

SIB Proposals from 2018/19 Budget - Environmental Education and Improvements**Coalfields Education Programme – Groundwork North East****£10,000**

Following the success and positive feedback from the My Space, Our Place project, we will return to all 15 primary schools in the Coalfields for phase 2 of “Environment Week”. Activities will be tailored around a new education resource pack focused on the waste hierarchy and neighbourhood issues.

Between September 2019 and March 2020, we will work with every child in each school to address issues such as litter and fly tipping, reducing dog fouling, encouraging volunteering and reducing graffiti. Each year group will have a tailored activity to help them understand the topic and think about the impact on their local environment. When the programme is complete each school will receive a copy of the education pack which they can use to deliver the sessions in the future, ensuring sustainability of the project.

We will offer a mix of practical and classroom based sessions to schools intended to tackle an environmental problem in their area. Classroom sessions could include:-

- Waste Investigators (campaign to recycle more in school and prove success of activities by weighing the amount of waste that is going to be recycled each day).
- Art Recycling (Using recycling to make artwork).
- Digital Campaign to change behaviours (creating presentations, videos, case studies linking to social media about the impact of people not looking after their environment).

These sessions will be supplemented by practical activity in the community, including:-

- Litter Picks (in areas around schools or target areas identified by partners).
- Bulb Planting (in areas identified by partners and council officers).
- Environmental Improvements (Painting, clearance, enhancing biodiversity).
- Trips to sites impacted by waste (beaches, energy from waste centre, Campground).

We will encourage the schools to end “Environment Week” with an assembly so that the children can share information with their parents and carers, and talk about any particular local issues. This will help spread the messages around environmental awareness and encourage people to take more responsibility for their neighbourhoods.

All classroom and practical activities will be agreed with partners and stakeholders prior to work commencing in September.

Container Planting**£5,000**

Following discussions at the January Place Board, an audit of existing tubs and planters in main shopping areas has been carried out. It is proposed that the following work is carried out to renew and refresh some of the older foliage arrangements. All will be maintained within the existing service schedule, and therefore will not cause additional pressure on resources.

Houghton

Plant geraniums around the existing shrubs in 8 large and 4 small tubs at the Broadway

Planting up the two large tubs outside the library and the tandoori

Shiney Row

Emptying and clearing out of four large planters at the Cenotaph and replacing all soil and plants with 4ft conical buxus with geraniums around base

Refresh large tub on junction with Barrack Row, top up soil and plant geraniums

Hetton

Additional railing tubs with 2 x liners and plants (x 3 years) for each

Easington Lane

New plants for x2 large tubs at Easington Lane nr clock tower and library

Recommendation: Approve – will address the Environmental Improvement priority