

**At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at the WASHINGTON LEISURE CENTRE on THURSDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2009 at 6.00 P.M.**

**Present:**

Councillor Kelly in the Chair

Councillors Barkess, Chamberlin, Cuthbert, Fletcher, Miller, I. Richardson, Scaplehorn, Snowdon, Timmins, Trueman, Wake, Walker and Whalen.

Nonnie Crawford, Liz Allan – Sunderland TPCT

Ailsa Martin, Sarann Valentine - Sunderland Carers Centre

John Chapman – Gentoo

Ken Teears – SAFC Foundation

Jacqui Reeves – Washington Mind

Andy Neal – YDG

Helen Green, Charlotte Nixon, Thom Williams – Arts Centre, Washington

Neil Revely	-	Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services (Area Lead Executive)
Janet Newton	-	Children's Services
Julie Russell	-	City Services
Victoria French	-	City Services
Derek Welsh	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Sue Bartlett	-	Chief Executives
Nicol Trueman	-	Chief Executives
Marion Marshall	-	Office of the Chief Executive
Paul Wood	-	Office of the Chief Executive
Victoria Glass	-	Office of the Chief Executive

Members of the Washington Community.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Stephenson, Joe Cummings and Jon Anderson.

**Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2009**

Councillor Miller enquired as to the update on Flash cams from Acting Inspector Pitchford.

Councillor Snowden informed of an LMAP's meeting where it was advised that there were flash cams available without additional expenditure and suggestions for possible locations were required.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **Declarations of Interest**

#### **Item 7 – Washington Area Committee Work Plan – Thematic Action Plans**

Councillor Snowden declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as her husband was employed on contract with Ground Works Trust and is also a board member on Gentoo Finance.

Councillor Snowden also declared a personal interest as a board member of Pitstop of which Oxclose and District Young People's Project may be requested to carry work out on behalf of.

#### **Item 11 – Financial Statements and Funding Requests**

Councillor Scaplehorn declared personal and prejudicial interests as Chairman of Blackfell Neighbourhood Watch and as a member of the Management Board of Springwell Village Hall.

#### **Item 14 – Choosing a new provider for Barmston Medical Centre**

Councillor Scaplehorn declared a personal interest in the item as a patient of the Surgery and has also been asked to be a member of patients' panel.

Councillor I. Richardson declared a personal interest as a patient of the surgery.

### **Question to Area Committee**

The Chairman notified the Committee that a question to the Area Committee had been received.

Mr. Chris Parker was present at the meeting and the Chairman invited him to proceed to put the question he had submitted.

Mr. Parker enquired as to why his son's school, Fatfield Primary, had closed on three separate occasions during winter conditions when all other schools had managed to open.

This question differed from the original written question that Mr. Parker had submitted prior to the meeting which asked why can't the Education

Department look at how all other schools managed to stay open and implement best practice at all schools to ensure his son did not lose any further education.

John Walvin, Capital Manager (Primary) was in attendance and briefed Mr. Parker and the Committee on the Authority's policy and guidance given to schools in order to implement best practice.

At this point Mr. Parker interjected and complained that he had already heard this response.

The Chair asked Mr. Walvin to proceed with his response in order that the Committee and the meeting should be informed of the Council's policy. Mr. Parker again interjected, disputing the figures that had been stated.

Councillor Cuthbert advised that investigations and a risk assessment had been carried out at Fatfield Primary School and the Governing Body had deemed the Headteacher to have correctly decided to close the school on the grounds of Health and Safety issues further that improved measures to seek to prevent the need for future closures were forthcoming.

Mr. Parker commented that he would contact Councillor Cuthbert after the meeting and stated his dissatisfaction that he had not had his query answered.

2. RESOLVED that in accordance with procedure Mr. Parker receive a written response to the written /original question he had submitted to the Area Committee.

### **Variation of Agenda**

The Chairman asked that the Agenda be varied to consider Item 8 – Responsive Local Services Report next to allow those officers who needed to leave to attend another meeting the opportunity to report to the Committee.

3. RESOLVED that the Agenda be varied accordingly.

### **Responsive Local Services**

The Executive Director of City Services and the Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to advise the Committee of the commencement of the Responsive Local Services (RLS) project which forms part of the Council's Community Leadership Programme.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mike Poulter, Head of Project and Service Development, noted Cllr Trueman's concerns that land ownership issues caused problems with issues such as grass cutting and litter and advised that detailed land ownership maps would be used and work was underway to align services. The directorate was liaising with partners and land owners, with task teams set up to deal with issues identified.

Councillor Cuthbert commented on the issue of graffiti and that the standard which the Council adopted across the City generally only dealt with Council owned land and some of the major issues fell on private companies.

Mr. Poulter advised that racist graffiti would be dealt with within 24 hours, but that regard had to be had to land ownership and possible trespass issues and that proactive measures to tackle the problem would include working closely with the Committee and partners in identifying hotspots in the area.

Mr. Bill Craddock commented that Washington had more subways than most areas which had been subject to graffiti and suggested the implementation of legal graffiti similar to Heworth Metro Station to cut costs.

Mr. Poulter commented that graffiti seemed to be a major issue and suggested the Area Committee set up graffiti working groups

4. RESOLVED that:-

- i) Mr. Poulter convene a Graffiti Working Group to address graffiti issues in the Washington Area;
- ii) the report be received and noted.

### **Washington Road Safety Measures**

Ian Pearson, Acting Manager of the Traffic and Road Safety Section, was in attendance to update Members on the issues they had raised at a previous meeting of the Committee. These included:-

- Provision of footway links;
- Bus Priority Lanes;
- Accident Cluster Sites.

Mr. Pearson also addressed Members' queries that had been raised via email and it was agreed that a full report updating Members on all the issues raised would be circulated via a monthly email.

5. RESOLVED that Members receive a full list of actions updating on Road Safety issues in Washington.

### **Washington a Healthy Area Summary**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) and Powerpoint presentation for the Committee to consider and discuss the priority of healthy, as agreed in the Work Plan for the 2009/10 municipal year.

(For copy report and Powerpoint presentation – see original minutes).

Nonnie Crawford, Director of Public Health, gave a presentation on average life expectancy in the region and the pattern of health deprivation in the Washington Area.

Ms. Crawford advised that there had been a significant enhancement to Washington's local health services, with the establishment and opening of the Primary Care Centre, with the development of new general practice arrangements and with the recent Darzi Procurements ensuring that arrangements be put in place to address inequalities in access to primary care services.

The Teaching Primary Care Trust (TPCT) had engaged with a range of partners, including the Council, schools, primary care and third sector to deliver interventions which sustain and promote healthy lives. To deliver sustainable health improvement, strategically, there is a need to focus on those core causes of poor health and maximise local people's opportunities to benefit.

The areas that need a different emphasis relate to smoking, obesity and alcohol (relating to early mortality and inequalities in life expectancy) and emotional health and wellbeing (for both children and adults) of which workstreams were ongoing.

Neil Revely, Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services, advised of the Accommodation with Support Needs Analysis, Older Persons Needs and Aspirations Study and the Woodbridge Garden Extra Care Housing Scheme, all of which feed into the Priority for Increasing Options for Supported Housing to enable older people to live independently for longer.

Consideration also needed to be given on how to reshape services in a way that meets the needs of Washington residents. The TPCT can provide care services, but were people living fulfilled lives? Was the Council addressing the issues pertinent to particular pockets of the area, such as the disabled or the aged?

Alisa Martin, Sunderland Carers' Centre, gave a presentation in relation to Priority 3, which was to raise awareness of support available to carers, access to GPs or receive equipment, etc.

Ms. Martin informed the Committee that carers save Sunderland £529.5 million p.a through the level of service that they provide and recommended that if Sunderland were to receive any services, Washington would need its fair share.

Ms. Martin also commented that the Carers Service could support work with TPCT to get general practitioners on board and consideration needed to be given on how GPs and Councillors could use their contacts to raise awareness and help the Washington area.

Victoria French, Wellness Manager, advised on Priority 4 to strongly link preventative services and primary care services.

The service would look to target those individuals who are not yet engaged in physical activity, ensuring there are a range of preventative services, targeted interventions and specialist support services at a local level to improve all age ranges health and wellbeing.

Ms. French informed the Committee of the Sunderland Active Bus and invited Members' suggestions for possible locations.

Ms. French also advised that there was a need to supply prevention services in the areas most affected and it was key that we work with the communities to make sure these were put in the right locations.

Ken Teears, SAFC Foundation, also spoke on the priority of preventative services and primary care and detailed the programmes ongoing such as:-

- Working with partner agencies to target young people and families with reinforced messages of the negative impacts of alcohol, tobacco and substance misuse.
- Running targeted eight week programmes with young people and their families that have been signposted via PCT dieticians and GP referral units.
- Communicating positive messages on health, nutrition and the benefits of leading an active and healthy lifestyle.

Mr. Teears also advised of the Kickz programme, which was a weekly youth club held at the Washington Millennium Centre on Friday evenings for 11-16 years. The youth club was aimed at decreasing anti social behaviour in the area by providing the young people with activities to channel their energy in a positive way.

The Programme was half funded by the Police, with the other half due to expire, which has resulted in the request for funding in order to sustain services.

Jacqui Reeves of Washington Mind advised that they provide a range of preventative mental health services for adults aged 16 and over living in the City of Sunderland and for people experiencing or at risk of developing mental ill health or emotional distress and their carers.

Mr. Revely asked the Committee to consider if the current services address the priorities and if the interventions/services weren't enough, were enhanced services required? If so, what were the issues and which communities needed enhanced services?

Councillor I. Richardson raised concerns in relation to life expectancy figures for the Washington area and commented that he would like to see in twelve months evidence that the preventative services had made a difference.

Mr. Revely advised that there was a national push to address the issue and to focus more on prevention than cure. Results in terms of prevention measures put in place may be seen rather quickly but in terms of life expectancy, results would be determined over a longer period.

Councillor Miller commented that the Council were dealing with the cure much better but he still did not see a strategic educational link in addressing drug, alcohol abuse and so on.

Councillor Miller also commented that the way Council finances were distributed should be looked at, as the communities with issues were known, yet were not always addressed.

Mr. Revely commented that he hoped the next time the group was to sit down it could address particular areas that had been identified. There were a number of challenges, such as how we work together and need to work smarter, not just through prevention but to cut out duplication of services.

Mr. Parker enquired how the price increase to use Leisure Services in the City fit in with the prevention measures proposed.

Mr. Revely advised that the Council had introduced schemes such as free swimming for the under 16s and over 65s and provided extra staffing which had resulted in more people accessing facilities from outside of the area.

Ms. French advised that the pricing structure had been out for over a year and had seen a massive increase in attendances.

Mr. Parker responded that the increase had priced a lot of people out of using the services.

Mr. Revely advised that Mr. Parker had raised valid issues which could be taken on board when the Local Area Plans were refreshed.

Councillor Timmins commented that prevention was not only tackled by introducing services but by the individual taking responsibility and this could be done through promoting the services.

Councillor Trueman noted the will of particular departments to address the issues raised with the required funding but expressed concern at possible duplication of services.

In relation to the life expectancy figures, Ms. Crawford advised that Education was necessary but not sufficiently efficient. If better arrangements were in place for partners' signposting then figures on alcohol, smoking and obesity could start to decrease, whilst there was a significant amount of work which could be done to raise levels of life expectancy within the next ten years.

If work on intervention could be completed, results could take effect within two years, so there are lots of issues which could be addressed and tackled differently.

The Chairman commented that it was not just about financing but what the Council was actually doing in relation to the issues and the need for partners to step up and address/challenge each other on what services or facilities could be utilised with a need to put in place a series of solutions over a period of time.

The Chairman also wished to thank the voluntary sector and officers and looked forward to progress on the issue.

Mr. Revely suggested that those Members involved with the Healthy Sub Group help feed into the review.

6. RESOLVED that:-

- i) The Committee note the actions identified in Annex 1.
- ii) Agree for the proposal to be developed for allocation of SIB/SIP identified in Annex 1 of £15,000 to enable the continuation of the project between March 2010 to March 2011.
- iii) Review – To receive a further report on the personalisation Agenda in relation to encouraging independent living.

To consider the Washington profile with regards to health improvement and refresh the priorities under the theme to take account of the need to emphasise smoking, obesity and alcohol in relation to early mortality and inequalities in life expectancy and emotional health and wellbeing for both children, young people and adults in the Washington area.

- iv) Members of the Healthy Sub Group feed into the review.

### **Choosing a new provider for Barmston Medical Centre**

Liz Allan, Head of Public Involvement, South of Tyne and Wear NHS Trust, was in attendance and with Ms. Nonnie Crawford informed the Committee that the contractual agreement for Barmston Medical Centre had been terminated and applications for a new provider were in the process of going out to tender.



As discussed at Overview and Scrutiny, it would go out for formal consultation but as this has not started yet, there was no feedback to report at this time. Ms. Allan proposed that they bring any feedback to the next meeting of the Committee in January.

Councillor Scaplehorn commented that many of the patients were not getting the information they required through the lack of permanent Doctors.

Ms. Allan advised that there will be at least one public event where people can express their views on what's important.

Ms. Crawford advised that a stable GP presence would be a main issue.

Councillor Cuthbert requested that Ward Councillors be consulted before the item came back to the Committee in January.

7. RESOLVED that:-

- i) a further meeting be arranged to consult with Members;
- ii) a report be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.

### **Washington Area Committee Work Plan – Thematic Action Plans**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to update Members on the key actions from the Safe and Learning themes, which were discussed at the previous Area Committee meetings.

The report also included a number of proposals to be developed/reviewed for the Committee to agree upon as identified in Annex 2.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

In relation to the Safe Action Plan update, Action 24 – Conduct an analysis on how many private landlords there are in the area and the % of accredited landlords, with a view to encouraging non-accredited landlords onto the Sunderland Accredited Landlord Scheme.

Derek Welsh, Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Manager, circulated a report updating the Committee on the situation (for copy report – see original minutes).

It was agreed that a further report be brought before the Committee in April.

Andy Neal, Interim YDG Manager, was in attendance and updated the Committee on the youth provision to be commissioned in 2010 (for additional information circulated at the meeting – see original minutes).

In response to Councillor Timmins' query, Mr. Neal advised that the contracts would be on a ward by ward basis and that they had not been able to deliver services to all young people across all wards so were now looking for specific targets to meet.

Councillor Timmins enquired if services would only be provided for people within the ward or if it would be available to everyone.

The Chairman advised that he was not aware anyone from other areas would be excluded from using a particular service and that there would be a level of flexibility.

Councillor Timmins also raised concerns that if funding was reduced for the Millennium Centre, it would not be enough for them to provide their current levels of service.

Councillor Cuthbert expressed concern at the large amount of extra paperwork that had been circulated during the meeting for consideration.

Helen Green, Creative Director of Arts Centre, Washington was in attendance with two representatives to update the Committee on the Youth Arts Provision in the Washington area.

Councillor I. Richardson suggested if the representatives would consider forming a Committee to which Councillors could be invited and to attend future Area Committees to help feed into reviews, etc.

Members wished to congratulate Ms. Green and representatives on the good work that they were achieving.

In relation to Annex 2a – Green Team Proposal, Groundworks, Councillor Miller suggested that the Committee needed more information on why the proposal required extra funding before an application be submitted.

Members agreed that further information should be supplied via a full report.

8. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- i) Considered the Safe (Annex 1) report and determined the appropriate option(s) set out in the report.
- ii) Considered the Learning (Annex 2) report and agreed that an SIB application is received from Arts Centre, Washington for £25,000 at a future Area Committee meeting.
- iii) Receive a further report with additional details on reasons for extra funding on the Groundworks SIB application for £50,000.

## **Section 106 Agreements and Playspace Provision**

The Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of City Services submitted a joint report (copy circulated) to advise Members of the use of Section 106 Agreements by Sunderland City Council in the town planning process (particularly in relation to the provision of children's play space), to consider existing adopted Council policy on children's play space and how this determined the selection of sites to be funded by Section 106 contributions and finally to provide information on Section 106 contributions received and spent in Washington over the last 3 years.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mike Mattock, Technical Manager, Development Control and Julie Russell, Sport and Leisure Partnership Manager, presented the report and were on hand to answer Members' queries.

Councillor Cuthbert commented that he had raised concerns many times at Planning and Highways Committees that Members were not consulted on the details of Section 106 Agreements and that whilst it is a Citywide strategy, the 1km test did not take into consideration travel issues for children.

Ms. Russell advised that if there was an issue, the agreements are in the public domain and could be challenged at planning stage.

Councillor Cuthbert commented that when raised at Planning, Members are told that it is a directorate issue.

Ms. Russell advised that she was not aware of the issues raised and as an officer, if made aware, she would investigate.

Councillor Miller raised concerns that certain areas had not been earmarked for funding and the needs of the strategy were being put before the needs of the public.

Ms. Russell advised that where there has been a recognised gap in play provision, in general, the Council has reviewed decisions where appropriate, the Princess Anne Park development being an example of that.

Councillor I. Richardson commented that the play provision at Barmston was not being used efficiently and needed an infrastructure in place for safety.

The Chairman commented that one of the biggest concerns was that when the Section 106 money had been generated it went through planning process but Members were not given the exact details. Members would like a better input on where the money should go.

Mr. Mattock advised that the money could not be spent too far away from the site and toddler space would be closer still.

Ms. Russell advised that the provision needed to benefit the new residents.

Marion Marshall, Solicitor, advised that planning permission should not be granted on an application unless Section 106 money is satisfactorily tied into the development.

In response to Councillor Snowdon's query, Mr. Mattock advised that there have not been any instances where Section 106 money has been paid back to the developer.

In response to Councillor Wake's query, Ms. Russell advised that the money spent within the 1km stipulation is "as the crow flies" but the Council does try to think of access roads and so on.

Councillor Cuthbert suggested that if Members wished to raise objections at Development Control meetings perhaps there was a need for a representative of City Services to be present who could be challenged.

Ms. Russell advised that if Members wished to refine the details, then that may be the opportunity to do so.

9. RESOLVED that further investigations be made for a representative from City Services to attend Development Control Committee meetings when there are queries in relation to Section 106 Agreements and also into Ward Councillors receiving Notification of Planning Applications.

### **Area Committee Handbook**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) for Members to consider and agree the adoption of the Area Committee Handbook 2009/10 to reflect the new arrangements and to facilitate the operations of the Area Committees with their partners.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

10. RESOLVED that the Area Committee agree the adoption of the Area Committee Handbook 2009/10.

## **Financial Statements and Funding Requests**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to outline current expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest and applications for funding from these budgets in order to support new initiatives, which would benefit the area and the delivery of the Local Area Plans.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

11. RESOLVED that the Committee -

- i) approve the 15 proposals for support from the 2009/10 Community Chest as detailed in Annex 1;
- ii) approve £11,880 as a contribution from the 2009/10 SIB budget and a further £11,880 from the 2010/11 SIB budget, subject to Washington Area Committee approving second year of funding in 2010/2011 for Tyne and wear Fire and Rescue to deliver the Phoenix Project; and
- iii) approve £2,445 as a contribution from the 2009/10 SIP budget to Sunderland City Council for the Blue House Lane drop kerbed scheme;
- iv) note the financial statement for Area Committee funding for 2009/10;
- v) note the live update report on the eleven projects that were still operating and receiving SIB funding, totalling £192,599.

