

**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

3 July 2023

**Towns and Villages
Programme**



**Report of Amy Harhoff, Corporate Director of Regeneration,
Economy & Growth**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This cover report accompanies the presentation to Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee and provides an update on the established Towns and Villages Programme. Specifically, this report;
 - (a) sets out the approach to delivery of the Towns and Villages Programme
 - (b) highlights the scale of current project activity underway and delivery completed during 2022/23;
 - (c) details the outputs achieved during 2022/23;
 - (d) notes links to wider programme delivery;
 - (e) provides a programme delivery timetable 2023/24 & 2024/25;
 - (f) provides target outputs to be achieved 2023/24

Executive Summary

2. Towns and Villages is a £25m countywide investment programme to support the transformation of our towns, villages and main centres. It is central to our place-based regeneration activity and serves as a catalyst for aligning and leveraging other investment and funding.

3. The investment programme was established in 2018, and is underpinned by an Investment Plan that was approved by Cabinet in February 2021. This Investment Plan identifies five strategic themes under which the funding can be spent, covering strategic investments; housing and community; environment and health; built environment; and transport and connectivity. Each theme has a number of project areas, and officers then work with Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) and local members to identify the spend priorities and projects within their areas.
4. Of the £25m investment, countywide **£6.3m had been** spent by end of 2022/23; a further **£12.9m is** committed to projects and programmes; and **£5.9m** remains available for future allocation against the Investment Plan themes. In addition to that funding an additional **£114.47m** through other funding streams has been spent or committed in our towns and villages.
5. The Towns and Villages investment to date has covered a wide range of activity, including 50 areas of Neighbourhood Retail Improvements; the delivery of 35 town centre vibrancy events; retail training courses; the conversion of 4 vacant council premises to new homes; 6 community resilience projects; 1,846 properties receiving energy efficiency measures; action to bring vacant properties back in to use, including 6 problem properties demolished; and multiple walking and cycling improvement projects.
6. In addition to the county-wide activity there are a number of key targeted investments, including £4.5m towards the council's £6m commitment to the Horden regeneration masterplan, which is also identified in the North East devolution deal as a County Durham priority for investment.
7. Looking forward, the focus in 2023/24 will be on the delivery of the £12.9m of committed funding and working with local AAPs and stakeholders to prioritise the allocation of the remaining £5.9m of remaining funding.

Recommendation(s)

- 8 Members are asked to consider and scrutinise the presentation, report and supporting information in relation to the delivery of the Towns and Villages Programme

Background

- 9 The Towns and Villages Programme was established in 2018, recognising the significant and diverse pressures being experienced in our main centres and beyond, across the County. These issues included tackling pockets of high levels of property vacancy, delivering new residential units, enhancing environmental conditions and improving the vibrance of our main retail centres.
- 10 Subsequent reports reflected significant consultations and evidence relating to our Towns and Villages, firstly establishing the five key themes for the programme and then in February 2021, a more detailed investment plan, which set out project activity, financial allocations, spatial priorities and the creation of an Area Improvement Fund delivered through the AAPs.
11. Due the financial pressures facing the Council a full review of the capital programme in the Medium-Term Financial Plan 13 (MTFP13) was undertaken to assess future budget priorities. Through this process the Towns and Villages programme has been identified as an ongoing priority for the County, and the full £25 million previously allocated to the programme has been safeguarded in the 2023/24 budget setting process.

Investment Plan Delivery

- 12 The delivery of the Towns and Villages Programme is predicated on an approved Investment Plan, which identifies five strategic themes:

Figure 1: Investment Plan themes



Strategic Investments

To help achieve more and better Jobs through support for town and neighbourhood centres; link with Partner and wider investments to maximise outcomes; and to maximise integration between council activity and communities;



Housing and Community

To support the accelerated delivery of the Housing Strategy; deliver resilient, inclusive and connected communities; and maximising the benefits from S106 monies and private investment;



Environment and Health

To create local opportunities for physical activity; mental well-being through high quality environment; and support opportunities for addressing climate change helping to enable people to live long and independent lives;



Built Environment

To drive and support regeneration activities within our towns and villages; find innovative solutions to underused/derelict land and buildings; support independent retailers and businesses to achieving more and better jobs; and to provide clean and attractive built environments that communities are proud of; and



Transport and Connectivity

To ensure connected communities through excellent connectivity for businesses, workforce and learning to help ensure our residents can access more and better jobs; optimise the use of well-maintained and connected transport corridors; encourage the use of alternative modes of transport including walking and cycling for long and independent lives.

- 13 Under each theme there are a number of identified projects with an indicative funding allocation, but these remain flexible to allow budgets to be reallocated within the overall funding package should new local priorities within the themes emerge.

Figure 2: Current allocations against themes and projects

Theme	Project	Total	Spend to date	Committed	Remaining funding
Strategic Investments	Digital High Street	775,000	255,516		519,484
	Retail Hub	300,000	47,252	167,000	85,748
	Neighbourhood Retail Improvements	2,750,000	976,719	1,604,965	168,316
	Towns and Villages Vibrancy	200,000	33,845	42,000	124,155
Housing and Community	Community Housing	650,000	2,027	134,000	513,973
	Housing Opportunities Fund	150,000	85,500	64,500	0
	Improving Community Resilience	2,000,000	198,714	1,503,982	297,304
	Green Homes Fuel Efficiency Programme	950,000	950,000	0	0
	Horden Regeneration Programme	4,500,000	98,840	4,401,160	0
	Allotment Improvement Programme	75,000	0	75,000	0
Environment & Health	Enhanced Environmental Maintenance	500,000	335,299	164,701	0
Built Environment	Vulnerable Buildings	1,250,000	98,618	245,000	906,382
	Property Reuse and Conversion	500,000	370,000	50,000	80,000
	Dean Bank Clearance and Improvement	150,000	145,942	0	4,058
	Easington Colliery Programme	1,050,000	522,886	527,114	0
	South Moor Improvement Programme	200,000	7,728	192,272	0
	Sacriston Workshop Conversion	200,000	200,000	0	0
Transport & Connectivity	Walking and Cycling Routes	3,750,000	203,312	2,300,598	1,246,090
	Neighbourhood Parking and Circulation	850,000	241,835	370,000	238,165
Local Programme	AAP Area Improvement Fund	4,200,000	1,496,797	1,024,133	1,679,070
Total		25,000,000	6,270,830	12,866,425	5,862,745

- 14 Of the £25m investment, countywide **£6.3m had been** spent by end of 2022/23; a further **£12.9m has been** committed; and **£5.9m** remains available for allocation against the Investment Plan themes. A detailed update on project delivery, outputs and expenditure is attached at Appendices 2-5.

External funding to enhance delivery programmes

- 15 Developing cohesive packages of project activity at a local level through the Towns and Villages Programme has provided opportunities to secure additional external funding in line with programme objectives. To date £20.3m of public match funding has been secured through programmes including Reopening Your High Streets Safely, The Welcome Back Fund and Additional Central Government Funding (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero) and Walking and Cycling from Central Government Department for Transport via Sustrans.
16. A further £94.2m of funding has been secured through other programmes including UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Rural England Prosperity Fund, Multiply, National Heritage Lottery Fund Seaham Townscape Heritage, Future High Streets Fund, Heritage Action Zone (HAZ), Stronger Towns Fund, all complementing the place-based investment and regeneration.

