



Place and Performance

Draft Area North Development Plan 2017-18

Our Portfolio Holder – Cllr Derek Yeomans

Our Manager – Sara Kelly



Introduction to the Area Development Service - North

In a rural area such as Area North in South Somerset, economies of scale can be harder to achieve for public services. South Somerset District Council aims to address this challenge through its well-established Area Working system, the Council's 'enable-partner-deliver' ethos, and its ambition *"to strive to deliver an improving quality of life for all"*.

The Area Development Service works closely with Councillors and local communities to help make South Somerset a good place to live, work and visit. We work in four locally based teams - North, East, South and West.

The purpose of the service is to work with and support the development of the skills, ambitions and knowledge to be found in local communities. People using our service include community groups, local town and parish councillors, individuals and businesses.

- We help to design and secure investment into projects, services or community facilities which are run locally and aim to improve local social, economic or environmental well-being under the general direction of the priorities set by district councillors. This may be by Full Council, the Area Committee or ward councillor.
- We manage the Council's successful Community Grants programme and give guidance on alternative sources of funding.
- We provide practical help to help get projects off the ground for example with the hire of meetings rooms, loans of equipment for displays and presentation or help with the design and printing of surveys and publicity for events.
- We help to resolve current issues or local concerns from the neighbourhood or community, and we can help with contacting other services working in the area who may be able to help.
- We manage the council's community office service operating in the area. There is one community office in Area North, based inside the Langport Information Centre.
- We work closely with partners across the area to help residents get the help and information they need, at a time and place to suit them. This includes support to the four locally managed Local Information Centres in South Petherton, Martock, Somerton and Langport, together with helping to improve public access to and availability of help with on-line services.

Maps of Area North – larger versions are available

Area North – Ward and Parish boundaries



- Parishes
- Area North Wards
- BURROW HILL
- CURRY RIVEL
- HAMDON
- ISLEDOOR
- LANGPORT AND HUISH
- MARTOCK
- SOUTH PETHERTON
- ST MICHAELS
- TURN HILL
- WESSEX

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Area North Priorities 2017-18

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.

- 1. Jobs and the Economy** – 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.
- 2. Affordable Housing** – we will promote the delivery of affordable homes in Area North, including support to test and develop new models.
- 3. Self-Help and Community Facilities** – we will promote greater levels of self-help to promote the sustainability of local services and facilities for all ages. This will specifically include support to locally led projects as set out in the service action plan. 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
- 4. Community led planning and development** – Support Towns and Parishes to carry out quality community research to prioritise and achieve planned projects or influence growth. This could include community plans, neighbourhood plans, housing needs surveys etc.

Service Standards for 2016/17 (our core work)	
1.	<p>Community Grants</p> <p>SSDC is committed to supporting community development projects, for which we offer a range of grants. The standards that we expect to fulfil are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant application pack to be sent out within 48 hours of request • Acknowledgement letter to be sent out within 3 days of receipt of application form • Award letter and conditions to be sent out within 5 days of Scrutiny call in period
2.	<p>Front Office</p> <p>The Council has staff available in the Area Community office providing advice and guidance on all Council services, in particular;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification and processing of housing benefit applications, including fast track applications • Planning applications and decision notices are available to view, as are minutes of Area Committee meetings • Reporting of local issues including waste enquiries
3.	<p>Community Development and Regeneration</p> <p>SSDC's Area Development Team aims to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer all community development and regeneration queries and questions received within the timescales set by corporate service standards • Offer advice and support to any community group in Area North wishing to produce a Parish Plan or Neighbourhood Plan • Encourage participation and give at least 6 weeks' notice of workshops, meetings or consultations which will always be held in accessible venues • Offer funding advice to local associations and voluntary groups and signpost to other possible funding providers • Coordinate and arrange meetings and workshops in response to demand from ANC, Parishes and community organisations which bring together key partners and community representatives to jointly tackle issues relating to the well-being of residents in the Area • Actively market the Area as a place to live and work • Keep our web pages up to date and relevant

Service Action plan: Top level actions – more detail is within individual work programmes / project plans
Priority Area 1: Jobs and the economy

Action /Project description	Who	Milestone/ outcome	When
Continue to build SSDC engagement with Town & Parish Councils, including guidance on community plans and local investment	All	6 monthly meetings with clerks/chairs as required	Ongoing
Support local community engagement with SSDC and partnerships between agencies to meet local needs (including community safety) and encourage innovation	All	6 monthly meetings with key partners	Ongoing
Action /Project description	Who	Milestone/ outcome	When
Support our 4 Local Information Centres (Somerton, Martock, Langport, South Petherton) with service level agreements	MO	Release all grant payments by Oct 2016	Ongoing
Support for small businesses			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production of short run publication promoting local businesses and facilities to visitors and residents. 	PB	Publications issued	March 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business networking events 	PB	Minimum of 2 events per year	Autumn 2017 and Spring 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training workshops 	PB	Digital workshop about social networking opportunities Signposting to existing training opportunities. Marketing and promotion workshop for businesses	March 2018