## **Review of the Local Area Plans (LAP)**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Area Committee with details of the review of the Local Area Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Trueman commented that if any of the issues needed to be refreshed, that she could be contacted outside of the meeting.

12. RESOLVED to note the review and to take part in the self assessments and Members' surveys.

## **Members Visit to Washington Multi Purpose Centre**

The Executive Director, Health, Housing and Adult Services, submitted a report (copy circulated) informing of Members' recent visit to the Washington Multi Purpose Centre to understand the current range of facilities and services and to meet with service users and carers.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Chamberlin requested if Members could be invited to future carer groups.

Ailsa Martin requested Members indicate their availability through the Carers Centre.

13. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

(Signed) J. KELLY,  
Chairman.

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Questions to Area Committee – Review of Pilot Scheme**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To inform the Area Committee of the Questions to Area Committees received to date.
- 1.2 To seek the Area Committee's agreement to extend the pilot and for a review to be undertaken and reported to the March meeting of the Area Committee.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2009 the Area Committee approved the protocol to the Questions to Area Committees Scheme and that a pilot be undertaken for the next two Area Committee meetings in September and November 2009, with Councillors being encouraged to invite local people along to these meetings to ask strategic questions affecting the Coalfield Area as a whole.
- 2.2 The Area Committee also agreed that after the pilot a review on how it was managed in terms of process and practicalities would be held, with the possibility of it being rolled out across the City in 2010.

**3. Questions to Area Committee**

- 3.1 Questions to the Area Committees have been received for the September and November 2009 meetings as follows:-

Coalfield Area Committee	-	0
East Area Committee	-	0
North Area Committee	-	0
Washington Area Committee	-	1
West Area Committee	-	1

- 3.2 At the time of writing this report questions have been raised in respect of the Area Committees for the January meeting as follows:-

East Area Committee	-	3
Washington Area Committee	-	6

- 3.3 In view of the relatively low number of questions received during the initial period and the fact that three of the five Area Committees have

not received any questions prior to the January meeting, it is proposed to extend the pilot and undertake a review with a report to be submitted to the March meeting of the Area Committee for Members' consideration.

3.4 The questions submitted to the Committee are attached as **Annex 1**.

3.5 The Councils response and officer contact details are included in **Annex 2**.

#### **4. Recommendation**

4.1 To approve a review of the pilot to the Questions to Area Committees to be submitted to the March meeting of the Area Committee.

4.2 That Members note the questions received and the response given by the Council.

#### **5. Background Papers**

Minutes of the meeting and report of the July meeting of the Area Committee.

#### **6. Contact officer: Paul Wood**

Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 0191 561 1044

Email: paul.wood@sunderland.gov.uk



### Question 1

Speed Cameras do not slow down motor bikes, lorries buses and anyone who does not care about their car, they create a hindrance for ambulances with critical patients and cause pollution due to the stop start nature of going between them. Average speed cameras slow down more of the traffic, cause no problems for emergency services and allow a constant speed so reduce pollution. So why do Sunderland Council still insist on speed humps everywhere.

**Please see Annex 2a for response and officer contact details.**

### Question 2

My sons school closed due to the fact the car park could not be cleared of snow on all three occasions of snowfall last year. Not once did it manage to stay open when EVERY other school in the whole of Sunderland managed to open on at least two of those occasions. When I questioned this I am only told that schools are autonomous institutions and can do as they please and since other schools in the country (not NOT county) closed they cannot single out one school. Why with the Government preaching EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS, does this not apply to the schools themselves, **Why can't the education department look at how all other schools managed to stay open and implement best practice at all schools to ensure my son does not loose any further education.**

This question is resubmitted as the answer I received did not answer the question I asked in bold above. I do NOT want to know the DCSF policy or what Fatfield school say they have done but want an answer to the question above.

**Please see Annex 2b for response and officer contact details.**

### Question 3

When member of the public are invited to put questions to councillors at meeting why is the protocol for their questions different to the protocol for the councillors? Surely if they have been asked to attend then they should be given the same opportunity.

**Please see Annex 2c for response and officer contact details.**

#### **Question 4**

When the Council changed the Active 8 Card for a Life card for entry to its sports facilities it exchanged an £12 card for an £8 card. After a long process I have had a refund of the difference and an undertaking from the council to return any monies to other members if it is asked for. Since the council now agree this money should be given back has it decided to keep the money instead of returning it to the rightful owners?

**Please see Annex 2d for response and officer contact details.**

#### **Question 5**

During the last period of snow Fatfield Primary School had to close on every occasion due to the car park being deemed unsafe. The council have a fleet of snow ploughs and gritters available. Why can't the education and highways departments work together in order to ensure that the school can remain open and over 200 children not lose 3 days education?

**City Services Directorate to provide response.**

#### **Question 6**

To strongly request NEXUS complete the renovation of the Concord Bus Station by installation of the electronic information system, as in the Galleries Bus Station, in the street Chester le Street, Newcastle's new bus station, with existing lighting the bus information boards, very difficult to read.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date: 09/12/09  
Our ref: 9/F1W/9-1492  
Your ref:

**This matter is being dealt with by:**

Ian Pearson, Acting Manager, Traffic and Road Safety Section  
Direct Line: 0191 5612445. E-mail: [ian.pearson@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:ian.pearson@sunderland.gov.uk)

Dear Mr. Parker

**QUESTION TO WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE: TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES**

I refer to your enquiry regarding the above, which will be included in the agenda for the Washington Area Committee meeting to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

Average speed cameras are deployed on motorways and other major roads to ensure that vehicles do not exceed the speed limit. In order to be effective, the cameras rely on vehicles travelling through the controlled zone without stopping.

The roads, in Sunderland, where traffic calming measures such as road humps are in place are all relatively local in character, where vehicles would be expected to stop and start. On such roads, average speed cameras would be unable to detect a vehicle that entered the controlled zone at a speed in excess of the speed limit, and then stopped before it reached the next camera. However, road humps installed at appropriate locations on these roads are very effective at reducing vehicular speed, and hence the frequency and severity of accidents. This has been demonstrated both nationally and locally over several decades.

As far as motorbikes, lorries and buses are concerned, such vehicles are able to circumvent traffic calming measures such as cushions that do not extend the full width of the carriageway. However, 'before' and 'after' speed surveys demonstrate that such traffic calming is, nevertheless, effective in significantly reducing vehicular speeds.

Ambulances normally use the primary road network as much as possible, and road humps are generally not deployed on such roads. All of the emergency services are consulted extensively before road humps are constructed on any of the City's roads, and their requirements are always taken into account in the decision as to what, if any, traffic calming would be appropriate.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Ian Pearson  
Acting Manager, Traffic and Road Safety Section

b.c.c. Paul Wood, Democratic Services Officer  
Office of the Chief Executive

Mr Parker  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009  
Our ref: JW/FS  
Your ref:

Dear Mr Parker

## **WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE**

I am replying further to your written question submitted to Washington Area Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009 in which you asked :-

My Sons school closed due to the fact the car park could not be cleared of snow on all three occasions of snowfall last year. Not once did it manage to stay open when EVERY other school in the whole of Sunderland managed to open on at least two of those occasions. When I questioned this I am only told that schools are autonomous institutions and can do as they please and since other schools in the country (not NOTcounty) closed they cannot single out one school. Why with the Government preaching EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS, does this not apply to the schools themselves, **Why can't the education department look at how all other schools managed to stay open and implement best practice at all schools to ensure my son does not loose any further education.**

To address your question as explicitly as I can, I would respond as follows;

Children's Services annually give advice and support in assisting all schools to plan for severe weather events. Advice is drawn from a range of relevant sources, including lessons learned from previous experience of the impact of winter conditions across the city, all with the intent to reduce the risk of potential school closure.

However varying circumstances may occur from year to year, as a result of severe snowfall at any school sites and surrounding areas, which could force individual schools to consider closure. The decision to close any school is taken in the light of prevailing conditions, and other relevant considerations, including this local authority advice and support, and with regard to the need to balance the education and welfare needs of pupils.

To summarise, the council regularly reviews the annual advice it gives to schools and as part of this process would include any emerging good practice which may be useful, and possible, for other schools to adopt. It is, however, sometimes both reasonable and necessary for a school to take the decision to close to pupils in severe weather conditions.

Yours sincerely

John Walvin  
Capital Manager  
Direct Line 0191 561 1437  
E-mail [john.walvin@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:john.walvin@sunderland.gov.uk)

Mr Parker  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date: 22 December 2009  
Our ref: CP/WACQ  
Your ref: PW

**This matter is being dealt with by:**

Paul Wood, Democratic Services Officer, Chief Solicitor, Office of the Chief Executive, PO Box 100, Civic Centre, Sunderland, SR2 7DN. Telephone Number: 0191 5611044. Email: paul.wood@sunderland.gov.uk

Dear Mr Parker

**QUESTION TO AREA COMMITTEE**

We are in receipt of your question form which you would like to be put before the Washington Area Committee in which you asked:

When members of the public are invited to put questions to Councillors at meetings, why is the protocol for their questions different to the protocol for the councillors? Surely if they have been asked to attend then they should be given the same opportunity.

The two groups have very different roles, and, in contrast to members of the general public, Councillors serve as elected members of the Committee and work within Committee rules, with the remit of investigating the needs of the local area, to find ways of resolving local issues and improving services.

The Question to Area Committee protocol is being piloted at the request of Members as a new avenue for members of the public to highlight and assist in identifying possible gaps in services or problems for the community that the Committee may be able to address in the area.

As meeting time is limited it is necessary to manage use of time at the Committee to make sure each agenda item is considered. Given the time constraints, full discussions cannot ensue when a question is first asked, although Members may ask questions for points of clarification. The person submitting a question may also ask one supplementary question.

If the issue raised has an effect on the whole of the area, has not already been addressed by the Authority and is of a nature that the Committee could resolve, further investigations are made outside of the Committee and brought back to a future meeting for fuller consideration.

If a member of the public wishes to make an individual complaint over a particular service that the Authority provides, the Council also has a complaints procedure in place. This is a more suitable avenue for raising an issue, where it is not one that affects the wider community.

In relation to the overall protocol for meetings of this Committee, members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings and at the discretion of the chair, may be invited to make relevant comments in relation to the items on the agenda.

Yours sincerely

Paul Wood  
for Chief Solicitor

DX 60729





Mr C Parker



City Services  
Jack Crawford House, Commercial Road,  
Sunderland SR2 8QR

Telephone: 0191 520 5555  
Web: [www.sunderland.gov.uk](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk)

Date: 21 December 2009  
Our ref: JDG/AON/RE  
Your ref:

Dear Mr Parker

**Question to Washington Area Committee**

I refer to your question submitted to Washington Area Committee in respect of the changed Active 8 card to Life card, which has been forwarded onto me to respond to you direct.

I would like to re-affirm, as detailed in our previous correspondence, that the former 'Active8' leisure card was priced at £12 per year, giving users discounts on the prices of individual swimming, wellness and exercise sessions. The new Life Card costs just £8 a year for non concessionary residents and is free to children. The terms and conditions have not been affected, all of these benefits were transferred to the Life Card.

I understand you have received a pro-rata refund of the unused portion of the Active8 card and can confirm that the Council's position remains the same, in that should any Active8 card holders feel as you did then who felt similarly disadvantaged by the changes they would also be offered a pro-rata refund.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie D Gray".

Julie D Gray  
Head of Community Services

Delivering services for a better future



2008-2009  
Reducing Health  
Inequalities



2008-2009  
Reducing Re-offending



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



# Washington Area Committee

7<sup>th</sup> January 2010

## Report of the Chief Executive

### Washington - an Attractive and Inclusive Area Summary

#### 1. Why has it come to Committee?

1.1 At its meeting in June 2009, the committee agreed its work plan for the 2009/10 municipal year and Attractive and Inclusive priority is the fourth to come to committee for discussion and consideration.

#### 2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)

2.1 Area Committee are asked to consider possible options to address the priorities to make Washington an attractive and inclusive area and to strengthen the quality of life for residents. Those options are

- Option 1 : Review
  - Option 2 : Call for Projects
  - Option 3 : Escalate to LSP or Scrutiny
- 
- Note the **actions** identified in Annex 1
  - Agree which of the following **proposals** (also identified in Annex 1) will be developed
    - Review
      - Committee is requested to note the contents of the information contained under priority 1, 2 and 3, and in a previous report by Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services, and agree to accept an update report at a future meeting focusing on empty properties, private landlords, and housing supply and demand in Washington. Lead: Health, Housing and Adult Services
      - Committee is requested to note the contents of the information contained under priorities five and six, and agree to accept an update report at a future meeting re Nexus Secured Services Consultation. Lead: Nexus
      - Area Committee is requested to receive a report to a future meeting outlining recommendations of the Jacob's report re issues and solutions for Accident Cluster Sites. Lead: Highways
      - Area committee is requested to note the contents of the information contained under priority 9 and agree to accept an update report at a future meeting focusing on anti social behaviour.
      - Committee is also asked to note the initiatives already taking place to tackle Anti Social Behaviour. Lead: Health, Housing and Adult Services
    - Call for Projects
      - Area Committee is requested to agree to receive a further SIB/SIP application to meet the needs and gaps with regard traffic calming and speeding measures, dropped kerbs and parking provision as identified. Lead Area Committee
    - Escalate to Scrutiny
      - Escalate to relevant Scrutiny Committee: A number of business units on Trading Estate (start up, nursery units) have been approved as fast food outlets. This has resulted in an increase in litter and anti social behaviour on nearby estates. In addition, the excessive number of food and drink licenses being granted has resulted in a high proportion of food and drink premises centralised on high streets and shopping areas. Area Committee requests

Scrutiny looks at guidelines, regulations and protocols re licensing and how qualitative data and reporting can be taken into consideration when applications are presented to the Licensing Committee.

### **3. Background**

3.1 With a population of approximately 67,000 (24% of the city's population), Washington encompasses Washington New Town and Springwell Village, a former mining community. The new town includes the town centre and 17 villages. There are 22,725 household spaces in Washington. In relation to housing tenure, the percentage of owner occupied property is higher than the City at 64% compared to the City average of 60.2%. The 2008 Place Survey tells us that resident's satisfaction with Washington as a place to live is slightly less than the city average. Public transport, affordable decent housing and clean streets are identified by Washington residents as important to them in making Washington a good place to live.

3.2 Following the extensive programme of consultation with members, partners, community stakeholders and the wider community, the agreed priorities for this theme are:

1. Bring empty properties back into use
2. Strengthen the connection with Area Committee and all Social Registered Landlords.
3. All agencies collectively ensure there is an adequate supply of housing which meets the needs and demands of the people of Washington.
4. On housing estates, where possible transform grass verges into parking bays.
5. Improve public transport services, including railway lines and accessibility and signage.
6. Increase influence over private bus operators.
7. Establish more options for getting around Washington e.g. cycle routes, pavements, accessibility of wheelchairs/buggies.
8. Install traffic calming measures in known high risk areas.
9. Develop a safe environment and healthy living, educating people on neighbourhood management.
10. Improve green spaces, underpasses and unlit walkways.
11. Improve opportunity to recycle materials.
12. Take enforcement action against fly tipping; where relevant poor private landlords and tenants.
13. Encourage healthier living in communities by reducing the amount of unhealthy options i.e. limit the number of fast food outlets, etc

3.3 Who has been involved with the Attractive and Inclusive Priority?

- Health, Housing and Adult Services
- Neighbourhood Relations Team
- Area Renewal Team
- Gentoo
- Planning and Environment
- Area Co-ordination Team
- Highways and Transportation
- Planning
- Nexus
- Sustrans

3.4 Key Dates

- Aug 09: Initial meeting held with key partners to discuss priorities, what services are being currently delivered, any gaps, and general comments
- 04.12.09: Working Group to determine key priorities to be presented to January 2010 Area Committee
- 09.12.09: Pre meeting for Area Committee
- 21.12.09 : Report deadline for Area Committee
- **07.01.10 : Area Committee, discuss and agreed recommendations**
- 23.02.10 : Deadline for action plan to be developed
- 04.03.10 : Area Committee: Action plan presented
- 06.04.10 : Deadline for End of year report for Area Committee
- 12.04.10 : Area Committee End of Year report presented

3.5 The Next Steps: At the meeting of the Attractive and Inclusive Working Group of the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009, it is proposed that given the number of priorities identified under the theme, this report would align them under the following headings:

- Housing
- Transport
- Accessibility
- Environment

#### **4. Attractive and Inclusive Theme Area Summary**

4.1 Attached as Annex 1 is the area summary for the Attractive and Inclusive theme. The annex covers:

- Priorities agreed at Area Committee
- Key Facts
- Current activity delivered day to day from services
- Any gaps, identified needs or general comments
- Actions and proposals

#### **5. Background papers**

- Sunderland Strategy Delivery Plans
- Local Area Agreements Delivery Plans
- Local Area Plans
- Information provided by partners and officers at workshop event August 2009 and Working Group meetings and one to one meetings

**6. Contact Officer:** Karon Purvis, Area Officer for Washington  
Tel: 0191 561 2449 e-mail: [Karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:Karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk)

**Annex 1:** Washington Attractive and Inclusive Area Summary

## 1. Housing

<b>Priority One:</b>	<b>Bring Empty Properties back into use</b>
<b>Priority Two:</b>	<b>Strengthen the connection with Area Committee and all Social Registered Landlords</b>
<b>Priority Three:</b>	<b>All agencies collectively ensure there is an adequate supply of housing which meets the needs and demands of people of Washington</b>

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### **Key Facts and Background**

A report was made to Area Committee November 2009 by Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services re Anti Social Behaviour, Private Landlords and Empty Homes. That report outlined key facts and figures relating to empty properties:

- 291 private properties in Washington are classed as long term empty residential homes. This equates to 1.7% of private stock in that area.
- 22 empty properties in Washington were brought back into use or demolished in 2008/09. To the end of September this year a further 10 have since been added to that total.
- Washington has very few void properties within Gentoo stock.