Governance

17. The Towns and Villages Programme was established with clear governance around the programme, utilising existing arrangements where possible.
- 18 As the programme has developed and pilot projects have been replaced by those identified in the Investment plan the key elements of programme Governance include;

Towns and Villages Board – comprising Portfolio Holders for Regeneration and Partnerships, Assets and the Director of Regeneration Economy & Growth. This group scheduled for quarterly meetings has overseen the roll out of the detailed programme set out in the Investment plan Cabinet report

- Economy & Enterprise Scrutiny Committee – the original Towns and Villages report identified the role for scrutiny in the overall governance of the programme
- AAPs - beyond the initial consultation, the allocation of £4.2 million through the programme across the 14 AAPs and the creation of Towns and villages Task and Finish groups at a local level has provided an additional level of oversight of both local needs / aspirations but also the perceived fit of the main programme delivery.
- Internal Monitoring Structures – the existing process for the monitoring of capital scheme progress and oversight by the major programme Board ensures effective alignment of delivery, oversight of expenditure, and the identification and management of project and programme risks.

Improved working delivering place solutions

- 19 A key aspect of the initial Towns and Villages programme was to ensure additional resource is directed to communities and programmes with identified needs, wherever possible linking with mainstream Council investment and partner expenditure to coordinate and maximise local investment and change.
- 20 The delivery of the Towns and Villages programme continues to be programmed in consideration with mainstream council and partner investments in communities, maximising impact while minimising disturbance at a local level.

- 21 Cross service co-ordination extends beyond the sequencing of delivery, however. One of the initial areas identified for the programme was working with communities affected by long term empty properties, working with property owners and landlords with the aim of bringing empty properties back into use wherever possible.
- 22 Through this work and the process set out in the March 2021 Cabinet report, a co-ordinated approach to the identification, risk rating and resolving of empty commercial properties has been developed which follows similar processes in place for empty homes. This process, which also links with the Multi Agency Problem solving groups at a local level is currently tracking 46 properties countywide having seen six demolished and five refurbished / brought back into productive use through the various strands of Towns and Villages programme activity. Positive engagement has been made with a further 20 owners.
- 23 The programme continues to provide direction to key public, private and voluntary sector organisations that make up the County Durham Partnership enabling them to work together to improve the quality of life of our residents and is helping inform the delivery plans for the Inclusive Economic Strategy and the Shared Prosperity investment plan.

Conclusion

- 24 The Towns and Villages programme is the main catalyst for place-based regeneration in our communities across the county. It is a significant investment programme which leverages other funding opportunities through targeted spend and interventions in line with the approved Investment Plan.
- 25 The thematic approach allows a strategic framework for investment, which can align spend at a local level to locally defined priorities. The next steps are to deliver the £12.9m committed spend, leverage further funding opportunities, and work with local areas to prioritise the remaining £5.9m to create strong, successful communities across County Durham.

Background papers

- [Towns and Villages Way Forward - DCC Cabinet December 2018](#)
- [Towns and Villages Strategy- DCC Cabinet October 2020](#)
- [Towns and Villages Investment Plan - DCC Cabinet February 2021](#)
- [Towns and Villages Place Shaping – Approach to Regeneration of Buildings and Land– DCC Cabinet March 2021](#)

Other useful documents

- None

Author(s)

Graham Wood

Tel: 03000 262002

Julie Anson

Tel: 03000 262008

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

The Towns and Villages budget was agreed alongside approval of the Investment Plan. This provides a core allocation of £20.8 million and a £4.2 million allocation delivered by the Area Action Partnerships, in line with programme priorities.

Developing cohesive packages of project activity at a local level has provided opportunities to secure additional external funding in line with programme objectives. To date £20,228,188.00 of public funding has been secured through programmes including Reopening Your High Streets Safely, The Welcome Back Fund and additional Central Government Funding (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero / Department for Transport).

Staffing

Two project posts within the Community Economic Development Team are funded through the Towns and Villages programme. Programme delivery is generally undertaken by existing staffing resource.

Risk

Risks are monitored at a project and programme level in line with existing capital project monitoring requirements. There are no significant risks.

Equality and Diversity

None.

Accommodation

None

Crime and Disorder

Elements of Neighbourhood Retailing Improvements and the focus on addressing vacant property across the County include specific reference to addressing / designing out Anti-Social Behaviour.

Sustainability

A corporate sustainability appraisal of the programme has recently been undertaken. The Programme includes numerous projects with strong sustainability credentials including the Green Homes project, Investments in Walking and Cycling, Community Resilience and the various strands focussed on the improvement and reuse / conversion of vacant property.

Human Rights

None.

Localities and Rurality

The Towns and Villages programme was established with a focus on the needs of small localities specifically including areas that typically fall outside of main programme interventions. Initial and ongoing engagement with local members and AAPs ensure local and rural needs are identified and addressed through the programme.

Young People

None.

Consultation

The Investment Plan was developed following several rounds of member and AAP discussions including two full rounds of AAP engagement focusing on local needs and programme themes. Project teams continue regular engagement with AAP Boards and the newly established Task and Finish groups.

Health

Built and natural environmental improvements along with significant allocations encouraging active mode shift and improvements in the least energy efficient Housing stock provide significant health benefits linked to the programme.

Personalisation

None.

Appendix 2: Towns and Villages Project Summary and Outputs Achieved 2022/23

The project position detailed below covers all Towns & Villages Funded Programmes only and does not include Capital Programme Funded schemes which often link and add benefit to the delivery in our towns and villages.

Strategic Investments

Digital High Street

The Digital High Street Project was established to provide free wifi coverage across the main town centres as part of the shift to leisure focussed uses in town centre and a desire to improve user experience, functionality and extend the dwell time.

Wifi systems have been installed in Bishop Auckland, Stanley, Seaham, Chester le Street and Barnard castle using Towns and Villages funding alongside AAP and Town and Parish Council contributions.

We have been evaluating the data produced by the systems installed across the County and have identified that, despite the systems providing good coverage across the town, the number of authenticated users remains low. Combined with advances in technology which includes the masking / randomising of devices identity, the systems will now not provide us with an insight on the numbers of people using the centre or any of the fine detail of visits such as dwell time heat maps or entry / exit points that we originally envisaged. As a result, we have concluded that these pilot schemes will not be extended. The expiry dates in each locality is detailed below:

Bishop Auckland – June 2023

Stanley – June 2023

Seaham - May 2024

Chester-Le-Street - May 2024

Barnard Castle - June 2024

The original focus was to improve our understanding of the use of the individual centre along with improving user experience and encouraging businesses to embrace digital opportunities. Our focus through the programme continues to be on regenerating our high streets. We are exploring other avenues that will enable us to understand how our town centres are used, and where we can focus regeneration efforts, whilst also

offering us value for money, alongside the continued investment in physical improvements to the centres.

