

South Somerset District Council

Notice of Meeting



Area South Committee

Making a difference where it counts

Wednesday 4th October 2017

2.00 pm

**Council Chamber, Council Offices,
Brympton Way, Yeovil BA20 2HT**

(Disabled access and a hearing loop are available at this meeting venue)



The following members are requested to attend this meeting:

Cathy Bakewell
John Clark
Gye Dibben
John Field
Nigel Gage
Peter Gubbins
Kaysar Hussain

Andy Kendall
Sarah Lindsay
Mike Lock
Tony Lock
Sam McAllister
Graham Oakes
Wes Read

David Recardo
Gina Seaton
Peter Seib
Alan Smith
Rob Stickland

There are no Planning Applications to be considered this month.

For further information on the items to be discussed, please contact the Democratic Services Officer on 01935 462011 or democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk

This Agenda was issued on Monday 25th September 2017.

Ian Clarke, Director (Support Services)

This information is also available on our website
www.southsomerset.gov.uk and via the mod.gov app



Information for the Public

The council has a well-established area committee system and through four area committees seeks to strengthen links between the Council and its local communities, allowing planning and other local issues to be decided at a local level (planning recommendations outside council policy are referred to the district wide Regulation Committee).

Decisions made by area committees, which include financial or policy implications are generally classed as executive decisions. Where these financial or policy decisions have a significant impact on council budgets or the local community, agendas will record these decisions as “key decisions”. The council’s Executive Forward Plan can be viewed online for details of executive/key decisions which are scheduled to be taken in the coming months. Non-executive decisions taken by area committees include planning, and other quasi-judicial decisions.

At area committee meetings members of the public are able to:

- attend and make verbal or written representations, except where, for example, personal or confidential matters are being discussed;
- at the area committee chairman’s discretion, members of the public are permitted to speak for up to up to three minutes on agenda items; and
- see agenda reports

Meetings of the Area South Committee are held monthly, usually at 2.00pm, on the first Wednesday of the month at the Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil (unless specified otherwise).

Agendas and minutes of meetings are published on the council’s website
www.southsomerset.gov.uk/councillors-and-democracy/meetings-and-decisions

Agendas and minutes can also be viewed via the mod.gov app (free) available for iPads and Android devices. Search for ‘mod.gov’ in the app store for your device, install, and select ‘South Somerset’ from the list of publishers, then select the committees of interest. A wi-fi signal will be required for a very short time to download an agenda but once downloaded, documents will be viewable offline.

Public participation at committees

Public question time

The period allowed for participation in this session shall not exceed 15 minutes except with the consent of the Chairman of the Committee. Each individual speaker shall be restricted to a total of three minutes.

Planning applications

Consideration of planning applications at this meeting will commence no earlier than the time stated at the front of the agenda and on the planning applications schedule. The public and representatives of parish/town councils will be invited to speak on the individual planning applications at the time they are considered.

Comments should be confined to additional information or issues, which have not been fully covered in the officer’s report. Members of the public are asked to submit any additional documents to the planning officer at least 72 hours in advance and not to present them to the Committee on the day of the meeting. This will give the planning officer the opportunity to respond appropriately. Information from the public should not be tabled at the meeting. It should

also be noted that, in the interests of fairness, the use of presentational aids (e.g. PowerPoint) by the applicant/agent or those making representations will not be permitted. However, the applicant/agent or those making representations are able to ask the planning officer to include photographs/images within the officer's presentation subject to them being received by the officer at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. No more than 5 photographs/images either supporting or against the application to be submitted. The planning officer will also need to be satisfied that the photographs are appropriate in terms of planning grounds.

At the committee chairman's discretion, members of the public are permitted to speak for up to three minutes each and where there are a number of persons wishing to speak they should be encouraged to choose one spokesperson to speak either for the applicant or on behalf of any supporters or objectors to the application. The total period allowed for such participation on each application shall not normally exceed 15 minutes.

The order of speaking on planning items will be:

- Town or Parish Council Spokesperson
- Objectors
- Supporters
- Applicant and/or Agent
- District Council Ward Member

If a member of the public wishes to speak they must inform the committee administrator before the meeting begins of their name and whether they have supporting comments or objections and who they are representing. This must be done by completing one of the public participation slips available at the meeting.

In exceptional circumstances, the Chairman of the Committee shall have discretion to vary the procedure set out to ensure fairness to all sides.

Recording and photography at council meetings

Recording of council meetings is permitted, however anyone wishing to do so should let the Chairperson of the meeting know prior to the start of the meeting. The recording should be overt and clearly visible to anyone at the meeting, but non-disruptive. If someone is recording the meeting, the Chairman will make an announcement at the beginning of the meeting.

Any member of the public has the right not to be recorded. If anyone making public representation does not wish to be recorded they must let the Chairperson know.

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<http://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/documents/s3327/Policy%20on%20the%20recording%20of%20council%20meetings.pdf>

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Area South Committee

Wednesday 4 October 2017

Agenda

Preliminary Items

- 1. Minutes of previous meeting**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Declarations of Interest**

In accordance with the Council's current Code of Conduct (as amended 26 February 2015), which includes all the provisions relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), personal and prejudicial interests, Members are asked to declare any DPI and also any personal interests (and whether or not such personal interests are also "prejudicial") in relation to any matter on the Agenda for this meeting.

