

Regeneration Delivery Plan

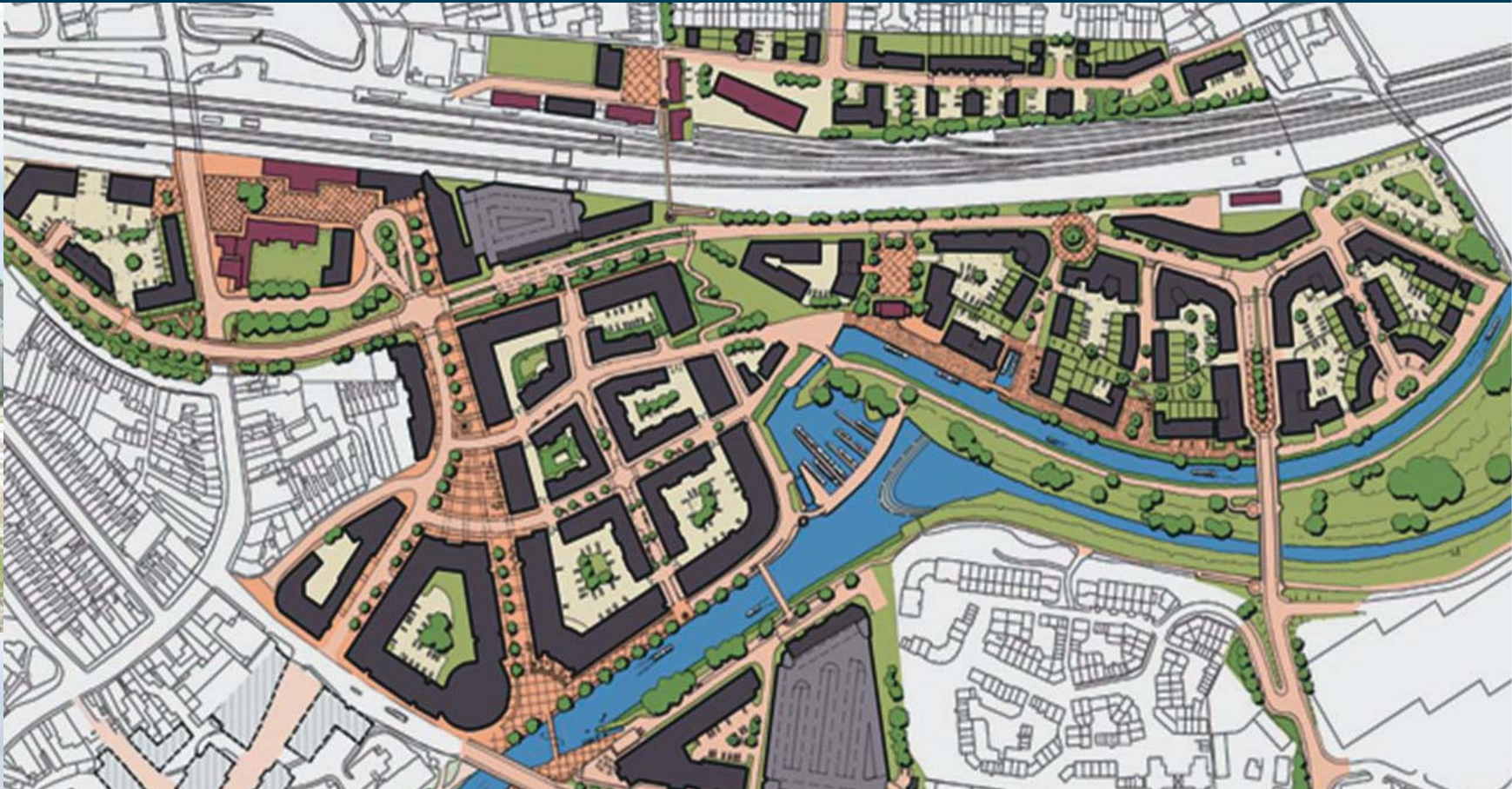
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Somerset County Council



Somerset County Council



Project Taunton

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Introduction

Somerset County Council has 15 regeneration priorities grouped into 4 key regeneration themes:

Regeneration Theme	Regeneration Priorities
Sustainable Communities	SC1 Physical regeneration of towns and communities SC2 Sustaining rural communities SC3 Contributing to the provision of affordable housing
Accessibility	AC1 Improving public transport AC2 Promoting walking and cycling AC3 Improving the rights of way network AC4 Tackling congestion
Built and Natural Environment	EN1 Addressing climate change EN2 Preserving our cultural heritage EN3 Maintaining and enhancing natural assets and biodiversity EN4 Managing waste
Economic Development	EC1 Attracting investment EC2 Improving productivity EC3 Promoting tourism EC4 Improving the economic vitality of market towns and rural areas

This Delivery Plan draws together all of the key implementation activities across Somerset County Council's Directorates and Service Areas that contribute to the achievement of these regeneration priorities. For the purposes of this document activities are identified under their principal regeneration theme/priority, although it is clear that many deliver against several themes and priorities. For instance, the 21 individual projects making up Waterlinks will deliver against all four themes and 13 of the 15 priorities.

Wherever possible the Delivery Plan sets out the proposed timing, resourcing and partnership arrangements for each delivery action.

However in relation to the proposed funding arrangements set out in the Delivery Plan, it is important to understand that future funding allocations are not commitments but will be subject to annual budget processes that take into account the availability of funds and the relative priorities between all of the resource demands across the Council's wide range of responsibilities.

Also it should be noted that there are numerous other implementation activities across Somerset County Council's various service areas that are not strategic in nature, although they may be of great local importance, and are therefore not included in this overview document. Details of these are contained in the delivery plans of the County Council's individual service areas.

The Delivery Plan can only be successfully implemented through the coordination of a wide range of activities across the Council. This is recognised in the governance arrangements that have been put in place.

Heading up the arrangements is the Regeneration Strategy Group comprised of members and senior officers. This group will be responsible for forming, maintaining and reviewing links to regional and sub-regional bodies in relation to regeneration issues affecting Somerset. The Regeneration Strategy Group also has overall responsibility for:

- Overseeing the implementation of the Delivery Plan,
- Reviewing the Delivery Plan annually,
- Coordinating actions across Directorates and Service Areas;
- Promoting issues relating to regeneration and development both within the County and externally;
- Coordinating and prioritising the Council's input into the various physical regeneration initiatives (such as Bridgwater Challenge) and other regeneration programmes; and
- Ensuring that the Council's aims, objectives and interests are properly represented in relationships with external stakeholders.

The Regeneration Delivery Group, comprising the relevant heads of service and group managers supports the Regeneration Strategy Group, and is responsible for coordinating and prioritising the day-to-day activities associated with implementing the Delivery Plan.



