

16th January 2013

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 (2012/13) Place Board Work Plan.

2. Background

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

3. Key Areas of Influence/Achievements up to 31 December 2012

3.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the West Place Board up to 31 December 2012.

Action Taken	Outcome
Responsive Local Services Streetscene	
Businesses advertising on Council owned land	
Established officer group to establish powers in place to address this issue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers from RLS and Planning Enforcement met, identified the area in which this was a problem and a process for addressing businesses advertising on Council owned land without approval. Where signage was in place without contact details, signage was removed by RLS/Highways. Where a contact number was available advertisers were advised to remove within a certain period if this was not completed signage was removed by RLS/Highways.
Sports Pitches Usage and Maintenance	
Understand the corporate position on Sports Pitches in the West area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members referred the issue to RLS to understand the Council's position on Sports Pitches across the West area including illegal use, ownership, maintenance, charging policy and legal usage levels. RLS have confirmed a review is ongoing and further information will be available to the Place Board and Area Committee at a later date for consideration.
Area Priority: Environment and Street Scene Improvements – Shopping Centres	
Identify and progress physical and environmental improvements to shopping centres in the West.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An audit of shopping centres has been completed in the West. Environmental and physical improvements identified and categorised as RLS current resources, influencing services outside RLS, activity that can involve or be completed by partners/other organisations, and where funds may be required. Activity has commenced on progressing the suggested improvements across the area with the Board influencing the use of core funding for painting maintenance and bin

	replacement/repair.
Area Priority: Environment and Street Scene Improvements – Neglected Land	
Continuation of physical improvements to Newport Terrace – Newport Link Path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An issue was identified with Newport Link path which is currently an earth pathway with a fence restricting thoroughfare. • Options were presented to resolve the issue and the Place Board recommended the construction of a pathway and restricted access, the cost of which will be met by the Local Transport Plan's, Access to Public Transport Budget.
Establish a Corporate approach to dealing with council owned neglected and unmaintained land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members highlighted the long standing issues specific to the rear of Hadleigh Rd and considered options to resolving those issues at minimal cost. • The Place Board and Area Committee recommended a policy review to consider the transfer of non operational land at nil/best consideration. • The policy review has been completed and agreed by Cabinet, at its December meeting, as a direct result of West Area influence.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are requested to consider the progress and performance update with regard to the West Place Board's Work Plan for 2012/2013.

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