



## **Area East – 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 East.

### **Public Interest**

The priorities for Area East 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.

### **Recommendations**

- 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.

**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.

- Significant ongoing work on new Visit South Somerset website with planned launch in May 21.
- 7 Light industrial units approved in Lovington, Castle Cary.
- Food and Drink Directory has been produced and distributed, work is now underway to move this online and expand the amount of businesses involved. £2,000 awarded from Area East for this project.
- Interactions with business in terms of support and grant provision throughout Covid period.
- £220,000 funding approved for the Market Town Investment group.
- Successful delivery of 2,000 play boxes across the district, as an alternative to the National Play Day.
- £87,865 S106 funding awarded to Donald Pither Pavilion project

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.

At the request of members at the Area Chapter workshops, officers started work on a project to help property owners assess the heat retention of homes and identify improvements. The proposal includes the purchase of infra-red cameras which will be funded by funds secured from the underspend in 2020/21. **Appendix B** provides details of the progress made so far.

## Grants awarded 20-21

| <b>Project</b>                                   | <b>£</b> | <b>Capital/Revenue funded</b> |
|--|----------|-------------------------------|
| Castle Cary LIC                                  | 500      | Revenue                       |
| Bayford Hall kitchen improvements                | 620      | Revenue                       |
| Bayford Defibrillator                            | 1000     | Revenue                       |
| Marston Magna Path                               | 1000     | Revenue                       |
| Gainsborough play area drinking water station    | 684      | Revenue                       |
| New play area at Charlton Memorial Playing Field | 12,226   | Capital                       |
| Castle Cary Community Larder                     | 500      | Revenue                       |
| Eat Castle Cary                                  | 1000     | Revenue                       |
| Milborne Port Defibrillator                      | 1000     | Revenue                       |

### 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 and Climate Change Implications

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*