

'Tackling the Challenges': Council Plan 2016-21

Annual Action Plan 2018-19

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
- Provide access to services to suit our customers' needs
- 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, resilient and influence

Economy



To promote a strong and growing economy with thriving urban, rural and land based businesses and improving productivity we will:

- Work with businesses and use our assets
- Advise and support initiatives that ensure worker skills meet the employers' needs
- Lobby for and support infrastructure improvements to enable growth
- Capitalise on our high quality culture, leisure and tourism opportunities to bring people into the district

Environment



To keep South Somerset clean, green and attractive we will work in partnership to:

- Promote recycling and minimise waste
- Promote the use of 'green' technology
- Maintain and promote access to our Country Parks and open spaces to promote good mental and physical health
- Keep streets and neighbourhoods clean and attractive
- Continue to support long term flood resilience
- Promote a high quality built environment in line with Local Plan policies
- Support communities to develop and implement local, parish & neighbourhood plans

Homes



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

- Minimise homelessness and rough sleeping
- Work with the private rented sector to improve the standard and availability of rented accommodation
- Tackle fuel poverty
- Work to minimise the impact of personal or household debt
- 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, and mental health
- Work with partners to keep our communities safe

Our Strategy for 2018-19

To create a modern, responsive, pro-active council serving South Somerset through a Transformation Programme, developing the culture and working practices needed to support a flexible, customer focused council with a modern, commercial approach.

The Transformed Council will be:

One Team, Ambitious for South Somerset

Great to work for

- *Agile and empowered staff
- *Inspiring people



Leading the way

- *Modern and resilient
- *Adaptable to change
- *Technology enabled



Excellent to work with

- *Commercial mindset
- *Efficient and effective



Delivering for our communities

- *Resilient services
- *Customer focused
- *Data driven
- *Proactive



Our Priority Projects for 2018-19

1. To implement the Transformation programme and Commercial Strategy
2. To complete the “Yeovil Refresh” for Yeovil Town Centre and progress implementation
3. To develop proposals for the regeneration of Chard and progress implementation
4. To create a town centre action plan for Wincanton and progress implementation
5. To deliver Phase 2 of the Yeovil Innovation Centre.
6. To facilitate appropriate local development to ensure that local housing and infrastructure needs are met
7. To support our small and medium sized businesses across the District, including internet access, to meet their needs
8. To meet the new duties of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017