



Place and Performance

Appendix 2

Area North Development Plan 2016-17

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Our Manager – Sara Kelly



Introduction to the Area Development Service - North

In a rural area such as Area North in South Somerset, economies of scale can be harder to achieve for public services. South Somerset District Council aims to address this challenge through its well-established Area Working system, the Council's 'enable-partner-deliver' ethos, and its ambition *"to strive to deliver an improving quality of life for all"*.

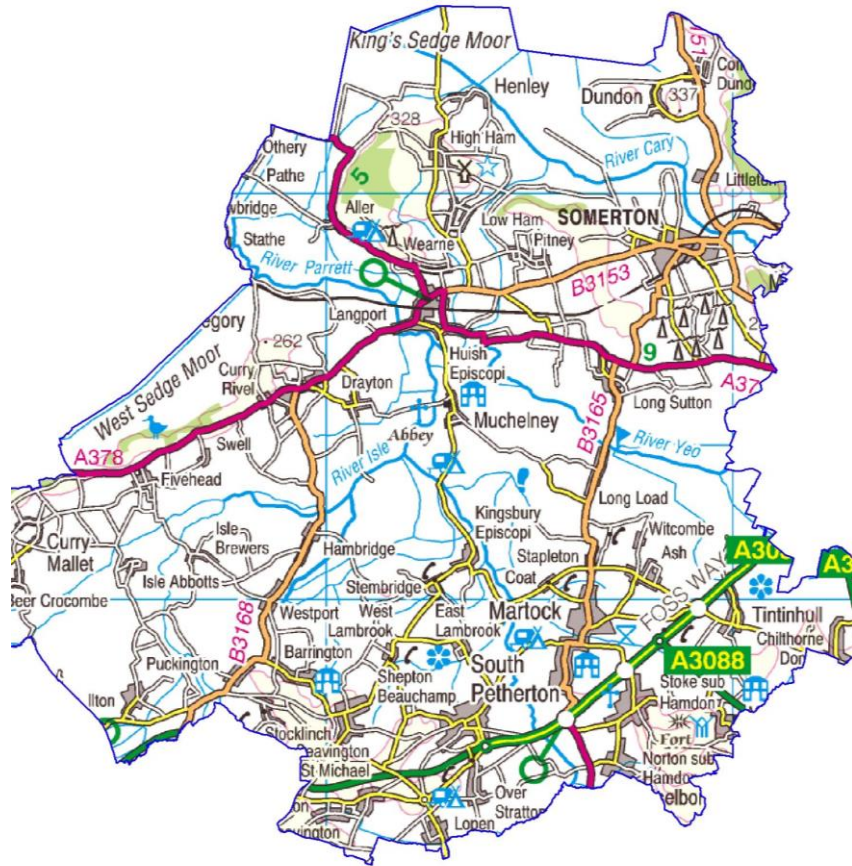
The Area Development Service works closely with Councillors and local communities to help make South Somerset a good place to live, work and visit. We work in four locally based teams - North, East, South and West.

The purpose of the service is to work with and support the development of the skills, ambitions and knowledge to be found in local communities. People using our service include community groups, local town and parish councillors, individuals and businesses.

- We help to design and secure investment into projects, services or community facilities which are run locally and aim to improve local social, economic or environmental well-being under the general direction of the priorities set by district councillors. This may be by Full Council, the Area Committee or ward councillor.
- We manage the Council's successful Community Grants programme and give guidance on alternative sources of funding.
- We provide practical help to help get projects off the ground for example with the hire of meetings rooms, loans of equipment for displays and presentation or help with the design and printing of surveys and publicity for events.
- We help to resolve current issues or local concerns from the neighbourhood or community, and we can help with contacting other services working in the area who may be able to help.
- We manage the council's community office service operating in the area. There is one community office in Area North, based inside the Langport Information Centre.
- We work closely with partners across the area to help residents get the help and information they need, at a time and place to suit them. This includes support to the four locally managed Local Information Centres in South Petherton, Martock, Somerton and Langport, together with helping to improve public access to and availability of help with on-line services.

