

Annex 5 - Washington Area Action Plan- Prosperous

Annex 5

Objective	Action		Lead Officer	Progress	Next Steps/Who?
Develop and occupy un-used business units	1. WNF Strategy aims to address individual needs to support people into work or businesses on their own account and reduce worklessness. 2. The council are conducting an Asset Management Programme, looking at managed workspace owned by the Council only and review whether existing stock is being used.		1. Kevin Donkin 2. Bernie Whittaker	1. Audit of business estates and sites underway: to be completed by February 2010 (BIT) 2. Visible Workspace Framework - first draft likely Feb 2010. The aim of the study is to provide an assessment of potential projects and a clear framework for the allocation of the £4m in the Working Neighbourhoods Strategy related to "Visible Workspaces"	1. Janet Snaith (BIT) to contact Ashtenne re involvement, messages to landlords, identify private sector contribution to repairs and maintenance etc. on commercial/industrial sites. 2. Area Officer/Chair to meet with WNF team to discuss funding opportunities for Washington. 3. Consider survey to determine business needs - what would encourage businesses to locate in Washington (market forces, capital investment required, land use proposals).
Making visible improvements to work space/units	1. Audit of industrial sites currently being carried out by BIT. This will identify void units, maintenance required, investment required etc. Due to complete February 2010. 2. Visible Workspace Framework		1. Kevin Donkin 2. Bernie Whittaker	1 Audit of business estates and sites underway: to be completed by February 2010 2. Visible Workspace Framework . The aim of the study is to provide an assessment of potential projects and a clear framework for the allocation of the £4m in the Working Neighbourhoods Strategy related to "Visible Workspaces"	1. Identify voids, investment required and opportunities to encourage investment in sites (private sector owners/landlords) (Janet Snaith) 2. Projects and funding applications for WNF to be identified after study is finalised (BIT to confirm)
Offer start up packages, enhanced packages for unique businesses, especially new businesses. Confirm infrastructure and packages in place to support small businesses	Economic Masterplan identifies activity re support and development of low carbon industries and links to the City		HHAS and OCE	1. Libra – a network of advice organisations offer advice for small business and start up. Have representatives from SNCB,Fiscus. LIBRA website accessed via link on Sunderland City Council website. Launched Sept. 2. HHAS: Procurement practices are designed to enable local businesses to compete for council contracts and information/ training is being provided on how to tender for contracts. 3. SES: provides 1-2-1 self employment business start up advice, training and assistance. Receives funding via WNF, to design and manage an intensive Enterprise Talent Scout initiative and Business Start up initiative.	1. Further branding and promotion of Libra and services required. (HHAS) 2. Development of high quality start up provision - Investigate potential of a Washington based BIC approach (BIT) 3. Promotion of packages and support available re entrepreneurship and enterprise
Provide empty or under used building/units to community groups	To identify opportunities audit and align needs of VCS to : 1. Council's Community Asset register which shows what buildings the Council own, who occupies then, and costs for getting derelict building back into use. 2. Audit of commercial sites currently underway - due to complete February 2010 3. Encourage schools and VCS to connect, e.g. use of school premises by VCS		1. Colin Clark 2. Nick Wood (Property Services) 3. CDT	1. LA Community Asset Register identifies LA owned buildings, their use and their condition. The register will identify opportunities. Need to bring this together with audit of commercial sites and property. A lack of buildings for community use highlighted in the East and South wards of the area.	1. Community Asset register circulated for information - K Purvis (Area Officer). 2. Co-ordinate CAR with audit of commercial and business sites - K Purvis/CDT 3. Market Assessment/audit of VCS needs required to consider potential usage of buildings – consider how this will influence a refurbishment programme. 4. Identify VCS needs and availability of schools, costs etc

Raise awareness of opportunities and support available to enrol on to training courses and pathways to work	1. Co-ordination and promotion of current provision 2. Encourage and promote volunteering opportunities as a pathway to work 3. Ensure information sharing across the area re local employer's requirements from the labour market		LSP	1. Corporate Communications are establishing a Community Strategy for Area Committees, including monthly news sheets posted to each household in Washington. 2. WRS - Development of an online advice service, which will include advice and support regarding benefits, debt and employment. The online service will offer a 24 / 7 service via e-mail and webchat to deal with enquiries and referrals. The service will also be created in such a way as to offer advice and support to the community as a whole. 3 SAFC Foundation is working in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions and Job Centre Plus targeting people 18+ in Sunderland who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). 4. BIT co-ordinate information from employers and recruitment agencies. 5. Job Linkage, Connexions, SNCBC. 6. SCC worked with Nissan re Turbine Business Park site - mixed use scheme, potential to create 4,000 jobs	1. Promotion of training provision and courses Annex 5 2. Identify how to communicate with communities and promote local provision 3. Promotion of local volunteering opportunities 4. Identify employer needs re skills - match to training opportunities for local residents
Delivery and co-ordination of lifelong learning in the area	Co-ordination and promotion of current provision			1. SES: Provide OCR NVQ L2 business and enterprise training qualifications. 2. SCC: Community Network, BME Network e-champions, Community Electronic Village Halls, Community of Interest Websites, Digital Challenge (DC) ICT @ Home, DC Community Health Information Point, DC Website provision, DC Gentoo e-champion, DC Telesafe, DC Carers e-Champion, DC Youth e-champion, DC Smart Sunderland, DC LAA e-champion. Courses are currently delivered at Washington Millennium Centre, and three of Bridges projects, via Family Adult and Community Learning. 3. HHAS: Support from welfare rights in relation to benefits/ affect college courses training/ further education – what can be claimed etc whilst studying. Ensuring carers have access to training, education and lifelong learning opportunities. 4. SNCBC - Job Linkage services based in Concord 5. FISCUS - Work it Out Project	1. Promotion of training provision and courses 2. Identify how to communicate with communities and promote local provision 3. FACL funding (LSC) - allocation and procurement?
Encourage the private sector to adopt friendly working policies e.g. to encourage carers into work	1. Business Advice/Advice Services to promote worker friendly practises and flexible working. 2. Help address issue re SCC WRS/Advice Services having an increased number of cases re work life balance and family friendly working practicies re private sector employers.		A Aisbett	1. S/land Carers Centre: assist carers and ex carers into employment, offering advice and guidance on vocational training and sources of funding. Lead Agent PIE/Job Linkage. Review every three years. Work with employers to develop policies and practices that support carers into and already in work. Lead Agent: PIE, Carers Centre and Sunderland Partnership. 2. HHAS: The Carers Strategy promotes employability of carers – and former carers so they can remain in or return to work. 3. Welfare Rights Service provide Access to quicker Benefit /Better off Calculations for carers wanting to take up employment thought Assist carers & ex-carers into employment, offering advice & guidance on vocational training & sources of funding. Introduction of Carers cards	WRS - Development of an online advice service as detailed above