver the In Bloom competition.</p> <p>The Board are recommending approval of this funding, with further detail set out in the Area Budget Report.</p>
8a): Plant a Tree	<p>In August, Members received a report on 'In Bloom Activities', which referenced Plant a Tree for the Queen's Jubilee 2022.</p> <p>The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022. The QGC will create a network of individual trees, venues, copses and whole woodlands in honour of The Queen. Creating a green legacy, with every tree planted.</p> <p>Members are proposing to Area Committee that the opportunity to partake in the initiative is promoted, and work is carried out by the 'In Bloom' Task Group to develop a section of the QGC across the East Sunderland area.</p>
8b): Heritage Coast	<p>In July 2021, the Coastal Ranger and Heritage Coast Partnership provided Members with an update on a variety of work and projects which have or are getting delivered along the coastline of Hendon and Ryhope. Key points raised included:</p> <p><i>Halliwell Banks:</i> major concerns expressed at the length of time taken to resolve Halliwell Banks (18 years and still ongoing), which is a former landfill site developed by Durham, but transferred to Sunderland when the boundary was changed. Cliff erosion is resulting in waste being exposed and leaking into the sea. A Task Group between Durham, Sunderland authorities and The Environmental Agency are discussing actions to manage the site.</p> <p><i>Hendon Beach</i> – The Coastal Ranger and the Heritage Coast were invited to submit a list of potential projects which would complement the location, taking into account, the need to protect the wildlife, flora and fauna along the cliff tops to a future meeting. Update pending.</p>

10a): Time to Talk	<p>In July 2021, Members received an update on Time to Talk and Time to Walk, which involves linking the new benches which are being installed via the East's Invest in Park's programme, to this initiative, to encourage people to chat to each other to combat loneliness when out and about and promote social inclusion.</p> <p>Once benches have been installed it is proposed to invite Members of the VCS Area Network to get involve in designing and painting a bench in their community and deliver a small arts project. Funding maybe sourced via the Community Chest or Walk and Talk budget.</p>
10b): Parks, Open Spaces and Play Improvements	<p>In July 2021, Members received an update on Parks, Open Spaces and Play Improvement proposals, from the Assistance Head of Community Resilience, which provided an overview on a capital investment of £2.5m city wide budget, which will focus on improving green flag parks, other parks, open spaces and allotments. Too date, projects identified in the East Area total £170,000. Future updates pending.</p>
10c): Fixed Play Parks	<p>In August 2021, Members received an update on the 14 fixed play areas across the East area. It was noted that initial remedy works costing £110,000 are ongoing following a condition survey been carried out, and a further audit will be completed in the Autumn with an update report presented to a future meeting. In the interim, it was proposed to add Lime Street Pocket Park to the list, even though there is no fixed play equipment installed currently, however local Members are keen to invest in the site.</p>
11): Digital Support	<p>In July 2021, Members received an update on Go! Tech Appeal, with was a pilot developed to receive, restore, upcycle and re-circulate 2nd hand desktops, laptops and tablets into the community via the VCS Area Network. Members discussed the Digital Inclusion ICT Troubleshooting project, and agreed to change the provider to Protech, further information is set out in the budget report.</p> <p>In August 2021, Members received an update on performance of the Programme between April to July 2021. The programme has created 15 fully accessible Digital Community Hubs in the East area, 198 new individuals have access 1-2-1 digital support, 5 volunteers have been recruited, with 7 organisations benefiting from the Scheme.</p> <p>A variety of 130 laptops and desktops have been provided to 11 Partners, under the GO! Digital recycling scheme.</p> <p>Discussed during year one and rolled over into year two.</p>
16): Civic Centre Land	<p>In August 2021, Members noted that the closure of the Civic Centre has been pushed back to December 2021, and a</p>