### **Current Activity**

- The Empty Property Officer and Private Sector Housing Officer both work across the whole of the city to bring empty properties in the private rented sector back into use. The Housing Options Team works with the public and Council Tax to identify empty properties.
- Gentoo staff link with Neighbourhood Relations Team/Empty Property Team
- Work is ongoing to finalise the strategy to promote affordable housing and integrate potential requirements of the development of a Local Housing Company into the economic regeneration strategy for the City.
- Demolition of existing former care home and construction of new extra care housing at The Woodlands, Oxclose Road, creating Woodridge Gardens
- Gentoo are reviewing the allocations systems in partnership with the City Council, who retain the strategic/regulatory responsibility for housing.

### **Gaps, Needs and Issues**

- Only 2 x Empty Homes Officers for whole of City
- Marketing could be used to make residents more aware of the services of the empty property officers in the Council.
- Liaison and consultation with Lettings Agency required
- Barmston Village centre flats – demolition delayed for 7 years due to ongoing negotiations with remaining shopkeeper.
- RSLs need to be more involved with regard to co-ordination of demand and supply of housing.

## **Options**

### **1. Review of Service**

Lead: Health, Housing and Adult Services

Committee is requested to note the contents of the information contained under priorities one, two and three, and in previous report by Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services, and agree to accept an update report at a future meeting focusing on empty properties, private landlords, and housing supply and demand in Washington.

## **2. Public Transport**

**Priority Five: Improve public transport services, including railway lines, accessibility and signage**

**Priority Six Increase influence over private bus operators**

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### **Key Facts and Background**

- Satisfaction levels of residents in Washington with the local bus service are lower than the City average. Satisfaction with local transport information is considerably less than the City average. With respect to travel times, connectivity and the provision of information is something which needs to be addressed.
- Public transport access to the centres of Concord and The Galleries is high overall, well above the average comparison for the rest of the City.
- More residents in Washington have access to a car (68.8%) than the city average of 60%
- There are just over 15km of cycleways across Washington wards

### **Current Activity**

- Tyne and Wear Bus Strategy
- Washington Road Safety Scheme
- Nexus provide a range of services to Washington, including paying for regular bus services (evening and Sunday 'W' services, 77 and 50, and daytime 73 and 184), scholars services and works services.
- Nexus also operate Taxi Card scheme and Link Up demand-responsive services and subsidise group travel and Age Concern Shopper Services. Nexus also administer Network Travel ticket scheme and Teen Travel, and free concessionary travel scheme
- Nexus Secured Services Strategy is currently out to consultation and should be available for publication after end of January 2010
- Nexus are currently in the process of designing a network of secured services to provide enhancements to existing commercial services. From March 2010 public consultations on the proposals in Washington will take place. Councillors will have the opportunity to view and feed back on the network. It is planned to implement the project in late summer 2010

## Gaps, Needs and Issues

- Access to/from Washington and the rest of the City by public transport is limited. This is reflected in the satisfaction levels with public transport
- Some services operate circuitous routes and this is positive in an inclusive theme because areas which would not be served if buses followed direct routes are catered for. There must therefore be a trade off between accessibility and journey times within existing service capacities (i.e. there are not an infinite number of buses)
- Levels of service to other parts of the City are good from the main interchange areas of Washington, but it is recognised that some areas require travel on more than one service to access the main routes.
- Clarity with regard to the forms of information which is lacking is required

### Options

#### 1. Review of Service

Lead: Nexus

Committee is requested to note the contents of the information contained under priorities five and six, and agree to accept an update report at a future meeting re Nexus Secured Services Consultation.

### 3. Accessibility

**Priority Four: Transform grass verges into parking bays on housing estates**

**Priority Seven: Establish options re accessibility – cycle routes, pavements, access for wheelchairs and buggies**

**Priority Eight: Install traffic measures in known high risk areas**

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### Key Facts and Background

- There are many areas across Washington where car parking is at a premium and there are not enough places for residents to park vehicles. Requests are common for grassed areas to be removed. Funding is the main issue.
- LA reviewing pathways, subways, crossing points
- A range of issues have been identified relating to speeding, traffic calming, bus links and footway links

### Current Activity

- As part of the Washington Road Safety Scheme the Bus Link removal pilot schemes at Parsons Road, Parsons Industrial Estate, Brandy Lane, Albany and Dunnock Drive, Ayton are currently being implemented. A further 12 are subject to a future Cabinet Report (April/June 2010)
- Funded through the Strategic Investment Plan footway links will be introduced at Cambrian Way, Burnhope Road, Pattinson Road, Stone Cellar Road, Sulgrave Road and Ayton Road South.

- 13 Accident Cluster Schemes have been approved. 3 traffic calming schemes are already underway at A1231/A182, Castle Rd and Heworth Rd (LTP funding). The remaining 10 sites (funded through SIP) are being evaluated by Jacobs with preliminary designs expected by Dec 09.
- The Council will seek to develop a Policy and Strategy which will contain guidelines to enable roads in the vicinity of schools and roads/sites 'of local concern' to be evaluated. Officers are consulting with Senior Managers with regard to drafting a brief to commission the proposed Strategy. The commission is likely to take at least 1 year (City wide). The Jacobs Report mentioned above will also identify some schemes and relevant issues.
- Site works re Front Street Concord Loading Bays commence January 2010, expected completion March 2010
- Puffin crossing to be installed at Parkway/Roche Court

### **Gaps, Needs and Issues**

- Schemes which have been identified and require funding resources include additional parking bays at Coach Road Estate, dropped kerbs at Coverdale, Warwick and Essex Drive, parking layby at Inkerman Road, and parking provision at Kestrel Close.

### **Options**

#### **1. Review of Service**

Lead: Highways

Area Committee is requested to receive a report to a future meeting outlining recommendations of the Jacob's report re issues and solutions for Accident Cluster Sites

#### **2. Review of Service**

Lead: Highways

Area Committee is requested to note the progress made as part of the Washington Road Safety Scheme and agree to receive a report to a future committee with regard to outstanding gaps and issues

### **4. Environment Issues**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Priority Nine:</b>     | <b>Develop a safe environment and healthy living, educating people on neighbourhood management</b>   |
| <b>Priority Ten:</b>      | <b>Improve green spaces, underpasses and unlit walkways</b>  |
| <b>Priority Eleven:</b>   | <b>Improve opportunities to recycle materials</b>  |
| <b>Priority Twelve:</b>   | <b>Take enforcement action against fly tipping, where relevant, poor private landlords and tenants</b>   |
| <b>Priority Thirteen:</b> | <b>Encourage healthier living in communities by reducing the amount of unhealthy options. i.e. limit the number of fast food outlets, etc.</b> |



## **Key Facts and Background**

- A report was made to Area Committee November 2009 by Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services re Anti Social Behaviour, Private Landlords and Empty Homes. That report outlined key facts and figures relating to Anti Social Behaviour
- A number of initiatives tackling anti social behaviour are detailed and reported through the Washington Safe Action Plan. See Washington Area Action Plan: Feedback Report.
- Environmental Crime Data is available to identify fixed penalty notices re litter and dog fouling

## **Current Activity**

- Dedicated team to investigate cases of anti social behaviour within the private rented sector with regard to anti social behaviour.
- There are currently three Officers employed to cover the City. Officers are committed to reducing the level of anti social behaviour within the private sector and regularly work outside of their office hours (9-5) to investigate cases and attend community meetings.
- The Council works with its partners to tackle anti social behaviour through Local Multi Agency Problem Solving groups (LMAPs).
- Partners, such as Gentoo and the Police also have resources to deal with anti social behaviour and it is necessary to ensure that, along with the Council's own resources, they are used to maximum effect.
- Gentoo already take action where perpetrators are identified of fly tipping.
- Neighbourhood Housing Managers are proactive in inspecting estates through the Neighbourhood Plans.
- Enforcement teams in CCS being developed
- LA working with schools to develop environmental activity in parks.
- Groundwork operating community allotment in Washington funded through TPCT
- Community Health Information Points being provided across Washington

## **Gaps, Needs and Issues**

- At its meeting on 7 July 2009, Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee agreed proposals for a review of anti social behaviour actively. The suggested areas to be included within the review are as follows;
  - To gain an understanding of approaches of the Council and its partners in tackling anti social behaviour and ensure that a strategic approach is being taken
  - To map service provision to identify hotspots or any gaps in provision
  - To examine the issue of underage drinking (note – Children's Services Review Committee scrutinised Alcohol and Young People in 2008/09)
  - Strengthen the environmental services connecting with LMAPs
  - To consider the balance between preventative and enforcement action
  - Developing activities and interventions for young people and families that helps meet their needs

- Look at perceptions of anti social behaviour (Local Area Agreement)
- Progress of Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Groups

## **Options**

### **1. Review of Service**

Lead: Health, Housing and Adult Services

Committee is requested to note the contents of the information contained under priorities above and agree to accept an update report at a future meeting focusing on anti social behaviour.

Committee is also asked to note the initiatives already taking place to tackle Anti Social Behaviour

- Fly tipping is a big issue around Washington plantation areas and open land/garage locations.
- Issue with regard to the number of fast food outlets operating from business units – this results in both litter and anti social behaviour on surrounding estates, e.g. Swan Industrial Estate.
- Issues raised with regard to the number of premises in High Streets and shopping areas having a large number of fast food and drink premises or outlets.

## **Options**

### **1. Escalation to Scrutiny**

Lead: Area Committee

Escalate to relevant Scrutiny Committee: A number of business units on Trading Estate (start up, nursery units) have been approved as fast food outlets. This has resulted in an increase in litter and anti social behaviour on nearby estates. In addition, the excessive number of food and drink licenses being granted has resulted in a high proportion of food and drink premises centralised on high streets and shopping areas. Area Committee requests Scrutiny looks at guidelines, regulations and protocols re licensing and how qualitative data and reporting can be taken into consideration when applications are presented to the Licensing Committee.

## Washington Area Committee

7<sup>th</sup> January 2010

### Report of the Chief Executive

#### Washington Area Action Plans

##### 1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 At its meeting in July 2009, the Committee agreed the work plan for the 2009/10. It was deemed necessary to establish Area Action Plans for each theme identified in the Local Area Plan to ensure that all priorities are addressed throughout 2009-10.
- 1.2 At the November Area Committee summary area templates were presented, showing an update on each action and also coded them as red, amber or green. The area actions will be available on line, via [www.sunderland.gov.uk/localareaplans](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/localareaplans) and updated bi monthly to provide Committee and the public with up to date information on the performance against the action plans. Red represents a delay/problem, amber represents possible issues which Officers are aware of, green represents that the action is completed.
- 1.3 Each Area Committee has a standing agenda allowing for updates to be given on all five thematic priorities throughout the year. Even though some priorities will not be discussed until 2010, summary area templates will be established throughout 2009 for all thematic priorities.

##### 2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)

###### 2.1. Area Committee is asked to

- Consider the Safe report (Annex 1) and note future reports and updates requested through the **Safe Area Action Plan**
- Consider the Learning report (annex 2) and note the new commissioning model for youth contracts across the City to be confirmed by April 2010.
- Consider the Prosperous report (Annex 3) and note activity detailed through the **Prosperous Area Action Plan**

##### 3. Area Action Plan Update

- 3.1 Following a number of Washington thematic working groups, it has been identified that the Action Plans need to be more structured and aligned to each other. Without exception, groups that have met have requested that the Action Plans should be focused on priorities and actions where the Area Committee can add real value and can influence. With that in mind, work has now commenced to produce measurable and co-ordinated plans. All appendices attached are being presented in the proposed new format.
- 3.2 In July 2009, the Area Committee agreed a number of actions and proposals, relating to the **Safe** priorities, to be formulated into an action plan for Area Committee to monitor. The Washington Safe Working Group met in December and received a number of updates. The reviewed Washington Safe Action Plan is attached as Annex 1. Area Committee is asked to note a report with regard to the Community Payback Scheme will be presented to a future meeting. It is important to remember that the Community

Payback scheme is established primarily to support the victims of crime, and as such, their requests for work will always be given priority for action.

- 3.3** In September 2009 the Area Committee also agreed a number of actions and proposals relating to the **Learning** priorities, also to be formulated into an action plan for Area Committee to monitor. This is attached as Annex 2.

One of the priorities agreed is to provide better support for young people e.g. more youth and play services by increasing service provision/activities for children and young people with disabilities or who are carers themselves and by improving partnership working between organisations who provide services to children and young people. An action agreed to deliver this priority was for Youth Development Group, in Children Services Directorate to implement new commissioning arrangements from April 2010 that better represent the needs of young people in their neighbourhoods.

- 3.4 Prosperous** priorities are due to be discussed at Area Committee in March 2010. The Prosperous Working Group met in December and a number of actions arose from that meeting. The updated Prosperous Action Plan is attached as Annex 3.

- 3.5 Attractive and Inclusive** priorities are being discussed at this meeting with the understanding that any early achievements should be delivered as soon as practically possible and reported to the next meeting.

Area Committee is asked to note the forthcoming bus network design consultation process by Nexus, which will re-design the bus networks to improve accessibility for local residential areas.

City Services, Corporate Communications and Nexus are working together on the consultation around public transport provision in Sunderland. All members are invited to a meeting at 6 p.m. on 10 February in the Council Chamber. This will be a briefing on the Nexus Network Design Project and will identify service areas which need to be addressed. In March each Area Committee will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed plan and what is needed for their specific area.

- 3.6** Information is currently being collected from the working groups to inform the updated action plans. This will enable Area Committee to monitor progress on this standing item at each meeting and allow for the priorities to be continuously updated.

#### **4. Background papers**

- Sunderland Strategy Delivery Plans
- Local Area Agreements Delivery Plans
- Washington Local Area Plan

#### **5. List of Appendices**

- Annex 1: Washington Area Safe Action Plan
- Annex 2: Washington Area Attractive and Inclusive Action Plan
- Annex 3: Washington Area Learning Action Plan

- 6. Contact Officer:** Karon Purvis, Area Officer for Washington  
Tel: 0191 561 2449  
E mail: Karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk

## ANNEX 1

## Washington Area Action Plan- Safe

Priority	Objective	Action	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress	Next Steps/Who?	Performance Measure
Reduce anti Social behaviour including tighter control on sale and access to alcohol and increase police/CSO presence on streets	Tackle misuse of alcohol and Licensed premises should be encouraged to sign up to 21+ scheme	Area Committee to identify hotspots or areas of concern around illegal sales of alcohol, to enable targeted bottle tracing exercises and test purchase exercises to be completed with child volunteers. (AC via LARAG)		Tom Terret. Environ'al Services	Several areas identified. Info passed to Northumbria Police.Trading Standards carrying out a number of initiatives - Advisory visits to premises, provision of material, recording of refusals to u 18s. Still carrying out test purchases altho' not targeted at Washington this year. Most incidents are carried out by friends/family. Options for banning orders for repeat offenders, use of CCTV. 1 x FT Officer (Trading Standards) working on alcohol and tobacco issues	Further updates. Co-ordination of intelligence and information required	% of residents who consider people being drunk or rowdy in public spaces to be a problem
Reduce anti Social behaviour including tighter control on sale and access to alcohol and increase police/CSO presence on streets	Tackle misuse of alcohol	To work with engagement and motivating team (Turning Point, gateway to drug and alcohol services) to identify and target hot spots areas in conjunction with local GPs, youth agencies and police (possible outreach work)		Sunderland Safer Partnership	No update - need to arrange meeting with SSP and invite to Washington Safe Working Group		
Reduce anti Social behaviour	Reduce substance and alcohol misuse	1. Improve transitions between young people and adult drug and alcohol services (Children Services and HHA) 2. To continue to engage and retain substance users within the treatment services and in accordance with		HHAS & Children's Services	No update at present		
Reduce anti Social behaviour	Target ASB, including domestic violence	Look to continually improve partnerships and keep close link work with Police as well as Council.		SSP	Co-ordinate information through LMAPS - developed from a day to day information sharing perspective to more formalised partnership working including LMAPs, MAPPA, MARAC, PDP (Potentially dangerous persons). Review to be carried out by the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee and a further report to be provided in April 2010		
Reduce anti Social behaviour	Tackle action against secondary fires, fly tipping, poor private landlords and private tenants	Identify how many private landlords in the area and how many accredited. Raise awareness re support and work between SCC, TWFB, RSLs, Gentoo and private landlords		Derek Welsh	Report presented to November Area committee outlining stats, support services and partnership working.	Further updates to be received. Co-ordination through LMAPS and Washington Safe Working Group	

Reduce anti Social behaviour and the fear of crime	Develop a safe environment: green spaces, underpasses and unlit walkways by targeting known hotspots of disorder	1. Improve intelligence sharing with partners, police, Gentoo, Environmental Enforcement Officers and Cllrs. 2. Continue with the Phoenix Project 3. Gentoo to share Diversionary Plans information and tenancy breaches 4. YOS to investigate and feedback re implementation of Community Payback Scheme			1. LMAPS 2. Area Committee 3. Gentoo - Chris Marshall 4. Simon Smart (Childrens Services)	1. Through LMAPS and joint Meetings with Police and Councillors 2. Phoenix Project funded through SIB Nov 2009. 3. Information provided to Washington Safe - recent arrests made, evidence of a perceived problem rather than actual crime. Cut it out campaign. Targeting by Police. Amanda Ledner to provide further reports 4. TWF&R provide statistical information every five weeks via LMAPS.	Further reports to be received	
Reduce anti Social behaviour and the fear of crime	Develop a safe environment: green spaces, underpasses and unlit walkways by targeting known hotspots of disorder	1. Area Committee to identify hotspots or area of concerns with regards to all environmental issues and agree any early wins. 2. TWF&R to provide costs of delivering the Youth Fire Fighters Association across the area, linking this into Duke of Edinburgh and <u>Majors Award</u> .			1. Area committee	1. Localised Responsive Services Report to January 2010 committee 2. Discussions held with Station Manager. Agree to wait until mapping exercise of youth provision completed in the area to see if this project would be value for money.		
Reduce anti Social behaviour and the fear of crime	Develop a safe environment: green spaces, underpasses and unlit walkways by targeting known hotspots of disorder	Feedback on the success of Neighbourhood Wardens, which were used in Sunderland North to improve the quality of life for local people.			HHAS	Review to be carried out by the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee and a further		
Partnership Working	Councillors and police to strengthen relationships with partners and local residents	Introduce more Neighbourhood Watch schemes across Washington			Inspector Paul Barrett (Northumbria Police)	Joint Meeting with Councillors Dec 09 to identify potential schemes.	Follow up by Northumbria Police January 2010	% of residents who strongly believe they belong to their neighbourhood
Partnership Working	Councillors and police to strengthen relationships with partners and local residents	Results from the Fear of Crime Survey to be feed into the LAPs.			Area Officer	The data will be feed into the LAPs via the Area Officer, with support from the Performance Improvement Team.		
Partnership Working	Councillors and police to strengthen relationships with partners and local residents	Promote PACT and Joint Meetings with councillors			Area Officer	Meetings scheduled	Schedule 2010/11 to be confirmed	% of residents who feel they can influence decision in their locality
Partnership Working	Councillors and police to strengthen relationships with partners and local residents	Increase the profile of Community Safety Days across the area, via use of a mobile bus			LMAPS	Discussion to be held at future meetings of LMAPs re: Community Safety Days across the area.		
Partnership Working	Strengthen relationships between Area committee and young people	Invite young people from youth groups and schools councils to attend future Area Committee to showcase positive attitudes and projects			Childrens Services	Contact has been made with Washington Youth Forum and Youth Development Group to arrange a meeting to discuss the linkages that can be forged between the two boards.		
Communications	Promote and recognise good news stories	Establish a Communication Strategy to support Area Committee.			Corporate Comms	dedicated Communication Link Officer has been identified for Washington. A Washington Area Newsletter is getting launched in Autumn, which will be posted to every household in the area.		