Retail Hub

The retail hub has focussed on providing several strands of support to the retail sector, aimed at supporting growth and resilience in both the retail and the hospitality sector.

Strand 1

Retail training is being offered free of charge which is focussed on broadening sales and improving resilience of our independent retail and hospitality sector in the County.

14 training courses have been undertaken across the County, covering Digital Media for Business, Customer Service & Sales, Level 2 Food Safety, Level 3 Emergency First Aid at Work, targeted in areas where businesses have asked for retail support training when engaged via the Neighbourhood Retail Parade Programme. Areas covered include Seaham, Consett, Newton Aycliffe, Durham, Chester le Street, Shildon and Bishop Auckland. 23 people have benefitted from training which has been delivered both face to face and virtually.

Retail Hub 23/24 Programme

The current offer is listed below:-

- Digital Media for Business
- Customer Service and Sales
- Customers with Disabilities
- Dementia Awareness (for both employers and employees)
- Customer Service across Cultures
- Level 2 Food Safety
- Level 3 Emergency First Aid at Work
- Level 2 Certificate in Retail
- Level 2 Certificate in Customer Service
- Level 2 Certificate in Hospitality
- Developing Teamwork
- Dealing with difficult customers

Engagement with the retail sector in 3 key Towns regarding the proposed retail training offer. The first retail training offer review took place on 2 May 2023 in Spennymoor, the second 1 June in Chester le Street and third 7 June. The current offer will then be

reviewed, this is to ensure it is fit for purpose to help grow the retail sectors skills and development.

Retail Hub Strand 2

This strand in the early stage of development is focussed upon supporting new business formation and growth, through shared retail space, temporary retail offerings and meanwhile uses of existing town centre property. A procurement exercise has been completed and a contract awarded to Shop Jacket, to work alongside DCC on a call off contract basis to tackle long term empty units, helping to support and enhance the place.

Targeted areas of focus in 23/24 are proposed to include areas with high vacancy rates, please see below:-

Centre	Vacancy Rate (%) 2021	Vacancy Rate (%) 2022	% change
Barnard Castle	9.9	10.6	+0.7
Bishop Auckland	27.7	26.3	-1.4
Chester-le-Street	14.5	13.1	-1.4
Consett	13.1	12.1	-1.0
Crook	11.4	12.1	+0.7
Durham City	16.2	14.3	-1.9
Ferryhill	8.9	13.3	+4.4
Newton Aycliffe	26.2	20.4	-5.8
Peterlee	32.3	32.8	+0.5
Seaham	7.3	6	-1.3
Sildon	15.8	16.8	+1.0
Spennymoor	17.3	14.8	-2.5
Stanley	15.8	16.7	+0.9

Engagement with empty retail owners and shopping centre management agents has commenced. In addition, an application process has been prepared which will enable us to offer support and enable temporary space use proposals in the form of pop-up retail use, to help reactive units, enhance an area's offer, bring a new use of activity

to a town, this links closely in supporting the towns and village vibrancy theme. Initial interest in this project is currently being worked through in Durham City, Bishop Auckland and Peterlee, with interest also being expressed from Chester le Street.

Neighbourhood Retailing Programme (NRP)

This project has continued to undertake scoping exercises which are used to identify opportunities for potential improvements which link across the programmes themes and also to wider investments.

50 Areas have been scoped to date focusing on the identified areas listed within the Towns & Villages Programme Delivery Table and including a further 10 Areas (Southmoor, Stanhope, Wolsingham, Frosterley, with additional parades in Newton Hall, Framwellgate Moor and Gilesgate).

The scoping phase of the programme is beneficial in identifying a wide range of neighbourhood and village issues, whilst ensuring a cross service co-ordination to delivery, whilst maximising impact and the best use of available budgets.

Project opportunities identified have included continuing to invest and support the retail sector with grant support via the Targeted Business Improvement Scheme, identifying problem buildings/sites alongside engaging owners, street scene improvements including planting, street furniture including seats, bins, bollards, public realm enhancements, accessibility improvements, access to community and public venues such as community/village halls, doctors, schools where they join neighbourhood parades, new EV charging points. In some NRP areas car parking and circulation issues have been a priority and cross funded via the T&V Neighbourhood Parking and Circulation budget. Under this project theme the team also deliver projects for the AAP utilising both NB, AAP, and T&V Small Area Programme Budgets.

The Neighbourhood Retail Programme has an assigned budget of £2,750,000, of which £142,000 is capitalised to provide additional resource to support the Community Economic Development Team to accelerate delivery.

NRP 2022/23 Programme Delivery and Outputs

Targeted Business Improvement Schemes completed with funding from NRP Programmed

73 Businesses Supported

19 Grants Paid

63 FTEs Created

136 Jobs Safeguarded

10 Units which were empty now back into use – this approach tackles twin challenges of supporting existing retail property to be improved and to bring back into use vacant property

18 New Businesses Created

27 Grant GOLs issued - Financial commitments of £197,000 made via TBI Grant Offer Letters with works underway.

In addition, there are a further 65 applicants who have been invited to full application.

Environmental & Public Realm Schemes completed

Cornforth, where we have installed new seating, paintwork to railing, bins, bus shelter planters, lamp columns, soft landscaping improvements. Professional cleaning and sealing of walling in the main retail parade area complete.

Crook – completed scheme to mitigate parking and enhance kerb appeal with soft landscaping as you enter the Town Centre Market Place, opposite the post office and general convenience store, teamed with enhanced/raised kerb line to mitigate parking.

Ferryhill Railings and Public Realm.

Seaham Artillery Gun Public Realm – decommissioned heritage artillery gun and enhanced area of new public realm – Note funded via AAP T&V. Creating a new heritage visitor attraction to the town on North Road.

Designs

Completed designs and costs for New Brancepeth. Delay linked to ownership/adoptions, accessibility ramp and consultation required.

Holborn Close, Spennymoor -Design Request submitted

Newton Hall Design Requests submitted for two schemes.

Some minor environment enhancement schemes undertaken to NRP areas scoped have been completed utilising budget from Enhanced Environmental Maintenance Budget in the Towns & Villages programme detailed further within the report.

Housing & Community

Community Housing

The Community Housing project was established to supplement the extensive private and social housebuilding programmes identified for the County, facilitating the development of small residential schemes focussed on specific communities of interest such as Disabled residents, those with Learning disability or specific community groupings.

During the last twelve months the first Community Housing scheme providing seven residential units for young homeless clients has been delivered without Towns and Villages capital, instead using £75,000 of S106 funding and COMF Covid Outbreak Management Fund in the East of the County which also resulted in an empty building being brought back into use.

A further small-scale Community Led Housing scheme is at development stage awaiting planning determination. This scheme, at Canney Hill Bishop Auckland is seeking financial support (as yet uncommitted) to provide 14 affordable rent dwellings for young disabled adults comprising 10 wheelchair bungalows and 4 houses in conjunction with a Registered Provider not known yet.

