

'Tackling the Challenges': Council Plan on a Page 2016-21

Our Vision for South Somerset: a place where businesses flourish, communities are safe, vibrant and healthy; where residents enjoy good housing and cultural, leisure and sporting activities.

Our Aims:

South Somerset District Council will be a confident, resilient and flexible organization, protecting and improving core services, delivering public priorities and acting in the best long-term interests of the district. We will:

- Protect core services to the public by reducing costs and seeking income generation.
- Increase the focus on Jobs and Economic Development.
- Protect and enhance the quality of our environment.
- Enable housing to meet all needs.
- Improve health and reduce health inequalities.

Our Values:

- Putting the customer and community first when developing plans and services
- Supporting people and communities, enabling them to help themselves.
- Being open, transparent and with greater accessibility to those that need to use Council services.
- Working with partners to improve services, efficiencies, resilience and influence.
- Embracing innovation and improved technology to improve customer service and access.
- Empowering a confident, flexible workforce.

Our Focus – Making a Difference Where it Counts

High quality cost effective services

In order to protect front line services we will:

- Transform customer services through technology.
- 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.

Economy

To promote a strong economy with thriving urban and rural businesses we will:

- Work with businesses and use our assets to grow our economy.
- Advise and support initiatives that ensure worker skills meet the employers needs.
- Lobby for and support infra structure improvements to enable growth.
- Capitalise on our high quality culture, leisure and tourism opportunities to bring people to South Somerset.

Environment

To keep South Somerset clean, green and attractive we will:

- Increase recycling.
- Maintain Country Parks and open spaces to promote good mental and physical health.
- Keep streets and neighbour hoods clean and attractive.
- Continue to address the impact of flooding.
- Promote a high quality built environment in line with Local Plan
- Support communities to develop local, parish and neighbourhood plans.

Homes

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

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

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.
- Help keep our communities safe.