

## Item 2 Annex 2

### North Area Committee Delivery Plan 2023 - 2026

Updated March 2026

The Area Plan commits the Area Committee to a number of priorities, which will be delivered within the North 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 North Neighbourhood and Community Board

Priority	Progress Update
<b>Dynamic Smart City We Will Have</b>	
North Ward Based Raising Aspiration Projects	<p>The previous Ward Based Raising Aspiration Projects which ended December 2023 were successful with funding applications via the Links for Life Programme until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024</p> <p>Southwick, St. Peters, Redhill and Fulwell Ward Based Raising Aspiration Projects are now fully delivered and complete with full updates on the projects provided to Members.</p> <p>Castle Raising Aspirations Project continued delivery up to March 2025 and this has now completed</p>
North Communication Project	<p>The North Communication project began in 2021 and has produced a number of leaflets promoting the North Area Committee projects.</p> <p>The 3<sup>rd</sup> newsletter was circulated in Summer 2025 across the area. Members are currently developing next steps for the final stages of the project.</p> <p>November board discussed the next steps for this project and a final leaflet showcasing the work of the Area Committee is to be produced and distributed in early 2026.</p> <p>Design work is continuing on the final iteration of the leaflet which members will be consulted on in advance of publication. Members have had the opportunity to submit</p>

	<p>good news stories and photographs in relation to their ward. A draft will be circulated to members in advance of publication. This will be published and distributed in March 2026</p>
<p>Benefit Advice/Guidance for Residents Focusing on Digital Inclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Inclusion linked to UKSPF Digital Hubs in the North (funding in place)</li> </ul>	<p>The first edition of the digital inclusion newsletter, Go Online Sunderland, was shared with Area Committee in September 2023.</p> <p>Work continues in setting up Digital Health Hubs, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Salvation Army, Southwick – operational</li> <li>• Roker Life Church, Roker – operational</li> <li>• Thompson Park Community Centre, Southwick – operational</li> <li>• Friends of Fulwell / NE Sports, Monkwearmouth Academy, Fulwell – operational</li> <li>• Downhill Community Hub, Downhill – operational</li> <li>• Southwick Community Centre – location identified but not open</li> <li>• Castle Hub, Castle – location identified but not open</li> </ul> <p>Board continues to receive updates and presentations regarding digital inclusion, including information on Digital Dashboards for Wards in 2024 and an update on the ‘Smart City – Go Online’ programme in 2025.</p> <p>Work is beginning at the Castle Hub to enable it to open to the public including replacement doors and internal improvements. This will allow the installation and set up of a further digital hub – the first in the Castle ward.</p>
<p>Regular Updates on the Delivery of Low Carbon Initiatives in the Community</p>	<p>North Board received a presentation on Low Carbon initiatives in June 2023</p> <p>Suggestions were submitted to the relevant service area for Ward Tree Planting schemes and these continue to be submitted.</p> <p>Tree planting schemes have been considered across the North Area, including at Roker Park where trees were planted in Winter 2023.</p>

	<p>Further tree planting is planned for Castle, Redhill, Fulwell and St Peter's to be completed in Winter 2025.</p> <p>Members are exploring further work to support bio-diversity in the Castle ward.</p> <p>Members have recently received an update on proposals to install EV chargers in their community and residents have been consulted. These installations are now planned to go ahead.</p> <p>A forest school has been established in the grounds of Hylton Castle and is being actively develop by the Castle and Redhill Ranger. The site is providing a safe learning environment for SEN families as well as broadening skills sets and giving new skills to volunteers.</p> <p>Further work on the Downhill site is also planned to include the Low Carbon team along with Nature, Towns and Cities to enhance the green space offer of the area.</p>
<p><b>Healthy Smart City We Will Have</b></p>	
<p>Provision of a Wide Range of Youth Activities Particularly in Areas Suffering from Anti-Social Behaviour</p>	<p>Following a Task and Finish group, a Call for Projects was released and nine projects were awarded funding in 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Castletown Scouts – Sunderland Climbing Wall</li> <li>• North East Sports – Summer Beach Camps</li> <li>• North East Sports – Active Esports; Get Moving in the Game</li> <li>• Salvation Army – After School Club Additional Activities</li> <li>• Sunderland Community Action Group – Sunderland North Adventure Project</li> <li>• Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project – Come and Try Sessions</li> <li>• Weights and Cakes – Raising the Bar</li> <li>• Veteran's in Crisis – Healthy Champions</li> <li>• Young Asian Voices - #FortheNorth (this project did not go ahead)</li> </ul> <p>In addition, Redhill ward Councillors used some of their Ward Improvement Budget to fund Active Families' Holiday Activity Project. Neighbourhood funding was also approved to help Castletown Scouts purchase a new minibus.</p>

