

Area West Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014

## **9. Draft Asset Management Strategy**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

To consult with Area Committees on the proposed Asset Management Strategy.

### **Public Interest**

South Somerset District Council owns a range of properties and land assets. We aim to look after these in the most effective and efficient way and use them to further the objectives of the council.

### **Recommendation**

It is requested that members comment on the draft Asset Management Strategy (Appendix A).

### **Background**

The Draft Asset Management Strategy (AMS) was presented to the council's Strategy Asset Management Group (SAMG) on 16 July and 22 October 2013 and the Management Board in September and October 2013. In general, the elected members of SAMG were in favour of:

- The stated Vision and the Aims of the Strategy and particularly that it should underpin the key strategies already agreed by SSDC.
- The assumptions about the longer term use and need for specific buildings in SSDC's property portfolio.
- The approach of having a high level strategy together with an Asset Management Plan (AMP), reviewed each year.
- The cessation of SAMG and the institution of a Strategic Asset Steering Group (SASG) focusing on the on-going delivery of the strategy and agreeing of the annual Asset Management Plan. SASG discussions will retain a strategic, not operational, view and Area Chairs, other Portfolio Holders and staff can attend any strategic discussions on a property in their area.
- The Area view is valued and, if requested, a representative of the newly defined SASG would give a verbal update to Area Committees once a year on the assets in each area.
- An area-based Property and Car Park Register will still be made available to area members and staff.
- The proposed approach was a sensible option.

**Where next?**

The draft Strategy is being taken to all the Area Committees in December and January to seek area members' views. Any comments would be appreciated and will be taken into account before the strategy is taken to District Executive and then Full Council for adoption. It is hoped that this can be completed by April 2014. This timescale will not prevent any agreed work being delivered, neither will it stop the work to develop the Asset Management Plan for 2014/15.

**Corporate Priority Implications**

None directly arising from the report.

**Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications**

The strategy commits to continue to strive to reduce the organisation's energy use via its buildings.

**Equality and Diversity Implications**

Full consideration to equalities has been given in producing this Strategy.

***Background Papers:***            *None*

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