

## 7. Area West Development Plan 2007/8 (Executive Decision)

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### Purpose of the Report

To present the Area West Development Plan for 2007/8 as attached at pages 8-18.

### Recommendations

That the Development Plan is agreed.

### The Area West Development Plan 2007/8

Nationally, sustainable communities have been described as places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are: active, inclusive and safe; well run, environmentally sensitive, well designed and built, well connected, thriving, well served, and fair for everyone.

The Area West Development Plan for 2007/8 contains ambitious projects to support the further development of sustainable communities in Area West. These are a combination of new and continuing projects rolled forward from the 2006/7 plan.

We continue to develop a community planning framework, focussing in particular on our three market towns that allows us to;

- Work with local communities to identify the areas issues and needs.
- Develop actions that address the most important issues through partnerships with other service providers and agencies.
- Scrutinise local services and make sure these are accountable to local people

In the Council's Corporate plan our style of working is called 'enable, partner -deliver'. Most of the aspirations set out in the Action Plan 2007/8 will be achieved through formal and informal partnership working arrangements. Area Members are actively involved in these. In some cases we include projects to develop the partnership working arrangements themselves.

Through these partnership arrangements we aim to deliver better outcomes for local people across a wide range of projects.

It is a working document, which guides the activity of the Area Development Team, and other service based staff, within the framework of available resources.

### Financial Implications

There are no new financial implications as a direct result of this report.

## **Implications for Corporate Priorities**

The Area Action Plan contains projects that will contribute directly and indirectly towards many of the Councils corporate priorities and in particular towards these corporate objectives;

- Raise the skill level of the local workforce to achieve a higher average relative wage across South Somerset by 10 per cent by 2012
- Work in partnership with the public and private sector in developing and delivery of the Market Towns Vision
- Identify and address the particular issues affecting rural areas
- Work in partnership with others to improve the health prospects for all
- Maintain above 90 per cent the people who generally feel safe in their communities
- Increase to 65 per cent by 2010 the people who feel engaged in and can influence decisions that affect their communities
- Maintain above 80 per cent the people satisfied with their neighbourhoods as a place to live

**Background Papers:** *Egan Review-Skills for Sustainable Communities ODPM 2004*  
*Area West Action Plans 2005-7*  
*SSDC Corporate Plan 2005 -12*

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# Area West Development Plan 2007-08

*Head of Service – Area Development (West): Andrew Gillespie*

## Area West Development

The Area Development Service aims to help our communities to develop and ensure that services and advice are available locally. More specifically, we support work that leads to improvement in the quality of life for those living and working in Area West. This involves developing and managing projects directly or providing planning and development support through partnership working.

The Area Development Service supports the Area West Committee to work with communities to influence the services that are delivered. Area Committees provide a key mechanism for Councillors to represent the views of their constituents and for local organizations to have their views taken into account in local decisions.

We work closely with Parish, Town and County Councils, with partnerships, organisations and individuals to help make our communities better, safer places to live in, to encourage business and trade, to help develop skills and improve the health of their citizens.

### Community plans & community planning

Much of what we do currently concerns the development and realisation of the aspirations in local community plans and community planning activity and that is reflected in the Action Plan for 2007-8.

### Our Resources

The work described in the action plan is resourced through an annual revenue budget and a capital programme that include funding from external sources

### Area West Development Team:

Andrew Gillespie	Head of Service Area Development - West	Linda Pike	Economic Development Officer (from Sept 07)
Vacant	Area Community Regeneration Officer	<b>Externally funded posts;</b>	
Bob Chedzoy	Area Community Development Officer	Simon Ruston	Project Worker (to May 2007)
Simon Fisher	Community Planning Support Officer (pt time)	Clare Price	Boden Centre Administrator
Nicky Doble	Community Planning Support Officer/PA to Head of Service	Val Keitch	Chard and Ilminster Community Justice Panel Coordinator
Paul Brazier	Area Administration Team Leader	Julia Cook	Chard and Ilminster Community Justice Panel Admin Support Officer

## Area West Development Plan– Action Plan 2007/8

### Contents:

- A. Chard and surrounding villages**
- B. Ilminster and surrounding villages**
- C. Crewkerne and surrounding villages**
- D. Other Area Projects**
- E. District Wide Projects**
- F. Budget**

### Market Towns

The Area West Committee recognises the important contribution that our Market Towns make to the quality of life in Area West. It is supporting the development of improvement strategies that encourage the formation of effective local partnerships that can help SSDC to plan for the future and draw in resources to help realise those plans.

