

South Somerset District Council

Notice of Meeting



Scrutiny Committee

Making a difference where it counts

Tuesday 30th November 2010

10.00 am

**Main Committee Room
Council Offices
Brympton Way
Yeovil
Somerset BA20 2HT**

The public and press are welcome to attend.

Disabled Access is available at this meeting venue.



If you would like any further information on the items to be discussed, please ring the Agenda Co-ordinator, **Jo Morris** on Yeovil (01935) 462462

email: jo.morris@southsomerset.gov.uk, website: www.southsomerset.gov.uk

This Agenda was issued on Monday 22nd November 2010

Ian Clarke, Assistant Director (Legal & Corporate Services)



2007-2008
Neighbourhood and
Community Champions:
The Role of Elected Members
2006-2007
Improving Rural Services
Empowering Communities
2005-2006
Getting Closer to Communities

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Scrutiny Committee Membership

Chairman Sue Steele
Vice Chairman David Bulmer
Carol Goodall

John Calvert
John Vincent Chainey
Geoff Clarke
Tony Lock

Pat Martin
Roy Mills
John Richardson
Keith Ronaldson

Angie Singleton
Alan Smith
Martin Wale

Information for the Public

What is Scrutiny?

The Local Government Act 2000 requires all councils in England and Wales to introduce new political structures which provide a clear role for the Council, the Executive and non-executive councillors.

One of the key roles for non-executive councillors is to undertake an overview and scrutiny role for the council. In this Council the overview and scrutiny role involves reviewing and developing, scrutinising organisations external to the council and holding the executive to account

Scrutiny also has an important role to play in organisational performance management.

The Scrutiny Committee is made up of 14 non-executive members and meets monthly to consider items where executive decisions need to be reviewed before or after their implementation, and to commission reviews of policy or other public interest.

Members of the public are able to:

- attend meetings of the Scrutiny Committee except where, for example, personal or confidential matters are being discussed;
- speak at Scrutiny Committee meetings; and
- see agenda reports.

Meetings of the Scrutiny Committee are held monthly on the Tuesday prior to meetings of the District Executive at 10.00am in the Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

Agendas and minutes of these meetings are published on the Council's website www.southsomerset.gov.uk.

The Council's Constitution is also on the web site and available for inspection in council offices.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the agenda co-ordinator named on the front page.

South Somerset District Council – Corporate Aims

Our key aims are: (all equal)

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

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Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 30th November 2010

Agenda

Preliminary Items

1. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 2nd November 2010
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Public Question Time
5. Issues Arising from Previous Meetings

This is an opportunity for Members to question the progress on issues arising from previous meetings. However, this does not allow for the re-opening of a debate on any item not forming part of this agenda.

6. Chairman's Announcements
7. Verbal Update on Task and Finish Reviews

A brief verbal update by the Task and Finish Review Chairs on progress made.

Items for Discussion

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Scrutiny Committee – 30th November 2010

1. Minutes

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of the meeting of the **Scrutiny Committee** held on **Tuesday 2nd November 2010** in the Main Committee Room, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

(10.00 a.m. – 12 noon)

Present:

Members: Councillor Sue Steele (Chairman)

Dave Bulmer
John Calvert
Carol Goodall
Tony Lock

Pat Martin
Roy Mills
Keith Ronaldson
Angie Singleton

Also Present:

Councillors Tim Carroll, Jo Roundell Greene, Tom Parsley, Robin Munday and Tony Fife

Officers:

Keith Wheaton-Green	Climate Change Officer
Sue Eaton	Performance Manager
Rina Singh	Strategic Director (Place and Performance)
Vega Sturgess	Strategic Director (Operations & Customer Focus)
Dave Norris	Development Control Manager
Donna Parham	Assistant Director (Finance and Corporate Services)
Emily McGuinness	Scrutiny Manager
Becky Sanders	Scrutiny Manager
Jo Morris	Committee Administrator

81. Minutes (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2010, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

82. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Geoff Clarke, Alan Smith, John Richardson and Martin Wale.

83. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

84. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

85. Issues Arising from Previous Meeting (Agenda Item 5)

Civil Parking Enforcement

The Strategic Director (Operations & Customer Focus) updated members on the current situation. A fuller picture would be known once Somerset County Council had clarified their position in view of the recent budget cuts. A report would then be submitted to either the December or January District Executive meeting for consideration. Scrutiny Committee members requested to be kept informed of the situation.

In response to a member question, it was noted that the Car Parking Strategy was due to be reviewed in 2012 although the Portfolio Holder had confirmed that work to review the Strategy would begin earlier than scheduled.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Cllr Tim Carroll reminded members that a variety of bids had been submitted from the South West. Two of these bids had been successful which were the West of England bid and the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly bid. Those bids that were not successful have been invited to reconfigure their proposals. The Portfolio Holder for Economic and Organisational Development said that there was an onerous on SSDC to submit a bid otherwise the Council could loose out on funding.

86. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 6)

The Chairman made no announcements.

87. Verbal Update on Task and Finish Reviews (Agenda Item 7)

Partnerships

Becky Sanders, Scrutiny Manager reported that the Review Group had met on two occasions. The Review Group was progressing well and the next meeting would be held on 25th November. The Group had listened to approximately a third of the Partnerships.

Cultural Strategy

Cllr Dave Bulmer referred to the Somerset County Council budget cuts and questioned where this would leave the Somerset Cultural Strategy. It was agreed that the Chairman of the Task and Review Group would write to the Chairman of SCC Scrutiny Committee to seek assurances over whether this area of work would be affected by the budget cuts.

88. Verbal Update on the Joint Integration Committee (Agenda Item 8)

Cllr Tim Carroll updated members on the current position of the Joint Integration Committee (JIC) following the e-mail he had circulated to members regarding the cancellation of the JIC. It was noted that the JIC was cancelled in consultation with and agreement from East Devon District Council. It was being proposed that the introduction of the shared senior management be paused so significant further savings can be made before returning to the joint management discussions next year.

Members noted that a report on Joint working with East Devon District Council would be submitted to Scrutiny Committee, District Executive and Full Council in December.

During discussion, one member raised concerns over the process followed. It was agreed that a member briefing session would be held for all members on 9th December at 10.00am in the Council Chamber with a focus on clarifying the current position and identifying lessons, which will improve the process when it is re-started in the future.

89. Finance Update (Agenda Item 9)

The Assistant Director (Finance and Corporate Services) referred members to the update on the Medium Term Financial Plan, which had been sent out with the District Executive agenda for 4th November 2010. She mentioned a number of issues including the following:

- There were still some unknown issues relating to concessionary fares;
- The New Homes Bonus was based upon built homes not permissions granted;
- Further work was continuing on the savings plan;
- Capital bids would be considered by District Executive in December;
- The targeted savings through the Lean Programme would be achieved by the end of the financial year.

It was agreed that a member briefing session would be held on 9th December at 11.00am in the Council Chamber to give members an opportunity to question the Portfolio Holders about future budget proposals.

Members considered the recommendations in the report in relation to car parking and season ticket charges. In response to comments and questions, members were informed of the following:

- The Council had to take a marketing approach towards car parking charges and also look at its competitors;
- There would be a huge financial risk to the Council if car park charges were to be decreased;
- The Council's car parking charges were set below its neighbouring authorities;
- A blanket approach to increasing charges had not been taken and in some car parks there were no increases proposed. Each individual car park had been looked at in detail;
- It was not effective to install change machines in car parks;
- The Council were not in a position to be able to enforce half hour parking slots;
- Parking charges were scaled in relation to the size of the settlement;
- The issue of Sunday charging was an issue still to be considered after April.

Scrutiny members endorsed the recommendations contained within the Medium Term Financial Plan report in relation to revised car parking and season ticket charges.

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the report be noted; and
 - (2) That the recommendations contained within the Medium Term Financial Plan report in relation to the revised car parking and season ticket changes be endorsed by the Scrutiny Committee.
 - (3) That a briefing session be held on 9th December at 11.00am in the Council Chamber to give members an opportunity to question the Portfolio Holders about future budget proposals.

(Donna Parham, Assistant Director - Finance & Corporate Services)
(donna.Parham@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462225)

90. Section 106 Planning Obligations (Agenda Item 10)

The Development Manager explained that 2 years ago an Audit Review was undertaken which identified a number issues over the monitoring of Section 106 agreements and that as a result Development Management had taken over ownership of the process and created a dedicated Section 106 Monitoring Officer post.

Members were informed that a new computer system had been installed to monitor and manage Section 106 agreements and that the Audit Committee had endorsed the actions taken in respect of the monitoring of Section 106 planning obligations.

It was anticipated that a full record of all data relating to Section 106 agreements should be in place by the end of March 2011 and that quarterly monitoring reports (including a list of outstanding S106 agreements) would be submitted to Area Committees starting with Area East in December. Both financial and non-financial obligations would be monitored through the process.

Member supported the actions taken in respect of the monitoring of Section 106 planning obligations.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.

(Dave Norris, Development Manager)
(david.norris@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462382)

91. Strategic Development and Improvement Plan (Agenda Item 11)

The Leader of the Council introduced the performance monitoring report for the Strategic Improvement and Development Plan as at 31st August 2010.

The Performance Manager reported that 65% of actions were complete with four actions behind target. She referred to the demise of the Audit Commission and explained that the actions within the Plan were no longer relevant and that future reports to the Scrutiny Committee should be put on hold and considered again when further guidance from the government was known.

