

## COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 at 6:00pm

**VENUE – Council Chamber, City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland, SR1 3AA**

### Membership

Cllrs Blackburn (Chairman), Burrell, Dodds, Heron (Vice Chairman), K. Johnston, Mason-Gage, Price, Rowntree, Scott, D. Snowdon, Speding, and Thornton.

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

5. **For Information Only and Not Discussion - Current  
Planning Applications (Coalfield)**

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(copy attached).

\* Denotes an item relating to an executive function

**ELAINE WAUGH**

**Assistant Director of Law and Governance**

**20<sup>th</sup> September, 2022**

**At a meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber at City Hall, Sunderland on WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2022 at 6.00 p.m.**

## **Present:-**

Councillor Blackburn in the Chair

Councillors Burrell, Heron (Vice Chair), K. Johnston, Mason-Gage, Price, Rowntree, Scott, D. Snowdon and Thornton

## **Also Present:-**

Wendy Cook	Area Network Representative	Sunderland North Community Business Centre
Tracy Dodds	Member of the Public	
Steven Gordon	Neighbourhood Operations Manger	Gentoo
Bob Heron	Member of the Public	Sunderland City Council
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Development Lead, Coalfield	
Bill Little	Councillor	Hetton Town Council
Nic Marko	Local Democracy Reporter	
Andrew Nelson	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire Service
Steve Passey	Inspector	Northumbria Police
Helen Peverley	Area Arrangements, Strategic Manager	Sunderland City Council
Sandra Stephenson	VCS Community Support Officer	
Gerry Taylor	Executive Director Health Housing and Communities	Sunderland City Council
Christine Tilley	Community Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council

## **Chairman's Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Coalfield Area Committee meeting and in particular newly elected Councillor Mark Burrell and Councillor Bill Little, Steven Gordon

and Gerry Taylor who were attending their first meetings of the Area Committee and introductions were made.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Speding and Area Network Representatives, Eileen Bewick, Amy Swan and Emerly Christie.

### **Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations were received:-

#### **Item 4 – Area Budgets Report**

Councillors Blackburn, Heron, Johnston and Mason-Gage made open declarations in relation to paragraph 2.4 of the report and Application No 4, as Members of Houghton Feast Steering Group and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Rowntree made an open declaration in respect of the Holiday Activities for Young Children applications as a Member of the ELCAP Board and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Mason-Gage made an open declaration in relation to Holiday Activities for Young Children applications as an employee for Groundwork and as a Member of the Board of Penshaw Community Association and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **Neighbourhood and Community Board Report**

The Chair of the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board submitted a report (copy circulated), which provided an update on the progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan, which would be the focus for the Coalfield Area Committee during 2022-23.

The report also provided an update on Neighbourhood and Community Board Governance Arrangements for 2022-2023.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair of the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board, Councillor Heron presented the report and highlighted a number of projects contained within the Delivery Plan, in particular the Digital Survey, the Stephenson Trail Project and the work of the VCS Network.

At this juncture, the Chair of the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board introduced Wendy Cook, Area Network Representative to give a presentation on Coalfields Youth 2022. The presentation informed of the additional funding secured, the engagement carried out within Coalfield, the venues used in the four wards, challenges faced, what worked well and also provided quotes from the young people.

The Chair thanked all the Officers supporting the Area Committee.

In response to Councillor Burrell, the Chair advised that Outreach workers were working in the Fence Houses area and Ms Cook confirmed that there were young people from Fence Houses engaging in activities.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the progress and performance update regarding the Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/23 be noted and the proposals for future delivery as contained within Annex 1, be approved;
- b) the Area Committee Governance arrangements for 2022-2023 outlined in Section 3 and Annex 2 of the report be noted;
- c) the Year in Numbers outlined in Section 4 and Annex 3 of the report be noted; and
- d) the Communications Plan outlined in Section 4 and Annex 4 of the report be noted.

### **Tyne and Wear Fire Service Update**

Station Manager Andrew Nelson, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) submitted a report (copy circulated), providing Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Coalfield Area Committee area from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 compared with the same period the previous year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Heron commented that it was nice to see the Princes Trust were going to do some work with the Halo Project.

Councillor Scott thanked the Fire Authority for all the work they were doing.

Councillor Rowntree commended the Halo Project and the fantastic progress they had made in such a short space of time which was really making a difference.

Full consideration having being given to the report, the Chairman thanked Mr Nelson for his attendance and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the content of the report be received and noted.

### **Northumbria Police Update**

Inspector Passey, Northumbria Police provided a verbal update to the Committee, giving an overview of crime in the Coalfield area in relation to burglary, criminal damage, anti-social behaviour and motorcycle disorder.

Inspector Passey informed the Committee that ASB had increased 31% since the last Area Committee and this was due to the lighter nights and fairer weather as well as there being lots of open spaces in the area. The hotspots included Easington Lane, Houghton le Spring Town Centre, Hetton and Shiney Row. A lot of work was being done and the Halo Team had done a lot of work around the Hetton area. He encouraged people to report issues and advised that they were working with Outreach Workers, adding that motorcycle disorder accounted for over half of ASB offences.

Inspector Passey advised that all other crime had gone down apart from commercial and residential burglaries. The latter being up by 18% largely due to known criminals.

Inspector Passey commended the work of the Halo Team and advised that a similar project was going to be launched for the Easington Lane area.

Councillors Rowntree and Thornton commented positively on the work of the Halo Project and the confidence this was providing to residents to report issues in the Hetton ward as they were seeing results because of this.

The Committee having discussed the report, the Chairman thanked Inspector Passey for his attendance and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the update be received and noted.

### **Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector Network Update**

The Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update on the work of the Sector to date.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Sandra Stephenson VCS Community Support Officer and Wendy Cook, Area Network Representative presented the report and were on hand to answer Members queries.

Ms Stephenson advised that the June meeting had been held the previous week and had focussed on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund looking to identify priorities for Sunderland for the Coalfield area and a lot of valuable input had been received. Expressions of interest were due to close on 21 June.

The Committee having discussed the report, the Chairman thanked Ms Stephenson and Ms Cook for their attendance, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the update be received and noted.

### **Gentoo Update**

Gentoo submitted a report (copy circulated) providing an update on their work from March 2022 to June 2022.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Steve Gordon, Neighbourhood Operations Manager briefed the Committee on Neighbourhood Services and the proposed Investment Plan programme for Houghton

and Hetton during 2022/23. He advised that there had been an increase of 6% in Universal Credit claimants.

In response to Members' questions Mr Gordon briefed on the specific criteria of the Crisis Fund and on the delays being encountered in relation to the investment plan programme and the reasons for this.

The Committee having discussed the report and the Chairman having advised that he had asked for a meeting to be arranged with Members to discuss specific ward issues with Gentoo, he thanked Mr Gordon for his attendance and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the above information be received and noted.

### **Coalfield Area Budget Report**

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience, Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copy circulated), providing a financial statement as an updated position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Neighbourhood Funding, Neighbourhood Investment Plan Capital Programme and Community Chest and presenting proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Pauline Hopper, Coalfield Area Community Development Lead, presented the report, drawing the Committee's attention to the current financial position of the Area Committee Neighbourhood Fund 2022/2023 as set out in paragraph 2.1, the Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme 2020 – 2023 in paragraph 3.1 and the Community Chest approvals in paragraph 4.1.

Ms Hopper briefed the Committee on the applications for funding set out in paragraphs 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 explaining the budgetary implications set out in paragraph 2.6. She also referred Members to paragraph 3.4 detailing one application for funding from the Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme.

With regards to Application No 4 (Houghton Feast Community Programme) as Councillor Blackburn had declared an interest in this item and had withdrawn from the room, Councillor Thornton took the Chair for consideration of this application. Councillor Blackburn resumed the Chair for the remaining 3 applications set out in 7 (c) below.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the financial statements set out in sections 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1, be noted;
- (b) the one Neighbourhood Fund application from a previously aligned budget set out in Section 2.3 and at Annex 1, be approved;
- (c) the 4 Neighbourhood Fund applications from the 2022/23 budget as set out in Section 2.4 and Annex 2, be approved;
- (d) the 11 Neighbourhood Fund applications for 'Holiday Activities for Children and Young People' set out in Section 2.5 and Annex 3, be approved;
- (e) the Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme application set out in 3.4 and Annex 4, be approved; and

- (f) the Community Chest approvals supported from 2021/2022 and 2022/2023, as detailed in Annex 5 and Annex 6, be noted.

### **Current Planning Applications (Coalfields Area)**

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1<sup>st</sup> May and 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2022 was submitted for Members' information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

8. RESOLVED that the schedule be received and noted.

Before closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and participation at the meeting.

(Signed) J. BLACKBURN,  
Chairman.



