

14<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE PLACE BOARD**

**Place Board Progress Report**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To provide an update of progress against the current year’s (2013/14) Place Board Work Plan.

**2. Background**

2.1 Earlier this year the Local Area Plan’s priorities associated with Place were referred to the Washington Place Board to action on behalf of the Area Committee. The Place Board has started to initiate action on those priorities and **Annex 1** (Work plan) outlines progress to date.

**3. Key Areas of Influence/Achievements up to 31 December 2013**

3.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the Washington Place Board up to 31 December 2013.

Action Taken	Outcome
<b>Influence: Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy</b>	
<p>Members were consulted on the process for the review of the Core Strategy, sharing views and feeding into the public consultation process</p>	<p>Members to bring local knowledge to inform the development of the future policy. Washington area issues, reported to December Place Board include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns over housing provision/distribution, use of brown field sites, land availability including green belt</li> <li>• Employment Land Review</li> <li>• Strategic site - Land north of Nissan including cross boundary working re transport links</li> <li>• Green belt – Sulgrave and Springwell</li> <li>• Retail – Galleries key major retail centre</li> <li>• Leamside Lane - development of transport links</li> </ul> <p>Next steps include gathering key evidence to address key issues raised (across the City) and to inform the proposed document with preparation of the publication of the Core Strategy for examination due late Summer 2014. Further reports to Place Board.</p>
<b>Influence: Responsive Local Services Streetscene</b>	
<p><b>Highways Capital Maintenance 2014/2015</b></p>	<p>The Board received information on the process for members to influence and prioritise the areas of capital maintenance works for 2014/2015, with 25% of the capital maintenance budget identified for influence.</p> <p>Further information will be presented to Place Board in February and to Area Committee identifying locations for consideration by Members for inclusion in the capital maintenance programme. These areas will have been identified</p>

	from a number of sources including members, residents and Highways staff.
<b>Influence: Public Protection and Regulatory Service (PPRS)</b>	
	<p>The Place Board was provided with information on the statutory services and functions within PPRS and how the board may influence each of the functions at a local level.</p> <p>The board requested clarity on the process and communication of actions taken in response to reports of underage drinking and sales between the Council and partners. This was to ensure the appropriate action was taken and feedback and information provided to residents and members. The board requested information re pest control and licensing of scrap metal dealers. This service will attend Board regularly to give further updates and to discuss opportunities for Area Arrangements to influence service delivery</p>
<b>Area Priority: Deliver Responsive Services through a co-ordinated partnership approach</b>	
Joint working and co-ordinated approach to deliver neighbourhood management and improvements to the area through partnership working.	Details of proposed activities, initiatives and partnership working to deliver neighbourhood improvements were presented to both the October and November Boards. A programme of works has been identified and includes proposals and opportunities to encourage partners and the voluntary and community sector to engage.
<b>Area Priority: Investment in Washington's built and natural environment</b>	
<b>Village Centres Improvement Project</b>	<p>Washington Area Committee has undertaken to work responsively to influence local delivery of Street Scene services (RLS). The Place Board work plan has included activity re partnership working to deliver a co-ordinated approach to neighbourhood management and improvements – which can involve local communities and VCS organisations to deliver the Committee's Place priorities where appropriate. Area Committee approved a 'Project Matrix' approach to neighbourhood improvements which included village centres, industrial areas, plantations and shrub beds, parks etc.</p> <p>Following a number of 'walk abouts' at a Ward level with local Members and relevant 'follow up' meetings, the Area Response Manager has worked with relevant officers to identify a programme of works to contribute to developing and improving Village Centres.</p> <p>Members of the Place Board agreed a recommendation to Area Committee to align SIB funding to support the implementation of the Village Centre Improvement Project.</p> <p>Full project proposals, programmes of work and</p>

