

Area North Priorities 2014/2015

The four Area North priorities provide the framework for work supported or directly managed by the Area North Development team, underpinned by the Area Committee's influence and use of delegated budgets.

- **Jobs** – *we will aim to add value to the economy in Area North, through promoting local economic development and the availability of local employment, promoting the availability of Superfast Broadband; and enhancing the offer to visitors to extend stay and spend.*
 - In the coming year this will specifically include actions to support the 20 Year Flood Action Plan (business resilience); the success of the future Leader programme for the Levels and Moors; completing the signage and marketing project; and further work to assess the current supply / demand for employment land in Area North.
- **Affordable Housing** – *we will promote the delivery of affordable homes in Area North, including support to test and develop new models.*
 - In the coming year this will specifically include work to secure as much progress as can be achieved in Norton sub Hamdon, Compton Dundon and Ash. In addition assistance with local housing needs surveys can be provided, together with help understand how delivering affordable housing works, and to connect parishes with housing providers.
- **Self-Help** – *we will promote greater levels of self-help to promote the sustainability of local services and facilities for all ages.*
 - In the coming year this will specifically include support to locally led projects as set out in the Area Development Plan - supporting progress in a variety of ways. We will continue to promote our general enquiries service to help residents; councillors; businesses and groups find the help and information they need to make a difference in their local communities.
- **Flood and Water Management** – *we will promote locally led solutions which prevent unacceptable flood events in our communities; we will support the work of the Somerset Water Management Partnership including the task force for the Levels and Moors; we will seek to include past learning from the Parrett Catchment Project into future solutions and we will support the partnership of the 20 Year Flood Action Plan to deliver its objectives including a long term solution to flood relief and the return of our rivers to their 1960's profile.*
 - In the coming year this will specifically include support to raise awareness of and promote achievement of the objectives of the 20 Year Flood Action Plan - particularly for the 'Building Local Resilience' workstream. This includes the completion of the Repairs and Renewal and Business Support Grants programmes; and construction of the Thorney Ring Bank.