

15 DECEMBER 2014

## REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE AREA PLACE BOARD

## East Sunderland Area Place 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 Area Place 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 30 November 2014.

| Action Taken  | Outcome  |      |  |         |            |        |             |
|---|--|------|--|---------|------------|--------|-------------|
| Area Priority:<br><br>Ensuring the physical environment is fit for purpose to deliver a range of initiatives to encourage use of green space. | <p>Since the October 2014 both Area Boards were consulted and agreed two Green Adventure programme funding requests, these are:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 North East Community Solutions, who will target Black Minority Ethnic communities in the East to connect, get out and about in greenspace and be active. The group received £2,770 SIB.</li> <li>2 The Art Studio, who will encourage people with mental health issues to get out and about and try something new. Whilst outside walkers will take photographs which will be used to host an exhibition. The group received £5,000 SIB.</li> </ol> <p>The balance remaining in the SIB Green Adventure programme budget is £18,394.</p> |      |  |         |            |        |             |
| Accreditation Scheme for Private Landlords  | <p>In October 2014, Area Committee agreed to host an event to promote Sunderland Council's Private Landlords Accreditation Scheme to engage with private landlords and encourage them to volunteer to become accredited. After holding a meeting with colleagues from Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal team it was proposed to hold a series of events. The table below indicates the approximate levels of private rented stock in the East area (as at March 2013).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ward</th> <th>Number and percentage private Rented Stock</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Doxford</td> <td>127 (5.4%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hendon</td> <td>965 (41.2%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>  | Ward | Number and percentage private Rented Stock | Doxford | 127 (5.4%) | Hendon | 965 (41.2%) |
| Ward  | Number and percentage private Rented Stock   |      |  |         |            |        |             |
| Doxford   | 127 (5.4%)   |      |  |         |            |        |             |
| Hendon  | 965 (41.2%)  |      |  |         |            |        |             |

|              |                                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Millfield    | 660 (28.2)                        |
| Ryhope       | 183 (7.8%)                        |
| St Michael's | 409 (17.4%)                       |
| Total        | 2,344 (31.4% of the city's stock) |

The first event will invite 258 non-accredited private landlords who rent properties in the selective licensing scheme area in Hendon along to an event in January 2015. The event will host a question's and answer session, and accredited landlords will explain the reasons behind the benefits of joining the scheme. Information about 'signing up' will be shared on the day.

Similar events will then be rolled out across the East targeting non-accredited private landlords in Doxford, Millfield, Ryhope and St Michael's wards.

In addition, tenants will be encouraged to promote the Accreditation Scheme to their landlord and request that they consider signing up to the Scheme.

Committee are requested to note that £10,000 SIB will be proposed for approval to enable the events and profile of the Accreditation Scheme to be raise in East Sunderland. Further information is provided under the Financial Report.

All members of the Area Committee are encouraged to attend and show support for the events.

Highways Maintenance Programme 2015 / 2016

At the November Area Place Board, Officers from Highways and Transport provided members with an update on the 2014 / 2015 Highways Maintenance Programme, which is available to access via share point.

Following a discussion it was agreed that Place Councillors would consider their wards and refer any concerns about the condition of poor highways onto the Highways and Transport Team by the end of December 2015. The Team would then inspect the highway and apply the standard criteria in assessing the quality and need for inclusion in the 2015 / 2016 programme.

It was agreed that a priority list of highways would then be presented and discussed at the February 2015 Area Place Board, at which members would agree a recommended list to Area Committee in March 2015. Seeking endorsement from Area Committee of the Highways Maintenance Programme for 2015 / 2016.

