

Washington Area Committee

26th May 2010

Report of the Chief Executive

Washington: Establishing a new work plan 2010 - 11

1.0 Why has it come to Committee?

1.1 At its meeting in April 2010, the Committee agreed the report: 'Towards a new work plan' for the year 2010/11, which discussed and agreed the principle of six priorities, to include Responsive Local Services, to form the 2010-11 work plan.

1.2 In addition, it was agreed that Committee will receive information that will build a picture of key facts and current services relating to the priorities listed, together with options, see Annex 1, to inform the process of decision making.

1.3 The options outlined in the annex have arisen through the collection of information throughout the year via the 'Thematic Reports', 'Area Action Plan' developments, issues raised through the Leader's Ward visits, feedback from members and partners and recent policy initiatives, with each option being agreed as a viable way forward

2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)

2.1 Area Committee is recommended to:

- Agree to focus the efforts of the Area Committee on the Local Area Plan priorities where they can make a real difference;
- Agree to a maximum of six priorities, to include Responsive Local Services, to form the 2010/11 work plan. Potential options as per 1.3 and contained in Annex 1 are
 - Child Poverty in Washington
 - Help local people access employment opportunities
 - Improve the business offer in Washington
 - Identify gaps in Youth and Play provision
 - Family, Adult and Community Learning (FACL)
 - Support families and carers of children and young people
 - Address Anti Social Behaviour
 - Reducing health inequalities – focus on areas of concern re life expectancy - teenage pregnancy, smoking, alcohol consumption, and obesity, emotional well being
 - Responsive Local Services (RLS) project
 - Heritage
- Identify and agree a Lead Agent for each priority action;
- Agree to establish a 'Local Task and Finish' group per priority action, where relevant, to include elected Members and partners, to support the Lead Agent in delivering against the priority ;
- Agree to align a nominal proportion of funding to each 'Local Task and Finish' priority;
- Agree to receive regular updates on progress in implementing all the priorities identified in the Washington Local Area Plan.

3. Background

- 3.1** The Committee will recall that the priorities contained within Washington's Local Area Plan (LAP) were the result of an extensive consultation process, culminating in the formal adoption of the Committee's key priorities in July 2009. The Local Area Plan is in place for three years, when it will be subject to a comprehensive review.
- 3.2** The adoption of the Committee's priorities was the result of a comprehensive programme of consultation and involvement, which began in November 2008 with an initial workshop with councillors. This work shop identified councillors' initial priorities and was followed by a joint workshop with councillors and partners to formulate, develop and jointly agree priorities. A third workshop, led by the Leader, was then held with the local voluntary and community organisations. This event, which was attended by over 60 local residents, discussed and agreed the local priorities.
- 3.3** During this period, and running alongside of the process described above, a major public consultation exercise was carried out across the city, which involved 65 public meetings, including the five 'YouthInc' road shows, and a series of road shows at major shopping centres. This involved in excess of 2,000 responses and contributions, which informed the development of priorities.
- 3.4** Following this, the priorities were agreed at a meeting of Councillors and officers in May 2009 and ratified as the Committee's work plan at its July meeting.

4. 0 Existing operations

- 4.1** Throughout the previous municipal year, the Committee was presented with 'Thematic Reports' highlighting work being undertaken, to address a priority area, and proposals to enhance and add value to existing work for the benefit of the area.
- 4.2** As reported at the last Committee meeting to consider the Annual Report, there have been a number of major achievements. However, it has become increasingly clear that changing some of the ways the committee operates will lead to greater alignment with priorities and a clearer focus on delivery.
- 4.3** Suggestions for improving how a greater focus on the delivery of priorities can be achieved have arisen throughout the year via the Thematic Reports, Area Action Plan developments, issues raised through the Leader's Ward Visits and feedback from members and partners.

5.0 Delivering the Local Area Plan

- 5.1** To ensure the Committee has a focus on delivering key LAP priorities and influencing those not directly within its remit, the actions, contained in Annex 1, are proposed as options for discussion with a view to choosing a maximum of six to form the committee's work plan for 2010/11. It should be noted that the options included in Annex 1 are suggestions that have arisen as a means to focus the LAP, and the Committee may wish to agree a number of priorities,
- 5.2** It should be noted that all LAP priorities will be progressed and reported to Committee. The 'Local Task and Finish' groups will enable delivery of key priorities, which will ensure the Committee is making a clear and tangible improvements for the benefit of local residents.
- 5.3** The 'Local Task and Finish' groups should include elected Members and partners and will support the Lead Agent by problem solving and in delivering against the priority. This will

ensure services are reviewed, actions allocated and measurable and are monitored and feedback into the Area Committee. This process will link into the Area Officer, ensuring a central point for the collection of information.

6. Process

6.1 As agreed at April's meeting, governance processes will be reviewed to ensure they are 'fit for purpose' to deliver the Committee's programme and priorities. This will be the subject of a further work shop.

7. Background papers

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

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Annex 1: Background papers: Prioritising your Priorities