

23 January 2013

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE PLACE BOARD

Place Board Progress Report

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The report provides 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 Coalfield Place Board to action on behalf of the Area Committee. The Place Board has started to initiate action on those priorities and **Annex 1** outlines progress 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 Coalfield Place Board up to 31 December 2012.

Area Priority: Responsive Local Service (RLS) Streetscene	
Action Taken	Outcome
Following discussions of the control of dogs in local parks the interim Head of Service led a review on by-laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A citywide policy on Dog Control Orders has been developed. Members will be consulted on individual powers within parks in the Coalfield area in order to determine local application
Environmental improvements as part of the Love Where You Live campaign developed a Tree planting programme in partnership with Woodland Trust and Groundwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 400 trees were planted on four sites across the Coalfield area during November/December 2012. Community engagement was a key outcome. RLS, New Penshaw Primary School, Dubmire Primary School, Eppleton Primary School, Sunderland College, Wear Rivers Trust, Groundwork and Springboard all took part in the campaign • Over 100 trees planted at the Collingwood Drive site enhanced the work already carried out as part of the neglected land project
Following an increase in complaints from local residents, local Councillors and key Officers held meetings to discuss nuisance car parking caused by car dealers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referred to Portfolio Holder and the Leader of the Council • A city wide procedure has been written by Legal Services which outlines educational and enforcement powers the Council can deliver against car dealers who nuisance park/advertise vehicles for sale • The procedure will be rolled out from January 2013
Members of the Place Board discussed the future possibilities of influencing core budgets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From April 2013 a proportion of the highways maintenance budget will be devolved to the Place Board to influence at a local level
Area Priority: Improvement of Allotments	
Action Taken	Outcome
Following concerns about derelict allotment plots an audit of all sites carried out to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive clean up of Burnside allotments including development of model allotments for rent • Non cultivation letters issued and improvements made

assess condition and remedial action required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A project to improve all plots defined as 'unlettable' has been developed in partnership with Groundwork and is outlined in Item 4 (finance report)
Enforcement and education has taken place with allotment holders where inappropriate use of plots has been identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement activity resulted in the removal of fifteen caravans from various sites • A schedule has been developed for horse owners to prevent further horses being brought on to allotments. A clause has been incorporated into the revised tenancy agreement • Enforcement activity continues as a consequence of findings on each individual site
Review of the management of allotments undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level action plan produced • Revised tenancy agreement developed. Will be issued to all tenants in March 2013 • 6 monthly inspection programme in place on all sites

Area Priority: Neglected Land

Action Taken	Outcome
Contact has been made with all land owners of unsightly or neglected land in private ownership and discussions held with those who have responded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 66 out of the 95 identified plots in private ownership have been improved or brought into meaningful use and removed from the list defined as 'neglected' • Lead Agent will continue to monitor those sites which have been improved • The Lead Agent continues to work in partnership with the remaining land owners to encourage improvements
Further audit of small plots undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five newly identified plots have been added to the portfolio • Lead Agent will continue to work with Members to identify any further plots
Four larger Council owned sites were prioritised for improvement by the Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the four has been improved • Schemes are being developed for the remaining three sites and will be taken forward by the Lead Agent in consultation with ward members and the Place Board
The Place Board discussed smaller sites in Council ownership and identified the benefits of small scale environmental programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten of the of the 26 Council plots have been improved • SIB application for £10,000 presented to this meeting to address issues such as overgrown and unsightly vegetation, damaged or derelict boundaries and reinstatement of grass on some of the remaining neglected plots in Council ownership under item 4 (finance report)
The Lead Agent has worked with Land and Property and Planning Services to establish any future plans for the Council owned land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Land Management system has now been updated with all plots of Council owned land identified as neglected • Land and Property Services have reviewed all plots and are working on a system to identify future use of the plots or feasibility for disposal of plots

Area Priority: Support for Local Shopping Centres

Action Taken	Outcome
SIB funding was awarded to support local businesses. A project brief was developed by the Business Investment Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business support specialists were engaged in November 2012 and will support businesses on a 1-2-1 basis or in a workshop setting depending on the needs of the businesses. Support may include developing a business or marketing plan, help with advertising, advice on diversifying the business, becoming competitive and advice on displays

Area Priority: Heritage	
Action Taken	Outcome
A Community Heritage project has been delivered over the last 12 months by City Services in partnership with the VCS Network. The project has now ended with a small budget and one remaining outcome outstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The VCS Network partners wish to continue with the project, and the Place Board has identified that this would sit best under the People Board work plan. It is proposed that (subject to appropriate SIB process) the project and the remaining £5,000 budget is transferred to ELCAP and Groundwork to deliver via the VCS Network partners and progress is reported via the People Board

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are requested to consider the progress and performance update with regard to the Coalfield Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2012/13
- 4.2 Members are requested to identify further plots of land deemed 'neglected' as and when appropriate and report to the Lead Agent (Dave Ellison)
- 4.3 Members are requested to agree that the responsibility for the Community Heritage project is transferred to the VCS Network and reported to the People Board

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