

ITEM 4

EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE

23 SEPTEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE AREA PLACE BOARD



Place Board Interim Update Report

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides Area Committee with an update on Area Place Neighbourhood Plan, as set out in Annex One.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the beginning of each municipal year, East Sunderland Area Committee agrees its Neighbourhood Plan priorities associated with Place and refers the priorities to the East Sunderland Area Place Board to action on behalf of the Area Committee.
- 2.2 The Area Place Board presented interim reports to each Area Committee meeting to update on action taken on those priorities and highlighted key areas of influence and achievements during that period.

3. Key Areas of Influence / Achievements

- 3.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the East Sunderland Area Place Board up to September 2019.

Area Priority	Progress Report
Positive Place WPR 1.a)	<p>Meet Your Neighbour Events</p> <p>At the September 2019 Area Board members discussed and agreed a list of 16 community buildings which may host an open day. The open days, known as Meet Your Neighbour events, would involve local voluntary and community groups working together, to deliver a fun and interactive day to local residents by promoting their services, groups and clubs that use their buildings. The events will be supported via the Walk and Talk budget.</p> <p>The aim of Meet Your Neighbour events will raise the profile of what is happening in the East area, in terms of the community 'offer', as well as, providing an opportunity for Members to speak to local residents to find out what they think is good about their neighbourhood and what could be improved. The gathered intelligence can then be used to help inform future ways of working, such as, the Neighbourhood Investment Plan.</p> <p>Throughout October 2019 the Area Team will be contacting each of the community partners to finalise a programme of 'Meet Your</p>

	<p>Neighbour' Events which will be promoted across the East area. Members are requested to note the update and assist in encouraging resident's attendance.</p>
<p>Positive Place</p> <p>WPF 1.b)</p>	<p>Walk and Talk</p> <p>Over the Summer representatives of the Place Board have been working on the delivery of the Walk and Talk Programme, the update report below provides a summary of activities.</p> <p>Doxford ward held one walkabout around Doxford Park and identified a project to develop an alpine planting scheme on the rock cascade located near the lake. Two further dates have been provisionally arranged.</p> <p>Hendon ward has held five walkabouts around the Six Streets, East End, Grangetown, Middle Hendon and the beach. An environment project was identified at the beach, which has involved the East Rangers carrying out landscape improvements to the car park, pathways and viewing points throughout September 2019, with Local Services replacing the bins and planning a bulb planting scheme.</p> <p>Millfield ward has hosted no walkabouts, but two dates have been confirmed in October and November, along with follow up workshops.</p> <p>Ryhope ward has hosted no walkabouts to-date.</p> <p>St Michael's ward have held one walkabout around Backhouse Park and identified a list of environmental projects, along with bins and benches being repaired or replaced. One date has been confirmed for Westheath Avenue, and a further three are in development with local resident associations, Ashbrooke, Ashmore and St Michael's.</p> <p>The most common concerns identified have related to Local Services, for example, poor waste management by residents, litter and fly tipping. These have been reported and actioned by the Local Services Team.</p>
<p>Positive Place</p> <p>WPF 1.c)</p>	<p>Communication Channels</p> <p>In July 2019 the East Sunderland Community Facebook page was launched. The page has 312 followers and has reached over 8,000 unique individuals. The most popular posts which residents react to, by either liking, sharing or commenting upon relate to Fancy a Day Out Programme and East Rangers.</p> <p>The aim is to use Facebook as a communication tool to keep residents up to date with what is happening in the East Area.</p> <p>Members and partners are encouraged to continue to promote the page @eastsunderlandcommunity and 'tag' the site when making appropriate posts.</p>

<p>Influence and shape services and strengthen partnerships</p> <p>WPF 3.a)</p>	<p>Strengthening Partnerships</p> <p>In July 2019, representatives from The Cultural Partnership attended Area Board. The Cultural Partnership is a limited company and registered charity made up of Sunderland City Council, University of Sunderland and the Music, Arts and Culture (MAC) Trust, supported by Arts Council England.</p> <p>The Group operate the major cultural venues across the City. Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens and the Fire Station being in the East. They provide a vehicle for investment into the City and develop and deliver large scale, city wide cultural projects, manage communication and raise the profile of the City's cultural offer.</p> <p>In 2018 the Museum had over 400,000 visitors, with over 100 exhibitions, performances and events being held. The most popular exhibition was the Leonardo which saw over 33,000 individual visitors. The Museum has had a new entrance, shop and website developed, and has introduced weekly family activities, such as, Mowbray Monday, Arty Wednesday and Science Friday to encourage more people into the Museum and Park.</p> <p>Since the meeting, the Cultural Partnership have joined the East VCS Area Network and are due to deliver a presentation on how they support and can work with local East VCS Groups.</p> <p>A meeting was held with Sunderland BID to understand what their business and plans are for the City Centre, and a tour of the University of Sunderland's new medical centre will be hosted in September 2019 to strengthen partnerships.</p>
<p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>WPF 4.a)</p>	<p>East Rangers</p> <p>Area Committee funded an East Rangers project which was launched in June 2019 across the Area which involves Conservation Management Services delivering daily environmental improvements across the East. 17 Rangers received training, 2 of which secured employment.</p> <p>In addition to the Rangers, local partners, The Box Youth and Community Project, Back on the Map, Blue Watch Youth Project, Groundworks NE and ICOS are supporting the Rangers by attending the Days of Action, by recruiting local volunteers from each of the five wards to turn up in agreed locations to carry out other duties, such as, weeding, painting, edging pathways, etc. Each ward lead is responsible for delivering a further series of litter picks and educational campaigns.</p> <p>Members are asked to note that ICOS, the lead in St Michael's ward, has been working with Y7 pupils from St Aidan's Academy who attend weekly sessions delivered in Backhouse Park. The Partnership between the two organisations has resulted in all Y7 pupils taking part in some form of environmental task to improve the local Park. It has</p>

	<p>been highly visible to local residents, who have praised the young people for all their hard work.</p> <p>Following on from this good practice, all ward leads have been tasked with mirroring the good practice of ICOS in St Michael's in the other wards by approaching other secondary schools within the East to see if they are willing to work in partnership to support the Task Days.</p> <p>A new programme for September to November 2019 has been circulated to all East Members and a performance report will be presented to a future meeting.</p>
<p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>WPF 4.b)</p>	<p>Highways Maintenance 2019 / 2020</p> <p>In September 2019, a discussion was held on the existing Highways Maintenance programme for the East area, which included work rolled over from previous years.</p> <p>It was agreed that Members will receive an update on the Programme every two months, to keep up to date with developments.</p>

4. Recommendations

4.1 Members are requested to:

- (a) Advertise and encourage resident's engagement at the Meet Your Neighbour events and Walk and Talk sessions.
- (b) Promote @eastsunderlandcommunity Facebook page as a tool to find out what's happening in the East area.
- (c) Note the partnership developments between the Area Committee and The Cultural Partnership, Sunderland BID and University of Sunderland and the update of the East Rangers project.
- (d) Receive bi-monthly progress updates on the Highways Maintenance Programme 2019 / 2020.

Annex 1 East Sunderland Area Place Board Neighbourhood Plan 2019 / 2020

Background Papers East Sunderland Area Place Board Agendas, Reports and Action List
SIB performance reports

Contact Officer: Nicol McConnell, Area Community Development Lead Tel: 0191 561 1162
Email: nicol.mcconnell@sunderland.gov.uk