

## APPENDIX 1

### PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Planters in Residential Streets (Task & Finish)

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
<b>Review:</b>	<b>Planters in Residential Streets (Task &amp; Finish)</b>
<b>Link Officer/s:</b>	<b>Craig Willows / John Angus / Stephen Bowerbank</b>
<b>Action Plan Agreed:</b>	<b>March 2021</b>

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

<b>Recommendation 1:</b>	<b>That, in line with usual practice, SBC continue to maintain the structure of planters, where repairs are needed, and any proposals to remove planters, following consultation with local residents, be considered on a case by case basis together with funding options.</b>
Responsibility:	Community Services
Date:	Ongoing
Agreed Action:	Planters will be maintained following any programmed highway safety inspections where any defects are identified, or through ad-hoc reports from residents.
Agreed Success Measure:	Continued management of SBC assets.
Evidence of Progress (April 2022):	Repairs were carried out to the planters in Arlington Street and Wren Street prior to the resident planting these.  Works included repairing damage to the brickwork and removing any large overgrown shrubbery and old tree stumps. The topsoil was refreshed with new compost / soil improver.
Assessment of Progress (April 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (April 2022):	Planters repaired prior to resident planting projects.

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<b>Recommendation 2:</b>	<p><b>That residents and community groups be invited to take on the role of coordinating and/or pilot planting through approaches to organisations such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cultivate Tees Valley, Shaw Trust, Billingham Environmental Link Programme (BELP), and other community gardening groups</b></li> <li>• <b>Tenants and Residents Associations</b></li> <li>• <b>Residents who are allotment holders or are on allotment waiting lists</b></li> <li>• <b>Councillors and Residents</b></li> <li>• <b>Community Partnerships</b></li> <li>• <b>BMBF, schools, and youth organisations</b></li> </ul>
Responsibility:	Community Engagement
Date:	Autumn 2021
Agreed Action:	<p>Take it to the Communities Partnerships to see if there is uptake of this as an action.</p> <p>Take it forward with BMBF to see if they are interested.</p> <p>Promote through social media via the Communities Partnerships.</p>
Agreed Success Measure:	Positive responses from interested parties.
Evidence of Progress (April 2022):	<p>Pilot planter project took place in late Summer 2021 in Arlington Street. Engaged with residents prior to the activity day. We had 6 residents involved in the clearout day and they were very keen to continue to be involved. Cultivate will work with them to plant items in these planters Spring 2022. Ward Councillors were fully informed and Cllr Baldock took part on the day.</p> <p>£50k has been secured from the Queens Platinum Jubilee grant by the Community Partnerships, Cultivate and Sprouts. Part of this grant is to work on 70 planters across the borough and will also link to Edible Stockton initiative and the Stockton-on-Tees Food Power Network. Residents in streets will be engaged with and involved with the project and it is hoped that they will then take on ownership of whatever is planted within the planters.</p> <p>Social media announcing the fund to go out by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Press release to follow.</p> <p>Community Partnerships have been regularly updated on the planters. At the Big Get Together Event in March 2022 the Community Partnerships were provided with detail on the successful funding bid.</p>
Assessment of Progress (April 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (April 2022):	Positive response from residents to be involved.

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<b>Recommendation 3:</b>	<b>That Town and Parish Councils are asked whether they would be interested in taking on responsibility for any planters in their areas.</b>
Responsibility:	Community Services
Date:	April 2021
Agreed Action:	Community Services will draft a letter to relevant Town and Parish Council's where planters exist within their areas to gauge levels of interest.
Agreed Success Measure:	Potential transfer of responsibility which could lead to improvement in appears with a sustainable approach to maintenance.
Evidence of Progress (April 2022):	Engagement with the Town / Parish Council's through the Community Partnerships.
Assessment of Progress (April 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (April 2022):	Ingleby Barwick Town Council have put some funding towards 2 planters in Ingleby Barwick. Works to be developed with resident later this year (2022).

<b>Recommendation 4:</b>	<b>That Housing Associations are asked whether they would be interested in taking on responsibility for planters in areas where they have stock.</b>
Responsibility:	Housing and Community Services
Date:	1) April 2021 2) April / May 2021 3) Ongoing 4) May 2021 5) May 2021
Agreed Action:	1) GIS mapping exercise to be undertaken to identify in which locations Registered Providers (RP) are the predominate tenure (where planters exist).  2) To be followed up with a letter to RP landlords to gauge levels of interest.  3) If interested, to formally transfer over responsibility.  4) If not RP's to asked if they have a local resident's group who may be interested in participating in recommendation 6.  5) If not RP's to be asked if they would sponsor planters or provide material or funding.
Agreed Success Measure:	If interest can be secured from a RP and/or a RP resident then the appearance and ongoing maintenance of planters will be removed.
Evidence of Progress (April 2022):	Discussions were had with housing providers who have properties where the planters are located.

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Assessment of Progress (April 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (April 2022):	It was reported that there was no appetite for the housing providers to take on ownership of the planters. It was indicated that their priority was to look at their own assets.

