



# Annual Report of the Area Committees

2024–25

**Sunderland  
City Council**

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# Foreword



Councillor Beth Jones

As Sunderland City Council's Cabinet member for Communities, Culture and Tourism, I am proud to present this Annual Report of Area Committees for 2024-25. The successes and achievements of the five Area Committees (Coalfield, East, North, Washington, and West Sunderland), and their partners, demonstrate the value of collaborative and joint working which has taken place over the past year.

This report showcases the work carried out in the second year of our 2023-26 Area Plans. Each Area Committee developed a three-year plan based on local knowledge and evidence to benefit communities and support the City Plan.

Each Area Committee supports the development, funding and delivery of projects and programmes to deliver their plan and ensures collaboration with partners and local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations. We are extremely grateful to all of the local groups who have helped us to successfully deliver a wide range of activities and

services across all areas. This report highlights just some of the key achievements.

To deliver on each area's priorities, a total of £2,549,295 area budget was awarded, this year, across the five areas. This has enabled local groups and partners to attract a further £523,414 to the City, adding value and providing additional services within local communities. You can see more information and detail in the following, area-specific, sections of this annual report.

I would like to give my thanks and gratitude to the local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations and all partners in each of the areas, who have continued to deliver projects and supported the work of the Area Committees throughout the past year. Area Committees are proud to support these groups who are providing valuable services for residents of all ages, and all Councillors are committed to supporting and working in partnership with the established five Area VCS Networks, which are linked directly with each of the Area Committees.

I extend my thanks to the Area Arrangements team for their hard work and support. Their efforts in developing projects, administering grants, and working with residents and partners have been invaluable. This year, we made 348 payments totalling £2,064,216 to VCS organisations.

# Area Committees and Supporting Communities

Area Committees in Sunderland are each made up of local councillors, who use local knowledge and evidence to identify priorities for action in the area for the benefit of the area's neighbourhoods and communities. They put Area Plans in place to support the delivery of the City Plan at a local level, with an area-specific focus relevant to the unique requirements of that area. Each Area Plan is used to develop, fund and deliver initiatives and projects in collaboration with partners and local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations, to strengthen communities.

Sunderland City Council is committed to supporting and developing community resilience in the City and growing its community wealth. This aim for the City is practiced at a local level through the work of the Area Committees and their supporting Neighbourhood and Community Boards. The Area Committee Councillors from the area's wards work closely with council officers, service delivery partners and members of the Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network (VCSN).

The role of the Area Committee is to:

- Identify the main priorities that reflect the biggest need in the area;
- Develop efficient and effective solutions to local

area priorities as well as supporting city-wide issues; and

- Encourage local residents to become involved in decision making on matters which affect them.

They do this in many ways, one of which is providing funding to take forward projects that deliver their identified priorities. Each of the Area Committees hold delegated budgets in the form of the Neighbourhood Fund and Community Chest. These budgets are allocated to support projects and initiatives that can demonstrate that their work will contribute to delivery of the Areas' identified priorities.

The focus of this locally delegated funding is as follows:

- Developing community capacity in localities, often involving volunteering to make things happen;
- Funding 'one off' projects where work would not otherwise be taken forward;
- Acting as a catalyst to lever funding from other sources;
- Implementing specific local actions to deliver priorities.

Area Committees also, at their meetings, receive updates and information from internal Council services in relation to their area priorities and actions. This enables Area Committees to keep fully apprised of work within their own area, reducing duplication, adding value and ensuring that members are informed of upcoming plans.



# Area Committees and VCS Networks

Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Networks operate in each of the five areas of the City – Coalfield, East, North, Washington and West.

The Networks aims are:

- To develop the capacity and influence of the VCS across the City, through open communication and partnership working.
- To work together to build relationships within communities and between communities and local services and activities.
- To act as the recognised route of Council engagement with the VCS within each geographical area
- To work together to develop and share good VCS practice.
- To provide up to three delegates to represent the sector at Sunderland City Council's Area Committees, influencing strategic policies and priorities that affect local communities and the VCS. The delegates will represent the whole VCS in their geographical area at the Area Committee rather than their own organisational interests.

The VCS Networks support the development and delivery of the Area Plans in meeting community needs. They help to build the community's capacity to engage in the development and delivery of services through relevant Networks to ensure inclusivity. The value of the VCS and the positive impact made by the sector is demonstrated within quarterly

reports presented to each Area Committee meeting.

Membership is open to all VCS organisations which operate in Sunderland, and meetings also include representatives from any sector working (or volunteering) in the area. This can be representatives from public and statutory authorities such as the Council, Police and Health Services or other organisations such as Gentoo, local schools and businesses who have a commitment to working with and supporting the VCS. All organisations attending the VCS Networks are encouraged and supported to work in a productive and positive way to benefit the community.

Meetings are held regularly, and Area Committees support the

networks by operating under a co-chairing arrangement involving the Area Committee Chair or Vice Chair and a Network delegate.

The network representatives regularly consult with the network to ensure that the agenda items reflect their requirements and also ensure that they take forward issues on behalf of the whole VCS in the area to the Area Committees and reporting back therefore providing a two way flow of communication. This approach is welcomed by the Area Committee and assists them in the effective delivery of their Area Plan ensuring a partnership approach that meets the needs of all within local communities.





