



South Tyneside Council

09 July 2026

Jarrow and Boldon CAF

11 June 2026

Present: Councillors: Oughton (Chair), Barr, Bell, Diamond, Fox, Kilgour, Murray, Oliver, Rice, A. Smith, Thomas and Wears

David Heron (Northumbria Police), Merrik Robertson (Community and Place Development Co-ordinator), Gemma Stevenson (Housing Manager), Sandra McGurk (Community Safety and Tenancy Enforcement Manager), Rachel Booker (Communications Officer), Fiona Kelly (Partnership Manager – Jarrow), Susan Wear DL (Chair of Jarrow Forward Board), Karen Connolly (Democracy Officer) and Jonathan Lunness (Scrutiny and Democracy Support Officer).

There were 25 members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2026

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2026 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Community Partners Report

NEXUS

Nexus representatives were not available to attend this CAF meeting; an Officer provided an update on their behalf:

- Between Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 June 2026 no trains would run between Brockley Whins and South Hylton in both directions all day to allow for Network Rail improvement work.
- Between Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 July 2026 no trains will run between Brockley Whins and South Hylton in both directions all day to allow for Network Rail improvement work.
- Between Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 July 2026 no trains will run between Brockley Whins and South Hylton in both directions all day to allow for Network Rail improvement work.
- Trains were to run elsewhere on the system but may not be running to the usual timetable. Revised train timetables could be viewed here:

https://www.nexus.org.uk/metro/updates?open=t_timetable-updates

- A replacement bus service (number 901) would be running between Brockley Whins and South Hylton in both directions. A replacement bus stop location map can be found using the link below:

https://www.nexus.org.uk/sites/default/files/bus_maps_4_5_july_2026.pdf

A member of the public raised concern about proposed parking charges at Fellgate metro station and noted that proposals had also been made in regards Hebburn and East Boldon stations too. A Member noted that this may impact on local residents if commuters instead parked in residential areas.

A Member noted that they had written to the Chief Executive of Nexus with regards to the proposed parking charges and the response was that they were just considering parking charges at this point and they would get back once they had any confirmation.

A member of the public raised the issue of seating at Jarrow bus station, suggesting that they were badly designed and the positioning of the handrail meant that you could easily slide off the seats. They asked if this matter could be raised.

The timetabling of the buses was raised and suggested that it needed consideration. A Member noted that bus companies were privately operated and that the Council had no influence over the routes or timings. A Member stated that they would take this up on the residents' behalf.

Police

Inspector David Heron, Northumbria Police, presented the reports which contained updates on Police activities and future initiatives in

the wards covered by the Jarrow and Boldon Community Area Forum since the last meeting.

Boldon Colliery

A written report had been provided for the latest 8-week period, 5 April to 30 May 2026.

Within the Boldon Colliery area, a total of 208 incidents were recorded, which was consistent with the same period in 2025 (192) and the previous period (218). It was noted that incident levels were expected to rise during the summer months, particularly in relation to anti-social behaviour and the use of off-road and electric motorcycles.

There were 89 crimes recorded during the period, broadly in line with the same period in 2025 (73) and the previous period (95). The most common offence types were violence against the person (without injury), theft and handling, criminal damage, violence against the person (with injury), public disorder and burglary.

The streets with the highest number of recorded crimes were New Road, North Road and East View. There were 13 crimes recorded at New Road all of which occurred in a care home and were minor assaults by residents on other residents. In North Road, all recorded crimes were at Asda, those being theft, common assault, criminal damage, public disorder and assault. In East View 10 crimes were recorded for shoplifting at Herons.

In relation to burglary, there were 4 residential burglaries and 2 commercial burglaries reported, representing an increase compared to the same period in 2025 which was 1 residential and 0 commercial, whereas the numbers were the same as the previous reporting period. Offences were spread across the area with no obvious correlations between the offences.

A total of 7 vehicle-related crimes were recorded, an increase from 3 in the same period last year as well as an increase from 4 in the previous period. Half of the offences were down to damage of vehicles, one was down to the theft of a motorcycle and the remaining were down to the attempted theft of motorcycles.

