



South Tyneside Council

Report to Riverside Community Area Forum

Cabinet Portfolio/Lead Member: Cllr Karen Pittock

Report of Martin Gill – Head of Operational Housing and homelessness

Subject: CAF Management Team Update

Date: 9 June 2026

Wards affected: Beacon & Bents, Simonside & Rekendyke, West Park and Westoe

Council ambitions:

Does the report and any appendices contain information which has been identified as confidential or exempt?

☐

Yes

State the applicable paragraph number(s) under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972:

☒

No, this report does not contain information identified as confidential or exempt.

For Executive Decisions only:

Is the decision a Key Decision?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Is it included in the Forward Plan?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If not in the Forward Plan is the report:

☐ General Exception Rule

☐ Special Urgency Rule

Relevant Scrutiny Chair:

Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?

☐ Yes

☒ No

(If the decision is anything other than any executive decision made by the Cabinet or a Key Decision made by an officer under delegated powers, call-in is not applicable. This should be explained in the report.)

Merrick Robertson

Riverside CAF 9 June 2026

Page 1

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides a summary of Community Area Forum funded schemes.
2. This report also contains updates from relevant officers regarding projects that had not been completed by the date of the last CAF meeting, as Appendix A.

The CAF Management Team

3. Merrik Robertson will continue his role as the CAF Co-ordinator; Merrik will be working on projects across the borough. He will be supported by his manager Caroline Johnson.
4. A large part of Merrik's role will be to work with ward members on current and future CAF schemes assisting them through to the approval stage and supporting members through the CAF planning process in 26/27.
5. Work is ongoing to review spend and organise scheme progression. A priority for the team is to ensure CAF funding is allocated in the most effective way possible.
6. Contacts for the Team as follows:

Merrik Robertson – 07776995448 – merrik.robertson@southtyneside.gov.uk

7. A number of internal projects were awarded funding from this CAF. This report contains details of projects approved in 2025/26 that are not complete, with updates provided by officers shown as **Appendix A**.

Streetscene update

8. The service continues to deliver cleansing and grounds maintenance services across South Tyneside as we head towards the busy summer period.

9. The Team deliver street cleansing, park management, coastal services and mechanical road sweeping in house, we also deliver a portion of out of hours services. We also manage external contractors to deliver grounds maintenance contracts that deliver grass cutting, horticulture, weed management and beach levelling.

10. We have recently just completed beach levelling on both Littlehaven and Sandhaven beaches, this is an annual event and is required to realign sand that has been displaced by winter storms, blocking pedestrian access and making access to the beach a challenge for visitors. The scope of work for this year was delivered with the intention of enhancing the natural coastline, supporting existing habitats, whilst ensuring areas are safe for visitors and easily accessible for summer cleansing regimes.

11. The team will continue with the endless task of clearing sand from walkways over the summer period.

12. Grounds Maintenance

Contractors continue to deliver scheduled works for grass cutting, hort works and weed management, currently all report to be on schedule.

As a reminder you can report any related issues via contact centre or eservices.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the information contained in this report.

List of Appendices

- Appendix A – CAF funded projects.

background papers background papers background papers

Report Title

The following is a list of the background papers (excluding exempt papers) relied upon in the preparation of the above report:

Background Paper	File Ref:	File Location