Area East – Council Plan Priorities 2020/21

Service Manager:	*Jan Gamon, Lead Specialist Strategic Planning*
Lead Officer:	*Jan Gamon, Lead Specialist Strategic Planning*
	Anna Maria Lenz, Specialist, Strategic Planning (East/South)/
	Chereen Scott, Specialist, Strategic Planning (West/North)
	Tim Cook, Locality Manager
Contact Details:	*anna-maria.lenz@southsomerset.gov.uk*
	chereen.scott@southsomerset.gov.uk
	tim.cook@southsomerset.gov.uk

Purpose of the Report

To present the priorities identified by Area East Committee for consideration in the Council Plan 2020/21, as agreed at a workshop in July 2019.

Public Interest

This report gives a summary of the priorities agreed by Members of the Committee at a recent workshop. These priorities will help to inform the development of the Council Plan 2020/21 including corporate strategic priorities and the priorities for the Area East chapter. This report details the next steps of this process.

Recommendation

1. That members agree the proposed corporate strategic priorities to be presented to District Executive for consideration for inclusion in the Council Plan.
2. That members agree that the other priorities raised at the workshop will be developed into the Area East Chapter in collaboration with the chair of the committee.

Background

One of the key objectives of the Council Plan is to ensure that the priorities of the Council align to the aspirations of Members and are supported by evidence, such as national policy and community need.

The development process begins with Area Workshops, which include all members, in order to base the development of Council priorities on local knowledge, insight and awareness of issues and challenges faced by our communities.

Draft priorities were identified by members of Area East at a workshop in July.

Draft Priorities for Area East

A number of challenges and issues were identified at the member workshop. Members were asked to give some weighting to identify emerging priorities for the 2020/21 period. The list below provides the outcome of this exercise:

There were three issues that were most highly ranked by members:

- High streets: To investigate options to support vitality of high streets in the Area

- National policy framework: To collaborate with other authorities in the district to lobby central government to amend (housing) planning policy legislation with regard to developing more localised ways of calculating housing/planning need.
- Broadband: To support rural communities to access funds or schemes to improve the access and provision of broadband

The following is a list of issues that had a moderate ranking:

- Health and wellbeing:
  - To identify ways to work with and support carers and organisations which provide care options.
  - To increase the network of volunteer led health walks through promotion, training and support.
- To identify options to celebrate and promote local produce and create trade options for a wider audience.
- To support the improved provision and access to sports and leisure facilities in the Area.
- Built community facilities:
  - To support and enable communities to access or generate funds to build or maintain community facilities
  - To support communities to improve the utilisation of community facilities

The following is a list of issues that had a lower level of ranking to those above:

- To address Fly tipping issues
- Promote opportunities for enhanced service delivery through SSDC Environmental Services offer including parish warden scheme
- Deliver 8 Play days in towns/villages in Area East
- Work towards providing employment land and business units of appropriate sizes readily available for uptake by business and residents
- Complete housing needs surveys when requested
- Improve community transport links
- To support local providers of sports, leisure and community facilities in maintaining sustainability and availability of facilities

Listed below are some of the priorities that were ranked with higher importance and could have a wider potential impact for the District. It is proposed that these are put forward for consideration as a corporate strategic priority in the Council Plan:

- High streets: To investigate options to support vitality of high streets in the Area
- National policy framework: To collaborate other authorities in the district to lobby central government to amend (housing) planning policy legislation with regard to developing more localised ways of calculating housing/planning need.
- Broadband: To support rural communities to access funds or schemes to improve the access and provision of broadband

Next Steps

The process and timescale for the adoption of area priorities as council priorities are as follows:

Further work on developing these priorities will take place in collaboration with the chair of the committee with a view of bringing the draft Area East Chapter to committee later in the year for adoption.

There will be a period of time between August and November where priorities for consideration in the Council Plan are scoped and assessed against need and reviewed by members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and District Executive as part of priority setting. The outcome of this will form the content of the Council Plan for 20/21, which will be brought to Full Council early in the New Year with a recommendation to agree and adopt.

The SLT sponsor for Area East is Clare Pestell who will be an advocate for the Area through the development process and maintain an overview of progress. The SLT sponsor will provide high-level input into the development of Area Chapters, making sure that they contribute towards the broader aims of the Council and take account of relevant regional and national policy.

Resourcing Area Chapters

Identifying the resources needed to deliver the Area Chapters will be done as an integral part of the planning process.

Area+ teams

Resources will be drawn from across the whole authority to deliver against the agreed priorities. Each project / priority will have a named officer who is responsible for monitoring progress and in some cases delivering a project. The group of individuals linked to priorities in the chapter are referred to as Area+ teams. Communities of Practice have been established for each area of focus and are able to help set direction and support delivery of priorities by problem solving and dealing with blocks.

Budgets

Previous area budgets have been carried forward and will be used alongside other, service specific budgets to support the delivery of area chapters. Other resource (e.g. capital programme, S106) can also be used where appropriate. There needs to be recognition that resources are finite and will be allocated according to need. Any new work that is requested within year will be assessed in order to establish relative priorities.

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.

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. 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+ proposal, Area + Implementation Plan*