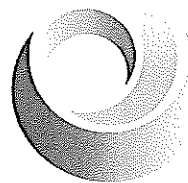


South Somerset Together

Annual Report 2010



WINNER
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
AWARDS 2010

Improving the quality of life in South Somerset



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South Somerset Together Annual General Meeting 2010 Chairman's Report

South Somerset Together has continued to show how important and relevant it is to the local communities we serve. Throughout the year we have worked together to deliver a wide range of vital programmes. Our success has been recognised nationally as the Best Strategic Partnership in the Country, awarded to us at the Community Partnership Awards.

My report last year reflected how the government of the day had gone further than ever before to substantiate the position and relevance of LSPs at both County and District level. We recognised that the global market meltdown would only increase the need for collaborative ventures such as LSPs and the pooling of talent and budget they represent.

We are now in a radically new world. We have a new coalition government and they are set on a course to attack the budget deficit with great energy. Many targets and frameworks such as Comprehensive Area Assessment have vanished and all of our public sector partners are facing significant pressure on cost and service delivery. Regional Spatial Strategy targets are gone and planning rules are changing dramatically. Quite how we are going to respond to the inevitable, but in some instances unspecified, challenges will depend on our persistence as a Partnership.

I am delighted that the District Council has recently confirmed its continuing commitment to South Somerset's LSP. We intend to work very closely with the District Council and all of our partners in business, the voluntary sector and the public sector to ensure that South Somerset Together continues to provide the valuable service to our community. The business and voluntary sector are the vehicles through which much of the revamped services could be delivered, along with devolution to very local levels; our track record of effective joint working should ease the transition to any new mode of community activity.

This Annual Report lays out what we have been able to achieve and it's an impressive array of delivered programmes. We have been very fortunate to continue to receive the highest level of commitment from all our partner organisations including written formal commitments to the shared goals we work towards.

Over the coming months more will become clear about how government will act and what aspects of our local life we will need to focus on. Our efforts will initially be concentrated on reshaping our programme where necessary and then on getting on and delivering the programme in the same collaborative way that we have done so successfully in the past.

The Community Partnership Award recognised that South Somerset Together had positively affected many people's lives with very little budget. We will have to do the same, and more, again. I have no doubt that we are up to the challenge.



Paul Robathan
Chairman of South Somerset Together



South Somerset
together

Improving the quality of life in South Somerset

Local Strategic Partnership



What is it?
What does it do?
Who is involved?

The key strategic partnership in South Somerset is South Somerset Together Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). It exists to lead and improve the delivery of services by setting shared objectives, bringing about change that will meet the social, economic, environmental, educational, health and safety needs of the communities within South Somerset.

The LSP is an unincorporated association and a non-statutory and non-executive body. It is not a separate legal entity. South Somerset District Council is the lead authority responsible for entering into any contractual arrangements on behalf of the partnership, where necessary. The Partnership has an independently appointed Chairman and Coordinator.

The Executive Board consists of named representatives from the following public, private and voluntary sector organisations:

South Somerset District Council, Avon & Somerset Constabulary, Somerset County Council, AgustaWestland, NHS Somerset, Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, Yeovil College, Yeovil Chamber of Trade and Commerce, South Somerset Citizen's Advice Bureau, Environment Agency, Connexions, Yarlington Housing Group, South Somerset Association for Voluntary and Community Action, South Somerset Climate Action, Somerset Arts Promoters, RNAS Yeovilton, National Trust, Natural England, Yeovil Federation, South Somerset Equalities Group, Business Link Somerset Ltd and the VCS Forum Reference Group.

Website: www.southsomersettogether.org.uk

Email: lsp@southsomerset.gov.uk



The Sustainable Community Strategy

**What is it?
What does it do?
Who is involved?**

Shaping South Somerset is the Sustainable Community Strategy for South Somerset. It is the overarching document for the district until 2026. It is closely linked to South Somerset District Council's Local Development Framework Core Strategy (2011-2026), the Somerset Local Area Agreement approved by Government and the Corporate Plans of the LSP partner organisations. The Strategy identifies the issues that communities face now and the trends for the future. It sets out the priorities and actions that require everyone to work together to meet some of the big challenges in the future.

The Sustainable Community Strategy is firmly rooted in sound baseline statistical data as well as information supplied by local residents and organisations, including through the many completed community-led Parish and Town Plans.

