

## WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 6.00 pm

**VENUE – THE GRANARY, ARTS CENTRE WASHINGTON, BIDDICK LANE, FATFIELD, WASHINGTON, NE38 8AB**

### AGENDA

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\* Denotes an item relating to an executive function

E WAUGH

19 July, 2011

Head of Law & Governance

Contact: Paul Wood, Democratic Services Officer  
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**At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at the WASHINGTON LIBRARY on THURSDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Scaplehorn in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, Kelly, Lauchlan, F. Miller, Padgett, Snowdon, Thompson, D. Trueman, H. Trueman, Wake and Williams

Ian Richardson	-	City Services
John Rostron	-	City Services
Zoe Channing	-	City Services
Brian Hogkinson	-	City Services
Helen Green	-	City Services
Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Karen Alexander	-	Chief Executives
Lisa Jeffries	-	City Services
Mike Foster	-	Children's Services
Alan Scott	-	Children's Services
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
Neil Revely	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Sarann Valentine	-	Area VCS Network Representative
Acting Sergeant Gary Foe	-	Northumbria Police
Sergeant Alan Pitchford	-	Northumbria Police
James Third	-	Nexus

Members of the Washington Community.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors G. Miller, I. Richardson and Walker.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 2c – Financial Statements and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

Councillors Fletcher, Kelly, Lauchlan, Padgett, Scaplehorn, Snowdon, Thompson, D. Trueman, H. Trueman and Williams declared personal interests in the SIB application for the Education and Skills for Young People project as the Managing

Director of TWEBLO was a colleague. Councillor F. Miller declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as her husband was the Managing Director of TWEBLO and left the room during consideration of the application.

Councillor Thompson declared a personal interest in the Nature on the Doorstep SIB application as a volunteer worker at Washington Old Hall.

Item 2C – Annex 2 – Financial Statements and Proposals for further allocation of Resources – Community Chest

Councillor Kelly declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the PR Display Equipment application as civilian secretary to the organisation.

Councillor Thompson declared a personal and prejudicial interest as trustee of Oxclose and District Young People's project.

Councillor Williams declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a member of Oxclose and District Young People's project.

### **Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2011**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2011 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendment on page 4.

Councillor Miller commented that the fact the survey was mail orientated was not ideal either.

### **Community Action in Washington – Annual Report (2010/11)**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to enable the Committee to consider the Annual Report which provided a snapshot of the Committee's work over the 2010/11 municipal year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Karon Purvis, Area Officer, presented the report with the Chairman then introducing Acting Inspector Alan Pitchford from Northumbria Police who gave the Committee an update on Operation Horizon and the positive results it had provided.

The Chairman then introduced Julie Parker who updated the Committee on the Washington Health Champions and the volunteers taking part in five different training modules. Ms. Parker gave a breakdown of the number of people participating and thanked the Area Committee for their funding and partnership working and also informed of a celebration event of which invitations would be sent out.

The Chairman introduced Helen Green, Creative Director, Arts Centre Washington who updated the Committee on the Remix project, which due to area funding

provided free access to a wide range of young people to use and helped in building confidence, not only in the arts but in life skills also.

Ms. Green advised that feedback from the participants of the project had been incredibly positive, with every Member wishing to continue for the second year and she also introduced Lisa Jeffries to the Committee as the new Co-ordinator of the project.

Louise Wiegand, Headteacher of Springwell Village Primary School, informed Members of the positive effects the Area Committee funding had achieved in implementing the new school curriculum.

Ms. Wiegand advised that the new curriculum had reinvigorated the children's love for learning, providing them with the skills to prosper in life outside of school and with the funding helping to install an Eco Garden, it was breaking down the barriers within the community and she felt that the children were growing into valuable members of the village and society as a whole.

Christine St. Clare, Chair of Governors for Barmston School, updated the Committee on the fantastic success of the Community Room/Wing which the Area Committee had helped fund and now included one-to-one working with parents, Sure Start and youth clubs.

Jacqui Reeves, Washington Mind, advised that their service had received over 1000 referrals and had moved away from the idea of a drop-in service and was more about enabling people to use the service as a stepping stone.

Ms. Reeves also advised that a great number of the people who volunteer at the project are people who have benefited from using the service in the past.

The Chairman commented that these updates were excellent adverts for the success of both the projects and the Area Committee and the partnership working.

Councillor Kelly commented that it had been a privilege to work with all the groups and it highlighted how much the Washington community cared and wanted to work together.

The Chairman informed of the recent volunteer awards and requested recognition be given to Bill Craddock, in attendance, who had won an award for his service.

2. RESOLVED that the Committee:-
  - i) note and agree the content of the Annual Report; and
  - ii) agree the progression of lessons learned for the future year.

## **Work Plan for 2011/12**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) requesting the Committee's approval of the work plan which clearly identified the key priorities for Area Committee to discuss, deliver options and monitor throughout the year, with the overall outcome to improve the quality of life for residents within the Washington area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Purvis presented the report and ran through the key priorities before introducing Karen Alexander, Employment and Training Manager, who advised on paragraph 2.1 – Access to employment opportunities focusing on NEETs and links to learning, employment and training opportunities through Washington's heritage offer.

Ms. Alexander informed the Committee that a Citywide survey had been commissioned on employment demand and skill shortages with research on Washington based employers specifically around young people and what was stopping the recruitment of young people based in Washington.

Ms. Alexander advised that opportunities for apprenticeships would also be looked at and interviews with 40-50 key stakeholders would be undertaken. The survey would be carried out over the month of June and they expected Washington businesses to be invited to an event in August for feedback to see if they were on the right track.

Ms. Alexander also advised that they anticipated the findings and results to be presented to the September meeting of this Committee.

At this point Ms. Purvis requested nominations for the Employment Task and Finish Group and Councillor Kelly commented that as this had been a Task and Finish Group last year, those same Members carry on with the addition of Councillor Lauchlan.

Members agreed that Councillors G. Miller, Snowdon and Lauchlan would form the Employment Ask and Finish Group.

In relation to paragraph 2.2 of the report the Chairman introduced Alan Scott who advised Members that they were looking for support on engaging youths during holiday times and the proposed £30,000 would help provide activities at night times and holiday times which would also help reduce levels of anti social behaviour.

Councillor Kelly enquired if Children's Services were looking for Area Committee to add additional funding when they had already financed a great deal of money for play provision and did not want to pre-determine the work that needed to be done.

The Chairman commented that it seemed reasonable for the Task and Finish Groups to consider the areas of work that needed investigating.

Councillor Kelly suggested that partners be included in the Task and Finish Group and that investigations would need to be carried out promptly so that plans were in

place for the upcoming holidays. Councillor Kelly also commented that he would like to see some of the youths that benefit, volunteering to help in the community.

Ms. Purvis commented that Mr. Scott could also be included in the Task and Finish Group. The Young Carer's would also be represented on the group.

It was agreed that Councillors Fletcher, F. Miller, Thompson and Williams would be representatives of the Young People's Task and Finish Group.

In relation to paragraph 2.3 – Tackling Health Inequalities, Councillor Kelly informed the Committee that he had been made aware of issues around day care and dementia and requested that this be included in the work of a Task and Finish Group.

Ms. Purvis advised that she would check to see if the issues were not already being investigated by a Scrutiny Committee.

In relation to paragraph 2.4 – Attractive Neighbourhood, Brian Hodgkinson, Area Response Manager for Washington, advised that they now had officers set up in Parsons, should Members wish to contact the Team with any issues. The Team were now fully set up and were working with partners such as Gentoo.

Mr. Hodgkinson also gave an update on the wildlife corridor, natural wildlife habitats and the efforts to increase the biodiversity which could attract more tourism to the area.

In response to Councillor Kelly's enquiry, Mr. Hodgkinson confirmed that the efforts were part of a planned event involving local farming to bring in partnership working and were not at all part of cost cutting plans.

In relation to the alignment of SIB funding against priorities, Members agreed that should a suitable project arise that was not aligned to the current priorities that consideration would still be given, as per previous years.

3. RESOLVED that Members:-

- i) agreed Annex 1 on the Area Committee's Workplan for 2011/12;
- ii) agreed the Call for Projects protocol to be used in the allocation of SIB funding during 2011/12;
- iii) agreed and confirmed membership of Task and Finish Groups to develop and deliver workstreams and key priorities as detailed in the report;
- iv) with reference to paragraph 2.2.3 above and in the Workplan attached, considered previous activities delivered and described for young people;
- v) considered other priorities for enhanced youth activity, either at a universal or targeted level which the Area Committee would request are progressed;

- vi) noted the use of £3,000 of the funding to provide activities during school holidays as set out in the report and in Annex 2;
- vii) considered allocating a proportion of SIB 2011-12 budget, in line with Children's Services area funding of £30,000 to deliver positive activities for children and young people living in Washington once the Task and Finish Group had investigated all options;
- viii) agreed to receive a further report on the programme of activities to be delivered following Committee considerations as well as a later report to evaluate the success of the programme;
- ix) agreed to receive regular updates and reports as detailed in the report.

### **Financial Statements and Proposals**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to request the Committee's consideration of proposals for the allocation of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest to support initiatives that would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

In relation to the SIB application for the Nature on the Doorstep project, Councillor F. Miller enquired how the project differed from the Wetland Trust service.

The representative for the project advised that this would provide a free resource similar to the Wetland Trust service that would work on a smaller scale to highlight aspects of the area and providing an appreciation of what nature is about whilst also helping to teach social skills.

In response to Councillor Wake's enquiry, Ms. Purvis advised that £12,488 was the cost of the overall project and not the amount being requested for funding from the Area Committee.

4. RESOLVED that Members:-

- i) note the financial statement set out in Section 21 of the report;
- ii) approve £25,821 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Operation Choice project;
- iii) approve £3,000 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Sunderland Festival project;
- iv) approve £15,000 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Washington Christmas Event project

- v) approve £6,000 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Aircraft Museum project;
- vi) approve £3,450 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for Friends of the Old Hall project;
- vii) approve £30,000 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Education and Skills Programme;
- viii) approve £76,840 to deliver the recommendations of the Washington Heritage Offer Feasibility Study from the 2010-11 budget for Washington Heritage Memorial project as detailed in Annex 1 to the report;
- ix) approve £997 as a contribution from the SIP budget for the Bowes Railway Trust project as detailed in Annex 1 to the report;
- x) approve all 21 proposals for support from the 2011/12 Community Chest, all projects totalling £12,962 as detailed in Annex 2 to the report.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) B. SCAPLEHORN,  
Chairman.



28<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## COMMUNITY ACTION IN WASHINGTON – PROGRESS REVIEW

## Progress Report on 2011/12 Workplan: Employment Priority

**1 Why has it come to Committee?**

- 1.1 The report provides an update of progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) Work Plan (**Annex 1**).

**2 Background**

- 2.1 Building on Area Committee's key priority of helping local people access employment opportunities from 2010/11 workplan, the focus for 2011/12 is on young people Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETs). Job prospects, including lifelong learning, and apprenticeships for young people linked to culture, inclusion and heritage have also been identified.
- 2.2 At the last Area Committee held in June the Employment Task and Finish Group was established building on the previous year's programme. That Task and Finish Group met in June and this report presents an update and progress report on activities, and proposals for further work to deliver against this priority

**3 Progress****3.1 NEET Support and Co-ordination**

- 3.1.1 Members will recall the commissioning of a research and audit project utilising SWITCH resource, to provide the Committee with robust evidence which identifies gaps, encourages a partnership approach and promotes available opportunities for NEET young people, boosting engagement and reducing NEET figures in Washington. The results of that research are attached in a report as **Annex 2**.
- 3.1.2 The initial findings of the study evidences that demand for training/apprenticeships and employment far outstrips provision, young people on the unemployment register are active in their search for employment but lack of opportunities is hampering their progress, many young people are participating in training opportunities without access to employers and the labour market, so are ill prepared for the working environment, transport remains an issue for young people accessing training provision in Sunderland, changes to EMA and the introduction of a new bursary scheme will influence take up of training opportunities, recent cut backs and loss of programmes and new Government proposals will impact on support and opportunities available to young people, there is limited access to employers and there is a real need for more employer involvement.
- 3.1.3 The findings of this study together with the results and recommendations from the Employer's Demand Survey (detailed in paragraph 3.2) will inform a proposed 'Call for Projects' to support NEET young people in Washington. Members are requested

to approve an allocation of up to £100,000 for the commissioning of activity through the Call for Project Protocol and the draft Project Brief attached as **Annex 3**.

- 3.1.4 In line with the Call for Projects Protocol, local Statutory and Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups are invited to submit a SIB funding application within a given timeframe, explaining how they will deliver the project outlined in the project brief. All applications received are appraised through the SIB Governance process and the results will be presented to the next Area Committee, with a recommendation to approve the strongest application(s).

### **3.2 Employer's Demand Survey**

- 3.2.1 This report provides an update on the production of a report outlining the skills needs and employment demand for employers in the Washington area. The survey is part of a city-wide piece of work, but has been extended to cover a larger sample size of Washington-based employers and also to include specific questions around opportunities for young people seeking to enter the labour market in Washington. The survey and subsequent report is being delivered by research company Trends Business Research (TBR). Washington Area Committee has contributed £10,000 towards this piece of work.
- 3.2.2 The survey comprised of predominantly telephone interviews lasting 15 minutes, supplemented by a select number of in-depth face to face interviews with key employers and stakeholders. The target for Washington was to achieve 120 telephone interviews and around 150 have actually taken place. In terms of the in-depth interviews, the researchers are confident that they have consulted relevant employers, including Nissan, and captured the key issues. The survey has now ended and the data is being analysed. The findings will be presented initially against a number of key themes, including skills shortages; skills gaps; employment of people from disadvantaged groups (including young people); business development aspirations and the challenges that may hinder them; training provision and the ability/desire to tailor courses in the future; predicted skills issues in the future.

The first draft of the report is expected to be complete during week commencing 1 August 2011. The final report will be tabled at the Area Committee Meeting on 29 September 2011 and the findings will be used to inform future strategic spend by Washington Area Committee to support employment and training prospects for young people, particularly NEETs.

- 3.2.3 A request has been made to Washington Area Committee for SIB funding to hold a Breakfast Meeting for Washington employers and key stakeholders. If approved, this meeting will be used to engage with representatives from local employers, present the findings and agree a way forward to address the issues identified. The meeting will also consider the work being carried out by the NEET Activity Co-ordinator in terms of employment and training opportunities for young people aged 16-18 in the area. It is proposed that the Breakfast Meeting will be held at the George Washington Hotel on Wednesday, 10 August 2011 from 8.00 to 10.30 am.

### **3.3 Heritage and Education Project**

- 3.3.1 The Heritage and Education Project which was approved at the last Area Committee has commenced recruitment to a 12 month post and an apprenticeship. The

recruitment attracted a massive response with more than 100 applicants. It is anticipated the project will commence 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011.

