

Area North Development Plan

Assistant Director: Helen Rutter Communities
Service Manager: Sara Kelly, Area Development Lead North
Lead Officer: Sara Kelly, Area Development Lead North
Contact Details: sara.kelly@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462249

Purpose of the Report

To approve the Area North 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

That Councillors approve the Area North Development Plan 2016/17.

Background

The Area North 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 was published in April 2016. The annual action plan for 2016/17 is attached at Appendix 1.

The ADP captures the main projects and programmes that the Area Development Team (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.

Area North Priorities

The draft ADP 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 your priorities.

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

1. Jobs and the economy
2. Affordable housing
3. Self Help and community facilities
4. Flood and water management

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

Financial Implications

The Team consists of a part time Area Development Lead (0.7 FTE), 3 part time Neighbourhood Development Officers (1.4 FTE), a part time PA/project support officer (0.5 FTE) and a 2 person Community Support Team (1.4 FTE) who provide a front office service in Langport along with administrative and project support.

Corporate Priority Implications

The priorities have been developed taking into account the current Council Action 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
- support Huish Episcopi academy community swimming pool project
- 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: none

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.