

## WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE

### AGENDA

Meeting to be held in the Main Hall, Millennium Centre, The Oval, Concord, Washington, NE37 2QD on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2023 at 6.00 p.m.

#### Membership

Chapman, Donaghy, Fletcher, Guy, Jones, Cllrs Laws (Chair), F. Miller, G Miller, Dianne Snowdon, D. Trueman, H. Trueman, P. Walker, M. Walker, Warne (Vice Chair) and Williams

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1. (a) Chairman's Welcome; (b) Apologies for Absence; (c) Declarations of Interest; and (d) Minutes of the last meeting held on 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 – (Copy attached)	1
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Contact: Paul Wood, Governance Services Officer  
Email: [Paul.wood@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.wood@sunderland.gov.uk)  
Sandra Stephenson, Washington Area Officer  
Email: [sandra.stephenson@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.stephenson@sunderland.gov.uk)

For further information and assistance, please contact Paul Wood at [paul.wood@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:paul.wood@sunderland.gov.uk)

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\* Denotes an item relating to an executive function

**ELAINE WAUGH**  
**Assistant Director of Law and Governance**  
**City Hall**  
**Plater Way**  
**Sunderland**

**11<sup>th</sup> September, 2023**

# Item 1d

**At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held in THE MILLENNIUM CENTRE, THE OVAL, CONCORD, WASHINGTON, on THURSDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2023 at 6.00p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Laws in the Chair

Councillors Chapman, Fletcher, Guy, F. Miller, D. E. Snowdon, D. Trueman, H. Trueman, M. Walker, P. Walker, Warne and Williams

**Also in Attendance:-**

Pauline Hopper	-	Partnership and Community Resilience Manager (Coalfield), SCC
Sandra Stephenson	-	Partnership and Community Resilience Manager (Washington), SCC
Paul Wood	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Helen Peverley	-	Area Arrangements Strategic Manager, SCC
Sylvia Copley	-	Area Network Representative
Bethan Wilkie	-	Gentoo
Martin Farrow	-	TWFRA
John Anderson	-	TWFRA
Inspector Phil Baker	-	Northumbria Police

And Members of the Press and Public

**Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Donaghy, Jones and G. Miller. Apologies were also submitted from Graham King

## **Declarations of Interest**

Washington Area Budget Report - Item 4 Annex 1 – Application No. 2 – Washington Individual Support Programme

Councillor Dianne Snowdon made an open declaration on this application as her husband was employed by ShARP who deliver this project and left the room during consideration of the item.

Councillors Fletcher and F. Miller made open declarations on this application as volunteers at Mickey's Place, where the WISP Advice Worker was proposed to be located, therefore they left the room during consideration of the item.

Washington Area Budget Report - Item 4 Annex 3 – Councillor Chapman made an open declaration in the Community Chest application for Hope Family Church as an employee. As the recommendation was only to note the report, no further action was required.

## **Minutes of the last meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **Washington Area Committee Delivery Plan 2023 - 2026**

The Assistant Director of Housing and Communities submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested the Committees consideration and approval of the Washington Area Committee Area Plan for 2023-26 and to provide an update on the Area Committee Area Plan Governance arrangements.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pauline Hopper, Partnership and Community Resilience Manager (Coalfield), presented the report and was on hand to answer any queries raised by Members.

In response to Councillor D.E. Snowdon's enquiry if this would be a rolling plan and would be amended to 2024-2027 next year, Mrs Helen Peverley, Area Arrangements Strategic Manager advised that this was a 3-year plan and they would be starting to look at 2024 later this year.

2. RESOLVED that the Committee
  - i) Considered and agreed the Draft Area Committee Plan for 2023-2026, External Priorities for referral to cabinet for approval as contained within Annex 1 of the report;

- ii) Agreed that the Internal priorities, which had been discussed and agreed at the Area Committee Workshop in June were shared with Council Service Leads and Partners to consider the feasibility of delivery and provide feedback. The priorities were currently proposals where Area Committee wished to influence/add value to existing service provision;
- iii) Agreed to continue to discuss Service Plans with Sunderland City Council Service leads and develop a list of Area Priorities for the Washington area. To be appended to the Area Committee Area Plans and arrange for quarterly updates;
- iv) Agreed to continue to collaborate with key partners (currently Gentoo, Police, TWFRS and the Voluntary Sector Alliance) to provide their plans for future activity in the Washington area. To be appended to the Washington Area Committee Area Plan and arrange for quarterly updates; and
- v) Noted the terms of reference as contained within Annex 2 of the report.

## **Partner Agency Reports**

### **a) Northumbria Police**

Northumbria Police submitted a report which provided data on crime and disorder in the Washington area comparing 'Year to date' figures with the preceding year.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Inspector Phil Baker was in attendance and informed the Committee that the Sulgrave Project was back up and running and that in relation to staffing there was to be an uplift in terms of PC's throughout the force which should see an affect in Washington and a new Neighbourhood Sergeant should be in place relatively soon.

In response to Councillor M. Walker's request for an update on the issues of shoplifting around the Concord area, Inspector Baker advised that they had arrested and charged a number of people and they had met with the manager of the premises.

Councillor M. Walker commented that a number of the smaller retailers just didn't have the time to fill in the required reports therefore he felt the figures on this may be a lot higher than the Police were aware of. Inspector Baker commented that whilst this was understandable if they did not report any instances then the Police could not address these.

Councillor Fletcher commented that this was the same issue in Sulgrave and that the Police wont come out to attend instances of shoplifting. Inspector Baker commented that retailers were aware of the processes involved for reporting shoplifting.

Councillor Chapman queried the anecdote heard that in terms of shoplifting at the Galleries, the Police had stated they won't attend an instance unless the theft had been of a value greater than £500. Inspector Baker commented that he was not aware of that at all and he was 99% certain this was not true. There was a force plan, and all Officers were aware of this.

Councillor Williams requested that Members be able to see sight of the Force plan and if it could be circulated for Members to advise residents of this. Inspector Baker advised that he could circulate the plan.

In response to Councillor F. Millers enquiry over greater police attendance at residents meetings, Inspector Baker advised that they have sent the Police shift patterns to these associations and that these meetings would need to coincide with Officers schedules where they were not needed on shift (which he understood was not always possible for residents dairies) but agreed that they could submit a written report in their absence.

Councillor Williams referred to historic reporting received by the Committee and indicated that it would be useful to have a comparison from throughout the previous year to provide greater context for Members.

Councillor Williams informed the Committee that there had been a number of fires in Princess Anne Park and greater prevention/engagement with Youths setting these fires was needed. There was also high numbers of antisocial behaviour in Lambton as this was on a main bus route.

Councillor Williams also commented that she welcomed the new PC's coming through and it would be useful to know who they were once in post.

In response to The Chairmans query over how many of the uplift in Officers would be for Washington, Inspector Baker commented that we needed to wait and see but hopefully they would know more in the next week.

The Chairman also referred to the shoplifting issue and commented that it appeared we needed to get the communication right on this as residents still felt that their concerns were not being addressed and suggested that this was picked up at the Councillor/Police meetings.

Full consideration having being given to the report, the Chairman thanked Inspector Baker for his attendance and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted

**b) TWFRS**

The Tyne and Wear Fire Service submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided performance-monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Washington Area Committee from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023, compared with the same period in 2022

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr Martin Farrow, Station Manager presented the report, expanding on the figures provided and also introduced his colleague Mr John Anderson to the Committee.

Mr Farrow advised that in the time period between the report being published there had been a number of incidents in the Washington Central and South Wards. There had been a number of issues in Princess Anne Park and Ayton Park and by comparison there had been 5 incidents in the whole of 2022 whereas just from 8<sup>th</sup> June – 13<sup>th</sup> June this year, 19 incidents had occurred with 4 happening on the same night at Ayton Park.

In terms of Princess Anne Park, 14 incidents were small grass fires and the Authority were visiting schools, mailing parents with the message that these incidents were delaying staff from attending main fires elsewhere.

In response to Councillor Williams query if the perpetrators were the same groups in Princess Anne Park and Ayton Park, Mr Farrow advised that he could not confirm this as it was very easy for the individuals to disperse quickly from the area once they heard the sirens. Mr Farrow also advised that they had worked on the Community Bus which had received good feedback.

Councillor Chapman wished to offer her regret and solidarity at how much abuse the Fire Officers were receiving when attending instances. Mr Farrow advised that staff were wearing body cams now but mostly when reviewing footage of perpetrators, only their eyes could be seen.

Councillor Guy commented that with deliberate fires up 45% in the Washington East Ward alone, enforcement clearly wasn't working and with the Youth Provision Plan he felt that Barnston and Princess Anne Park needed to be top priorities. Councillor Guy also wished to thank Officers for all the work they were doing.

Mr Anderson introduced himself to the Committee as Diversionary Activities Manager for the Authority advising that he was to look at redesigning/reinvigorating programmes and briefed on some of the work of the Princes Trust so they could look at what they could do to address some of these issues raised.

Mr Anderson advised that he had leaflets he could circulate and he would be available to speak with Members outside of the meeting and he was looking for suggestions from Members with regards to referrals to Youth Groups for their programmes. He would also like to attend a future Committee to discuss the Phoenix Project in greater detail.

Councillor Fletcher raised the concern over the affordability issue for parents and how they could transport their children to such programmes which may be a problem to consider.

Councillor Williams suggested that Officers liaise with Phil McAloon as the best contact to speak with as he provided Washington's Youth provision.

The Chairman suggested that Officers attend a future Washington Board meeting where a longer conversation could be had on this.

Councillor D. E. Snowdon wished to thank the service for attending a community open day as it had been important for residents to see their presence.

Having fully considered the report, The Chairman thanked Mr Farrow and Mr Anderson for their attendance.

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

**c) Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network**

The Voluntary and Community Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update with regard to the Washington Area Community and Voluntary Sector Network.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Sylvia Copley, VCS Representative presented the report on behalf of the Network and advised that whilst they were experiencing a great deal of staff turnover at present, the service they had received from Council Officers had been excellent so wished to thank the Council for this.