### **3.4 Update on Washington Managed Workspace for Washington Area Committee**

- 3.4.1 The Business Case was submitted at the end of May 2011. There have been some queries raised at appraisal stage over the timetable for delivery of the project being too long and also demonstration of value for money due to the complexity of a land acquisition, design and build project. Work has therefore been undertaken on reducing the timescale for delivery for funding and it is hoped that there will be an extension to the end of November for submission of further documentation to satisfy the value for money queries.
- 3.4.2 Tender documents are being prepared and it is hopeful these will be released on the 18 July 2011 to start the process of identifying a suitable site and developer for the scheme. If all goes to plan, construction will commence in April 2012, with the new managed workspace opening in April 2013. For any further information please contact Berni Whitaker, Enterprise Manager on 0191 305 1205  
[berni.whitaker@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:berni.whitaker@sunderland.gov.uk)

### **3.5 Job Linkage Service in Washington**

- 3.5.1 The Job Linkage Service operates out of 2 venues in Washington, the Galleries and the Washington Millennium Centre. Previously supported through the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, the service has delivered comprehensive employability services to residents of Washington – **Annex 5** provides feedback and statistics on performance and users of the service.
- 3.5.2 The Job Linkage services will be retained in Washington at the current sites until March 2012 through Coalfields Regeneration Trust funding, independently sourced by Sunderland North Community Business Centre (SNCBC), and City of Sunderland funding. Whilst there are changes to who the project can now work with, the project will continue to support its current caseload but will be unlikely to work with clients who are new Job Seekers Allowance clients (JSA) or new clients 'not in receipt of benefits'.

#### **Recommendations:**

Members are requested

- To note the report, presented on behalf of the Employment Task and Finish Group
- To note the recommendations from the NEET Co-ordination Report attached as **Annex 2**.
- To approve an allocation of up to £100,000 for the commissioning of activity through the Call for Project Protocol to support NEETs in Washington as presented in paragraph 3.1.3
- To consider the proposed Project Brief attached as **Annex 3** and agree project outcomes to be included in that brief.

Contact Officer: Karon Purvis, Washington Area Officer Tel: 0191 561 2449  
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28<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## COMMUNITY ACTION IN WASHINGTON – PROGRESS REVIEW

## Progress Report on 2011/12 Workplan: Activities for young people and tackling youth disorder

**1 Why has it come to Committee?**

- 1.1 The report provides an update of progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) Work Plan (**Annex 1**).

**2 Background**

- 2.1 Building on Area Committee's key priority of addressing youth disorder and antisocial behaviour from 2010/11 workplan, the priority for 2011/12 is on activities for young people with a focus on 8 – 12 year olds.
- 2.2 At the last Area Committee the Task and Finish Group was established building on the previous year's programme. That Task and Finish Group met in June and July and this report presents an update and progress report on activities, and proposals for further work to deliver against this priority

**3 Progress****3.1 Activity Programme**

- 3.1.1 The Task and Finish Group met June 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss priorities relating to Children's Services budget as presented to Committee on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The group agreed a summer holiday activity programme be delivered by Oxclose and District Young People's Project, based on previous successful programmes. The group agreed £10,000 be allocated from the Children's Services budget to deliver this.
- 3.1.2 The group also agreed £6,000 be allocated to Oxclose and District Young People's Project to continue to deliver the Friday Night Drop in Sessions. This results in a balance of £11,000 of the Children's Services budget remaining to be allocated.
- 3.1.3 The group proposed the balance of £11,000 to be matched through SIB and a Call for Projects be developed following the Area Committee's agreement to providing the matched funding. It was felt that it is important to co-ordinate activity for all ages but to develop work to address the Area Committee's target group of 8 – 12 year olds. Children's Services have confirmed the balance of £11,000 could be used across all age groups.
- 3.1.4 Members are therefore requested to approve an allocation of £11,000 for the commissioning of activity through the Call for Project Protocol and the draft Project Brief attached as **Annex 4**.
- 3.1.5 In line with the Call for Projects Protocol, local Statutory and Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups are invited to submit a SIB funding application within a given timeframe, explaining how they will deliver the project outlined in the project

brief. All applications received are appraised through the SIB Governance process and the results will be presented to the next Area Committee, with a recommendation to approve the strongest application(s).

### **3.2 Young Carer's Integration Project**

3.2.1 The group discussed the development of the Young Carer's Integration Project and recommended the match funding for the Young Carers Project be allocated from SIB and not from the Children's Services budget. That application is included in Item 2d for approval through the normal SIB governance and approval processes.

### **3.3 Operation Choice**

3.3.1 The group discussed the agreed resourcing of the Primary School work included in Operation Choice. Children's Services have confirmed the Youth Bus can be used as part of the proposed programme however costs, staffing and timetabling will need to be confirmed.

### **3.4 Blackfell Junior Neighbourhood Watch Pilot**

3.4.1 Working with partners Blackfell Primary School will launch a Junior Neighbourhood Watch Project in September. Primary School children and parents, the school, local Police Teams and Blackfell Neighbourhood Watch are involving the Primary School children in taking care of their neighbourhood. This is a pilot and the children will be designing their own logo and naming of the project.

#### **Recommendations:**

Members are requested

- To note the report, presented on behalf of the Young People's Task and Finish Group
- To agree £10,000 of the Children's Services budget be used to deliver a Summer Holiday Activity programme by Oxclose and District Young People's Project
- To agree £6,000 of the Children's Services budget be used by Oxclose and District Young People's Project to deliver Friday Night Drop In Sessions
- To agree £11,000 SIB be allocated to activities for young people, ensuring provision of 8 – 12 year olds is included
- Approve the commissioning of activity through the Call for Project Protocol as presented in paragraph 3.1.3 for Activities for young People.
- To consider the proposed Project Brief for Activities for Young People, attached as **Annex 4**, and agree project outcomes to be included in that brief.

Contact Officer: Karon Purvis, Washington Area Officer Tel: 0191 561 2449  
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28<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**COMMUNITY ACTION IN WASHINGTON – PROGRESS REVIEW**

**Progress Report on 2011/12 Workplan**

**1 Why has it come to Committee?**

- 1.1 The report provides an update of progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) Work Plan (**Annex 1**).

**2 Background**

- 2.1 The purpose of the work plan is to clearly identify the key priorities for Area Committee to discuss, deliver actions and monitor throughout the year, with the overall outcome to improve the quality of life for residents within the Washington area.
- 2.2 Area Committee identified 2 new key priorities for 2011/12 and established Task Groups to take forward the work plan actions. Those Task Group updates have been presented to Committee as Items 2a and 2b.
- 2.3 This report presents an update and progress with regard to the other priorities carried forward from 2010/11.

**3 Tackling Health Inequalities**

- 3.1 Work continues through the Washington Health Champions project, which will report to each Area Committee meeting. As of 1st July a total of 442 people either working city wide or in Washington had enrolled on the Health Champion's programme. Of these, 103 workers are from Washington, and of these 56 were from the voluntary sector. There are now 12 health champions from Washington, but around 70 health champions across Sunderland.
- 3.2 A celebration event is planned for the 13th October and people who have completed all five modules as well as key stakeholders will be invited. This event is primarily to thank the people who have been through the Health Champion's programme, and also to showcase the Area Committee funded project as a very successful example of community development and partnership working.

**4 Attractive Neighbourhood**

- 4.1 Service requests, complaints and resident surveys and satisfaction levels indicate that an attractive and cared for environment is still a priority for the area. Responsive Local Services continue to work with and report to Area Committee through the Area Response Manager. A verbal report will be presented at the meeting highlighting key successes, issues and activity.
- 4.2 Area Committee has also maintained an influencing role with regard to roadways, highways and traffic management issues. That role will be maintained with regular

reports and updates to Area Committee together with the co-ordination of Members Requests for Service.

The Bus Links Removal Scheme experiment was completed in June. In response to the formal publication of proposals for the closure to Brandy Lane, 4 objections have now been received. The process requires these objections to be presented to the Planning and Highways Committee for consideration, provisionally September 20th, before a decision is made with regard to implementation.

## **5. Equality, Community Inclusion and Engagement**

- 5.1 To develop the capacity and influence of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) across the City, Area Networks have been established and delegates represent each Area Network at Area Committee taking forward issues on behalf of the whole VCS in the area and reporting back, providing a two-way flow of communication between SCN and the Area Committee.
- 5.2 Washington Area Network delegates will present a verbal report to each Area Committee meeting informing Members of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

### **Recommendations:**

Members are requested

- To note the report and the updates for the Work plan attached as **Annex 1**

Contact Officer: Karon Purvis, Washington Area Officer Tel: 0191 561 2449  
Email: [karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk)

**WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE**  
**28<sup>th</sup> July 2011**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I**

**Title of Report:**

Community Chest, and Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) - Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

**Author(s):**

Chief Executive

**Purpose of Report:**

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

**Description of Decision:**

The Committee is requested to approve the following from the 2011/12 budget:

1. To approve 5 SIB proposals from the 2011-12 budget as detailed in **Item 2d Annex 1**:
 

1. Oxclose Church Hall	£ 6,500	Approve
2. Young Carer's Integration Project	£15,000	Approve
3. Washington Business Breakfast	£ 1,500	Approve
4. Washington NEETs Support Project	£ 2,000	Approve
5. Houghton Feast	£ 3,000	Approve
2. To approve £100,000 to commission activity through a Call for Projects for the Washington NEETs Support Project as detailed in **Item 2a**
3. To approve £11,000 to commission activity through a Call for Projects for activities for children and young people as detailed in **Item 2b**
6. To approve 16 proposals for support from the 2011/12 Community Chest, all projects total £6,474 as detailed **Item 2d Annex 2**

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

SIB is a budget delegated to Areas Committee in order to commission activity that delivers actions against the key strategic priorities identified in the Washington LAP. Its main purpose is to benefit the local community and to attract other funding into the area. The Area Committee has been allocated a budget of £287,261 for 2010/11. £126,070 has been carried forward from 2009/10 giving the Area Committee a budget of £413,331 for 2010/11.

The Community Chest forms part of the Strategic Initiatives Budget and that £250,000 is available for the scheme in 2010/2011, £10,000 for each Ward. This scheme is operated under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**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 Scrutiny Committees:**

Regeneration Review Committee.  
 Management Scrutiny Committee.



28<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

Report of the Chief Executive.

**Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) and Community Chest - Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources****1. Why has it come to Committee?**

1.1 Area Committee has delegated budgets to allocate to specific strategic priorities identified in the Local Area Plan, with the overall aim to benefit the wider community and to attract other funding into the area. The report provides a financial statement as an up date position on progress in relation to allocating SIB, and Community Chest.

**2.1 FINANCIAL STATEMENT WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FUNDING STREAMS 2011-2012 AS AT 28<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

<b>SIB: Washington SIB Statement after 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2011 WAC</b>				
* £287,261 was allocated for 2010/11, £12,321 has been brought back from 2010/11 allocations giving a total balance of £299,582				
	<b>Committee Date</b>	<b>SIB Budget</b>	<b>Approvals</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Available Funding 2011/12*</b>	02.06.11	<b>£299,582</b>		<b>£299,582</b>
<b>Project Name</b>	-	-		-
Operation Choice	02.06.11		£25,821	£273,761
Sunderland Festival	02.06.11		£ 3,000	£270,761
Christmas Festival	02.06.11		£15,000	£255,761
Aircraft Museum	02.06.11		£ 6,000	£249,761
Friends of Old Hall Education & Skills Programme	02.06.11		£ 3,450	£246,311
	02.06.11		£ 30,000	£216,311
£10,449 returned Washington Wheeled Sports Park				£10,449
<b>New Balance</b>		<b>£299,582</b>	<b>£83,271</b>	<b>£226,760</b>

<b>Community Chest</b>			
Available Funding 2011/12 *This includes the 2011/ 2012 allocation of £10,000 per ward, £13,041 unclaimed funding for 2008/2009 and £2,660 unallocated funding from 2010/ 2011.			
	<b>Community Chest Budget</b>	<b>Approvals</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Central	£11,435	£1,226	£10,209
East	£15,899	£5,622	£10,277
North	£11,385	£2,428	£ 8,957
South	£13,997	£2,278	£11,719
West	£12,985	£1,842	£11,143
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£65,701</b>	<b>£13,396</b>	<b>£52,305</b>

## 2.2 Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB)

2.2.1 Following the June 2011 Area Committee meeting, a balance of £216,311 remains to be allocated this financial year.

2.2.2 Since that meeting £10,449 from the Wheeled Sports Park Project has been returned to the SIB budget, giving a total of **£226,760**

2.2.3 The following projects as detailed in **Annex 1a** are recommended for approval, as follows:

	<u>2011/12</u>	
1. Oxclose Church Hall	£ 6,500	Approve
2. Young Carer's Integration Project	£15,000	Approve
3. Washington Business Breakfast	£ 1,500	Approve
4. Washington NEETs Support Project	£ 2,000	Approve
5. Houghton Feast	£ 3,000	Approve

2.2.4 Projects recommended for approval from the 2011/12 budget total **£28,000**. Should Area Committee approve this proposal the remaining balance for the 2011/12 allocation would be **£198,760**.

2.2.5 Members are reminded of the recommendation considered under Item 2a Review Progress – Workplan 2011/12 to commission activity through a Call for Projects for the Washington NEETs Support Project. Should Members approve that approach and notionally allocate the proposed **£100,000** to deliver that project, a balance of **£98,760** of the 2011/12 budget will remain to be allocated.

2.2.6 Members are also reminded of the recommendation considered under Item 2b Review Progress – Workplan 2011/12 to commission activity through a Call for Projects for activities for young people. Should Members approve that approach and notionally allocate the proposed **£11,000** to deliver that project, a balance of **£87,760** of the 2011/12 budget will remain to be allocated.

## 2.3 Community Chest

2.3.1 The table below details the balances remaining to be allocated following the last meeting. A total of 16 project proposals received are set out in **Annex 2**, together with remaining balances should those proposals be approved.

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Budget Remaining</b>	<b>Project Proposals</b>	<b>Balance Remaining</b>
Washington Central	£10,209	£ 370	£9,839
Washington East	£10,277	£ 720	£9,557
Washington North	£ 8,957	£ 444	£8,513
Washington South	£ 11,719	£ 2,520	£9,199
Washington West	£ 11,143	£ 2,420	£8,723
<b>Total</b>	<b>£52,305</b>	<b>£ 6,474</b>	<b>£45,831</b>

## 3.0 Recommendations

Committee is requested to:

1. Note the financial statement set out in Section 2.1 of this report.

2. Agree the recommendations set out in **Annex 1** with reference to the SIB applications.
3. Agree to allocate a nominal budget of **£100,000** to commission activity through a Call for Projects to deliver the Washington NEETs Support Project
4. Agree to allocate a nominal budget of **£11,000** to commission activity through a Call for Projects to deliver activities for young people.
5. Approve the 16 proposals for support from 2011/12 Community Chest as detailed in **Annex 2**

**SIB Funding Applications**

**Summary Document**

**SIB Application No.1.**

<b>Name of Project</b>	Church Hall Repairs
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Oxclose Ecumencial Church

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total SIB requested</b>
£12,420	£5,920	£6,000
<b>Project Duration</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
12 months	July 2011	March 2012

**The Project**

This project will contribute to repairs to a Church Hall roof, which was designed and built in the 1970s. The roof is constructed with three low pitch concrete tiled areas leading to a bitumen felt flat area. Over the years there have been persistent problems with water leaking through various parts of the roof into the building. Recent roof inspections identified rain water has penetrated through the roof tiles and running down the vapour barrier into the main building. Water has got under the roof tiles and into the eaves. There is also an area of felt that requires replacement in the area of the drainage channel. Immediate action is recommended to prevent further damage to the roof.

Estimated costs of the repairs & improvements to the roof are in the region of £12,420 (including fees and VAT). If our application proceeds to Stage Two of the SIB process, we will seek open tenders from three contractors.

The Church Hall is a focal point for local residents, schools and agencies who use it as a base to provide welfare and leisure services to all ages. The church has a small Building Fund for general repairs and it will be from this that the project costs will be drawn from.

**Need for the Project**

Failure to address the need to repair the roof will mean we can no longer provide a safe environment to users and seriously jeopardise our future to remain one of the few multi-purpose community venues in South Washington, as the majority of our income is generated from rental charges.

