

Information

For County Councillors

From:	Chris Squire, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development
Date:	11 January, 2016
To:	All County Councillors

The Vision for Somerset: volunteers wanted

Introduction

The new County Plan was today agreed by Cabinet and is on track to be formally approved by Full Council next month.

This is a key document that sets out the Council's aims and priorities for the next four years, and puts forward targets for the different areas within the authority to achieve.

A PDF of the Plan is attached or you can read an online version here

www.somersetcountyplan.org.uk

A key part of the plan is the Vision for Somerset. It focuses on attracting more young people to the county, creating more jobs and building homes at affordable prices.

The vision sets long-term aspirations for the council and its partners including creating:

- A University of Somerset
- A new Garden Town in the county
- A push on energy initiatives
- Business Parks to boost jobs and the local economy

These are ambitious projects that will take time to deliver and require the support and work of many partners and organisations, but we can be at the heart of driving them forward.

Volunteers wanted

The Council Leader and Chief Executive are keen to give staff and councillors the opportunity to get involved in these exciting and ambitious pieces of work. They are big, bold projects that will benefit from fresh, creative thinking and enthusiasm.

The Leader and Chief Executive staff road shows last year highlighted the plan to involve staff volunteers. This was followed-up last week with articles in Core Brief and the Our Somerset newsletter.

The Senior Leadership Team has been briefed and an all user email is being sent today, along with a separate email to managers urging their support to would-be volunteers.

Posters will be appearing in County Hall and satellite offices in the coming days directing people towards a dedicated HR email address for volunteers to register their interest, and information on the intranet (intranet.somerset.gov.uk/vision).

Both the Leader and Chief Executive are keen that elected members are also involved and are extending the same invite for volunteers. You have a great wealth of experience, knowledge and skill that could contribute to these projects and we want to make the most of it.

How will it work and what happens next?

Members of SLT are working on the detail of how staff and councillor volunteers will be involved in these projects and their efforts coordinated. The aim is to make sure we have the right support and guidance in place for the volunteers to make the most of their input.

How can I register to volunteer?

Please email visionvolunteers@somerset.gov.uk and you will be emailed with more detail about how you can get involved when we have it.

For more information contact:	Name: Chris Squire, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development Email: CSquire@somerset.gov.uk
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