

21st January 2013**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE PLACE BOARD****Place Board Progress Report****1. Purpose of Report**

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

2 Background

- 2.1 Earlier this year the Local Area Plan's priorities associated with Place were referred to the North Place Board to action on behalf of the Area Committee. The Place Board has started to initiate action on those priorities and **Item 3 Annex 1** outlines progress made to date.

3 Key Areas of Influence/Achievements up to 31 December 2012

- 3.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the North Place Board up to 31 December 2012.

| Action Taken | Outcome |
|---|---|
| Responsive Local Services Streetscene | |
| Car dealers selling cars from grass verges and footpaths. | |
| Encouraged implementation of the Council's enforcement powers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Place Board escalated the matter to the Portfolio holder and the Leader. A city wide procedure has been written by legal services which outlines educational and enforcement powers the Council can deliver against car dealers. The procedure will be rolled out across the city from January 2013. The car dealers (sixteen in the North) will be given 6 weeks notice to make alternative arrangements for their cars. |
| Area Priority: Greenspace Improvements | |
| An audit of large spaces of neglected land in the North carried out and proposals for improvement developed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Peters – Sculpture Trail- RLS have commenced work on the Sculpture Trail to bring it back into use and re-landscape the area between the Glass Centre to Sandpoint Road. A second phase of improvement work is being developed and proposals to be considered at a future board meeting. Pirate Park, Seaburn – The park has now been reopened after refurbishment of equipment and the surrounding area was carried out by the RLS team and Volunteers. Fulwell Ward Community Chest supported the initiative with £500. Future work will include thinning the shrub beds, which will open up the area making it feel safe and inviting. Hylton Dene Steps – The steps within Hylton Dene were identified as an area for improvement, the steps are slippery and falling away. A project proposal to ring fence £2,500 SIB, subject to the receipt of a detailed SIB appraisal, assessment, is included under Annex 2 of Item 4 Financial statement and proposal. Redcar House Site/St Hilda's/Former Downhill Club -RLS have carried out a general tidy up, the sites will be maintained on a regular basis until the future of the sites are determined. |
| Area Priority: Shopping Centre Improvements | |

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| An audit of shopping centres in the North which identified areas for improvements, including, litter around shop fronts, street scene furniture, lack of off street parking, inadequate bins and issues with anti social behaviour | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A street furniture audit is presently being carried out on the general condition in and around shopping centres. • Chewing gum removal is being targeted in the main areas of concern. • All shrub bed maintenance in shopping areas will be completed by the end of January. • A love where you live campaign will be carried out in the Dovedale Street area. • Bin replacements have all been assessed and will be installed in the New Year. • Anti Social Behaviour issues have been discussed with the police and options will be taken to a future place board. • Tree Grills at Southwick have been identified as a priority, costs to replace with resin is £1000. A project proposal to ring fence £1,000 SIB, subject to the receipt of a detailed SIB appraisal, assessment, is included under Annex 2 of Item 4 Financial statement and proposal. |
| Ensure local businesses deliver their responsibilities in relation to keeping the path at the entrance of the property and surrounding area clean and tidy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 'Voluntary Code of Practice' has been drafted. The Enforcement team in the North will visit businesses to make them aware of the voluntary code and support them to sign up to the campaign to assist in keeping the neighbourhood clean and tidy. |
| Area Priority: Heritage | |
| Previous actions remaining on Heritage Action Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement has commenced with the VCS network to support the development of the Heritage Priority. • The remaining actions on the action plan are being progressed by the VCS network. |
| Influence the increased use of the River Wear | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referred to Head of Street Scene and Portfolio Holder • Funding position – that funding can be made available through capital programme subject to production of a successful Business Plan. • Options and associated business plans to provide public transport and heritage offer being developed |
| Support Heritage in the North using SIB funding | <p>The Place Board have considered the following applications:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beamish Museum's request for £15,000 from SIB funding to enable children from local schools to better understand their local heritage and what it was in the past, by particularly exploring what happened across the area during World War 1. See Item 4 Financial Statement and Proposals for full detail. • North East Aircraft Museum's (NEAM) application, to fund jointly with Washington Area Committee, a new road and drainage on the site of the local museum. The project is requesting £13,000 from North Area Committee SIB funding and £13,000 from Washington Area Committee with £4,000 match funding from NEAM. See Item 4 Financial Statement and Proposals for full detail |

4 **Recommendations:**

4.1 Members are requested to consider the progress and performance update with regard to the North Place Board's Work Plan for 2012/13.

4.2 Approve the change to the attached work plan **Item 3 Annex 1** under action 3.

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