

**Washington Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2023 / 2026**

Updated March 2026



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> |   |
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| <b>Action</b>  | <b>Update</b>   |
| A plantation and tree management programme                 | <p>Following a considerable amount of work the project has been successfully completed.</p> <p>The project was carried out in coordination with the Council’s initiative for managing trees and green spaces across the city. A dedicated task and finish group prioritised areas which needed the most attention.</p>  |
| Washington Clean and Green project                         | <p>The Clean and Green Project is a long-standing community initiative led by Community Opportunities, originally launched in 2017. The project focuses on improving the local environment across Washington through a variety of practical, hands-on activities. These include tasks such as painting park benches, clearing fly-tipping, and tackling invasive plant species.</p> <p>In March 2025, the project secured £35,017 in Neighbourhood Funding from the Washington Area Committee, enabling it to continue its work through to June 2027.</p> <p>Since its inception, the project has delivered a wide range of environmental improvements with the support of dedicated volunteers. To date, volunteers have contributed approximately 19,979 hours of their time.</p> <p>Following the recent funding extension, the project now benefits from a core group of 12 regular volunteers. Together, they have completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 litter picks.</li> </ul> |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 site clearances.</li> <li>• 197 bags of rubbish collected through litter picks.</li> </ul> <p>Play areas were cleared to improve safety. Railings and bollards were sanded and repainted. Graffiti was removed. Fly tipping and litter was collected. Weeds, moss and debris were removed and shrubs cut back at various locations including Donwell, Lambton &amp; Oxclose, Barmston, Washington Village, Pennine House and Bede Crescent.</p> <p>Community requests were considered. A ‘thank you event’ for the volunteers was held at Bowes Railway Museum.</p> <p>Monthly litter picks have taken place with Gentoo, Keep Washington Tidy and local residents. Clean and Green workplan and priorities were reviewed. The project is guided by regular Steering Group meetings, where work locations and activity plans are agreed collaboratively. This ensures that the project remains responsive to local needs and priorities.</p> <p>Further information can be found here: <a href="#">Washington Clean and Green</a></p> |
| Support for VCSE organisations and community hubs | <p>This project focused on supporting Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations to enhance and modernise their community buildings. The aim was to ensure these vital spaces remained safe, welcoming, and fit for purpose for local residents.</p> <p>A total of 19 VCSE organisations received funding to carry out essential improvements to their facilities. Over the past year, the remaining Community Asset funding was successfully allocated to five community and youth venues, enabling a range of internal and external upgrades. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heating system improvements</li> <li>• Lighting upgrades</li> <li>• Roof repairs</li> </ul> <p>In total, £27,870 was invested into these enhancements. The project is now complete, with all funding fully allocated and improvement works delivered.</p>   |
| Community events                                  | <p>The Washington Summer Carnival is a well-established community event, successfully delivered by Community Opportunities since 2016. The event aims to bring local residents together to celebrate community spirit through a day of entertainment, activities, and engagement.</p>   |

The most recent carnival took place on 13th September 2025 and was a great success, attracting an estimated 5,000 visitors throughout the day. Attendance was particularly high during the morning, before rainfall later in the day. The event provided a vibrant mix of performances, stalls, and family-friendly activities.

In addition to the festivities, the carnival also served as a platform for community consultation on behalf of the Washington Town Board, helping to gather valuable feedback and insights from local residents.

More information can be found here: [Summer Carnival](#)

In June 2025, two vibrant community events, the Springwell Village's 1940s Event and the Washington Spring Fayre were delivered in partnership by Community Opportunities, Springwell Village Community Venue, and Bowes Railway, with funding support from the Area Committee. These events aimed to celebrate local heritage, bring communities together, and provide engaging activities for all ages.

Both events were well-attended and featured a range of activities for families and young people. Staff and volunteers from Community Opportunities played an active role, hosting interactive workshops where children decorated plant pots and planted sunflower seeds to take home. These sessions also included discussions on the importance of planting flowers, supporting pollinators like bees, and caring for the environment.

Over 50 children and young people participated in each workshop, helping to raise awareness of environmental issues in a fun and hands-on way.

More information can be found here: [SpringFayre1940s Event](#)

Usworth Park Miners Picnic – was delivered on 3 August 2025, led by Community Opportunities in close partnership with the Little Onion Club who run the pavilion within the park. Approximately 300 people attended the event across the day and feedback was extremely positive.

Concord Christmas Light Switch on was held on 17<sup>th</sup> November, the event was successful and well attended. 3,300 visitors attended, 4 volunteers participated.

