

Washington Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2023 / 2026



The Area Plan commits the Area Committee to a number of priorities, which will be delivered within the Washington area. This Delivery Plan provides an update on progress on the Area Committee's Area Plan and will be monitored by the Area Committee and actions will be addressed throughout the next three years via the Washington Neighbourhood and Community Board.

Vibrant Smart City - Priorities and Actions 2023-26	
Action	Update
A plantation and tree management programme	Project now complete. Considerable amount of work completed around Washington.
Washington Clean and Green project	Project extension agreed at Area Committee in June 23 to 2025. Regular Steering Group meetings are held, where locations and workplans are agreed. A wet spring had impacted upon some of the possible tasks, however 23 litter picks and 12 clearances had taken place.
Support for VCS organisations and community hubs	Project now complete, all funding allocated. During the year the remaining balances for Community Asset funding was allocated across 5 community and youth venues to improve internal and external aspects of the buildings; including heating, lighting, roof repairs to a total value of £27,870
Community events	No events were scheduled for the first quarter of 2024. Events will continue through 2024 starting with the 1940's weekend celebration in Springwell.
A Heritage and Culture strategy/programme	A Heritage networking event took place in February which was very well attended. The small grants funding opportunity continues to be promoted with groups encouraged to submit applications to support the delivery of a programme of events for Washington 60. The Partnership continue to be heavily involved in supporting Washington 60 planning.
The Washington Ward Improvement Programme	Project complete - Remaining balances returned to Neighbourhood Fund.

A road safety and VAS programme	There are currently 40 locations and 10 signs, which are rotated on a quarterly basis. The project continues to support the local community by making drivers aware of their vehicle speed and encourage drivers exceeding the advertised speed limit to reduce their speed. A new VAS site on Donvale Road has been requested and a suitable site has been identified. The site will be established in this financial year.
Public artwork & celebrations for Washington 60 / Galleries 50	A large number of school workshops have now been held across Washington since the launch in November, the competition is now closed and judging will take place in July with an award ceremony being held in Washington Arts Centre on 19 th July.
A Washington volunteer recognition project	A recognition presentation was held for the Clean and Green volunteers, where certificates were presented by Cllr Snowdon at Bowes Railway. Volunteers were also invited by the Mayor to have a tour of City Hall which was held in February.
Signage at Fatfield Riverside to incorporate the heritage and ecology of the area	Discussions with relevant service areas are ongoing.
A feasibility study for Fatfield Riverside & wider Washington	Feasibility study agreed at December Area Committee, work is currently underway to provide two costed schemes for consideration.
Healthy Smart City - Priorities and Actions 2023-26	
Action	Update
A programme of outreach youth provision	Complete - Update shared with members 15/8/23, project now complete. Ongoing discussions are being held with youth providers to ensure any new youth project ideas can be considered to meet identified need.
Neighbourhood management and enforcement	Project extension agreed at December Area Committee to continue until March 2026. Outcomes continue to be positive, residents engaged regarding bin presentation and improvements have been noted, dog fouling and high visibility patrols continue and feedback from the public is positive. Enforcement action continues to be issued.
Investment in parks and play areas	Harraton Park improvements are now complete utilising fixed play strategy funding. Recent update provided to members on Playzone.
Positive activities for young people during school holidays	A call for projects for Activities for Young People had seen 23 applications to deliver a variety of activities across all wards to cover all age ranges. Applications had been scored and ranked and will be presented to Area Committee in June.

Diversions activities for young people	TWFRS Phoenix project presented to members at December Area Committee. Project approved for x4 Secondary and x5 Primary schools to partake, each with 10 identified students – 90 across the year.
Contributed to the development of the Links for Life programme	Organisations delivering Links for Life have been supported with appropriate Community Chest funding and also one to one support from the Partnership & Community Resilience Manager.
Improved access to allotments and community gardens	Relevant service lead attended the November Neighbourhood and Community Board meeting to update on continued work in and around allotments. Site visit had been carried out at allotments adjacent to Usworth Park and discussions were being held about their appropriate allocation.
A considered approach to park development, including ecological impact	Any discussions held around park development always include consideration for ecological impact.
Dynamic Smart City – Priorities and Actions 2023-26	
Action	Update
Supporting people into work	The REACT project has continued to be delivered with two part-time staff, providing access to the service for residents across four days per week. The REACT project has engaged 6 new customers in this quarter, with 2 clients from the caseload securing employment and two commencing occupational training.
Developing skills of young people	Can Do project now complete, residual remaining balance brought back into Neighbourhood Fund. A new project to develop skills of young people is being supported by the funding of a NEET project, agreed at March Area Committee. First quarter of delivery appears to be going well with some early outcomes already achieved.
Supporting young people to be more financially resilient	During the fourth quarter ShARP in Partnership with Oxclose & District Young Peoples Project have delivered a Fun with Finance interactive education programme to a small group of year 11 pupils from Oxclose Community Academy. A group of four post sixteen young people at Ayton Community Centre completed eight sessions focusing on Finance, with sessions delivered by staff from ShARP and Oxclose & District Young Peoples Project as well as outside agencies. Young People actively participated in group discussions and learning activities on a range of subjects including essential and non-essential spending, gambling, apprenticeship and living wage, bank accounts and savings and the dangers of borrowing money from loan sharks.

<p>Providing individual welfare and financial support</p>	<p>In quarter 4 WISP Advice Worker saw a significant increase in debt and debt repayment plans – this is when their money is currently being deducted from clients Universal Credit each month, leaving clients with a very low income to last them until their next payment date. WISP Advice Worker also noticed an increased rise in clients wanting information on how to claim Personal Independence Payments. 48 new clients presented to WISP for criteria to understand and check how to apply with a range of physical and mental health problems. A further 22 clients who were dyslexic and/ or had learning difficulties presented for WISP Advice Worker to read and explain the content of letters sent from DWP.</p> <p>With the migration of clients onto Universal Credit we have also seen clients presenting to WISP with concerns and worries about how the migration will affect them financially. The WISP Advice Worker carried out 72 better off calculations during this period with people that suffer from Mental Health problems.</p>
<p>Develop approach to consultation with communities/resident</p>	<p>Discussion have been held during VCS Network meetings about the opportunities to work with voluntary sector organisations to capture emerging issues and views of residents. Similarly, discussions are ongoing to engage Washington Youth Council with consultation opportunities where appropriate.</p>