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Outcome (Targets/Milestones)</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Main Partners</b>	<b>Leads</b>	<b>Update</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Chard and surrounding villages:</b>					
1	Community Planning in Chard	Further development of the Community Plan in Chard & surrounding area.  Development of the Chard Vision Community Planning Partnership involving local councils and ACT.	Ongoing	Chard Town Council; Action for Chard Town (ACT); Somerset CC	BC/EDO	Specific Project work from the ACT plan detailed later in this plan.  Discussions with RDA, SCC and CTC re: Chard Vision CPP ongoing
2	The Boden Centre	To establish the Boden Centre as a viable venue for health promotion and related activities, building on the legacy of the Chard Healthy Living Centre project	March 08	PCT: Somerset Health Initiative Enterprise (SHINE)	AG/PB/ CP	Proposals agreed by Area West Committee in March and April 07. Draft lease for part occupancy agreed with SHINE for June 07 take up

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Outcome (Targets/Milestones)</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Main Partners</b>	<b>Leads</b>	<b>Update</b>
3	Chard H.E.R.S - Project to encourage owners to restore original shop fronts to main streets in Chard	To finalise details and make grant payments as agreed	Dec 07		AG	Work completed on three premises in final grant period (2006/7)
4	Portuguese Link Worker for Chard -	to support a further period of employment for PLW if needed	April 08	Somerset Portuguese Association, VISTA, SREC	AG	Current PLW to quit at end of contract ( May)
5	Chard Economic Development Project - to seek opportunities to build on work undertaken as part of the ESF funded Market Towns Labour Initiative in 2005/6	Development of potential projects to sustain the local economy	Ongoing through Market Towns Vision Framework	Somerset County Council	AG	Chard TC have nominated representatives on the Market Towns Investment Group, managed by SSDC as part of the Market Towns Vision Work.  Discussions with RDA, SCC and SSDC taking place. Potential to include in development of the Chard Vision (as above)
6	Chard Enviro Centre	Incorporate proposal for further investigation within Chard Vision framework	September 07		BC/EDO	Feasibility Study completed. Via ACT/SSDC working group.
7	Chard Community Forum - Encouraging community engagement in problem solving	Arrange follow up to first successful Community led problem solving event through public participation in an informal Town, District and County Council member forum.	October 07 (details)	Chard Town Council; SCC, Action for Chard Town (ACT)	BC	To be developed in line with emerging proposals from SCC's South Somerset Area Panel.
8	Snowdon Park - continue to support creation of new Park	New Park and cycle way available for community use and enjoyment from Summer 2006	September 07		AG	Installation of cycleway delayed pending confirmation of routes. Installation of internal paths now started.

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Outcome (Targets/Milestones)</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Main Partners</b>	<b>Leads</b>	<b>Update</b>
9	Crowshute House - Arts project	Options developed with Crowshute House Management Committee to reduce reliance on SSDC grants for core funding - Potential external funding for Arts Centre explored	June 06	CHMC	BC	CHMC investigating options for development. No firm proposals developed at this stage.
10	Chard Area Office - Development	Develop ideas for increased local use following transfer of Community Advisor staff to Area Development team	Ongoing		PB	Transfer of Community Advisor staff to Area Development teams completed in April 2007.
11	Chard Transport Survey Project	Household questionnaire completed to build a clear picture of the current transport provision and the needs of Chard and its hinterland. To provide information to help inform future transport planning.	July 07	Action for Chard Town (ACT), SSDC, SCC	BC/SF	Following further discussion a shorter residential survey is being considered for June 07 distribution.
12	SOAR (Stringfellow Open Air Race – Annual Festival of Flight)	Develop an annual Chard Festival celebrating flight, covering historical, cultural, and educational and tourism themes. To raise the esteem and aspirations of the people of Chard in an imaginative and visual way To provide a positive image of Chard to residents and visitors by celebrating Chard's engineering past.	Ongoing	Action for Chard Town, Chard Town Council, SSDC, Chard Museum	BC/SF	Feasibility and fundraising business plan for this event in future years in draft for possible event in Summer 2008
13	Chard Strategic Urban Plan	To make Chard a more attractive place to live, work and visit through supporting the development of the Chard Plan within the Local Development Framework	Ongoing	Chard Town Council, SSDC(Planning), Action for Chard Town (ACT)	BC/EDO	To be progressed as part of the 'Chard Vision' discussions
14	Chard Millennium/Jubilee Lamp Garden	Creation of an attractive natural feature and meeting place in the town centre for everyone to enjoy.  Users involved in planting and maintaining the site.	March 2007	Action for Chard Town (ACT), Chard 2000, SCC Highways, Conservation Officer, SSDC, Chard Town Council	BC	Final designs completed

