

Issues Raised Member Priority Setting Workshop – 7th September 2023

Safe and Healthy Communities

Theme	Councillors' Comments
Housing	<p>Conditions in both privately rented and social housing - concerns about lack of inspections Better understanding of housing needs Consider provision of single person housing - elderly, young people Increase supply of social and/or affordable housing Private sector - concerns about environment, lack of control Issues with speed of planning, concern about communication between respective stakeholders Concern about holiday cottages and use of property in rural areas as second homes - council tax difference for 2nd homes</p>
Community Safety	<p>Police commissioner and community police - needing more presence Anti-social behaviour More youth provision/support - youth groups - signposting community fund opportunities</p>
Community Engagement / Development	<p>Community champions Query about community spaces not being available for use e.g. community fire stations Use of students in volunteering - partnerships with local universities Campaigns giving information on how people can start volunteering Support Staffordshire - review partnership - communication - how is this being promoted?</p>
Health	<p>Mental health services improvement Concerns about young suicide - mental health support Ambulance service - rural areas - poor access to physical and mental health services</p>
Arts & Culture	<p>Culture and arts need to be more linked to place - e.g. Churnet Valley</p>

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Cost of Living & Hardship	<p>More support needed for vulnerable people dealing with debt - bailiffs as a last resort</p> <p>More awareness needed of available support - signposting to grants</p> <p>Review how council gives support - more consideration of individual circumstances.</p> <p>Prevention - more support and planning to stop people getting into hardship</p> <p>Council Tax Forms - too complicated - putting people off accessing help</p> <p>Hardship officer - specific to supporting cost of living response</p>
Rural Issues	<p>Rural transport is needed to access services outside of the area.</p> <p>Current transport infrastructure poor - can get from rural areas into towns but cannot get back same day</p> <p>Lack of services in rural areas - those rural areas that do have services are mostly community sustained</p> <p>Could UKSPF fund be used to support service delivery and service creation in rural areas?</p> <p>Ambulance service</p> <p>Isolation and loneliness - Councillors note that a list of vulnerable people is not available to them for support</p> <p>A need to attract jobs into rural communities/places</p>
Communications	<p>Council needs to consider what the community actually needs</p> <p>SMDC needs to be more proactive - staying on top of website links and reviewing information</p> <p>Community intelligence - currently not effective in feeding back information councillors get from their wards - review how it might be possible to effectively communicate this information from councillors to heads of service/officers</p> <p>Proactivity from the council - go out into the community - be at events</p> <p>A need to build a stronger council-constituent/resident relationship</p> <p>Clarifying who does what - signposting the role of the district council - what we are responsible for and where to find services that do not fall to us - e.g. county council services</p> <p>Establish an identity/brand for SMDC (including Rural)</p> <p>Tell the story of the Moorlands</p>
Retaining working age residents	<p>Making the community more attractive to this age group.</p> <p>Encourage multiple types of industry and jobs</p> <p>Uptake in apprenticeships and graduate roles</p> <p>Reasonable housing for young professionals</p>

Theme	Councillors' Comments
Partnerships	Build partnerships/strategic relationships

Effective Use of Resources

Theme	Councillors' Comments
Organisational Development	<p>Finding the balance between Pre & Post COVID 19</p> <p>Develop a young persons' strategy (Keep people in the Moorlands) - Graduate & Apprenticeships</p> <p>Tools to enable staff (Investment into equipment/ tools etc)</p> <p>Enhance future training options / support staff to stay</p> <p>Communication – Job benefits (Competitive Salary etc)</p>
Procurement	<p>Enhance Strategy to use more local business</p> <p>Create a Council procurement list of all local businesses to help support those to gain additional business.</p>
Efficiency / Finance	<p>Establish fairer fees & charges - flexible approach to costs depending on size of the business</p> <p>Modernise the way to pay (Car Parks etc)</p>
Access to Services	<p>Improvement of Customer Engagement</p> <p>Accessibility of ICT (Website Accessibility)</p> <p>Increase of customer signposting</p> <p>Allowing residents to have options on how they interact with the council (either Face to Face or Digitally)</p> <p>The use of virtual appointments</p> <p>Create pop ups in small villages with poor transport links</p> <p>Finding the balance between Pre & Post COVID 19</p>

Theme	Councillors' Comments
Assets	<p>Need to have a clear climate change plan</p> <p>Diversify the usage of our buildings</p> <p>Utilise unused areas for events</p> <p>Create community spaces (Free or charged, depending on the size of business)</p> <p>Rentable spaces for New/Start-ups/ struggling businesses (Create a Business Hub)</p> <p>Help maintain community facilities, to keep them under the Community's control</p> <p>Improve public realm facilities</p> <p>Bring Cheadle Market back under SMDC control</p> <p>Improvement to council owned assets - whole building approach</p> <p>Use of solar technology on council and heritage assets alongside refitting residential properties - This could work in conjunction with EV charging points for cars and bikes.</p> <p>Strategy alignment 'potential links to local business'.</p>

