

11. Area Development Plan – Area North – 2012-13 – Update Report

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Purpose of the Report

To provide an update on the Area Development Plan for Area North 2012-13.

Councillors are asked to contact the Area Development Manager (North) or other named contacts in advance of the meeting with requests for further information.

Public Interest

Area Development teams support the council's four Area Committees (North, South, East and West) to secure investment in local social, economic and environmental priorities for Yeovil, the market towns and rural areas of South Somerset.

This is a quarterly report on the progress of a variety of projects and initiatives funded or supported by SSDC in Area North, during 2012-13.

Recommendations

- (1) Note and comment on the report and presentation highlighting any specific current priorities within wards and parishes.
- (2) Note that the Area North budget monitoring report and Section 106 report contained elsewhere in this agenda provide additional information relating to the Area Development Plan.
- (3) Endorse the proposed additional priority for the Area North Committee "Flood and Water Management" as set out on page 50 of this agenda.

1. Priorities*:

- **Jobs** – we will aim to add value to the economy in Area North, through promoting sustainable economic growth, assisting with the delivery of the Somerset Rural Broadband Programme, promoting tourism and enhancing the offer to visitors.
- **Affordable Housing** – we will assist with the delivery of affordable homes in Area North, including support to test and develop new models.
- **Self-Help** – we will promote greater levels of self-help to promote the sustainability of local services and facilities for all ages.

*Adopted by Area North Committee November 2011.
<http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/councillors-and-democracy/meetings-and-decisions/agendas-and-minutes/committee-agendas-and-minutes.aspx?yr=2011&mid=5114>

2. Recent activity & progress of projects:

- New tenant to occupy the Langport Visitor Centre – *now known as the Levels Basket Centre*. Deep clean arranged with Streetscene services
- Conveyance completed at former toilets, Stoke-sub-Hamdon to photographers studio.
- Contractors on site at South Petherton and Langport / Huish Recreation Grounds to complete substantial investment in community facilities.
- Planning consent approved for 10 affordable homes for local people at Norton sub Hamdon (already fully funded and Community Land Trust established).
- Local agreement to re-locate the Somerton Local Information Centre into the Library.
- Turn Hill Parish Lengthsman scheme now 100% locally funded, and accepted as SCC Community Warden scheme, parish group retained with new member – Huish Episcopi.
- “Walk Langport” – contract & voluntary work making good progress.
- Kingsbury Community Shop business plan exceeding expectations!
- Community Youth project supported by SCC Enablement fund, and new members supported to join parish group – Hamdons, Tintinhull, Kingsbury Episcopi, with Martock and Somerton as lead partners.
- South Somerset Market Towns ‘app’ – a range of local businesses and attractions have registered from Somerton, Martock and Langport - app to be launched mid-Spring.
- Reduced hours at Langport Community Office implemented, and additional hours for welfare benefit take-up advice agreed for 2013-14 (January)
- Chilthorne Domer Recreation Trust celebrating continued success!
- Ilton community facilities programme ready to apply for planning consent.
- A number of informal meetings held with town and parish councillors to help support discussions to promote or support local development and community-led planning.

3. Proposal for a new priority in Area North:

Area North includes a significant area of the Somerset Levels & Moors.

Following discussion at the January 2013 meeting of Area North Committee, councillors endorsed:

- The recent formation of a task force by members of the Somerset Water Management Partnership seeking full Government co-operation towards a sustainable future for the Somerset Levels and Moors
- The aims of the forthcoming Somerset ‘Flood Summit’ in March 2013 with SSDC taking an active role in co-ordination and planning

In addition, Councillors noted that the past success of, and learning from the Parrett Catchment Project should be used to inform future work.

In the light of the above, **it is recommended that ‘flood and water management’ is adopted as an Area North priority** within the Area Development Plan as set out below:

- **“Flood and Water management** – we will help promote locally led solutions which prevent unacceptable flood events in our communities; we will support the work of the Somerset Water Management Partnership including the task force for the Levels and Moors; we will seek to include past learning from the Parrett Catchment Project into future solutions.”

Financial implications

None from this report. The Area North budget was approved by Full Council in February 2012. There is additional information within the Budget Monitoring report elsewhere in this agenda.

Council Plan Implications

In consultation with ward members, time and finance provided will be directly linked to priorities as set out in the Council Plan. The intended contributions to the Council Plan actions are published in the Area Development (North) Plan 2012-13.

Carbon Emissions and Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

None directly from this report. There are a number of local initiatives designed to promote carbon reduction including support to ‘Transition’ volunteers. In particular where we are asked to support buildings projects, applicants are expected to assess the business case for energy efficiency and carbon reduction. Opportunities for sustainable transport and promoting local self-containment are priorities.

Equality and Diversity Implications

None directly from this report. Projects and initiatives will be designed or assessed for support using the principles of equality analysis, and make a direct contribution to the Councils Single Equality Scheme.

Background Papers: *Area North Development Plan 2012-13; SSDC Council Plan*
