

## **Funding for Access For All (Formerly known as South Somerset Disability Forum)**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

This report updates District Executive on the work being delivered by Access For All (Formerly known as South Somerset Disability Forum) and seeks the approval of the District Executive for funding of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Access For All for 2015-16.

### **Public Interest**

South Somerset District Council (SSDC) supports the work of Access For All through an annual Service Level Agreement (SLA). Access For All provide specific services and expertise that SSDC are unable to deliver ourselves. This work helps ensure compliance with our Public Sector Equality Duties under the Equality Act 2010.

### **Recommendation**

That District Executive approves funding for Access For All of **£8,000** for 2015/16.

### **Background**

There are no accurate figures that provide the total number of disabled people in South Somerset. However, according to the Department of Work and Pensions, along with the Census (2011) and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2013/14), approximately 20% of the local population of South Somerset have a long-term health problem or disability which limits their day-to-day activity. 15.1% of those are of working age. Around 4% of all households in Somerset contain at least one adult with a long-term disability or health condition and dependent children. Generally, over half of people aged 65 or over in Somerset have a long-term health problem or disability, rising to 83% of those aged 85 or over.

Councillors approved a one year Service Level Agreement, (SLA) with Access For All 2014-2015. This was for £8,000 and has been subject to budgetary provision, and satisfactory fulfilment of the SLA monitored through quarterly review meetings.

### **Access For All Aims**

Access For All works actively to improve access for all members of the community. Their aim is to increase the social inclusion of disabled people with limited mobility and other impairments to enjoy equality of opportunity. Achieving the aims of the Charity and the needs of the community includes:

- Improving Access to public buildings, public services, education, shops, leisure facilities and the countryside
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- Working for accessible public transport, dropped kerbs, improved road crossings, appropriate parking spaces and ShopMobility
- Checking planning applications to ensure buildings are designed for inclusive living
- Providing Disability Awareness and Equalities training
- Provision of consultation to District and Town councils, NHS, Police, shops, businesses and other publicly funded charities
- Provision of support, advice, guidance and signposting to individuals, groups and partner organisations in relation to welfare reforms, disability and access issues

## **Report**

This report outlines the achievements of Access for All over the past year, as well as detailing proposed plans for the forthcoming year.

Following restructure and internal re-organisation, and with the continued involvement of new Trustees, volunteers and management, Access For All have focussed their efforts on expanding their service provision and creating new funding opportunities. Access For All are aiming to promote their work more in the Market Towns as well as in the West Dorset area. There is also intention for Access For All to grow their profile through Social Media.

## **Achievements 2014 – 2015**

### **Access For All**

- Supported SSDC Officers in achieving compliance with the Equality Act 2010, and Part M Building Regulations.
- Regular reviews of Planning and Building Control applications for public compliance with BS3800
- Sale of Radar Keys and parking vouchers for Blue Badge holders from Access For All office, (£200 of vouchers sold Feb 2014 - Feb 2015)
- Access Reviews of 20 Village Halls, Recreation sites and community buildings (some for Town and Parish Councils), including Yeovil Innovation Centre and the new Ninesprings Café, Education and Information Centre. These Access Reviews have been particularly important in making great access improvements to local venues and community resources across the district.
- Full Access Review and recommendations for all SSDC non-pay and display car parks
- Specific access advice to SSDC services, including consultations
- Access Review of 56 Health Walks (report and recommendations to be published in April 2015)

### **External**

- Access Review training for volunteers and other interested parties
  - Expanding the number and skills sets of volunteers
  - Quarterly newsletter produced
  - SSDF coffee mornings for the community
  - Access For All Board, AGM and Extraordinary Meetings
  - Disability Awareness training and information events:  
Talks delivered to various groups such as Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Womens Institute, Carers groups and others
  - Provision of consultation to District, Town and Parish Councils, NHS, Shops, businesses and other publicly funded charities
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**Consultations** – We consult with Access For All to help us to make service improvements. This also fulfils our statutory requirements under the Equality Act 2010.

### **SSDC**

- Hackney Carriage and Private Hire policy (including introduction of Knowledge Test)
- Refresh of statutory Equality Objectives
- V3 project Yeovil Country Park
- Recreation and Play facilities
- Reporting on Welfare Benefit reforms and any impacts for people with disabilities e.g. 'bedroom tax'

### **External**

- Health and Wellbeing
- Yeovil Hospital
- Yeovil College

### **Attendance at meetings**

- Equality Steering Group (quarterly meetings)
- Building Control (onsite and office based)
- Licensing Committee
- Community Forum
- Independent Advisory Group (Avon and Somerset Police)

### **Development Plans**

You will see from the report many of the successful achievements from Access For All in the past year.

