

STRATEGIC PORTFOLIO STATEMENT 2008/09

Portfolio Title	:	AREA NORTH
Portfolio Holder	:	Councillor Patrick Palmer
Lead On	:	Area Vision - Area Working - North Town & Parish Council Liaison
Main Achievements in 2007/08	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Area Committee, and ward members supported over 60 community led projects, many arising from Parish and Town Community Plans, addressing local priorities – over £77,000 awarded to new projects with a total value of up to £455,000. In addition 3 new Parish Plans were published by local communities. 2. Area North co-ordinated SSDC involvement in the Somerset Waterlinks programme – moving forward a number of key projects to support community-led regeneration by making more of water. 3. Area North supported the final year of the Leader+ (European) investment programme for the Somerset Levels and Moors (A total of £2.6 m over 6 years across the Levels and Moors) and maintained close involvement with other programmes and initiatives promoting a sustainable future for this special landscape. 4. The Great Bow Wharf development was officially opened in November 2007, including 12 ‘eco-homes’, 7 business units, a meeting space, outdoor area and café. SSDC supported this project throughout including a grant of £240,000 to the overall investment of around £1m. The Eco-homes received a Gold Award from Centre for Built Environment. 5. Area North provided resources to complete an investment programme of over £320,000 into the Martock Market House and Community Office; and supported the refurbishment of Martock Youth Centre. 6. 39 volunteer-led holiday play sessions for children and families supported, and a multi-agency group formed to improve co-ordination of work to support and involve young people in and around Area North. 7. Area North promoted greater independence for the Langport & Somerton Community Transport scheme (LINKS), helping to establish a local steering group, and business plan. During 2007-08, 7,300 passengers travelled over 50,000 miles, benefiting from this accessible and responsive service.

- Priorities for 2008/09** :
1. Promote and support community engagement with the Area North Committee and emerging Forum, and work closely with Somerset County Council, partners, local councillors, businesses and volunteers, to tailor and enhance local services to identify and address local needs.
 2. Promote and support the production and delivery of parish and town plans, to identify needs and aspirations, agree priorities, and encourage local collaboration and involvement.
 3. Promote and support community involvement in the new Local Development Framework – Core Strategy.
 4. Work with local communities and partners to improve community safety, reducing crime and fear of crime, through the Area North Community Safety Action Panel and Local Action Groups.
 5. Actively participate in the programme evaluation of Leader+, and development of the new Local Action for Rural Communities programme for the Somerset Levels and Moors.
 6. Work with partners and local communities to progress projects developed under the Waterlinks programme, to gain the most benefit from the investment to date.
 7. Promote the long-term vitality of village shops and post offices, and other essential rural services.
- Critical Success Factors** :
1. Customer satisfaction with Area North programme for service enhancements.
 2. Meet targets and milestones set out in the Area Development Plan and Community Safety Action Plan to address local priorities and issues.
 3. At least 40 community-led projects supported through community grants or other assistance by March 2009.
 4. Local indicators for satisfaction with local services, community issues, and influence on decision making.
 5. Parish and town plans published (new) or reviewed and updated (existing).
 6. Evaluations of projects supported and investment programmes show positive outcomes for community, economy and environment.
- Main Senior Contact(s)** : Corporate Director (Economic Vitality)