

West Area Committee Delivery Plan 2023 - 2026

Updated February 2026

The Area Plan commits the Area Committee to a number of priorities, which will be delivered within the West of Sunderland. 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 next three years via the West Neighbourhood and Community Board

Priority	Progress Update
Dynamic Smart City We will have	
Improved small, neglected shopping and enterprise areas	<p>A range of initiatives have been rolled out to enhance underused shopping and enterprise areas across the West Area of Sunderland. To improve both the visual appeal and functionality of these spaces, planters have been installed at key locations, with ongoing care provided by the Clean and Green and Rangers teams.</p> <p>In support of sustainable travel, new bike stands have been introduced at St Luke's Terrace, making it easier for residents to choose eco-friendly transport options.</p> <p>Responding to community feedback, festive lighting in Silksworth has been extended to include Blind Lane, Silksworth Terrace, Warwick Terrace and the pit wheel helping to create a more vibrant and welcoming environment for shoppers and local businesses.</p> <p>Further improvements include the addition of planters at the Hasting Hills shopping area and the installation of bollards at Silksworth Terrace; both aimed at enhancing safety and the overall appearance of the area.</p>
Young people with raised aspirations and increased training opportunities.	<p>To support youth development and career prospects, a variety of course information has been shared across key community platforms, including the West VCS Network and the West Sunderland Community Facebook Page.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood and Community Board reviewed insights from the task-and-finish group, recognising the need for further information. The Board will revisit these findings in a future meeting to consider emerging policies within Together for Children and the Learning and Skills Service, ensuring a strategic approach to youth support and engagement.</p>

More fruit orchards, trees and improved electric vehicles at home infrastructure	Presentation on Low Carbon initiatives received June 2023. Options for fruit and tree planting submitted for consideration with locations suggested across the West. Members have been consulted on the EV residential community hubs proposals with the new infrastructure being installed in 2025.
Updates on employment support projects	<p>Following the conclusion of the West REACT CLLD match-funded project in March 2023, employment assistance continued through the Neighbourhood Funded element. Since April 2024, significant support has been provided to residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43 individuals have received information, advice, and guidance. • 17 individuals have successfully transitioned into education, training, or employment, helping strengthen career pathways. <p>This assistance has been delivered at Thorney Close Action and Enterprise Centre, complemented by targeted outreach at additional community centres. After fulfilling its objectives, the project formally concluded in March 2025.</p>
Improved access to digital support	<p>The Media Savvy Digital Project delivered sessions fortnightly across the West. Sessions were delivered to the young people at Barnes Park Event as well as a family session on the Saturday. The footfall in the fortnightly sessions has been 2079 since the beginning of the project. Media Savvy was successful in receiving an external grant to continue some of the work in the West for a further 12 months, focussing on the Tansy Centre and Hope 4 All. The Neighbourhood Funded project ended September 2024.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood and Community Board received an update on the Digital Health Hubs that have been established and supported in various centres across the Area.</p>
Healthy Smart City We will have	
Safer and improved green spaces	<p>Bishopwearmouth Cemetery - Designs and costs were developed for improved parking. It was agreed to proceed with the 9/10 additional bays. Work is now completed on the new parking bays.</p> <p>Silksworth Ski Slope Complex - designs and costs developed for improved parking working with Everyone Active. The first and second phase of line markings are now complete, with additional bays and improvements to the overflow carpark. Fencing improvements are now complete with improvements made to the overflow car park and the skatepark.</p>