There were 2 hate crimes recorded during the period, consisting of 2 homophobic offences, showing an increase compared to previous periods. There were 22 incidents of anti-social behaviour reported, an increase from 18 in the previous period and 17 in the same period last year. The main categories included motorcycle disorder, other ASB (nuisance), neighbourly disputes and noise complaints.

Jarrow

A written report had been provided for the latest 8-week period, 26 March to 20 May 2026.

Within the Jarrow area, a total of 1212 incidents were recorded, which was consistent with the same period in 2025 (1215) and a slight decrease on the previous period (1252). It was again noted that incident levels were expected to rise during the summer months, particularly in relation to anti-social behaviour and the use of off-road and electric motorcycles.

There were 486 crimes recorded during the period, an increase from the same period in 2025 (408) as well as an increase in the previous period (442). The most common offence types were theft and handling, violence against the person (without injury), criminal damage, public disorder, violence against the person (with injury), sexual offences and burglary.

The streets with the highest number of recorded crimes were Abbey Drive, Viking Centre and Towers Place. There were 30 crimes recorded at Abbey Drive location, all of which were thefts from Morrisons except for 1 record of violence.

The officer informed the Caf that South Tyneside had a dedicated shoplifting SPOC who was responsible for collecting and collating evidence of shoplifting offences allowing neighbourhood officers to tackle offenders as soon as possible. There had been several recent instances of offenders being charged with multiple offences across the Borough.

47 offences were recorded in the Viking Centre, 35 of these were theft and out of these 18 were related to thefts from B&M and 1 violence against a person with injury at B&M.

- Criminal Damage (5)
- Violence against the person without injury (3)
- Violence against the person with injury (2)
- Drug Crime (1)
- Vehicle Crime (1)

In relation to Tesco at Towers Place 13 thefts had been recorded.

In relation to burglary, there were 16 residential burglaries and 4 commercial burglaries reported, representing an increase compared to the same period in 2025 which was 7 residential and 4 commercial, as well as an increase in incidents since the previous reporting period. Offences were spread across the area with no obvious correlations between the offences.

It was noted that there had been no obvious correlations between the offences which have been committed on different dates. The Police had carried out a number of Nightshift Duties in plain clothes to proactively disrupt and prevent burglary crime in the area.

A total of 15 vehicle-related crimes were recorded, an increase from 12 in the same period last year and the same number of incidents being recorded for the previous period.

- Taken without consent (9)
- Vehicle Interference (1)
- Theft from Motor Vehicle (5)

There were 3 hate crimes reported, a decrease from the same period last year (6) and small decrease from the same reporting period (4). There were 72 incidents of anti-social behaviour reported, a slight decrease from the same period last year (74) and a significant decrease from the previous reporting period (82). The highest categories are:

- neighbourly disputes (16)
- motorcycle disorder (15)
- nuisance (12)

It was noted that the Police had conducted, and continued to conduct, dedicated patrols in ASB hotspot areas. By working alongside colleagues from South Tyneside Council's Business carrying out joint visits to regular neighbour disputes and issuing orders where required. Patrols had also been linked with Community Responder Teams to continue to tackle those who cause ASB throughout the area.

It was also noted that Police were seeing a trend in keyless cars such as Fiestas and VW Golfs being stolen. An operation was in place to tackle this problem, as well as the illegal selling of vapes to children.

A Member raised the issue of cannabis vapes. The police confirmed that it was difficult to establish what was contained within these vapes and that they were being specifically targeted at school children. Recently someone had been arrested who was in possession of 200 of these vapes. It was queried if the police were providing information sessions in schools and it was confirmed that police community support officers and the prevention team do go into schools to advise on topical issues and that they were currently working on sessions regarding vapes.

A Member noted that members of the community had raised the issue of vapes laced with spice being sold around Hedworth shops. The police were aware of those reports and were gathering intelligence and targeting the relevant individuals.

A Member queried whether the test purchasing in vape shops was still ongoing and queried the time scale of the legal processes and closure orders relating to test purchases of vapes, the officer confirmed that test purchases did still occur and that a recent closure order had been served in Jarrow for the selling of illegal vapes.