Local Economy

Theme	Councillors' Comments
Transport	<p>Improve the transport infrastructure to encourage businesses and support the economy</p> <p>Improve public transport</p> <p>Increase EV charging points</p> <p>Work across our boundaries and work in partnership/influence other authorities regarding public transport.</p>
Business Development	<p>Encourage businesses, more efficient and fit for use premises that allow businesses to grow</p> <p>Education and training</p> <p>Jobs that attract and retain younger residents</p> <p>Business hubs - support and guidance, places to meet clients</p> <p>Provide premises for medium sized businesses to allow and encourage growth, retain existing businesses and attract new businesses to the area</p>
Business Support	<p>Improve signposting to business support/networks/forums/Chamber of Commerce (pro-actively as well as reactively)</p> <p>Set up business groups - they need to be established to identify what we have before we can communicate with them</p> <p>Show the benefits of having business groups</p> <p>Organise business events</p> <p>Encourage diverse businesses</p> <p>Encourage green businesses (collate data on what we already have)</p> <p>Set up business hubs</p> <p>Support medium sized businesses</p> <p>Increase timescales/restrictions around UKSPF applications</p> <p>Ensure business information is relevant and significant</p> <p>Share information with partners</p>
Connectivity	<p>Embrace the digital revolution to improve facilities for businesses/residents</p>

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Tourism	<p>Increase the number of events Advertise ourselves as a good place to live/work/visit/trade Improve tourism information on the websites Work with Town & Parish councils more closely- use a more consultative approach Develop Thomas Bolton area Tidy up the high streets Promote key sites Produce a map of cultural sites Set up a pop-up tourism site in the town centre- i.e. 1 day a week Use the tourism strategy to attract visitors Support community events on SMDC land (i.e. by not charging to host events) Improve the night time economy to encourage visitors Improve the infrastructure to encourage businesses and visitors</p>
Economy	<p>Identify needs for the district - understand the real problems that are not clear from the data Share the County dashboard (by division) Review masterplans Advertise sites in the Local plan</p>
Empty Shops	<p>Liaise and engage with business owners to offer incentives to start ups etc i.e. offering peppercorn rents Use for community groups Decrease business rates Introduce business rates holidays Promote Grants/Support/Business relief opportunities Use for pop-up shops</p>

Protecting the Environment

Theme	Councillors' Comments
Waste & Recycling	<p>Bigger bins incentivising more people to recycle appropriately.</p> <p>Possible use of bins in communal spaces</p> <p>Appropriate bin usage alongside alleviating storage and equipment issues.</p> <p>Education - better communication relating to services and bin usage targeting places such as schools and businesses that use private waste collection</p> <p>Communication through schools</p> <p>Encourage use of circular composting systems/plants.</p>
Parks & Open Spaces	<p>Reduction in pesticides in and around council owned parks/open spaces (open discussions with county council regarding this)</p> <p>Better education and awareness of lesser known/used walking spaces/green areas</p> <p>Better signposting both digitally and physically</p> <p>Possibly explore collaboration/influence of others e.g. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Dedicated spaces (pocket parks) for the support of individual community groups who can better provide opportunities for residents to get more involved, especially for young people</p> <p>Development of wild parks and better, more versatile green spaces possibly exploring the effectiveness of carbon capture.</p> <p>More facilities staggered better throughout parks with better disabled access.</p> <p>Better upkeep of Council parks and open spaces</p> <p>EV charging points for cars and especially bikes in parks.</p> <p>Challenging/encouraging private land owners to maintain plots around town centres with SMDC "setting an example".</p>

Theme	Councillors' Comments
Climate Change	<p>Council owned assets require prioritisation into sustainable, green energy investments; energy efficient projects e.g. solar panelling. Education and awareness for residents on SMDC commitments as well as better guides on grant support and website information (may already be there but could link to the new intranet project).</p> <p>Income generation opportunities through biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>Encouraging green skills and creating more jobs in the sustainability sector.</p> <p>Influence over other organisations such as a lobbying role over sectors SMDC doesn't touch</p> <p>Lobbying role over sustainable and more effective public transport in the district, encouraging residents to use more by helping to invest in better links</p> <p>Enhancing biodiversity in communal spaces e.g. thoughtful tree planting & areas of shade; using wild flowers in corridors</p> <p>Working with volunteer organisations who provide great initiatives within community spaces e.g. the "Friends of" organisations</p> <p>Reference to planning/policy to encourage more sustainable development e.g. heat pumps, solar panels etc.</p>
Car Parking	<p>Invest in the infrastructure to accommodate more rapid EV charging points, and designing hubs in certain locations (Cheadle was mentioned as one) - charging for both cars and electric bikes.</p> <p>Better education/awareness on available grants/funding alongside the education/walkthroughs of how to apply</p> <p>Alternatives to how open spaces such as car parks could be adapted whilst still maintaining their primary functions.</p> <p>Enhancing the biodiversity of these spaces using sensitive tree planning in bigger, more open car parks which are currently acting as heat sinks i.e. provide shadier spaces.</p>