Somerset County Council's Regeneration Delivery Plan

Delivery Action	Location or Priority Areas	Priority/ Timing	Estimated Cost (£)	Proposed Funding Sources (1)	Delivery Partners	Additional Comments/Information
Sustainable Communities SC1: Physical regeneration of towns and communities						
1.1 Contribute to the development of regional spatial policy through the provision of technical advice and evidence.	Somerset with emphasis on major growth areas of Taunton/Bridgwater/Wellington and Yeovil.	High priority with timing dependent on SWRA and the EiP process.	In-house resources with specialist consultant studies and support.	Consultancy funding of £30,000 for 2006/7 has been committed on a shared basis by SCC and the District Councils.	District Councils, SWRDA	Aim is to ensure that Somerset's interests are properly considered in the formulation of regional policies, and wherever possible to deliver a coordinated Somerset position developed in consultation with the delivery partners.
1.2 Review LDFs and strategically significant planning applications to ensure consistency with the RSS and SCC regeneration and community services interests.	Somerset	Ongoing.	In-house resources.	SWRA makes a contribution of £5,000 pa for assessments of conformity with the RSS.	SWRA, District Councils	Assessments of conformity with the RSS are carried out under a MoU with the SWRA. Note: SCC is currently finalising a guideline document to clarify its consultation requirements for external partners and standardise internal processes.
1.3 Contribute to the delivery of the Project Taunton town centre physical regeneration project.	Taunton town centre	Long-term delivery program, with specific projects delivered in accordance with priorities and funding availability.	In-house resources plus £220,000 pa for 3 years to fund the Taunton Vision Delivery Team.	SWRDA and TDBC have also committed £220,000 pa for 3 years to fund the Taunton Vision Delivery Team. The current funding commitment runs to 2007/8 and collectively amounts to a £1.98 million funding package over 3 years.	SWRDA, TDBC, EA.	Taunton is identified as a Strategically Significant Town in the draft RSS. SCC participates at the Advisory Board (members) and Executive Group (officers) levels and provides technical advice and expertise to various project groups. As Highways Authority, SCC is also responsible for delivery of the Inner Northern Distributor Road and Third Way major projects essential to the delivery of the Taunton vision. (See Action AC4.3)
1.4 Contribute to the delivery of the Yeovil Vision town centre physical regeneration project.	Yeovil town centre	Long-term delivery program.	In-house resources plus £125,000 to fund delivery activities.	SCC's current funding commitment is for 2006/7 only.	SSDC, Yeovil Town Council	Yeovil is identified as a Strategically Significant Town in the draft RSS. SCC is represented on the Project Team and Steering Group, and provides technical expertise and advice as required.

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Sustainable Communities						
SC1: Physical regeneration of towns and communities						
1.5 Contribute to the development and implementation of the Bridgwater Challenge urban regeneration strategy.	Bridgwater town centre	Strategy completed by end 2006, then a long-term delivery program.	In-house resources only at this stage.	SCC is currently involved in negotiations with SWRDA and SDC for a longer-term delivery funding package.	SWRDA, SDC	Bridgwater is identified as a Strategically Significant Town in the draft RSS. SCC is represented on the Project Team and Steering Group, and provides technical expertise and advice as required.
1.6 Work with District/Borough Councils in planning and negotiations for strategic urban expansions.	Monkton Heathfield, South Bridgwater	Front-end planning for a longer-term development.	In-house resources	Developer funded and likely to require S106 developer contributions to provide a range of services including affordable housing and public transport.	TDBC, SDC, Developers	TDBC and SDC are leading this work and SCC is providing advice on specific matters including transport, education, community services and biodiversity.
1.7 Undertake Taunton Transport Strategy Review 2.	Taunton/Bridgwater/Wellington	2006-2007	£333,000	Predominantly SCC funding with minor contributions from Highways Agency, TDBC and SDC.	District Councils, Highways Agency, external consultants	Critical part of joint planning for these communities as required by the RSS. First step is the development of an upgraded transport model, which will be used to test transport/land use options and identify priority transport initiatives.
1.8 Develop a corporate approach and 'Code of Practice' for dealing with S106 developers contributions in Somerset.	Somerset	High priority but delivery hampered by in-house resource constraints.	In-house resources		District Councils	Being developed under the auspices of the Somerset Strategic Planning Conference and is intended to ensure that SCC and the local planning authorities have a consistent, agreed approach to S106 matters and that the community benefit of these contributions is maximised consistent with recent government guidance.

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Sustainable Communities						
SC1: Physical regeneration of towns and communities						
1.9 Develop the Waterlinks Programme. This is a network of projects, whose aim is to unlock the economic, social and environmental potential of our waterways, wetlands and adjoining communities, contributing to urban and rural regeneration.	Taunton, Bridgwater, Langport and Glastonbury, and the Levels and Moors.	Programme of project delivery is being reviewed in light of the Waterlinks bid not reaching the televised final of the Big Lottery Funds Living Landmarks programme.	Development funding of £500k (BIG Lottery) & £300k (partners) spent in 2006 & 2007 on project development. Funding bid for delivery £30m.	Partners £30m.	Mendip, South Somerset, and Sedgemoor DCs and Taunton Deane BC, Project Taunton, and Somerset Waterways Development Trust.	The Waterlinks Programme is an integrated package of regeneration and waterways improvement projects, the unifying concept of which is a set of Hubs and Spokes, into which the 21 individual projects are being organized. The Hubs (the 4 towns) are the spatial focal points of the programme, where residents and visitors can experience a collection of Waterlinks projects. The spokes represent sustainable ways of travelling between hubs, including opportunities for boating and canoeing, waking, riding, cycling and bus services.
SC2: Sustaining rural communities						
2.1 Improve access to services in rural communities.	All of rural Somerset.	Annual Rural Renaissance Delivery Programme as agreed with SWRDA.	In-house resources with occasional specialist consultant studies and support.	£225k for 2006/07 has been committed by SWRDA through Rural Renaissance. Further £270k for 2007/08 now also committed. SCC provides the secretariat and accountable body role for the Partnership.	SRRP through local agents: District Councils, Community Council for Somerset, local community groups.	SCC acts as accountable body to Rural Renaissance which supports projects that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustain and develop services in rural areas; • Maximise potential of existing resources and facilities in rural communities; • Develop social enterprises as a means of sustaining services.

