

## **Washington Area Committee**

**15 April 2010**

### **Report of the Chief Executive**

## **Washington Annual Report 2009/10**

It was agreed in June 2009 that the April 2010 Area Committee would be dedicated to reflecting on the work delivered during 2009-10, via the Local Area Plans. To support this process the annual report has been produced focusing on the following areas:-

- The Area, people and place
- Safe theme and priorities
- Learning theme and priorities
- Attractive and Inclusive theme and priorities
- Healthy theme and priorities
- Prosperous theme and priorities
- Area Committee Meetings
- Funding and Financial Reports

Under the thematic headings a summary is provided outlining the achievements delivered and influenced by Area Committee, using practically examples.

### **The Area**

Washington covers five electoral wards: Washington Central, East, North, South and West. There are 15 Councillors who represent Washington.

Washington has three overlapping layers of history: firstly, as a group of ancient pre-industrial rural settlements; secondly, as industrialising modern communities, thirdly as a planned and contrived new town made up of a number of villages. Historic settlements of North and South Biddick, Fatfield, Barmston, Cox Green, Washington Village, Washington Station and High and Low Usworth were originally rural and agricultural, but evolved industrially as the demand for coal grew. Coal was worked at Washington Moor, for example, as far back as 1356.

The new town culture in the North East was a way of dealing with the repercussion of our declining coalmining, shipbuilding and heavy engineering industries. In 1964, Washington Development Corporation came into being (it was dissolved in 1988) and huge swathes of dereliction were regenerated, new homes were built, factories opened and thousands of trees and shrubs planted. Washington has been part of Sunderland City since 1974 and is one of the City's five administrative areas.

Having a population of approximately 67,000 the area encompasses Washington New Town and Springwell Village, a former mining community. The new town is based around the town centre and 17 villages: Donwell, Usworth, Concord, Sulgrave, Blackfell, Albany, Barmston, Washington Village, Columbia, Biddick, Oxclose, Lambton, Glebe, Ayton, Fatfield, Harraton and Rickleton. You can find out more about what services are available in the area, such as the nearest library to your home, by visiting [www.sunderland.gov.uk](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk) and using Sunderland directory.

## 1.0 Washington: a Safe Area 2009-2010

Table 1.1 Rates per 1,000 population figures relate to 2008/09 compared with 2007/08 (2009/10 not due until end of April 10)

Wards	City	Central	East	North	South	West
All Crimes	82.5	80.7	53.1	95.2	56.4	52.4
Violence Against the Person	16.1	16.7	9.3	25.0	11.2	11.1
Sexual Offences	0.8	0.8	0.3	1.4	1.2	1.2
Robbery	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.3
Burglary - Dwelling	8.9	6.9	8.2	7.2	4.7	5.6
Burglary - Non-dwelling	5.0	3.4	3.0	5.5	2.8	3.2
Theft of Vehicles	2.5	1.6	2.7	2.4	2.2	2.4
Theft from Vehicles	5.8	4.1	5.1	6.0	3.4	2.6
Theft Other	18.4	27.8	7.9	18.0	7.6	8.5
Fraud & Forgery	2.0	2.5	0.5	3.2	1.3	2.2
Criminal Damage	22.0	15.8	17.4	22.6	20.2	15.0
Drug Offences	4.2	3.0	2.8	5.7	3.5	2.7
Other Offences	1.3	1.7	0.9	2.0	1.0	1.2

Washington North is one of only five wards (out of 25) to have a crime rate above the City average in 2008-09. There are lower overall feelings of safety in Washington (especially in Washington Central) than the City average. This was also the case for feelings of safety and walking in the area at night, especially in Washington North. Perceptions of graffiti and sexual assault as local problems are worse than average. Total crime is down by 7%.

### What we set out to do

The overall objectives identified were to: reduce anti-social behaviour, including tighter control on sale and access to alcohol and provide more of a Police presence in our communities.

At the July 2009 meeting the Area Committee discussed the objectives and allocated actions against them. Progress is monitored on all actions and reported under a standing agenda item: Washington Area Action Plans, at each meeting of the Committee.

### You Said

"There is a need to raise the profile of a police presence on the streets in the community and strengthen relationships between Cllrs, police and residents."

### We Did

Promoted and continue to encourage attendance of local people at PACT meeting (police and communities together); increased the number of Officers in the Neighbourhood Teams and revisited the roles of Court Custody Investigation Officers, Offender Managers and Neighbourhood Co-ordinators, freeing up more time for Officers to be more visible on the street and attend meetings to engage with communities. Recently Inspector Barrett identified 15 foot beat areas across Washington, each area has five planned routes, ensuring that areas of public interest are included in the routes, for example, schools, village centres, and the like. On a daily basis PCs and Community Support Officers will patrol these areas, building up trust levels and relationships with local residents. An example is that postcards will be posted through front doors informing residents their street has been patrolled today. In addition, contact details will be included on the postcard along with how to meet your local bobby on the beat.

## You Said

“We need to tailor services to address the needs of the community.”

## We Did

Over the last 12 months we the first phase of the “Responsive Local Services” Project. Its first phase has been established which focuses on tailoring five key service areas relating to crime and grime: graffiti removal, refuse collection, litter, dog fouling and grass cutting services.

## Other achievements delivered

- Established a Safe Working Group, with Cllrs, Partners and Officers to deliver actions.
- Purchased 3G CCTV cameras to use as a preventative and intervention tool to address Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) hotspots.
- Area Committee provided a total of £19,910 to Victim Support, Sunderland Branch to provide support to Washington residents who have suffered from crime.
- Area Committee can refer projects into the Community Payback Scheme which is delivered by Youth Offending Service
- A series of Community Communication actions have been identified with a Communication Link Officer from Corporate Communications attending Area Committees and helping identify key news stories and information at a ward level.
- A Washington Area Newsletter has been published. This two edition trial saw its first edition published and distributed in November. The second edition was published and distributed in March.
- The Local Multi Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) group continue to be effective in addressing a number of issues raised by agencies and recognised as a model of excellence in problem solving.

