

## **South Somerset Together (SST) Strategic Partnership**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

This is a follow up to the last annual report in April 2014. It provides an overview of the progress made on strategic priorities during 2014/15. It also clarifies the revised governance and funding arrangements.

### **Forward Plan**

This report has appeared on the Executive Forward Plan with a presentation date of April 2015.

### **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 along with business representatives. 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 2014/15
- (2) Endorse the revised partnership agreement and ensure that this is reviewed annually by the Executive.

### **Background**

An update was given to District Executive in December 2012 following introduction of the new Partnership model which became fully operational from 1 April 2012 and highlighted progress on a small number of strategic priorities set by the Partnership. The report confirmed the Partnership had reiterated its desire to retain an independent Chairperson and Co-ordinator and that a package of funding and other support had been put together to meet the core operating costs and give stability for the next 3 years. The Partnership Agreement had been revised and was endorsed by District Executive. An annual review was recommended. Progress was reported on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014 and further revisions to the Partnership Agreement were endorsed by District Executive

### **Activity during 2014/15**

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 and to further develop the Partnership

agreement to create a more freestanding Partnership. Please see the strategic priorities progress summary in Appendix A.

Three successful assemblies were held last year with over 150 attendees from local schools, businesses, organisations and communities. A skills assembly was held in April 2014 around what is needed now and in the future to meet South Somerset’s business needs and for a skilled workforce and address any gaps. In July the Partnership held its annual general meeting with a focus theme on new initiatives looking at effective ways for local partners to work together to reshape services for local communities. A housing assembly was then held in October to explore the challenges of how present and future generations are to be housed in South Somerset. Issues raised and suggested actions from these events are taken forward for consideration by the Strategy Group partners. An assembly is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015 on the theme of health & primary health care services.

A SST funders meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014 to review priorities & progress at the half-way point through the current Partnership Agreement. Yeovil College agreed to commit an additional £2,000 to the Partnership to match the contributions from Yarlinton Housing Group and Yeovil District Hospital. Further revisions to the Partnership Agreement were agreed. The Executive is asked to endorse the revised Partnership Agreement and review it annually if required. See Appendix B. The funders group are meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> March and will consider financial arrangements for the Partnership beyond March 2016.

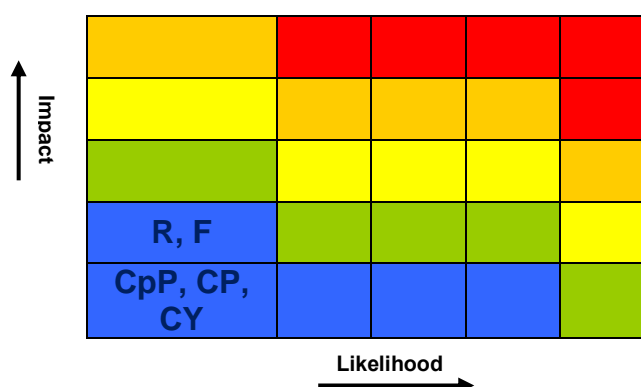
The role of Coordinator for the Partnership was recruited on secondment between October 2013 and August 2014 but is now in the role permanently.

## Financial Implications

There are no new financial implications arising from this report.

Core funding has been secured for the 3-year period (2013-2016) primarily from key public sector partners. Other partner organisations have committed to support the Partnership by providing “in kind” support including meeting accommodation, administrative help and refreshments.

## Risk Matrix



### 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

## **Corporate Priority 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.

## **Background Papers**

Strategic Priorities – Progress Summary 2014/15 (Appendix 1)  
South Somerset Together Partnership Agreement (Appendix 2)