One member referred to page 21 of the report and the postponed action relating to Strengthening links between financial and performance reports and questioned how this would be monitored. The Strategic Director (Place and Performance) explained that this was a developmental issue and involved looking at individual services and that this would be progressed when further guidance was known. She estimated that work was likely to start in April. The member commented that it was essential to have the information and know what the costs are.

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the report be noted; and
 - (2) That in view of the demise of the Audit Commission future reports to the Scrutiny Committee be put on hold until further guidance from the government is known.

*(Rina Singh, Strategic Director - Place & Performance)
(rina.singh@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462010)*

92. Update on the Wind Turbine at Yeovil Innovation Centre (Agenda Item 12)

The Strategic Director (Operations & Customer Focus) introduced the report and explained that the Scrutiny Committee had requested an update on the electricity generated by the wind turbine, which had been provided in the report.

Members noted that the wind turbine was not generating as much electricity as originally estimated and that new improved blades would not be fitted until after October 2011. It was difficult to make any analysis on the effectiveness of the turbine using the current data as it related to a short period and there hadn't been a particularly windy period.

Councillor Tony Lock commented that if the Council were to undertake a similar project in the future that the Council should seek advice from various sources wherever possible. He questioned why the Council did not seek assurances from other companies within the area at procurement stage.

The Climate Change Officer said that at the time there was only one turbine on the accredited list that met the condition of the grant and that this would not have been achieved if it had chosen another machine.

One member questioned whether it was possible to have a wind speed monitor located close to the site. In response, the Strategic Director (Operations & Customer Focus) commented that it was possible to install a device but it would result in a capital bid being submitted to District Executive.

The Portfolio Holder commented that there were a number of lessons to be learnt from the project and that this had been acknowledged and that the most appropriate way forward was to work with the suppliers to try and get a satisfactory machine in operation.

One member referred to the wind turbine as being an exemplar project and questioned what would be the Council's exit strategy. In response, the Strategic Director (Operations & Customer Focus) commented that this was an Innovation Centre project in agreement with the RDA and that it was never intended to generate huge amounts of electricity. Any decision concerning an exit strategy would be a matter for the Innovation Centre Board. It was noted that the Council had only put a small amount of money into

the project and that if the Council were to exit the project, it would have to pay back the capital costs. It was not costing the Council any money to keep the turbine in operation.

Members were informed that the Council would be breaking its contract with the manufacturer if they were to seek advice from another company.

The Scrutiny Committee supported the Portfolio Holder's suggestion of initiating discussions with the manufacturer over their intended course of action over the next 12 months and reported back to a future Scrutiny Committee meeting.

- RESOLVED:** (1) That the report be noted and;
- (2) That a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee following discussions with the wind turbine manufacturer over their intended course of action over the next 12 months.

(Keith Wheaton Green, Climate Change Officer)
(keith.wheaton-green@southsomerset.gov.uk)

93. Verbal Update on reports considered by District Executive on 7th October 2010 (Agenda Item 13)

The comments of the Joint Scrutiny Panel endorsed by the Scrutiny Committee would be taken forward to the next JIC meeting for full consideration. This was no longer relevant as future JIC meetings had been cancelled.

94. Reports to be considered by District Executive on 4th November 2010 (Agenda Item 14)

The following comments would be taken forward to District Executive on 4th November 2010.

Update on Medium Term Financial Plan 2011/12 to 2015/16

Scrutiny members endorsed the recommendations contained within the report in relation to revised car parking and season ticket charges.

Scrutiny members agreed to hold a Special Scrutiny Committee meeting on 9th December with Portfolio Holders to discuss the wider budget proposals.

Yeovil Innovation Centre – The Way Forward

Members asked for this report to be deferred to enable Scrutiny Committee members to consider outcomes of a meeting that was due to be held on the afternoon of 2nd November.

Community Safety – Delivery Options for South Somerset District Council 20011/12

Scrutiny Committee members endorsed the recommendations contained within the report.

95. Scrutiny Work Programme (Agenda Item 15)

Reference was made to the agenda report, which informed members of the Scrutiny Work Programme. The Scrutiny Manager updated members on the items due to be considered at the meeting on 30th November as follows:

- LSP Annual Report – Saveria Moss, LSP Co-ordinator
- Call In of Portfolio Holder decision “to confirm that there is currently no need to create any designated areas under Article 4 within the District as those requiring planning permission to convert dwelling homes into Houses in Multiple Occupation
- Open Spaces Strategy – Steve Joel, Assistant Director (Health and Well-being)
- Reports on the Redundancy Policy and Joint Working with East Devon District Council would be considered as part of the District Executive reports.

RESOLVED: That the Scrutiny Work Programme be noted subject to the above updates being taken into consideration.