## Councillor Mel Speding, Coalfield Area Chair

We have now delivered the second year of our 3 year area plan (2023-2026), and focused on the things that are important to our local residents and make a real difference to our communities. By working closely with our partners, in particular voluntary sector organisations, we ensure that we develop projects and allocate funding where it is needed most.

The dedicated support of local Voluntary and Community Sector groups has produced some impressive results and enabled more projects to be delivered within local communities. From social activities to environmental improvements, a wide range of projects are delivered to all sectors of our community. We value the input and information from these groups as it helps to inform where we focus our attention and allocate

our available budgets.

The Coalfield area has some unique outdoor spaces and is an attractive and green area. Local residents are proud of their neighbourhoods and are keen to help keep them clean and tidy. We have been working with Council services, local partners, dedicated volunteers and Friends groups to ensure that these greenspaces are maintained and improved for all of our residents.

We know how important it is to support our children and young people and enable them to take part in positive and enriching activities. This year alone, the Coalfield Area Committee has funded 14 organisations to deliver holiday activities to children and young people in all wards. We are proud to see how some of those young people have developed skills and enjoyed participating.

Local events and celebration of our unique area is also of great importance to the Committee. Working with partners from across all sectors of the community, we are proud to have supported and enabled delivery of a number of events including Coalfield Pride and Houghton Feast.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors, partners and officers for their continued support in the development and delivery of area priorities for the benefit of our Coalfield residents.

This Annual Report for the Coalfield Area outlines just some of the key achievements across the area, and as we enter the final year of delivering on our current priorities we want to continue to listen to local communities and what is important to them.



# Coalfield Area Committee

Councillor Mel Speding, Coalfield Area Chair

## Coalfield Area Priorities set out in the 2023–26 Delivery Plan were outlined as follows:

- Can Do Project to develop skills of young people
- Develop digital skills of residents
- Support to residents to improve financial resilience
- A VAS and Road Safety programme
- A Tree planting programme across the area
- Low carbon initiatives in the community
- Positive activities for young people during school holidays
- Youth clubs in each of the four wards
- A Coalfield Healthy and Active Teen (CHAT) programme
- Activities to reduce Social Isolation
- Social Prescribing Services
- Heritage Activities and Community Events
- Improvements to Parks and open spaces
- Proactive Coalfield Anti-social behaviour project and tackling Motorcycle ASB
- Environmental improvements
- Support for VCS organisations and Community Hubs
- Improvements to Community Assets

## Coalfield Area key highlights

From our 2024–25 allocated budgets, we approved almost **£400,000** of area budget to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Key highlights of the year, include:

**£359,959** of Neighbourhood Fund was awarded to projects delivering against the Coalfield Area Committee priorities. This year we have funded 34 projects and worked with over 50 local partners.

The Neighbourhood Funding aligned and approved has attracted over **£47,432** match funding to the area.

**£39,843** of Community Chest funding was awarded to local groups delivering a total of 41 Community projects. Projects were varied and have included; New benches in Hetton Lyons Country Park, family fun days, charity music festival, classroom resources, transport & band hire for Durham Miners Gala. The average grant was **£972**.

The 'Litter Free for Wildlife' project was launched, thanks to **£19,625** of Neighbourhood Fund. The two year project will educate schoolchildren from all primary schools in the

area about the harms of litter and plastics on wildlife and waterways.

A number of improvements were carried out at Houghton Rectory Park, including new benches and bins, one set of new gates and improvements to the fountain.

We have approved funding to four groups of young people (aged 11-19) to deliver their own projects. The young people presented their ideas in person to Councillors as part of the CAN DO fund.

The Links With Nature project has made improvements on 13 green spaces across the area, over 1500 volunteer hours have been delivered.

Wild Wanders, a fortnightly walk programme to connect the Links with Nature greenspaces starting various locations, commenced in March 2025.

An impressive art installation was finalised and launched at the site of the former Houghton Colliery.

The Coalfield Youth Choices project has delivered at least 2 sessions of youth provision per ward per week during term time. Over 300 sessions have been delivered this year.

17 Young People took part in a newly piloted "Detectives Course". The course is designed to steer young people away from knife crime and think about what consequences they and others can face if they make poor choice.

Working with the Connor Brown Trust, 10 bleed kits have been installed across the area. Councillors have worked with local organisations and partners to engage them to be 'custodians' of the kits, which are now registered on a central database.

The Clean it, Green it project has worked with volunteers, Council staff, local organisations and residents to improve the area, carrying out 280 community clean ups across the year.