**ANNEX 2**

# **Washington Area Action Plan - Learning**

Priority	Objective	Action	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress	Next Steps/Who?	Performance Measure
<b>Youth Provision</b>	Improve and increase the variety of youth services and provision available across Washington	Commissioning process of youth services to be completed by Winter 2009 - 10 will confirm levels of provision, gaps and issues. Update to be provided at a future meeting	Medium Term	SCC Childrens Services - Kath Buchert/Andy Neal	A range of provision is offered across Washington (See report to AC Sept 09). New schools are being built or refurbished as part of the Building Schools for the Future Programme. City Services co-ordinate the Pathfinder programme which will see an estimated 8,900 additional children and young people having access to high quality equipped sites in Washington. The Play Pathfinder programme will realise an additional investment of over £541,000 into Play and Urban Games facilities in Washington. Xcel Young Villages (once a week, for 10 weeks, three times a year).	Report re commissioning to future meeting	
<b>Holistic campaigns</b>	Deliver holistic campaigns around healthier lifestyle choices delivered at schools/colleges, businesses, public venues	SAFC Foundation to deliver the Sunderland Active Bus Programme 'The Fit for Footy' in Washington.	Medium Term	SAFC Foundation	SAFC Foundation delivers a Family Learning Programme promoting healthy lifestyles. 3 x 10 weekly projects pre year. SCC are ensuring the most effective use of resources by delivering courses locally, using existing community facilities e.g. using youth providers and CA's. Family, Adult, Community and Learning; Health, wellbeing and leisure; Language and Preparation for Life and Work courses being delivered at Bridge Womens Centre in Columbia and Sulgrave and Family Learning course at Wessington Primary School.	Area Committee to consider allocation of SIB £15,000 during March 10-March 11.	

<b>Encourage young people to continue into further education and provide better support for young people,</b>	Deliver holistic campaigns around healthier lifestyle choices delivered at schools/colleges, businesses, public venues	Co-ordinate and promote resources, information etc through schools, providers etc. This could include teaching resources re healthier lifestyles, expansion of Healthy Schools programme to Early years, connect communities with sport, physical activity including wellness.		Medium term	Childrens Services	No update at present		
<b>Encourage young people to continue into further education and provide better support for young people</b>	Plan training around the labour market	Strategic links need to be made between the Business Investment Team, who can identify potential and current future employers and Sunderland Learning Partnership, who can co-ordinate training and educational courses to address the needs of employers, if tailored appropriately it can be used as a carrot to attract investors to Washington and the City.		Medium Term	ALE Neil Revely	EBC work with local employers and young people raising confidence/aspirations in young people. SAFC – Delivery Connect courses, 2 courses per year, 4 sessions per week, 45 weeks of the year. SCC - aim to increase the number of learners progressing to Higher Education, including 'Russell Group' Universities and to further develop support and engagement strategies to assist the transition from Key Stage 4 to Post-16 learning. SCC - A partnership approach to adult learning is being developed to encourage more adults into educational activities, including community based learning. YIP - The majority of sessions we run with 13-16 year olds have a link to formal accreditations	Escalate to scrutiny	
<b>Encourage young people to continue into further education and provide better support for young people</b>	Plan training around the labour market	Investigate how we engage with Employers and encourage them to employ local people (ALE)		Medium Term	ALE Neil Revely	Align and co-ordinate with actions and recommendations via Prosperous Working Group and Action Plan. Strategic links need to be made between the Business Investment Team, who can identify potential and current future employers and Sunderland Learning Partnership, who can co-ordinate training and educational courses to address the needs of employers, if tailored appropriately it can be used as a carrot to attract investors to Washington and the City.		



<b>Encourage young people to continue into further education and provide better support for young people</b>	Plan training around the labour market	Roll out e-champions, e mentoring scheme to Washington, currently been delivered else in the City.		Medium Term	Sunderland CC Digital Challenge Team	No update at present		
<b>Encourage young people to continue into further education and provide better support for young people</b>	Target people EET and young people who are NEET into education and employment	Children Services can access at Primary age, children who are potential NEETs, this information could then be used to engage with children at a much younger age as a preventative measure		Long term	Childrens Services	SAFC Foundation deliver courses which enable NEET young people to progress onto further education, employment and training. Sunderland City Council are providing support to young people aged 14-19 in the form of vocational training and diplomas. Employability skills are being incorporated into learning to reduce the number NEET. Washington North Youth Inclusion Project are working closely with local comprehensive schools to identify young people at risk of becoming NEET. Oxclose and District Young People Project hold the contract for the delivery of GO4IT (11-19yrs) (targeted provision for young people at risk of or currently NEET). Connexions deliver a full information, advice and guidance programme in schools, work with the unemployed and are also involved in the Targeted Youth Support panels		

## ANNEX 3

## Washington Area Action Plan- Prosperous

Priority	Objective	Action	Lead Officer	Progress	Next Steps/Who?	Performance Measure
Promote and develop un-used business units and attract new businesses. Help people get a new or better job by providing suitable work-related training course	Raise awareness of opportunities and support available to enrol onto training courses	SES: Provide OCR NVQ L2 business and enterprise training qualifications. SCC: Community Network, BME Network e-champions, Community Electronic Village Halls, Community of Interest Websites, Digital Challenge (DC) ICT @ Home, DC Community Health Information Point, DC Website provision, DC Gentoo e-champion, DC Telesafe, DC Carers e-Champion, DC Youth e-champion, DC Smart Sunderland, DC LAA e-champion. Courses are currently delivered at Washington Millennium Centre, and three of Bridges projects, via Family Adult and Community Learning. HHAS: Support from welfare rights in relation to benefits/ affect college courses training/ further education		Corporate Communications are establishing a Community Strategy for Area Committees, including monthly news sheets posted to each household in Washington. WRS - Development of an 24/7 online advice service, which will include advice and support regarding benefits, debt and employment. The service will also be created in such a way as to offer advice and support to the community as a whole. SAFC Foundation is working in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions and Job Centre Plus targeting people 18+ in Sunderland who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).	Promotion of training provision and courses  Identify how to communicate with communities and promote local provision	
Promote and develop un-used business units and attract new businesses. Help people get a new or better job by providing suitable work-related training course	Develop and occupy un-used business units	1. WNF Strategy aims to address individual needs to support people into work or businesses on their own account and reduce worklessness. 2. The council are conducting an Asset Management Programme, looking at managed workspace owned by the Council only and review whether existing stock is being used.		Audit of business estates and sites underway	Janet Snaith (BIT). Contact Ash10 re involvement, messages to landlords, identify private sector contribution to repairs and	

Promote and develop unused business units and attract new businesses. Help people get a new or better job by providing suitable work-related training course	Offer start up packages, enhanced packages for unique business			<p>SES: provides 1-2-1 self employment business start up advice, training and assistance. Receives funding via WNF, to design and manage an intensive Enterprise Talent Scout initiative and Business Start up initiative.</p> <p>HHAS: Procurement practices are designed to enable local businesses to compete for council contracts and information/ training is being provided on how to tender for contracts. Libra – a network of advice organisations offer advice for small business and start up. Have representatives from SNCB, Fiscus. LIBRA website accessed via link on Sunderland City Council website. Launched Sept.</p>	Further branding and promotion of Libra and services required	
Promote and develop unused business units and attract new businesses. Help people get a new or better job by providing suitable work-related training course	Provide empty or under used building/units to community groups	Community Asset register shows what buildings the Council own, who occupies them, and costs for getting derelict building back into use.		<p>LA Community Asset Register identifies LA owned buildings, their use and their condition. The register will identify opportunities. Need to bring this together with audit of commercial sites and property. A lack of buildings for community use highlighted in the East and South wards of the area.</p>	Community Asset register circulated for information - K Purvis (Area Officer). Co-ordinate with Audit of commercial and business sites. Market Assessment required to consider potential usage of buildings – consider how this will influence a refurbishment	
Promote and develop unused business units and attract new businesses. Help people get a new or better job by providing suitable work-related training course	Encourage the private sector to adopt friendly working policies i.e. carers into work	<p>Business Advice/Advice Services to promote worker friendly practices. WRS/Advice Services have an increased number of cases re work life balance and family friendly working practices.</p> <p>WRS/Advice Services promoting flexible working</p> <p>Recognition of IIP as a benchmark for good practice</p>		<p>S/land Carers Centre: assist carers and ex carers into employment, offering advice and guidance on vocational training and sources of funding. Lead Agent PIE/Job Linkage. Review every three years. Work with employers to develop policies and practices that support carers into and already in work. Lead Agent: PIE, Carers Centre and Sunderland Partnership.</p> <p>HHAS: The Carers Strategy promotes employability of carers – and former carers so they can remain in or return to work. Welfare Rights Service provide Access to quicker Benefit /Better off Calculations for carers wanting to take up employment thought Assist carers &amp; ex-carers into employment, offering advice &amp; guidance on vocational training &amp; sources of funding. Introduction of Carers cards</p>	WRS - Development of an online advice service as detailed above	

Promote and develop unused business units and attract new businesses. Help people get a new or better job by providing suitable work-related training course	Engage with recruitment agencies to find out what local employers require from the labour market			<p>SCC: SNCBC, Job Linkage and Connexions.</p> <p>SCC: Council officers worked with Nissan to dispose of the Turbine Business Park site to the private sector. This is now being developed as a mixed use scheme which will hopefully create 4,000 jobs</p>		
Promote and develop unused business units and attract new businesses. Help people get a new or better job by providing suitable work-related training course	Deliver lifelong learning courses locally			<p>S/land Carers: develop and continue training programme for carers to assist them towards employments. Lead Agent: PIE, College &amp; Bridge.</p> <p>SCC: Washington Millennium Centre, and three of Bridges projects, Community Associations and Sunderland College.</p> <p>SAFC Foundation has a successful Family Learning programme which has delivered a range of courses using the power of football to improve skills (including literacy and numeracy) and relationships in the family. Each course lasts 10 weeks and are on the topics of Family learning through football coaching (FLTFC), Football basics (FB), Family values (FV), Football fitness (FF).</p> <p>In the last 12 months, 10 courses have been delivered in Washington engaging 94 adults and 103 children.</p>	Extend opportunities to access lifelong learning through schools – problematic re scheduling and budgeting for schools. Utilisation of current buildings for outreach? Use of shared facilities at off peak periods	
Promote and develop unused business units and attract new businesses. Help people get a new or better job by providing suitable work-related training course	Encourage schools and VCS groups to connect			<p>SCC: Activity within Community Associations (e.g. brownies, scouts, drama groups, karate)</p> <p>SCC: Volunteering opportunity ( young people and adults)</p> <p>Bridge Project x 3</p>	<p>Locality working – Children's Services?</p> <p>Identify how to encourage VCS and schools to connect.</p> <p>Loss of LSC funding – LA Education Business Link to allocate budget.</p>	

**WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**7<sup>th</sup> January, 2010**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I**

**Title of Report:**

Financial Statements and Funding Request

**Author(s):**

Office of the Chief Executive

**Purpose of Report:**

This report requests Area Committee consideration of proposals for the allocation of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest to support initiatives that will benefit the area.

**Description of Decision:**

The Committee is requested to approve the following from the 2009/10 budget:

- Annex 1: 18 proposals for support from the 2009/10 Community Chest.
- Annex 2: i) Approve three proposals from the 2009/10 SIB budget totalling £24,660, and £20,620 from the 2010/11 SIB budget, subject to Washington Area Committee approving second year of funding  
ii) Approve two proposals from the 2009/10 Washington Central SIP allocation totalling £14,545  
iii) Defer two proposals for SIB funding, i) the Wearside Trail application to be delivered by Sunderland City Council, ii) Education Business Connections to deliver Community Leaders of the Future project  
iv) Reject two proposals for SIB funding, i) Sunderland Dance to deliver Kool Kids project ii) Seafront Improvements to be delivered by Sunderland City Council
- Annex 3: Note the financial statement for Area Committee funding for 2009/10.
- Annex 4: Note the information with regard to the proposed Green Team and consider inviting a funding application for £53,850 SIB to support the Green Team Programme at the March 2010 committee.

**Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?** **Yes**

**Suggested reason(s) for Decision:**

The Community Chest forms part of the Strategic Initiatives Budget and that £250,000 is available for the scheme in 2009/2010, £10,000 for each Ward. This scheme is operated under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

SIP was approved at Cabinet in March 2008. Included within the plan was an additional one-off allocation of £1.426m to Area Committees. The amount allocated to each Area Committee was the same as SIB allocation for 2008-09. SIP can only be used to deliver capital projects, deliver key priorities identified in the LAP with its main purpose to attract other funding into the area.

**Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:**

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

**Is it included in the Forward Plan?** No

**Relevant Review Committee:**

**Regeneration Review Committee**  
**Management Scrutiny Committee**

## Washington Area Committee

7th January 2010

### Report of Chief Executive

### Financial Statements and Funding Request

#### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report outlines current expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest and applications for funding from these budgets in order to support new initiatives, which will benefit the area and the delivery of the Local Area Plans.

#### 2.0 Description of Decision (Recommendation)

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to approve 18 projects for support from the 2009/10 Community Chest as detailed in Annex I.
- 2.2 The Committee is requested to consider 3 projects for support from the 2009/10 SIB and the 2010/11 allocation (subject to Washington Area committee approving a second year of funding) as below and detailed in Annex 2. The Committee is also requested to agree the 2 deferrals and the 2 rejections as detailed below.

##### Recommend Approval

- |                                  |         |                   |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| • Remix (Washington Arts Centre) | £25,280 | Recommend approve |
| • Sulgrave Play Area (SCC)       | £15,000 | Recommend approve |
| • Miners Memorial (SCC)          | £ 5,000 | Recommend approve |

##### Recommend Deferral

- |                                   |         |                    |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| • River Wear Trail (SCC)          | £26,500 | Recommend deferral |
| • Community Leaders of the Future | £11,543 | Recommend deferral |

##### Recommend Rejection

- |                          |         |                     |
|--------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| • Sea Front Improvements | £10,000 | Recommend rejection |
| • Kool Kids              | £11,645 | Recommend rejection |

- 2.3 The Committee is also requested to consider two projects for support from the 2009/10 Washington Central SIP allocation, also detailed in Annex 2

##### Recommend Approval

- |                             |         |                    |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| • Washington Nature Trail   | £ 4,572 | Recommend approval |
| • Columbia CA refurbishment | £ 9,973 | Recommend approval |

- 2.4 Note the financial statement for 2009/10 in Annex 3.

- 2.5 Following a request for further information at the last meeting, a report regarding the proposed Green Team is attached as Annex 4. The Committee is asked to note the contents of that report and consider inviting a funding application for £53,850 SIB to support the Green Team Programme at the March 2010 committee.

### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 The Council has reduced the amount of Regeneration Frameworks across the City from six to five. This has resulted in a new calculation of SIB funding to be awarded to the Coalfield Area Committee of £241,514 to be allocated up until March 2010. All allocations of funding should be matched against the criteria outlined in delivering the key priorities of the area, identified within the Local Area Plan (LAP).
- 3.2 SIP was approved at Cabinet in March 2008. Included within the plan was an additional one-off allocation of £1.426m to Area Committees. The amount allocated to each Area Committee was the same as SIB allocation for 2008-09. This equates to £237,142 for the Coalfield. It was agreed by Committee in September 2009 that SIP be split across the four identified wards of the area, totalling £59,285 per ward, with local ward Councillors and service delivers being responsible and accountable for its expenditure against the LAP priorities, with proposed projects being presented to Area Committee for a final decision.
- 3.3 The Committee will be aware that the Community Chest forms part of the Strategic Initiatives Budget and that £250,000 is available for the scheme in 2009/2010, £10,000 for each Ward, plus any unclaimed allocations identified from previous years. This scheme is operated under Section 137 of the Local Government Act.

### **4.0 Current Position SIB**

- 4.1 Following the November 2009 Committee meeting, a balance of £266,915 remains to be allocated this financial year.
- 4.2 Since the meeting, three SIB full application have been received seeking approval of £24,660 from the 2009/10 SIB budget and a further £20,620 from the 2010/11 SIB budget.
- 4.3 Projects recommended for approval from the 2009/10 budget total £24,660. Should Committee approve those recommended for approval the remaining balance for the 2009/10 allocation would be £242,255. In addition there is now a possible commitment of £32,500 from 2010/11, subject to Washington Area Committee approval in the new municipal year.
- 4.4 Members should note that any uncommitted expenditure from this financial year (2009/10) will be carried forward to next year's (2010/11) budget. This has been confirmed by the Director of Financial Resources.

### **5. Current position SIP**

- 5.1 Following the November meeting, there remains a balance for Washington West of £47,047, with the remaining four wards having a balance of £49,492 per ward. Overall area SIP budget would be £245,015 across Washington to allocate.
- 5.2 Should Committee approve the two projects as detailed in Annex 2, the remaining Ward balances would be:

Washington Central	£34,947
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Washington East	£49,492
Washington North	£49,492
Washington South	£49,492
Washington West	£47,047

## **6 Current Position Community Chest**

### **6.1 To date approvals for each Ward total:**

Washington Central	£5533
Washington East	£3484
Washington North	£7284
Washington South	£6284
Washington West	£4747

### **6.2 The projects listed on Annex 1 total:**

Washington Central	£500
Washington East	£700
Washington North	£2101
Washington South	£700
Washington West	£650

### **6.3 Should the Committee grant the requests listed on Annex 1 the remaining balances, including the unclaimed allocations identifies from previous years, would be:**

Washington Central	£4187
Washington East	£8483
Washington North	£1493
Washington South	£4516
Washington West	£6081

## **7.0 Reasons for the Decision**

7.1 SIB and SIP was established to promote action on key priorities identified in the relevant Local Area Plan, and to attract other funding into the area. Applications for SIB/SIP funding should demonstrate the potential benefits to local communities the proposed project would bring, and subsequently be able to provide evidence and statistics that can illustrate these benefits.

7.2 Community Chest support is given to projects which clearly demonstrate that they will address identified local needs, provide genuine community benefit and which can subsequently provide evidence/measurement of success in this respect.