(Emily McGuinness, Scrutiny Manager)
(Emily.mcguinness@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462566)

96. Executive Forward Plan (Agenda Item 16)

With reference to the report to December District Executive on the New Executive Arrangements, it was noted that 12 responses had been received to the public consultation exercise. The Council was proposing to continue to operate the Leader and Cabinet Executive model.

The Scrutiny Manager commented that she was proposing to arrange a Somerset joint scrutiny meeting to consider the Joint Municipal Waste Minimisation Strategy.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Forward Plan be noted as outlined in the District Executive agenda for 4th November.

(Angie Cox, Democratic Services Manager – 01935 462148)
(angela.cox@southsomerset.gov.uk)

97. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 17)

Members noted that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee would be held on Tuesday 30th November 2010 at 10.00am in the Main Committee Room, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

Members of the Committee are invited to attend at 9.30am to scope questions on the reports in the agenda.

.....
 Chairman

Scrutiny Committee – 30th November 2010

8. Local Strategic Partnership: South Somerset Together – Annual Review

Executive Portfolio Holder: Councillor Tim Carroll, Leader of the Council
Strategic Director: Rina Singh, Place and Performance
Leader Officer: Helen Rutter, Assistant Director Communities and Head of Service for Area Development (Area East)
Contact Details: saveria.moss@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01963) 435004

Purpose of the Report

This is a report to update members on the activities of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for the district from the last report to Scrutiny Committee in September 2009. Paull Robathan, Chairman of South Somerset Together will be presenting this report to members.

The appendices for this report have been sent out under separate cover.

Action Required

That members note the progress of the Local Strategic Partnership in delivering the Sustainable Community Strategy (2008-2026) and that it achieved Best Local Strategic Partnership in the country for 2010 in the Community Partnerships Awards.



Background

South Somerset Together is a non-statutory, non-executive body (an unincorporated association), with an independent Chairman, a full-time Coordinator and a membership of 35 individuals representing 24 public, private and voluntary sector organisations from across the district that meet six times a year. There have been no new partner organisations to the LSP in 2009/10.

A main function of the LSP is to lead and influence the delivery of services and objectives as a conduit for change to improve the quality of life in South Somerset. Key to this is the development and implementation of *Shaping South Somerset – a Strategy for Sustainable Communities* that links with the current development of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy (2010-2026) and the Somerset Local Area Agreement Indicators (2008-2011).

All Partners have agreed to collaborate to address shared priorities together but retain their independent corporate status and therefore the Partners work by mutual cooperation, with SSDC acting as the host and lead body. This reflects national good practice.

In 2009/10 the LSP agreed to work more closely with SSDC's Scrutiny Committee by implementing recommendations made in the Audit Commissions Report: *Working better together? Managing local strategic partnerships* (April 2009) that contained a booklet: *Key messages for councils' overview and scrutiny function*. The result of this was the adoption by the LSP of an Action Plan that is monitored by the LSP's Working Group.

Funding

Since 2004 the LSP has received 2nd Homes income from Somerset County Council and SSDC. SSDC is the Accountable Body for the LSP. The contribution from SSDC to the LSP has been £48,000 in 2010/11. In 2008, the County Council changed its funding arrangement for the LSP by limiting the amount available to the 2nd Homes contribution from SSDC in 2007/8. In 2008 this was £43,429. In 2010 this has increased to £44,510 and the LSP produced an Investment Plan, which was approved by Somerset Strategic Partnership's Joint Implementation Team on 1st December 2009. Most of the SSDC allocation is used to fund the core activities of the partnership including remuneration to the Chairman and the LSP Coordinator.

SCC has withdrawn all future funding for the district LSPs from March 2010. SSDC has not committed to funding the LSP to 2011/12.

An annual report of the LSP's funding for the financial year 2009-2010 is in **Appendix One**.

Activity of the LSP 2009/10

1. General Activity

The activity of the LSP includes:

1.1. **Championing sustainability**

- The LSP adopted the Sustainable Community Strategy on 26th September 2008 and started delivery in April 2009 through 7 pump-priming projects all of which were completed by the end of 2009. (Affordable Housing Site ID Project: Phase 2 is still active as the Registered Social Landlords are engaged in bringing four sites to the development ready stage). The LSP agreed (in May 2009) to focus attention on 22 Strategic Priorities in SCS for 2009/10 and 17 (in July 2010) for 2010/11 (**Appendix Two**);
- Taking a lead in championing sustainability across the district, South Somerset Together held its fourth Annual General Meeting in June 2010, which included an Annual Report on progress made in 2009/10 (**Appendix Three**);
- The LSP hosted and attended events to raise awareness of sustainability for example by attending the Montacute Food Fayre in 2009 and in partnership with the Somerset Waste Partnership held the *Make Money by Reducing Waste* event for businesses in March 2010;
- Producing the leaflets *Less Carbon...More Living* (for everyone) and *Make Money...by Reducing Carbon* (for businesses) (**Appendices Four & Five**);
- The LSP is working closely with SSDC's Planning Policy to ensure that spatial aspects of the Sustainable Community Strategy influence the emerging Local Development Framework Core Strategy. LSP Partners have formed a new LSP sub-group to develop an Infrastructure Delivery Plan;
- The LSP hosted a Climate Change Adaptation Workshop in February 2010 for LSP Partner organisations to learn how to take account of adaptation in decision-making, corporate and service plans.