**28 September 2022**

**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.

#### 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 August 2022. Further updates are contained in Annex 1, Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan

Priority/Issue	Update
Digital Learning Resources	<p>There are currently two Neighbourhood Funded projects being delivered across the area. Springboard, in partnership with ShARP have, until recently, provided a 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 year 2021/22 over 230 individuals have accessed the service, 209 of whom have received guidance on UC, with 125 of those now able to manage their benefit independently.</p> <p>Springboard also deliver a 'Communities Connected' project in four local venues across the Coalfield area, supporting residents to get online and access services. During the year 2021/22, 286 residents have been supported with digital access, 39 of whom have either accessed accredited training or moved into employment. The project's delivery has been continuing to grow and with COVID restrictions lifting new clients are accessing the facilities resulting in favourable outcomes.</p> <p>The July Neighbourhood and Community Board considered the progress and performance of the two Neighbourhood Fund projects and agreed that there was an increased and going need for both projects. Further information, and a request for funding, is included in <b>Item 4 Budget Report</b>.</p>
Parks and Play Areas	<p>Following allocation of funding to improve <b>Houghton Rectory Park</b> work has now commenced. During resident consultation the highest priority identified was lighting of footpaths in the previously unlit park. This work, consisting of 28 heritage lighting columns with associated embellishments/lighting plus relevant electrical connections, has now been completed. Lighting is now operational during hours of dark. Improvements to the fountain was also identified as high priority and works commenced to clean, paint and improve the operation of the fountain. Unfortunately, the newly installed electrical supply for the new filter system suffered vandalism/theft days after installation and this will now need to be replaced at considerable cost. Installation of new bins has taken place and the informal car parking area has been repaired. Working in partnership with Environmental Services, a programme of environmental and horticultural works is taking place and ongoing discussions with the Bloomin' Marvellous volunteer group and The Old Rectory will further develop collaborative and partnership working for the benefit of the community. Installation of new seats and benches, improvements to the play area and new signage will be planned during the next phase of the project.</p>

<p>Provide Support to the Voluntary and Community Sector</p>	<p>The <b>Voluntary and Community Sector Network</b>, 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 development of the <b>Voluntary Sector Alliance (VSA)</b> is progressing and continues to develop and grow. The VSA is now in the process of exploring various models of governance for its future operations. The Community Support Worker for the Coalfield area is available to support local groups with funding, governance, training etc...</p> <p>A <b>‘Taking Stock’</b> survey has been sent out to all VCS Network members to gather information and assess gaps in local provision. The results will be used to identify areas where further support can be given to help sustain valuable resources within the community.</p> <p>Additional funding via Public Health has been identified to provide grants to local VCS organisations who have buildings in the community which can be identified as <b>‘warm spaces’</b> where residents can go to socialise and obtain advice and support during the winter period. A call for projects was promoted via the VS Alliance and applications have been received from a number of local organisations to deliver the project commencing October 2022. The Neighbourhood &amp; Community Board will discuss whether Area Committee can add any value to the programme.</p>
<p>Improve Local Greenspaces</p>	<p>At the July meeting of the Neighbourhood and Community Board, discussions took place regarding development of a proposal for improvements to <b>New Herrington Colliery Welfare Ground</b> and sports pavilion. Meetings have taken place to discuss the development of a Trust to manage the site and this will be taken forward alongside environmental and building improvements. Further information and a request for funding is contained in <b>Item 4 Area Budget Report</b>.</p>
<p>Support for children and young people</p>	<p><b>The Coalfield Youthie Project</b>, delivered by Community Opportunities in each of the four wards, delivers 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, supported via Neighbourhood Fund is due to end in March 2023 and was discussed at the July 2022 Neighbourhood and Community Board. The Board recommend that a budget of £50,000 per ward (total of £200,000) is aligned from the 2022/23 Neighbourhood Fund budget to further develop a project brief for ward based or area based activities and provision for children and young people (see Item 4 Budget Report). Ward based meetings will take place and further discussions will be held at the November Board meeting, followed by a Call for Projects. Recommendations will be brought to the December Area Committee with a view to provision/projects commencing from April 2023.</p> <p><b>Holiday Activities</b> funded via Neighbourhood Fund were provided by 11 organisations during the summer 2022 holidays. Further information will be provided following the collation of</p>

	data from the projects at the end of the current quarter (July – September 2022)
Improve highways, pavements and street lighting	The Neighbourhood and Community Board recommend that funding is approved to deliver a phased improvement programme to a footpath in <b>New Herrington</b> . The footpath will be renewed and lighting installed. Further information and a request for funding is contained in <b>Item 4 Budget Report</b>

**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 within **Annex 1**

Annex 1 Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/2023

Contact Officer: [pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk)  
Pauline Hopper, Coalfield Area Community Development Lead

## Coalfield Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2020 / 2023

The Plan is a working document, which will include addition information from other public sector partners and VCS Area Network, where relevant.

The Plan commits the Area Committee to a significant number of priorities, which will be delivered within the Coalfield area of Sunderland, to address the key issues raised by residents. The Plan will be monitored by the Area Committee and actions will be addressed throughout the next three years via the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community.

Residents will be able to monitor delivery of the plan via the online activity tracker which will be available to access at [www.sunderland.gov.uk](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk) as well as through quarterly Area Committee update reports. The Coalfield Area Priorities for 2020 – 2023 are:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Tackle empty properties                     | 10. Vacant Properties as Cultural Hubs and Leisure Activities |
| 2. Derelict land and property                  | 11. Job Opportunities and Job Clubs                           |
| 3. Enforcement                                 | 12. Social Prescribing – Reduce Social Isolation              |
| 4. Bloom Activity                              | 13. Local Greenspace  |
| 5. Transport and Parking                       | 14. Support voluntary and community sector                    |
| 6. Highways, pavements and street lighting     | 15. Youth Clubs   |
| 7. Parks, play areas, cycle and walking routes | 16. Reduce fear of crime                                      |
| 8. Digital Learning                            | 17. Preserve and celebrate local heritage                     |
| 9. Shopping Centres and Local Businesses       |   |

It is now the responsibility of Coalfield Sunderland Area Committee to deliver their Delivery Plan and which will form the work programme for the Area Committee and the Neighbourhood and Community Board for the coming months and years.

NB: numbers are for reference only, they do not list priorities in order.

Neighbourhood Investment priority		
1 Tackle Empty Properties		
Links to: A Dynamic Smart City <i>More and better housing</i>		
Action	Next Steps?	
Explore the feasibility of implementing a time limit on how long properties can be boarded up.	Request an update on current delivery in the area from the Empty Property Team and invite officers to attend a Board meeting	Officers from Housing Services gave an update to the February 2022 N&C Board meeting about the range of functions within the service, including: <b>Private Rented Sector</b> - Officers work in partnership with Private Landlords to tackle poor property standards to improve management practices via a range of measures including accreditation, private sector leasing and deposit guarantee. <b>Empty Homes</b> - Officers work to tackle empty homes and return them back into sustainable occupation across the City. Further information regarding number of empty homes and strategies to improve problematic areas were discussed.
Explore all types of enforcement powers to improve neighbourhoods	Invite relevant officers to discuss where Area Committee can influence and add value to current services. Request update on enforcement reporting and feedback	The Enforcement Task and Finish group received updates from a number of officers on the various enforcement powers available. Actions by Environmental Enforcement and ASB teams has taken place, including the removal of a number of nuisance/derelict caravans which were causing a blight on neighbourhoods. An update was given to the February 2022 Board meeting regarding

		<p>additional resources for the Coalfield area including 2 fixed term enforcement wardens and 5 additional street watch cameras which will be deployed and monitored for a 6 month period with results being presented to the Board.</p> <p>To complement the work to date, and to encourage community ownership and resident participation, the N&amp;C Board explored the development of a 'Clean it, Green it' project at the November 2021 meeting. Further information was requested and was presented to the February 2022 Board meeting. A recommendation to allocate a budget and develop a 'call for projects' was agreed at the March 2022 Area Committee. The Call went out via the VCS Network and VSA Alliance and applications received have been assessed against the project brief and scoring criteria. <a href="#">The June 2022 Area Committee approved a 2 year project commencing in September 2022. A Steering Group for the project will be set up.</a></p>
<p>Improve the physical environment of areas with high levels of empty properties and transient tenants</p>	<p>Request information on what environmental services provide in terms of maintenance in problematic areas.</p>	<p>As above. The Environmental Enforcement team has employed a number of additional officers who can work across all areas to increase capacity in the Coalfield area. Housing services updated the Board at the February 2022 meeting and</p>

		highlighted work they are carrying out in areas with high levels of empty properties. Officers and their specific areas of expertise were introduced to the Board. Any issues should be reported to the team via the relevant processes in place.
<b>2 Review derelict land and properties to further create green and cultural communities</b>		
<b>Links to: A Healthy Smart City <i>Cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods</i></b>		
<b>Action</b>		
Request an update on derelict land and properties to Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board	Invite relevant officers to a future Board meeting to inform specific areas where Area Committee can provide additional resources	The Green Infrastructure programme (now re-named LinkTogether) will address some of the areas identified by Members. Other areas will be discussed at future meetings with the Local Services Manager. The Neighbourhood Fund environmental improvements project is delivering small scale projects to support this priority. Housing services updated the Board at the February 2022 meeting and highlighted work they are carrying out in areas with high levels of problematic properties
Carry out environmental improvements at Flintmill Park and other identified greenspaces	Invite the lead on the Coalfield Green Infrastructure Strategy to attend Area Board in order to explore further project development	A request for funding for £200,000 Neighbourhood Fund to deliver environmental improvements was approved by the December 2021 Area Committee as part of the Link Together project. This will be used as match funding for a project application for almost £1m which has been submitted to the Heritage Fund. <a href="#">Funding for the development phase</a>



		<p>of the project has now been approved by Heritage Fund and an application for additional funding to bridge the gap between development and delivery phases was approved by Area Committee at the June 2022 meeting. Recruitment for a LinkTogether project officer is now underway.</p>
<p>Look at open and green spaces across the wards where derelict land, where not identified for other use, can be improved and/or used for community activity</p>	<p>Invite the lead on the Coalfield Green Infrastructure Strategy to attend Area Board in order to explore further project development</p>	<p>A report has been provided identifying a number of green spaces which can be improved or enhanced to encourage increased community use including Keir Hardie field, Newbottle and Barnwell field. Other sites have been assessed and projects will be developed using the information provided. The LinkTogether project is designed to engage local people and encourage community use.</p> <p>The N&amp;C Board explored the development of a 'Clean it, Green it' project at the November 2021 meeting. Further information was requested and was presented to the February 2022 Board meeting. A recommendation to allocate a budget and develop a 'call for projects' was agreed by the March Area Committee</p> <p>An application from Springboard to deliver the project was approved by Area Committee at the June 2022</p>

		meeting. The project will employ a Clean it, Green it project officer and a volunteer support worker. Recruitment is underway and the project is due to commence in October 2022.
<b>3 Ensure all available enforcement powers are used to tackle those who continue to fly tip, drop litter and spoil the neighbourhood</b>		
<b>Links to: A Healthy Smart City Cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods</b>		
<b>Action</b>		
Consider dealing with unsightly caravans, unroadworthy cars and advertising vehicles taking up space on grass verges	Set up Enforcement Task Group to consider all enforcement powers the Council have. Invite relevant officers to discuss where Area Committee can influence and add value to current services	<p>Actions by Environmental Enforcement and ASB teams has taken place, including the removal of a number of nuisance/derelict caravans which were causing a blight on neighbourhoods.</p> <p>An update was given to the February 2022 Board meeting regarding additional resources for the Coalfield area including 2 fixed term enforcement wardens and 5 additional street watch cameras which will be deployed and monitored for a 6 month period with results being presented to the Board. The council 'report it' system should be used to report any incidents of ASB or environmental damage. Resources are deployed in areas of highest reporting and therefore it is important that all residents ensure reporting is carried out.</p> <p>An officer has been employed to deal with nuisance and abandoned vehicles. <a href="#">A number of derelict or abandoned caravans and vehicles</a></p>

