

17th September 2012

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Place Board Progress Report

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update of progress against the current year's (2012/13) Place Board Work Plan.

2 Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 21st June 2012 the North Area Committee agreed its Local Area Plan for 2012/13. In doing so the Area Committee agreed how it can most effectively contribute to delivering Sunderland City Council's Corporate Outcome Framework (COF) at a local level and relevant to the Place and People themes.
- 2.2 Those Local Area Plan priorities associated with Place were referred to the Place Board to action on behalf of the Area Committee. The Place Board have started to initiate action on those priorities and are in the process of agreeing target dates for delivery and feedback to the Area Committee for the year ahead. The Place Board Work Plan and target delivery dates agreed to date are attached as **Item 2 Annex 1**.
- 2.3 This report provides Area Committee with a progress update on the Place Board Work Plan during period June - August 2012 including requests for decisions where necessary.

3 Responsive Local Services (RLS): Streetscene

- 3.1 In supporting the Area Committee to influence the delivery, design and review of services at an Area level the Place Board has a key role in terms of influencing the operational redeployment of Streetscene (RLS) core service. As such each Place Board meeting has a dedicated agenda item to discuss streetscene services. The Area Response Manager (ARM) presents information on services, such as, graffiti removal, fly tipping, litter, dog fouling, grass cutting, refuse collection and recycling, parks and maintenance of play areas.
- 3.2 At its meeting earlier this month the ARM provided information in relation to requests for service in the area which identified particular issues with dumping rubbish in back lanes and dog fouling. It was agreed that as a starting point the ARM should explore the possibility of placing articles in Community News around enforcement, the legalities of 'naming and shaming' offenders and targeting retail outlets in areas where there are particular issues. The ARM will bring options for action to the next meeting of the Board.
- 3.3 Concerns were raised in relation to long standing problems over illegal parking in the area. It was agreed this should be a key topic for discussion to come back to the next meeting of the board.

4.0 Area Priority: Greenspace Improvements and Shopping Centre Improvements

- 4.1 **Southwick Community Christmas:** Board members have discussed the possibility of enhancing the Christmas Switch on event on Southwick Green. An event has been held

in recent years which has included the involvement of both local businesses and Community Groups. Board members are keen to develop this further and enhance the offer in relation to not only the provision of a Switch on Event and programme of activity, Christmas Tree and Lights but also Festoon lighting and illumination of live trees in the shopping area.

4.2 The proposal is to utilise SIB for a 2 year period to both purchase and install lights and cover costs of the switch on event. However, the emphasis is very much on this developing as a community initiative which over time will be led by local people and businesses who will benefit from a 'feel good factor' and positive economic impact (the local businesses are facing increased competition from new stores in the area). (See Financial Report)

5. **Heritage**

5.1 At its September board meeting the members were given an update on activity delivered to date in line with its agreed Heritage Action Plan.

5.2 The update included action delivered in order to:

- Develop education learning Resources
- Provide heritage based family and adult learning resources
- Further develop Heritage Open Days
- Develop Event Delivery & Provision
- Provide Funding Advice Resources
- Provide Collections Management Advice and Guidance
- Produce a full list of heritage provision as a learning tool for the City
- Develop and Implement Heritage Trails

5.3 The Board agreed that options would need to be considered in relation to how heritage activity could continue in the North and a discussion to be timetabled for a future meeting.

6. **Recommendations:** Members are requested to:

- Note the report and the Place Board's timetable for activity for the year ahead. **Annex 1**,
- Agree to accept progress update reports based on the timetable outlined in **Annex 1**.

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