It is worth noting that working alongside community led organisations can take a considerable amount of time in the development stages. This project links closely to the Vacant and Vulnerable buildings whereby problem sites and units have been reconfigured bringing problem empty buildings back into active use whilst delivering upon affordable and other specialist housing needs within the community, cross cutting against two Towns and Villages themes.

Housing Opportunities Fund

Designed to address the twin challenges of vacant property and the demand for small scale residential development opportunities, funding from the Housing Opportunities fund £150,000.00 has been fully expended and has brought two vacant Council owned premises at Coundon Grange and the former Shildon Peoples centre back into use, the third property identified in Chester le Street has been sold by DCC.

At Shildon the former Peoples Centre has been converted to 4 x 1-bedroom flats targeting local people as end users.

At Coundon Grange 3 bungalows have been refurbished back into use. Both are being managed through the Local Lettings Agency.

The Housing Opportunities Fund has final external garden works which will complete September 2023.

Improving Community Resilience

The Community Resilience project has been established to address localised issues of concern which can help to maintain the social fabric and improve the resilience of our local communities.

Based on the experience of the pilot scheme and sector pressures, the Towns & Villages Community Resilience Fund has been developed with three key objectives:

- Provide targeted investment for communities to save community assets that would otherwise be lost

- Strengthen capacity and capability in communities to support them to shape their places and develop sustainable community businesses, services and spaces
- Empower communities in left behind places to level up

Note there is a wide variety of projects coming forward which have benefits linked to improving services to offer support in the current Cost of Living Crisis. For example extensions to enable enlarged and improved space for Foodbank operations, warm rooms where meals are being provided to communities, plus classes to help people cook on a budget, offering clothing exchange spaces, energy efficiency works to reduce running costs, which enable further revenue spend on expanding activities and services on offer, private space for advice and support linked to social welfare, in addition to low cost community gym facilities linking health and wellbeing improvements to our communities.

Improving Community Resilience 2022/23 Programme Delivery and Outputs

Since the launch internally of the programme and engagement with AAPs, Durham Community Action and the Community Buildings Team in April 2022.

Six Grant Offer Letters have been issued total £983,400.00, attracting £8.3+M:-

Lowes Barn Community Project – New Build Community Centre (£150,000.00) was the first to receive a funding award in May 2022. With match funding of £596,178.00 secured, works are nearing completion, with delays linked to supply chains. Grant released and scheme completed as of April 3rd 2023.

Redhills Revealed is an exciting major restoration project with a grant award from this specific budget (£306,656.00) with expected draw down in April 2023. With match funding of £7m+. Programme delivery timeline currently awaited.

Cotherstone Chapel has received an award (£120,000.00) with the community pledging a £115,560.00 and further funding secured to the tune of £60,000.00

Woodhouse Close has also received a grant award (£47,400.00) awarded to assist the extension, the project has attracted a further £102,600.00 of match funding.

Pilot Project Peterlee & Horden Rugby Club £300,000.00 with match secured including revenue from National Lottery.

Fishburn Community Centre has received a grant award up to (£60,000.00) to support a much needed extension to enable provision of their activities. The project has attracted a further £75,000.00 of match funding.

Business Cases drafted:-

St Pauls Centre, Spennymoor

All Saints Church, Muggleswick

Arlington House, Durham City

A further 5 applications: - are being worked up and queries responded to at present covering the following areas: -

Spennymoor Youth and Community

St Thomas Hall, Stanhope

Sherburn Road Community Centre

Belmont Community Centre

Oakenshaw

Projects being awarded and developed offer a diverse range from improving accessibility, reducing running costs through solar installation, and packaged of capital works including minor upgrades, extensions and new build schemes.

Green Homes Fuel Efficiency Programme Complete Attracting match £18.257M

The Green Home programme has provided the opportunity to directly improve the poorest performing properties which result in fuel poverty.

Where available the Green Home programme has aligned with external funds to maximise the delivery and improvement opportunities to the poorest low EPC (i.e. D, E, F & G) energy rated properties countywide by providing brick and stone external wall insulation to solid wall homes. Prominent streets and elevations have been prioritised for retrofit to maximise uplift and impact.

Towns and villages funding has been used to provide necessary match to secure three rounds of central Government Funding (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero) funding totalling £18.257m. This figure was increased over the 3rd phase of the scheme as DCC had been so successful in delivery and were asked to increase numbers. 1846 properties across County Durham benefitted from measures across the scheme with over 2000 measures having been installed.

Horden Regeneration Programme

The Horden Regeneration Programme has been developed to support and accelerate the public commitments to regeneration and development as identified in the Horden masterplan with a particular focus on commencing the acquisition, and clearance of property in the Numbered streets.

In 2019 public consultation was carried out which showed a range of options that provided a solution for the housing issues in the Numbered Streets. The preferred option was identified as full-scale acquisition and demolition of the area, with new homes to be provided in place of the existing homes.

Following the consultation, the Council have committed £6m to commence the delivery of the masterplan. This includes £4.5m Towns and Villages funding, which is the biggest single allocation in the County.

Since that time the Council have been developing a delivery strategy and phasing plans for the preferred option which will allow the Council to make bids for external funding as it becomes available. The delivery strategy also identifies where the Council should dedicate its initial £6m funding to achieve the greatest impact. The delivery strategy and phasing plan are now complete, and a final review is being undertaken. An Acquisition and Demolition Strategy and Decant Strategy are being finalised to assist in the relocation of residents.

A paper is being prepared for an Autumn 2023 Cabinet, which will seek approval for the proposed delivery approach,

Allotment Improvement Programme

This small-scale project recognises the significant provision of allotments across many communities in county Durham and the variable quality of the allotment sites both in terms of the facilities on the site and the impact on neighbouring areas.

This project has been linked to the review of allotments. A recent Cabinet Report agreed on 18.01.23 signed off the proposed small grant scheme, which included this allocation and is scheduled to launch its first round of bidding in June 2023, with a further round later this financial year. The overall project will run for two years, however T&V expenditure will be committed 23/24.

There are 60 allotments run by groups and 100 run and managed by DCC. A further £175,000.00 is being made available to support this project totalling £250,000.00. Funding applications will need to provide match at 50%. Types of improvements will include repairs to fencing, replacement fencing, improvements to tracks, paths, car parking, drainage and clearance of derelict areas.

Environment & Health

Enhanced Environmental Maintenance

A Significant feature of the consultations undertaken throughout the Towns and Villages programme have been residents and members focus on ensuring high levels of enhanced environmental maintenance.

The programme will continue to align to the areas and scope in the Strategic Investment Programme NRP Areas, with call off for works in line with delivery programme 23/24. Significant areas of improvement have been undertaken in the following areas complementing the wider T&V Programme delivery-

Easington Colliery, West Cornforth, Wingate, New Brancepeth, Dean Bank, Spennymoor, Peterlee, Seaham, Crook, Dales, Tow Law, Tudhoe, Ferryhill Station, Lanchester.

