



Informal Discussion by Members of Area West Committee

Wednesday 19th May 2021

5.30 pm

**A virtual consultative meeting via
Zoom meeting software**

The following members are requested to attend this virtual consultation meeting:

Jason Baker
Mike Best
Dave Bulmer
Martin Carnell
Brian Hamilton
Ben Hodgson

Val Keitch
Jenny Kenton
Paul Maxwell
Tricia O'Brien
Sue Osborne
Robin Pailthorpe

Oliver Patrick
Garry Shortland
Linda Vijeh
Martin Wale

There are no planning applications to consider this month.

Any members of the public wishing to address the virtual consultative meeting during Public Question Time, need to email democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk by 9.00am on Tuesday 18 May 2021.

The meeting will be viewable online at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSDst3IHGj9WoGnwJGF_soA

For further information on the items to be discussed, please contact:
democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk

This Agenda was issued on Tuesday 11 May 2021.

Alex Parmley, Chief Executive Officer

**This information is also available on our website
www.southsomerset.gov.uk and via the modern.gov app**

Information for the Public

In light of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), Area West Committee will meet virtually via video-conferencing to consider reports. As of 7 May 2021 interim arrangements are in place for committee meetings.

At the meeting of Full Council on 15 April 2021 it was agreed to make the following changes to the Council's Constitution:

- a) To continue to enable members to hold remote, virtual meetings using available technology;
- b) To amend Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council's Constitution to allow those remote meetings to function as consultative bodies and delegate decisions, including Executive and Quasi-Judicial decisions, that would have been taken by those meetings if the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 had continued in force to the Chief Executive (or the relevant Director in the Chief Executive's absence) in consultation with those meetings and those members to whom the decision would otherwise have been delegated under Part 3 of the Constitution;
- c) The delegated authority given under (b) will expire on 31 July 2021 unless continued by a future decision of this Council;

For full details and to view the report please see -

[Agenda for South Somerset District Council on Thursday 15th April 2021, 6.30 pm](#)

Area West Committee

Meetings of the Area West Committee are usually held monthly, at 5.30pm, on the third Wednesday of the month (unless advised otherwise). However during the coronavirus pandemic these meetings will be held remotely via Zoom.

Agendas and minutes of meetings are published on the council's website

[Browse Meetings, 2000 \(southsomerset.gov.uk\)](#)

Agendas and minutes can also be viewed via the modern.gov app (free) available for iPads and Android devices. Search for 'modern.gov' in the app store for your device, install, and select 'South Somerset' from the list of publishers, then select the committees of interest. A wi-fi signal will be required for a very short time to download an agenda but once downloaded, documents will be viewable offline.

Public participation at meetings (held via Zoom)

Public question time

We recognise that these are challenging times but we still value the public's contribution to our virtual consultative meetings. If you would like to participate and contribute in the meeting, please email democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk by 9.00am on Tuesday 18 May 2021.

You will need an internet connection to join the virtual meeting.

The period allowed for participation in Public Question Time shall not exceed 15 minutes except with the consent of the Chairman and members of the Committee. Each individual speaker shall be restricted to a total of three minutes.

Virtual meeting etiquette:

- Consider joining the meeting early to ensure your technology is working correctly.
- Please note that we will mute all public attendees to minimise background noise. If you have registered to speak during the virtual meeting, the Chairman will unmute your microphone at the appropriate time.
- Each individual speaker shall be restricted to a total of three minutes.
- When speaking, keep your points clear and concise.
- Please speak clearly – the Councillors are interested in your comments.

Recording and photography at council meetings

Recording of council meetings is permitted, however anyone wishing to do so should let the Chairperson of the meeting know prior to the start of the meeting. The recording should be overt and clearly visible to anyone at the meeting, but non-disruptive. If someone is recording the meeting, the Chairman will make an announcement at the beginning of the meeting.

Any member of the public has the right not to be recorded. If anyone making public representation does not wish to be recorded they must let the Chairperson know.

The full 'Policy on Audio/Visual Recording and Photography at Council Meetings' can be viewed online at:

[Document Policy on recording council meetings \(southsomerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk)

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Informal Discussion by Members of Area West Committee

Wednesday 19 May 2021

Agenda

Preliminary Items

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**

In accordance with the Council's current Code of Conduct (as amended 26 February 2015), which includes all the provisions relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), personal and prejudicial interests, Members are asked to declare any DPI and also any personal interests (and whether or not such personal interests are also "prejudicial") in relation to any matter on the agenda for this meeting.

Members are reminded that they need to declare the fact that they are also a member of a County, Town or Parish Council as a Personal Interest. Where you are also a member of Somerset County Council and/or a Town or Parish Council within South Somerset you must declare a prejudicial interest in any business on the agenda where there is a financial benefit or gain or advantage to Somerset County Council and/or a Town or Parish Council which would be at the cost or to the financial disadvantage of South Somerset District Council.

Planning Applications Referred to the Regulation Committee

The following members of this Committee are also members of the Council's Regulation Committee:

Councillors Jason Baker, Sue Osborne and Linda Vijeh.

Where planning applications are referred by this Committee to the Regulation Committee for determination, Members of the Regulation Committee can participate and vote on these items at the Area Committee and at Regulation Committee. In these cases the Council's decision-making process is not complete until the application is determined by the Regulation Committee. Members of the Regulation Committee retain an open mind and will not finalise their position until the Regulation Committee. They will also consider the matter at Regulation Committee as Members of that Committee and not as representatives of the Area Committee.

- 3. Date and Venue for Next Meeting**

Councillors are requested to note that the next Area West Committee meeting is scheduled to be held at 5.30pm on Wednesday 16 June 2021. This will be a virtual meeting using Zoom on-line meeting software.

4. Public Question Time

5. Chairman's Announcements

Items for Discussion

6. Presentation on the Future Chard Strategy (Page 6)

7. Presentation on the role of Scrutiny in SSDC (Page 7)

**8. Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Executive Decision)
(Pages 8 - 14)**

**9. Community Grant to Hinton St George Pre-School Appeal (Executive Decision)
(Pages 15 - 22)**

10. Community Grant to Radio Ninesprings (Executive Decision) (Pages 23 - 30)

11. Area West - Area Chapter 20/21 outturn report (Pages 31 - 37)

12. Reports from Members on Outside Organisations - Chard Museum (Pages 38 - 40)

13. Area West Forward Plan (Pages 41 - 42)

14. Exclusion of Press and Public (Page 43)

15. To discuss the Addendum Transport Assessment for Chard (Pages 44 - 137)

Please note that the decisions taken by Area Committees may be called in for scrutiny by the Council's Scrutiny Committee prior to implementation.

This does not apply to decisions taken on planning applications.

Members of the Area Committee will make a recommendation on the above reports. The decision will be taken by the Chief Executive.



Presentation on the Future Chard Strategy

Director: Jan Gamon, Director, Place and Recovery
Lead Officer: Anna Matthews, Chard High Street Heritage Action Zone
Project Manager
Contact Details: anna.matthews@southsomerset.gov.uk

This will be a presentation by representatives from PER Consulting to inform Members of the work taking place to develop the Future Chard Strategy, and its objectives.

Members of Chard Town Council will also be invited to attend for this presentation.



Presentation on the role of Scrutiny in SSDC

Strategic Director:	Nicola Hix, Director Strategy and Support Services
Service Manager:	Peter Paddon, Lead Specialist Strategic Planning
Lead Officer:	Stephanie Gold, Specialist Scrutiny and Member Development
Contact Details:	Stephanie.gold@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462656

Councillor Gerard Tucker, Chairman of Scrutiny Committee, along with the vice-chairs and Scrutiny Specialist will be attending Area West Committee to give members a presentation regarding the work and role of Scrutiny in SSDC.



Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (Executive Decision)

Director: Kirsty Larkins, Director of Service Delivery
Locality Manager: Tim Cook, Locality Manager
Lead Officer: Adrian Moore, Locality Officer
Contact Details: adrian.moore@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462409

Purpose of the Report

To update members on the work of the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership and to seek agreement to continue SSDC's contribution to the core funding of the AONB Partnership of £6,000 in 2021/22.

Public Interest

This report provides an annual update on the activities and projects carried out by the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- 1) Comment upon and note the report:
- 2) recommend that the Chief Executive agrees to continue SSDC's contribution to the core funding of the AONB Partnership of £6,000 in 2021/22.

Background

The Blackdown Hills is an unspoilt landscape on the Somerset and Devon border, rich in wildlife, beauty and heritage. The Blackdown Hills were designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1991 after the Countryside Commission's landscape assessment judged the Blackdown Hills landscape 'to be outstanding due to the subtle combination of four characteristics':

- An isolated, unspoilt rural area
- Diversity of landscape patterns and pictures
- A unique geology
- A landscape with architectural appeal

An AONB also encourages the social and economic wellbeing of its local communities; promotes sustainable development and has regard to the needs of recreation.

There are six South Somerset parishes wholly or partly within the AONB. They are; Buckland St Mary, Broadway, Combe St Nicholas, Tatworth & Forton, Wambrook and Whitestaunton. However, as the towns of Ilminster, Chard and many other villages are so close to the Blackdown Hills, plenty of residents in South Somerset enjoy spending time in the AONB and benefit from the work of the partnership.

AONB Management and Funding

The AONB is managed by a partnership which is made up of six local authority core funding partners, other public bodies, the 41 parish councils within the Blackdown Hills, community organisations and voluntary groups.

South Somerset District Council, along with the five other local authorities that sit within the AONB (Devon County Council, East Devon District Council, Mid Devon District Council, Somerset West and Taunton Council and Somerset County Council) has statutory duties in relation to the Blackdown Hills.

In addition, it is a statutory responsibility of the six Local Authority partners to contribute 25% of the core funding to cover the running costs of the small staff team, with the other 75% coming from The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Defra fixes this funding ratio and the level of core funding is agreed through a 'Memorandum of Agreement'. It should be noted, that if any Local Authority partner reduces their funding contribution this will result in a reduction in the amount of money from Defra.

The table below shows what each local authority partner has contributed this financial year.

Funding Partner	£ Amount contributed
Devon County Council	9,274
Somerset County Council	5,122
East Devon District Council	9,323
Mid Devon District Council	8,500
South Somerset District Council	6,000
Somerset West and Taunton Council	10,000
Total from Local Authorities	48,219
Defra	165,465
Total funding	213,684

Through the Area West budget, SSDC has agreed to contribute £6,000 per annum in the period 2020/21. This figure represents good value for money when taking into account the quality of the projects and activities delivered through the partnership and the wide range of benefits residents in and around the AONB gain from enjoying the Blackdown Hills.

Councillor Martin Wale represents SSDC on the Partnership Management Group and he will provide a verbal update on their work. Adrian Moore represents SSDC at the Officers Support Group.

AONB activities project work and associated programmes

The AONB has a small staff team who carry out a range of work across the area:

Achievements from 2020/21

- The flagship nature and wellbeing partnership project, Somerset Nature Connections, has started with the team (Project Manager and 3 Project Officers) in place. The project is a partnership between Somerset Wildlife Trust, Blackdown Hills, Quantock Hills and Mendip Hills AONBs. The project aims to tackle some of the barriers that prevent people experiencing the health and wellbeing benefits of Somerset's spectacular natural environment, including AONBs. Somerset Nature Connections will support local communities and individuals most vulnerable to mental health issues to access these natural spaces. Chard will be one of focus areas for the project and Chard Watch are one of the delivery partners. We are very grateful to SSDC for their pivotal match funding contribution that enables this £500K project to go ahead.
- Volunteering – Despite restrictions, we managed to run a small volunteer group surveying for crayfish in one of the river Culm tributaries last summer. In the autumn we worked with Devon County Council historic environment team to run practical volunteer events at Scheduled Monument sites, and Forestry England on introduction to countryside management sessions. Over the winter our Volunteer Co-ordinator organised a series of online talks and training for volunteers.
- Saving Devon's Treescapes – development phase - aims to provide hope and action in the face of the alarming changes that are already affecting our precious treescapes. The project will support local communities across Devon (including the Neroche area - one of five priority landscapes that includes part of Buckland St Mary, Broadway and Ashill) to plant and nurture thousands of replacement trees. These won't be ash trees, but they will be of other native species including oak, field maple, rowan, crab apple, hawthorn, birch, and hazel. The project will enable people to care for and celebrate our treasured treescapes, supporting local action for wildlife and climate change. There are many ways for people to get involved from planting trees to recording butterflies. The partnership project is led by Devon Wildlife Trust and the AONB is a funding and contributing partner.
- As part of the AONBs Colchester Declaration [Colchester Declaration \(Colchester Declaration :: National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty \(landscapesforlife.org.uk\)\)](#), a Nature Recovery Plan is being

**Achievements from
2020/21**

produced that will set out the priorities for nature recovery and building climate resilience. The work includes a focus on the Axe catchment, a national Colchester Declaration pilot and where a new partnership initiative, Triple Axe (Farming, Nature & People) is being developed, that directly supports actions to reduce phosphates as well as restore other catchment functions (that includes 12 South Somerset parishes – those in the AONB and those south of the A30 between Chard and Crewkerne).

- Agri-environment advocacy – we have undertaken a questionnaire across the Blackdown Hills, East Devon AONB and the whole of the Axe catchment-focussing on agricultural transition.
- A series of eight 'Explore and Create' educational videos [Explore and create - Blackdown Hills AONB](#) were produced.
- An AONB Visitor Guide was produced but now needs to be revamped in light of COVID-19.
- AONB Challenge Fund projects (one off (SDF) Sustainable Development Fund) – Dommett Wood Dormice and Combe St Nicholas Underway Mead plus Ferne Animal Sanctuary water vole SDF project.

**Forward Plans for
2021/22**

- Somerset Nature Connections runs until 2023
- Saving Devon's Treescapes will hopefully enter a full 4-year Delivery Phase
- Events and promotion (assuming COVID-19 restrictions) – an online/downloadable activity treasure/ trail with 30 things to see and do in the AONB (including in the SSDC area) - as part of our 30 year celebrations; promoting self-led walking visits; keeping the website updated along with active social media
- Some volunteering can restart including some biological surveys and introduction to countryside management.
- Agricultural transition and support- as part of the government's agricultural transition plan, there will be an emphasis on farming in protected landscapes and there will be funding available to help support farming businesses through the transition away from Basic Payment Scheme. Accessing Countryside Stewardship grant aid will be encouraged and supported, as a gateway to Environmental Land Management (ELMs) for farmers and landowners.

**Forward Plans for
2021/22**

- Further educational 'Explore & Create' videos will be produced, this time focussing more on heritage in the AONB, including in the SSDC area
- An AONB Visitor Guide (that includes food & drink venues) will be revamped in light of COVID-19

Benefit of continued engagement

- Proven partnership delivering AONB Management Plan and Duty of Regard for SSDC under Sec 85 & 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW Act) 2000
- Excellent multiplier of SSDC's £6,000 – approximately 1:34
- Provides specialist planning advice to SSDC Planning Officers
- Helps deliver SSDC's Council Plan and Strategies
- Continuation of partnership working with key public and private sector partners
- Ability to access additional funding for local projects
- Strong cross-sector and community engagement and support
- Key partnership targeting rural economy, farming and forestry
- Policy development benefits e.g. Landscape Character Assessment
- Ambassador for SSDC

Financial Implications

Like the other local authorities that make up the partnership, SSDC continues to contribute an annual grant towards the running costs of the AONB and has already agreed to adopt the AONB five-year Management Plan 2019-2024. The agreed financial contribution of £6,000 per annum has been funded through existing budgets in 2020/21.