The Board noted the positive impact of the 2024/2025 programme, including the successful 2025 Washington Summer Carnival. The Annual Spring Event, Springwell Village 1940's

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|  | <p>Weekend, the Miners Picnic, and the Illuminations all of which attracted strong attendance and positive feedback from schools, residents and stakeholders. Building on this success, the Board agreed a call for projects up to the value of £99,999. Community Opportunities submitted the only application. The Board agreed to recommend to Area Committee the approval of £99,999 to Community Opportunities to deliver the Community Events Programme. Item 4 Annex 1.</p>  |
| <p>A Heritage and Culture strategy/programme</p> | <p>The Washington Heritage Partnership brings together local heritage and cultural organisations to collaborate, share ideas, and promote community engagement with the area’s rich history. The project encourages residents to get involved through events, activities, volunteering, and contributing to local heritage decision-making.</p> <p>Following the success of the initial phase, funding for a second phase was approved by the Area Committee in September 2024. This new phase began in January 2025, with a stronger focus on delivering a wider range of heritage-based activities and events across the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New educational activities are being developed in partnership with Biddick and Rickleton Primary Schools, with sessions focused on local mining history.</li> <li>• The first in a series of ten walking tour postcards has been launched. Each postcard includes a hand-drawn route map, accessibility and transport details, and a QR code linking to the digital heritage map.</li> <li>• The Washington Community Podcasting Group has rebranded as The Crocodile Collective and now meets weekly at various community venues.</li> </ul> <p>Between May and June 2025, two major cultural and heritage events were delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 1940s weekend in Springwell Village</li> <li>• The Washington Carnival in Albany Park, which attracted 1,300 visitors</li> </ul> <p>20 community volunteers supported the delivery of these events.</p> <p>A networking and celebration event marking 50 years of the Washington Wetland Centre was held on 5th September 2025 at the Wetlands Trust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History Pin volunteers added approximately 50 new pins to the digital heritage map and developed several printed healthy walking routes, including six War Memorial maps, scheduled for launch in November.</li> <li>• Planning meetings took place with primary schools, and activities were scheduled in at least two schools for the autumn term.</li> </ul> |

- Grant-funded holiday activities for 7–11-year-olds delivered creative and heritage sessions; although uptake was lower than expected, engagement was high, leading to plans for a weekly after-school club in partnership with WWT.
- The community podcasting group continued independently with support from local partners and began work on a new magazine-style show released in November.
- WHP supported adult and community education, including a successful Autism Awareness training session in collaboration with NEAS.
- The Never Stop Learning group, initially funded by WHP's small grants programme, secured additional funding for a new publication and conference.
- WHP and volunteers contributed to major town anniversary events, including an exhibition marking the 70th anniversary of Washington Old Hall's revival, with plans for oral histories and further exhibits for next year's commemorations.

The Ballard of the Crocodile and the Underpass project won the Heritage Award at the Journal North East Culture Awards. The digital History Pin heritage map is being expanded by volunteers. Six War Memorial walking maps were completed and distributed ahead of Remembrance Day. Three new healthy walking routes are under development, with more planned for upcoming anniversaries such as Bowes Railway 200.

The Crocodile Collective community podcase group continues to meet with support from Arts Centre Washington, Washington Library and University of Sunderland. Their first independent episode was released in December.

Volunteers took part in a consultation workshop with Sunderland City Council and Bright White design consultants to shape new interpretation content for the F Pit Museum.

Work continues on events marking:

- **200 years of Bowes Railway,**
- **250 years of US Independence**
- **100 years since the General Strike**

Ongoing collaboration with Councillors, Residents' Associations, Durham Wildlife Trust and other partners on heritage, wellbeing and green-space projects.