Built Environment

Vulnerable Buildings

A significant concern raised by residents and retailers alike has been the levels of vacancy across the County and in particular those long term vacant commercial premises which aren't maintained and provide a negative impression of an area.

Focussing on initially engaging with property owners of such premises and exploring the opportunities for redevelopment and investment, the vulnerable buildings programme supports wider property improvement projects and provides a focus for enforcement activity if properties aren't maintained or brought back into use.

Since the beginning of the programme five properties have been demolished often linked to concerns over building safety. Demolition works may be undertaken by the Council with charges placed against properties to secure the funding committed.

Officers meet on a monthly basis to discuss emerging problem properties and ongoing engagement with land and property owners to ensure DCC maximise actions across services. This includes Community Economic Development, Planning and Building Control, Environmental Health.

A List of 46 problem commercial properties has been developed based on Customer Service reports / complaints along with member, MP and key stakeholder concerns. A dozen of these are designated as of the highest priority requiring multi service input and working alongside Police and Fire Brigade in a partnership approach in some cases linked to public safety.

20 properties/site are underway with positive engagements in making progress to help support them being brought back into use or finding alternative uses, with support and assistance from DCC.

This year action has been taken against 10 long term vacant properties.

Property Reuse, Conversion and Improvement

This project has proved successful in helping to support the purchase and major conversion to facilitate reuse in some of our main Centres. A small revolving loan budget is available County wide with the aim of:

- Encourage purchase and/or improvements to premises across the County's retail town and village centres with a focus on vacant and derelict premises and sites
- Support regeneration of areas suffering from market vulnerability and to tackle poor building stock that may contribute to town or village centre decline
- Secure opportunities to deliver sustainable uses including residential, leisure and commercial

All loans issued to date have received payments as agreed as part of their loan offer and terms and conditions.

Three loans have been issued this financial year expending this year's allocation. Two properties in Bishop Auckland to support purchase of vacant properties and One property in Seaham undergoing a major conservation and heritage restoration scheme, which is bringing back into use vacant upper floor space on two units and creating a third retail ground floor space, as well as improving two existing businesses.

The three loans above will anchor in a further estimated £2,7396,616.00 private sector investment against our loans issued £120,000.00. On completion these schemes will support the creation of 35 FTE jobs.

Dean Bank Environmental Improvements Complete

As part of the long-standing regeneration programme at Dean Bank, improvement works have been delivered to compliment a £1 million demolition programme of 36 properties by Bernicia Homes. Towns and Villages funding has been utilised to improve the landscape solution for the site and to support a wider package of works to address remaining empty properties at Faraday & Stephenson Streets.

Former Easington Colliery School

This project focuses on the identification of opportunities to make change and improvement in Easington Colliery.

The acquisition and demolition of Easington Colliery School and subsequent environmental improvement is a major part of this commitment and was commenced as a pilot initiative. Remaining funding is allocated towards providing public open space across the cleared site in line with discharging the conditions of the planning consent.

South Moor Improvement Programme

The pilot scheme focusses on a long-standing problem site on the main street comprising of an exposed gable and poorly maintained gap site.

Proposals to resolve the exposed gable and provide a low maintenance improvement have been designed and agreement with adjacent landowners secured. Currently awaiting costs.

Sacriston Workshop Conversion - Co-operative Building Refurbishment

A Pilot project during COVID to refurbish and convert the Council owned former Sacriston Co-op building into Enterprise Workshops offering start up units for community and social enterprises, which is now the home to Live Well North East, Sacriston Youth Project, Woodshed and RecyclD.

Works to date have led to the creation of 12 FTE Jobs supported by eight Sessional workers, eight Volunteers and engaging 175 Participants.

The CIC secured an additional £97,004.82 from the Community Led Local Development programme to create and refurbish four community enterprise spaces, just completing on site end of December 2022. Further funding from various external organisations such as JD Foundation, Sport England, County Durham Community Foundation, various charitable trusts and S106 totalling a further £235,000.00 has helped them to renovate the units they occupy. Further fundraising efforts will continue to bring the entire building back into use.

DCC are the freehold owner of the building, which stood derelict for several years prior to the CIC securing a long-term lease.

All DCC held budget has been expended against this project during 23/24. However, support will be made available to assist them to bring into use and attract further potential external funding sources moving forward.

Transport & Connectivity

Walking and Cycling – Attracting £1.5M secured from Central Government - Department for Transport via Sustrans

A significant feature of the second round of AAP focussed consultations was in the development of further opportunities for Walking and cycling at a local level.

The project looks to enhance the investments made through the Local Transport Plan and as part of the Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plans. A particular priority being given to addressing breaks in the current walking and cycling network and Connecting residential areas and employment sites with the main walking and cycling infrastructure.

The 2022/23 programme includes planned feasibility work on the Brandon to Bishop Auckland, Bishop Auckland to Barnard Castle, Witton le wear to Chester le Street and Belmont viaduct feasibility studies, with works underway along the Waskerley Way (Consett) and addressing breaks in the network /surface improvements along sections of NCN1 in East Durham. This scheme, which directly links into the £1.5m secured from Central Gov Department for Transport via Sustrans project to improve the route north from Haswell, is currently on site and will create a better surfaced route all the way to the county boundary at Wynyard.

Neighbourhood Parking, Traffic and Circulation Programme Delivery and Outputs

This project seeks to address locally raised car parking, traffic and circulation issues. The projects are identified during scoping exercise and often considered alongside Neighbourhood Retailing schemes or alongside work undertaken by Clean and Green

/ Highways teams to harden verges on residential estate. Schemes include improved bay marking and signage through to the creation of new parking facilities.

Delivery 2022/23

Willington Car Park no.2 complete.

Sherburn Hill Hub Car Park Extension complete

Crook Kerb line and planting mitigation of car parking

Further schemes at Blackhall Colliery, Newton Hall & Shildon are currently being designed, including EV charging points where possible.

Local Programme

AAP II Area Improvement Fund

The AAPs have awarded funding to the tune of £1.5m with further commitments, including budget transfers, to a variety of projects, ranging from parks, access improvements, play and sports pitches, changing facilities, parking, community and village hall improvements, cemetery improvements focus on access, community speed watch and mobile CCTV.

Example projects completed include Mainforth Sports Complex, 3 Bridges Newton Aycliffe and lighting at Christopher Walk, Great Aycliffe Garden, Bishop Middleham Community Centre Windows and car park improvements.

Appendix 3: Towns and Villages Looking ahead to the 2023/24, 2024/25 Programme

Programme Priorities 2023/24 and Beyond

The approval of the UKSPF Investment Plan provides an immediate opportunity to expand or extend some strands of activity initiated through the Towns and Villages programme. The ongoing review of external funding opportunities will be maintained with a view to securing further resource to deliver scoped project opportunities and maximise investment in our Towns & Villages.

Investment Mapping – which was developed initially to help guide the co-ordination of investment. The investment mapping work underpinning the Towns and villages programme can also support the UKSPF and Rural England programmes along with targeted measures in our identified left behind neighbourhoods.