The need to act is evident through the increased difficult to attract new users. In addition, from April 2011 the longest resident user, Tumble Tots, will cease to use the church citing health and safety issues as a direct consequence of the leaking roof during last winter. This will mean a further loss of income. Oxclose Church serves the villages of Oxclose, Balckfell, Lambton & Ayton. The Church Centre provides a base for local voluntary group, welfare and leisure organisations. Weekly users included Tumble Tots( until mid April), Slimming World, Zumba Dance, Telford Women's Guild, Washington Music Theatre Group. Virtuoso Singers. The Centre is used for elections and consultations by various local authority agencies. The church community provides local services such as a monthly luncheon club and weekly drop-in cafe, mid-week Junior Club for 6-11 yr olds and fund raising events for charity. Local residents frequently book the centre for children's parties.

The church provides an educational resource for the 4 local primary schools. We host their annual festival services and we have set up a Fair Trade School Project in partnership with staff and pupils at Oxclose Community School.

The Church is currently working with the Bridge Woman's Association in identifying the training needs of local residents and seeking to link up with local police, youth providers to identify employment and educational needs of young people in the area. Involvement with the Friends of Holley Park to seek opportunities to encourage local residents to take responsibility for their environment and strengthen community relations through activities such as a community summer fayer and litter picking event are planned for later this year

### Outputs of the Project

Output Code	Description	Number
A1	No. of improved community facilities	1
A2	No. people using improved community facilities	200

### Key Milestones for the Project

Instruction for quotes	Sept 2011
Contractor awarded	Oct 2011
Schedule of works confirmed	Oct 2011
Repairs completed	Nov 2011

### Recommendation ; Approve

This project meets the Area Committee's Equality, Inclusion and Engagement priority as detailed in the 2011/12 workplan.

### SIB Application No.2

<b>Name of Project</b>	Washington Young Carers Integration Project
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Sunderland Carers

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total SIB requested</b>
£20,000	£12,500	£7,500
<b>Project Duration</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
12 months	July 2011	June 2012

### The Project

The project will seek to provide local Washington services for Young Carers (8 - 14 year olds) in mainstream youth and play settings together with specialist back-up for the young carers and the clubs from Sunderland Carers' Centre Young Carer Team. It will do this by providing 2 sessions per week for 50 weeks in an established youth setting or in 2 different settings eg Oxclose Youth Club. The sessions will provide

- play and activities to give the young carers the kind of childhood activities others take for granted and which young carers miss out on because of the illness or disability of a parent or sibling
- peer support so that they know they are not the only one with these family pressures
- access to one-to-one support when necessary, to be provided by the young carer workers at Sunderland Carers' Centre
- confidence building to join in non-young carer activities provided by the youth clubs in Washington.

Young Carer awareness training will be provided to the partner Youth clubs by Sunderland Carers' Centre. Young Carer referrals will be through Sunderland Carers' Centre so that family issues requiring support or services are identified and dealt with and the Youth Clubs can focus on the young carer. The project approach is innovative as there has been little work nationally on integration of Young Carers in mainstream youth provision. The approach is also about effective partnership working to maximise the skills and opportunities which will benefit Young Carers in Washington.

The project will meet the priority of improving youth provision by providing specialist opportunities for young carers which should be the first step in integrating these young people into mainstream services.

Nationally it is known that the number of young carers known to services is the tip of an iceberg. Sunderland Carers' Centre currently has some contact with 79 young carers in Washington but many of these do not take up city-wide groups and activities because of distance, transport etc as well as parental concerns about the younger age group going further afield. Therefore we know that there will be more young carers in Washington unaware that help is available and more not taking up activities because they are not close enough to home. Sunderland Carers' Centre experience of work with young carers shows that they can feel very isolated and miss many of the ordinary childhood experiences so activities with fellow young carers is an important start to their integration to mainstream youth activity.

The age range identified as the priority for this pilot was chosen as the younger end of the range, 8 year olds often start undertaking inappropriate caring responsibilities at that age and 12 year olds are confronting huge changes in the move from smaller primary schools where their family circumstances are likely to be known and understood to large secondary schools where they might be less well understood and at an age when other children and young people can pick on their contemporaries who are seen to be different. The whole age range is one where young people need to experience activities and social contacts which are part of a child/young person's normal development and which may miss these because of their caring situation.

Area Committee funding will provide activity sessions (1 per week for 50 weeks) and also provide training, referral systems, project development and one-to-one follow-up with individual young carers. The matching money from other sources will provide another 50 sessions and additional support from Sunderland Carers' Centre Young Carer Team. Sessional costs include transport to and from sessions. £7,500 has been applied for from gentoo Washington Customer Panel - outcome awaited, expected soon. £5,000 is being sought from the Children's Services grant to further Area-based prevention work - outcome awaited.

### Outputs of the Project

Output Code	Description	Number
L2	No. additional children & young people engaged & participating	60
L8	No. additional young people participating in youth provision	60
L9	No. sessions delivered	104

### Key Milestones for the Project

Youth & play partners confirmed	Oct 2011
Training in young carer awareness for staff of partner agencies	Oct 2011
First sessions take place	Oct 2011
Review of project to date	March 2012
Planning for future of the pilot	June 2012

### Recommendation ; Approve

This project meets the Area Committee's priority to provide activities to 'engage' young people linking young people and the broader community

### SIB Application No.3

<b>Name of Project</b>	Washington Business Breakfast
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	City of Sunderland Council

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total SIB requested</b>
£1,500		£1,500
<b>Project Duration</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
2 months	July 2011	August 2011

#### **The Project**

The purpose of the project is to provide a "Business Breakfast" to be held in Washington in August 2011. The Business Breakfast is to engage and enter into detailed dialogue with a number of Washington-based employers, with a view to offering them support in terms of recruitment and training of appropriately skilled staff. There are two specific pieces of work to discuss at the event (a) the findings and conclusions of the Skills and Employment Demand Survey and (b) the findings and conclusions of the work being carried out by the NEET Activity Co-ordinator.

The 2011/12 Workplan for Washington Area Committee lists as a priority "Helping local people access employment opportunities - focus on NEETS, links to heritage". Within this priority, there are a number of issues which this project supports, as follows:

- Co-ordination of services of NEET young people
- Address barriers to training, education and employment for NEETs in Washington
- Availability of apprenticeships, work placements, etc for young people
- Gaps in low level, first step training
- Links with local employers

The proposed Business Breakfast is directly relevant to addressing all of the above issues under the overall priority of "Helping local people access employment opportunities", by improving links with local employers. An invitation will be extended to Washington-based businesses to attend a breakfast event in early August. The event will seek to directly engage with local employers and encourage the creation of a greater number of jobs, work experience and apprenticeship training opportunities for local young people, particularly those in the NEET category.

It is proposed that the event will summarise the findings from two significant pieces of work instigated by the Washington Area Committee. The first relates to a contribution of £10,000 made by the Committee to a city-wide survey of Skills and Employment Demand Study, specifically to boost the sample size and including direct questions about employment prospects for young people living in Washington. Using the additional resource, the consultants will produce a specific Washington report, the findings and conclusions of this will be presented at the Business Breakfast. It is hoped that those employers in attendance will be encouraged to create a greater number of job and training opportunities for the young people of Washington in future.

The second piece of work to be presented will be the findings from the NEET Activity Co-ordinator, who has been researching barriers to training, education and employment for NEET young people in Washington and the gaps in low level, first step training over recent months. Again, it is expected that this will raise awareness of issues relating to NEET young people in the

area and that employers will gain a greater understanding of the role they can play in supporting this priority client group.

### Need for the project

This proposal has come about as a result of the work carried out last year by Washington's Employment Task & Finish Group, which considered the employment opportunities in the area, particularly for young people. (This priority has been carried forward into this year's Workplan.)

It is recognised that there needs to be more direct dialogue with employers, in order to fully understand their needs in terms of types of skills and skill levels necessary to enable sustainability and growth and also the business environment in which they operate. This proposal seeks funding to pay for a 'Business Breakfast' event which will facilitate direct employer engagement and provide an opportunity to present the specific needs of young people in Washington to employers and also to listen to and discuss the issues facing employers in terms of recruitment and training a skilled workforce.

The research feeding into this Business Breakfast will come from consultants TBR (Trends Business Research) and also from Faye Gething, Washington's NEET Activity Co-ordinator.

### Outputs of the Project

Output Code	Description	Number
A6	No. of events	1
P4	No. businesses supported	25

### Key Milestones for the Project

Event planning and invitations	July 2011
Event	August 2011
Evaluation	September 2011

### Recommendation ; Approve

This project meets the Area Committee's priority to helping local NEETs access employment opportunities.

### SIB Application No.4

<b>Name of Project</b>	Washington NEETs Project
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Connexions

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total SIB requested</b>
£2,000		£2,000
<b>Project Duration</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
3 months	July 2011	October 2011

### The Project

This project will support a research and mapping exercise which will identify the barriers and issues arising re NEETs in Washington. The project is being delivered through a resource seconded to work on behalf of Area Committee to identify the way forward to support NEETs and remove barriers to employment. The research work will make recommendations which will be managed through the Employment and NEETs Task and Finish Group. A Call for Projects Project Brief will be presented to Area Committee to commission collaborative work across the area. This request will provide funding to cover the operational costs of the seconded resource.



The project will identify barriers to employment and enterprise opportunities for young people and will identify mechanisms and tools to support local businesses to employ young people. The project will assist Washington NEETs to access employment opportunities.

### Need for the project

NEETs have been identified as a key priority for the Area Committee and this work is being brought together with a number of strategic and corporate aims and action plans to address the key gaps and barriers.

### Outputs of the Project

Output Code	Description	Number
A5	No. Feasibility Study	1

### Key Milestones for the Project

NEET Co-ordinator first draft Report	July 2011
Research completed	August 2011
Final report and recommendations	September 2011

### Recommendation ; Approve

This project meets the Area Committee's priority to helping local NEETs access employment opportunities.

### SIB Application No.5

<b>Name of Project</b>	Houghton Feast
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	City of Sunderland Council

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB requested
£41,000	£24,000 £14,000 other Area Committees	£3,000
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
5 months	July 2011	November 2012

### The Project

Houghton Feast 2011 will commence with an opening ceremony on Friday 7th October. Taking inspiration from the Saxon stone carvings of Wyverns which can be found in St Michael's Church, the Festival will this year be based on the theme of myths and legends with particular focus on the Lambton Worm. Community workshops will take place across the city in the run up to the event. These workshops will be led by a key writer in residence who will use the legend of the Lambton Worm as a foundation to create a new story with community members. This story will then be brought to life by professional artists and community participants during workshops in schools and community venues. These workshops will result in a short, high quality performance using sound and light during the Friday night ceremony. Friday's performance will then link directly to the Saturday parade which will feature children from all areas of the City who have taken part in the preparation workshops.

Workshops will take place in each of the 5 Areas across Sunderland in an effort to build audiences for and raise the profile of Houghton Feast. Participants will have the opportunity of being involved in the Saturday Parade

### **Need for the Project**

The theme of Myths and Legends was selected through consultation with local school and community groups. The Houghton Feast Steering Group have also been involved in the development of this concept. In previous years several schools have expressed an interest to be involved with the Houghton Feast Workshops, this new approach will allow more schools to participate in the process.

### **Outputs of the Project**

S5	Young people benefiting from youth inclusion projects	20
A3	Community and voluntary groups supported	1
A6	Community or educational events held	7

### **Key Milestones for the Project**

Procurement of Writer in residence	August 2011
Workshops with schools and community groups	September 2011
Promotion of events	September 2011
Successful delivery of events	October 2011
Evaluation/Debrief	November 2011

### **Recommendation ; Approve**

This project meets the Area Committee's Equality, Inclusion and Engagement priority as detailed in the 2011/12 workplan

**COMMUNITY CHEST 2011/2012 WASHINGTON AREA  
PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL**

WARD	PROJECT	AMOUNT	ALLOCATION 2011/2012	PROJECT PROPOSALS	PREVIOUS APPROVALS	BALANCE REMAINING
<b>Central</b>	<b>Sunderland Armed Forces Network</b> - To deliver welfare and support to armed services personnel, veterans and their families.	20				
	<b>Washingtones</b> - Choir leader costs to teach community singing. £35 per hour x 10 weeks.	350				
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>11,435</b>		<b>1,226</b>	<b>9,839</b>
<b>East</b>	<b>Sunderland Armed Forces Network</b> - To deliver welfare and support to armed services personnel, veterans and their families.	20				
	<b>Sunderland City Council</b> - Bulb planting with local primary school children	700				
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>15,899</b>		<b>5,622</b>	<b>9,557</b>
<b>North</b>	<b>Sunderland Armed Forces Network</b> - To deliver welfare and support to armed services personnel, veterans and their families.	20				
	<b>St Thomas Disabled Club</b> - To fund an excursion to the bowling alley with lunch for members.	300				
	<b>Northumbria Police</b> - To purchase "Respect Your Neighbourhood" posters, stickers and leaflets	124				
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>11,385</b>		<b>2,428</b>	<b>8,513</b>
<b>South</b>	<b>Sunderland Armed Forces Network</b> - To deliver welfare and support to armed services personnel, veterans and their families.	20				
	<b>Rickleton Primary School</b> - Development of an outside classroom and stage area for year groups 1-2. Quoted prices exclude installation costs.	2,000				
	<b>St John Boste Primary School</b> - Contribution to update football equipment and uniforms. In line with 'Your Kids Your Say' directive from the Football Association	500				
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,520</b>	<b>13,997</b>		<b>2,278</b>	<b>9,199</b>
<b>West</b>	<b>Sunderland Armed Forces Network</b> - To deliver welfare and support to armed services personnel, veterans and their families.	20				

	<b>The Stella FC</b> - Pitch fees for football matches aimed as a diversionary project for young people	250				
	<b>Springwell Residents</b> - To replace existing artwork in the Seldom Seen Park that is in a state of disrepair for the benefit of park users	600				
	<b>Donwell Community Association</b> - Refurbishment of Community Association	1,000				
	<b>Donwell Mother and Toddlers</b> - Activities Day-Transport costs	150				
	<b>George Washington School</b> - To build a rockery in the Wildlife Garden	400				
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,420</b>	<b>12,985</b>		<b>1,842</b>	<b>8,723</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>6,474</b>	<b>£65,701</b>		<b>£13,396</b>	<b>45,831</b>



## Washington Area Committee 2011/12 Workplan

Priority: Helping local people access employment opportunities - focus on NEETs, links to heritage						
Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing Role	Outcome Measure	RAG
Co-ordination of services for young people NEET (Not in education, employment or training).	NEET Co-ordinator appointed.	Connexions Faye Gething	NEET Co-ordinator in post to audit provision, identify gaps, encourage partnership approach and promote available opportunities for NEET young people, boosting engagement and reducing NEET figures in Washington. <b>NEET Co-ordination and support costs SIB application £2,000 to July 2011 Area Committee. Research completed. Report presented to July Area Committee - conclusions and recommendations to inform Call for Projects. Deadline for applications August - presented to September meeting for approval. Approval for £100,000 to be allocated to Call for Projects to July Area Committee Meeting</b>	Review activities of other agencies. Commission activity. Engage and involve.	Reduce No. NEETs	
Address barriers to training, education and employment for NEETs in Washington	Work with ESP Project to ensure barriers to opportunities are addressed.	NEET Co-ordinator	Contact ESP Project Manager (Brenda Cogden) to identify where added value for Washington can be brought. <b>Update to every Area Committee through Employment &amp; NEETs Task and Finish Group. COMPLETED</b>	Identify priorities for support by AC. Involving partners in delivering the LAP and ensure services meet local requirements.	Reduce No. NEETs	
Availability of apprenticeships, work placements etc. for young people	Confirm provision re training, apprenticeships etc. for young people being delivered by partners in Washington. Gather evidence of jobs or ability to be placed in the work place following apprenticeships and schemes.	Karen Alexander (OCE)	Opportunities to be identified through Demand Survey and Business Breakfasts. Links to NEET Co-ordination project. Update to every Area Committee through Employment & NEETs Task and Finish Group. <b>Demand Survey nearing completion. Analysis to be presented and Business Breakfast for Washington scheduled August 10th. SIB application to July Area Committee £1,500.</b>	Consult and engage organisations and partners.	Increase No. young people in training education and employment	
Gap in low level first step training.	Primary level research with young people by proposed NEET Co-ordinator re provision, gaps and issues.	NEET Co-ordinator.	Research NEET Co-ordination Project <b>COMPLETED</b>	Improve standards. Consult and engage organisations and partners.	Increase No. young people in training education and employment.	