City Centre

Following on from an update on the City Centre Regeneration from a previous meeting, a discussion was held on the number

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|  | <p>of young people who are congregating in and around Sunnyside, Mowbray Park, Civic Centre and Park Lane area.</p> <p>Following the discussion it was agreed that Officers would investigate the feasibility of consulting young people on an alternative temporary use for derelict land, as the city centre is redeveloped, and present a report at a future meeting on its findings.</p>   |
| <p>Area Priority:<br/>Gateway III</p>          | <p>In June 2014, Area Committee agreed their work plan for 2014 / 2015. This involved agreeing the detail relating to Gateway III part way through the municipal year. At the Area Place Board in November several options were presented for discussion, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Tidy up back lanes.</li> <li>ii) Paint empty shop fronts in the City Centre.</li> <li>iii) Deliver actions that would support an 'Age Friendly City Centre'.</li> <li>iv) Tree Strategy and Planting</li> </ul> <p><b>Tidying up back lanes</b><br/>Members discussed the possibility of having planters in back lanes to improve the visual environment. It was not considered that it would be in-appropriate for longer back lanes, however, there were some short back lanes in the area where it could be feasible. There would be a need to ensure that access was not restricted, i.e. refuse vehicle, by the installation of the planters.</p> <p><b>Paint empty shop fronts in the City Centre</b><br/>It was noted that Sunderland BID maybe working with students from Sunderland University on this scheme. It was agreed to keep a watching brief.</p> <p><b>Age Friendly City Centre</b><br/>It was noted that Sunderland BID are taking forward parts of the 50+ Forums report. Again, it was agreed to keep a watching brief. Although it was noted that the work being developed with Nexus to make the Metro stations dementia friendly would complement the city centre to be age friendly.</p> <p><b>Tree Strategy and Planting</b><br/>The removal and replacement of dead trees was discussed. It was agreed that the City Centre and East Area Response Managers, would provide a list of locations where there was a need for tree stumps to be removed and areas where new trees could be planted.</p> |
| <p>Proposed Area Priority 'Clean and Grow'</p> | <p>Following the discussion it is recommended to rename Gateway III as the 'Clean and Grow' area priority. The area priority will engage a diverse range of groups from private and social sector landlords, local businesses, schools, VCS groups and local residents.</p>  |

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|  | <p>Clean and Grow will work towards reaching two main outcomes across each of the five wards in East Sunderland, these are:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Clean Ups<br/>For example, working with service providers, landlords, partners and communities to carry out community clean ups, paint street furniture and adopt street planters.</li> <li>2. Community Growing Projects<br/>Such as, launching the 'Grow' project by hosting garden festivals in local parks and green spaces to bring people together, share ideas and learn from one another.<br/>Helping local residents to grow their own, projects could include, back yard initiatives, adding green space outside their homes, learning about saving money on food and growing healthy produce, and receiving advice from expert gardeners.</li> </ol> <p>Area Committee are requested to note that £50,000 SIB will be proposed for alignment to Clean and Grow area priority. This will enable the Area Arrangements Team to work within a ring fenced budget to engage with relevant stakeholders over the Winter, with a view of submitting a full funding proposal to Area Committee in March 2015 for consideration. Further information is provided under the Financial Report.</p> |
| <p>Coast Path: Better Than Basic Signage Project</p> | <p>In November 2014, a Coast Path Working Group was held to finalise details on the frames, themes and information boards to be installed along the coast path route leading through Ryhope, Hendon and the East End into the City Centre.</p> <p>Drafts of the 'boards' were circulated and discussed at the meeting. The boards cover a variety of themes from history, horrors and hero's, flora and fauna and walking routes. The drafts will be on display on the evening of Area Committee.</p> <p>The Working Group agreed that the manufacturing of the frames and seats can commence.</p> <p>The consultation period on the context of the Boards is 'live' and ends on the 19 December 2014. After which final designs will be produced, approved and commissioned in January 2015. The aim is to install the signs in Spring 2015 and host a guided celebratory walk around the route.</p>  |

### 3. Recommendations

#### 3.1 Members are requested to:-

- (a) Note the East Sunderland Area Place Board Work Plan, as set out in **Annex 1**.
- (b) Note the progress of the 'Green Adventure' and 'Better than Basic Signage' SIB programme and agree to receive future progress reports.
- (c) Support the Private Landlord Accreditation Scheme events in Spring 2015 and note the recommendation to approve £10,000 SIB.

(d) Refer concerns about highways onto the Highways and Transport Team by December 2014.

(e) Approve 'Clean and Grow' as an area priority and note the recommendation to align £50,000 SIB.

Annex 1                      East Sunderland Area Place Board Work Plan 2014 / 2015

Background Papers

East Area Place Board Agendas, Reports and Action List

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