

Devon Strategic Partnership
Strategic Partnership Chairs Group
Meeting 2nd October 2007 **10.30 – 12.30**
at Larkbeare House, Topsham Road Exeter

1. **Present:** James McInnes, Chair, West Devon LSP; Duncan Wood, Chair, Mid Devon LSP; Vaughan Lindsay, Chair, South Hams LSP; Rod Blackshaw, Chair, Teignbridge LSP; Sally Foxhall, Chair, Devon Strategic Partnership; Peter Lacey, Chair, Exeter Vision Partnership (Caroline Rae, Development Officer Devon Strategic Partnership) (Matt Bell Project Manager Community Database Project – for item 7)
2. **Election of chair until next meeting** Sally Foxhall elected
3. **Information sharing from each partnership**
 - a. West Devon – LSP is very community orientated. They have a G10 group, which comprises mayors of major towns plus council leaders and Link Committee Chairs; this feeds into the LSP. The Local Authority drives things forward and funds an LSP coordinator for 3 days a week. There is a resource issue, which they struggle to unblock. The value of the group is in people talking to each other who wouldn't otherwise. They have a new website and newsletter.
 - b. South Hams – functions of the group include information sharing and joint action.
 - c. Teignbridge – value in partnership is that things are more likely to happen because the LSP exists – often issues are not as they appear e.g. LSP was able to solve the shortage of NHS dentists in Teignbridge by realising it was a business problem. Partnership is about added value – what can we do that won't happen otherwise? Teignbridge Strategic Partnership now starting to measure the results of its work. They are working on their 2nd Community Strategy; widespread consultation led to 7 themes, and for each a project group has been established and an action plan is being developed. Each project group has a chair and a coordinating officer provided by a partner agency. They have identified quick wins and medium term projects. One of the 7 themes is communications and a communication and engagement strategy is being developed. They are also reviewing the level of involvement stakeholders have, in order to better target communications to them.
 - d. Mid Devon – LSP has prepared some good documents, such as the Community Strategy but sharing of resources does not really happen. Partnership working is sometimes brokered outside of the LSP which is not very helpful - the LSP can talk and find solutions but has no resources to deliver.
 - e. Exeter – the LSP has recently been bogged down with process, and the question of unitary status has got in the way of moving things forward. However decision expected fairly soon, and the new structure for the LSP has made it more fit for purpose. The meeting agreed that it was appropriate for Exeter to continue to be represented on this group at least until unitary status has been implemented (if the decision

from Govt authorises unitary status); it was recognised by the group that they may want to review membership at some point in the future to consider Torbay and Plymouth, as the group has two roles, one relating to the Devon Strategic Partnership, the other about LSPs working together.

4. **Sustainable Community Strategy/Local Area Agreement update.**
Caroline gave an update of the current situation re the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement
5. **Community Database project update** Matt Bell gave an update of the Community Database project
6. **Resourcing.** The group discussed the problem of resourcing the LSP, both in terms of admin/ support, and funding for projects. Most LSPs are supported by the Local Authorities; which some felt was something that should happen anyway. James McInnes said that in West Devon, district target were not separate from LSP targets; where they can be married up, money can be drawn down. It was necessary to find mechanisms where you can achieve things. It was felt that the new Local Area Agreement could be a threat to local funding accessible by LSPs; and MCTi funding raised expectations but did not always ground blue sky thinking into achievable projects.
7. **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 3rd January 10.30 – 12.30 Larkbeare (TBC)