



Area West Development Plan 2007-08

Area West Committee Chairman – Councillor Kim Turner
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 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 Plan – Action Plan 2007/8

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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.

	Project	Outcome (Targets/Milestones)	By when	Main Partners	Leads	Update
A	Chard and surrounding villages:					
1	Community Planning in Chard	Further development of the Community Plan in Chard & surrounding area. Development of the Chard Vision Community Planning Partnership (CPP) involving local councils and ACT.	Ongoing	Chard Town Council; Action for Chard Town (ACT); Somerset CC	BC/EDO	Specific Project work detailed later in this plan. Discussions with RDA, SCC and CTC re: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

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						for June 07 take up. <i>Agreement on SHINE Funding later than anticipated but now complete. Tenancy could start early 2008</i>
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 2006/7. Project complete.
4	Portuguese Link Worker for Chard -	To support a further period of employment for Portuguese Link Worker if needed	April 08	Somerset Portuguese Association, Voluntary Sector Training Alliance, Somerset Race Equality Council	AG	Current PLW to quit at end of contract (May). <i>SPA given use of small office at Boden Centre FoC as help in kind.</i>
5	Chard Economic Development Project - to seek opportunities to build on work undertaken as part of the European Social 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. <i>Proposals agreed for event in Chard in 2008.</i>

	Project	Outcome (Targets/Milestones)	By when	Main Partners	Leads	Update
8	Snowdon Park - continue to support creation of new Park	New Park and cycle way available for community use and enjoyment from Summer 2006	August 06		AG	Planning application approved. Installation of internal paths now <i>completed</i> .
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 Network Map Project	Household questionnaire completed to build a clear picture of the current transport provision and the needs of Chard and its hinterland To develop an action plan that will address the long term transport needs of the area in such a way as to improve the quality of life for all	July 06	Action for Chard Town (ACT), SSDC, SCC	BC/SF	Survey completed, analysis being written, report to be published for event in January 2008.
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/ SR	Feasibility and fundraising business plan for this event in future years in draft. <i>Costed proposals being developed with ACT from September 2007 for possible event in 2008.</i>
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

	Project	Outcome (Targets/Milestones)	By when	Main Partners	Leads	Update
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, detailed plans being drawn up. Plans should be finished end 2007
15	Chard Reservoir Open Day	To hold an open day at Chard Reservoir and set up a 'Friends of the Reservoir' group	September 2007	Action for Chard Town SSDC Countryside	BC/SF	Completed
B Iminster and surrounding villages:						
16	Iminster Community Plan -Development and delivery of the Community Plan in Iminster & surrounding area.	Further development of the Community Plan in Iminster & surrounding area. Development of Community Planning Partnerships involving local councils and Iminster Forum	Ongoing	Iminster Town Council and Iminster Forum Somerset County Council	ZH	Regular reports to AWC. CPP remains a steering group. Specific Project work detailed later in this plan
17	Iminster 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)	Iminster Town Council; SCC, Iminster Forum	ZH	To be developed in line with emerging proposals from SCC's South Somerset Area Panel. <i>Opportunity Iminster planned for November 2007</i>
18	Develop Iminster 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.
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 Iminster and surrounding area	July 06	Iminster Forum	ZH	Negotiations with SCC Highways re: local people undertaking this project have stalled over issues of public liability insurance.

	Project	Outcome (Targets/Milestones)	By when	Main Partners	Leads	Update
		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 improve safety in Ilminster				Sign survey completed, copy sent to SSDC Engineering and property (11.7.07)
20	Information Boards for Ilminster Town	Installation of new town centre notice boards to inform local people and visitors about event and local information	Jan 07	Ilminster Forum, Ilminster Town Council	ZH	July - Awaiting Superstore development - <i>Nov - Location now agreed. Installation c.December 2007 - January 2008</i>
21	Donyatt Railway Heritage project	Installation of interpretation boards and public art and refurbishment of Donyatt halt to enhance Cycle route	Mar 08	Donyatt Railway Heritage project group	ZH/SF	Heritage Lottery Funding application planned for end 2007. <i>Funding bid submitted to Opportunity Ilminster.</i>
22	Summer Youth Activities	Projects Planned and funding obtained	June07	Ilminster Forum	ZH	<i>Summer Activities took place, no action needed by AWD.</i>
C Crewkerne and surrounding villages:						
23	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	ZH	Plan launched at Victoria Hall Crewkerne July 06 Progress reports to AWC each quarter
24	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