## 2.0 Washington: a Learning Area 2009-2010

Table 2.1: Percentage of 11 year olds achieving Key Stage 2 Level 4+ in both English and Maths

Year	City	Central	East	North	South	West
2007	70	72	68	73	80	73
2008	72	75	75	65	74	70
2009	70	77	73	64	74	61

Table 2.2: Percentage of 16 year olds achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A\*-C, including English and maths

Year	City	Central	East	North	South	West
2007	39	44	49	35	48	43
2008	43	55	54	43	63	47
2009	45	53	50	40	53	47

## What we set out to do

The key objectives identified were to encourage young people to continue into further education and better support for children and young people with more youth and play services.

At the September 2009 meeting the Area Committee discussed the objectives and allocated actions against them. Progress is monitored on all actions and reported under a standing agenda item: Washington Action Plans, at each meeting of the Committee.

## You Said

“Some wards in Washington have very little youth provision, we need to ensure there is a minimum standard of youth provision available to access in every ward across the City and we

need more flexible youth provision, especially over a weekend, which should come out of mainstream funding, not Area Committee SIB funding.”

### **We did**

Reviewed the commissioning procedure for the allocation of youth provider contracts across the City, including the Area Committee throughout the whole process. Now each ward has guaranteed youth provision of a minimum of three sessions per week, over the next three years, ensuring young people from all wards have equal access to services. We also secured an additional £300,000 to establish XL mobile youth villages across the City, which run specifically on a Friday and Saturday night only. An Operational Group, consisting of multi agencies and local elected members oversee the planning of the XL villages in the area.

### **You Said**

“We need to improve our services toward young people and adults with disabilities.”

### **We Did**

Promoted the ‘Futures Team’ which helps young people with Physical or Learning disabilities who are making the transition from children to adults and supports young people who are school leavers to access further education opportunities. Developed a new initiative which formed part of the Community Day Opportunities, which works with people with disabilities, to pursue, in a socially inclusive way, day opportunities, which include access to adult learning. Increased opportunities for VCS groups to access Common Assessment Framework training and involve and encourage the ‘Team around the Child’ process, which include one to one mentoring and group work.

### **You Said**

“We need to investigate how we engage with Employers and encourage them to employ local people.”

### **We Did**

The Prosperous Learning Group are linking into the Business Investment Team, who can identify potential and current future employers and also with the Sunderland Learning Partnership, who can co-ordinate training and educational courses to address the needs of employers, if tailored appropriately it can be used as a carrot to attract investors to Washington and the City.

### **Other achievements delivered**

- Established a Learning Working Group, with Cllrs, Partners and Officers to deliver actions.
- Area Committee provided a total of £67,880 to four projects: i) £25,000 to Arts Centre, Washington to deliver a Remix programme for young people; ii) £15,000 to Sunderland City Council to improve play provision in Sulgrave; iii) £16,000 to SAFC Foundation to deliver education projects using informal education methods at least six times per week; iv) £11,880 to Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue to deliver Phoenix Advanced and Phoenix Respect courses to disengaged young people.
- Oxclose Young Peoples Project have been successful in securing the youth provider ward contracts in all five Washington wards, until 2013
- Secured additional funding, up until July 10 for full Level 2 qualifications in numeracy and literacy.
- Developed links with other aspects of learning provision and secured funding to establish a clear progression route, from beginners to intermediate to advanced.

- Consulted with local people and providers in the Washington to identify the kind of provision that local residents would like to see delivered, with a focus on engaging more men in learning.

### 3.0 Washington: a Healthy Area

**Table 3.1** The table below provides a Washington snap shot, at a ward level, on key health measures.

Measure	City average	Central	East	North	South	West
Life expectancy 2003-2005	76.4 yrs	76.8	74.9	77.4	79.2	74.8
Mortality rates from circulatory disease 05-07	98	82	113	88	62	81
Mortality rates from cancer 05-07	137	128	134	138	146	141
% of residents smoking 09-10	25%	22	23	26.2	20.2	24
Residents self reporting obesity BMI 30+ 2008	18%	19.0%	18.4%	22.9%	15.7%	19.6%
Hospital admission due to alcohol related harm 09-10 per 100,000 pop.	610-1180	300-410	300-410	610-1180	300-410	410 - 480
Teenage Conception rates (pre 2004 ward boundary changes)	54.9		52.1	75.5	44.7	63.0
People supported to live independently through social services actual 08/09	8359	271	209	337	167	242
Children in Need (2007 – actual figures)	2468	76	105	178	44	79

#### What we set out to do

The key objectives identified were to provide better support for older people.

At the November 2009 meeting the Area Committee discussed the objectives and allocated actions against them. Progress is monitored on all actions and reported under a standing agenda item: Washington Area Action Plans, at each meeting of the Committee.

#### You Said

“We recognised that we have hotspots across our area and we need to target these communities but to do this we need more guidance on what is happening out there and which services are involved, are they speaking to each other and what additionality can Area Committee bring to the agenda? We want to make a real difference, not just discuss issues.”

#### We Did

Gathered information from Teaching Primary Care Trust Providers on what projects are commissioned in the Washington area and cross referenced with what the Council and other partners are delivering, linking into the Healthy Delivery Improvement Board of the Local Strategic Partnership. The purpose is to provide detailed information and to encourage different ways of communicating with our communities, to identify options on the way forward in delivering a targeted approach at a neighbourhood level.

