

Area West Committee – 16th November 2011

## **8. Area West Development Work Programme Overview 2011-12**

*Strategic Director: Rina Singh (Place and Performance)*  
*Assistant Director: Helen Rutter (Communities)*  
*Service Manager: 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 2011-12.

### **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 2011/12.

### **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 establishment of the Friends of Crewkerne Railway Station with a small grant.

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 SSDC “Area” system is clearly well placed to promote and enhance “localism” as a way of working, especially as this involves bringing together community led planning and neighbourhood (spatial) planning and delivery to achieve better, more efficient outcomes. This should be reflected in the work we are doing to support the Area Working review.

### **Our Resources**

The work programme is resourced through the Area Development Team, and an annual revenue budget and a capital programme that also 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.

### **Area West Development Team**

Andrew Gillespie	Area Development Manager (West)
Zoe Harris	Area Community Regeneration Officer
Paul Philpott	Area Community Development Officer
Paul Brazier	Area Administration Team Leader

	<b>Project /Aim</b>	<b>Lead</b>
1	Chard Regeneration Scheme – to support delivery of the agreed Masterplan	AG/PP
2	Revitalise the SSDC Street Markets in Area West	ZH
3	Marketing Crewkerne & Ilminster - to promote to potential visitors in 2012 and beyond	ZH
4	A Better Crewkerne & District (ABCD) - to support the delivery of projects identified in the ABCD community plan.	ZH
5	Ilminster Forum - to support the delivery of projects identified in the Ilminster Community Plan	ZH
6	LARC Blackdown Hills & East Devon 'Making it Local' Funding Programme - Grants to local improvement schemes	ZH
7	Funding advice - Signposting community groups to relevant funding.	ZH/ PP
8	SSDC Community Grants – Promoting take up, and assessing applications for funding to Area West Committee	ZH/PP
9	Monitor and advise community groups with SSDC Service Level Agreements	ZH /PP
10	Community Safety Panel and Local Action Groups in Area West - Raising and resolution of local community safety issues	ZH
11	Swann Precinct, Ilminster - to improve appearance of derelict site in Ilminster town centre	ZH
12	Blackdown Hills AONB officers group - to oversee funding agreement	ZH
13	Henhayes, Crewkerne – Improvement of green space	ZH
14	Community Issues/conflict resolution	Varies
15	Chard Working Men's Club - to encourage action to address the significant deterioration in the façade of the building.	PP
16	Chard Young Peoples Centre – to liaise with Property Services to resolve long standing issues of repair and improvement	PP
17	Chard Town Traders Information Board – to promote town centre retail and other businesses	PP
18	Area and Community Offices – continue to increase use in line with SSDC Access Strategy and Improvement Plan	PB
19	Reed Close Open Space Area - assist investigation of options for placing play equipment for children within the fenced area.	PP
20	Stop Line Way Development – through Tatworth & Forton and Chard Regeneration Scheme	AG
21	Investigate relocation options for Ilminster Community Office – a long standing ambition	AG/PB
22	Area Committee development and support	AG
23	Boden Centre – Increase use by health/wellbeing promoting organisations, ensure income from lettings cover costs	PB
24	Area Working Review – to research and advise on options for more effective delivery of community leadership and engagement in Area West	AG
25	Parish and Town Council Workshop – as needed	AG
26	Holyrood Lace Mill Management	PB
27	Monitor Capital Programme Projects	AG

## 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:**     *Area West Development Work Programme Overview 2010-11*

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