

## REVIEW OF WALK AND TALK

### REPORT FOR WEST PEOPLE AND PLACE BOARDS

20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2016

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To enable both the West People and Place Board to review their Walk and Talk, SIB funded projects to-date and ascertain future direction to ensure projects delivered by the Area Committee continue to be fit for purpose and achieving maximum benefits for communities across the West.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 Strategic Initiative Budget Funding allocated to-date to Walk and Talk activities:

Year	Amount allocated per ward	Outcome of funding
2011/2012	£6,000 – total budget £36,000	Place issues
2013/2014	£8,000 – total budget £48,000	People and Place issues
2014/2015	£10,000 – total budget £60,000	People and Place issues
<b>TOTAL</b>	£144,000	

- 2.2 Walk and talk current balances per ward as at April 2016:

Ward	Allocated since 2011	Spend to-date	Current balance available to spend
Barnes	£24,000	£15,439	£8,561
Pallion	£24,000	£12,597	£11,403
Sandhill	£24,000	£11,607	£12,393
Silksworth	£24,000	£13,810	£10,190
St Anne's	£24,000	£20,239	£3,761
St Chad's	£24,000	£16,211	£7,789
<b>TOTAL:</b>	144,000	£89,903	£54,097

- 2.3 To-date Councillors have allocated and spent £89,903 across all six wards in the West to fund 22 projects, working with various community groups.

#### 3. Current objectives

- 3.1 The current objectives for the West walk and talk programme are broad and cover both People and Place issues. The main outcome however for the Strategic Budget funding is to support communities to improve the places and spaces within which they live and become empowered to maintain improvements moving forward, as well as continue to enhance and sustain.
- 3.2 Walk and talk walkabouts, West Area Tour, Trader liaison and feedback from local residents has identified a number of local environmental improvements that have been delivered across the West area, funded via the walk and talk budget throughout the year.

#### 4. What works?

- 4.1 Flexibility to move quickly, grasping opportunities as they arise to take preventative action and to mobilise communities. Encouraging ownership of local issues by working with traders, community groups etc.
- 4.2 People and Place joint approach – allowing People to be enabled to complete and sustainably maintain Place- based projects.
- 5. What doesn't work? Discussion points and questions for the Board**
  - 5.1 High levels of underspend, currently stands at £54,097 across the six wards. Why is this? Are more ideas required or strategic planning to ensure funding is used in the right place at the right time, to achieve maximum outcomes?
  - 5.2 Do we use local intelligence enough to develop proposals with communities? Will the new RLS Operating model require a more intelligence-led approach moving forward?
  - 5.3 Are we able to monitor and review work undertaken as effectively as we would like to? Do we have any lessons learnt across the area, to create idea generation and potentially new ways of delivery?
- 6. New approach and opportunities. Discussion points and questions for the Board**
  - 6.1 Enabling sustainable joint working opportunities – in the face of severe budget cuts facing the Council.
  - 6.2 RLS – unable to deliver other than very core service offer – need to determine most effective use of funding to grow community capacity to support delivery at a local level - give communities the tools they need to develop spaces and places. Help don't hinder. In particular support our local community organisations to focus on horticultural activities.
  - 6.3 Supporting Communities to volunteer effectively and take control of areas which currently concern them. Adopt-a-plot approach?
  - 6.4 Waste Management – up-cycle and re-use. Linked to West Enterprise Scheme?
- 7. Future Objectives for West Walk and Talk Project**
  - 7.1 Continue to work towards sustainably improving the long-term health and wellbeing of residents.
  - 7.2 Influence and potentially fund Service delivery (above and beyond the basic core offer) based on local intelligence to ensure services delivered are fit for purpose and enable communities to do more for themselves as well as support community resilience and growth. Ensure Committee maintains a monitoring and reviewing role, negotiating amendments to accommodate unforeseen events or patterns of service failure.
  - 7.3 Empower communities to look after and develop places and spaces within the West through training & development, equipment provision, empowerment and leadership. Make it easier for communities to look after themselves – remove the restrictions whilst maintaining safety. Potentially look into an 'Adopt a Plot' model, using 'It's your neighbourhood' and 'Love where you live' as a catalyst for community ownership.
  - 7.4 Create volunteering opportunities and valuable work experience to increase confidence and self-esteem, hopefully leading to employment and improved aspirations and motivation across our community.
- 8. Recommendation**
  - 8.1 Boards are recommended to note the contents of the report and consider options to take a new approach in 2016 and beyond, aligned to the new Area Committee priorities for 2016/2017, which are currently being developed for approval by Committee in June 2016.