

Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2023 - 2026

Updated September 2024

The Area Plan commits the Area Committee to a number of priorities, which will be delivered within the Coalfield Sunderland area. This Delivery Plan provides an update on progress on the Area Committee's Area Plan and will be monitored by the Area Committee and actions will be addressed throughout the three years covered by the plan, via the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board

| Priority | Progress Update |
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| Dynamic Smart City We will have | |
| A Can Do Project to develop skills of young people | Young people have attended the Neighbourhood and Community Board in November 2023, January and April 2024 to present their proposals to Councillors. Kepier School, Houghton Boxing Club, Philadelphia Cricket Club, the Old Rectory youth Club and Flatts Youthie were all successful in their applications for funding after presenting their ideas to relevant N&C Board meetings. A further round will open for applications in September 2024, with proposals being presented to the N&C Board at the next meeting. |
| Coalfield Communities Connected Project to develop digital skills of residents | The Coalfield Communities Connected IT project is delivered by Springboard in four locations, 'Community Hubs', each week. In all hubs, participants have access to laptops and PCs, and also get support in improving their knowledge on the use of their personal mobile phone and tablets (using venue's wifi). Hubs are reviewed regularly to ensure the best coverage for all sectors of the community, and are delivered in conjunction with Digital Health Hubs, funded via Levelling Up. With funding agreed at the March 2024 Area Committee, the project has now been extended until December 2025. The most recent 'new' venue is Houghton Racecourse CA |
| Support to residents to improve financial resilience via R U Ready | The RU Ready for UC project, funded by Coalfield Area Committee, and delivered in partnership by Springboard and ShARP continues to support residents to apply for and maintain their Universal Credit requirements including job search, journal upkeep and providing advice and guidance where relevant. Members were provided with an update in May 2024, and the need for the project has been demonstrated by the number of new clients accessing the project, and existing clients needing ongoing support. Funding to continue the project until December 2025 was agreed by Area |

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| | Committee in March 2024. An application to deliver the 2024 'Christmas Cheer' project to support local families is contained in Item 4 Budget Report |
| A VAS and Road Safety programme | The current VAS programme consists of 32 locations and 14 signs which are rotated on a quarterly basis. The project has been extended until March 2026. Members were provided with an update report at the July N&C Board meeting and have invited relevant officers to their next meeting to discuss the programme. |
| A Tree planting programme across the area | In addition to proposals put forward to plant trees on a number of the 13 sites included in the LinkTogether project, members have been asked to submit relevant locations within their ward for consideration for inclusion in a 'community orchard' programme. A site visit to Penshaw village in August 2024 has identified a number of suitable locations. A provisional plan will be developed for members' consideration. |
| Developed and delivered low carbon initiatives in the community | Discussions are underway with Durham Wildlife Trust and Wear Rivers Trust to develop an educational project with local schools. The 'Source to Sea' initiative highlights the 'journey' of a plastic bottle (or other items) through waterways to the sea and the coastline. At the July Area Committee, an application for funding to deliver the 'Litter Free for Wildlife' was approved. The two year project will work with all schools across the area and will commence in September 2024. |
| Healthy Smart City We will have | |
| Provision of positive activities for young people during school holidays | During 2023/24 activities were delivered by 12 projects during school holidays, up to and including May half term. A total of 14 projects (totalling £62,590) commenced in July 2024, and will deliver activities during all school holidays until May 2025. A wide range of activities such as cycling, trips out, cookery, crafts, outdoor games and swimming will be available free of charge to children and young people across the area. All sessions will be promoted and advertised via the Coalfield Sunderland Community facebook page. |
| Youth clubs in each of the four wards | The two year Neighbourhood Fund project 'Youth Choices', delivered by Community Opportunities, provides two sessions of youth activity, per ward, per week. Current sessions are delivered at outdoor and indoor venues including Flatts Youth Centre (and field), Shiney Row CA (and Claremont Drive field), Houghton Racecourse CA (and Kirklea field) , Houghton Sports Centre (and MUGA). The sessions in each of the four wards provide our young people with a safe space to meet, where they can engage in discussions and talk about issues that are relevant to their lives. The |