# Coalfield Area Committee our year in numbers

**£360k** 

Neighbourhood  
funding awarded

**34** 

Projects developed and funded  
via Neighbourhood Fund

**939** 

Individual children and young  
people attended holiday clubs  
and activities

**21** 

People moved  
into employment

**41** 

Voluntary and Community  
Sector organisations supported  
with Community Chest funding

**493** 

Residents supported to  
improve digital skills

**1,350** 

Hedge plants planted  
by volunteers at the  
Copt Hill site

**240** 

Community clean ups carried  
out as part of the Clean it,  
Green it project

**37** 

Children with additional  
needs attended holiday clubs  
for the first time

**320** 

Sessions of youth  
provision delivered

**1,018** 

Residents given advice  
and support to improve  
financial wellbeing

**290** 

Volunteers participating  
in environmental  
improvement activities

# Coalfield Area Committee our year in images





## Councillor Martyn Herron, East Area Chair

I'm pleased to present the 2024/2025 East Sunderland Annual Report, highlighting key achievements across our communities this year.

Supporting children and young people remained a priority. We extended funding for youth sessions, relaunched the Fancy a Day Out holiday programme, and introduced small grants for youth-

led projects—empowering young people to shape their own activities.

We also invested in 11 community buildings, funding improvements such as fire safety, accessibility upgrades, and facility refurbishments.

Our East Rangers continued to enhance the local environment

through events and community clean-up days.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to listening to residents and delivering impactful local projects.

I thank my fellow Councillors, officers, partners, and community groups for their continued support.



# East Area Committee

Councillor Martyn Herron, East Area Chair

## East Area Priorities set out in the 2023–26 Delivery Plan were outlined as follows:

- Continued delivery of the East Rangers project
- Improving the Stephenson Trail
- Supporting youth clubs in each of the 5 wards
- Delivering a programme of holiday activities
- Supporting projects that increase physical and wellbeing activities for young people, help to support healthier lifestyles
- and lessen the impact of the cost-of-living crisis
- Supporting environmental enforcement initiatives to address issues such as motorcycle disorder
- Improving social prescribing opportunities
- Delivering capital improvements to community assets
- Delivering ward-based initiatives
- Supporting community assets to develop, grow and sustain
- Receiving updates on highways schemes and considering future options
- Digital inclusion
- Delivering low carbon initiatives in the community
- Improving green spaces including fruit orchards and wild flowers

## East Area key highlights

From our 2024–25 allocated budgets, we approved over **£469,941** to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Examples of funding awarded are:

**£50,000** of Community Chest funding was awarded to local groups delivering a total of 39 Community projects. Projects which received support included educational trips, mental health and wellbeing projects and new community clubs. The average grant was **£1,282**.

The East Rangers project carried out 781 litter picks and collected over 4,600 bags of waste.

Five organisations received **£12,500** each to allow them to continue to deliver youth activities during term time. Nearly 15,500 children and young people have benefitted from these sessions to date.

11 organisations received a share of **£124,090** neighbourhood funding to make improvements to their

buildings, projects included: kitchen improvements, increased security measures and improved training facilities.

The Neighbourhood Funding aligned and approved has attracted over **£90,088** in match funding.

**£107,500** was awarded to 6 groups to extend the East Rangers project to encourage volunteering and environmental improvements in each ward across the East.

Six young people led 'Can Do' projects received a small grant. Projects supported included Christmas hampers created by the young people and distributed to local residents, football equipment, light and sound equipment and the p

**£65,000** was aligned to support a further phase of the Fancy a Day Out holiday activity programme for the 2025–26 academic year.

Councillors distributed **£150,000** to ward-based projects through their Ward Improvement Budget, schemes included: highways improvements, outdoor play equipment, improvements to outdoor spaces and Christmas lights.

A **£10,000** contribution has been provided to a multi- area partnership led pilot project to tackle motorcycle disorder across the East and the wider Sunderland area.

# East Area Committee our year in numbers

**£470k** 

Neighbourhood Funding awarded to 69 projects

**£50k** 

Community Chest funding awarded to 39 groups

**1,387** 

Volunteers involved in area activities

**6** 

Number of small grants given out to young people-led projects

**15K** 

Hours of in-kind support provided by volunteers

**138** 

Motorcycle disorder patrols carried out

**785** 

Litter picks/community clean-ups carried out

**11** 

Number of highway schemes delivered

**481** 

Number of activities delivered for children and young people

**17** 

Community buildings received funding to make improvements

**88** 

VCS Groups received an area grant

**4,612** 

Bags of waste cleared from neighbourhoods by East Rangers and volunteers

# East Area Committee our year in images





## Councillor Denny Wilson, North Area Chair

As Chair of the North Area Committee I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the 2023–24 North Sunderland Annual Report, highlighting some of the activities and achievements delivered for residents and local communities across Sunderland North.

In June 2023 the Area Committee agreed their 3-year workplan for 2023–2026 and we have now delivered the first year of this plan focussing on the things that are important to our local residents.

With the dedication of local Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, Sunderland City Council and our partners we have continued to deliver a range of

services, activities and events that have benefitted the residents of Sunderland North and allocated funding where it is needed most.

Residents tell us our greenspaces, play areas and heritage are important and working with council services, local partners and dedicated volunteers a number of environmental improvement projects have been successfully delivered. This year has seen an amazing regeneration of Thompson Park with a much increased play and outdoor gym equipment offer for all ages.