Members are reminded that they need to declare the fact that they are also a member of a County, Town or Parish Council as a Personal Interest. Where you are also a member of Somerset County Council and/or a Town or Parish Council within South Somerset you must declare a prejudicial interest in any business on the agenda where there is a financial benefit or gain or advantage to Somerset County Council and/or a Town or Parish Council which would be at the cost or to the financial disadvantage of South Somerset District Council.

Planning Applications Referred to the District Council's Regulation Committee

The following members of this Committee are also members of the Council's Regulation Committee:

Councillors Peter Gubbins, Graham Oakes, David Recardo and Gina Seaton.

Where planning applications are referred by this Committee to the Regulation Committee for determination, Members of the Regulation Committee can participate and vote on these items at the Area Committee and at Regulation Committee. In these cases the Council's decision-making process is not complete until the application is determined by the Regulation Committee. Members of the Regulation Committee retain an open mind and will not finalise their position until the Regulation Committee. They will also consider the matter at Regulation Committee as Members of that Committee and not as representatives of the Area Committee.

- 4. Public question time**
- 5. Chairman's announcements**
- 6. Reports from representatives on outside organisations**

This is an opportunity for Members who represent the Council on outside organisations to report items of interest to the Committee.

Items for discussion

7. **Yeovil Western Corridor Update - Somerset County Council** (Page 6)
8. **Arts & Entertainment Service Update Report** (Pages 7 - 16)
9. **Environmental Health Services Update Report** (Pages 17 - 19)
10. **Area South Forward Plan** (Pages 20 - 22)

Please note that the decisions taken by Area Committees may be called in for scrutiny by the Council's Scrutiny Committee prior to implementation.

This does not apply to decisions taken on planning applications.

Agenda Item 7

Yeovil Western Corridor Update

*Contact Details: Richard Needs, Somerset County Council
RGNeeds@somerset.gov.uk*

Somerset County Council's Service Manager – Engineering Design (Richard Needs) will attend the meeting to give an overview of the Programme of Works and the communication Strategy.

Agenda Item 8

Arts & Entertainment – Service Update

Director: Clare Pestell, Commercial Services and Income Generation
Service Manager: Adam Burgan, Arts & Entertainment Manager
Lead Officer: Adam Burgan, Arts & Entertainment Manager
Contact Details: adam.burgan@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 845911

Purpose of the Report

This report provides an update on the work of the Arts & Entertainment Service in Area South.

Public Interest

The Arts & Entertainment Service at South Somerset District Council (SSDC) works to provide access to high quality cultural events across South Somerset. Through Arts Development the Service supports and encourages various arts agencies and organisations to deliver arts activity across South Somerset. The Service operates The Octagon Theatre – Somerset’s premier theatre for arts and entertainment and Westlands Entertainment and Conference Centre – the newly refurbished venue for conferencing and entertainment. This report details arts activities taking place in Area West which is supported and initiated by the Service and the development of two venues which attract audiences from across South Somerset and beyond.

Recommendation

That the Area South Committee notes the report and identifies:-

1. Suggestions to improve service delivery;
2. Potential projects it wishes to see incorporated into the 2018-19 service planning process.

