

Area East – Draft Area Chapter 2020/21

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Purpose of the Report

To present the draft Area Chapter for Area East.

Public Interest

The new operating model was introduced in January 2019. The Committee's priorities become a chapter of the council plan with resources pulled from across the organisation with project leads essentially becoming Area + teams. This report gives members an opportunity to consider and agree the priorities that will be included in the Area Chapter for 2020/21.

Recommendation

That members agree the priorities for the Area to be presented to District Executive for consideration for inclusion in the Council Plan 2020/21.

Background

The Area+ proposal states that "The Council will become strategy led and data informed", which puts the annual strategic planning process at the heart of driving delivery in the Areas.

The Area+ Implementation plan sets out the new way of addressing area priorities and details how resources will be allocated from across the organisation to improve area working.

Area Plans will be developed for adoption as chapters of the Council Plan in February 2020 and will 'go live' in April. The Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) Sponsor for each area will have an overview of the emerging Area Plans.

Draft priorities were identified by members of Area East at a workshop after the July meeting of the committee. Content from the workshop, along with other service plans has been used as a starting point to develop the Area Chapter.

Draft Area Chapter - Area East

The priorities for each area have been used to influence the development of the Council Plan for 2020/21. Some priorities identified clearly have an area focus and are better placed in an Area Chapter. The Area Chapter presents key projects and areas of work planned for the coming year by teams from across the whole organisation. Some of the activities and projects have been carried forward from the current chapter. The chapters for next year have taken account of work of the current work programme that will have been completed by April 2020. Some work such as the feasibility study for the AGP is considered to be ongoing, business as usual rather than a chapter project unless/until it develops into a deliverable project. This does not mean that it is no longer a priority area of work.

Delivery Plan

Once the priorities for the area have been agreed, officers with the knowledge, skills and experience will develop a delivery plan in consultation with ward members. Delivery plans will identify the outcomes, milestones, key activities and resources. A report will come to the April 2020 meeting to recommend the use of area budgets towards agreed chapter projects and initiatives.

Progress of the delivery plan will be monitored by the Area Committee. Members are sent quarterly updates, provided by lead officers and collated by Locality Team Leads. The overall approach to delivery will be based on the principle that we will enable others to deliver where we can, partner where it makes sense and only deliver if absolutely necessary.

Area+ teams

Lead officers required to deliver elements of the Area Chapter are essentially the Area+ team. The Communities of Practice for the areas of focus will be used to support delivery through applying best practice, ensuring cooperation and overcoming barriers to deliver and to resolve issues that cause projects to stall.

Budgets

Work will be required to align the area budgets and available resources (capital programme, appropriate S106, etc) with the new Area Plans. There needs to be recognition that resources are finite and will be allocated according to need. Any new work will be assessed in order to establish relative priorities. As mentioned above, a report will be produced for the April meeting with recommendations about the use of area resources.

Next Steps

- Draft council plan workshops with Scrutiny and District Executive in January 2020
- Final Council Plan for adoption in February 2020

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

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 and 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. 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
