

15 December 2021

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 annual update of the Coalfield Neighbourhood Investment Plan Delivery Plan 2020-2023
- b. Provides an update of progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan

2. Background

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

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 Following the approval of the Article 10 Neighbourhood Investment Plans at Cabinet in March 2020, the Neighbourhood Investment Plans replaced the former Article 10 Local Area Plans.

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 Boards will be Chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Area Committee. All Coalfield Area Committee City Councillors 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 Committees for final endorsement. The Area Committee Chair and Vice-Chair were agreed at Annual Council in May 2021.

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 December 2021.

Priority/Issue	Update
Vacant land and properties – explore opportunities for the former Elemore Golf Club	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 are taking place.
Support a local group to explore the feasibility of creating a heritage centre at the former Philadelphia Depot	Area Committee approved a project to carry out a condition survey of the building and to provide support to the Northern National Restoration Group (NNRG), who are currently tenants. The results of the draft survey were discussed at November 2021 N&C Board meeting. The Board will receive the final reports during December 2021 and will discuss at the February 2022 meeting. The group (NNRG) are being supported, via the Heritage Team, to develop a business plan to take forward the idea of a heritage centre.
Social prescribing and reducing social isolation	<p>The Coalfield Community Hub partners are supporting residents to take part in activities and services across the area. A network of partners, including the Coalfield GP Alliance social prescribing team, offer a range of social and community support to those who need it</p> <p>Projects approved for funding by Area Committee in June 2021, commenced in September and October and are delivering activities and events to combat social isolation. Further information is contained within the video which will be played at the end of this report.</p>
Transport and Highways – Installation of VAS	The September 2021 Area Committee approved funding for a further 4 vehicle activated speed signs (VAS) (one for each ward) to deploy in areas of concern. All Coalfield Sunderland Councillors receive a quarterly report containing analysis of results and future rotations. Members will be informed once the new signs are received.
Transport Highways – Highways Maintenance Programme	A report on what proposed highways to include in the 2021 / 2022 Programme was considered by the Area Committee in March 2021 and agreed. Further updates have been received and Members have put forward areas for consideration in the 2022/2023 programme. The suggested locations will be assessed, and further discussion will take place at the February Board meeting, with a recommendation being brought to March Area Committee.
Support the Voluntary and Community sector and continue to provide funding opportunities to local	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>organisations via the VCS Network</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 September and November VCS Network meetings were held in person and were extremely well attended.</p> <p>Sunderland City Council continue to support a thriving voluntary sector and is a key partner in the VCS Alliance which is set up to support and build capacity in the sector. A presentation was given to the September meeting of the Neighbourhood and Community Board</p> <p>The VCS Alliance Community Support Worker for Coalfield, Sandra Stephenson, is proactively supporting a number of local VCS organisations.</p>
<p>Support activities for children and young people during school holidays</p>	<p>In June 2021 Area Committee approved 8 projects across the Coalfield area to deliver holiday activities. During the July/August 2021 Summer Holidays a total of 69 sessions were delivered to 428 children and young people aged 4-14. During October half term 7 sessions were delivered to a total of 128 children and young people.</p>
<p>Youth activities for young people</p>	<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, 65 sessions have been delivered, with 105 unique participants attending.</p> <p>The Coalfield Area Committee funded CHAT programme offers physical activity sessions for 13-19 year olds. The programme includes a Teen Gym at Hetton Wellness Centre and Houghton Sports Centre, and twice a week evening football for a nominal charge of £1 per session.</p>
<p>Consider improvements to the Stephenson Trail – working alongside other areas (West and East)</p>	<p>A Stephenson Trail Task Group, made up of Members from the three relevant areas, partners and officers was formed. To enable the Task Group to be proactive, Coalfields, West and East Area Committees each aligned £50,000 to the Task Group to allow them to deliver future proposals.</p> <p>The September 2021 Area Committee approved the art and education proposal presented to them which would see schools along the route engaged in a programme of activity covering a wide range of subject areas - nature, geology, health and wellbeing, history and industry, archaeology, art and design and music.. The remaining budget will be allocated to environmental improvements and branding/promotion of the trail. The Task and Finish Group met on 1 December to discuss best use of funding and agreed a programme of works which will be implemented from January 2022. The Task and Finish group will meet again in February 2022.</p>
<p>Develop a laptop loan scheme for pupils from the Coalfield area</p>	<p>In March 2021 funding to purchase devices for a loan scheme was approved by Area Committee. Hetton, Kepier, Biddick and St Roberts schools now have the equipment in place and are allocating to pupils who do not have access to suitable equipment. So far over 150 pupils, resident in the Coalfield area, have benefited from the scheme.</p>

<p>Provide digital support to local residents</p>	<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 service has now been expanded to additional local venues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday ELCAP • Tuesday Houghton Library • Wednesday ShARP • Thursday Houghton Racecourse CA
<p>Improve parks and play areas</p>	<p>Initial design ideas have been drawn up for Hetton Park and following consultation (between July and November 2021) the designs will be revised to take in comments and views of local residents.</p> <p>Area Committee has allocated £100,000 for improvements in Houghton Rectory Park. Consultation commenced in October 2021 and will continue throughout December 2021. A project steering group will meet to consider the results of the consultation and the development of a park plan. Costs for lighting in the park is also being explored</p> <p>A planned programme of works to improve and upgrade parks and play areas across the Coalfield area was discussed with the Board at the July 2021 meeting. A further update was presented to the Board in November 2021. Improvement work is almost complete on the following play sites, after which inspection will take place before they are fully reopened: Keir Hardie Elemore View Quarry House Gardens</p> <p>Further detail and timescales of work on other sites will be shared with members as the schedule progresses. The Board will consider allocating additional funding to ensure that accessible equipment is available.</p>
<p>Identify open and green spaces where land, not identified for other use, can be improved and/or used for community activity</p>	<p>A number of green spaces which can be improved or enhanced to encourage increased community use including Keir Hardie field, Newbottle, Flint Mill and Barnwell field have been identified. Other sites have been assessed and projects will be developed using the information provided. The LinkTogether project approved at the September 2021 meeting will improve open spaces, engage local people and encourage community use. An application for almost £1m has been submitted to the Heritage Fund to address this priority.</p> <p>To complement the work to date, and to encourage volunteering and resident participation, the N&C Board explored the development of a 'Clean and Green' type project at the November 2021 meeting. Further information was requested and will be presented to the February 2022 Board meeting.</p>

5. Recommendations: Members are requested to: -

5.1 Consider the progress and performance update regarding Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/23 and agree proposals for future delivery as contained within Annex 1.

5.2 Note the Area Committee video update

Annex 1 Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/2023

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