## **8.0 Alternative Options**

8.1 Each project is required to indicate what alternative options they have considered during the application business process.

## **9.0 Relevant Consultations**

9.1 Financial Implications



The Director of Financial Resources has been consulted on this report and all costs associated with developing SIB, SIP and Community Chest applications.

## 9.2 Implications for Other Services

Each project is required to indicate what implications there may be for other services in the application business process.

## 9.3 The Public

Each project is required to indicate what consultation it has undertaken and other documentary evidence it has to support its proposal in during the application business process. Residents have been consulted about the priorities in the Local Area Plans and bids support these identified priorities.

## 9.4 The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Councils Race Equality Scheme.

Each project is required to indicate whether it has an equal opportunities policy, or what measures it employs to address equal opportunity issues, during the application business process.

## 9.5 Public Relations and Publicity

Each project is required to indicate how it will promote funding awarded from Area Committee.

## 9.6 Councillors

Members have been consulted on all applications for SIB, SIP and Community Chest support and the implementation of the review.

## 10.0 List of Appendices

- |      |         |   |
|------|---------|---|
| 10.1 | Annex 1 | Community Chest: Proposed projects for approval |
| 10.2 | Annex 2 | SIB and SIP Proposed projects                   |
| 10.3 | Annex 3 | Financial statement                             |
| 10.4 | Annex 4 | Green Team Programme                            |

## 11.0 Background Papers

### 11.1 The following background papers were used:

- Community Chest Application Forms
- Projects circulated for the panel meeting scheduled 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009.
- Reports to previous Area Committees
- Washington Local Area Plan

- |      |                         |   |
|------|-------------------------|---|
| 12.0 | <b>Contact Officer:</b> | Karon Purvis, Area Officer for Washington<br>Tel: 0191 561 2449.<br>E:mail <a href="mailto:karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk">karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
|------|-------------------------|---|

**ANNEX 1****COMMUNITY CHEST 2009/2010  
PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL**

<b>WASHINGTON CENTRAL WARD</b>	<b>Recommended Grant subject to final estimates, invoices, up to</b>
<b>Washington Women's Institute</b> – Contribution towards speakers, rental, transport etc.,	100
<b>Washington Theatre Group</b> – Contribution towards production costs, costumes, props, materials etc.,	200
<b>Washington Age Concern</b> – Purchase of ladies handbag alarms.	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>WASHINGTON EAST WARD</b>	
<b>Washington Women's Institute</b> – Contribution towards speakers, rental, transport etc.,	100
<b>Washington Theatre Group</b> – Contribution towards production costs, costumes, props, materials etc.,	400
<b>Washington Age Concern</b> – Purchase of ladies handbag alarms.	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>WASHINGTON NORTH WARD</b>	
<b>Washington Women's Institute</b> – Contribution towards speakers, rental, transport etc.,	100
<b>Washington Legends C.S.F.C.</b> – Purchase of new football	393

strips.

<b>Pensioners No. 2 Club</b> – Contribution towards clubs' birthday celebrations.	708
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<b>Washington Theatre Group</b> – Contribution towards production costs, costumes, props, materials etc.,	200
---	-----

<b>Washington Age Concern</b> – Purchase of ladies handbag alarms.	200
--	-----

<b>Millennium Centre Friends</b> – Contribution towards social activities for the members, trips, refreshments etc.,	500
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<b>Total</b>	<b>2101</b>
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#### **WASHINGTON SOUTH WARD**

<b>Washington Women's Institute</b> – Contribution towards speakers, rental, transport etc.,	100
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<b>Washington Theatre Group</b> – Contribution towards production costs, costumes, props, materials etc.,	400
---	-----

<b>Washington Age Concern</b> – Purchase of ladies handbag alarms.	200
--	-----

<b>Total</b>	<b>700</b>
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#### **WASHINGTON WEST WARD**

<b>Washington Women's Institute</b> – Contribution towards speakers, rental, transport etc.,	100
--	-----

<b>Washington Age Concern</b> – Purchase of ladies handbag alarms.	200
--	-----

<b>Springwell Methodist Church</b> – Purchase and installation of lighting to car park.	350
---	-----

<b>Total</b>	<b>650</b>
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<b>Total of Projects</b>	<b>4651</b>
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## Annex 2: SIB and SIP Application

### Application One

Name of Project	Remix
Lead Organisation	Washington Arts Centre

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£36,992	£11,712	£25,280
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
Ongoing	March 2010	Future date to be confirmed

#### The Project

This project will provide out of schools arts activities for young people throughout the year on a weekly basis. REMIX will be Arts Centre Washington's youth arts programme designed to provide out of school/college arts activities in a welcoming, safe and creative environment. This project will be delivered by professional arts/youth workers enabling young people to flourish in the more informal setting of the arts centre where a strong emphasis will be placed on enjoyment, creative aspiration and teamwork.

In addition, it is hoped that a separate small group providing arts activities for NEETS, young offenders or vulnerable young people can run alongside the main project with the aim of enabling its participants to gain the confidence, motivation and aspiration that will ensure progression to the main REMIX project.

#### The Need for the Project

The project has been developed from a strong evidence base which demonstrates a clear need. An initial project conducted in 2008 entitled Youth Arts Action was a consultation carried out with young people aged 13-19 years by Sunderland City Council's Arts Development team. This consultation, recorded on film, was conducted by a group of young people who posed a series of questions to their peers throughout Washington asking what activities were available for young people and what they would like to do at Arts Centre Washington. Arts Centre Washington currently makes its spaces available to the music project every Sunday afternoon owing to the lack of resources at its regular base. The leaders of these 2 projects have identified the need for further resources to meet the demands of young people wishing to attend the music project. The summer 2009 project, MIX UP, further highlighted the demand for such activities, which as a pilot project drew over 70 participants. Many of these participants requested the continuation of MIX UP on a more regular basis – hence the proposals for REMIX.

#### The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
L7	Number of additional youth sessions being delivered per week	5	6	6
L8	Number of additional young people engaged and participating in youth provision	50	75	100
L9	Number of new youth play services provided	1	0	0

S5	Number of young people benefiting from youth inclusion/diversionary projects	10	15	20
S6	Number of additional young people engaged in youth activities	60	90	120

Outputs are specifically related to strategic aims and objectives of the Washington LAP, i.e. Learning priorities and Safe priorities.

### **The key milestones for the Project**

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Identification of leaders	January 2010
Recruitment of participants (Promotional material created and distributed)	Jan/Feb 2010
REMIX weekly programme begins	Feb/March 2010
Funding Strategy developed	June 2010
Performances or events – approx 1 event per quarter	June, Sept, Dec '10, Feb/March 2011
End of REMIX Year 1	Feb/March 2011

### **Comments:**

The project clearly demonstrates the need for the project, has strong partnership support and a well co-ordinated approach to engaging and supporting young people. The project strategically fit under the Learning and safe priorities of the Washington Local Area Plan

### **Recommendation: Approve subject to**

- Robust funding strategy and forward plan to secure sustainability post 2011
- Identify qualitative measurements of success (attitude/confidence/impact)
- Confirmation of appropriate staff capacity available to support activity
- Identifies plans and activity to support the group of vulnerable young people/NEETs/offenders
- The project identifies how it will address ethnic issues, gender issues and disability issues

### **Application Two**

Name of Project	Sulgrave Play Area
Lead Organisation	Sunderland City Council

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£64,000	£49,000	<b>£15,000</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
4 months	January 2010	April 2010

### **The Project**

The project will enhance the current play provision which is provided for the 0-5 age group in the area which will be refurbished. In addition to this, the new facilities will provide a multi use games area, fixed climbing and exploring play equipment for

older children and young people and landscaped play features featuring long grassed area, tree planting mounds to encourage biodiversity and provide flexible exploratory play, natural enclosures and viewing opportunities . The project will widen the scope of the play opportunities in the area.

### **The Need for the Project**

The project is identified with in Moving Forward, Sunderland's Updated Play and Urban Games Strategy 2007 -2012 as a strategic site, within the Washington area, requiring development to create and improve free spaces for young people to play and enjoy.

Community consultation with the young people in the area has undertaken by Groundworks, a regional charity, to ensure the young people have ownership of the project and the appropriate equipment to meet the communities needs is supplied. Approximately 50 young people and 16 adults participated in the consultation and concluded that the proposed designs were well received and the location of the proposed new facilities was very good. The Multi Use Games area was popular with young people and adults alike, although individual young people preferred the Mobolis and Velocity equipment. This is equipment that young people can use independently.

### **The Outputs for the Project**

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
A1	Number of new or improved community facilities and equipment	1		
A2	Number of people using new and improved community facilities		200+	200+

The new facility will service all of the local residents in the area in particular the children on young people who live and play in the local area. The success of the project will be determined by the amount of children and young people using the facility The number of 0-19 year old residents in the Washington North ward is 2993 all of which will have the opportunity to use the new facilities. The outputs will be measured by the Play Inspectors during their scheduled visits, the Play and Community Engagement workers will also monitor usage through the scheduled delivery sessions ( taster play sessions etc and promotional days)

### **The key milestones for the Project**

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Contract out to tender	November 1009
Tenders received	December 2009
Contract in place subject to funding approval	December 31 <sup>st</sup> 2009
Contractor to commence on site	Feb 2010
Delivery of Equipment	End Feb 2010
Completion of works	March 2010

### **Recommendation: Approve**

- The project strategically fits under the Attractive and Inclusive theme by improving green spaces.

- The project is sustainable as the Council's City Services Directorate will inspect and maintain the renovated play area.

### **Application Three**

Name of Project	Miners Memorial Window – Civic Suite
Lead Organisation	Culture & Tourism (SCC)

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£25,000	£0	<b>£5,000 per area</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
5 months	January 2009	March 2010

### **The Project**

The project will deliver a bespoke design for the glazed area above the entrance to the Civic Centre Suite. The aim is to provide visitors and Council members with a high quality art commission, which will be visually exciting and create an engaging and contemporary design that will complement the Civic Centre Building. The design will reference the past mining industry specifically the 1984 -1985 Miners Strike. The mining industry was a major determinant of the city's development and its heritage and culture.

The artist will create a design for the glass area above the entrance door to the Civic Suite ensuring that the work can be viewed from both inside and outside. It will:

- make a visually appealing feature of the entrance to the Civic Centre Council Chamber
- be robust in construction, require minimal maintenance, and adhere to health and safety requirements.
- reference the history of the 1984 -1985 strike
- be permanent (i.e. should function effectively on the site for a period of not less than 20 years)

### **The Need for the Project**

The project has been identified and supported by families and individuals connected to the City's mining history. The project will be delivered in partnership with the Durham Miners Association.

### **The Outputs for the Project**

Output Code	Description	2009/10
A6	Number of community/educational events	1
A2	Number of people using improved community facility	100

### **The key milestones for the Project**

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Artist contracted and presentation of designs	Jan 2010
Technical development	Jan – Feb 10
Unveiling of artwork	6 Mar 2010

**Recommendation: Approve Subject to:**

- Additional outputs identified – set a target for A2 – Number of people using improved community facility. The application will be strengthened by confirming the number of people who would be able to access the artwork
- The provision of information identifying the number of families and individuals consulted and involved in the creation of the design
- Confirmation no planning permission is required
- Confirmation of future repair, maintenance and cleaning programme in place
- Confirmation of who will be invited to the launch event (numbers, families, community?)

#### Application Four

Name of Project	Washington Village Nature Trail
Lead Organisation	Sunderland City Council

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIP Requested
£4,594	£0	<b>£4,594</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
14 months	January 2010	March 2011

#### The Project

The project consists of a self guided nature trail through the churchyard linked to the changing seasons - spring summer autumn and winter. The nature trail will encourage exploration and education of the local area/natural environment – animals, insects, trees and plants with free access available to all interested parties, including local schools.

Schools visiting will be encouraged to participate on site nurturing social responsibility and learning based on the following:-

Winter 2009: Litter pick and clearance, supply and spread beak chips to form footpaths, plant spring flowering bulbs, bird/bat box building and installation, install insect boxes, wordsearch.

Spring 2010: Litterpick, planting of shrubs and perennials, wordsearch, supply/Install bird bath and feeding table

Summer 2010: Litterpick, what can you spot?, tree identification, wordsearch

Autumn 2010: Litterpick, wordsearch, Autumn leaf collection for collage making.

#### The Need for the Project

The projects meets the LAP priorities for Learning and Attractive and Inclusive, i.e. 'to provide better support to young people' and to 'make the streets more attractive, landscaping rundown areas, removing litter and graffiti.'

There has been consultation with local residents, parishioners, Councillors and the Councils. The trail will be on the boundary of Washington Old Hall so visitors as well as the local community will benefit from this project. Local schools will also be engaged with school aged children a specific target.

#### The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
L9	Number of new youth play services provided	1	0	L9



A1	Number of new or improved community facilities and equipment	1	0	A1
A2	Number of people using new and improved community facilities	100	0	A2
A6	Number of community or educational events held	6	0	A6

### **The key milestones for the Project**

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Supply and spread recycled Bark chips to form pathway over existing trods.	January 2010
Arboriculture work and removal of shrubs to remove deadwood from trees to allow safe access.	January 2010
Purchase recycled timber and materials for 150 Bird/ Bat Boxes	February 2010
Planting commences	March 2010

### **Recommendation: Approve subject to:**

- Further information relating to access issues for people with disabilities – will the trail be accessible to all, any advice taken from access groups.

### **Application Five**

Name of Project	Columbia CA Refurbishment
Lead Organisation	Columbia Community Association

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIP Requested
£9,000	£0	<b>£9,000</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
2 months	February 2010	April 2010

### **The Project**

The toilets in the community building are currently not Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compatible and no appropriate baby changing facilities are available. The hot water supply to these premises is currently provided by gas water heaters which are old, inefficient and obsolete.

Providing better accessibility, this project will refit the toilets transforming the current ladies toilet into a multiuse disabled toilet compliant with DDA requirements and include a drop down baby changing area. Refitting the current men's toilet will also take place, removing the urinal & toilet cubical to create two separate multiuse toilets. The current Gas Water Heater in the kitchen will be replaced with a more appropriate electric system.

### **The Need for the Project**

This matter was raised at the AGM under any other business and then consultation was held with all the user groups who use the Centre:-

- Women's Institute
- Mother and Toddlers group
- Senior Citizen Club

- Weight Watchers
- Writers Group
- Ladies Club
- Guitar Group
- Jolly Girls Club
- Ladies Circle
- Patchwork Sewing Club

### **The Outputs for the Project**

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
A1	Number of new or improved community facilities and equipment	2		A1
A2	Number of people using new and improve community facilities	60		A2
A3	Number of community/voluntary groups supported	10		A3

The Centre is used daily by community groups, ranging for Age Concern, Lady's Clubs, Chest Club, War Games Club, WI, Youth Group to toddlers group. The Centre is also available for the community to hire for private functions. New Toilets, Baby Changing Facilities and running hot water will benefit everyone who uses the Centre and may encourage others to access the facilities.

### **The key milestones for the Project**

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Contractor Appointed	Jan 2010
Work Commence	Feb 2010
Work Finished	Mar 2010

### **Recommendation: Approve subject to**

- Clarification of status of organisation
- Confirm insurance cover is in place
- Confirm CRB checks for all staff
- Confirmation that the chosen design meets DDA requirements, provision of the plans, and confirmation of consultation or discussions with relevant advisers
- Confirm make up and credentials of Building Sub Committee and experience in delivery of similar projects

### **Application Six**

Name of Project	<b>River Wear Trail</b>
Lead Organisation	Sunderland City Council

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£72,000	£26,000	<b>£ 46,000 (£26,500 from Washington and £19,500 from Coalfield)</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
2009/10	2010/11	March 2011

### The Project

The proposal is seeking £19,500 from the Coalfield Area Committee towards a £72,000 project to restore to a high standard the accessibility of the River Wear Trail between Cox Green and Fatfield bridges. The route will become step free enabling the north and south bank circuit to be used by those in wheelchairs and with push chairs. The project will also resolve the condition of Alice Well at Cox Green riverside.

### The Need for the Project

The improvement of the riverside was identified in the Tyne & Wear Rights of Way Improvement Plan, which was subject to extensive consultation with residents, councillors, businesses and land owners.

### The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
A1	Number of new or improved community facilities and equipment		1	
A2	Number of people using new and improved community facilities		tbc	

### The key milestones for the Project

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Revetment, surfacing, fencing, signing and access controls completed	March 2010
Fatfield Bridge ramping of steps	March 2010
Cox Green ramping of steps	May 2010

### Recommendation: **Defer on the basis of:**

- The project does not demonstrate a clear link to the current priorities identified in the LAP
- Evidence of relevant consultation is not provided
- There is no evidence that other agencies have been involved in the design, or will be involved in the delivery of the project.
- The output, A2, needs to have forecast figures in order to monitor improvement. The application states that the route is popular, evidenced by its use, however current usage is not quantified.
- Environment Agency permission is required. There is a need to clarify whether any other permissions are required due to the route being a public right of way. It should also be considered whether any objections may be received (local residents and Friends of James Steel Park will be advised once designs are complete)

Once the above have been addressed satisfactorily, the application may come forward to a future Committee meeting.

### Application Seven

Name of Project	<b>Community Leaders of the Future</b>
Lead Organisation	Education Business Connections

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£75,915	£18,200	<b>£57,715 (£11,543 from West Area Committee)</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
Two years	January 2010	December 2011

### The Project

It is a two-year project which includes a high profile citywide competition open to all secondary and special schools with a key theme of volunteering whilst developing both key employability skills, work readiness and entrepreneurship on participating young people. It will culminate in a high profile awards event to mark the European Year of Volunteering in 2011. There will be 4 large scale events during the two years. A secondary school from each of the five regeneration areas, with pupils in the range 11 to 13, will be invited, to take part in the competition and activities plus 2 citywide special schools and one citywide voluntary aided school. The project includes a number of core elements all designed through a phased learning programme to raise awareness in targeted young people of the impact they can make in supporting local VCS organisations in their community. There is also accredited training for young people resulting in NCFE awards

### The Need for the Project

The project proposes to fill a gap for schools and young people. The applicant states that having worked with all the city's secondary schools, there is a clear demand and an unmet need to deliver more activities. In particular, the application states that schools have requested curriculum enhancing activities around involving business and enterprise activities, friendly competitions between schools, programmes which embed employability skills and which reward pupils' achievements, as well as connecting the schools to local communities.

There is evidence in the application around the importance of volunteering and the need to engage young people in this activity as early as possible in terms of developing their citizenship skills, an understanding of their communities as well as learning, life and employability skills.