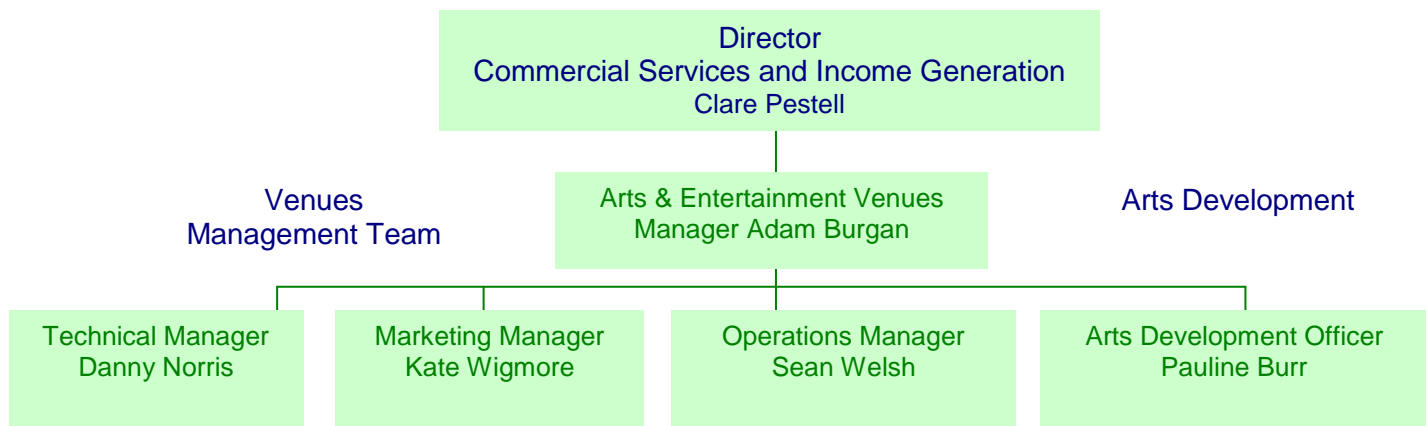
Background

The Arts & Entertainment Service aims to provide access to high quality cultural events across South Somerset. Using The Octagon Theatre as a hub of creativity we work with our partners to engage the residents of South Somerset in arts activities and encourage visitors to the region. The recently re-opened Westlands Entertainment and Conference Centre will complement the existing programme at The Octagon, broadening the programme of entertainment events on offer and striving to become the premier venue for conferencing, banqueting and meetings in the area. We aim to deliver a programme which inspires, educates and ultimately enriches the lives of those taking part, making South Somerset an ever improving place to live and work.

Report

The Arts & Entertainment Service consists of The Octagon Theatre, Westlands Entertainment and Conference Centre and Arts Development and is part of Commercial Services and Income Generation under Director, Clare Pestell. We aim to offer a cohesive approach to developing and promoting the arts in South Somerset with venues being a ‘cultural and entertainment hub’ for the District.

Arts & Entertainment Structure



The Arts Development Service

The Octagon Theatre and Westlands Entertainment and Conference Centre

With the addition of Westlands Entertainment and Conference Centre and management for the Westlands Leisure Complex site, the Arts & Entertainment Venues Service has gone through a significant transformation with the team almost doubling in size via recruitment for specialist and dedicated staff team. The service has grown from 9.8 FTE staff to 22.2 FTE. The management team work across both venues ensuring that programming at the venues complement each other with the ambition to develop audience and attendance across both venues. Sharing resources such as the Box Office, staff, marketing and customer database and making the most of the combined buying power, means that both venues also benefit from the share knowledge and skills of staff and the ability to develop staff skills across two venues and a more varied and diverse programme. The flexibility of the venues and increased capacity at Westlands is balanced by the stronger technical capability at The Octagon which will lead to a more diverse programme of events serving a wider range of tastes and customers.

The Octagon Theatre

Background

The Octagon Theatre is the council's flagship venue for high quality professional theatre, music, dance, comedy, entertainment, visual arts and literary events. The theatre is the keystone of our cultural provision across the district and provides:

- One of the largest theatres in Somerset with 626 seats.
- 260 events per annum (25% local organisations / 75% professional performance companies).
- The Octagon Academy – The Octagon's participatory programme.
- CRE8ive Writing – The Octagon's literary section.
- The Johnson Studio – The Octagon's rehearsal studio and home of The Octagon Academy that is also available for hire, functions and seminars.

- The Foyer Club – The Octagon’s team of volunteers who greet our customers at performances and show them to their seats. The Foyer Club is a charity that also undertakes fundraising activity to support the development of The Octagon.
- The Footlights Club – The Octagon’s special service to support regular attendees of the theatre.

The theatre was completely refurbished in 2003, and has excellent facilities, not only for staging performances but also in providing a bar, café bar and restaurant as well as a rehearsal studio.

The Arts and Entertainment Service (Octagon Theatre and Arts Development) is subsidised by South Somerset District Council by £254,355 (budget 2017/18 and achieving efficiency savings of £90k in the last two years), that equates to £1.61 per year, per resident, or 3p per week. Official statistics published in 2014 show that the UK’s creative industries, which includes the film, television and music industries, are now worth £71.4 billion per year to the UK economy – generating just over a staggering £8 million pounds an hour. The UK creative industries are renowned across the globe for driving growth, investment and tourism. The creative industries consistently punch well above their weight and are a powerhouse within the UK economy.

Between 50-70% of the population of South Somerset use the theatre throughout the course of the year and satisfaction levels are consistently high (80-90%).

The mailing list contains 20,000 households and 35,000 Preview Brochures are distributed to drive ticket sales three times a year. Customers come predominantly from Somerset and Dorset. Ticket sales are supported by effective marketing through a well-maintained website, social media, posters, flyers, press and ad-hoc promotions through local radio.

Report

The Octagon Theatre has enjoyed another successful and busy year welcoming approximately 200,000 people throughout the year. Here are some of the key points:

- Continued development of programme. Highlights included Sir Willard White, Lesley Garrett, Des O’Connor, The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, Joe McElderry, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Blake, Dave Gorman, Blackeyed Theatre Company, Richard Alston Dance Company, Julian Lloyd Webber, Paul Merton, Al Murray, The Manfreds, Jack Dee, Reginald D Hunter, Pasha Kovalev, Rich Hall, The Pasadena Roof Orchestra, BalletBoyz, Tim Vine, Only Men Aloud, The Glenn Miller Orchestra, Pam Ayres, G4, Rhydian, Lee Mead, Josh Widdicombe, Adam Hills, Fisherman’s Friends, Northern Ballet, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Grimethorpe Colliery Band, Seth Lakeman and The Chinese State Circus. We presented the national tour of ‘The Mousetrap’ in May 2016 for 8 performances selling out every performance and 4,954 tickets!
- The Octagon Theatre is proud to be at the ‘heart’ of the community in South Somerset. Many local groups and societies stage performances and events at the theatre including Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society, University College Yeovil (Graduation), Helen Laxton School of Dance, Razzamatazz, The Dance Factory, Motiv8 Productions, Castaways Theatre Group, Yeovil Amateur Pantomime Society, Yeovil Youth Theatre, Yeovil Floral Society, and many more.
- The fifth Yeovil Literary Festival in partnership with Waterstones, Yeovil Library and Yeovil Community Arts Association will take place 26th – 29th October. The line-up includes Christopher Biggins, Monty Don, Michael Portillo, Suzi Quatro, Lord Robert Winston, Ben Fogle, Sarah Millican, Jacqueline Wilson, Jeremy Vine, Harry Hill, Cressida Cowell to name but a few whilst also showcasing the work of local writers.