Maps of Area North are shown on the following page – larger versions are available.

Area North – Ward and Parish boundaries



- Parishes
- Area North Wards
- BURROW HILL
- CURRY RIVEL
- HAMDON
- ISLEMOOR
- LANGPORT AND HUISH
- MARTOCK
- SOUTH PETHERTON
- ST MICHAELS
- TURN HILL
- WESSEX

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Area North Priorities 2016-17

The four Area North priorities provide the framework for work supported or directly managed by the Area North Development team, underpinned by the Area Committee's influence and use of delegated budgets.

- 1. Jobs and the Economy** – we will aim to add value to the economy in Area North through promoting local economic development and the availability of local employment, promoting the availability of Superfast Broadband and enhancing the offer to visitors to extend stay and spend.
- 2. Affordable Housing** – we will promote the delivery of affordable homes in Area North, including support to test and develop new models. Assistance can be provided with local housing needs surveys.
- 3. Self-Help and Community Facilities** – we will promote greater levels of self-help to promote the sustainability of local services and facilities for all ages. This will specifically include support to locally led projects as set out in the service action plan. We will continue to promote our general enquiries service to help residents; councillors; businesses and groups find the help and information they need to make a difference in their local communities
- 4. Flood and Water Management** – we will promote and support locally led solutions which prevent unacceptable flood events in our communities.

Area North Budgets 2016/17

Community grants

The award of grants up to £1000 is delegated to the Area Lead in consultation with ward members. Grants over £1000 are awarded by Area Committee. The budget for support to community led projects in 2016/17 was £10,680. To date, £1,000 has been spent leaving a balance of £9,680.

Capital programme

The Area Committee capital budget is used to improve or create physical assets for local benefit with a value of at least £10,000 for a scheme led by SSDC or as a community grant of at least £250. There is currently £184,655 for future allocation to local priority schemes in the Area North Capital Programme.

Area Reserves

This is a one off fund held as a special reserve by the Area Committee. There is £16,600 to allocate for future years. In addition, £10,000 is allocated to support the progress (in exceptional circumstances) of schemes for affordable housing as part of the Area Committee's priorities. This includes provision to support the creation of a new Community Land Trust in the Seavingtons Parish.

Service Standards for 2016/17 (our core work)	
1.	<p>Community Grants</p> <p>SSDC is committed to supporting community development projects, for which we offer a range of grants. The standards that we expect to fulfil are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant application pack to be sent out within 48 hours of request • Acknowledgement letter to be sent out within 3 days of receipt of application form • Award letter and conditions to be sent out within 5 days of Scrutiny call in period •
2.	<p>Front Office</p> <p>The Council has staff available in the Area Community office providing advice and guidance on all Council services, in particular;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification and processing of housing benefit applications, including fast track applications • Planning applications and decision notices are available to view, as are minutes of Area Committee meetings • Reporting of local issues including waste enquiries
3.	<p>Community Development and Regeneration</p> <p>SSDC's Area Development Team aims to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer all community development and regeneration queries and questions received within the timescales set by corporate service standards • Offer advice and support to any community group in Area North wishing to produce a Parish Plan or Neighbourhood Plan • Encourage participation and give at least 6 weeks' notice of workshops, meetings or consultations which will always be held in accessible venues • Offer funding advice to local associations and voluntary groups and signpost to other possible funding providers • Coordinate and arrange meetings and workshops in response to demand from ANC, Parishes and community organisations which bring together key partners and community representatives to jointly tackle issues relating to the well-being of residents in the Area • Actively market the Area as a place to live and work • Keep our web pages up to date and relevant