	<p>Following the approval of phase 2 £150,000 Neighbourhood Funding, each ward has met and are working through schemes. Schemes were approved at September, December and March Area Committee</p> <p>Schemes approved to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV airtime in Barnes, St Anne's, St Chad's and Pallion • Fencing improvements in Pallion, Sandhill, Silksworth • Play Improvements in Silksworth, Barnes and St Chads • Lighting improvements in Silksworth and St Anne's • Parking improvements in Silksworth, Barnes, St Chads and Pallion <p>Following the success of Safer Spaces phase 2, Safer spaces 3 £73,080 was aligned at June's Area Committee £73,080. Schemes are being developed and those ready for consideration at Area Committee are included in Item 4 Annex 1.</p>
<p>A scheme of environmental improvements</p>	<p>11 Applications were received and approved at the March 2024 Area Committee; projects are being delivered across the West in the following venues and communities.</p> <p>Grindon Church Community Project, Broadway Youth and Community Centre, St Anne's in Bloom, Thorney Close Action and Enterprise Centre, St Mary's and St Peters, Pallion Plants, Hope 4 All, Tunstall Hill, Pennywell Community Centre, Silksworth and St Chad's in Bloom and Silksworth recreation park.</p>
<p>A map of defibs across the West</p>	<p>The Department of Health and Social Care released a grant (Sept 23) for local community organisations to apply for defibrillators; this opportunity was shared with the Sunderland West VCS network.</p>
<p>Additional Heritage walks</p>	<p>Environmental improvements and signage continue to be maintained on the Stephenson Trail.</p> <p>Stephenson Trail</p>
<p>Initiatives to reduce child poverty and child obesity</p>	
<p>Improved community assets</p>	<p>Following the agreement of the Call for Projects to Improve community assets, 15 applications were received and considered at June 2024 Area Committee. Neighbourhood Funding was approved to the following centres:</p> <p>Broadway Youth and Community Centre, Plains Farm Youth and Community Centre, Veterans in Crisis, St Luke's Neighbourhood Centre, St Mary's and St Peter's Project, Community Opportunities Thorney Close Action and Enterprise Centre, Grindon Young People's Centre,</p>

	<p>Silksworth Cricket Club, Lakeside CA Repairs, Silksworth Youth and Community Centre, Sunderland Training and Education Farm Ltd (STEFs), Pennywell Community Centre, Hope 4 All, 2nd Herrington Scouts and Farringdon Youth and Community Centre.</p>
<p>Improved cultural and enrichment activities for young people</p>	<p>Task and Finish group met in October 2023. Pop up events continue to be delivered as part of the Youth activities and Youth ASB projects.</p> <p>The Barnes Park 3-day event took place 26th and 27th June for invited school children only in addition to the Family Fun Day on the 28th of June. The event was a success with pupils and the public giving great feedback.</p> <p>The Safetyworks! Transport project supported over 900 children Since September 2024. The project and its successes were discussed and considered at the February board and the board are making a recommendation to approve an extension to the project for £4600.</p>
<p>An improved social prescribing offer across the West</p>	<p>Information is included in the Service Plan a video has been produced all about Links for Life Sunderland – see here <u>Links for Life Sunderland - https://youtu.be/h8EizBukS40</u></p> <p>The following groups were successful in securing Links for Life funding and deliver activities to support groups in the West alongside multiple specialist providers in 2024/25.</p> <p>Pennywell Neighbourhood Centre and Community Opportunities at Thorney Close Action and Enterprise Centre. Two partnerships were also being delivered with multiple partners.</p> <p>Pallion Action Group working with Pennywell Community Centre, Hope4All, Tansy Centre, Parker Trust, St Mary’s, and St Peters; Bethal Church, St Gabriels Church and Parker Trust Youth Almighty Project working with Kayll Road Library, Broadway Youth and Community Centre, Friends of Silksworth Park, Farringdon Youth and Community Centre, Tom Urwin House, Holy Rosary Church and Plains Farm Youth and Community Centre</p> <p>The links for life website Links for Life Sunderland Links for Life Sunderland is live and the West VCS network members received a presentation on how to use the site and what its purpose is, groups were encourage to input their activities and use the website to refer residents to other activities. Activities continue to be delivered by Broadway Youth and Community Centre, Community Opportunities at Thorney Close Action and Enterprise Centre, Pallion action Group (Digital Health Hub), Pennywell Neighbourhood Centre and Youth Almighty Project (DHH)</p>
<p>A Walk and Talk project / Ward Improvement Budget</p>	<p>A number of ward-based initiatives have been delivered across the West, including.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Chad’s - improvements to play facilities in Farringdon and school/community events.

- Barnes - improved CCTV in Barnes Park as well as improved toilet facilities at Broadway Youth and Community Centre.
- Pallion - improved banners at St Luke's Terrace and a replacement cycle stand
- Sandhill - highway improvements in Sandhill as well as a defibrillator at Hastings Hill.
- Silksworth – Memorial clean and improved festive lights.
- St Anne's - Increased CCTV in King George Playing Fields and St Anne's in bloom.
- St Anne's Christmas tree and Improved lighting of Wrapped Trees
- Pallion Drop kerbs and highway improvements.