Ms Copley commented that the VCS Alliance was going from strength to strength and the work from organisations in Washington was very impressive as they worked over and above to meet the needs of residents and thanked Members for their support.

The Chairman commented that whilst Washington may not get new bridges and such like built, there was so much work that was undertaken in Washington due to the VCS and he thanked them for this.

The Chairman thanked Ms Copley for her report, and it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the content of the report and the opportunities and issues raised by the Washington Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network be received and noted.

**d) Gentoo**

Gentoo provided a report to the Committee on current Gentoo developments, projects and priorities for the period March 2022 to June 2022.

(for copy report – see original minutes)



Mrs Bethan Wilkie, Gentoo presented the report advising that the competition stated in para 3.4 had since closed and was now being judged and that in relation to para 4 the investment and Renewal programme, they were starting on Albany imminently.

Councillor Guy referred to the window replacement scheme and advised that residents in Harraton had been told this would start in April but it was now nearly July and they still hadn't heard anything. Mrs Wilkie advised that they were on track with the programme and due to complete this by December 2023 but she would take the address off Councillor Guy and see if she could get specific dates for those residents.

Mrs Wilkie also advised Councillor F. Miller to get in touch with details of residents issues over access for fencing repairs and she would look into this.

Councillor Williams commented on the work of the Money Matters Teams and stated that this appeared to be well managed and they were providing some great work.

Councillor H. Trueman referred to the previous issue of the garages in Albany which were initially to be demolished and then were instead sold. Councillor Trueman advised that this has led to elderly residents raising allegations that vans were turning up at all hours of the night and exchanges were being made and even in some cases motorbikes being transferred. Residents had been advised to notify Police over this.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that it was sad the way this issue had turned out and that the communication over this with residents had been awful.

Councillor D. E. Snowdon suggested that the issue be fed to LMAP's for consideration also and they may be able to allocate a CCTV Camera for this.

Councillor Chapman enquired as to the end date for the switchover for the District Heating Scheme in Oxclose. Mrs Wilkie advised that the end date was December 2023.

In response to the Chairmans query if the reports figures were specific to Washington, Mrs Wilkie confirmed that they were group wide figures.

The Chairman thanked Ms Wilkie for the report

6. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

## Washington Area Budget Report

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Funds, Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme and Community Chest as well as presenting proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Hopper presented the report, drawing the Committee's attention to the current financial position of the Area Committee Neighbourhood Fund 2023/2024 as set out in paragraph 2.1, and the Community Chest approvals in Annexes 3 and 4.

In relation to Holiday Activities, Councillor Williams raised concerns that the proposals left gaps in most of the Wards and that they would be short of time in order to fill those gaps. Ms Hopper advised that they could put out a further Call for Projects and see if anyone new applied.

Councillor Williams commented that this would be really difficult as there was only four weeks left until the summer holidays. The Chairman suggested that a conversation was needed after the meeting as to how these applications were put out.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- i) Noted the financial statements set out in Section 2.1 and 3 of the report;
- ii) Approved £60,000 of the Neighbourhood Fund to continue the Washington Clean and Green Project for 2 years, as set out in section 3 and Annex 1 of the report;
- iii) Approved £15,000 of the Neighbourhood Fund to continue the WISP project for 12 months, as set out in section 3 and Annex 1 of the report (subject to completion of detailed application);
- iv) Approved £40,000 Neighbourhood Fund to deliver a 12 month programme of holiday activities for 11-19 year olds, as set out in section 3 and Annex 1 of the report;
- v) Approved the 4 proposals recommended for approval, totalling £19,628 to deliver a 12 month programme of holiday activities for 8-10 year olds, as set out in section 3 and Annex 2 to the report, and to reject the remaining applications set out in Annex 2 of the report;
- vi) Noted the Community Chest approvals supported from 2022/2024 as detailed in Annex 3 of the report; and
- vii) Noted the Community Chest approvals supported from 2023/2024 as detailed un Annex 4 of the report.

## **Planning Applications – For Information Only**

Current Planning Applications relating to the Washington Area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023 to 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) S. LAWS,  
Chairman.

21st September 2023

## REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF WASHINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY BOARD

### Washington Area Committee Delivery Plan 2023-2026

#### 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report is to provide an update of progress against the Area Committee's Area Plan priorities, which will be the focus for the Washington Area Committee during 2023-2024.

#### 2. Background

2.1 The Area Committees are part of the Council's Executive Function. The purpose of the Area Committees is to:

- Lead on the development, implementation, and effective delivery of an Area Plan, working closely with residents to ensure the plans include all main priorities for the Area, which enables residents to be resilient, The Area Plans are linked to the City Plan and other significant strategies for the city.
- Actively encourage local residents to become involved in shaping the Area Plan, ensuring delivery of activities to support matters which affect them.

2.2 The Article 10 Area Committee Area Plans for 2023 - 2026 were agreed by Area Committees in June 2023 and approved at Cabinet in July 2023.

2.3 It is now the responsibility of each Area Committee to deliver their agreed priorities to support the delivery of the Area Plan.

2.4 The Neighbourhood and Community Board supports the work of the Area Committee and specifically the delivery of the Area Plan. The Boards are chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Area Committee and are practical and action-orientated groups. The role of the Board is to respond to all priorities in the Area Committee Area Plan, as agreed by the Area Committee. They develop and implement plans for the delivery of each priority and make recommendations to the Area Committee based on information and research and working closely with partner agencies, particularly the VCS, to ensure effective delivery of the plan.

2.6 The Board is not a decision-making body, the work of the board is presented to each Area Committee via this Report of the Chair of the Neighbourhood and Community Board. The purpose of the report is to update on progress in relation to the delivery of the Area Plan in addition to making any recommendations of the Board to the Area Committee for final approval. Funding decisions to support delivery of the plan can be found at **Item 4 Area Budget Report**

2.7 Additionally all Sunderland City Council Service leads, when producing Service Plans this year, provided a list of Area Priorities, where relevant, for each of the five geographical Areas of Sunderland and have agreed that regular updates for those priorities will be appended to this report, to the relevant Area Committee, to provide quarterly performance updates (Annex 2)

### **3. Area Committee Area Plan 2023-2026- Areas of Key Action and Progress**

3.1 Attached as **Annex 1** is the Washington Area Committee Delivery plan which highlights progress against the Area Committee plan. Good news stories and promotion of projects are shared at every opportunity.

3.2 Attached as **Annex 2** is an update on Sunderland City Council Service Plans - Area Priorities, specifically relevant to the area, including a quarterly update on progress for information purposes only.

### **4. Recommendations - Members are requested to:**

4.1 Consider the progress and performance update with regard to Washington Area Committee Area Plan 2023- 2026.

4.2 Consider the progress update with regard to Sunderland City Council Service Plans - Area Priorities, for information purposes only.

Contact Officer: [sandra.stephenson@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.stephenson@sunderland.gov.uk)  
Sandra Stephenson, Partnership and Community Resilience Manager

## 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

<b>Vibrant Smart City - Priorities and Actions 2023-26</b>	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Update</b>
A plantation and tree management programme	Ongoing
Washington Clean and Green project	Project extension agreed at A/C in June 23 Q1 update shared with members 15/8/23.
Support for VCS organisations and community hubs	
Community events	Call for projects for Events programme 23/24 has now closed, application being considered for approval by A/C 21.9.23
A Heritage and Culture strategy/programme	
The Washington Ward Improvement Programme	Remaining balances shared with members on 5/9/23.
A road safety and VAS programme	Ongoing project due to end at the end of 2023. There are currently 40 locations and 10 signs, which are rotated on a quarterly basis.
Public artwork & celebrations for Washington 60 / Galleries 50	Expression of interest received to be considered by A/C 21.9.23 for a Washington Design Challenge to be delivered by George Clarke's charity MOBIE. Steering Group has been established and has now met 3 times.
A Washington volunteer recognition project	
Signage at Fatfield Riverside to incorporate the heritage and ecology of the area	
A feasibility study for the vision of Fatfield Riverside development	In development

<b>Healthy Smart City - Priorities and Actions 2023-26</b>	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Update</b>
A programme of outreach youth provision	Update shared with members 15/8/23
Neighbourhood management and enforcement	Project ongoing and funded until March 2024
Investment in parks and play areas	Recent update to members on Playzone
Positive activities for young people during school holidays	Young people aged 8-10 and 11-19 years holiday activity projects funded for 23/24.
Diversionsary activities for young people	
Contributed to the development of the Links for Life programme	
Improved access to allotments and community gardens	Relevant service lead will be attending the November Board meeting
A considered approach to park development, including ecological impact	
<b>Dynamic Smart City – Priorities and Actions 2023-26</b>	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Update</b>
Supporting people into work via REACT	Ongoing
Developing skills of young people via CAN DO	Ongoing
Supporting young people to be more financially resilient via Youth Money Matters	Update provided 15/8
Providing individual welfare and financial support via WISP	Project ongoing, funding provided to extend the project for 12 months.
Develop approach to consultation with communities/resident	

Sunderland City Council Service Plans – Washington Area Priorities, for information purposes only.

**ADULT SERVICES: Strategic Commissioning Team and Strategic Safeguarding Team**

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Washington Old School	In partnership with Strategic Housing, development of Supported Living Accommodation for adults with social care, support and accommodation needs	7/22	5/23	Building works are complete and the property has been handed over to Sunderland Strategic Housing. Potential residents have been identified and viewings have been undertaken. New residents will start a phased move into the service beginning in September 2023
Washington Community Resource Centre	Redevelopment of building-based day care services	4/23	TBC	Building surveys have been undertaken by Property Services and improvement works have been identified. Discussions are ongoing in relation to the implementation of the improvement works.
Moor Way	Development of extra care accommodation provision for adults with social care, support and accommodation needs, with partnership with the Housing provider	1/24	Completion early 2026	Planning permission has been obtained. Building work will start beginning of Jan 2024 with completion anticipated early 2026.  Engagement work has started with stakeholders in relation to identifying the model of care that will be provided in the accommodation.