1.2. **Commenting or lobbying on local, regional and national issues**

- The LSP played an active role in South Somerset's process for developing the four proposals submitted to the Local Government Association (as Selector for the Government) under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 that were

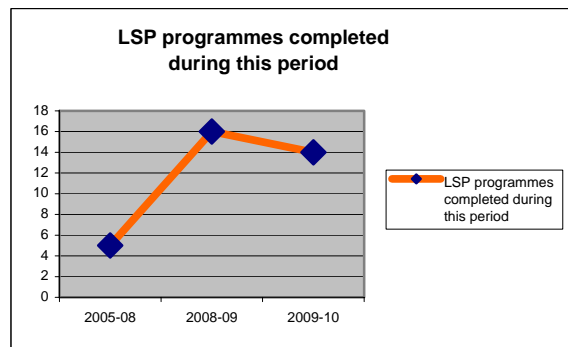
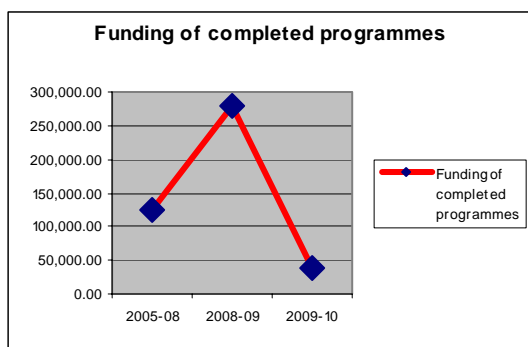
successfully shortlisted. The new Government has said that it will consider these shortlisted proposals;

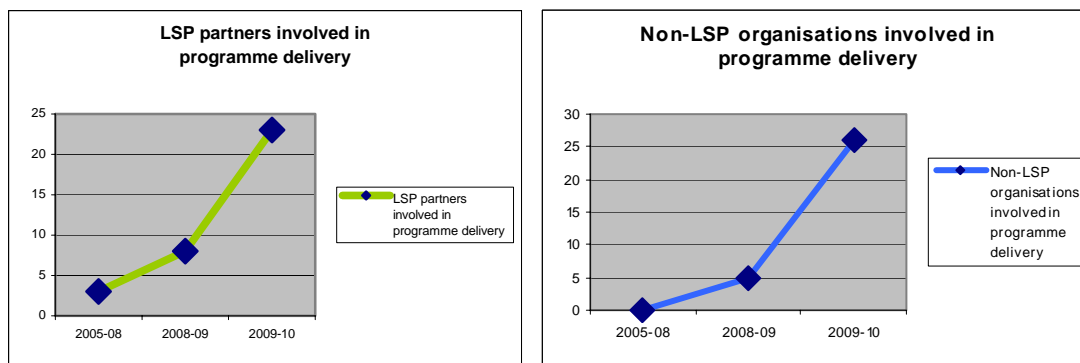
- The LSP has raised awareness of issues and responded to them on behalf of Partners for example the LSP supported the recommendations of its VCS Forum in the recent revision of the Somerset Compact to have a mechanism by which VCS groups and organisations can voice their concerns to funding organisations when funding is suddenly stopped;
- The LSP proactively created a mechanism by which the district’s representatives on the Somerset Strategic Partnership Themed Sub-groups could comment to the LSP Board on implications of decisions and discussions at County level and vice versa;
- The LSP is a member of *LSP Futures* a national network of LSPs that represent the role of LSPs to Government departments and offers advice and support;
- The LSP offers advice and support to a range of other LSPs locally and nationally for example the LSP participated in a Peer Review of Sedgemoor District Council’s LSP and answers issues such as how to manage performance of the SCS as in recently to Maidstone District Council;
- The LSP participates in consultation by regional and national bodies on the structure and function of LSPs. A recent example was a request for representation on the LSP Board for the Equality strands by South West Equality.