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Sustainable Communities SC2: Sustaining rural communities						
2.2 Provide enterprise development and support, help overcome exclusion, skills gaps and barriers, develop sustainable tourism and local identity.	All rural areas and market towns	Annual Delivery Programme as agreed with SWRDA	In-house resources with occasional specialist consultant studies and support.	c£700k for 2006/07 and £1.1m for 2007/08 has been committed by SWRDA to the Rural Renaissance Partnership for a range of project initiatives under the main RR Programme. Further £0.5m for redundant building programme to bring about creation of new workspace. SCC provides the secretariat and accountable body role for the Partnership.	SRRP	<p>The RR main programme supports projects which improve the rural economy e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development, launch and marketing of long distance walking and horse riding trails such as the Coleridge Way, and working with rural businesses to maximise tourist potential; • BOOST project which provides support to people in the creative sector to improve economic activity and entrepreneurial skills.
2.3 Promote sustainable rural communities via Somerset County Farms estate policies.	Relevant to all rural Somerset	High priority	In-house resources	SCC have developed a Rural Regeneration Fund via disposals of "non core" holdings. The fund invests in strategic projects to develop and diversify Somerset's rural economy		SCC maintains a core estate including concentrations of holding in Donyatt and the Quantocks. Encourages entry to farming and promotion of agriculture and rural enterprise SCC is undertaking an audit of the development potential of the county farms estate to identify opportunities to achieve economic, social and environmental well being through new uses of parts of the estate.
2.4 Implement the Somerset Broadplaces programme.	Relevant to all Somerset	High priority Pilot in early 2007, wider rollout later in 2007.	In-house resources with commitment from selected communities	Pilot: £7k from Rural Renaissance; £25k from Economic Development 2007 rollout: £25k from Rural Ren; £55k from Economic Development; £25k currently unfunded	Community Council for Somerset; District Councils; Parish Councils	Somerset Broadplaces helps selected communities to put broadband skills and technologies at the heart of their activity.

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Sustainable Communities						
SC2: Sustaining rural communities						
2.5 Provide mobile library services to remote/ isolated communities, and review specification for new vehicles to enable flexible use by other agencies and improved on-line access to public services.	Predominantly rural areas	Ongoing – first new vehicle to be commissioned in April 2007.	NA	SCC capital programme and in-house resources		Aiming to provide county-wide access to library services including Exmoor.
2.6 Extend the opening hours of libraries.	Dulverton, Cheddar, Ilchester initially, then Yeovil	2007-2010	NA	Potential SCC capital programme, Big Lottery funds	Exmoor National Park, Ilchester Town Council	Programme of providing self renewal through RFID (radio frequency identification) systems. Funding not yet secured. Aim is to free up staff to help with customer access and information.
2.7 Maintain and update People's Network.	Somerset and on mobile services	Upgrade planned for 2007	£250,000	LABGI plus in-house funding	NA	The internet access system requires upgrading urgently.
2.8 Extend opportunities for upskilling workforce in SMEs and public services through Train 2 Gain and Learn Direct provided through libraries and community venues.	Somerset	Annual contracts from LSC, bids through ALL and SCT	Varies	LSC	Library Service	The use of libraries and a network of 300 community venues should provide 25% of learners with access within 1 mile of home. The programme includes provision of work-based training for Modern Apprentices.
SC3: Contributing to the provision of affordable housing						
3.1 Support the Somerset Strategic Housing Officer Group in addressing affordable housing needs.	Somerset	High priority in view of identified levels of need.	In-house resources	DEFRA has committed £136,000 to fund two Regional Enabling Officers to 2008. Supporting People programme offers match funding of £725,000 for 2006-2008 for supported housing for the elderly.	District Councils, RSLs, Developers	SCC is not a housing authority but is committed to working cooperatively with partners to address housing affordability issues.

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Sustainable Communities						
SC3: Contributing to the provision of affordable housing						
3.2 Ensure surplus land is offered to District Councils and work with interested Housing Associations/DCs to enable development of affordable homes.	Somerset	Ongoing	In-house resources		District Councils	This arrangement is formalised through a Local Area Agreement and ensures that the affordable housing potential of SCC's extensive landholdings is maximised in cooperation with the District Councils as the responsible housing authorities. Can include schemes for development of affordable housing outside of Local Plan development limits in areas where residential development potential is limited.
3.3 Contribute to the development of policies for the provision of gypsies and travellers site provision and to the identification of suitable sites.	Somerset	Ongoing	In-house resources	District Councils are responsible for providing gypsy and traveller accommodation, SCC contributes in kind (e.g. by leasing suitable sites to the District Councils).	District Councils	SCC is not a housing authority but is committed to working cooperatively with partners to address gypsy and traveller issues. SCC participates in a Gypsy and Traveller Working Group addressing these issues in Somerset.
3.4 Continue to provide and/or manage gypsy and traveller sites in Somerset.	Somerset	Ongoing	In-house resources	Funding from rents received and grants is used to maintain and enhance the sites.	District Councils especially SSDC which leases 2 sites from SCC.	

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Accessibility						
AC1: Improving public transport						
1.1 Deliver 'Accessibility Planning' service.	Set out in the LTP. High priorities are Bridgwater area, Burnham-on-Sea, West Somerset and Frome area.	Accessibility action plans to be developed between 2006 and 2011.	In-house resources with new accessibility team.	Initially SCC funding with a view to identifying delivery actions/funding from partners.	Health services, Learning & Skills Council, Jobcentre Plus, District Councils.	Aim to 'mainstream' accessibility planning techniques into SCC and partners service delivery.
1.2 Introduce a 'Fast Bus' service linking Yeovil and Taunton.	Yeovil and Taunton	Service to be introduced in 2007/8.	£1.071 million capital cost.	SCC/LTP funding	Private bus operators, SSC and TDBC.	Forms part of the overall programme to expand the Quality Bus Partnerships network (See Actions AC1.3 and 1.4).
1.3 Extend 'Quality Bus Partnership' services in rural areas.	Priority schemes are Glastonbury–Bridgwater, Chard-Taunton, and Somerton-Taunton.	4 new schemes to be introduced progressively between 2006 and 2011.	£0.459 million capital costs over 5 years.	SCC/LTP funding	Private bus operators, and District Councils.	Quality Bus Partnerships comprise Somerset's fixed core bus network with enhanced infrastructure and service levels including low-floor buses, better service and timetable information and improved bus stops. SCC's commitment to these core routes is expected to encourage increased investment by the bus operators leading to increased patronage and enhanced viability.
1.4 Extend 'Quality Bus Partnership' services in urban areas.	Taunton & Yeovil	2 new schemes to be introduced in 2010/11.	£0.574 million capital costs over 5 years.	SCC/LTP funding	Private bus operators, and District Councils.	
1.5 Expand the provision of demand responsive transport services in rural areas.	Bridgwater, Highbridge, Burnham rural catchment extending to the Quantocks, Chard and Somerton rural catchments in 2006/7.	5 schemes to be implemented progressively between 2006/7 and 2009/10.	£0.320 million capital costs over 5 years.	SCC/LTP funding	Private bus operators, and District Councils.	Programme to extend coverage of the Somerset Links (SLINKY) demand responsive bus services introduced in 2005 to areas that cannot be serviced by scheduled services. May be supplemented by minor extensions to the existing Taxi-bus service in sparsely populated areas of the county.

