

Minutes of the LSP Chairs Meeting
13th March 2007

Present: Margeurite Shapland(North Devon LSP), Sally Foxhall and Dennis Bater (West Devon LSP), Gill Wheelwright (Exeter Vision Partnership), Rod Blackshaw (Teignbridge LSP), Eddie Dennis (Mid Devon LSP), Bishop Michael(Devon Strategic Partnership), (Caroline Rae)

Apologies: Peter Lacey (represented by Gill), Penny Dobbin - the group requested a message be sent to Penny wishing her a speedy recovery.

1. **Election of Chair:** Rod Blackshaw. It was agreed that in future the Chair would remain in post until the start of the next meeting, so there was always a Chair of the group.
2. **Minutes of last meeting** accepted
3. **Draft Terms of Reference.** Draft document discussed and some amendments proposed
4. **News from LSPs**
 - a. **Exeter.** (Gill Wheelwright) Work continues towards a new structure, with a task and finish group about to meet to drive this. Exeter City Council is awaiting a decision about unitary status which will have implications for the LSP. They are starting to think about the new Sustainable Community Strategy and priorities. This work may link into the work of the new community engagement and inclusion officer. There is also a need to look at a performance management structure and accountability to the people of Exeter.
 - b. **North Devon/ Torridge.** (Margeurite Shapland) Increasing work with the 9 locality alliances. North Devon revised Community Strategy finished with an action plan. New North Devon and Torridge LSP signed up with both LSPs and Devon County Council; they have agreed terms of reference, with responsibilities outlined etc. The new structure has a delivery board (1st meeting 1st April) and a federation (which will meet 3 times a year). A facilitated workshop in May/ June will produce a joint Community Strategy - a fit for purpose check for North Devon, more work on Torridge priorities, and they would also like to include Devon Strategic Partnership priorities. They would like then to align with the Local Area Agreement priorities so the delivery Board can deliver the North Devon and Torridge local priorities of the Local Area Agreement.
 - c. **Mid Devon.** (Eddie Dennis) Minutes of the LSP now go to all Councillors. There is a concern about how to protect local interests as the agenda gets bigger at county level.
 - d. **Teignbridge.** (Rod Blackshaw)New Sustainable Community Strategy launched November 2006. it identifies 7 broad themes including communications. A Champion for each theme has an

information pack with statistics and evidence etc. It is their role to then come up with what action needs to be taken to meet expectations; they can also prioritise. By mid May an action plan will be in place.

After that they will review structure and membership to see if it is fit for purpose; they will also look at the legitimacy of the chair. There are problems looming for how we all work around resourcing and representation; LSPs are used as consultative bodies more now, and they are not resourced to be able to do this; there is also a question as to how representative they are – they cannot ever be fully inclusive, which raises issues.

Lynn McElheron has been promoted to director – unclear as to the extent of her future involvement with the partnership.

- e. **West Devon** (Dennis Bater/ Sally Foxhall) There is a hope that the partnership will now move beyond policy and strategy to action. It is difficult to quantify what LSPs do due to their constant state of evolution. WDBC will not be writing a corporate plan any more – they will use the community plan as their corporate plan. The new Sustainable Community Strategy is going to print as a working document for consultation. It has 5 chapter theme headings which are Economy, Environment, Housing, Access to Services and Community Wellbeing. It also has some priorities for action which the West Devon LSP will need to pick up and address in the coming year, following further clarification by stakeholders; these include social cohesion, community engagement, community forum, alcohol, bullying in schools, and rural sustainable living.
- f. **Devon Strategic Partnership.** (Bishop Michael) The main group of the partnership is now renamed the DSP Partnership Board. The challenges facing the new structure were around communication between groups, achieving buy in and sustaining it. Bishop Michael confirmed that he would be standing down as Chair of the partnership in August at the end of a 5 year term, and a process is being developed to elect a replacement.

5. Sustainable Community Strategy/ Local Area Agreement

(Caroline/ John Smith) an update was given as to the progress of these.

- a. The Sustainable Community Strategy draft evidence base is out for consultation, and there is a public consultation on issues and vision going on at the moment.
- b. The current Local Area Agreement has gone through its half yearly performance monitoring and been given an amber rating. The refreshed Local Area Agreement of 2007/8 will only incorporate new mandatory outcomes
- c. The new 2008 Local Area Agreement is now on a statutory footing with a Bill going through Parliament. The Govt are clear that it should be the way to deliver the Sustainable Community Strategy. It signals a move towards a different kind of

performance management regime. Currently over 1200 indicators are reported on; Govt are now saying there will be a maximum of 200 with an area based performance framework. 35 indicators will have to be in the Local Area Agreement, we are proposing to say which they should be. The Bill also brings in the duty to cooperate. The final change is that currently funding streams are linked to mandatory outcome. This has now been decoupled, so the new Local Area Agreement will have funding streams with no mandatory outcomes linked to them. This means we have to be very robust about the priorities for Devon. It was agreed that the Local Area Agreement indicators would be sent to LSPs as soon as it was possible to do so, as strength is added to the Local Area Agreement local priorities if they meet district LSP priorities too.

6. Next steps for this group

- a. TOR to be amended then circulated
- b. It was agreed that the agenda for each meeting would be discussed with the Chair prior to being circulated. Agendas may include items that have come from other partnership tables of the DSP

7. **AOB** Sally told the group that now Dennis Bater had been elected as Chair to West Devon LSP, this would be her last meeting. The Chair thanked Sally for her valuable contribution to the group over the years.

8. DONM

Tuesday 12th June 10.30 – 12.30 Larkbeare House, Topsham Road, Exeter

Tuesday 2nd October 10.30 – 12.30 Larkbeare House, Topsham Road, Exeter