- We were delighted to receive a Certificate of Excellence from ‘Trip Advisor’ for the second consecutive year. The Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence is awarded to organisations that consistently achieve outstanding reviews on Trip Advisor. Businesses that are awarded the Certificate of Excellence demonstrate hospitality excellence and represent the upper echelon of businesses listed on Trip Advisor, the world’s largest travel site.
- Arts & Entertainment Manager, Adam Burgan, was presented with a ‘Western Gazette Pride Award’ for ‘Contribution to the Arts’ on Friday 4th December.
- Our new season has been well received with performances from ‘America’s Got Talent’ Winner Paul Zerdin and Marty Wilde and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra all selling well.

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Number of Events	239	244	235	242	260	264	288
Attendance	85,358	93,519	90,149	101,634	119,366	123,339	132,376
Capacity for SSDC Promoted Events	58%	60%	62%	68%	82%	83%	78%

- Ticket sales broke all records selling 132,376 tickets for the financial year 2016/17 (9,000 up on the previous year).
- Our pantomime production of ‘Peter Pan’ broke the record set by ‘Sleeping Beauty’ the previous year being seen by over 29,000 people. Ticket sales were up 7% on the previous year. For Christmas 2017 we are presenting ‘Cinderella’ and ticket sales are currently ahead of this point last year.
- Our ‘Strike A Chord!’ project, which brought in Arts Council England funding of £49K, has been successfully delivered bringing The Philharmonia Orchestra to Yeovil to work with nine local primary schools with musicians going into the schools to deliver workshops. Charles Hazlewood conducted the full orchestra at a special schools concert in June introducing children to a live orchestra with the story covered on BBC Points West.
- Continued developing our relationship with local media and with a weekly column with the Western Gazette and regular appearances on BBC Radio Somerset.
- We have continued to develop our Social Networking sites – over 9,000 Facebook users, 4,174 followers on Twitter, 1,047 Instagram followers and 584 YouTube channel subscribers.
- The Octagon Academy was launched in 2010. We now have 17 weekly classes for all ages and abilities. Over 300 people aged from 15 months to 73 are taking part classes at The Octagon in singing, dancing and drama every week. The Octagon Choir now has around 70 members.
- Increasing daytime use of The Octagon with weekly hirers including Somerset Cancer Care Café, University of the 3rd Age, Castaways Theatre Group, Somerset Siders (retired Tesco employees) and Helen Laxton School of Dance.

Westlands Entertainment & Conference Centre

Background

Westlands Entertainment & Conference Centre is the council's flagship venue for conferencing, meetings, banqueting and entertainment events. The venue significant in provision across the district and provides:

- One of the largest and most flexible venues in Somerset with 870 seats, 350 capacity for banqueting, standing capacity of 950 or festival capacity (using the whole building) at 1,500.
- The venue is also home to The Wheeldon Suite and The Parish Suite, meeting rooms available to hire with discounted rates for local charities and 'not-for-profit' groups.
- The Lounge Bar is open through the day for users of the site or visitors to the venue offering a café style menu and Box Office for events at both Westlands and The Octagon.
- The flexible venue is suitable for a wide range of events from large-scale conferencing, weddings, parties, balls, boxing and wrestling events, trade fairs and standing gigs to theatre style shows.
- The Foyer Club – the team of volunteers who have been volunteering at the Octagon for over thirty years have taken on FOH duties at Westlands. The Friends of Westlands have setup as a independent fundraising body to support the development of Westlands.
- The Footlights Club – rewarding regular customers with discounted tickets and priority booking now applies to both The Octagon and Westlands.

The refurbishment work is nearing completion but events have been taking place at the venue since the end of March.

We are taking a commercial approach to running Westlands. The venue is budgeted to be subsidised in the first year of operation by the following bodies

SSDC £269,598

Leonardos Helicopters

Yeovil Town Council

Yeovil Without Parish Council

Brympton Parish Council

Following the petition to save Westlands that was signed by over 8,000 people, officially the largest petition ever submitted to SSDC, a £2 million refurbishment has taken place to improve the facilities for guests and artists. The venue refurbishment follows the agreement between South Somerset District Council and Leonardo Finmeccanica, of a 30-year lease. The cost of refurbishment has been paid for via a loan that will be repaid over 30 years with the introduction of a £1 ticket levy.