		have been successfully removed from the Coalfield area in recent months
Continue the multi agency approach to large and ongoing fly-tips at the former Forest Estate, Easington Lane	Invite relevant officers to provide information to the Task group (above) and continue to feed into LMAPS request further information on	The multi agency action at this site is ongoing. LMAPS continue to monitor and take action to maintain improvements. Although there have been some successes in terms of prosecution/fines/vehicle removal it is difficult to obtain evidence on which to tackle the issue entirely. Senior Council officers are in discussion with other land owners to identify a strategic partnership solution to the issue
<b>4 Bloom Activities and Supporting Residents to Grow Their Own</b>		
<b>Links to:</b> <i>A Vibrant Smart City More residents participating in their community</i> <i>A Healthy City Smart City Cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods</i> Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy <i>Community empowerment, engagement and involvement</i>		
Request further information regarding 'Gateway' improvements and how Area Committee may be able to enhance/further develop plans	ACDL to explore 'Gateway' improvements	A number of initiatives, supported by Area Committee funding, have been developed, including railing and barrier displays at gateways to shopping areas. New seats and troughs/tubs have been installed in various locations including Hetton and East Rainton.
<b>5 Transport routes and parking issues in residential and local shopping areas</b>		
<b>Links to:</b> <i>A Healthy Smart City Great transport and travel links</i> <i>A Healthy Smart City More and better housing</i> Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy <i>Business growth and investment in VCS</i>		
<b>Action</b>		
Work with Gentoo to explore solutions to parking issues on some estates		Gentoo have worked with residents to deal with parking issues on an estate by estate basis.

Work with colleagues to ensure adequate parking is provided on new housing estates		This is part of the planning process and will be considered, as and when, developments are in the planning stage.
<b>6 Highways, pavements and street lighting</b>		
<b>Links to:</b> <i>A Vibrant Smart City People feeling safe in their neighbourhoods</i> <i>A Healthy City Smart City Cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods</i>		
<b>Action</b>		
Consider possibility of removal of derelict planters and replace or pave over (e.g. Gravel Walks/Stamley Street area, Houghton)	Invite Highways officers to an Area Board meeting to discuss	A number of local schemes, identified by the N&C Board, are planned or underway, as part of the Neighbourhood Fund Environmental Improvements project, including clearing, re-planting and re-instating concrete planters around the Gravel Walks area. The work commenced at the beginning of March 2022. The concrete planters in and around Gravel Walks have been planted with shrubs and bedding to improve the environmental aspect of the area. Despite a number of attempts to vandalise the area, the Local Services Team have reinstated damaged plants and encouraged residents to report any further damage
Progress the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) programme within the Coalfield area.	Highways colleagues developed and implemented a programme of 8 signs, deployed across 31 sites on a 3 month rolling programme.	The September 2021 Area Committee approved funding to purchase a further 4 vehicle activated speed signs (VAS) (one for each ward) to deploy in areas where there is a concern, from residents and members, that vehicles are speeding and causing safety issues for pedestrians and other road users.

		All Coalfield Sunderland Councillors receive a quarterly report containing analysis of results and future rotations.
<b>7 Parks, play areas, cycle and walking routes</b>		
<b>Links to:</b> <i>A Vibrant Smart City More people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing and participating in cultural events, programmes and activities</i> <i>A Healthy Smart City Cleaner and more attractive City and neighbourhoods</i>		
<b>Action</b>		
Explore the feasibility of installing additional/improved signage at key locations	Request further information from the PROW Officer on current footpath and cycleway signage to inform next steps	New signs have been installed at Hetton Park. <a href="#">The Stephenson Trail Task group will identify footpath and cycleway signage requirements on the route and an educational project/competition is underway for school children across the East, West and Coalfield areas to design a brand for route markers.</a>
Support renewal of bins in Hetton Lyons Country Park (and other areas where relevant)	Request location and condition information of rubbish/dog bins in parks to inform next steps	<a href="#">An audit has been carried out on the condition of bins. New bins for Hetton Lyons Country Park were ordered in August 2022 and will be installed as part of a Citywide programme.</a>
Support the improvement and increased use of Hetton Park	Request further information on the future plans for Hetton Park to inform next steps and the potential development of a park management plan	Following consultation (between July and November 2021) regarding <b>Hetton Park</b> , the initial designs have been revised to take in comments and views of the community and respond to consultation feedback. New signs and bins have been installed. Work to address drainage issues has been carried out, a community orchard has been planted. <a href="#">New seating will be installed in the coming months, and a</a>

		longer term plan includes outdoor gym equipment, improvements to the play area and the installation of picnic benches.
Support improvements in Rectory Park, Houghton le Spring	Set up a Task group with ward members and partners. Allocate capital funding to assist improvements	<p>Area Committee has allocated £100,000 for improvements in <b>Houghton Rectory Park</b>. Consultation was carried out between October and December 2021. A project steering group has been formed to consider the results of the consultation and develop a park plan. The top suggestion for improvement was lighting in the park. An audit has been carried out and a lighting plan with costs presented to the steering group. The March 2022 Area Committee approved funding of £35,000 as a contribution to the total cost of lighting the park. New bins have been installed in the park, the fountain has been cleaned and re-painted. A new filter system was installed to the fountain but due to vandalism/theft of the new electrical unit the fountain remains out of action until the damage can be repaired. The lighting to the park has now been installed consisting of the supply and installation of lighting on all footpaths. There have been 28 new heritage lighting columns with associated embellishments/lanterns plus relevant electrical and connections provided as part of the scheme. The lights will be fully</p>

		operational at night from September 2022. Improvements and repairs have been made to the informal car parking area next to the Rectory Building. A longer term plan is to improve the play area and install new seats and benches. The project steering group will meet in September to review progress to date.
Provide additional, accessible, play equipment in key parks across the Coalfield area	Invite Assistant Director of Environmental Services to an Area Board meeting to discuss condition survey, future plans and areas where Area Committee can add value to planned provision	<p>A condition survey of all fixed play sites has been carried out and information was presented to the November 2021 Board. Available budgets are being worked on to discuss feasibility of enhancing planned works to include accessible equipment. The Assistant Director of Community Resilience will attend the next N&amp;C Board meeting to discuss future developments.</p> <p>Keir Hardie play area is now complete, despite a number of set backs due to criminal damage and vandalism during installation. The area will be monitored for ASB.</p> <p>Improvements to the play area and installation of a skate park at Easington Lane Flatts is now complete and was well received during the Summer Holidays.</p>

		<p>Improvements to Rectory Park play area will be carried out as part of the wider park plan.</p> <p>A draft design to upgrade Old Durham Road play area has been agreed. A request for funding to contribute to improvements was approved by the June 2022 Area Committee. A procurement exercise is now underway to obtain fixed play equipment and improvements.</p>
<b>8 Digital Learning Resources</b>		
<b>Links to:</b> <i>A Dynamic Smart City A lower carbon City with greater digital connectivity for all</i> <i>A Dynamic Smart City More local people with better qualifications and skills</i> <i>Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Improving community resilience</i>		
<b>Action</b>		
Implement the next phase of the Neighbourhood Funded Digital Inclusion programme to enable support to residents within the community	To be discussed by the N&C Board	<p>The Coalfield Communities Connected project, delivered by Springboard, provides 1-2-1 and small group support to local residents who require advice or help with anything digital. The project continues to be delivered from a range of venues across various days with a spread of clients accessing the different venues.</p> <p>The project supports local residents in their use of IT. Support during the last quarter (to July 2022) has ranged from: participants improving their skills and tutors continuing to support participants to access further online programmes to develop this. Support to a client in applying for council tax reduction and supporting</p>



		<p>another client with registering on the housing allocation site. Support in helping participants to produce and update their CVs and doing job search and applications. Offering IAG on a wide range of topics and making referrals to other services if appropriate.</p> <p>Through the project participants have access to mobile phone and tablets (using venue's wifi), laptop and PCs which they utilise. During 2021/22 over 280 local residents accessed the service. During the first quarter of 2022/23 95 people have been supported, including 13 residents who have moved into employment or training following guidance and advice from the project.</p>
Develop a 'loan' scheme to provide IT equipment to children and young people who do not have computers at home.	Funding was approved at the March 2021 Area Committee to purchase devices for loan.	Hetton, Kepier, Biddick and St Roberts schools now have the equipment in place and are allocating to pupils resident in the Coalfield area.
<b>9 Shopping Centres and Local Businesses</b>		
<b>Links to:</b> <i>A Dynamic Smart City A stronger city centre with more businesses, housing and cultural opportunities</i> <i>A Vibrant Smart City More residents participating in their communities</i> <i>Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Business growth and investment in VCS</i>		
<b>Action</b>		
Encourage use of Shop Local and using smaller traders in the community	Build on the support for local business messages developed during lock-down. Promote the benefits of local shopping. Use Coalfield Sunderland Community facebook page	The work of the Coalfield Community Hub (a partnership between Sunderland City Council and a range of VCS partners) has promoted the services provided by local retailers within the Community. Shopping

		<p>support to those who are isolated or vulnerable has been carried out by local groups and volunteers and has supported, where possible, shops and services within the local community.</p> <p>In addition to the local welfare provision, an Enhanced Winter Offer is being delivered across the Coalfield to support those who are struggling with food and fuel. Local shops in Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row are being used for vouchers where possible. A 'Christmas Cheer' project funding by all four Coalfield Wards via Community Chest will use local shops in Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row when purchasing vouchers</p>
<b>10 Vacant Properties and Land as Cultural Hubs and Leisure Activities</b>		
<b>Links to:</b> <i>A Vibrant Smart City More people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing and participating in cultural events, programmes and activities</i> <i>Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Socially productive asset management</i>		
<b>Action</b>		
Explore opportunities for Elemore Golf Course e.g. community farm, community forest and space for mini-festivals, training and apprenticeships.	Set up a Task Group to explore vacant properties and feasibility for future use for cultural and leisure activity.	Sunderland City Council has set up a project group to protect and develop the site, now known as 'Elemore Park'. It is proposed to develop the club house and the greenspace area for the benefit of the local and wider community as a location of natural and historic importance. March 2021 Area Committee approved a sum of £100k to support the planned work.

