

East 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 East 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 East Neighbourhood and Community Board

Priority	Progress Update
Dynamic Smart City We will have	
An evaluation of the Go Get Online project and consider future delivery	<p>Evaluation of the Go Get Online project discussed at February 2024 Board Meeting – recommendation to align funding to facilitate a further phase of the project was approved at the March 2024 Area Committee. The response to subsequent call for projects was discussed at July 2024 N&C Board meeting, however, the project will not be progressed at this time due to the development of digital hubs (further information below). The funding was returned to Area Committee in September 2024.</p> <p>The Go Get Online project was developed into the Digital Health Hubs initiative, which through significant support from UK Shared Prosperity Fund was able to address digital exclusion, namely through the establishment of Digital Hubs across the City. Support available at each hub includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to computers or laptops and free Friendly Wi-Fi • One to one support from a Tech Mate volunteer, to improve digital skills and knowledge • Free SIM cards if you're eligible via the National Databank • Each Hub can offer access to Learn My Way or into local training providers. • Five hubs are receiving gaming kit to set up Community Esports Hub, to raise awareness about the gaming industry and encourage people into educational and employment pathways.

	<p>The six digital hubs in the East area are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Box Youth and Community Project, Hall Farm, Doxford • Community Help and Neighbourly Care for Everyone, locally known as CHANCE, East End • Ryhope Community Association, Ryhope • St Marks Community Association, Millfield • St Michael's Community Centre, Hill View • Women's Community Boutique, Hendon
<p>Low carbon initiatives in the community</p>	<p>Presentation on Low Carbon initiatives received June 2023. Options for fruit and tree planting submitted for consideration with locations suggested across the East.</p> <p>Members have been consulted on the EV residential community hubs proposals with the new infrastructure currently being installed across the East Area. Members and residents updated on proposed works, with discussions and works continuing in February 2026.</p>
<p>Healthy Smart City We will have</p>	
<p>Youth clubs in each of the 5 wards</p>	<p>Youth sessions, for young people aged 11+, have been established in all wards within the East Area (commencing October 2023), with 2,313 new children and young children participating in these projects to date (footfall 25,228), across two project phrases. Funding was approved at the September 2025 Area Committee meeting to support existing projects through to the end of September 2026. Details of the projects can be found by accessing the links below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doxford Activities for Young People • Youth Work In Every Place and Space • Future In Mind Blue Watch Youth Centre • Millfield Youth Activities Sunderland Altogether Consortium • Next Steps St Michaels Community Centre
<p>Information on what support the Youth Consortium require to build capacity and attract external funds</p>	<p>The East Area Committee continues to support the Youth Consortium through the funding of the delivery of youth activities in the Millfield ward (Millfield Youth Activities Sunderland</p>

	<p>Altogether Consortium). The project having seen a footfall of 990 young people, with 79 new young people engaged.</p> <p>Furthermore, East Area Committee previously supported the Youth Consortium to deliver a programme of holiday activities in Hendon ward throughout the 2024/25 academic year. The Consortium delivered 32 sessions, with 232 young people attending at least one session.</p>
<p>An understanding of external funding opportunities for Youth Activities during school holidays and consider the gap in provision</p>	<p>The 'Fancy a Day Out' (FADO) programme supports local organisations to provide holiday activities for children and young people across the East area. Since Summer 2024 14 groups have been provided with funding to deliver 27 schemes, up to Summer 2026. To date young people have taken part in a wide range of activities including: art and crafts; sports and activities; and trips/ days out</p> <p>A list of current / upcoming provision can be viewed below. More information can be view by selecting the relevant web or social media links.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Box Youth Project FADO at the Box • Sunderland All Together Consortium FADO Millfield Ward • Evolve Youth Inclusion Fitty Friday and Food • Blue Watch Holiday Fun and Food • CHANCE Holiday Kid's Club • More than Grandparents, Kinship Holiday Programme • The Bunker FADO • Back on the Map FADO • Invigor8, Let's Learn Football @ Valley Road • Sunderland Community Action Group FADO St Michael's
<p>Projects that increase physical and wellbeing activities for young people and support healthier lifestyles and lessen the impact of the cost-of-living crisis</p>	<p>As outlined above, 14 organisations (27 schemes) from the East area have been supported to deliver holiday activities for children and young people under the banner of 'Fancy a Day Out' since Summer 2024. It was a condition of the funding that all participants received a healthy meal as part of each session, in addition to taking part in activity.</p> <p>Through four rounds of East Can Do, East Area Committee have supported 15 young people led projects as follows:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Box Youth and Community Project – Christmas Eve Boxes • Sunderland Community Action Group – Pool Table and National Trust Passes • The Box Youth and Community Project - The Funky Flamingos – sound equipment • Doxford Park Community Association - The LCK Party Planners – lighting equipment • Blue Watch Youth and Community Centre - Blue Watch United – football equipment • Back on the Map - Hendon Girls Group – heritage project • The Box Youth and Community Project – The Box Musicians • The Bunker Home Ed Group – Art Workshop • Bethany City Youth Church – Bethany Youth • Back on the Map Youth Group – Safe Relationships/Stronger Body, Stronger Mind • Sunderland Community Action Group - St Michael’s Senior Youth Club • The Box Youth and Community Project - Let’s Get Arty • Groundwork NE & Holding Hands Youth Group - Community Cook Up • Wearside Care -The WILD Club CIC <p>At the February 2026 Neighbourhood and Community Board a Neighbourhood Funding application for £20,000 was received from Sunderland based charity Love Amelia. The request is for funding to support the charity to deliver their main objective of providing essential items (clothes, bedding and other essentials). The funding will enable the charity to support 400 families in the East Area. The application will be considered at March 2026 East Area Committee meeting, where the board is recommending the application is approved.</p>
Improved social prescribing	<p>UKSPF Funded Links for Life Call for Projects circulated to East VCS Network members September 2023. The programme builds on the learning from the warm and welcoming spaces initiative, to offer services and support within our communities – support and activities which bring residents together, enable active engagement and improve health, wellbeing and financial resilience.</p> <p>Eight projects have been delivered / are delivering in the East area (St Michael’s Community Centre; The Bunker; The Box Youth and Community Project; Ryhope CA; Back on the Map; Northern Engagement into Recovery from Addictions Foundation; ICOS; and Friends of Drop It). Information on current live provision can be found by accessing the links for life website Links for Life Sunderland Links for Life Sunderland</p>

