

Local Strategic Partnership South Somerset Together (SST) Annual Review

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Purpose of the Report

The report gives an overview of the progress made by the Partnership on strategic priorities during 2015/16. It explains the new simplified arrangements for the partnership that start from 1 June 2016.

Forward Plan

This report has appeared on the Executive Forward Plan with a presentation date of April 2016. It was delayed due to fundamental changes in the Partnership at the end of the current funding and partnership agreement.

Public Interest

South Somerset Together (SST) is the local strategic partnership (LSP) for the District. It brings together senior representatives of the main public and voluntary sector organisations operating in the District. The Partnership works on shared strategic priorities, developing new service initiatives that address these priorities and many of which aim to improve effectiveness of service provision for the benefit of local people.

Recommendations

That the District Executive:

- (1) Note the achievements of the South Somerset Together Partnership in 2015/16 and the new, simplified arrangements
- (2) Notes that the Partnership agreement terminated March 2016 and new simplified governance arrangements are being put in place from June 2016

Background

Since 2012 annual reports on the activities of the Partnership have been presented to the Executive. A simplified Partnership model was adopted in April 2012 and ran for 4 years, being updated annually, until March 31 2016.

The Partnership has been lead through an independent Chairperson and Co-ordinator underpinned by a package of funding and other support from Partners which met the core operating costs. A pump priming fund has been available to help new initiatives to be launched.

Activity during 2015/16

Work has been going on throughout the year, led by regular meetings of the Strategy Group, to focus on a small number of strategic priorities. Please see the strategic priorities progress summary in Appendix A.

Three successful assemblies were held last year with over 170 attendees from local businesses, organisations and communities.

- A health assembly was held in May 2015 around health & primary health care services, looking at how to create a sustainable health and social care system for the long term, highlighting both the service provider and patient perspectives. This event was very well received and stimulated interesting discussion with a number of practical issues and suggested actions raised. A new health sub-group was set up to take this forward.
- In July the Partnership held its annual general meeting with a key theme around digital inclusion and there was also an update from Partners working on the Transport and Access to services, and Housing priorities. As a result of this a multi-agency South Somerset Digital inclusion group has met and ran a community focussed event in April 2016
- A follow up Housing Assembly was held in November to further explore what is preventing housing from coming forward in our rural communities and how, in a climate where legislative and budgetary changes further impact on housing delivery, partners can better work together to provide homes to meet the demand.
- In March 2016 SST hosted an assembly around the changes to Welfare Reform and the challenges they present for our communities in South Somerset. Key speakers and feedback from delegate group discussions recognised that changes as well as the needs and demands of those affected will increase as time goes on, and that it will be important for agencies to continue to monitor & measuring impacts to understand what is happening and raise awareness effectively. The opportunity provided through one-stop shop approaches was strongly supported.

Earlier in 2015 SST was successful in recruiting a new financial partner, Stonewater Housing, who contributed £5,000 to the Partnership. This matched the contributions from Yeovil College, Yarlinton Housing Group and Yeovil District Hospital.

SST funders have done a thorough review of priorities & progress in the run up to the end of the three-year Partnership Agreement. Partners agreed the Partnership plays an important, positive role and were supportive of continuation of the Partnership. It is a challenging time financially for partners and the likely impacts of legislative and budgetary changes post-Election May 2015. All this mean they all felt it was necessary to make a reduced financial contribution or substantially change the way the Partnership operates.

Partners agreed the main strengths and added value of the Partnership include:

- Enabling the opportunity to share knowledge and forge crucial relationships and linkages, some of which may not have been so easily accessible.
- Raising the profile of our area and its needs/ opportunities with key bodies like LEP/ SCC etc.
- Creates ability to mobilise rapidly with joined up thinking on major issues and opportunities for external funding.
- Sharing of good practice sessions.
- Well targeted Assemblies can open up all kinds of new links and understanding, shine a light on important issues etc.

At the end of March 2016 funding partners reaffirmed their support for strategic partnership working, but agreed to introduce a simplified Partnership model.

This will operate by informal, collaboration between existing Partners. This will remove the requirement for core funding contributions whilst retaining the most valued aspects of the strategic linkages. The Partners will rotate the chairing and hosting of meetings. The new Partnership model is in operation from 1st June 2016, when the 2 dedicated roles of an Independent Chair and Coordinator will cease.

Grateful thanks are extended to Cathy Bakewell, Chairperson and Chereen Scott Partnership Coordinator, who have fulfilled these roles with great distinction over the last few years.