If this £6,000 award is agreed, funding will be paid from the existing Area West 21/22 budget.

Council Plan Implications

Working in partnership with the Blackdown Hills AONB contributes to:

Focus 1: High quality cost effective services

- Transform customer services through technology
- Provide access to services to suit our customers' needs
- Actively manage assets and resources to ensure the best financial or community return
- Seek business opportunities for the council
- Work with partners to achieve economies, resilience and influence



South Somerset District Council

Focus 2: Economy To promote a strong and growing economy with thriving urban, rural and

land based businesses and improving productivity we will:

- Work with businesses and use our assets
- Advise and support initiatives that ensure worker skills meet the employer's needs
- Lobby for and support infrastructure improvements to enable growth
- Capitalise on our high quality culture, leisure and tourism opportunities to bring people into the district

Focus 3: Environment

To keep South Somerset clean, green and attractive we will work in partnership to:

- Promote recycling and minimise waste
- Promote the use of 'green' technology
- Maintain and promote access to our Country Parks and open spaces to promote good mental and physical health
- Keep streets and neighbourhoods clean and attractive
- Continue to support long term flood resilience
- Promote a high quality built environment in line with Local Plan policies
- Support communities to develop and implement local, parish and neighbourhood plans

Focus 4: Homes

To enable the provision of housing that meets the future and existing needs of residents and employers we will work with partners to:

- Minimise homelessness and rough sleeping
- Work with the private rented sector to improve the standard and availability of rented accommodation
- Tackle fuel poverty
- Work to minimise the impact of personal or household debt
- Enable people to live independently for as long as they are able

Focus 5: Health and Communities

To build healthy, self-reliant, active communities we will:

- Support communities so that they can identify their needs and develop local solutions
- Target support to areas of need
- Help people to live well by enabling quality cultural, leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities & activities
- Work with partners to tackle health issues such as diabetes and hypertension and mental health
- Work with our partners to keep our communities safe

Area West Chapter Implications

- Continue to support the Blackdown Hills AONB

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

- The Blackdown Hills AONB website is a useful resource for homeowners seeking information on renewable energy and light pollution

SSDC Environment Strategy

- We will work to achieve a significant reduction in emissions and improve carbon-offset rates across the geography of South Somerset, through direct action, by supporting the communities of South Somerset to meet their ambitions and through the way we do things; ensuring that working towards carbon neutrality is a thread which runs through all of our decision-making

Equality and Diversity Implications

- The Blackdown Hills AONB works to ensure that people with limited mobility can enjoy the countryside easily by promoting easy access trails

Background Papers

- Area West Committee – Blackdown Hills AONB January 2020
- Area West Committee – Blackdown Hills AONB April 2019
- Area West Committee – Blackdown Hills AONB December 2018
- Area West Committee – Blackdown Hills AONB December 2017
- Area West Committee – Blackdown Hills AONB December 2016
- Area West Committee – Blackdown Hills AONB December 2015
- Area West Committee – Blackdown Hills AONB December 2014
- Area West Committee – Natural Futures February 2014
- Area West Committee – Blackdown Hills AONB October 2013
- Area West Committee – Blackdown Hills AONB October 2012



Community Grant to Hinton St George Pre-School Appeal (Executive Decision)

Director: Kirsty Larkins, Director of Service Delivery
Lead Specialist: Tim Cook, Locality Manager
Lead Officer: Adrian Moore, Locality Officer
Contact Details: adrian.moore@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462409

Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £12,500 towards the purchase of a new Pre-School building at Hinton St George.

Public Interest

Awarding grants is a key way that SSDC supports and helps to deliver community projects sponsored by Parishes and voluntary community organisations in the towns and villages across the district.

Hinton St George Pre-School Appeal has applied to the Area West Community Grants Programme for financial assistance with the purchase of a new Pre-School building. The application has been assessed by the Locality Officer who is submitting this report to enable the Area West Committee to make an informed decision about the application.

Recommendation

That Area West Committee Members recommend that the Chief Executive award a grant of £12,500 to Hinton St George Pre-School Appeal, the grant to be allocated from the Area West Capital Programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (Appendix A)

Application Details

Name of applicant:	Hinton St George Pre-School Appeal
Project:	Purchase of a new Pre-School building
Total project cost:	£ 78,850
Amount requested from SSDC:	£ 12,500
% amount requested	15.85%
Application assessed by:	Adrian Moore

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. Applications must meet the minimum score of 22 to be considered for SSDC funding under Community Grants policies.

Category	Max Score Available	Officer Assessment Score
A Supports Council Plan/Area Chapter	1	1
B Supports Equalities & Diversity	1	1
C Supports Environment Strategy	3	2
D Need for Project	10	4
E Capacity of Organisation	15	14
F Financial need	7	5
Total	37	27

Background

Hinton St George Church of England Primary School (a Voluntary Controlled School) has been offering education to children in the local area since 1850. It is a dynamic, progressive, Primary School and Pre-School, rated as 'Good' by Ofsted in 2018. It is located in the village of Hinton St George and serves families in the local area beyond the formal catchment area of Hinton St George, Dinington and Lopen.

Following requests from parents and in anticipation of probable changes to the structure of education in the local Crewkerne and Ilminster area, the Governors took the decision to change the age range in the school so that the school ceased to be a First School and became a Primary School at the beginning of September 2020, it now serves children aged 4yrs – 11yrs. There is also a Pre-School within the existing school building providing for children aged 2yrs – 4yrs. This restructure now offers children a seamless education of high quality education from their earliest years and throughout their primary phase.

Presently there are 54 pupils on roll within the Primary School, although numbers are expected to increase to 67 from September 2021 due to the extension of the age range, a new development of 10 houses in the village which is nearing completion and the general increase in housing provision in the area. The Pre-School similarly draws children from quite a wide local area and, in its present accommodation, can cater for up to 12 children in each session.

St George's Pre-School has been popular and running successfully for over 30 years, originally as a charity and since 2019 as part of the school although it is not funded by the Local Authority. Unlike compulsory education, provision of pre-school education is not the statutory responsibility of the Local Authority, even though it is recognised as being vital to young children's development.

Currently, the Pre-School is housed on the first floor within the main Primary School building. The size of the accommodation constrains the number of children who can



South Somerset District Council

benefit and the stairs provide a barrier to some children with disabilities. There is also no direct access to outside space which is so important to the development of young children.

The aim is to relocate the Pre-School to a more appropriate setting in its own self-contained building on the school field, some 100m from the main Primary School building. The new building will enable greater numbers of Pre-School children to be accommodated, including children with mobility challenges. All the children will fully benefit from the rich outdoor environment that will surround them. As the Pre-School is not funded by the Local Authority it must therefore raise the capital funds for the new building itself.

The Primary School and Pre-School recognise the importance of education in the outdoors which encourages curiosity, allows for risk-taking in a safe environment and develops independence. The school are fortunate to have a large school field which, in addition to facilities for sports and play, offers a rich environment for learning and which is well used for Forest School by the Primary School and on a daily basis by the Pre-School. The school field is owned by Somerset County Council and the Primary School and Pre-School are permitted to use it for any educational purpose.