	<p>The East VCS network members received a presentation on how to use the site and what its purpose is, groups were encouraged to input their activities and use the website to refer residents to other activities.</p>
<p>Improved green spaces including fruit orchards and wildflowers</p>	<p>Options for fruit and tree planting submitted for consideration with locations suggested across the East Area.</p> <p>Members seeking to make improvements to green spaces through Ward Improvement Budget in some areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hendon Community Allotments – site clearance and creation of growing beds, community events to encourage people visit/volunteer. • Back on the Map – Project 86 – creation of a community outdoor space with new fencing to enhance security as well as new paving and seating to improve accessibility. • Invigor8 North East – clearance of an extensive area of overgrown open space near Valley Road School, this will provide a site for grassroots football and other community uses. • Western Hill Bulb Planting – 225m2 of spring bulbs planted to create an attractive floral display during Spring/Summer on Western Hill, Ryhope.
<p>Received information on the Rangers projects and consider future delivery</p>	<p>The Rangers' Project has operated across the East area throughout the current delivery plan period (2023-2026). Six VCSE organisations (ICOS; Box Youth and Community Project; Back on the Map; Groundworks; Blue Watch; and Friends of Doxford Park) across the East area support the project which delivers a number of environmental and clean and green projects in each of the five wards (litter picks, park and green space maintenance; volunteer engagement and empowerment etc.). The Rangers' project has been extended until September 2026. To date, the project has engaged 881 volunteers (5,422 volunteer hours), carrying out 583 environmental improvement activities or litter picks, and collecting 2272 bags of litter.</p>
<p>Received information on the Enforcement project and consider future delivery</p>	<p>Presentation received at November 2023 Neighbourhood and Community Board containing information on performance of the Enforcement project.</p> <p>In addition to the above project, funding totalling £25,000 has been awarded to fund preventative ASB measures and part-fund a dedicated ASB Officer who will form part of the new Motorcycle Disorder Taskforce. The project continues to be successful with 34 patrols</p>