Report

Westlands is enjoying a busy first year since reopening with staff working hard to ensure the venue was ready to welcome guests. The builders left the site at the end of June and 'snagging' is still being completed but events have been going very well with thousands of visitors already through the door. Here are some of the key points:

- Sold out events from 'Justin's Party' – which sold out two performances within an hour. Popular events from stand-up comedians Joel Dommett, Rich Hall with Henning When - already sold out for end of May. Themed party nights like 'Poptastic!' proving a success. Britpop Invasion, Joe Brown, Chris Packham and Dr Hook are all selling well for the autumn season.
- Local events like Yeovil Amateur Boxing and Yeovil Beer Festival have returned with over 3,000 people attending the Beer Festival alone. We have weekly hires from Westlands Ballroom and Latin Club and LeRoc modern jive.
- There is a subsidised rate for local 'not for profit' groups and it is good to see a number of local hirers returning to the venue.
- The Official Opening for the venue took place on Tuesday 27th June when Darcey Bussell CBE attracting much positive local and regional coverage.
- Screenings are proving popular with sofa seats offering a different film experience and a programme of film festivals, independent and foreign language films and the best of mainstream cinema.
- Interest in the venue for events has been very high and it has been difficult to accommodate all the requests for tours and meetings. Prospects for developing usage of the venue and a busy and vibrant programme look promising.
- Full On Sport have taken up tenancy in one of the offices on the first floor .
- A 'Residents Forum' has been setup to meet twice a year for those properties adjoining the site.
- A 'Users Forum' has been setup for groups and clubs who use the site and will meet on a quarterly basis.
- Social Networking pages are still in their infancy but the Facebook page already has 2,228 followers.

The Arts Development Service

The Arts Service works in partnership with a number of arts delivery agencies to bring a range of arts activities to the district, SSDC's on-going financial support ensures that this district maintains a good level of service for our communities. Our core funding helps the organisations to attract funding through grants, sponsorship and payment for services and gives a high level of return for the authority's investment.

These organisations include:

Take Art! This arts development agency is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and receives funding from them. Their activities in the last year include:

- **Rural Touring:** the Take Art Rural Touring programme will have brought 22 shows to 16 different rural locations across South Somerset; this includes West Coker in Area South.
- **Support to Performance Practitioners:** Take Art's Theatre Service continue to offer particular support to new emerging companies such as West Coker based Wassail

Theatre, as well as established companies such as Boiling Kettle who now have a firm relationship with David Hall Arts Centre.

- **Tangle:** Tangle, SW African Caribbean Theatre Company continues to have their administrative base at the Take Art office.
- **The Early Years Service** has been working with Yeovil in supporting workforce development and hosting a creative CPD session for their students, early years practitioners and artists.
- **Spring Forward Youth Dance Platform** took place at the Octagon Theatre with over 200 dancers taking part from across the Somerset including groups from Westfield School, Helen Laxton School of Dance, Dance Factory, Jump Start Boys group based at the Octagon and groups from Yeovil College).
- **Somerset Youth Dance Company** continues its long standing connection with The Octagon Theatre and as an extension to this they have developed all-boy youth dance company **Jump Start** that runs from the venue.
- **Through InspirED**, early years audiences from Yeovil College Children's Centre, St Gildas Primary School and Norton sub Hamdon Primary School saw Malina's Dream, a high quality early years show.

Actiontrack: Actiontrack works collaboratively with individuals and groups to get involved with originally devised music, drama, dance and the visual arts. The organisation develops and delivers wholly accessible projects, predominantly with children and young people and often with marginalized groups. They continue to work with the pupil referral units in Chard and Yeovil providing music provision on behalf of Sound Foundation Somerset, the county's service for music in education. They are also a delivery partner in a variety of targeted youth support initiatives with the young offending team.

Well known for their "Showbuild" week-long activity programmes where young people devise and create a piece of musical theatre, they offered a master class at The Octagon for young people who are thinking of performing arts as a career option.

Somerset Art Works:

- The SAW Open Studios Event took place between 17th September to 2nd October 2016, attracting visitors into the county and generating sales for small, independent businesses and additional custom for local services. Data collected shows that there were in excess of 50,000 visits to venues and in-direct spend at local facilities indicates that visitors spent on average **£203**. There were three venues in Yeovil and one in West Coker. SAW also offered associated training and bursary opportunities for artists and makers.
- The theme for this year's main project is **Prospect**. It will offer training and bursary opportunities for artists and makers and culminate with work being shown at Art Weeks: 23rd September – 8th October 2017. In South Somerset:

A Landscape of Objects

- Forde Abbey residencies, exhibition, school and families workshops
 - Art Weeks Contemporary Craft Showcase weekend 23rd-24th Sept with the National Trust at Lytes Cary
 - 'Plein Air' painting project exchange Somerset/Russian artists, schools and families workshops hosted by the National Trust in South Somerset
- Funding from the Heritage Lottery and Arts Council England is in place for the **Muse, Makers in Museums**, project. Working with the South West Heritage Trust, the project will develop the cultural offer to schools/communities/local museums focussing on Chard and Bruton in South Somerset.
 - Education offer InspirED subscribers in South Somerset; schools can subscribe to arts support from the partnership of SAW, Take Art, Somerset Film and SPAEDA. They

provide inset training opportunities, priority access to arts residencies and a variety of resources to participating schools.