Parish information

Parish	Hinton St George
Parish population	Approximately 450

The Project

The new pre-school building will be constructed of two used shipping containers, clad and fully fitted to the Pre-School's specification. Fit-out will include toilets (including disabled toilet provision), kitchenette, infra-red heating, appropriate flooring and bi-fold doors opening onto a decking area with ramp to allow open all-ability access.

This type of building will provide an affordable long-term solution, minimal environmental impact and pleasing aesthetics. This solution also offers the opportunity for internal specification to the requirements of the professionals leading the Pre-School.

The new building can be installed and fully functional with a short lead time and will be fully fitted on completion. Existing furniture and equipment can simply be transferred from the present accommodation to the new building.

The building is allowed under 'Permitted Development Rights' and no planning application is required subject to restrictions on height, proximity to boundaries and colour of the cladding to meet requirements of the conservation area in which it will sit.

Hinton St George Pre-School Appeal are confident that, with the support of South Somerset District Council, they will be able to deliver the new Pre-School building in time for the beginning of the next academic year - September 2021.

Once the project is complete and the new building is in place, the Pre-School will be run under the umbrella of the Primary School by the same successful team of professionals as currently in place.

Having the Pre-School on the same site as the Primary School means there is a natural progression within a familiar setting for the children as they grow. The more children that can be educated close to their homes the better it is for the them, their community and the environment.

Local support / evidence of need

The Pre-School have canvassed neighbours to whom the building will be visible and gained their support to proceed.

The new toilet facilities (including disabled facilities) that will be available in the new Pre-School building on the school field will remove the need for staff to accompany children back to the Primary School building, some 100m away to make use of toilet facilities. This will therefore make teaching, sports and fun events on the school field much more effective and enjoyable.

The existence of the new disabled toilet facilities will enable open access to all for any events held on the school field when they are open to the public.

The local community is behind the project. There have been a large number of personal donations, three local companies have pledged support and fundraising efforts continue.

Some 82% of the funds that have been secured to date arise from the local community. This demonstrates that many local people feel that the whole community will benefit from an enlarged and improved Pre-School facility. The knock-on effect of providing a new Pre-School building is significant in attracting young people to the local area and this is vital to a healthy community. The beneficiaries of the project will not only be the children of the Pre-School, their families and carers, now and for many years to come, but the entire local community.

The Pre-School building will be available for other young children's groups to be used out of school hours, subject to suitability, appropriate safeguarding, insurance arrangements etc.

The widespread support from local residents and organisations not directly benefitting from the services of the Primary School or Pre-School is testament to the importance of the project to the community as a whole.

Letter of support from:
Assistant Director Education, Partnerships and Skills
Somerset County Council

“I can confirm that, while the pre-school is managed by Hinton St George C of E Primary School, it is school designated 4 years not from 2 years. The provision is not a Local Authority maintained nursery but is operated under section 27 of the Childcare Act, under Community Governance. These powers allow schools to provide any charitable purpose (such as early education) for the benefit of families of pupils at the school, or families who live or work in the locality of the school. The children attending this provision are not registered as pupils.

The pre-school is separately funded and is self-financing. Income to the pre-school is from the Early Years Entitlement (which parents claim) fees paid by parents and any fundraising the school carry out.

Somerset County Council does not receive central government capital funding for Early Years and therefore any capital funding held by the Local Authority has to be prioritised to meet our statutory requirements of ensuring sufficiency of Early Years places across the County. As we have sufficiency of places in the area we would not be able to financially support this project at this point in time, however would absolutely support the school in what they are trying to achieve. It would be our sincere hope that any application to any other body, such as the District Council, would be looked on favourably.”

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Provision and installation of fully fitted and clad building, including an area of decking and groundworks for trenching to road for mains water and sewerage.	76,850
Final connection to water supply and sewerage	2,000
Total	£ 78,850

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Hinton St George Parish Council	Secured	7,500
Lopen Parish Council	Secured	250
Pre-School Reserves	Secured	8,000
Hinton St George Parochial Church Council	Secured	5,000
Lopen Parochial Church Council	Secured	1,000
Donations from local individuals	Secured	6,100
Donations from 3 local companies	Secured	3,000
Donations from local individuals and companies - ongoing	Pending	500

Gift Aid claims	Secured	1,400
Gift Aid claims	Pending	500
Local fundraising activities	Secured	5,700
Local fundraising activities: 'Hinton's Big Day Out' – 3 rd July 2021	Pending	1,400
Grant from local source: The Reading Room Trust	Secured	10,000
Grants from Regional Charitable Trusts: Anonymous Foundation, Norman Family Charitable Trust.	Secured	10,500
Grants from Regional Charitable Trusts: Battens Charitable Trust.	Pending	500
Grants from National Charitable Trusts: Garfield Weston Foundation, Ralph Levy Charitable Company, DWF Foundation.	Pending	5,000
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	12,500
Total		£ 78,850

In 2020 and early 2021 none of the normal fund-raising activities were able to go ahead.

Parents pay fees for their children to attend the Pre-School. These fees are £15 for each session (£30 for the whole day). Some parents are entitled to a government subsidy under the funded childcare scheme, currently £4.23 per hour, for some of the time that their child attends Pre-School. This subsidy is paid to the Pre-School and deducted from parents' bills.

Future ongoing costs of maintenance will be covered by existing Pre-School revenue streams.

Staff and Governors are confident that the Pre-School will continue to be self-funding in its new setting.

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £12,500 is awarded.

Financial implications

The balance in the Area West Capital programme is £88,802. If the recommended grant of £12,500 is awarded, £76,302 will remain.

Grants are awarded subject to all other funding being secured before the commencement of the project and are on a % basis of the full project costs. Payment of the grant cannot exceed the grant award and is proportionally reduced if full project costs are under budget.



Focus 3: Environment

To keep South Somerset clean, green and attractive we will work in partnership to:

- Promote recycling and minimise waste
- Promote the use of 'green' technology
- Maintain and promote access to our Country Parks and open spaces to promote good mental and physical health
- Keep streets and neighbourhoods clean and attractive
- Continue to support long term flood resilience
- Promote a high quality built environment in line with Local Plan policies
- Support communities to develop and implement local, parish and neighbourhood plans

Focus 5: Health and Communities

To build healthy, self-reliant, active communities we will:

- Support communities so that they can identify their needs and develop local solutions
- Target support to areas of need
- Help people to live well by enabling quality cultural, leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities & activities
- Work with partners to tackle health issues such as diabetes and hypertension and mental health
- Work with our partners to keep our communities safe

Key priorities for Area West - Area Chapter: Healthy, Self-reliant Communities

Background Papers

None

Appendix A

Standard conditions applying to all SSDC Community Grants

The applicant agrees to:

- Notify SSDC if there is a material change to the information provided in the application.
- Start the project within six months of the grant offer and notify SSDC of any changes to the project or start date as soon as possible.
- Confirm that all other funding sources have been secured before starting the project, if these were not already in place at the time of the application.
- Acknowledge SSDC assistance towards the project in any relevant publicity about the project (e.g. leaflets, posters, websites, and promotional materials) and on any permanent acknowledgement (e.g. plaques, signs etc.).
- Work in conjunction with SSDC officers to monitor and share the success of the project and the benefits to the community resulting from SSDC's contribution to the project.
- Provide a project update and/or supply before and after photos if requested.
- Supply receipted invoices or receipts which provide evidence of the **full** cost of the project so that the grant can be released.

Standard conditions applying to buildings, facilities and equipment

- Establish and maintain a “sinking fund” to support future replacement of the building / facility / equipment as grant funding is only awarded on a one-off basis.
- Use the SSDC Building Control Service when buildings regulations are required.
- Incorporate disabled access and provide an access statement where relevant.