		<p>The project group continue to meet regularly to develop and implement the agreed action plan. Ecology surveys have been completed and designs for the building and the site have been drawn up, in preparation for a planning application. A visitor centre, horticultural activity and a coffee shop, as well as walks, wildlife activities and educational provision, are part of the proposals for development. School and community action days including bird watching, tree identification and tree planting have taken place. <a href="#">Work on the building has commenced and is due to finish in November/December 2022. Plans for the wider site have been submitted and resident forum events are planned for September 2022.</a></p>
Explore the feasibility of creating a heritage centre at the former Philadelphia Depot		<p>Area Committee approved a project to carry out a condition survey of the building. The final survey results have now been reviewed by the N&amp;C Board and passed on to Northern National Restoration Group (NNRG) who currently occupy the building. NNRG can now use this document, along with their business plan to plan next steps for the group, and the building.</p>
Identify vacant sites and their current and future use	Task and Finish Group members to identify any other key sites for discussion	<p>The Group discussed the currently underutilised building in Herrington Country Park, and the potential for future use. Funding was agreed by</p>

		Council to develop the building and an outline design for a café has been drawn up by Design Services. <a href="#">Work is now underway to remodel and extend the café within the building, providing more indoor and outdoor seating.</a>
<b>11 Job Opportunities and Job Clubs</b>		
<b>Links to:</b> <i>A Dynamic Smart City More and better jobs</i> <i>A Dynamic Smart City More local people with better qualifications and skills</i> <i>Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Improving community resilience</i>		
<b>Action</b>		
Support local residents with employment-related information and training in local venues via VCS organisations	Liaise with VCS partners, to explore what is currently available and where additionality can be provided to enhance support locally	<a href="#">Initial discussions with Springboard have taken place and employment related support is provided to local residents. The Voluntary Sector Alliance have a range of training opportunities on offer to local groups and residents/volunteers which are offered regularly in local community venues. Both the Digital Support, and RU Ready for UC projects provide employment related training and support, and are delivered in local community organisations . The November Neighbourhood and Community Board will discuss whether any further support can be offered against this priority as part of year 3 of this plan.</a>
Support residents back into employment and maximise job opportunities		<a href="#">The NF Communities Connected project (see Priority 8, above) provides job relate support in a number of community settings.</a>

		The Clean it, Green it, project will encourage volunteers, work with apprentices and teach skills to improve employment opportunities.
<b>12 Social Prescribing and Reducing Social Isolation</b>		
<b>Links to:</b> <i>A Healthy Smart City Reduced health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives</i> <i>A Healthy Smart City People enjoying independent lives</i> <i>Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Improving community resilience</i> <i>Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Business growth and investment in VCS</i>		
<b>Action</b>		
Continue to provide affordable wellbeing activities to reduce social isolation and improve health (e.g. Zumba, dance fit, walking football etc...)	Area Board to discuss allocation of Neighbourhood Fund via a Call for Projects to the VCS Network	<p>The Coalfield Community Hub partners are supporting residents to take part in activities and services across the area. A network of partners, working with the Coalfield GP Alliance social prescribing team, offer a range of social and community support to those who need it</p> <p>A City Council funded Covid 19 Mental Health and Wellbeing project is being delivered in the Coalfield area by 5 organisations who have come together to form a 'mental health partnership'. One element of the project is telephone befriending.</p>
Provide befriending and welfare support to local residents via telephone, facetime or 1-2-1 in person	Area Board to discuss allocation of Neighbourhood Fund to address this priority	The Coalfield Community Hub, set up in response to the Covid 19 pandemic, has continued to provide befriending support and keep in touch calls to residents who require them. Neighbourhood Fund projects including Our Day Out and

		<p>Encouraging Participation include an element of befriending support.</p> <p>Happy to Chat benches have been created in Hetton in partnership with Hetton New Dawn. This is the first of a series of identified seating across the City to invite people to take time to chat to others. <a href="#">Signs have now been installed in Houghton ward in partnership with The Old Rectory, and in Shiney Row ward in partnership with ShARP</a></p>
<b>13 Enhance Local Greenspace and encourage wider use</b>		
<b>Links to:</b> <i>A Healthy Smart City Cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods</i> <i>A Vibrant Smart City More residents participating in their communities</i>		
<b>Action</b>		
Explore the expansion of green gyms and adult exercise equipment in parks	ACDL to request further information from colleagues in Sport and Leisure	Equipment has been installed in Hetton Lyons Country park. <a href="#">Outdoor gym equipment for Hetton Park has been ordered and will be installed as part of the overall park improvements</a>
Consider the improvement and promotion of local greenspaces, not identified for other use, for community activity	Invite the lead on the Green Infrastructure Strategy to discuss with the Area Board to inform next steps	<a href="#">The LinkTogether project will further develop this as part of the project which is due to commence in September 2022</a>
Look into improved signage for footpaths and cycle routes	Discuss as part of the Green Infrastructure Strategy	This is being developed as part of the wider LinkTogether project. New signage for Hetton Bogs has been installed. <a href="#">The Stephenson Trail project will also develop appropriate signage</a>
<b>14 Support the voluntary and community sector to provide additional services within local community venues as well as host community events/activities</b>		
<b>Links to:</b> <i>A Vibrant Smart City More residents participating in their communities</i> <i>Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Increasing social value through procurement and wider activity</i>		

**Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy *Business growth and investment in VCS***

Action		
Continue to provide funding opportunities to local organisations via the VCS Network	All funding opportunities (internal and external) to be circulated to the VCS Network via information sharing from the Area Team	<p>A regular bulletin including information sharing and funding opportunities is circulated to all VCS Network members. The VCS continue to be supported by the Area Committee, the Community Hubs receive on-going support and the VCS Network continues to be supported to ensure they have access to all internal and external funding opportunities.</p> <p>Regular VCS Network meetings and contact with VCS Representatives to Area Committee ensure that views and input are incorporated into project ideas and actions. The retirement of one of the VCS Representatives left a vacancy which was promoted at the November 2021 and March 2022 meetings. Nominations have been invited and the group will select a rep at the next meeting.</p> <p>At the May 2022 meeting of the VCS Network meeting two new representatives to Area Committee were selected by the Group.</p> <p>Sunderland City Council continue to support a thriving voluntary sector and is a key partner in the VCS</p>

		Alliance which is set up to support and build capacity in the sector.
<b>15 Support Youth Clubs and spaces for young people to be together and feel safe</b>		
<b>Links to:</b> <i>A Healthy Smart City Access to equitable opportunities and life chances</i> <i>A Vibrant Smart City More people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods</i> <i>Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Improving community resilience</i>		
<b>Action</b>		
Support the development of the 2 year Neighbourhood Funded Youth Activity project	ACDL to monitor the project closely, ensuring members have the opportunity to feed in views/proposals to the lead agent (SNCBC)	<p>A two year programme of youth support is currently being delivered by Community Opportunities. Clubs and activities for 11-19 year olds are being delivered twice a week in each ward. This year, to date, 90 sessions have been delivered, with 257 unique participants attending.</p> <p>A request to align funding to continue support for children and young people is presented to the September 2022 Area Committee</p>
Explore the development of a responsive service that can deal with problematic areas as they arise	Set up a Task group to look at ASB prevention and longer term strategies	<p>The NF youth project is designed to respond to areas of need/concern and provides outreach work in those areas.</p> <p>The ASB Task and Finish group met in February 2022 and discussed the need for more proactive and partnership working. A proposal to fund an additional ASB Officer for the area was agreed at the March 2022 meeting of Area Committee. A job role has been developed, HR procedures have been undertaken and recruitment is now underway to appoint an additional officer for the Coalfield area. Neighbourhood</p>



		<a href="#">wardens patrol areas of concern and address issues of ASB</a>
Support activities for children and young people during school holidays	Based on consultation, Coalfield Area Committee made a Call for Projects for local groups and organisations to deliver a series of 'activity with food' sessions during school holidays from July 2021 to May 2022.	A total of £37,431 was allocated to 8 projects across the Coalfield area. During the Summer 2021 and October half term 2021 holidays a total of 76 sessions were delivered to 556 children and young people aged 4-14. <a href="#">The programme has now ended and a further 11 projects totalling £47,075 for delivery during holiday periods from July 2022 to May 2023 were approved at the June 2022 Area Committee meeting. An update regarding summer holiday provision will be provided to the Neighbourhood and Community Board once information has been collated</a>
<b>16 Reduce fear of crime by working in partnership across neighbourhoods to bring communities of all ages together</b>		
<b>Links to: <i>A Vibrant Smart City More people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods</i></b>		
<b>Action</b>		
Develop long term strategies, with partners, for dealing with ASB	Set up a Task group to look at ASB prevention	Following a meeting of the ASB Task and Finish group, the Board received further information regarding current initiatives and services available to tackle ASB across the area. It was agreed that a proposal to fund an additional ASB Officer to strengthen a proactive and partnership approach would be brought to Area Committee and recommend approval of an application for funding (as above).
Explore the feasibility/benefits of setting up a boxing club in Hetton		Potential premises are currently being explored and Council Officers are working with Councillors to liaise

		with England Boxing to gather more information. With the support of the Voluntary Sector Alliance, Houghton Boxing Club has submitted a funding application to Biffa to carry out repairs to the roof and interior of their building to enable the club to re-open the centre. A match funding contribution to the project has been agreed as part of a previously approved Neighbourhood Fund project.
<b>17 Preserve and celebrate local heritage</b>		
<b>Links to:</b> <b><i>A Vibrant Smart City More people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing and participating in cultural events, programmes and activities</i></b> <b><i>Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy Community empowerment, engagement and involvement</i></b>		
<b>Action</b>		
Explore opportunities to celebrate Hetton Railway 200 year anniversary	Area Co-ordinator to discuss with other areas of Sunderland, who have also identified this opportunity	<p>A Stephenson Trail Task and Finish group with members from the Coalfield, East and West areas has developed an action plan and each of the three Area Committees have approved £50k funding. In February 2022, the Stephenson Trail Task Group received an update on the Walking the Routes results, which identified environmental and physical improvements required. Working with Council services and partners the Task Group is developing an action plan to improve the route of the trail.</p> <p>The Cultural Spring will deliver an Educational programme and are engaging with seven primary</p>

