

Appendix A – Progress and planned next steps – Area North priorities – Feb 2010 (Please refer to the end of the table for an explanation of abbreviations)

	Priority	Current Position – Feb 2010	Planned next steps – June 10
1.	<p>Increase the provision of affordable homes, with a particular focus on use of the rural exception planning policy, and the Somerset Rural Housing Enabler programme.</p> <p>Further details in ANC January 2010 – Area North Rural Affordable Housing Programme.</p>	<p>In October 2008, Area North promoted a review of arrangements to support the progress of Affordable Housing in Area North, in particular to investigate concerns expressed by local ward members and parishes, to find ways of increasing the delivery of small scale schemes designed for local people in need of affordable housing.</p> <p>The review was led by the Area Development Manager, working with the Development Manager, Corporate Housing Strategy Manager, Rural Housing Enabler, and Registered Social Landlords. District wide programme management arrangements are now in place to provide a high level of targeting monitoring of all current small schemes.</p> <p>In summary four local surveys of housing need, and detailed scheme reviews, have been completed. In each case a simple action plan is in place, which is continuously monitored by the Area Development Manager.</p>	<p>The four area rural housing programmes to be brought together through the district wide group to better share experiences and address poor delivery (where it occurs).</p> <p>Progress with continued urgency, the agreed actions for each local scheme as shown in the Area North Rural Housing Programme, supporting RHE, Housing & Planning teams as required.</p> <p>Monitor changing nature of public investment, including the Single Investment Programme for Somerset.</p> <p><i>Area North contact: Charlotte Jones</i></p>
2.	<p>Increase the availability of community and public local transport services, in particular to promote access to services and to reduce isolation</p>	<p>The LINKS Community Transport project received a grant from Area North under the Service level Agreement. The project manager has successfully relocated into the new Langport Information Centre.</p> <p>LSP funded research project on community transport, recommended the development of Community Car schemes across South Somerset.</p>	<p>Continue to monitor the performance of the LINKS service against the SLA with SSDC..</p> <p>Support further development of Community Cars project with SCC and SSVCA</p> <p>Promote availability of local transport information as part of enhanced access to services work.</p> <p><i>Area North contact: Teresa Oulds</i></p>

	Priority	Current Position – Feb 2010	Planned next steps – June 10
3.	Increase the number, accessibility and quality of community facilities, activities or services , in particular for children and young people, and older people	<p>See attached list in Appendix B.</p> <p>See also the Appendix in the associated Finance report in this agenda - for the Area Capital Programme – Youth and Play facilities programme.</p> <p>Around 30 new or improved facilities, activities or services have been supported during 2009-10 through financial support and / or development time. Not all are completed, and will carry on into the next year. (See Appendix B for further details)</p>	<p>Support completion of outstanding projects and continue to provide high quality enquiries and development service for new projects.</p> <p>Establish a working group combining SSDC, SCC, SRYP and community representatives to evaluate the provision for young peoples activities and access to services in Area North.</p> <p><i>Area North contact: Les Collett</i></p>
4.	Increase access to public and community services , including the development of local public access points and access to Internet technology.	<p>New community managed Information Centres / Community Offices opened in Martock and South Petherton during 2009. South Petherton innovated shared space with Neighbourhood Policing team to create a Police Post.</p> <p>Langport Information Centre, including the LINKS community transport service was supported throughout 2009 to revitalise its business plan, management arrangements and to increase the involvement of volunteers. The office has successfully relocated into new premises, which are more affordable, and the service is now hosted by Langport Town Council.</p> <p>Lease arrangements between SSDC and the Parish Rooms, Somerton have been reviewed.</p>	<p>Local access to services across the area will be promoted through the programme for housing and welfare benefits.</p> <p><i>Area North contact Teresa Oulds</i></p> <p>Complete evaluation of pilot programme to provide Customer Advisor support in Martock - <i>Area North contact: Madelaine King-Oakley</i></p> <p>Complete revised lease arrangements at Parish Rooms, Somerton, <i>Area North contact: Charlotte Jones</i></p>