### The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
A3	Number of community/vol groups supported	8		
P3	No of young people in voluntary work	230		
S5	No of young people benefiting from youth inclusion/diversionary activities	230		

### The key milestones for the Project

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Market and recruit project to schools	Feb 2010
Presentations and initial classroom work	March – May 2010
Official launch	June 2010
Project activity: Classroom activities; Pupils review business plans, etc; re-profile income generating target etc;	June – October 2010

Mix of face-to-face and online support from third sector organisations and EBC to complete gathering of evidence for NCFE qualification submissions; Cut off for completion of NCFE qualification portfolios Updating of website based on project activity Mid term evaluation	
Skills/industry/employment Event	October 2010
Project activity	November – June 2011
Third Sector Event	May 2011
Fundraising Enterprise Event	July 2011
Project activity	August – November 2011
Celebratory Event	December 2011

### **Recommendation: Defer**

Although the project is innovative and ambitious, it requires a high level of support from schools, including a commitment to identifying and supporting at least 30 young people over a 2 year period. Therefore until the project has been discussed with the schools identified and they have given, at least, their initial commitment to supporting the project for a two year period, the project should be deferred. The project is also reliant on commitment from a number of voluntary sector organisations to ensure success of the project. Again, an indication of the support from these organisations would strengthen the application.

## **Application Eight**

Name of Project	<b>Sea Front Improvements</b>
Lead Organisation	Sunderland City Council

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£168,000	£128,000 (from North Area Committee)	<b>£ 10,000 each from Coalfield, West, East and Washington Areas</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
1 year 3 months	January 2010	March 2011

### **The Project**

The proposal is seeking £10,000 from this Area Committee towards a £168,000 package of public realm improvements at Seaburn upper and lower promenades. The project will resurface areas of the promenade, install new street furniture and planting and improve the soft landscaping of the area. This is the first phase in a more comprehensive improvement scheme for Seaburn.

### **The Need for the Project**

The community spirit survey in 2007 and, more recently, the Sea Front strategy consultation in Spring 2009 raised the need for a more attractive, improved sea front. The consultation took place with residents from all five areas in the City who highlighted the importance of the sea front to the City.

### **The Outputs for the Project**

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
A4	events/programmes of work to improve		2	

	appearance of streets			
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### The key milestones for the Project

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Develop detailed design proposals	January 2010
Procure contractor	April 2010
Commence works on site	May 2010
Completion of first phase of works/project	July 2010

### Recommendation: **Reject:**

- Although the project will provide a valuable improvement for the benefit of the whole City, it does not meet any of the key priorities identified in the Local Area Plan (LAP)

### Application Nine

Name of Project	Kool Kids
Lead Organisation	Sunderland Dance

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
<b>Revenue: £46,580</b> <b>£11,645 per area</b>	£985 – in kind	<b>£11,645 per area (Washington, Coalfields, Sunderland West and East)</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
1 year	February 2010	February 2011

### The Project

The proposed project is seeking funds from four of the five Area Committees to deliver a 48 weeks urban dance programme, in two community venues per area. Each venue will receive a weekly 2 hour session, 1<sup>st</sup> hour targeting the under 12's, 2<sup>nd</sup> hour 12 plus. The Kool Kids programme was piloted in the North area of the City during 2008-09 which was funded by North Area Committee SIB. The project delivered against its objectives. The Lead Agents now wishes to roll the programme out across the City.

### Venues proposed for Washington:

Collingwood Park, Sulgrave, Washington - confirmed  
Fatfield Harraton District Community Association, Bone Mill Lane, Washington NE38 8BQ-TBC

### The Need for the Project

The Lead Agent are currently commissioned via Youth Development Group to deliver dance, via the XL Youth Villages, in addition to working with local schools and community youth projects. Many of the currently participants of these projects and programmes have requested more dance activities. The Lead Agent refers to a strong connection towards a Safe City, and identifies how the programme can reduce ASB, also four individual Officers from Northumbria Police have written letters of support for the project.

### The Outputs for the Project per area

Output Code	Description	Target 2010/11
L7	Number of additional youth sessions delivered per week.	2
S5	Number of young people benefiting from youth inclusion/diversionary projects	100

### The key milestones for the Project

Milestones and Key Events	Forecast Dates
Promoting new Kool Kids projects completed	Feb 2010
25% of output numbers of young people met and engaged	Mar 2010
50% of output numbers of young people met and engaged	Jun 2010
75% of output numbers of young people met and engaged	Sep 2010
100% of output numbers of young people met and engaged	Dec 2010
Initial project statistical information on youth disorder supplied by police	Jan 2010
Mid project statistical information on youth disorder supplied by police	Jul 2010
End of project statistical information on youth disorder supplied by police	Dec 2010
Social Return On Investment information gathered to gauge the impact of the project	Jan 2011

### Recommendation: Reject

- Children Services, Youth Development Group are advertising tenders for the delivery of youth provision in each of the 25 wards across the City, with contracts to be awarded over the Winter. This will allow for a scoping document to be produced identifying all the needs/gaps in provision across an area. This will identified if this project will bring added value to existing provision.
- If the need to supply a dance programme is identified, after the contracts have been awarded, the Area Committee can Call for Projects and seek competitive applications to deliver the project, with the Committee deciding upon the outputs and costs of the project.
- The application does strategically fit under the Local Area Plan, but the Lead Agent already receives core funding to deliver dance across the City via XL youth villages. In addition, the suggestions that the participants who currently attend the youth villages, schools, etc are asking for more dance sessions, would imply that the same participants would benefit from the extended provision, again questioning the added value, no new beneficiaries.

**SIB: Washington SIB Statement 7th January 2010**

\*£287,261 was allocated for 2009-10, £11,444 was carried over from 2008-09: Balance £298,705

	<b>Committee Date</b>	<b>Main SIB Fund Approvals</b>	<b>Opportunities Fund Approvals</b>	<b>Total 100%</b>
<b>Available Funding 2009/10*</b>	29.06.09	£298,705	-	£298,705
Project Name	-	-	-	-
Washington Victim Support	01.10.08	£19,910	-	£278,795
Phoenix Project	05.11.09	£11,880	-	£266,915
<b>Balance</b>	-	<b>£266,915</b>	-	<b>£266,915</b>

**SIP: Washington Statement 7th January 2010**

	<b>SIP Budget</b>	<b>Approvals</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>Available Funding 2009/10*</b>	£262,461	£0	£262,461
Central	£52,492	£3,000	£49,492
East	£52,492	£3,000	£49,492
North	£52,492	£3,000	£49,492
South	£52,492	£3,000	£49,492
West	£52,492	£5,445	£47,047
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£262,461</b>	<b>£17,445</b>	<b>£245,015</b>

**Community Chest: Washington Statement 7th January, 2010**

\* £10,000 was allocated per ward from 2009-10, Budget includes carry over from 2008-09 of £6,743

	<b>Community Chest Budget</b>	<b>Approvals</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>Available Funding 2009/10*</b>	£10,220	£5,533	£4,687
Central	£12,667	£3,484	£9,183
East	£10,878	£7,284	£3,594
South	£11,500	£6,284	£5,216
West	£11,478	£4,747	£6,731
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£56,743</b>	<b>£27,332</b>	<b>£29,411</b>



## **Green Team Programme**

This report provides information to the Washington Area Committee on the Green Team proposal that has been developed by Groundwork North East in partnership with Sunderland City Council, Gentoo and other partners. The proposal seeks to maximise the investment of an employability initiative so it can deliver locally identified aims within the Washington area Action Plan. Green Team will use secured Future Jobs Fund support to meet the objectives of the Attractive & Inclusive City Delivery Partnership at a local level. Additional funding is requested from the Area Committee to match this funding and support the successful delivery of this initiative. Groundwork has consulted extensively in the development of this proposal which has been informed and shaped accordingly by partners' contributions.

### **Project Description**

The Green Team Programme seeks to establish a bridge to employment for unemployed young people aged 18-24 and other unemployed individuals who will assist in the renewal of the neighbourhoods of Washington. A programme of small scale community based environmental improvements will be delivered through a squad of five unemployed people who will be supported by a local supervisor.

Groundwork will work closely with local neighbourhood groups to develop a programme of environmental improvement works which will also be informed by consultation with key partners such as Sunderland City Council and Gentoo. The principle objective of this project is to provide a bridge to employment for young residents who are furthest removed from the labour market and are considered Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETS). The project will also target other hard to reach long term unemployed individuals who are on other out-of-work benefits (Income Support, Incapacity Benefits, Employment support Allowance).

The Green Team Programme will create an extended period of employment (6 months) for unemployed clients by moving them from a culture of benefit dependency into a real world environment through support e.g. counselling & training, and then onto sustainable employment when they are 'job ready'. This project will provide at least 14 places in the Green Team over 18 months and cover Washington. It is anticipated that as the majority of the participants will come from the communities they will be working in and that this will engender a sense of respect and responsibility for their communities. If an individual gains further employment or moves on from the programme, a spare place will be available and will be advertised locally through the Job Centre Plus who will make direct referrals on to the project. Working in partnership with gentoo the project will provide business start-up advice to clients to actively encourage and support the establishment of new enterprises.

### **Rationale**

This report seeks permission to submit for consideration an application for funding to support a Partnership approach that meets the aims of the Attractive & Inclusive City by working together with the local area arrangements. The Sunderland Partnership's Attractive & Inclusive City Delivery Group has discussed how programmes such as employability initiatives can be used to support the strategic aim of ensuring that Sunderland becomes a clean, green city with a strong culture of sustainability that nurtures its natural and built environment. This project has been devised as a direct response of these discussions.

### **Partnership working**

Groundwork has undertaken extensive consultation about how the Green Team will work collaboratively with the City Council's Local Responsive Service and other council provision

– City Services Street Scene. A referral mechanism has been agreed to make sure that the activities delivered by the Green Team will complement and avoid any duplication. The environmental works will be of community benefit and entirely additional to any Council Services and other partners' statutory responsibility. Work requisitions will come from community partners including Friends of Parks Groups, Allotment Associations, Residents Groups, Neighbourhood Action Partnerships and Community Forums.

Groundwork recognised that the success of this project is dependent upon the partnership working and would not happen without the support and input of the Washington Area Committee.

### **Sunderland Washington Local Area Plan 2009-11**

The project supports the following key priorities identified in the Washington LAP that relate to the Attractive & Inclusive City which the Washington Area prioritised as their second priority:

- To make the streets more attractive, landscaping rundown areas, removing litter and graffiti
- To make more of key attractions, and attract more visitors to the City to see them

In addition the project will support the Washington Area Committee's Work Plan which prioritises improving green spaces, cycle routes and paths, underpasses and unlit walkways, and develop a safe environment, that make the streets more attractive. The project also meets other identified priority items to plan training around jobs and target young people who are NEET supporting them into education and employment under the Learning City.

### **Funding & Value for money**

Groundwork has successfully secured funding through Future Jobs Fund this would normally cover the costs associated with placing an unemployed young person in an existing organisation – pay their wage and cover some support costs. However, this initiative is creating the structure around which the individual can gain useful employment and the local communities can benefit from environmental improvements. In order to successfully deliver a squad based initiative within Washington these additional costs which cover the employment of the supervisor and management of the programme and also the equipment and vehicle hire and running costs need to be financed. It is this funding that Groundwork is requesting from the Washington Area Committee which is £53,850 to match secured funding of £91,000.

As these types of employability initiatives are intensive to run with the costs of wage subsidies and support structures, the unit cost is traditionally between £15,000-£18,000. However this programme will operate at a unit cost of under £10,500 which represents good value for money. Groundwork has experience of delivering these initiatives in other local authority areas at this level of budget.

### **Beneficiaries & outcomes**

Unemployed young people (18-24) will benefit from

- Training in practical activities relating to environmental improvements that will provide them with direct skills required to access local employment opportunities in the environmental, landscaping or construction industries;
- Trainees are also supported to complete accredited learning;
- Training provides both direct, relevant skills and additional life skills;
- Young people receive a package of individual support plans including housing, childcare and alcohol and drugs advice;

- Ongoing jobs brokerage support offered after completion of project.

Local communities and neighbourhoods will benefit through the following ways

- Neighbourhood environmental focus will help increase residents overall general satisfaction with local areas and support the employment rate because it has the capacity to absorb new jobs;
- Support community cohesion and intergenerational focus based upon consultation with young people themselves and agencies such as Jobcentre Plus and witness improvements being undertaken by local unemployed young people will challenge established view of youths by elderly residents;
- Addresses the problems of take up of services caused by poor environmental quality there would then be a knock-on effect in terms of improved take up of services for the many health inequalities indicators.
- Support the eradication of child poverty through a waged temporary employment contract targeted at those who are Not in Education, Employment or Training.

### **Sustainability**

Future Jobs Fund (FJF) which is the main funder of this activity could potentially be extended and therefore could support the activity beyond the stated end date. Additional support would need to be secured to enable the programme to continue in its envisaged form. Potentially some aspects of the delivery could become mainstreamed although a thorough evaluation would need to prove the effectiveness of the delivery and its cost implications which might be manageable through absorption. An alternative to FJF could be the planned Community Task Force which could be used to sustain part of the delivery.

Gentoo will offer the clients advice and support to set up a small enterprise. It is anticipated that at least one business start up would come from a city wide initiative. In addition, working closely with the Environmental Services, the programme seeks to provide interviews for clients with agencies such as LMR who supply staff to work for our Parks section each year carrying out grass cutting operations etc. Further discussion with Street Scene has indicated that successful clients could following an interview be directly recruited into Council workforce.

### **Conclusion**

This report requests that the Washington Area Committee considers a funding application for £53,850 SIB to support the Green Team Programme at the March 2010 committee.

**Samuel Palombella**

**Chair of Attractive & Inclusive Delivery Partnership**

**Director of Tyne & Wear, Groundwork North East**

## **WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE**

**7th January 2010**

### **Report of the Chief Executive**

#### **AREA REVIEW PROCESS: - INTRODUCTION OF A REFERRAL CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERN INCORPORATING A REVISED MECHANISM FOR COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION - INITIAL PROPOSALS**

##### **1. WHY HAS IT COME TO AREA COMMITTEE?**

- 1.1 During the development of the new Area Governance arrangements agreement was given to the introduction of an Area Review process (outlined as Protocol 4 of the Area Committee Handbook). This report outlines the proposed introduction of a Referral Criteria and process for dealing with such reviews and which can be used by Area Committees, Scrutiny Committees and the Sunderland Partnership, and includes amalgamation with the Councillor Call for Action mechanism (CCfA).

##### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The CCfA mechanism came into force on 1 April 2009 namely through the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Such provisions provide Members with the opportunity to ask for discussions on issues where local problems have arisen and where other methods of resolution have been exhausted.
- 2.2 In Sunderland, two local issues have been raised through the CCfA mechanism and as a result of those referrals; it has become apparent that the current procedure should be reviewed to ensure both current and future CCfAs are addressed in a timely, open and transparent way.
- 2.3 At the same time work is also being undertaken to develop the Area Committees links with both Scrutiny Committees and the Sunderland Partnership, one of which is the signposting and escalation of local issues to the most appropriate body for resolution where appropriate as referred to in the current Area Review process.
- 2.4 The remainder of this report outlines the initial proposals for Referral Criteria and process for dealing with such reviews which can be used by Area Committees, Scrutiny Committees and the Sunderland Partnership, and includes amalgamation with the Councillor Call for Action mechanism

##### **3. INITIAL PROPOSALS**

- 3.1 Consideration has been given on a practical level as to how best to implement a 'referral' mechanism within existing policies and practices to escalate / re-direct issues of local concern either raised by an Elected Member/Committee,

member of the public or external partner to the appropriate body namely the Area Committees, the City Council's Scrutiny and Sunderland Partnership.

- 3.2 To assist those bodies in determining the appropriateness of undertaking an investigation triggered either by the non-mandatory / CCfA referral route, the following selection criteria is proposed for future use by such bodies, at the point of the referral being considered at the next available meeting:-
- (i) Clear evidence that reasonable attempts have been made to resolve the issue with relevant partners / council departments?
  - (ii) Has a significant impact on a group of people living within the Sunderland area;
  - (iii) Relates to a service, event or issue in which the Council has direct responsibility for, significant influence over or has the capacity to act as public champion;
  - (iv) Not be an issue which Overview and Scrutiny, Area Committees or LSP have considered during the last 12 months (unless circumstances have changed substantially);
  - (v) Not relate to an on-going service complaint or petition (including the ability to exclude any matter which is vexatious, discriminatory or not reasonable) ;
  - (vi) Not relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure and policy related issues; and
  - (vii) If meets the criteria, agree which body most relevant to consider further, Overview and Scrutiny, Area Committees or LSP.
- 3.3 The proposed selection criteria outlined above, clearly makes provision for the processing of referrals to be undertaken in an open and transparent way and provides a formal record as to whether the issue is worthy of further investigation together with the agreed course of action and any associated / prescribed timescales.
- 3.4 **Appendix A** outlines the revised procedure for determining the appropriateness of undertaking such an investigation.
- 3.5 Furthermore, it should be noted that the CCfA measure requires the Councillor to use every available tool to resolve the issue in the first instance without involving the relevant Area Committee or Scrutiny Committee, therefore any additional burden should be minimal as the mechanism is designed as a last resort after all other avenues have been exhausted.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

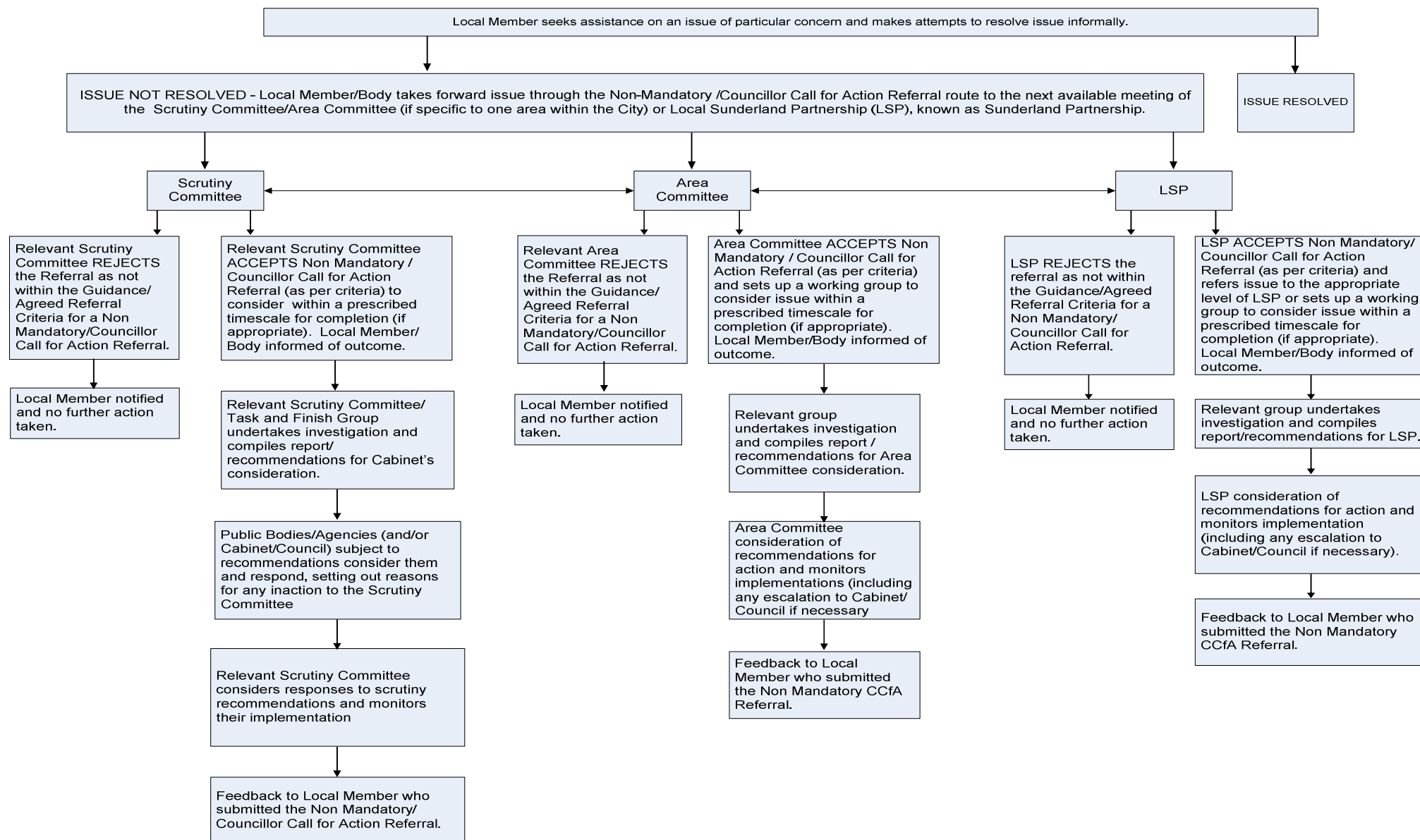
- 4.1 It is recommended that the Area Committee:-

- (a) Supports the introduction of the referral criteria and process for determining the appropriateness of undertaking an investigation triggered either by the non-mandatory referral / Councillor Call for Action route;
- (b) Subject to the comments received from the Area Committees (along with the Scrutiny Committees and Sunderland Partnership), the revised procedure be referred to Cabinet for approval, implemented and included in the Area Committee Handbook.

