

14 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, 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, and in the Work Plan at **Annex 1**.

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 John Cummings
Copt Hill	Cllr Anthony Allen Cllr Mary Turton
Houghton	Cllr Juliana Heron Cllr Sheila Ellis
Shiney Row	Cllr Mel Speding

4. Key Areas of Influence/Achievements to September 2015

- 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 (ARM) ensures that regular communication with all elected members can influence street scene service delivery to meet local need. Debbie Hall the ARM for the Coalfield area gave a service update at the June and September Place Board meetings including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Neglected Land ○ 'In Bloom' Judging ○ Grass Cutting and Weeding Programme 2015 ○ Parks ○ Fly Tipping

Influence: Environmental issues/ASB	
Support preventative measures to reduce negative impact on the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the removal of two seats at Market Street, Hetton, the Place Board discussed and agreed the relocation of the seats to King George V play area, Eppleton. The Place Board therefore recommends to the Area Committee that the seats are installed there to replace the current seats. There will be a cost of £650 to repaint and relocate the seats if the existing concrete plinths can be used, or a cost of £1150 if the concrete plinths need to be replaced. If members agree, the cost can be met from the existing SIB Neglected Land budget. Following complaints regarding unauthorised parking and environmental damage at Coaley Lane/Hill View, Newbottle, phased works commenced on site in June 2015. The area has been covered in top soil and grass seed planted. Boulders donated by Eppleton quarry have been located at the site and a number of semi-mature plants will be planted during the autumn. The improvements have been made by RLS as part of the ongoing 'neglected land' project.
Public Protection and Regulatory Services (PPRS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colin Rudd, the lead officer for the Coalfield area gave a presentation to the Board on the main topics covered by the service, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trading Standards Food Standards Commercial Health and Safety Pollution Control Pest Control Licensing The Board raised a number of queries about the service and an update will be given in advance of the November Board meeting.
Influence: Transport in the local area	
Influence the review of Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colleagues from Network Management and Nexus attended the July 2015 Place Board meeting to inform members of the changes to the DRT service. Members of the Board gave consideration to three alternative fixed route options and asked Nexus to investigate revisions based on feedback given. Nexus attended the September 2015 Place Board meeting and presented a revised route to Members who were pleased that all comments had been taken on board and suggestions incorporated into the proposed route. Correspondence will now be sent to users of the service, with a feedback form, to gain their views. Once the revised service is operational, it will be widely marketed throughout the area.
Area Priority: Support for Local Shopping Centres	
Review of Houghton town centre traffic and parking restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A working group consisting Elected Members, Council Officers, Houghton Traders Association members and the Neighbourhood Police Team has been set up to look at current and suggested traffic and parking restrictions in and around Newbottle Street. The first meeting of the working group discussed the legal and budgetary constraints of reviewing regulations. The group has since met to map out suggested improvements to the regulations. The lead officer has taken away the suggestions and will work them up into a draft proposal for consideration by the group at the next meeting.
Age Friendly City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board received a presentation on the on-going work for the council to submit an application to the World Health Organisation (WHO) for Sunderland to be granted Age Friendly status. Members were invited to comment on the Council's proposal to

