

## Area West – Service Plan 2017 to 2018

Area Development works with communities, councillors and service providers across Area West supporting the development of stronger communities, promoting economic vitality and helping to create better more self-sustaining places to live and work.

For 2017 -18 Area West Members identified the following priorities, listed in order of importance

1	<b>Economy</b> - Providing support and encouragement for schemes which bring forward jobs and town regeneration. Work with businesses and use our assets to grow our economy including tourism.
2	<b>Community</b> - Work with community groups, towns & parishes to map local resources & needs, design & implement projects to improve the places in which they live, by creating new or enhanced facilities, raising funding e.g. community planning, creating better play and community facilities, improving outdoor spaces and safe access to local facilities etc.
3	<b>Homes</b> - Work with towns and villages to provide help and assistance for affordable housing within their communities – e.g. housing needs surveys, support with community land trusts etc.
4	<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b> of individuals - Supporting community groups and the voluntary sector to work with statutory providers to improve access to advice, services, social activities, with an emphasis on vulnerable individuals and groups– e.g. LIC's, youth support, activities for older people, making better use of halls, digital inclusion skills etc.
5	<b>Environment</b> - Provide support for projects which benefit the natural environment – e.g. Blackdown Hills AONB, climate change, renewable energy and improve public awareness of environmental issues.

We work with a wide variety of organisations, services and agencies to achieve our priorities, those include:

Town and Parish Councils, ABCD (A Better Crewkerne and District), Ilminster Forum, Chard Town Team, various local charities, Heart of Wessex and Making it Local LEADER Programmes, Yarlinton Homes, Community Council for Somerset, Cosmic and the Blackdown Hills AONB.

Set out over the next few pages are the key projects and work programmes being undertaken by the team (either directly or in support of community groups and other partners) where we have a key role in delivery of the projects. Some of these projects will address more than one of the priorities outlined above. This plan sits alongside our core work of responding to issues and problems on a day-to-day basis, working with Councillors and other services across the Authority and beyond, to try and resolve them.

## Priority 1 – Economy

Action / Project description		Who	Resource Time / funds	When	Outcome	Performance measure
1a	Support the Chard Regeneration Scheme Project Manager (CRS PM) to progress work in the town centre	ZH / DM	Officer time at CRS meetings and additional officer support as and when required	Ongoing	Vibrant town centre	Attendance at meetings
1b	Deliver and support business related events in Chard including on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor of Lace Mill, using events to gather evidence of what local businesses need to grow.	DM & CSAs	Officer time	Ongoing	Better informed businesses	Events delivered
1c	Provide support to deliver projects identified in Chard Town Team's Action Plan	AB / DM	Officer time	Ongoing	Stronger relationship with business sector and increased footfall in Chard	Attendance at meetings
1d	Design and deliver Town Centre events programme	DM & AB & ZH	Officer time and £4,500 ring fenced funds	Report to AW August 2017	Increased footfall in market towns	Update report to AW
1e	Develop a Local Economic Strategy for Crewkerne	ZH, ND & CSAs	Officer time	Autumn 2017	Businesses work together on beneficial projects	Survey & Action Plan complete. Business event delivered
1f	Develop a Local Economic Strategy for Ilminster	ZH	Officer time to provide support	Autumn 2017	Businesses work together on beneficial projects	Completed survey
1g	Chard Business Hub	DM	Officer time & committed funds	On hold	Stronger business community	Report to AW
1h	Market Town Investment Group, support towns to take an active role in the Digital High Streets programme	ZH & DM  ND	Officer time devising Digital High Streets programme.  Officer time to provide support	Ongoing	Improved digital presence for our market towns	All Area West market towns engaged with MTIG
1i	Support the Local Information centres with SLAs	DM	Officer time	Summer 2017	Improved promotion of the 3 towns	Report to AW Cttee
1j	Continue to provide advice to potential applicants to LEADER programme as and when required	ZH, DM	Officer time	Ongoing	Support for prospective projects results in investment	Report on LEADER AW Cttee July 2017

## Priority 2; Community

Action / Project description		Who	Resource Time / funds	Target date	Outcome	Performance measure
<b>2a</b>	Support ABCD in the development and implementation of projects from Crewkerne Community Plan	ZH	Officer time	Ongoing	Stronger sustainable community	Report to AW
<b>2b</b>	Support Ilminster Forum in production of the Community Plan	ZH	Officer time	Ongoing	Publish Community Plan with Action Plan	Published Report & action plan
<b>2c</b>	Support Ilminster's Neighbourhood Plan Group	ZH	Officer time	Ongoing	Town has influence over growth	Attendance at meetings
<b>2d</b>	Support development and implementation of parish plans as and when required. West & Middle Chinnock currently only village working on a plan	DM & ZH	Officer time varies dependent on village	Ongoing	Improved evidence of need which can be used to enable a wide range of projects.	Published plan
<b>2e</b>	Provide support and advice to community groups seeking funding, including S106 funds, and manage and assess SSDC community grant applications	AB, DM & ZH  CG	Ongoing as required  Admin support	Ongoing	Continued engagement with communities	AW Grants budget to be allocated by March 2018
<b>2f</b>	Support Haselbury Plucknett to progress the feasibility, funding and design of a new village hall	ZH	Officer time	Ongoing	Better community facility for the village	Plans in place
<b>2g</b>	Run a high quality access point and advice service for the public at the community offices	DH & CSAs	Staff time	Ongoing	Improved customer service and access to local information	Annual report to Area Committees
<b>2h</b>	Support the development of new and / or improved play areas	DM & AB	Staff time	Ongoing	Better play facilities in towns and villages	Play equipment installed
<b>2i</b>	Partake in local Community Safety Partnerships	HV & ZH	Staff time	Ongoing	Greater partnership working on community safety	On going

### Priority Area 3 – Homes

Action / Project description		Who	Resource Time / funds	Target date	Outcome	Performance measure
3a	Provide support to parishes wanting to carry out Housing Needs Surveys	ADT	Officer time to advise and data entry	Ongoing as required	Parishes have clear evidence of need	Report when relevant
3b	Support the work of the Rural Housing Strategy	ADT	Officer time	Ongoing	Attend meetings and events	On track

### Priority Area 4 – Health and Wellbeing

Action / Project description		Who	Resource Time / funds	Target date	Outcome	Performance measure
4a	Provide support to the CLICK into Activity Steering Group	ZH	Officer time	Ongoing	Healthier residents	On track
4b	Support the South Somerset Digital Inclusion Group	DM	Officer time	Ongoing	Event at Lace Mill	Chard event delivered
4c	Support Crewkerne Connect – Adult Health and social care	AB	Officer time at meetings	Ongoing	Stronger partnership working in the care sector	On track

### Priority Area 5 – Environment

Action / Project description		Who	Resource Time / funds	Target date	Outcome	Performance measure
5a	Support work to extend sustainable routes through Chard and onto Tatworth	DM	Officer time	Ongoing	Deliver legal agreements for creation of route	Work ongoing
5b	Support the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership	ZH	Officer time £6000 pa towards core costs	AW report December 2017	Greater engagement with the natural environment	Annual report to AW Committee

Please note that some projects will address more than one priority