This Scheme has now finished with £24,235 returned to Neighbourhood Funding For the 2024/25 financial year, each ward was awarded £15,000 as part of the Ward Improvement Budget, funded through Neighbourhood Funding. This budget was designated to support priority projects aimed at enhancing ward infrastructure and community facilities, ensuring alignment with council policy and the objectives outlined in the Area Committee's Area Plan.

The approved schemes for 2024/25 focused on community improvement initiatives, including:

- Play Equipment Enhancements: Upgrading and installing new recreational facilities for children.
- Fencing and CCTV Security Improvements: Strengthening public safety with improved perimeter security.
- Festive Lighting and Tree Planting: Enhancing the ward's visual appeal during seasonal events.
- Picnic Benches and Seating Areas: Providing outdoor community spaces for residents.
- Community Centre Upgrades: Supporting local hubs with maintenance and accessibility improvements.
- Road Marking Enhancements: Improving traffic safety and pedestrian navigation.

Extension and Allocation for 2025/26

In April 2025, the Area Committee, through a delegated decision, approved the continuation of the £15,000 per ward as part of the Ward Improvement Budget, funded through Neighbourhood Funding. This renewed funding is intended to maintain momentum in ward improvements and will continue to support projects that align with council priorities and contribute to the Area Committee's strategic objectives.

	<p>To ensure effective allocation, each ward will be permitted to fund a maximum of three priority projects from their £15,000 budget, with careful selection to maximise the impact in the community. Updates will be provided in Item 4 Budget report.</p>
<p>Regular updates on Clean and Green/Rangers projects and consider future options</p>	<p>Project update circulated to members February 2026 6 projects deliver in each ward across the West, working with communities to improve the area, carrying out litter picks, graffiti removal, shrub reduction and a variety of other environmental improvements. Litter picks/community cleans continue to take place and are well attended. Clean and Green It Barnes, St Anne's, and Sandhill Clean and Green Community Opportunities Clean and Green Pallion, Clean and Green SpringBoard Silksworth and St Chad's Ranger Rangers Youth Almighty The Clean and Green/Rangers projects have demonstrated significant impact in recruiting volunteers and supporting the maintenance of open green spaces, enhancing the local environment. At June's (2025) Area Committee the 6 projects were approved to deliver until September 2026.</p>
<p>Regular updates on Environmental Enforcement project and Tackle ASB</p>	<p>Project update circulated to members February 2026 The Neighbourhood Enforcement initiative continues to play a critical role in maintaining community safety across the West, ensuring proactive intervention in response to ongoing concerns. Since April 2024, the Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer has conducted regular patrols and enforcement activities, resulting in the delivery of over 1,700 enforcement actions to address various infractions and disturbances.</p> <p>Additionally, the West Anti-Social Behaviour Officer has strengthened collaborative efforts, working closely with Northumbria Police, local authorities, and other partner agencies to identify and respond to key issues affecting the community. This multi-agency approach has been instrumental in targeting high-risk areas, ensuring swift resolution of incidents, and improving overall community wellbeing.</p> <p>Following the recent establishment of the Community Safety Hubs, the Board received a presentation on the Neighbourhood Funded Project: <i>Enforcement and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)</i>. After reviewing the available options, the Board agreed to recommend refocusing the project towards proactive enforcement and to extend its delivery by 12 months, subject to successful recruitment. This was approved in December 2025's Area Committee.</p>