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|   | <p>More information can be found here: <a href="#">Washington Heritage Partnership</a></p>   |
| A road safety and VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs) programme     | <p>The Vehicle Activated Signage (VS) Programme supports road safety across Washington. Using mobile electronic signs that display vehicle speeds and encourage drivers to slow down. Signs are rotated up to four times per year across approved sites and continue to contribute to improved driver awareness and safer streets.</p> <p>VAS signs are rotated up to 4 times a year between pre-approved locations. The original project purchased 10 portable signs with 43 rotational locations, signs are moved quarterly, 4 permanent signs at Heworth Road, Station Road and x 2 Springwell Road. The project is due to end March 2026.</p> <p>November Board reflected on impact of the Road Safety and VAS programme. The Board are recommending to Area Committee the approval of £10,500 to extend the Washington project of Road Safety and VAS Programme to Sunderland City Council. Funding is to extend the existing project by funding the rotational costs for a for a further 12 months (with no additional purchase of signs). Item 4 Annex 1.</p> |
| Delivery of a Project which Addresses Motorcycle Disorder     | <p>This project delivers proactive community safety patrols across Washington to address anti-social behaviour, with a focus on motorcycle-related issues. Delivered in partnership with Northumbria Police and Sunderland City Council, Operation CAPIO provided consistent activity between October and December, including 47 patrols in hotspot areas, 39 follow-up call backs, and targeted engagement such as a site visit to a problematic underpass in Concord. Enforcement outcomes included six vehicle seizures and five arrests. Overall, the project offers a strong, partnership-led approach combining visibility, engagement, and enforcement to tackle motorcycle-related ASB in Washington.</p>  |
| A feasibility study for Fatfield Riverside & wider Washington | <p>A feasibility study was commissioned to explore opportunities for enhancing Fatfield Riverside and surrounding areas within Washington. The aim is to make better use of public open spaces, improve the visual environment, and create a more welcoming and accessible riverside area for residents and visitors.</p> <p>The study was approved at the December Area Committee, and a detailed feasibility report was presented to the Neighbourhood and Community Board in February 2025. The report outlined two potential improvement options, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removing and replacing poor-quality roadside trees</li> <li>• Painting railings and clearing overgrown vegetation to open up river views</li> <li>• Installing a new gate, benches, pathways, and a paved seating area.</li> </ul>   |

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|   | <p>These proposals are currently under review and discussion with relevant council officers and elected Members to determine the most appropriate next steps. Members and Officers met in January 2026 to discuss the proposals. Funding options are being explored.</p>   |
| Signage at Fatfield Riverside to incorporate the heritage and ecology of the area | <p>This will be considered in line with other potential aspirations and proposals for the riverside. Discussions with relevant service areas and external agencies are progressing.</p>  |
| <p><b>Healthy Smart City - Priorities and Actions 2023-26</b></p>                 |  |
| <p><b>Action</b></p>  | <p><b>Update</b></p>   |
| Neighbourhood management and enforcement  | <p>This project builds on existing Neighbourhood Enforcement efforts across Washington, expanding the use of Environmental Enforcement Officers and Streetwatch cameras to tackle local environmental and anti-social behaviour issues. The aim is to improve neighbourhood safety, encourage responsible behaviour, and respond to community concerns through a combination of enforcement and engagement.</p> <p>The project has been successfully implemented in targeted neighbourhoods, with a strong focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness around issues such as bin presentation and dog fouling</li> <li>• High-visibility patrols to deter environmental offences</li> <li>• Engaging residents to promote positive behaviour change</li> </ul> <p>As a result, improvements have been observed in local areas, and public feedback has been positive. Since the programme began, a total of 1,674 enforcement actions have been taken.</p> <p>In December 2023, the Area Committee approved an extension of the project through to March 2026, allowing continued delivery and impact.</p> <p>Following the recent establishment of the Community Safety Hubs, the Board received a presentation on the Neighbourhood Funded Project: Neighbourhood Management and Enforcement. After reviewing the available options, the Board agreed to recommend to December Area Committee refocusing the project towards proactive enforcement and to extend its delivery by 12 months, subject to successful recruitment. Members are provided with detailed updates each quarter as part of the project performance report.</p> |
| Investment in parks and play areas  | <p>This project focuses on enhancing public parks and play spaces across Washington, creating more inclusive, accessible, and enjoyable environments for children, families, and the wider community. Improvements have been delivered through a combination of Fixed</p>  |