The Strategy recognises the work already being done to address needs and goes on to identify the key additional work needed across partner organisations to accelerate progress. This is through the LSP commissioning consultation or research and funding to "kick start" activity where a gap in provision has been identified, with the stipulation that if the programme is successful, the partners participating will maintain it. Sometimes all that is required is for LSP partner organisations to work together in a new way to find a solution to something which has proved challenging. An important outcome from this partnership approach is that residents should really benefit from improved services and value for money as well as building towards a better way to live now and in the future.

You can view the Strategy online at:
<http://www.southsomersettogether.org.uk>

South Somerset Together - Financial Report 2009/10

Sources of Income

The Partnership receives financial support generated from a proportion of the council tax levied on second homes across South Somerset.

All the main precepting authorities benefit from this extra income. South Somerset District Council (SSDC) delegates its element to the LSP, South Somerset Together and Somerset County Council (SCC) allocates a proportion to each of the district LSP, with the balance going to the Somerset Strategic Partnership, the countywide LSP.

For the financial year 2009/10 this second homes income to the LSP amounted to £45,390 from SSDC and £44,510 from SCC. In addition the LSP had a balance of funding, from programmes and activities sponsored in 2008/09 or earlier years but not yet completed. This carried forward figure was £56,630. Together with SSDC funding for specific projects this gave the LSP a starting balance of £146,530 for the year.

Key Areas of Expenditure:

The following table gives a summary of income and expenditure for the whole year. South Somerset Together has had a very busy year with two main focuses for its work and resources:

1. Developing and Delivering the Sustainable Community Strategy

The document: *Shaping South Somerset – a Sustainable Community Strategy (2008-2026)* was launched at the *Zero-Som* event on 13th June 2009. It is the blueprint for agency corporate and operational plans for the district. The LSP identified 36 interlinking priority areas for 2009/10. Thirteen were allocated funding support. Within this 6 areas of funding were confirmed, via the Investment Plan submission, in December 2009 & January 2010. Several work areas are in the early stages of implementation as a result.

2. Completing Pump Priming work on the Strategy

These cross-agency programmes were identified and approved by the LSP before the Strategy was launched and were designed to kick-start Strategy implementation.

Resources in the Future:

2009/10 was the last year that the LSP was able to benefit from Somerset Strategic Partnership funding support. The Partnership has been able to set a budget for 2010/11 by paring down its core costs to the minimum and closely monitoring programme funding, recycling any resources not absolutely needed for project implementation. It will need to look for new external funding sources in 2010/11 and beyond to continue its work.

End of Year Financial Summary: 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010

	Allocated Funding 2009/10	Actual Expenditure for year	Remaining Committed Budget	Returned to LSP balances for 2010/11	Balances
INCOME					
SSDC for 2009/10					45,390.00
Carried forward 2008/09					56,630.00
SCC Investment Plan 2009/10					44,510.00
Income Sub-Total					146,530.00
EXPENDITURE					
1. Core Costs					
LSP Coordinator Salary & Chairman Costs	44,533.00	42,724.81			
Subsistence, travel costs and overtime		1,601.47			
Training		125.00			
	44,533.00	44,451.28		81.72	
Sustainable Community Strategy	442.68	0.00		442.68	
SST Website (Creation and development)	120.00	0.00		120.00	
Voluntary Sector Forum	2,522.08	1,899.04		623.04	
Summer Student Placement	2,070.00	1,212.28		857.72	
Cost of running meetings, events and development	4,760.32	3,343.23		1,417.09	
Core Costs Sub-Total	54,448.08	50,905.83	0.00	3,542.25	
2. Programme Delivery					
2006/07 Programmes					
Inward Investment and Employment Strategy	2,450.00	0.00	0.00	2,450.00	
	2,450.00	0.00	0.00	2,450.00	

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End of Year Financial Summary: 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010

	Allocated Funding 2009/10	Actual Expenditure for year	Remaining Committed Budget	Returned to LSP balances for 2010/11	Balances
2008/09 Programmes					
Green Business Project	13,050.00	11,679.62	0.00		
(Follow on – Green Accord Project)		137.29	1,233.09		
Affordable Housing Sites - Process	9,198.00	3,272.68	5,925.32		
Preventing Crime - Activities for Young People	4,230.00	4,230.00	0.00		
Sustainability Event	4,580.00	3,429.56	0.00		
(Follow on – Zero-Som marketing materials)		324.03	826.41		
Community Transport	6,900.00	6,900.00	0.00		
Tree Planting	6,788.00	2,697.10	0.00	4,090.90	
Sub-Total	44,746.00	32,670.28	7,984.82	4,090.90	
2009/10 Programmes					
Health Inequalities	15,011.80	15,011.80	0.00		
Consultation Protocol	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00		
Economic Forum	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00		
Market Towns Renewable Energy Roadshow	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00		
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	8,206.50	0.00	8,206.50		
Biodiversity Officer 2010/11	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00		
Sub-total	42,218.30	16,511.80	25,706.50		
Programme Sub-Total	89,414.30	49,182.08	33,691.32	6,540.90	
Total (Core & Programme)	143,862.38	100,087.91	33,691.32	10,083.15	
	146,530.00				146,530.00

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South Somerset Together - Completed Programmes

Programme	LSP Funding £	Lead Partners
Completed by March 2009		
Well-being of young people PETA Scheme	37,991.00	Connexions
South Somerset Local Biodiversity Action Plan	4,700.00	SCC, Som Environmental Records Centre
Inward investment Strategy – Business ICT Grants	20,455.41	SSDC
SMARTRISK	2,000.00	SCC
Health & Social Needs Analysis	1,000.00	NHS Somerset, SCC
Affordable Housing Site ID Project	23,957.42	SSDC, Yarlington Housing Group, SCC
Headcams (linked to Joint Enforcement programme)	13,000.00	A&SC, SSDC
Apprenticeship Scheme	9,890.00	VISTA, L&SC
Welfare benefits home visiting service	32,016.00	CAB
Preventing homelessness – County Court desk	9,952.00	CAB, SSH, SSDC
SHINE (Somerset & Health Initiatives Enterprise) Somerset Ltd	39,000.00	SSDC, NHS Somerset, Balsam Centre Wincanton
Well-being of young people: B-Active Scheme	10,000.00	SSDC
Diversions activities: Outreach to reduce offending	18,749.01	Yeovil Foyer, Knightstone Housing Association and Youth Offending Team
Somerset Strategic Housing Market Assessment	5,000.00	SSDC
Completed by March 2010		
Preventing Crime, Activities for Young People	4,230.00	SCC, SSDC, A&SC, DSFRS, Connexions
Voluntary and Community Sector database	2,083.00	SSVCA, SCC, SSDC
Community Transport – research into models of good practice	6,900.00	SCC, SSVCA
Green Business Project	11,680.00	Yeovil Chamber Business Link
Affordable housing sites methodology	9,198	YHG, SSDC
Tree Mapping and Community Woodlands Pack	2,698.00	SSDC
Sustainability Events and Public/Business Awareness Raising	4,580.00	All LSP Partners

Sustainable Communities Act

In addition to the programmes listed on page 10, South Somerset Together (SST) led on the development of proposals to submit to central government under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 (SCA).

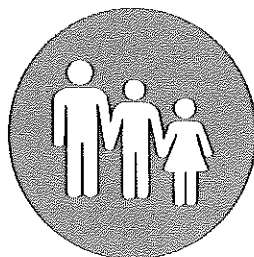
In June and July 2009, SST led an extensive public consultation exercise, resulting in the drafting and submission of 4 proposals, all of which were short listed by the Local Government Association (LGA) and put forward for consideration by central government:

- Improve home insulation and other energy saving measures in people's homes with a priority for older people and older housing stock
- Lobby the Government to help public sector organisations support the local economy by procuring goods and services from local suppliers
- Ensure that any new-build housing development provides some of its own energy from renewable resources
- Establish a Community Allowance enabling unemployed people to undertake a small amount of paid work without it affecting their benefits

The SCA is an example of how SST can act as a facilitator and advocate for putting forward the needs of agencies and communities to engineer change in government policy.

