

WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE

31ST March 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY ACTION IN WASHINGTON – PROGRESS REVIEW 2011/12 Priorities and Workplan

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the progress of developing the 2011/12 Workplan and the priorities that have been identified for the Washington Area through this process.

2. Progress

- 2.1 A meeting was held with elected members for the Washington Area where discussion took place to identify new priorities for the area. Two new priorities were provisionally agreed and will be included in the new work plan for 2011/12. They are:
- To continue to help local people access employment opportunities. Members identified a need to focus on NEETS and skills development and learning outcomes. They are also keen to look to linking the development of Washington's 'Heritage Offer' to learning opportunities and employment/training opportunities.
 - To look at activities to 'engage' young people and to broaden that into 'community inclusion' - linking young people and the broader community.

- 2.2 It was agreed the following priorities would be carried over from the existing work plan:
- Helping local people access employment opportunities and improve the business offer for Washington
 - Anti Social Behaviour and youth disorder (activities for young people as above to be incorporated)
 - Tackling health inequalities (Local GPs are proposing the formation of a CIC)
 - Speeding and dangerous traffic
 - Responsive Local Services (RLS)

- 2.2 A Task and Finish Group has been established with elected members nominated at the January 2011 meeting together with the Area Lead Executive, Area Officer, Council Officers and Partners relevant to the identified priorities.

The Task and Finish Group has met on two occasions and has worked to

- Provide information to validate the identified priorities.
 - Consider the issues that exist within each of these priorities that may need to be addressed.
 - Identify what is currently being done to address the priorities and issues.
 - Identify the gaps in addressing the priorities and what Area Committee can do to provide additionality.
 - Create a draft annual work plan based upon the findings.
- 2.3 The information collected has been collated and is attached at **Annex 1a** which proposes specific actions to be included in the 2011/12 workplan. Area Committee is asked to comment on the proposed workplan.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 Local residents and the Community and Voluntary Sector will be given the opportunity to express their views on the identified priorities for the area.

- 3.2 The views received from this exercise, along with other qualitative research available within the Council, will be used to add value and support the development of priorities and the 2011/12 workplan.
- 3.3 A final design of the 2011/12 workplan will be provided to Members for input
- 3.4 A final 2011/12 workplan will be presented to June Committee for agreement.

Recommendation

- Note the update on the development of the 2011/12 workplan and progress made.
- Agree to receive the final plan at June Committee for agreement.

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Background Papers

- Washington Local Area Plan
- Washington Local Area Plan Review Framework
- Washington Area Committee Workplan 2010/11