

## **Washington Area Committee**

**15<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

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

#### **Washington: Towards a new work plan 2010-11**

##### **1.0 Why has it come to Committee?**

1.1 At its meeting in June 2009, the Committee agreed its work plan for the 2009/10. It was agreed that the April 2010 meeting would consider the Committee's 'Annual Report' and also begin the process of identifying work streams for 2010/11 year. These work streams will then be finalised by Committee into a new work plan for the year.

1.2 The next Committee meeting in June will decide on the work plan for the next municipal year. This report will highlight possible options for consideration at the June meeting.

##### **2.0 Description of Decision (Recommendations)**

###### **2.1 Area Committee is recommended to:**

- Examine Local Area Plan priorities and to focus the efforts of the Area Committee on areas where they can make a real difference;
- Agree to the principle of six priorities, to include Responsive Local Services, to form the 2010/11 work plan, which will be agreed at the June 2010 work plan meeting;
- Examine the governance processes to ensure they can deliver the Committee's programme and priorities.

##### **3.0 Background**

3.1 The Annual Report provides a synopsis of the Committee's work over the 2009/10 municipal year. Whilst there are a number of major achievements, it has become increasingly clear that changing some of the ways the Committee operates will lead to greater alignment with priorities and a clearer focus on delivery.

3.2 The improvements suggested for consideration have arisen through the collection of information throughout the year via the Thematic Reports, Area Action Plan developments, issues raised through the Leader's Ward Visits, Place Survey, LSP Thematic Delivery Plans, Directorate Delivery Plans and feedback from members and partners.

##### **4.0 Refreshing Local Area Plans**

4.1 The suggestions below can form the basis of discussion at June's meeting and assist the Committee in deciding the areas and actions its work plan for 2010-11 should focus on:

###### **Prosperous:**

- Child poverty from an area perspective;
- Washington Industrial Estate Survey.

###### **Learning:**

- Identify gaps in youth and play provision services;
- Support for family and carers of children and young people.

###### **Safe:**

- Establish ward working groups (Councillors, Police, etc) to reduce ASB by targeting hotspots and increase confidence and trust levels in the community.

#### Healthy:

- Reduce health inequalities
  - Smoking, Obesity and alcohol relating to early mortality;
  - Emotional health and well being for children, young people and adults.

#### Attractive and Inclusive:

- Responsive Local Services project;
- Celebrate our heritage.

### **5.0 Process Proposals**

- 5.1 It is proposed that June's Area Committee discuss and agree six priorities (to include Responsive Local Services) out of the eight proposed above. Committee will receive information that will build a picture of key facts and current services relating to the priorities listed under section 4 of the report, along with any proposals identified during tonight's meeting to address in 2010/1
- 5.2 The purpose, to ascertain and distinguish between service provision and non service provision at an Area level, recognising what Area Committee can impact upon during the following twelve months.
- 5.3 As well as June's Area Committee agreeing priorities, Lead Agents will be named against each priority. Lead Agents will ensure that the project is reviewed, actions are allocated and measurable, monitored and fed back into Area Committee, linking into the Area Officer throughout the process, ensuring a central point of collection of information.
- 5.4 It is proposed that a series of 'Task and Finish' groups be established per priority action and should include elected members and partners. These groups will support the Lead Agent in delivering against the priority by problem solving. Where relevant, Task and Finish groups will establish a performance management framework, to enable Committee to monitor the delivery of the priority throughout the year.
- 5.5 Actions identified and agreed during 2009/10 will also be progressed until all actions are resolved/completed. Feedback will be given to Area Committee as part of the performance and feedback reports, with regularly updates being available on-line.

### **6.0 Committee Governance Proposals**

- 6.1 It is proposed to reduce the length of reports presented to Area Committee. Additional or supporting papers will be sent separately via a monthly e-bulletin.
- 6.2 Recommendations in reports will be replaced with a list of options, along with key strengths and weaknesses against each option. Committee will be asked to discuss options, with all members (including partners and officers) asking questions, informing debate and agreeing the preferred option to implement.
- 6.3 It is proposed that agenda items on which Committee do not have to make a decision will be classified as 'information only' and not discussed at Committee; instead these updates will be circulated with the planned e-bulletin.
- 6.4 The above measures to be discussed at the June meeting are designed to focus the work of the Committee on deliverable actions, ensure meetings last a maximum of two hours and help towards considering options to encouraging residents to become involved in influencing decision making e.g. review of Questions to Area Committee; promotion of Citizens Panel; Independent Advisory Groups (IAGS), etc.

## **7.0 Funding Governance Proposals**

7.1 To further the process of greater focus on actions that deliver the objectives of the LAP, it is proposed that funding governance for SIB should be adjusted. Consideration could be given to the following:

- Aligning a percentage of funding against priorities;
- Re-design the application form to reflect the area's priorities;
- Authenticating internal applications as true requests for funding, via seeking approval from the Executive Director and relevant Portfolio holder before approaching Area Committee's budgets.

## **8.0 Background papers**

- Sunderland Strategy Delivery Plans
- Local Area Agreements Delivery Plans
- Washington Local Area Plan
- Washington Annual Report 2009/10

## **9.0 Contact Officer:**

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