**CITY DEVELOPMENT: Economic Regeneration**

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Arts Centre Washington improvement works	Improvement works funded through the capital programme	4/23	3/24	



Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Washington library improvements	Improvement works funded through the capital programme	4/23	3/24	Update provided to members
North East Community Forest 2023/24 planting	Tree and hedgerow planting at a series of individual sites as part of Low Carbon Framework. Options for sites in each area to be assessed and then discussed with Neighbourhood & Community Boards	9/23	3/24	
Low Carbon Framework and Action Plan	Range of city-wide low carbon programmes and projects across the seven strategic priority areas to include implementation within individual Area Committee areas			

#### CITY DEVELOPMENT: Regulatory Services

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Enforcement Project (currently AC funded)	<p>1 x Enforcement Officer  <i>Enforcement Signage</i>  <i>Replacement of wheeled bins/equipment in residential multi occupied properties</i>  <i>10 Streetwatch cameras</i></p> <p>Proactive approach to complement and add value to the current Sunderland City Council and Gentoos provision and allow for the flexibility to respond to Councillors requests and reporting of incidents as well as forging relationships with, working in partnership with and</p>	04/21	03/24	AC update submitted July 2023 via agreed reporting

	supporting other current initiatives such as Clean and Green and Together Clean and Green			
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**CORPORATE SERVICES: Smart City Team**

<b>Project/Programme</b>	<b>Project Detail</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by</b>	<b>Area Committee quarterly update</b>
Digital Inclusion	Delivery of a range of DI initiatives subject to interest/approval	4/23	4/26	Significant work ongoing, a newsletter is available and can be circulated if of interest and further information can be found in the City Resources section of our website: <a href="http://www.sunderlandoursmartcity.com">www.sunderlandoursmartcity.com</a>
Washington 60	Inclusion of some form of interactive event	4/23		The team are happy to support ideas for this event once planning is underway.
Smart Cities	Opportunities for a range of digital and data solutions e.g. interactive play, smart bins etc	4/23		Significant work ongoing, further information can be found across our website and in the Innovation Challenges section: <a href="http://www.sunderlandoursmartcity.com">www.sunderlandoursmartcity.com</a>

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: Bereavement Services**

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
<p><b>Cemetery Improvements</b></p>	<p>Prioritisation of improvement measures within area cemeteries according to an assessment of risk, need and local demand</p>	<p><b>June 22</b></p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p><b>Meetings:</b> The Cemetery Improvement Boards are now established and convene bi-monthly bringing together representatives from local Ward Members and managers from relevant Council departments. These meetings serve as a platform to identify pressing issues and local concerns in each cemetery and to reach agreement on the priority attached to each.</p> <p><b>Key improvements:</b> Through site visits and local knowledge key areas of improvement have been identified in each cemetery developed into an action plan.</p> <p>Our immediate focus relates to Regulatory compliance for lawn section graves and the requirement to remove unauthorised grave surrounds and install formal personalisation areas where personal items are placed on graves. This uniformity and standardisation of grave sizes will enable us to achieve a higher standard of maintenance which will contribute to an overall enhancement of these areas.</p> <p>Additionally, to protect public safety within all cemeteries we have launched a dedicated memorial testing programme to assess the stability of all memorials. Upon receipt of the stock condition report in September, the Cemetery Improvement Boards (CIB) will review the findings, determine necessary works, establish a public communication strategy and prioritise tasks accordingly until the programme is adopted and forms part of standard operations</p>

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: Local Services**

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Glyphosate Trial	A trial project to help us understand the impact of alternative weed control options in different environments, with a view to the potential elimination of the use of herbicides in weed killing.	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	September 2023	<p>The 2023 trial which commenced on the 1st of April which is due to conclude on the 30th of September 2023 is enabling Local Services to ensure we capture a full weed season. The process is allowing us to monitor the impact of using alternative methods to Glyphosate, understand how effective other weed control methods can be, the impact these treatments have on the effectiveness of maintenance, resource, costs, equipment/training requirements, environmental and visual impact, and importantly the views of our residents.</p> <p>To date detailed records on all aspects of the trail are being gathered and analysed. Aspects such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application process</li> <li>• Environmental Impact</li> <li>• Cost</li> <li>• Effectiveness</li> <li>• Resident Feedback</li> </ul> <p>We are continuing to engage with residents, our wider council colleagues, key city stakeholders and neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>We are also engaging with several other Authorities and organisations such as Cardiff Council, South Lanarkshire Council, Brighton Council the Amenity Forum and APSE.</p> <p>A final report will be produced and published following the conclusion of the trial.</p>

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
Tree Surveying	A citywide tree inspection and mapping project.	May 2023	2027	Tree inspections and mapping commenced in May 2023. Starting in the East area to date we have surveyed and digitally mapped over 5000 trees. The survey will move into the West area over the coming weeks. The survey will enable SCC to fully understand our tree stock, which will in turn increase our ability to manage the risk more effectively. The survey will also facilitate a much more proactive approach to tree planting and replacement, establish how much carbon as a city our trees can sequester, it will also inform us of the overall impact of Ash Dieback disease. The data base as it grows will provide a deeper case by case record of each tree and its inspection record which will improve member and customer journeys as the information held will provide more detailed information when responding to customer requests and complaints.
E Technology Trials	Trialling alternative Electric equipment to replace petrol fuelled kit to reduce carbon emissions.	May 2023		We continue to trial alternative kit not only to reduce carbon emissions but to reduce the hand arm vibration some kit exposes our workforce to. To date we have tested Electric hedge trimmers, chainsaws, strimmers and grass cutters. We are hoping in the coming weeks to explore hybrid chipper technology. We are also working with our fleet team to future proof our kit replacement programme factoring in the feedback we capture as part trials and are confident that over a period of time to further reduce our reliance upon petrol tools and equipment.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: Winter Maintenance**

<b>Project/Programme</b>	<b>Project Detail</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by</b>	<b>Area Committee quarterly update</b>
Winter Smart Solutions	Trials of several infrared road surface sensors across the highway network.	Continue through the winter of 2023/2024	Testing of various options remains ongoing through the winter of 2023/2024	The selection, trial, and testing of additional Smart Road Surface Temperature measuring equipment supplied by the Smart City Team, remains ongoing. It is hoped that the additional equipment options being trialled will accurately enhance existing road monitoring and weather forecasting service provided by the Environmental Services, Winter Maintenance gritting team, and give the team are greater insight into the condition or road surfaces across the city during periods of cold.

**HEALTH HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES: Area Arrangements**

<b>Project/Programme</b>	<b>Project Detail</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by</b>	<b>Area Committee quarterly update</b>
Warm spaces – developing into Community Hubs	The current warm spaces which were funded to support residents during the cost-of-living crisis will be supported to develop their offer, to support residents longer term, with five permanent community hubs established linked with social prescribing	April 2023	March 2024	Links for Life delivery plan developing, working closely with the VCS. Call for projects will be circulated in September to support VCS to enhance delivery within communities.
Developing the community support offer, working closely with the voluntary	Supporting VCS to develop their capacity to deliver commissioned services within communities	April 2023	March 2025	As above

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
sector to enable maximise positive outcomes from Social Prescribing				
VCS Alliance – growing capacity of voluntary and community sector	Continue to work in partnership with the voluntary sector Alliance to maximise resources into the sector via external funding and grow social value resources	April 2023	March 2025	VS Alliance developing their offer to support the sector. Update to be included in September Area Committee report
Delivery of Financial Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan	Supporting residents within areas to improve their resilience	April 2023	March 2025	<p>Using household data and intelligence to identify issues and inform support across services.</p> <p>Establishing partnerships to deliver support to communities, including the VCS through Links for Life Sunderland</p> <p>Working through the Partnership Task Force Group to share knowledge and insights, leading to collaborations, such as a working arrangement with Gentoo on Cost-of-Living issues, including workshops to develop information and ensure the best support is provided to residents across all services.</p> <p>The team continues to talk to residents in Welcoming Spaces about their experience and report on issues and themes from the conversations</p> <p>The work is facilitated by excellent relationships already established with local VCS organisations.</p>

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
				<p>We are combining quantitative and qualitative data to provide context and a deeper understanding of the Lived experience of residents.</p> <p>We are currently refining a recording and reporting system to manage both statistical and anecdotal information so that if a service or partner organisation requires some contextual information we can find and provide it.</p>

**HEALTH, HOUSING & COMMUNITIES: Housing Development**

<p>Housing Delivery and Investment Plan 2020-26 – approved to deliver 574 new Council owned homes for letting, broken down into three workstreams:            Empty Homes - 210            Bungalows - 193            Supported - 171</p>	<p>Washington            Empty Homes - 32            Bungalows - 19            Supported - 25</p>	<p>Feb 2020</p>	<p>March 2026</p>	<p>A presentation on Empty Properties has been delivered to all Area Committees. This showed the data relating to area, Ward and across the City.</p> <p>An Empty Homes Report is being developed following the views and questions provided as part of the Area Committee discussions.</p> <p>This report will be presented to Area Committees quarterly</p>
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## HEALTH HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES: Housing Strategy

Project/Programme	Project Detail	Start Date	Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by	Area Committee quarterly update
The following ward shows a high prevalence of empty properties: <i>Washington North</i> The service is generally responsive based on requests for service and the severity of empty property conditions. However, the Empty Homes Strategy identified the areas of the City where empty properties were most prevalent. Work to tackle empty properties is targeted in these areas.	This is not a specific project	In progress	Initial presentation complete  Future reports presented for Area Committee Information quarterly	A presentation on Empty Properties has been delivered to all Area Committees. This showed the data relating to area, Ward and across the City.  An Empty Homes Report is being developed following the views and questions provided as part of the Area Committee discussions.  This report will be presented to Area Committees quarterly

## HEALTH HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES: Welfare Reform Service and Business Development

Foodbank Support	Council currently supporting range of foodbanks / food aid organisations in all area of the city – majority in East / West via fresh food and FareShare – will be refining offer / support during the year	N/a	N/a	Information to be collated for December Area Committee papers. Future quarterly updates will include information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• foodbank usage in each local area (to cover Sunderland Foodbank Distribution Centres, Washington Community Food Project, Salvation Army, Loaves &amp; Fishes, Space 4 and Bethany Houghton)</li> <li>• links to SC webpages covering food support / advice provision etc</li> </ul>
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**HEALTH HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES: Active Sunderland**

<b>Project/Programme</b>	<b>Project Detail</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by</b>	<b>Area Committee quarterly update</b>
Parks tennis court programme	Refurbish tennis courts in Usworth Park	5/23	7/23	Complete and operational
Parks tennis court programme	Develop tennis activation programme	6/23	10/23	Complete – taking place
Regular physical activity opportunity	Consultation and development of bid for Playzone in Washington – location tbc	7/23	10/23	Engagement session in member diary 11/9/23
Weight management service	Establish 1 delivery site for targeted offer	5/23	12/23	Delayed due to appointment if team member – scheduled to commence Oct

**HEALTH HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES: Public Health and Integrated Commissioning – Living Well**

<b>Project/Programme</b>	<b>Project Detail</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Due for Completion/ Full expenditure by</b>	<b>Area Committee quarterly update</b>
Development of Social Prescribing hubs	To deliver Social Prescribing “hub” to allow for localised presence of the offer	4/23	3/25	Progressing model development
Stop Smoking Clinics	To deliver stop smoking clinics in the wards with the highest smoking rates	4/23	12/12	Galleries Health Centre – established The Millennium Centre – planned to start mid September

## REPORT OF THE NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

### 1.0 Purpose of Report

The following report provides a community update and key performance information in relation to Washington area between the following 8-week period (29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023)

### 2.0 Key Updates

#### Overall crime Update

Crime: 8-week period to 30-08-23

Crime numbers have reduced in the last 8 weeks and we sit on a par with crime data from the last 3 years. In my last report I did highlight this downward trend which I am pleased to note has continued. The most significant crimes recorded in Washington in this period are theft, crimes against a person with no injury, and then criminal damage. The area with the most crimes recorded is Sulgrave, The Galleries and then Concord. which is a slight change on my last report where the Galleries record the most offences.

It should be noted that the number of recorded crimes is generally low for a Town of this size and as a result there are smaller sectors within the area command with greater levels of recorded crime.

#### **Burglary Dwelling.**

Having just reviewed all the Burglary Dwelling crimes, Washington is still performing very well in this crime category. We did see a slightly concerning spike in offences towards the end of June however I am pleased to report this has been addresses and we now sit at similar levels of offending to previous years. I would highlight that this performance means this sector does not flag as an area command hot spot for burglary offences.

#### **Burglary Commercial**

Again, very low number of offences compared to other sectors. Which means Washington is not a hot spot for commercial burglaries. However, I would highlight that we have seen a small number of offences on our industrial sites and there is work on going to address this before it becomes a significant issue.

#### **Vehicle crime**

The sector does not flag as an area command hot spot due to relatively low numbers however it a priority for the team as it also impacts on anti-social behaviour performance. I am pleased to report a significant decrease in offending which puts us below 2020 and 2022 data.

#### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

ASB: 8-week period to 30-08-23

In this 8-week period there have been 225 ASB incidents, a decrease of 40 incidents from my last report. most of the disorder is around inconsiderate behaviour/rowdy behaviour then neighbour disputes, then motorcycle disorder. The most ASB occurred in The Galleries followed by Lambton and Oxclose and then Concord.

We are currently tracking below reporting levels in the best 3 years and significantly below 2020 figures. The team are working on our Summer operations and will be focusing on our hotspots. We have several city-wide initiatives on going now which I am heavily involved in along with several varied partners.

The Summer plan focuses on the galleries and the surrounding area and motorcycle/pedal cycle theft and ASB. I have asked for specific tasking from other departments to assist with the issues in Oxclose and Lambton.

### **Summer plan update**

The summer plan as can be seen from my above update is working very well, with some excellent partnership work between Police, Fire service, environmental services, Local authority, and Gentoo which has seen a big reduction throughout the target areas.

Autumn plans have been prepared for a commencement date in mid-September and I am advised that all members will receive a redacted version of that document to update on activity.

**REPORT AUTHOR Inspector 7011 Baker**

21<sup>st</sup> September 2023

**REPORT OF THE TYNE & WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 The following report gives performance-monitoring details in relation to Local Indicators for the Washington Area Committee from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023, compared with the same period in 2022.

**2 Background**

2.1 Area Committee agreed that regular updates on Crime and Community Safety would be presented to each committee meeting.

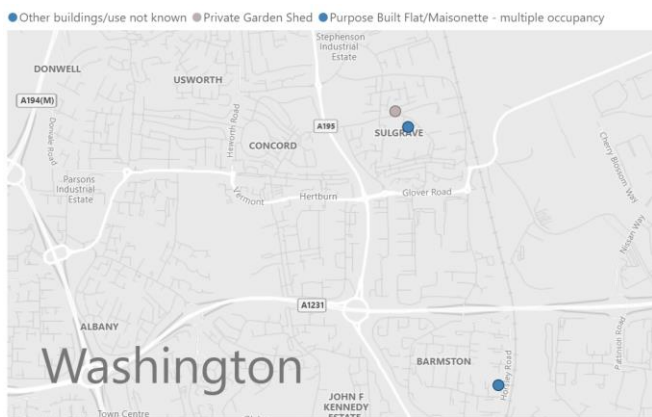
**3 Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update**

**3.1 L.I 02 - Number of Deaths from all fires**

No deaths were recorded during the reporting period.

**3.2 L.I 14 - Number of Deliberate primary fires excluding road vehicles**

3 incidents occurred within this reporting period; this compares to 3 reported incident occurring in the same period during the previous year.



Property Type	Incident Count
Other buildings/use not known	1
Private Garden Shed	1
Purpose Built Flat/Maisonette - multiple occupancy	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>

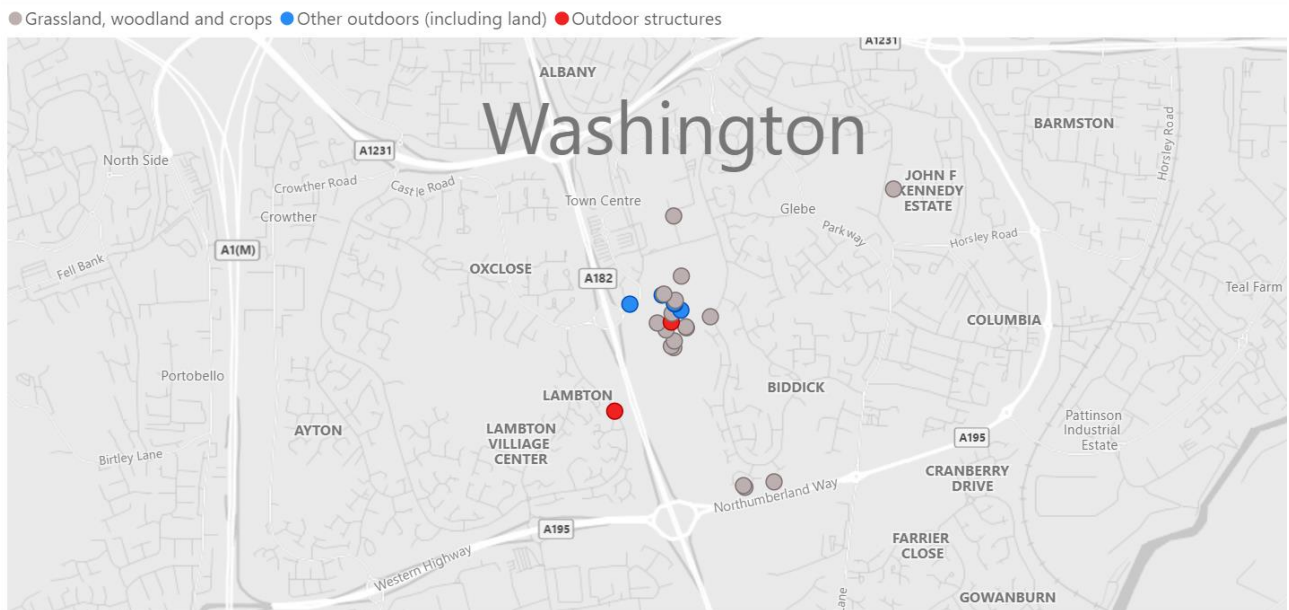
There were 2 incidents in Washington North and 1 in Washington East.

### 3.3 LI 33 - Number of Deliberate fires incorporating Secondary Fires (LI16)

81 deliberate fire related incidents were attended within this reporting period, this compares to 142 incidents in the previous year.

