

**Devon Strategic Partnership Conference**  
**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007**  
**At the Loop Centre in Exeter**

**Conference report**

**1) Context**

- a) Since 2001 there have been Devon Strategic Partnership conferences held that provided an opportunity for a wider group of people to contribute to the DSP and help with prioritisation and direction.
- b) The last conference was held in July 2004 to coincide with the launch of the current Community Strategy for Devon.
- c) The structure of the Devon Strategic Partnership has been revised following consultation, and the conference has been re-formed as an integral part of the system, providing opportunity for participation in informing the vision and direction of the partnership and offering scrutiny of performance. This is the first conference within the new structure, and it is planned to hold them every 6 months to give continuity to the process.
- d) This conference – 104 attended, and the day was facilitated by Hywel Lloyd and Sue Goss from OPM.

**2) Planned outcomes for the day**

- a) To introduce and work as the Devon Conference.
- b) To review the headline trends and messages for Devon
- c) To consider the development of the vision and objectives required for the Sustainable Community Strategy for Devon.
- d) To explore what needs to happen to deliver this vision and these objectives.
- e) To note the proposed consultation timetable for the SCS

**3) Activities and results**

- a) **Morning session** During the morning discussion was in mixed tables of approximately 8 people, who each considered the development of a vision for Devon as part of the new Sustainable Community Strategy, using the existing vision as a base. They were then asked to consider a given theme, recognising it was not necessarily their speciality, and to look at how well

***The outcomes for Devon***

The data sets the context for the challenges and opportunities for Devon. Participants sat in mixed tables. Each table was asked to consider the vision for Devon, theme objectives and cross cutting issues.

***i) The vision for Devon***

The transcription of the detailed flipcharts is attached



Vision Flip Charts

but it was summed up by Sue Goss from OPM as follows:

Current Vision (in 2004 Community Strategy) is too safe, it needs to be more dynamic, creative, vibrant, thrilling

Want to move from conserve to create

Stronger emphasis on environment – not cherishing, more sustainability. This area can be exciting

Vision needs to be more unique to Devon

Participation needs to rise –needs people to be more involved in their community

The vision needs to be more welcoming, extolling Devon's virtues

ii) **Theme objectives.** Flip chart 'verbatim' transcriptions are attached;



Theme Objectives

key points for taking forward highlighted in feedback included:

- (1) **Environment** There is a mixed picture re progress in the environment theme. There are potentially very wide benefits from action in the environmental sector that need to be progressed
- (2) **Social Inclusion & Housing** There is a need to focus on people more – to listen better, and to design action around people's lifestyle. Poverty is more serious now, so there is a need to do more hard edged stuff
- (3) **Children and Young People** Challenges have not yet been met as they are very long term – need to make challenges more measurable. We should be asking Children and Young People what they think and ensuring we orient service provision around their reflection of need
- (4) **Economy** 'Agency' action has improved; other areas are still difficult. We should be harnessing technological change and seek to make Devon a Centre of Excellence for environmental technology. Need to make linkages with rural migrant workers
- (5) **Health and Wellbeing** There is still plenty to do. We need to make the most of everyone's contribution to Health and Wellbeing –it is much bigger than public provision. We need to look at infrastructure issues, seeing Devon as a network of towns and hamlets.
- (6) **Safer Devon** Key issues include fear of crime, underreporting of crime, alcohol abuse and hate crime.

iii) **Cross cutting issues Flip charts showing** Cross cutting issues have been transcribed



cross cutting issues

'verbatim'. And are attached  
feedback include:

Issues highlighted by individuals during

- (1) Equality
- (2) Transport – not just public transport
- (3) Community cohesion
- (4) NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) as an underclass
- (5) Resources –long term
- (6) Disengagement between different sectors of society e.g. young and old.

## b) **Afternoon session**

### **Successful delivery**

This session focussed upon the realisation of some of the opportunities/outcomes.

Participants came together by theme interest. Each theme group was asked to consider the successful delivery of the objectives identified before lunch.

In light of the objectives what actions do the group consider

- i) Need to continue?
- ii) Need to start?
- iii) Need to stop?



afternoon session

The 'verbatim' transcription of the flipcharts relating to this are attached

### **Plenary feedback**

A “theme” champion was asked to summarise the main headline actions/ messages identified from the theme table(s):