We have had amazing support for our Christmas programme with lights, events and illuminations

at Southwick, Hylton Castle and Redhouse. Without the dedication of area-based projects and local volunteers we would not be able to achieve what we have and I would like to offer my thanks to my fellow Councillors, officers, partners, local community and voluntary groups who have continued to support and deliver area projects. These projects have supported our residents to build resilience, access services and activities for all ages, care for their health and wellbeing, improve their green spaces and celebrate heritage.

I am proud to present this Annual Report for the North which outlines some of the key achievements delivered.



# North Area Committee

Councillor Denny Wilson, North Area Chair

## North Area Priorities set out in the 2023-26 Delivery Plan were outlined as follows:

- Ward Based Raising Aspiration Projects
- Communication Project
- Benefit Advice/Guidance for Residents focusing on Digital Inclusion
- Low Carbon Initiatives
- Provision of a wide range of Youth Activities
- North Quarry Run
- Play Zone Project
- Health and Wellbeing
- Wildlife, Walking, Cycling and Running Destinations
- Social Prescribing Services and Activities
- Heritage and Culture Events
- Regeneration of Thompson Park
- Support to VCS & Community Hubs
- Redevelopment of Downhill Wheeled Sports Park Site
- Roker & Seaburn Washing Facilities
- Projects which address Motorcycle Disorder

## North Area key highlights

From our 2024-25 allocated budgets, we approved over **£470,000** to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Examples include:

**£49,140** of Community Chest funding was awarded to local groups which has helped to deliver a total of 44 Community Projects. Awards have included: Welfare Advice and Guidance sessions in local community venues; Improvements to Community Venues; Improvements to Green Spaces in the North Area; a wide range of community activities for all ages. The average grant awarded was **£1,116**.

**£31,900** of funding was allocated to an anti-social behaviour hotspot in Downhill. The area will now be developed into an environmentally friendly area with space for wildlife and designated walks.

**£4,815** was provided to North East Sport CIC for their Summer Beach Camp which was provided to over 580 children and young people. Activities included rockpooling, sand castle building, beach games and coastal art. The children and young people were also taught about the importance of the environment and marine life.

Veterans in Crisis received **£30,000** to contribute towards the cost

of making their building more accessible. This work will enable people with limited mobility to access the full range of services that Veterans in Crisis offer, including emergency accommodation and wellbeing activities.

Numerous exciting activities were delivered by the Southwick Salvation Army at their after school clubs which received a contribution of **£4,995** from the Area Committee. This included a range of sports, visits to other community venues and even paddleboarding. All the children received a hot healthy meal at each session.

**£98,930**, including a contribution from the Southwick Ward Improvement Budget has been allocated to refurbishment work at Thompson Park. These works will see the existing changing rooms modernised and additional toilet facilities will be provided for users of the park. An accessible toilet will also be installed so that everyone can enjoy the park regardless of their mobility.

A new scoreboard has now been installed at Hylton Colliery

Cricket Club as a result of a **£5,154** contribution from the North Area Committee.

**£4,000** was provided to help fund a City-Wide Motorcycle Task Force which aimed to reduce the number of anti-social off-road bikes in the city. Over 100 patrols were carried out in the North.

Weights and Cakes received **£5,000** for their Raising the Bar project which focussed on providing young people with activities such as weigh-lifting as well as strength training and cardio.

**£8,011** was allocated to refurbish and renovate the Fulwell War Memorial which included the commissioning and installation of unique artwork.


CCTV coverage to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour has also been supported with **£40,560** allocated to cover the running costs of existing cameras.

**£18,821** was awarded to support the costs of Redhill Community Christmas Project, which included wrapping trees in lights and a switch on event.

# North Area Committee our year in numbers

**£423k** 

Neighbourhood funding awarded to 25 projects during 2024-25

**£49k** 

Was awarded to 44 projects via Community Chest, with an average grant of £1,116 to support neighbourhood projects