#### You Said

“Increase options for supported housing to enable older people to live independently for longer.”

## **We Did**

An Older Person Needs and Aspirations Study has been compiled and will be sent out to 1200 people in the city. Sunderland City Council are aiming to gain feedback relating to people's housing needs and aspirations; their current or expected care requirements; whether they require adaptations / aids in their homes to help them to live independently for longer and whether they require any energy efficiency measures in their home, for example, loft insulation, cavity wall insulation etc. In addition Sunderland City Council are compiling the evidence relating to people living in the City with mental health problems; learning disabilities and physical disabilities. Once all of this information is assessed it will be compiled into a Housing Strategy for Accommodation with Care during 2010.

## **You Said**

"Increase one to one support around personal care and raise awareness of the support available in accessing GP's, Carers, resources and equipment etc. to encourage independent living"

## **We Did**

Woodridge Gardens extra care housing scheme opened in December 2009 and is located on Oxclose Road, Columbia. It comprises 39 two bedroom apartments of mixed tenure, a restaurant, lounge, activity area, hairdressers and guest room. The scheme was developed in a partnership between Housing 21; Sunderland City Council and developers Frank Haslam Milan. Westbourne Medical Group have agreed to operate GP and primary care services from Woodridge Gardens. Furthermore, the extra care scheme provides a therapy room which enables visiting practitioners to provide local services including, for example chiropody; optician services; community matron provision; flu jabs; complimentary therapies.

The Care Team based at Woodridge Gardens provides both inreach and outreach care provision which means that they will provide tailored care packages as required to those people living in Woodridge Gardens but will also provide services to people living in the surrounding locality.

## **Other achievements delivered in the Washington**

- Established a Healthy Working Group, with Cllrs, Partners and Officers to deliver actions.
- Gentoo continue to provide core and cluster support across Washington and lease 37 units to other support agencies who provide direct independent support for individuals (from agencies like NECA, WWIN, Norcare, Social Services etc)
- Sunderland Carers Centre continue to provide direct support to carers in Washington, as well as having a dedicated worker in the area and hosting support groups on a weekly basis.
- Sunderland Active Bus was rolled out across the City, providing a mobile unit in which health and fitness checks can be carried out.
- Promoted the use of Wellness Centres, providing the latest Technogym equipment, offering opportunities for residents to participate in physical activity.
- Planned the 'Wellness... it's a walk in the park', encouraging residents to get out and enjoy the fresh air by following accessible routes suitable for walkers, runners, wheelchairs users and pushchairs.
- Launch of the 'Lets Play' campaign, to inspire families to get involved in local play areas and challenge negative perceptions of children playing

## 4.0 Washington an Attractive and Inclusive Area

**Table 4.1:** The table below provides a Washington snap shot, at a ward level, on key A&I measures.

Wards	City	Central	East	North	South	West
Empty properties – City average	93	48	33	125	30	55
Average house price	£116,866	£117,161	£147,968	£105,893	£143,030	£118,754
Planning applications (area)	288	68	62	60	48	50
Housing advice and homeless work (area)	524	113	84	155	70	102
Cycle ways	90km	0km	7.87km	2.30km	4.15km	1.10km

All of the outer areas of Washington demonstrate poor or very poor walking access. Facilities in the older village of Springwell have declined and walking access is now very poor. Residential areas built within the last 20-25 years such as Teal Farm, Mount Pleasant, Usworth Hall and Ayton have little or no facilities close-by.

### What we set out to do

The key objectives identified were to invest more in housing programmes and bring empty properties back into use, improve public transport cycle routes and paths; make the streets more attractive, landscaping rundown areas, removing litter and graffiti.

Even though the thematic report was not discussed until February 2010, summary area templates were established throughout July and August 2009. This work facilitated and assisted in identifying early wins at the beginning of the municipal year, bringing flexibility to area arrangements.

This flexibility allowed for consideration towards emergencies that developed and ensured that when other work streams under the Community Leadership Programme were established, for example, Responsive Local Services, Communication Strategy, that they were complementary, strengthening the whole agenda of area arrangements with Area Committee as the established focal point.

### You Said

“We need to encourage more private landlords to sign up to the accreditation scheme and bring empty properties back into use, as we have the highest number of empty properties in the City and homes are in demand.”

### We Did

A recent Private Landlords Expo was held which agreed to reinstate the Private Landlords Forum on a quarterly basis and to act as a focal point to promote the Landlord Accreditation Scheme. In addition the existing Accreditation Scheme is being reviewed in order to complement the Selective Licensing Scheme which has been approved by central government for introduction in parts of Hendon.

Anti Social Behaviour was raised as a priority for action across the City and has been escalated to Scrutiny who have requested a review of services currently offered to investigate cases of ASB.

The inspection regime for the City's 1,500 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) to ensure they provide a safe and healthy home for tenants has been reviewed and a new system is currently being introduced.

The Empty Property Strategy is currently being reviewed with the aim of introducing area based action plans. Funds to support this work have been increased as part of the 10/11 budget settlement.

### **You Said**

"We need to have a recognised, co-ordinated voice representing the voluntary and community sector (VCS), involving and engaging them in Area Committee and the development and implementation of the Local Area Plan."

### **We Did**

We restructured our Community Development Team and allocated an Area Community Co-ordinator per area to support the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in establishing five Area VCS Networks. Each Area VCS Network now has three representatives who represent the collective voice of the VCS at meetings, ensuring a two way communication process between Area VCS Network and Area Committee.

### **You Said**

"Improve public transport services, including railway lines, accessibility and signage and increase influence over private bus operators."

### **We Did**

An Accessible Bus Network Design Project was set up in 2009 to design a bus network that better meets the aspiration of local people. Nexus attended Area Committee and presented proposals for Washington related to enhancing a number of routes and increasing off-peak services. Nexus also agreed to host public consultation events for organisations and individuals between March and June 2010.

