

Area South – Area Chapter 20/21 outturn report

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Purpose of the Report

To provide Members with an overview of the delivery of the Area Chapter for Area South.

Public Interest

The priorities for Area South have been used to influence the development of the Council Plan for 2020/21. Some priorities identified clearly have an area focus and are better placed in an Area Chapter. The Area Chapter presents key projects and areas of work planned for the coming year by teams from across the whole organisation.

This report provides members with an overview on the delivery of the 2020/2021 Area Chapter.

Recommendation

That members note and comment on the report

Background

Area Chapters focus on the priorities of the Area Committee. These priorities were identified by Members with support from officers, drawing on service plans and data led information at virtual workshops.

Each action or project identified in the plan is allocated a lead officer who collaborates with other officers across the council and/or the local community to deliver the project. The overall approach to delivery is based on the principle that we will enable others to deliver where we can, partner where it makes sense and deliver when necessary.

Specialists from across the council meet as Communities of Practice to guide and support delivery of the Council Plan. Each Community of Practice has a role in monitoring the progress of projects, including the Area Chapters, providing specialist advice and helping to overcome barriers to delivery.

Delivery of the Area Chapter 20-21

This year has been an extraordinary year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Lockdowns, redeployment of staff and assistance to the Vaccination role out have directly impacted the resources and capacity to complete projects which inevitably has caused delay, changes and non-completion of some projects. Community groups and partner organisations have experienced similar disruption. However, where possible SSDC has found alternative ways, including virtual initiatives to

Appendix A provides an end of year update on the Area Chapter focus priorities for 2020/21

Key Highlights

Despite the difficulties experienced this year, some delivery against priorities has happened.

- Successful delivery of 2,000 play boxes across the district, as an alternative to the National Play Day.
- Food and drink director has been produced and distributed. £2,000 was awarded from Area South towards this project.
- Support to Yeovil town centre and businesses through the Covid pandemic including, re opening of the high streets work in line with Government guidance and installing new Covid safety signage in the Town centre.
- Successful Heritage and Natural history online events and a Ham Hill dog show where held. Activity packs were also developed for sale to help with home schooling families.
- Native tree planting at Milford Valley site.
- Pavilion improvements at Yeovil Recreation for a new community space and cafe commenced in March with completion anticipated June 21. 2 Covid secure woodland wellbeing sessions also held along with online activities for home use.

In addition to the main key areas of focus, members will note other projects within the Chapter relating to support provided by officers which enable community projects through the grant giving and the use of funds secured as a result of development via Section 106 agreements. S106 funded projects are identified by Officers in consultation with the local community. Some are delivered by SSDC but the majority are community led. This approach can take time and inception through to delivery will often take a number of years.

Community Grants

There were underspends on revenue grant allocations across the 4 areas. The ability for community groups to delivery projects will have been hindered due to the pandemic, therefore requests for grant funding dropped throughout the year. No grant money was allocated but funds have been secured in order to meet the anticipated increased activity in 21/22 as part of the recovery process.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Corporate Priority Implications

The priorities have been developed taking into account the SSDC Corporate plan priorities.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

This is considered on an individual project and programme basis as appropriate. The overall priority is to seek to create more balanced communities where people can live, work and get access to the services and facilities they need on a daily basis. Area working (Area+) helps to improve access to facilities, activities and services, reducing the need to travel.

Equality and Diversity Implications

This is considered on an individual project and programme basis as appropriate. All Area Plans will have an Equality Impact Assessment.

Background Papers: *Area Chapter 2020-21*