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Accessibility						
AC1: Improving public transport						
1.6 Implement a programme of bus interchange improvements in the main urban centres.	Taunton, Yeovil, and Bridgwater	3 new schemes to be implemented progressively between 2008/9 and 2010/11.	£0.230 million capital costs.	SCC/LTP funding	Private bus operators, and District Councils.	Need to ensure that these proposals are integrated into the urban regeneration strategies for the three urban areas.
1.7 Implement a programme of rural interchange improvements.	Priority locations for these schemes to be determined.	6 new schemes to be implemented progressively between 2007/8 and 2010/11.	£0.307 million capital costs.	SCC/LTP funding	Private bus operators, and District Councils.	LTP2 identifies 14 towns as candidate locations for rural interchange improvements.
1.8 Develop and implement a comprehensive 'One-network' marketing programme.	Somerset	No specific timing available until programme is developed in detail.	£0.162 million over 5 years.	Funding is available from SCC/LTP funds, but supplementary funding will be sought from key partners including bus operators.	Private bus operators	To be developed in consultation with key stakeholders including bus and rail operators, tourist attractions, education authority etc. Not focused solely on public transport but could also be used to encourage cycling and walking.
AC2: Promoting walking and cycling						
2.1 Implement a programme of cycling and pedestrian improvements in the major urban centres.	Taunton, Yeovil & Bridgwater. Taunton is proposed to become an exemplar cycling town	Programme to commence in Taunton and extend to other areas between 2006/7 and 2008/9.	£1.012 million for 10 schemes.	SCC/LTP funding	District Councils	Larger cycle/multi-use schemes already identified and prioritised. Access & mobility surveys will be used to identify smaller scale improvements. Survey completed in Taunton in early 2006. Priority schemes for Taunton include the Western Cycle Route linking Castle School to French Weir park and Obridge Viaduct footway.

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Accessibility						
AC2: Promoting walking and cycling						
2.2 Implement a programme of cycling and pedestrian improvements in market towns with significant potential for increased walking/cycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burnham & Highbridge Wellington Cheddar Minehead Wells Street Glastonbury. 	Progressive delivery between 2006/7 and 2009/10.	£0.445 million for 10 schemes.	SCC/LTP funding	District Councils	Priority market towns were identified through an assessment of potential for increased cycling/walking. Larger schemes already identified and prioritised. A programme of Access & Mobility surveys will be rolled out across the priority market towns to identify smaller scale improvements.
2.3 Implement a programme of cycling and pedestrian improvements in rural areas to improve linkages to market towns and urban centres, and promote sustainable tourism and economic development.	Routes that provide links to market towns and urban centres, or will deliver tourism and regeneration benefits.	Progressive delivery between 2006/7 and 2010/11.	£1.358 million for 9 schemes.	SCC/LTP funding	District Councils	Specific schemes proposed for implementation during LTP2 are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High priority stages of the Cycle West Somerset project Colliers Way (Dundas to Frome path and rail project using Frome-Radstock railway line) Blackdown Hills route Coleridge Way.
2.4 Develop and implement a marketing and awareness campaign to increase walking and cycling.	Somerset wide, but targeted to specific groups (eg schools, major employers) and awareness campaigns linked to specific network improvements.	Ongoing	Funded as part of the 'Smarter Choices Strategy'.	Funded by SCC as part of the 'Smarter Choices Strategy' which has an estimated budget of £0.975 million over 5 years.	Major employers, schools, community groups	High proportions of trips less than 3 km especially in urban areas offers significant potential for increased walking and cycling. Key action in achieving target of 10% increase in cycling between 2004/5 and 2010/11. Forms part of the broader 'Smarter Choices Strategy' (see Action AC4.5).
2.5 Ensure new development provides appropriate walking and cycling links and supporting infrastructure (e.g. cycle parking).	Somerset wide but focus will be on major developments in urban areas which offer significant potential.	Ongoing	In-house resources	Infrastructure will be developer funded.	District Councils, Developers	Implemented in cooperation with District Councils when planning and assessing major development proposals, including by requiring major development proposals to provide travel plans. Major urban regeneration projects (e.g. Yeovil Vision) offer significant potential for new and improved walking and cycling links and facilities.

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Delivery Action	Location or Priority Areas	Priority/ Timing	Estimated Cost (£)	Proposed Funding Sources (1)	Delivery Partners	Additional Comments/Information
Accessibility						
AC2: Promoting walking and cycling						
2.6 Continue development of the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal as a key cycleway, largely off road route linking two of Somerset's main towns.	Bridgwater to Taunton	Ongoing	Capital funds allocated annually from SCC, SDC and TDBC	Gradual development and maintenance of the route along the towpath which is a public RoW but owned by BW. Most work carried out by Countryside Project Team.	District Councils, British Waterways & Sustrans.	This route is used by some as a commuter route near to Taunton and Bridgwater but more significantly is a recreational route. This approach ties in with policies developed through the Somerset Waterways Advisory Committee for the canal and river corridor.
AC3: Improving the rights of way network						
3.1 Implement the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP).	Somerset	Ongoing.	In-house resources	SCC funding. External funding bids	District Councils, Exmoor NP Authority, AONB Service	The RoWIP was endorsed in November 2006 and will be reviewed in 2011.
3.2 Continue to maintain and improve the 'ease of use' of the existing network.	Prioritised in accordance with the ROWIP (see additional comments)	Ongoing	£3.365 million over 5 years	SCC/LTP funding	District Councils, Exmoor NP Authority, Community Path Partnership Groups	Target is to achieve 84% ease of use by 2010/11. Paths will be categorised as follows: 1. National and regional trails (e.g. SW Coast Path, River Parrett Trail) 2. District and parish level promoted trails 3. Occasionally used routes 4. All other paths. Maintenance and enforcement work will be prioritised using the path category information.
3.3 Implement strategic extensions to the ROW network.	Urban peripheries are a priority (see additional comments)	Ongoing	Ongoing capital budget	SCC/LTP funding	District Councils, developers	The ROW network in Somerset is extensive so further development of the network will be limited to cases where significant benefit can be expected such as on the periphery of urban areas. Where possible this will be achieved through S106 agreements (see Action 3.4)

