

Area East End of Year Report 2016/17

Assistant Director: Helen Rutter, Communities
Service Manager: Tim Cook, Area Development Team Lead – East
Lead Officer: Tim Cook, Area Development Team Lead – East
Contact Details: tim.cook@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01963) 435088

Purpose of the Report

To provide Members with an overview of Area East progress and achievements during 2016/17 from the Area Development Plan (ADP)

Public Interest

This report gives a summary of work undertaken over the year in response to local priorities raised by local communities and Councillors. The Committee's priorities form a work programme to support local communities and to run complementary programmes of activities to address the particular needs of this rural area.

Recommendation

That members comment on and note the report and presentation

Background

The Area East Committee focuses its resources to address local needs in order to promote improved quality of life in Area East. A priorities workshop was held with the Area East Committee in February 2016 to assess available resources, agree priorities and enable a plan and work programme to be prepared for 2016/17. A ward profile was updated and circulated for each ward. The ADP for 2016/17 contains a set of local priorities, a work programme with targets, to carry these forward throughout the year.

Delivering Priority Work

A brief presentation will be given at Committee highlighting the work taken forward in the ADP 2016/17. The Plan and the end of year position in summary is set out in the attached schedule (Appendix 1). The Committee has received regular reports of specific work in themes – youth, customer support and Local Information Centres, marketing, Retail Support Initiative – or focused on delivery of schemes in the main towns throughout the year.

In addition to the proactive activities in the ADP, the team deals with a wide range of queries and funding requests from Parishes, businesses and community groups. Over the course of the year there have been over 371 community, parish and business enquiries dealt with mainly by the Neighbourhood Development Officers. Some have been relatively straightforward enquiries requiring on the spot advice and signposting. Others have led to involved work around issues such as registering an Asset of Community Value, designing a project to address a problem, funding advice, support to set up a new group etc. An overview of projects by Ward is contained in the A3 Area ward map, which will be distributed and presented at the Committee.

At the time of writing this report a total of £54688 capital and small grants have been awarded in 2016/17. This has supported investment of £323,311 giving a leverage ratio of nearly 1:5. RSI grants of £7347 have been awarded supporting investment of £15,004.

The Area Development Team worked with colleagues in Development Management to organise a planning tour to various sites across the District. The programme for the tour which included Badgers Cross in Area North, Glenda Spooners Horse rescue centre and Emily Estates, Hadspen gave members an opportunity to assess the impact of a range of planning decisions and resulting development.

An updated ADP work programme for 2017/18 will be brought to AEC for approval in May 2017.

Financial Implications

There are no new financial implications arising directly from this report. A separate report on use of resources in 2016/17 will be presented to AEC with the target date of June in the forward plan

Corporate Priority Implications

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

In particular the work of the ADT contributes towards the following priorities:

High quality cost effective services

- Actively managing assets and resources to ensure the best financial or community return.

Economy

- Work with businesses and use our assets to grow our economy.

Environment

- Support communities to develop local, parish and neighbourhood plans.

Health & Communities

- Support communities so that they can identify their needs and develop local solutions.
- Target support to areas of need.
- Help people to live well by enabling quality cultural, leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities & activities.
- Work with partners to tackle health issues such as diabetes and hypertension.
- Help keep our communities safe.

Carbon Emissions & 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

Equality and Diversity Implications

This is considered on an individual project and programme basis as appropriate. All Area Development teams have done an Equality Impact Assessment and have an improvement plan in place.

Background Papers: ADP 2016/17;