The Police had seen some success with shutting down cannabis farms and it was hoped this would encourage criminals to move activity outside the Borough. A member of the public asked what the Police were doing in regard to small time cannabis in relation to a residential property where the smell was affecting residents on a daily basis. It was explained that it was having a negative impact on families in the surrounding areas. The police recommended reporting via the 101 number or online. The Community Safety and Tenancy Enforcement team confirmed that if it was a Council property then tenancy action could be taken if it could be proven. The resident was advised to log the incidents.

It was discussed that Jarrow metro station often smelled of cannabis. It was noted that there is CCTV on both metro stations and trains to help tackle antisocial behaviour, which would include smoking cannabis.

Members and residents raised the continuing problem regarding offroad bikes/e-bikes and noted that they were often seen in certain locations. It was queried whether 15 reports detailed within the report was representative of the scale of the issue. A Member queried if possession of an e-bike was enough to warrant it being seized. The police confirmed that e-bikes were illegal over a certain specification, but that the difficulty was that legal bikes were being enhanced over the legal specifications. However, it was confirmed that even legal e-bikes could be seized if they were being driven dangerously or irresponsibly. A Member noted that sometimes these bikes skip red lights and dodge cars, which the police noted would be classified as dangerous driving. It was noted that there must be high risk to the public for the police to pursue an e-bike.

The police suggested that some bikes can be distinctive and that any incidents should be reported so that the police can build up an accurate picture of dates, times and locations and assist with building a picture of the hot spot areas. In addition, they were asked to report anyone they believe to be in possession of an E. Bike or scooter and the location of where the bike or scooter was being stored.

Fire

There were no representatives present from the Fire Service, the report presented in the papers provided the following data for the CAF:

April 2026

Incidents

Type of Incident	April 2025	April 2026
Deliberate Primary Fires (excluding Road Vehicles)	1	0
Deliberate Primary Road Vehicle Fires	1	2
Deliberate Secondary Fires	74	22
Deliberate Fires	76	24

Incidents – Ward Breakdown of deliberate secondary fires

Ward	April 2026
Bede	1
Boldon Colliery	9
Fellgate and Hedworth Ward	3
Primrose	9

Incidents – Ward Breakdown of all deliberate fires

Ward	April 2026
Bede	2
Boldon Colliery	9
Fellgate and Hedworth Ward	4
Primrose	9

Anti-Social Behaviour

Sandra McGurk, Community Safety and Tenancy Enforcement Manager, provided details of the performance in the 4th quarter of 2025/26 of the Community Safety and Tenancy Enforcement Team.

The main 3 reported categories continued to be Noise, Harassment and Intimidation and Violence. There had been several full and partial closure orders granted throughout 2025/26 to protect residents and the wider community from ongoing drug and alcohol use, criminality, and exploitation.

It was noted that the updated Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Policy had been approved by Cabinet in January 2026. The revised policy set out a clearer definition of ASB as well as how it will be tackled, with prevention, early intervention, support for victims, and proportionate enforcement where necessary.

A programme of staff training was in place as well as continued communications around ASB including educational posts on social media and leaflets at events.

It was noted that the team continued to work closely with Community and Operations Property Services teams with cases where tenants were not allowing access for electrical safety and building compliance work. There had been several Notice of Seeking Possession orders issued and applications to Court for Civil Injunctions which had so far been successful.

The officer informed CAF that there was a multi-agency approach to tackle youth disorder and Street drinkers identified as causing issues within the town centres. Some of these individuals were linked to South Tyneside Council tenancies so the team were currently working with other services to identify and tackle the ongoing issues.

There was an increase in complex cases due to issues involving mental health and drug and alcohol. The team continued to use a trauma informed approach to tackle such cases whilst supporting customers. There had been a rise in the number of Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) meetings due to the complexity of cases where enforcement action may not be reasonable or proportionate and other interventions are required.

Agreed: That the update be noted.