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Accessibility						
AC3: Improving the rights of way network						
3.4 Work with District Councils and developers to achieve improvements to the ROW network.	Somerset	Ongoing	In-house resources	SCC funding.	District Councils, developers	Require new developments to provide appropriate walking and cycling links to the ROW network and upgrade the network to accommodate the impacts of the development.
AC4: Tackling Congestion						
4.1 Implement a programme of junction and traffic signal improvements in the major urban centres.	Taunton, Yeovil & Bridgwater.	Upgrading the traffic signals control computer in Taunton is a high priority, other works to be delivered progressively as funding permits.	LTP2 proposes 10 schemes at a total estimated cost of £4.426 million to be delivered between 2006/7 and 2010/11	Various funding sources including SCC/LTP funds, and contributions from District Councils and developers.	District Councils, external consultants	Refer to LTP2 sections 6.3–6.5 for detailed infrastructure proposals including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yeovil – junction improvements and other ancillary works to the Eastern (Queensway and Reckleford Road section of the A30) and Western (Western Avenue/Bunford Lane/A3088) Development Corridors; • Bridgwater – improvements to 4 junctions along the Monmouth Street/Broadway section of the A38; • Taunton – Priorswood/Staplegrove Roads sections of the A358, Toneway/East Reach/Billetfield sections of the A38, upgrading the traffic signals control system, and town centre junction upgrades.
4.2 Implement the East Taunton Park and Ride.	Cambria Farm east of Junction 25 on the M5.	Proposed to be operational in 2009/10.	£4.427 million capital cost	SCC/LTP funding	TDBC, Highways Agency, Private bus operators	This project complements the Silk Mills park and ride that commenced operation in 2005, and is an essential part of an overall strategy including implementing the Taunton Vision proposals and the proposed long-stay parking charge increases in Taunton (see Action AC4.4).
4.3 Deliver the Northern Inner Distributor Road and Third Way major road schemes.	Taunton town centre	2006-2012	£28 million approx	Funded by DfT and developer contributions	TDBC	These major schemes are key elements of the Taunton Vision regeneration project. Significant preliminary work has already been undertaken including site acquisition and design works.

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Accessibility						
AC4: Tackling Congestion						
4.4 Implement progressive increases in town centre long-stay parking costs and limit town centre parking spaces.	Taunton, Bridgwater and Yeovil town centres	Ongoing	In-house resources	N/A	District Councils	Work with the District Councils to increase long stay parking charges in town centres and reduce overall parking spaces. Will be supported by improved public transport, walking and cycling provision, and is linked to the implementation of the East Taunton Park and Ride (see Action AC4.2).
4.5 Develop and implement a 'Smarter Choices Strategy' to facilitate modal shift from single occupancy cars.	Somerset	Finalisation of the strategy is the immediate priority.	£0.975 million over 5 years allocated 50:50 to urban/rural schemes.	SCC/LTP funding	Major employers, schools, community groups	The Smarter Choices strategy is currently being finalised. It will include a travel awareness and marketing campaign, travel plans for major employers, school travel plans, car sharing, walking and cycling initiatives.
4.6 Promote the trunking and upgrading of the A358 between Ilminster and Taunton.	Taunton to Ilminster.	Part of the 'second strategic route' identified as a priority in the RSS.	Cost is a matter for the Highways Agency	Funding is a matter for the Highways Agency.	Highways Agency	This section of the A358 forms part of the 'second strategic route' identified as a high priority in the RSS. The Highways Agency is responsible for funding and implementing the upgrading of the second strategic route. SCC will work with the Highways Agency to achieve upgrading of the Ilminster-Taunton section as a high priority.
4.7 Work with District Councils to ensure new development achieves sustainable transport outcomes.	Somerset	Ongoing	In-house resources	SCC/LTP funding	District Councils	Achieved by working with Districts to ensure LDFs and planning control activities achieve good transport outcomes. Key elements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major development proposals to provide travel plans; • Reductions in maximum parking standards in locations with good accessibility.

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Built and Natural Environment						
EN1: Addressing climate change						
1.1 Complete the Climate Change Strategy.	Somerset	Finalise by March 2007	In house resources	SCC funding grant aid – Carbon Trust, DEFRA etc with District Councils and SSP	Range of partners from the SSP and LSP's.	Part of the strategy will be released for consultation in December 06. Presentation to Exec Board in March 2007
1.2 Deliver the Somerset Wind Energy Initiative.	Somerset SCC landholdings	Ongoing	In house resources with legal consultant and wind-energy developer.	SCC funding for the initiative, potential for generating income	See Additional Comments column.	Appropriate installation of wind turbines on SCC owned land. The initiative is being taken forward with the appointment of an energy development partner.
1.3 Continue the procurement of renewable energy.	Somerset	Ongoing	In house resources	SCC funding supported by a fee income		Procurement of energy generated from renewable sources
1.4 Deliver programme of energy efficiency projects.	Somerset CC's Property Estate	2 years	In house resources. plus external grant funding.	SCC £200k, Salix Financial Services £200k over 2 years	Salix Financial Services	Carbon Trust Initiative to increase energy efficiency
1.5 Continue the BioEthanol for Sustainable Transport (BEST) Project	Somerset and wider	Ongoing 4 year EU project	In house resources supplemented by EU grant.	£150k from the EU (Sixth framework programme)	Extensive list of partners,	Project to increase awareness of high blend ethanol in transport. Delivery of flexifuelled vehicles using high blend BioEthanol in Somerset. SCC is leading UK Partner in EU project. EU Partnership, Ford Motors, Green Sprit Fuels, Morrisons, Energy Savings Trust, Wessex Water, Avon & Somerset Constabulary, Imperial College London
1.6 Continue to investigate and progress possible Energy from Waste schemes.	Somerset	Ongoing	In house resources.	In house resources.	Refer to Additional Comment column.	Viridor, dTi, Imperial College London, DEFRA, private sector partners