	<p>Board received an update from the Youth Consortium in April 2025 on how members can increase youth provision within their wards.</p> <p>It was agreed that any remaining funds would be put on hold until a Youth Strategy was published by Together for Children. Board considered this in July 2025 and agreed to continue to wait for the publication of the strategy.</p> <p>Funds are currently aligned to youth activities, pending the launch of the Youth Strategy.</p> <p>Board discussed in November 2025 the creation of a further task and finish group to support youth activities for a longer period of time. Board considered the recommendations in February and agreed to invite Sunderland Altogether Youth Consortium to apply for funding to provide Youth Activities across the whole North Area for a period of 3 years. This will complement the existing work in the area.</p>
<p>A North Quarry Run</p>	<p>Parkrun preparations began in late September 2023, with setup fees paid and volunteers starting core training.</p> <p>The project received support from a parkrun ambassador to establish the route and meet setup requirements. Equipment was purchased, training completed, and the route finalised ahead of the planned launch in March 2024. The first event attracted 150 runners.</p> <p>As of March 2026, Fulwell Quarry Parkrun continues successfully, regularly drawing over 100 runners.</p>
<p>Supported the Delivery of a Play Zone Project</p>	<p>The PlayZone is situated on the site of the old MUGA off Church Street in Southwick following community engagement. It is intended to provide a safe space to play sports like football, basketball, and netball.</p> <p>The Playzone is operated and managed by Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project (SNYP), supported by partners including Active Sunderland, Leisure United, and the Council's Healthy Lifestyle Programme. The Playzone will also be bookable by members of the public using an online booking system, also managed by SNYP.</p>

	<p>SNYP undertook training for the online booking system, and a multi-agency activation group which includes SNYP, Active Sunderland, Leisure United, Change the Game - Southwick, the Council's Healthy Lifestyle Programme was formed to plan sport and physical activity programmes.</p> <p>North Area Committee have contributed £10,000 towards the total cost of £242,192. The 12 week build programme consisted of signing the JCT build contract, notifying residents, and setting up site infrastructure</p> <p>The installation is now completed and is to be fully operational.</p> <p>Bookings for the Playzone have now begun and several groups have started to use the facilities including Change the Game who are offering a free Full Body Circuit Class.</p>
<p>Health Related Projects</p>	<p>£10,000 ring fenced but not formally aligned for future health related projects. This was potentially air quality monitoring but was placed on hold to be discussed at a future Board.</p> <p>A number of projects across the area directly benefit the health of residents such as the Castle &amp; Redhill, and Fulwell Ranger projects. These are focussed on improving the environment and have already cleared over <b>350</b> bags of waste from their areas. They also encourage the community to get active in helping tidy up their area. As of February 2026, 23 new volunteers are participating in the ranger projects, giving the benefit of being active and outdoors.</p>
<p>Wildlife, Walking, Cycling and Running Destinations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hylton Dene</li> </ul>	<p>Members have met with Environmental Services to provide feedback on areas of focus.</p> <p>As a result, proposals were considered in early 2025 and Hylton Dene was identified as an area for improvement. The original proposal involved opening up pathways to make the Dene more accessible, however Area Committee agreed to contribute <b>£28,000</b> to expand the scope of the works to include additional pathways and the pond. The remaining funding was provided under the Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Funding.</p>

	<p>Work on site commenced in Summer 2025 and updates have been highlighted on the North Sunderland Community Facebook page.</p> <p>Winter maintenance on the paths and the surrounding area has been in place throughout the season. Path works are now mostly complete with a new path in place to connect the pond with the surrounding area. Some further work is planned including steps and railings. The improvements are proving very popular with walkers and complement the work of the Castle &amp; Redhill Ranger.</p>
<p>Wide Range of Social Prescribing Services and Activities</p>	<p>Links for Life began in the North in January 2024 and funded community-led projects which improve health, wellbeing, and financial resilience.</p> <p>Six projects were funded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Roker Life</b> provides a wide range of free activities at its community hub, including exercise, cookery, gardening, crafts, and digital support to promote wellbeing and reduce isolation.</li> <li>• <b>Sunderland Community Action Group</b> runs youth sessions and sports activities to help young people make positive choices and improve their wellbeing.</li> <li>• <b>Redby Community Centre</b> offers weekly sessions such as exercise, arts and crafts, walking groups, and family activities, with transport available for those who need it.</li> <li>• <b>Community Opportunities for Castle and Redhill Wards</b> delivers rotating weekly sessions across four venues, offering advice, warm packs, social activities, and creative workshops.</li> <li>• <b>Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project</b> supports residents through foodbank services, cooking sessions, benefits advice, and youth work, addressing the cost of living crisis.</li> <li>• <b>North East Sport – Fulwell Links for Life</b> runs a wellness hub offering youth support, digital inclusion, cultural events, healthy lifestyle programmes, and volunteering opportunities.</li> </ul> <p>Project updates are shared regularly via social media channels managed by project leads and the North Sunderland page.</p>