1.3. Commissioning programmes that address priorities

The LSP is currently supporting a range of activities linked to delivering shared commitments in the Sustainable Community Strategy. In 2009/10 the LSP completed its 7 pump-priming projects from previous year’s funding. The LSP annually reviews the priorities in the SCS. This was considered in a workshop on 16th July 2010 Board meeting. A table with the details of the current activities supported by the LSP and the priorities for 2010/11 is included in **Appendix Two**. The **added value** of the LSP is evidenced by:

- The reduction in funding available and used for programmes commissioned by the LSP;
- The increase in LSP Partner commitment to and participation in the programmes;
- The increase in the range of programmes being delivered;
- Despite reduced funding being made available for programmes the LSP has been able to draw into the district funding for core elements of work to enable the SCS to be delivered;
- It should be noted that all the actions in the SCS relate to issues that have been resistant to the consistent efforts of Partners in the district, and therefore any progress in tackling them is a real achievement.





In addition, the LSP is perfectly placed to enable Partners from all sectors to respond quickly and work together on joint bids for funding. The LSP pulled together a countywide bid for improving insulation and the health of residents living in Park Homes from Local Area Agreement PRG Funding through Somerset County Council early in 2010 but it was not successful. The Migrant Impact Funding project which was a joint bid last year to support migrant workers in the county has had its second year funding reduced but this will not affect the existing programme in South Somerset which will be delivered.

2. Improving the LSP's Governance and structure

2.1. LSP Self-Assessment & Action Plan

The LSP Partners are committed to improving its overall effectiveness. To this end they carried out a detailed Self-Assessment and approved three priority actions in May 2009. The Action Plan for these priorities is monitored by the LSP's Working Group, which meets bi-monthly. This has led to the revision of the LSP's Communications Strategy.

2.2. Equality Impact Assessment and Equality Statement

The LSP has produced an Equality Impact Assessment and Action Plan that was adopted in November 2009 and is monitored by the LSP's Working Group and the South Somerset Corporate Equality Steering Group on a regular basis. A key action from this is to develop and adopt an Equality Statement for the LSP by the end of 2010. In addition, an Equality Risk Assessment methodology has been developed to enable Partners to measure the impact on equality of activities to deliver the Sustainable Community Strategy.

2.3. Managing Performance and Risk

In 2008, the LSP formed a new sub-committee to manage performance and risk. The LSP's Performance Monitoring Sub-Committee (PMSC) closely monitors the agreed activities under the Sustainable Community Strategy and any pump priming or pooled budgets, being delivered by Partners. The SCS Strategic Priorities and Actions have been added to SSDC's TEN system. The PMSCA considers all of these in detail at its bi-monthly meetings and reports to the Board actions for comment or concern to the Board. The full performance-monitoring database is available to Partners as an appendix in the agenda for each Board meeting.

In 2009 the LSP Board asked the PMSC to consider why the Green Business Project did not achieve all its outcomes in terms of engaging as many businesses in the programme offered as was hoped. The Lead Partner and Project Officer discussed the issues with

the members of the PMSC and an alternative approach to engaging businesses during a difficult period of recession was considered and has informed the delivery of future activities of the LSP.

2.4. “Working better together? Managing Local Strategic Partnerships” (April 2009)

In April 2009 the Audit Commission produced a long-awaited guidance document for LSPs. Included in this was the booklet *Key messages for councils’ overview and scrutiny functions*. The booklet outlined ways that LSPs and Scrutiny Committees could work together to improve communication, learning and outcomes. In view of this the following has happened:

- A meeting was held between SSDC’s Scrutiny Chair, Vice-Chairs and Scrutiny Manager and the LSP’s Lead Officer and Coordinator to improve understanding of how the LSP brings added value to the work of individual partner organisations including SSDC;
- 3. A meeting of the LSP Chair and Scrutiny Chair with officers to agree the implementation of the proposals in the booklet;
- The development of a shared Action Plan (which the LSP adopted in November 2009) of how the LSP and Scrutiny Committee can work together more closely which is monitored by the LSP Coordinator and Scrutiny Manager (**Appendix Six**).



4. Delivering the South Somerset Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)

The LSP does not replicate or replace the function and activities of its member partner organisations. On the contrary, the aim is to add value to what is already happening in the district either by identifying a gap and commissioning work to address this or by working in innovative ways together to address particularly resistant issues.

It is a statutory requirement for the district to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) that draws together the trends, issues and needs across all areas of life into one comprehensive document. It was completed in 2008 and adopted by South Somerset Together on 26th September 2008 and by SSDC’s Full Council on 30th October 2008, and is available on the South Somerset Together website (<http://www.southsomersettogether.org.uk>). To deliver against the ambitious 35 Strategic Priorities and 50 Actions of the Strategy has required:

- Written commitment by the LSP Partners to the SCS and specific Actions which they will commit to delivering;
- The agreement by Partners of Priorities for 2010/11 with a wide range of activities to support these;
- SSDC has included all of the Actions in its Our Targets Insert 2009/10 of the revised Corporate Plan.