Final recommendations will be presented to the Executive Management Team for approval with the results being communicated back to all consultees on the outcome.

### **Other achievements delivered**

- Established an Attractive and Inclusive Working Group, with Cllrs, Partners and Officers to deliver actions.
- Area Committee provided a total of £41,500 which funded the delivery of three projects to Sunderland City Council: i) £15,000 to assist in making improvements to Seaburn public realm. ii) Installation of a memorial of the miners strike 1984-85. iii) £26,500 to making improvements to the River Wear Trail.
- Monthly meetings established between Highways and Area Co-ordination to monitor and feedback on general queries from elected members.
- As part of the Washington Road Safety Scheme, traffic surveys for the 3 pilot schemes will be completed in late April 2010, consultations will then be held in May/June 2010 with a report being presented to Area Committee (provisionally) in July 10; Consultation on 12 bus link schemes will be held in September 2010, with a report being presented to Area Committee (provisionally) in October 2010 and Cabinet November 2010.
- Funded through the Central Strategic Investment Plan footway links were completed in Burnhope Road, Pattinson Road, Stone Cellar Road, Sulgrave Road. Ayton Road South and Cambrain Way will be completed in Summer 2010.
- 13 Accident Cluster Schemes have been approved. Three traffic calming schemes are underway at A1231/A182, Castle Rd and Heworth Rd (LTP funding). The remaining ten sites (funded through SIP) are being evaluated by Jacobs.

- Site works re Front Street Concord Loading Bays commenced February 2010, expected completion May 2010.
- Gentoo continue to take action where perpetrators are identified of fly tipping and Neighbourhood Housing Managers are proactive in inspecting estates through the Neighbourhood Plans.
- Environmental Enforcement Teams have been established within City Services.
- The Council are working with schools to develop environmental activity in parks.

## 5.0 Washington a Prosperous Area

Table 5.1. The table below provides a Washington snap shot, at a ward level, on key Prosperous measures.

Prosperous	City Wide	Central	East	North	South	West
Unemployment rate	8.4	5.7	5.8	10.0	4.9	5.6
% of working age population claiming out of work benefits	19.4%	15.51	14.23	22.4	12.52	14.79
% of working age population claiming incapacity benefits and ESA	10.9%	8.79	7.33	10.90	6.94	8.42
% of working age population unemployed (claiming JSA)	6.10%	4.53	4.72	7.2	3.99	4.59
Children Living in Poverty	26.5%	16.7%	21.7%	32.8%	13.5%	18.9%

Unemployment has increased in Washington, rapidly within the last two years. This peaks in Washington North, and when looking at the female and male split the majority of unemployed people who are of working age are males. This may be related to the masculine image the City had i.e. heavy industry (shipbuilding, mining, etc). We are still seen as an industrial City but there are a significant number of Call Centres, jobs which attract a higher level of female applicants.

### What we set out to do

The key objectives were to promote and develop un-used business units and attract new businesses and help people get a new or better job by providing suitable work-related training courses.

The thematic report was not discussed until March 2010. The same approach as used under Attractive and Inclusive was adopted to ensure early wins were delivered as and when needed.

### You Said

“We need to provide more support for individuals to develop entrepreneurial start up packages for businesses”

### We did

We connected into the Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) programme, which brought approximately £30m of funding to the City over three years from 2008/9 and encouraged an area perspective to be considered when commissioning projects in the most disadvantaged communities. This resulted in an intensive design and managed initiative called Enterprise Talent Scouts and Business Start Up in Washington funded via WNF. This involves the Scouts

targeting new potential entrepreneurs and supporting them on the route to setting up in business.

### **You Said**

“We need to tackle Not In Education, Employment or Training (NEET) hotspots across Washington by working in partnerships with local businesses to provide information on what’s going on and what support is available.”

### **We did**

We developed an online advice service, which includes advice and support regarding benefits, debt and employment advice. The online service (<http://www.librasunderland.co.uk/>) includes a significant amount of self help information as well as offering a 24/7 service via email and webchat to deal with enquiries and referrals. With regards to legal advice, the service was commissioned at an area level, ensuring that the providers were based locally and had a good understanding of the needs of the community.

### **You Said**

“The industrial estates around Washington look tired and un-slightly, we need to improve the physical appearance of the sites.”

### **We Did**

We are currently conducting a Washington Industrial Estates Survey, which will provide an audit on: overall condition; buildings and usage; landscaping and amenity; access; parking; signage; occupancy levels; reported anti social behaviour and key stakeholders.

### **Other achievements delivered:-**

- Encouraged the profile of Washington area to be raised in the City’s Economic Masterplan and supported the need to re-open the Leamside Lane.
- Business Improvement and Advice Services Team, through the Carers Strategy, are assisting Carers and ex-Carers into employment, offering advice and guidance on vocational training and sources of funding. They are currently pilot placing people with learning disabilities into NHS placements. In addition, the team have established a Volunteering Programme in Health, Housing and Adult Services which recruits, trains and places volunteers in a variety of roles within the Learning Disability Service and in Sunderland Community Mental Health Partnership.
- The Volunteering programme in Health, Housing and Adult Services recruits, trains and places volunteers in a variety of roles within the Learning Disability Service and the Sunderland Community Mental Health Partnership.
- Sunderland City Council’s Family, Adult and Community Learning Service (FACL) have a range of learning programmes designed to engage hard to reach adults in Washington.
- Employability skills courses were delivered during 2009/10. These courses were aimed at developing individual’s skills so that they become sustainable in the local economy in terms of participating in volunteering opportunities or progressing into options that will lead to future employment.