**1** 

Minibus Purchased for Castletown Scouts

**2,460** 

Young People engaged in youth activities - footfall

**4,070m<sup>2</sup>**

Greenspace Area Improved Across the North

**1,608** 

Volunteer hours delivered across all Neighbourhood Funded Projects

**7,500** 

Attended Christmas Illumination Events at Hylton Castle, Southwick and Redhill

**850** 

Local Residents attended the Thompson Park Event

**2** 

Existing community assets improved

**139** 

Motorcycle Task Force patrols carried out

**161** 

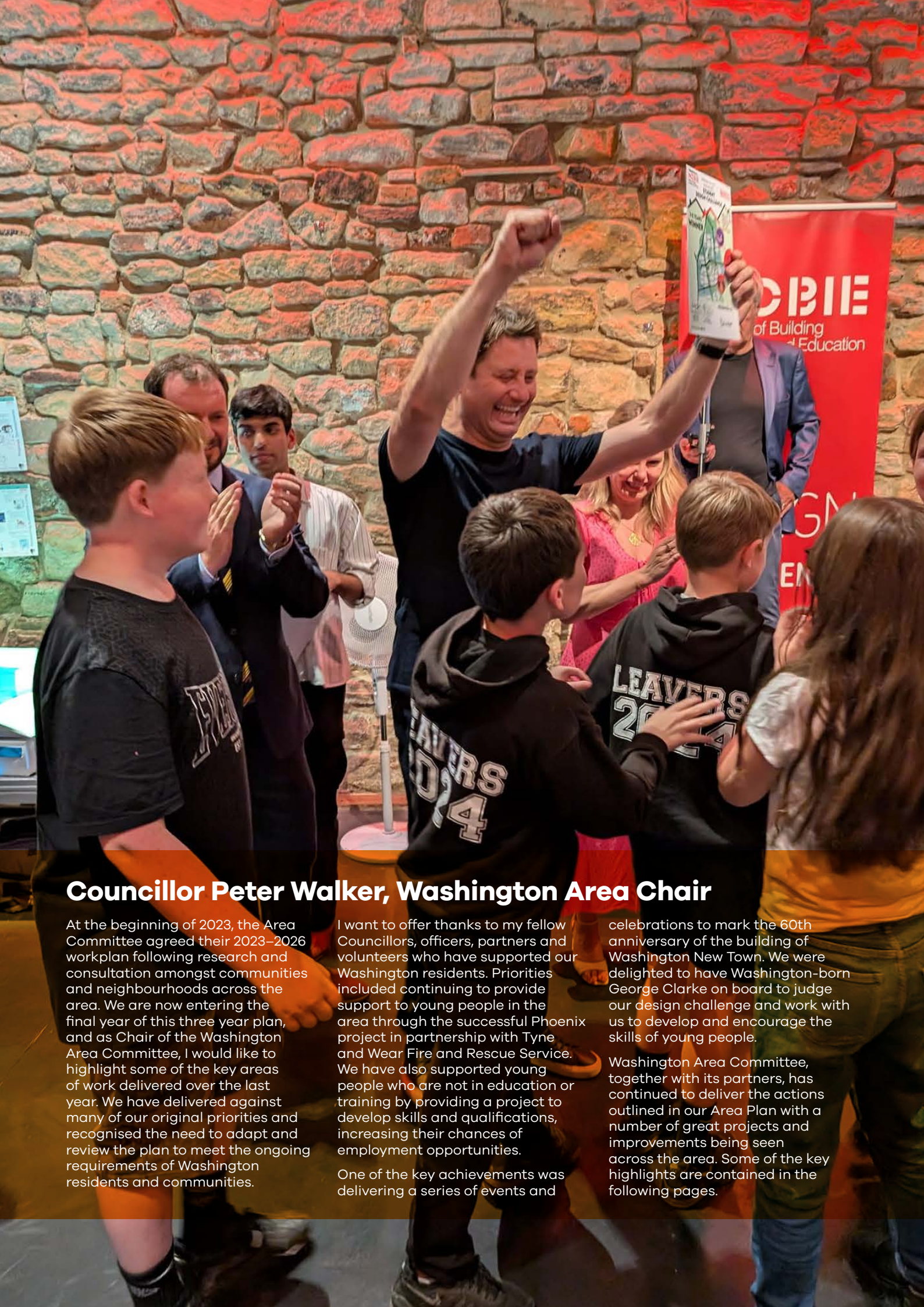
Local Residents signposted to VCS organisations for advice, guidance and support

**82** 

Local residents supported with digital access, employment support and leading to healthier lifestyles

# North Area Committee our year in images





## Councillor Peter Walker, Washington Area Chair

At the beginning of 2023, the Area Committee agreed their 2023–2026 workplan following research and consultation amongst communities and neighbourhoods across the area. We are now entering the final year of this three year plan, and as Chair of the Washington Area Committee, I would like to highlight some of the key areas of work delivered over the last year. We have delivered against many of our original priorities and recognised the need to adapt and review the plan to meet the ongoing requirements of Washington residents and communities.

I want to offer thanks to my fellow Councillors, officers, partners and volunteers who have supported our Washington residents. Priorities included continuing to provide support to young people in the area through the successful Phoenix project in partnership with Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service. We have also supported young people who are not in education or training by providing a project to develop skills and qualifications, increasing their chances of employment opportunities.

One of the key achievements was delivering a series of events and

celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the building of Washington New Town. We were delighted to have Washington-born George Clarke on board to judge our design challenge and work with us to develop and encourage the skills of young people.

Washington Area Committee, together with its partners, has continued to deliver the actions outlined in our Area Plan with a number of great projects and improvements being seen across the area. Some of the key highlights are contained in the following pages.



# Washington Area Committee

Councillor Peter Walker, Washington Area Chair

## Washington Area Priorities set out in the 2023–26 Delivery Plan were outlined as follows:

- A plantation and tree management programme
- Washington Clean and Green project
- Support for VCS organisations and community hubs
- A Heritage and Culture programme
- A road safety and VAS programme
- Celebrations for Washington 60
- Recognition of Washington volunteers
- A feasibility study for the vision of Fatfield Riverside development
- A programme of outreach and diversionary youth provision
- Neighbourhood management and enforcement
- Investment in parks and play areas
- Positive activities for young people during school holidays
- Improved access to allotments and community gardens
- Supporting people into work and developing skills of young people
- Providing individual welfare and financial support

## Washington Area key highlights

From our 2024–25 allocated budgets, we approved over **£480,000** to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Examples of funding awarded are:

Community Chest was awarded to 41 local groups who delivered a variety of projects such as raising awareness on Climate Change to equipment to create a Community Hub for exotic animals. The grants were, on average, **£934.00**.