	Project	Outcome (Targets/Milestones)	By when	Main Partners	Leads	Update
<b>B</b>	<b>Ilminster and surrounding villages:</b>					
15	Ilminster Community Plan -Development and delivery of the Community Plan in Ilminster & surrounding area.	Further development of the Community Plan in Ilminster & surrounding area.  Development of Community Planning Partnerships involving local councils and Ilminster Forum	Ongoing	Ilminster Town Council and Ilminster Forum Somerset County Council	CRO	Report to AWC Sept 06. CPP remains a steering group  Specific Project work detailed later in this plan
16	Ilminster Community Forum - Encouraging community engagement in problem solving	Arrange first Community led problem solving event through public participation in an informal Town, District and County Council member forum.	October 07 (details)	Ilminster Town Council; SCC	BC	To be developed in line with emerging proposals from SCC's South Somerset Area Panel.
17	Develop Ilminster Community Office	Develop ideas for increased local use following transfer of Community Advisor staff to Area Development team	Ongoing		PB	Transfer of Community Advisor staff to Area Development teams completed in April 2007.
18	New Ilminster Community Office	Investigate demand for new multi agency community office and establish requirements to replace North Street Office	From September 2007	SCC, A&S Police, Ilminster Town Council	AG	
19	Bus Shelter, Road Sign & Road Condition surveys	To produce a network map relating to times, location between existing public transport services and to identify gaps in provision for people living in Ilminster and surrounding area  To produce a needs analysis relating to public transport Produce a photographic survey of Ilminster Roads and pavements to provide the Highways department with data for action  To produce a photographic survey of existing signage and identify what needs upgrading and where new signage would	July 06	Ilminster Forum	CRO	Negotiations with SCC Highways re: local people undertaking this project have stalled over issues of public liability insurance. Project on hold pending construction of TESCO store



	<b>Project</b>	<b>Outcome (Targets/Milestones)</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Main Partners</b>	<b>Leads</b>	<b>Update</b>
		improve safety in Ilminster				
20	Information Boards for Ilminster Town	Installation of new town centre notice boards to inform local people and visitors about event and local information	Sept 07	Ilminster Forum, Ilminster Town Council	CRO	Funding sought via the Market Towns Investment Group, managed by SSDC as part of the Market Towns Vision Work.
21	Donyatt Railway Heritage project	Installation of interpretation boards and public art and refurbishment of Donyatt halt to enhance Cycle route	Mar 07	Donyatt Railway Heritage project group	CRO/SF	Awaiting landowners permission and conformation of funding
<b>C</b>	<b>Crewkerne and surrounding villages:</b>					
22	Crewkerne Community Plan - to support the process, production and development of the Community Plan in Crewkerne & surrounding area.	Further development of the Community Plan in Crewkerne & surrounding area.  Development of Community Planning Partnerships involving local councils and ABCD	Ongoing	A Better Crewkerne & District, Crewkerne (ABCD) Town Council	CRO	Plan launched at Victoria Hall Crewkerne July 06  Progress reports to AWC each quarter
23	Crewkerne Community Office	Develop ideas for increased local use following transfer of Community Advisor staff to Area Development team	Ongoing		PB	Transfer of Community Advisor staff to Area Development teams completed in April 2007.
24	Community Justice Panel	Extension of Project to cover Crewkerne Area	From June 07		VK	See Project 31
25	Crewkerne Community Forum - Encouraging community engagement in problem solving	Arrange follow up to first successful Community led problem solving event through public participation in an informal Town, District and County Council member forum.	October 07 (details)	Crewkerne Town Council; SCC, A Better Crewkerne and District (ABCD)	BC	To be developed in line with emerging proposals from SCC's South Somerset Area Panel.

