

9 March 2016

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:-
- 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 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 February 2016

- 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 January and February 2016 Board meetings. Debbie gave an update on flooding which had occurred in various areas and residential streets during the recent heavy rain and also gave an overview on the winter maintenance programme. Measures to restrict vehicular access to graveyards are being considered in order to reduce damage to grassed areas beside graves. Debbie will bring back any proposals to a future meeting. Shrub beds which cause issues with regard to litter traps, asb and hindering sight lines for motorists were discussed. Debbie will bring further information to the next Board meeting to keep

	<p>members updated on any proposals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A special Place Board meeting was held on 23 February to outline the new operating model for RLS and how input from members is vital in order to shape future service delivery. It is an important piece of work which requires input from all members of the Coalfield Area Committee. Further meetings/workshops (the first one 3 March 2016) will be held to gain input from all members to determine the future service specification. A verbal update will be given at the Area Committee meeting. All members are urged to attend and contribute to the meetings (further dates tbc).
Influence: Local Transport	
Changes to the Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following consultation with members via the Place Board, an extended consultation period took place to ensure that current users of the service are fully involved and informed of the proposals and to offer alternative service information. • Nexus attended the January 2016 Board meeting to give an update. The current DRT arrangements will be withdrawn on 27 February 2016 and be replaced by two alternative services. Nexus will promote the new service amongst DRT users and also households close to the revised bus routes. Nexus will continue to liaise closely with those DRT users who are eligible for Taxi Card and group travel. Community Relations Officers are available to assist with any queries which may arise.
Influence: Highways Maintenance Programme	
Influence the Highways Maintenance Programme for 2016/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The November Board received an update on the 2015 – 2016 highway maintenance programme and the process for members to influence and prioritise the areas of capital maintenance works for 2016 – 2017. • Locations for consideration identified by elected members, residents and highways maintenance staff were presented to the Board in February 2016. • Board members agreed recommendations to Area Committee for the completion of capital maintenance programmes in the Coalfield as described at Annex 2
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 working group, led by Houghton Traders Association, developed a draft proposal as a first step in consulting with all traders in and around Newbottle street. Following a trader consultation, plans have been revised. • A further meeting with Highways Officers is to be arranged to discuss next steps.
Retail and Business Support for Independent Traders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berni Whitaker, lead on the retail support project, attended the February Board meeting to give an update on the SIB funded programme. The current phase of the project, due to end in May 2016, is delivering support to 12 traders in Shiney Row, 5 in Houghton le Spring, and 21 in Hetton. • Trading continues to be difficult for independent retailers and the support given is extremely valued. The Board discussed continued support via further SIB allocation, and agreed that this would remain a priority for the coming year. The Board also requested that an independent evaluation of the current project be carried out to assist members in their recommendations. • An evaluation will be carried out and presented to members in

	<p>April/May 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members agreed that support for local shopping centres should remain a priority for 2016/17.
Increase Footfall in Local Shopping Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shiny Christmas event and market has proved to be a successful way to attract more shoppers to the area and boost local trade. Traders are working more closely with the local community to develop similar activities and events using the shopping centre as a focus. Traders in Houghton have expressed a desire to hold a market. It is suggested that a working group is set up by Houghton Traders Association (HTA) to take this idea forward. Traders in Hetton are working with retail support experts BSupplied to develop a marketing campaign in order to raise awareness of what is on offer at Hetton (including Market Street).
Area Priority: Celebrate Local Events and Heritage	
Support long standing historical events and celebrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of important events and celebrations delivered by the local community continue to be supported by Area Committee and SIB funding. Events including Miners Banner Parades, Remembrance Services and Parades, Christmas and Easter celebrations and Houghton Feast have been delivered throughout the year. A proposal for SIB funding towards the 'Community Programme' for Houghton Feast 2016 is included in Item 6 finance report.
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. A full sized sculpture of a miner will be produced using plaster, wire and steel netting. The miner will stand on a steel base containing the names of each former pit in the area. A total of 17 community workshops have been arranged to allow residents and groups to take part in the project by producing ceramic 'pit tokens' which will form part of the finished model. Over 300 local people will contribute to the project. Phase 2 of the project will invite a smaller number of participants (up to 20) to take part in follow on workshops delivered jointly with Sunderland Empire Creative Learning. This second part of the project will develop through performing art and link into the Billy Elliott story showing at the Sunderland Empire in April 2016. All participants of the workshops will be invited to an event on 12 May 2016, where there will be a short performance and the miner will be 'unveiled'. The VCS Network is planning a 'Summer Activity' programme which will work across all wards in the area to provide a range of themed activities and events running from June to September. A proposal for SIB funding is included in Item 6, Finance Report. VCS Representatives will provide an update to the Board in April.

5. 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
- Consider and agree the recommendations of the Place Board regarding the Highways Capital Maintenance programmes for the Coalfield area for 2016/2017 attached at **Annex 2**

Annex 1 2015/16 Work plan

Annex 2 Highways Capital Maintenance Programme 2016/17

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