	<p>submit to the WHO Global Network of age-Friendly Cities and Communities for 'Age Friendly' status. Members were also invited to comment on the proposals for a locally driven approach with a specific community projects at neighbourhood level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Coalfield Area is currently supporting the Dementia Friendly Shopping Centre programme in Houghton le Spring • Staff from Bernard Gilpin Primary School in Houghton were presented with the Best Dementia Friendly Educational Initiative award, at the Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friendly Awards 2015 at Trinity House, Tower Hill, in London in September 2015. The school was one of 26 finalists to attend the ceremony, which was hosted by TV personality Angela Rippon, OBE, who is an Alzheimer's Society ambassador. The school has incorporated dementia learning into their curriculum, developed The Living Room to hold a weekly activity session for people living with dementia, and have promoted the importance of intergenerational learning to both Northumbria and Newcastle Universities.
Area Priority: Environmental Improvement and Education	
Love Where You Live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with Groundwork North East, an educational programme is underway with Hetton Primary School. A litter awareness programme resulted in a poster competition. The Winning poster will be displayed around the Coalfield area to encourage people to 'bin it'. Further phases of this programme will include sessions on recycling. • Shiney Row Childcare has taken part in a 'grow and eat' project as part of a series of activities. The next phase of the project will teach the children about the importance of keeping their community clean and encourage them to recycle materials. Parents will be involved in future phases of the project to encourage family learning.
Neglected Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grazing plots created at the former Forest Estate, Easington Lane have benefited the area by improving the visual aspect of the land and providing additional grazing for rent. • A perimeter bund has been created on the open land at the rear of South Hetton Road. The improvement has restricted access to the site, reducing fly tipping and fly grazing. • The vacant land adjacent Easington Lane Primary School has been found to be unsuitable for a school and community project and it is recommended that the site is seeded to create a wild flower meadow to improve the visual aspect of the site.
Area Priority: Make Better Use of Greenspace	
Health and Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-2-1 routes in Herrington (beside the model boating lake) and Hetton Lyons (next to Lyons lake, west of the car park) Country Parks are now in place. The 3-2-1 routes are circular routes of varying distances which you can either walk, jog or run. The routes are marked in 3, 2 and 1 kilometre distances and are suitable for beginners, or can be combined if you want to walk, jog or run further. Information boards at the start and finish points are located at both sites. • Four 'Green Green Grass of Home' events took place across the Coalfield area during school summer holidays. Events were held in each of the wards and attracted a total of 287 people. A range of sporting and fun activities were provided and picnic bags were offered to all attending. The project met the outcomes of encouraging children, young people and families to utilise the green spaces within their community for play and picnics etc...and take part in healthy activities. A range of partner

	<p>organisations attended and provided residents with a range of health and wellbeing related information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trim trails are being installed in Herrington and Hetton Lyons Country Parks. Initial consultation has taken place and a procurement exercise is underway. It is intended the installation will take place by the end of December 2015. The benefits of using the equipment will be promoted once the trim trails are installed. • Walking packs including 3-2-1 routes and Heritage Walks are being developed for the Coalfield area. Heritage Walks including Penshaw Monument Circular and Hetton Circular can be downloaded from the Active Sunderland website. • The Clean, Green and Lean project is being delivered by Groundwork and is designed to give local people the opportunity to improve their health and wellbeing through practical environmental work at green spaces in the coalfields. Initial work has commenced to identify a number of locations which would benefit from small-scale improvements which can be carried out by residents and local schools interested in taking part in 'green activity' conservation tasks.
Area Priority: Celebrate Local Events and Heritage	
Support long standing historical events and celebrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the Place Board discussed this priority at the September 2015 meeting, and agreed that it was important to continue to celebrate local events and heritage throughout the coming year. A 'core programme' was discussed and a request for SIB funding is presented within Item 6 (Area Budgets Report) of the Area Committee agenda. • Members have a number of ideas they wish to explore including a community art project to celebrate the mining heritage of the area, and an educational project to commemorate Bernard Gilpin's 500th birthday anniversary. • Houghton Feast celebrations took place 2-11 October 2015. The opening ceremony and Saturday carnival parade attracted more school participation than ever, with schools from all wards taking part. • The option of installing additional electrical infrastructure in Rectory Park will be explored in preparation for the 2016 Houghton Feast.

4. Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- Consider the progress and performance update with regard to Coalfield Place Board's Work Plan for 2015/16 and agree proposals for future delivery
- Agree that the two seats removed from Market Street, Hetton, are relocated at King George V play area, Eppleton, to replace the current seats.
- Agree to the creation of a wildflower meadow on the site adjacent to Easington Lane Primary School

Annex 1 Work Plan

Contact Officer: Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer Tel: 0191 561 7912
Email: pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk