

9th March 2016**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 (2015/16) 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 continue to initiate action on those priorities and **Item 2 Annex 1** outlines progress to date.

3 Area Governance Arrangements

- 3.1 The Area Committees are part of the Council's Executive Function and have two key roles:-
- a. Influencing decisions on services delivered at a local level; and
 - b. Identification of key priorities for their areas, in the context of supporting the delivery of the Council's Corporate Outcomes Framework at a local level and ensures maximum impact where necessary through utilizing its own resources.
- 3.2 Area Place and People Boards were set up to support the Area Committee in identifying areas of priority and ensure action in line with those priorities.
- 3.3 Each ward has one elected member representative, whose role it is to liaise with their ward colleagues in between meetings and feedback collective views into the Board meetings. Members will work alongside key officers in what will be practical action orientated groups. It should be noted that the Board is not a decision making body and the work / recommendations of the Board will be presented to the Area Committees for final endorsement. Elected member representation on the Place Board for this Area Committee is as follows:-

Ward	Place Board Membership
Chair	Cllr Michael Essl
Barnes	Cllr Ian Galbraith
Pallion	Cllr Amy Wilson
Sandhill	Cllr Debra Waller
Silksworth	Cllr Philip Tye
St Anne's	Cllr Karen Waters
St Chad's	Cllr Darryl Dixon

4. Key Areas of Influence/Achievements up to 29 February 2016

- 4.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the West Place Board up to 29 February 2016.

Influence: Responsive Local Services, Street scene

The Operating Model for Responsive Local Services moving forward continues to be discussed extensively. Local area delivery plans are currently being developed for future Area Committee approval.

Place Board asked for a Matrix of weed spraying activity for the 2016 season to ensure they can keep their communities advised of weed treatments in their wards.

Influence: Local Bus Advisory Group

The Sunderland Local Bus Advisory Group was established during 2015, and provides a framework for members to feed in issues from their community through to the Advisory Board (i.e. those issues brought to them by residents but require more of a strategic resolution). Suggestions from the board are then fed into the Combined Authority and in turn feedback returned via Area Committees. The Chair of the West Area Committee sits on the Local Bus Advisory Group to represent the West Area.

A summary of the Terms of reference for the Board are as follows:

To review and monitor provision, performance, patronage, customer satisfaction and quality standards of local bus services, highways and infrastructure, information and tickets; including integration of buses with wider local transport services.

To receive reports from Nexus detailing any changes to local services, including those made by commercial operators.

To provide comment to the North East Combined Authority on fares, marketing, branding and accessibility of secured services.

NEXUS attended the West Place board in January to discuss the NEXUS Scholars Services. In particular the 421 service from Allendale Road to Barnes School. NEXUS explained that the service is currently exceptionally underutilised and NEXUS requested agreement to change the route of the service to maximise usage and ensure value for money from the service.

Influence: Highways Maintenance**Highways Maintenance Programme 2016/2017**

- The board received information on the highways requiring capital maintenance works across the West area. The proposed areas were prioritised into high, medium and low priority to assist members.
- Members were asked to consult with ward colleagues to agree which of the proposed programmes should be recommended to Area Committee for completion up to a value of £100,500 for the West area.
- At the February Board members agreed recommendations to Area Committee for the completion of capital maintenance programmes in the West as described at **Item 2 Annex 2.**

Chester Road Route Action Plan, Congestion Corridor Study - Improvement Works

- A presentation on the improvement works planned for the A183 was presented to the Place Board in January for consultation as part of a wider consultation programme.
- The scope of the works include:
 - Amend road markings to increase number of lanes on approach
 - More Lanes = More capacity = Reduced congestion
 - No change to carriageway and footway widths - current car parking arrangements and footway widths will remain exactly as they are
 - Benefit to road users with minimal impact on local residences
 - Scheme extends west to include the Grindon Mill junction
- No objections from key partner organisations, such as Emergency Services and Nexus Bus operators responded strongly in favour
- Letter drop to frontage properties within scheme
- Place Board agreed there was a need to ensure residents are fully informed about the extent / impact of proposals, the consultation results and the reasons why the scheme is to be introduced. Works will be implemented during the summer 2016.

Area Priority: Shopping Centres**Business Support**

Pallion Traders – Following the Christmas illuminations and activities the traders are now preparing for Easter as well as planning for Christmas 2016. The traders are also working towards their In-bloom 'It's your Neighbourhood application'.

	<p>Broadway Traders – following the completion of the Area Committee funded capital improvements the St Anne’s Councillors have worked alongside the traders to install flowered planters in the shopping area. The One-Stop Shop has committed to maintain the planters working with local schools and community groups.</p>
<p>Capital Improvements</p>	<p>Area Committee agreed to financially support capital improvements across local shopping centres in the West.</p> <p>Each ward identified local shopping centres which required capital improvements. The capital improvements are to improve the visual appearance of the shopping centre. As part of the improvement program, Ward members are engaging with local traders and community groups to adopt flower planters and maintain them as well as agree to support keeping local centres clean and tidy.</p> <p>To-date the following works have been completed: Broadway Shops – resurfacing and bollard replacement as well as adoption of flower planters by local trader Farringdon Shops – resurfacing and litter bin replacement. Now looking towards other planting and flower planter adoptions Pallion – planting and signage improvements, bench installation and event support Sandhill – Members considering options for the Thorndale Road shops following a meeting with local traders Silksworth – improvement of event space within local park</p>
<p>Area Priority: Environment and Street Scene</p>	
<p>Walk and Talk Programme</p>	<p>The Walk and Talk programme continues to be successful and offers the opportunity to ward Councillors to be dynamic, flexible and implement small-scale people and place based projects, which have a positive impact on their local communities.</p>
<p>Maximising Greenspace and Improving Derelict Land</p>	<p>Proposals were developed and agreed by Area Committee in October 2014. Funding was allocated to support developments. Work continues to be undertaken with officers, members and partners including the VCS to develop the agreed spaces across the West, to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in the West.</p> <p>2 projects were presented and approved at the Place Board in January - Item 5 Annex 3</p>
<p>Area Priority: Housing</p>	
<p>Promoting accredited landlords and housing standards</p>	<p>Members attended an event in January 2016 to discuss the Housing Renewal Team's role in the West.</p> <p>This led to further discussion at the February Place Board and it was proposed to obtain Area Committee approval Item 5 Annex 2, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train the 6 West Community Helpers in the housing services offered by the Council and partners within the private rented sector so that they can cascade the information to other community and voluntary groups; • Brief voluntary groups on the housing services offered by the Council and partners within the private rented sector; • Promote the housing services offered by the Council and partners within the West;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure Housing attend the West Event in July 2016, to promote the links between health and housing conditions generally.
--	--

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Note the content of the report.
- 5.2 Members are requested to consider the progress and performance update with regard to the West Place Board Work Plan for 2015/2016 **Item 2 Annex 1**.
- 5.3 Consider and agree the recommendation of the Place Board regarding the West Highway Capital Maintenance programme for 2016/2017, attached at **Item 2 Annex 2**.
- 5.4 Note the proposals agreed through the small grants process for Maximising Greenspace / Derelict Land activity, as described at **Item 5 Annex 3**.
- 5.5 Consider and agree the recommendation to approve the Accreditation Landlords project for the West, as described at **Item 5 Annex 2**.

Contact Officer: Helen Peverley, West Area Co-ordinator Tel: 0191 561 7532
Email: Helen.peverley@sunderland.gov.uk