

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at WASHINGTON MULTI PURPOSE CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 26TH MAY, 2010 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Kelly in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, Kelly, Padgett, Snowden, Walker and Williams.

Mike Poulter	- City Services
John Rostron	- City Services
Zoe Channing	- City Services
Les Clark	- City Services
Paul Power	- City Services
Dave Leonard	- Chief Executives
Bill Blackett	- Chief Executives
Karon Purvis	- Chief Executives
Louise Darby	- Chief Executives
Victoria Glass	- Chief Executives
Janet Snaith	- Chief Executives
Meg Boustead	- Children's Services
Derek Welsh	- Health, Housing and Adult Services
Neil Revely	- Health, Housing and Adult Services
Paul Wood	- Office of the Chief Executive
Acting Inspector Alan Pitchford	- Northumbria Police
John Chapman	- Gentoo
Ailsa Martin	- Sunderland Carers Centre
Sarann Valentine	- Sunderland Carers Centre
Pauline Tsentas	- Youth Development Group
Steven Rowntree	- Washington Mind

Members of the Washington Community.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Chamberlin, Cuthbert, Miller, I. Richardson, Scaplehorn, Timmins, D. Trueman, H. Trueman and Wake.

Amanda Healy, John Anderson, Joe Cummings, Inspector Paul Barrett and Jacqui Reeves.

Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 15th April, 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 15th April, 2010 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Washington: Establishing a new Work Plan 2010-11

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the proposals for the Local Area Plan priorities and sought the Committee's agreement of up to six priorities to form the 2010/11 Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Neil Revely, Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services and Area Lead Executive for the Washington Area Committee, introduced the report and advised that a great deal had been achieved over the last year, but perhaps the Committee had tried to concentrate on too much, therefore it was proposed there be a more focused approach with a maximum of six priorities for the 2010-11 Work Plan.

Mr. Revely also advised that it was proposed for Responsive Local Services to be included as one of the six priorities and that 2-3 Task and Finish groups be created for the priority actions, where relevant, to include Members and partners, to support the Lead Agent in delivering against the priority.

Les Clark, Head of Street Scene, and the facilitator of the workshops advised of the procedures they could follow and that once the sessions had concluded, Members would be asked to rank the priorities in order of importance.

The Committee then split into two groups to discuss the priorities in preparation for voting on which issues to include in the Work Plan.

Following the discussions Mr. Clark requested that Members place their votes to identify the priorities they wished for the Committee to tackle over the coming year. The results were as follows:-

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| 1. | Child Poverty in Washington | 7 votes |
| 2. | Help local people access employment opportunities | 11 votes |
| 3. | Improve the business offer in Washington | 3 votes |
| 4. | Identify gaps in Youth and Play provision | 0 votes |
| 5. | Family, Adult and Community Learning (FACL) | 7 votes |
| 6. | Support families and carers of children and young people | 2 votes |
| 7. | Address Anti Social Behaviour | 11 votes |
| 8. | Reducing health inequalities – focus on areas of concern re: life expectancy – teenage pregnancy, smoking, alcohol consumption and obesity, emotional wellbeing. | 16 votes |

The Chairman commented that many of the issues were linked, such as increasing local employment which would have an effect on Child Poverty and also Health.

The Chairman also commented that every Member felt strongly that the issues on Health desperately needed to be addressed and that Anti Social Behaviour was also a major issue.

Councillor Walker commented that areas of high deprivation and unemployment was linked to Child Poverty and reflects through ill health. As they were all linked, it was about how to address the issues and whilst achieving higher rates of employment, there was also a need to work with children from the beginning on the health aspects through partnership working with the NHS, midwives, etc.

The Chairman expressed a desire to see more organisations working together and challenged officers, partners and voluntary sector to come up with different ways to tackle the issues together.

Mr. Clark proposed that the Committee's main focus be on the Health issues, with other services tied in.

Councillor Snowdon felt that the Committee needed to focus on a specific area and identify a particular target rather than tackle a wide issue and achieve nothing.

The Chairman advised that there may be aspects of Health already being reviewed which could be reported back to the Area Committee.

Councillor Walker commented that the Committee would need to rely upon its partners such as the Police to look at how children were gaining access to alcohol and to educate them by liaising with the schools.

Councillor Williams commented that she felt there needed to be more interaction with the cluster managers of children's centres to get to the hard to reach families.

Mr. Clark suggested the Committee consider Employment/Business as one theme around the Economy and also the Inequalities but mainly focusing on Health in particular.

Mr. Revely advised that if Members wished to identify Anti Social Behaviour as a priority, a great deal of work was already underway on the issue, therefore, it would not require in-depth work from the Area Committee.

The Chairman commented on the Police Initiative which the Area Committee had helped to fund, which had proved very successful and requested that they highlight further schemes the Committee could possibly help fund.

Mr. Clark then enquired as to the support the Committee needed to move forward and suggested specific Task and Finish groups be implemented.

The Chairman commented that there should only be a maximum of two Task and Finish groups to best utilise Members and officer time and it was suggested

Councillor Miller undertake the Economic theme whilst Councillors Walker and Fletcher look at the Health theme.

Councillor Williams commented that no votes had been placed against the youth provision priority as Members believed the links were already in place to address that issue and also suggested that if voluntary sector groups were to be involved in the Task and Finish groups that they should receive some form of payment for their time.

The Chairman commented that there was a problem for voluntary groups and the support they needed and that he had asked for further investigations into accessing the future jobs fund.

John Rostron, Area Community Manager, advised that there was a payment plan in place for any CVS representatives attending partnership meetings, which may be transferable to other situations.

Mr. Clark requested that as the main priorities had been identified, if partners could contact Karon Purvis, Area Officer, on how they could best utilise their expertise.

The Chairman commented on the need to involve partners a great deal more and to challenge all in moving the process forward.

Councillor Snowdon advised on the need to keep the Safe theme high on the Committee's agenda also.

Derek Welsh, Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Manager, advised that all of their teams were represented on LMAP's to engage with partners to consider the issues in Washington and could report back to the Committee.

Mr. Revely advised on the need for partners' involvement and to consider how everyone can come together to achieve a particular focus.

Mr. Revely also commented that the issue of Anti Social Behaviour could remain a priority without a need for a Task and Finish group due to the work already underway which could be reported back to the Committee and that despite setting two specific areas of focus, all priorities on the list would still be investigated.

The Chairman advised that if anyone wished for a particular topic to be considered, that they could contact either Ms. Purvis or the elected Members.

2. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- i) agree to focus the efforts of the Area Committee on the Local Area Plan priorities where they can make a real difference;
- ii) agree to a maximum of six priorities, to include Responsive Local Services, to form the 2010/11 Work Plan;
- iii) identify and agree a Lead Agent for each priority action;

- iv) agree to establish a 'Local Task and Finish' group per priority action, where relevant, to include elected Members and partners, to support the Lead Agent in delivering against the priority;
- v) agree to align a nominal proportion of funding to each 'Local Task and Finish Priority';
- vi) agree to receive regular updates on progress in implementing all the priorities identified in the Washington Local Area Plan.

(Signed) J. KELLY,
Chairman.