NRP 2023/24 Programme

The following delivery will continue as detail in Investment Plan funded from the existing budget allocation:-

Framwellgate Moor Front Street Public Realm and Traffic Project

Commenced on site March 2023 the scheme will see the public realm footway enhanced benefitting 33 businesses on the busy parade.

Phased approach to minimise disruption with completion August 2023 which will see new drainage, block paving, tarmac footway, improved pedestrian crossing point, restricted illegal parking to footway opposite retail parade, traffic calming measures to ensure the permanency of the current 20mph limit to help mitigate traffic congestion. Planters with miniature trees are also being investigated at the build outs to soften the landscape whilst also ensuring visibility lines are clear.

Road resurfacing of this area is also planned for 2023/24 and the scheme will be co-ordinated to minimise disruption for businesses and residents, the road resurfacing is funded from Highways Maintenance budget.

Newton Hall Alnwick Road Retail Parade

Target property owners to support accessibility improvements and Targeted Business Improvements in addition to enhancing the street furniture and improved trade refuse screening to enhance the kerb appeal of the key retail parade. Discussions have taken place with Clean & Green, Highways. To ensure a co-ordinated approach to delivery.

Holborn Close Spennymoor

Designs are underway to enhance a key entrance to the private retail zone and entrance to the town centre and main DCC Car Park. In addition to the visual enhancement access for pedestrians will also be included in the design and delivery of the project.

New Brancepeth

Design and Costs completed to see new public realm improved to enhance village seating adjacent to corner of the NRP area and main car park adjacent to the retail core. Repairs to wall adjacent retail area and new street furniture. Liaison ongoing with the AAP re contributions and a potential S106 application to follow for public art at the site.

North Road, Seaham Interpretation Scheme

Funding secured from NB to deliver scheme to complement heritage project to display George Elmy Lifeboat Disaster memorial area and artillery gun adjacent.

Sherburn Road NRP Area

Currently at feasibility stage, With Design Request to follow.

Brandon

NRP area privately owned engaging owners linked to problem empty properties, public realm works and ASB issues requiring CCTV. This will cut across various elements of the programme, in development stage, however delivery will take place 23/24, supported by additional contributions from local members.

Frosterley

Two areas of enhanced public realm, paving, seating and soft landscaping identified alongside railings to enhance the environment and setting in the NRP thoroughfare. Designs and estimates to be provided and then delivery.

Bearpark

Design Request to be submitted to improve small area of public realm adjacent retail core. Parking mitigation identified to be included to protect improved paving. Wider problem vacant properties also being addressed with engagements with owners. Planning being discussed on Former Loves Site, alongside AAP discussions over the future use of a CISWO owned Community Centre. Delivery of the wider elements included as a typical example of the scope and complexities to be developed and delivered over a two-year period in a specific village location.

Targeted Business Improvement Targeting and Delivery to continue

Tracked alongside the public realm enhancements across all areas identified in the programme, engagement with the retail sector continues, with 65 applicants currently Invited to Full Application. **Note timing of delivery** is private sector led some clients deliver within 2-6 months dependant on planning permission and some take considerably longer 12-18 months linked to private sector finance, appointment of architect, planning, building control and contractor availability alongside weather and avoiding main retail trading seasons ie Summer and Christmas.

Areas include Ferryhill, Framwellgate Moor, Chester le Street, Coxhoe, Easington, Wingate, Langley Moor, Murton, Peterlee, Crook, Frosterley, West Auckland, Stanhope, Wolsingham, Lanchester, Spennymoor, Newton Aycliffe, Consett, Shildon, Stanley Tow Law.

NRP 2024/25 Programme

Beech Road, Framwellgate Moor

Improve entrance to retail area, steps and cobbles to be improved for accessibility, with new street furniture. Design Request submitted.

Ushaw Moor

Enhance public realm light touch and targeted retail. Issue in this area links to traffic, parking and circulation investigation and feasibility required before progression. NRP area is in close proximity to the school and doctors' surgery, creating a very busy thoroughfare during peak times.

Sherburn Road NRP Area

Delivery of works subject to design and feasibility

Further areas for consideration in deprived/ left behind or priority localities to be considered and discussed as estimates are received to enable delivery.

Community Housing 2023/24 Programme

2023/24 to review the scope of the scheme in light of mainstream Homes England resource to consider Specialist Accommodation Team to lead development and delivery, subject to ensuring that the need of the local community is being met and ensuring the provision is affordable and specialist housing, if further schemes from community led organisation do not come forward.

Improving Community Resilience 23/24 Programme

Continue support, development and delivery of the five projects currently underway and support eight further applicants.

2024/25 Programme

Further drawdown and request will be prepared upon receipt of applications being discussed to firm up timescales, delivery and costs. seven of which are updating costs and finalising applications.

There is the opportunity to match fund, align or extend the programme further linked to both the UKSPF Communities and Place Theme and the Rural England Prosperity Fund Programme which is currently being developed.

Allotment Improvement Programme 2023/24

Scope of allotment areas and delivery in 23/24 to expend £75,000 as a grant scheme

Opportunities exist to link this project to the emerging priorities around community food programmes and cost of living responses being developed through the UKSPF programme.

Enhanced Environmental Maintenance 2023/24 Programme

It is proposed that the following delivery will take place in the areas listed below as a guide, plus additional as we develop the interventions and costs moving forward, Framwellgate Moor, Newton Hall, Blackhall, Tow Law, Wheatley Hill, Frosterley, Stanhope, Wolsingham funded from the existing budget approved.

Vulnerable Building 2023/24 Programme

Continue approach and development/delivery in line with Environment Scrutiny Committee on 20th March to continue the six stage process with land and property owners. Identify, Establish, Engage, Educate, Encourage, Enforce, engagement, and steps to action.

Property Reuse, Conversion & Improvement 2023/24 Programme

Continue Loan Scheme with available budget. 2 loans to be issued. 1 currently being assessed.

Loan payback application will be made to bring funding back into programme as part of the agreed revolving loan offer.

Former Easington Colliery School 2023/24 Programme

It is proposed that a further report will be brought to consider opportunities for developing an end use solution for this site which could include expediting residential development on the site, which would avoid abortive / short term public open space

works that are required as a planning condition in advance of the long term redevelopment.

Walking and Cycling 2023/24 Programme

NCN 1 in the East of the County – currently on site in Shotton/Wingate/South Hetton areas initially, then improvements will continue east towards Hartlepool and South towards County Boundary.

Waskerley Way C2C route – surface/drainage improvements A68 to Consett programmed for Autumn 23

Howngil Viaduct improvements programmed for Autumn 23
Brandon to Bishop Railway Path – Relley Bridge Feasibility works ordered

Auckland Walk Railway Path– Spennymoor to Coundon - surface/drainage improvements (awaiting costings)

Belmont Viaduct Feasibility complete

Bishop Auckland to Barnard Castle feasibility study currently out to Bloom (procurement)

Neighbourhood Parking, Traffic & Circulation 2023/24 Programme

It is proposed that the following delivery takes place funded from the existing budget allocation :-

Ash Crescent Seaham

Scheme designed and costed in previous year to proceed to delivery subject to Strategic Highways agreement following formal consultation process. Delay linked to resource of Strategic Highways, now proceeding through process.

