

Area East End of Year Report 2017/18

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Purpose of the Report

To provide Members with an overview of Area East progress and achievements during 2017/18 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. The ADP for 2017/18 contains a set of local priorities which align to our corporate 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 2017/18. 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 (RSI) – 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 300 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 £39343 capital and small grants have been awarded in 2017/18. This has supported investment of £248754.90 giving a leverage ratio of a little over 1:5. RSI grants of £6181 have been awarded supporting investment of £14863.

Delivering Area Priorities 2018/19

Members attended a workshop to prioritise projects for delivery in 2018/19.

In the report taken to March committee, members agreed the allocation of funds in the Members' Discretionary budget for priority work. The funding distribution against agreed priorities is set out in the table below sets out the agreed priorities-remove together with the budget allocation which is linked to the request is dependent upon corporate approval to carry-forward funds in the Members Discretionary budget.

Priority Project	Allocation £	Description
Food Fair	£1000	District wide event to take place in Area East. Additional resource will be used to raise the profile of local food businesses and attract people to the area.
Rural Transport/Travel Plan Good Practice research	£5000	Develop a new model of securing contributions towards improved transport provision and to directly support local transport solutions.
Capacity Building for key organisations	£2000	To help key local organisations access professional support to develop business plans to improve resilience and sustainability.
AGP Feasibility Study	£2500	To assess need and identify preferred options for type and location of a new facility for Area East.
Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership	£2000	Regular contribution towards the partnership.
Heart of Wessex LAG support	£1000	To help facilitate the work of the Local Action Group.
RSI top up/ support for business organisations	£5000	To develop the RSI scheme and provide opportunities to support local business organisations.
Total	£18,500	

The new operating model is due to be launched in January 2019 and we anticipate a period of transition from September onwards. In line with the discussions at the workshop, we are actively engaging with two very capable and experienced people with a view to outsourcing some elements of key projects to ensure there is sufficient capacity to deliver prioritised work during 2018

Financial Implications

There are no new financial implications arising directly from this report.

Corporate Priority Implications

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

In particular the work of the ADP 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 & 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. The work of the Area Development Team 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 Development teams have done an Equality Impact Assessment and have an improvement plan in place.

Background Papers: ADP 2017/18;