

16 March 2023**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF WASHINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY BOARD****Washington Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023****1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 This report:

- a. Provides an update of progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan, which will be the focus for the Washington Area Committee during 2022-2023.
- b. Provides an update on Neighbourhood and Community Board Governance Arrangements for 2022 -2023.

2. Background

2.1 Following the approval of the Neighbourhood Investment Plans in March 2020, the Washington Area Committee has worked together to finalise their Delivery Plans. All priorities have been determined following significant resident consultation via Let's Talk Sunderland.

3. Area Committee and Neighbourhood Investment Plan Governance Arrangements

3.1 The Area Committees are part of the Council's Executive Function and have two key roles:

- a. Influencing decisions on services delivered at a neighbourhood level; and
- b. Identification of key priorities for their areas, in the context of supporting the delivery of the Council's City Plan at a neighbourhood level and ensuring maximum impact where necessary, through utilising its own resources.

3.2 The Article 10 Neighbourhood Investment Plans were approved at Cabinet in March 2020.

3.3 It is now the responsibility of each Area Committee to deliver their agreed priorities to support the delivery of the Neighbourhood Investment Plan. Area Committee Delivery Plans have been developed to enable this to happen.

3.4 The Neighbourhood and Community Board will be Chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Area Committee. Neighbourhood and Community Board meetings will be held in July, November, February and April and dates are included in the council diary. If required, the Board may convene a further meeting(s) should there be a business need to do so and essential to ensuring delivery of the Area Neighbourhood Investment Plan Delivery Plan. All Committee members are invited to attend all board meetings.

3.5 Members will work alongside key officers in what will be practical action orientated groups. It should be noted that the Board is not a decision-making body, and the work / recommendations of the Board will be presented to the Area Committee for final endorsement. The Area Committee Chair and Vice-Chair were agreed at Annual Council in May 2021.

3.6 Area Plans from 2023/24 onwards are being developed, with data/intelligence gathering underway. Members will take part in a series of workshops and discussions to recommend priorities and actions for inclusion in these plans, which will be agreed at June 2023 Area Committee.

4. Neighbourhood Investment Delivery Plan 2020-2023 Areas of Key Action/Progress

4.1 The Plan, which includes an introduction from the Chair of the Area Committee, commits to a significant number of priorities, which are being delivered within the Washington area of Sunderland, to address the key issues raised by residents. The Plan is monitored by the Area Committee and actions will continue to be addressed up to 2023, via the Washington Neighbourhood and Community Board.

- 4.2 Residents will be able to review the Area Committee Delivery Plan and monitor delivery of the plan via the Council's website which is available to access at www.sunderland.gov.uk, as well as through quarterly Area Committee update reports. Funding to support delivery of the plan has been allocated and further information can be found at **Item 4 Area Budget Report**
- 4.3 Progress against the Delivery Plan has been reported regularly to Neighbourhood and Community Board and Area Committee. Good news stories and promotion of projects and local information have been posted on the Washington Sunderland Community Facebook page.
- 4.4 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of action/progress of the Board up to March 2023