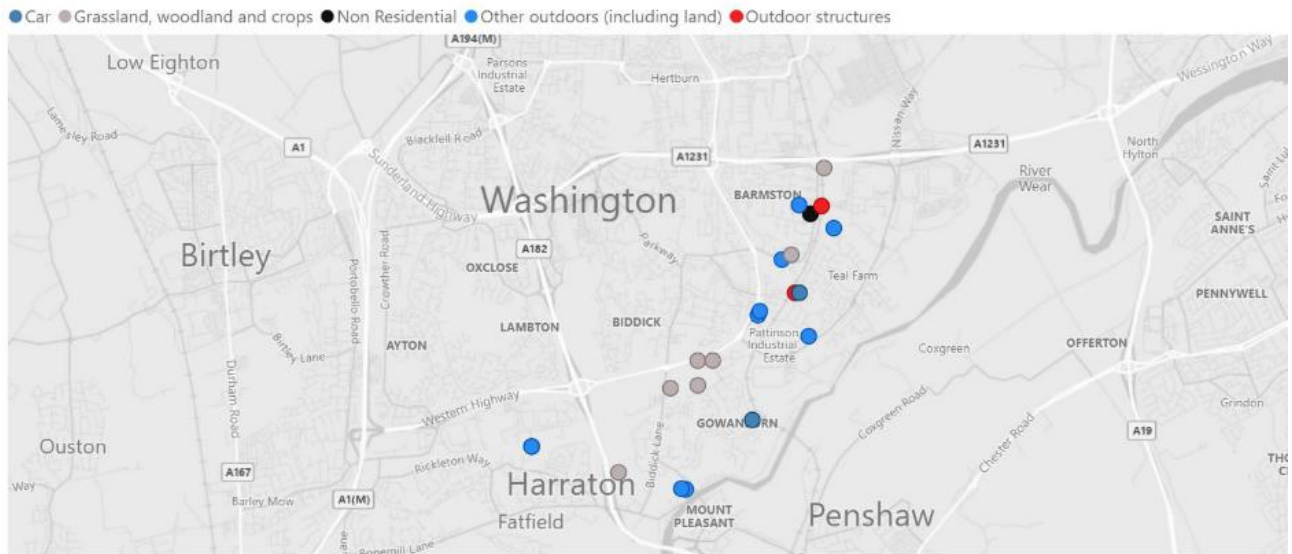
LI 33 - Number of Deliberate fires incorporating Secondary Fires (LI16)								
Ward	2022				2023			
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total
Washington Central Ward	15	10	17	42	18	1	5	24
Washington East Ward	7	13	10	30	13	5	4	22
Washington North Ward	7	7	14	28	6	4	2	12
Washington South Ward	5	8	13	26	13	4	2	19
Washington West Ward	5	8	3	16	3	1	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>81</b>

3.3.1 **Washington Central Ward** has seen a decrease in deliberate fire related incidents from 42 the previous year to 24 this reporting period. Incidents have occurred in the following area;

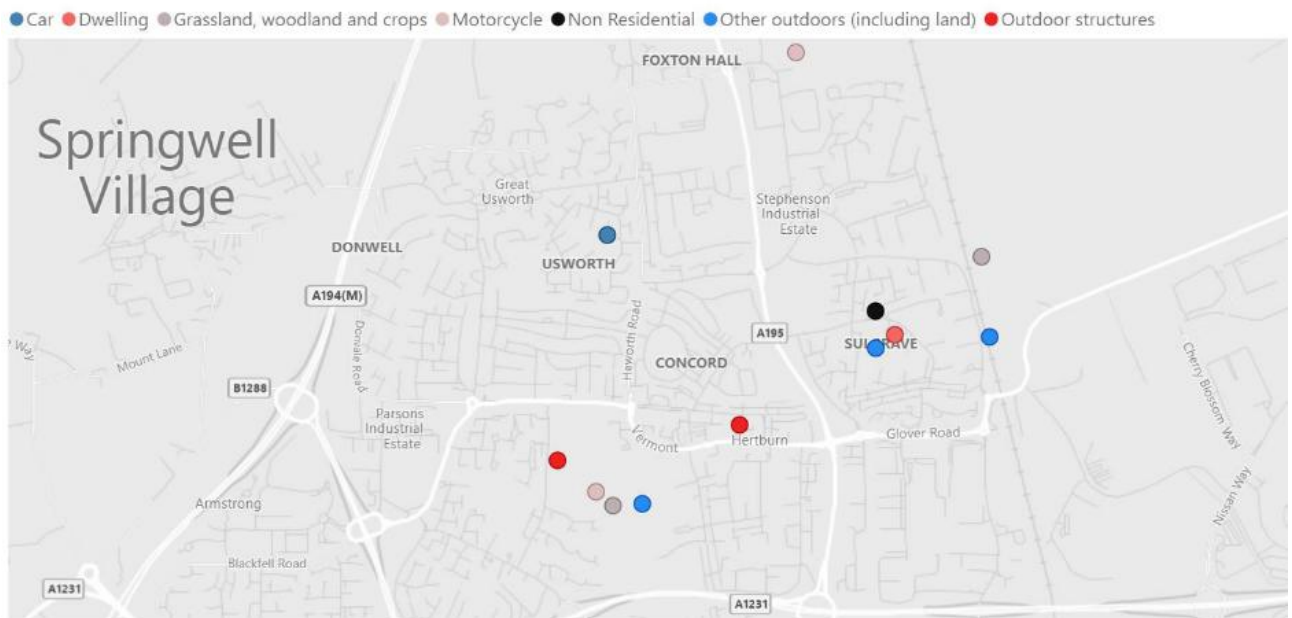


The main issues were in June in the Princess Anne Park area. TWFRS targeted this area and with collaboration with partners we have seen a drop in the number of incidents. Also the weather has played a part in the reduction of fires.

3.3.2 **Washington East Ward** has seen a decrease in deliberate fire related incidents from 30 the previous year to 22 this reporting period. Incidents have occurred in the following areas;

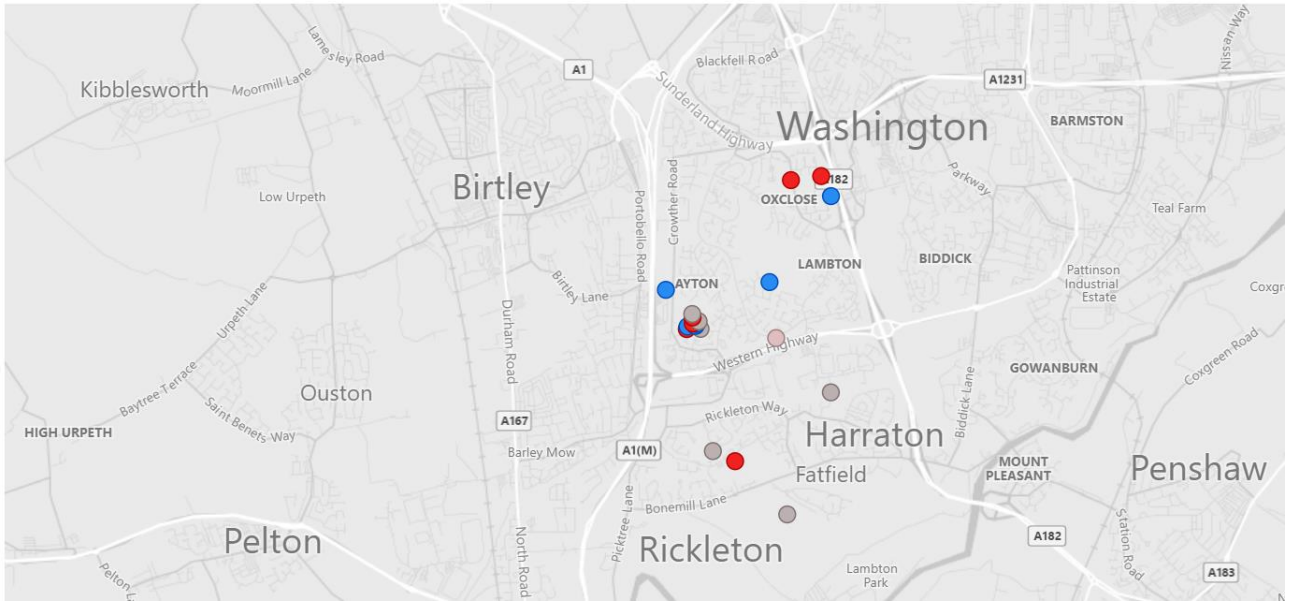


3.3.3 **Washington North Ward** has seen a decrease in deliberate fire related incidents from 28 the previous year to 12 this reporting period. Incidents have occurred in the following areas;



3.3.4 **Washington South Ward** has seen a decrease in deliberate fire related incidents from 26 the previous year to 19 this reporting period. Incidents have occurred in the following areas;

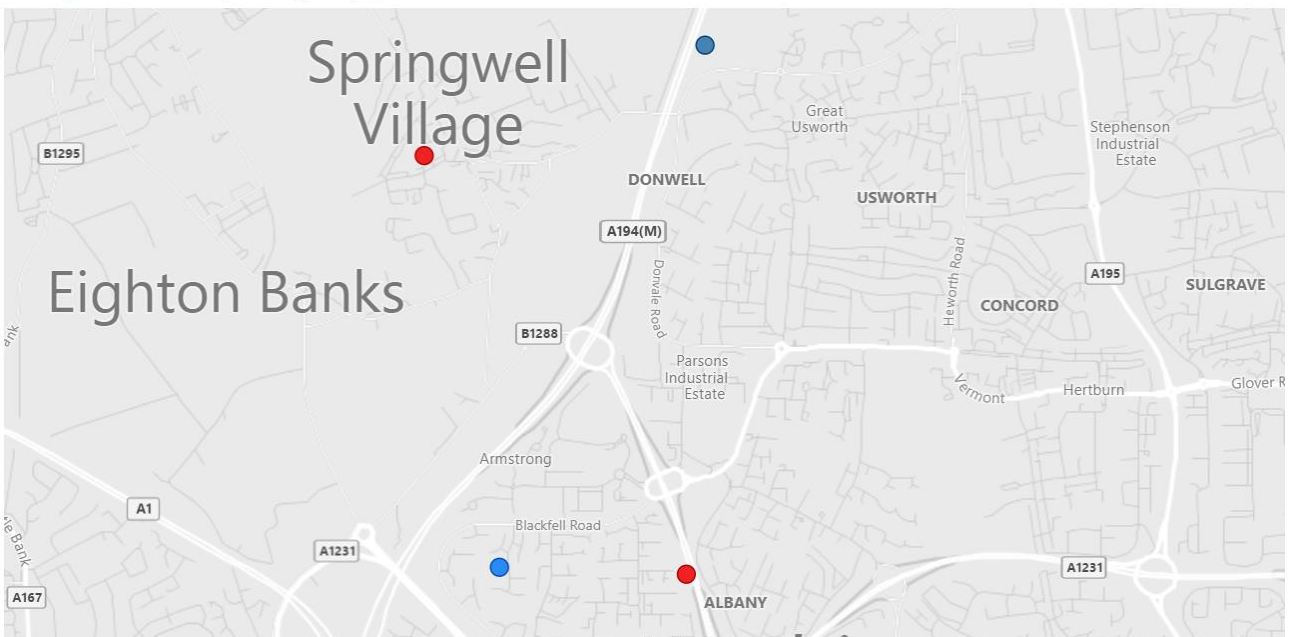
● Grassland, woodland and crops ● Motorcycle ● Other outdoors (including land) ● Outdoor structures



In June we had 9 incidents in Ayton Park and TWFRS targeted the area and local schools and with collaborative work with partners saw no further incidents in this area in the following months.