## **6.0 Area Committee meetings**

### **Membership**

The meetings are chaired by Councillor John Kelly (Washington North Ward) and Cllr Bernard Scaplehorn (Washington West Ward) is the Vice Chair, and also the Chair of Washington VCS Area Network.

Each Area Committee has a Sunderland City Council Executive Director as its Area Lead Executive (ALE). The ALE reinforces the strategic importance of the area dimension to the Council's policy and planning framework, and in particular will reinforce the importance the Council places on enhancing community governance, aligning resources and activity and improving public service delivery at a local level. The ALE for Washington is Neil Revely (Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services).

There are named representatives from each of the Local Strategic Partnership Delivery Boards. This is to ensure a consistent, two way flow of information between Citywide and Area based working under each of the five thematic areas.

Partner organisations represented at the Washington Area Committee are:

- City of Sunderland College
- Gentoo
- Northumbria Police
- Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
- Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)

Three members of the Washington VCS Area Network, have been nominated to represent the VCS at Area Committee.

There are a number of nominated officers from Council Directorates, at a Head of Service level who attend Area Committee, along with key contacts in each Directorate who act as linkages between Area Committee and Directorates.

### **Meetings**

The Committee met six times during 2009-10, this being the seventh. The first meeting of the year (June) was designated as a workshop which agreed priorities and established the delivery plan for 2009-10. At each of the five business meetings Area Committee agreed to adopt a standing agenda for each meeting to ensure that only issues of importance to the Washington area came forward for discussion. Information only items are not formally presented and do not form part of discussions. The thematic agenda item, which addresses the key priorities at an area level, was therefore given priority and more time allocated to it. Other regular items discussed were: Questions to Area Committee; Feedback of the Area Action Plans; Finance and Funding Requests and Items for Consultation. Although the time management of agendas has improved there is still a need to be more focused and involve non elected members throughout the agenda process.

Attendance levels of elected members has been relatively high throughout the year, 13 out of 18 members attending each meeting. Officer attendance has been strong, with an average of 12 Officers attending each meeting. Partner attendance has fluctuated depending on the agenda, with an average of 4 per meeting. Attendance from the public has ranged between 4-35. Area Committee meetings are Council meetings held in public, therefore the public have no right to speak. However, Washington Committee encouraged and allowed residents a voice throughout the meetings and ensured they can regularly ask questions and engage in discussions.

Standards for Area Committees have been developed and a set of guidelines are available for those presenting reports or carrying out consultation, along with a report template. As a result there are fewer pages and reports are tailored to reflect information at an area level. Before every meeting a pre meeting is held, between the Chair and presenting Officers to discuss the running order of the meeting, outlining roles and timing of each item. The average number of

committee papers this year was 74, compared with 108 for last year. The level of information contained in these report is high which has resulted in longer meetings being held than the recommended guideline of no longer than 2h, bringing the average timing of the meetings up to 2h 25mins.

There have been seven Questions to Area Committee presented. The process is currently being reviewed by Democratic Services. Under consultation items, four policies were brought forward for discussion and suggestions, allowing the opportunity for the Committee to shape services.

### **Building the infrastructure of meetings**

An Area Committee Handbook has been developed to outline the aims and objectives of the Committee, and also individual roles and responsibilities. The Handbook will be published in June 2010.

The Councillor Call for Action mechanism came into force on 1 April 2009 through the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Such provisions provide Members with the opportunity to ask for discussions on issues where local problems have arisen and where other methods of resolution have been exhausted. At the same time work was also being undertaken to develop the Area Committees links with both Scrutiny Committees and the Sunderland Partnership, one of which was the ability to signpost and escalate local issues to the most appropriate body for resolution as referred to in the current Area Review process. On a practical level 'referral and criteria' mechanism will be considered by Cabinet for implementation in the new municipal year to escalate / re-direct issues of local concern either raised by an Elected Member/Committee, member of the public or external partner to the appropriate body namely the Area Committees, the City Council's Scrutiny and Sunderland Partnership.

Performance updates have not been presented to Area Committee, However, this has been an area of weakness and work is ongoing with the Performance Improvement Team to introduce a more meaningful performance framework in terms of managing and meeting expectations in the new municipal year.

An Area Team has been established to support the work of the ALE, Area Chair/Vice Chair and Area Committee. The team consists of:-

- Area Officer
- Area Community Development Co-ordinator
- Communications Link Officer
- Democratic Services Officer
- Policy Officer (Inclusion)

## 7.0 Finance and Funding Requests

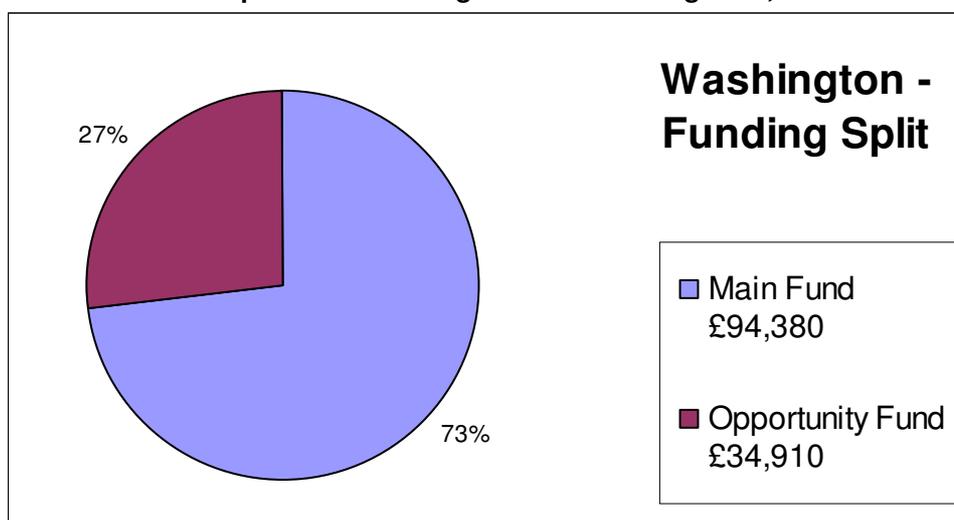
### SIB

A budget of £317,460 was available during 2009/10, this includes re-couped funds. A total of £129,290 has been allocated, leaving a balance of £188,170 to be carried over to 2010/11.