Links with local employers	Build links between young people and local businesses. Local Business Breakfast. Assistance for small local businesses to take on apprenticeships. Completion and promotion of Demand Survey	NEET Co-ordinator	Research NEET Co-ordination Project. Liaise and co-ordinate re Demand Study. Local Business Breakfast. <b>Business Breakfast for Washington scheduled August 10th. SIB application to July Area Committee £1,500.</b>	Engage and involve partners. Challenge providers to improve standards. Promote and publicise initiatives to improve local quality of life	No. of local businesses engaged. OR No. apprenticeships	
Suitable venues for courses in Washington	Audit of suitable venues available to accommodate partners and statutory providers re courses and opportunities for young people NEET.	NEET Co-ordinator	Research NEET Co-ordination Project. <b>Included in Research Report presented to Area Committee July 2011 COMPLETED</b>	Engage and involve partners. Challenge providers to improve standards.	Increase No. young people in training education and employment	
Impact of withdrawal of EMA	Impact Task Group (SCC) to meet March to consider how the Learner Support Funds will partially fill the loss of EMA Funding and what restrictions are to be placed on this spend.	Children's Services	Research NEET Co-ordination Project. <b>Included in Research Report presented to Area Committee July 2011 - see Task and Finish Group update COMPLETED</b>	Request and receive reports and updates.	N/A	
Linking young people and the community to opportunities in the Heritage Sector in Washington	WAC Call for Projects re Heritage and Education Project. Co-ordinated approach and Action Plan to take forward recommendations from the Washington Heritage Offer Feasibility Study	Culture and Tourism (SCC)	SIB £30,000 Education and Skills Development Project to be approved June 2011. <b>Officer and apprenticeship recruitment underway July 2011 with TWEBLO. Update to July Area Committee with expected start date 1st August</b>	Commission activity.	No. volunteers in Heritage Initiatives in Washington. Increase no. NEETs	
<b>Priority: Activities to 'engage' young people' linking young people and the broader community.</b>						
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Local Action to Influence Services</b>	<b>Lead Agent</b>	<b>Progress Report</b>	<b>Area Committee's Influencing Role</b>	<b>Outcome Measure</b>	<b>RAG</b>
Proactive preventative work with the younger age group required (8 - 13yo)	Young Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in partnership with Primary Schools. Engaging young people and schools in the Heritage offer in Washington (building on current programme re Banner Groups)	Children's Services & VCS	<b>Working with Carers, Gentoo and youth providers to develop a partnership approach to targeted user group - SIB application £15,000 July 2011 Young Carers Integration Project (Total Project cost £20,000)</b>	Review activities of other agencies to ensure delivery meets local requirements. Commission activity.	Increase no. young people taking part in diversionary activities	

Gaps in provision following cuts. In particular holiday and weekend programmes	PAYP and YOF funded activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities across 13 weeks of school holidays</li> <li>• Sunday early evening music session (average participation of 38)</li> <li>• Friday night drop-in session (average participation of 41)</li> <li>• Saturday Mountain biking (average participation of 5)</li> <li>• Junior session at Barmston Primary School (average participation of 19)</li> <li>• Targeted work with NEET cohort</li> </ul>	Sandra Mitchell SCC Children's Services + Phil McAloon ODYPP	<b>Members to provide input and views re allocation of funding for holiday activities and alignment of £30,000 budget to Area Committee Workplan and Priorities.</b> <b>£16,000 allocated to ODYPP for Summer Holiday Activity Programme (£10,000) and Friday Night Drop In (£6,000)</b>	Agreed proposed approach re Washington Health Champions and SAFC Tackling Health Inequalities through Football & Leisure. Project now underway and achieving all targets and outputs. See Section 2 of the Progress Review Report	Increased no. of youth activities and programmes	
Young people to have a valuable role in the community	Programme of volunteering and citizenship opportunities for young people.	Children's Services	<b>Development of Blackfell Junior Neighbourhood Watch - see Task &amp; Finish Group update report</b>	Engage and involve local community.	Increase no. of young people volunteering.	
Addressing anti social behaviour and youth disorder	Operation Choice approved June 2011. confirm use of Youth bus as part of the 'Primary School' workstream	Northumbria Police Team	<b>Area Committee requested to approve a Call for Projects and the allocation of £11,000 SIB to match £11,000 Children's Services funding to deliver activities for children and young people - to July Area Committee. A focus on 8 - 12 year olds to be included</b>	Review activities of other agencies to ensure delivery meets local requirements. Commission activity.		
Extended services ending	Schools provide provision via Extended Schools.	Children's Services	Extended Schools budget ceases March 2011. Replaced by Pupil Premium rolled out March 2012.	Consult and engage organisations and partners.	Increase activities for children and young people	



**Washington Area Committee 2010/11 Workplan**

<b>Helping local people access employment opportunities</b>						
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Local Action to Influence Services</b>	<b>Lead Agent</b>	<b>Progress Report</b>	<b>Area Committee's Influencing Role</b>	<b>Outcome Measure</b>	<b>RAG</b>
Washington Workspace Project	Influence and support the development of the Washington workspace Project, a £6m investment to provide managed workspace in Washington by 2013.	Andrew Perkin (OCE)	The Business Case was submitted at the end of May 2011. There have been some queries raised at appraisal stage over the timetable for delivery of the project being too long and also demonstration of value for money due to the complexity of a land acquisition, design and build project. Work has therefore been undertaken on reducing the timescale for delivery for funding and it is hoped that there will be an extension to the end of November for submission of further documentation to satisfy the value for money queries. Tender documents are being prepared and it is hopeful these will be released on the 18 July 2011 to start the process of identifying a suitable site and developer for the scheme. If all goes to plan, construction will commence in April 2012, with the new managed workspace opening in April 2013.	Review activities of other agencies. Commission activity. Engage and involve.	New workspace developed. Local business start ups.	
Demand Survey with Employers	Identify what the skills gaps are for Employers to employ local people. Study commenced -Washington focus underway	Andrew Perkin (OCE)	Specific survey for Washington Employers. Results to be aligned to research work of NEET Co-ordination Project. Proposals for commissioning projects to be brought to September 2011 Meeting. Update Report re Demand Survey to be presented to future Area Committee - <b>See Task and Finish Group Report for update</b>	Identify priorities for support by AC. Involving partners in delivering the LAP and ensure services meet local requirements.	Employers engaged	

Tackling Health Inequalities						
Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing Role	Outcome Measure	RAG
Support the reduction of health inequalities in Washington by tackling social determinants of health	Washington Health Champions being delivered. More than 200 local people on courses	Teaching Primary Care Trust	As of 1st July we had a total of 442 people on the database either working city wide or in Washington, of these 103 worked in Washington only, and of these 56 were from the voluntary sector. We now have 12 health champions from Washington, but around 70 health champions across Sunderland. A celebration event on the 13th October to be held and inviting people who have completed all five modules as well as key stakeholders. This event is primarily to thank the people who have been through the health champion programme, and also to showcase the area committee project as we feel it is becoming a very successful example of community development work.	Agreed proposed approach re Washington Health Champions and SAFC Tackling Health Inequalities through Football & Leisure. Project now underway and achieving all targets and outputs. See Section 2 of the Progress Review Report	No.s enrolled on course. Sharing health improvement messages and provide basic interventions and signposting to help local people take the first steps towards healthier lives.	
Attractive Neighbourhood						
Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing Role	Outcome Measure	RAG
Make estates/residential areas more attractive & accessible and address neighbourhood issues re litter, environmental, dog fouling etc	Area Response Team in place	Brian Hodgkinson (SCC)	Dedicated Response Team now in place for each area including Area Response Manager, Response Officer, Ward Team Leaders and Environmental Enforcement Officers. Addressed numerous complaints with regard to dog fouling and litter, landscaping, flytipping and graffiti in several Wards, erecting additional bins in response and monitoring through environmental Enforcement Officers. community walkabouts established with residents, Members and partners. Updates to every meeting.	Consult and engage organisations and partners.	Increase in residents satisfied with services provided in their neighbourhood.	
Traffic and highways issues	Road Safety scheme and traffic management works implemented	Andrew Jackman (SCC)	Updates to be provided to Area Committee - Vehicle Activated Signs Programme to be implemented July 2011, Washington Road Safety Scheme to be completed re busways and footways, Bonemill Roundabout to be installation to commence Sept 2011, various traffic and highways projects and dropped kerbs programmes implemented. <b>Report to July Area Committee meeting</b>	Consult and engage organisations and partners.	Reduced speeding incidents and accidents	

Equality, Community Inclusion and Engagement						
Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing Role	Outcome Measure	RAG
Community Inclusion	Area Committee to identify initiatives to deliver community benefit and support inclusion. Opportunity to deliver cross cutting work re inclusion, heritage and lifelong learning.	Various - cross cutting priority	Number of Heritage projects implemented which engage local communities and partners. Community facilities developed in schools and available to the wider community. Christmas celebrations received huge support from the local community and encouraged 'a local identity'. Local primary schools encouraging a cohesive community, recognising and celebrating diversity. Community gardens and facilities in schools to encourage intergenerational initiatives. Area Committee continues to accept applications to support community activity and engagement to deliver the work plan and Local Area Plan. <b>SIB Application £6,500 Oxclose Church Hall for repairs to a well used community facility.</b>	Consult and engage organisations and partners. Commission activity.	Residents and partners engaged and taking part in decision making	
Community Inclusion	Lack of co-ordination and support available to volunteers in Washington	Area Community Voluntary Sector Network	Members consulted and contribute to the draft Sunderland Partnership Volunteering Strategy. Agreement and approval to be presented to January Cabinet. Further report to Area Committee following Cabinet approval February 201. <b>Request through ACVSN to confirm project management to facilitate resources to carry out research and audit re needs in Washington. SIB Application £3,000 to support houghton Feast (city wide application)</b>	Consult and engage organisations and partners. Commission activity.	Volunteers supported	

**NEETs Co-ordination and Support Research and Audit Report**

**Mapping the Provision in Washington for  
Young people aged 16-19 years old**

**Commissioned by the Washington Area  
Committee  
(Faye Gething 2011)**

## **Forward**

There have been numerous pieces of research into NEET (not in education employment or training), such as Learning at work (Children, young people and learning scrutiny Committee Review Policy, Increasing Participation (DCSF), the Wolf Report, Supporting Youth Employment (HM Government) to name but a few.

The aim of this piece of work is not to duplicate this work, but to look at the provision of opportunities for young people in Washington and the characteristic of the young people seeking them. Worklessness affects the lives of young people, their families, the communities and economic growth.

This report will highlight the difficulties and issues young people face.

It will also give an awareness of the workings and mechanisms of the unemployment register and clarify some of the terminology used in various reports.

In doing this research the NEET unemployment register, held by Connexions, will be used to identify patterns of engagement, identify barriers, examine how recent changes in legislation and government cut backs will affect young people and look at the current provision available to be able to identify any gaps in the provision.

Along side this research a survey of employers is being conducted which will enhance and influence the findings and recommendations.

## 1. Background and Methodology

### The NEET Unemployment Register

Connexions hold a data base known as Profile which records young people's destination i.e. what they are currently doing. A young person not in education, employment or training is known as NEET.

To record a destination of EET (i.e. in training, further education, apprenticeship or work) this has to be confirmed by the young person, their parent/carer or a third party such as a college or training provider. It cannot be assumed. When a destination is recorded a start date is entered on the system. To maintain the accuracy, the destination has to be confirmed again at various stages, this is called the "currency".

To keep this currency, "tracking" has to be done. Tracking is where young people are contacted to confirm destination information or to re engage.

The time limit for currency is:

- Full time education once a year
- Training every three months
- Employment with training yearly
- Temporary/part time work every 12 weeks
- Work without training every 12 weeks
- NEET at least once every 12 weeks
- Illness, pregnancy, teenage parent every 12 weeks

If "tracking" is not done, within the time limit, then the currency expires and they become "lapsed" or "unknown". "Lapsed" is when a destination has been for a set period of time, i.e. a one year college course which has a set date of starting and finishing. Unless confirmation is gained then the destination becomes lapsed.

The amounts of tracking needed vary from month to month in Washington as currency lapses. This averages about 50 -60 monthly. However this rises to large numbers over the summer months and reaches over 1100 lapsed and over 1100 unknown during the summer months. As most young people start courses and training in the months after leaving school then currency will run out at this time the following year.

When Connexions are informed that a young person has left a programme/training, then the young person's destination becomes "unknown" until contact is made with the young person to clarify the situation.

The register is split into "NEET actively seeking" and "NEET not available" The "not available" are those who are unavailable for work due to illness, pregnancy, teenage parent, multiple social problems or have a custodial sentence.

Actively Seeking are those young people who are registered as NEET at the Connexions Centres and looking for opportunities. The number of intervention with Connexions and the number of submissions indicates how active these young people are in seeking opportunities. When tracking is done regularly the young people remain engaged and call regularly to the Connexions offices to apply for opportunities. They are put forward for vacancies, training and other programmes and are recorded on the data base as "submissions".

There is an electronic vacancy service available through Connexions Tyne and Wear run by the HUB service whereby young people can apply online.

The format for collating NEET and cohort numbers has slightly changed. Those young people who accessed education outside the area i.e. Newcastle or Gateshead colleges, counted in the area they were being educated. This has now been changed to residency (the area in which they live) which will impact positively on the Washington unemployed register, as almost 89% of the young people from Sunderland who attend these colleges come from the Washington area.

### **Methodology**

For part of the research the Connexions Service data base was utilised. This allowed for the examination of the information in great detail and the creation of a spreadsheet recording all aspects of the young people including;

- Age
- Gender
- Occupational choice
- Qualifications on leaving school
- Qualifications post 16
- Barriers
- Number of weeks unemployed
- NEET %
- Submissions
- School attended
- Numbers participating in adult training provision (New Deal)

To supplement this work, young people were contacted who were on the register, both “actively seeking” and “not available”, to confirm the information was correct and promote opportunities. Young people who were lapsed and unknown were also contacted to confirm their destination and reduce numbers so that the information was robust and accurate.

Organisations offering training were visited to ascertain what was on offer and any problems they were experiencing. This included:

- Springboard
- Oxclose and District Young People’s project
- BTCV
- City of Sunderland College
- ESP manager
- Job Centre Plus
- Volunteer Service
- Green Collar Provision at Nissan

To supplement this a provider breakfast was attended at Job Centre plus which was to show case the new adult provision. Providers present were interviewed. Alan Rowan the 16-18 Manager in Sunderland was also contacted to look at changes in EMA, and look at the NEET Action Plan for Sunderland. NEET was the responsibility of the Connexions Services up till April 2008 when it transferred to the Local Authority. Sunderland was given a red tag by the Comprehensive Area Assessment and was under intense scrutiny and pressure to

reduce the high numbers of NEET across the city. A NEET improvement group was formed and an action plan produced.

