

2 December 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 November 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 October Place Board meeting and further provided members with a report regarding winter maintenance. The Winter Service Policy Statement 2015 has been uploaded on to Sunderland City Council web site.
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, it was agreed that they would be refurbished and relocated to King George V play area, Eppleton. The seats have been repainted

	and are ready to install at the agreed location in the coming weeks. Members will be kept up to date with timescales etc...
Influence: Transport in the local area	
Influence the review of Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following consultation with members via the Place Board, an extended consultation programme is taking place to ensure that current users of the service are fully involved and informed of the proposals and to offer alternative service information. Nexus will attend the January 2016 Board meeting to give an update.
Influence: Highways Maintenance Programme	
Influence the Highways Maintenance Programme for 2016/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highways Officers attended the October Board meeting to inform members of the development of the 2016/2017 Highway Maintenance Programme and to update members on progress against the current 2015/2016 Programme. Officers are gathering intelligence from a number of sources including Technical Condition Surveys, Highway Inspections, Public reports and Complaints, and have asked Members to put forward suggestions and information by the end of November 2015. Officers will compile a list to bring back to the February 2016 Board meeting. Recommendations will be made to Area Committee in March 2016.
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 met again to map out suggested improvements to the regulations. The lead officer has worked up a draft proposal to be considered by the group at their meeting on 24 November 2015. Feedback will be given to the January 2016 Board meeting.
Area Priority: Environmental Improvements	
Address potholes in Hetton Cemetery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following concerns raised regarding the condition of roads within Hetton Cemetery, it was requested that the Place Board take up the issue with relevant officers and departments. It was reported at the November meeting that the two main footfall areas had been re surfaced during October and work was now complete. The areas in question comprising 218 square metres had deteriorated and repairs were necessary. The remaining areas of the cemetery are of an acceptable standard and will continue to be monitored.
Area Priority: Make Better Use of Land and Greenspace	
Improve areas of vacant land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with colleagues in Responsive Local Services (RLS) the Council owned sites cleared as part of the 'neglected land' project continue to be monitored, and maintained where necessary. The final phase of the work at the former Forest Estate, Easington Lane, has begun with the installation of boulders to the area adjacent to Easington Lane Primary School. The site will be cleared and levelled in preparation for wild flower planting with the local school in Spring 2016. An environmental education programme will also be delivered in the community to encourage people to take care of the local area. A comprehensive review of Council owned assets is currently being undertaken by colleagues in Property Services. This will identify future uses for vacant land owned by the Council.

Support Access to Greenspace for Health Benefits (including the Health and Greenspaces project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Events in local parks including Herrington Country Park, Hetton Lyons Park and Elba Park are promoted locally and citywide to encourage use of greenspace for health benefits. A series of projects under the Health and Greenspaces programme are underway with the objective of increasing use of local open spaces to improve health. An update of the projects is provided at Annex 2 to this report.
Promote Greenspace for Recreation and Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Coalfield area has a wealth of greenspace, including a number of parks and formal play spaces which are available to local people. The VCS Network delivered a series of outdoor play sessions during the 2015 summer holidays and will continue to work in partnership with local organisations to hold events on local greenspaces.
Area Priority: Celebrate Local Events and Heritage	
Support long standing historical events and celebrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A budget of £10,000 was allocated at the last meeting of Area Committee and a core programme of activity has been developed by the Board. The core programme includes Remembrance Parades, Christmas celebrations, Miners Banner parades and the VCS Showcase Event in partnership with Gentoo. Costs associated with November 2015 remembrance parades in Shiney Row, Easington Lane, Houghton and Fencehouses have been met by the project. Shiney Christmas market and switch on event on 3 December 2015 organised by ShARP in partnership with local organisations has been supported by the project and a Christmas tree has been provided for Fencehouses Christmas festivities arranged by Fencehouses YMCA.
Develop and promote a programme of local activity with VCS Network members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of heritage related ideas have been explored and the Board agreed that a community art project to celebrate the mining heritage of the area would be delivered in early 2016. The project will be developed with the VCS Network to include workshops with schools and groups from all wards in the Coalfield area and result in a lifesize model of a miner to be displayed at various community locations throughout the coming year. Further information is attached at Annex 3. A Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application is being submitted by Limestone Landscapes to develop a project including a Houghton le Spring Village Atlas. If successful in its phase 1 application, the project requires a contribution from SIB to deliver phase 2, a two year project involving the local community. Further information and a request for funding is included in Item 5 (Area Budgets Report)

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

Annex 1 2015/16 Work plan
Annex 2 Health and Greenspace Project Update
Annex 3 Mining Heritage Project

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