Priority/Issue	Update
Enforcement & Neighbourhood Management	Additional funding to extend the project to March 2024 and allow the officer to roll out activities to other areas in Washington, was approved at the December 2022 Area Committee. NMEP will also manage the Together Clean & Green Partnership Group as a Project Management Steering Group for NMEP and will liaise directly with Cllrs regarding redeployment of the street cams and identifying any new 'hotspots' for the project to target.
Invest in Parks: Usworth Park	Following escalating costs to deliver capital improvements, additional funding has been approved to continue to deliver aspects of the Usworth Park Development Plan as well as manage the site whilst the building works are completed. A number of actions/activities are still to be completed. This funding will allow ES to continue to work with partners to deliver the approved Usworth Park Development Plan to support a future application for Green Flag Status.
Invest in Parks: Princess Anne Park	Work has now commenced on site to deliver priority items as detailed in the Princess Anne Master Plan and this programme is expected to be delivered within the £100,000 budget already awarded. Building on an that investment to deliver mainly repairs to footpaths and surfaces, additional funding was approved in December 2022 to carry out footpath maintenance to paths that have root damage / trip hazards to footpaths not previously identified.
Trees and Plantation Management Task Group Report	At the first Task Group meeting in October 2022, Councillors identified priorities at a ward level. Washington Central - the area behind Bede / Dene crescent in Washington Village; the area to the top of Village Lane not a big area therefore, Burtree/Pendle/Mendip area too Washington East - The plantation behind Sycamore, Chestnut and Laburnum in Harraton Washington North - priority areas are Silverstone Road and Sulgrave Road. Washington South - The plantation between Fieldfare and Lapwing Close in Ayton, the plantation which runs along the back of Fieldfare, and the plantation mentioned in the list at Skaylock in Lambton Washington West - Perimeter road in Donwell. Specifically the trees that overlook Doncrest and Donridge as the road progresses to the roundabout next to the bridge. The project lead is arranging surveys for proposed sites and has been requested to keep Cllrs updated with regards to ward level programmes of work
Improve highways, pavements and street lighting	Colleagues from Highways attended the November 2022 Neighbourhood and Community Board meeting to consult with members regarding the development of the Washington highways maintenance programme for 2023/24. Further updates have been received and Members have put forward areas for consideration in the 2023/2024 programme. The suggested locations will have been assessed and following discussions at the February 2023 Board meeting, recommendations are contained at Annex 2 to this report .

Washington Clean and Green

The project continues to provide a valuable resource within the community. During the last reporting quarter (October to December 2022)

- 19 community clean ups carried out
- 83 bags of waste collected
- 333 volunteer hours were delivered

A report from the project includes:

Washington Job Centre

Following complaints from our volunteers who use the facility we visited the area around the Job Centre to clear the paths leading from the Galleries to the Centre which were seriously neglected and obstructing pedestrians. We also cut back the paths of vegetation within the Centre's immediate area for which our volunteers received thanks from a passing pedestrian, which is always appreciated

Barmston

Some of our volunteers like to litter pick while others prefer to clear vegetation. Where possible we try to combine the two activities. This occurred when we visited Barmston again this month. Whilst there we made a useful contact with the Community Café Forage with Whom we hope to work in the future.

Rickleton

We visited Rickleton Village at the invitation of the Residents Association and joined them and volunteers from Pendleton Trust to dig over the wild flower beds and plant bulbs for the Spring.

Aldi, Blackfell

The well-used footpath which runs along Aldi off Armstrong Road Blackfell was impeded by shrubbery and we spent a morning cutting it back and again received appreciation from passers-by.

Barmston Forage Community Café

In early November Dianne Richardson manager of Forage informed us that they had received 220 trees from the Woodland Trust and asked us if we would help them plant them around their garden area. Six volunteers carried out the task while two others collected litter from around Barmston Plantation

Usworth Colliery Primary School

The school have a Forest School where children can visit and learn about the nature on their doorstep. Over the years the area had become overgrown and hazardous. We made three visits to the school and cleared the area, discovering a nest of angry wasps along the way! At the same time Usworth Park and Sulgrave subway were litter-picked.

Behind Clay's Garden Centre, Barmston

The cyclepath behind Clay's is well used by cyclists and pedestrians and is quickly impeded by fast-growing Buddleia. We spent two mornings clearing the pathway and received a number of compliments from passers-by for our work. Four bags of litter were also collected.

James Steel Park & Vigo Lane

This area was litter picked where 10 bags of litter were collected and overgrown vegetation was removed from the bottom of Vigo Lane December began with very cold weather but despite this we carried out 3 litter picks and 3 clearances. We worked with Building Blocks Nursery and Bowes Railway and carried out litterpicks in various parts of Washington. Ian and the volunteers also took a well-earned rest in December which was well timed to include the week when snow was on the ground and would have impeded work.

