

Area West Committee – 21st April 2010

7. Area West Development Work Programme 2010-11

Strategic Director: Rina Singh, Place and Performance
Assistant Director: Martin Woods, Communities
Service Manager: Andrew Gillespie, Area Development Manager (West)
Lead Officer: Andrew Gillespie, Area Development Manager (West)
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Purpose of the Report

To present an overview of projects in the Area West Development Work Programme 2010-11.

Public Interest

The Area West Committee works to address local community priorities. The report provides outline information on the work being supported, through influence or direct allocation of finance, by the Area West Committee in the financial year 2010/11.

Recommendation

To note and comment on the report, highlighting any areas of concern or interest for current or requested activity by the Area Development Team.

Background

Area West Development

The Area West Development Team helps local communities to develop and to ensure that services and advice are available to them.

More specifically, we support project work that leads to improvement in the quality of life for those living and working in Area West.

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 to improve the health of their citizens.

This involves creating and managing projects directly or providing planning and development support through work with other SSDC specialist service teams and external partner organisations.

It is a mixed and wide-ranging portfolio that reflects both established and emerging local priorities. It also reflects the corporate performance themes adopted by the whole Council, which are to:

- increase economic vitality and prosperity
- enhance the environment, address & adapt to climate change
- improve the housing, health and well-being of our citizens
- ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities
- deliver well managed, cost effective services valued by our customers

At any one time, our work programme can include both major, complex long term projects like the Chard Regeneration Scheme and more straightforward local improvement projects, such as supporting the production of a leaflet promoting shopping in Crewkerne.

The Area West Development Service supports the Area West Committee to work with communities to influence the services that are delivered in our area and to press for improvement wherever possible. Area Committees provide a key mechanism for Councillors to represent the views of their constituents and local organisations in local decisions.

The Area priorities, together with a range of powers and functions delegated to the Area Committee by SSDC form the Area West Portfolio, held by the Chairman of the Area West Committee. The Area Chairman is also a member of the District Executive for SSDC and also represents SSDC as a member of the Local Strategic Partnership South Somerset Together.

Our Resources

The work programme is resourced through the Area Development Team, and an annual revenue budget and a capital programme that also both include funding granted from external sources. Like most other budgets, these are subject to continual scrutiny to find efficiency measures and savings.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Given the range of projects included, the methods of monitoring and evaluation that we use vary. We aim to build appropriate project management methods into all of the projects we undertake, including methods of monitoring and evaluation.

The majority of projects should already be familiar to some if not all elected members. Many have been the subject of regular and/or occasional committee reports as and when issues arise requiring a committee decision or when important milestones have been achieved.

Therefore, the following table of projects is presented to give an overview rather than to go into detail. It is both snapshot and in some cases a summary of the work we are supporting.

	Projects - Area West Development Team	Lead Officer
1	Area West Community Safety Panel	ZH
2	Area West Youth Network - Introduction of annual training event for all Community Youth Groups	ZH
3	Community Justice Panel Development	VK
4	Community Safety Local Action Groups in Chard, Crewkerne and Ilminster.	ZH/CL
5	Stop Line Way Cycle Path Development – Whole Route, route through Tatworth & Forton, Donyatt Initiative	AG/ZH
6	Blackdown Hills/East Devon ‘Making it Local’ Funding programme (this is a fund delivered through Local Action for Rural Communities, one of the funding axis of the Rural Development Programme for England)	ZH
7	Blackdown Hills AONB Officers group.	ZH
8	Providing funding advice for a variety of local community groups.	CL/ZH
9	Establish and monitor Service Level Agreements with local community groups as necessary.	CL/ZH

	Projects - Area West Development Team	Lead Officer
10	Ilminster Forum – delivery of projects identified in their community plan	ZH
11	A Better Crewkerne and District (ABCD) - delivery of projects identified in Crewkerne Community Plan.	ZH
12	Happy Valley Project Working Group (Crewkerne). Working with Crewkerne Town Council and SSDC Sport & Leisure to improve the sports and play facilities on a recreation ground in Crewkerne.	ZH
13	Development of the 'Opportunity' events, the participatory budgeting meetings (Area Forums) that take place in Area West.	AG/ZH
14	South Somerset volunteer community car scheme project	ZH
15	Development of the Area Development content on the new SSDC website.	ZH/PB
16	Area and Community Offices – continue to increase use in line with SSDC Access Strategy and Improvement Plan	AG/PB
17	Area Community Grants Scheme	ZH/CL/PB
18	Parish and Town Council Workshop – to explore closer working to meet local needs	ZH/CL
19	Boden Centre – Increase use by health/wellbeing promoting organisations, ensure income from lettings cover costs	PB
20	Area West Street Markets Review and Development	CL/AG
21	Essex Close, Chard Youth Club – Investigation into improving the efficiency of the building, including energy use reduction	CL
22	Local Development Framework Consultation on Core Strategy	AG
23	Chard – Shop front improvement scheme and various other projects to support the Chard Regeneration Scheme	CL
24	Reed Close (Chard) project – to re-establish informal open space project	CL
25	Area Committee development and support – member workshops and forward plan.	AG
26	Crowshute House, Chard – supporting the Asset Transfer process	CL
27	Chard Regeneration Scheme – establish Masterplan for future development of Chard	AG/RM
28	Chard Community Garden – establishment of a community food growing project	CL
29	Community issue/conflict resolution - various	Varies
30	Holyrood Lace Mill Management	PB
31	Capital Programme Projects	AG

Area West Development Team

Andrew Gillespie	Head of Service Area Development - West
Nicky Doble	PA to Head of Service
Zoë Harris	Area Community Regeneration Officer
Claire Littlejohn	Area Community Development Officer
Paul Brazier	Area Administration Team Leader
Rob Murray	Economic Development Officer (Secondment)
Externally funded posts:	
Val Keitch	Chard & Ilminster Community Justice Panel Co-ordinator
Julia Cook	Chard & Ilminster Community Justice Panel Admin Support Officer

Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. However it should be noted that projects in the planning stage may not be fully funded. Ways in which funding can be secured are addressed as part of that planning process.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

Appropriate mitigation or change measures are built in to projects.

Equality and Diversity Implications

Equality and Diversity implications are now considered as part of project management. Our aim is to ensure that no one is excluded from participating in or benefiting from any of the work we undertake on grounds of race, gender, disability, faith, age or sexual orientation.

Background Papers: *None*