

Washington Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2023 / 2026

Updated March 2025



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 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 310 bags of rubbish were collected through 44 litter picks and community clean ups. 666 volunteer hours were delivered, and one new volunteer recruited. Our work cutting back overgrown shrubbery blocking footpaths has received a number of thanks from passing pedestrians. This quarter we have worked in Rickleton, Biddick, Parsons, Albany, James Steel Park, Pattinson Road, Usworth, Concord, Oxclose and Sulgrave. As a thank you to volunteers, a visit to Hylton Castle for a tour and afternoon tea was arranged.
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. Due to the cancellation of the Washington Village Christmas Fayre, a one- off replacement event is being planned to take place in May 2025.</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 commenced in January 2025 and will 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 13 cultural, heritage and community events have taken place, with 484 visitors attending. Volunteers from the community have supported all events.</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 & Community Board meeting. Members have met with relevant officers to receive an update regarding bus links and camera deployment. Further information will be provided in due course.</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 19th 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. This will be considered in line with other potential aspirations and proposals for the riverside.</p>
A feasibility study for Fatfield Riverside & wider Washington	<p>Feasibility study agreed at December Area Committee. A report was presented to the February 2025 N&C Board for consideration. Further discussions will take place with relevant officers and Members to determine next steps.</p>
Healthy Smart City - Priorities and Actions 2023-26	
Action	Update

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. Members are provided with detailed updates each quarter as part of the project performance report.
Investment in parks and play areas	Harraton Park improvements are now complete utilising fixed play strategy funding. Recent update provided to members on Playzone. Work to install new gates, benches and a restored model pit wheel in Usworth Park are now complete. The remaining budget will be utilised to install three coal tub planters, which will be created by Bowes Railway, made from railway sleepers.
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. The February 2025 N&C Board meeting discussed the projects and propose an alignment of funding to develop a call for projects. Further information contained in Item 4 Budget Report.
Diversionary activities for young people	TWFRS Phoenix project has delivered sessions to 6 schools across the Washington area. Five SPARK programmes are either complete or underway and a total of 70 children and young people have benefited. A full update was provided to Members as part of the quarterly performance report.
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 further phase of Links for Life is underway, updates will be provided as part of the Service Plan at Annex 2 to the Neighbourhood & Community Board report.
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. Allotments adjacent to Usworth Park has undergone work to realign gates at the entrance to the park and community garden.
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>During the last quarter 11 young people have continued with their 20 week employability programme as part of the Area Committee funded NEET project. The programme is aimed at improving employability and life skills, raising aspirations and promoting positive progressions into further education, training or employment.</p> <p>All young people participating in the programme have worked alongside ODYPP teaching and support staff to identify their skills, qualities and achievements which they then included in a personal statement which they included when typing up their CV.</p> <p>To date seven young people have participated in a week work experience placement. Work placements have taken place in a wide variety of organisations including two garages, a flooring company, cleaning company, key cutting business and a community centre. All the young people received positive feedback from their placement supervisors.</p> <p>A proposal to approve funding to continue the project beyond March 2025 is contained in Item 4 Budget Report</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. During the last quarter the project has continued with delivery of Fun with Finance interactive education programmes to small groups of young people. The young people participated in semi-structured sessions focussing on all aspects of finance including budgeting. The groups were also introduced to their "Pot of Gold" and decided on their choice of out of centre activities which they budget for, plan for and book to take place at the end of their programme. This quarter 16 young people have taken part.
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.