South Somerset Together – Programmes Completed or substantially underway in 2009/10

There are 5 Themes in the Strategy within which there are 12 linked goals



Wellbeing

- Goal 1: Safe & Inclusive – safe, resilient, socially just communities with strong networks and confident people showing respect for each other**
- Goal 2: Voluntary & Community Sector – a strong, vibrant, skilled voluntary & community sector with high levels of volunteering & active citizens**
- Goal 3: Healthy & Active – developing a health enhancing environment and offer support to enable all residents to choose a healthy lifestyle**

Goal 1: Safe & Inclusive: Action 1: Preventing Crime- Activities for Young People

Partners involved: Somerset County Council (SCC), South Somerset District Council (SSDC), Avon & Somerset Constabulary, Yarlinton Housing Group, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service

Aim of project: To develop specific programmes for positive activities for young people to inform the South Somerset Youth Offer, through a programme of consultation with young people themselves. This project received funding of £4,780 in total from the LSP and SCC. This was used to support a consultation exercise with young people between July & November 2009. The aim was to ascertain young peoples' view on what the Youth Offer should be and the barriers that might stop young people (particularly those who are disadvantaged) from engaging in the activities and support available.

What's happened?

The research concluded that:

- A young people friendly version of the Youth Offer be produced, highlighting the benefits of engaging with activities/services, as young people need to understand what the Youth Offer means for them. Also that a competition be held that finds a better name, a strap line, for the Youth Offer.
- Quality assurance standards (including those related to Health & Safety) for activities / services within the Youth Offer be created with young people, using the work already started by them as part of this project.
- All activities / services currently included within the Youth Offer and available in South Somerset are retained, with special attention paid to 'people to talk to' and 'places to go'.
- Young people should be involved in the development of a variety of promotional materials, using the groundwork already carried out within this research, including the proposal that the option of using social networks etc be thoroughly explored as a way of promoting the Youth Offer. The current AWSOM www.awsom.org.uk site used to harvest details of current opportunities be

revamped and further promoted to young people and adults supporting them alongside these developments.

- A guide to the production of quality leaflets / posters be created (from the information gained in this research and with input from young people) and disseminated to all groups who come under the banner of the Youth Offer. This guide should include details regarding the range of information that young people have stated they require when making a decision about whether or not to participate in an activity / service as well as guidance related to presentation and location.
- Work with Somerset transport companies to negotiate cheaper and better transport for young people to be continued.
- Work with commercial businesses be started to negotiate better pricing for young people to enable them to access a greater range of commercial activities.
- The benefits of enabling young people to engage in positive activities are seen as a priority for all professionals working directly with young people. Additionally, that professionals working with parents understand and promote the importance of the engagement of young people in positive activities and help parents to achieve this.
- Young people to be included in all aspects of the development of the Youth Offer by the creation of a youth group, which meets fortnightly and is supported by consistent youth work staffing. Also those resources are identified to pay for transport, training and reward activities for young people. This group to be tasked with the creation and implementation of quality standards, the creation of promotional materials, the creation of the publicity guide and to have representation on the Youth Offer sub-group.
- All actions undertaken as a result of this research should be fed back to the young people involved and a copy of this report forwarded to all those for whom addresses have been kept

Next Steps:

A group is taking this work forward with a group of young people as shown above. SCC have funding until at least September 2010 to continue to develop this work with its partners

Goal 2: Voluntary & Community Sector: Action 6 (first stage) Creation of voluntary & community sector database

Partners involved: South Somerset Voluntary & Community Action (SSVCA), South Somerset District Council (SSDC), Somerset County Council (SCC)

Aim of project: The creation of a database of voluntary & community sector organisations & groups for South Somerset. If successful it is hoped that it can become a Countywide resource with data collection in other Districts across the County. Total funding of £2,083 set aside to complete this work

What's happened?

- The database was completed in September 2009
- At that time it had been populated with over 280 voluntary & community groups registered within South Somerset. This is being added to all the time with an expected total of at least 600 groups once the database is fully populated
- SSVCA is working to raise awareness of its services to build up the database as they raise their profile
- The database enables it to successfully communicate with groups and allow them to target groups with specific information. It is able to log work carried out with individual organisations to improve monitoring & reporting of support provided
- It does not duplicate the Village Hall databases or Sports, Arts & Leisure databases, which are held separately by SSDC
- The database has been rolled out to the other 4 District CVSs in Somerset and will be maintained and updated by those individual organisations. If needed they can be merged to provide a Somerset wide database

Next Steps:

To consider the need for a voluntary & community sector "hub" so that residents and organisations know where to go for help & advice by 2012. The group that is meeting to discuss this feel that what is required

is better access to information about VCS organisations across the District, possibly through a website. It is currently looking at the best ways to achieve this. This Action is linked to delivering more services with or through the voluntary & community sector (6.1)