The Creative You project delivers regular creative workshops including Washington young film makers, Bright Lights young artists, craft club and young writers. A grant of **£37,890** was provided this year.

The Washington Events Programme was awarded **£99,997** to continue to deliver a series of events across the area including Concord Christmas lights switch on, the miners picnic and Washington carnival.

A grant of **£73,000** awarded to Washington Heritage Partnership has enabled them to continue the amazing work celebrating the heritage and history of Washington.

A live performance and celebration of one of the major projects 'The Ballad of the Crocodile and the Underpass' was held in March 2025.

A number of organisations were granted funding to deliver activities to children and young people during school holidays. Projects in all wards continue to deliver fun and engaging activities such as trampolining, swimming and escape rooms.

Additional training and support for young people aged 16–19 is available following approval of a grant of over **£45,000**. The project will also provide drop-in sessions for young people who need support with interview skills, completing their CV etc.

Further funding to Clean and Green will continue this successful project working in partnership with volunteers, local groups

and residents to improve neighbourhoods across Washington.

A continuation of the WISP project has enabled individual financial advice and support to be given to residents with complex issues and are in crisis. Sessions are delivered in local venues.

A ward improvement budget of **£75,000** has enabled 10 projects such as installation of signage, road safety initiatives, pathway improvements, Christmas lights and provision of additional litter bins to be delivered.

Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service will be delivering PHOENIX and SPARK programmes to Schools across the Washington area. Funding of **£55,000** provided by Area Committee will support educational and diversionary activities.

# Washington Area Committee our year in numbers

**£488k** 

Neighbourhood funding was awarded to 15 projects

**£50k** 

Community Chest was awarded to 41 local groups

**1,105** 

Enforcement actions carried out

**23,592** 

Residents participated in local events and celebrations.

**481** 

Individual children and young people benefited from positive holiday activities

**9** 

Young people completed a 20 week employability programme

**96** 

Cultural and heritage events delivered

**246** 

Individuals supported to become more financially resilient

**92** 

Finance or welfare advice sessions delivered in local venues

**20** 

Schools took part in the Washington 60 Design Challenge

**39** 

Young people benefited from financial awareness programmes

**127** 

Community clean ups and litter picks

# Washington Area Committee our year in images





## Councillor Joanne Laverick, West Area Chair

As Chair of the West Area Committee, I am pleased to introduce the 2024/2025 West Sunderland Annual Report, showcasing our activities and achievements for residents and communities.

We have successfully delivered the second year of our 3 year plan. Our focus has been on priorities that significantly impact our communities, working with Sunderland City Council, partners, and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Key achievements include:

- Hosting a large scale 3-day Barnes Park Event with 765 school children from local primary schools and 9,000 residents.
- Providing 936 youth sessions which has supported youth people from across the Area.
- Invested in 20 locations to improve green spaces, making the local environment safer and more enjoyable.
- Provided funding to improve community centres across the area.
- Improved 4,000m<sup>2</sup> of Highways.

Youth activities remain a priority, with over 19,840 young people participating in funded sessions throughout the year.

I extend my gratitude to fellow Councillors, officers, partners, and local groups for their support. This Annual Report highlights our key achievements, and we will continue to listen to our residents and communities.



# West Area Committee

Councillor Joanne Laverick, West Area

## West Area Priorities set out in the 2023–26 Delivery Plan were outlined as follows:

- Tackle ASB and Environmental Enforcement
- A project to tackle school parking
- Environmental improvements and improved green spaces
- Improved community assets
- An improved social prescribing offer
- Improved youth activities including cultural and enrichment activities and raised aspirations.
- Improved Access to digital support
- A map of defibrillators across the West
- Initiatives to support mental health and wellbeing in young people and to reduce child poverty and child obesity
- Additional Heritage Walks
- Help the VCS to grow their capacity and grow more community groups
- Improved access to Welfare Right support

## West Area key highlights

From our 2024–25 allocated budgets, we approved over **£659,000** to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Examples of funding awarded are:

**Community Chest:** Awarded grants averaging **£1,017** to 56 groups, supporting various projects from educational trips and equipment to new resources and holiday fun.

**Neighbourhood Funding:** Funded 96 projects across the year, whilst also attracting **£312,333** in match funding.

**Youth Sessions:** Provided 936 sessions for young people aged 10+, with an average weekly footfall of 381. Bringing 12 free, fun spaces per week in the West Area of Sunderland for young people aged 10–18! A place to hang out, play sports, cook, make art and music, go on trips, and loads more. It's all about having fun, feeling good and making positive choices.

**Community Assets:** Financially supported 16 groups, improving community assets across

Sunderland West, attracting residents for a wide variety of activities including Scouts Clubs, Youth Activities, Adult Fitness, Coffee Morning's and more.

**Safer Spaces:** Implemented numerous environmental improvements, including fencing, bollards, boulders, CCTV and lighting, to make the area safer and allow green spaces to be used safely.