### **Looking forward 2014/15**

Proposed areas of work to include:

- Project work with Tourism, Leisure and Culture Teams
  - Attendance at the Equality Steering Group
  - Review of Planning and Building Control applications
  - Consultation
  - Sale of Radar Keys and parking vouchers for Blue Badge holders
  - Access reviews of recreation spaces and community buildings
  - To deliver an inclusive open focus group meeting, bringing together Disability groups from across the district with similar interests
  
  - Disability Awareness training for retail sales and service staff – workshops in Yeovil, Crewkerne and other Market Towns
  - Provision of Disability Awareness training for taxi drivers
  - Working with students from Yeovil College to produce a video promoting shopping in Yeovil Town centre for people with disabilities
  - Expanding and promoting Access work in West Dorset
  - Provision of Advocacy and mediation work
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## Financial information - SSDF

### 2015/16 budget:

Access For All have supplied the following information:

- Management accounts as well as annual certified accounts.
- Quarterly monitoring
- Annual report
- Workforce development plan
- Development plans/budget
- Details of other funding
- Slim-lining and restructuring of office management

### Access For All was funded in 2014 –2015 by:

SSDC	£8,000
Lloyd's	£7,700
Battens Trusts	£2,450
Somerset Community Foundation	£1,000
SSDC projects	£ 950
Yeovil Lions	£ 700
Boon Brown	£ 600
Yeovil Town Council	£ 500
Fundraising/Donations	£ 275
<b>Total funding 2014 – 2015</b>	<b>£22,175</b>

### Funding for 2015- 2016

SSDC	£ 8,000
South West Foundation	£ 3,000
Lynn Foundation	£ 2,000
Santander	£ 1,000
Donations and Consultancy	£ 1,000
Asda	£ 1,000
Disability Awareness Training	£ 200
Additional funding applications proposed (Awards for All, YHG)	£ 6,000

Further funding applications will be made as details are identified

**Total estimated funding for 2015 –2016**                      **£22,200**

Costs for Access For All 2015-2016 will be less than 2014-2015 due to internal re-organisation as a result of one member of staff retiring, more use of trustees and volunteers and reduced overall costs for telephone and accountancy.

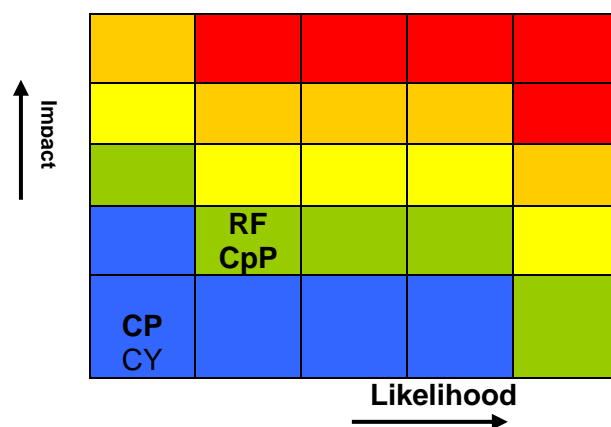
**Free Reserves** £13,000 approximately by year end

### Financial Implications

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This grant is already in the 2015/16 planned budget for Equalities. (subject to approval)

## Risk Matrix



## Key

Categories	Colours (for further detail please refer to Risk management strategy)
R = Reputation	Red = High impact and high probability
CpP = Corporate Plan	Orange = Major impact and major probability
Priorities	Yellow = Moderate impact and moderate probability
CP = Community Priorities	Green = Minor impact and minor probability
CY = Capacity	Blue = Insignificant impact and insignificant probability
F = Financial	

## Corporate Priority Implications

- Optimise opportunities for external funding to promote healthy living
- Maintain and enhance the South Somerset network of leisure and cultural facilities, optimising opportunities for external funding to promote healthy living
- Provide Welfare Benefits support and advice to tackle poverty in our vulnerable residents

## Equality Objectives and Action Plan

The Equality Objectives (2012 -2016) are required as a **specific duty** under the Equality Act 2010. They set out how we will deliver and achieve our equality aims through key tasks in our action plan.

- **Equality Objective 1** Equality is at the heart of our decision making process
- E.1.01 - When we make decisions that are likely to affect people we will assess the impact on equalities
- E.1.03 Use equality information to support the assessment of local needs and priorities; in particular The Armed Forces, Carers, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME), People with Learning Disabilities, Sight Loss, Deaf community
- E.1.09 - We will work with partners to try and minimise the impact to our residents of the proposed major changes to housing and council tax benefits

- **Equality Objective 2** Accessibility - deliver services that meet the needs of the community
- E.2.01 - Carry out access reviews on local village and community halls, polling stations, SSDC car parks, play and recreation areas;
- E.2.03 - We will ensure that customer's access needs are considered at the first point of contact
- E.2.04 - We will ensure that the General Equality Duty is incorporated into the annual reviews of all partnerships
- E.2.05 - Consider equalities in every Service Level Agreement and Grant Assessment
- E.2.06 Work with, and lobby partners to help communities to develop transport schemes and local solutions to reduce rural isolation and inequalities to meet existing needs of those communities
  
- **Equality Objective 3** - We want communities that are healthy, self-reliant, and have individuals who are willing to help each other
- E.3.01 – Work to the strengths of our niche tourism market to increase the volume and value of tourism in South Somerset. Working with multi-agencies, market the wider incentives –cultural, tourism/leisure, family related etc (**Economic Development Strategy 2012 – 2015 Strategic Action 1.2**)

### **Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications**

SSDF are aware of some of the issues, and ensure that they car share where possible, recycle and keep printing to a minimum

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

Working with the voluntary sector is one of the Council's means of providing services to hard to reach groups and engaging with communities who otherwise find it hard to access public services. Supporting Access For All helps to increase community engagement and participation.

An Equality Analysis has been completed and has indicated a negative impact should the grant not be agreed. Access For All provide these specific services, as SSDC is unable to do so.