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Delivery Action	Location or Priority Areas	Priority/ Timing	Estimated Cost (£)	Proposed Funding Sources (1)	Delivery Partners	Additional Comments/Information
Built and Natural Environment						
EN2: Preserving our cultural heritage						
2.1 Implement the Shepton Mallet Townscape Heritage Initiative.	Shepton Mallet Town Centre Conservation Area	High Priority, commencing in 2008 for 5 years	£500,000 per annum for 5 years	Contributions from Heritage Lottery Fund, Mendip DC, Shepton Mallet Town Council and SCC	Mendip DC, Shepton Mallet TC	Partnership programme of works aimed at repairing historic buildings and enhancing the townscape.
2.2 Seek World Heritage Site status for the Somerset Levels and Moors.	Levels and Moors and environs/associated assets.	Ongoing Submission of bid for World Heritage Site status scheduled for 2011	In-house resources plus longer term funding commitment for delivery	Longer-term funding requirements and commitments are being established as part of the current scoping work. Expected to involve SCC and each of the other delivery partners contributing plus external funding.	Local Authorities, English Heritage, National Trust, Natural England, SWRDA	Initial scoping exercises are currently underway. Links to be developed in the revision of the Somerset Cultural Strategy and Strategy for SW. World Heritage Site status will provide improved protection for natural and cultural values, and provide an opportunity to promote Somerset for Tourism and other purposes.
2.3 Complete Phase 2 of the South West Archaeological Research Framework in partnership with English Heritage.	Somerset	Ongoing, Phase 2 complete by Jan 2007, final phase 3 complete June 2007.	£90,000	Funded by English Heritage.	Local Authorities, English Heritage, Museums, Contracting Archaeological Units, Local Societies.	Phase 1 (Resource Assessment) completed June 2006. This project will enable the developments of priorities for the historic environment throughout the region.
2.4 Complete "Buildings at Risk" register.	Taunton Deane, West Somerset.	Next 6 months.	In-house resources.	Register will highlight funding priorities for future works.	Private and public grant aiding bodies.	Ongoing review of endangered listed buildings.
2.5 Assess the needs of heritage buildings in County Council ownership and develop a strategy for their future care.	Somerset but with the County Farm Estate as a priority	Next 6 Months	In house resources.	Survey will inform future management plans.	Mainly SCC	Completed survey of all SCC heritage properties will make an important contribution to an informed understanding of the heritage assets owned by SCC.

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Delivery Action	Location or Priority Areas	Priority/ Timing	Estimated Cost (£)	Proposed Funding Sources (1)	Delivery Partners	Additional Comments/Information
Built and Natural Environment						
EN2: Preserving our cultural heritage						
2.6 Develop and implement the Museum of Somerset project.	Taunton	Ongoing, Stage 1 HLF bid submitted in September 2006. HLF decision expected March 2007.	£4.80m plus £1.63m matched funding.	£4.8 million capital funding sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund. £1.63m match funding required, all of which is being underwritten by SCC for Stage 1. £76,750 raised so far from TDBC, SANHS, SMMT and public fundraising appeals.	TDBC, Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (SANHS), Somerset Military Museum Trust (SMMT).	The project aims to showcase Somerset's unique heritage by telling the Story of Somerset in a first-class 21st century museum located in a restored Taunton Castle.
2.7 Develop and implement the Timestream project.	Taunton	Site searches and evaluations are well advanced.	Indicative costs of the various site options range from £4.5m - £11m.	£6m capital approval has been earmarked by SCC to support the delivery of the new Somerset Record Office and towards matched funding for the Museum of Somerset Project.	TDBC. Others dependent on site selected.	The project aims to create a building giving enhanced public access for heritage research & study, and incorporating high-class administration, conservation and stewardship facilities for the County Heritage Services. This project has a close relationship with the Museum of Somerset project (Action EN2.6) and aims to link into a 'Heritage Trail' to promote tourism and sustainable access.
EN3: Maintaining and enhancing natural assets and biodiversity						
3.1 Develop SCC's strategy for the "Natural Environment".	Somerset, including its national parks and AONBs	Ongoing	In house resources with occasional specialist support	Revenue budget	District Councils, AONB's, EA, Somerset Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Forestry Commission, Somerset Waterways Development Trust	Will deliver an overarching strategy for SCC in relation to Somerset's Natural Environment.

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Delivery Action	Location or Priority Areas	Priority/ Timing	Estimated Cost (£)	Proposed Funding Sources (1)	Delivery Partners	Additional Comments/Information
Built and Natural Environment						
EN3: Maintaining and enhancing natural assets and biodiversity						
3.2 Review and complete the Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP's). Complete the memorandum of understanding for the Steering Group.	Somerset	Ongoing	In house resources and input from the Steering Group	Grants from LSP's, Quantock AONB ASD Fund, Revenue budget	Steering Group	Take into consideration the Somerset Highways Biodiversity Action Plan
3.3 Continue to implement the Somerset Landscape Scheme.	Somerset	Ongoing	£90,000 per annum	Funded by contributions from SCC, District Councils, Environment Agency, Natural England	Farm Wildlife Advisory Group, Somerset Wildlife Trust	Partnership programme to restore and improve the County's landscape and conserve its wildlife. Works with around 300 landowners and local groups each year to carry out projects with significant benefit to the local economy.
3.4 Continue management of SCC amenity land estate for public access and wildlife conservation.	42 sites throughout Somerset	Ongoing	In house staff with small revenue budget of approx £10,000	Funded by small revenue budget supplemented by external income from a variety of sources, including DEFRA and one-off bids to funders.	Local interest groups, AONBs, DEFRA & Natural England	Key parts of the amenity estate are located in the Quantocks and Mendip AONBs where they provide some of the major areas for public access and form an integral part of the service provided by the AONB ranger service.
3.5 Prepare an Amenity Land Strategy.	Somerset	Not yet started – anticipate developing 2007	In house resources		Relevant organisations and public through consultation	
3.6 Set up new Water Management Partnership as a consultative partnership.	Somerset	Commencing 2006	In house resources and grants	Revenue budget, Grant Aid	Consideration of most of existing partners	
3.7 Develop a Woodland Strategy.	Somerset	Planned for early 2007	In house resources or consultants subject to funding	SCC staff, funding contributions from partners	District Councils, Natural England, Forestry Commission	Strategy to include community woodland.

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Delivery Action	Location or Priority Areas	Priority/ Timing	Estimated Cost (£)	Proposed Funding Sources (1)	Delivery Partners	Additional Comments/Information
Built and Natural Environment						
EN3: Maintaining and enhancing natural assets and biodiversity						
3.8 Develop community woodlands adjacent to key Towns throughout the County.	Targeted areas within Somerset.	Ongoing initiative	Annual allocation of £15,000 in revenue budget	Contributions being sought from Town Councils, Forestry Commission, EU Funds and other sources.	Town Councils, Forestry Commission, District Councils	Aims: To involve local community in positive environmental improvement. Raise awareness of woodland benefits. Increase woodland area in key locations. To improve public open space provision for access and nature conservation.
3.9 Develop and implement EU Project WAVE (Water Adaptation is Valuable for Everybody)	Somerset, particularly levels & moors and areas of flood land	Commencing 2008, ongoing until 2013	In house resources	50% contributed by the EU and remaining 50% from partners, SCC staff and funding	Environment Agency, Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium, Somerset Wildlife Trust, RSPB, FWAG, Somerset Water Management Partnership	Part of an international programme (Germany, Netherlands, France, Belgium and UK) to address the impacts of climate change on water resources and the necessary adaptations that will be required.
3.10 Continue development of SCC's Coastal Strategy.	Somerset's coastal zone and Severn Estuary	Ongoing, with Strategy published by end 06/07	In house resources	SCC Funding	SCC and North Devon & Somerset Coastal Group, Severn Estuary Partnership	Will involve community consultation.
3.11 Prepare the East Mendips Restoration Strategy Supplementary Planning Document.	East Mendips	Spring 2007 (to be confirmed)	NA	Will seek funding contributions from Mendip DC and/or aggregate industry related funding sources.	Minerals industry	Aims to achieve a coordinated restoration strategy of existing and former quarry sites through the planning permissions process.