Special conditions

- If the Pre-School closes within the next 5 years and the building is removed and sold, then the SSDC Community Grant will be repaid pro-rata on valuation of final sale at 15.85%. This percentage is based on the SSDC Community Grant contribution of the current project cost.



Community Grant to Radio Ninesprings (Executive Decision)

Strategic Director: Kirsty Larkins, Director of Service Delivery
Lead Specialist: Tim Cook, Locality Manager
Lead Officer: Adrian Moore
Contact Details: adrian.moore@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462462

Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £2,516 towards a Local Community Radio FM transmitter for the Chard/Crewkerne area.

Public Interest

Awarding grants is a key way that SSDC supports and helps to deliver community projects sponsored by Parishes and voluntary community organisations in the towns and villages across the district.

Radio Ninesprings radio station has applied to the Area West community grants programme for financial assistance with the costs of a Local Community Radio FM transmitter for Chard/Crewkerne. The Locality Officer who is submitting this report to enable the Area West Committee to make an informed decision about the application has assessed the application.

Recommendation

The Area West Committee recommend that the Chief Executive award a grant of £2,516 to Radio Ninesprings towards a Local Community Radio FM transmitter for Chard/Crewkerne. The grant to be allocated from the Area West capital programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (Appendix A).

Application Details

Name of applicant:	Radio Ninesprings
Project:	Local Community Radio FM transmitter for Chard/Crewkerne
Total project cost:	£11,566
Amount requested from SSDC:	£2,516
% amount requested	22%
Application assessed by:	Adrian Moore

Community Grants Assessment Score

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. Applications must meet the minimum score of 22 to be considered for SSDC funding under Community Grants policies.

Category	Max available	Score	Officer assessment score
A Supports Council Plan/Area Chapter	1		1
B Supports Equalities & Diversity	1		1
C Supports Environment Strategy	3		1
D Need for Project	10		7
E Capacity of Organisation	15		12
F Financial need	7		6
Total	37		28

Background

Radio Ninesprings is a Local Community Radio station for South Somerset. It launched on 104.5 FM on 1st October 2018 after being awarded a Community Radio License by Ofcom (The Office of Communications – regulator for the communications services) to provide a service of local community radio to the Yeovil area. Community radio stations are a third tier of radio broadcasting in addition to commercial radio and the BBC. They reflect a mix of cultures and interests and give a new voice to communities. They raise income through advertising / sponsorship, training, and funds awarded by public bodies. They are ‘not for profit’ and their programmes are influenced by the communities they serve.

Radio Ninesprings is a ‘not-for-profit’ educational charitable company run by volunteers, based in Yeovil. The charitable purposes of Radio Ninesprings are to advance the educational and training of the residents of Yeovil and district of South Somerset in radio production, broadcasting and media skills techniques. It has offered training places for two students studying BTEC Creative Media at Yeovil College and work experience given to local school pupils.

In June 2019, Radio Ninesprings successfully applied to Ofcom to have its licensed broadcast area extended to Chard/Crewkerne and Wincanton/Bruton. Following the granting of the license extension, the station has a responsibility to provide a service of community radio to the whole of South Somerset. The additional FM frequencies given to Radio Ninesprings are 107.6 for Chard/Crewkerne and 103.3 for Wincanton/Bruton.

In the last twelve months, Radio Ninesprings has made great strides towards being recognized as the main broadcast provider of local information, local news and entertainment for South Somerset. It is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status.



South Somerset District Council The Project

Following the successful application to Ofcom, Radio Ninesprings was given permission in November 2019 to extend its Licensed Broadcast Area to the district of South Somerset and build two new FM transmitters, one to cover the Chard area positioned at Cricket St Thomas Golf Club and one to cover the Wincanton area positioned at Wincanton Racecourse. These FM Transmitters are required to strengthen reception of Radio Ninesprings in and around the western and eastern parts of South Somerset.

The transmitter will be located at Cricket St Thomas Golf Club and provide an FM signal within an 8-mile radius of Chard. The owners of Cricket St Thomas Golf Club have given permission to erect the FM transmitter on their main building.

In the case of Wincanton/Bruton, Radio Ninesprings has also applied to Area East Committee for an SSDC Community grant for an identical transmitter. The transmitter will be located at Wincanton racecourse and provide an FM signal within an 8-mile radius of Wincanton. The owners of Wincanton Racecourse have given permission to erect the FM transmitter on their main building.

The work of building the transmitters will be led by TransplanUK a professional business that specializes in providing transmitter sites. The project will be managed and overseen at every stage of development by the Directors/Trustees of Radio Ninesprings.

Local support / evidence of need

Radio Ninesprings broadcasts from a main transmitter on 104.5 FM located at Yeovil Town football club's ground at Huish Park. The signal is strongest towards the North and beyond. It is strong around the greater Yeovil area. It is less strong in Chard/Crewkerne, Wincanton/Bruton and places in between. Local residents have told Radio Ninesprings of problems receiving an acceptable signal on FM in the Chard/Crewkerne and Wincanton/Bruton areas. It was with the aim of solving this problem that Radio Ninesprings applied for and was awarded by Ofcom two further FM frequencies to strengthen coverage in and around the Chard/Crewkerne and Wincanton/Bruton areas.

Having Radio Ninesprings local community radio available for listening in Chard/Crewkerne and Wincanton/Bruton areas will benefit local people of all ages and will help strengthen the community spirit and identity of these towns.

Radio Ninesprings will work closely with schools in Chard/Crewkerne and Wincanton/Bruton to give young people opportunities to make radio programmes, to develop their writing, creative and computer/IT skills. The radio station will work closely with voluntary and charity groups to support people who are unemployed, providing opportunities to participate at the radio station. Radio Ninesprings will support local businesses and the self-employed, giving opportunities to talk on-air about their products and services, to build community demand for a healthy, sustainable local

economy. The radio station will engage with all groups who live and work in the Chard/Crewkerne and Wincanton/Bruton areas.

The success of the project will be measured by the number of people who listen to Radio Ninesprings in the Chard/Crewkerne and Wincanton/Bruton areas. Also by the number of people who take part in the radio programmes and join as volunteers and by the number of local businesses who advertise and sponsor programmes. Radio Ninesprings encourages audience feedback through e-mail, Facebook and Twitter and these responses would be used to measure performance.

There are many ways in which Radio Ninesprings benefits the residents of South Somerset, these include:

- People who are not in employment or training are given opportunities to receive training in media skills to include writing, media law, editing and presentation. This experience will help enhance their chances of securing employment.
- Residents are given opportunities to take part in programmes, to talk about local issues, to publicise local events and make programmes of local interest.
- Young people wishing to make a career in broadcasting/journalism are given the opportunity of work experience and training.
- Volunteer membership of Radio Ninesprings is open to everyone regardless of age or ability.

During COVID-19, a huge amount of free air-time has been given to communicating public service announcements on behalf of Public Health England, Yeovil Hospital, South Somerset District Council, Somerset County Council and others.

Over the past twelve months more than 150 people and local organisations have been interviewed on the Radio Ninesprings Breakfast Show on a range of subjects. There has also been given regular air-time to local charitable organisations to appeal for funding and new volunteers.

A new show featuring local bands/musical performers was introduced each Sunday from 4.00pm to 6.00pm. A daily programme about local businesses – ‘Working Lunch’ – was launched in partnership with Yeovil Chamber of Commerce. A campaign was launched to recruit a team of ‘virtual’ Village Correspondents from around South Somerset to provide very localized information and news for inclusion in ‘Community News’. The Mayor of Yeovil was given a monthly slot ‘Mayor on the Air’ to talk about the town and local fund raising activities. Building work was completed on a second studio for delivering media training to students at Yeovil College. A partnership was formed with BBC Somerset and Somerset’s seven other Ofcom licensed community radio stations for the exchange of local news and broadcast content.