	<p>conducted across the three-month period (Oct 2025-Dec 2025), ensuring regular presence in identified hotspot areas and supporting early intervention and disruption.</p>
Delivered the WOW features project	<p>WOW projects have been initiated across the East area, with each project at varying stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doxford – planting scheme for roundabout on Doxford Park Way near to Morrisons currently in development, works ongoing • Hendon – funding aligned to support the High Street Revolution initiative in Vilette Road area. • Ryhope – Planter scheme complete Summer 2023 • Millfield – scheme for Millfield section of the Stephenson Trail currently in progress expected to be complete by early 2026 • St Michaels – Planter scheme complete Spring 2024
Delivered improvements to community assets	<p>Since 2023 £213,891 has been awarded in capital funding across the East Area to support 19 community groups (to deliver 24 schemes) to make improvements to their community buildings and assets. Funding was allocated in both 2023/24 (£88,891) and 2024/25 (£125,000). Significant capital works such as kitchen upgrades; improve accessibility; develop a community garden and play area; update security at the following community assets: Back on the Map; Blue Watch Youth Centre; CHANCE; Ryhope Community Association; Sunderland Area Parent Support; Sunderland MIND; The Box Youth and Community Project; St Michael’s Community Centre; Media Savvy; Church of Nazarene; Samaritans; The Bunker; St Marks; Oasis Community Housing; Sunderland Maritime Heritage; The Salvation Army; Sunderland and North Durham Royal Society for the Blind; Everyone Active (Raich Carter); Invigor8 North East CIC; and Deptford and Millfield CA.</p> <p>At the December 2025 East Area Committee a request for £10,000 was approved for Active Sunderland (Sunderland City Council). The request was for a contribution to the capital costs needed to build a Playzone (multi used games area type facility including provision for football, basketball, dodgeball etc.) at Barley Mow Park, Hendon.</p> <p>East Area Committee provided £13,989 to support seven community assets to deliver community events in each of five wards. Events will take place in Spring / Summer 2026, with regular updates to be provided. Events supported are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Michael’s Community Centre – Spring Fayre

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Box Youth and Community Centre – Doxford Family Fun Day at Doxford Community Centre • ICOS – Children’s Day at Backhouse Park • Everyone Active (Raich Carter Leisure Centre) – Community Open Day • Groundwork NE & Cumbria (delivered from St Mark’s CA, Millfield) - Millfield Together • The Bunker – Park Live at Mowbray Park • Ryhope Community Association – Celebrating 100 years of Ryhope CA
<p>Delivered a Walk and Talk programme</p>	<p>Several ward-based initiatives have been delivered across the East, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doxford – capital works to community centre, footpath improvements, holiday activities • Hendon- environmental improvements, highway improvements, holiday activities • Millfield- highway improvements, public art • Ryhope- highway improvements, community event • St Michael’s – highways improvements, environmental improvements, blood kits. <p>The Walk and Talk scheme ended in 2023/24. For 2024/25 each ward in the East received a £30,000 Ward Improvement Budget (£15,000 aligned from 2023/24 Neighbourhood Fund and £15,000 funded through 2024/25 Neighbourhood Fund). 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. An example of schemes supported in 2024/25 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • repairs to fencing and raised beds at Hendon Community Allotments (Hendon) • resurfacing of pathway near the Box Project on Hall Farm Road (Doxford Park) • replacement of fencing at Burn Park (Millfield) • installations of Christmas Lights at Ryhope (Ryhope) • Repairs to the walkway leading to Hill View Infants (St Michael’s) <p>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</p>

	<p>improvements and will continue to support projects that align with council priorities and contribute to the Area Committee's strategic objectives.</p> <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. Further details can be found in Item 4, Annex 2</p>
<p>Vibrant Smart City We will have</p>	
<p>Supported community assets to develop, grow and sustain</p>	<p>As highlighted above capital funding has been provided to community assets to support with improvement works. Additionally, dedicated capacity building projects for Ryhope Community Association; St Michael's Community Centre; and Doxford Community Centre have also been supported. More information can be found in a separate dedicated section below (Delivered and supported St Michael's and Ryhope Community Centre projects)</p>
<p>Improve the Stephenson Trail</p>	<p>Improvement and environmental works continue to be made to the Stephenson Trail, The Stephenson Trail Route with the current ward-based maintenance arrangements being agreed until Summer 2026. Works carried out to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • way makers and information panels being installed; • footpath resurfacing; • cutting back of trees and shrubbery; and • wall installation.
<p>Delivered and supported St Michael's and Ryhope Community Centre projects</p>	<p>Dedicated capacity projects have been supported at Ryhope, St Michael's and Doxford Community Centres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryhope Community Association – Neighbourhood Funding used to provide additional staffing capacity to support the development of funding and volunteering strategies this has helped the CA to secure over £140,000 from The National Lottery to support the continuation of activities at the CA over the next three years. • St Michael's Community Centre – Neighbourhood Funding used to support the appointment of a dedicated Community Development Worker who was successful in extending the programme of activities delivered at the Community Centre and securing additional funding to allow the project to continue. • Doxford Community Centre – the Area Committee agreed to provide direct support to Doxford Community Centre. Working with The Box Youth and Community Project, funded a Development Worker for 12 months to enhance the offer at the Centre (new activities; generate external funding; strengthen the management committee; create volunteer opportunities etc.)

Received updates on highways schemes and consider future options	The Neighbourhood and Community Board remain committed to being involved in the annual Highway Maintenance Programme. At the February 2026 Board meeting members received an update on the 2025/26 Highway Maintenance Programme and were asked to consider schemes to be brought forward for 2026/2027. Further detail can be found in Item 3 Annex 3 of the March 2026 Area Committee papers.