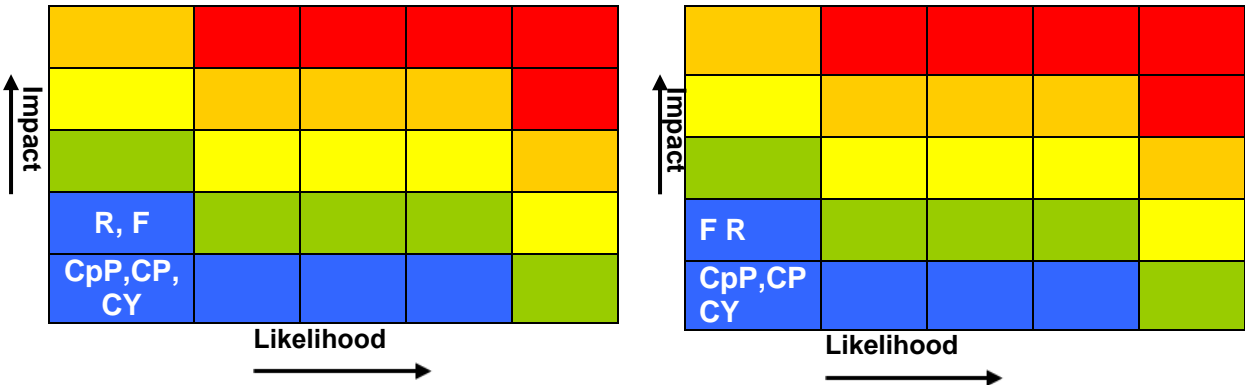
Partners are due to meet at the end of May to revisit the governance and strategic priorities going forward. A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

Financial Implications

SSDC has allocated £12,000 as a contribution to the Partnership in its budget for 2016/17. This sum is being retained to cover the period of wind down and pending finding suitable employment for the Partnership Officer. From 2017/18 this will be a saving in the MTFP.

Risk Matrix

No implications as the report is for information



Key

Categories	Colours (for further detail please refer to Risk management strategy)
R = Reputation	Red = High impact and high probability
CpP = Corporate Plan Priorities	Orange = Major impact and major probability
CP = Community Priorities	Yellow = Moderate impact and moderate probability
CY = Capacity	Green = Minor impact and minor probability
F = Financial	Blue = Insignificant impact and insignificant probability

Council Plan Implications

South Somerset Together and its priorities help contribute towards all of our corporate focus areas, jobs, environment, homes, health and communities.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

The Partnership lobbied for and completed a programme of work on lowering carbon emissions as one of its strategic priorities. This is now mainstreamed within partner organisations.

Equality and Diversity Implications

These projects support the outcomes of the Council's Equality Objectives.

Privacy Impact Assessment

None

Background Papers

None

Appendix A

The South Somerset Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) is a master plan, summarising how people in the district want to live and work, now and in the future. South Somerset Together set its long term goals through the Sustainable Community Strategy and in 2010, a study was completed that reassessed the key issues and trends identified in the SCS

It uses pump priming money to attract matching funds and commission research and/or kick start new multiagency projects. Lead partners champion particular programmes of work.

As a strategic partnership (LSP) its role is not duplicate any of the work or activities being delivered by the organisations that belong to the partnership, other organisations or communities. The focus of South Somerset Together is to identify what is not happening, what could be delivered differently to give better outcomes, make it happen faster or more consistently across the District and save money and effort.

The table below provides a progress summary for 2015/16.

Projects LSP holds partner project funding (£21,000)	Role of LSP as an initiator and facilitator 2015/16	Project Lead and Progress
Strategic Priority: Building Community Resilience. Helping individuals and communities to do more things for themselves and others		
Supporting 'Our Place' type Integration of Services Long Term Outcome - Improving People's Long Term Health (especially in places with health inequalities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded £20k pump priming sum by DCLG for an "Our Place" pilot programme in Westfield. • Supported Martock Parish Council in a similar bid that has also been awarded 	Rina Singh, SSDC / Jeremy Martin, NHS / John Evans, Yeovil College Westfield: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to lack of clarity from locality, DCLG did not sign off the Westfield Our Place Programme to end project. All £20k project funds were retained. • The action plan content forms the 'Our Westfield' community action plan (some addition themes included by the community association). • Actions are being progressed, some complete and partners engaged. These are mainly projects rather than the service redesign • A new partnership meeting has been to re-engage with all stakeholders showing examples of partnership projects to date. This was very successful • The tools and training – project definition template, cost benefit analysis methodology, logic model, best practice networking events – were all very helpful for ongoing project management.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cost benefit workshop was held with partners and VCS to share this tool. The logic model also has wider applications. <p>Martock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project mission: To improve the health, wellbeing, skills, financial security and quality of life of the people in our project area and to reduce their dependency on health, social, welfare and other services. • Operational Plan approved by DCLG March 2015. Project selected by DCLG for national case study. A further grant award by DCLG to build monitoring and evaluation system that will enable ongoing cost-benefit analysis. • Appointment of full time Community Services Coordinator and part time Seniors' Support Coordinator, a number of community engagement, awareness and intergenerational events held, and an integrated plan for youth work delivery developed and enacted. • Working with the County Council to develop a community hub at Martock library that will also provide office and one-to-one support space for project workers. • Working with the NHS Symphony project to integrate with Symphony hub for Martock and South Petherton.
<p>Long Term Outcome - Improving People's Long Term Health (especially in places with health inequalities)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LSP funding awarded (£5,000) towards the mapping of support & care services and delivery of Symphony self-management pilot 	<p>Jeremy Martin, YDH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSP funded element of this project employed a key worker to support the first steps along the road to delivering a new model of support and care for people with multiple long term conditions and/or frailty in South Somerset. • The work led to the collection of local information regarding voluntary service and self-help groups within south Somerset to produce a directory of services for use by the Symphony Complex Care Hub. This will link with Somerset Choices and support the patients to move