Blackhall Colliery Middle Street

Scheme concept prepared mitigating illegal parking and danger to pedestrians. Scheme proposal has been consulted with Durham Police and agreement. To provide two loading bays and protect pedestrian footway with guardrail in this built-up location.

Annfield Plain Consett – Former Kelly's Bakery Site

Identified as a long-term problem and vacant building, subject to CPAL report and approvals this will then enable planning discussions to take place regards end use of the site, subject to agreement to demolish and clear this site. Parking in this area for the retail, residential and school access requires intervention. Proposals to develop a local car park area is supported by members. Expect Designs and costs 23/24 with delivery asap subject to demolishing the site. This could impact construction of a new car park facility to 24/25

Marshalls Terrace, Gilesgate

Design engagement required to consider improvements to visibility, parking and crossing for pedestrians in this busy location. Links cycling and walking project.

Newton Hall Canterbury Road, Car Park and EV Charging

Designs are partially prepared for this DCC owned car park to improve layout, and minimise maintenance moving forward. Addition of a new EV charging point

Car Park Shildon Town Centre

Re-lining, footway link improvement, EV charging.

Redworth Road Car Park Area Adjacent NRP

Car parking mitigation to restrict illegal parking and protect DCC landscaping.

Further areas for consideration in deprivation or left behind places to be considered and discussed as estimates are received to enable further delivery.

Appendix 4: Updated Towns & Village Investment Plan, February 2023

Theme	Project	Capital Allocation	Revenue Allocation	Total
Strategic Investments	Digital High Street	575,000	200,000	775,000
	Retail Hub		300,000	300,000
	Neighbourhood Retail Improvements	2,750,000		2,750,000
	Towns and Villages Vibrancy		200,000	200,000
Housing and Community	Community Housing	650,000		650,000
	Housing Opportunities Fund	150,000		150,000
	Improving Community Resilience	2,000,000		2,000,000
	Green Homes Fuel Efficiency Programme	950,000		950,000
	Horden Regeneration Programme	4,500,000		4,500,000
	Allotment Improvement Programme	75,000		75,000
Environment & Health	Enhanced Environmental Maintenance	500,000		500,000
Built Environment	Vulnerable Buildings	1,200,000	50,000	1,250,000
	Property Reuse and Conversion	500,000		500,000
	Dean Bank Clearance and Improvement	150,000		150,000
	Easington Colliery Programme	1,000,000	50,000	1,050,000
	South Moor Improvement Programme	200,000		200,000
	Sacriston Workshop Conversion	200,000		200,000
Transport & Connectivity	Walking and Cycling Routes	3,750,000		3,750,000
	Neighbourhood Parking and Circulation	850,000		850,000
Local Programme	AAP Area Improvement Fund	4,200,000		4,200,000
Total		24,200,000	800,000	25,000,000



Appendix 4: Updated Towns and Villages Investment Plan (Feb 2023)

Programme Delivery & Planned Delivery 23/24 & 24/25

Theme	Project	21/22		22/23	23/24	24/25
Strategic Investments	Digital High Street	Bishop Auckland & Stanley Pilots, then Chester-le-Street, Seaham, Barnard Castle		Designed Wi-Fi scheme for installation in Consett Spennymoor and Crook, Durham City Design underway	Continue offer Bishop Auckland, Stanley, Seaham, Chester le Street, Barnard Castle. Investigate new opportunities in emerging technology	Phase 2 of delivery digital offer
	Retail Hub	Digital Media in Business training; Customer Service training; Emergency First Aid at Work; Food Safety in Catering training; 5x drop-in sessions and business support;		14 training courses have been undertaken across the County, covering Digital Media for Business, Customer Service & Sales, Level 2 Food Safety, Level 3 Emergency First Aid at Work	Engagement to Retail Sector offer Re 12 available courses: 2x Digital Media in Business training 2x Customer Service training 2x Emergency First Aid training 2x Food Safety training	Will ascertain Retail needs to develop the offer
	Neighbourhood Retail Improvements	Gilesgate x3 Proudfoot Drive Esh Winning South Stanley New Shildon Willington Silverdale Place Coundon Pelton Wheatley Hill Castleside Tow Law	Annfield Plain Cornforth Lanchester Blackhall Framwellgate x3 Murton Sacriston Easington Colliery Ushaw Moor Blackhill Station Town Haswell South Moor	Newton Hall x3 Belmont Carville Thornley Sherburn Hill New Brancepeth Bearpark Brandon West Rainton Pittington Wolsingham Stanhope, Frosterley	Delivery in: Framwellgate Moor, South Moor Coxhoe, Wheatley Hill, Spennymoor, New Brancepeth, Newton Hall, Tow Law, Seaham, Crook, Sherburn Road, Brandon, Ch Le St, Frosterley, Bearpark, Consett, Ferryhill, Horden	Delivery in: Thornley, Shildon, Cornforth, Annfield Plan, Pelton, Stanley, West Auckland, Framwellgate Moor, Ushaw Moor, Sherburn Road, Consett, Coundon, Eldon, Willington, Wolsingham, Stanhope



Towns and Villages Programme Delivery (continued)

Theme	Project	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Strategic Investments	Town and Village Vibrancy	Bishop Auckland Food Festival Seaham Food Festival Durham Book Festival S&DR community engagement Digital Library development	Bishop Auckland Food Festival, Seaham Food Festival Creative Economy Dev Digital Library Delivered Activities, Festivals and Events across all main towns "Winter Wonders" Oct – Dec Durham City Christmas Festival	Bishop Auckland & Seaham Food Festivals Programme of Town Centre Events and Activities developed and delivered Linking UKSPF (12 across main towns) plus 75 th Anniversary of New Towns at Peterlee and Newton Aycliffe Spennymoor Family Fun Street Festival	Events and Activities scope to develop following feedback with communities
		Community Housing	Discussions took place with; Durham Action on Single Housing (DASH) Craghead Development Trust Oakenshaw Community Association Canney Communities	East Durham Community Initiatives (EDCI) completed	Canny Hill Bishop Auckland is in development stage Further opportunities for community housing schemes to be considered
Housing and Community	Housing Opportunities Fund	Interventions in Targeted Delivery Plans areas	Shildon Peoples Centre converted to 4 x 1 bedroom Flats Coundon Grange 3 bungalows refurbished back into use	/	/
	Improving Community Resilience	Houndsgill Viaduct Scheduled Monument Project feasibility Peterlee & Horden Rugby Club Community Building	P&HRC Planning Approved, funding dev. Lowes Barn New Build Redhills Revealed GOL	Redhills Revealed Delivery Cothelstone Chapel Woodhouse Close X 6 further schemes to be delivered	14 Schemes ref report
	Green Homes Programme (External Wall Insulation Installs)	300 Properties/ EWI's complete	1846 Properties benefitted including solar phot voltaic panels, renewable heating	/	/



