WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE **Item 4**

15th October 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 September 2015

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

Influencing role : Fatfield Slipway	
• Views were sought from members regarding the reopening of Fatfield Slipway. Place Board members fed back their views, as part of a wider consultation, for the slip-way to remain closed.	
Area Priority: Environment and Green Space	
Action	**Outcome**
Neighbourhood Improvement Project and Village Centre Improvement Project	• 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 • The VCIP is expected to complete September/October. ARM is working with Members to finalise projects and work programmes
The Washington Way Network (CHGS Project)	• 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.
Maximising green and open spaces	• Ensure links and co-ordination with corporate initiatives such as development of Walking forums, new walking trails (2 per area), way marking, Active Sunderland events and activities and joint working with sport and leisure re activity programmes in place. New Walking Network and Cycling Network being established via Sports and Leisure. Works continue to be aligned with strategic developments. Project will continue to provide detailed updates and reports to board and Area committee as required.
Business Watch	• Place board recommends aligning SIB to develop a local business Watch scheme targeting the industrial estates. The aim is 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. • Schemes can • Reduce crime and the fear of crime • Encourage community spirit • Get appropriate crime reduction advice to businesses quickly • Inform the police of any suspicious activity • Establish a spirit of co-operation and communication, working together in

	partnership to reduce crime in the local area. • Improve the relationship between businesses, police and other partner agencies by sharing information. • Reduce opportunities for crime, deterring would be offenders. • Proposal to align **£10,000** SIB 2015/16 for the business watch scheme to be considered under **Item 6 Finance Report**
Area priority: Member and Community Engagement	
Encourage partnerships with the local community and VCS, link Ward Members to activities and events	• Walk and talk programmes to identify community partnerships • 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	• Members are asked to consider the Place board recommendation to align SIB from the 2015/16 budget for Events 2016. This is to 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 – this to include which of the 'bigger events' AC wish to see continue and what level of support is required, and also a more planned approach for the smaller events – such as Durham Miners Gala, Remembrance, other commemorative events etc. – including agreeing funding source, level of support etc. The area committee to also consider how to build on the proposed 'business approach' to encourage more resources for Washington events from external sources. • Aligning funds now will allow a more planned approach with the process of working via a Place board sub group to draft the programme and methodology in January 2016. • Proposal to align **£50,000** SIB 2015/16 for the Events 2016 programme to be considered under **Item 6 Finance Report**
Washington's heritage and culture offer	• 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. • Place Board recommends aligning £30,000 to deliver the Heritage priority following current

	consultation exercises being completed with regards to Washington offer • Proposal to align **£30,000** SIB 2015/16 for the Events 2016 programme to be considered under **Item 6 Finance Report**

4. Recommendations

4.1 Members are requested to consider the progress and performance update 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 Place board's recommendation to keep the Fatfield Slipway closed as detailed this report

4.3 Members are requested to support the Place Board recommendation to align SIB funding to develop a local business watch scheme as detailed in this report. Funding levels to be considered under **Item 6 Finance Report.**

4.3 Members are requested to support the Place Board recommendation to align SIB funding to develop the Washington Events Programme for 2016 as detailed in this report. Funding levels to be considered under **Item 6 Finance Report.**

4.4 Members are requested to support the Place Board recommendation to align SIB funding to support and develop the Heritage offer in Washington as detailed in this report. Funding levels to be considered under **Item 6 Finance Report.**

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Annex 1: Work plan 2015/16