Added to the above various research documents have been referenced that have been produced both nationally and locally, as have the changes that the government is making to EMA payments, University fees, changes to training programmes, raising of the participation age and how these will affect the opportunities available to young people.

## **2. NEET (Not in education, employment or training)**

2.1. At the time of writing this report, the NEET for 16-18 year olds in Washington currently stands at 7.4% which is the lowest across the city. (See Appendix attached)

2.2. When looking at the unemployment register this is a snap shot in time, as the register is never static. It is in a constant state of “churn” as young people leave the register and others join it.

2.3. At this time the register is at its lowest ebb just before 2011 school leavers join the register along with 2009 and 2008 leavers who have completed one or two year courses, or training. The register will peak in August/September when it will rise to about 260.

2.4. Prior to scrutinising the register and looking through the unemployed register, young people were contacted to ensure that the information is current and robust and “lapsed” and “unknown” are at a minimum.

2.5. There are 124 young people on the register of which 90 are actively seeking and 34 are not available. The not available consists of

- 18 teenage parents
- 5 pregnant
- 5 illness
- 6 unknown

Although the teenage parents/pregnant make up 76.5% of this cohort (34), a further 22 teenage parent/pregnant are in employment, training or work. Some of this group will start the Young Mums Connect course in September, others are only wishing to consider part time employment as they juggle with parenthood.

2.6. Of the 90 that are actively seeking

- 12 aged 16
- 34 aged 17
- 44 aged 18

(See Appendix attached)

Putting this into the context of their peer group and school leaver group, the numbers are pretty evenly spread across the age groups in Washington.

- 2010 leavers 26
- 2009 leavers 30
- 2008 leavers 34



2.7. Drilling further down into the register it is evident that the young people in Washington are active and diligent in their search for employment and have completed between 1 and 7 opportunities and have many recoded submissions.

2.8 The cohort is spread throughout the villages in Washington but the larger cohorts are concentrated around Concord and Albany 31% (See Appendix attached). This has been looked at many times and although other areas have decreased in numbers these areas always remain high.

2.9. The movement is often sideways rather than advancing as most of the programmes have focused on personal development with Connect Courses, The Princes Trust, E2E, Foundation Learning, Activity Agreement, ESP and GO4IT. These courses are valuable; they help young people develop and mature, and keep them engaged. However, repeating similar programmes offers little extra value with 44% achieving no further qualifications or vocational training since leaving school and have had no contact with employers. Often the only work experience these young people have had is a 2 week work experience programme whilst at school.

2.10. Asking at what stage these young people are at in finding a suitable opportunity:

- 4 are awaiting outcomes from interviews
- 9 have places and are awaiting a start date
- 2 have been ill but are now fit to start work/training
- 1 is a carer who dips in and out of the register when caring duties allow
- 16 have had personal and social difficulties but now able to move forward
- 4 refuse to look at training as are not eligible for EMA
- 47 refuse to consider more training and only want employment/apprenticeship
- 7 are reluctant to engage although maintaining contact with Connexions.

2.11. Their aspirations are wide and varied covering 15 occupational areas. (Appendix) but opportunities are few.

### **3. Vacancies**

Connexions held 110 vacancies across Tyne and Wear, 21 of which were in Sunderland. 90 of these employers were asking for English and Maths at grade C or above. Most are asking for level 2 qualifications for level 2 training. This service is provided by the Connexions Tyne and Wear HUB.

**The National Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching Service (NAVMS) had 200 apprenticeships for Sunderland last year and 2000 applications.** To supplement this Sunderland Connexions also produces weekly lists of part time external vacancies from the Job centre Website and the Metro Centre. Staff at Connexions register on other web sites to look for appropriate vacancies in face to face interviews and clients are given lists which hold 33 such web sites. Some clients register with the employment agencies in Washington. Work is often part time and temporary and can sometimes just offer random days of employment.

### **4. Training Provision**

4.1. Sunderland Connexions have produced a directory which contains all the apprenticeships and Foundation Learning providers who offer opportunities to young people in Sunderland. There are 60 in all, some are national, some are spread across Tyne and Wear and there are 22 in based in Sunderland, 3 of which are in the Washington area.

- SETA (Sunderland Engineering and Training Association) based on the Wear industrial Estate, offers apprenticeships in Engineering and recruits once a year. They request GCSE maths, English and science at grade “c” or above and will take 2-3 apprentices across Sunderland each year.
- 1<sup>st</sup> degree (NEETA) who are based at Concord and offer Foundation Learning and apprenticeships in hairdressing.
- BTCV based on the Pattison Industrial Estate offers Foundation Learning. Any young people ready to progress are subcontracted to another provider.

4.2. Added to this Oxclose and District Young People’s Project (ODYPP) offer some Foundation learning for Springboard along with other personal development programmes dependent on funding

4.3. The City of Sunderland College offer Connect Courses in the community, one based at The Millennium Centre at Concord, one for young mums at The Children’s Centre in Concord and another level 2 course for young mums at the Albany Centre.

## **5. Job Centre Plus and Adult Provision**

Job Centre Plus offered “New Deal” to clients aged over 18 who had been registered unemployed with them for 6 months. There are currently 41 Washington young people participating in this at the moment. This programme is no longer running and is being replaced with a package of initiatives under the “Get Britain Working” umbrella.

A more flexible approach is being developed which is more client centred and in a range of community settings to develop one stop shops rather than clients being sent from one centre to another to access information and help. Work clubs are being offered where young people can get help with CV’s, access, to phones, postage and IT and help with job search. Clients will have the opportunity to do voluntary work to gain experience or 2-8 weeks work experience with an employer. Anyone failing to demonstrate that they are actively seeking work will have sanctions on their benefit. While on these programmes the clients will continue to claim Job Seekers Allowance and travel expenses and so will remain classified as NEET.

There is also an Enterprise Allowance of £40 per week for anyone wanting to set up their own business. When clients (aged between 18 and 24 years) have been registered unemployed with Job Centre Plus for 39 weeks, it will be mandatory for them to take part in the Work Programme regardless of what benefits they are claiming. Everyone will be allocated an adviser and offered the universal service of CV’s and job search each week. They have the opportunity to do personal development programmes and gain qualifications. Once employment has been found they will be supported and contacted by their adviser for up to 2 years. Clients on the first two of these options will be paid travel expenses and will continue to sign fortnightly for their benefit.

## **6. Projects**

### **6.1. ESP (Engagement, Support and Prevention Projects)**

The aim of both ESP Projects is to increase young people’s participation in learning through locally defined interventions focussing on:

- Provision to support progression into mainstream learning
- Work to prevent young people disengaging
- Support the young people during periods of transition
- Work to reengage those young people who are NEET

Both projects compliment existing provision by targeting its services toward young people in need of additional help offering a choice of Accredited Courses and Non Accredited support

ESP1: Delivery was divided between partners offering Accredited support (40% delivery) and a team of 5 Project Workers offered non accredited support (60% delivery) to young people across the city. Partners included City of Sunderland College, the Training Consortium and eight organisations from the Voluntary Sector. The Project had major impact on the reduction of NEET and was successful in achieving targets. This phase has now ended.

ESP2: The aims are similar but it is primarily focused on 17-19 age cohorts and includes a Supported Apprenticeship Programme and additional partners i.e. SAFC Foundation and Sunderland Futures. All Accredited and Non Accredited delivery for the new project will be delivered by the range of partners. The project has two Project Workers working across the city, directly supporting recruitment, referrals and delivery.

Funding for ESP is via the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) operating on behalf of the Young People's learning Agency (YPLA) as a co-financing organisation for the 2007 – 2013 European Social Fund (ESF).

## 6.2. Activity Agreement.

Activity Agreement offered support to young people for up to 20 weeks. Young people could be supported in various ways, this could include support to gain literacy and numeracy qualifications, vocational qualifications, help with travel and clothing as well as help in finding employment. They were also paid an allowance of £30 per week. Progression rates into EET progressions averaged at 46% across Sunderland. There were 2 Activity Agreement workers in the Washington area, helping young people but this programme of work has now finished.

## 6.3. GO4IT

Go4it provided activities and courses for NEET young people. This was run by Oxclose and District Young People's Project (ODYPP) in Washington. ODYPP worked with some of the most challenging young people and has an excellent record of engaging with them. ODYPP used this funding to initially engage with the young people then moved them into E2E provision. This maximised the use of the funding and created a progression route for the young people involved. The GO4IT funding has now ceased.

## 7. Other Factors Influencing NEET and Provision

### 7.1. Raising the Participation Rate (RPR)

There are misconceptions around this issue. The participation age will rise to 17 in 2013 and 18 by 2015. This does not mean that young people will remain in compulsory full time education for a further year or two. They will still have the choice of education, employment or training. These cohorts will not be calculated as being NEET but there will still be "churn" in these cohorts of young people, and they will still need appropriate provision.

## 7.2. Connexions Service/All Age Guidance service

The Connexions Service in Washington has been pivotal in engaging with young people and moving them into education, employment and training (EET). Staff were placed strategically across Washington, working in partnership with other agencies, being pro active in finding opportunities for young people and doing preventative work to stop drop out.

Placing staff at all points of transition has increased EET to EET movement rather than EET to NEET. The Connexions office is well placed, at The Galleries, and last year had 4,068 young people parents/carers calling for information, advice and guidance and there are over 800 CV's and covering letters on the data base. The Connexions Service has, like other government departments, had their budgets cut, so there is a reduction of staff working on front line delivery.

The National Careers Service will be implemented from September 2011-April 2012 and will have 3 strands:

- Face to Face for adults
- Telephone service for all ages
- Web/email for all ages

Responsibility for careers education and guidance for young people will no longer be the responsibility of the local authority and will transfer to schools. It will be left to schools to buy in provision. No extra monies are available to schools for this. Only the most "vulnerable" school leavers will be able to access face to face help from the local authority paid from the early intervention grant. The local authority will still have the responsibility of "tracking" young people to ensure they have an offer of a place in education or training.

## 7.3. EMA

EMA is means tested, so is dependant on parental income, and young people have been able to claim up to £30 per week. For those who claimed EMA in 2009/10 they will be able to claim the same weekly amount 2011/12. For those who applied 2010/11 payments will reduce to £20

For those first applying 2011/12, those young people who are

- Care leavers
- Young people in receipt of Income Support
- Receiving Employment Support Allowance and Disability Allowance

Weekly payments will be replaced by a bursary of £1200 per year. Other students facing financial difficulties may be able to claim help with transport, food and equipment.

## 7.4. University Course Fees

The cost of university tuition is due to rise considerably next year. Competition for places this year will be fierce as young people try to gain a place at University while fees remain lower. There will be increasing numbers of young people looking for employment and apprenticeships this will in turn impact on the provision being further reduced for those less able.

## 8. Conclusions

### 8.1 Demand

Demand for training/apprenticeships/employment far outstrips the provision. There is a plentiful supply of personal development programmes but insufficient apprenticeships or full

time employment opportunities. There are Foundation Learning opportunities and apprenticeships but nothing in-between to help young people move forward.

## 8.2 Employment Opportunities

The young people on the unemployment register are active in their search for employment but lack of opportunities is hampering their progress. Any extra provision would help these young people in the plight they find themselves. It is the ultimate aim of most young people, whether leaving school at 16, after further education, completing a degree or post graduate course, to find employment. Those who leave younger find themselves more disadvantaged by having to make decisions earlier with ever decreasing opportunities available to them and a highly competitive and flooded job market.

## 8.3 Lack of employer contact and involvement:

Many young people are participating in training opportunities without access to employers and the labour market, so are ill prepared for the working environment they are trying to enter. There is a need for more employer involvement. Swindon Borough Council has introduced what is called "The Plan 500 Model" where employers are being asked to participate either in creating opportunities, offering help with Diplomas, qualifications, work experience or acting as mentors for young people.

## 8.4 Fast Tracking:

Some training providers are attracting young people with offers of apprenticeships and moving them rapidly through an NVQ and in house training. The young people are returning to the register after 6 months having completed their "apprenticeship" and having had little or no employer contact. This results in more "churn" on the register and consequent rise in NEET, the lowering of the standard of apprenticeships and the disillusionment of young people.

## 8.5 Transport:

Transport remains an issue for young people accessing training provision in Sunderland. Many young people need to access transport to reach the Galleries or Concord bus station in order to access transport to Sunderland. If the provider is not in the city centre another form of transport is required again. This can mean 6 buses a day and long periods of travel.

## 8.6 EMA

With the changes to EMA and the introduction of the bursary scheme there may be reluctance from some young people to take up training opportunities. Without reward some young people are reluctant to engage. When the Training Allowance of £35 per week was replaced by the EMA payments we saw an initial dip in take up of opportunities.

Young people will be in the extended child benefit period for 20 weeks after leaving education and parents/carers will continue to claim any related income support for them. When this finishes at the end of October some families will be up to £50 per week worse off. It is usually at this point that young people reconsider their situation. If young people start training or education then the child benefit is reinstated and consequently any income support payable.

## 8.7 Effects of cutbacks and loss of programmes

With the cut backs to Connexions and front line staff, the loss of the two Activity Agreement Workers and the loss of an ESP worker (specifically for Washington) this will impact on the support now available to young people. With these workers/programmes in place there has

been a significant, steady reduction in the NEET in Washington over the past few years, from 184 in 2006 to 124 in 2010.

#### 8.8 Evidence of good practice

There is evidence of good provision having been created, previously, with supported apprenticeships through ESP and the Springboard Consortium and the Golden Hello for employers taking young people on apprenticeships. Having spoken to the college, training provision and the ESP manager, there is evidence, that if employers are helped financially they are more than willing to engage, employ and train young people,

#### 8.9 Foundation Learning

Foundation Learning has now replaced the E2E provision for young people. For training providers to access income, the young people must gain qualifications. The resulting process means there may be reluctance for providers to take the less able young people who may leave early or not achieve. This also presents a problem of where the young people progress to. If they have achieved the basic qualifications with one provider another provider will be limited in what they can offer them, as they will not be able to draw down the funding as it has already been claimed. This will reduce options for young people further.

#### 8.10 New Work programme

When young people were participating on the New Deal Programme and working they were taken off the NEET figures. With the new programmes the criteria to start has risen from 25 weeks to 39 weeks NEET which will mean young people will remain on the unemployed register longer. The options on entering the new programme will mean that some young people will be on personal development programmes, so claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and remain NEET.

#### 8.11 Lack of quality, impartial career guidance

There has never been a time when quality career guidance has been needed more. The Country is in a state of economic down turn and although there has not been a double dip it has certainly flat lined. The market place is flooded with experienced, qualified people looking for employment making it even harder for young people to compete.

#### 8.12 New Government Proposals

The Government has pledged to provide funding for up to 250,000 Apprenticeships nationally over the next 4 years and funding for 100,000 work placements over the next 2 years. The Government has announced a wide range of packages to support vocational training which include:

- Reduction in bureaucracy around apprenticeships and allow large employers to provide both on and off the job training. This will be piloted by BT, TUI and McDonalds.
- 10,000 new Access to Apprenticeship to be created for 18-24 year olds who cannot immediately find an employer to take them on due to lack of skills or experience.
- A £10m per annum Innovation Fund to give delivery organisations, in particular the voluntary and community sector, a chance to develop innovative solutions to help disadvantaged people particularly young people who are NEET. As yet no details are available.

## **9. Recommendations**

**9.1** It is evident that there is excellent partnership working across Washington to help young people gain opportunities and to make the most of the provision available.