**Primary School Parking Improvement Schemes:** Benefited 3,240 children across 8 Primary Schools, safety measures including Parking Buddies have improved the safety of pupils when arriving/leaving school as well as improving congestion and the flow of traffic.

**Motorcycle Disorder:** Conducted 12 dedicated days/nights of action, resulting in the seizure of 56 vehicles

**Enhanced Environmental Enforcement and ASB:** Funded additional enforcement support and a targeted Anti-Social Behaviour Officer.

**Barnes Park Event:** Engaged 765 school children in 24 activities over 2 days and attracted over 9,000 residents to a family fun day with various activities.

**Transport provided:** 464 pupils received talks and demonstrations from partners including TWFRS, Northumbria Police, Nexus & RNLI whilst visiting SafetyWorks!

**Clean and Green/Rangers Project:** Conducted 554 litter picks, involving 524 volunteers for over 5,029 hours, improving paths, street furniture shrubs, graffiti removal, and more

# West Area Committee our year in numbers

£560k 

Neighbourhood funding approved to 96 projects

£60k 

Community Chest grant was awarded to 56 groups

£132k 

Value of highway improvements

22,903 

Young people engaged in youth activities - footfall

9k 

Attended the West Area Event in Barnes Park 2024

5,655 

Number of hours delivered by volunteers across all Neighbourhood Funded and Community Chest Projects

2,180 

Number of enforcement actions

20 

Spaces made safer by environmental improvements

2,514 

Number of bags of waste cleared from neighbourhoods

£103k 

Number of residents supported with specialist welfare advice

7,638 

Attended events funded from Community Chest

8 

Schools implemented safer parking schemes

# West Area Committee our year in images



# The year ahead

In the year ahead each of the Area Committees will reflect on the successes to date and ensure priorities are still relevant and meet the needs of residents and communities.

They will also plan, and deliver, the final year of the three year plan, continuing to work with service leads, partners and VCS organisations.

We recognise the need to be flexible and prepare for ongoing challenges, aligning

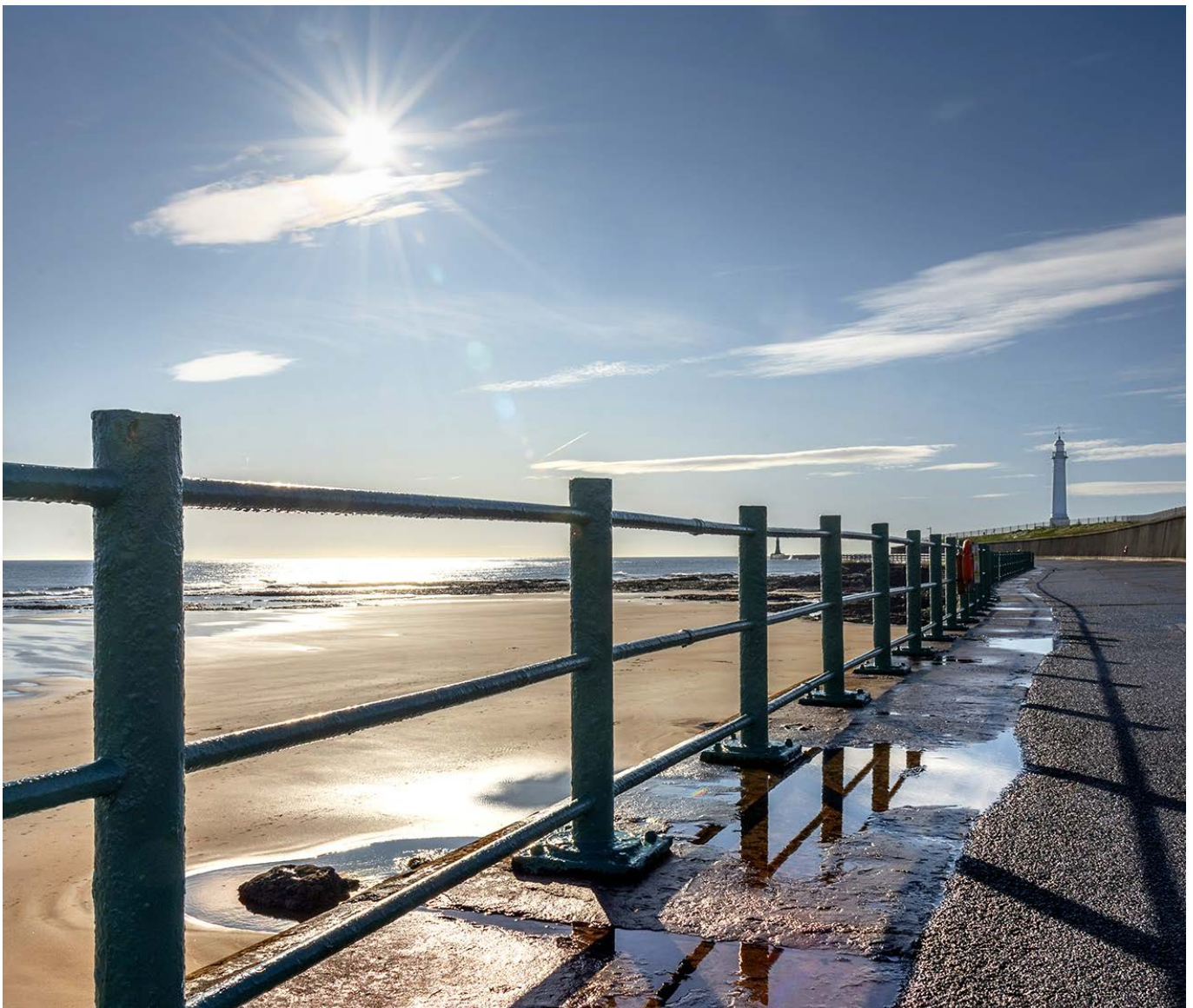
area budgets to meet these challenges where relevant. Communication is vital, and a commitment to working with VCS partners will continue.

