

**6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2011**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**INFLUENCING PRACTICE, POLICY AND STRATEGY**

**Refreshing Washington Local Area Plan**

**1. Why has it come to Committee?**

- 1.1 It was agreed at the beginning of the municipal year that Area Committee would lead on refreshing their Local Area Plan (LAP) between January 2011 to March 2011. To support Committee throughout this process information has been provided on four main elements:
- What are people telling us
  - Developments to consider
  - Proposed framework for managing the refresh and review of the Plan
  - Recommendations including terms of reference.
- 1.2 The Area Committee has been provided with significant citywide and local strategic information over the last 3 years. In addition, partners including the community and voluntary sector have fed information into the Area Committee process that has resulted in the development of the Washington Local Area Plan and the Committee's annual work plans. The plans have not only identified key priorities, but through the establishment of task and finish groups supported the Committee in influencing the provision of public sector service delivery at a local level and focused the allocation of its delegated budgets to deliver actions to address those priorities.

**2. What residents are telling us?**

- 2.1 Feedback from residents has now been collected over the last year, and this information will be used to provide a focus on improvements that need to be made at an area level, from a resident's perspective.
- 2.2 Area Committee have the opportunity of using this information when refreshing their LAP and establishing their work plan for 2011-12. The work of the Area Committee could then significantly address resident's perspectives of their neighbourhoods and provide for an understanding of the outcomes of the Area Committee's actions.
- 2.3 What does this mean for Washington?  
By understanding what residents are saying we can start to build a picture of what really matters to people living in the neighbourhoods and communities within the Washington area. We can then use this information to help inform decisions and meet local people's needs when deciding on area priorities. As a starting point, the information provided from resident's feedback in the 2009 Place Survey has been cross referenced with a number of sources to identify emerging priority issues. The initial findings would indicate that the priorities for Washington residents are:
- Activities for teenagers - linked to feeling unsafe and anti social behaviour (teenagers hanging around)
  - Job prospects – including lifelong learning, and apprenticeships for young people linked to culture, inclusion and heritage
  - Road and pavement repairs

## 2.4 Feeling unsafe, anti social behaviour and activities for teenagers:

By analysing the information provided by residents, the Area Committee will be better able to understand what elements need to be considered if feeling unsafe, anti social behaviour (ASB) and teenagers hanging around are chosen as a priority:

- The most common ASB issue is still teenagers hanging around. The Safer Communities Survey report endorses with the survey consistently identifying teenagers hanging around on streets as the top issue.
- Increases in ASB are occurring but those increases are ward specific
- Perception around alcohol misuse as a problem is still a key issue for residents
- Violence against persons is higher than the city average in Washington North
- Burglary is higher than the city average in Washington Central and East
- Theft (other than from a vehicle) is nearly twice the city average in Washington Central and similar to the city average in Washington North
- Criminal damage is higher than the city average in Washington North and South
- Drugs offences are higher than the city average in Washington North
- Washington is below average for visibility and awareness of policing. Developing and targeting local communication and engagement tactics and a visible policing presence is required
- Activities to divert young people away from anti social behaviour are identified by residents as key to increasing feelings of being safe.

## 2.5 Job prospects for Washington residents

By analysing the information provided by residents, the Area Committee will be better able to understand what elements need to be considered if improving job prospects is chosen as a priority:

- Washington areas have gained the largest increases in endorsement of job prospects needing improvement since the 2008/9 Place survey. 42% of Washington residents see job prospects as the local aspect most in need of improvement
- There are a number of factors that impact on a resident's ability to work. More residents are economically inactive (which means they aren't looking to work e.g. residents looking after a home, retired, students etc.) in Washington North (36.68%) which is slightly less than the city average of 39.36%. Contributory factors are the higher rates of permanently sick and disabled residents.
- The percentage of children in households that are dependent on out of work benefits is a key measure of child poverty. Levels in Washington North ward (32.8%) are higher than the City average (26.5%), the other wards in Washington are slightly lower.
- Whilst improvement to job prospects is seen as an important priority some key facts identify that Washington's baseline re unemployment and those not in education, employment and training (NEETs) is lower than the city average and lower than many wards across the city.
- There are also a number of key initiatives underway to improve local people's access to employment opportunities. They are
  - Development proposals for Washington Workspace
  - Demand Survey with employer's underway
  - Review of council led employability services underway
  - Visible workspace audit and audit of Washington Industrial sites completed
  - Recognition of the importance of upskilling and training young people, e.g. apprenticeships and training schemes. Developing links between skills gaps, culture and heritage offer, and learning and training opportunities for young

people are already recognised as a priority through the current Area Committee Workplan.