		<p>schools, whose location is near the Trail. The Schools in the Coalfield area (St Michaels, Hetton Primary, Easington Lane Primary) will work with specialists from the creative sector to produce an Education Pack which will be shared with other Primary Schools within the City. In addition, there is an array of community activities on offer during 2022, which include: way markers competition; song writing; banners and flags project; photo competition; oral history recordings and pop up gigs.</p> <p>Three local community organisations (one from each of the Coalfield, East and West areas) are supporting the project by carrying out environmental and physical improvements with the support of volunteers. The groups will also assist in the design of interpretation boards for each area, at relevant points along the route. The groups will work in partnership with colleagues from Local Services who are also carrying out work to improve the trail. A graffiti artist has been commissioned to redesign the Barnes subway, proposed design works include outlining a map of the Stephenson Trail highlighting key points of interest. A celebration event is being planned to take place in November at City Hall. All groups,</p>
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		schools and volunteers who have contributed so far will be invited. The Steering Group will meet in September at Hetton Lyons Country Park to discuss progress and agree future actions, including plans for the celebration event in November 2022, and future maintenance of the trail.
Support the development of a commemorative mining statue/memorial on the old Houghton Colliery site	ACDL to liaise with Development Director of Land and Investment to explore how Area Committee can enhance proposals for the site	Further to approval of £50,000 at the December 2020 Area Committee, the artwork for the site was agreed, and has been included in the planning application which was approved at the November 2021 Development Control meeting. Further options for a mining memorial plaque are being explored.
Explore the feasibility of creating a mining 'map' on the paving of the new retail development at Houghton		As above
Continue to support local events and celebrations via Neighbourhood Fund	Celebrate 100 year anniversary of Easington Lane memorial clock which was unveiled by Lord Joicey on 27 August 1921	The event took place on 28 August 2021

28 September 2022

**Northumbria Police Report**

**By Inspector Steve Passey**

**Anti-Social Behaviour**

Since the last Area Committee ASB across Coalfields has only increased by 15% when compared to the last reporting period. An increase was expected considering the period spanned the Summer months. However, the increase is far less than anticipated. However, ASB is down by 7% when compared to last Summer. Over the Summer months ASB in Coalfields formed part of our Summer Planning which saw increased and targeted patrols designed to suppress the anticipated increase in demand. The ASB hotspots currently are Easington Lane, Houghton and Shiney Row.

**Motorcycle Disorder**

Since the last Area Committee motorcycle disorder across Coalfields has increased by 22% when compared to the last reporting period. An increase was expected considering the period spanned the Summer months. However, the increase is far less than anticipated. However, ASB is down by 14% when compared to last Summer. The Houghton Neighbourhood Team has implemented bespoke operations to combat motorcycle disorder which have resulted in the seizure of numerous motorcycles and the prosecution of several offenders.

**Burglary**

Since the last Area Committee overall burglary rates across the Coalfields area have decreased by 20%. This equates to a drop in residential burglaries by 18% and a drop in commercial burglaries by 28%. This is largely due to the positive impact of Operation Cherry and Operation Tiama both of which have been designed to combat this issue.

**HALO**

The HALO Team continues to go from strength to strength and engagement with the project is better than ever. HALO has recently secured Safer Street Funding in excess of £250,000 that includes £50,000 for a new CCTV network. Furthermore, HALO have been nominated for a Pride in Policing Award for the Problem-Solving work as part of Operation Tiama.

**Operation Ebony**

Over the Summer, Operation Ebony was launched in the area of Easington Lane. This operation has taken inspiration from HALO and the Sulgrave Project and aims to provide a holistic approach to tackling the issues in the locality. The operation is in its infancy, but engagement from partners has been positive.

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28 September 2022

### REPORT OF THE TYNE AND WEAR FIRE SERVICE

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The following report gives Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for Coalfields Committee area from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022 compared to the same period last year in 2021.

#### 2 Background

##### 2.1

Area Committee agreed that regular updates on Crime and Community Safety would be presented to each Committee meeting.

#### 3. Tyne and Wear Fire Service Update

##### 3.1 LI 01 & 02 Number of Deaths from all fires

No deaths were recorded during the reporting period.

##### 3.2 LI 14 All Deliberate Property Fires excluding Primary road vehicles

Deliberate property fires, had an increase of 75% from last year. Operational crews and prevention education department continue to target our most vulnerable residents with targeted safe and well visits. TWFRS, Northumbria Police, Sunderland city council, Gentoo and other Local Authority partners have been working in partnership to reduce these incidents with continued targeting of problematic areas and focussing activity in these areas. The reporting of any empty/void property which may be accessible has assisted in improving these figures.

##### 3.3 LI15 Number of primary road vehicle fires started deliberately

There were 16 incidents reported during this period compared to 24 for the same period last year. 6 of the fires were in the Houghton ward – no significant pattern. Hetton saw a dramatic decrease compared to last year, from 8 incidents to 0. Shiney Row increase from no incidents to 4 this year. Copt Hill had a reduction from 9 incidents last year to 6 this year. TWFRS will continue to work with Northumbria Police regarding any further similar incidents to help identify trends and perpetrators. All incidents were reported and investigated by both Police and Fire Investigators to establish any links.

##### 3.4 LI16 Number of secondary fires not involving property or road vehicles started deliberately

There has been a increase of 112% overall in secondary fires. 67 of the 151 incidents were attributed to hot dry weather the region experienced across the summer. The service has embedded the Report-It tool for the reporting of fly tipping and loose refuse. Shiney Row saw a 162% increase, Copt Hill 86% increase, and Houghton 147% increase on the number on incidents attended compared to the same reporting period as last year. Hetton still remains the ward experiencing the greatest number of deliberate secondary fires within the coalfields area. Although the increase was less than forecasted. The multi-agency HALO project, TWFRS new Ignite diversionary

activity course along with other collaborative working will hopefully assist in tackling some of the hot spot areas. LMAPS Partner work groups continue to monitor all wards. The continued collaborative work to prevent, reduce, investigate and help improve the wards regarding deliberate ASB and fire setting.

### **3.5 LI33 All deliberate Fires (combination of LI14, LI15 and LI16)**

There were a total of 227 deliberate fires in this reporting period. This is an increase of 64% compared to the same reporting period last Year. A large proportion of incidents were attributed to the prolonged hot dry weather the region experienced across the summer. Many of the incidents were across vast areas which resulted in many of the fires taking considerable time to bring under control and increased pressure on our resourcing. TWFRS continue to work closely with Northumbria Police, Sunderland city council, Gentoo and partners carrying out estate and site visits, ASB patrols, reporting of accessible premises, and using the Report-it for removal of loose refuse/fly tipping. Using data to target areas in most need of support to try and reduce ASB and secondary fire incidents. Please encourage members of your local communities to report Fly tipping and or request up lifts – essential support heading towards bonfire period.

**Copt Hill Ward** - Has seen an increase from 31 incidents to 39, during this period. Incidents over this period are predominately loose refuse and grass fires. 6 Vehicle fires compared to 9 last year were within this ward, TWFRS are working with Northumbria police to monitor and identify any trends/patterns/underlying issues. School Road initiative with partners is continuing to monitor and share information to help reduce ASB and improve local area

**Houghton Ward** - Has seen a increase from 36 to 65 incidents over this reporting period. 49 of these incidents were attributed to grassland and loose refuse. Fly tipping remains problematic. – Hot spot areas field off Mulberry way/Cherry way, Between Newbottle Street and cross street.

**Hetton Ward** - Has seen a 57% increase in incidents. Deliberate grass fires and loose refuse remain problematic. Hetton ward remains an area of concern. Several multi agency partnership projects including HALO project, Easington lane project and TWFRS ignite continues to carry out some initiatives which aims deliver a positive impact.

**Shiney Row Ward** - Has seen a 93% increase in incidents over the reporting period. Deliberate grass fires and loose refuse remain problematic. Tied in with sustained long dry periods have been the main cause of incidents.

- Hot spots identified have been – Rear of Maple Terrace, rear of Claremont Drive

### **3.6 Community Involvement**

TWFRS continue to support partners involved in the HALO project, which has given an opportunity to bring partners together to deliver success, empower and improve the local area. Based on the highly successful SARA project. Summer holidays saw the introduction of a brand new diversionary project Ignite. Special thank you for Together for children and the PCC for support to fund the one session per week for the duration of the school holidays project. We are currently evaluating the project but ultimately it has been a huge success with many positive feedback comments being received. The service with help from partners would like to continue to grow our diversionary activities over the coming months and years.

Darker nights campaign is underway with schools be identified to receive joint fire service and police educational visits in the run up to bonfire period.

TWFRS in conjunction with HALO are running business fire safety mornings on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October. An opportunity for local businesses to ask our fire safety team any question or queries to help make them operate safely.

Princess trust from Farringdon carried out their community project with the support of the HALO team. Refurbishment of the Nidderdale centre. The new cohort will be looking for further projects in the future so please let me know and I'll direct to our team.

All other opportunities where crews are available to support and attend community events they shall continue to do so. Partnership initiatives will be welcomed and considered for attendance/support.

The service continues to deliver safe and well visits targeting the most vulnerable members of our communities ensuring they are given home fire safety advice, have working smoke alarms and fitting them free of charge and if necessary referring to partner agencies for further support. Since April crews have already delivered 337 Safe & well visits to households across the Coalfields area.