	<p>At the February December Area Committee meeting, members reviewed the progress of the ASB Motorcycle initiative and agreed to extend the project by 12 months. As part of this extension, financial adjustments were made to realign the underspend alongside an additional £5,000 in Neighbourhood Funding, ensuring the project remains operational until December 2025.</p> <p>The Motorcycle disorder project comes to an end in Spring 2025 it is delivered in partnership with Sunderland City Council and Northumbria Police and supports proactive community safety patrols across the West Sunderland Area, with a focus on tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB), particularly motorcycle-related issues.</p> <p>In February's board the project was discussed, and it was agreed to recommend to Area Committee the alignment of £20,192 to consider future delivery.</p>
<p>Regular updates on the Youth Activities Projects and consider future options</p>	<p>Project update circulated to members February 2026</p> <p>Youth activity sessions continue to be delivered in all wards, some centre based, some activities delivered in parks and open green spaces. Youth Activities across all 6 wards sessions are aimed at 10–19-year-olds.</p> <p>Footfall from July 2025 to December 2025 is over 5,000 including over 800 new young people attending. Sessions continue to be supported by Volunteers who have contributed 900 hrs. These activities are complimented by the Youth element of the project which delivers detached, outreach and additional centre-based activities across the West. More details can be found by following.</p> <p>Sunderland All Together Consortium on Sunderland All Together Consortium</p>
<p>Regular updates on The Welfare Rights Project</p>	<p>The project which supported residents with information advice and guidance including better off calculations has now finished. The funding approved towards the specialist advice has been returned to West Area Committee.</p> <p>Project ended June 2024</p>
<p>An evaluation on Mental Health and Wellbeing in Young People and consider future options</p>	<p>Project delivered in schools across April 23 to August 23 with over 600 young people accessing the support bringing the overall total to just less than 3000 pupils. Final evaluation submitted November 2023 and circulated to Members.</p>

Vibrant Smart City We will have	
An increased knowledge of recycling	The Waste and Recycling Centre Visitors Education Centre (WRVEC) continues to engage with local schools and community groups offering an active education program focusing on the 3R's (reduce, reuse, recycle) including free sessions in the Centres rooms and garden as well as tours of the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC). The West VCS Network received a presentation on what services are offered from the WRVEC.
A young people access fund	
Support in place to help the VCS to grow their capacity including growing more community groups	The West VCS network has 3 active representatives who attend both the network and Area Committee. The West network consists of over 100 local groups and strategic partners (local/regional/national). The network meets 5 times per year; the meetings are held in community venues across the West, as well as the meetings the networks share a virtual space for information sharing items.
An evaluation of the West Area event and consider future delivery	Following the success of the 3-day event in Barnes Park June 2024, at the September 24 Area Committee the funding was approved to Youth Almighty Project to deliver the 3-day event in Barnes Park in the Summer of 2025, which was a huge success, with strong attendance and receiving excellent feedback from schools, residents and stakeholders. Area Committee approved the additional £2000 Neighbourhood Fund to combine with the £10,000 received from Sunderland City Council to deliver or extend a community event(s). At the September Area Committee, it was agreed that the £12,000 aligned funds be combined with an additional £28,000 making a budget of £40,000. A call for projects for a 3-day event in Barnes Park in 2026 was circulated to the VCSE networks and one application was submitted. At the December Area Committee, the application received from Youth Almighty to deliver the West Area Event in Barnes Park in 2026 was approved.
Regular updates on the Stephenson Trail	The Stephenson Trail Enhancement Project has successfully met its key objectives, significantly contributing to the promotion and improvement of the trail as a well-maintained and accessible outdoor space. By implementing a range of environmental improvements, the project has enhanced the experience for visitors, strengthened local engagement with green spaces, and ensured the long-term sustainability of the trail. The Stephenson Trail Route Over the course of the project, environmental upgrades have been completed including footpath improvements, shrub work, signage, litter picks and new slim line signage boards.

	<p>Continued environmental enhancements will remain a priority to ensure the longevity of these improvements. Way marker replacement and maintenance will be a key focus, ensuring that all directional signage remains clear and functional for visitors. This phase of work will continue until Summer 2026.</p>
<p>A project to tackle school parking</p>	<p>Site meetings took place at 6 schools in May and June. The Area Committee aligned £12,000 Neighbourhood Funding to support small scale improvements. Schemes were approved in December 2024 and March 2025.</p> <p>Eight West Sunderland primary schools benefitted from the initiative, including Richard Avenue, Barnes Juniors, Farrington Primary Academy, East Herrington Primary Academy, Hastings Hill Academy, New Silksworth Academy, St Cuthbert's, and Highfield Academy. Each school had a customised approach to fit with the needs of its premises and the surrounding community, ensuring a targeted and effective implementation of safety measures.</p> <p>The initiative is focused on promoting responsible parking and traffic management around school zones, aiming to reduce congestion and improve safety for pupils and pedestrians. Key measures include Encouraging Safe Parking Practices, Ensuring Compliance with Road Markings and Enhancing Awareness Through Visual Aids</p> <p>By implementing these measures, the schemes aim to create a safer and more structured environment around school areas, fostering greater community awareness and compliance with traffic regulations.</p>