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Outcome (Targets/Milestones)</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Main Partners</b>	<b>Leads</b>	<b>Update</b>
26	Crewkerne Urban Development Framework	A spatial plan for Crewkerne to identify improvement to the town centre, take into account accessibility, traffic & transport and encourage better interaction between places and open spaces.	Ongoing	A Better Crewkerne and District (ABCD),	CRO	Project Design Brief to be drawn up once the Working Group has been confirmed.
27	Marketing Crewkerne as a Business Location	To recognise the economic benefits of future development in Crewkerne and encourage inward investment and employment.	Ongoing	A Better Crewkerne and District (ABCD),	CRO	CALIBRE working group looking at the potential of marketing Crewkerne and reporting back to the ABCD Steering Group meetings on a monthly basis. A draft marketing brief has been circulated for comment.
28	Community Facility for Youth, Arts and Sports	A sustainable joint facility combining the youth, arts and sports element supported by the community in Crewkerne	Ongoing	Crewkerne Town Council, A Better Crewkerne and District (ABCD)	CRO	Crewkerne Town Council will be submitting an expression of interest to Sport England to enhance sports and youth facilities. A Working Group will develop a brief for a feasibility and research study for the Arts.
29	Information Boards for Crewkerne Town	Installation of new town centre notice boards to inform local people and visitors about event and local information	Ongoing	Crewkerne Town Council, A Better Crewkerne and District (ABCD)	CRO	Funding sought via the Market Towns Investment Group, managed by SSDC as part of the Market Towns Vision Work.
<b>D Other Area Projects:</b>						
30	Area West Community Safety Panel	CS projects for Area West against CDRP budget allocation budget developed in response to local issues. Local Action Groups supported in each of the Market Towns	September 07	AWCSP	AG/BC	Confirmation of £15,000 budget allocation awaited. Schemes considered at September meeting of Area Panel
31	Chard & Ilminster Community Justice Panel	Seek to ensure continuation and expansion of C&ICJP beyond current funding period (June 2006)	From May 2007	South Somerset CDRP, Somerset Strategic Partnership	AG/VK	Funding secured to June 07.

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Outcome (Targets/Milestones)</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Main Partners</b>	<b>Leads</b>	<b>Update</b>
32	Community Grants and funding advice	Area West Committee will continue to support the development of community organisations and projects throughout the area. Grants are made available to local organisations and funding advice and assistance provided as resources permit. Other advice to assist groups will be made available through the development of funding workshops and other resources.	April 2007 and Ongoing			Annual allocation made by AWC in April 2007.
					BC/CRO	
33	Neroche Project	'Match' Funding Support of £10,000 for HLF project provided in 2006 as agreed	Ongoing to 2010	Neroche Project		£2 million funding form HLF secured by Neroche Project in September 2006.
					AG	
<b>E District Wide Projects</b>						
34	Vision for Market Towns	Improved links with South Somerset Together LSP through the establishment of a "Market Towns Investment Group" and agreement on a district wide programme of investment in Market Town initiatives that boost sustainability.	Ongoing	Local Councils for the 10 Market Town Areas		MTIG established with representation from 10 South Somerset Market Towns via local Town Councils. Proposals for investment programmes agreed by DX December 06. Detailed schemes being worked up.
					AG/SR	
35	Support for Blackdown Hills Partnership	Support for BHP is taken up as part of the emerging corporate SSDC rural strategy, with funding contributions from 2008 being met from corporate budget, rather than Area West	Sept. 07	Countryside Agency and six constituent local authorities		Principle agreed by AWC and DX.
					AG	
36	Wessex Way Cycle Route 33	Agreement reached on the final sections of the route through South Somerset	Dec 08	SUSTRANS/Somerset County Council		Agreement now reached to jointly commission feasibility study for route through or around Tatworth area in effort to resolve deep seated local disagreement.
					AG	

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Outcome (Targets/Milestones)</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Main Partners</b>	<b>Leads</b>	<b>Update</b>
37	Community Speedwatch – purchase of equipment.	Grants made to purchase equipment needed by local groups.	Ongoing	A&S Police, CS association, CDRP	AG	
38	Migrant Workers Welcome Pack	A welcome pack for Migrant workers available to local companies in South Somerset	May 2007 and ongoing	SST, SCC	AG/BC/SR	Test website established by end October 06 Launched May 07 as “NewtoSomerset.com”
39	SSDC Web site	Improved and accessible Area Development content on the website	June 06 and ongoing		AG/PB	Content of Area Development pages has been substantially revised to fit new, simpler framework.

## F Budget

<b>AREA WEST COMMITTEE</b> Service Head: Andrew Gillespie Portfolio Holder: Cllr Kim Turner		<b>Budget 07/08 £</b>	<b>Links to Action Plan Below</b>
<b>WEST AREA DEVELOPMENT</b>	Revenue Expenditure	408,980	Staff Costs
	Revenue Income	(23,870)	Markets and Lettings
	Net Revenue	385,110	
	Capital Expenditure	319,000	32/34
<b>WEST PROJECTS</b>	Revenue Expenditure	69,380	2,/4/27/36/38
	Revenue Income	(69,380)	
	Net Revenue	0	
	Capital Expenditure		
<b>WEST GRANTS</b>	Revenue Expenditure	98,480	32/35/37
	Revenue Income	0	
	Net Revenue	98,480	
	Capital Expenditure	20,000	32/33
<b>TOTAL AREA WEST COMMITTEE</b>	Revenue Expenditure	<b>576,840</b>	
	Revenue Income	<b>(93,250)</b>	
	Net Revenue	<b>483,590</b>	
	Capital Expenditure	<b>339,000</b>	