4. CAF Funding Report

Submitted: Report of the Director Business and Resources and the Director of Governance and Corporate Affairs

Merrik Robertson, Community and Place Development Co-ordinator, presented the report.

It was confirmed that Cabinet had approved the CAF budget for 2026/27 totalling £1,050 million across all 5 of the Borough's CAFs, comprising Environmental Capital Funding, Housing Capital Funding and Local Neighbourhoods Scheme.

The funding available to this Community Area Forum for the 2026/2027 financial year was £266,157 which comprised the following:

- Environmental Capital Funding – 111,111
- Housing Capital Funding – 121,713
- Local Neighbourhoods Scheme – 33,333

In accordance with the Council Constitution, the Housing Capital Scheme must be used to support investment that directly benefits local authority dwellings. While £121,713 had been approved, members were asked to decide how this funding was to be split, with the options being split by number of council houses in each ward or an equal split across the wards. Details of both options were provided.

Members discussed the options for the split of the Housing Capital Scheme funding, it was agreed to split the funding equally across all four wards, giving each ward £30,428.

A show of hands vote was taken on the funding split:

Option A, the number of council houses per ward: 5

Option B, equal split across the wards: 6

A member of the public queried a recent decision at Borough Council about reducing the threshold for receipting spend over £25 for LNS schemes. The Officer confirmed that any change to the Constitution should first be considered at Constitution Committee rather than at Borough Council and that this was scheduled for consideration.

Agreed: That (a) the report be noted and (b) the Housing Capital funding be split equally across the wards.

5. CAF Management Team Update

Submitted: Report of the Director Business and Resources and the Director of Governance and Corporate Affairs

Merrik Robertson, Community Area Forum Manager, presented the report which provided Members with an update on CAF funded schemes and activity undertaken by the CAF Management Team.

Members were informed that a number of Environmental Capital and Housing Capital schemes approved by the Forum remained ongoing, with further detail and updates provided in Appendix A. The report also included information on projects that had not been completed at the time of the previous meeting.

It was noted that Merrik Robertson would continue in his role as CAF Manager, supported by Caroline Johnson. The role included working closely with ward Members to develop and progress current and future CAF schemes through to approval and supporting the planning process for 2026/2027.

The Forum was advised that work was ongoing to review expenditure and ensure that CAF funding was allocated as effectively as possible, with a focus on progressing schemes in a timely manner.

The report usually contained a regular update from StreetScene; however, it was suggested that StreetScene attend the next CAF meeting to give an overview of their work for the benefit of new Members.

Members of the public raised the following issues in the area:

- Unsightly paths at Fellgate metro
- King George playing fields required attention as a resident stated that they found them difficult to walk on
- The paths in Jarrow Cemetery had been neglected many of which contained potholes.
- Horseshoe bridge – potholes are severe.
- Nothing for youths, consider installing a BMX track.

The residents were urged to report these matters to the Council. It was noted that there was to be a Streetscene item at the next meeting of the CAF.

A member of the public stated that she was interested in setting up a community group and asked how to get support for this. A Councillor stated how a community garden had been set up in Low Simonside, the people running this were interested in getting others involved. He stated that these volunteers might be able to advise. He agreed to speak to the resident outside of the meeting to discuss this further.

It was further noted that the Members were in the process of setting up their ward surgeries, the information on the dates and times could be found on the Council website or by contacting your councillor directly.

Agreed: That the update be noted.

6. South Tyneside Housing Services Quarterly Performance Report

Submitted: Report of South Tyneside Housing

Gemma Stevenson, Housing Manager, presented the report which provided Members with an update on Housing Services performance for Quarter 4 of 2025/2026 and a local update for the Jarrow and Boldon area.

It was noted that overall performance remained strong, with repairs performance exceeding targets and compliance across gas, fire, asbestos, water and lift safety checks at 100%. Members were advised that capital spend was slightly below target due to project delivery timescales, including consultation, procurement and regulatory approvals.

In relation to housing management, anti-social behaviour levels remained within target overall, although cases involving hate crime

were above target. Partnership working with Police and other services continued to address issues and support residents. Performance relating to “behind the door” visits had improved during the latter part of the year and the Jarrow and Boldon area had exceeded their target.

