

15 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 current year's (2014/15) Place Board Work Plan.

2. Background

2.1 Earlier this year the Local Area Plan priorities associated with Place were referred to the Coalfield Place Board to action on behalf of the Area Committee. The Place Board continue to initiate action on those priorities. Progress to date is outlined in the Work Plan at **Item 2 Annex 1**

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/Hetton	Cllr Florence Anderson
Copt Hill	Cllr Anthony Allen
Houghton	Cllr Billy Turton Cllr Sheila Ellis
Shiney Row	Cllr Mel Speding

4. Key Areas of Influence/Achievements to 30 September 2014

4.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the Coalfield Place Board to date.

Action Taken	Outcome
Influence: Responsive Local Services Streetscene	
Influence operational deployment of RLS Streetscene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Area Response Manager ensures that regular communication with all elected members influences street scene service delivery to meet local need

Influence: Environmental issues/ASB	
Address concerns about litter and waste caused by HGV drivers at Houghton Cut layby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised at LMAPS and investigated by relevant officers/partners • CCTV installed • No lorries signs installed • Regular inspections by Northumbrian Water and City Council has shown a reduction in waste left • The protocol for installing the recently piloted 'rock cams' is complete and cameras will begin to be deployed by the end of October 2014
Influence: Empty Properties	
Introduction of Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Place Board invited Julie Wilkie (Coalfield Empty Properties Assistant) and Liz McEvoy (Principal Housing Manager) to the September meeting to discuss empty properties in the area • The key features of EDMOs were discussed with the Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Housing Act 2004 gives Local Authorities the power to take over the management of some empty properties but not the ownership. ○ Must be empty at least 2 years and have evidence that attracting anti-social behaviour. ○ Housing Neighbourhood Renewal Team will pilot no more than 3 EDMOs this year. ○ Tool of last resort ○ Management of properties will be subcontracted to a Registered Provider or Accredited Landlord. ○ Empty Property Officers have been shortlisting properties which meet the eligibility criteria ○ Monitor both outcomes and costs ○ Review after a year • The Board supported the Team in progressing two EDMOs in the Hetton area
Influence: Tethered Horses	
<p>Members raised the issue of the increasing number of horses tethered on Council land.</p> <p>Unauthorised horses on Council land and public highway is an ongoing and increasing problem. This problem is widespread across the North East of England as well as the rest of the country.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers from Land and Property have attended Place Board meetings and kept members up to date regarding the development of a protocol to deal with the issue • The unauthorised tethering or grazing of horses can pose a risk to the public and increased risk of action against the Council, as landowner, should an incident involving such a horse occur. The presence of an unauthorised horse can also prevent the public from using the land for the purpose it was intended for • The Council is taking steps to address the problem which will involve communication with horse owners, display of public notices and the seizure of unauthorised horses where necessary. The Council is part of a working group of regional councils who are committed to addressing this national problem and who are in consultation with The British Horse Society and DEFRA in regard to forming national best practice procedures to meet the requirements of the Horse Passporting Regulations 2009. • These measures will be implemented over the coming months, including the procurement of an equine bailiff.
Area Priority: Local Shopping Centres	
Business specialists are working with traders in Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row to offer tailored support depending on each individual business need	<p>One to One Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail and business support was offered to traders in Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row by Bsupplied on behalf of Area Committee. Businesses were engaged and assessed to identify where support was most required. A diagnostic for each business was produced with an action plan and recommendations that were implemented during the support stage • One to one support was delivered to 47 individual businesses across Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row. <p>Grant support</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the business support programme it was agreed that a small grant scheme would be delivered to the maximum of £500 to help any business in the defined areas to spend on either the cosmetic look of the premises internal or external or to develop their business via other marketing initiatives. • This part of the programme has proved to be a major success and of the 47 businesses engaged (as above), 32 received small grants ranging from £300 - £500. • The grant scheme was not promoted but it was reviewed on an individual basis taking into account the return the business would improve on the investment. <p>Trade Association/Forum development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the changes in shopping habits, for example the internet shopping increasing and the big super markets becoming more aggressive it was agreed to set up and operate a “Trade Association” based on giving the retailers a voice in how the shopping centres develop. Houghton was the first association formed in June 2013. It has a full committee and an active membership and is now fully up and running. Work with Hetton traders is underway to further develop an active association. A working party was set up in April 2014 in Shiney Row and is now ready to develop a trader forum. <p>The July and September meetings of the Place Board discussed the success of the SIB funded project and considered options for future delivery. A proposal for further support is recommended by the Place Board and is included in Item 5 (Area Budgets Report).</p>
<p>Identifying areas for development to improve footfall and spending in local shopping centres</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A treasure hunt style ‘poppy trail’ is being designed, to take place in Newbottle Street in the lead up to Remembrance Sunday. Shops taking part will display ceramic poppies in their premises • A ‘Shop Local at Christmas’ campaign is under development • Billboard space has been hired at Shiney Row and Houghton le Spring to promote local shopping centres during December • Lamp post banners are being designed for Hetton • A discount voucher scheme is published in the October edition of Community News • A Christmas lights switch on event in Shiney Row is being arranged for 4.30 p.m. on Thursday 4 December
<p>Area Priority: Love Where You Live and Community Involvement</p>	
<p>Support to local communities to improve and take pride in their neighbourhood</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The allocation of £10,000 SIB funding in June 2013 enabled the Love Where You Live campaign to be expanded and delivered in a planned way. • The introduction of the Street Scene Customer Relationship Officer role has enabled the project to be further developed, delivering educational messages to local schools and community groups • Of the funding allocated, approximately £8,000 has been spent on resources and equipment to support the project, including paint, protective clothing, tools, camera for promotion of events, laminator for posters, certificates etc.. art equipment and resources for school and community activities/competitions and gardening equipment, plants/shrubs/bulbs. • Improvements have been made in locations across the area and have involved many residents and a wide range of partners including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Burnside School ○ Easington Lane Primary School ○ Houghton Kepier School ○ Neighbourhood Police ○ Hetton Greenwatch

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ELCAP ○ HRCAP ○ Herrington Burn YMCA ○ Gentoo ○ Groundwork ○ Houghton Centre for Blind ○ VCS Network ○ Volunteer Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each year more local people are becoming involved in improving the physical environment of their own neighbourhood and helping to get the 'Love Where You Live' message across to others, to encourage the community to become involved and take responsibility for continued improvements • The September meeting of the Place Board discussed the success of the project and supported the development of a continuation project. A proposal for SIB support is recommended by the Place Board and is included in Item 5 (Area Budgets Report).
Area Priority: Events, Celebrations and Heritage	
Support long standing historical events taking place in local communities and develop new ones to celebrate the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miners banner parades in five localities across the Coalfield area were supported with transport, bands and road closures • The WW1 project delivered via the VCS Network has supported 32 groups to develop a range of innovative and interesting events and programmes. • Remembrance parades in three neighbourhoods are being supported • In order to build upon the success of heritage projects delivered via the VCS Network a proposal for SIB support is recommended in Item 5 (Area Budgets Report).

4. Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- Consider the progress and performance update with regard to Coalfield Place Board's Work Plan for 2014/15 including recommendations for future delivery

Annex 1 Work Plan

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