The communities of Chard/Crewkerne and Wincanton/Bruton are not provided with a service of local community radio to which they can turn for local information and local news and take part in to comment on local issues. By making Radio Ninesprings available through the two additional FM transmitters the situation of not having a service of local community radio provided would be corrected.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
1 x BW RX300V3 rebroadcast transmitter:	3,145
1 x EME 7020-30B directional coupler, mounted:	350
1 x SA623 or equivalent block filter:	685
1 x Amphenol model 7860102 slant-polarity transmit antenna:	1,196
1 x Amphenol model 7059098 3-element yagi receive antenna:	385
1 x 6m 49mmØ Dural pole:	52
3 x 100mm offset channel brackets with 60mm U-bolts & mount bolts:	84
2 x 20m (est) x RG213 feeder cable terminated Nm/Nm:	64
1 x 4m 49mmØ Dural pole:	42
2 x HD Norstel RA clamps:	12
20m (est) x RG213 feeder cable terminated Nm/Nm:	64
Fixing materials:	35
Delivery and installation of antenna, transmitter with integrated receiver, processor, RDS encoder, test and commission to Ofcom requirements:	650
Power and RF connectivity:	70
Local Remote Contribution studio system:	4,732
Total	11,566

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Ilminster Town Council	Secured	500
Crewkerne Town Council	Secured	100
Ashill Parish Council	Secured	150
Chaffcombe Parish Council	Secured	150
Chard Town Council	Pending	1,000
Own Funds	Secured	1,500
Abri Housing (formerly Yarlinton)	Secured	3,000
Radio Camelot	Secured	1,400
Somerset Community Foundation	Secured	1,250
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	2,516
Total		11,566

The bulk of Radio Ninesprings income comes through 'on air' advertising, sponsorship, and training grants. The income from advertising doubled in the first year of operation.

Radio Ninesprings also generates income streams through hiring out equipment, staging fund raising events, providing studio facilities to the BBC and through grants and donations.

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £2,516 is awarded.

Financial implications

The balance in the Area West Capital programme is £88,802. If the recommended grant of £2,516 is awarded, £86,286 will remain. If the previous grant report is agreed (Agenda item 9) then £73,786 will remain.

Grants are awarded subject to all other funding being secured before the commencement of the project and are on a % basis of the full project costs. Payment of the grant cannot exceed the grant award and is proportionally reduced if full project costs are under budget.

Council Plan Implications

Council Plan themes and Areas of focus for 2021/22

Focus 1: High quality cost effective services

- Transform customer services through technology.
- Provide access to services to suit our customers' needs
- Actively manage assets and resources to ensure the best financial or community return.
- Seek business opportunities for the council.
- Work with partners to achieve economies, resilience and influence.

Focus 2: Economy

To promote a strong and growing economy with thriving urban, rural and land based businesses and improving productivity we will:

- Work with businesses and use our assets.
- Advise and support initiatives that ensure worker skills meet the employer's needs.
- Lobby for and support infrastructure improvements to enable growth.
- Capitalise on our high quality culture, leisure and tourism opportunities to bring people into the district

Focus 3: Environment

To keep South Somerset clean, green and attractive we will work in partnership to:

- Promote recycling and minimise waste
- Promote the use of 'green' technology



South Somerset District Council

- Maintain and promote access to our Country Parks and open spaces to promote good mental and physical health.
- Keep streets and neighbourhoods clean and attractive.
- Continue to support long term flood resilience.
- Promote a high quality built environment in line with Local Plan policies.
- Support communities to develop and implement local, parish and neighbourhood plans.

Focus 5: Health and Communities

To build healthy, self-reliant, active communities we will:

- Support communities so that they can identify their needs and develop local solutions.
- Target support to areas of need.
- Help people to live well by enabling quality cultural, leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities & activities.
- Work with partners to tackle health issues such as diabetes and hypertension and mental health.
- Work with our partners to keep our communities safe.

Area Chapter Implications for 2021/22

Improved communications with our residents across the district supports all of the work in the Area Chapters.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

The project aims to provide for people across all age and interest groups in the local community.

Background Papers

None

Appendix A

Standard conditions applying to all SSDC Community Grants

The applicant agrees to: -

- Notify SSDC if there is a material change to the information provided in the application.
- Start the project within six months of the grant offer and notify SSDC of any changes to the project or start date as soon as possible.
- Confirm that all other funding sources have been secured before starting the project, if these were not already in place at the time of the application.
- Acknowledge SSDC assistance towards the project in any relevant publicity about the project (e.g. leaflets, posters, websites, and promotional materials) and on any permanent acknowledgement (e.g. plaques, signs etc.).
- Work in conjunction with SSDC officers to monitor and share the success of the project and the benefits to the community resulting from SSDC's contribution to the project.
- Provide a project update and/or supply before and after photos if requested
- Supply receipted invoices or receipts which provide evidence of the **full** cost of the project so that the grant can be released.
- Note that they cannot apply for another community grant for the same project within a 3 year period of this award.

Standard conditions applying to buildings, facilities and equipment

- Establish and maintain a “sinking fund” to support future replacement of the building / facility / equipment as grant funding is only awarded on a one-off basis.
- Use the SSDC Building Control Service when buildings regulations are required.
- Incorporate disabled access and provide an access statement where relevant.

Special conditions

None



Area West – Area Chapter 20/21 outturn report

Strategic Director:	Kirsty Larkins, Service Delivery
Locality Manager:	Tim Cook, Locality Manager
Lead Officer:	Tim Cook, Locality Manager
Contact Details:	tim.cook@southsomerset.gov.uk

Purpose of the Report

To provide Members with an overview of the delivery of the Area Chapter for Area West.

Public Interest

The priorities for Area West 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.

This report provides members with an overview on the delivery of the 2020/2021 Area Chapter.

Recommendation

That members note and comment on the report

Background

Area Chapters focus on the priorities of the Area Committee. These priorities were identified by Members with support from officers, drawing on service plans and data led information at virtual workshops.

Each action or project identified in the plan is allocated a lead officer who collaborates with other officers across the council and/or the local community to deliver the project. The overall approach to delivery is based on the principle that we will enable others to deliver where we can, partner where it makes sense and deliver when necessary.

Specialists from across the council meet as Communities of Practice to guide and support delivery of the Council Plan. Each Community of Practice has a role in monitoring the progress of projects, including the Area Chapters, providing specialist advice and helping to overcome barriers to delivery.

Delivery of the Area Chapter 20-21

This year has been an extraordinary year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Lockdowns, redeployment of staff and assistance to the Vaccination role out have directly impacted the resources and capacity to complete projects which inevitably has caused delay, changes and non-completion of some projects. Community groups and partner organisations have experienced similar disruption.

Appendix A provides an end of year update on the Area Chapter focus priorities for 2020/21.

Key Highlights

Despite the difficulties experienced this year, some delivery against priorities has happened.

- Significant ongoing work on new Visit South Somerset website with planned launch in May 21.
- Food and Drink Directory has been produced and distributed, work is now underway to move this online and expand the amount of businesses involved. £2,000 awarded from Area West for this project.
- Interactions with business in terms of support and grant provision throughout Covid period.
- £220,000 funding approved for the Market Town Investment group.
- Chard Management Plan updated and Green Flag award secured.
- Successful delivery of 2,000 play boxes across the district, as an alternative to the National Play Day.
- Installation of climbing frame at Snowdon Park
- First phase of installation of play equipment at Horton Play area

In addition to the main key areas of focus, members will note other projects within the Chapter relating to support provided by officers which enable community projects through the grant giving and the use of funds secured as a result of development via Section 106 agreements. S106 funded projects are identified by Officers in consultation with the local community. Some are delivered by SSDC but the majority are community led. This approach can take time and inception through to delivery will often take a number of years.