Under the revised governance arrangements for SIB, resources are allocated against the priorities outlined in the Local Area Plan. At the beginning of the municipal year, Area Committee set out to allocate a proportion of SIB funding by proactively identifying projects to deliver against agreed priorities and commission services to meet local need (Main SIB budget).

The need to be flexible and responsive was also important and therefore Committee were receptive to organisations also identifying need and gaps in line with the priorities in the LAP and applying for funding to deliver against these priorities (Opportunity Fund). The breakdown is shown below.

**Table 7.1: Actual split of SIB funding awarded totalling £129,290**

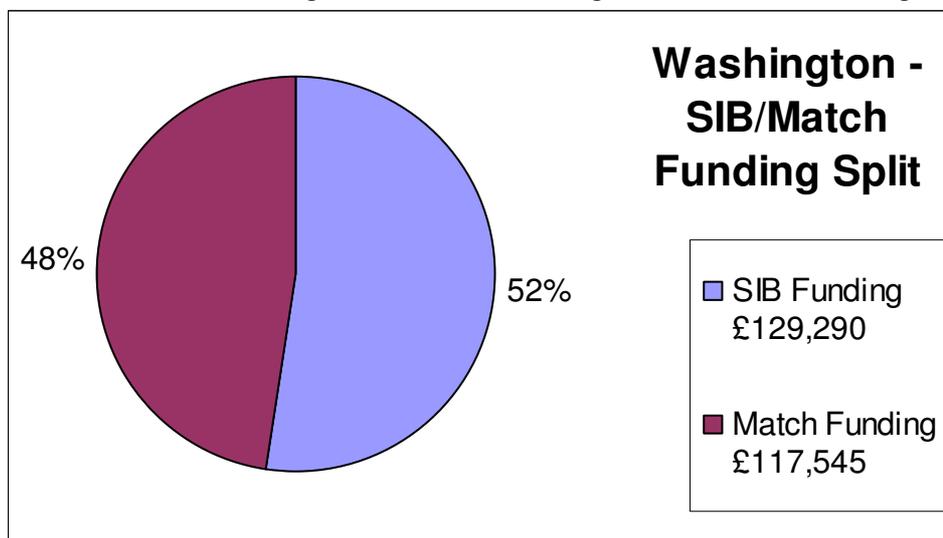


**Main Budget = £94,380**

**Opportunity Budget = £34,910**

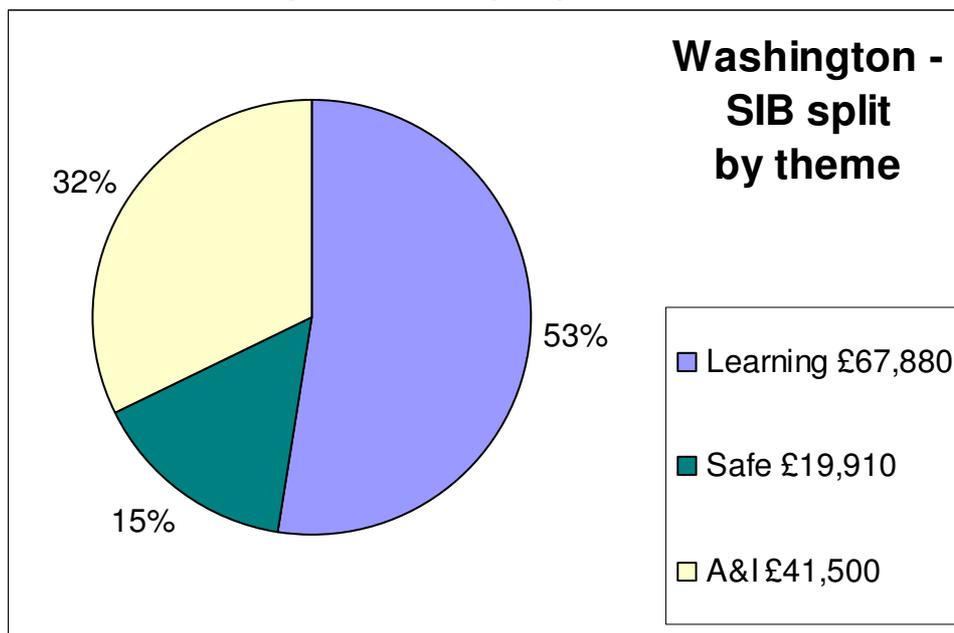
One of the primary aims of SIB funding is to attract match funding from other sources in order to maximise the benefits to local projects and communities. The £129,290 (52%) SIB allocated has attracted a total of £117,545 (48%) into the Washington area.

**Table 7.2: Match funding secured into Washington area via SIB funding**



Of the five themes included in the LAP, funding was awarded against three themes, Learning (£67,880), Safe (£19,910) and Attractive and Inclusive (£41,500). The majority of funding awarded from SIB related to the Learning theme, which accounted for over 50% of the allocation.

