

SOMERSET RURAL RENAISSANCE SCHEME APPROVED PROJECTS As at October 2007

| Project Name | Project Applicant | RR Funding | Match Funding (Start) | Contract Date | End Date | Project Description & Principal outputs | |
|-----------------------|--|---|-----------------------|---------------|------------|---|--|
| MAIN PROGRAMME | | | | | | | |
| S1 | Somerset Centre for local food Feasibility Study | Somerset Food Links | £30k | £15k | 20/09/2005 | 31/12/2007 | Feasibility study in to the scope for developing a centre for local food - a showcase for local producers combined with an educational resource. <i>Output</i> 1 Feasibility Study |
| S1a | Food Sector Support Service in Somerset (FS4) | Somerset Food Links | £47k | £23k | 23/02/2007 | 31/03/2008 | The provision of an information, advice and guidance service for the food sector in Somerset in conjunction with the FEDS programme of SW Food & Drink. <i>Main Output:</i> (4) 50 businesses assisted |
| S2 | Coleridge Way Project (part of 'Visit Exmoor') | Exmoor National Park Authority | £92.5k | £60k | 27/09/2005 | 30/09/2007 | The further development, launch and marketing of the long-distance walking and horse-riding trail known as the Coleridge Way in west Somerset. Working with local businesses, principally B&Bs, cafes, restaurants, public houses and shops to jointly maximise the tourism potential. Input via a p/t Project officer, using business workshops, publicity and marketing campaigns. <i>Main Outputs:</i> (3)3 new businesses created/exhibiting growth after 12 months; (4) 60 businesses assisted to improve performance |
| S3 | BOOST Project (Creative industries support) | Somerset Local Authorities Arts Partnership (c/o Somerset County Council) | £150k | £150k | 03/04/2006 | 30/09/2007 | This project will assist people working in the Creative Sector to become more economically active. The project will work with individuals helping them make the transition into self-employment and for those already in self employment by improving their entrepreneurial skills. It will work closely with other initiatives such as Arts Matrix to ensure that project clients can access technical and developmental professional development opportunities. When these fledgling businesses are ready the project will link them into the mainstream support offered by initiatives such as Creative Gateway and support from Business Link. <i>Main Outputs:</i> (2) 35 people assisted to get a job; (4) 40 businesses assisted to improve performance; (6) 180 people assisted in skills development; |
| S4 | Wimbleball Lake | South West Lakes Trust | £249k | £1.1m | 07/11/2005 | 31/12/2007 | Due to improved facilities at the lakeside this project will encourage new higher spending visitors to Wimbleball and Exmoor, and will provide training for trainers in outdoor activities. It will benefit surrounding rural businesses as a consequence of these developments, and will increase opportunities for joint marketing. <i>Main Output:</i> (2) 20 people assisted to get a job; (4) 8 businesses assisted to improve performance; (6) 338 |
| S5 | rurality.com | Somerset Rural Youth Project | £101.5k | £100k | 04/10/2005 | 30/09/2007 | The rurality.com project will widen the participation of under-skilled or unemployed young people in rural areas by assisting them to access career-enhancing training and employment opportunities offered by partner organisations. <i>Main Outputs:</i> (2) 16 people assisted to get a job; (6) 13 people assisted in skills development; |
| S7 | Somerset Rural Business Support Services (SRBSS) | South Somerset District Council (on behalf of Partnership of District Councils) | £100k | £180k | 01/10/2006 | 31/03/2008 | To provide an agricultural and rural business support programme across the County of Somerset offering: Quality agricultural/rural business guidance and support. Signposting to additional rural business support - Creating access to training, skills and development. Assisting in the creation of rural networks and co-operatives. <i>Main Outputs:</i> (2) 13 people assisted to get a job; (4) 750 businesses assisted to improve performance; (6) 70 people assisted in skills development; |
| S8 | Connecting Rural Somerset | Somerset Broadband Programme (c/o Somerset County Council) | £119.75k | £155k | 22/03/2006 | 31/03/2007 | Part of the existing Somerset Broadband Programme is the Connecting Somerset project, which aims to help businesses make the most of broadband and ICT. This project launches an additional rural focus, hence Connecting Rural Somerset. The project will work with rural businesses and their communities to deliver the business support objectives of Rural Renaissance. <i>Main Outputs:</i> (4) 32 businesses assisted to improve performance; (6) 16 people assisted in skills development; |
| S9 | Somerset AONBs Foodpaths Feasibility Study | AONBs Partnership (c/o Blackdown Hills AONB) | £16.75k | £16.75k | 01/01/2006 | 31/12/2006 | The aim of this project is to assess the opportunities for a Foodpaths programme in Somerset's AONBs through a feasibility study. The Foodpaths Vision is "to develop and market a network of establishments (farms, private homes, quality graded B&B's and produce outlets) providing rural gastronomic and on farm experiences, to be accessible on foot, by bicycle, and on horseback as well as by car, raising the profile of the 3 areas as outstanding living landscapes with thriving communities". <i>Output:</i> 1 feasibility study; |
| S12 | Somerset Waterway Network Feasibility Study | "Sedgemoor in Somerset" Local Strategic Partnership (c/o Sedgemoor DC) | £35k | £30.5k | 03/10/2006 | 31/03/2007 | The project will examine the potential to develop a Somerset Waterway Network in the rural hinterland of Bridgwater and, in doing so, will also contribute to making the case for the construction of a tidal sluice near Bridgwater, thus helping to reduce the significant environmental, social and economic threat of flooding posed by Global Warming. <i>Output:</i> 1 feasibility study |