Goal 3: Healthy & Active: Action 8: The Health Inequalities Project – Milford & Birchfield Neighbourhoods, Yeovil - joint approach to tackling health inequalities in Yeovil

Partners involved: NHS Somerset, SSDC, Yeovil District Hospital, NHS Foundation Trust, Avon & Somerset Constabulary, Yarlington Housing Group, Yeovil College, other local partners including the Town Council and Milford Residents' Association

Aim of project: Deliver programmes -through consultation with the community- that will tackle the issues experienced by all age groups in this deprived ward of Yeovil. In parallel there is a project to create a new Community Centre as a focus for community activity in the area. This programme has received substantial project funding from NHS Somerset and a number of partners with £15,012 from the LSP

What's happened?

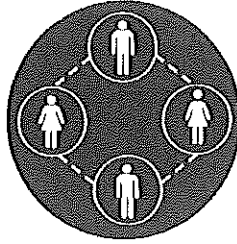
- Building work has started on the Milford Hall redevelopment, which is due for completion by October 2010
- The Centre will be used for a mixture of community activities and outreach work by partner agencies so becoming a community hub
- The Project Manager coordinating the multi-agency work programme started in November 2009 and has identified local priorities both with the community and the agencies, which forms the basis for a long-term work programme
- Priorities are about increasing community action, promoting training and job opportunities and promoting healthier lifestyle choices

Next Steps:

There is a strong and extensive programme of activities & events planned throughout 2010 coordinated by the Project Manager. This is all leading up to the opening of the Community Centre in October. This scheme provides an opportunity to better integrate services across agencies to improve efficiency and effectiveness, whilst tackling deep-seated health, social & economic inequalities. It is hoped that the lessons learned here would have applications elsewhere in the District

Other priority work under this Theme:

Goal & Action	Main Partners	Progress Summary
Goal 2: Action 5 Joint volunteering policy	SSDC, SSVCA, Natural England, NHS Somerset, SS Mind, SCC, Yeovil College	Protocol developed May 2010 – some further work required
Goal 3: Action 11 Look at & plan for the future needs of older people	SCC, SSDC, Natural England, YHG, NHS Somerset, South Somerset Mind, Avon & Somerset Constabulary and DSFRS	Task & Finish Group has met. SCC carrying out a consultation in June 2010
Goal 3: Action 12 Healthy Staff programme	SSDC, Natural England, YHG, NHS Somerset, South Somerset Mind, SCC	Task & Finish Group has met, survey to establish baseline



Well run, well served &
well connected

Goal 4: Quality Public Services – low carbon quality services and facilities (including transport & ICT) are designed around the needs of the community enabling everyone to have fair & equitable access to what they need

Goal 4: Action: 13: (first stage) Community Transport: Research into models of good practice
Partners involved: SCC, SSDC, Community Transport providers

Aim of project: Identifying options to maximise green travel and starting one option by 2012. The first stage of this scheme was to research existing models for community transport schemes in Somerset, identifying good practice and supporting improvements. This would lead to identifying a model for future community transport schemes that ensures good practice from the start and makes schemes more sustainable, including financially sustainable. It also aimed to identify further LSP activities to move towards improved accessibility in the District. Cost: £6,900

What's happened?

The outcome of the research was reported to the LSP Board in September 2009. The main conclusions were:

- South Somerset, unlike other rural parts of Somerset, has very few community car schemes at a local level. This could be addressed by developing a network of community car schemes across South Somerset. It was recommended that a development project is undertaken to support 10 community car schemes across the District, set up over an 18-month period
- SCC has set up a telephone contact to be provided to the Community Transport sector in South Somerset, to increase access to transport. This was being set up in September 2009 for implementation by April 2010
- Publicity should be improved with better promotion of services in South Somerset in order to increase usage and reduce dependence on the car. SCC undertook to further investigate how this could be done
- Following on from Board approval of these next steps, a Steering group was set up to identify the resources needed to establish a network of community car schemes. The intention was to launch this from April 2010. At the time of writing the final element of funding was still being sought to enable the scheme to go ahead

Next Steps:

In addition to the community car scheme mentioned above, which is being lead by SSVCA with support from SCC; a survey of Partners' green travel plans is underway.