Building Blocks Nursery, Concord

In November we were approached by the manager of Building Blocks Nursery to see if we could clear the area around the building of overgrown vegetation which was becoming a hiding place for youths. We carried out a site audit and worked commenced in December 2022. We noted that the area was also a hotspot for litter. Five

	<p>volunteers cleared the vegetation whilst four picked litter from around Concord and Albany Park an incredible 17 bags were collected.</p> <p>Willow Pond, Barmston This area was raised as a litter problem by a local resident and when we visited we saw that the well-used footpaths were obstructed by vegetation. Three volunteers cleared the paths while four volunteers cleared 5 bags of litter.</p> <p>Bowes Railway The bridleway beside the railway is well used by cyclists and pedestrians and is quickly impeded by fast-growing vegetation. We spent a morning clearing the pathway prior to the Railway providing volunteers with a Christmas 'Brunch'. Five bags of litter were also collected.</p>
<p>Washington Enforcement Project</p>	<p>Washington Central This quarter, the project has continued to focus on Littering and PSPO (including the abandonment of trolleys) offences in Glebe area. Proactive patrols have been undertaken around the Galleries retail park to address littering and estate walks to identify abandoned trolleys and tackle the removal of trolleys through the Galleries access points which result in been abandoned across the area. Officers have completed patrols with the Neighbourhood Wardens at various times of day to address these concerns.</p> <p>Washington East Stockley Road and Waskerley Road remain the focus of attention for the East ward. Concerns raised over abandoned trolleys in the Barmston area originating from Peel Retail Park led to officers engaging with the retailers to ensure they had an appropriate trolley collection service in place.</p> <p>The project regularly liaises with the Gentoo co-ordinators for the area and carries out joint walk abouts to discuss concerns over specific properties, tenants, and waste on Gentoo land. Intelligence is provided by Gentoo to help target patrols and identify which areas/properties to engage with regarding household waste disposal.</p> <p>Information provided by colleagues has led to new Streetwatch camera locations being considered around Stockley Road to help identify those responsible for fly-tipping on council land from residential properties.</p> <p>Washington West Patrols have continued throughout the Blackfell area, noting a reduction in mis-presentation of household waste with most properties now ensuring their bins are correctly stored after collection. A number of items located on private land have been reported to relevant landowners, such as Gentoo, for removal of such items.</p> <p>Following the success of the streetwatch camera at Stridingedge, new locations throughout Washington West are being discussed for camera deployment. With a reduction in reports throughout Stridingedge, the project will identify other areas in the West to engage with residents issuing advisory letters to remind residents of their responsibility when presenting household waste for refuse collection, whilst maintaining observations in the Blackfell area.</p> <p>Washington North Targeted work has continued around Sulgrave and a number of patrols have been completed. Following signage erected in previous months, numerous properties on Trafalgar Road have been issued with initial Community Protection Warning letters regarding large items in gardens at risk of being fly tipped or set alight. This pro-active</p>

	<p>approach has seen an increase in resident engagement with the officers and the council, whilst utilising the bulky waste collection and improving the view of the area.</p> <p>The project will continue engagement in the Sulgrave area, moving onto Gladstone Terrace and nearby streets, whilst maintaining a presence around Sulgrave Road etc. Waste receptacles found on the public highway causing obstructions have been reported to other council departments for licensing action. Joint Gentoo patrols around the Sulgrave area have been completed, highlighting concerns to the co-ordinator for appropriate action and resolution.</p> <p>Washington South Oxclose remains the focus for the Washington South area, with regular patrols being undertaken at Bamburgh Close, Lumley Close and surrounding streets identifying properties not adhering to previous enforcement guidance.</p> <p>Intelligence provided by colleagues led to all properties on Alwin receiving advisory letters regarding their household waste presentation, this prompted resident engagement and intelligence which has enabled enforcement action to be taken against other non-complaint residents in the area. Concerns over waste on private land has also been referred onto Gentoo for action.</p> <p>The project has continued patrols in Oxclose regarding the abandonment of trolleys. Any persons observed using a trolley has been engaged with, even if an offence has not been witnessed. If a person is spoken to and details provided, a warning letter will be issued to the suspected offender.</p> <p>Spaces the public have access to and visit, such as community centres and schools, that are near large green spaces will be engaged with regarding PSPO orders, primarily dog fouling</p>
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5. Recommendations - Members are requested to: -

- 5.1 Consider the progress and performance update with regard to Washington Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/23 and agree proposals for future delivery as contained within **Annex 1**.
- 5.2 Agree the recommendations contained in **Annex 2** in relation to Highways Maintenance Programme 2023/24

Annex 1 Washington Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/2023
Annex 2 Highways Maintenance Programme 2023/24

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