

Joint Area North Committee – 25th February 2009

12. Area Development Plan Quarterly Monitoring

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

To provide Members with the third quarter's monitoring report of the Area North Development Plan for 2008-09. The Head of Area Development (North) will also make a short presentation on recent achievements.

Recommendation(s)

Members are recommended to:

1. Note and comment on the report, including the updates on progress towards addressing local priorities contained in Appendix A.
2. Note the addition of four major projects (items 26 – 29) currently being supported by SSDC, to support monitoring by the Joint Area Committee.
3. Consider and recommend any items to be included in the Area North Committee Forward Plan, arising from this report.
4. Consider whether the planned roundabout at Langport (Field Road junction) requires an in principle allocation within the Area North Capital Programme, and if agreed, then to request this is included in the revised capital programme for 2009/10.

Background

The Area North Development Plan (ADP) seeks to identify key issues and needs within the parishes of Area North over which the Council can have a significant role in addressing or influencing future service provision. It is adopted by the Area Committee, forming its work programme, on an annual basis and monitored quarterly.

The objectives of the Area Development Plan form the basis of the Area North Portfolio statement agreed annually by South Somerset District Council.

From time to time, as work progresses, additional targets are set and added, however once approved at the start of the year, no targets are removed.

Achievements against targets are reported annually to Full Council within the Area North Portfolio statement.

The Area Committee considers an update report every three months. This provides a brief update on the progress towards each target set for the year. Where it appears the target will not be met, an explanation will be provided, with planned actions to meet or modify the target.

The third quarterly monitoring report for 2008-09 (November- January) is included in Appendix A. This has been timed to coincide with the Area North quarterly revenue budget, capital programme and grants programmes reports.

1. Monitoring report

The current quarters monitoring report is included in Appendix A. Where a more detailed report has been provided to the Area Committee this is indicated. Access to these reports is available on-line or from the Area Development team.

The planned targets and milestones are included together with an update comment and an assessment of the risk. This is based on whether the target is likely to be met, and the impact on addressing local priorities that missing the target may have. The colour coding is explained below.

Red = behind schedule; risk that this target will not be achieved without action and / or additional capacity. Relative high impact if this target is not achieved.

Amber = progressing, but without careful monitoring / additional capacity this target may not be achieved. Medium to low impact if not fully achieved.

Green = this work is progressing well, and the targets are expected to be met.

It is important to note that an assessment of RED or AMBER, does not necessarily indicate insurmountable problems, but helps to prioritise additional attention to ensuring successful completion of the targets.

An assessment of RED or AMBER can also assist the Area Committee to allocate additional funding or request additional support from partners.

Further comments on schemes within the capital programme are included within the Area North quarterly budget monitoring report.

Priority areas identified for the last quarter. (November – January)

The report in October 2008 identified the following priority areas, with an update on progress shown.

- Establishment of the new **Joint Area Committee** with Somerset County Council (phase 1 from January 2009) **UPDATE:** Achieved - the first JAC for Area North held in January. Forward plans revised for four new JACs
- Completion and initial evaluation of the **Service Enhancement Programme** and **Area North Forum**. **UPDATE:** Partially achieved, Environmental Services – programme from streetscene to be completed by March 09; Community Safety (£10,000) partially completed; Younger & Older Peoples programmes (2007-08) (£20,000) completed; £20,000 remains.
- In addition to routine monitoring and support to **community enquiries** and progression of **Area North projects** within the capital programme, additional support to the following projects, which are led by other service teams, or partners or have arisen unexpectedly:
 - **Bartletts Elm /Field Road** – Junction improvement (roundabout). **UPDATE:** Several meetings held with all interested parties; project briefing note to be circulated;
 - **Great Bow Wharf** – support to governance and business plan **UPDATE:** Revised agreement issued to Trust; support for facilitated workshop and joint meetings of LADT, Ecos and local residents. Support to start up activities and marketing provided.

- **Site refurbishment** projects for gypsies and travellers at Chubbards Cross nr Ilton and Tintinhull. **UPDATE:** Additional capacity provided from Area Development team, to the project team. Briefing and project reports to be supplied.
- Continue to focus on the following priorities:
 - **Affordable housing** programme in conjunction with Planning Team Leader **UPDATE:** see update report within this agenda
 - Work to build better partnerships and enhance **access to services** at a local level particularly for older and younger people **UPDATE:** Work with SCC and voluntary sectors partners continues, support for local community led-youth work, including revitalising local youth centres.
 - Supporting new **neighbourhood policing** arrangements **UPDATE:** New sergeant in post. Update from Area North Community Safety Action Panel due to JAC; successful workshop held in November funded by SSDC.
 - Investment in the **Levels and Moors** – launch of new programme **UPDATE:** programme launched, and executive group formed. Small grants programme under development. Other partnerships supported by Area Development include World Heritage Site working group; Sustainable Tourism group; Somerset Water Management Partnership; waterways development groups.
 - Somerset wide review of support to post offices and shops. **UPDATE:** Continued support to produce strategy and action plan for enhanced support to **rural retail and post offices**; involvement with Post Office Limited to develop protocols for future work
 - Establishing **local evidence of need** to support **land-use and spatial planning** **UPDATE:** current focus on Langport community facilities audit to develop longer term plans, including basis for developer contributions; monitoring of major applications in association with Head of Development and Building Control.

Priorities for the final period of 2008-09.

- The above priority areas are expected to continue to place demands on the SSDC Services and the Joint Area Committee, to initiate action, support partnerships, progress projects or to assess and review existing resources and service levels.
- In addition:
 - Increased support and involvement in process to identify and address **accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers**, through the provision of sites and pitches
 - Monitoring progress of new tenders for **demand responsive transport** covering Area North
 - Year end **budget reviews**, final **evaluations** of Service Enhancement Programmes, grants and community development services;

- **Planning for 2009-10** - Revised Portfolio Statement, Area Development Plan and Capital Programme.
- Host the **Annual Meeting with Town and Parish Councils** on behalf of SSDC and SCC.
- Review and develop **community offices / local access to services** in Somerton, Langport and Martock (Report due March 09)

Financial Implications

None from this report - see Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report for further details on the resources to support the Area Development Plan.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

The Area North Development Plan supports all main aims of the corporate plan.

Other Implications

The successful delivery of the Area Development Plan will in turn support the delivery of the Somerset Local Area Agreement, South Somerset Sustainable Community Strategy and Market Towns Vision, local community plans in Somerton, Langport and Huish Episcopi, Martock, South Petherton, and local priorities in the surrounding villages.

Other key strategies include Supporting People, Every Child Matters, tourism and economic development strategies, housing, health and well-being strategies, and access to services.

Background Papers: *Area Development Plan – ANC April 2008*
 1st quarterly update August 2008
 2nd quarter update October 2008