During the year the LSP supported the University of the West of England (UWE) to undertake a green transport infrastructure study for Yeovil. Funded by Government Office, it has come up with a wide ranging set of proposals, which if implemented, will offer residents, visitors and those working in Yeovil real alternatives to car travel, to access work, services & facilities across the town. This study was endorsed by the LSP Board in May 2010 and will be used to advocate for investment in facilities such as more linked cycle ways, better public transport etc. within Yeovil.

Other priority work under this Theme:

Goal & Action	Main Partners	Progress Summary
Goal 4: Action 14 Implement a protocol for joint community consultation & engagement	SSDC, Avon & Somerset Constabulary, NHS Somerset, Environment Agency, DSFRS, Natural England	Funding of £5,000 to help test approach. Project brief under development



Thriving economy

Goal 5: High Performance Local Economy – a competitive, high performing economy that is diverse, adaptable & resource efficient

Goal 6: Learning – an educated, skilled & well paid workforce, which matches the needs of an increasingly low carbon economy

Goal 7: Distinctiveness – a thriving Yeovil market town & rural economy environment able to attract & retain visitors, consumers and high quality sustainable businesses

Goal 5: Action 15: (first stage) Green Business Project

Partners involved: Yeovil Chamber of Trade, SSDC, Business Link

Aim of project: The aim of this project was to trial approaches to engaging businesses and making environmental improvements whilst saving money. It aimed to engage with 80-100 small to medium enterprises. This was designed to make it easier to engage with businesses in a district wide Economic Forum, in order to agree targets for moving towards a low carbon and sustainable economy in the future. A total of £11,680 was spent with the balance retained for a second stage project

What's happened?

- The launch event in Yeovil was well attended but a similar event in Chard attracted few participants
- Overall there was engagement with 60 businesses, 10 went on to complete individual green audits supported by the Global Action Plan agency
- The follow-up workshops were reduced from 8 to 4 because of the withdrawal of support from Regional Partners. Fortunately Business Link were very proactive in supporting the project through officers with expert knowledge able, to some extent, to fill the gap
- The completion of green audits took place by March 2010.
- The lead agencies concluded that the recession made it more difficult to engage businesses in the programme, which appeared to offer insufficient incentive for them to change their operations

Next Steps:

Arising from this work a Task & Finish group was formed to consider agreeing green procurement/supply chain policies in order to influence suppliers, so encouraging business change through a different route. So far there has not been a consensus on the best way to proceed with this work. SSDC have offered to hold a good practice workshop Autumn 2010.

A business waste and recycling event was co-arranged with Somerset Waster Partnership (SWP) on 23 March 2010 in Yeovil. This was successful and the feedback from the event is being analysed with a view to holding further, sector specific events, in 2010. A further £2,500 has been allocated to support the Economic Forum and an audit of skills needed by businesses is underway led by Yeovil College (Action 16)

Goal 7: Action 19: Develop a Sustained & Positive Keep It Local Campaign by 2010

Partners involved: SSDC, Business Link, Environment Agency, Yeovil Chamber of Trade, Yeovil College, Market Town Investment Group and other local partners

Aim of project: To enable all communities to move towards transition status by engaging with them to develop a Keep It Local campaign, map local community views on renewable energy and improve access to essential knowledge skills and products for sustainable living. This Action also supports a number of other environmental goals and a sum of £10,000 has been set aside by the LSP to take forward this work.

What's happened?

- A baseline study of the economies of the market towns of South Somerset is being carried out
- All the market towns already have economic priorities set out in their Community Plans
- SSDC adopted working towards transition status in 2008 and transition communities include Ilminster, Langport, South Petherton & Tatworth, with an embryonic group in Bruton
- The Market Town Investment Group, a sub-group of the LSP, has £300,000 of capital funding allocated to support the vitality of market towns and enable them to work together to attract the right sort of investment
- The main towns of Yeovil and Chard have vision documents, which are shaping and stimulating investment in these towns

Next Steps:

A project brief is being completed and work will start in Autumn 2010. Findings of the Economic Assessment for Yeovil and Somerset will help to shape this work. This also links to Action 20.1, Development of Transition Towns

Goal 7: Action 20: Local Development Framework Core Strategy Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Partners involved: SSDC and all partners

Aim of project: To ensure that the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (which accompanies the Local Development Framework Core Strategy) encompasses a wide range of community infrastructure. A budget of £8,207 has been set aside by the LSP to ensure that functional and comprehensive data is gathered in order to support the economic vitality of Yeovil, Chard and other market towns & villages, so making the most of future growth in keeping with the needs of people & distinctive built & natural heritage of the area.