	<p>UKSPF funding was renewed in 25-26 and the above projects received an extension until end of March 2026.</p>
<p><b>Vibrant Smart City We Will Have</b></p>	
<p>Delivery of a Wide Range of Heritage and Culture Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hylton Castle</li> <li>• Crossley Project</li> <li>• Southwick Illumination Project</li> <li>• Fulwell Christmas Lights</li> <li>• Redhill Community Christmas</li> <li>• Cenotaph Area in Redhill</li> <li>• Castle Mural Project</li> <li>• Town End Farm Community Christmas</li> <li>• Fulwell War Memorial</li> <li>• Southwick Cemetery Improvements</li> </ul>	<p>The Castle Mural project was completed in 2024 and a community event was held in June 2024 to official unveil the mural and commemorative panel. The mural received positive feedback and has featured on the North Area section of the Area Committee Annual Report 24-25.</p> <p>Area Committee have supported Christmas events for a number of years across the area including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023 – Southwick Switch On Event; Redhill Community Christmas Event; Fulwell Christmas Lights</li> <li>• 2024 – Southwick Switch On Event; Town End Farm Community Christmas; Redhill Community Christmas</li> <li>• 2025 – a wide range of community Christmas events took place in November and December 2025, including switch on events in Southwick, Redhill, Fulwell and Town End Farm. Events were delivered by community organisations with Area Committee contributing funding for lights, trees, and events.</li> </ul> <p>Fulwell War Memorial –The War Memorial has now been fully installed and a successful launch has taken place with coverage from the local press and BBC.</p> <p>Southwick Cemetery Improvements – Work has commenced on improvements to Southwick Cemetery including the commissioning of a notice board and the cleaning of some headstones. Research has begun to create a digital database of veterans buried in Southwick Cemetery which will be accessible to the public via a QR code.</p> <p>Hylton Castle Chapel and Cellar Project –The project is now ending following the reallocation of funds to the lift project. Final plans are being obtained by architects with a view to the trust seeking additional funding elsewhere.</p>