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Delivery Action	Location or Priority Areas	Priority/ Timing	Estimated Cost (£)	Proposed Funding Sources (1)	Delivery Partners	Additional Comments/Information
Built and Natural Environment						
EN4: Managing Waste						
4.1 Continue to deliver the Somerset Municipal Waste Management Strategy (MWMS).	Somerset	Ongoing, to 2020	NA	SCC and District/Borough Council funding; grants; LATS income	District Councils; Viridor; collection contractor; SWAP	Minimise waste growth through initiatives (e.g. reducing packaging) and awareness raising. Achieve 50% recycling by 2010, and 65% by 2020. Introduce residual waste treatment (e.g. thermal recovery, biological treatment) to reduce landfill disposal.
4.2 Let a single countywide contract for waste collection and recycling.	Somerset	Award contract June 2007, with service delivery to start in October '07.	Subject to tendering process.	SCC and District/Borough Council funding committed	District Councils	The single contract is intended to achieve economies of scale with resultant cost savings, and will be managed by the Somerset Waste Board (see Action EN4.3).
4.3 Create Somerset Waste Board as a single waste authority client.	Somerset	Ongoing to establishment in 2007/08	Some set up costs but expected to deliver long-term cost savings.	SCC and District/Borough Council funding	District Councils	Intended to achieve efficiencies by merging 6 client organisations. The Board will deliver the responsibilities of Waste Disposal Authority and the Waste Collection Authorities.
4.4 Continue to implement the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) Capital Programme.	See Additional Information column	Ongoing with completion by 2008/09	£4.4million	SCC capital committed	Viridor; Contractors	Replace and refurbish HWRCs to agreed programme to enhance recycling and customer experience. Key projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocation of the Chard HWRC; • Relocation or expansion of HWRCs at Minehead and Cheddar; • Major refurbishments of HWRCs at Yeovil, Dulverton, Somerton and Frome.
4.5 Prepare the Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF).	Somerset	Ongoing, timelines for completion are currently under review	In-house resources plus consultant support	£155,000 from previously awarded Planning Delivery Grant, otherwise funded by SCC		The MWDF will replace the adopted Minerals and Waste Local Plans, and provide the policy framework for planning decisions on waste development proposals.

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Delivery Action	Location or Priority Areas	Priority/ Timing	Estimated Cost (£)	Proposed Funding Sources (1)	Delivery Partners	Additional Comments/Information
Economic Development EC1: Attracting investment						
1.1 Create a Somerset inward investment agency to promote Somerset as a business location.	Somerset	High priority, planned launch in April 2007.	Total estimated budget for Year 1 £267,500.	In principle support from: SCC £125,000 per year for 3 years Somerset Strategic Partnership, SWRDA Funding being sought from District councils, private and academic sector.	District Councils SWRDA	Draft business plan considered by Economic Leaders Group in October 2006. Individual funding partners to consider business plan and governance arrangements by end 2006. The new initiative will create: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A professional, business-led and focussed approach to new investment proposals and enquiries; • A network of partners in the public, private and economic sectors dedicated to promoting investment in Somerset; • A proactive marketing campaign which raises Somerset's profile as a location for business investment.
1.2 Strategic marketing of Somerset as a location for sustainable inward investment.	Somerset	On going with implementation of strategic marketing plan from April 2007.	Estimated costs for Year 1 £113,500	As part of funding for Action EC1.1.	District Councils SWRDA	The marketing strategy will develop a distinctive Somerset business identity, build a close working relationship with the existing Somerset business community, redress general poor perceptions of Somerset as a business location and work in tandem with the tourism marketing campaign. Initial target sectors for the marketing campaign are environmental technologies, creative industries and advanced engineering.
1.3 Develop a positive and consistent approach across Somerset from local planning authorities to individual business development proposals.	Somerset	High priority.	In-house resources with specialist consultant support as needed.		District Councils, SSPC	The aim is to develop a Somerset 'planning charter' for business. District Council lead and joint working with SSPC.

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Delivery Action	Location or Priority Areas	Priority/ Timing	Estimated Cost (£)	Proposed Funding Sources (1)	Delivery Partners	Additional Comments/Information
Economic Development						
EC1: Attracting investment						
1.4 Refresh the Somerset workspace investment strategy.	Somerset	High priority	In-house resources with specialist consultant support		District Councils, SSPC	The aim is to create a proactive approach by DCs, SCC and SWRDA to planning supply of workspace and release of key business sites
1.5 Manage the Somerset Tour of Britain cycle race initiative and maximise image and promotional benefits to Somerset.	Route yet to be determined but to include high profile landmarks.	High priority - first Tour of Britain in Somerset in 2007	In-house resources			This high profile event offers significant potential to promote Somerset's image including its potential as a location for business investment and tourism.
1.6 Develop Yeovil aerospace and advanced engineering business incubation centre.	Yeovil	High priority by summer 2007	In-house resources plus £500,000 SCC commitment 2006 - 2009	SWRDA - £2.4m committed SSDC - £1m committed SCC - £0.5m committed	SSDC SWRDA	Aerospace and advanced engineering is a key sector of the regional and sub-regional economy as identified in the Somerset Economic Strategy and Regional Economic Strategy.
1.7 Develop incubation facilities for the creative industries.	To be determined	Medium	To be determined		SWRDA DCs	Creative industries are a key sector of the regional and sub-regional economy as identified in the Somerset Economic Strategy and Regional Economic Strategy.
EC2: Improving productivity						
2.1 Strengthen commitment from public and private sector organisations to workforce skills development.	Somerset	High priority LAA Skills action plan for implementation 2006 - 2009		SCC provides the secretariat for the Economic Leaders Group and its officer support group which have governance and management responsibilities for the Somerset Economic Strategy and the LAA.	Somerset LSC, FE colleges, training providers, SCC (SCT) Business Link, DCs	The skills action planning group is a working group of the Somerset Economic Leaders Group and is lead by the LSC, with private sector input. The Somerset Economic Leaders Group is to consider the emerging skills action plan and actions that as employers each member can take.

