

10th December 2015**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 (2015/16) Place Board Work Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 Earlier this year the Local Area Plan's priorities associated with Place were referred to the Washington Place Board to action on behalf of the Area Committee. The Place Board continue to initiate action on those priorities and **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 utilising 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 People Board for this Area Committee is as follows:-

Ward	Place Board Membership
Chair	Cllr Fiona Miller
Washington Central	Cllr Len Lachlan
Washington East	Cllr Tony Taylor
Washington North	Cllr John Kelly
Washington South	Cllr Paul Middleton
Washington West	Cllr Bernie Scaplehorn

4. Key Areas of Influence/Achievements up to 30th November 2015

- 4.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the Washington Place Board up to 30th November 2015.

Influencing role : Highways Maintenance Programme

- The proposal for the 2016-2017 Highways Maintenance programme is to continue with the 25% Member influence. The financial value of the 25% will be determined once the Capital Programme value is confirmed early in the new calendar year (2016), but is likely to be something similar to last year.
- Highway Officers are gathering intelligence from Technical Condition Surveys, Highway Inspections, Member/Public reports and Complaints, Insurance Claim locations and local knowledge.
- All members were sent an email in October 2015, and asked to submit streets they wished to be considered for the 2016-17 HM Programme. Members are encouraged to forward their streets for consideration to Graham Carr, the Highway Asset Manager and also through their Place Board Member representative in the timescales outlined in the email.
- From this information a list will be compiled, the Streets on the list will be inspected and prioritised before appropriate treatments for the type of repair needed are determined and accurate estimates can be prepared. Once this information is known a potential list of priority schemes for each area can be prepared.
- In order to capture the medium term requirements for capital highway maintenance schemes, it is intended, resources permitting, to compile indicative programmes for a further two years in which streets that don't meet the priority for 2016-2017 can be included. These programmes will not be fixed but flexible and be dependent on the priorities in any given year.
- For each Area, a prioritised list of streets will be brought forward for consideration in next year's programme. These will be circulated in advance of the February 2016 Place Board. Highway Officers will attend the February Place Board to aid discussion and agree a prioritised list of schemes.
- The Place Board's recommendations will be presented to the March Area Committee for approval of the final Area Highway Maintenance Programme 2016-2017.

Influencing role: Flood risk in Washington

- The board was informed of a Washington Flood Study. See map attached as **Annex 2**
- The drainage areas included in the study are All of 08-D14, All of 08-D15 and the Northern section of 08-D16.
- Stage 1 of the study will comprise a data collection exercise, jointly with Northumbrian Water, the Environment Agency and the Council. This data collection will then prioritise the worst flooding areas within the study area. The three agencies then have the option to take the priorities onto the next stage jointly, individually or not at all. The stage 2 exercise is more in depth and includes hydraulic models if they haven't been done before and options of what could be done to prevent the flooding.
- In Washington there are 680 properties which are at risk of flooding from a 1 in 30 flood event which is a high risk.

Area Priority: Environment and Green Space

Action	Outcome
Neighbourhood Improvement Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of ward based projects are under development as part of the Neighbourhood Improvement Project. ARM continues to meet with Ward Members to discuss potential proposals, to identify partners and to aid development and delivery

<p>The Washington Way Network (CHGS Project)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared ownership approach developed - the Washington Way to Well Being Charter Mark, and a local 'Hub' developed to deliver health initiatives including walking and cycling initiatives. Charter Mark scheme now launched. Activities and courses already being delivered via Go Washington Way. The information hub at the Life House has been invaluable for the promotion of the Washington Way to Wellbeing and the good partnership work has strengthened the delivery and sustained the numbers of people accessing the projects.
<p>Maximising green and open spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of a strategy to continue to enhance neighbourhood improvements Area Committee is requested to enhance the current programmes by agreeing to provide an equipment bank for use by volunteers and partners to deliver identified neighbourhood improvements. It will help add value to current projects such as the Neighbourhood Improvements Project and the Community Volunteering Project. It will also provide an opportunity to enhance sustainability of those initiatives as well as fulfil some of the objectives of the council to involve partners and volunteers in delivering key services in the community. Area Committee will be requested to agree aligning £25,000 under Item 5 Finance Report
<p>Business Watch/ Industrial Estates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area Committee agreed to align £10,000 at the last meeting to develop a Business Watch scheme targeting the local industrial estates. The aim was to encourage a group of business' who work together with the Police and other agencies to make their area a safer place for all to work, live and visit. Since that decision the council has identified that it has not the resources to lead that initiative. Area Committee are asked to consider an alternative proposal utilising enforcement resources to take a targeted approach. It is intended to pull together the relevant 'enforcement' resources within the City Council and determine how best to focus on specific estates as a pilot, utilising enforcement powers where appropriate. It is intended to focus as landlords/land owners as well as tenants. Area Committee is requested to support the Place Board's recommendation to align SIB funding of £25,000 to develop this proposal. This is to be determined under Item 5 Finance Report
<p>Area priority: Member and Community Engagement</p>	
<p>Encourage partnerships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk and talk programmes to identify community

with the local community and VCS, link Ward Members to activities and events	partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members engage residents re AC role at key Washington events • Members involved in steering an events and culture programme • Delivery of the Washington 50 Community Programme
Area priority: Heritage and Culture	
Events 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following approval to align £50,000 SIB at the October Area Committee, Members are asked to consider the Place Board recommendation to deliver an Events Programme as detailed under Annex 3. • This approach will address issues such as time required to facilitate discussions with potential lead agents (and community groups), ensure priority events are identified in order to confirm scheduling and programming at the beginning of each year, what level of support is required, and also a more planned approach for the smaller events. The area committee to also consider how to build on the proposed 'business approach' to encourage more resources for Washington events from external sources. • Proposals include a preferred methodology for commissioning the programme and proposed timeline • Members are requested to discuss and determine any additional detail to be included in the proposed project brief included as Annex 3
Washington's heritage and culture offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WAC has for some time maintained 'Heritage and Culture' as a local priority, identifying and generating opportunities to use heritage and culture for a positive impact on the local community, to maximise the 'Washington Offer', and to generate and attract match funding to maximise potential. • £30,000 has been aligned to deliver the Heritage priority following current consultation exercises being completed with regards to Washington offer. Future Place Board to consider next steps. •

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are requested to consider the progress and performance with regard to the Washington Place Board's Work Plan for 2015/16 as detailed in **Annex 1**
- 4.2 Members are requested to note the detail of the proposed Washington Flood Study attached as **Annex 2**
- 4.3 Members are requested to support the Place Board recommendation to align SIB funding to provide an equipment bank for use by volunteers and partners to deliver

identified neighbourhood improvements. Funding levels to be considered under **Item 5 Finance Report**.

4.3 Members are requested to support the Place Board recommendation to align further SIB funding to develop an enforcement approach to addressing derelict industrial estates as detailed in this report. Funding levels to be considered under **Item 5 Finance Report**.

4.4 Members are requested to support the Place Board recommendation to approve the Project Brief and Call for Projects for the Washington Events Programme 2016 as detailed under **Annex 3**.

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Annex 1: Work plan 2015/16

Annex 2: Washington Flood Study

Annex 3: Washington Events 2016 – Project Brief and Call for Projects