	<p>Hylton Castle Lift - The project commenced in September 2025. Work is ongoing to work with Historic England for plans to install a lift to the Castle roof. Approval has been obtained to progress with this installation and further designs are being produced.</p>
<p>North Events programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Battle Re-enactment</li> <li>• Thompson Park Event</li> <li>• Future Events</li> </ul>	<p>A successful Battle Re-enactment Event was delivered on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023 with over 10,000 visitors.</p> <p>This was so successful that Area Committee considered a further proposal to hold another event in 2026. March Area Committee approved <b>£40,000</b> as a contribution to this event, with an additional <b>£10,000</b> being funded by the City Council events team. Further details of the event will be publicised once dates are finalised.</p> <p>Provisional bookings have been made for the performers at the event, once dates and further details are finalised this will be publicised.</p>
<p>Regeneration of Thompson Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thompson Park Refurbishment – Current NF Project</li> <li>• Accessible Kit</li> </ul>	<p>Thompson Park has benefitted from brand new play areas and a full refurbishment which was completed in July 2023</p> <p>A further proposal was received to renovate the existing changing rooms and install public and accessible toilets. This was approved in December 2024 and work commenced in early 2025.</p> <p>The accessible WC has been procured, planning permission has been applied for and once this is granted installation work can commence.</p> <p>The public toilets in Thompson Park are now open and accessible to the public during daylight hours. Changing places are also available.</p> <p>Members are supporting the installation of a defibrillator which will be accessible in an emergency and will be in easy reach of the whole park.</p>
<p>Support to VCS &amp; Community Hubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Downhill Hub – Current NF Project</li> <li>• Hylton Castle Community Hub</li> <li>• Redhouse Community Association</li> </ul>	<p>Refurbishment of Redhouse Community Association was approved in December 2023 and this work is now complete</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Warden Project to support community hubs</li> <li>• Redby Community Centre</li> </ul>	<p>Veterans in Crisis – Access for All Project was approved at the June 2024 Area Committee from the St. Peters Ward Improvement Project.</p> <p>Discussions around a Ranger project for Castle and Redhill Wards began in November, with a proposal agreed in February and £100,000 aligned at the March Area Committee. A call for projects was issued, and the Castle and Redhill Ranger project was approved at June 2025 Committee to Community Opportunities. The project has now commenced.</p> <p>As of January, the Castle &amp; Redhill Ranger has cleared <b>374</b> bags of rubbish from <b>43</b> litter picks. Over <b>200</b> volunteer hours have been delivered.</p> <p>Fulwell Ranger project - <b>£50,000</b> has been allocated from the Neighbourhood Fund and ward improvement budget. North East Sport were successful in bidding for the project and started delivering on the project in October 2025</p> <p>As of January, the Fulwell ranger has completed <b>7</b> community litter picks and engaged <b>10</b> new volunteers.</p> <p>In July 2025, the Board discussed a potential refurbishment of Redby Community Centre. Trustees were invited to submit a proposal outlining the scope of work needed, which will be considered at a future meeting. Members have invited the Community Centre to apply for funding and plan to hold a future meeting at the centre so that members can see the impact that improvements would have.</p> <p>Downhill Hub – November board discussed the Downhill hub and recommended that funding be allocated to help the hub continue to provide services and activities to the community. Area Committee approved the funding and this will continue until March 2027.</p>
<p>Redevelopment of Downhill Wheeled Sports Park Site</p>	<p>Area Committee aligned funding in June 2023 for the regeneration of the Downhill Wheeled Sports Park site. In November 2024 it was agreed, following discussions and planning meetings, that the Skate Park would be demolished to allow for further redevelopment.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of site into a Great North Forest</li> </ul>	<p>Removal work commenced in early 2025 and is now completed. Members are actively exploring additional ideas for further redevelopment.</p> <p>Plans for additional tree planting and a Community Orchard/Garden are being progressed with the Low Carbon team. There is also a good opportunity for the Castle &amp; Redhill ranger to link in with this work by engaging the community to volunteer in the area.</p> <p>Plans for development of the area are being considered with the Nature, Towns, and Cities team.</p>
<p>Delivery of Roker &amp; Seaburn Washing Facilities Project</p>	<p>Area Committee in June 2023 funding awarded for the delivery of a project to install washing facilities at Roker &amp; Seaburn.</p> <p>The shower installation has now been completed and a contractor has been appointed for the installation of a tap &amp; drinking fountain. The tap has also been installed and is ready for use.</p>
<p>Delivery of a Project which Addresses Motorcycle Disorder</p>	<p>November 2023 Board received a report on a Motor Cycle Disorder Taskforce Pilot and considered proposals to support Sunderland City Council with an additional ASB Officer, preventative measures and electric bikes for Northumbria Police. Area Committee agreed to allocate funding in December 2023 and additional funding was agreed in December 2024 to extend the project for a further 12 months.</p> <p>The project is City-Wide, however the key highlights for the North area since the start of the project include:</p> <p><b>Community Patrols:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Over 100 proactive patrols</b> conducted.</li> <li>• <b>4 nights of action</b> with visible foot and vehicle patrols in the North, resulting in:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1 Acceptable Behaviour Agreement</b></li> <li>• <b>1 Community Protection Warning</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Enforcement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>At least 7 vehicles seized</b> by the motorcycle disorder taskforce.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>At least 2 arrests/summons</b> made.</li> </ul> <p>Regular updates shared via <b>Quarterly Monitoring Reports</b> and <b>North Sunderland Social Media</b>. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/NorthSunderlandCommunity/">https://www.facebook.com/NorthSunderlandCommunity/</a></p>
<p>Additional CCTV</p>	<p>In April 2024 board discussed a project to extend air time for existing CCTV purchased via North Area Committee.</p> <p>June 2024 Area Committee awarded funding for the Sunderland City Council CCTV Airtime project for a further 5 years. This will allow existing cameras to continue to operate across the North.</p> <p>Members receive regular updates about CCTV locations in the North. Some CCTV in Redhill has recently been damaged and options for replacement/improvement are being explored.</p>
<p>Community Safety</p>	<p>July 2024 Board received an Expression of Interest for a Fulwell VAS project on Sea Road to be considered within the Fulwell Ward Improvement Neighbourhood Fund project, members agreed full application which was considered and agreed at September 2024 Area Committee. Installation work has now completed</p> <p>A responsive decision was successfully progressed in March 2025 for an additional Fulwell VAS project for Dovedale Road within the Fulwell Ward Improvement Neighbourhood Fund Project.</p> <p>Members continue to monitor the operation of VAS in their area and a number of signs have been repaired.</p> <p>Members are aware of the Community Safety Hub in the North Area and have been provided with contact details should they wish to raise any matters of community safety.</p>