

Update on the work of the Area West Development Team

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Purpose of the Report

To provide members with an update on the progress of projects and work taking place in Area West.

Public Interest

The Area Development Service supports the Council's four Area Committees (North, South East and West) to work closely with communities to help make South Somerset a great place to live, work and visit. This report provides an outline of the work undertaken by the Area West Development Team over the past 9 months.

Recommendation

That Members consider and note the report.

Background

Each Area Development team has a service plan (see Appendix 1) which contains a set of local priorities and a work programme. This document is updated on an annual basis with targets designed to show how the Area West Committee resources are used to address local needs and promote improved quality of life in Area West.

Delivering the work outlined in the 2016/17 Service Plan

The Area West Development Team is small yet very proactive. The team consists of:

- 1 fulltime Area Development Team Lead,
- 1 fulltime Neighbourhood Development Officer
- 1 part time Project Support Officer (2.5 days per week)
- 5 person Community Support team, made up of 4 Community Support Assistants (equal to 3.1 FTE) and 1 part time Deputy Community Support Office Manager (equal to 0.5 FTE) who provide front office customer support in Chard, Crewkerne and Ilminster along with administrative and project support.

A presentation will be given at the committee detailing progress of the work to date in relation to the current Service Plan. In addition to the activities outlined in the Service Plan, the team deals with a wide range of queries from parishes, individuals and organisations. Those queries are generally dealt with by the Neighbourhood Development Officers and some are relatively straightforward requiring on the spot advice and sign posting. Others have led to more work around issues such as registering an Asset of Community value or giving funding advice.

Financial Implications

There are no new financial implications arising from this report.

Council Plan Implications

The work and priorities of the Area West Service Plan have been developed taking into account the SSDC Council Plan and also helps to meet the following action within 2016-17 action plan:

- Support at least 50 community projects

Carbon Emissions & Climate Change Implications

This is considered on an individual project and programme basis.

Equality and Diversity Implications

This is considered on an individual project and programme basis

Background Papers

- Area West Development Plan and Budget Report June 2016
 - The SSDC Council Plan
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