- i) **Environment**
  - (1) It's very urgent now that we take action
  - (2) We need to scale up our response to climate change
  - (3) Priorities: influencing individuals and domestic energy consumption, and business
  - (4) Commission a local climate change impacts study
  - (5) Encourage exemplars of good practice
  - (6) Promote action using the environment as an economic driver
  - (7) Develop a cross cutting test for all themes
- ii) **Social Inclusion including Housing**
  - (1) Affordable housing and common Ground work – continue the actions and develop them further
  - (2) Light a fire under participation. How do we actively engage the most excluded to challenge prejudice?
  - (3) Participation and engagement across the board including community planning
  - (4) Sort out the governance of Social Inclusion/ Strong Communities theme group
- iii) **Health and Wellbeing**
  - (1) Ensure investment patterns follow the map of inequalities
  - (2) How do you incentivise volunteering? It is opportunistic so important not to be to 'tidy minded' in planning.
  - (3) Reinforcing front line multi disciplinary teams – listening, communicating, sharing
- iv) **Economy (2 groups)**
  - (1) Link between employees, business and formal education system – issue to be worked on
  - (2) Role of public sector as an employer
  - (3) Issues around clarity. Work life balance is good in Devon – ow do we express it, sell it, work with it? Links to economy as an environmental driver
  - (4) Culture of entrepreneurialism, so need a clear set of actions
  - (5) Economic opportunities from low carbon agenda are very diverse and great; need to develop them.
- v) **Safer**
  - (1) The world has moved on and the opportunity now is for new objectives with all partners agreement. Need shared objectives in the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement
  - (2) Agreed partner prioritisation
  - (3) Need to impact fear of crime, with Safer Devon Partnership tackling media perception.
  - (4) Alcohol is a big issue, not recognised as important enough
- vi) **Children and Young People**
  - (1) Listening to Children and Young People, addressing their views and acting upon them
  - (2) Real development on youth focussed community development
  - (3) Consultations on the Children's Trust
  - (4) Proper integration of resources and strategy needed.

#### 4) Partnership next steps and summary

This session, led by Bishop Michael, covered the consultation process and the next steps for the Conference and DSP.

##### a. The next steps for the new structure of the Devon Strategic Partnership

- Before we look at the new structure we need to remind ourselves why we have undergone this lengthy and sometimes painful period of restructuring:
  - The old structure comprised concentric circles. Under this structure it had achieved much – for instance, action has been taken in over 90% of actions in the 2004 Community Strategy that the Devon Strategic Partnership had said it would progress itself. However, since 2004 the conference has become dormant and the Executive had become too big to be very efficient

- We needed a structure that was fit for purpose and better able to deliver the strategic leadership, the vision and the delivery aspects of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement
- The resulting structure that we have arrived at with the help of OPM is a series of partnership tables, each one with a specific role and limited membership. We feel it is vital that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the DSP in the most appropriate way. A diagram showing the structure is included in your packs, but it must be noted that the way some of the different 'tables' will relate to each other will become clearer as the groups are developed and start to work together. The new structure briefly consists of:
  - The conference – this group will meet twice a year and is responsible for influencing the priorities and work of the DSP and reviewing the work done
  - The Devon Strategic Partnership (meets quarterly)- largely comprising elected members, this group is responsible for upholding the Vision and giving strategic direction
  - The Delivery Board – responsible for the overall delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement.
  - The Strategic Partnership Chairs group (meets quarterly)– maximising opportunities for joined up working by LSPs in Devon
  - 4 theme areas responsible for delivery, linked to the Local Area Agreement. The 4<sup>th</sup> block, the Strong Sustainable group, will work towards achieving a balance in our actions between social economic and environmental sustainability, but will have a lighter touch on delivery, thereby allowing groups such as the Devon Economic Partnership to play their full role in the County
  - Networks and task groups such as ESSG, and Devon Rural Network will continue to play an important role in the new structure, considering and taking action on interests relating to particular aspects of life in Devon.
- The programme over the next six months is to set up all these groups if they have not existed before, to establish terms of reference for them, and for the Devon Strategic Partnership as a whole to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy for Devon and to have agreed in principle the resulting Local Area Agreement.
- The other aspect that has to be addressed this summer is that of succession planning. My 5 year term of office as Chair of the Devon Strategic Partnership comes to an end in the summer; as the Devon Strategic Partnership conference you will have a role in choosing my successor.

**b. The process of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement**

- The Sustainable Community Strategy is being developed in four phases:
  - The evaluation of the existing Community Strategy to ensure those parts still relevant are not lost but carried forward into the new Sustainable Community Strategy. This is complete and available to view on the DSP website ([www.devonsp.org.uk](http://www.devonsp.org.uk))
  - The Evidence Base - a web-based resource demonstrating the issues facing Devon. A draft for consultation is available to view on the website: we recognise this is not fully complete, but with your help we aim to make it as comprehensive as possible. The benefit of a web based resource is that it can be expanded and updated easily.
  - Public consultation of issues and the development of a vision for Devon. Between now and April a variety of work will be undertaken to consult on the key issues for Devon and to continue the work done here today on the development of a vision. This work includes a large survey, some face to face consultation, and a review of consultation and visioning already done in Devon.
  - The Strategy and Action Plan. The Devon Strategic Partnership will agree its Sustainable Community Strategy in July of this year. The action plan for the strategy will form part of the next Devon Local Area Agreement.
- **How to get involved:**

- Look on the website and comment on the evidence base by 30<sup>th</sup> March
- Come to the next conference 9<sup>th</sup> October – although I will no longer be Chair, I look forward to being part of the day to review what we have achieved together over the next months.
- Fill in the feedback form in your packs with your suggestions and comments