

## **Area East Development Plan**

<i>Portfolio Holder:</i>	<i>Cllr Nick Weeks</i>
<i>Strategic Director:</i>	<i>Rina Singh, Place &amp; Performance</i>
<i>Assistant Director:</i>	<i>Helen Rutter/ Kim Close, Communities</i>
<i>Service Manager:</i>	<i>Helen Rutter, Area East Development Manager</i>
<i>Lead Officer:</i>	<i>Helen Rutter, Area East Development Manager</i>
<i>Contact Details:</i>	<i>helen.rutter@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01963) 435012 or (01935) 462060</i>

### **Purpose of the Report**

To approve the Area East Development Plan (ADP)for 2016/17.

### **Public Interest**

The plan sets out the work being planned and undertaken locally by the Council to invest in communities across this Area, based on needs analysis, Councillor and community concerns and priorities.

### **Recommendation**

To approve the Area East Development Plan 2016/17.

### **Background**

The Area East Committee revises local priorities on an annual basis within the framework of the overall Council Plan. Through the ADP and other means, it seeks to make progress on these priorities by allocating resources and working with partners and other services within SSDC to achieve results. Area budgets enable the Committee to pump prime the work and projects it wishes to implement or support. The use of resources is also reviewed annually. Progress against the ADP is monitored monthly by staff and reported to Committee at 6 months and then at the year end.

The new Council Plan will be published April 2016. At the time of writing the significance of this for the Area Development Team (ADT) is still being assessed. The draft delivery plan for 2016/17 is attached at Appendix 1. Each Councillor will be issued with an updated Ward Profile by beginning June setting out key facts and contact details for their ward, along with a profile from 2011 Census and S 106 information. Members have identified particular problems and issues affecting their ward, which have been taken into account. The ADP captures the main projects and programmes that the ADT will work on over the year. This is in addition to the normal, day-to-day responsive work with Councillors to address problems and issues that arise throughout the year. It is important to set realistic expectations and prioritise, given the reduced capacity available due to budget pressures.

### **Area East Priorities**

The draft Plan is Appendix 2 to this report. It consists of core work such as the enquiry service and direct support to communities, existing projects that have been rolled forward for completion and new work strands developed in response to AEC priorities.

A range of projects and initiatives are underway to progress the 4 main priority themes which are:

- Town centre & neighbourhood management
- Economic development, job creation & regeneration schemes
- Community-led planning & development
- Improving access to services & facilities to reduce inequality

Members met in a special economic focused workshop in February 2016 to review progress and to discuss their local priorities. The priorities firmed up in discussion have been used to inform discussions with the newly formed Area Regeneration Board, which met for the first time in March 2016.

In addition the Committee and ADT are continuously looking at ways to maintain effective links with parishes and community groups, improve the cost effectiveness of the ADT and increase income to offset costs.

### **Financial Implications**

The Team consists of a half time ADM & half-time PA/Projects Officer, 3 Neighbourhood Development Officers (2 FTE) and a 2 person Community Support Team (1.7 FTE) who provide a front office service in Wincanton along with administrative and project support. The creation of the Transformation Project will lead to some further staffing changes at the Team Leader level and a verbal update will be given at the meeting.

### **Corporate Priority Implications**

The priorities have been developed taking into account the current draft Council Plan see Appendix 1. The key aspects relevant to our work programme are:

- agree a prioritised action plan to deliver local projects with Regeneration Boards
- support district-wide roll out of superfast broadband
- progress work hubs
- transfer Castle Market House to community
- support at least 50 community projects

### **Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications**

This is considered on an individual project and programme basis as appropriate. The overall priority is to seek to create more balanced communities where people can live, work and get access to the services and facilities they need on a daily basis

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

This is considered on an individual project and programme basis as appropriate. All Area Development teams have done an Equality Impact assessment and have an improvement plan in place.

### **Background Papers**

Area East Development Plan and notes of Members' priorities workshop February 2016

## Appendix 1 : Annual Action Plan on a Page

**Purpose:** The Annual Plan outlines agreed high level actions for each year. It will be updated each year, with an annual monitoring report to Full Council.

**Priority Levels:** Council Plan delivery is designed to be flexible to allow urgent projects to be added mid-year. To aid flexibility, actions are prioritised as **High**, **Medium** and **Low**. Lower priority actions or those in italics will start when capacity allows, when the opportunity arises or if external resource is identified within the project plan.

### Our plans for 2016-17

#### High quality cost effective services

- H** Commence the delivery of the Transformation programme
- H** Set up Income Generation Board and develop prioritised action plan.
- M** Optimise council assets to increase use or receive income.
- H** Take a full role in the emerging Devolution discussions to ensure the best outcome for South Somerset communities.
- H** Work with Sedgemoor District Council on the formation of a strategic alliance to increase influence, resilience and savings.

#### Economy

- H** Engage pro-actively with the LEP to maximise investment in South Somerset.
- H** Progress key strategic projects such as Lufton 2000 and Chard Regeneration.
- H** Agree a prioritised action plan to deliver local projects with Regeneration Boards.
- H** Progress the key infrastructure projects that unlock development.
- M** Support district-wide roll out of superfast broadband.
- H** Progress work hubs in Chard and Yeovil.
- H** Progress options to improve access /regeneration of Yeovil Town Centre.
- H** Continue to support intern and apprentice scheme.

#### Environment

- H** Agree a new waste and recycling collection model to enhance recycling and reduce costs.
- H** Maintain levels of street cleanliness and increase the joint work with parishes via the parish ranger scheme.
- H** Improve gateway to Ham Hill CP through road and high profile signage scheme.
- H** Increase visitor numbers (and YCP café income) via an exciting events programme.
- H** Diversify volunteering opportunities to increase capacity for projects in all Country Parks.
- M** Begin installing 4km of paths within our open spaces to improve 'access for all'.
- H** With SRA, deliver Enhanced Maintenance Programme.
- M** Deliver or enable a range of energy reduction projects

#### Homes

- H** Increase housing supply to meet local needs by the agreed investment of £2.4m.
- H** Contribute to the review of DFG effectiveness led by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- H** Work with partners to secure supported hostel and move on accommodation for vulnerable individuals.
- M** Continue to bring empty properties back into use.
- M** Continue to work with CSE on fuel poverty schemes.
- M** Promote Careline to increase take up and enable people to continue living independently.
- M** Develop a Lettings Agency project.
- M** Explore an enhanced landlord accreditation scheme.

#### Health and Communities

- H** Support residents through national benefit changes including universal credit.
- H** Agree lease, refurbish and relaunch WLC Sport, Conference & Entertainment Facilities.
- H** Deliver Healthy lifestyles projects inc Yr 1 of project to deliver integrated interventions to those with diabetes and hypertension.
- M** Transfer Castle Cary Market House to community.
- H** Enable enhancement of at least 8 play & youth facilities.
- H** Support Huish Episcopi academy community swimming pool project.
- M** Work with partners on public sector hub in Yeovil.
- H** Support at least 50 community projects.
- H** Prepare a plan to develop & deliver leisure facilities in Chard.