

Washington Park Management Plan: Usworth Park
Project Brief
CALL FOR PROJECTS

Washington Area Committee would like to invite Washington based Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups, and public and statutory providers to submit a full application that will provide a Park Management Plan for Usworth Park.

Washington Area Committee wishes to see proposals which address the Area Committee's priority of Environment and Green Space and Community Inclusion.

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.

Introduction and Background

The Washington Clean and Green initiative is a community-based, environmental initiative that inspires and empowers communities to come together to clean up, fix up, respect and take pride in their immediate neighbourhoods and the wider green space in Washington. As part of that ethos there are a number of elements established which when brought together have been extremely successful in attracting volunteers, social organisations, neighbourhoods and communities to come together and make Washington a safe and cleaner place to live, work and play:

- Friends Parks Groups Project supports the local community to come together to take on shared responsibilities (with SCC Local Services) and undertake a programme of skills building and training to take on additional tasks within specific sites, e.g. parks, and managing a programme of small capital works.
- Healthy Places Healthy People aims to work on a number of sites across Washington, to enhance local neighbourhoods, encourage community partnerships and improve the health of residents' through access to green spaces. The project aims at helping the local community make small scale improvements to their green spaces with the long term goal that the group will help support and maintain the site after the project has ended. This project has recently engaged with a small number of residents and organisations to encourage positive use of Usworth Park and to establish and formalise a Friends Group – with the aim of being able to support this group through the Friends of Parks Project.
- Usworth Park – identified via both the 'Friends' project and the Healthy Places Healthy People Project, is a small local park which has as an clear aspiration - the re-instatement of the Green Flag Award. A small group of passionate volunteers and local community have more recently come together in order to increase community engagement and participation in the Park.

Expected Outcomes

This Call for Projects is for an organisation experienced in parks management to produce a Park Management Plan for Usworth Park. The Management Plan should include the following:

- A clear vision including the community aspirations for the Park
- Details of how the plan can be used to aid future development and maintenance of Usworth Park and to plot improvements, manage the site and achieve the Green Flag Award

- How the Park will contribute to a positive neighbourhood identity and provide a focal point for the local community
- Details of how the Park could provide opportunities for accessible green space, play, leisure, safe walking and enhance the ecology. The park should provide a landscape suitable to a neighbourhood/urban setting.
- Consider how to expand the park use and provide a range of opportunities for informal recreation, equal access, and community inclusion.
- The Plan needs to clearly evidence the best route for gaining the Green Flag award documenting what is there now, what is the aspiration, how to get there, and how will we know it has been successful.
- The plan needs to identify the mechanism for improving the buildings and structures, the 'landscape', community ownership and increasing community use.
- There needs to be a robust funding strategy to aid future development and maintenance
- There needs to be both a short term action plan and a medium/long term action plan included to aid sustainability
- There needs to be a clear recommendation for a robust community led governance structure or methodology

It is anticipated the production of the management plan should take no more than 6 months. The successful applicant will be expected to report and liaise directly to the Washington Area Place Board throughout that time.

Context

The application needs to:

- Evidence knowledge of Usworth Park's current status within the context of use, access, condition, and community involvement.
- Show the applicant has knowledge of Sunderland City Council's strategic framework for Parks and open spaces, and all other relevant policies.
- Show knowledge about the context of the space in relation to the neighbourhood and the area.
- Show they have an understanding with regards to current usage, community interest, engagement and aspirations

Budget:

The total budget available for this Call for Projects is **£20,000**.

Assessment

Each project application will be assessed against set criteria. The results of that assessment and SIB consultation will be presented to the next available Area Committee Place Board.

Proposed Timescale

Project brief and methodology approved (Area Committee)	June 2018
Deadline for applications	July 2018
Assessment and consultation by	July 2018
Award of grant (next available Area Committee)	November 2018

Return Date

SIB Application form, guidance notes and scoring matrix are available from 0191 561 2449 or by emailing karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk

The deadline date to return the completed application (in two formats), along with necessary documents is **November 2018**

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 3.98, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN.

Format Two: (Electronic Copy): An electronic copy of the application should be emailed to karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk and copied to scrutinyandareaarrangements@sunderland.gov.uk.

Queries

If you have any questions regarding the application process or you require any advice on the development of the project please do not hesitate to contact Karon Purvis on 0191 561 2449 or on karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk