

**Washington Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2023 / 2026**

**Updated December 2024**



The Area Plan commits the Area Committee to a number of priorities, which will be delivered within the Washington area. This Delivery Plan provides an update on progress on the Area Committee’s Area Plan and will be monitored by the Area Committee and actions will be addressed throughout the next three years via the Washington Neighbourhood and Community Board.

<b>Vibrant Smart City - Priorities and Actions 2023-26</b>	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Update</b>
A plantation and tree management programme  COMPLETE	Project now complete. Considerable amount of work completed around Washington.
Washington Clean and Green project	This Area Committee funded project will run until June 2025. Regular Steering Group meetings are held, where locations and workplans are agreed. During the last quarter 197 bags of rubbish were collected through 32 litter picks and community clean ups. 388 volunteer hours were delivered. Some examples of work carried out includes ‘Balsam Bashing’ (the removal of the invasive weed Himalayan Balsam, clearing items from Biddick Burn, and cutting back overgrown shrubbery blocking footpaths which received a number of thanks from passing pedestrians. This quarter we have worked with Rickleton RA, Rickleton Primary School, Bowes Railway, Harraton Community Association, Oxclose RA, Teal Farm RA, Friends of Princess Anne Park, Friends of Usworth Park, Washington in Bloom and Building Blocks Nursery
Support for VCS organisations and community hubs  COMPLETE	Project now complete, all funding allocated. During the year the remaining balances for Community Asset funding was allocated across 5 community and youth venues to improve internal and external aspects of the buildings; including heating, lighting, roof repairs to a total value of £27,870
Community events	The Miners Picnic took place in August 2024, working closely with the Little Onions group who are now operating from the pavilion within Usworth Park. There were approximately 300 people who attended the event across the day and feedback was favourable with many commenting on how it was great to see the park being used for community events The Washington Summer Carnival was held on 14th September and included the 2214

	<p>Cadets, Wyrn Rider Bikers, JFK Primary, George Washington Academy and Usworth Colliery Primary School. This year the Heritage Marquee included the Washington History Society, NE War Memorials, Bowes Railway, the Washington Heritage Partnership, and the ever popular Meccano stand. Attendance across the day was steady with the total number of people visiting exceeding 5,000.</p> <p>The Concord Christmas switch on took place on Monday 18 November and was well attended by the local community.</p>
A Heritage and Culture strategy/programme	<p>Funding to deliver a second phase of the project was approved at Area Committee in September 2024. This next phase will commence in January 2025 and focus more on delivery of activities and events. Members will continue to receive detailed updates as part of the quarterly performance reports. During this last quarter 38 cultural, heritage and community events have taken place, 5,684 visitors have attended cultural, heritage and community events and 209 volunteers have participated.</p>
A road safety and VAS programme	<p>There are currently 40 locations and 10 signs, which are rotated on a quarterly basis. The project continues to support the local community by making drivers aware of their vehicle speed and encourage drivers exceeding the advertised speed limit to reduce their speed. A discussion regarding inconsiderate and dangerous parking around schools took place at the November 2024 Neighbourhood &amp; Community Board meeting. Members will meet with relevant officers in January/February 2025 to discuss in further detail.</p>
Public artwork & celebrations for Washington 60 / Galleries 50 COMPLETE	<p>A large number of school workshops have now been held across Washington since the launch in November, the competition is now closed and judging will take place in July with an award ceremony being held in Washington Arts Centre on 19<sup>th</sup> July. The project is now complete.</p>
A Washington volunteer recognition project COMPLETE	<p>A recognition presentation was held for the Clean and Green volunteers, where certificates were presented by Cllr Snowdon at Bowes Railway. Volunteers were also invited by the Mayor to have a tour of City Hall which was held in February. The project is now complete.</p>
Signage at Fatfield Riverside to incorporate the heritage and ecology of the area	<p>Discussions with relevant service areas are ongoing.</p>
A feasibility study for Fatfield Riverside & wider Washington	<p>Feasibility study agreed at December Area Committee, work is currently underway to provide two costed schemes for consideration.</p>
<b>Healthy Smart City - Priorities and Actions 2023-26</b>	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Update</b>