**Partnership working should form part of this new initiative and support existing arrangements**

**9.2** With low levels of vacancies or apprenticeships, the loss of projects, the raising of university fees and changes to the adult provision provided by Job Centre Plus, little improvement could be made on the unemployment figures and in fact it will be difficult to retain it at its current levels

**Extra provision need to be created to make up this deficit and it needs to be flexible to suit the needs of the young people. This could be created through intermediate labour market opportunities, apprenticeships or supported apprenticeships.**

**9.3** The provision must contain substantial amounts of employer contact and support so these young people can compete in the growing competitive market they find themselves.

**9.4** The provision needs to cover a wide range of occupational areas to accommodate the aspirations of the young people.

**9.5** The provision needs to be able to provide the opportunity to gain qualifications, where appropriate.

**9.6** For best value it should be carried out in partnership to offer progression routes for young people.

**9.7** Start dates should be flexible and respond to the needs of the young people

**9.8** The provision needs to be varied to accommodate clients of different abilities and achievements.

**9.9** The provider needs to be able to show that they have a substantive amount of employer contact to be able to support these programmes.

**9.10** There are a further 30 young people aged 19 are on the unemployed register facing the same difficulties and consideration should be given to this group.

**9.11** Work needs to be carried out with employers to engage them in the process. The Employer Demand Survey and the proposed Business Breakfast will be the first step in achieving this.

**9.12** The NEET Improvement Group is running parallel with the work of the Washington Area Committee and some of the aim and objectives are the same. It would advantage both groups if a representative from each group attended the others meetings. This would avoid duplication and good practice could be shared across the city.

**9.13** Some funding needs to be sought to assist young people who will receive no EMA payments.

**9.14 There has been a significant loss in workers on the ground supporting young people. It may be possible, in the short term, to gain support through a SWITCH project, if a proposal was put forward to them. Alternatively new initiatives/programmes may arise through the new Innovation Funds that the government has proposed.**

**9.15 To ensure that the maximum impact is gained for the young people consideration should be given to aligning the work to current provision. This would save with on costs/management fees. It could also compliment further progression for existing programmes.**



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Brenda Cogdon, ESP manager  
Caroline Bell, Job Centre Plus  
Andrew Carton, Connexions  
Chris Elves/Nick Devitt Green Collar Nissan  
Ingeus  
BTCV  
Alan Rowan 16-19 Manager  
Dave Hall, Director of Work Based Learning, City of Sunderland College  
Azure  
Family and Adult Learning  
Zenos  
Volunteer Service Sunderland

## **Background Papers**

New Arrangements for Careers Guidance, Dr Sharon Goddard  
Increasing Participation, DCSF  
The Youth Inquiry, UK Commission for Employment and Skill  
Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee Policy review 2010-2011  
The Wolf Report, Professor Alison Wolf, 2011  
Careers England, Professor Tony Watts  
Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Phil Barrett  
Supporting Youth Employment, HM Government  
DWP Worklessness Co-design DWP 2011  
What works engaging young people who are not in education, employment or training. DFE  
2010  
NEET Action Plan

## Appendix

DATA 16/06/11 PRODUCED USING POSTCODE REPORTS

16-19 NEET Available	DH4	DH5	HTON	NE37	NE38	WTON	SR1	SR2	SR3	SR4	SR5	SR6	SLAND	Total Per Age
16	0	1	1	5	4	9	0	5	1	6	6	1	19	29
17	21	23	44	15	18	33	6	24	20	31	37	7	125	202
18	20	20	40	15	19	34	5	38	39	55	40	11	188	262
19	21	19	40	23	17	40	14	42	48	63	55	13	235	315
<b>Total NEET available</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>808</b>

16-19 NEET Not Available	DH4	DH5	Houghton	NE37	NE38	Washington	SR1	SR2	SR3	SR4	SR5	SR6	SLAND	Total Per Age
16	4	2	6	1	8	9	0	3	1		1	0	5	20
17	7	7	14	4	11	15	2	9	5	11	12	4	43	72
18	14	10	24	8	8	16	4	15	9	18	19	1	66	106
19	0	10	10	8	0	8	7	18	24	17	11	1	78	96
<b>Total NEET Not Available</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>294</b>

16-19 Not Known Currency Expired EET - Lapsed date 16.06.11	DH4	DH5	Houghton	NE37	NE38	Washington	SR1	SR2	SR3 PN	SR4	SR5	SR6	SLAND	Total Per Age
16			0	1		1			2	1	1		4	5
17	3	6	9		1	1		6	9	13	18	1	47	57
18	9	6	15		1	1	3	16	24	30	24	8	105	121
19	18	10	28	2	3	5	3	27	20	32	28	5	115	148
<b>Total Currency Expired EET</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>331</b>

Currency Expired NEET	DH4	DH5	Houghton	NE37	NE38	Washington	SR1	SR2	SR3 PN	SR4	SR5	SR6	SLAND	Total Per Age
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	4	4
18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	0	7	7
<b>Total Currency Expired NEET</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>

Other situation not known																
16	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	1	4	0	0	0	5	5
17	1	1	2		0	0	0		2	4	0	4	2	0	12	14
18	3	2	5		2	1	3		2	13	6	4	5	0	30	38
19	16	12	28		6	8	14		1	26	27	31	33	13	131	173
<b>Total other situation not known</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>35</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>230</b>

Total EET 16-19	DH4	DH5	Houghton		NE37	NE38	Washington		SR1	SR2	SR3	SR4	SR5	SR6	North	Total
Adjusted EET	1099	740	1839		795	1277	2072		114	1273	1535	1538	1266	753	6479	10390

16.06.11

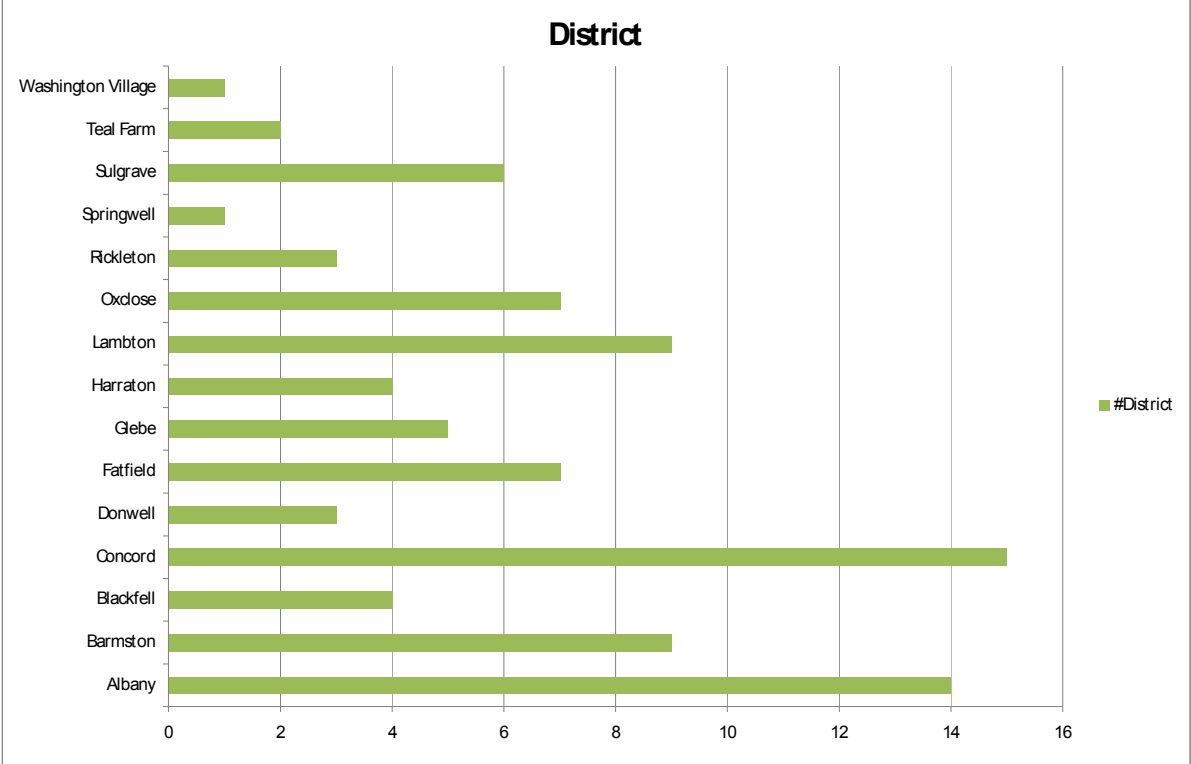
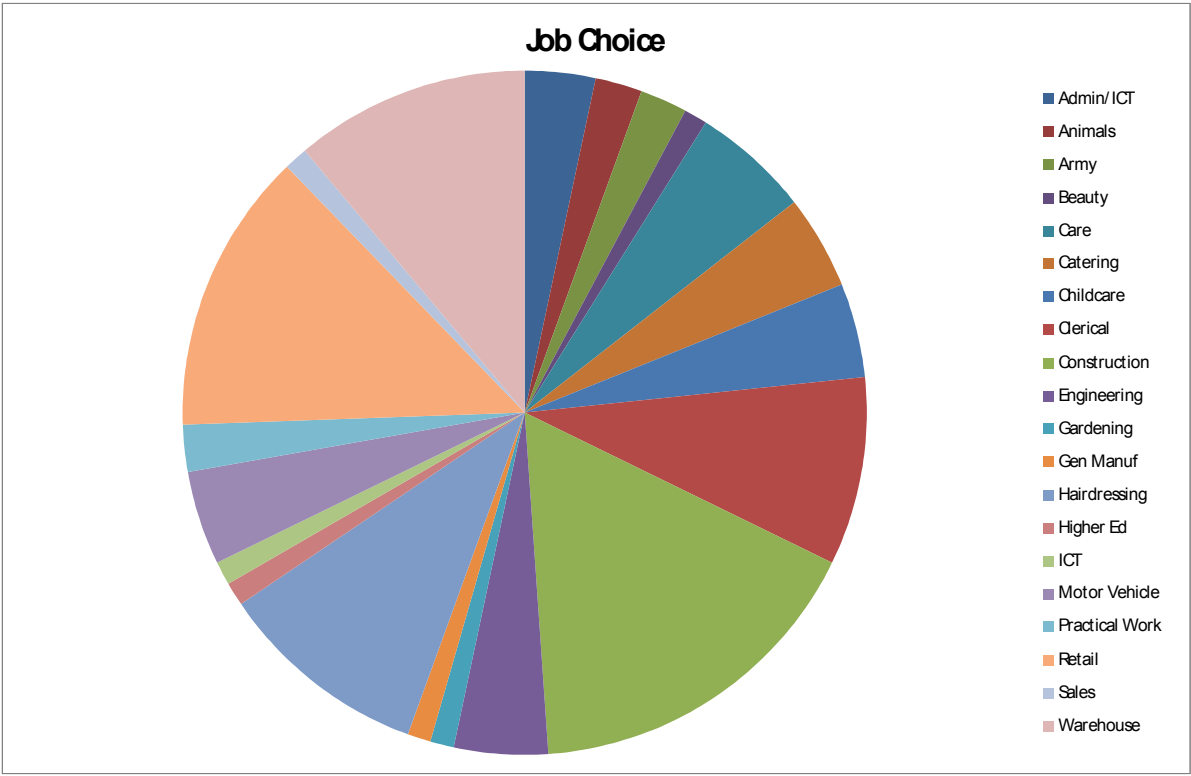
Approximate based on postcode search	DH4	DH5	Houghton		NE37	NE38	Washington		SR1	SR2	SR3 PN	SR4	SR5	SR6	North	Total
16-19 EET	1069	718	1787		792	1272	2064		108	1224	1480	1462	1195	739	1934	5785
total 16-19 NEET	87	92	179		79	85	164		38	151	144	197	179	38	217	560
total not known (currency exp+Unknown)	50	37	87		11	14	25		11	96	95	119	113	27	461	573
Total 16-19 cohort	1206	847	2053		882	1371	2253		157	1471	1719	1778	1487	804	2291	6597

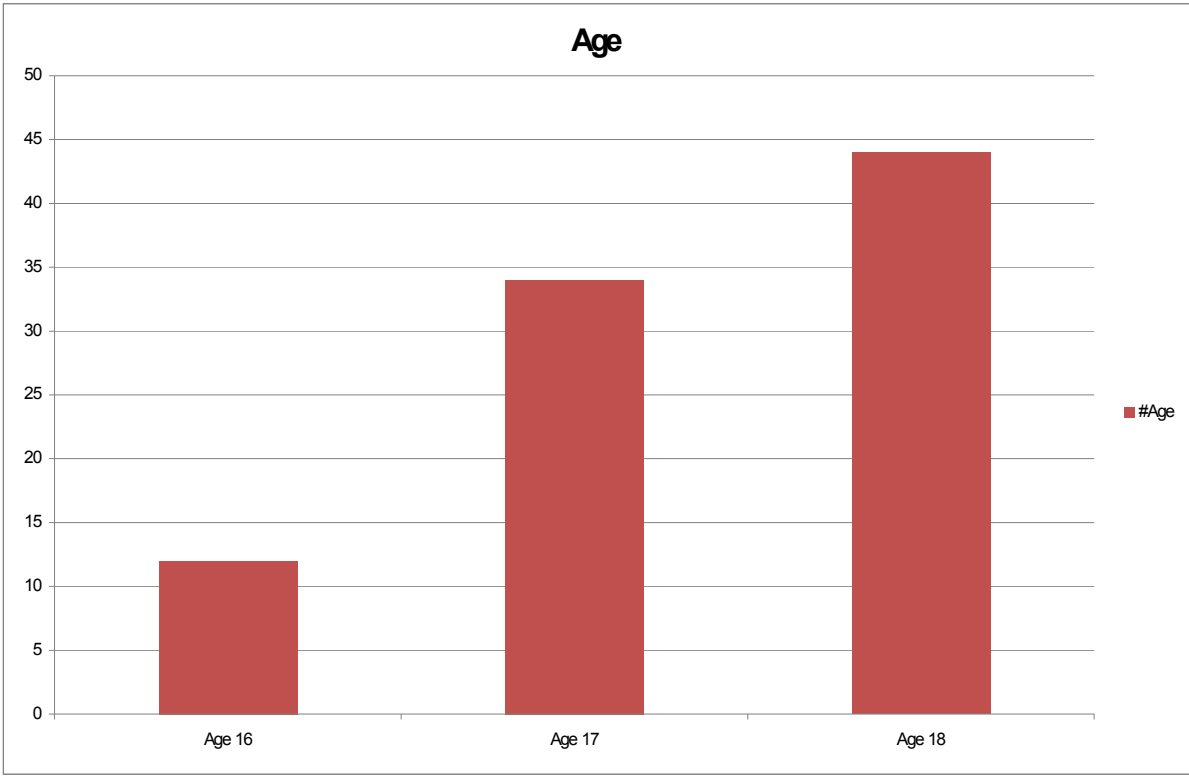
Adjustment factor																
8% lapsed EET are NEET	2	2	4		0	0	1		0	4	4	6	6	1	22	26
58% lapsed NEET are NEET	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	2	2	2	1	0	7	7
92% lapsed EET are EET	28	20	48		3	5	7		6	45	51	70	65	13	249	305
42% lapsed NEET are EET	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	1	1	2	1	0	5	5

Adjusted EET	1097	738	1835		795	1277	2071		114	1270	1532	1534	1261	752	2013	6095
Adjusted NEET	89	94	183		79	85	165		38	157	150	205	186	39	225	593

Not known %	4.1%	4.4%	4.2%		1.2%	1.0%	1.1%		7.0%	6.5%	5.5%	6.7%	7.6%	3.4%	20.1%	8.7%
Adjusted NEET%	7.5%	11.3%	9.1%		9.1%	6.3%	7.4%		25.3%	11.0%	8.9%	11.8%	12.8%	4.9%	10.1%	8.9%

Adjusted NEET reduction needed by 28/02/11 to meet team target 8.1%	-7	26	20		8	-25	-16		26	41	14	65	69	-25	44	52
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**Project Brief for Call for Projects Washington Area Committee****NEET Support & Co-ordination in Washington****CALL FOR PROJECTS**

Washington Area Committee would like to invite all local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups and statutory providers to submit a full application that will deliver support, guidance and a programme of work to assist and support Washington's young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs). Applications will be considered from VCS groups who have a management committee, constitution and bank account with dual signatories. VCS groups must adhere to accounting requirements in accordance with the Companies Act.