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**Contact Officer:** Allison Patterson, Area Co-ordination Manager  
0191 561 1474 Allison.patterson@sunderland.gov.uk

**PROPOSED NEW PROCEDURE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF  
NON-MANDATORY/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION REFERRALS TO  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**



# **Washington Area Committee**

**7<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

## **Report of the City Services Directorate**

### **Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Networks and Volunteering in Your Area.**

#### **1. Why has it come to committee?**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Area Committees of progress and proposed future development regarding the involvement and representation of the Voluntary and Community Sector [VCS] within the new Area Arrangements, enabling a more proactive level of participation in the delivery of the Local Area Plans.
- 1.2 This report will also inform Area Committees of the intention to celebrate the contribution of volunteers within each of the five areas of the City and to seek feedback from Committee on arrangements for area based celebrations

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 VCS organisations provide an important route for individuals to become actively involved in their communities. This ranges from helping out with the local youth club to being a member of the Management Committee of the local Community Association. This results in more empowered and involved citizens who are contributing to the aims of the Sunderland Strategy, LAA and Local Area Plans.
- 2.2 Sunderland Community Network [SCN] is the vehicle for representation of the VCS to the Sunderland Partnership and, in the 2009 – 2013 Business Plan is seeking to engage smaller community based organisations. This aligns with the City Council's Area Arrangements which seek to involve local communities.
- 2.3 In order to achieve an environment where local people feel that they are able to have a say in decision making (NI 4) and where our local VCS organisations are thriving and vibrant (NI 7) the City Council, in partnership with SCN, has developed the Area VCS Networks.
- 2.4 Sunderland City Council is also committed to increasing levels of volunteering in the city (NI 6) by encouraging residents to become involved in volunteering opportunities both within the statutory and VCS organisations. Volunteering is an important expression of citizenship and essential to democracy, as recognised in the Sunderland Compact Volunteering Code of Practice. This commitment is recognised by Elected Members at Ward, Area, and at a City Wide level.

#### **3. Current Position**

- 3.1 The Vice Chairs of all five Area Committees have agreed to co chair the inaugural Area VCS Networks with a nominated VCS representative. The networks will be unique as they will be made up of VCS organisations operating within the five distinct areas.
- 3.2 Area VCS Networks will be established following a series of inaugural meetings throughout all five areas in December 2009. The Area VCS Networks have been invited



to nominate three individuals to represent the sector at area committee level, this will include the VCS vice chair of the Area VCS Network. City Services (Community Development function) will administer the nomination process. SCN will ensure individuals from the organisations are supported to take their place on the three agreed VCS places on Area Committees.

- 3.3 Nominated individuals will represent the views of the VCS within their areas (rather than their own organisational interests) thus providing an opportunity for all VCS organisations within the areas to have a nominated and supported representative at Area Committee.
- 3.4 The Council will support the Area VCS Networks by officer involvement from the Council's Community Development function; this involves a dedicated Area Community Coordinator for each of the five areas of the City. This role is distinctly different to the role of the Area Officers, based in the Office of the Chief Executive. The Area Officers will continue to support Area Committees however the two council functions will be complementary as in the first instance the Area Community Coordinator in the Community Development function will ensure VCS organisations are supported to become involved in the Area Committees and associated Local Area Plan delivery arrangements.
- 3.5 Sunderland City Council and partner organisations from the Sunderland Partnership co-ordinate and fund an Annual Volunteer Celebration hosted by the Mayor of Sunderland at the Seaburn Marriott Hotel in National Volunteers Week [June 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>]
- 3.6 To complement the annual volunteer event in 2010, it is proposed that area based celebrations are also held to ensure as many volunteers across the city are recognised for their contribution. The area based celebrations will be co-ordinated through the Area Committee process and held prior to the annual city wide celebration at the Seaburn Marriott Hotel. This will provide an opportunity for the Area Committees to thank volunteers for the invaluable contribution they make to their area.

#### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 To note this report as an update on the position of the Area VCS Networks and provide feedback in relation to the area based Volunteer celebrations.

#### **5. Background papers**

- 5.1 None

#### **6. Contact Officer:**

- 6.1 Jane Hibberd, Assistant Head of Service (Community Development)  
Tel 561 4587 [jane.hibberd@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:jane.hibberd@sunderland.gov.uk)

**RESPONSIVE LOCAL SERVICES****REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To present current Service Standards to Washington Area Committee for the services currently being reviewed as part of the Responsive Local Services (RLS) project and to ascertain present service performance for the Washington Area.

**2. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Area Committee agreed at their meeting in November 2009, to move forward with the Responsive Local Services project, focussing initially important high volume neighbourhood services - graffiti removal, refuse collection, litter, dog fouling and grass cutting services.
- 2.2 In essence the Responsive Local Services project provides each Area Committee with the tools required to tailor services in the locality and communicate the improvements effectively to residents to improve satisfaction and resident understanding of the elected Member's community leadership role.

**3. CONTEXT OF AREA**

- 3.1 Washington has 47,001 residents, 24% of the City's population. According to figures and categories used in the Census 2001, the area has a predominantly White Ethnic Group. Older People (women over 60 and men over 65) in Washington make up 12.3% of the population less than the City average of 19.2% and children under 16 make up 15.5% of the population also less than the City average of 18.06%.
- 3.2 In relation to housing tenure the percentage of owner occupied property is 64%, which is higher than the City average of 60.2%. Levels are considerably lower in North Washington at 52.3%. Gentoo stock accounts for 22.9% of property compared to a city average of 23.2%. Levels are higher in North Washington at 31.4%.
- 3.3 The Washington Area is made up of Washington North, Central, East, South and West wards. In accordance with the Place Survey 2008, residents are generally satisfied with the services provided with 52% stating that rubbish or litter lying around was not a problem. 63% of residents do not see Graffiti as a problem and 84% are satisfied with refuse collection. 81% satisfied with grass cutting of open spaces however, only 47% are satisfied with keeping public land clear of litter and refuse.

**4. CURRENT SERVICE STANDARDS**

- 4.1 Refuse Collection and recycling
- carry out a weekly collection of waste from households in a green wheeled bin;
  - carry out fortnightly collections of green waste (brown wheeled bin) and other recyclable materials (black kerb-it box)

- collect, free of charge, bulky items of household waste or sacks of garden refuse or other waste which cannot be accommodated in the wheeled bin. 3 collections (of 8 items or less) in any one financial year (1st April to 31st March).

4.2 Graffiti removal – Graffiti is removed from highways and public buildings. The council also removes graffiti from private property subject to owners' authorisation. The target in 2009/2010 is to remove graffiti within 2 working days from the time it is reported.

4.3 Grass Cutting – General Standards

- Grass is maintained within the city on varied frequencies from 1 occasion per year to up to 30 occasions per year, depending on the site and growing conditions. The majority of grass is cut 18 occasions per year at 2 to 3 weekly intervals, depending on weather conditions.

4.4 Dog Fouling – Sunderland City Council has actively been promoting responsible dog ownership in the City through a rolling programme of education and awareness. However, in order to further the campaign against dog fouling the Council has now adopted the provisions of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996.

Under the Act it is an offence for anyone in charge of a dog to fail to clear up after it has fouled in a designated area. The majority of land in Sunderland open to the public is designated land. Sunderland City Council is enforcing the law and offenders may receive an on the spot fine of £50.00 or up to £1000 if the matter goes before the Court.

The service standard that applies to the removal of dog fouling is 24 hours or immediately if an operative is at the location.

4.5 Litter removal - Sunderland City Council carry out regular and routine cleaning and litter-picking of pavements, footpaths, carriageways and verges throughout the City.

The service standard for litter removal is 24 hours for a standard response or 2 hours for an emergency response e.g. broken glass.

## **5. SERVICE PERFORMANCE – SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER 2009**

5.1 Refuse Collection – Each month we empty on average 98,740 wheeled bins within the Washington Area and provide 1,063 assisted collections per week. At present we have an average of 31 missed bin collections reported each month (0.0003%) and 1 missed assisted collection per week (0.0009%).

5.2 Graffiti removal – The speed at which graffiti reported to the council is removed is monitored. The target in 2009/2010 is to remove graffiti within 2 working days from the time it is reported. Across the city we are presently averaging removal within 0.29 working days.

5.3 Grass Cutting – 0 requests for service were received to remove grass from paths.

5.4 Dog Fouling – 37 incidents of dog fouling were reported.

5.5 Litter removal – 124 reports of litter or debris were received, 84 of which were reported via the Staff Reporting Line.

5.6 An officer will attend the area committee in January to highlight the work being undertaken in this area.

- 5.7 It is intended that the Committee receives further updates relating to service performance at future meetings. The detail provided, including service responsiveness and levels of satisfaction, will also be improved to build a more detailed picture of environmental service issues in the area. Analysis of this data, including geographical distribution of incidents and service requests, will assist in allocating resources to solve local problems and tailoring services to meet local needs.

## **6. LOCAL AREA PLANNING**

- 6.1 The priorities within the Washington Local Area Plan for the Attractive and Inclusive Theme are to 'Make streets and the environment more attractive'.
- 6.2 The local objectives, related to the Responsive Local Services project are:
- improve green spaces, recycling, underpasses and unlit walkways
  - take enforcement action against flytipping, where relevant poor private landlords and tenants

## **7. LOCAL PROBLEM SOLVING**

- 7.1 The current service standards coupled with current performance information provides committee with a sound platform to discuss area issues in relation to the five services noted. An issue log will be completed to ensure all discussions are recorded.
- 7.2 It is important to note that, at this time, the project can only consider any service tailoring on an area basis, not community or neighbourhood. As the project develops and becomes more sophisticated the potential for more localised tailoring can be considered.
- 7.3 Should the committee feel that the information provided highlights a local problem that should be addressed they can bring partners together via an existing group or sub group of the committee to undertake joint working to address the problem. Progress in this respect will be reported to the committee at the next meeting.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 The Washington Area Committee are requested to note this report for information and to accept further updates from the committee sub group.

## **9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 Staff Reporting Line information statistics – September to October 2009
- 9.2 Customer Services Requests for Service – September to October 2009
- 9.3 Place Survey 2008
- 9.4 Washington Local Area Plan

## **REPORT FOR WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE 7 JANUARY 2010**

### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CITY SERVICES**

#### **WASHINGTON HERITAGE OFFER - DISCUSSION PAPER**

##### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is for Members of the Washington Area Committee to discuss and recommend ways forward in relation to the Heritage agenda within Washington, in order that projects can be investigated and developed for the future.

##### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Washington is located in the west of Sunderland and is divided into small villages or districts, with the original settlement being named Washington Village. Washington became a new town in 1964 and a part of Sunderland in 1974. Washington is now a diverse town offering wonderful countryside views, fascinating history, heritage and leisure attractions.

##### **3.0 CONTEXT**

- 3.1 Heritage is an area of continuing growth both across the region and for the City of Sunderland. Sunderland has a distinct heritage and there is a strong sense of pride across the city. This pride is based on our character and our traditions, including the distinct identity of specific communities and the cultural traditions of our people. A successful nomination which is currently being developed for World Heritage Status would allow the city to become a cultural heritage landmark as one of three World Heritage Sites across the region and 27 sites across the UK, allowing the city to prosper in areas such as economic development and tourism.
- 3.2 Heritage for the city is managed and delivered through the City Services Directorate, with two part-time heritage officers working to deliver the Heritage agenda. This role involves:
- Providing co-ordination and overview of relevant events and activity across the city
  - Assisting with Heritage Projects as appropriate
  - Supporting the voluntary sector as appropriate
  - Promoting Heritage and related activity and services
  - Providing relevant information
  - Developing Partnership Working

Services currently delivered include:

- Direct Delivery of the Local Studies Centre and Washington Town Centre Library Heritage Area
- Delivery of Service Level Agreement with Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums for delivery of Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, Monkwearmouth Station Museum and Washington F Pit Museum
- Delivery of Management agreement with LiveNation for the delivery of the Empire Theatre
- Heritage Open Days
- Events and activities – including Holocaust Memorial Day, Black History Month, Archive Awareness
- Exhibitions within libraries
- Developing digital photograph archive (Sunderland Then and Now)
- Developing Information (Factsheets)
- Supporting voluntary sector – Heritage Forum, History Fair, Maritime Heritage
- Supporting Learning through courses (family and local history)
- Individual Projects (e.g. Their Past Your Future, Herrington Hall Stones, Home Front Recall)
- Talks, attendance at history fairs and events

3.3 The World Heritage Bid is a major project for the city and if successful will:

- raise levels of awareness and pride in the site
- gain international recognition for its archaeological and cultural significance
- ensure the site is managed and protected for years to come

Work is currently ongoing to complete both the nomination document and management plan which make up the Nomination File as required by UNESCO.

3.4 Responsibility for the conservation of built heritage lies within the Planning and Conservation sector in The Office of the Chief Executive. A close working relationship has now been developed in order to ensure that projects are enhanced and developed using both areas of knowledge, expertise and funding where possible.

3.5 The City Council is committed to supporting heritage initiatives and this is viewed within the context of the Council's strategic priorities, Cultural Strategy and Public Library Heritage Strategy, alongside the existing commitments to other projects across the city.

## **4.0 THE CURRENT WASHINGTON HERITAGE OFFER**

4.1 Washington offers a variety of attractions, events and places of interest (examples are listed below with a full list attached as Appendix I).

- Holy Trinity Church (built 1831 – 1833)
- Washington Old Hall
- Washington Wetlands Centre
- Washington 'F' Pit Museum
- North East Aircraft Museum
- Sunderland International Friendship Festival – featuring the Kite Festival
- Heritage Open Days with brass band and mining banner parade

4.2 Washington Town Centre Library which is situated within the Galleries has recently undergone extensive refurbishment. The Library has seen an increase in the number of people visiting and now includes a dedicated Heritage Area. The recent Heritage Open Day presentation (George Washington Family Tree Power Point Display) proved popular with the community. An increasing number of library members are becoming interested in researching their family trees and are taking advantage of the free access to Ancestry.co.uk and the newly installed up to date film/fiche machines. Programme is currently being developed within the Library which includes three Reading Groups, a range of courses including family history and a History of Liberation author events and Exhibitions.

4.3 A newly devised website within VisitSunderland.com has a dedicated area for Washington. The site gives background to the history and heritage of the Washington area, as well as attractions, walks, places to visit or eat out and other related information. (See <http://www.visitsunderland.com/attraction-details.asp?venueid=77>).

4.4 Washington has a dedicated community consisting of many local people who have a vast knowledge of the area and its heritage. These include; Washington Heritage Society, F Pit Banner Group and Washington U3A History Group.

4.5 There is currently a youth initiative project ongoing within the Washington Town Centre Library which is focusing on the heritage of Washington. The project will look to create an art feature for the newly refurbished building and will be developed and produced by the young people of Washington. A Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application is currently being submitted in order to take this project forward.

4.6 The Arts Centre Washington is a focus for arts activities offering a theatre, gallery, artist studios, recording studio, licensed bar, rehearsal rooms and function rooms. The centre offers a year round programme of arts activities including exhibitions, theatre, dance, music, festivals,

classes and workshops for all ages. The centre also supports a number of groups and associations including music groups, theatre groups, writing groups and dance schools.

## **5.0 AREAS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

5.1 There are a number of potential areas for development in relation to heritage within the Washington area of the city. Detailed below are a number of examples in relation to potential future projects for the Washington Area.

- More joined up approach to the heritage offer – possibility of a dedicated Heritage Forum specific to Washington. This would need a chairperson to lead and take forward, with support from the City Council and Sunderland’s Heritage Forum. Discussions will be needed with the current Sunderland Heritage Forum.
- There is an opportunity to raise awareness of the notable people who have connections with Washington. Some of these are listed below:
  - George Washington (Fact Sheet already available and specific area designated within Washington Town Centre Library)
  - Gertrude Bell
  - Bryan Ferry
- A Christmas themed event with a focus on the village green and the surrounding venues of Washington Old Hall and the Holy Trinity Church could be investigated working with local residents and voluntary organisations. Funding would need to be identified for this.
- Albany Park behind Washington ‘F’ Pit is a large space for open-air events and activities which could include historical re-enactments or a heritage festival. This option is currently being investigated in this area, working with Members of the Washington Area Committee.
- Further development of the heritage area within Washington Town Centre Library, utilising local groups and societies to assist in the development and promotion of the space.
- A virtual tour of Washington Village Green and/or other parts of the town to allow potential visitors to appreciate the unique setting of the village and all its attributes. Initial contact has been made with BBC Wear to suggest a virtual tour of this area which is being considered as an option for the future.



