

## **Making it Local Executive Committee (Executive Decision)**

*Strategic Director:* Rina Singh, Place and Performance  
*Assistant Director:* Kim Close/Helen Rutter, Communities  
*Service Manager:* Andrew Gillespie, Area Development Manager (West)  
*Lead Officer:* Zoë Harris, Neighbourhood Development Officer (West)  
*Contact Details:* zoe.harris@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01460 260423

### **Purpose of the Report**

To appoint an SSDC representative to the Making it Local Executive Group.

### **Public Interest**

Making it Local is a Local Action Group (LAG) responsible for LEADER funding, a European Union grant programme aimed at rural businesses and communities. The District Council has been invited to appoint a representative to the Executive Group.

### **Recommendation**

To appoint a representative to the Making it Local Executive Group.

### **Background**

Making it Local is a community led EU grant programme which is managed by a Local Action Group (LAG). The geographical area covered by Making it Local is based on the East Devon and Blackdown Hills AONB areas and the surrounding parishes and market towns. Within South Somerset the programme takes in the following parishes:

Ashill	Kingston
Broadway	Knowle St Giles
Buckland St Mary	Ilminster
Chaffcombe	Tatworth & Forton
Chard	Wambrook
Chillington	Wayford
Combe St Nicholas	West Crewkerne
Cricket St Thomas	Whitelackington
Cudworth	Whitestaunton
Donyatt	Winsham
Dowlish Wake	
Horton	
Ilminster	

### **Making it Local – new programme 2015-2020**

LEADER funding is EU money that is allocated to a Local Action Group (LAG) via Defra. The programme is overseen across the UK by the Rural Payments Agency, on behalf of Defra, and there is a standardised application process which is common to all LAGs across the country. The RPA will shortly be announcing a UK wide start date for the new programme which will run until 2020.

The Making it Local Executive Group includes people from a variety of sectors including farming, business, local councils and the voluntary sector. The Executive Group is

responsible for the Local Development Strategy (LDS) under the authority of the Accountable Body, which is Devon County Council. It has responsibility for the leadership, implementation, monitoring and review of the LDS, and also for taking all major decisions affecting its successful delivery, including decisions on the allocation of grants to projects to achieve the LDS objectives.

The Making it Local Executive Group meets approximately six times a year, with the first meeting scheduled for January 2016. Meetings generally take place on a Tuesday evening in and around the Honiton area.

### **Financial Implications**

None for the Area West Committee. Mileage claimed by Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies to which they are appointed is approximately £1,000pa and is within the existing budget for Councillors travelling expenses held by Democratic Services. There may be a small saving resulting from any decision to reduce the number of SSDC appointed outside bodies, however, a number of Councillors do not claim any mileage for their attendance at these meetings.

### **Council Plan Implications**

There are several of the Council's Corporate Focuses which encourage partnership working with local groups, including:-

- Work in partnership to deliver investment and development that local people value with particular emphasis on Yeovil and Chard;
- Work with partners to contribute to tackling youth unemployment;
- Work with partners to combat fuel poverty;
- Ensure, with partners, that we respond effectively to community safety concerns raised by local people and that the strategic priorities for policing and crime reduction in South Somerset reflect local needs;
- 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.

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

None

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

Full consideration to equalities was given in producing the Policy on the Roles and Responsibilities of Councillors appointed to Outside Bodies.

### ***Background Papers***

*Minute 184, District Executive, 1 May 2014*

*SSDC Policy on the Roles and Responsibilities of Councillors appointed to Outside Bodies, adopted by District Executive on 1 May 2014*

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