

20 March 2019

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE PLACE BOARD**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide an update of progress against the current year's (2018/19) 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/Houghton	Cllr Juliana Heron
Copt Hill	Cllr Jack Cunningham
Hetton	Cllr Claire Rowntree
Houghton	Cllr Alex Scullion
Shiney Row	Cllr Mel Speding

4. Key Areas of Influence/Achievements to March 2019

- 4.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the Coalfield Place Board to date.

Influence: Highways Capital Maintenance	
Influence the highways capital maintenance budget 2019/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Place board received information on the highways requiring capital maintenance works across the Coalfield area at their December 2018 and January 2019 meetings. The areas recommended to be included in the 2019/20 programme are highlighted in bold in attached Annex 2.
Influence: Place Management	
Develop service schedule for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place Board continues to oversee the delivery of the

2019/20	<p>2018/2019 Delivery Plan. Members reviewed the performance data presented by the Place Management Service at Place Board in July 2018 and January 2019. Service Schedules for 2019/20 are presented at Annex 3 for approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An agreement between Sunderland City Council and Springboard has been drawn up to pilot an approach to maintain closed graveyards at East Rainton, Penshaw, Stack Yard, Hetton and Newbottle. The area around graves will be strimmed on a monthly basis by Springboard Adventure trainees, supervised by Springboard and monitored by Sunderland City Council. The scheme will be operated on a trial basis covering the 5 cemeteries above. Cemeteries (closed or open) are considered high profile and as a result the standard of the works has to be high.
Area Priority: Support for Local Shopping Centres	
Support and develop trader groups and initiatives to increase footfall in local shopping centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date, the SIB Retail Support programme, delivered by the Business & Innovation Centre (BIC), has supported 89 individual businesses across Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row. In the last quarter, 1 new business has opened in Hetton and received support from the project. • Houghton and Shiney Row trader groups have a formalised association with a constitution and membership and continue to progress ideas and initiatives for each of the centres. • Hetton Traders Association has decided not to continue in its formal constitutional arrangement but, instead, create a forum or informal business group to bring together traders for the common purpose of improving and promoting the shopping offer in Hetton. Hetton will still receive support from the project. The Facebook page – Hetton Post – created by the Traders Association continues to operate and provide a platform for all traders and shoppers to promote business and communicate with the local community. • Environmental awareness/education has been carried out with traders as part of the My Place, Our Space project. Traders in all three areas have progressed issues and ideas and have pledged to take on certain aspects of improvements, and their maintenance. • The planters in Westbourne Tce, Shiney Row were spruced up this quarter following pledges from local traders to maintain them. The plants in two were totally renewed, and the other two were topped up with compost and had bulbs planted round the edges. A new planter was also installed at the end of Newbottle Street in Houghton. This was planted up with shrubs and bulbs and will be maintained by local traders. The works in Hetton mini park went ahead and were completed in time for Remembrance Day. • As part of the Houghton Traders work programme, bunting will soon be installed on the lamp posts in Newbottle Street. • As part of Houghton Town Centre parking and traffic

	<p>review, physical works for a new zebra crossing, built out bus stop and lining of roads has been ordered and should take place during April/May 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traders in Shiney Row were involved in the Christmas lights switch on event on Monday 3 December, and traders in Hetton displayed lights in their shop windows. • This phase of the project ends in March and the next phase from April 2019 will continue to support the three existing areas where necessary, but reach wider to other shopping areas to see where support can be offered.
Area Priority: Environmental Improvement and Education	
Encourage local residents to participate in maintaining the local natural environment and continue to deliver 'Love Where You Live' activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Place, Our Space, Groundwork North East is a two year SIB funded project which is working with all 15 primary, and two secondary schools, traders and shoppers, residents, Friends of Groups, community organisations and key partners. • During the previous quarter to January 2019, 17 educational sessions have been held in local primary and secondary schools across the Coalfield area. Environment week sessions were delivered in Newbottle Primary and New Penshaw Academy. Every student signed a pledge to share something they had learned in the sessions with 5 people at home. Year 5 from Newbottle and Year 6 from New Penshaw visited the Visitor & Education Centre at Campground for a paper-making activity. The project worked with every class at Newbottle Primary and 4 classes from New Penshaw. • The year 6 class from Shiney Row Primary came out to plant some bulbs around the new sign in Shiney Row next to the roundabout. They worked really hard and will come back out in the spring to see the fruits of their labour. The rest of the school is keen to get involved and have environment week sessions for all pupils. • Hetton School pupils are keen to get involved and a group have already identified some areas around Hetton and Easington Lane that need a clean-up. Some environmental education and clean ups will take place in the next quarter. • Staff from the project attended the Christmas lights switch on in Shiney Row with information about recycling and waste over the festive period. A total of 21 people engaged and played a recycling game, matching the items to the correct bin. Nobody got a perfect score so it was a great opportunity to educate and remind people what they should be doing with their waste. • A total of 45 volunteers have been involved in environmental activities over the last quarter to January 2019. • Due to savings on the current My Space, Our Place budget, Groundwork is able to continue the project within existing SIB funding until September 2019 (originally due to end March 2019). • It is proposed that a further programme of work with all schools across the Coalfield area is delivered by Groundwork (My Space, Our Place) and will continue until March 2020. Further information contained in Item 5 Area

	<p>Budget Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Call for Projects (up to £3,000 per application) was advertised via the VCS Network. Further information, summary of projects and recommendations are contained in Item 5 Area Budget Report • An area-wide project to renew and re-plant a range of tubs and planters in Hetton, Houghton, Easington Lane and Shiney Row will be carried out, utilising £5,000 of the previously agreed budget. Further information is contained within Item 5 Area Budget Report. • There will be £12,265 remaining which will be retained in an area environmental budget to be used in areas of need as directed by the Place Board.
Area Priority: Celebrate Local Events and Heritage	
Support long standing historical events and celebrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Pit Wheel Project has been developed and a memorial created from an old pit wheel will be sited at the entrance to the old pit at Lorne Street/Elemore Lane, Easington Lane. The preferred design option has been selected and the January 2019 meeting of the Place Board agreed to fund the project up to a maximum of £7,000 from the previously approved SIB budget. Once planning permission has been sought, timescales will be determined.
Increase use of local assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acumen Community Buildings now occupy the Old Rectory, Houghton le Spring. An update was given by Kate Welch at the January Place Board meeting. • One of the aims is to develop the Old Rectory as a centre for social enterprise. Tenants of the building include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gateway Wheelers – a charity that enables people with disabilities to enjoy cycling – are housed in the tithe barn and use Rectory Park and the Rectory Field for activities ➤ Special iApps - develops apps for children with special educational needs ➤ SugarFit - is a Community Interest Company with the primary focus to improve daily diet and activities levels in the community ➤ Alcove – helps older and disabled adults remain safe using the internet • The first Heritage Open Day held by the Old Rectory attracted over 3500 visitors. An Architectural Heritage Fund grant application for the building is being developed • Monthly craft and food fayres are held at the Old Rectory

5. Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- Consider the progress and performance update with regard to Coalfield Place Board's Work Plan for 2018/19 and agree proposals for future delivery
- Agree the Highways Capital Maintenance Programme outlined in **bold** at Annex 2
- Agree the 2019/20 Service Schedule at Annex 3

Annex 1 2018/19 Work plan

Annex 2 Highways Capital Maintenance Programme

Annex 3 Place Management Service Schedule

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