

**Devon Strategic Partnership Delivery Board
Meeting 2nd August 2007**

Agenda Item 8 – withdrawal of DEFRA RSCP funding

Recommendation

- That the Delivery Board note the planned withdrawal of the RSCP fund next year and decide whether it wishes to write to DEFRA/ refer to DSP Partnership Board or not take action at this time.

Withdrawal of RSCP funding

Defra's Rural Social & Community Programme (RSCP), managed by Devon Rural Network, was launched in Summer 2005 as a pilot programme, with delivery up to March 2008. The investment into Devon was over £840,000. The programme is intended to help rural communities shape and enhance their own futures. Emphasis is placed on meeting the needs of those at greatest risk of social exclusion in a rural context, with delivery embedded in the voluntary and community sector. Priorities and key actions were identified in Devon by a broad range of local partners. It is planned to terminate it in 2008 subject to CSR although DEFRA may be looking at other ways to provide some funding for Community Council of Devon and enabling of affordable housing. Devon Rural Network is very concerned that a lot of other projects that benefit rural areas may be lost without this funding continuing.

Work in Devon supported by the RSCP includes

1. Devon Rural Housing Enablers
2. Parish Plan Grants
3. Rural Social Inclusion Programme
4. Rural Community Buildings
5. Rural Outreach Learning Initiative
6. Rural Carers Project
7. Rural Community Enterprise
8. Community Banking
9. Exmoor Rural Housing Enabler
10. Support for Parish and Town Councils
11. NASP
12. Rural Volunteering
13. Equality & Diversity - Excluded People
14. Equality & Diversity – Gender
15. Community Planning Database

Devon Rural Network are looking for letters of support / lobbying:

“The loss of RSCP funding will be very detrimental to not only the communities in Devon but also those who work on the individual projects. Please take this information to your boards and partnerships so we can get the message out as far across Devon as possible. Any support is much appreciated.”