

10. Area Development Plan 2008/09 (Executive Decision)

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Patrick Palmer, Chairman of Area North Committee
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Purpose of the Report

To seek adoption of the Area North Development Plan for the coming year 2008/09.

Recommendation

Members are **RECOMMENDED** to

1. Approve the Area North Development Plan for 2008-09, including the 10 Area Priorities listed in this report.
2. Approve the allocation of £10,000 towards an enhancement of environmental services and £10,000 towards enhancing services to support community safety, in Area North, from the Area North Service Enhancement budget 2008-09

Background

The Area Development Plan is adopted annually by the Area North Committee to provide:

- A clear and accountable annual work programme for the Area Committee, supported by the Area Development Service, working closely with all other Council Services, and partners, which is based on robust evidence of local need and aspiration
- A framework to support the delivery of local community plans, the SSSC Corporate Plan and the South Somerset Sustainable Community Strategy

The 2008-09 Area Development Plan

The Area Development Plan was compiled through:

- An audit of current published local community plans (eg Parish Plans)
- Analysis of statistics and published research, with relevance to Area North
- Analysis of the SSSC Corporate Plan, draft Somerset Local Area Agreement and the emerging Sustainable Community Strategy for South Somerset.
- Feedback from recent consultation events and meetings with residents, businesses, volunteers and partners

The Area Development Plan for 2008-09 is attached at Appendix A for approval, however Councillors should note this is a working document, and new targets can be added, and programmes of work adjusted should circumstances warrant it, approved by the Area Committee.

Structure of the Plan

Area Priorities

The following priorities are proposed, developed from local evidence of need and consultation, it is recommended that these are adopted as the Area North priorities for 2008-09 and can be used to assist in assessment of grants and managing service work programmes.

- Support the provision of **affordable housing** schemes using rural exception policies
- Promote and enhance community or subsidised rural **transport** services
- Promote and enhance activities and informal facilities for **children and young people**
- Promote and enhance activities and services for **older people**
- Support the development and enhancement of community managed **facilities, activities or services**
- Promote **access to public / voluntary services**, including access to business support
- Support the retention and enhancement of **key local services and businesses**
- Promote access to and interpretation of the **countryside, including local waterways**, for residents and visitors
- Promote and influence increased **local environmental quality** through education and voluntary action and through improved or enhanced services
- Promote and increase levels of **community safety and cohesion**, reducing crime and the fear of crime through targeted action on local priorities

Resources to support delivery of the Area Development Plan

The Area Development Plan provides the Committee with a clear framework for targeting the resources it controls, and for the influence of others – ***making a difference where it counts!***

Some projects and areas of work are already funded through officer time, delegated budgets or grants to external groups, with clear outputs set. Others may benefit from future allocations from within the Area Capital Programme, service enhancement budget Area Reserve, Community Grants or Service budgets.

Several areas of the plan are achievable by targeting existing resources of officer time and funding budgets, since their success depends on reviewing current policy and practice, or developing partnerships and networks.

Monitoring the progress of the Area Development Plan

The plan acts as a working document with regular monitoring of targets and milestones by the Head of Area Development, in conjunction with ward members, SSDC services and key partners.

It is proposed to continue the current practice that a monitoring report will be presented quarterly (July, October 2008, January 2009) to the Area Committee.

Reports from key partnerships, agencies and Service teams which contribute to service delivery within Area North are included within the Forward Plan.

Further monitoring of the impact of programmes, projects or of specific services can be put in place by agreement with Members.

Implications to Corporate Priorities

The Area Development Plan contributes to all corporate aims, and in particular the following objectives and critical activities:

- 1 Increase to 75% by 2012 the residents who feel the council gives good value for money
- 2 Maintain above 75% the people satisfied with the way the council runs the district
- 8 Work in partnership with the public and private sector in developing and delivery of the Market Towns Vision
- 9 Identify and address the particular issues affecting rural areas
- 11 Work in partnership with others to improve the health prospects for all
- 14 Maintain above 90% the people who generally feel safe in their communities
- 15 Increase to 65% by 2010 the people who feel engaged in and can influence decisions that affect their communities
- 16 Maintain above 80% the people satisfied with their neighbourhoods as a place to live
- 18 80% of residents and businesses satisfied with the quality of the local, natural and built environment by 2012

Financial implications

Additional resources allocations to the support the delivery of the Area Development Plan would be subject to separate approval, from the Area North Service Enhancement budget, the Capital Programme or Community Grants.

Background Papers: None