3.3.5 **Washington West Ward** has seen a decrease in deliberate fire related incidents from 16 the previous year to 4 this reporting period. Incidents have occurred in the following areas;

● Car ● Other outdoors (including land) ● Outdoor structures





## 4 Fire Stoppers Hotline

- 4.1 It is essential that any fire related issues are reported utilising the Fire Stoppers hotline; 0800 169 5558. Crews from Washington Community Fire Station are encouraged to foster strong working relationships with community groups and partner agencies. Our aim is to positively impact deliberate fire reduction and deter anti-social behaviour, as these activities have a direct and detrimental impact on life risk, property, the environment and the entire Washington community.

Any questions: please feel free to contact the below TWFRS Station Manager.

## 5 Summary

- 5.1 TWFRS will continue to work with Northumbria Police and Local Authority Representatives to investigate and identify trends, create action plans and evaluate activities. Crews at Washington Community Fire Station utilise intelligence led data to target areas of increased activity, allowing resources to be utilised efficiently and effectively.

## 6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Washington Area Committee are requested to note the content of the report.

## 7 Contact Officer:

Name: SM Martin Farrow,  
Washington Community Fire Station  
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Mobile Tel: 07557825108

Email: [martin.farrow@twfire.gov.uk](mailto:martin.farrow@twfire.gov.uk)



# Item 3c

## WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE

Item 3c

21st September 2023

### REPORT OF WASHINGTON AREA VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR NETWORK

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The report provides an update with regard to the Washington Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

#### 2. Background

2.1 To develop the capacity and influence of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) across the City, Area Networks have been established and delegates represent each Area Network at Area Committee taking forward issues on behalf of the whole VCS in the area, reporting on area priority delivery by the VCS, and reporting back, providing a two-way flow of communication.

2.2 Washington Area Network delegates will present a report to each Area Committee meeting informing Members of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

2.3 The Washington VCS Network is made up of over 100 local groups and strategic local/national/regional partners. The network meets on a regular basis to share good practice, support one another and receives regularly updates as part of an information share e bulletin distributed via the Sunderland VS Alliance.

#### 3. Washington Voluntary and Community Sector Network (VCSN) Progress Report

3.1 The Washington VCS Network met in July 2023 at The Millennium Centre.

3.2 The meeting included the following agenda items:

- Health Screening Programmes
- Welfare Support
- Networking and Information Share Opportunities

3.3 Members of the Network joined Sunderland Council and the Sunderland Integrated Care Board (Health) for breakfast on Thursday 15th June 2023, to discuss future opportunities to work together in the city, developing community hubs and our community support offer for residents. The following themes were consistently discussed at each table with a high amount of consensus over the challenges or opportunities associated with the themes. Members of the network were asked to sign the pledge for Links for Life

In summary they were:

- Funding,
- Opportunities to network and collaborate,
- Potential and challenges of Links for Life,
- Capacity in the sector
- Attitudes to the NEPO portal.

- 3.4 Moving forward from the Warm and Welcoming spaces, we are working closely with the sector to extend and co-produce the 'welcoming warm spaces'. Members of the network have been informed there will be launch for a new call for projects in September, to enable the community support offer to move into 'Links for Life' – Sunderland's social prescribing community support programme. The programme will build on the learning from the warm and welcoming spaces, ensuring we are able to offer services and support within our communities – support and activities which bring residents together, enable active engagement and improve health, wellbeing and financial resilience.
- 3.5 Members of the network continue to welcome funding opportunities and social value opportunities from Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance (SVSA). The Area Arrangements team are working in collaboration with the SVSA and wider Council services and partners to bring forward social value from investments and from businesses delivering in the city, to support the voluntary and community sector. The Area Arrangements team and the SVSA are also working together to understand where local community services are currently being delivered within the area, to support resident community resilience and wellbeing.
- 3.6 The Network representatives regularly consult with the Network to ensure that the agenda items reflect their requirements.

#### **4. Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance (SVSA) update August 2023**

- 4.1 Since securing charitable status in April, the Sunderland VS Alliance asked the sector across Sunderland for a view on current needs and gaps in service offer. Following the completion of the surveys and further work with the Alliance Strategic and Operational Boards, funding priorities have been agreed which will inform future funding applications as follows:
- Older peoples' services
  - People with disabilities
  - Young people (the need for more youth services)
  - Veterans
  - People affected by the cost-of-living crisis
  - People furthest from the job market,
  - Refugees
  - Mental health services
- 4.2 The Alliance has secured £45,000 Integrated Care Board (ICB) funding via VONNE to employ a Capacity Mapping Officer as part of a regional piece of work to review social prescribing and look at best practise for Sunderland and the Northeast region. The Alliance are working hand in hand with the Links for Life programme team to provide recommendations which will improve communities and prevent escalation of specialist services, to benefit the outcomes for local people.
- 4.3 The Alliance is part of the Community Foundations Participatory Grant process developing funding opportunities for grass roots voluntary and community groups. Launch date to be confirmed.
- 4.4 The Alliance will launch their membership scheme in October and will be promoting to all of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations in Sunderland, asking them to register.

The Alliance will also be:

- Recruiting, inducting, and training new staff
- Re-launching their website (with a membership hub)

4.5 The Alliance are working hard to secure the following members for the Alliance:

- A Treasurer
- Trustees
- Operational Board members

## 5. Recommendations

5.1 Members are requested:

- To note the contents of the report and consider the opportunities and issues raised by the Washington VCS Network.

Contact: Sylvia Copley, Area Network Representative.  
Email: [s.copley@shineyadvice.org.uk](mailto:s.copley@shineyadvice.org.uk)

Jemma Hutchinson, Area Network Representative  
Email: [jemma@washingtonmind.org.uk](mailto:jemma@washingtonmind.org.uk)

**WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE****21 September 2023****REPORT OF GENTOO****1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 The following report provides an update from Gentoo for the Washington Area Committee for the period June to September 2023.

**2 Background**

2.1 Area Committee agreed that regular updates from Gentoo would be provided to each Committee meeting to enable members to be up to date on current Gentoo developments, projects, and priorities and to ensure members are fully aware of their opportunities to work collaboratively with Gentoo.

**3 Update on Neighbourhood Services****3.1 An Invitation from Louise Bassett, CEO of Gentoo Group**

The relationship between Gentoo and Sunderland City Council is very important to Gentoo's CEO and she would welcome the opportunity to further strengthen this and has arranged dates (which you should have received), to meet with you in each of the City's localities. The date for Washington ward councillors is:

**Wednesday 27 September**

Pennine House, Washington, NE37 1LY

**3.2 Estate walks**

Estate walks are now all arranged within the wards, and invitations sent to you all should you wish to attend. The dates for walks are as follows:

The Dales	27 September 2023
Glebe	28 September 2023
Sulgrave	10 October 2023
Blackfell	3 October 2023
Concord	4 October 2023
Harraton	15 November
Rickleton	27 September 2023
Lambton	22 August 2023
Oxclose	4 October 2023
Coach Road Estate	2 October 2023
Albany	4 October 2023
Barmston	27 September 2023
Hertburn	10 October 2023

**3.3 Tenancy Sustainment Fund**

In July 2023, Gentoo Board approved several measures to support tenancy sustainability. These measures include interventions such as, providing carpets for new customers who have been housed with us on a priority basis and are below the age of 25. Supporting this group of customers to have their water rates paid if they are really struggling financially (for a limited period). We also identified measures such as the provision of Ring Doorbells for

victims of domestic abuse or antisocial behaviour, and a small budget to support these customers with house removals for those who need to move in an emergency and can't afford to pay for it.

In addition to these measures, we have increased resource in the Money Matters Team and now have four Support Coordinators working with our customers who have complex financial needs across the city. We will also be recruiting for two 'Pre-Tenancy Coordinators', who will work with new applicants to the Gentoo housing register, their aim will be to provide support and advice across a range of issues, these include assessing any priority needs, identifying vulnerability issues, offering money management and the costs of running a home, support advice, income maximisation, energy advice and signposting to low-cost furniture and fittings, to ensure we prepare and support applicants to have the best possible start to tenancies.

### **3.4 Recruitment Activity**

In the coming months, we will be looking for passionate, engaged tenants to join a brand-new paid Tenant Committee. The Committee will be made up of 6 Gentoo customers and it will form an important part of our governance structure. It will be chaired by Group Chair – Emily Cox - and it will fulfil a critical role, advising Group Board on all tenant-related matters.

The Committee will help us to better understand the challenges facing tenants and it will drive purposeful, positive change across the Group.

## **4. Investment & Renewal**

Sekura are on site renewing single to double glazing. We have 70 properties remaining in Washington and works will be completed by December 2023.

Loft insulation top ups, Regen are our contractor to carry out loft insulation top ups to 151 properties within Washington. This scheme is due to start next month.

Low Rise Fire Alarm Removals, Isoler are currently on site carrying out the removal of fire alarms from 80+ low rise blocks scattered city wide. The fire alarms in the communal areas of several low-rise blocks are being removed and replaced with individual smoke detection within the flats themselves.

Washington internal modernisations are ongoing and Equans are our contractor. 158 properties are benefiting from internal works including rewire, kitchen and bathroom renewals. This programme is due to be completed by May 2024

The removal of Washington District Heating is ongoing; 369 properties are outstanding.