	Project	Outcome (Targets/Milestones)	By when	Main Partners	Leads	Update
						completed in April 2007.
25	Crewkerne Museum	Funding advice given			CRO	Completed June 06
26	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, ABCD	ZH	To be developed in line with emerging proposals from SCC's South Somerset Area Panel. <i>Opportunity Crewkerne will take place in January 2008</i>
27	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),	ZH	Project Design Brief to be drawn up once the Working Group has been confirmed. <i>Draft Conservation appraisal developed thru' ABCD working group.</i>
28	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),	ZH	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. <i>Brief agreed and being undertaken.</i>
29	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)	ZH	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. <i>ABCD have employed consultant to undertake feasibility study</i>

	Project	Outcome (Targets/Milestones)	By when	Main Partners	Leads	Update
30	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)	ZH	<i>Locations now agreed. Installation planned c.December 2007 - January 2008</i>
D Other Area Projects:						
31	Area West Community Safety Panel	Community Safety projects for Area West against Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership budget allocation developed in response to local issues. Local Action Groups supported in each of the Market Towns	September 07	Area West Community Safety Panel	AG	Confirmation of £15,000 budget allocation <i>received</i> . Schemes considered at September & October meeting of Area Panel
32	Chard & Ilminster Community Justice Panel	Seek to ensure continuation and expansion of C&ICJP beyond current funding period (June 2007)	May 2007	South Somerset CDRP, Somerset Strategic Partnership	AG/VK	<i>Funding secured to June 08.</i>
33	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		BC/CRO	Annual allocation made by AWC in April 2007. <i>Funding for community projects etc. made available via Area Community Forums</i>
34	Neroche Project	'Match' Funding Support of £10,000 for HLF project provided in 2006 as agreed	Ongoing to 2010	Neroche Project	AG	£2 million funding form HLF secured by Neroche Project in September 2006.
E District Wide Projects						
35	Vision for Market	Improved links with South Somerset	Ongoing	Local Councils for the 10		MTIG established with

	Project	Outcome (Targets/Milestones)	By when	Main Partners	Leads	Update
	Towns	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.		Market Town Areas	AG/SR	representation from 10 South Somerset Market Towns via local Town Councils, including Chard Ilminster and Crewkerne. Proposals for investment programmes agreed by DX December 06. Detailed schemes being worked up <i>and progressing well.</i>
36	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	AG	Principle agreed by AWC and DX. <i>2008 –11 Contributions held in AW budget pending further developments.</i>
37	Wessex Way Cycle Route 33	Agreement reached on the final sections of the route through South Somerset	Dec 08	SUSTRANS/Somerset County Council	AG	Agreement now reached to jointly commission feasibility study for route through or around Tatworth area in effort to resolve deep seated local disagreement.
38	Community Speedwatch – purchase of equipment	Grants made to purchase equipment needed by local groups.	Ongoing	A&S Police, CS association, CDRP	AG	<i>Reports and recommendations to AW in August and November 2007</i>
39	Migrant Workers Welcome Pack	A welcome pack for Migrant workers available to local companies in South Somerset	May 2007 and ongoing	SST, SCC	AG/SR	Test website established by end October 06 Launch planned for May 15 th 2007. <i>New to Somerset launched as planned.</i>
40	SSDC Web site	Improved and accessible Area Development content on the website	June 06 and ongoing		AG	Content of Area Development pages has been substantially revised to fit new, simpler framework.

F: Area West Development Team:

Andrew Gillespie	Head of Service Area Development - West
Zoe Harris	Area Community Regeneration Officer
Bob Chedzoy	Area Community Development Officer (to October 2006)
Simon Fisher	Community Planning Support Officer (pt time)
Nicky Doble	Community Planning Support Officer/PA to Head of Service
Paul Brazier	Area Administration Team Leader
Linda Pike	Economic Development Officer

Externally funded posts;

Simon Ruston	Project Worker (to May 2007) and (Sept –Dec 2007)
Clare Price	Boden Centre Administrator
Val Keitch	Chard and Ilminster Community Justice Panel Co-ordinator
Julia Cook	Chard and Ilminster Community Justice Panel Admin Support Officer