

3 December 2014

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 (2014/15) Place Board Work Plan, and provide an update on performance .

2. Background

2.1 Earlier this year the Local Area Plan priorities associated with Place were referred to the Coalfield Place Board to action on behalf of the Area Committee. The Place Board continue to initiate action on those priorities. Progress to date is outlined below, in the Work Plan at **Annex 1** and the SIB performance report at **Annex 2**.

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 Place Board for this Area Committee is as follows:-

Ward	Place Board Membership
Chair/Hetton	Cllr Florence Anderson
Copt Hill	Cllr Anthony Allen
Houghton	Cllr Billy Turton Cllr Sheila Ellis
Shiney Row	Cllr Mel Speding

4. Key Areas of Influence/Achievements to 30 November 2014

4.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the Coalfield Place Board to date.

Action Taken	Outcome
Influence: Responsive Local Services Streetscene	
Influence operational deployment of RLS Streetscene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Area Response Manager ensures that regular communication with all elected members influences street scene service delivery to meet local need. Debbie Hall the ARM for the Coalfield area gave a service update at the November 2014 Board meeting including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Winter pruning has begun and will continue until March

	<p>2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Winter planting is currently taking place ○ Preparation of beds for spring planting is underway ○ Winter duties commenced on 14 November with a fleet of new vehicles ○ Britain in Bloom and Green Flag awards for the Coalfield area
Influence: Environmental issues/ASB	
Support preventative measures to reduce negative impact on the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The protocol for installing the recently piloted 'rock cams' is complete and cameras are now available for deployment to priority areas ● Boulders have been acquired from Eppleton Quarry to provide protection in locations where vehicles would otherwise be parked on the grass verges in the Coalfield Area. Members were asked to forward suggestions for their use to Debbie Hall or Pauline Hopper. ● The Board supported a proposal to develop a 'Did you Know?' card/leaflet to highlight some of the facts/consequences around fly tipping/dog fouling etc.. For example 'employing' unlicensed waste disposal companies to remove rubbish, subsequently found disposed of illegally, carries a fine to the consumer who has a duty of care to dispose of rubbish responsibly.
Influence: Regulatory Services	
Review of Licenced Premises (Licencing Act 2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Place Board invited Richard Reading to the October 2014 meeting to discuss protocol and procedure for requesting a licence review under the 2003 Act. (Annex 3) ● The Coalfield area does not generate a large number of problems. However, of most note is noise for residential neighbours of licenced premises and stolen and counterfeit goods being sold. ● The use of child volunteers to attempt to buy alcohol from off licences has not shown evidence of a great problem in the area. However, adults purchasing alcohol for young people (proxy sales) remains an issue. There is little publicity about the fact that this carries a fine of £5,000. ● The Board agreed to support the proposal to circulate a notice to be displayed in local off licences advising of the fines that can be given out to persons purchasing alcohol for anyone under the age of 18.
Influence: Highways Capital Maintenance Programme	
Influence and prioritise the areas of capital maintenance works for 2015/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Board received an update on progress made on the highway maintenance work carried out on those streets selected by the Area Committee as part of the Highway Maintenance Programme for 2014/15. ● Tim Smith invited Members to forward the names of any roads and footways for inclusion on the list which would be assessed and prioritised according to traffic needs and location and submitted for consideration by the Board at its meeting in February; a recommendation to be made at the March meeting of the Area Committee as to which roads and footways to include in the Capital Programme for 2015/16.
Area Priority: Local Shopping Centres	
Improving the environmental aspect of smaller shopping areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The proposed improvement to a footpath at Front Street, Fencehouses, was supported by the Place Board, subject to relevant consultation and future maintenance processes being followed.
Identifying areas for development to improve footfall and spending in local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A treasure hunt style 'poppy trail' has recently been completed in Newbottle Street. ● A 'Shop Local at Christmas' campaign is under development

shopping centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Billboard space has been hired at Shiney Row and Houghton le Spring to promote local shopping centres during December • Lamp post banners have now been installed in Hetton • A discount voucher scheme was published in the October edition of Community News • A Christmas market will take place at Shiney Row from 2.30 until 6 p.m. on Thursday 4 December, with the Christmas lights being switched on at 4.30 p.m. • Houghton Traders Association held a meeting with Council Officers and Nexus to discuss the provision of a bus stop at the top end of Newbottle Street (outside the library). This is now being progressed by highways and Nexus. The issue of the bus stop on Blind Lane/Burnside and the need for a bus shelter at this location was discussed and the potential for Section 106 contribution for this has been explored. A request for support is included in Item 4, Finance Report.
Continue the retail support project led by the Business Investment Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following Area Committee approval of SIB funding at the October 2014 meeting, Berni Whitaker is progressing phase 2 of the business support project to offer 1-2-1 and mentoring business advice to local traders
Area Priority: Love Where You Live and Community Involvement	
Support local communities to improve and take pride in their neighbourhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The allocation of £10,000 SIB funding at the October 2014 Area Committee will enable the Love Where You Live campaign to be expanded and delivered in a planned way. • The Customer Relationship Officer is working with more partners, schools and community groups to deliver educational messages and encourage the development of community projects. • Easington Lane School was awarded 'Best School Project' at the recent Sunderland in Bloom awards, for their partnership project to commemorate WW1. Two other local organisations, ELCAP and Grays Chapel, were also given awards in the community category.
Area Priority: Maximising Greenspace (Health and Greenspaces)	
The place board will focus on the physical environment aspect of the Health and Greenspaces project and support improvement of outdoor space for health benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board discussed and supported the renewal of the Fishing Club's licence at Hetton Lyons Country Park, to include fishing at night, subject to clarification with the Club that the Council was not responsible for any health and safety issues in relation to this. • The Area Response Manager has acquired some outdoor goal posts and subject to consultation with local residents, the Board agreed to support installation of the equipment at Kier Hardy Playing Fields. A further set of goalposts is soon to become available. Members are asked to make suggestions for suitable locations. • A request has been made for the marking out of a third football pitch at Success Playing Fields for use by Russell Foster league teams. The Board highlighted previous parking issues at this site and agreed the pitch could be marked out if parking was marshalled and monitored in order to reduce issues or nuisance to local residents.
Area Priority: Environmental Improvement and Education	
Local involvement in improving and appreciating the natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the November 2014 meeting, the Board agreed to continue to support the identification of sites that suffer from neglect and/or dereliction and working in partnership with local groups, residents and council services to enhance land development for public or private use. • The Board agreed to support the education of residents to understand the consequences of environmental neglect by having a fact sheet produced to include information on the licensing provisions and issues regarding flytipping etc which would be made available in local shops and Health Centres; any

	<p>further suggestions with regards to the content to be included in the fact sheet to be forwarded to Pauline Hopper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This priority will also focus on working in partnership with groups and schools to develop appreciation of natural growth and wildlife
Area Priority: Events, Celebrations and Heritage	
<p>Support long standing historical events taking place in local communities and develop new ones to celebrate the area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remembrance parades in three neighbourhoods were supported with the provision of road closure • In order to build upon the success of WW1 themed projects delivered via the VCS Network, an opportunity to deliver heritage related projects within the community has been advertised through the Network mailing list. Projects must support Area Committee's priorities and be of benefit to the local community.

4. Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- Consider the progress and performance update with regard to Coalfield Place Board's Work Plan for 2014/15 including proposals for future delivery
- Provide suggestions for suitable locations for goalposts
- Provide suggestions for content for an environmental 'fact sheet'

Annex 1 Work Plan
Annex 2 SIB Performance Report
Annex 3 Review of Licenced Premises

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