<b>Recommendation 5:</b>	<b>That local businesses are encouraged to sponsor planters or provide materials or funding.</b>
Responsibility:	Community Engagement / Business Engagement
Date:	August / September 2021
Agreed Action:	In conjunction with the Chair of the Task and Finish Group, an invitation to local businesses to sponsor planters or provide materials or funding to be included in Stockton News article.
Agreed Success Measure:	Positive responses received.
Evidence of Progress (April 2022):	Businesses to be contacted following planters being improved as part of a long-term exit strategy. Options to be explored for Town centre advertising of the project.
Assessment of Progress (April 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>3 (Slipped)</b>
Evidence of Impact (April 2022):	

<b>Recommendation 6:</b>	<b>That interested residents and groups be encouraged to:</b>  <b>a) Consider the longer-term maintenance and funding strategies and low maintenance planting schemes, such as wildflowers;</b> <b>b) Consider the repurposing of planters, for example, as benches / seating</b> <b>c) Work with local ward Councillors to consult the local community and encourage their involvement.</b>
Responsibility:	Community Engagement
Date:	Autumn 2021
Agreed Action:	Take it to the Communities Partnerships to see if there is uptake of this as an action.  Take it forward with BMBF to see if they are interested in supporting this.  Promoted through the Communities Partnerships social media.

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	Sharing through members social media.
Agreed Success Measure:	Positive responses received.
Evidence of Progress (April 2022):	Picked up as part of actions 2 & 7.  In addition, as part of the funding secured through the Queens Platinum Jubilee grant an exit strategy was prepared to highlight how the project would be continued following the expenditure of the grant. This included an ongoing support through the Community Partnerships to identify other avenues of funding and options to build on the successes of the project to look at other planters and work to support other residents living in these areas.
Assessment of Progress (April 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (April 2022):	Exit strategy prepared. Action will be an ongoing one throughout the project of working with residents.

<b>Recommendation 7:</b>	<b>That, following Cabinet approval, the Chair of the Task and Finish Group present the final report to the new Community Partnerships to seek interest from residents and groups.</b>
Responsibility:	Community Engagement / Task and Finish Chair
Date:	April 2021
Agreed Action:	Chair of Task and Finish Group will be invited to attend the Community Partnership meetings to present the report.
Agreed Success Measure:	Positive responses received.
Evidence of Progress (April 2022):	Chair gave approval for the briefing report, which was delivered by the Community Engagement officers to the Community Partnerships.
Assessment of Progress (April 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (April 2022):	Positive responses from residents and Ingleby Barwick Town Council to be involved with project.

<b>Recommendation 8:</b>	<b>That interested parties be signposted to Catalyst's Grantfinder Database.</b>
Responsibility:	Community Engagement
Date:	August / September 2021

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Agreed Action:	Signpost through Catalyst and the Communities Partnerships.
Agreed Success Measure:	Positive responses received.
Evidence of Progress (April 2022):	Funding bid was submitted. Further funding opportunities to be explored.
Assessment of Progress (April 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (April 2022):	£50k has been secured from the Queens Platinum Jubilee grant by the Community Partnerships, Cultivate and Sprouts.

<b>Recommendation 9:</b>	<b>That Community Services provide advice, guidance and appropriate support to interested individuals as part of approving planting schemes.</b>
Responsibility:	Community Services
Date:	Ongoing
Agreed Action:	Advice will be provided should any expressions of interest arise that provide a sustainable plan for future maintenance of specific planters.
Agreed Success Measure:	Potential transfer of responsibility which could lead to improvement in appears with a sustainable approach to maintenance.
Evidence of Progress (April 2022):	Community Services provided advice for which planters would be suitable and unsuitable for residents to plant (i.e. those located within road central reservations and those with mature trees within them would not be suitable).  Guidance for what to plant has been left with Cultivate.
Assessment of Progress (April 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (April 2022):	Suitable planters being included as part of the project with residents.

<b>Recommendation 10:</b>	<b>That opportunities are publicised with a view to seeking interest from individuals and groups and that successful pilot initiatives be publicised to encourage more interest.</b>
Responsibility:	Community Engagement
Date:	August / September 2021
Agreed Action:	Stockton News Social media Sharing through members social media

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	Catalyst Bulletin
Agreed Success Measure:	Positive responses received.
Evidence of Progress (April 2022):	A flyer was produced for the pilot project at Arlington Street to encourage resident involvement.  Information has been posted on social media.
Assessment of Progress (April 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (April 2022):	Resident involvement across the areas.

<b>Recommendation 11:</b>	<b>That the inclusion of planters in residential settings should not be supported in future developments unless long term funding for their upkeep is identified and secured.</b>
Responsibility:	Planning Services with support from Community Services
Date:	Ongoing
Agreed Action:	The position would need to be incorporated into future planning policy / guidance documents alongside any maintenance funding calculations.  Any such guidance would need to be developed in accordance with planning regulations and associated processes from consultation through to adoption.
Agreed Success Measure:	Incorporated into future planning/policy guidance as appropriate.
Evidence of Progress (April 2022):	Officers are conscious when looking at planning applications of the implications of ongoing maintenance and pressures on the Council budgets. The best practise that was adopted through the former Urban Landscape team has been continued by officers within HT&D.
Assessment of Progress (April 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (April 2022):	Areas of landscaping (including any raised planters) shown on development planning applications, which would have a significant ongoing budget implication are not accepted; with these either being removed or not adopted; with the ongoing responsibility being retained by the landowner.

<b>Assessment of Progress Gradings:</b>	<b>1</b> Fully Achieved	<b>2</b> On-Track	<b>3</b> Slipped	<b>4</b> Not Achieved
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