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		towards self-help. Further developments are to load this information onto an IT system that can be used outside the office and could be accessible to other key stakeholders e.g. GP surgeries.
Supporting 'Our Place' type Integration of Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LSP agreement to support the coordination of Yeovil One project if required 	<p>Tim Coombe, A&S Constabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team now firmly embedded and significant reductions in calls for service achieved over the first 12 months • Domestic Abuse drop-in centre now established and a number of partners agencies are also attending regularly • Tactical team in place, chaired by Cllr Tony Lock • Area covered by the One Team extended from Central to include East ward. • Funding received from the PCC for 2015.-16 to support projects and implementation
Promote localism and volunteering	<p>LSP funding awarded (£1,000) towards a SSVCA-hosted high-profile voluntary sector Fayre.</p>	<p>Katherine Nolan, SSVCA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSVCA voluntary sector fair provided information, guidance and support to help boost and empower community groups to continue, improve and to work towards ensuring the valuable work they do in our local community is sustainable. • Invited local businesses to find out more about the benefits of engaging with their communities to fulfil their corporate social responsibilities. 170+ delegates and extremely positive feedback. We hope to make this a regular event, subject to funding.. • SSVCA represent the voluntary sector on a number of strategic boards and are key to the development of the Somerset VCSE Strategic Forum, the main route for cross-county engagement. Have also been working with Somerset CCG and other partners on Outcomes Based Commissioning. We will continue to play a major

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		<p>role in this as proposals are developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSVCA facilitating voluntary sector involvement in local Symphony pilots.
<p>Monitor impact of benefits and other austerity changes on vulnerable people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new, multi-agency welfare reform task group has been formed to review available data and assess impact of changes covering South Somerset and agree how to address any gaps identified Data sharing is raising the profile and understanding of the issues and stimulating creative solutions LSP awarded £5k towards welfare reform project to map the impacts and support services and develop suitable options 	<p>Cathy Bakewell, LSP Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The multi-agency Welfare Reform Task Group has met quarterly over the last year. A real benefit of the group has been the opportunity to forge crucial links between agencies, including the DWP, to share knowledge, issues and practice but importantly identify where there may be opportunities to link work and mobilise quickly. Have gather local data and knowledge in a coordinated way with the aim to help partners to work together to identify intervention measures in areas of areas of most need. Much of the focus to date has been around the benefit cap and job sanctions. SST hosted an assembly in March 2016 on welfare reform with the aim to raise awareness with our communities of changes to the welfare system and the challenges they present. It also explored how local communities can help people prepare for these changes and highlight areas where other local communities have worked together to help people affected by the changes.
<p>Strategic Priority: Skills for a Thriving Economy</p>		
<p>Increasing access to training to help people gain skills/ qualifications and improve work prospects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful Skills Assembly was held on 30th April 2014 with speakers from Further Education, Employers and the Heart of the South West LEP LSP funding awarded (£4,750) towards an employability project in Martock and Westfield area of Yeovil Special follow up meeting held with 	<p>John Evans, Yeovil College</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy Group represented on SW LEP Forum to feed in local issues and seek to influence strategy. Successful bid for project to support the development of enhancing Employability skills delivered by Yarlinton -Inspired to Achieve and Yeovil College. The project started in January 2015. Individuals identified the skills needed to access employment opportunities in the

