

20 OCTOBER 2014

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE PLACE AREA BOARD

East Sunderland Place Area Board Progress Report

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 In June 2014 the Local Area Plan's priorities associated with Place were referred to the East Sunderland Place Area Board to action on behalf of the Area Committee. This report provides an update on the work plan, as set out in **Annex 1**.

2 Key Areas of Influence / Achievements

- 2.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the East Sunderland Area Place Board up to 30th September 2014.

Action Taken	Outcome
<p>Area Priority:</p> <p>Ensuring the physical environment is fit for purpose to deliver a range of initiatives to encourage use of green space.</p>	<p>A joint Area Board was held in July 2014, at which six project proposals were shared and discussed with members.</p> <p>In addition to the project proposals, Area Board representatives discussed a range of initiatives which would encourage the use of green space and proposed a further five project proposals.</p> <p>Following on from these discussions it was agreed to reconvene after recess, and allow time for the Councillors to consider the submitted proposals, but at the same time, carry out internal consultation with key Officers on the existing and new project proposals.</p> <p>In September 2014, feedback from Area Board Councillors and Officers was presented back to both Area Boards. At which it was agreed that the Area Community Officer would liaise with all Area Committee Councillors outlining recommendations. The following have been approved:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Be Active, delivered by Sunderland Council. Subject to promotions costs being clarified. £4,500 2 It's a Wonderful Game, delivered by Back on the Map. £1,960 3 Stephenson Trail, delivered by Sunderland Council. £500 4 Catch it, Cook it, Eat it, delivered by We'ar Fishing. £4,876 5 Outdoor Gym, delivered by St Marks Community Association. £2,000 <p>Budget: £40,000, Total: £13,836, Balance: £26,164.</p>

City Centre
Regeneration

The Planning Implementation Officer attended the September Place Board and provided an update on:-

- New Premier Inn due to open in Spring 2015.
- Hind Street building transferring to Sunderland University for development.
- The Old Fire Station being transformed into a Music, Art and Dance quarter (MAC Q).
- Consideration is being given for the longer term use of Gill Bridge House and Northumbria Police Gill Bridge Station.
- High Street West is a key investment area for the Council, with public realm improvements due to commence throughout 2015 / 2016.
- Sunderland Council are in discussions with potential developers regarding the future use of the former Crowtree Leisure Centre site.
- Sunderland Council have purchased several buildings along High Street West. Their future use could reshape the landscape of this area.
- Potential for the Vaux site to be a new office quarter in the City Centre.
- Proposals to allow two-way traffic along Bridge Street between the roundabout at the South side of the bridge and Fawcett Street.
- Mackie's Corner, consideration is being given on how this area is connected more to the leisure and Sunnyside area of the city. Gentoo are interested in working with the Heritage Lottery Fund on developing this site.
- Purchased land and buildings in and around Villers and Nile Street with the potential to use for residential dwellings.
- Sunderland Railway Station, design and feasibility work is being carried out in partnership with Network Rail and Nexus which will see a new station building above ground. It was highlighted that the concourse level is constructed on a concrete slab, above the platform and tracks below. This arrangement brings a number of technical constraints and any works to build a new station need to be designed around these constraints and to minimise any operational impact on the tracks below during the construction period (as it is not possible to close the station during the construction period).
- Funding and planning consent has been approved for the new Sunderland College on Holmeside, with construction due to commence throughout 2015 / 2016.

The Officer welcomed the opportunity to attend future Area Board meetings and keep members updated on developments.