What's happened?

- SSDC has secured pilot status for the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, which means that specialist help is being given by the Planning Advisory Service
- An Infrastructure Delivery Plan Sub-Group has been formed, which will enable the LSP to coordinate the infrastructure rolling programme when it has been drawn up

Next Steps:

The database request will be distributed as a questionnaire in June 2010. When the main data sets are available, this autumn, further discussions will be held with other more local community infrastructure providers, to ensure that a strong picture of intended provision and gaps or needs can be assembled on a town-by-town basis. Alongside this the District Council is assembling a database of 106 obligations secured through the planning process and this information together should enable better negotiations on planning obligations where planned growth occurs

Other priority work under this Theme:

Goal & Action	Main Partners	Progress Summary
Goal 5: Action 15.2 Business Mentoring programme	Business Link, SSDC, SCC, SSCA	Outcome & lessons of pilot reported to LSP in November 2009
Goal 6: Action 18 Trainee protocol	SSDC, Yeovil College, Yeovil Federation	To follow on from skills audit



Well designed & well built

Goal 8: Quality development – sustainably sited & constructed high quality homes, buildings & public spaces where people can live & work in an environmentally friendly & healthy way
Goal 9: Homes – a balanced housing market with a range of low carbon affordable housing with the flexibility to meet the changing needs of the population

Goal 9: Action 25: Affordable Housing Sites Methodology

Partners involved: Yarlington House Group (YHG), SSDC

Aim of project: This is a second phase project following on from a much broader trawl of possible sites for affordable housing schemes, initiated in South Somerset but carried out Countywide. The purpose of this stage was to take identified priority sites with the greatest potential and progress them to development ready stage. Cost: £9,198 was available to enable the retained consultants to develop this methodology

What's happened?

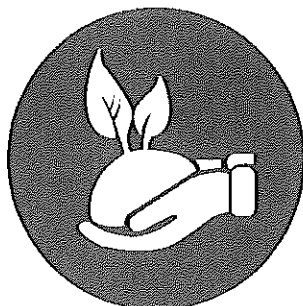
- A total of 15 sites were looked at, these were mainly rural sites ranging from 3 homes up to 20 homes and all but one were allocated to 4 Housing Associations for further evaluation
- The Housing Associations involved are now progressing the sites at their own expense & risk. For this reason the residual budget of £4,925 has been returned to LSP balances with £1,000 as a contingency if required

Next Steps:

It is still hoped that at least one or more of these sites will get to development, although changes in the availability of funding for affordable housing, may mean that these schemes cannot come to fruition. Cross service group within SSDC looking at barriers to bringing forward of rural exception schemes (Action 26.1)

Other priority work under this Theme:

Goal & Action	Main Partners	Progress Summary
Goal 8: Action 21.1 Policy for sourcing of local materials	SSDC, YHG, Avon & Somerset Constabulary	Workshop for partners Autumn 2010
Goal 8: Action 22 & 23 Promote sustainable construction	SSDC, SCC, NHS Somerset, YHG	Eco-town bid for Yeovil successful; SSDC held an event in April 2010 for developers;
Goal 8: Action 24 One new approach to reduce fuel poverty	SSDC, NHS Somerset, YHG	Somerset Park Homes insulation bid unsuccessful. Await news of SCA proposal currently with government



Environmentally sensitive

Goal 10: Energy – move towards a carbon neutral economy

Goal 11: Environment – protection & enhancement of our natural environment & biodiversity

Goal 12: Environmental Education – awareness about the importance of our natural environment biodiversity and sustainable use of resources and satisfaction with the local environment

Goal 11: Action 31: (first stage) Tree Mapping and Community Woodland Pack

Partners involved: SSDC, SCC

Aim of project: To map existing woodland and potential sites for future planting with a focus on identifying strategic gaps in woodland cover. This project also set out to create an interactive pack for setting up community woodlands that would be available in South Somerset and could be replicated across the County. Cost: £6,788

What's happened?