A programme of outreach youth provision COMPLETE	Complete - Update shared with members 15/8/23, project now complete. Ongoing discussions are being held with youth providers to ensure any new youth project ideas can be considered to meet identified need.
Neighbourhood management and enforcement	Project extension agreed at December Area Committee to continue until March 2026. Outcomes continue to be positive, residents engaged regarding bin presentation and improvements have been noted, dog fouling and high visibility patrols continue and feedback from the public is positive. Enforcement action continues to be issued. <a href="#">Members are provided with detailed updates each quarter as part of the project performance report.</a>
Investment in parks and play areas	Harraton Park improvements are now complete utilising fixed play strategy funding. Recent update provided to members on Playzone. <a href="#">Work to install new gates, benches and a restored model pit wheel in Usworth Park are underway. It is proposed that the remaining budget is utilised to install three coal tub planters, which will be created by Bowes Railway, made from railway sleepers. Further information in <b>Item 4 Budget Report</b></a>
Positive activities for young people	A call for projects for Activities for Young People was carried out and seven projects were approved at the June 2024 meeting. Projects are now underway and progress reports will be presented to Members each quarter.
Diversionary activities for young people	TWFRS Phoenix project presented to members at December Area Committee. Project approved for x 4 Secondary and x 5 Primary schools to partake, each with 10 identified students – 90 across the year. An update is provided within the Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service report to Area Committee.
Contributed to the development of the Links for Life programme	Organisations delivering Links for Life have been supported with appropriate Community Chest funding and also one to one support from the Partnership & Community Resilience Manager. <a href="#">A further phase of Links for Life is underway, updates will be provided as part of the Service Plan at Annex 2 to the Neighbourhood &amp; Community Board report.</a>
Improved access to allotments and community gardens	Relevant service lead has previously attended the Neighbourhood and Community Board meeting to update on continued work in and around allotments. A site visit has been carried out at allotments adjacent to Usworth Park and work is ongoing to realign gates at the entrance to the park.
A considered approach to park development, including ecological impact	Any discussions held around park development always include consideration for ecological impact.

Dynamic Smart City – Priorities and Actions 2023-26	
Action	Update
Supporting people into work  COMPLETE	The Washington REACT project has engaged 12 new people in the quarter and has a current active caseload of 22 people. The REACT Project Employment Mentor has continued to work closely with customers to help and support both with social and emotional wellbeing on a 1:1 basis, in order to move closer to the labour market. This phase of the project is now complete.
Developing skills of young people	<p>The Area Committee funded NEET project is due to end in March 2025. To date 12 young people have moved into Education, Employment or Training</p> <p>In the last quarter four young people completed a short employability programme that aimed to progress young people into further training or employment. All members of the group successfully achieved Heartstart Emergency First Aid certificates.</p> <p>All young people from the short Employability Programme including those that have progressed into employment were offered ongoing support with any applications or interviews that they may secure.</p> <p>Teaching and support staff from Oxclose &amp; District Young Peoples Project have also continued to work closely with Together for Children's Careers team to identify young people aged sixteen to nineteen who were recorded as not currently engaging in employment, education or training (NEET).</p> <p>At the beginning of September ten young people started a new programme aimed at improving employability and life skills, raising aspirations and promoting positive progressions into further education, training or employment. The group are exploring options for work experience placements that will take place in the next quarter. A proposal to align funding to continue the project beyond March 2025 is contained in <b>Item 4 Budget Report</b></p>
Supporting young people to be more financially resilient	The Youth Matters project delivered in partnership by ShARP and ODYPP continues to deliver financial resilience educational sessions to young people. In the last quarter the project has worked with 17 new young people.
Providing individual welfare and financial support	Funding to continue the WISP project was approved in September 2024 by Area Committee. Since that date 28 individual people supported to be more financially resilient. WISP is delivered 3 x weekly from Mickeys Place in Sulgrave where it is an integral part of the support offer to local people experiencing hardship and periods of crisis. The people presenting for support often have long standing health needs/chronic health conditions, drug and alcohol dependency, domestic abuse and other complex unmet needs. WISP also receives and responds to referrals from partner organisations including - social prescribers, Gentoo, Police, WWIN, Washington VCS Network etc.

Develop approach to consultation with communities/resident	Regular discussions are held during VCS Network meetings about the opportunities to work with voluntary sector organisations to capture emerging issues and views of residents. Similarly, discussions are ongoing to engage Washington Youth Council with consultation opportunities where appropriate.
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