

Area North Committee – 17th December 2008

9. Somerset Levels & Moors Local Action for Rural Communities (LARC) – appointments to the Local Action Group and Executive Group (Executive decision)

Head of Service: Ian Clarke, Head of Legal & Democratic Services
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Purpose of the Report

Further to the appointment of Members to various working groups in May 2008, the Somerset Levels & Moors Local Action for Rural Communities (LARC) programme is seeking confirmation of a representative for South Somerset District Council onto the Local Action Group and to the Executive Group.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- (1) Appoint one Member to serve on the Somerset Levels & Moors Local Action Group and Executive Group for the remainder of the municipal year 2008/09.
- (2) Confirm the lead officer to support the programme, on behalf of SSDC as the Head of Area Development (North),
- (3) Note that arrangements to ensure the involvement of the Area East members and parishes will be established by the lead officer, in consultation with the appointed member and the Chairman of Area East Committee, which may include the appointment by Area East Committee of an additional representative to act as a substitute representative as required.
- (4) Note that under the agreed SSDC approach to partnerships, a partnership assessment will be completed, by the lead officer, which includes ensuring that arrangements for reporting of progress and outcomes are in place.
- (5) Request that the Committee Administrator confirms these appointments, together with any relevant matters the Committee wish to raise with the accountable body, Somerset County Council.

Background

The Somerset Levels & Moors Local Action for Rural Communities (LARC) (formerly Leader +) received confirmation of £1.8 million funding for the period to December 2013. A report on the programme is included at Item 8 on this agenda.

Members may wish to note that Councillor Paull Robathan is the current member representing the Somerset Levels and Moors Leader + programme, which will cease in December 2008. In establishing the new LARC programme Somerset County Council put in place a range of transitional arrangements, which included the involvement of members and officers appointed to the Leader + programme.

Somerset Levels and Moors Local Action Group

The function of the Local Action Group (LAG) is to determine strategy following the agreed objectives, and against an agreed development plan with the funding body, the South-West Regional Development Agency.

Executive Group

Under the draft Terms of Reference for the programme, the Local Action Group will delegate detailed decision-making to an Executive Group in order to facilitate delivery against the strategy. Those decisions will include the determination of applications for funding. Any approval agreed by the Executive Group will be reported to the next Local Action Group meeting.

Representation

As a partner local authority, South Somerset District Council has been invited to appoint a voting representative to both the Local Action Group and the Executive Group.

While only one representative can vote, a partner can agree a named substitute; and both may attend.

Financial Implications

None.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

None.

Background Papers: *Minute 14, Area North Committee 28th May 2008*
Draft terms of reference for the Local Action Group and Executive Group
