

## **Area South – Council Plan Priorities 2020/21**

**Service Manager:** Jan Gamon, Lead Specialist Strategic Planning  
**Lead Officers:** Jan Gamon, Lead Specialist Strategic Planning.  
Anna Maria Lenz, Specialist, Strategic Planning (East/South)/  
Chereen Scott, Strategic Planning (West/North)  
Tim Cook, Locality Manager – East

**Contact Details:** [anna-maria.lenz@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:anna-maria.lenz@southsomerset.gov.uk);  
[chereen.scott@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:chereen.scott@southsomerset.gov.uk)  
[tim.cook@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:tim.cook@southsomerset.gov.uk)

### **Purpose of the Report**

To present the priorities identified by Area South Committee for consideration in the Council Plan 2020/21.

### **Public Interest**

This report gives a summary of the priorities, which have been developed based on the outcomes of a workshop in July 2019. These priorities will help to inform the development of the Council Plan 2020/21 including corporate strategic priorities and the priorities for the Area South chapter. This report details the next steps of this process.

### **Recommendations**

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 South 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 for Area South**

A number of challenges and issues were identified at the member workshop. The list below provides strategic and area priorities that have been developed based on the outcomes of the workshop:

#### **Corporate strategic priority proposals:**

- Health and Wellbeing: To improve the provision of recreational and sports facilities in the Area.
- Crime and community safety: To work in partnership to address crime and community safety issues.

#### **Additional Area Priority proposals:**

- To support the creation of a community centre for Yeovil Without in Wyndham Park.
- To develop a cycling destination on the Birchfield site.

- To develop Milford Valley into an ecological site which promotes different types of tree and plant species and/or act as an educational facility.

## **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 South 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 South is Martin Woods 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 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*