

11 March 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 (2014/15) 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:-
- Influencing decisions on services delivered at a local level; and
 - 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 Florence Anderson
Copt Hill	Cllr Anthony Allen
Houghton	Cllr Billy Turton Cllr Sheila Ellis
Shiney Row	Cllr Mel Speding

4. Key Areas of Influence/Achievements to 28 February 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 ensures that regular communication with all elected members influences street scene service delivery to meet local need. Debbie Hall the ARM for the Coalfield area gave a service update at the February 2015 Board meeting including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neglected land sites Enforcement prosecution Unauthorised parking Issues with quad bikes
Influence: Environmental issues/ASB	
Support preventative measures to reduce negative impact on the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The piloting of 'rock cams' developed and supported by the Coalfield Place Board in partnership with LMAPs has resulted in a successful prosecution. In January 2015 a local businesswoman

environment	<p>was fined a total of £1356.57, by Sunderland Magistrates Court, after admitting depositing controlled waste on land without a license, and failing to produce waste transfer notes, after her van was used dump waste on the roadside at Foxcover Lane on New Year's Eve 2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board discussed the use of preventative measures to deter unauthorised parking at specific locations and consultation regarding the use of natural stone boulders is in progress. Coaley Lane and Hill View shows evidence of damage which is becoming worse and a scheme to introduce a border with appropriate plants and smaller stones is considered more appropriate for the site. Designs are being developed and a further update will be given to the Place Board in due course. Letters will be placed on the windscreen of vehicles parked at this location to deter them from parking there. Following on from the issues regarding quad bikes at Easington Lane the site has been visited and a number of issues regarding access to the site have been identified. The missing gate at the aperture between the Flatts plantations was replaced and further solutions are being explored. The Customer Relationship Officer has been attending PACT meetings and is working with the Community Policing Teams and the Anti-Social Behaviour Team to establish a joint approach to identifying solutions to the problem and working collectively to address the issue. Following a recent site visit it has been agreed to place two boulders to each side of a metal A frame at Peat Carr. It is hoped that this will deter the motorbikes going around the frame onto the golf course and down the line onto the flats. Subject to there being no objections the boulders will be moved into position during the coming weeks. Following concerns raised regarding the Market Street area, a column to deploy a 3G camera has been installed. Joint funding from LMAPS partners and Copt Hill Community Chest has been provided. There has been an increased Police presence in the area, and regular foot patrols are carried out by the local CSO and City Council ASB Officer. PACT meetings, held locally, are well attended and residents are encouraged to come along and speak to officers and partners regarding issues and concerns. Complaints have reduced significantly, and the situation continues to be monitored. One request has been to remove the two benches from Market Street, as they continue to attract unwelcome activity which has an impact on local residents. Consultation with residents and businesses in the area is currently underway.
Influence: Highways Capital Maintenance Programme	
Influence and prioritise the areas of capital maintenance works for 2015/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The board received information on the areas requiring capital maintenance works across the Coalfield area. The proposed areas were prioritised into high, medium and low priority to assist members. Members were asked to consult with ward colleagues to agree which of the proposed programmes should be recommended to Area Committee for completion up to a value of £100,000 for the Coalfield area. At the February Board members agreed recommendations to Area Committee for the completion of capital maintenance programmes in the Coalfield as described at Annex 2
Area Priority: Monitor and Maintain Improved Land	
Ensuring local improvements already made continue to succeed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that improvements made in previous years are maintained, the Area Community Officer and Area Response Manager will continue to monitor and take action where necessary. Improvements made under the Neglected Land project were presented to the February 2015 Place Board for