- Feasibility and options analysis of the heritage offer in Washington is underway. This includes the consideration of the provision of learning opportunities, learning environments (physical and virtual), partnerships with other organisations, and the position of learning within organisations.

## 2.6 Road and pavement repairs

By analysing the information provided, the Area Committee will be better able to understand what need to be considered if this is chosen as a priority:

- 40% of Washington residents feel road and pavement repairs need to be improved. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest of the Regeneration Areas and is higher than the city average.
- The Washington Area Committee have raised this issue as part of their 2010/11 Workplan and have utilised Area Committee funding to address some of those concerns
- The Washington Road Safety Scheme has implemented some repairs and modifications throughout 2010/11

## 3. Other Factors for Consideration

3.1 There are a number of strategic and service developments that need to be taken into consideration when developing the LAP, such as;

- Community Strategy
- Corporate Improvement Plan
- Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee: Sunderland 'The Place' Policy Review 10/11
- Child and Family Poverty Strategy
- Economic Masterplan
- Budget Framework
- Local Development Framework
- Washington Area Committee's Work Plan 2010-11

Such documents will both inform and be informed by the review of the LAP and will be strategically aligned to the work of the Area Committee.

## 4. Proposed Consultation Framework

4.1 Consultation is a key part of developing a well informed LAP. It is recognised that the whole community should have an opportunity to participate in the consultation process, with elected members, receiving support from partners to drive the consultation process forward.

4.2 Consultation and community engagement are therefore fundamental foundations in developing LAPs, which will inform the refreshed Sunderland Strategy. During November, the Area Co-ordination Team concentrated on analysing resident surveys, requests for services, feedback from Community Spirit, outcomes from the State of the City Debate and Youth State of the City, Voluntary and Community Sector Area Networks and key facts and performance data as gathered through our Area Regeneration Framework Profiles, the findings of which are shown in Section two of this report. In order to ensure an inclusive approach a consultation framework will be applied.

- 4.3 Stage One: 6th January 2011  
Present desk top research to Washington Area Committee, building a picture of what people are telling us needs improving and their top priorities to address.
- 4.4 Stage Two: January - March 2011  
Area Committee agree to establish a Task and Finish group made up of elected members and partners (see Annex 1). The group, if agreed, will commit to actively working outside of the Committee cycle between January and March 2011 to consider what people are telling us. They will bring information forward, relevant to the area, about key strategies and Partner/ Directorate delivery plans for the forthcoming year; raise the profile of any local research, project interventions or initiatives being delivered, quality control information supplied and propose suitable performance measures to enable the production of the first draft of LAP. This will include key priorities that will be provided for the Area Committee to agree.
- 4.5 Stage Three: March - April 2011  
The Draft LAP, including key priorities, will be provided to the Area Committee for agreement. There will be a commitment to consult with a wide mix of residents, for example, young and old, from different communities, and interests, to ensure the information collected is unbiased. Groups to be consulted could include, for example, those active in the Washington area highlighted in Annex 2. Area Committee also have an opportunity to add further groups, for example, Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Groups (LMAPs). All elected members will receive notification of meetings held within the Washington area.
- 4.6 Stage Four: April 2011 - May 2011  
The Task and Finish Group will capture feedback, refine the LAP and develop an action plan, including performance measures, reporting their findings to Area Committee for agreement.
- 4.7 Stage Five: May 2011  
The final design to be provided to Elected Members prior to release to local partners and residents. The LAP will then be widely communicated with two versions produced, one version being a special edition of Community News for residents, the second, being a working document for Committee to deliver against throughout 2011/12.
- 4.8 Stage Six: October – November 2011  
Bi-annual performance report presented to Area Committee, to advise Committee on progress on activity.

## **5. Recommendation(s)**

Area Committee are asked to agree the following:

- Establish a Washington LAP Task and Finish Group and note the terms of reference for the group, outlined in Annex 1.
- Nominate the membership of the group.
- Agree the proposed consultation framework outlined in Section 4 above.
- Note the findings of the report and agree to receive a further report in March 2011.

**Annex 1:** Terms of Reference

**Annex 2:** Community/resident groups in Washington

**Background papers**

- Place Survey 2009
- Safer Sunderland Partnership: Confidence Survey 2010
- Community Spirit Panel: Sustainable Communities
- State of the City Debate 2010
- Youth State of the City Debate 2010
- Mini Youth Inc Events 2009
- VCS Area Network 2010 meetings
- Customer Service Requests: Quarter three 2010
- Area Regeneration Frameworks 2010

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## **Item 4: Annex 1: Local Area Plan (LAP) Task and Finish Groups: Guidance Notes**

### **Membership**

The LAP Task and Finish group to be chaired by the Area Chair, or nominee, and will include Councillors, LSP representatives, officers, and experts. Sub groups and advisors may be appointed, if necessary, and their terms of reference will be agreed by the Task and Finish group.

### **Frequency of Meetings**

The group will agree the frequency and intervals of its meetings in order to achieve its purpose and specific duties within the timescale agreed by the Area Committee.

### **Purpose of group**

- Consider what local people are telling us about improvements, priorities and satisfaction levels of service delivery.
- Commit to actively work outside of Area Committee between January 2011 and March 2011.
- Act as a hub of area information and intelligence relating to strategies, delivery plans, research, interventions and initiatives being delivered in the area.
- Quality control information supplied.
- Propose suitable performance measures against future priorities.
- Present draft priorities and LAP to Area Committee to agree before consultation framework applied.
- Consult on draft priorities and LAP with residents and partners.
- Capture feedback from consultation exercise and refine LAP.
- Present final LAP to Committee for consideration.

### **Budgetary responsibility**

No budget is assigned to the Task and Finish group. Individual Area Committees may agree to align a percentage of their SIB budget to a Task and Finish group to address the priority identified in the work plan, however requests for funding would need to be endorsed by Area Committee, or through the emergency protocol.

### **Communication by the Group**

- The group shall be responsible for keeping the Area Committee updated on progress via the Area Officer using the following mechanisms:
  - Sunderland website and Area Action Plans
  - Ward e-bulletin and Washington Community Newsletter
  - Update reports at Area Committee meetings.
- Any other appropriate means identified by the task and finish group
- A schedule of action, identifying 'lead responsibility' and deadline dates will be produced within 7 working days of any meeting and circulated for action, with regular updates.

### **Limits of group**

The task and finish group have no decision making powers. Recommendations of the task and finish group will be discussed and endorsed by the Area Committee.

## **Item 4: Annex 2:**

### **Community and Residents Groups within the Washington Area**

Many local groups share a common goal to improve their neighbourhood or area. By working with these groups Area Committee can gather further insight into what is important to local people. The following information provides an overview of some of the groups Committee may wish to include in the consultation process.

#### **Area-wide**

Bridge  
ISIS  
Military Vehicle Museum  
North East Aircraft Museum  
Washington Age Concern  
Washington Citizen Advice Bureau  
Washington Carers  
Washington Football Club  
Washington History Society  
Washington MIND  
Washington Riding Centre for the Disabled  
Washington Scouts Group

#### **Washington Central Ward**

Columbia Community Association  
Friends of Princess Anne Park  
Glebe Residents Association  
Washington Boxing Club  
Washington F Pit Banner Group  
Washington Village Community Association

#### **Washington East Ward**

Barmston & District Community Forum  
Barmston Residents Association  
Harraton Community Association  
Roseberry Court Residents Group

#### **Washington North Ward**

Pitstop Youth Project  
Washington Millennium Centre  
Sulgrave Tenant and Residents Association  
Usworth Colliery Banner Group  
Peacehaven Court Residents Group

#### **Washington South Ward**

Brancepeth Residents Association  
Barmston and District Senior Citizens  
Lambton Community Association  
Oxclose Residents and Neighbourhood  
Watch Association  
Oxclose and District Young People's Project  
Rickleton Residents Association

#### **Washington West Ward**

Donwell Community Association  
Springwell Community Association  
Albany Residents Association