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| | <p>approach taken, and activities provided depend on the needs and interests of the young people attending and may differ in each ward. Attendance at sessions ranges between 12 and 50 depending on the activity being delivered and the venue available. Members were provided with a full update via the project performance report at the N&C Board meeting in July 2024.</p> |
| A Coalfield Healthy and Active Teen (CHAT) programme | <p>Delivered by Everyone Active, the project offered the opportunity for 11-15 year olds in the Coalfield area of the city to participate in a programme of junior gym and wellness sessions at Hetton and Houghton Sports Centres. This project has now been successfully delivered and has made new partnerships with Foundation Of light, the HALO project, the local police and Community Opportunities youth workers to ensure that the young people are aware of opportunities that are open to them, and the jobs that are open within the leisure industry such as lifeguards, leisure attendants, tennis coaches and swim teachers. They have all been sent information about small group training that is available to them at certain times throughout the week and have been offered support as a group. The participants have been informed of exit strategies in the area which include social football, teen circuits and couch to 5K sessions and many more. In the final quarter of the project a further 9 participants have been introduced into the scheme. The project will have worked with 48 participants throughout the 12 month duration of delivery.</p> |
| Activities to reduce Social Isolation | <p>The Links for Life programme will support increased social and wellness activity. The Neighbourhood and Community Board discussed this priority in February and April 2024. Neighbourhood Fund of £50,000 was aligned to this priority at the July Area Committee and a call for projects has been made with a closing date of 4 September.</p> |
| Social Prescribing Services | <p>Links for Life is Sunderland's social prescribing programme. Further information will be provided each quarter as part of the Links for Life update in Annex 2</p> |
| <p>Vibrant Smart City We will have</p> | |
| The Coalfield Clean it, Green It project | <p>The two year Clean it, Green it project, delivered by Springboard, continues to deliver activity across all four wards on sites and locations which are not currently on a maintenance schedule and need environmental improvement. One Councillor from each ward sits on the steering group, alongside SCC and Gentoo colleagues. The meetings discuss progress and propose locations for action by the team. Volunteers and residents are supported to carry out improvements within their own neighbourhood, and Springboard and Community Opportunities (in partnership) tackle larger scale works.</p> |

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| | <p>The project complements mainstream cleansing schedules and works alongside Sunderland City Council Environmental Services and Gentoo. A Clean it, Green it facebook page has been developed. Further funding was approved at the July 2024 Area Committee and the project will now run until 2026. Members received a detailed update for each ward as part of the performance report presented to the July 2024 N&C Board meeting.</p> |
| Heritage Activities and Community Events | <p>The Stephenson Trail project is ongoing and a number of events and activities have taken place to highlight the heritage aspect of the trail. Local community events throughout the year are supported by Community Chest and Neighbourhood Fund. Funding was awarded in June 2024 to deliver The Coalfield Pride and Elemore Music events in 2024. The Pride event is 17 August at Rectory Field and the Elemore music event is 24 August. Further details have been circulated and posted on the Coalfield Sunderland Community facebook page.</p> |
| Delivered the Houghton Feast community programme | <p>The 2023 Houghton Feast was delivered successfully in October 2023. The opening ceremony, and parade saw hundreds of community groups, schools and residents engaged in activities and entertainment. The planning for 2024 has now commenced and the theme for this year is 'Celebrating Our Cultures'. Neighbourhood Fund budget will enable art and music workshops to be delivered in primary schools across the Coalfield area. Activities and entertainment as part of the opening evening on Friday 4 October has also been funded by Area Committee. One elected member from each ward sits on the HF Steering Group.</p> |
| Improvements to Herrington Colliery Welfare Ground facilities | <p>Following allocation of Neighbourhood Fund and Neighbourhood Capital Improvement Programme, works are underway to improve the pavilion at Herrington Colliery Welfare Ground. The Class A football pitch has been improved and encroaching trees have been removed and pollarded. Repairs to the spectator rail has been completed and external fencing to protect the site has been installed.</p> |
| Improvements to Houghton Rectory Park | <p>Improvements at Rectory Park are ongoing. The railings around the park have been repainted and the large tree restricting access near the entrance to the Old Rectory has been removed. A 'places to ride' project is now complete, and working with Gateway Wheelers, activities are ongoing to support children and young people to use the facility. As part of the Area Committee funded project, new benches have now been installed. Final works are planned for 2024.</p> |
| Delivered the Stephenson Trail heritage programme | <p>The Stephenson Trail programme has delivered a wide range of environmental and educational activity across the Coalfield, East and West areas. A comprehensive update was sent to members of all 3 Area</p> |

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| | <p>Committees in August 2023. Waymarkers have been installed along the route and information boards have been erected in three locations. A map/booklet has been designed and printed and is available in various venues and electronically. Further information boards are due to be installed at 4 locations during September 2024. A further 2 years of maintenance costs has been allocated to community organisations across all three areas. The groups will support the mainstream programme of environmental works and replace damaged or missing waymarkers.</p> |
| <p>Contributed to habitat and ecological improvements via Link Together</p> | <p>Development proposals for each of the 13 sites have now been prepared. Consultation on each site plan has been carried out and will be used to inform the final spec for each site. This development stage of the project has engaged residents and groups across the area. The delivery phase of the project is planned to commence in 2024. To gain more value for money it is proposed that the funding allocated to this project is held by Sunderland City Council's Low Carbon team, jointly managed with Durham Wildlife Trust. The delivery phase of the project is now underway and the Steering Group continue to meet to support development of the works. The project team is now in place, a further 3 officers have been employed to work on the delivery phase of the project. This quarter 24 residents have taken part in events and activities to support the identified sites, and 38 hours of volunteer time have been delivered. A further update will be provided to members as part of the performance report at the end of this quarter.</p> |
| <p>Continued the Proactive Coalfield Anti-social behaviour project and worked in partnership to tackle Motorcycle ASB</p> | <p>The additional, proactive, ASB Officer for Coalfield is working alongside partners, businesses and residents to identify and target problematic areas in a planned way. A performance update with specific ward based information was provided to members in July 2024 as part of the quarterly projects report. The July Area Committee approved funding to continue the project until June 2026</p> <p>A Coalfield Task and Finish Group was set up to look at the motorcycle disorder problem in more detail. There is now a Northumbria Police force-wide team in place to deal with the issue. The team will work closely with Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Borough Council ASB teams. At the December 2023 Area Committee a £25,000 contribution to the project was approved. This quarter the project has focused on proactive patrols, educating young children and crime prevention. During this quarter 55 proactive patrols have been carried out by SCC ASB team and the motorcycle disorder police team. These patrols helped the team gather important intel and provided the opportunity to seize 17 vehicles from the</p> |