Somerset Art Works has been working with the Countryside team on a three year programme funded by the Art Council, Water- Meadow Wood. This is the final year and the theme of wood has been explored by artist Elizabeth Jardine, working with children from Fiveways and Preston Schools and with families at open workshops in the park. The work will be displayed in the Octagon gallery as part of Art Weeks 2017.

Somerset Film

Somerset Film provides support for local community groups and individuals, professional and amateur, in the use of digital media. Based in Bridgwater but serving the whole of Somerset they offer:

- Drop-in access to equipment, on line resources and training
- Production and training opportunities and facilities
- Advice, support and information to a wide range of film and digital media makers, from absolute beginners to high level professionals
- Project and outreach work – specialising in working with community groups and individuals who want to get started with film

Recent achievements in South Somerset include:

- Continuation of Ignite 2.0 – second year of a three year programme that supports professional artists in the use of digital media. 7 x SSDC based artists received one to one surgeries through year.
- BFI Film Academy - a programme of master-classes, screenings and film-making for 16-19 year olds that offers bursary and travel support. 7 x SSDC residents have registered onto the programme.
- Launch of Polish Voice TV on 28th Feb 2017 in association with Phoenix School of Languages (Yeovil) and Yeovil Advice Centre. Polish Voice TV encourages understanding between Somerset communities, demystifies national stereotypes and provides a space to share ideas and to promote collective endeavour – training course supported by SSL to follow x 15 adults.

In addition to the work of these arts organisations, the Arts Development Officer continues to support voluntary and professional groups and individuals in South Somerset, in developing their own projects at a grass roots level.

We are working with Somerset Film in the development of the “Holman Hub” film resource in South Cadbury. Based at Chapel Cross Tea Rooms, in conjunction with Tea Room Arts, a video production and editing facility will be available for pre-booked community use. Some initial training will be available and we will work with Tea Room Arts and Somerset Film to develop future projects in response to local aspirations.

The Arts Service has given support to Wassail Theatre Company, a local group that brings creative performance into non-traditional settings and specialises on themes that resonate with our communities. One of their latest shows, Rex the King, the story of a Somerset darts champion who ruled the world but lost it all, was performed in some of our local pubs, including Inn the Square in West Coker, which they also used as their rehearsal space.

They are currently working on a theatrical show that gives a narrative to the 2013/14 floods and will be performed locally in 2018.

In partnership with the Countryside Service we have supported a number of projects in Yeovil Country Park as an extension to the V3 Programme. They include the site specific mural by Bristol graffiti artist, Jody Thomas, the sculpture trail by woodcarver, Jozef Mesar and the Water-Meadow-Wood project.

As part of the national Big Draw event, we are working with students from Yeovil College Art Department and the Quedam Centre. The project will run throughout October and students will run a community drawing day then develop the work into animations which will be shown in the Quedam towards the end of the month.

This year we have developed stronger links with the library service and have supported "From the Mouth of the Parrett", a project delivered by Somerset based Theatre Melange, where library staff worked closely with artists in a creative project designed to attract new visitors to the library. We have supported the performing arts library in Yeovil with a project aimed at preschool children and have recently linked Eastville Project Space with the library for some circuit building workshops aimed at older children.

We have supported Yeovil Town Council in achieving an Arts Council Grant to fund a series of schools workshops as part of the run up to Super Saturday. Artist, Paul Stickland is working with children in Fiveways, Reckleford, St Gildas and Milford Schools and will install work in an empty shop for the event, when there will be an opportunity for the community to join in. The Arts Service continues to support the whole event as part of the co-ordinating team.

We are in the process of developing the third South Somerset Arts Directory, which publicises cultural and creative activities across the district and encourages participation at a local level.

The Octagon Gallery:

We continue to offer a varied programme of exhibitions in The Octagon Gallery. In addition to the ever popular Yeovil Arts Group and Yeovil Camera Club, we encourage local artists, photographers and printmakers to exhibit with us and celebrate our local talent. We aim to offer space for at least one schools or college exhibition each year.

Financial Implications

No new financial implications stem from this report.

The Annual Budget for the Octagon and Arts Development Service is £251,590 (Net 17/18).

The Operating Budget for Westlands site, for both the Sports and Fitness Centre and the Complex is £62,495 (Net 17/18).

