

Washington Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2023 / 2026

Updated September 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.

Vibrant Smart City - Priorities and Actions 2023-26	
Action	Update
A plantation and tree management programme	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, the project carried out 22 litter-picks and 21 clearances and collected 162 bags of litter through 531 hours of volunteering despite the wet weather and annual leave commitments in the quarter. The project has recruited two new volunteers and one volunteer has secured a job with Newcastle Football Club.
Support for VCS organisations and community hubs	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 Springwell Village 1940s event took place from Friday 21st June to Sunday 23rd June 2024. Planning for the event started early in 2024 with a meeting of lead partners and this year Springwell Primary School were keen to be more involved in the weekend and to host some of the activities at the school site. Activities were also hosted at the Methodist Church and Springwell Social Club and the meetings provided an opportunity to ensure that we could provide a wide range of safe activities across all sites aimed at all ages and particularly families. 61 individual traders attended across the Bowes, SVCV and primary school sites and all have provided positive feedback with many asking to book for next year. 48 volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure the weekend was a success by giving a total of 296 volunteering hours in both preparation time and attendance across the two days. An application for funding to continue a programme of events for 2024/25 is contained in Item 4 Budget Report

A Heritage and Culture strategy/programme	A Heritage networking event took place in February which was very well attended. The small grants funding opportunity continues to be promoted with groups encouraged to submit applications to support the delivery of a programme of events for Washington 60. The Partnership has been heavily involved in supporting Washington 60 planning and delivery. An application for funding to continue the Washington Heritage Partnership project is contained in Item 4 Budget Report.
The Washington Ward Improvement Programme	Project complete - Remaining balances returned to Neighbourhood Fund. Proposal for WIB 2024/25 is presented to Committee at Item 4 Budget Report.
A road safety and VAS programme	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. The damaged VAS on Heworth Road has now been repaired and a shorter cable providing power to the sign has been installed in the hope to prevent more vandalism. The requested VAS site on Donvale Road is now installed.
Public artwork & celebrations for Washington 60 / Galleries 50	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 th July.
A Washington volunteer recognition project	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.
Signage at Fatfield Riverside to incorporate the heritage and ecology of the area	Discussions with relevant service areas are ongoing.
A feasibility study for Fatfield Riverside & wider Washington	Feasibility study agreed at December Area Committee, work is currently underway to provide two costed schemes for consideration.
Healthy Smart City - Priorities and Actions 2023-26	
Action	Update
A programme of outreach youth provision	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.

Investment in parks and play areas	Harraton Park improvements are now complete utilising fixed play strategy funding. Recent update provided to members on Playzone.
Positive activities for young people	A call for projects for Activities for Young People had seen 23 applications to deliver a variety of activities across all wards to cover all age ranges. Applications had been scored and ranked and will be presented to Area Committee in June.
Diversionary activities for young people	TWFRS Phoenix project presented to members at December Area Committee. Project approved for x4 Secondary and x5 Primary schools to partake, each with 10 identified students – 90 across the year.
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.
Improved access to allotments and community gardens	Relevant service lead attended the November Neighbourhood and Community Board meeting to update on continued work in and around allotments. Site visit had been carried out at allotments adjacent to Usworth Park and discussions were being held about their appropriate allocation.
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	The REACT project has continued to be delivered with two part-time staff, providing access to the service for residents across four days per week. The REACT project has engaged 6 new customers in this quarter, with 2 clients from the caseload securing employment and two commencing occupational training.
Developing skills of young people	Can Do project now complete, residual remaining balance brought back into Neighbourhood Fund. A new project to develop skills of young people is being supported by the funding of a NEET project, agreed at March Area Committee. First quarter of delivery appears to be going well with some early outcomes already achieved.

Supporting young people to be more financially resilient	Project meetings between the Lead Partner ShARP and Oxclose District Young Peoples Project (ODYPP) have been held to discuss ongoing progress and revise a new plan to reinvigorate the programme to generate more groups. Group sessions have been held to introduce the project to a new youth group based at the Oxclose Youth Centre. The new group consisted of six young people and the topics covered included setting and establishing group ground rules, exploring the Fun with Finance project and explaining the aims and ambition of the project to the young people. The sessions were regularly attended by all six as they were interested in the talks around earning a wage, paying for things they were interested in and improving their ability to manage money on a day to day basis. The group met to discuss the 'Pot of Gold' and what they would do with the money and how it would be spent. The group have been given a £500 budget to organise an activity to take place at the end of the course. They have started work to choose an activity and are creating a budget to determine how they will spend their 'Pot of Gold' fund. The team have met to plan recruitment into group sessions for Q2
Providing individual welfare and financial support	In the last quarter the WISP project has supported 150 people presenting with multiple complex issues. Of these 50 percent had Drug and Alcohol dependency issues and long-term mental health issues. Many people had debt related issues including Bailiff action. The WISP worker has a high level of skill and knowledge which she draws upon to help people disclose their key issues which in recent months has included significant debt leading to action from bailiffs. The WISP worker helped people negotiate with creditors to put in place affordable repayment plans to prevent further bailiff action and accruing interest charges. Where patients are referred by the Social Prescribers the WISP worker has carried out a joint home visit with the Lead Social Prescriber for people who are housebound. An application to continue the project is contained in Item 4 Budget Report .
Develop approach to consultation with communities/resident	Discussion have been 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.