## **5. Recommendations**

5.1 Note the content of this report.

### **Contact Officer**

Beth Wilkie, Head of Neighbourhoods.  
Tel: 0191 525 5004  
Email: [bethan.wilkie@gentoo-group.com](mailto:bethan.wilkie@gentoo-group.com)

<b>WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE</b> <b>21 September 2023</b> <b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I</b>	
<b>Title of Report:</b> Washington Area Budget Report	
<b>Author(s):</b> Assistant Director Housing and Communities	
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> Area Committee has delegated budgets to allocate to specific strategic priorities identified in the Neighbourhood Investment Plan, with the overall aim to benefit the wider community and to attract other funding into the area. The report provides a financial statement as an updated position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Neighbourhood Funding, Neighbourhood Investment Plan Capital Programme and Community Chest, and presents proposals for further funding requests.	
<b>Description of Decision:</b>  Committee are requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Note the financial statements set out in Section 2.1 and 3.2</li> <li>(b) Approve the 2 Neighbourhood Fund applications as detailed in <b>Item 4 Annex 1</b></li> <li>(c) Note the Community Chest approvals supported from 2023/2024 as detailed in <b>Item 4 Annex 2</b></li> </ul>	
Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? <span style="float: right;">Yes</span>	
<b>Suggested reason(s) for Decision:</b> The Area Committee has an allocation of <b>£423,242</b> (including Youth allocation) for 2023/2024	
<b>Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:</b> The circumstances are such that there are no realistic alternatives that could be considered.	
Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? No	Relevant Scrutiny Committees:
Is it included in the Forward Plan? No	

Washington Area Committee  
21 September 2023

## REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES

### Washington Sunderland Area Budget Report

#### 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 Area Committee has delegated budgets to allocate to specific strategic priorities identified in the Area Neighbourhood Investment Plan, with the overall aim to benefit the wider community and to attract other funding into the area. The report provides a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Neighbourhood Funds, Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme and Community Chest and presents proposals for further funding requests.

#### 2 Area Committee Neighbourhood Fund

2.1 The table below shows the financial position of Area Committee Neighbourhood Fund for 2023/2024:

Project Name	Committee Date	Returned	Aligned	Approved	Remaining
<b>Starting Balance for 2023 / 2024</b>					£
This includes the Neighbourhood Fund allocation of <b>£423,242</b> (including Youth allocation) for 2023/2024					
Washington C&G	29.6.23			60,000	<b>363,242</b>
WISP	29.6.23			15,000	<b>348,242</b>
Holiday Activities 11-19	29.6.23			40,000	<b>308,242</b>
Holiday Activities 8-10	29.6.23			19,628	<b>288,614</b>
<b>Total Balance</b>					<b>£288,614</b>

**Table One: Neighbourhood Fund Statement 2023 / 2024**

2.2 There are two applications to the Neighbourhood Fund presented to Area Committee for consideration and approval as below and detailed in Annex 1:

Washington 60 Design Challenge	MOBIE	<b>£30,000</b>
Washington Events 2023/24	Community Opportunities	<b>£70,000</b>

2.3 Total Neighbourhood Fund recommended for approval is **£100,000**. If approved the remaining balance will be **£188,614**.

#### 3. Community Chest

3.1 Each ward has been allocated a budget of £10,000 each, to support projects which complement the Neighbourhood Investment Plan. The process to allocate Community Chest remains the same with ward Councillors leading on seeking suitable project proposals and making decisions on applications received. Where it becomes difficult to make a majority decision and discussions cannot be resolved at a ward level, the outcome will be escalated to Area Committee for a final decision.

3.2 The table below details of the Community Chest approvals supported April 2023 to August 2023, and the balance remaining.



Ward	2023/2024 Allocation	Returned	Approved	Remaining
Central	£10,000	£0	£4286	£5714
East	£10,000	£0	£5762	£4238
North	£10,000	£0	£2700	£7300
South	£10,000	£0	£2208	£7792
West	£10,000	£0	£1180	£8820
<b>Total</b>	<b>£50,000</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£16,136</b>	<b>£33,864.00</b>

**Table Two: Community Chest Funding Statement 2023 / 2024**

**4. Recommendations:**

Committee are requested to:

- a) Note the financial statements set out in Section 2.1 and 3.2.
- b) Approve the 2 Neighbourhood Fund applications as detailed in **Item 4 Annex 1**
- c) Note the Community Chest approvals supported from 2023/2024 as detailed in **Item 4 Annex 2**

**Annexes**

Annex 1

Neighbourhood Fund applications

Annex 2

Community Chest Approvals 2023/24

**Contact Officer:**

Sandra Stephenson

Partnership & Community Resilience Manager

Email [Sandra.stephenson@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:Sandra.stephenson@sunderland.gov.uk)

Neighbourhood Fund proposals - Area Committee 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023**Application No. 1**

<b>Funding Source</b>	Neighbourhood Fund
<b>Name of Project</b>	Washington 60 Design Challenge
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	MOBIE

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total NF Application</b>
£30,000		£30,000

**ALL PROJECT DETAIL TAKEN VERBATIM FROM APPLICATIONS****Project Description:**

MOBIE (George Clarke's Educational charity - [www.mobie.org.uk](http://www.mobie.org.uk)) inspires young people with future living and home design competitions and challenges, 14 to date. George having been born and raised in Washington is keen to celebrate the town's 60th anniversary with a student design challenge open to ALL schools in Washington. The design brief will be to design a 21st Century version of the homes and spaces that made Washington special in the '60's and '70's. Students will be asked to design, innovative, sustainable, housing designs of varying sizes and types around a courtyard area on the Residential Development Land allocated by Sunderland CC at James Steel Park in Washington. The challenge and supporting events will be led by George Clarke and his MOBIE Head of Education. The design brief and challenge details and launch will be held in the town (date and venue tbc) in October with a closing date for entries in June 2024. There will be an awards and presentation event hosted by George Clarke in July as a part of the 60th anniversary celebrations. We will showcase an exhibition of the student design submissions and showcase their site history research and presentations. As a part of the background research, local young students will be helped to conduct interviews with older residents to recollect the early days of the new town and produce a film/video of these interviews. MOBIE with the support of some of their university design students will engage with as many schools as possible to hold workshops, design masterclasses and practical sessions to help them with this project. We will also provide a 'tool-belt' of supporting material for their teachers. These workshops and design classes will run throughout the eight months of the challenge to include as many schools and students as possible. We will also hold promotional events in venues such as the Galleries and use our contacts for as much press and social media coverage as possible. The finals and awards presentations will be a special event with an exhibition following.

**Neighbourhood and Community Board recommend approval as meets the Celebrations for Washington 60 priority in the Washington Area Plan**

**Recommendation: Approve**

## Application No. 2

<b>Funding Source</b>	Neighbourhood Fund
<b>Name of Project</b>	Washington Events 23/24
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Community Opportunities

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total NF Application</b>
£76,000	£6,000	£70,000

### **ALL PROJECT DETAIL TAKEN VERBATIM FROM APPLICATIONS**

#### **Project description:**

Community Opportunities (CO) propose to provide an inclusive, community and cultural events programme across Washington which will celebrate the history of the area and enable the further development of the partnership between Washington Area Committee and the local community. CO are familiar with the Washington area and its partners, having a delivery base at Albany Centre from which we deliver the Neighbourhood Fund/Cild REACT project, warm spaces, household fund, strength and balance sessions, cooking on a budget and a range of training and skills development courses. We deliver volunteering and community services from Bowes Railway, Springwell and environmental improvements at local green spaces, through the Washington Clean and Green Project. We deliver services for young people from outreach at a range of venues including Wessington School, Millennium Centre and local green spaces. We work with the Washington VCS project and Sunderland Alliance to support local Organisations to increase their capacity and identify opportunities for volunteering, growing community capacity and engaging with residents. SNCBC/CO ran the Washington Covid Hub and were the Lead Organisation distributing the Household Fund.

We have developed robust networks and partnership working arrangements in the Washington area over the last six years when we have delivered the Washington Area events, which has included Springwell Village 1940's weekend, Albany Park Summer Carnival, Concord Illuminations, Washington Village Christmas Festival and laterally the Usworth Park Miners event. We will build on and develop these existing relationships to deliver our proposal and will work closely with the Washington Heritage Partnership to ensure the inclusion of projects based in and delivering to the Washington geography.

We have previously worked closely with VCS organisations and statutory partners including Washington Area Committee, VCS Network, local Schools, Springwell Village Community Venue, Washington Millennium Centre, Washington CA, Bowes Railway, and with local businesses such as Greggs, Gentoo, Police, Wetherspoons, Vinyl, Olivias Cafe, The Washington Arms, Nobles Funfairs, Ringtons, Slimming World, in our delivery of Washington events. We have established links with the local heritage groups, miner's banner groups, local military support groups, classic car club and vintage bus restorers, who are all keen to continue their engagement in and support of the Washington area community events.

We successfully adapted the 2019 programme to run on a budget reduced by 33.33%, ensuring we considered feedback from visitors, exhibitors and partners who had participated in or attended previous events to develop the correct offer without impacting visitor numbers. Partners have reported that CO's communication and planning approaches were seen as a key strength of the event delivery and visitors liked the variety of activities available for the whole family at the Carnival, Springwell Village and Washington Village events. We successfully secured opportunities to attract additional funds to enable the Durham Miners Gala and Remembrance Parade to take place within a budget of £4000.

The events schedule was postponed in 2020 due to the covid19 pandemic, but we were able to re-introduce the service in 2021 through careful planning, assessing risk with the relevant health professionals and working closely with SCC events team. To this end we were able to run the Washington Illuminations, Village Christmas, Springwell 1940s and Usworth Park events from within the 2020 budget and also support a community group to safely organise the remembrance parade and provided some financial support to secure the infrastructure for this. While prices have risen, and fluctuated greatly, we have effectively managed the budget, secured alternative suppliers as some businesses chose not to restart after covid19 and ensured our delivery partners were signed up to and committed to our risk assessments.

CO propose to deliver 5 events across Washington in 2023/4 as detailed below, all dates are subject to confirmation against the Civic calendar and SCC events calendar.

