

15th 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 Place Board’s Work Plan for 2012/13.

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 has started to initiate action on those priorities and **Annex 1** outlines progress to date.

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

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

Action Taken	Outcome
Responsive Local Services Streetscene	
Dumping of Shopping Trolleys	
Encouraged external partners to find a positive solution and reduce need for RLS and the City Council to implement enforcement powers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trolley Wise now provide additional staff to cover weekends and a free phone number (08003161241 to contact Trolley Wise direct and arrange the removal of abandoned trolleys. • Galleries Management are working to encourage the only three supermarkets not using Trolley Wise to utilise the scheme (M&S, Wilkinson’s and Matalan) in order to have all trolleys collected. Trolley Wise are carrying out a trial until the end of January to identify how many trolleys abandoned belong to the three supermarkets that are not in the collection service programme.
Deliver Responsive Services through a co-ordinated partnership approach	
Established Officer Working Group to develop proposals for Area Committee consideration	<p>A key issue requiring redirection of resources is pruning and shrub or plantation maintenance. The winter programme consists of maintaining shrub beds November to March. There are 100s of shrub beds which are part of the normal RLS programme. In addition there are approximately 200 requests for shrub pruning alone from the public in addition to Member’s requests. To address this issue and to develop an approach to address an over reliance on RLS for all service requests (The ARM has documented more than 430 requests this year of which 164 were for services other than RLS Services) the following recommendations are made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members to be provided with ‘first point of contact’ information and Service Directory for all other services in order to be easily referred to appropriate contact and provided with appropriate contact details for all “out of hours’ requests (not emergency response) 2. Members to support the Place Board’s recommendation to prioritise the shrub beds and plantations as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1 (36) – those areas requiring urgent attention because of safety or security risks associated with them.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority 2 (56) - areas of medium priority and may become a higher risk if work is not carried out to retain them from either encroaching onto a highway or preventing free passage. Priority 3 – (102) low priority areas that are more desirable rather than necessary. They do not pose any significant risk and are unlikely to be completed. <p>Given a large number of the 'Priority 3' areas cannot be completed, options to be considered are to do nothing on Priority 3 and concentrate 1 & 2 only and work with partners to fill the gaps and help and undertake some of the work. It should be noted financial resource may be required in order to facilitate this. In addition review all existing Priority 3 areas and remove some of these to reduce the work load. Low maintenance options would replace the shrub beds and plantations.</p> <p>3. Members to support the Place Board's recommendation to identify and work with partners and other organisations to look at ways to help deliver responsive services through partnership working, co-ordination and collaboration.</p> <p>4. Member's to note the ARM and AO to identify schools and community who could be involved in improvements and upkeep and informal 'adoption' of schemes and sites and to identify volunteering and training opportunities for local residents, schools and organisations to become involved in the improvement and upkeep of the area.</p>
Area Priority: Investment in Washington's built and natural environment	
Understand the corporate approach to enforcement in relation to environmental standards on private sector industrial estates	<p>§ All issues require prioritising in order to ensure escalation where appropriate, or to request action.</p> <p>§ A mapping exercise with local Members will be completed throughout January to inform requests for services and potentially to influence and redirect services.</p>
Considered impact of flooding incidents in Washington and possible solutions	<p>§ Members plotted hotspots and problem areas to inform the wider vision and approach for the area</p> <p>§ Board mitigate, influence and discuss solutions and better use of current resources.</p> <p>§ External partners brought together – Environment Agency, Northumbria Water, Gentoo and the council to confirm roles, responsibilities and further collaboration.</p>
Area Priority: A well connected Washington	
Community Health and Green Spaces Project	A project proposal to ring fence SIB, subject to the receipt of a detailed SIB appraisal, assessment, is included under Annex 2 of Item 4 Financial statement and proposals

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 2012/13.
- 4.2 Members are requested to agree the recommendations of the Place Board for all Members to utilise the Service Directory for requests for services, agree the winter programme as detailed above, including the prioritisation of the shrub bed pruning, and to support the Place Board to identify suitable partnerships to deliver where appropriate.

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