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| S16 | Tone Mill Feasibility Study | Taunton Deane Borough Council | £15k | £15k | 23/03/2006 | 31/03/2007 | The project will consider the feasibility of the acquisition, restoration and management of the site by a community-based charitable trust. In doing so it is hoped that the future of a significant local industry will be secured, therefore retaining and creating employment, by providing access to the wet finishing machinery. It should also investigate opportunities for other complementary business activities, in particular the potential to establish a creative industries hub on the site, and the creation of an education/heritage facility. <i>Output:</i> 1 feasibility study |
| S17 | Watchet Esplanade Enhancement | West Somerset District Council | £50k | £310k | 19/06/2006 | 30/06/2007 | The Watchet Esplanade Project, along with other phases of Harbour development, will provide an enhanced public realm area that will help to draw visitors, residents and businesses into the town. It will encourage investment in the enhancement and conservation of redundant buildings surrounding the Harbour and will create an area that will retain its status as the focal point of Watchet. <i>Main Output:</i> (4) 20 businesses assisted to improve performance; |
| S19 | Market Towns Tourism project Phase 1 | Somerset Market Towns Forum (c/o Community Council for Somerset) | £15k | £3.5k | 26/05/2006 | 31/03/2007 | This project will consist of a Feasibility Study and an Evaluation. These will both be managed by the SMTF steering group. The Evaluation will be carried out by an independent consultant. A tourism officers advisory panel will meet to provide advice and guidance. |
| S22 | Bath & West Redevelopment Business Case | Royal Bath & West of England Society | up to £40k | £40k | 17/06/2006 | 31/03/2007 | To fund a detailed business study investigating the capital redevelopment of the showground. <i>Output:</i> 1 feasibility study/business plan |
| S23 | Exmoor Rural Skills | Somerset Rural Youth Project | £91.5k | £107k | 01/08/2006 | 30/09/2007 | The emphasis of the rural renaissance investment will be used to make the Exmoor Rural Skills Workshop (ERSW) more effective and sustainable in the long-term by firstly ensuring that its work programmes are appropriate for participants (young people), stakeholders (local employers) and partners (Exmoor National Park Authority etc) and that evidence of need is recorded to determine future developments. Secondly, to design, develop and deliver a full portfolio of accredited training opportunities to enable the project to charge competitive rates for its courses and activities to schools, colleges, youth organisations and training providers etc. <i>Main Outputs:</i> (2) 30 people assisted to get a job; (6) 50 people assisted in skills development; |
| S24 | Active Exmoor | Active Exmoor Partnership (c/o Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership) | £66.565k | £138k | 01/08/2006 | 31/03/2008 | To develop and market a range of activity-based training opportunities across the area, working in collaboration with tourism-related businesses. <i>Main Outputs:</i> (4)76 businesses assisted to improve performance; (6) 35 people assisted in skills development; |
| S25 | Appraisal & Technical Costs | Somerset Rural Renaissance Partnership | £25k | £10k | 16/10/2006 | 31/03/2008 | Provision of technical advice and guidance as part of the Workplace Programme and appraisal and evaluation work for the main Programme. This should help to contribute towards the development of a strong and effective partnership for overall scheme delivery |
| S27 | Building the Network | Somerset Market Towns Forum (c/o Community Council for Somerset) | £74k | £13k | 30/11/2006 | 31/03/2008 | The project intends to extend the network services of the Forum to all market towns and larger villages in Somerset and at the same time to extend the range of services provided by the Forum to members and to groups and individuals involved in community led regeneration of market towns. It will also support collaboration between market towns on specific projects; develop and implement a sustainable funding strategy for the Forum and build on good practice from elsewhere for the benefit of Somerset's market towns. <i>Main Output:</i> (6) 80 people assisted in skills development; |
| S29 | Cutcombe Market | Somerset County Council | £100k | £150k | 19/07/2007 | 31/03/2008 | Funding of phase 1 of a scheme to plan and introduce a mixed use development that contributes to the regeneration of the Cutcombe/Wheddon Cross Area. The objectives of phase 1 are: to assess the feasibility of a mixed use development within the Cutcombe site; to carry out a master planning process for the site including zoning for the Market, workspace, an Interpretation Centre and potential housing; to develop business plans; and to acquire land for the workspace element and the Interpretation Centre. <i>Main Outputs:</i> 1 Feasibility Study/Master plan, 2 Business plans |
| S31 | Wellington Food Town | Taunton Deane Borough Council | £14.8k | | 14/09/2007 | 31/03/2008 | To implement the Wellington Community Plan with a 'local food and produce'-based regeneration strategy that brings about a revitalisation of the town centre and economy, creates a sense of pride and identity amongst its citizens, and delivers significant benefits to its rural hinterland by creating a 'gateway' and strengthening links between all elements of the local food supply chain. <i>Main Outputs:</i> 3) 3 new businesses created/exhibiting growth after 12 months; (4) 70 businesses assisted to improve performance; (6) 20 people assisted in skills development. |