Service Action Plan: Top level actions - more detail is within individual work programmes/project plans					
Priority Area	Action /Project description	Who	Resource	Milestone/ outcome	When
	Continue to build SSDC engagement with Town & Parish Councils, including guidance on community plans and local investment	All	Within existing resources	6 monthly meetings with clerks/chairs as required	Ongoing
	Monitor progress of Devon & Somerset Broadband Programme and promote local involvement in community and business engagement programmes https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/plans-get-underway-second-stage-superfast-broadband-roll/	PB	Within existing resources	More communities connected to superfast	Ongoing
	Support local community engagement with SSDC and partnerships between agencies to meet local needs (including community safety) and encourage innovation	ALL	Within existing resources	6 monthly meetings with key partners	Ongoing
1. Jobs and the economy	Support our 4 Local Information Centres (Somerton, Martock, Langport, South Petherton) with service level agreements	MO	4 x £500	Release all grant payments by Oct 2016	Ongoing
	Support the Levels and Moors Leader Executive Board to deliver the 2014-2020 Local Development Strategy.	PB	3 days	Quarterly meetings with LAG	Ongoing
	Implement Area North Marketing and signage programme	PB	Area North capital £20k	Increased footfall to a range of businesses & attractions	March 2017

Service Action Plan: Top level actions - more detail is within individual work programmes/project plans					
Priority Area	Action /Project description	Who	Resource	Milestone/ Outcome	When
1. Jobs and the economy	Support Westover Trading Estate businesses to improve local environment for trade and visitors	PB	2 days	Feedback from visitors/ businesses. Quarterly meetings to monitor progress.	Ongoing
	Business Resilience Support Programme	PB	£50K from BIS allocation for flood recovery	Visitor facing small businesses more resilient (regular review meetings)	March 2018
	Legacy for the levels – repair and promotion of the river parrett trail (RPT)	PB	£60k from BIS allocation for flood recovery	Profile of RPT improved. Jobs created or maintained	March 2018
	Support the development of ideas to promote rowing / boating on the Parrett at Langport	PB	5 days	Transfer ownership of Cockle Moor. Funding for infrastructure	2017
	Work with Martock Parish Council and M3 to support creation of a sustainable conservation and regeneration plan at the Parrett Works, Martock	PB	5 days	HLF start up grant to test viability and appraise market and potential economic impact	Ongoing

Service Action Plan: Top level actions - more detail is within individual work programmes/project plans					
Priority Area	Action /Project description	Who	Resource	Milestone/ Outcome	When
2. Affordable Housing	Support progress to secure completion of affordable housing scheme in Compton Dundon	SK	3 days	Work re commences on site.	2017
	Support the setting up of Seavington Community Land trust (SCLT)	MO	Area north reserves £10k & 2 days NDO time	SCLT formally constituted	December 2016
	Continue to offer support with local housing needs surveys as requested	ALL	Within existing resources	Respond to need	2017
3. Self Help and community facilities	Support community-led play days and youth work.	ALL	Community grants budget & existing resources	8 play days summer 2016	Ongoing
	Support the Kingsbury Episcopi Amenities Trust and Community Shop with the development of new community facilities at the recreation ground. http://www.kingsburycommunityshop.co.uk/	MO	£40k Area North capital grant	Phased payments of grant. Build complete Feb 2017	Feb 2017
	Support Kingsbury Episcopi church rooms management committee	MO	£4000 Area North capital grant	Work completed & grant released	October 2016
	Support delivery of Curry Rivel community facilities investment programme at Westfield and SSDC play areas.	SK	2 days	New equipment installed & landscaping completed	October 2016

Service Action Plan: Top level actions - more detail is within individual work programmes/project plans					
Priority Area	Action /Project description	Who	Resource	Milestone/ outcome	When
3. Self Help and community facilities	Support development of community facilities at Huish Leisure Centre	MO	Area North capital grant plus 2 days	Grant app to ANC by end 2016	Ongoing
	Support Robert Sewers Village Hall, Curry Rivel to carry out programme of improvements, including accessibility improvements	SK	2 x Area North capital grants totalling £12.5k plus 4 days	Hearing loop installed and toilets improved to create fully accessible toilet	March 2017
	Support Curry Rivel Parish Plan group to complete local consultation and research for a new parish plan and deliver actions	CSA SK	5 days 2 days	Report to ANC to endorse parish plan	By March 2017
	Support Stoke Sub Hamdon Recreation Trust to implement five year plan.	MO	5 days	6 monthly update meeting Oct 16.	Ongoing
	Support delivery of Ilton community facilities investment programme onto new land at Copse Lane.	CS	Support from legal team plus 10 days	Lease, S106 and deed of easement all finalised	December 2016
	Support Curry Mallet Parish Council and Village Hall to implement improved local play facilities	SK	2 days	New play equipment installed S106 spent	March 2017

