

8. Community Priorities for SSDC Services and investment in Area North

Strategic Director: Rina Singh, Place and Performance
Assistant Director: Martin Woods, Communities
Service Manager: Charlotte Jones, Area Development Manager (North)
Lead Officer: Charlotte Jones, Area Development Manager (North)
Contact Details: charlotte.jones@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01458) 257401

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity for discussion and endorsement of priorities in Area North for the provision of SSDC services during 2010-11, while looking ahead to 2011-12 as part of the annual budget setting / service planning process, which commences in July 2010.

Public Interest

Each year the Area Committee is asked to endorse a set of area priorities to support the allocation of resources under its control and to assist services to tailor delivery around specific local needs. In addition the use of area priorities forms the basis of the Area Committee's forward plan for assessing the impact of services provided in Area North.

Recommendations

- (1) Discuss, amend and endorse the suggested service priorities for Area North for 2010-11, as set out in the report.
- (2) Note that further clarification of arrangements for the 2010-11 service enhancement programme is due from the Assistant Director (Communities).

Background

South Somerset District Council has responded to the challenge of serving a large dispersed population by developing a devolved structure of four Area Committees, putting decision-making at the heart of the community. This ensures that the council is accountable and accessible to the communities it serves and helps create stronger communities, local leadership and community engagement. (*SSDC Corporate Plan 2009-12*)

Each year the Area Committee is asked to identify priorities to support the allocation of resources under its control and to assist services to tailor delivery around specific local needs. In addition the area priorities form the basis of the Area Committee's forward plan for assessing the impact of services.

The area priorities are then summarised into the Area Portfolio Holder statement – agreed by Full Council in July each year.

Whilst the focus of this report is to assist in the delivery of SSDC services it is to be expected that successful delivery is highly likely to be in partnership with others – from other statutory public services, parish councils, voluntary groups and private enterprise. Some issues fall under the specific remit of other bodies, where SSDC may contribute through time or finance.

Introduction

The content of this report provides a brief overview of recent evidence from consultation, together with some supporting information as a basis for discussion.

- **Appendix A** – Suggested priority areas for SSDC services – 2010-11
- **Appendix B** – Main current community based support & investment to address local community priorities in Area North - 2010-11
- **Appendix C** - results of priority exercise at recent Area North forum and current parish priorities identified by the Neighbourhood Policing team.
- (source:
- <http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/LocalPages/SectorDetails.aspx?SectorID=20>
- **Appendix D** – summary of SSDC corporate plan 2009-12
- **Appendix E** - current SSDC management / service structure showing main service areas.

Suggested areas for SSDC service priorities – Area North

Based on the information contained within Appendix B and C, together with the results of other corporate consultation and research (eg the Place Survey and budget consultation) - the following service priorities for Area North are suggested for the basis of discussion, amendment and endorsement -

Once agreed service priorities from each Area are used to:

- Contribute to service planning – including work programmes for the Area Development team
- Assess financial support from SSDC – eg: community grants; capital programme
- Develop the forward plan for the Area Committee
- Influence / assess partnership working
- Form the basis of detailed proposals from SSDC service managers, which in turn will be subject to public consultation for support through the Area service enhancement programme.

Financial implications

None from this report. Resources for work identified through the Area Committee include the Area Development budget, Community Grants budget, Capital Programme and Service Enhancement budget.

Corporate Priority Implications

Targeting resources towards local community priorities, based on evidence of local consultation and research supports the delivery of the SSDC Corporate Plan.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

None from this report.

Equality and Diversity Implications

None from this report.

Background Papers: Consultation and research information; SSDC Corporate Plan
