

## **Area East Development Plan**

<i>Portfolio Holder:</i>	<i>Cllr Nick Weeks</i>
<i>Assistant Director:</i>	<i>Helen Rutter, Communities</i>
<i>Service Manager:</i>	<i>Tim Cook, Area East Team Lead</i>
<i>Lead Officer:</i>	<i>Tim Cook, Area East Team Lead</i>
<i>Contact Details:</i>	<i>tim.cook@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01963) 435088</i>

### **Purpose of the Report**

To approve the Area East Development Plan (ADP) for 2017/18.

### **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 2017/18.

### **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.

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 up to date S106 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.

The action plan (Appendix 2) will be reviewed and a progress report will be presented to members in November.

### **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 2017 to review progress and to discuss their local priorities.

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 full time Team Lead (Temp) & half-time PA/Projects Officer, 2 Neighbourhood Development Officers (1 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.

### **Corporate Priority Implications**

The priorities have been developed taking into account the overall focus of the current Council Plan see Appendix 1.

### **Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)**

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 (ED) workshop February 2017*

***'Tackling the Challenges': Council Plan on a Page 2016-21***

**Our Vision for South Somerset:** a place where businesses flourish, communities are safe, vibrant and healthy; where residents enjoy good housing and cultural, leisure and sporting activities.

**Our Aims:**

South Somerset District Council will be a confident, resilient and flexible organization, protecting and improving core services, delivering public priorities and acting in the best long-term interests of the district. We will:

- Protect core services to the public by reducing costs and seeking income generation.
- Increase the focus on Jobs and Economic Development.
- Protect and enhance the quality of our environment.
- Enable housing to meet all needs.
- Improve health and reduce health inequalities.

**Our Values:**

- Putting the customer and community first when developing plans and services
- Supporting people and communities, enabling them to help themselves.
- Being open, transparent and with greater accessibility to those that need to use Council services.
- Working with partners to improve services, efficiencies, resilience and influence.
- Embracing innovation and improved technology to improve customer service and access.
- Empowering a confident, flexible workforce.

**Our Focus – Making a Difference Where it Counts**

**High quality cost effective services**

In order to protect front line services we will:

- Transform customer services through technology.
- Actively manage assets and resources to ensure the best financial or community return.
- Seek business opportunities for the council.
- Work with partners to achieve economies, resilience and influence.

**Economy**

To promote a strong economy with thriving urban and rural businesses we will:

- Work with businesses and use our assets to grow our economy.
- Advise and support initiatives that ensure worker skills meet the employers needs.
- Lobby for and support infrastructure improvements to enable growth.
- Capitalise on our high quality culture, leisure and tourism opportunities to bring people to South Somerset.

**Environment**

To keep South Somerset clean, green and attractive we will:

- Increase recycling.
- Maintain Country Parks and open spaces to promote good mental and physical health.
- Keep streets and neighbourhoods clean and attractive.
- Continue to address the impact of flooding.
- Promote a high quality built environment in line with Local Plan
- Support communities to develop local, parish and neighbourhood plans.

**Homes**

To work with partners to enable the provision of housing that meets the future and existing needs of residents and employers we will:

- Minimise homelessness and rough sleeping.
- Work with the private rented sector to improve the standard and availability of rented accommodation.
- Tackle fuel poverty.
- Enable people to live independently for as long as they are able.

**Health and Communities**

To build healthy, self-reliant, active communities we will:

- Support communities so that they can identify their needs and develop local solutions.
- Target support to areas of need.
- Help people to live well by enabling quality cultural, leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities & activities.
- Work with partners to tackle health issues such as diabetes and hypertension.
- Help keep our communities safe.