- Washington Old Hall – further partnership working with the National Trust to promote the area. There is an opportunity to discuss partnership working on a more regular basis (i.e. working with voluntary groups, room hire, shared resources etc).
- Job Opportunities – working within the heritage sector allows people to learn about and look after our shared heritage. Projects and developments in the heritage sector often allow for opportunities for all sorts of people, especially younger people to engage in skills and roles which allow them to develop for the future as well as developing more traditional skills and learning from their past. Voluntary roles are a regular and often very popular way of engaging communities in local projects which enable them to come together for the benefit of their community, and enables people to develop skills which are beneficial for their future personal development.

## **6.0 AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 6.1 It has been recognised that there is a need to develop a vision for the city in relation to heritage, which takes into account the needs and aspirations of the City Council, local communities, individuals and heritage groups/organisations. A funding application is currently being devised which will go forward to HLF, alongside some City Council funding which will identify, map and celebrate the full heritage of the city and will also provide a basis for a vision and for priority setting relating to heritage in the city.

The aims of the project are to:-

- Commemorate the full heritage of the city by the Sunderland Heritage Forum (SHF) working with an appropriate organisation to 'map' what heritage means to others through various workshops using a variety of media, including creative writing, photography and drawing, working with targeted groups across the city
- SHF to further research the city's heritage
- Raise the profile of the city's heritage
- Provide a documented commemoration of the city's heritage
- Increase relevant skills of the SHF
- Provide an exhibition of the work produced
- Produce a city wide Heritage Strategy in order to influence and prioritise major city developments.

Following confirmation of funding, the exact content and detail of the project will be determined by the Sunderland Heritage Forum and the City Council in consultation with a contracted organisation.

- 6.2 Any projects and work that is highlighted will need to consider a number of issues, including priorities, staff resources and funding

implications, along with any other issues including planning permissions and land access, as well as the needs and demands of the local communities.

- 6.3 Current discussions with North East Civic Trust and the proposed areas for investigation will need to be considered alongside this report.

## **7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 Members are asked to note and consider the contents of the report in order to allow for further discussions and recommendations to be taken forward by the Committee in relation to the Heritage Agenda in Washington.

### ATTRACTIONS/LOCATIONS IN THE WASHINGTON AREA

#### Washington Old Hall

A seventeenth century mansion house with some remnants of the original twelfth century dwelling, which was home to the ancestors of George Washington, the first President of the United States.

#### Washington Green Library

The Green Library opened in 1930, formerly being used as a shop and by the British Legion. It was one of the first full-time branches to be opened in the Durham County Library Service and a mobile library servicing a large area of North East Durham was based here. In 1974 the library became part of the Borough of Sunderland Library Service.

#### North East Aircraft Museum

The North East Aircraft Museum is the North of England's premier collection of aviation history and the largest aviation collection between Yorkshire and Scotland. The North East Aircraft Museum is a registered UK charity and is run by enthusiasts and volunteers.

#### Washington F-Pit Museum

The colliery was worked from 1777 to 1968 and the headgear and winding house are now preserved to commemorate the important role played by coalmining in Washington's development.

#### Bowes Railway Museum

Bowes Railway was originally a colliery railway built to carry coal from pits in north west Durham to the Tyne at Jarrow. The earliest section was designed by George Stephenson and opened in 1826. After closure in 1974, the section between the Blackfell Bank Head and Springwell Bank Head was acquired for preservation. It is the only working preserved standard gauge rope hauled railway in the world.

#### Washington Wetland Centre

This recreated wetland provides a 'stop over' and wintering habitat for migratory waterbirds after their passage over the North Sea. Set in 45 hectares of wetland and woodland beside the River Wear, Washington Wetland Centre is one of the North East's biggest conservation success stories.

#### Arts Centre Washington

The Arts Centre Washington is a focus for arts activities offering a theatre, gallery, artist studios, recording studio, licensed bar, rehearsal rooms and function rooms. The year round programme of arts activities includes exhibitions, theatre, dance, music, festivals, classes and workshops for all ages.

### Galleries Shopping Centre

The Galleries Shopping centre has over 200 shops including two large supermarkets, Asda and Sainsbury's. It was built on open land near the former Glebe Farm and officially opened by Princess Anne in 1974.

### Northumbria Centre

The Northumbria Centre is a large indoor venue which has been used for conferences, exhibitions and sporting events such as international darts, basketball and netball. It is located close to the A195 and adjacent to the Northern Area Playing Fields

### George Washington Hotel and 18 Hole Championship Golf Course

The George Washington Golf and Country Club Hotel is an independently owned 3-star hotel. It has a championship standard golf course with facilities which include a driving range and a nine hole pitch and putt course.

### Princess Anne Park

This linear park runs south from the Galleries to Fatfield. Work began on the Park in 1968 and it was opened by Princess Anne in 1974.

### Northern Area Playing Fields

This is the venue for the annual Sunderland International Friendship Festival, featuring the largest kite festival in Europe, which is delivered on an annual basis.

### Barmston Pond nature reserve

Situated close to the Nissan Factory, this is the first nature reserve declared by Sunderland Council. It is home to a host of birds, wild flowers, butterflies and dragonflies

## **Washington Village and Green**

### Washington Green Library

As above

### Blacksmith's shop

The Smithy was for many years in the hands of the Dobson family until closure in the 1950s. It is now houses the Blacksmith's Table restaurant.

### Holy Trinity Church

While the Church is relatively young (built 1831-1833) it replaced a medieval building, which may have been situated on an earlier religious site. The present church was designed by Newcastle architects John and Benjamin Green, who also were responsible for the design of Penshaw Monument.

### Old Police station

In 1894 the building accommodated a sergeant and six constables. Now closed, it currently operates as a guest house.

### Washington Arms

The Washington Arms is said to be the oldest pub in the town, possibly in use as early as the fifteenth century. It used to be kept by the village blacksmith and was called the Three Horseshoes and then the Smith's Arms. Prior becoming the Washington Arms it was named the Commercial Hotel.

### Cross Keys

A pub has been on this site beside the village green dating back to at least the seventeenth century.

### Dame Margaret's Hall

Built between 1854-1857 for Isaac Lowthian Bell, a local industrialist. After moving out of the area, he gave it away as a home for waifs and strays. Among its many uses since have been Doctor Barnardo's Home, National Coal Board training centre, nursing home and, presently, apartments. Gertrude Bell, historian, archaeologist, mountaineer, linguist, diplomat and Middle East expert, was born here in 1868.

### Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception R.C Church

Numbers of Roman Catholics increased dramatically with Irish immigration into the area following famine in the 1840s. The mass centre of 1863 on Village Lane quickly proved inadequate and a proper church was built 1877-8. St. Joseph's school was built opposite the church and remained in use until destroyed by a fire.

### Spout and Pond

The Spout ran down from Springwell, along Spout Lane to the village green where a pond was created on the site of the present war memorial. It then travelled onwards past the chemical works to join the Wear at Washington Staithes.

### Council Offices and Rectory

The present building was occupied by Washington Urban District Council (W.U.D.C.) and later Sunderland Council as an area office, before being sold to a property developer for use as apartments. It was built on the site of the Rectory of 1719-1727 that was destroyed by a fire in 1949 when used by W.U.D.C.

### National School

This was provided by the Anglican Church to give religious instruction and basic education for poor children of the parish and dates back to at least the early 1850s. After the 1870 Education Act state funding was provided and by 1894 180 children attended.

### Washington Old Hall

As above

## **River Wear Corridor**

### **James Steel Park**

Named after Sir James Steel, Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear from 1974 to 1984 and Chairman of Washington Development Corporation from its creation in 1964 until 1977. James Steel Park extends for more than 4km on both sides of the River Wear from Fatfield/Mount Pleasant to Cox Green/Washington Staithes.

### **Cox Green**

River work, boatbuilding and quarrying were the main industries in the past. Before the footbridge was opened in 1958, river crossing was by a rowing boat and wire rope.

### **Worm Hill**

A distinctive dome-shaped hill beside Fatfield Bridge with a well at its base; its origin may be a burial mound or a type of geological feature, a kaim. Local people consider this to be the home of the legendary Lambton Worm.

### **Biddick Inn**

An old riverside pub alongside Worm Hill which once had its own brewery.

### **Fatfield Co-op**

Opened in 1909 as the Fatfield branch of Chester-le-Street and District Co-operative Soc. Ltd. The store had different departments such as grocery, drapery, butchery and clothing and is of a fairly standard, yet impressive, size. After closure in the early 1980s, it became a pub with an Italian restaurant on the upper floor.

### **Chatershaugh Colliery**

Opened in the seventeenth century, the colliery was linked to Chatershaugh Staithes, where in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries it became a very busy area as coal from many collieries to the west came along waggonways to the river. It closed in the 1930s.

### **North Biddick Colliery**

Was in operation before 1710 but the great flood of 1771 damaged its workings and was not reopened until 1841. Before it closed in 1935, more than 1000 men were employed. In earlier days the surrounding area had a reputation for lawlessness and the pit's nickname was Butney after Botany Bay.

### **Penshaw quarry tunnels**

On the south bank of the river between Mount Pleasant and Cox Green there is a series of stone-lined tunnels which formerly linked Low Lambton Quarries to the staithes on the river bank. Here, the stone was transferred to keel boats for transport downriver.

### Washington Staithes

Before the nineteenth century brought the railways, up to 300 keelboats could be loaded with coal in between Chatershaugh Staithes and Washington Staithes to sail down the river to Sunderland. While the settlement has long gone and now landscaped as part of James Steel Park, the impressive cut stone quay still remains.

### Footbridge Cox Green – Washington Staithes

See above for Cox Green

### Victoria Bridge/Viaduct

This graceful bridge was opened on Queen Victoria's Coronation day in 1838. Its design was influenced by the Roman bridge at Alcantara, Spain. At the time, the main arch was the largest in Europe and until 1872 the bridge was part of the railway line from London to Newcastle. It was closed to passenger traffic in the 1960s but continued to be used for freight trains until 1991.

### **Columbia and Biddick**

#### Washington Railway Station

Passenger services at Washington Station were withdrawn in 1963 as part of the Beeching cuts and all buildings were subsequently demolished. Here was an important railway junction where the Newcastle-Leamside railway joined the Stanhope-Tyne line.

#### Stanhope and Tyne Railway.

The Stanhope and Tyne Railway opened in 1834 and operated from Stanhope to Tyne Dock, South Shields. In the mid-twentieth century the line was heavily used by trains carrying iron ore to Consett steelworks. After the track was lifted and necessary work undertaken, it became part of the C2C cycle route

#### North Eastern Railway houses.

Now called Barmston Close, these houses were built by the North Eastern Railway to accommodate those working at the adjacent station.

#### North Biddick Hall

Once home to the Hylton family, the north wing of the hall was built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and added to over time. It was also known as Cook's Hall after the owners of the nearby ironworks who lived there before it was demolished in 1966 due to land subsidence.

#### Cook's Ironworks

Cook's was famous for making pit-head gear and most heavy equipment for coal-mines. Its products were exported worldwide.

#### North Biddick Farm

The farm was built for Lambton Estates in the 1860s. After closure, most of the buildings were used in the creation of Biddick Farm Arts Centre (now the Arts Centre Washington), which was opened in 1977. The farm cottages originally used by workers at the farm are still on Biddick Lane.

#### Biddick School

Situated near Brady Square, the school opened in 1893. Fred Hill, the saviour of Washington Old Hall, was a head teacher here. In later years it was renamed Columbia Primary School and closed shortly after celebrating its centenary.

#### Oxclose Waggonway

The course of the waggonway, which ran from Oxclose Colliery to Washington Staithes, can be traced along Oxclose Road. The course can also be seen beside the river where the straight road comes down the bank to the stone quayside; this was formerly Wilden Terrace.

Employment Exchange (former basement was war shelter)

#### Glebe Colliery

The youngest pit in Washington, Glebe Colliery was sunk in 1905. Three years later a disaster killed fourteen pitmen and over twenty thousand people came from pit villages in County Durham and Northumberland to attend the funerals. The Colliery closed in 1972 and the site has been reclaimed as attractive parkland.

#### Glebe Colliery Welfare Hall

The Mining Industry Act of 1920 authorised coalowners to provide amenities for mineworkers and their families. The miners, however, had to provide much of the money themselves from their weekly wages. Welfare halls were used for social, educational and sporting purposes and the large example at Glebe had sports grounds, including a bowling green and pavilion. Now acting as a community centre it fulfils the same purposes.

#### Glebe School

The school was opened in 1908 and some of its pupils came from the Doctor Barnardo's Home at Dame Margaret's Hall. It was renamed John F. Kennedy Primary School in 1975.

#### Chemical Works (office remains)

Hugh Lee Pattinson founded the Chemical Works in 1842 and the principal manufactures were magnesia and asbestos insulation. It was a major employer and covered a large site in between the railway station and the river. The former office buildings were reused by Lakeside Gardens Nursing Home.

#### Blythe's Brickworks pond

Clay was extracted from this site by Blythe's Brickworks, with a pond forming in the resulting hollow. The clay pit was used to create Pattinson South Pond, one of the features of James Steel Park.



## **Concord and Sulgrave**

### **New Inn**

At the time of its building, this was the most prominent building in New Washington (now Concord), the New Inn was built to a flamboyant design, topped by a cupola. It is now called the New Tavern.

### **Washington Urban District Council – first offices**

The first offices of the Council were housed above Councillor James Anderson's drapery business at the corner of Manor Road and Front Street.

### **Ritz Cinema**

Washington was well served by cinemas across the area; now there are none. The Ritz dominated Victoria Road with its grand frontage and was renamed the Fairworld before its closure. The site is now occupied by a Co-operative funeral parlour.

### **Usworth Colliery Welfare Hall**

The Miners' Hall and Institute was built in 1891 and contained a lecture theatre with seating for 650 people, reading rooms, billiards hall and a committee room. In 1930 extensive recreation grounds were added.

### **Usworth Colliery School**

One of Washington's older schools, Usworth Colliery Primary is situated on Manor Road and its buildings date from 1911.

### **Edith Avenue Methodist Church**

This was an integral part of the mining community that lived around Usworth Colliery. It was later reused as a community centre.

### **Usworth Colliery**

The sinking of the shaft was undertaken in 1845 and Usworth was the last working pit in Washington before closure in 1974.

### **Usworth Railway Station**

Usworth Station served Usworth Colliery and New Washington (now Sulgrave and Concord respectively). It was a much smaller station than neighbouring Washington Station, opening in 1863 and in use for exactly one hundred years.

### **Usworth Hall**

Built c.1800 and by the 1930s it had passed out of individual ownership, being owned by Washington Coal Company before transferring to the National Coal Board upon nationalisation. It was then bought by Washington Development Corporation in 1965 for use as its headquarters until 1987. It is now part of a small private housing estate.

Station Road – long terraces and flats

Named after Usworth Station which was situated at its eastern end, the long road consists of a number of named terraces. Some of the houses are examples of Tyneside Flats, where the distinctive feature is two front doors next to each other, one to the upstairs flat and one to the ground floor flat; others have been converted into houses.

## **Great Usworth and Albany**

Aged Miner's houses

In 1896 one of the great philanthropic movements took root, with the aim of providing a free house and coal supply to retired miners - a 'haven of rest'. The coal owners gave financial support, land and materials and the miners contributed from their pay. These houses are a typical example of those that were established at more than seventy sites in the Durham coalfield.

Blue House

Peareth Hall

William Peareth, Clerk of the Chamber and Alderman of Newcastle for fifty years built this mansion that stood to the west of Great Usworth. It was mostly demolished in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Peareth School

At the time of its opening in 1814 there were very few schools in existence for the poor. Susan Peareth funded the school and it was intended for poor children belonging to Washington parish who were taught arithmetic, penmanship and English grammar.

Holy Trinity Church

This church on Peareth Hall Road was designed by in 1831-2 by John and Benjamin Green in a similar style to that in Washington Village. Both were built to replace the medieval church of Washington.

Tithe Barn

The tithe barn was situated at Snowdon's farm, High Usworth. Up until the 1930s, farmers had to give a tenth (tithe) of their produce to the Church of England and huge barns, such as this, were needed to store it all.

## **Springwell**

Shaddon's Hill

After the Battle of Shaddon's Hill in 1068 many of the local population were killed or displaced by the victorious Normans and the surrounding land was given to the Bishop of Durham. It was also the site of a significant progression in the trade union development as Thomas Hepburn organised meetings (1831 and 1832) of pitmen in the region in an effort to unite for better conditions.

#### Springwell Colliery

The opening of the colliery in 1826 led to the rapid development of Springwell. It was an integral part of the Bowes Railway and after closure in 1932, the huge coal store building was turned into a wagon repair shop and it continues this function on the preserved site.

#### Springwell Methodist Church

The chapel was built in 1880 in the Early English style and incorporated a school which was in use before the present school on the opposite side of Springwell Road was opened in 1905.

#### Springwell School

Currently, the oldest school in Washington, being opened in 1905, although it has benefited from a substantial refurbishment over the summer of 2009.

#### Springwell Co-op

Many mining villages had at least one co-operative store. The example at Springwell has suffered the same fate as most in the north east by being sold off and occupied by small businesses.

#### Stonebuilt terraces

One of Springwell's traditional industries is quarrying and many of the older houses in Springwell and surrounding villages are built from locally quarried sandstone.

### **Rickelton and Harraton**

#### General's Wood

General's Wood is located off Bonemill Lane in Harraton. It was in existence when the first Ordnance Survey map of this area was published in 1855 and formed part of the Lambton Estate until Washington Development Corporation bought it in 1967. The woods were transferred to the Woodland Trust as a gift in 1987.

#### Vigo Woods

Vigo Woods consist of four urban woods covering 8.16 hectares that are situated in the Rickleton area and are all used for informal recreation by local people. Originally part of the Lambton Estate until Washington Development Corporation bought them in 1967, they consist of mixed high forest woodland whose existing woodland cover is estimated to have been planted around 1960.

#### Harraton Colliery

Opened in the eighteenth century, Harraton was a long lived pit lasting until 1965. Its nickname of Cotia Pit was derived from Nova Scotia; a small settlement with this name was nearby.

#### St George's Church and Rectory

The church was built in 1879 to serve the communities of Fatfield and Harraton and refurbished in the 1990s. The substantial rectory gives an impression of the former wealth of the Church of England and the status of the clergy.

#### Harraton Colliery Welfare Hall

Situated on Bonemill Lane, this is another impressive welfare hall which continues in the spirit in which it was intended as a busy community centre.