Recent challenges have highlighted the value of these organisations the crucial role they play in neighbourhoods, offering facilities, services, and local knowledge to support Area Committees' objectives.

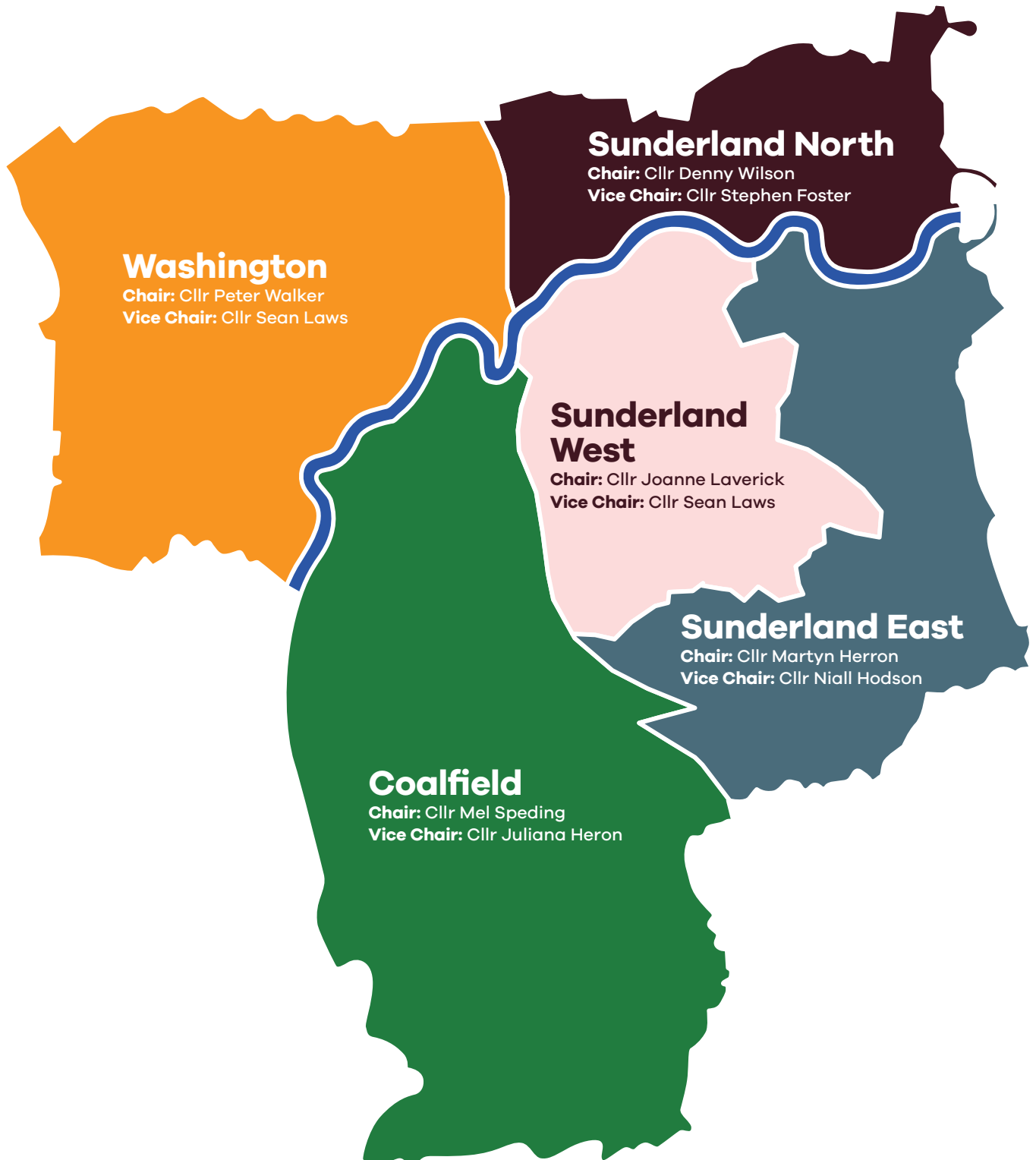
The 2023-26 Area Committee Plans will be reviewed and

refreshed in line with the City Plan, informing future priorities and the development of our next Area Plan.

We will continue to deliver projects, working with VCS Networks, local communities, Area Neighbourhood and Community Boards, and Area Committees.



# Area Committees 2025-26



**Sunderland  
City Council**