**Table 7.3: SIB Washington Financial Split by Theme**

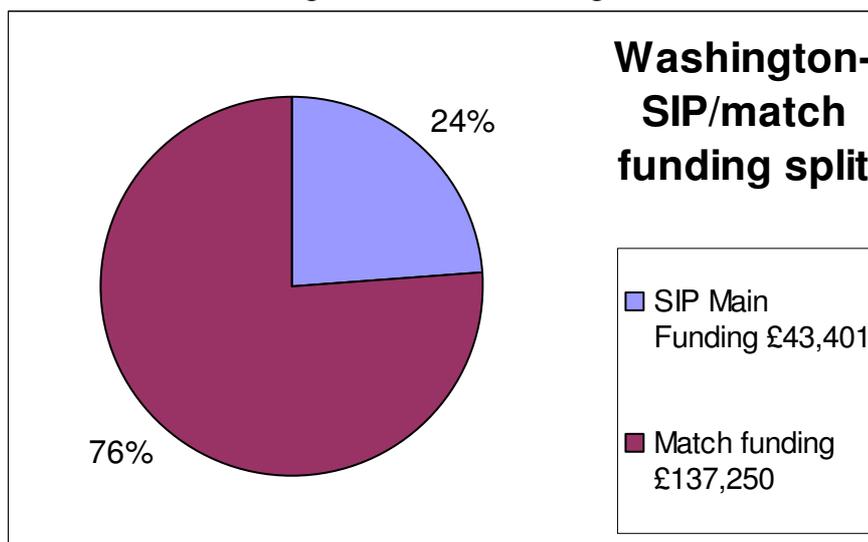


**SIP**

A one off budget of £262,461 was available for 2009/10. A total of £43,401 has been allocated, leaving a balance of £219,060 to be carried over to 2010/11. It was agreed to split SIP equally across the five wards, £52,492 each.

As with SIB, a primary aim of SIP funding is to attract match funding from other sources in order to maximise the benefits to local projects and communities. The £43,401 (24%) SIP allocated has attracted a total of £137,250 (76%) into the Washington area. See below.

**Table 7.4: Match funding secured into Washington area via SIP funding**

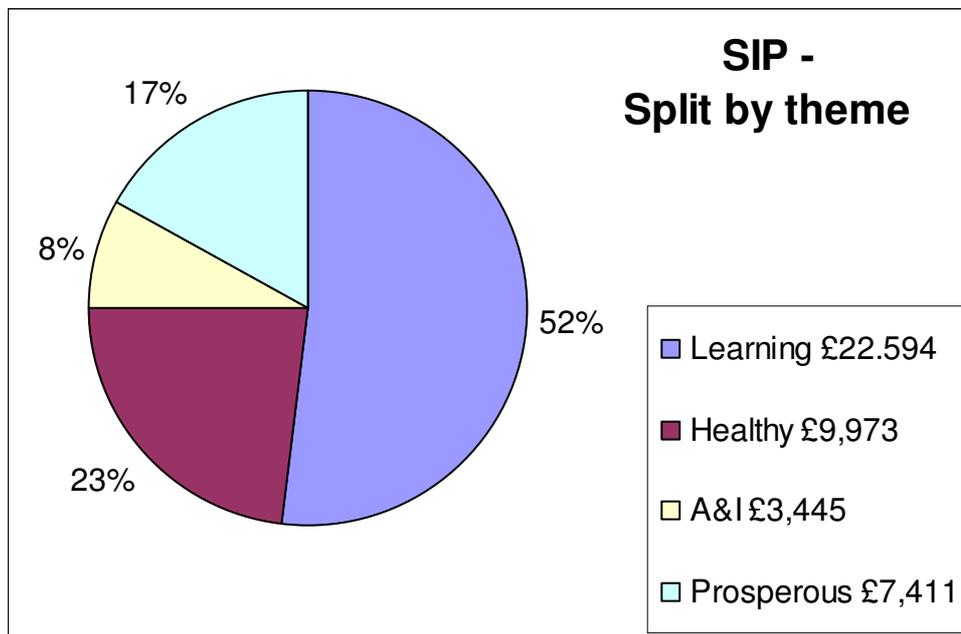


Of the five themes included in the LAP, funding was awarded against four themes, Learning (£22,495), Healthy (£9,973), Attractive and Inclusive (£3,445); Prosperous (£7,411). The

majority of funding awarded from SIP related to the Learning theme, which again accounted for over 50% of the allocation.

The remaining SIP budget of £219,059 must be fully expended by 31 March 2011. As identified in the strategic objectives, this budget is available to make physical improvements to the area.