	Priority theme	Completed to date	Planned next steps
5.	Increase levels of local action and involvement in decision-making, which seeks to improve self-containment and sustainability	<p>Main focus has been on the development of the South Somerset Core Strategy. Parish workshops held which identified priorities for local growth & development.</p> <p>Transition Town groups have formed in Somerton, Langport and South Petherton to promote low carbon economy and sustainable communities.</p> <p>Long Sutton Parish Plan endorsed by Area North – Sept 09</p> <p>Preliminary work to consider updates / refresh of community plans in Somerton, Langport & Huish Episcopi, South Petherton, Martock.</p>	<p>Consultation programme with draft Core Strategy, and SSDC consultation and engagement, plus Area Forum arrangements to refresh Area Priorities for 2010. <i>Area North contact – Charlotte Jones</i></p> <p>Refresh of locally led community plans in Martock, Somerton, South Petherton and Langport likely during 2010. <i>Area North Contact – Charlotte Jones</i></p> <p>Invite Transition groups to meet each other and identify common issues / projects, consider funding bids for key projects. <i>Area North contact – Charlotte Jones</i></p> <p>Audit of local food programmes and available support to parishes for community food / development of allotments. <i>Area North contact– Charlotte Jones</i></p>
6.	Retain and enhance key local services and businesses for residents, visitors, and employers, together with the necessary infrastructure to ensure their contribution to a vibrant economy, and local quality of life.	<p>Area North small business grant scheme evaluated – report to follow later this year. MTIG programme grants completed in four member towns / villages.</p> <p>See Appendix B for completed and current projects. See also the associated report – Finance and Capital Programme.</p> <p>Great Bow Wharf providing business units, café and community meeting space. Business Link surgeries hosted. Review of governance of overall company underway.</p> <p><i>Area North contact– Charlotte Jones</i></p>	<p>Continue to progress priority projects, based on local community plans, through the Area Capital Programme, Market Towns Investment Group and identify external sources of funding. <i>Area North contact: Pauline Burr</i></p> <p>Support implementation of Visitor Audits action plans for Somerton, South Petherton, Martock and Langport / Huish. <i>Area North contact – Pauline Burr</i></p> <p>Support the Warehouse Trust – Great Bow Yard – to complete review of corporate governance.</p>

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7.	Increase opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages to access and enjoy the built and natural heritage of Area North	<p>Langport Navigation Project / Upper Parrett Waterway Plan – first report agreed by Langport River Group and wide consultation completed.</p> <p>Visitor audits complete in Somerton, Martock, South Petherton, Langport through South Somerset Market Towns Investment Group.</p> <p>Programme of access improvements funded by Area North, completed by the Countryside Service.</p> <p>Levels and Moors LARC regeneration programme (Rural Development Programme for England) launched.</p>	<p>Langport Navigation Project - develop next stage plan in conjunction with EA</p> <p>Conservation plan for Parrett Works – seek funding.</p> <p>Levels & Moors sustainable tourism working group established (LARC)</p> <p><i>Area North contact Charlotte Jones</i></p>
8.	Increase levels of community safety and cohesion , reducing crime and the fear of crime, and anti-social behaviour through partnership work to target local priorities	<p>Restorative Justice Panel established for Area North.</p> <p>Projects supported through the Area North Community Action Panel and Local Action Groups – report available.</p> <p>See report to ANC – January 2010 for recent crime reports.</p> <p>Report to Joint Committee – Emergency Planning – May 09</p>	<p>Continue to support local priorities affecting community safety through the Community Safety Action Panels and Local Action Groups.</p> <p>Implement use of new ASB monitoring database</p> <p><i>Area North contact – Les Collett</i></p>
9.	Increase local environmental quality through enforcement, education, voluntary action and joined up services.	<p>Environmental enforcement workshop held October 2009.</p> <p>Streetscene service enhancement - £10,000 for 2009-10. Local priorities agreed with parishes / ward members.</p> <p>Turn Hill Lengthsman feasibility completed.</p>	<p>Complete Streetscene services programme</p> <p>Progress key enforcement priorities in Area North</p> <p><i>Area North contact – Charlotte Jones</i></p>

Key: RHE – Rural Housing Enabler (hosted by Community Council for Somerset); **SLA** = Service Level Agreement (the agreed terms of an agreement covering more than one year between SSDC and the applicant / provider); **ASB** = anti-social behaviour; **LARC** – Local Action for Rural Communities