



Area West Development Plan 2007-08

Area West Committee Chairman – Councillor Kim Turner
Head of Service – Area Development (West): Andrew Gillespie

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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 our 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 supports 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. This work is also being taken forward through the South Somerset Market Towns Vision – a key element of the SSDC Corporate Plan

	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		Specific Project work detailed later in this plan. Discussions with RDA, SCC and CTC re: CPP ongoing.
					FT/LP	

	Project	Outcome (Targets/Milestones)	By when	Main Partners	Leads	Update
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. <i>Agreement on SHINE Funding later than anticipated but now complete. One year tenancy began in Jan 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		FT/LP	Feasibility Study completed. Via ACT/SSDC working group.

	Project	Outcome (Targets/Milestones)	By when	Main Partners	Leads	Update
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)	FT	To be developed in line with emerging proposals from SCC's South Somerset Area Panel. <i>Proposals agreed for event in Chard in March 2008.</i>
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	Installation of cycleway delayed. Planning application due June 07. 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	FT	<i>CHMC proposal to take on full repairing lease under consideration. Further info requested of CHMC Jan 2008</i>
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. - <i>Hosting of Job point under discussion following decision to close Chard Job Centre Plus</i>
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	FT/SF	Survey completed, analysis being written, report to be published for event in <i>February 2008.</i>

	Project	Outcome (Targets/Milestones)	By when	Main Partners	Leads	Update
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	FT/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> <i>Proposals given to ACT Nov 2007, put on hold due to lack of resources to take forward</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)	FT/LP	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	FT/SF	Final designs completed, detailed plans <i>completed in 2007. Detailed work now begun on Materials and Costings</i>
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
16	Information Boards for Chard Town	Installation of new town centre notice boards to inform local people and visitors about event and local information	Jan 08	Chard Town Council	FT	Locations now agreed. Installation completed December 2007.

	Project	Outcome (Targets/Milestones)	By when	Main Partners	Leads	Update
B	Ilminster and surrounding villages:					
17	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	ZH	Regular reports to AWC. Specific Project work detailed later in this plan Ilminster Forum and Town Council representatives on Market Towns Investment Group
18	Ilminster Community Forum - Encouraging community engagement in problem solving Arrange Community led problem solving event through public participation in an informal Town, District and County Council member led forum		October 07 (details)	Ilminster Town Council; SCC, Ilminster Forum	ZH	To be developed in line with emerging proposals from SCC's South Somerset Area Panel. <i>Successful Opportunity Ilminster event - November 2007</i>
19	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.
20	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 improve safety in Ilminster		July 06	Ilminster Forum	ZH	Negotiations with SCC Highways re: local people undertaking this project have stalled over issues of public liability insurance. Sign survey completed, copy sent to SSDC Engineering and property(11.7.07)

	Project	Outcome (Targets/Milestones)	By when	Main Partners	Leads	Update
21	Information Boards for Ilminster Town Installation of new town centre notice boards to inform local people and visitors about event and local information		Jan 08	Ilminster Forum, Ilminster Town Council	ZH	July - Awaiting Superstore development - Nov - Location now agreed. Installation completed December 2007
22	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. Unsuccessful Funding bid made to Opportunity Ilminster. Funding bid submitted to Heritage Lottery Fund Dec 2007
23	Summer Youth Activities Projects Planned and funding obtained		June07	Ilminster Forum	ZH	Summer Activities took place, no action needed by AWD.
C	Crewkerne and surrounding villages:					
24	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 CTC/ABCD representatives on Market Towns Investment Group

	Project	Outcome (Targets/Milestones)	By when	Main Partners	Leads	Update
25	Crewkerne Community Office Develop ideas for increased local use following transfer of Community Advisor staff to Area Development team		Ongoing			Transfer of Community Advisor staff to Area Development teams completed in April 2007. <i>Crewkerne Community Office Mgt Board re convened after 2 years</i> <i>Customer Adviser assisting in projects identified by ABCD, including local information gathering and surveys.</i>
					PB	
26	Crewkerne Community Forum - Encouraging community engagement in problem solving Arrange Community led problem solving event through public participation in an informal Town, District and County Council member led forum		October 07 (details)	Crewkerne Town Council; SCC, ABCD		To be developed in line with emerging proposals from SCC's South Somerset Area Panel. <i>Opportunity Crewkerne event planned for February 13 2008</i>
					ZH	
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),		Project Design Brief to be drawn up once the Working Group has been confirmed. <i>Draft Conservation appraisal developed thru' ABCD working group.</i>
					ZH	
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),		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>
					ZH	

	Project	Outcome (Targets/Milestones)	By when	Main Partners	Leads	Update
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)		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>
30	Information Boards for Crewkerne Town Installation of new town centre notice boards to inform local people and visitors about event and local information		Jan 08	Crewkerne Town Council, A Better Crewkerne and District (ABCD)		<i>Locations now agreed. Installation completed December 2007</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		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		<i>Funding secured to June 08. Project extended to Crewkerne</i>

	Project	Outcome (Targets/Milestones)	By when	Main Partners	Leads	Update
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			Annual allocation made by AWC in April 2007. <i>Funding for community projects etc. made available via Area Community Forums.</i>
					FT/ZH	
34	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	
E	District Wide Projects					
35	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 in June 2006, now with 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. Details schemes being worked up <i>and progressing well.</i>
					AG	
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	Natural England and six constituent local authorities		Principle agreed by AWC and DX. <i>2008 –11 Contributions held in AW budget pending further developments.</i>
					AG	

	Project	Outcome (Targets/Milestones)	By when	Main Partners	Leads	Update
37	Wessex Way Cycle Route 33 Agree on the final sections of the route through South Somerset		Dec 08	SUSTRANS/Somerset County Council	AG	Joint SSDC/SCC feasibility study commissioned in January 2008 for advice on 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 and January 2008.</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 (from July 2007)
Fiona Tame	Area Community Development Officer (from January 2008)
Bob Chedzoy	Area Community Development Officer (to October 2007)
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 (to March 2008)

Val Keitch

Chard and Ilminster Community Justice Panel Coordinator

Julia Cook

Chard and Ilminster Community Justice Panel Admin Support Officer