**1. Introduction and Background**

- There is an opportunity for local VCS groups and statutory providers with a track record of successful delivery with young people in Washington not in employment, education and training (NEETs) to deliver a project on behalf of Washington Area Committee.
- Washington Area Committee has identified the need to increase support available to Washington's NEETs and to ensure proactive relationships are developed with local employers.
- A Task and Finish Group was formed in June 2011 to understand in more depth successful interventions and to investigate further good practice.
- Research was undertaken by the NEET Activity Co-ordinator who was appointed to research and audit provision available for Washington's NEET young people. That work has now completed and has established contact with agencies who currently provide services to young people aged 16-18 living in the Washington area, mapped the extent of current provision for young people in Washington, mapped the engagement patterns for this provision to identify areas and/or groups where participation is low, and carried out primary level research with young people, to seek their views on quality/appropriateness of 16-18 provision, possible gaps in the provision, issues of concern, etc.
- The project has identified that demand for training/apprenticeships/employment far outstrips the provision, young people on the unemployment register are active in their search for employment but lack of opportunities is hampering their progress, many young people are participating in training opportunities without access to employers and the labour market, so are ill prepared for the working environment, transport remains an issue for young people accessing training provision in Sunderland, changes to EMA and the introduction of a new bursary scheme will influence take up of training opportunities, recent cut backs and loss of programmes and new Government proposals will impact on support and opportunities available to young people, there is limited access to employers and there is a real need for more employment involvement.
- That research has also provided links to strategic and city wide approaches and plans to drive the NEET agenda, consider participation and learner support and to establish links to align activities relating to employer engagement with NEET Strategy and Planning. This has been through co-ordinating the Washington activity with the work of the City's NEET Improvement Group.
- This priority directly links to Aim 4 of the City's Economic Masterplan, which aims to put in place a strategic approach to raising skills, particularly in children and young people, in order to support the growth and development of current and prospective industries. Aim 4 also supports the target of 'Attracting and retaining young people' which has outcome of 'All children and young people in the city being suitably prepared for working life'.

- Current figures show NEET for 16-18 year olds in Washington currently stands at 7.4% which is the lowest across the city.
- In July 2011, Area Committee agreed to commission activity and seek applications from suitable groups/organisations that can create, develop and establish a collaborative project to support NEET young people, boost engagement, and increase opportunities for employment for Washington NEET young people.

## 2. Project Outcomes

- The project outcomes will be to promote available opportunities and provide targeted support for NEET young people.
- It will boost engagement and reduce NEET figures in Washington through improved partnership working and collaboration.
- It will evidence an approach to develop employment opportunities across a wide range of occupational areas, with a particular focus on skills development and learning opportunities for NEET young people aged 16-18.
- It will clearly identify mechanisms to work in partnership with local employers to encourage positive relationships and to develop support for local employers to encourage training and employment opportunities.
- The project will identify clear progression routes for young people.
- It will complement and add value to the current initiatives being delivered in the Washington area.
- The project submission should include details about the types and levels of support that will be provided in order to achieve the outcomes above.
- The project should be no longer than two years from the time it is approved.
- All beneficiaries of the project will reside across the Washington area.

## 3. Context and Key Strategies to Consider

- Sunderland City Council: Washington Local Area Plan
- Sunderland City Council: Economic Master Plan for Sunderland
- Sunderland City Council: Draft Employment Strategy for Sunderland
- Sunderland City Council: Child and Family Poverty Strategy
- Sunderland City Council: Employer's Demand Survey
- Sunderland City Council: NEET Action Plan (NEET Improvement Group)

## 4. Budget

- There will be a maximum overall budget of £1000,000

## 5. Timescale

Deadline date for return	Thursday 25th August, 2011, 12noon.
Appraisal and consultation on application	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> August, 2011 – Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September, 2011.
Results analysed and report written, including recommendations	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> September
Report published (online)	w/c 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2011
Area Committee (decision made)	29th September 2011



## 6. Quote Return

SIB Full Applications, guidance notes and scoring matrix are available from 0191 561 1162 or by emailing [areacoordination@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:areacoordination@sunderland.gov.uk).

The deadline date to return the completed application (in two formats), along with necessary documents is **Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011, 12 noon**. **Two** formats will need to be submitted.

Format One: (Hard Copy)

A signed hard copy of the application form, along with all relevant paperwork should be posted into Sunderland City Council, Scrutiny and Area Arrangements, Room 3.61, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN.

Version Two: (Electronic Copy)

An electronic copy of the application should be emailed to [areacoordination@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:areacoordination@sunderland.gov.uk).

- Only Statutory or Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups can apply, see guidance notes for further information.
- After the deadline date, all received applications will be assessed against a scoring matrix and consulted upon, with recommendations being presented to Washington Area Committee to agree and endorse the recommendations outlined.

## 7. Queries

If you have any questions regarding the above please do not hesitate in contacting [karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk) or telephone 0191 561 2449.

**CLOSING DATE: Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011, 12 noon.**

**Project Brief for Call for Projects Washington Area Committee****Activities for Young People****CALL FOR PROJECTS**

Washington Area Committee would like to invite all local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups and statutory providers to submit a full application to develop and deliver an activity programme for young people across all age groups and increase the number of children and young people participating in positive activities. Applications will be considered from VCS groups who have a management committee, constitution and bank account with dual signatories. VCS groups must adhere to accounting requirements in accordance with the Companies Act.

**1. Introduction and Background**

- There is an opportunity for local VCS groups and statutory providers with a track record of working with children and young people in Washington, across all age groups, to deliver a project on behalf of Washington Area Committee.
- Washington Area Committee has identified a need to carry out proactive preventative work with the younger age group of 8 – 12 year olds as well as engaging all young people and supporting them.
- In recognition of the priority given to youth activities at a city wide level, and to mitigate the impact of the ending of specific grants, the City Council has agreed to the allocation of funding for each regeneration area through Children's Services. That funding is to be allocated to fund activities in consultation with the Area Committees. That process has commenced and whilst holiday activity programmes have been identified, some of this funding still remains to be allocated
- A Task and Finish Group was formed in June 2011 to understand in more depth successful interventions and to investigate further good practice.
- That group has allocated some funding to a contracted youth provider to deliver a summer holiday activity programme and Friday Night Drop In Sessions which have proven instrumental in addressing anti social behaviour in Washington.

**2. Project Outcomes**

- The project outcomes will be to increase the number of children and young people accessing positive activities.
- There will be some targeting of 8 – 12 year olds whilst still addressing youth disorder and anti social behaviour across all age groups and delivering a programme of proactive preventative work.
- It will complement and add value to existing children and young people provision, for example, Sunderland City Council's commissioned youth contracts, XL mobile bus provision, local 'youth' sports clubs and uniformed youth groups.
- The Area Committee is keen to support a partnership approach which evidences collaborative working.
- The project submission should include details on how the Lead Agent will provide a programme of works that will be provided in order to achieve the outcomes above.
- All beneficiaries of the project will reside across the Washington area.

**3. Context and key strategies to consider**

- Sunderland City Council: Washington Area Committee Workplan & Papers
- Sunderland City Council: Children and Young People Plan
- Sunderland City Council: Let's Go website <http://www.letsgosunderland.com/>

- Sunderland City Council: Sunderland Children's Trust  
<http://www.sunderlandchildrenstrust.org.uk/default.asp>

#### 4. Budget

- There will be a maximum overall budget of £22,000

#### 5. Timescale

Deadline date for return	Thursday 25th August, 2011, 12noon.
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- After the deadline date, all received applications will be assessed against a scoring matrix and consulted upon, with recommendations being presented to Washington Area Committee to agree and endorse the recommendations outlined.

#### 7. Queries

If you have any questions regarding the above please do not hesitate in contacting [karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk) or telephone 0191 561 2449.

**CLOSING DATE: Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011, 12 noon**

28 July 2011

**Update on Employment and Enterprise Initiatives, including Job Linkage**1. Purpose of Report

To give an update on performance of the Job Linkage service and Enterprise activities being delivered in Washington, which have continued to be supported by the Working Neighbourhoods Funding (WNF).

2. Performance - Job Linkage - Engagement of out-of-work residents

The Job Linkage service continues to operate in the Washington area, from 2 centres which are located in the Galleries and in the Millennium Centre in Concorde. The service is delivered by Sunderland North Community Business Centre and is being funded by two sources of external funding – WNF and funding from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

There are currently **672** unemployed clients registered with Job Linkage in Washington, receiving advice and guidance on how to move closer to and into sustainable work. Looking backwards over the period of time the service has been funded by WNF (from April 2009 to June 2011), a total of **1,386** Washington residents have registered with and received support from Job Linkage.

The make-up of this group was as follows: 57% of these were male and 43% female. Predominantly they were adults aged 26-49 (47%), with 22% aged over 50, 31% were young people aged 19-25 and 7% from the NEET group, aged 16-18. 5% were from an ethnic minority background, which is higher than the city average.

1,222 clients indicated that they had dependent children. By engaging these people and supporting them off benefits and into employment, the Job Linkage service is directly impacting on the Child Poverty agenda, by potentially improving the levels of income into households with children. Of the total clients, 610 were actively seeking employment and are in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance. This represents 44% of the active caseload

The balance is made up of people who are on a range of other benefits, for which there is no compulsion for them to seek employment (for example Incapacity Benefit, Carers Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Income Support, or who are not in receipt of any employment-related benefits (supported by their family, or chosen not to claim).

The Hanlon Management Information system used within the Job Linkage Service holds a range of relevant and important data relating to the clients supported. The following data may be of interest to the Washington Area Committee members, giving a breakdown of the diversity of client groups that use the Job Linkage service in Washington.

- 301 have been jobless for over 3 years
- 162 have recently been made redundant
- 100 have never worked
- 37 have declared themselves to be ex-offenders (the true figure is likely to be higher)
- 134 are lone parents
- 111 have basic skills needs
- 158 have no qualifications
- 268 declare that they have health problems
- 75 have a physical disability
- 30 have a learning disability

- 52 have caring responsibilities

### 3. Performance - Job Linkage - Clients into Employment

In terms of job entries, over the same period since April 2009, **329** people have moved into employment, of which 57% were male and 43% were female. This percentage split reflects the overall engagement levels of male/female clients within Job Linkage in the Washington Area. A ward breakdown of these job entries is as follows:

Central	47 (14%)
East	56 (17%)
North	133 (41%)
South	44 (13%)
West	49 (15%)

Higher numbers in the Washington North ward reflects the additional funding from the Coalfield Regeneration Trust, which has provided enhanced delivery targeted specifically at workless families living in that ward.

Looking at those successful clients in more detail, the following client profile facts may be of interest.

- 56 had been jobless for over 3 years
- 73 had recently been made redundant
- 33 were lone parents
- 5 were ex offenders
- 22 had basic skills needs
- 38 had no qualifications
- 67 had a health problem
- 10 had physical disabilities
- 8 had caring responsibilities

The above demonstrates that, whilst those clients who are closest to the labour market, in terms of recent work experience and fewer barriers move into work more easily than other, the Job Linkage service is still able to provide a valuable and effective service for the 'hardest to help' residents of Sunderland.

When considering sustainability of employment, the following statistics are available:

- Of those clients who were supported into employment by Job Linkage in Washington, 57% of jobs are currently being sustained for 13 weeks.
- When extending this period of tracking for 26 weeks, our statistics show a fall to 37% sustained. The true statistic is likely to be higher, however, as it has proven difficult to maintain contact with clients and their employers over this length of time, therefore our ability to maintain accurate data is hampered.

At a ward level, this information can be broken down as follows:

	Job sustained for 13 weeks	Job sustained for 26 weeks
Central	29 (or 62% of job entries)	22 (or 47 % of job entries)
East	29 (or 52% of job entries)	15 (or 27% of job entries)
North	74 (or 56% of job entries)	51 (or 38% of job entries)
South	26 (or 59% of job entries)	15 (or 34% of job entries)
West	31 (or 63% of job entries)	18 (or 37% of job entries)

#### 4. Job Linkage and the Work Programme

The Job Linkage service has been successful in securing a sub-contract with one of the two Prime Contractors to deliver the Work Programme in Sunderland. This contract is with the private sector organisation, Avanta and it is expected that it will be used to support approximately 1,000 per year across the City of Sunderland. These will be people in receipt of out-of-work benefits who are actively seeking employment. As a condition of continuing to receive benefits, the clients will be referred into the Work Programme by Jobcentre Plus at a set point in their claimant history. The funding model for this programme is 'payment by results' and the majority of the funding will not be paid until a client has successfully entered work and then sustained that job for a period of between 3 to 6 months. The delivery of this contract commenced nationally in June 2011 and the first clients have been referred into Job Linkage in the past few weeks.

#### 5.0 Performance - Enterprise

Performance against the Enterprise Programme within the Washington Area Committee area for the period April 2009 to June 2011 is as follows:

- 235 residents have been registered as receiving support from business advisers.
- 81 residents have been supported to start their own business during the period 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2011. Of these, 29 were female and 52 were male, which is slightly better than the national ratio of 2:1 for males/females setting up in business.
- In the main the businesses supported to set up are sole enterprises, and within service based areas for example, retail, hairdressers, beauty therapists, cleaners, handyman, construction, and it is clear that many are converting hobbies or interests and current skills into self employment opportunities. The majority of residents supported through the programme were unemployed before receiving support.
- 522 residents from the area have received grant support through the programme.

Karen Alexander 13 July 2011

**Washington Area Committee**

**28<sup>th</sup> July 2011.**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy**

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

- 1.1. This report offers Members the opportunity for consultation on plans and strategies relevant to the Washington area. It also provides information and updates which will encourage Members to feed into proposals for service or policy change and facilitates the referral of outcomes of issues previously identified.

**2. Information, Advice and Guidance Services**

- 2.1 The Council is currently reviewing its services, which provide information, advice and guidance to customers. This is to ensure a standard quality of service across the Council. Officers from the Business, Improvement and Advice Services Team will present an update at Committee on the Information, Advice and Guidance review, seeking members' views and feedback.

**Recommendation:**

- To provide comments with regards to the review of Information, Advice and Guidance Services.

**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)

**Washington Area Committee****28<sup>th</sup> July 2011.****Report of the Chief Executive****Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy****1. Why has it come to Committee?**

- 1.1. This report offers Members the opportunity for consultation on plans and strategies relevant to the Washington area. It also provides information and updates which will encourage Members to feed into proposals for service or policy change and facilitates the referral of outcomes of issues previously identified.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 In February 2011 The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) introduced the New Homes Bonus. It will reward local authorities for increases in its housing stock, including empty properties that have been brought back into use. This is calculated by subtracting the stock of empty homes in October 2010 from October 2009 to give the net change. The data is taken from the Local Authority Council Tax Base 2009/10 statistical releases. The payment is made for a six year period. Further information is provided at **Annex 1**.
- 3.2 Sunderland City Council in partnership with the Homes and Communities Agency developed the Sunderland Housing Priority Plan (SHPP) which included 6 overarching strategic priorities. One of the strategic priorities was related to bringing empty properties back into use. The SHPP was supported by the Empty Property Strategy (2007-2011) which covered the city. This strategy has now ended and a decision has been taken to develop an Empty Property Action Plan (2011-2012) on an area basis to support the SHPP. See **Annex 2**, attached for Members of the Committee to consider and comment upon.