**Christmas Lights Switch On - Concord – Monday 13th November 2023**

**Washington Christmas Festival – Saturday 9th December 2023**

**Springwell Village 1940's weekend – Friday 28th June to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Usworth Park Miners Picnic – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August**

**Washington Summer Carnival – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Neighbourhood and Community Board recommend approval as meets the Community Events priority in the Washington Area Plan**

**Recommendation: Approve**

**Washington Area Committee**
**21<sup>st</sup> September 2023**
**Community Chest Awards April 2023 to March 2024**

<b>Washington Central Ward Budget</b>	<b>£10,000</b>		<b>Approvals</b>
<b>Project</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Returned</b>	<b>Approvals</b>
Melrose resurfacing Works	20.04.23	-	£931
Friends Of Washington Old Hall	20.04.23	-	£500
Wessington School	20.04.23	-	£628
Washington Miners and Community Heritage Group	26.06.23	-	£400
Wessington School	26.06.23	-	£743
Columbia CA	31.07.23	-	£784
KWT	31.07.23	-	£300
<b>Remaining balance</b>		-	<b>£5,714</b>
<b>Washington East Ward Budget</b>	<b>£10,000</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Returned</b>	<b>Approvals</b>
5th Washington Donwell Brownies	01.05.23	-	£1,300
Harry Watts Academy	09.06.23	-	£1,521
Hangar 1914	09.06.23	-	£538
Choice Wellbeing CIC	04.07.23	-	£215
Washington Miners and Community Heritage Group	04.07.23	-	£400
Harraton & District Community Centre	31.07.23	-	£1,488
KWT	25.08.23	-	£300
<b>Remaining balance</b>		-	<b>£4,238</b>
<b>Washington North Ward Budget</b>	<b>£10,000</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Returned</b>	<b>Approvals</b>
Washington Millenium Centre	21.07.23	-	£500
MULTIx5 Washington Miners and Community Heritage Group	26.07.23	-	£400
Washington F Pit Banner Group	26.07.23	-	£500
Washington Athletic YFC	25.08.23	-	£1,000
KWT	25.08.23	-	£300
<b>Remaining balance</b>		-	<b>£7,300</b>
<b>Washington South Ward Budget</b>	<b>£10,000</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Returned</b>	<b>Approvals</b>
Hope Family Church	24.05.23	-	£930
Washington Miners and Community Heritage Group	26.06.23	-	£400

KWT	<b>21.07.23</b>	-	<b>£300</b>
Oxclose RA	<b>25.08.23</b>	-	<b>£578</b>
<b>Remaining balance</b>		-	<b>£7,792</b>
<b>Washington West Ward Budget</b>	<b>£10,000</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Returned</b>	<b>Approvals</b>
Springwell village methodist chapel	<b>16.05.23</b>	-	<b>£480</b>
Washington Miners and Community Heritage Group	<b>26.06.23</b>	-	<b>£400</b>
KWT	<b>21.07.23</b>	-	<b>£300</b>
<b>Remaining balance</b>		-	<b>£8,820</b>

## Current Planning Applications(Washington)

Between 01/07/2023 and 23/08/2023

Reference	Address	Proposal	Date Valid	Target Date for Decision
23/01646/TPC	Washington LodgeThe AvenueWashington VillageWashingtonNE38 7LE	Lowering of rear lleylandii hedge to below second floor window height approx 2.8m	20/07/2023	01/09/2023
Washington Central				
23/01564/FUL	70 Hogarth DriveColumbiaWashingtonNE38 7LT	Additional bedroom above existing study and utility.	27/07/2023	21/09/2023
Washington Central				
23/01774/FUL	Land To Rear Of Units 4, 5 And 6 Galleries Retail ParkWashingtonNE38 7QY	Erection of retaining wall and concrete hardstanding	07/08/2023	02/10/2023
Washington Central				
23/00950/FUL	Derwent HouseWashington Town CentreWashington	Conversion of existing offices on third and fourth floors of building to 16 no. apartments, and construction of new fifth story to existing roof to provide 8 no. apartments	08/08/2023	07/11/2023
Washington Central				
23/01767/FUL	11 CreeveleaBiddickWashingtonNE 38 7TU	Ground floor extension and relocation of front door entrance.	16/08/2023	11/10/2023
Washington Central				

Reference	Address	Proposal	Date Valid	Target Date for Decision
23/01079/FUL	1 Edale Close WashingtonNE38 8FH	Erection of double garage.	06/07/2023	31/08/2023
Washington East				
23/01563/FUL	82 Biddick LaneFatfieldWashingtonNE38 8AA	Application for hipped to gable roof	11/07/2023	05/09/2023
Washington East				
23/01410/FUL	21 Thornhope CloseBarmstonWashingtonNE3 8 8DU	To remove existing conservatory to create an extra bedroom / en- suite.	20/07/2023	14/09/2023
Washington East				
23/01661/FUL	55 Fatfield ParkFatfieldWashingtonNE38 8BP	First floor extension to front.	25/07/2023	19/09/2023
Washington East				
23/01766/FUL	17 Greenwood CloseFatfieldWashingtonNE38 8LR	Construction of new single storey extension to the side of an existing dwelling.	07/08/2023	02/10/2023
Washington East				
23/01546/FUL	Advanced Radiators8 Spire RoadGloverWashingtonNE37 3ES	Construction and operation of a peaking generation plant.	06/07/2023	31/08/2023
Washington North				



Reference	Address	Proposal	Date Valid	Target Date for Decision
23/01598/TEX	Land AtStephenson RoadStephensonWashington	Proposed 15m 5G telecoms installation: H3G street pole and additional equipment cabinets.	13/07/2023	02/09/2023
Washington North				
23/01542/VA4	1 International DriveSunderlandSR5 3FH	Variation of conditions attached to planning approval 21/01764/HE4 for the erection of industrial unit to be used for the manufacture of batteries for vehicles with ancillary office / welfare floorspace and associated infrastructure provision, accesses, parking, drainage and landscaping.Conditions to be varied Condition 2 (Approved plans), Condition 3 (Floor space), Condition 4 (Design and Access Statement) and Condition 32 (Materials).	18/07/2023	07/11/2023
Washington North				
23/01555/FU4	1 International DriveSunderlandSR5 3FH	Erection of high voltage sub- station with compound, transformers and securing fencing.	18/07/2023	17/10/2023
Washington North				
23/01540/FU4	1 International DriveSunderlandSR5 3FH	Erection of canopy above bulk stores on western side of the Giga 1 factory	18/07/2023	12/09/2023
Washington North				
23/01541/FU4	1 International DriveSunderlandSR5 3FH	Erection of gas governor house for Giga 1	18/07/2023	12/09/2023
Washington North				

Reference	Address	Proposal	Date Valid	Target Date for Decision
23/01575/FUL Washington North	Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK) Limited Washington Road Usworth Sunderland SR5 3NS	2 no. dock levellers to be constructed south of existing Trim GD1A building extension.	19/07/2023	13/09/2023
23/01658/TPA Washington North	4 Carnoustie Usworth Washington NE37 1ND	Application to fell to stump 1no Pinus (T1), 2no Acer (T2 & T3) subject to TPO 131 G2 with proposal of replacement	24/07/2023	19/09/2023
23/01686/VAR Washington North	Land At Albany Park Spout Lane Washington NE37 2BZ	Variation of condition 2 (plans) attached to application 19/01252/FUL to allow the removal of plots 55-58 to create additional open space, addition of a southern boundary loop top fence with chicane, removal of 1no southern boundary cycle link and addition of Palisade fence to Western Boundary.	26/07/2023	25/10/2023
23/01441/FUL Washington North	Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK) Limited Washington Road Usworth Sunderland SR5 3NS	Replacement blades to 7 of the turbines on the nissan site to improve electricity production.	09/08/2023	04/10/2023
22/01487/FUL Washington North	23 Marwell Drive Washington NE37 3LH	Removal of section of front garden wall and change grassed area to gravel to allow extra parking	16/08/2023	11/10/2023

Reference	Address	Proposal	Date Valid	Target Date for Decision
23/01537/VAR	23 WoodlandsRickletonWashington NE38 9HD	Variation of Condition 2 (Plans) of approved application 23/00204/SUB - to change pitched roof dormers to flat dormers to east elevation.	05/07/2023	30/08/2023
Washington South				
23/01338/FUL	Buddlea Lane Plant NurserySunderland HighwayWashington	Improvement to existing road access including changes to kerbs	06/07/2023	31/08/2023
Washington South				
23/01777/FUL	19 Morpeth CloseOxcloseWashingtonNE38 0NU	Proposed conservatory.	08/08/2023	03/10/2023
Washington South				
23/01655/DEM	Old Office Buildings Springwell QuarrySpringwell RoadGatesheadSpringwell	Demolition of two single storey, flat roofed, office buildings.	21/07/2023	18/08/2023
Washington West				
23/01294/TPA	17 BeechcroftUsworthWashington NE37 1QL	Removal of secondary trunk/branch to Sycamore tree growing through the fence to 29 The Farthings.	21/07/2023	16/09/2023
Washington West				
23/01652/FUL	2 Parsons RoadParsonsWashingtonNE37 1EZ	Erection of 9 no. single storey industrial units with associated parking.	27/07/2023	21/09/2023
Washington West				

Reference	Address	Proposal	Date Valid	Target Date for Decision
23/00945/FUL	4 Rosemount CloseUsworthWashingtonNE37 1PJ	Change of use of open space to private garden, removal of existing fence and perimeter wall and erection of new 1800mm/1500mm high closed board fence.	07/08/2023	02/10/2023
Washington West				
23/01773/VAR	Land To The North Of Mount LaneSpringwellINE9 7UQ	Variation of Condition 2 attached to planning approval 20/01754/FUL (Residential development of 75 dwellings (Use Class C3) etc.), to amend approved scheme to add metal railings to turning heads of western boundary, add tarmac surface to footpaths and move position of garage to plot 60 by 400mm.	11/08/2023	10/11/2023
Washington West				