**Table 7.5: SIP Washington Financial Split by Theme**

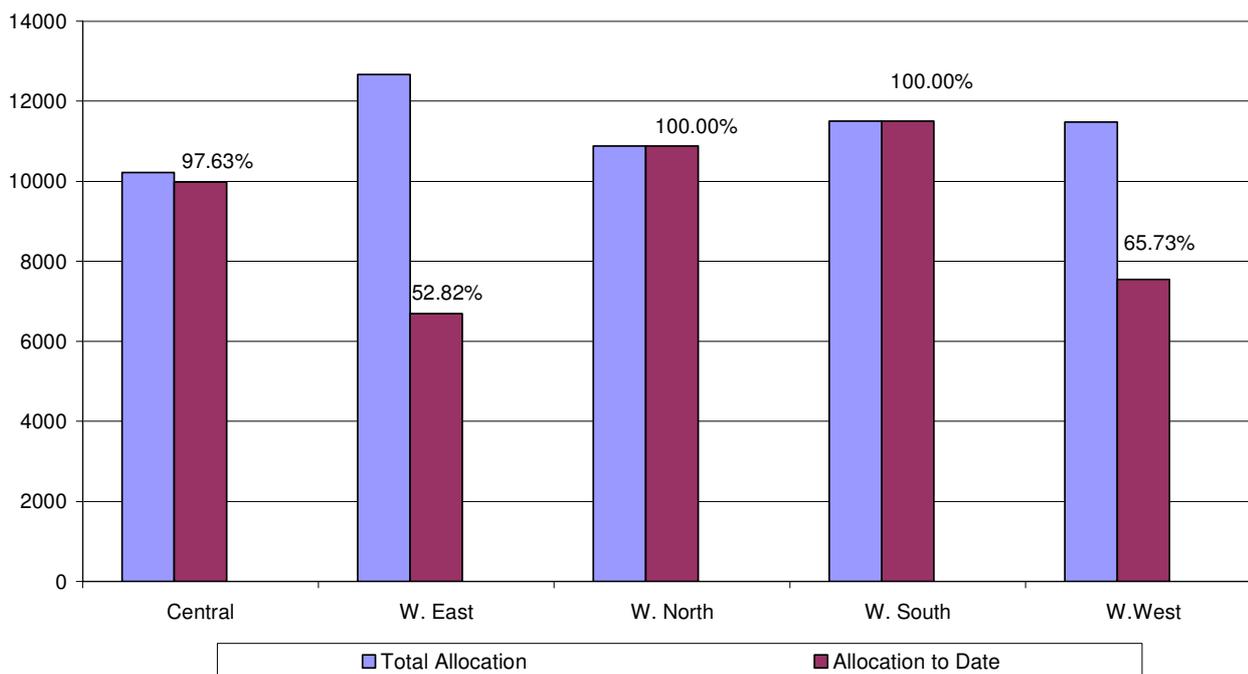


**Community Chest**

A budget of £56,743 was available for 2009/10. A total of £46,592 has been allocated, leaving a balance of £10,151 to be carried over to 2010/11.

**Table 7.6: Community Chest ward allocation 2009/10**

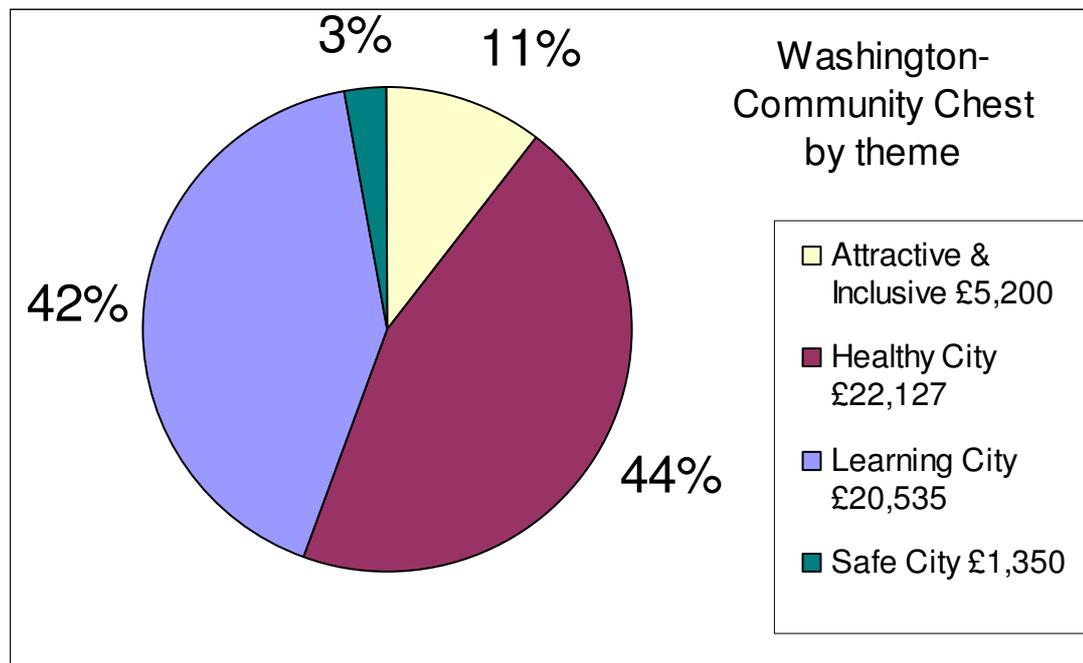
**Washington Area Committee**



Funding was awarded against four of the five themes, with 130 community projects being supported throughout the area: Attractive and Inclusive (£5,200); Healthy (£22,127); Learning

(£20,535); Safe (£1,350). The majority of funding was awarded towards two themes, Learning and Healthy both of which represent over 40% over the funding. The thematic breakdown is as follows.

**Table 7.7: Community Chest Financial Split by Theme**



## 8.0 Acknowledgements

### ***Special thank you to, for their support during 2009-10:-***

- Arts Centre, Washington
- Gentoo
- Nexus
- Northumbria Police
- SAFC Foundation
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue
- Washington Pride
- Washington Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Area Network
- Sunderland City Council
  - Business Investment Team, Office of the Chief Executive
  - Community Development Team, City Services
  - Corporate Communications, Office of Chief Executives
  - Cultural and Tourism, City Services
  - E-government Team, Office of the Chief Executive
  - Environmental Services, City Services
  - Extended Schools Team, Children Services
  - Family, Adults and Community Services, Health, Housing and Adult Services

- Future Team, Health, Housing and Adult Services
- Highway Maintenance, City Services
- Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Team, Health, Housing and Adult Services
- Planning Implementation, Office of the Chief Executive
- Sport and Leisure, City Services
- Street Scene, City Services
- Traffic and Road Safety, City Services
- Youth Development Group, Children Services
- Youth Offending Services, Children Services

## **9.0 Summary**

The Annual Report and supporting information will be used to analyse and reflect on the work that has taken place throughout the past year and help to inform the June meeting as the committee moves towards a new work plan.

## **10.0 Background papers**

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

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