

## Washington Area Committee

1<sup>st</sup> July 2010.

### Report of the Office of the Chief Executive

#### Community Action in Washington – Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions (2010/11 Work Plan)

##### 1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1. At its meeting in April 2010, the Committee agreed the report 'Towards a new work plan', which discussed and agreed the principle of up to six priorities, to include Responsive Local Services, to form the 2010-11 work plan. Area Committee then agreed those priorities at its meeting of the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010.
- 1.2. In addition to agreeing the new work plan and priorities, Area Committee also agreed new governance processes which have resulted in a new agenda format which allows the Area Committee to identify links between issues and activity. This process provides robust data and evidence with regard to issues, performance management information, and streamlines the reporting processes.
- 1.3. The Community Leadership Programme has also consolidated this approach by working with Members to embed mechanisms which improve their capacity to operate as effective community leaders developing a longer term vision for their area and promoting quality of life improvements in support of this.
- 1.4. Washington Area Committee has agreed to focus its efforts where they can make a real difference and have identified 4 key priorities:
  - Reducing Health Inequalities
  - Help local people access employment opportunities and improve the business offer in Washington
  - Address Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)
  - Responsive Local Services (RLS)

It was also recognised they will need to consider other cross cutting areas of work, e.g. equality and inclusion and child poverty, while delivering against those priorities. Please refer to **Annex 1** which includes the recently identified local impact issues which Area Committee has the capacity to address, supporting evidence and data, and proposed options.

- 1.5 Two 'Local Task and Finish Groups' have been established – one for Health Inequalities, and one for Employment and Business Support. With regard to Anti Social Behaviour, the focus of Area Committee work and the additionality they can bring will be taken forward through established structures such as the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) Group. Responsive Local Services will continue to present service performance for neighbourhood services to Area Committee. These groups will report through Item 3 on this agenda with regard to proposed focus, activity and options for delivery.

- 1.6 During the 2009/10 Council year, each Area Committee conducted a time-limited pilot arrangements for questions received from members of the public. Experience across the five committees was variable, with one committee receiving seven questions, while others received between none and four. West Committee received one question. From the questions received it has been demonstrated there is a need to ensure that Committee time is dedicated to dealing with questions that affect groups of residents, while using other mechanisms to resolve more specialist issues, for example those that affect only an individual.

In the light of this, a mainstreaming of questions to the Committee is proposed from July 2010. Residents' questions to the Committee will form an information stream within 'Community Insight' element on item 2 of the agenda. Considering these together with information from a range of other sources and information streams will provide the Committee with a rounded view of current and emerging community priorities. This will allow the Committee to prioritise areas for Members' attention and target Committee action, based on improved intelligence about issues current in the community

## **2. Performance Management**

- 2.1 10 new issues have been identified since the last meeting - see Annex 1. The following data sources have been utilised:

1. Health Inequalities	Mosaic Data (Primary Care Trust), Director of Public Health Report, Ward Visits, Area Committee Issues Log, LMAPS, Index of Multiple Deprivation. (IMD)
2. Employment	Director of Public Health Report, Ward Visits, Area Committee Issues Log, Hanlon, Tyne & Wear Research Institute
3. Business Support	Working Neighbourhoods Fund Data, Industrial Area Survey
4. AntiSocial Behaviour	Issues Log, Members Queries, LMAPS, Northumbria Police Stats
5. Attractive and Inclusive	Traffic Log, Members queries

## **3. Progress Report 2010/11 Action Plan**

- 3.1 Health Inequalities : The Task and Finish Group for Health Inequalities will present proposals for a programme of work and estimated budget requirements to September Area Committee. The following issues have been identified:
- Reducing under age alcohol misuse
  - Reducing teenage pregnancies
  - Reduce smoking
  - Emotional health and well being of local residents
- 3.2 Employment and Business: The Task and Finish Group for Employment and Business will present proposals for a programme of work and estimated budget

requirements to September Area Committee. The following issues have been identified:

- Supporting local people into employment
- Improving the business offer in Washington
- The development of work space in Washington

3.3 ASB – utilising LMAPS and current structures to address ASB, young people, alcohol etc. Proposals for projects and bids will be presented to September Area Committee.

3.4 Responsive Local Services are designed to:

- Increase levels of resident satisfaction through providing services that are responsive to community needs and effectively communicating improvements
- Tailor services in recognition of differing area/locality circumstances either through local problem solving or adapting service standards
- Recognise and enhance the community leadership role of elected members.

The initial scope of RLS focused upon five discrete service areas of Litter, Graffiti, Refuse, Grass Cutting and Dog Fouling. The next wave of services to be included are under review, however it is anticipated that enforcement will be included. The analysis was completed in June and the next wave will be confirmed in July 2010.

Although the target services within the scope of RLS remain a priority in terms of tailoring, the problem solving element of project does not exclude other issues being addressed that arise from the information presented to members at each committee.

#### **4. Recommendations/Options**

Members are requested to :

1. Note the contents of this report
  - The Performance data relating to new issues raised will be evidenced through Customer Insight information from September 2010.
  - Health Inequalities Task and Finish Group will present September 2010 Area Committee with a proposed work programme and estimated budget resource requirement
  - Employment and Business Task and Finish Group will present September 2010 Area Committee with a proposed work programme and estimated budget resource requirement
2. Invite Washington Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group (LMAPS) to submit a SIB application to deliver programmes of work which address Anti Social Behaviour hotspots in Washington

#### **5. Background papers**

- 5.1 Annex 1: Community Action: New Issue
- 5.2 Washington Local Area Plan
- 5.3 Reports to previous committees