

Area North Development Plan

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Purpose of the Report

To approve the Area North Development Plan (ADP) for 2017/18.

Public Interest

The plan sets out the work being planned and undertaken locally by the Council to invest in communities across this Area based on needs analysis, Councillor and community concerns and priorities.

Recommendation

That Councillors approve the Area North Development Plan 2017/18.

Background

The Area North Committee revises local priorities on an annual basis within the framework of the overall Council Plan. Through the ADP and other means, it seeks to make progress on these priorities by allocating resources and working with partners and other services within SSDC to achieve results. Area budgets enable the Committee to pump prime the work and projects it wishes to implement or support. The use of resources is also reviewed annually. Progress against the ADP is monitored monthly by staff and reported to Committee at 6 months and then at the year end.

The new Council Action Plan was approved in April 2017. The annual action plan for 2016/21 is attached at Appendix 1.

The ADP captures the main projects and programmes that the Area Development Team (ADT) will work on over the year. This is in addition to the normal, day-to-day responsive work with Councillors to address problems and issues that arise throughout the year.

Area North Priorities

The draft ADP is Appendix 2 to this report. It consists of core work such as the enquiry service and direct support to communities, existing projects that have been rolled forward for completion and new work strands developed in response to your priorities.

A range of projects and initiatives are underway to progress the 4 main priority themes which are:

1. Jobs and the economy
2. Affordable housing
3. Self Help and community facilities
4. Community led planning and development

In addition the Committee and ADT are continuously looking at ways to maintain effective links with parishes and community groups, improve the cost effectiveness of the ADT and increase income to offset costs.

New projects, support needs and grant applications that come forward throughout the year will be added to the service action plan as they materialise.

Financial Implications

The Team consists of a part time Area Development Lead (0.7 FTE), two part time Neighbourhood Development Officers (1.1 FTE), a part time PA/project support officer (0.5 FTE) and a two person Community Support Team (1.4 FTE) who provide a front office service in Langport along with administrative and project support. We also have another part time Neighbourhood development officer (0.5 FTE) currently on secondment to the transformation team.

Corporate Priority Implications

The priorities have been developed taking into account the current Council Action Plan see Appendix 1. The key aspects relevant to our work programme are:

- work with partners to achieve economies, resilience and influence
- work with businesses and use our assets to grow our economy
- capitalise on our high quality culture, leisure and tourism opportunities to bring people to South Somerset
- continue to address the impact of flooding
- support communities to develop local, parish and neighbourhood plans
- support communities so that they can identify their needs and develop local solutions
- target support to areas of need
- help keep our communities safe

Carbon Emissions & 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

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: none