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|   | <p>Play Strategy funding, Area Committee support, and partnership working with local organisations.</p> <p>Improvements to Harraton and Usworth Park are now complete, with the installation of a wide range of new and inclusive play equipment, including: Inclusive roundabout and tree play panel Toddler and junior multi-play units, new gates and benches installed and Restoration of the model pit wheel, three coal tub planters installed.</p> <p>The Area Committee approved a £10,000 funding application from Active Sunderland to support the delivery of a new PlayZone in Usworth, further enhancing local play opportunities. A funding application was drafted to the Football Foundation and submitted late 2025 with a decision expected early Spring 2026. Once the application is approved, the PlayZone design and formal Planning Application will be prepared.</p> <p>Princess Anne Park has undergone a programme of maintenance and improvement works including grounds maintenance, such as shrub cutting, lighting improvements currently under consideration. Installation of gym equipment/resistance bars is being explored.</p> <p>Glebe Park Installation of gym equipment/resistance bars is being explored.</p>   |
| <p>Positive activities for young people</p> | <p>This programme supports the delivery of a wide range of enrichment activities for children and young people across Washington. Following a call for project proposals, several initiatives were approved at the June 2025 Area Committee meeting. The aim is to provide engaging, inclusive, and creative opportunities for young people during school holidays.</p> <p>All approved projects are now underway, with delivery partners providing regular updates. Quarterly progress reports are shared with Members to monitor outcomes and ensure continued impact.</p> <p>The following projects were approved and are currently being delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science Buddies, STEM Buddies CIC <a href="#">STEM buddies</a></li> <li>• Time Travellers, Washington Heritage Partnership <a href="#">Time Travellers</a></li> <li>• Holiday Activities, Washington Mind <a href="#">Washington Mind</a></li> <li>• Enriching Activities for CYP, Everyone Active <a href="#">Everyone Active</a></li> <li>• Washington Holiday sessions, Community Opportunities <a href="#">Community Opportunities</a></li> <li>• Creative You Junior Sunderland Culture <a href="#">Creative You Junior</a></li> <li>• Pop up and Play Foundation of Light <a href="#">Foundation of light</a></li> <li>• The Box @BBDC Building Blocks <a href="#">Building Blocks</a></li> </ul> |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative Sparks Sunderland Culture <a href="#">Sunderland culture creative sparks</a></li> <li>• Self-Care Building Blocks <a href="#">Self Care Building Blocks</a></li> <li>• Brockamp age 5-11 Little Onions <a href="#">Little Onions Bookcamp</a></li> <li>• Choice Wellbeing Service Outside the Lines <a href="#">Outside the Lines</a></li> </ul> <p>Project updates are shared regularly via social media channels managed by project leads and the Washington page.</p>  |
| <p>Diversionary activities for young people</p>                       | <p>The Phoenix Project, delivered by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS), combines evidence-based education with realistic fire service training to help young people build essential life skills. The programme focuses on developing resilience, communication, and teamwork, empowering participants to make safer, more informed decisions in their daily lives.</p> <p>Delivery has been progressing well since February 2025. With 6 schools starting their programmes, with Lambton Primary completing their SPARK Programme in December 2025. The following schools have all completed Block 1 of their SPARK programme and are scheduled to complete Block 2 in January/February 2026: Washington Academy, Wessington Primary, Usworth Primary, George Washington Primary, Marlborough Primary. All programmes are being delivered as expected.</p> <p>Mentoring sessions by Phoenix staff have taken place back in schools to reinforce the mentoring element of the programme. Work is currently taking place to capture impact evidence from schools on the young people on the course. Feedback from young people remains positive but ensuring this results in changed behaviour remains a priority. Overall attendance on the programme is currently 94%. The next phase of courses are currently being booked and we are on track to complete delivery by August 2026. An additional member of staff is being added to the Phoenix team to help increase the number of practical days we can deliver to increase flexibility for schools.</p> |
| <p>Contributed to the development of the Links for Life programme</p> | <p>Links for Life is a community-focused initiative designed to support the health, wellbeing, and social connection of local residents through a range of activities and services. The project is delivered by local organisations with the support of Community Chest funding and one-to-one guidance from the Area Arrangements Team.</p> <p>Organisations involved in delivering Links for Life have received tailored support to help them develop and deliver meaningful activities that meet local needs. A new phase of the project is now underway, building on the success of earlier work and expanding opportunities for community engagement.</p>  |

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|  | <p>Updates are provided as part of the Service Plan Annex 2 to the Neighbourhood &amp; Community Board report.</p> <p>More information can be found here: <a href="#">Links for Life Sunderland</a>   <a href="#">Links for Life Sunderland</a></p>  |
| Improved access to allotments and community gardens                    | <p>This project focuses on exploring opportunities for the use and improvement of land in and around community spaces, including allotments. The aim is to enhance local green spaces, support community growing initiatives, and ensure accessible, well-maintained environments for residents.</p> <p>Ongoing discussions with partners are taking place to assess the potential use of land for community benefit. Relevant service leads have previously attended the Neighbourhood and Community Board to provide updates on work related to allotments and surrounding areas.</p> <p>At the allotments adjacent to Usworth Park, improvement works have been completed, including the realignment of gates at the entrance to both the park and the community garden, helping to improve access and security.</p>  |
| A considered approach to park development, including ecological impact | Any discussions held around park development always include consideration for ecological impact.   |
| <b>Dynamic Smart City – Priorities and Actions 2023-26</b>             |  |
| <b>Action</b>  | <b>Update</b>  |
| Developing skills of young people                                      | <p>This project which was funded in 2024 was designed to support young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) by helping them build confidence, develop essential life skills, and take positive steps toward further education, training, or employment. The initiative is funded by the Area Committee and delivered in partnership with Oxclose District Young People’s Project (ODYPP) and other local organisations.</p> <p>The programme provides tailored support to help young people identify their strengths, set goals, and gain practical experience. Activities include CV writing, personal development, and work placements across a range of sectors. The project has already supported multiple cohorts of young people, with many progressing into education or employment.</p> <p>Between October and December 2025, eleven young people began a 20-week programme, with outreach carried out in partnership with Together for Children to identify</p> |

