

Area North Committee – 25 January 2012

### 13. Somerset Levels and Moors Local Action for Rural Communities (LARC) – Appointment of a Member

*Strategic Director:* Rina Singh, Place and Performance  
*Assistant Directors:* Helen Rutter & Kim Close, Communities  
*Service Manager:* Charlotte Jones, Area Development (North)  
*Lead Officer:* As above  
*Contact Details:* charlotte.jones@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462251

#### Purpose of the Report

To seek an appointment from SSDC to the Somerset Levels & Moors Local Action for Rural Communities (LARC) programme executive board.

#### Public Interest

The Somerset Levels & Moors Local Action for Rural Communities (LARC) (formerly Leader +) was allocated £1.8 million from the European Union and DEFRA up until December 2013. The Levels and Moors area spans from Burnham-on-Sea and Cheddar in the west and north, to Glastonbury in the east and Martock and South Petherton in the south and all areas in between.

One Councillor and one officer from each of the partner district councils hold a place on the programme executive board (EB). The EB makes decisions on the investments made by the programme and monitors the results of previous grants. The EB members are expected to promote the programme and support community engagement.

#### Recommendation

The Committee is asked to appoint one member to serve on the Somerset Levels & Moors Local Action for Rural Communities (LARC) programme executive board for the remainder of the municipal year 2011-12.

#### Report

Councillor Pauline Clarke was appointed in June 2011 for a term of one year, however due to significant other commitments she has requested that a replacement appointment is made.

The aim of the programme is to promote sustainable development in the Levels & Moors to strengthen the economy, vibrancy and environmental quality for all residents, businesses and visitors.

The programme seeks to support projects which are distinctive, innovative, involve wide partnership working, represent good value for money and will leave a lasting positive legacy for the Somerset Levels & Moors.

The programme is about to enter the final phase, with final decisions on grants to be made by April 2012, followed by monitoring to ensure that all projects are completed and paid by December 2013.

Further details are available on the programme website:

<http://levelsandmoors.somersetleader.org.uk/> or from the Programme Manager, Dominic Dunbrook, [DDunbrook@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:DDunbrook@somerset.gov.uk) or 01823 357081.

### **Nominations and appointment process**

The following Councillors have expressed interest in this appointment.

- Cllr Graham Middleton
- Cllr Paul Thompson

Any further nominations may be made at the start of this item. Councillors will be asked to vote for one candidate. The councillor placed second will be asked to act as a deputy.

### **Financial Implications**

None from this report

SSDC does not contribute financially to the programme other than officer time to support the work of the executive group. This is estimated at around 6 days per year.

### **Corporate Priority Implications**

Supporting this programme to engage with the local community and invest the programme funding contributes to the following corporate priorities:

Theme 1: Increase Economic Vitality and Prosperity: 1.14 Support South Somerset Together to develop distinctive, balanced, local economies.

### **Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)**

None from this report

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

Applications to the Levels and Moors programme are assessed for equality and diversity implications. The programme has supported a range of projects including those which targeted younger and older people and those facing rural exclusion / isolation.

**Background Papers:** *Minute 15, Area North Committee 22 June 2011.*

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