

WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE

16th October 2014

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE PLACE BOARD

Washington Way update

Community Health and Green spaces Steering Group – meeting 15/9/14

The principal phase 1 route to be developed with the Area Committee contribution alongside LTP is the north-south route through West Washington. Preliminary construction detail designs for this are due to be peer-proofed and reviewed by the end of September. Processes for creation and setting out are being established with Law & Governance. In view of the route complexities and other demands on engineers and construction staff, a realistic target for completion is by March 2015.

Following previous reports to the Place Board and Committee, they will be aware of other extensive network development works in the area which are either complete, near complete, or due for completion by March 2015, subject to budgets and weather. The endorsement of and commitment of the Washington Area Committee has strengthened the case for, and enabled significant steers to these works, to the substantial benefit of the wider strategic network of connected to the Community Health & Greenspace Project. Together these other works amount to over £1m of pedestrian / cycle routes and key road crossings being built or improved.

In particular, a major improvement to the off road provision along the A1290 corridor connecting Washington to North Sunderland on the east side of the A19 is well advanced and due for completion by March 2015. This includes a spur to Boldon, and down Cherry Blossom Way connecting to Turbine Business Park, the C2C for onward connections east and west, and to Pattinson Road, for southward connections. At Ayton Road an important link to the bridge over the A195 is built, with the bridge due for parapet lift to enable allowance for cycles by March 2015. A link has also been built connecting the new Rolls Royce site to the C2C.

In addition to the work across Washington, the Coalfield and West Area Committees are considering similar 'greenspace and connections' projects, and we will be working to maximise connections between the regeneration areas. Road network development designs for an expanded Enterprise Zone to the east of the Leamside Line north of the A1231 include full pedestrian and cycle permeability.

With regards to the next phase of the project which includes launching the Washington Way, PR and communication and engagement, because capital works and the installation of required signage is still to be completed, and some of the strategic links are not anticipated to be completed until the end of this financial year, the actual launch is proposed for Spring 2015. This will also build on Washington Area Committee's additional investment in the Washington Way to Well Being, and co-ordinate it with the growing partnership approach to delivering a range of health priorities to help local residents. This replaces the original concept of the Steering Group to hold a Project launch in October.

In the meantime it is proposed we implement a number of 'teaser' campaigns, e.g. Washington Way is Coming, co-ordinating with the developing partnership approach to tackling health inequalities, and working with the local community and VCS organisations to link to other initiatives. City Services have also proposed Washington's own 'Walk Event' on the Washington Way early Spring. This proposal fulfils one of the original ambitions of this project to have our own high profile event linking the area and promoting Washington.

Members are requested to note the progress made to date and to agree a main project launch in early spring with further engagement with local communities and the VCS to continue and co-ordinate with other Washington Area Committee projects and investments.