- This project was part of a wider action to explore options for biodiversity, conservation & enhancement. The original mapping exercise identified priority areas for woodland schemes
- Community Woodland Packs have been requested for the following Councils within the targeted area: South Petherton; Castle Cary; Kingsdon; Bruton; Rimtpon, Tatworth & Forton; Somerton; Milborne Port; Sparkford; South Cadbury; Queen Camel; Templecombe; Wincanton and Keinton Mandeville
- Several other parishes would like to see planting but the barrier is the lack of planting sites available locally
- Packs are offered to Parish Councils located outside of the targeted planting area, schools are also becoming interested in the scheme

Next Steps:

It is intended to agree a joint LSP land management approach for biodiversity, conservation & enhancement. In addition, it is intended to deliver 50 new environmental enhancement schemes via the Somerset Landscape scheme by 2011/12. The LSP is also making a contribution to the Somerset Biodiversity Partnership for 2010/11 to help take forward local biodiversity action plan priorities in South Somerset

Goal 12: Actions 34 & 35: Sustainability events and public/business awareness raising

Partners involved: All LSP Partners

Aim of project: In launching the Sustainable Community Strategy, the LSP aims to raise awareness by businesses, communities and individuals about their impact on the environment and options for greener businesses and living. Alongside this, good practice examples will be promoted through the website and events. Cost: £4,580 set aside for materials and events

What's happened?

- The Zero-Som event to launch the strategy was held on 13 June 2009. It brought together a wide range of partners & agencies to showcase the impact of personal choices on the environment and options for green living
- Further promotional materials, aimed at both householders and businesses, have been developed for future events. The LSP was present at an event at Montacute in September 2009
- It co-hosted with the Somerset Waste Partnership, a business recycling event on 23 March 2010
- Case studies are being created and added to the LSP website
- An information sheet has been developed for businesses so that they can access information on various websites and contact support services in order to "green" their businesses
- The launch event was used to gather and test ideas for improving local sustainability and feeding these up to Government under the Sustainable Communities Act. The top 4 ideas were submitted to Government in July 2009. All 4 have passed the initial selection stage and are undergoing Government consideration (see page 11)

Next Steps:

Further case studies are being developed to add to the website and to be promoted in the media. A number of road shows and awareness raising events are being held in 2010 as well as maintaining an LSP presence at public events during the year. Each partner has been asked to identify an event that they could go to.

The new Government has reiterated its commitment to the Sustainable Community Act 2007. These were short-listed by the LGA (selector) and presented to the Secretary of State in December 2009.

Other priority work under this Theme:

Goal & Action	Main Partners	Progress Summary
Goal 10: Action 28 Agree targets to reduce carbon footprint	Business Link, SSDC, SCC, SSCA	Business recycling event held on 23 March 2010 with SWP. LSP information sheet for businesses developed. £2,500 set aside for further business events
Goal 10: Action 29 & 29.1 Measures to reduce residual waste	Somerset Waste Partnership, Business Link, SSDC, SCC, SSCA	Letter sent to SWP seeking more commitment. SWP Business Recycling Officer working with businesses to improve recycling facilities & rates
Goal 10: Action 30 Support production of electricity & heat from renewable sources	SWP, SSDC, SCC, YHG, Business Link	Linked to Action 19. Reassess way forward in light of new micro-energy generation tariff
Goal 11: Action 33 Agree protocol by 2010 to ensure climate change adaptation across partners	SSDC, SCC, Natural England, NHS Somerset	Workshop held February 2010. Further event October 2010. Protocol to be signed off November 2010

Contact Details

South Somerset Together (the Local Strategic Partnership)

LSP Board Meetings: All Board meetings are open to the public. Meetings are generally on the fourth Friday in the month, from 9:00 to 12:30 (refreshments from 8:30). For date and venue please check the website below.

Website: <http://www.southsomersettogether.gov.uk>
Email: lsp@southsomerset.gov.uk

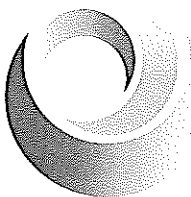
LSP Coordinator: Saveria Moss
SSDC Council Offices
Churchfield
Wincanton
Somerset
BA9 9AG

Telephone: 01963 435004
Email: saveria.moss@southsomerset.gov.uk

This document is also available in other languages, large print and audio format on request.
Dokument ten jest na zyczenie udostepniany w jezyku polskim.
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