Appendix 2

Tourism/attracting visitors to the area			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting initiatives to improve local facilities and services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support for Langport River Group to improve infrastructure for access onto the river ○ Support initiatives to encourage cycling and walking. Consider links with existing and emerging initiatives that support cycling and other low impact opportunities in Area North. ○ Review and improve promotion of the River Parrett Trail (focussing on the SSDC section) Identify local solutions to raising awareness of the Trail and promoting the range of businesses along the course of the river, ensuring connections and links to partner organisations are used to best advantage. 	PB	<p>Attendance at meetings</p> <p>Report to Area North committee regarding the Langport to Muchelney cycleway</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>March 2018</p>
Support to LEADER (Levels and Moors)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote LEADER funding to potential applicants • Support good applications • Represent SSDC on the Levels and Moors Executive 	<p>PB</p> <p>PB</p>	<p>Applications submitted</p> <p>Attendance at meetings</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Priority Area 2. Affordable Housing

Action /Project description	Who	Milestone/ outcome	When
Support progress to secure completion of affordable housing scheme in Compton Dundon	SK	Build complete	March 2018
Continue to offer support with local housing needs surveys (HNS) as requested	ALL	Assist High Ham Parish Council with production and analysis of survey Respond to need from other parishes as requested	Autumn 2017 Ongoing

Priority Area 3. Self help and community facilities

Action /Project description	Who	Milestone/ outcome	When
Support community-led play days and youth work.	ALL	Minimum of 6 play days supported in 2017	Summer 2017
Support Kingsbury Episcopi church rooms management committee	CS	Work completed and grant released	December 2017
Support delivery of Curry Rivel community facilities investment programme at Westfield and SSDC play areas.	SK	New equipment installed	December 2017
Support development of community facilities at Huish Leisure Centre	MO	Attendance at meetings as required. Possible grant application	Ongoing
Support Stoke Sub Hamdon Recreation Trust to implement five year plan.	MO	6 monthly updates received. Attend meetings as required	Ongoing
Support delivery of Ilton community facilities investment programme onto new land at Copse Lane.	CS	Master planning exercise complete and work underway	March 2018

Appendix 2

Support Curry Mallet Parish Council and Village Hall to implement improved local play facilities	MO	New play equipment installed & S106 spent	March 2018
Support Martock Parish Council to deliver actions identified in the Martock 'Our Place' programme	MO	SLA signed. Reviewed annually 2016-19	Ongoing
Support South Petherton Parish Council to deliver community facilities investment programme at Lightgate Lane to include master planning exercise	SK	Masterplan produced and first actions commenced	March 2018
Support Tintinhull Parish Council to progress new village hall project	CS	Build complete and grant payment released	December 2017
Support Somerton Recreation Trust to continue master planning for changing and sports facilities	SK	Project fully scoped and approved by Trust. Masterplan complete	December 2017
Support and coordination of ABP abattoir liaison group	CS	Quarterly meetings arranged and attended	Ongoing
Support review of community facilities in Ash and ongoing actions that arise from the outcome of the recent survey.	CS	Ongoing support as required. Possible grant application	Ongoing
Continued support to Kingsbury Episcopi Village Hall/Shop including release of final phase grant payment	MO	Final phase of grant payment released	July 2017
Support Long Sutton village hall committee with production of 3-5 year business plan and associated actions arising from it	SK	Business plan produced and presented to Parish Council	December 2017
Finalise payment of community grant to Aller Village Hall for new hearing loop	CS	Payment released	August 2017
Support potential new community group looking to undertake community purchase of the King William Inn, Curry Rivel	SK	Either the set-up of a formally constituted group or the decision not to proceed	September 2017
Support ongoing improvement to village hall provision in Curry Rivel	SK	3 year plan/feasibility study produced Potential grant application to Area North	March 2018
Support SSH Parish Council with purchase of Methodist chapel and programme of improvements	MO	Purchase complete Project plan produced Funding secured for improvements	March 2018

Appendix 2

Finalise grant payment towards Ilton defibrillator	CS	Payment released	September 2017
Support Langport Town Council with feasibility study of Town Hall	PB	Feasibility study produced Project plan costed and underway	March 2018
Finalise grant payment to Langport and Huish senior citizens club	CS	Payment released	August 2017
Support Long Load village hall management committee to finalise works and release grant payment (£5k)	MO	Revised works fully scoped and costed Work underway	December 2018
Support Blake Hall Management committee/Parish council with improvements to Blake Hall to incorporate public toilets	SK	Lease agreed Funding secured Toilet operational	Autumn 2017 January 2018 2018
Support south Petherton community Partnership as required	SK	Attendance at meetings	Ongoing
Support as required to new school project in Somerton	SK	TBC as project progresses	Ongoing

Priority Area 4. Community led Planning and Development

Action /Project description	Who	Milestone/ outcome	When
Support South Petherton Parish Council to refresh the Parish Plan / create Neighbourhood Plan	SK	NP presented to ANC	October 2017
Support Martock Parish Council to create Neighbourhood Plan	SK	NP presented to ANC	January 2018