

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL

NAME OF COMMITTEE	EXECUTIVE
DATE	5 March 2015
REPORT TITLE	Priority Actions 2015-16
Report of	Community Manager
WARDS AFFECTED	All wards

Summary of report:

This report seeks formal approval of a list of priority actions for 2015-16 as an interim measure for 2015-16 whilst Our Plan and the supporting Annual Delivery Plan are developed, the latter being the Council's corporate plan and part of the "Our Plan" strategic approach to the development of both a Local Plan for the area and the Corporate Planning Framework.

Financial implications:

There are no direct cost implications of this report and the resources required for the actions proposed are included within the financial strategy and T18, the Council's transformation programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the EXECUTIVE:-

- **Approve the attached list of actions for 2015-16.**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council currently has two strategic plans; the Development Plan and the Connect Strategy. Given the need to work more efficiently in the new operating model and the duty for us to produce a Local Plan with a much wider remit that goes beyond traditional planning policy, Members approved the production of Our Plan as the Council's one over-arching, strategic planning document, in April 2014.
- 1.2 The Annual Delivery Plan will sit within the Our Plan Strategic Framework as the Council's corporate plan element of Our Plan. It will set out the Council's priorities and a number of actions to deliver these. The T18 transformation programme, the financial strategy and service improvement plans also form part of the Annual Delivery Plan.

- 1.3 Officers have been working with Members through Single Topic Discussions to develop Our Plan and the Annual Delivery Plan. It had originally been hoped to have a draft Our Plan document ready for public consultation and an Annual Delivery Plan document ready for approval by early 2015, however it became evident that further work is needed on understanding the Objectively Assessed Need for the South Hams and to take forward discussions with Plymouth around the urban fringe, both of which are critical to the soundness of the plan. Members of the Executive therefore agreed a revised timetable for development of the plan at the December 2014 meeting. The timescale now anticipates public consultation on a draft Our Plan in Autumn/Winter 2015 and the Annual Delivery Plan will follow a similar path with adoption from April 2016.
- 1.4 In the interim a list of key activities and actions for 2015-16 have been developed rather than updating the Connect Strategy for a further year with the relevance of this strategy diminishing as Our Plan develops. In addition West Devon, the joint partner to the strategy, have approved a public consultation for their version of Our Plan to commence at the end of February and adopted their own Annual Delivery Plan to commence from April 2015.
- 1.5 A monitoring framework is to be developed over the coming months with the new Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to better understand the impact of the actions the Council takes and the services being delivered, including the actions being proposed here. This will be used to provide Members with robust information to inform better commissioning decisions in future.

2. PRIORITY ACTIONS 2015-16

- 2.1 A list of suggested priority actions for 2015-16 is attached at Appendix "A".
- 2.2 Member Single Topic Discussions have taken place where Members have helped shape and provide guidance to officers in taking forward these as key actions. At these discussions there was some debate over the titles of some of the priority areas and activities, with no definitive consensus, therefore these are issues that will need to be explored further during the development of the full Annual Delivery Plan.
- 2.3 The importance of normal day to day activities undertaken by the Council will be fundamental to the Annual Delivery Plan as will strategic actions that add value to its day to day operation helping to deliver services in a better way that supports the vision, objectives and priorities of the Council and the area. As an interim measure, until a formal plan is adopted, we have identified some specific added value activities with supporting actions to prioritise for 2015-16, many of these are things that we are already working on and mindful of the challenges and changes taking place in the coming year with T18 it was felt important to ensure that focus was maintained on these.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Localism Act 2011 – General Power of Competence, a local authority has power to do anything that individuals of full legal capacity may do giving authorities the

power to take reasonable action they need ‘for the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area’.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct cost implications of this report and the resources required for the actions proposed are included within the financial strategy and the T18 programme.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Risk Management implications are shown at the end of this report in the Strategic Risks Template.

Corporate priorities engaged:	Homes, Economy, Environment and Community Life
Statutory powers:	Localism Act 2011 – General Power of Competence
Considerations of equality and human rights:	There are no direct implications relating to this report on equality and human rights. However, these issues will be considered as part of the actions as they develop
Biodiversity considerations:	Biodiversity issues will be addressed in relevant actions
Sustainability considerations:	Sustainability considerations will be addressed during development and implementation of actions
Crime and disorder implications:	None
Background papers:	
Appendices attached:	<i>Appendix “A” – South Hams Priority Actions 2015-16</i>

STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status				Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel			
1	Strategic Direction	Provide strategic direction for the future of the borough and organisation	High - Plans and priorities that don't meet local needs	Low	8	↓ Our Plan will reduce current risk	<p>Our Plan will in due course provide one overarching framework bringing together corporate plan, local plan, transformation and improvement plans and financial plan giving clearer strategic direction.</p> <p>The actions proposed in this report are an interim measures to ensure focus is maintained on key strategic issues.</p>	SLT
2	Economic Conditions and Funding	Difficult economic conditions and reducing funding could impact on delivery	High - Unable to deliver outcomes to meet local needs	Medium	12	↓ Our Plan will reduce current risk	<p>Financial strategy will be an integral part of "Our Plan" with resources identified during development stages with commissioning cycle used to identify most efficient methods of delivery.</p> <p>Resources for the actions proposed are included within the financial strategy and T18.</p>	SLT Community Manager
3	New Government Policy	Actions need to be in conformity with Government legislation	Medium - Actions don't deliver outcomes in line with Government policy	Low	6	↔	<p>Maintaining understanding of Government legislation.</p> <p>Working closely with stakeholders, partners and community to develop actions that reflect Government policy and meet local need.</p>	Community Manager

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4	T18	T18 recruitment process and ensuring expertise is in place to take Our Plan forward	Medium- T18 recruitment process could result in a loss of resource	Medium	9	↔	Ensure the resources and expertise required to take forward agreed actions are factored into the high level design.	SLT
5	2015 Elections	Both at national and local level could affect future policy and decision-making	Medium – work could need revisiting incurring delay	Medium	9	New Risk	Update new Members on actions and plan development. Ensure resources in place to respond to any changes in Government policy.	SLT Community Manager

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑ ↔