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|   | <p>and engage NEET young people through home visits and direct support. The project has successfully supported multiple cohorts, with many progressing into education, training or employment.</p> <p>The Project is due to end in March 2026. December Area Committee Aligned £45,500 for an extension of the project until March 2027. Following a successful application Board are recommending to Area Committee approval to fund the ODYPP NEET project for a further year. Item 4 Annex 1.</p>  |
| <p>Supporting young people to be more financially resilient</p> | <p>The Youth Matters project, delivered in partnership by Shiney Row Advice and Resource Project (ShARP) and Oxclose District Young People’s Project (ODYPP), aimed to improve financial resilience among young people through interactive education and practical life skills. The programme focused on helping participants understand money management, budgeting, and informed decision-making.</p> <p>During the final quarter of delivery (April–June 2025), the project continued to run ‘Fun with Finance’ sessions for small groups of young people. These semi-structured workshops covered key financial topics such as budgeting, banking, and responsible spending.</p> <p>Participants were also introduced to their “Pot of Gold”—a budgeting activity where they planned, costed, and booked an out-of-centre activity of their choice, applying the financial skills they had learned.</p> <p>In total, 17 young people took part in this final phase and were supported to become more financially confident and resilient.</p> <p>The project ended on 30.09.25, a final evaluation report was provided to assess outcomes and impact.</p> |
| <p>Providing individual welfare and financial support</p>       | <p>The WISP (Washington Individual Support Project) provides vital support to local residents facing hardship and crisis. The project focuses on improving financial resilience and addressing complex needs such as long-term health conditions, substance misuse, domestic abuse, and other social challenges. It is delivered three times a week from Mickey’s Place in Sulgrave, where it forms a key part of the local support network.</p> <p>Following Area Committee approval in September 2024, the project has continued to deliver targeted support. To date 34 people received tailored support to help them become more financially resilient.</p>   |

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|   | <p>WISP also works closely with a range of partner organisations, including social prescribers, Gentoo, Northumbria Police, WWIN, and the Washington VCS Network, who refer individuals in need of support. The project's collaborative approach ensures that those with the most complex and unmet needs receive timely, compassionate, and practical help.</p> <p>Between July and August 2025, WISP was delivered by a dedicated Advice Worker who attended Mickey's Place three mornings a week and provided telephone support at other times. The project engaged with people in crisis, addressing issues such as food insecurity, poverty, substance misuse, mental illness, and homelessness, and used strong networks to connect individuals with appropriate services. The Advice Worker supported clients through the transition from legacy benefits to Universal Credit, referring complex cases to ShARP for further assistance. WISP met its targets and collaborated with social prescribers on home visits to vulnerable individuals, leading to referrals for care needs and home adaptations. The project also supported a person with hoarding behaviours through benefit checks and specialist referrals. WISP continued to operate as a unique, multi-agency initiative combining community work, assertive outreach, and specialist advice to support Washington's most vulnerable residents until funding ended on 31 August 2025. A final evaluation report was provided to assess outcomes and impact.</p> <p>November Board reflected on impact of the WISP (Washington Individual Support Project) and the success of the programme. At December Area Committee an extension to the project for a further year was agreed. The dedicated Advice Worker continues to attend Mickey's Place to support local residents.</p> |
| <p>Develop approach to consultation with communities/resident</p> | <p>This ongoing project aims to strengthen collaboration between the voluntary and community sector (VCSE) and local services by creating regular opportunities to share insights, identify emerging issues, and shape local priorities. It also supports efforts to involve young people in local decision-making through targeted engagement.</p> <p>This ongoing project aims to strengthen collaboration between the voluntary and community sector (VCSE) and local services by creating regular opportunities to share insights, identify emerging issues, and shape local priorities. It also supports efforts to involve young people in local decision-making through targeted engagement.</p>   |