Income collection performance had improved, with rent collection exceeding target and arrears reduced to 3.53%, very slightly above target. This was supported by early intervention and targeted assistance for tenants. Customer service performance remained strong, with high levels of calls resolved at first point of contact and complaints responded to within target timescales, including 100% compliance for stage 2 complaints.

The Welfare Support Team secured over £3 million in financial gains for Jarrow and Boldon residents, supporting households with benefits and financial advice.

It was noted that housing demand remained high, with 3,665 active applications, while homelessness prevention performance had improved through early intervention.

Void performance remained strong, with effective management ensuring properties were re-let efficiently, and work was ongoing to review allocation processes. The Health and Housing Team and Housing Plus services continued to provide support to residents, including wellbeing calls and assistance for those with complex needs.

A Member requested that data providing a breakdown of the number of people currently housed and how many were on the exchange list be provided at future updates, including reasons for rehousing where possible. In addition, how many were looking to move from a property that is no longer suitable for their needs.

Agreed: That the update be noted.

7. End of Year Review

Submitted: Report of the Director Business and Resources and the Director of Governance and Corporate Affairs

A presentation was provided outlining some of the schemes which had been completed using CAF funding, with the help of the CAF Management Team, over the last year.

Members were advised that during 2025/2026 the Team had facilitated over 150 ward meetings and site visits and attended 80 CAF and CAF business meetings. In total, 205 CAF schemes had been developed, with 128 taken through to approval, alongside 133 Local Neighbourhood Scheme applications processed.

It was noted that scheme development was Member-led, with officers working closely with ward Members and residents through site visits, gathering feedback and identifying local issues which informed project development across all wards. Images of some of the completed CAF schemes had been included for each ward.

Positive feedback from residents and community groups was noted, particularly in relation to environmental improvements, housing upgrades and projects supported through CAF funding, which had contributed to improved safety, parking, and community facilities.

A Member raised a possible scheme about a driveway in Falmouth Drive. This was to be discussed with the relevant Officers.

Agreed: That the presentation be noted.

8. Jarrow Forward

Submitted: Report of Jarrow Board

Fiona Kelly and Susan Wear delivered an update to the CAF on the Jarrow Forward programme. The presentation began by outlining the background to the initiative, which stemmed from a 2023 Government announcement that 75 towns, including five in the North East, would receive £20 million over ten years as part of the Long-Term Plan for Towns. Funding was to be split 75% capital and 25% revenue, with a focus on safety and security, high streets, culture and heritage, and connectivity.

In order to access the funding, towns were required to establish an independent board and produce a ten-year plan, with the Council acting as the accountable body. Jarrow Forward was developed in early 2024 with a mix of public, private, and voluntary sector partners.

Government guidance stated that boards should include the local community, employers, representatives from the Council and the MP but it should not be chaired by a politician.

Susan Wear Brown (formerly NGI and Port of Tyne) was appointed Chair and Geoff Thompson (South Shields FC) as Vice Chair. The Board includes representatives from Barbour, Bede's Helping Hands, the ICB, Tyne Coast College, Big Local Jarrow and Kate Osborne MP. The board had met seven times when it agreed the Terms of Reference, created an Executive Group, conducted research into existing projects and national data, produced an outline plan, liaised with and lobbied Government, held three workshops, and undertaken community engagement.

Following the General Election, the fund was temporarily paused but later confirmed in the November 2024 and March 2025 Budgets

under a new name: Plan for Neighbourhoods. The revised programme and funding would begin in April 2026, £2 million a year is expected, 75% capital. The focus was amended to three priorities; thriving places; stronger communities; taking back control.

The Government guidance required the production of a ten year Regeneration Plan to be submitted by November 2025. In September 2025 the programme branding changed to Pride in Place with a further 169 neighbourhoods being included in the scheme which included Biddick Hall under PiP Phase 2.