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| | <p>Coalfield area in the last 3 months. These seizures directly resulted in 4 home visits being conducted with 1 person being arrested and 3 people being served with a Community Protection Warning. Further updates will be presented as part of the performance report each quarter.</p> |
| Held a Coalfield Pride Event at Houghton | <p>The March meeting of Coalfield Area Committee approved funding to deliver the Coalfield Pride event in 2024. This event took place at Houghton Rectory Field on Saturday 17 August 12 – 8 p.m. The event was a great success and attended by a wide audience from across the area.</p> |
| Developed environmental improvements at Copt Hill and Seven Sisters | <p>Following approval of Neighbourhood Capital Improvement Programme funding, a number of site visits have taken place at the Copt Hill/Seven Sisters site. Proposals for improvements include information boards, signage, path clearance and repair. This will complement work to be carried out as part of the LinkTogether project. Durham Wildlife Trust will lead on the project and carry out the work in consultation with Members, and in partnership with Springboard. There have been several volunteer days with staff from Amazon, the Fire Service and Springboard's regular volunteers and with support from Springboard's Clean it Green project. The range of tasks completed include maintenance to the area, strimming and cutting back, painting of street furniture, signage and bins. Fencing will be installed to improve the entrance to the site, and a gravel path will be laid in Autumn 2024.</p> |
| Supported VCS organisations and Community Hubs | <p>A Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector Network meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month. The meetings are chaired by the Vice Chair of Area Committee and continue to be well attended, participative and informative and provide a mechanism for attendees to network with Council Officers, partners and community organisations. Meetings are increasingly well attended by a variety of organisations and local groups. Partnership working and networking opportunities continue to be built upon. Further information is contained within Item 4c VCSN Partner report.</p> <p>The PCRM has supported a number of groups with advice and support on funding, governance and project development.</p> |
| Improved Community Assets | <p>The November 2023 meeting of the Neighbourhood and Community Board discussed support for organisations delivering services in local community buildings. The December Area Committee agreed to align a sum of funding, initially £75,000, to this priority and carry out a call for projects which organisations could apply to for improvements to their building. The Area Committee meeting in March approved 11 applications for funding. Shinyey</p> |

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| | <p>Row Community Centre now has a new kitchen and flooring, Houghton Blind Centre, a new heating system, ShARP a refurbished Digital Hub, Houghton Racecourse CA, new flooring in the toilets and plans to redecorate the centre, ELCAP, a comprehensive new CCTV system and Penshaw Community Centre a new kitchen. Further updates will be provided upon completion of remaining works. An application for funding from ShARP to update and improve their community kitchen is contained in Item 4 Budget Report</p> |
| <p>Supported the celebration event at former Houghton Colliery site</p> | <p>Work on the new retail development at Houghton is underway. The mining heritage artwork is complete and in storage until the site is at a stage to incorporate the installation. A celebration event and unveiling of the artwork will be planned once the site is prepared, provisionally October/November 2024.</p> |
| <p>A Christmas Tree at Newbottle</p> | <p>Further to approval of funding at the September Area Committee to deliver the 'Coalfield Christmas' project, arrangements were made to install infrastructure to accept delivery of a 30ft Christmas tree in November 2023. The tree lights were switched on at a community event on Friday 1 December. The local community, including St Matthews, provided entertainment and refreshments. The switch on event for 2024 will take place on Friday 6 December</p> |
| <p>A Music Event at Elemore Park</p> | <p>The first live event took place at Elemore Park on Saturday 26 August 2023. The event included a number of acts such as Marty Longstaff (Lakes Poets), Houghton Brass, Dennis and James Thoroughgood. Fun entertainment and activities for all of the family were also provided. The March meeting of Coalfield Area Committee approved funding to deliver the event in 2024. The event, headlined by The Lake Poets and featuring This Little Bird, Jesica Thoroughgood and King Ink took place on Saturday 24 August. Families were also able to enjoy free activities such as face painting, balloon modelling, juggling and magic.</p> |