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	<p>Chris Garcia CEO of the Local Enterprise Partnership the aim was to build links and understanding</p>	<p>local area with local employers. Young people were supported to identify their personal key skills and understand the value of these skills to potential employers. Individuals were supported to recognise and 'feel' behaviours and attitudes that are viewed both negatively and positively by employer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the academic year 2014/15 Yeovil College managed over 1000 apprentices. • Following the appointment of a Work Experience Placement Co-ordinator in 2014 at Yeovil College (Skills Assembly action), 97% of students benefitted from meaningful work experience engaging with 546 employers. This resulted in 97.4% of leavers in 2014/15 progressing successfully onto further learning, Higher Education or onto an Apprenticeship. • Yeovil District Hospital and Yeovil College have created a bid to build a 14-19 Career College. The concept is to create a college on the hospital site that will directly address the skill shortages in the Health sector. SST have met with LEP to support the project. A full business case has now been produced. Expressions of interest has been received by the LEP for Growth Deal 3. LEP are supporting the bid.
Strategic Priority: Rural market housing to meet local need		
<p>Developing new models for market housing in rural communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group that formed in 2012 to explore options has continued (following the data analysis that showed escalating demand from increasing numbers of older residents, with needs not met by current housing stock). The aim is to encourage innovation in private sector, older persons housing provision • LSP hosted successful follow-up 	<p>Ric Pallister, SSDC / Phyllida Culpin, Yarlinton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three rural sites are complete and a fourth is underway. • A very successful follow up Housing Assembly was held on 12th November 2015 with over 60 representatives from the district's Parish Councils, organisations and some local developers. The event helped to highlight the important role of community in the process of housing delivery. • SSDC has adopted a rural lettings policy. This would aim to enable some families to remain closer to their roots. Progress is being

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	<p>housing assembly in November 2015</p>	<p>monitored and early results were reported to the assembly in October 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is underway on the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and this will explore further the need for bungalows, regardless of tenure. • Lack of revenue support continues to impede access to HCA funding stream launched to support this type of development. • Housing related support for sheltered schemes by SCC received significant cuts in 2014 though not as high as the 50% reduction of funding as previously anticipated. However further changes are now being considered, including a potential cut to extra care housing schemes. • LSP continues to work together to look at how to help bring forward detailed appraisals from private sector for tailored older person accommodation.
Strategic Priority: Transport and Access to Services		
<p>(a) Promote integrated transport system in Yeovil</p> <p>(b) Promote rural transport & access solutions</p>	<p>LSP funding awarded in 2014 (£5,000) for development of Wincanton public information website – this has since been revised and funds held in principle towards a larger piece of work</p> <p>Work done around the Wincanton Hub, funded by the LSP was cited by SCC as good practice and helped them to secure a major grant > £200,000 for the Total Transport project</p>	<p>Martin Woods, SSDC / Phyllida Culpin, Yarlinton Housing Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In September 2015 SCC appointed a Project Officer to coordinate the Total Transport project. They have mapped most of the public, school, health and social care regular routes that SCC undertakes as well as community, DRT and car schemes. In addition, completed some work on demographics across Somerset using census data to identify unmet needs and demand. The outcome will show a better pattern of need but also opportunities for more commercial work. • Jane Newell, SCC attends a national group with DfT as the SW representative. There is a great deal of interest from No10 and all of the Cabinet departments and the group are being asked that if barriers arise but could be broken down by a change in policy to let them know. Across the country the main barrier seems to be raising awareness of the potential for more joined up thinking in transport within the NHS. In Somerset we are ahead of the game as we

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		<p>already work in partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South West Transport group (SWTG) have agreed to work together to identify an IT portal to provide better information, they plan to link in across the Country with groups trying to achieve a similar outcome to have a comprehensive solution across the Country if possible. Initial meetings are taking place with Traveline (the National Public Transport Information Website) to see if other forms of transport, other than traditional PT could be held on Traveline. They are keen to be involved and this would be a good solution as they already have the software in place which links to the stops and destination etc. It is hoped this can be developed during 2016. The SWTG is currently in discussion with a range of Web Portal and APP suppliers. • SCC continue to work on rolling out smartcard technology on buses. All DRT vehicles are equipped with ticket machines and now discussing interoperable tickets with public transport operators. Smart application is also underway. SCC are developing real-time information for the Taunton Park & Ride with a view to rolling out real-time information available via mobile phone apps in the urban areas including Yeovil. • Within the Wincanton access hub work has started with job centre to identify how clients travel to & from appointments, this will identify common themes and travel sharing opportunities. The Wincanton hub is also proposing a pilot project to work with a school and community transport to consider solutions for allowing pupils that rely on school transport to use community transport so they are able to join in with extra curriculum activities.