	<p>information and consideration for further attention. The Board agreed that a schedule of work be drawn up. A list of sites to be prioritised for remedial action and further maintenance is attached at Annex 3. Any costs associated with this work will be funded from the existing Neglected Land SIB project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The improvements of the largest site in the Neglected Land programme, former Forest Estate, Easington Lane, have been delayed due to a number of technical and legal issues. All issues have now been resolved and the project is ready to move forward with the first phase on site expected in April 2015. Three phases involve, grazing plots, nature garden with Easington Lane School, and grassed informal area. • The Area Response Manager continues to work with Youth Offending Service, Probation Service and other agencies to support the delivery of land improvement, and also give work experience opportunities to local people.
Monitor and maintain the improvements made to allotment sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotment sites across the whole of the Coalfield area are now improved and continue to be maintained and more closely managed as a result of the SIB funded Allotment Improvement Programme and Allotment Working Group. Street Scene and Allotment Services have expressed their appreciation of the continued support of Area Committee and the Area Chair in driving this project forward. Sites improved as part of the programme are monitored regularly and any issues addressed directly with the relevant tenant. • Work is progressing well at Britannia Terrace with tenants installing raised beds and polytunnels in preparation for the growing season. Dubmire School has been allocated one of the plots which is now ready for cultivation. • Seaham Road allotments, leased to the Council from Lambton Estates, will be handed back to Lambton Estates in order to focus on the Council owned allotment sites. Confirmation has been received from the Government that the Allotments are not statutory and therefore the Council can proceed with the closure. Current tenants are being contacted to ask whether they still wish to retain an allotment for cultivation at another site, if they can be accommodated. It is proposed tenants are given notice in April 2015, to vacate the site by April 2016.
Area Priority: Local Shopping Centres	
Improving the environmental aspect of smaller shopping areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Shopping Centre SIB project includes environmental improvements in local centres including Fencehouses and Easington Lane. This will be managed as part of the overall project. • Improvements to a footpath at Front Street, Fencehouses will be complete by the end of March 2015. A new bin will also be installed on site.
Identifying areas for development to improve footfall and spending in local shopping centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the success of the Christmas event, local traders and ShARP are working together to deliver a 'Shiney Easter' event on Saturday 29 March 2015. Market stalls, Easter Bonnet competition and visit the Easter Bunny are amongst the activities developed to attract more people into the shopping area • A voucher scheme has been developed by Corporate Communications. Traders in Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row have been offered the opportunity to be included in a voucher booklet • Coalfield Community News continues to advertise and promote the 'Shop Local' brand. Window stickers carrying the 'Shop Local' message are available and have been distributed to local traders. • Houghton Traders Association continue to promote and develop the 'Dementia Friendly Shopping Centre' pilot.
Continue the retail support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSupplied has been appointed to deliver the next phase of the

project led by the Business Investment Team	Retail Support programme commencing February 2015. One to one support for 20 independent retailers and mentoring support to 20 businesses will be provided, in addition to continued support for trader associations/forums in Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row.
Area Priority: Love Where You Live and Community Involvement	
Support local communities to improve and take pride in their neighbourhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painting of street furniture in Hetton Lyons Country Park has taken place with Springboard Trainees • In partnership with Groundwork, a 'poo watch' project is underway. Local primary schools are involved in designing posters to remind people to pick up after their dogs • Work continues with key partners including Gentoo, Northumbria Police, schools and local community organisations to deliver the Love Where You Live message
Area Priority: Events, Celebrations and Heritage	
Support long standing historical events taking place in local communities and develop new ones to celebrate the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A blue plaque to commemorate the Wearside 160th Brigade was unveiled at Houghton Hall on 2 March 2015. • A Stage 1 application to Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People for improvements to Houghton Rectory Park was submitted on 2 March 2015. Proposed timescales are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submission of Stage 1 application March 2015 ○ Decision from HLF June 2015 ○ Development and consultation phase 8 months ○ Stage 2 submission to HLF February 2016 ○ Decision from HLF August 2016 ○ Commence work on site March 2017 ○ Completion of capital works April 2018 • The launch of the Penshaw Village Atlas took place on Saturday 21 February at Penshaw CA. The Atlas is the final stage of the SIB funded project working in partnership with the local community to research the history and heritage of Old Penshaw.

4. Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- Consider the progress and performance update with regard to Coalfield Place Board's Work Plan for 2014/15 and agree proposals for future delivery
- Consider and agree the recommendations of the Place Board regarding the Highways Capital Maintenance programmes for the Coalfield area for 2015/2016 attached at **Annex 2**

Annex 1	Work Plan
Annex 2	Highways Capital Maintenance programme
Annex 3	Neglected Land sites

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