### **3.7 On-going Issues**

Continuing to work with partners being proactive to help reduce incidents as highlighted in the report.

Attacks on emergency services are on the increase across the Tyne and Wear service area. This year's darker nights campaign and school education programme will focus on Fire safety/ASB and consequences of attacks on crews. Year's 7-10 at both Houghton Kieper and Hetton Comp will be given collaborative sessions with the police. Work with Inspector Passey and his team to carry out joint education sessions with our local schools will hopefully go towards reducing the number of attacks on blue light responders and reduce ASB.

It is essential that any fire related issues are reported to myself, (Andrew Nelson, Station Manager) or using Fire Stoppers 0800 169 5558, so I can action with my crews. Each of my watches have been given ward areas to create community links (similar to the Police). This is not just about ASB fires but all deliberate fires.

Any questions please feel free to contact on the details below.

## **4. Recommendations**

### **4.1 Note the content of this report.**

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# Item 3c

## Coalfield Area Committee

## Item3c

**28 September 2022**

### **Coalfields Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Network Report**

The Coalfields VCS Network have met on 3 occasions since the last Coalfields Area Committee. The meetings have taken place at Easington Lane Community Access Point and have been well attended. The meetings have been chaired by Councillor Julianna Heron and have been co-chaired by the Coalfields VCS Representatives.

The network has welcomed several speakers at the meetings.

**7<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Presentations delivered as follows:

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund** – James Garland and Alison Copsey gave a presentation to the group on the UKSP and Multiply funds.

**5<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

Presentations delivered as follows:

**Weedkilling Pilot** – Gabby Campbell, Sunderland City Council

**Holiday Activities for Children and Young People** – Organisations successful with the NF funded projects provided an update of activities available for children and young people over the school holidays.

**6<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Presentations delivered as follows:

**Stop The Loan Sharks** – Laura Mawson, England Illegal Money Lending Team gave a presentation to the group on the impact of loan sharks and training opportunities available.

**Sunderland City Council, Social Value, Grants & Support** – Helen Peverley Area Arrangements Strategic Manager gave a presentation on social prescribing and future grant opportunities.

**Community Chest** – Pauline Hopper, Sunderland City Council Area Community Development Lead (Coalfields) gave a presentation on the Community Chest online application.

### **Sunderland VCS Alliance Update**

The Sunderland VCS Alliance is progressing with its move to become independent from Sunderland City Council as a Charity/charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which will take 4/6 months to be established. A proposed staffing structure has been presented to the strategic board for consideration and two Funding and Contract Officer Posts will be advertised. The Sunderland VCS Alliance has recently appointed a Business Support Officer. The Sunderland VCS Alliance will continue to support to grow the capacity of the VCS sector and Sandra Stephenson (Coalfields Area Community Support Worker) continues to support local groups.

The Sunderland VCS Alliance website will include a membership only area, where groups will be able to access fact sheets, FAQ's etc.

The Coalfields VCS network continues to be well attended with approximately 35 groups regularly taking part in meetings. The information share agenda item always provides a lot of information to the groups attending and often provokes discussions about issues/challenges residents in the Coalfields Locality are facing.

During these discussions we have identified that the holiday activities for children and young people have prevented holiday hunger and that in some sessions we had families turning up, who weren't the correct age to access activities, so their child could be fed as they were struggling. Staff handled the situation sensitively and provided a packed lunch for these children and signposted families to local food banks and for welfare support/household fund.

All organisations are concerned about the cost-of-living crisis and how this will impact on residents and in some cases the increased cost of utility bills for VCS organisations.

The Coalfields VCS network would like to take this opportunity to thank Sunderland City Council – Coalfields Area Committee for their ongoing support and providing funding opportunities for local VCS groups and organisations.

VCS Representatives to Area Committee

Wendy Cook  
Amy Watson  
Emerly Christie  
Eileen Bewick

28 September 2022

### REPORT OF GENTOO

#### **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The following report provides an update from Gentoo for the Coalfield Area Committee from July to September 2022.

#### **2 Background**

- 2.1 Area Committee agreed that regular updates from Gentoo would be presented to each Committee meeting to enable members to be up to date on current Gentoo developments, projects and priorities.

#### **3 Update on Neighbourhood Services**

- 3.1 You should all have had emails from the Neighbourhood Coordinators with their contact information and invitations to their next quarterly multi agency Estate Inspections and we would really welcome your input and attendance on these.
- 3.2 At last committee we shared with you that further work was required in allocating our properties more efficiently and I am pleased to confirm that steady progress has been made with this and our void property numbers continue to decrease on a weekly basis.
- 3.3 Peabody Report, following the publication of the death of a Peabody Housing association tenant whose body lay undiscovered for such a long period of time, Gentoo undertook a piece of work to look into the 'lessons learned' from Peabody's failures to identify concerns for this tenant earlier. Due to our processes in relation to gas safety, income collection and property inspections we are confident that such a landlord failure would not happen in one of our tenancies.
- 3.4 We have placed further staffing resource into the local teams to support our tenants who maybe struggling with the cost of living. The staff are primarily supporting customers with budgeting those on Universal Credit / low incomes and referring tenants on to a number of support agencies such as the Green Doctors, they are energy efficiency experts who identify waste that costs people money, in turn making homes cheaper to heat and reducing the amount of electricity or gas that tenants use. They also look at support from Northumbria Water for their water bills, and benefit maximisation.
- 3.5 Gentoo have entered into an agreement with other Housing providers called 'The Bread & Butter Thing'. The Bread-and-Butter Thing (TBBT) is a charity that makes life more affordable for people on a low income. Their mission is to create a fair solution for people in poverty and their long-term aim is to address the premiums that people in poverty pay for food, loans, energy and other everyday essentials, simply because of their personal circumstances. It works by collecting surplus food and staple goods that often end up going to waste from supermarkets, factories, and farms and distribute them at a discount price through community hubs. For just £7.50, shopping bags can be filled with an average of £35 worth of items made up of quality, nutritious food. Each week tenants can access three bags of produce, including fresh fruit and vegetables, chilled goods, as well as cupboard staples such as pasta and cereal.

- 3.6 An initial discussion has been held between staff from Gento, the Council and Voluntary Sector Alliance to look at approaches to social value to see how we can work together to maximise the impact of any investment to meet the needs of our communities. This information is being discussed with the contractors appointed to deliver our programme of works and together we are developing and agreeing a list of interventions to address some of these local needs. Projects/services identified to date which will make a positive difference include crisis intervention relating to food and fuel poverty, food and cooking initiatives also linked to developing community allotments, projects to tackle young peoples' mental health issues, raising aspirations of young people, employment and training opportunities. Our contractors are also very keen to offer volunteering opportunities for their staff to get involved in campaigns and "team challenge" type activities. We are able to monitor the activities and projects the contractors support via TOMs Social Value portal which will also provide the social value generated via this investment.

#### **4. Investment & Renewal**

- 4.1 Modernisation of kitchens and rewire work has started in East Rainton. There are 125 properties benefiting from these works with a target completion date of January 2023. The contractor for these works is ESH.
- 4.2 Work has recently started on a canopy renewal programme on communal blocks in Fence houses. There is minimal disruption to residents and the programme is going well. The contractor for these works is RE-gen and a target completion date is October 2022.

#### **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 Note the content of this report.

##### **Contact Officer**

Beth Wilkie, Head of Neighbourhoods.  
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<b>COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE</b> <b>28 September 2022</b> <b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I</b>	
<b>Title of Report:</b> Coalfield Area Budget Report	
<b>Author(s):</b> Assistant Director of Community Resilience	
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> Area Committee has delegated budgets to allocate to specific strategic priorities identified in the Neighbourhood Investment Plan, with the overall aim to benefit the wider community and to attract other funding into the area. The report provides a financial statement as an updated position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Neighbourhood Funding, Neighbourhood Investment Plan Capital Programme and Community Chest, and presents proposals for further funding requests.	
<b>Description of Decision:</b>  Committee are requested to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Note the financial statements set out in section 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1.</li> <li>b) Approve the 2 Neighbourhood Fund applications from 2022/23 budget as set out in Section 2.3 and Annex 1</li> <li>c) Align £200,000 Neighbourhood Fund (£50,000 per ward) to address the priority 'Support and activities for Children and Young People' set out in Section 2.4</li> <li>d) Approve the 2 Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme applications set out in 3.4 and Annex 2</li> <li>e) Note the Community Chest approvals supported from 2022/2023, as detailed in Annex 3</li> </ul>	
Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? <span style="float: right;">Yes</span>	
<b>Suggested reason(s) for Decision:</b> The Area Committee has an allocation £439,200 from the Neighbourhood Fund and £208,039 from the Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme for 2022/23 to deliver key priorities identified in the relevant Neighbourhood Investment Delivery Plan and to attract other funding into the area.	
<b>Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:</b> 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	

28 September 2022

## REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

## Coalfield Area Budget Report

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Area Committee has delegated budgets to allocate to specific strategic priorities identified in the Area Neighbourhood Investment Plan, with the overall aim to benefit the wider community and to attract other funding into the area. The report provides a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Neighbourhood Funds, Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme 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 2022/2023:

Project Name	Committee Date	Aligned	Approved	Balance
<b>Total Neighbourhood Fund for 2022/2023 is £439,200</b> (357,946, plus £81,254 unspent balances returned to budget)				
<b>Project Name</b>				<b>£439,200</b>
Shiney Row Community Centre Refurb/Improvements	15 June 2022		<b>£3,790</b>	<b>£435,410</b>
Houghton Brass Championships of Great Britain	15 June 2022		<b>£4,420</b>	<b>£430,990</b>
Link Together – bridging the gap	15 June 2022		<b>£18,500</b>	<b>£412,490</b>
Houghton Feast – community programme	15 June 2022		<b>£10,000</b>	<b>£402,490</b>
Holiday Activities	15 June 2022		<b>£4,895</b>	<b>£397,595</b>
Copt Hill Holiday Zone	15 June 2022		<b>£4,129</b>	<b>£393,466</b>
Hetton Holiday Zone	15 June 2022		<b>£4,129</b>	<b>£389,337</b>
Houghton Holiday Zone	15 June 2022		<b>£4,129</b>	<b>£385,208</b>
Shiney Row Holiday Zone	15 June 2022		<b>£4,129</b>	<b>£381,079</b>
Wild Green Days	15 June 2022		<b>£4,920</b>	<b>£376,159</b>
ABEL Club	15 June 2022		<b>£1,818</b>	<b>£374,341</b>
Elba Park Holiday Activities	15 June 2022		<b>£4,970</b>	<b>£369,371</b>
Buddies Life Skills	15 June 2022		<b>£4,116</b>	<b>£365,255</b>
Early Years Holiday Programme	15 June 2022		<b>£4,900</b>	<b>£360,355</b>
Active Adventurers	15 June 2022		<b>£4,940</b>	<b>£355,415</b>
<b>Balance</b>				<b>£355,415</b>

- 2.2 Coalfield Area Committee currently has £355,415 Neighbourhood Funding available for capital and revenue projects.
- 2.3 There are two applications to the 2022/23 Neighbourhood Fund presented to Area Committee for consideration, detailed at **Item 4 Annex 1**
- R U Ready 4 UC £44,500
  - Digital Inclusion £31,500
- 2.4 Following extensive discussions by the Neighbourhood and Community Board, it has been agreed that a project brief will be drawn up to deliver activities and support for children and young people in each ward. Members of the Neighbourhood and Community Board will meet on a ward by ward basis to discuss the needs within their particular ward and bring to the next meeting of the N&C Board to agree the development of a Call for Projects to deliver on the desired outcomes. It is therefore recommended that a budget of £200,000 (£50,000 per ward) Neighbourhood Fund is aligned and that project applications will be presented to the December meeting of Area Committee for consideration/approval.
- 2.5 The total Neighbourhood Fund budget requested for approval and alignment is **£276,000**. If approved, the remaining balance will be **£79,415**

### 3. Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme 2020 – 2023

- 3.1 The table below shows the financial position of Coalfield Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme for 2020/2023.

Project Name	Committee Date	Budget Returned	Budget Aligned	Budget Approved	Balance
<b>Starting Balance for 2020/2023</b>					<b>£500,000</b>
Festive Lighting Project	15.07.20	-	-	£10,000	£490,000
Mining Heritage Project	09.12.20	-	-	£50,000	£440,000
Shiney Lighting	17.03.21	-	-	£5,961	£434,039
Elemore Greenspace	17.03.21	-	-	£100,000	£334,039
Improving Rectory Park	17.03.21	-	-	£100,000	£234,039
Lighting up Rectory Park	16.03.22	-	-	£35,000	£199,039
Old Durham Road Play	15.06.22			£35,000	£164,039

- 3.2 Coalfield Area Committee has been allocated £500,000 for capital developments which complement the Neighbourhood Investment Plan. Members will be responsible for allocating the funding through a majority decision at Area Committee.
- 3.3. The Capital Programme is now in the final year of a three year programme and the budget was available to allocate across one or more years depending on the proposals presented.
- 3.4 There are two requests for funding presented to this meeting, as detailed in **Annex 2**.
- Improvements to Herrington Colliery Welfare Ground and Pavilion £51,000
  - Footpath improvements Fenton Tce/Railway Tce £14,300
- 3.5 The total Coalfield Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme requested for approval is **£65,300**. If approved, the remaining balance will be **£98,739**



#### 4. Community Chest

4.1 For 2022/23 Copt Hill, Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row wards have been allocated a ward budget of £10,000 each, to support projects which complement the Neighbourhood Investment Plan. The process to allocate Community Chest has now moved online to make it easier for Groups to access the funds, however, if Groups need digital support Area Arrangements will provide it to ensure inclusivity. Ward Councillors will continue to lead on seeking suitable project proposals and making decisions on applications received. Where a majority decision and discussions cannot be resolved at a ward level the outcome will be escalated to Area Committee for a final decision.

4.2 The table below details the Community Chest current budget position for 2022/2023. **Annex 3** shows the approvals supported to date for 2022/23.

Ward	Start Balance for 2022/2023	Project approvals since April 2022	Grant Returned	Balance
Copt Hill	£10,000	£3,067		£6,933
Hetton	£10,000	£3,150		£6,850
Houghton	£10,000	£5,237		£4,763
Shiney Row	£10,000	£2,500		£7,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£40,000</b>	<b>£466</b>		<b>£39,534</b>

#### 5. Recommendations:

Committee are requested to:-

- Note the financial statements set out in section 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1.
- Approve the 2 Neighbourhood Fund applications from 2022/23 budget as set out in Section 2.3 and Annex 1
- Align £200,000 Neighbourhood Fund (£50,000 per ward) to address the priority 'Support and activities for Children and Young People' set out in Section 2.4
- Approve the 2 Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme applications set out in 3.4 and Annex 2
- Note the Community Chest approvals supported from 2022/2023, as detailed in Annex 3

**Contact Officer:** Pauline Hopper, Area Community Development Lead  
[pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk)

## Neighbourhood Fund proposals

## Application No. 1

<b>Funding Source</b>	Neighbourhood Fund
<b>Name of Project</b>	RU Ready for UC
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Springboard/ShARP

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total NF Application</b>
£44,500	£0	£44,500

**Project Description:**

Springboard and ShARP will restart work on RUready4UC project.<sup>1</sup> This project will raise awareness of public access computers in the Coalfields and support participants in making their applications for Universal Credit (UC) and support them in meeting the requirements for UC. Springboard will lead on the project, utilising established financial monitoring and control procedures, marketing and promotional materials whilst providing an outreach service to encourage participation within the community. Focused on the requirements set by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) sessions will be delivered by qualified staff to support participants in accessing the internet for online entries onto Universal Jobmatch, the DWP 'Find a Job' portal and Universal Credit Full Service (UCFS).

The close partnership between Springboard and ShARP will facilitate effective IAG for participants as they will have the opportunity to access digital skills and / or tailored benefit and money management advice whenever they are ready to engage in each aspect. A signposting process will also be established to ensure participants access the support they require.

ShARP will provide a benefits advice check and develop opportunities to work in the Charity Shop as a volunteer and in centre as additional value building.

The cost of living crisis has increased the number of people with little income or substantially reduced disposable income, experiencing periods of crisis and hardship where they have had to rely on Foodbanks or seek financial support from family and friends to manage as best they can. Our role is to help people manage their UC effectively so no sanctions are imposed and adapt finances as quickly and as easily as possible to ease financial difficulties to prevent crisis and hardship. Within these changing times there are so many unknown possibilities that people may need support with.

The partners will actively promote the project and recruit people they know who will need support through these current financial times and increased job losses. Following first contact, which can be through a partner or self-referral, ShARP are commissioned to deliver First Tier Welfare Rights by Sunderland City Council and will see a number of people who will benefit from referral to the new project. Those who are unemployed often lack confidence and need support to identify their strengths and skills, enhancing participants ability to recognise these will be part of the project

The project will deliver up to 8 sessions per week (this will include drop in sessions, pre-booked or sessions over the phone/internet ) across 5 venues including ShARP, Houghton-le Spring library and ELCAP. Sessions will be delivered over 3 hours and will include group type workshops with allocated times following sessions for 1:1 advice.

The project will provide a wide range of information in addition to classroom based ICT training and education;

- What is Universal Credit and what does it mean for me?
- How to apply for and open a Basic Bank Account
- How to prepare for making a UC claim by budgeting

<sup>1</sup> It has been identified that many claimants are already on universal credit but it has been decided for RUReady for UC to remain the project's name so residents are aware it is the same project, as it is already known and established in the Coalfields

- How to manage new arrangements for Child Care costs
- How to claim UC
- How to apply for an Advance Payment
- How to make a monthly budget work
- Manage the process – keep Journal up to date, talk to DWP, get help from Advice providers
- How and where to get other help if needed – key contacts including Crisis Support/ Mental Health services
- How to budget your money and look at the best services available such as which electricity company to use. Also include Free school meal applications
- Job search websites and advice on skills set in order to apply for the right role
- Further opportunities available

When people are identified as having other issues or vulnerabilities during the sessions, the relevant partner will be alerted and will be helped by the ShARP worker to provide further assistance including help to engage with other support e.g. local Jobcentre, DWP, housing providers and digital Inclusion type projects across the coalfields area. By the end of the project the residents of the Coalfield area will be more informed on public access computers in the area, more confident to use IT equipment and on-line services and be equipped with the knowledge and contacts for welfare advice.

The collaborative approach will ensure participants are supported to best access IAG, training and 3rd party services during these times to meet local needs. The project will run to March 2024.

**Recommendation: Approve:** The project will meet the Delivery Plan priorities of 'Increase Digital Learning' and 'Improve Job Opportunities'.

#### Application No. 2

<b>Funding Source</b>	Neighbourhood Fund	
<b>Name of Project</b>	Digital Inclusion	
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Springboard	

  

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total NF Application</b>
31,500	£0	£31,500

This project has been running in the Coalfield community for over a year and a half and has been highly successful: it is a much-needed service for the local residents. The funding for the Digital Inclusion project will end in December 2022 and this funding application is to secure further funding to have the project continue running till March 2024.

The project increases public access to computers, raises awareness of services available within the Coalfields area and provide participants with appropriate training to increase their individual digital skills to use IT in their everyday life. It also develops confidence and ability to effectively use a range of services from key stakeholders including, but not limited to, Sunderland City Council, DWP, NHS and Third Sector support organisations. However, it is not limited to formal services and allows residents to access IT for recreation. We support and guide clients to access social media and general internet searches. It allows clients the freedom but ensures their safety online to browse the internet for personal reasons this can include shopping, gaming, banking etc or for example, if a client wishes to search for their family history we will support in their IT use to do this. It is a service responding to individual's requirements as we move further into the digital world.

A dedicated member of staff will work with organisations with digital hubs to inform, engage, and be supported by this project within the Coalfields. This staff member will liaise directly with the Coalfield Area Committee. This collaborative approach ensures any support and training developed is complimentary to the current local offer in order to reduce the risk of duplication or possible negative impact on any local organisations. Building on the current work Springboard have completed we will continue to liaise with residents and possible participants across the Coalfields signposting to partner organisations when appropriate.

