

16th October 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 2014/15 Place Board Work Plan.

2. Background

2.1 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 is working to initiate action on those priorities and **Annex 1** (Work plan) outlines progress to date.

3. Key Areas of Influence/Achievements up to 30th September 2014

3.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the Washington Place Board up to end of September 2014.

Action Taken	Outcome
Area Priority: Environment and Green Space	
Neighbourhood Improvement Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk and Talks commenced. Key initiatives have been identified in each Ward to progress. All proposals are being co-ordinated with the Village Centre Improvement Project, will identify match funding and a partnership approach
The Washington Way Network (CHGS Project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering Group met 15th September to receive an update from the lead with regards to capital works, co-ordination with SCC led schemes and initiatives, and planning for the launch and promotion of the Network as a resource to help residents become more active. Please see Annex 2 for a detailed progress report and recommendation to Area Committee
Maximising green and open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Place Board received a report from the People Board identifying proposals to utilise Public Health funding to maximise the use of green and open space to enhance and facilitate local people engaging in the '5 Ways to Well Being'. Please note recommendations to Area Committee as detailed under Item 3 People Board Progress Report September 2014
Washington Parks	<p>A range of proposals are being proposed as part of other programmes of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to Princess Anne Park culverts and weirs completed Usworth Park confirmed Green Flag status this year. Seldom Seen - improvements and refurbishment Request to commission a feasibility study for

	<p>Albany Park (Neighbourhood Improvement Project)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to replace the monument in James Steel Park (Neighbourhood Improvement Project) • Holley Park – request from Members for improvements as part of the Neighbourhood Improvement Project
Flood management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further updates were provided to the September Board re current work programme • Detailed report to November Board meeting • Emergency packs for Cllrs are being produced.
Retail Support Project/Concord Traders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of local businesses have agreed to form a Traders Association. • Shop local campaign well underway • Mentoring and business advice and support being carried out. Retail support specialist now engaged with more than 40 local businesses • Plans are being considered to include a Shop Watch scheme • SCC has commissioned a 'health assessment' of local shopping centres – results anticipated October.
Area priority: Member and Community Engagement	
Encourage partnerships with the local community and VCS, link Ward Members to activities and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk and talk programmes • Members engage residents re AC role at Heritage Festival and other key Washington events • Members involved in steering an events and culture programme • Delivery of the Washington 50 Community Programme
Area priority: Heritage and Culture	
Events 2015 plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working group established to determine a planned approach for events in Washington for 2015 • Place Board recommendation to Area Committee as detailed under Annex 3 with an executive decision under Item 5 to agree to approve £15,000 SIB from the 2014/15 budget to deliver 2 key events in 2015 • Recommendation to Area Committee to approve Place Board to be responsible for progressing this project agreeing the Project Brief and Call for Projects for Events 2015.
Washington's culture offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider how Washington's cultural offers can contribute to the city wide approach and strategy. City wide strategy in draft – to discuss Washington input/contribution at future Place Board. To confirm if any consultation with Area Arrangements/Area Committee re local offers. In addition to note Museum Service Review underway.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explore opportunities for relevant local 'offers' to be included in all communications, PR and marketing re Sunderland's culture and heritage offer. Discuss options at future Place Board. Consider how to identify and encourage local groups and organisations to take advantage of any 'offers'. Consider how to use Washington offers to assist delivery of other priorities – future Board to identify which organisations can or are willing to be included in programme to encourage delivery of other priorities (to consider status, capacity, appropriate governance).
Influencing Role	
Influencing the allocation of S106	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the radical changes within the planning system including aspects of how the service is delivered and decision-making; a Members training session has been arranged for Friday 3rd October at the Stadium of Light. The Planning Advisory Service will deliver the session.
Influencing Role	
Highways Maintenance Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on current programme to November Place Board Commence process re identifying priorities for 2015/16 Highways Maintenance Programme.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are requested to consider the progress and performance update with regard to the Washington Place Board's Work Plan for 2013/14 as detailed in **Annex 1** and Paragraph 3 above.
- 4.2 Note the progress and agree the recommendations of the Place Board regarding the Washington Way Project attached at **Annex 2**.
- 4.3 Consider and agree the recommendations of the Place Board regarding the Events 2015 Plan attached as **Annex 3**.

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Annex 1: Work plan 2014/15

Annex 2: The Washington Way Network

Annex 3: Events 2015