Community Grants

There were underspends on revenue grant allocations across the 4 areas. The ability for community groups to delivery projects will have been hindered due to the pandemic, therefore requests for grant funding dropped throughout the year. £5,000 underspend from Area West was secured in order to support redundancy task force work for residents following the closure announcement of Oscar Mayer in Chard.

Grants awarded 20-21

Project	£	Capital/Revenue funded
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South Somerset District Council

Chard LIC	500	Revenue
Crewkerne LIC	500	Revenue
Broadway and Horton Cricket Nets	4567	Capital
Iminster Tennis Recovery project	12,500	Capital
Ilchester Hall, Chiselborough improvements	12,500	Capital
Reintroducing Ratty at Ferne Animal Sanctuary	950	Revenue
Horton Playing Fields project	12,500	Capital
Iminster Flag Festival	900	Revenue
Wayford Allotment Fencing project	270	Revenue

Financial Implications

There are no 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 Chapter 2020-21

Area West Chapter 2020-2021

Area + Team

	Project description	Lead Officer	Lead Service	End of year review
Economy	Attract tourists and increase spend in and visits to the area and wider district. Engage with attractions and providers to offer a cohesive destination packages to visitors through the TICs and LICs.	Katy Menday	Leisure & Recreation	Tourism business newsletters released regularly throughout the year to support and inform as far as possible. Significant work on new Visit South Somerset webpages ongoing with a planned launch in May 2021. Itineraries and things to do all updated and beautifully presented to encourage visitor stays.
	Continue to support individual businesses and associations/Chambers of Trade/Town Teams	Joe Walsh	Economy	Conversations progressed with key individuals in Crewkerne to set up a Crewkerne Chamber. Interactions with businesses throughout the Covid period in the form of business support and grant provision. £5,000 provided to the Manufacturing Hub, to progress the number of businesses attending the sector based events. Food and Drink Directory has been produced and distributed, work is now underway to move this online and expand the amount of businesses involved. This has, unfortunately, been delayed slightly due to Covid 19 and resource pressures.
	Supporting rural diversification	Joe Walsh	Economy	Fully engaged with Ruritage - a regeneration programme that is funded by EU monies to combine food and drink providers with creatives to increase social inclusion. Engaged in a similar project called 'Cultivate' that seeks to achieve similar objectives. Working with external organisations such as the University of Exeter, FSB and others to progress Circular initiatives that allow businesses to diversify.
	Engage Town Councils to develop programme of investment through the Market Town Investment Group	Joe Walsh	Economy	Assessed and approved Market Town Investment Group funding applications of over £220,000 of SSDC investment which will be match funded by Town Councils equating to over £439,000 of investment within our market towns.
	Complete gateway highway improvement scheme - Chard Fore Street	Anna Matthews	Commercial Services & Income Generation	Committee contribution increased. RIBA 4 designs completed in Feb 2021 and submitted to Somerset County Council (SCC) for highways technical audit and approval. Designs currently with SCC. Section 278 agreement to deliver the work is being developed. There is a live procurement process to appoint a contractor from the public realm framework, due to wrap up in June. Construction planned to start as soon as possible after that, pending all required approvals
	Support community led initiatives that contribute towards combatting climate change.	Tim Cook	Locality	Forms and process updated. Promotion through press release and new SSDC Environment news letter. Survey sent and completed by Environment Champions on how we can best help parishes. 7 projects supported through the district (1 in Area West) with £29,434 being awarded in grants for projects estimated at £266,478.

Environment	Preserve the biodiversity and develop Chard Reservoir as a green tourism destination; investigate opportunities to improve the visitor infrastructure and information.	Katy Munday	Leisure & Recreation	Chard Management Plan has been updated and Green Flag Award secured for current year. Children's nature trail leaflets delayed due to Covid as the volunteer team wished to be involved in the activity development, but will be available for summer 2021. Limited volunteering resumed whenever possible and the team managed to plant trees across the site. Site has been extremely popular throughout the pandemic with its accessible access to nature supporting local wellbeing.
	Continue to support the Blackdown Hills AONB	Adrian Moore	Locality	Proven partnership delivering AONB Management Plan and Duty of Regard for SDDC under Sec 85 & 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW Act) 2000. Excellent multiplier of SDDC's £6,000 – approximately 1:34. Provides specialist planning advice to SDDC Planning Officers. Helps deliver SDDC's Council Plan and Strategies. Continuation of partnership working with key public and private sector partners. Ability to access additional funding for local projects. Strong cross-sector and community engagement and support. Key partnership targeting rural economy, farming and forestry. Policy development benefits e.g. Landscape Character Assessment. Ambassador for SDDC.
	Maintain pressure to deliver the 'Stop Line Way' (SLW) Cycle Path - part of the Sustrans Route 33 long Distance coast-to-coast walking and cycling route.	Adrian Moore	Locality	Links made with other Authorities and Agencies who have developed successful 'Long Distance Multi Use Trails'. Researched archived SLW planning documents. Researched the history of the SLW. Work ongoing with SDDC Planning colleagues and local Developers to seek S106 contributions. Explored alternative route options to progress the off-road route. Researched environmental factors of existing and proposed SLW route. Explored tourism, economic and social benefits to improving the route. Explored disabled access, safe routes to school and commuter improvements to the SLW.
Housing	Promote and support any emerging Community Land Trusts	David Clews	Housing	Nothing to report on this item.
	Complete Housing Needs Surveys when requested	Anna-Maria Lenz/ Tim Cook / Marie Collins	Locality / Case Services	No survey requests received.
Communities	To improve pitch provision in Area West and particularly in Chard	Lynda Pincombe / Nathan Turnbull	Strategy & Commissioning / Locality	Due to Covid, this has stalled. We will continue to engage throughout the next year as they develop the plans further.
	To support the Football Association to deliver a centre for football development in the Area	Nathan Turnbull	Locality	Conversations/meetings are starting to take place now that Covid Restrictions are easing.
	Support a range of improvements to community facilities. - Programme of live schemes to be set out in the Delivery Plan	Tim Cook	Locality	Please see Delivery plan below.
	Develop a programme of public events at Chard Reservoir and deliver in partnership with the volunteer group.	Rachael Whaites	Leisure & Recreation	Due to the Covid 19 restrictions and the capacity of the ranger at Chard to manage the site on his own with no volunteer support, no events were delivered at Chard Reservoir in 2020.