Supported by qualified staff, participants will receive up to date, appropriate Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) to identify what support they need and receive efficient signposting covering how and where to access services. First contact with the project will initiate an assessment process to identify whether the individual requirements are informal or formal.

Informal support will include drop in sessions at the Digital Hubs. For those closer to the labour market and seeking employment they can access timetabled programmes allowing individuals to attend small group sessions covering employability training and vocational training and where possible, work experience. Signposting will inform participants of other drop in sessions in partner sites. Times and locations for drop in sessions will be advertised locally and our website.

Sessions will provide support on the basics of using a computer or digital device including tablets and smart phones, accessing the internet for online shopping or research for personal interest, sending emails, social media such as Facebook and Instagram, managing money online, staying safe online, access to GP services online and NHS choices.

Springboard Staff have an established partnership with DWP aimed at supporting participants into employment, it is anticipated this will form a significant part of digital skills support for many of the participants. By the end of the project the residents of the Coalfield area will be more informed about the range of provision in the area, more confident to use IT equipment and on-line services and be equipped with the knowledge, qualifications and personal contacts to access support.

As part of this project we will work in partnership with other members based within the coalfields ShARP, ELCAP, Houghton Racecourse Community Association and representatives of the Nidderdale Centre (Gentoo). We have led on the identification of what is currently available and to identify areas of need to support local residents in developing their digital skills.

**Recommendation: Approve:** The project will meet the Delivery Plan priorities of 'Increase Digital Learning' and 'Support the Voluntary and Community Sector'.

## Neighbourhood Capital Investment Programme proposal

## Application No. 1

<b>Funding Source</b>	Neighbourhood Capital Investment Programme
<b>Name of Project</b>	Herrington Colliery Welfare Ground
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Sunderland City Council

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total NF Application</b>
£51,000	£0	£51,000

**Project Description:**

Following extensive discussions and site visits, and further to discussions at the July 2022 Neighbourhood and Community Board meeting, it is proposed that a number of improvements are carried out at the Colliery Welfare Ground in Herrington. It is recommended that the following improvements are made, utilising Coalfield Area Neighbourhood Capital Investment Programme funding.

1. Reinstall the shrub line between the football area and the rest of the park
2. Develop a wild flower meadow
3. Plant a community orchard
4. Carry out a range of additional environmental enhancements in partnership with the Clean it, Green it project

The estimate for the above is £10,000

5. A condition survey was carried out on the pavilion building/changing rooms in 2021. The repairs and improvements required were detailed in the survey results, and include repairs to the exterior of the building, and improvements/upgrading of the interior. Costs to improve the standard of the building have been estimated at around £36,000 including fees, with an option of upgrading the kitchen area for the benefit of bowlers and visitors at an additional £5,000

Therefore the total estimate for items 1-5 is £51,000

Work will be carried out in a phased programme, and will take into account the playing seasons for football and bowls teams.

**Recommendation: Approve.** Improvements to the facility will support the Coalfield Neighbourhood Investment Plan priorities of 'Enhance local greenspaces', 'support community facilities' and 'encourage use of outdoor space for health and wellbeing'

## Application No. 2

<b>Funding Source</b>	Neighbourhood Capital Investment Programme
<b>Name of Project</b>	Fenton Tce/Railway Tce Improvements
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Sunderland City Council

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total NF Application</b>
£14,300	£0	£14,300

**Project Description:**

Following extensive discussions and site visits, it is proposed that a first phase improvement programme is carried out at the footpath between Fenton Tce and Railway Tce at New Herrington. The flagged footpath and steps will be renewed/repared to improve access and a lighting column installed to improve safety for residents. If funding is approved, lighting columns and associated electrical works will be ordered/carried out to commence early in 2023, with works to the footpath and steps following.

**Recommendation: Approve.** Improvements to the site will contribute to the Delivery Plan Priority 'Improve highways, pavements and street lighting'

**Coalfield Area Committee**
**28<sup>th</sup> September 2022**
**Community Chest Awards April 2022 to Sept 22**

<b>Copt Hill Ward Budget</b>	<b>£10,000</b>		<b>Approvals</b>
<b>Project</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Returned</b>	<b>Approvals</b>
HCR200 (joint with Hetton)	09.06.22		£500
Houghton Archers (joint with Houghton)	30.06.22		£600
Hetton Juniors FC (joint with Hetton & Houghton)	11.07.22		£667
Houghton U3A	16.09.22		£300
Houghton Heritage Society (All 4 Wards)	16.09.22		£500
The Houghton Feast Trust (All 4 Wards)	16.09.22		£500
<b>Remaining balance - £6933</b>		-	<b>£3067</b>
<b>Hetton Ward Budget</b>	<b>£10,000</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Returned</b>	<b>Approvals</b>
HCR200 (Joint with Copt Hill)	09.06.22		£500
Hetton Juniors FC (joint with Copt Hill & Houghton)	11.07.22		£650
HALO-Nidderdale	15.08.22		£1000
Houghton Heritage Society (All 4 Wards)	16.09.22		£500
The Houghton Feast Trust (All 4 Wards)	16.09.22		£500
<b>Remaining balance - £6850</b>		-	<b>£3150</b>
<b>Houghton Ward Budget</b>	<b>£10,000</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Returned</b>	<b>Approvals</b>
HOPE (Houghton Older People's Enterprise)	13.05.22		£466.30
Gateway Wheelers	16.06.22		£784.74
Kepier Hall	16.06.22		£786
Houghton Archers (joint with Copt Hill)	30.06.22		£600
Hetton Juniors FC (joint with Copt Hill & Hetton)	11.07.22		£600
Dubmire FC Over 40's	15.08.22		£1,000
Houghton Heritage Society (All 4 Wards)	16.09.22		£500
The Houghton Feast Trust (All 4 Wards)	16.09.22		£500
<b>Remaining balance - £4762.96</b>		-	<b>£5237.04</b>
<b>Shiney Row Ward Budget</b>	<b>£10,000</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Returned</b>	<b>Approvals</b>
Together For Children	16.08.22		£500
Trinity Methodist	31.08.22		£1,000
Houghton Heritage Society (All 4 Wards)	16.09.22		£500
The Houghton Feast Trust (All 4 Wards)	16.09.22		£500
<b>Remaining balance - £7,500</b>		-	<b>£2,500</b>

# Current Planning Applications Between 01/08/2022 and 31/08/2022 (Coalfields)

Reference	Address	Proposal	Date Valid	Target Date for Decision
22/01126/FUL	5 Dene GardensHoughton-Le-SpringDH5 8HW	Erection of ground floor rear extension and first floor side extension over garage and utility.	03/08/2022	28/09/2022
Copt Hill				
22/01792/FUL	Cellar Hill HouseCellar Hill CloseNewbottleHoughton-le-SpringDH4 4FF	Demolish section of boundary stone wall and rebuild with concrete retaining wall behind.	09/08/2022	04/10/2022
Copt Hill				
22/01793/LBC	Cellar Hill HouseCellar Hill CloseNewbottleHoughton-le-SpringDH4 4FF	Demolish section of boundary stone wall, rebuild like for like with concrete retaining wall behind.	09/08/2022	04/10/2022
Copt Hill				
22/01386/FUL	Davy Lamp HotelBrick GarthEasington LaneHoughton-le-SpringDH5 0LE	Change of use from ground floor bar/public house to restaurant (50 seats) and erection of flue to rear.	01/08/2022	26/09/2022
Hetton				

Reference	Address	Proposal	Date Valid	Target Date for Decision
22/01819/FUL	16 FieldsideEast RaintonHoughton-Le-SpringDH5 9RP	Erection of a single storey extension to rear	11/08/2022	06/10/2022
Hetton				
22/01328/FUL	Jubilee House5 Front StreetHetton-le-HoleHoughton-le- SpringDH5 9PE	Change of use from offices (B1) to three residential flats (C3) at first floor level. (Updated detail with regard to address, received 19.08.22)	19/08/2022	14/10/2022
Hetton				
22/01575/FUL	Mamas KitchenHoughton RoadNewbottleHoughton-Le- SpringDH4 4EF	Erection of two storey rear extension with extraction flue to provide kitchen extension and creation of staff facilities.	01/08/2022	26/09/2022
Houghton				
22/01846/FUL	5 Whitworth Park DriveHoughton- le-SpringDH4 6GP	Erection of a detached gazebo to side of dwelling.	16/08/2022	11/10/2022
Houghton				
22/01635/FUL	4 Front StreetShiney RowHoughton-Le-SpringDH4 7DX	Erection of a single storey extension to side and rear and detached sun room to rear garden.	03/08/2022	28/09/2022
Shiney Row				



Reference	Address	Proposal	Date Valid	Target Date for Decision
22/01299/FUL	HighcroftOfferton LaneSunderlandSR4 9JL	Proposed continuation of existing mono-pitch roof to form new first floor bedroom above the existing living room with a rear sun terrace above existing sunroom below.	09/08/2022	04/10/2022
Shiney Row				
22/01595/FUL	Land At New Herrington Workmens Club And InstituteLangley StreetHoughton- le-SpringDH4 4LJ	Change of use to create a visitor and members carpark with pedestrian access to existing club house and creation of access onto classified road	15/08/2022	10/10/2022
Shiney Row				
22/01387/FUL	The StablesThe Bar West Herrington StablesMcclaren WayHoughton-le-SpringDH4 4ND	Erection of free-standing, timber double garage to front curtilage. (Tree information received 17.08.22)	17/08/2022	12/10/2022
Shiney Row				
22/01371/FU4	Tyne HolmeBoundary HousesHoughton-Le-SpringDH4 4QA	Erection of new timber Veranda to front of property, new boundary fences and walls, extension of footpath crossing, new gravel/hard paved driveway. (Amended information received 19.08.22)	19/08/2022	14/10/2022
Shiney Row				
22/01860/TPA	7 Wensleydale AvenuePenshawHoughton-Le- SpringDH4 7PA	T1 oak - Crown reduce by 25%	23/08/2022	18/10/2022
Shiney Row				