Corporate Priority Implications

The Arts & Entertainment Service is primarily linked to THEME 3: IMPROVE THE HOUSING, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR CITIZENS

"We consider that decent, affordable housing is vital to the overall health of our citizens. We want to ensure that all of the community has access to sport, leisure and arts and heritage opportunities"

Specific priorities associated to the service are 3.31 Increase engagement in the Arts.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

The Arts & Entertainment Service contributes to SSDC targets of Reducing Carbon Emissions by adopting a culture where this is considered in everyday decision-making. The service has appointed a Carbon Champion who encourages staff to save energy, recycle, and adopt more environmentally friendly ways of delivering our service. Audiences at The Octagon Theatre are benefiting from improved comfort cooling following a major upgrade of facilities that has seen Moducel's FAN WALL Technology™ units replace the air handling system. The new technology is also making significant energy cost savings for the Service.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The Arts & Entertainment Service strives to make the service and those offered by its partners accessible to everyone. We ensure that all our partners hold an Equality and Diversity Policy and that equality is one of the core principles of the organisation. Our programme of performances and projects aims to offer a diverse range of events which inspire, educate, enlighten and entertain whilst bringing the community together.

Background Papers: *None*

Agenda Item 9

Environmental Health Service update report

Strategic Director: Operations and Customer Focus
Assistant Director: Martin Woods, AD Environment
Service Manager: Alasdair Bell, Environmental Health Manager
Contact Details: Alasdair.bell@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462056

Purpose of the Report

To provide members with a brief update of the work of the Environmental Health Service in the last twelve months and to look forward to future challenges. Alasdair Bell, Environmental Health Manager will attend the meeting to answer any questions.

Recommendation

That Members note the report

Public Interest

The Environmental Health Service is a frontline service committed to protecting public health and safeguarding the environment. The majority of work undertaken by the service is required by law with very little discretionary work. The Environmental Health Service Plan that outlines the work of the service along with key service standards and the service action plan can be found on the council website at: http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/media/569271/service_plan_eh_15-16.pdf

Report

The work of the service continues to go well with staff dealing with a wide variety of matters including routine inspections and enforcement activity. Discussion of the up and coming Transformation programme is dominating our thinking at the moment and staff resources are being allocated to help plan the future arrangements.

Food and Safety Team

The Food & Safety Team both enforces legislation and provides advice and assistance to food and other businesses. The main emphasis of the team is to contribute to the success of the local economy by helping food businesses avoid problems of food poisoning etc and the severe economic consequences that can result. The team is also involved in tackling food fraud, which can be very harmful to public safety, economic development and fair business competition. The food safety element of the work of the team includes the approval and audit of food manufacturers, food sampling, premises inspections which includes local delivery of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme , the investigation of food complaints and food poisoning as well as responding to national food safety alerts. The health and safety element includes inspection, advice, complaint and accident investigation. In Area North in the last 12 months 347 food inspections have been carried out, 72 cases of suspected food poisoning have been investigated and 31 accidents reported/investigated. Much of the work carried out is routine 'behind the scenes' and the public is generally unaware of what is going on until something significant happens such as a major food poisoning outbreak. Key achievements to note;

- All planned interventions/inspections and complaints successfully dealt with
- National food safety Week 2017 supported. The theme being Food Waste Reduction.
- Development of the Better Business for All (BBfA) project.

- Working with South West Illegal Meat Group
- Ongoing management of 'Flexible Warranting' scheme to allow cross boundary working throughout Somerset
- Food Hygiene Rating System –anticipated introduction of charges for rescoring.
- Supporting a multi-agency investigation into wild game poaching with local Police, RSPCA and Trading Standards
- Maintaining a multi-agency Safety Advisory Group(SAG) for events being held in South Somerset
- Working with FSA on 'Regulating Our Future' programme.
- Working with Public Health England on new Gastrointestinal Disease Policy.

The Food safety Team is obliged by the FSA to produce it's own service plan that can be found following the attached link;

https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/media/570103/fs_service_plan_2016-17.pdf

Environmental Protection Team

The EP Team deals with pollution control and environmental monitoring as well as the enforcement of environmental legislation. The Team checks local air quality and investigates a range of complaints about nuisance, in particular noise and smoke. The Team issues permits and inspects premises under the Pollution Prevention and Control regime (PPC). The Team also undertakes private water supply sampling and risk assessments, contaminated land assessment and the investigation of rural drainage complaints as well as acting as a statutory consultee on planning and licensing applications. The delivery of the Pest Control service and public health burials are also part of the service provided. The Streetscene enforcement team is now part of the EP Team and deals with a range of issues including dog control, abandoned vehicles and fly tipping. During the past 12 months 124 noise complaints have been investigated and 451 calls were taken regarding pest control in Area North. Significant points to note;

- The Private Water supply sampling and risk assessment programme has been successfully completed although there has been a lot of work going on regarding the village supply at Allowenshay. Ombudsman complaint not substantiated.
- The Permitted installation inspection programme(PPC) has been fully completed
- New contaminated Land Inspection Strategy adopted
- New Enforcement policy adopted
- Four Public Health funerals dealt with
- Last year 54 abandoned vehicles were investigated in Area North resulting in 12 being removed and destroyed. The team have seen a marked increase in the number of abandoned vehicles across the district since the start of the year.

Housing Standards Team

The Housing Standards Team deal with private sector housing advice and enforcement. This includes investigating complaints about sub-standard rented housing, the inspection and licensing of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) and the licensing of caravan sites. The team also provides advice/assistance/grant aid to improve energy efficiency and tackle fuel poverty. The team also processes applications for Prevention grants, Disabled Facilities Grants, HMO and Empty Property grants, and helps administer the WRT home loan scheme. The team works closely with the Housing Options Team in seeking to tackle the potential housing crisis that is developing in South Somerset. Significant points include;

- The running of two Landlord Forum events held at Holy Trinity Community Centre, Yeovil with over 70 local landlords attending.