5. Collating evidence of Trends and Issues for an accurate picture of South Somerset

Underpinning the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) is a *Trends and Issues* document based on evidence from a whole range of sources. The aim is to identify the

current issues and future trends, what the drivers are for these and what needs to be done to address these. It will therefore inform the SCS delivery and LSP Partners' focus of delivery. The original document was completed, consulted on and adopted in 2007. The revised edition should be complete by the end of 2010.

Financial implications

There are no financial implications in accepting this report.

Appendices:

Appendix One: Financial Report 2009-2010

Appendix Two: Annual Report 2010

Appendix Three: Summary of completed and current LSP Programmes

Appendix Four: Leaflet: *Less Carbon...More Living*

Appendix Five: Leaflet: *Make Money...by Reducing Carbon*

Appendix Six: LSP and Scrutiny Action Plan (as at August 2010)

Background papers:

1: SST Constitution and Terms of Reference (www.southsomersettogether.org.uk).

Scrutiny Committee – 30th November 2010

9. Finance Update

Executive Portfolio Holder: Councillor Robin Munday, Resources & Legal Services
Strategic Director: Mark Williams, Chief Executive
Assistant Director: Donna Parham, Finance and Corporate Services
Lead Officer: Donna Parham, Finance and Corporate Service
Contact Details: donna.Parham@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462225

Please refer to the District Executive agenda for 2nd December 2010 for any reports. Donna Parham, Assistant Director (Finance and Corporate Services) will attend the meeting to answer member's questions.

Scrutiny Committee – 30th November 2010

10. Changes to SSSC Redundancy Policy

Executive Portfolio Holder: Councillor Tim Carroll, Leader of the Council
Assistant Director: Ian Clarke, (Legal and Corporate Services)
Lead Officer: Mike Holliday, HR Manager
Contact Details: mike.holliday@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462161

Please refer to the District Executive agenda for 2nd December 2010 for a copy of this report.

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11. The Future of Working with East Devon District Council

Executive Portfolio Councillor Tim Carroll, Leader of the Council

Holder:

Lead Officer: Mark Williams, Chief Executive

Contact Details: mark.williams@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462101

Please refer to the District Executive agenda for 2nd December 2010 for a copy of this report.

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13. Reports to be considered by District Executive on 2nd December 2010

Lead Officer: Emily McGuinness, Scrutiny Manager
Contact Details: emily.mcguinness@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462077

Scrutiny Committee members will receive a copy of the District Executive agenda containing the reports to be considered at the meeting on 2nd December 2010.

Members are asked to read the reports and bring any concerns/issues from the reports to be discussed at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 30th November 2010.

The Chairman will take forward any views raised by Scrutiny members to the District Executive meeting on 2nd December 2010.

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14. Scrutiny Work Programme

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Issue for Main Scrutiny Cttee	Performance Management	Budget	Background/Description	Corporate Aim	Lead Officer (Lead Member)
30 th November 2010	Report on Joint working with East Devon District Council	✓			Report updating members on joint working with East Devon District Council.	Deliver well-managed, cost effective services valued by our customers	Mark Williams, Chief Executive Councillor Tim Carroll
30 th November 2010	Local Strategic Partnership (South Somerset Together) – Annual Review	✓			An annual report is submitted to the Scrutiny Committee outlining the key achievements of the LSP over the past 12 months and priorities for the coming 12 months.	Ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities	Saveria Moss – LSP Co-ordinator Councillor Tim Carroll, Strategy and Policy
30 th November 2010	SSDC Redundancy Policy	✓			Scrutiny Committee will consider this report prior to District Executive.	Deliver well-managed, cost effective services valued by our customers	Mike Holliday, HR Manager Cllr Tim Carroll Strategy and Policy
4 th January 2011	Budget Setting Reports			✓	Scrutiny Committee will consider these reports prior to District Executive.	Deliver well-managed, cost effective services valued by our customers	Donna Parham Head of Finance Councillor Robin Munday Resources and Legal Services

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Issue for Main Scrutiny Cttee	Performance Management	Budget	Background/Description	Corporate Aim	Lead Officer (Lead Member)
4 th January 2011	Open Spaces Strategy	✓			Scrutiny Committee will consider this report prior to District Executive.	Deliver well-managed, cost effective services valued by our customers	Steve Joel, Assistant Director (Health & Well-Being) Cllr Sylvia Seal Leisure, Culture & Well-Being
4 th January 2011	Update from the LSP on Sustainable Transport	✓			This topic of sustainable transport was selected as a priority to be reviewed by a Task and Finish review during June 2009, the LSP has undertaken considerable work in this area during the last year.	Enhance the environment, address and adapt to climate change	Saveria Moss – LSP Co-ordinator Councillor Tim Carroll, Strategy and Policy
4 th January 2011	Quarter 2 Corporate Performance Report		✓		Scrutiny has an important role to play in the managing the authority's management. A quarterly report is submitted to District Executive and then submitted to the Scrutiny Committee the following month to provide Scrutiny Members with the opportunity to comment on the Executive response.	Deliver well managed, cost effective services valued by our customers.	Sue Eaton, Performance Manager Councillor Tim Carroll, Strategy and Policy