	<p>Partnership has been created between Linden and Bovis Homes to develop the site. Public consultation was held in August 2021, with a planning submission due by the end of September. Update pending.</p>
17a) St Michael's Community Centre	<p>In July 2021, an AGM was held with a new Management Committee being elected. Several meetings have been held to agree and scope out what is required to transform the Centre into a vibrant and friendly Community Hub, that will deliver a broad range of diverse and inclusive activities. The initial focus has been on reopening the Centre for Groups and the public to access, and they have set a date for early October 2021.</p> <p>A number of practical exercises have been carried out but to maintain the momentum, it is proposed to support a collaborative approach between St Michael's Community Centre and Blue Watch Youth Centre and seek approval of £50,000 of Neighbourhood Funding to appoint a part time Project Development Worker over a two year period, who will support the Management Committee to become established, by strengthening the infrastructure of the Charity and by attracting new Groups and Members to utilise the space of the building to maximum capacity and develop the Centre into a major community asset in the ward providing services to all ages.</p> <p>The Board are recommending approval of this funding, with further detail set out in the Area Budget Report.</p>
17b): The Box Youth and Community Project	<p>In August 2021, The Box Youth and Community Project presented an overview of their background, work delivered before lockdown, how the pandemic has shaped their existing community offer, and the need to change the size of the building due to ongoing demand for services, new housing developments and the building operating at full capacity. Preliminary ideas were shared with Members, who were keen to support the proposal, but it was recognised that further work needed to be carried out, which includes: securing a 25-year lease; securing land from Gentoo; producing plans and calculating costs for the re-development and producing a business plan. Subject to this work showing favour, members may consider approving area funding to the scheme. Update pending.</p>
20a) Young people	<p>In August 2021, Members received an update on the Maximising Community Assets Programme and based on the success of previous projects, proposed to recommend approval of £15,000 to extend the work being delivered in Doxford, Ryhope and St Michael's, by The Box and Blue Watch, and proposed a further £10,000 for Hendon and Millfield. If secured the ACDL will work with local Members to see if any previously funded Groups warrant an</p>

	extension, or alternatively advertise a call for projects (Hendon and Millfield only).
20b) Young people: Youth Clubs	In June 2021, Area Committee funded the Fancy a Day Out Programme, which funds holiday activities which are supplemented with access to a nutritional meal. A short video has been produced, which will be shared with members during Area Committee and afterwards on the East's Facebook page to promote the valuable work delivered by members of the East VCS Area Network.
22): Blakeney Woods Task Group	In July 2021, a site meeting was held with Partners, Council Officers and Cllrs to walk around Blakeney Woods and pull together an action plan. The Plan covers a number of themes, such as: irresponsible parents and young people; motor bike disorder; takeaways; littering; secondary fires; good practice delivered elsewhere; tree protection and Section 106 contribution. An update on the Operations and activities delivered during the Summer's is pending.
28): Stephenson Trail Task Group	In August 2021, Members received an update from the Stephenson Trail Task Group who identified the need for educational and recreational activities to be available to promote and celebrate the route. An outline proposal for Schools Resource Pack, and Art Project Ideas has been developed and shared with Members. The Board agreed to recommending approval of £30,000 (£10,000 East) from the previously allocated £150,000 joint funding (Coalfield, East and West Area Committees), for delivery of the project. It is further recommended that the remaining £120,000 (£40,000 East) is approved to deliver information boards/signage and environmental improvements, detail to be agreed by the Task and Finish Group.

5. Recommendation(s)

5.1 Members are requested to:

- i. Consider the progress and performance updates with regard to East Sunderland Neighbourhood and Community Board Delivery Plan 2020-2023 and agree proposals outlined for future delivery as contained within Annex 1.
- ii. Note that future funding proposal are being produced and will be presented to future Board meetings on:
 - o delivering five Private Landlord Roadshows across the East area
 - o how best Area funding can be used to bolster the Environmental Enforcement Team
 - o capital works which can enhance Hendon beach, taking into account the need to protect the wildlife, flora and fauna

- iii. Note the support of the Neighbourhood and Community Board to approve:
 - £75,000 towards the Walk and Talk Programme
 - £50,000 towards St Michael's Community Centre
 - £25,000 towards Maximising Community Assets
 - £30,000 towards Stephenson Trail Educational and Arts programme and a further £20,000 towards the Task Group
 - Change the lead agent on the ICT Troubleshooting Helpline Project.

- iv. Agree to establish an 'In Bloom Task Group' to oversee the Adopt a Planter, In Bloom Competition and Plant A Tree scheme, with nominees being:
 - Cllr E Gibson representing Doxford ward
 - Cllr Scanlan representing Hendon ward
 - Cllr Hodson representing Millfield ward
 - Cllr Ali representing Ryhope ward
 - Cllr Reed representing St Michael's ward
 - Other members will include Council Officers / Partners

- v. Note the Area Committee video update which summaries the Fancy a Day Out Programme, delivered during the Summer school holidays.

Annex 1 East Sunderland Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2020-2023

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