During March to June 2025, 'Your Jarrow community consultation' took place. During this period:

- Every house received Jarrow Festival brochure with advert;
- 1,500 residents responded to survey, including 500 young people;
- 100 groups and stakeholders engaged, including 7 focus groups;
- Bespoke community engagement to specific groups, comms, posters, social media, transport hubs and screens;
- Two workshops of key local and regional partners and
- Appointed a Partnership Manager – Fiona Kelly.

The Key Research findings were:

- Residents and young people want to see more opportunity for skills, leisure and creativity; safe playgrounds and green spaces; thriving town centre.
- While adults suggested youth centres, young people talked about better outdoor facilities and places to meet, being part of events and festivals. Partners and residents wanted to see an improvement in Jarrow's image and landscape, enhancing its key visitor sites and experiences.
- Businesses and schools looked for ways to support young people, grow their ambition and confidence through art and creativity, cultural events and soft skills.
- Many opportunities that residents did not know about and there was a real thirst for more information about things to do, see, take part in.

The Vision for the Board was: *"Inspired by its iconic history, Jarrow will once more be a vibrant creative and cultural centre, powered by the community, empowering its young people to be the best they can be."*

It produced 5 values: Life enhancing; innovative; engaging; sustainable; legacy.

The three Priorities established were:

- Better futures for Jarrow's young people

- A re-energised Jarrow town centre
- Connected, cohesive Jarrow community

It was noted that the plan had been submitted to Government in October 2025 and signed off in April 2026.

Working groups were set up to determine the key activities for each of the three priorities.

In addition to the work outlined Jarrow Forward was leading the bid for Jarrow to become the UK's first town of culture

<https://ourconversation.co.uk/jarrow-town-of-culture/>. This would be a partnership-led bid, rooted in the town's heritage, creativity and ambition. The shortlisting was to start late Spring 2026 and the shortlisted towns would receive £60,000 to develop their bid with the winning town receiving £3.5m to spend in 2028 on a year-long celebration of its culture and its contribution to the UK, with two runners-up receiving £250k each.

The presentation highlighted the next steps which would include recognition of the ongoing significance of the Jarrow March as October 2026 marks the 90th anniversary of the Jarrow March.

The Board will be seeking to develop a fund to help young people into work, training and education with the possibility of funding apprenticeships, scholarships, work experience or accredited training

A Member queried what could be done to support the regeneration of Jarrow, given the challenges it faced including high business rates, empty shops and antisocial behaviour. It was noted that there was already some investment into the area and that new investors needed to see Jarrow as an attractive and interesting place to invest and to get involved with, and that the promotion of the area was crucial in that regard.

A Member asked if there was a Council representative from each ward in Jarrow on the Board. The Board were informed that there were four spaces on the Board for Council representatives across the wards which included NE32 as a postcode which were Primrose, Fellgate and Hedworth, Bede and Monkton.

It was queried what would be happening in Boldon Colliery. It was explained that the money had been allocated by central government to the NE32 postcode area which did not include Boldon Colliery. Whilst people from the Boldon Colliery area may benefit from any investment into a neighbouring area such as Jarrow, the money was designated by government for the Jarrow area only.

It was confirmed that the public could be engaged through working groups and consultation exercises so that their opinions and views could be used to inform decision making by the Board.

It was noted that there was a newly appointed Communications Officer to support the work of the Jarrow Forward Board and to promote its activities.

Agreed: That the presentation be noted.

9. Jarrow and Boldon CAF Work Programme 2025/2026

Submitted: Report of the Director of Governance and Corporate Affairs

A member of the public suggested that the CAF consider traffic as a potential future item.

A Member suggested an item on Stanley Nurseries be considered.

Agreed: That the work programme be noted.

10. Date and Time of Future Meetings

The Chair proposed that meetings scheduled for 9 July 2026 and 10 September 2026 be held at 5pm, and that meetings scheduled for 5 November 2026, 10 December 2026 and 4 February 2027 be held at 10am.

It was suggested that, if possible, there be a daytime and evening meeting each at Jarrow Town Hall, Boldon CA and Bilton Hall.

This was seconded and agreed.

Agreed: That the date and times of future meetings be noted.

11. Chair's Urgent Items

There were no urgent items to be discussed.