

SIB Project Performance for the Place Board

Below is a summary of all SIB projects showing how they have performed against targets and what they have achieved up until end of Quarter 2 (2014/15).

Local Approach to Employment and Enterprise

This project was funded **£28,000**, split into three strands:

Shop Local Concord (Louise Darby) £5,000 There has been production of Shop Local posters and leaflets and a pull up banner to use at events. A Shop Local Christmas leaflet is being produced to advertise Christmas activity in Concord and to highlight Christmas offers from local traders. Spend on this project to date totals £1,251. On target.

Ad Bins (David Hardy) £3,000 The new litterbins have now been installed and will initially promote the Shop Local Campaign then will be available for advertising to local businesses. The funds for this element of the project have now been claimed and the **project is complete**.

Local Approach to Employment and Enterprise (Berni Whittaker) incorporating:

Engaging with local businesses (£2,500). A Business Directory has been compiled with over 500 companies on the list, although some information may be out of date. Work is underway on the business pack. A data base of Washington Employers has provided a valuable insight into the economic base within Washington. Social media has been used to communicate and engage with businesses to promote the work of the Area Committee and its key messages. This allocation has been combined with the Skills Conference funding to hold an event which not only engages young people but local employers too.

Washington Skills Conference (£2,500). This event targeted employers and young people in Washington. The date for the event was 12 November 2014. The event will celebrate the achievements of young people who have been part of the School Opportunities and Youth Opportunities projects, have an interactive element for young people to increase their employability skills, provide an opportunity for young people and Washington businesses to come together and discuss employment opportunities and what employers expect from employees, and a session for employers to increase their knowledge and understanding of what is happening in Washington. 3 of the Washington Schools sent young people to this event. A project evaluation is currently underway. There has been no claim to date for this project. It is anticipated a full claim will be submitted for Quarter 3.

Retail support project (£15,000) The project has been running since mid-April 2014. The retail support specialist has made an excellent start engaging with the 88 independent retailers in the Concord area. There are 20 grants now approved. A working party has been set up as the start of a process to establish a traders association. The project continues to be delivered in an effective way which has seen strong engagement with the traders in Concord.. The delivery organisations continue to meet with Traders to discuss events, business support, and other areas the traders think are important. Communication with traders is strong with regular bulletins being issued. A successful shop local campaign was run in conjunction with the scheme in September 2014 with 9 local traders offering a variety of discounts. A further campaign will be run in the period up to Christmas. There has been no expenditure to date for this project. A claim is anticipated Quarter 3

Washington Neighbourhood Improvement Project

This project was awarded to £125,000. The Ward Walk Abouts are underway identifying key projects for individual wards. The board receives regular updates on this item and further updates where detailed proposals will be identified will be due via a Quarter 3 monitoring return.

Washington Way (Community Health & Green Spaces)

The project was funded **£100,000**. Area Committee agreed the next stage of the Washington Way. PR and communication and engagement will roll out and inform the proposed project launch in 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. Work is on-going on the bridge over the A195 at Ayton Rd. The bridge parapets are due to be lifted this financial year. This work is included within a larger bridge refurbishment which will 'contribute' the traffic management, whilst the parapets cost will be an LTP contribution. In addition to the above, a key arterial north-south route is designed to construction detail and is out for contractor pricing, with completion due this year weather and contractor allowing. Associated match funding of c£1m cycle route construction works connecting Washington to Nissan/surrounding employers and to North Sunderland and Boldon has been identified. This is also due for completion this financial year. Next Steering group 15th December.

Village Centre Improvement Project

This project was funded **£80,000** to deliver improvements to all Washington wards. Completed projects include installation of the Washington 50 planters in each of the villages, bulb planting in Blackfell, Oxclose and Biddick, woodland clearing at Rickleton – Bluebell and Snowdrop bulbs are to be planted and the Albany Wheel has been repainted. Projects to be introduced in the next 3 month are the Lambton brick planters which will be redeveloped and trees planted, and the walls at Holley Park are to be demolished. Trees will be planted at Sulgrave as well as the removal of some, and also at Oxclose. The Hedge adjacent to the Arts Centre will be reduced, and trees and shrubs will be removed from the Blackfell Centre. There will be a footpath installed from the car park to Dilston Close at Oxclose and 5 v 5 goals will be installed at Holley Park.