

Washington Area Committee

7th 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 4th 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

Annex 1: Washington Attractive and Inclusive Area Summary