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Issue for Main Scrutiny Cttee	Performance Management	Budget	Background/Description	Corporate Aim	Lead Officer (Lead Member)
1 st February 2011	Budget Setting Reports			✓	Scrutiny Committee will consider these reports prior to District Executive.	Deliver well managed, cost effective services valued by our customers.	Donna Parham Head of Finance Councillor Robin Munday Resources and Legal Services
1 st February 2011	Website Review	✓			At the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 3 rd March, members received a demonstration on the Councils new website and requested an update in six months time.	Deliver well-managed, cost effective services valued by our customers	Bruce Soord, Spatial Systems Manager
1 st February 2011	Annual Review of Savings achieved from working with East Devon District Council	✓			In December 2009 a report went to Full Council to seek agreement in principle to explore Working In partnership with East Devon, to help achieve the 2.3 million savings SSDC needed for 2011/12, (not all of the saving was projected to be realised through working in partnership) this was subsequently agreed in February 2010.	Deliver well-managed, cost effective services valued by our customers.	Mark Williams, Chief Executive Councillor Tim Carroll, Strategy and Policy
1 st February 2011	Community Transport	✓			Issue identified by the Scrutiny Chairman relating to the provision of Community Transport.	Deliver well-managed, cost effective services valued by our customers	Emily McGuinness, Scrutiny Manager

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Issue for Main Scrutiny Cttee	Performance Management	Budget	Background/Description	Corporate Aim	Lead Officer (Lead Member)
1 st March 2011	Update on Sort It Plus	✓			An update report on the introduction of the Sort It Plus Scheme.	Deliver well-managed, cost effective services valued by our customers	Vega Sturgess, Strategic Director (Operations & Customer Focus) Cllr Tom Parsley Environment and Waste
5 th April 2011	Quarter 3 Corporate Performance Report		✓		Scrutiny has an important role to play in the managing the authority's management. A quarterly report is submitted to District Executive and then submitted to the Scrutiny Committee the following month to provide Scrutiny Members with the opportunity to comment on the Executive response.	Deliver well managed, cost effective services valued by our customers.	Sue Eaton, Performance Manager Councillor Tim Carroll, Strategy and Policy
TBC	Travel Plan	✓				Deliver well-managed, cost effective services valued by our customers.	Nigel Collins Transport Strategy Officer Councillor Tim Carroll Strategy and Policy
TBC	Update report on preparation for review of IT Service Level Agreements for Town Councils	✓				Deliver well-managed, cost effective services valued by our customers.	Roger Brown, ICT Manager Councillor David Recardo E Government Theme Advisor

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Issue for Main Scrutiny Cttee	Performance Management	Budget	Background/Description	Corporate Aim	Lead Officer (Lead Member)
TBC	Report on the monitoring of the running and maintenance costs of the new air cooling equipment in the Brympton Way Data Centre	✓			At the District Executive meeting on 13 th May 2010 Scrutiny members requested that monitoring of the running and maintenance costs of the new equipment should be recorded.	Deliver well-managed, cost effective services valued by our customers. Enhance the environment, address and adapt to climate change	Ian Johns, Property Management Team Leader Councillor Tom Parsley, Environment and Property
TBC	Wind Turbine at Yeovil Innovation Centre	✓			Update report to Scrutiny Committee following discussions with the manufacturer of the wind turbine on their intentions over the next 12 months.	Enhance the environment, address and adapt to climate change	Vega Sturgess, Strategic Director (Operations & Customer Focus) Cllr Tom Parsley Environment & Property

Task & Finish Work Programme

Commencement Date	Review Group	Chairman
July	SSDC Partnerships	Martin Wale

Scrutiny Committee – 30th November 2010

15. Executive Forward Plan

Executive Portfolio Holder: Tim Carroll, Leader of the Council
Assistant Director: Ian Clarke, Assistant Director (Legal & Corporate Services)
Lead Officer: Angela Cox, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Details: angela.cox@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462148

Purpose of the Report

To inform members of the current Executive Forward Plan. Please refer to the District Executive agenda for 2nd December 2010 for the latest copy of the Forward Plan.

Action Required

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to comment upon and note the Executive Forward Plan.

Executive Forward Plan

The timings given for reports to come forward are indicative only, and occasionally may change.

Background Papers: None

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16. Date of Next Meeting

Members are requested to note that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee will be held on Tuesday 4th January 2011 at 10.00 a.m. in the Main Committee Room, Brympton Way, Yeovil.