Healthy, Self-reliant Comm	Develop options to improve community transport, including links to Crewkerne Station	David Crisfield	Strategy & Commissioning	Due to additional resource pressure created by the Covid 19 pandemic the Community Transport Council Priority has unfortunately been delayed. Work is ongoing with external partners, including the Connected Places Catapult and Somerset County Council to identify the most efficient way of enabling a demand responsive transport platform in a vastly rural area. The Connected Places Catapult have recently presented their findings on their 'Assessing Sustainable Transport Solutions (AsSeTS) for Rural Mobility' report that has been funded by the Department for Transport. The report identifies ways to enhance accessibility and transport solutions in rural environments by improving the knowledge base around demand for new mobility services. South Somerset has been included as a rural case study within the report. We are currently waiting a final report that will include recommendations, and next steps will be to evaluate and progress where appropriate.
	Support social inclusion by maintaining the network of volunteer led health walks through promotion, training and support	Julia Booth	Locality	Health walks have been hindered by Covid and have stopped/started/stopped throughout the pandemic. Support provided where necessary throughout the year.
	Deliver a programme of Play days in towns/villages in Area West	Julia Booth/Terena Isaacs	Locality	Summer play days have been cancelled this summer due to Covid -19. This year we are delivered 2000 free Activity boxes and an Activity booklet, district wide, to encourage fun and safe activities at home. Boxes were handed at Joselyn Park in Chard
	Provide support to local community safety groups within Area West	Tim Cook	Locality	Nothing to report on this item
Delivery Plan				
S106 funded project support	Advice and support to Chard Town Council to help deliver play area project at Upper Henson	Adrian Moore	Locality	Draft consultation material prepared. Meaningful and inclusive consultation with local residents and councillors provisionally planned for this summer when current restrictions on social distancing for local residents are relaxed. Draft tender documentation prepared for Chard Town Council to utilise if required.
	Advice and support to group and facilitate S106 funding and possible community grant to deliver the project to Broadway play area improvements	Adrian Moore	Locality	Site visit made. Advice and support given to Parish Council. Thorough review of S106 contributions available. Further advice given on other funding sources. Links made with other successful play area improvement projects. Continued support with the development of the play area project.
	New Pavilion project at Ilminster Cricket Club	Rob Parr/ Nathan Turnbull	Locality	The S106 funding for professional fees has been paid in full to Ilminster Cricket Club (ICC). Architects drawings have been produced and are being professionally costed so a viability assessment can be carried on the designs.
	Project management and completion of final phase at Snowdon Park, Chard Play Area completion - installation of climbing frame	Rob Parr	Locality	Climbing frame has now been installed and is in use. Project complete.
	Advice and support to Chard Town Council to help deliver play area project at Jarman Way	Adrian Moore	Locality	Invitation To Tender (ITT) documents released via SSDC procurement portal. All site visits with potential companies at Jarman Way completed. ITT evaluation process and awarding of contract imminent. Installation of play equipment, fencing and furniture due to complete in September.

Project support	Advice and support to Knowle St Giles re improved access to the Stop Line Way	Adrian Moore	Locality	Project temporarily stalled until the lease agreement for the new parcel of land required for the project is finally agreed with the new Landlord.
	Advice and support to group and facilitate funding and possible community grant to deliver the project to Horton play area improvements	Adrian Moore	Locality	First phases of play equipment installation underway.



Reports from Members on Outside Organisations – Chard Museum

Purpose of the Report

To introduce reports from members appointed to outside organisations in Area West.

Public Interest

Each year Area West Committee appoints local Councillors to serve on outside bodies (local organisations) in Area West. During the year Councillors make a report on the achievements of those organisations and other relevant issues.

Recommendations

That the reports are noted.

Background

To replace “Reports from members on outside organisations” as a generic standing agenda item it was agreed at the August 2012 meeting to include specific reports about each organisation in the Committee’s forward plan.

Members were appointed to serve on outside bodies at the June 2019 meeting.

Reports

Reports can be verbal or written. There is no standard format, but if possible they include an explanation of the organisations aims, their recent activities, achievements and any issues of concern.

This month the member reports are:

Chard & District Museum – Councillor Jenny Kenton

Financial Implications

None

Background Papers

None

Chard Museum

SSDC appointed representative: Cllr Jenny Kenton

Although this last year has been difficult for the Museum as far as allowing visitors through the doors it has given officers and volunteers a chance to take a look at the future of it. With the help of a grant from SW museums development they have changed their status to a charity with an incorporated CIO, this means less personal responsibility for individual trustees. It is also more able to access support and funding through trust funds and other such funding. They have also secured a grant to help the trustees to understand the financial implications of taking over the building from SSDC in the future and how to make the building work as a thriving community hub rather than just a display of artefacts.

I did meet with the chairman in the summer socially distanced in the courtyard of the museum, more recently this has been done by zoom. While there I did notice that the museum had taken delivery of a rather large bell which had literally been sawn off and dumped in the yard. I thought it would be pertinent to bring this to the committee's attention as this was actually the bell from the former Brecknell Willis site which now houses the new Lidl's building. I was very keen to preserve this part of Chard's industrial heritage having lived quite close to the factory for many years. It would seem that the answer was to take a saw to it, reducing the piece of history to little more than a few splinters of wood and a bell with no current use and it is difficult to see what the museum can now use it for. It struck me that we should consider the implications of what we wish for or plan better what is to happen to these things.

They were able to access the leisure and hospitality grant from the Government at the beginning of last April which enabled them to upgrade their online presence, (bookings for visits can now be made online) as well as a new website, virtual museum and online shop. You are now able to access stories and snippets of Chard history online at their website. There have been many events which have been postponed during the last year including a Christmas tree festival and a community play entitled Canalmania, hopefully in the not so distant future the museum will be able to bring these plans to fruition. Although they have upped their game in the digital world they do still have a core group of supporters (my mother is one) who are probably elderly who have no online presence and they are focussing on how to engage with these 42 members without breaking the bank in postage.

Between August and lockdown last year the museum was one of the few locally that managed to reopen for a short period, bookings only, and in groups of 6 at the maximum, 16 guided tours of the museum took place in August last year and feedback from those tours was that the visitors really enjoyed being shown around the museum by the volunteers and benefitted from their vast experience. It is currently closed but hopes to reopen in June.



In summing up it would seem that although Chard museum hasn't been able to open to many customers in this last year it has used the time wisely to modernise and digitalise its exhibits in order to weather the future storms that may come.



Area West Committee Forward Plan

Strategic Director: Nicola Hix, Strategy & Support Services
Agenda Coordinator: Jo Morris, Case Officer (Strategy & Support Services)
Contact Details: jo.morris@southsomerset.gov.uk

Purpose of the Report

This report informs Members of the agreed Area West Committee Forward Plan.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- a. Comment upon and note the proposed Area West Forward Plan as attached;
- b. Identify priorities for further reports to be added to the Area West Forward Plan.

Area West Committee Forward Plan

The Forward Plan sets out items and issues to be discussed by the Area West Committee over the coming few months.

The Forward Plan will be reviewed and updated each month in consultation with the Chairman. It is included each month on the Area West Committee agenda and members may endorse or request amendments.

To make the best use of the Area Committee, the focus for topics should be on issues where local involvement and influence may be beneficial, and where local priorities and issues raised by the community are linked to SSDC corporate aims and objectives.

Councillors, service managers, partners and members of the public may request that an item is placed within the forward plan for a future meeting by contacting the agenda co-ordinator.

Background Papers

None.

Notes

(1) Items marked in italics are not yet confirmed.

(2) Further details on these items, or to suggest / request an agenda item for the Area Committee, please contact the Agenda Co-ordinator; Jo Morris, 01935 462055 or e-mail jo.morris@southsomerset.gov.uk

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Lead Officer(s) SSDC unless stated otherwise
16 th June	Community Grant to Hinton St George Pre-School Appeal (Executive Decision)	Adrian Moore
	Appointment of Working Groups & Outside Organisations	Jo Morris, Case Officer, Strategy & Commissioning
	Scheme of Delegation – Development Control – Nomination of Substitutes for Chairman and Vice- Chairman for 2021/22	Barry James, Interim Planning Lead Specialist
	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) governance - presentation by Peter Paddon	Peter Paddon
	Chard Regeneration Update Report	Dan Bennett
<i>TBC</i>	<i>Chard Eastern Development Master Plan</i>	<i>Barry James, Interim Planning Lead Specialist</i>
<i>TBC</i>	<i>Historic Buildings at Risk</i>	<i>Anthony Garrett, Specialist Development Management</i>
<i>TBC</i>	<i>Update on S106 contributions</i>	<i>TBC</i>



Exclusion of Press and Public

The Committee is asked to agree that the following item (agenda item 15) be considered in Closed Session by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A under paragraph 3:

“Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).”

It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption from the Access to Information Rules outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Agenda Item 15

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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