**Recommendation:**

- To note the information regarding New Homes Bonus.
- To consider the action plan for the Washington area and send any comments or suggestions through the appropriate consultation channels.

**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)



## **The New Homes Bonus Relating to Empty Properties**

This information aims to provide the Washington Area Committee with an overview of the New Homes Bonus and how it will impact on the Council's empty property work:

- How the New Homes Bonus Works.
- The definition of empty properties.
- Government funding earmarked for returning empty properties back into use.
- The impact of the New Homes Bonus on empty property work.
- The way forward

### **How the New Homes Bonus Works**

- The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) introduced the New Homes Bonus (NHB) in February 2011.
- It will reward local authorities for increases in its housing stock, including empty properties that have been brought back into use.
- This is calculated by subtracting the stock of empty homes in October 2010 from October 2009 to give the net change.
- The data is taken from the Local Authority Council Tax Base 2009/10 statistical releases.
- The payment is made for a six year period.

### **Worked Example for Sunderland**

Sunderland City Council 2009 - 2011

Net increase of stock is 515 of which 134 is for empty properties returned to use.

= payment for year one of £576,967 (515 x 1,120.32) or £3,461,804 over six years.

Empty properties have contributed to 134 x £1,120.32 = £150,123

### **The New Homes Bonus Definition of Empty Properties**

- Property has been vacant for more than six months.
- The property is unfurnished.
- Includes private and social properties.
- Excludes empty property with stated exemptions e.g. dwelling left empty by a person needing personal care, dwellings classed as second homes.

### **Additional Government Funding for Empty Properties**

- The Government will invest £100m to enable housing associations to support local authorities to bring over 3,000 empty homes back into use.
- Funding will be distributed through the Homes and Communities Agency.
- Funding available from 2012 – 2015 but funding available for some pilot projects in 2011/12.
- The £100m could be used for the refurbishment of empty properties but the grant could be recyclable by splitting the rental income between the owner and the HCA .

### **Proposed Gentoo/Council/HCA Project**

- Council to identify 10 long term problematic empty properties in the Coalfield, Hendon, Millfield and Castletown areas.
- Gentoo staff to train long term unemployed young people to refurbish empty properties.
- The young people to either move into the refurbished property or get a Gentoo tenancy.
- Gentoo to manage the property under a five year lease and set rent at an affordable level.
- Proposal submitted to HCA – results known in June/July

### **Impact of the New Homes Bonus on Empty Property Work**

- Financial incentive for returning empty properties back into use – more emphasis on this work.
- However, preventing properties from becoming empty (at 6 months) is equally as important.
- Working in partnership is essential to help bring additional funding into the Council.
- New Homes Bonus definition does not cover all empty properties. Council service will cover all empty properties but will the emphasis be on the properties that attract funding rather than properties that are problematic to the community?
- Everyone involved with empty properties should feed accurate information to Council Tax to ensure returns are accurate.
- Everyone involved in empty properties should be aware of what properties fall under the NHB definition.
- Demolition programmes to be carefully programmed. (Properties empty for less than 6 months).
- If additional funding is available through the NHB, may be funding for Empty Dwelling Management Orders.

### **The Way Forward and Conclusion**

- Need to monitor and review the number of empty properties monthly and track trends.
- Need to secure NHB funding to help with the work of empty properties.
- All partners to work together to secure the most funding for Sunderland and its communities.
- If successful, use the Gentoo/Council/HCA project as a pilot to return more empty properties back into use.

## Washington Area Committee

28<sup>th</sup> July 2011

## Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services

## Empty Property Action Plan 2011-12

## 1. Background

- 1.1 There are six overarching strategic priorities for Sunderland identified within the Sunderland Housing Priorities Plan SHPP; two of which are directly related to bringing empty properties back into residential use, which is:
- to improve the existing housing stock by accelerating housing market renewal including block improvement schemes, demolitions, reducing the numbers of empty properties and effective licensing of landlords
  - working with owners to invest in empty properties and bring them back into use and to consider different models of investment in the private rented sector.

The success of the Empty Property Strategy can be measured as follows:

Date	Reoccupied	Demolished	Total	Target
2007-2008	240	8	248	200
2008 - 2009	329	77	406	369
2009 - 2010	291	49	340	375
2010 - 2011	348	28	376	355

- 1.2 As part of the Government's Affordable Housing Programme £100m has been set aside for tackling empty properties. We are currently looking at involving Registered Providers across the city, which would include bringing back into use a range of properties.
- 1.3 The Government's New Homes Bonus also proposes that it will match fund the additional council tax raised by councils for bringing long term empty properties back into use. The number of empty properties (according to Government and Council Tax definitions) will be measured in October of each year. Any decreases in empty properties from one year to the next will be rewarded through the New Homes Bonus. The definition also includes empty Social Housing Registered Social Landlord properties in the City.
- 1.4 It was announced in January 2011, that the Government will use secondary legislation to introduce new constraints relating to Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs). The constraints allow local authorities to utilise EDMOs only if a property has been empty for two years and is attracting vandalism and anti social behaviour. This will be closely monitored as part of this project.

## 2. Aims and Objectives:

- 2.1 The Empty Property Service aims to:

***'Provide a proactive and innovative approach to the reduction in the number of empty properties in Sunderland to assist in the creation of sustainable communities in all neighbourhoods'.***

This will be achieved by:

1. Developing a comprehensive and locality based empty property service which raises awareness of empty homes issues.
2. Using a preventative and innovative approach to reoccupy empty properties.
3. Ensuring reoccupied properties are sustainable within their neighbourhoods.
4. Responding to the needs and requirements of property owners, partners and neighbourhoods.
5. Involving a range of partners and individuals to encourage action and make best use of limited resources.

2.2 Throughout 2011-2012, the Empty Property service will prioritise the following across Sunderland:

1. Strive to reduce the number of empty properties across Sunderland to the city average of 2.47% as at the end of April 2011.
2. Reoccupy 360 empty properties across Sunderland with internal and external partners, focusing on 200 empty properties within wards where empty properties are higher than the city average as at the end of April 2011 and working within the context of the New Homes Bonus.
3. Reduce homelessness across the City.
4. Promote the Landlord accreditation scheme.
5. Look to target the worst hot spot areas as a first priority, especially in wards where empty properties are higher than the city average as at the end of April 2011.
6. To work closely with Officers in Environmental Services to explore the most effective way of bringing empty commercial premises back into use.
7. To work closely with partners to explore the effect and impact of the New Homes Bonus on empty properties.

2.3 Benefits of introducing the Empty Property Action Plan are:

<b>Customer/Community Benefits</b>	<b>Council Benefit</b>
Empty properties returned into occupation	Increase in income to the Council through payment of full Council Tax Attract payment of New Homes Bonus.
Reduction in empty properties being targeted	Reduction in number of requests for service regarding empty properties.
More homes available for homeless people	Reduction in costs of works in default.
More sustainable communities	Reduction in homelessness.

### **3. Empty Property Action Plan**

3.1 The action plan, see Appendix 1, will help contribute towards the Council's values: proud, decent and together in the way we treat our customers and work in partnership to achieve the community's needs. It is also part of a series of Directorate projects and has been monitored by the Directorate Change Team. Currently, the project does not include empty commercial properties but the most effective way to bring commercial empty properties back to use will be explored within the Council and with external partners.

- 3.2 Officers will work together with owners of empty properties and external agencies to ensure the property is brought back into occupation or to prevent them from becoming empty in the first place. The solution to empty properties lies often in a partnership approach. Officers will also undertake inspections as necessary to ensure that the property meets the Decent Homes Standard. The primary focus will be prevention and early intervention.
- 3.3 At April 2011 the numbers of empty properties across each of the local areas and across the City as a whole are set out in Annex 2. The statistics and analysis below are based on the figures from April 2011. The proportion of Private Sector Stock empty is as a percentage in each ward area.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 Empty properties are a priority in each of the local areas and this is reflected in the local work plans. The attached action plan provides a more local examination of the issues and provides an innovative local action plan aimed at specifically addressing those local issues in relation to bringing empty properties back into use and creating a greater housing resource for the City.
- 4.2 Project work is proving to be successful in various areas and it is hoped that this work will be continued and expanded to other wards, particularly those wards that do not meet the city average as at April 2011. This involves officers tackling empty properties, anti social behaviour, landlord accreditation and issues of disrepair in partnership with Housing Providers the police and other local partners. This is in response to concerns from local residents and ward members.
- 4.3 This action plan will be monitored quarterly and reviewed after one year by the Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Senior Management Team and Area Committee. The information will also be made available to all local partners and the public should they request it.

#### **5. Recommendations**

Members are requested to:

- Note the content of the report and draft action plan
- Consider and provide feedback on the locality aims and actions in the Washington Action Plan (draft)
- Identify and feedback information regarding empty properties
- Agree to review the action plan after one year

**Appendix 1:** Washington Empty Property Action Plan (Draft)

**Appendix 2:** Empty Properties at a ward level, as at 1 April 2011

#### **Background papers**

- The Housing Act 2004
- Empty Property Strategy (2007-2011)
- Local Area Plans (LAPS) (2009-2011)
- The following websites were used as reference and for benchmarking:
  - <http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus/newhomesbonusquestions/>
  - <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk>
  - <http://www.camden.gov.uk>

- <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/>

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## Washington

### Background information:

The Washington area covers the wards of Washington Central, Washington North, Washington East, Washington South and Washington West.

### Empty Properties at April 2011:

Total		Empty for or between 1-2 years		Empty for five years or more	
No.	Proportion of Private Sector Stock Empty (H18)	No.	% Area	No.	% Area
270	1.54%	171	63%	32	11.8%

### Top 3 Types of empty properties in the Washington:

Type	No.	% Area
Semi detached	35	12%
Flats or maisonettes	72	26%
Terraced properties	43	15%

Washington North ward has a higher percentage of empty properties than the City Average. Examining the age of empty properties, by far the highest proportion is properties built between 1976 - 1990 (32%) which reflects the fact that Washington is a relatively new development.

### Empty Properties per ward:

Ward	No.	% Area	City %
Washington Central	53	20	1.43
Washington North	94	35	2.93
Washington East	31	11	1.02
Washington South	33	12	0.93
Washington West	59	22	1.52

It should be noted that Gentoo has demolished 168 properties to date in Albany, Glebe, Harraton and Sulgrave and it is predicting to demolish a further 30 in Barmston in early 2012. None of these properties are owned under the right to buy scheme.

Project work is currently being undertaken in Washington area in the Wellington and Waterloo complex. This has been ongoing since November 2010. Officers are visiting all properties to tackle issues of empty properties, anti-social behaviour and disrepair.

**Population**

Washington has 66,721 residents, 24% of the City's population. According to figures and categories used in the Census 2001, the Washington Area has a predominantly White Ethnic Group.



# Washington Empty Property Action Plan 2011/12

# Appendix 1

LOCALITY AIM	ACTIONS	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	TIMESCALES	RESPONSIBILITY
Reduce the number of empty properties in Washington to the city average of 2.47% (As at April 2011).	To inspect and liaise with all empty property owners in the Wellington and Waterloo areas to return back into use.	10% of Empty Properties at Wellington and Waterloo re-occupied	February 2012	EPA, ASB officer. Owners.
	Match empty properties with residents on the homeless register.	Reduce Homelessness by 5% citywide	March 2012	EPA and HOT
Return 30 empty properties in Washington back into use of which 9 will be in Washington North.				
To work proactively and preventively to ensure that the number of potential future empty properties is minimised.  New homes are not registered at empty; providing greater housing choice.	Undertake proactive visits and external inspections to all properties empty for over one year, with particular focus on the Washington North ward.	Daily/monthly inspections completed by officer. Reduce all wards to the current city average.	March 2012	EPA
	Develop a tool to risk assess, identify and prioritise problematic empty properties.	Tool established and implemented.  Problematic empty properties identified.	June 2011	EPA Council Tax Section Planning Enforcement Team
	Prioritise identified problematic empty properties to ensure re-occupation, and where appropriate use the additional tools provided by the Housing Act 2004 to tackle problems within the private sector, with particular focus on Washington North.	50% of empty problematic properties brought back to use	March 2012	EPO, EPA, Adult Services (Care)
	Get breakdown of empty properties by New Homes Bonus definition and identify location and any trends. Prioritise which properties to focus resources on.	Monthly locality report Increased New Homes Bonus returns	June 2011	HAO, EPO and EPA,

## Long Term Empty Properties by Period Empty

ARF	Ward	Period Empty							Grand Total	Proportion of Private Sector Stock Empty (H18)
		6 Months - under 1 year	1 Year - under 2 years	2 Years - under 3 years	3 Years - under 4 years	4 Years - under 5 years	Over 5 years			
Sunderland North	Castle	12	15	7	3	1	7	45	1.53%	
	Fulwell	23	23	13	7	6	14	86	1.77%	
	Redhill	13	19	4	1	3	5	45	1.67%	
	Southwick	35	20	11	8	7	14	95	2.90%	
	St Peter's	61	41	17	9	6	22	156	3.45%	
<b>Sunderland North Total</b>		<b>144</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>2.33%</b>	
Sunderland East	Doxford	16	12	7	3	2	7	47	1.43%	
	Hendon	86	79	67	19	14	23	288	6.74%	
	Millfield	64	47	21	12	9	28	181	4.25%	
	Ryhope	22	22	13	10	3	12	82	2.40%	
	St Michael's	46	45	13	25	7	30	166	3.47%	
<b>Sunderland East Total</b>		<b>234</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>3.82%</b>	
Sunderland West	Barnes	32	27	4	9	3	14	89	2.02%	
	Pallion	27	30	14	4	4	9	88	2.97%	
	Sandhill	22	16	7	8		6	59	2.12%	
	Silksworth	20	33	7	3	2	5	70	2.01%	
	St Anne's	16	12	4	2	2	8	44	1.50%	
	St Chad's	27	18	9	2	2	7	65	2.11%	
<b>Sunderland West Total</b>		<b>144</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>2.11%</b>	
Coalfield	Copt Hill	27	40	24	14	8	19	132	3.37%	
	Hetton	25	31	10	8	7	20	101	2.78%	
	Houghton	14	23	9	6	3	7	62	1.56%	
	Shiney Row	23	21	12	4	6	18	84	1.94%	
<b>Coalfield Total</b>		<b>89</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>2.39%</b>	
Washington	Washington Central	22	17	8	2	1	3	53	1.46%	
	Washington North	28	24	8	13	4	17	94	2.75%	
	Washington East	12	8	6	2	1	2	31	0.93%	
	Washington South	12	12	1	2	2	4	33	0.96%	
	Washington West	19	17	8	5	4	6	59	1.60%	

<b>Washington Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>1.54%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>2,255</b>	<b>2.47%</b>

## Appendix 3: Reference

The HCA Homes and Communities Agency are developing an Empty Property toolkit which will be available from June 2011. This will be incorporated into the Empty Property Strategy Area Approach.

The following websites were used as reference and for benchmarking:

- <http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus/newhomesbonusquestions/>
- <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk>
- <http://www.camden.gov.uk>
- <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/>
- The Housing Act 2004
- Empty Property Strategy (2007-2011)
- Local Area Plans (LAPS) (2009-2011)