	options are included under Item 5 Financial Statement for SIB and Community Chest including a recommendation to approve SIB to deliver a range of neighbourhood improvements across all Wards of Washington
<b>Washington Leisure Village Development</b>	Members have received regular progress reports and planning permission is now in place for the new Washington Leisure village. A further update will be presented to Area Committee in April 2014
<b>Princess Anne Park</b>	Funds have been secured and contractors will be in place by December 2013 to undertake the improvements and reinforcement works to the stream bank and bridges, which were damaged by flooding. A re-assessment of a master plan for the park which was completed some years ago will be undertaken with a view to consider how best to take forward priority activity.
<b>Concord Shopping Centre Improvements</b>	<p>A proposal from the People Board's Business Engagement &amp; Enterprise Working Group includes measures to implement 'a local approach to employment and enterprise' including measures to re-invigorate Concord Shopping Centre.</p> <p>This will include Street Scene improvements, a retail support project, a marketing campaign re 'shop local', and support for the formation of a Traders Association for independent Traders.</p>
<b>Area Priority: A well connected Washington</b>	
Community Health and Green Spaces Project	Capital works are now well underway. The next Steering Group will take place in January where Public Health will be invited to attend and to help drive forward one of the key outcomes of the project, addressing health inequalities. Community engagement and involvement, branding and marketing will be an important outcome to progress in the New Year.
<b>Area Priority: A cultural identity for Washington</b>	
To consider how the local offer can contribute to the City's Cultural Strategy	<p>The Portfolio Holder for Culture attended Place to discuss options for how the Washington offer re culture and heritage informs and links to the City's agenda.</p> <p>It is proposed a workshop with the full Area Committee and relevant partners and services will be held in February 2014 to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the Washington offer re culture and heritage?</li> <li>• What has been achieved to date in Washington?</li> <li>• Is heritage and culture still a priority for the Area Committee?</li> <li>• How can Washington inform and linked to the City's proposed strategy?</li> </ul>
<b>Events 2014</b>	<b>Under Item 5 Financial Statement for SIB and Community Chest</b> proposals to allocate and ring fence SIB funding for the Washington Events

	<p>Programme for 2014 are presented for approval.</p> <p>The proposed programme includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington 50 Celebrations – Community Programme, marketing and branding and resources.</li> <li>• Heritage Festival 2014</li> <li>• Washington Illuminations 2014</li> <li>• Washington Village Christmas Celebrations 2014</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations are to ring fence SIB budget (subject to SIB appraisal, assessment and consultation) and to engage with the VCS to identify relevant community groups to lead and help deliver the events. Engagement is already underway to support a local group to lead on delivering the Heritage Festival. A Call for Projects will be implemented to deliver the Washington 50 Celebration Programme.</p>
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#### 4. **SIB Performance Report**

4.1 The People Board has also received the bi-annual performance report of all SIB funded Place Projects as included in **Annex 2**.

#### 5. **Recommendations**

- 5.1 Members are requested to consider the progress and performance update with regard to the Washington Place Board's Work Plan for 2013/14.
- 5.2 Members are requested to note the issues raised during the Core Strategy update presentation
- 5.3 Members are requested to support the Place Board recommendation to align SIB funding as detailed under Item 5 to implement the Village Centres Improvement Project.
- 5.4 Members are asked to note and support the People Board recommendation to align SIB funding as detailed under Item 5 to implement 'A Local Approach to Employment and Enterprise' including the Concord Shopping Centre Initiative.
- 5.5 Members are asked to agree a Culture and Heritage Workshop in February 2014
- 5.6 Members are asked to support the Place Board recommendation to align SIB funding as detailed under Item 5 to deliver an Events 2014 programme.
- 5.7 Members agree the proposals and recommendations of the board regarding Public Protection and Regulatory Services.
- 5.8 Members are asked to consider the Performance Report of all SIB funded Place Projects

Contact Officer: Karon Purvis, Washington Area Community Officer Tel: 0191 561 2449  
 Email: [karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk)

**Annex 1:** Work plan 2013/14

**Annex 2:** SIB Performance Report