

Area East Development Service Plan

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Purpose of the Report

To approve the Area East Development Service Plan for 2015/16

Public Interest

The plan sets out the work being planned & undertaken locally by the Council to invest in communities across the Area, based on needs analysis, Councillor and community concerns and priorities

Recommendation

To approve the Area East Development Service Plan 2015/16.

Background

The Area East Committee revises local priorities on an annual basis within the framework of the overall Council Plan. Through the Area East Development Service Plan 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 Service Plan is monitored monthly by staff and reported to Committee at 6 months and then at year end.

The Council Plan was updated and published 2012. A summary of the main aspects in this Plan that the Area Development Team will deliver, or assist with delivering, is shown in Appendix 1.

Each Councillor has been issued with their Ward Profile setting out key facts and contact details for their ward, along with a profile from 2011 Census. They have also identified particular problems and issues affecting their ward. The Area East Development Service Plan captures the main projects and programmes that the Development Team will work on over the year. This is in addition to the normal, day-to-day responsive capability to work with Councillors to address problems and issues that arise through the year it is implemented. It is important to set realistic expectations given the reduced capacity available since the implementation of the Lean Review.

Area East Priorities

The draft Plan is attached 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

In addition the AEC and service team are continuously looking at ways to maintain effective links with parishes and community groups, improve the cost effectiveness of the team and increase income to offset costs.

Members met in a special workshop in July 2015 to review the last year and to discuss priorities. The priorities firmed up in discussion have been used to revamp the work plan. This includes some new priority work added designed to address workspace and job creation and also to do strategic mapping of community facilities to enable facilities to be improved that serve the area as a whole, especially those towns and villages most remote from Yeovil.

Financial Implications

The Area Development team consists of 3 Officers (2 FTE) and a small Community Support team (1.7 FTE) who provide a front office service in Wincanton along with administrative and project support.

There are no new implications arising directly from this report at the present time. Financial implications of each project are indicated in the Area East Development Service Plan and each is brought to Committee for full consideration when ready if authority to spend budgets is being sought.

Corporate Priority Implications

The priorities have been developed taking into account the current Council Plan see Appendix 1. Please note that the Council Plan will be revamped this autumn to reflect priorities for the next 4 years

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 Service Plan and notes of Members' priority workshop July 2015.*

Appendix 1

SSDC Council Plan 2012 to 2015

<http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/media/408146/ssdccouncilplan2012-2015.pdf>

Extract of actions that relate the work of Area Development and the role of the Area Committee. NB: Most actions require partnerships within the various council services, between the council and other agencies and with the wider community.

Focus One – Jobs	“We want a strong economy which has low unemployment and thriving businesses”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivate and support business associations and act as a point of contact for businesses and partners. Improve communications with businesses so that we are supporting them in meeting their needs and not acting as a barrier. • Provide targeted support for start-ups and small businesses and those with the aspiration to expand. • Secure land with planning permission for employment use in areas where it is needed. • Enhance the vitality of town centres and discourage large scale out of town retail development that has a negative impact on local centres • Facilitate a realistic development programme for new employment sites that have been identified in market towns by 2015. • Support early delivery of Super Fast Broadband to rural areas by 2015 • Work with partners, to contribute to tackling youth unemployment. 	
Focus Two – Environment	“We want an attractive environment to live in with increased recycling and lower energy use”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to deliver schemes with local communities that enhance the appearance of their local areas. • Deliver campaigns and projects that help householders and businesses (including the Council) to cut energy use and adapt to climate change 	
Focus Three – Homes	“We want decent housing for our residents that matches their income”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With partners, enable additional new homes to meet the needs of the district, including mixed housing schemes to buy or rent that are affordable • Work with partners to combat fuel poverty 	
Focus Four – Health and Communities	“We want communities that are healthy, self-reliant, and have individuals who are willing to help each other”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance the South Somerset network of leisure and cultural facilities, optimising opportunities for external funding to promote healthy living. • Continue to provide Welfare Benefits support and advice to tackle poverty for our vulnerable residents. • Ensure, with partners, that we respond effectively to community safety concerns raised by local people and that the strategic priorities for policing and crime reduction in South Somerset reflect local needs. • Work with and lobby partners to help communities to develop transport schemes and local solutions to reduce rural isolation and inequalities to meet existing needs of those communities. • Evaluate the overall requirements of the Government’s ‘Localism’ legislation and work with communities to develop plans for their community. 	