

3rd December 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'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 Philip Tye
Barnes	Cllr Michael Essl
Pallion	Cllr Amy Wilson
Sandhill	Cllr Debra Waller
Silksworth	Cllr Peter Gibson
St Anne's	Cllr Jacqui Gallagher
St Chad's	Cllr Darryl Dixon

4. Key Areas of Influence/Achievements up to 30 November 2014

4.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the West Place Board up to 30 November 2014.

Action Taken	Outcome
Influence: Responsive Local Services Streetscene	
Weedspraying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members received an update in November for the weedspraying programme for 2015 • There will be two contracted weed chemical applications undertaken during 2015 for the 'blanket spraying' of weeds. • The timing of the first application will be dependent upon the

	<p>severity of the winter as this will have an impact upon weed growth. An earlier start is preferable though this is dependent upon rainfall as dry conditions are necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to legislative requirements to use 'contact' rather than 'residual' chemical, a certain amount of weed growth is necessary before treatment can be undertaken.
Northumbria in Bloom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunderland won the Best Large City Award in this year's 50th Anniversary Britain in Bloom competition. • Of special mention in the Judges feedback were the "high quality floral displays in parks and open spaces, particularly in Barnes Park." • Other West based sites to get special mention included Richard Avenue Primary School, which also won an award of its own - 2014 Northumbria In Bloom growing together competition – Gold Award and Winner of Rod Leyburn Trophy for Horticulture. Also winner of the Journal and Gazette competition for Best Sustainable School award. Award linked to recycling and sustainability practices (Inc. reduce reuse recycle). • Members of the Place Board discussed the opportunity to develop the 'It's your Neighbourhood' element of the 'In-bloom' competition during 2015, working with communities to create 'blooming' community spaces. Action to be progressed.
Winter Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members received an update on winter maintenance resources to keep highways open in the event of freezing temperatures or snow. • The winter vehicle fleet comprises 14 Gritting / Snow Plough vehicles which cover the whole City. • Temperatures are constantly monitored over the winter period by Streetscene Responsive Local Services on a 24/7 basis and the winter fleet is deployed as appropriate on priority A and B routes to salt/grit the roads or to undertake snow clearance. • In the event of snow staff from the service are deployed to manually clear priority locations, such a shopping areas, hospitals, bus stops and outside Schools. Depending upon the size of the snowfall, it is not always possible to clear all locations as the task is labour intensive and time-taking. • Further to the update received members requested a copy of the A and B gritting routes for the city, which were circulated separately.
Influence: Public Protection and Regulatory Services	
Licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Place Board was provided with information on the statutory services and functions within PPRS and how the board may influence each of the functions at a local level, particularly in relation to Licensing.
Influence: Highways Capital Maintenance 2015/2016	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board received information on the process for members to influence and prioritise the areas of capital maintenance works for 2015/2016, with 25% of the capital maintenance budget identified for influence. • Further information will be presented to the Place Boards in February identifying locations for consideration by members for inclusion in the capital maintenance programme. These

	<p>areas have been identified from a number of sources including members, residents and Highways staff.</p>
<p>Area Priority: Shopping Centres</p>	
<p>Business Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pallion Traders continue to prioritise the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime and Disorder Cleanliness and public realm Marketing and Communication The traders have lots of activity planned for the Christmas season, working in partnership with local voluntary organisations. The traders have developed a promotional leaflet as well as developed a social media presence to promote activities and events. The first meeting with Silksworth Traders took place on 20 November, the meeting was well attended. Pallion Traders attended the meeting to share their views and highlight the benefits of establishing a trader group. The Silksworth Traders are currently developing their priorities for the year ahead.
<p>Area Priority: Environment and Street Scene</p>	
<p>Capital Projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval was given in Area Committee for the delivery of capital improvement programmes in Barnes Extension, Bishopwearmouth Cemetery and the Baby Cemetery. <p>Bishopwearmouth Cemetery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on the footpaths has improved the pathways in some of the highest footfall areas and has been of benefit to visitors to the Cemetery. <p>Bishopwearmouth Baby Cemetery Environmental and Access Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following consultation with the friends of the Baby Cemetery Group, additional funding was allocated by the Group to create an enhanced scheme. Whilst the majority of the work is now complete, some additional work is still on-going. <p>Barnes Park Extension Footpath Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent inspection of footpaths within Barnes Park extension from Hurstwood Road to Tay Road has revealed surface damage along various parts of the paths, ranging from individual potholes to re-surfacing. Work on site to be complete by the end of December 2015.
<p>Walk and Talk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the increase in the budgets allocated for walk and talk in January Committee, ward members continue to identify local People and Place improvements which utilise the local walk and talk budget and add value to the derelict land and maximizing greenspace works.
<p>Maximising Greenspace and Improving Derelict Land</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Six projects were presented and approved at the Place Board in November 2014 - Item 5 Annex 4

<p>West Event 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals were discussed, to support the development of an Event to be held within the West of Sunderland in 2015, <p>The event would :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate the achievements of the West projects funded by Area Committee • Remember World War 1 and the impact on the west of Sunderland through – artwork; reminisce; music of the time • Investigate the option to link the event to Doctor Who – as the first Police Box was in Sunderland, which later formed the basis of the Dr Who ‘Tardis’ – Tardis could be a mechanism to support people, (particularly school children) to travel back in time to WW1, to then take part in activities which teach our communities about what it was like to live in the West of Sunderland during WW1 • Sports Activities and taster sessions • Youth Activities and taster sessions • Healthy eating - cooking demonstrations • Arts and Crafts Activities • Reminiscence and celebrating our heritage • Face Painting • Live Music • Fairground Attractions • Location for the event would be Barnes Park – as the space and design of the Park allows for a large-scale event, with parking and good transport for the residents of the West Area of the City. • The date for a West Area Event was discussed and the weekend prior to the May 2015 half-term holiday (21st - 23rd May) was proposed, commencing with school / specialist group activities during Thursday and Friday followed by a large-scale ‘celebration’ event on the Saturday • The Place Board agreed to submit a recommendation to Area Committee for a West Area Event 2015. Item 5 Annex 3.
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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 2014/2015 **Item 2 Annex 1 and Annex 2.**
- 5.3 Note the proposals agreed through the small grants process for Maximising Greenspace / Derelict Land activity, as described at **Item 5 Annex 4.**
- 5.4 Consider and agree the recommendation to approve the development of a West Event for 2015, as described at **Item 5 Annex 3.**

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