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Delivery Action	Location or Priority Areas	Priority/ Timing	Estimated Cost (£)	Proposed Funding Sources (1)	Delivery Partners	Additional Comments/Information
Economic Development EC2: Improving productivity						
2.2 Increase levels of basic skills, first level 2 attainment and technical and graduate skills in employed workforce.	Somerset	High priority LAA Skills action plan for implementation 2006 - 2009		LSC contracts for work based learning, entry to employment and Train to Gain for first level 2. Jobcentre Plus contracts for training unemployed adults.	Somerset LSC, FE colleges, training providers, SCC (SCT) Business Link, Connexions, DCs	SCC through Somerset County Training is directly involved in the delivery of increased basic, level 2 and technical skills.
2.3 Develop higher education provision in Somerset aligned to the county's priority business sectors.	Somerset	Medium priority	To be determined		FE colleges, Regional universities, Somerset LSC, SWRDA, HEFCE	
2.4 Promote accessible service responses to varying individual information and guidance needs for learners and job seekers.	Somerset	High priority		Jobcentre Plus contracts for training unemployed adults.		SCC through Somerset County Training is directly involved in the delivery of training for unemployed adults.
2.5 Improve basic skills levels in Somerset by creating learning opportunities attractive to varying needs, promoting the engagement of employers, trade unions and community groups in raising basic skills and addressing barriers to accessing learning.	County wide but some priority to improving rural access	High priority		LSC contracts for work based learning, entry to employment and Train to Gain for first level 2.	FE Colleges and training providers	In house delivery via Adult Learning and Leisure and SCT

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Delivery Action	Location or Priority Areas	Priority/ Timing	Estimated Cost (£)	Proposed Funding Sources (1)	Delivery Partners	Additional Comments/Information
Economic Development						
EC2: Improving productivity						
2.6 Reduce worklessness	Deprived communities	High priority		LSC contracts for work based learning, entry to employment and Train to Gain for first level 2. Jobcentre Plus contracts for training unemployed adults.		<p>SCC through Social Enterprise support programme provides social enterprise advice, training and support (direct provision and contracted services).</p> <p>SCC through Somerset County Training is directly involved in the delivery of basic skills and employability training.</p>
EC3: Promoting tourism						
3.1 Explore case/options for a Somerset Destination Management Organisation/Partnership (DMO/P) to develop Somerset's tourism business sector.	Somerset including North Somerset	High		STPT as 'shadow' DMO funding committed for 2006/07: SCC, MDC, SDC, SSDC, TDBC, & NSC each contributing £10,000. South West Tourism has committed £15,000 towards business planning process.	District Councils, Visit Exmoor, North Somerset Council, Private sector	The funding is to develop high priority actions in the DMO delivery plan. The Somerset Tourism Project Team is composed from the key delivery partners working 1 day a week, with a co-ordinator seconded from North Somerset Council for 2 days a week. The team is managing high priority actions from the Tourism Delivery Plan. SCC is leading the business theme group developing the business plan for the DMO with a projected launch 2007/08.
3.2 Develop a strategic marketing plan for Somerset as one of the South West's key visitor destination brands.	Somerset including North Somerset	High priority		£30,000 from STPT budget above allocated to branding and, brand roll out, marketing strategy and initial PR with £10,000 funding from South West Tourism. Additional £35,000 from SCC LABGI funding towards brand roll out	District Councils, Visit Exmoor, North Somerset Council, Private sector	This is a high priority activity being progressed through the STPT Branding and Marketing theme group on which SCC is represented. Marketing will be based around themes targeted to specific audiences including Relax in Somerset, Short Breaks, Family holidays, History and heritage, Festivals and events, Food and drink, Active Somerset. The latter will link closely with the Tour of Britain.

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Delivery Action	Location or Priority Areas	Priority/ Timing	Estimated Cost (£)	Proposed Funding Sources (1)	Delivery Partners	Additional Comments/Information
Economic Development						
EC3: Promoting tourism						
3.3 Develop, launch and market Visit Somerset website and related marketing material.	Somerset including North Somerset	High priority launch expected early 2007	£1.1m	SCC, MDC, NSC, SDC, SSDC, TDBC: £40,000 each £0.5m SWRDA	SCC, District Councils, Visit Exmoor, North Somerset Council	SCC is leading this action.
EC4: Improving the economic vitality of market towns and rural areas						
4.1 Contribute to market town regeneration initiatives.	Burnham on Sea cultural quarter; Morlands site; Bridgwater Northgate; Minehead Horizons Healthplex.	2006-2009	NA	Funding sources vary depending on the nature of the project. Funding partners can include Health, LSC, Europe, SCC, and District Councils.	Partners vary depending on the nature of the project.	SCC has to prioritise its involvement in these regeneration projects and tries to support schemes that have strong partnership support and will deliver clear benefits to local communities.
4.2 Development of Minehead key site.	Minehead	Implementation 2006/07 and 2007/08	NA	SCC Economic Development Fund £400,000	WSDC	Major physical regeneration scheme for key SCC landholding in central Minehead. Will include creation of workspace, public realm and visitor improvements.
4.3 Improvement of rural workspace in Somerset market towns.	Market towns	2006–2009 Dulverton and Chard are committed schemes.	NA NA	Dulverton workspace joint scheme planned with WSDC and European Regional Development Fund. SCC commitment £356,000	WSDC MDC, SWRDA, Royal Bath & West Society	Dulverton and Chard are existing scheme commitments. Future schemes will be prioritised through the refresh of the Somerset workspace strategy.
4.4 Investigate the redevelopment potential of Royal Bath & West Showground.	Shepton Mallet	On going		£20,000 committed by SCC for a feasibility study		Potential regeneration project considering future uses and potential of the site as the home of a 21st century agricultural society, with aim of sustainable development of the rural economy. It is a potential site for the local food centre.

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List of Acronyms

ALL	Adult Learning and Leisure	ROW	Right of Way
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	ROWIP	Rights of Way Improvement Plan
DC	District Council	RSL	Registered Social Landlord
DEFRA	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
DMO	Destination Management Organisation	SANHS	Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society
DTi	Department of Trade and Industry	SCC	Somerset County Council
EA	Environment Agency	SCT	Somerset County Training
EiP	Examination in Public	SDC	Sedgemoor District Council
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund	SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
HWRC	Household Waste Recycling Centre	SMMT	Somerset Military Museum Trust
LABGI	Local Authority Business Growth Initiative	SRRP	Somerset Rural Renaissance Partnership
LATS	Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme	SSDC	South Somerset District Council
LDF	Local Development Framework	SSP	Somerset Strategic Partnership
LSC	Learning and Skills Council	SSPC	Somerset Strategic Planning Conference
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership	STPT	Somerset Tourism Project Team
LTP	Local Transport Plan	SWRA	South West Regional Assembly
MDC	Mendip District Council	SWRDA	South West Regional Development Agency
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	TC	Town Council
MWDF	Minerals and Waste Development Framework	TDBC	Taunton Deane Borough Council

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