Service Action Plan: Top level actions - more detail is within individual work programmes/project plans					
Priority Area	Action /Project description	Who	Resource	Milestone/ outcome	When
3. Self Help and community facilities	Support improvement and transfer of public open space (POS) at Bartletts Elm, Huish Episcopi	SK	3 days	POS successfully transferred	Ongoing
	Support Martock Parish Council to deliver actions identified in the Martock 'Our Place' programme	MO	7 days	SLA signed. Reviewed annually 2016-19	Ongoing
	Support The Seavingtons Playing Field Trust to make access improvements at Seavington Playing Field.	MO	£6k Area North capital grant plus 1 day	Final phase of grant payment released	March 2017
	Support Seavington shop and café to develop its business plan for long term sustainability.	MO	Delegated grant plus 3 days	Funding in place to appoint manager	Ongoing
	Support South Petherton Parish Council to refresh the Parish Plan / create Neighbourhood Plan	SK	2 days	Update to ANC by March 2017	Ongoing
	Support South Petherton Parish Council to deliver community facilities investment programme at Lightgate Lane to include master planning exercise	SK	£1000 community grant towards masterplan plus 4 days	Masterplan produced & first actions commenced	March 2017

Service Action Plan: Top level actions - more detail is within individual work programmes/project plans

Priority Area	Action /Project description	Who	Resource	Milestone/ Outcome	When
3. Self Help and community facilities	Support Chilthorne Domer Recreation Trust to make improvements to the Pavillion for community use	SK	2 x ANC capital grants (total £16k) plus 2 days	New play equipment installed. Car park extended.	March 2017
	Support the village hall committee with improvements to Montacute village hall	CS	£4800 Area North capital grant plus 1.5 days	Grant payment released and work completed	March 2017
	Support completion of feasibility and business plan for new sports changing rooms in Montacute	CS	2 days	Business plan produced and approved by National Trust	2017
	Support Tintinhull Parish Council to progress funding and design for new village hall	CS	£40k Area North capital grant plus 2 days	Work started on site. Build complete	2017
	Support High Ham Parish Council to complete the High Ham Youth Park	SK	£6k Area North capital grant	Final piece of equipment installed	October 2016
	Support Long Sutton Village Hall with their programme of improvements at the village hall, pavilion and playing field	SK	£1,750 community grant plus support from property services and 3 days NDO support	3 year business plan produced. Priority actions identified.	March 2017

Service Action Plan: Top level actions - more detail is within individual work programmes/project plans					
Priority Area	Action /Project description	Who	Resource	Milestone/ Outcome	When
3. Self Help and community facilities	Support Somerton Town Council to provide additional town centre parking	SK	Support from engineering and property services manager plus 3 days	License for mitigation granted by natural England. Work commenced on site.	December 2017
	Support Somerton Recreation Trust to continue master planning for changing and sports facilities	SK	£1000 community grant plus 5 days	Project fully scoped and approved by Trust. Masterplan complete	2017
	Support and coordination of ABP abattoir liaison group	CS	1.5 days	Quarterly meetings arranged and attended	Ongoing
	Support review of community facilities in Ash and ongoing actions that arise from the outcome of the recent survey.	CS	£308 community grant plus 1.5 days	Survey findings published and endorsed. Action plan produced	March 2017
4. Flood and water management	Support the delivery of local priority projects within Somerset 20 Year Flood Action Plan and Somerset Rivers Authority work programme	SK	Within existing resources	Action plan on target	Ongoing