

Joint Area North Committee – 28th January 2009

11. Joint Area North Forward Plan

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Purpose of the Report

This report informs Members of the proposed Joint Area North Forward Plan.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:-

1. Comment upon and note the proposed Joint Area North Forward Plan as attached at Appendix A.
2. Identify priorities for further reports to be added to the Joint Area North Forward Plan, jointly developed by the SSDC / SCC lead officers

Joint Area North Committee Forward Plan

The forward plan sets out items and issues to be discussed over the coming few months. It is proposed by the joint lead officers from SSDC and SCC, in close consultation with the JAC Chairman. As the JAC is only in its first month, the attached forward plan (Appendix A) is largely drawn from the previous forward plan of the SSDC Area North Committee.

The forward plan is reviewed and updated each month, and included with the Joint Area Committee agenda, where members of the JAC may endorse or request amendments.

The agenda topics will be various and include:

- Items to allow members of the JAC to monitor performance (*for example, expenditure of budgets under its control; progress of projects it has promoted or supported*)
- Reports seeking a decision from the JAC (*for example: a grant towards a local community project, or additional funding for a service to meet a specific local need*)
- Reports on the local impact of services to allow discussion and comment based on local knowledge and experience (*for example, programmes of work for local environmental services or increasing the supply of affordable housing*)
- Reports to promote debate or raise awareness of local issues and policies, (*for example, activities to promote and support small business growth; strategies for carbon reduction*)
- Agenda items may also include a presentation and question session from a local organisation or a public body providing services. The public nature of the meeting can help promote awareness of important local issues or new opportunities or

changes. (For example, corporate re-structuring of services for children and young people; or a new government funding programme for reducing fuel poverty)

Members of public, councillors, service managers, and partners may request an item is placed within the forward plan for a future meeting, by contacting the agenda co-ordinator.

Each meeting also needs to allow time to determine that months planning applications, a small number of routine business items, and an allotted time for public participation or representations from town and parish councils. Around 1.5 hours is available for the larger agenda items, so around 18 hours altogether during the course of the year!

So to make the best use of the JAC the focus for topics will be on issues where local involvement and influence may be beneficial, and where local priorities and issues raised by the community are linked to SSDC and SCC corporate aims and objectives.

The table below provides a summary of SSDC and SCC corporate aims.

Somerset County Council	South Somerset District Council
Making a positive contribution	Increase economic vitality and prosperity
Living sustainably	Enhance the environment, address and adapt to climate change
Ensuring economic well-being	Improve the housing, health and well-being of our citizens
Enjoying and achieving	Ensure, safe, sustainable and cohesive communities
Staying safe	Deliver well-managed, cost effective services valued by our customers
Being healthy	
Enhancing the effectiveness of Somerset County Council	

Both organisations are also partners to the Somerset Local Area Agreement (which is an agreement made with the Government affecting how resources are allocated across Somerset) and the South Somerset Sustainable Community Strategy, which sets out a 20-year vision and plan for a sustainable community for all. Both of these important documents will act as reference points for the business of the JAC, where local debate and participation will add value and aid delivery.

Schedule of Future Meetings

All meetings commence at 2.00pm. Determination of planning applications generally start at 4.00pm, but each agenda will confirm the earliest start time for these items.

Date	Venue (<i>Venues in italics are yet to be confirmed</i>)
25 th February 2009	The Village Hall, Long Sutton TA10 0QH
25 th March 2009	The Village Hall, Norton sub Hamdon TA14 6SF
22 nd April 2009	The Community Hall, 8 Cary Court, Somerton TA11 6SB
27 th May 2009	<i>The Meadway Hall, Compton Dundon TA11 6PQ</i>
24 th June 2009	<i>No meeting scheduled</i>
22 nd July 2009	<i>The Millennium Hall, Seavington TA19 0QH</i>
26 th August 2009	<i>The Village Hall, Chilthorne Domer BA22 8RD</i>
23 rd September 2009	<i>The Village Hall, Norton sub Hamdon TA14 6SF</i>
28 th October 2009	<i>The Village Hall, Ilton TA19 9HG</i>

25 th November 2009	<i>The Millennium Hall, Seavington TA19 0QH</i>
16 th December 2009	<i>The Village Hall, Long Sutton TA10 0QH</i>

Background Papers: *None*
