

## **'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 organisation, 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.