<p>Empty Dwelling Orders</p>	<p>The Principal Housing Manager attended the September Place Board and provided an update on the role of the Housing and Renewal Team, which covers:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement and Licensing, including the Selective Licensing Scheme in Hendon, • Empty Residential Properties and Empty Dwelling Management Orders, • Area Renewal and “Hot Spot” work, and • Private Landlords Accreditation Scheme. <p>After an interesting discussion the Board where asked to consider how best to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the Accreditation Scheme, and engage with landlords to sign up to the Scheme, especially in the Selective Licensing area and for Houses of Multi Occupation, • Approach local traders who could offer discounts to local Accredited Landlords, • Ask tenants to only use accredited landlords, and • Support landlords to self-regulate. <p>It was agreed to host an ‘Accreditation Scheme’ event in late January, early February which would target and engage with private landlords across the East to raise the profile of the accreditation scheme and its benefits, not only for landlords, but also the wider community. The event may provide a foundation for future work of the Place Board focusing around Area Committee, Private Landlords, and other Registered Social Landlords i.e. Gentoo, in working together to improve neighbourhoods.</p>
<p>SIB Funded Project: Live Performance Report</p>	<p>In September, the Place Board received an update on all live SIB funded projects which relate to Place, as set out in Annex 2.</p> <p>All updates were noted, several of which involved:-</p> <p>Coastal Path: Better Than Basic Signage:</p> <p>The results of the consultation exercise to decide what art work would be displayed at Panns Bank - the majority of respondents voted for Option 1, which represents the history of the river corridor.</p> <p>Gateway II : Shopping Centres</p> <p>There had been a significant underspend on the Vilette Road work stream. Members agreed that the remaining budget for the Street can be used to paint window frames and doors, as well as shutters. Members also agreed to ring fence funds from the underspend of £4,500 for the Grafters Gable project.</p> <p>The Grafters Gable project involves a local artist and writer</p>

	<p>working with local history groups, residents and young people, to identify suitable materials and stories from the area to translate into murals for six gable ends leading off Villette Road.</p> <p>Walk and Talk / Love Where You Live Project</p> <p>After a debate it was agreed that all Place Board representatives would be encouraged to spend their allocation by March 2015.</p> <p>Community Leaders</p> <p>As a consequence of the Walk and Talk debate, it was agreed that a new Programme would be developed called 'Community Leaders', which involves Councillors using existing infrastructures, for example, ward surgeries, community forum, residents associations to, "work with communities and partners to understand local place based issues and identify solutions to target resources more effectively." Each ward would be allocated £6,000 each, including an extra £6,000 for the City Centre, totalling £36,000 SIB from the 2014 / 2015 area budget. Further information about the programme is referenced in the Area Budget Report.</p>
Highways Maintenance Programme	To bring Members attention to the first stage of consultation for the 2015 / 2016 Highways Maintenance Programme will commence at November Place Area Board.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Members are requested to:-

- (a) Note the East Sunderland Place Area Board Work Plan, as set out in **Annex 1** and the SIB Live Performance report, as set out in **Annex 2**.
- (b) Note the progress of the 'Green Adventure' SIB programme and agree to receive future progress reports.
- (c) Consider receiving further updates on the City Centre Regeneration Programme.
- (d) Consider and feedback your views on how best to:
 - o Promote the Accreditation Scheme, and engage with landlords to sign up to the Scheme, especially in the Selective Licensing area and for Houses of Multi Occupation,
 - o Approach local traders who could offer discounts to local Accredited Landlords,
 - o Ask tenants to only use accredited landlords, and
 - o Support landlords to self-regulate.
- (e) Agree to host a Private Landlord Accreditation Scheme event in early Spring 2015.
- (f) Note the Place Area Board's support and recommendation to approve £36,000 SIB 2014 / 2015 for the Community Leaders Programme.
- (g) Note that consultation on the Highways Maintenance Programme for 2015 / 2016 will commence in November 2014.

Annex 1 East Sunderland Place Area Board Work Plan 2014 / 2015
Annex 2 SIB Funded Projects: Live Performance Report

Background Papers

Place Area Board Agendas, Reports and Action List
SIB quarterly monitoring returns

Contact Officer: Nicol Trueman, Area Community Officer Tel: 0191 561 1162
Email: Nicol.trueman@sunderland.gov.uk