

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Area West Committee** held at the **Guildhall, Chard** on **Wednesday 19 July 2017**.

(5.30 pm - 6.10 pm)

Present:

Members: Councillor Val Keitch (Chairman)

Jason Baker	Sue Osborne
Marcus Barrett	Garry Shortland
Mike Best	Angie Singleton
Amanda Broom	Andrew Turpin
Dave Bulmer	Linda Vijeh
Carol Goodall	Martin Wale
Jenny Kenton	

Officers:

Helen Rutter	Communities Lead
Zoe Harris	Area Development Lead (West)
Jo Morris	Democratic Services Officer

NB: Where an executive or key decision is made, a reason will be noted immediately beneath the Committee's resolution.

18. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 21st June 2017 (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2017, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read, and having been approved were signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

19. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Paul Maxwell and Ric Pallister.

20. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

21. Date and Venue for Next Meeting (Agenda Item 4)

Members noted that the next meeting of the Area West Committee would be held on Wednesday 16th August 2017 at 5.30pm at the Guildhall, Chard.

22. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 5)

There were no questions from members of the public.

23. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 6)

The Chairman made no announcements.

24. Area West Service Plan (Agenda Item 7)

The Area West Team Leader explained that the Area West Service Plan had been put together collaboratively with input from members and the Area Development Team. The information gained from the online survey and the member workshop had been used to identify priorities for the forthcoming year.

The Area West Team Leader gave a presentation detailing progress of the work to date on the following projects:

- Town Centre Events Programme – the funding ring fenced for free car parking in the run up to Christmas would be spent on the Town Centre Events Programme. A report will be submitted to the August meeting outlining how the money will be spent. The funding will help put on events to improve footfall in the market towns.
- MTIG Digital High Streets – currently carrying out an audit of 11 market towns with regard to mobile phone reception, use of social media and the number of businesses selling online.
- Community Plans – supporting Crewkerne and Ilminster to complete their Plans and helping to develop projects.
- Play Spaces – Crewkerne and Ilminster have submitted grant applications.
- Rural Housing – providing support to Horton and other parishes wanting to carry out Housing Needs Surveys.
- Providing support to the Click into Activity Steering Group on a project in Ilminster working with pre-diabetic and diabetic patients to become more active.
- Supporting the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Area West Team Leader responded to members' questions and comments on points of detail.

Members unanimously approved the Area West Service Plan for 2017-18.

RESOLVED: That the Area West Service Plan be approved.

(Voting: unanimous)

25. Update on LEADER Programmes in Area West (Agenda Item 8)

The Area West Team Leader informed members that the report highlighted the Making It Local grants awarded to projects in Area West. She referred to Ferne Animal Sanctuary which had received a £98,245 grant enabling them to build and equip a new visitor centre creating 4 new jobs. Members were shown photographs of the new visitor centre.

The Communities Lead explained that Crewkerne and the wards of Eggwood and Parrett sit within the Heart of Wessex Local Action Group. To date there had been 1 grant allocated in Area West to Yarcombe Woodland Products, Hinton St George. She advised that just over £1million of funding was still available for eligible projects and the Project Manager was planning another round of advice surgeries with one being held in Crewkerne.

Cllr. Martin Wale gave a brief report on some of the other projects supported by the Making It Local Executive Group.

Following a short discussion, members were content to note the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

26. Area West Committee - Forward Plan (Agenda Item 9)

The Communities Lead advised that there were no updates to the Area West Committee Forward Plan.

With reference to the previous request for a report on the Somerset Micro Enterprise Project, the Communities Lead advised that she had received some information from the Project Manager and would circulate this to members.

Chard Members sought assurances that the report on the Chard Regeneration Scheme would definitely come forward to the September Area West Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Area West Committee Forward Plan be noted as attached to the agenda.

27. Planning Appeals (Agenda Item 10)

Members noted the appeals received as outlined in the agenda.

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Chairman