Towns and Villages Programme Delivery (continued)

Theme	Project	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Housing and Community	Hornden Regeneration Programme	Identify investment priorities through masterplan Commence acquisition and clearance of targets/problem properties	Undertake site assembly and marketing	Preparation and finalisation of Acquisition and Demolition Strategy and Decant Strategy. Autumn 2023 Cabinet, which will seek approval for the proposed delivery approach, CPO approach and the acquisition and demolition of properties.	Planning application to be prepared and submitted Acquisition of properties by negotiation will commence. Subject to approval, demolition of properties can be expected in Q4 of 24/25.
	Allotment Improvement Programme	/		Identify and implement 12x allotment improvement schemes	Identify and implement 12x allotment improvement schemes
	AAP Small Area Improvement Fund	Engage with 28 AAPs and deliver 28 schemes, identifying Small Area Programme opportunities	Delivery of AAP Small Area improvement schemes	Delivery of AAP Small Area improvement schemes	Delivery of AAP Small Area improvement schemes
Environmental and Health	Enhanced Environmental Maintenance	Deliver environmental improvement programme aligned to neighbourhood retail programme and targeted delivery plan areas	Delivered environmental improvements in 14 Areas	Deliver environmental improvement programme aligned to neighbourhood retail programme and targeted delivery plan areas	
Built Environment	Vulnerable Buildings	Address 3x priority buildings Stanley/Shildon, 2x buildings in Chester-le-Street	20 properties being brought back into use 10 with Action Taken	Address 5 priority properties	Address 5 priority properties
	Property Reuse and Conversion	5 Loans approved	3 Loans approved	Review loan take up and repayment rate Target 2 Loan approvals	Review loan take up and repayment rate Target 3 Loan approvals
	Dean Bank Clearance and Improvement	Conclude landscaping of recent clearance sites.	Demolition of 36 properties, landscape solution completed	/	/



Towns and Villages Programme Delivery (continued)

Theme	Project	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Built Environment	Easington Colliery Programme	Complete demolition programme at former Colliery School	Completed phased programme of clearance Review End use ref pocket park see report	Develop end use solution	Delivery or facilitate end use solution
	South Moor Improvement Programme	Improve key problem site and vulnerable property	DCC CCS developing design solution. Landowners' permissions now in place.	Costs and delivery	/
	Sacriston Workshop Conversion	Improvements to Sacriston Coop Buildings, Workshops 4,5 & 6 completed to Coop Buildings	2 further units brought back into use creating 5 independent spaces. CLLD Match funding attracted supporting 4 units	Support to CIC to attract external funding to complete empty units remaining potential UKSPF	/
Transport and Connectivity	Walking and Cycling Routes	Audit of opportunities along the Weardale Way Enhanced walking and cycling linked to Stockton and Darlington Railway 200th anniversary	Feasibility and design: Railway Paths to Bishop Auckland, south of Pesspool Wood to Wingate East Durham Rural Corridor at Trimdon link to Coxhoe, Relley Bridge, Houndsgill Viaduct, Belmont Viaduct, Barnard Castle to Bishop Auckland	Feasibility and design continue and Delivery: NCN 1 East Shotton, Wingate, South Hetton Wakerley Way C2C Auckland Walk Spennymoor to Coundon Seaham to Ryhope Murton to Dalton Park link	Delivery continues from programme feasibility outlined in 22/23 and 22/24
	Neighbourhood Parking and Circulation	Easington Village Parking/Traffic project Identification and design of four parking and circulation schemes Parkside Traffic Improvement scheme	Delivered Willington Car Park, Sherburn Hill Hub, Sacriston, Crook	Ash Crescent Seaham, Framwellgate Moor, Blackhall Colliery, Newton Hall, Shildon x2, Annfield Plain, Gilesgate	To be identified following costs and delivery of 23/24 schemes linking NRP Areas listed.



Appendix 5: Towns and Villages Delivery by Location (June 2023)

Geographical split of monies paid out

Towns & Villages Programme	Total spend to March 2023	Total expenditure to date	3 Towns	4 Together	BASH	Chester-le-Street & District	Derwent Valley	Durham	East Durham	East Durham Rural	Mid Durham	Great Aycliffe & Middlesbrough	Spennymoor	Stanley	Teesdale	Weardale
Digital High Street	£255,516	£269,878			£55,358	£55,402			£61,110					£45,458	£52,550	
Retail Hub	£47,252	£47,252	£3,350		£6,701	£9,549	£4,916	£7,083	£4,917			£7,383		£3,353		
Neighbourhood Retailing	£976,719	£1,051,719	£212,761	£33,378	£19,486	£177,616	£59,806	£129,074	£155,594	£28,641	£31,535	£19,565	£116,498	£25,360	£33,018	£9,387
Towns & Villages Vibrancy	£33,845	£45,845							£28,922			£4,923	£12,000			
Vulnerable Buildings	£98,618	£98,618				£3,795			£94,823							
Community Housing	£2,027	£2,027			£2,027											
Property Reuse, Conversion & Improvement	£370,000	£370,000			£150,000				£120,000				£100,000			
Housing Opportunity Fund	£85,500	£85,500			£85,500											
Enhanced Environmental Maintenance	£335,299	£338,490	£10,975	£17,023	£26,520	£30,213	£27,496	£24,834	£84,797	£8,516	£38,952	£9,568	£21,452	£13,525	£11,503	£13,116
Allotment Improvement Programme	£0	£0														
T&VC Walking & Cycling Routes	£203,312	£203,312			£2,985		£71	£61,782	£135,447		£42				£2,985	
Dean Bank Bernicia Environment Improvements	£145,942	£145,942		£145,942												
Easington Colliery School	£522,886	£522,886							£522,886							
Traffic Neighbourhood Parking & Circulation	£241,835	£241,835	£37,959			£31,621		£35,255	£137,000							
South Moor Development Site	£7,728	£7,728												£7,728		
Sacriston Co-op Buildings Refurbishment Grants	£200,000	£200,000				£200,000										
Improving Community Resilience (inc Redhills)	£198,714	£489,954						£150,000	£279,954						£60,000	
Hornden Housing Feasibility Plan	£98,840	£98,840							£98,840							
Green Homes - Phase 1b & 2	£950,000	£950,000	£12,825	£176,225	£163,400	£94,145	£110,675	£23,340	£135,565	£21,090	£18,555	£67,735	£21,090	£78,280	£27,075	
AAP Area Improvement Programme II	£1,496,797	£2,138,702	£210,000	£141,685	£210,000	£84,278	£210,000	£170,306	£170,000	£164,431	£187,786	£170,916	£157,300	£50,000	£180,000	£32,000
TOTAL	£6,270,830	£7,308,528	£487,870.00	£514,253.00	£721,977.00	£686,619.00	£412,964.00	£601,674.00	£2,029,855.00	£222,678.00	£276,870.00	£280,090.00	£428,340.00	£223,704.00	£367,131.00	£54,503.00

Total payment split approximately across identified AAP areas

Spend across geographical areas

Committed places in development/designs/fees/publicly announced