- On-going enforcement action to do with substandard housing and HMOs including the enforced sale of an empty house.
- £850,000 of Disabled Facilities Grants paid
- Several key grant funded building projects underway including two projects on South Street, Yeovil.
- Over fifty empty properties brought back into use.
- Active participation in multi -agency Yeovil One and Chard One projects to include work on anti-social behaviour and rough sleeping.
- New grants and loans policy adopted following change in funding arrangements for DFGs via the Better Care Fund.
- New mobile home grant/loan initiative launched working with Ridgeway Energy.

Research and support

The Environmental Health service is supported by the Research and Specialist Support Team who maintain and update the Environmental Health back system Civica APP, inspection records and web pages as well as providing finance support, management performance information and produce the annual government returns.

Financial Implications

There are none attached to this report

Corporate Priority Implications

The work of the unit helps contribute towards the delivery of a range of our Council Plan aims including the aims to;

- Protect and enhance the quality of our environment.
- Enable housing to meet all needs.
- Improve health and reduce health inequalities.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

The work of the unit contributes towards this NI with it's work on fuel poverty

Equality and Diversity Implications

As part of the EH service plan a full equalities and diversity assessment was undertaken.

Background Papers: *Environmental Health Service Plan 2017/18*
Food & Safety Service Plan 2017/18
Private Sector Housing Strategy 2016-21
Housing Strategy Implementation Plan 2017
Policy for Awarding Private Sector Housing Grants and Loans -January 2017

Agenda Item 10

Area South Committee Forward Plan

Communities Lead: Helen Rutter, Communities Lead
Service Manager: Natalie Fortt, Area Development Lead - South
Agenda Co-ordinator: Jo Boucher, Democratic Services Officer
Contact Details: jo.boucher@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462011

Purpose of the Report

This report informs Members of the agreed Area South Forward Plan.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:-

1. Comment upon and note the proposed Area South Forward Plan as attached at Appendix A.
2. Identify priorities for further reports to be added to the Area South Forward Plan, developed by the SSDC lead officers

Area South Committee Forward Plan

The forward plan sets out items and issues to be discussed by the Area Committee over the coming months.

The forward plan will be reviewed and updated each month, by the joint lead officers from SSDC, in consultation with the Area Committee Chairman. It is included each month with the Area Committee agenda, where members of the Area Committee may endorse or request amendments.

Members of the public, councillors, service managers, and partners may request an item is placed within the forward plan for a future meeting, by contacting the Democratic Services Officer.

Background Papers

None

Appendix A

Notes

- (1) Items marked in *italics* are not yet confirmed, due to the attendance of additional representatives.
- (2) For further details on these items, or to suggest / request an agenda item for the Area South Committee, please contact the Democratic Services Officer; Jo Boucher.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Background/ Purpose	Lead Officer
1st November 2017	Somerset Highways – maintenance programme	A six monthly update report on the current and expected highways maintenance programme in Area South	Mike Fear, Assistant Highway Service Manager, South Somerset Highways
	Affordable Housing Development Programme	The purpose of this report is to update members on the likely outturn position of the Affordable Housing Development Programme in relation to Area South	Colin McDonald, Corporate Strategic Housing Manager
	Section 106 Monitoring Report	Six Monthly update report	Neil Waddleton, Section 106 Monitoring Officer
	Countryside Service Update Report	Annual Update Report	Katy Menday, Countryside Manager
	Yeovil Vision Update Report	Update on Yeovil Vision	Helen Rutter, Communities Lead
29th November 2017 <i>(Please note revised date for the December meeting)</i>	Markets Improvement Strategy	Update Report on the Yeovil Markets	Natalie Fortt, Area Development Lead - South
	Citizens Advice South Somerset (CASS) Presentation	Presentation from Citizens Advice South Somerset	Angela Kerr, CEO or Kim Watts Client Services Manager, CASS
	Yeovil Refresh	Update report on the Yeovil Refresh	Helen Rutter, Communities Lead
4th January 2017		<i>Please note this meeting will only be held if there are planning applications to be determined</i>	
1st February 2017	Yeovil Vision & Regeneration Update	Update report on Yeovil Vision and Regeneration	Helen Rutter, Communities Lead / Natalie Fortt, Area Development Lead - South

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Background/ Purpose	Lead Officer
	Work of the Conservation Service	Annual report on the work of the Conservation Service.	Adron Duckworth, Conservation Manager
	Historic Buildings at Risk	Confidential report on the Historic Buildings at risk within Area South.	Adron Duckworth, Conservation Manager & Andrew Tucker Conservation Officer
	SSDC Welfare Benefit Work in South Somerset	Annual Update on the Welfare Benefit Work in South Somerset	Catherine Hansford, Welfare Benefits Team Leader
TBC	One Public Estate Programme	Update report	Nena Beric, Project Manager