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Devon Strategic Partnership Delivery Board Meeting 2nd August 2007 Larkbeare House, Exeter

Minutes

Present: Bob Spencer, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary (Chair)
Paul Young, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue
Nicola Bulbeck, Teignbridge District Council
Philip Bostock, Exeter City Council
David Incoll, West Devon Borough and South Hams District Councils
Paul Sadler, Environment Agency (for Martin Weiler)
John Smith, Devon County Council (for Phil Norrey)
Phil Collins, Natural England
Chris Roberts, LSC
Carl Budden (permanent replacement for Sue Brownlow) South West RDA and
Lyn Del-Greco, South West RDA
John Van De Laarschot, Torridge District Council
Karen O'Donnell, GOSW
Carolyn Webster, Jobcentre Plus (for Phil Weeks)
Peter Hancock, Mid Devon District Council
(Caroline Rae, DCC, Devon Strategic Partnership)
(Sara Cretney, DCC, Local Area Agreement –to support items 5&6)
(Andrew Lightfoot, Devon/ Team Devon– to support item 4)

Absences: John Sunderland, North Devon District Council
Nick Atkinson, Dartmoor National Park Authority
Kevin Snee, Devon PCT
Mark Williams, East Devon District Council
Steve Hindley, Midas Group
Elizabeth Raikes, Torbay Council
Carole Burgoyne, Plymouth City Council

1. **Notes of Last meeting** - approved

2. **Matters arising:**

a. **Imposition of Green Planning Standards.** Karen O'Donnell brought an answer to the query about whether Local Authorities had the ability to impose green standards when granting planning permission, but said that the situation was not completely clear. The proposal is that these standards will be imposed via the Building Regulations, so they will be mandatory on new houses once in force, but not before. Some LPAs are trying to use the planning system to move towards them in the meantime. There may well be knock-on effects on other aspects of development projects, and larger projects may start before they are in force, but continue afterwards. So it must be a good idea to anticipate them; however GOSW would be reluctant to encourage them to prejudge or duplicate the Building Regulations in detail. There was no firm date for introduction of Building Regulations yet.

3. **Update from other partnership tables:**

a. **DSP Partnership Board/ Conference/ Theme groups** The Delivery Board noted paras 1-3 of the report.

b. **Devon Futures** - recommendations to Delivery Board re Transport were discussed.

1. It was welcomed as a good piece of work, although fast ferries were not considered particularly relevant, and it was considered that strategic drivers

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other than CO2 (if that is the best 'green' indicator) must also be considered e.g. economic and social. A range of solutions was important

2. It was agreed that all partners would forward to Caroline their organisation's Green Travel Plan for collation; this could add detail to the information about overall 'green' measures that was provided earlier. Circulation of this could provide transferable ideas.
 3. The concept of collaborating across services including buildings and estate was considered to have great potential. Several partners were already undertaking a review of estate; others such as Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue have underutilised buildings in many small communities. It was noted there is a lack of a forum to have a dialogue about collaboration. It was also suggested a joint review of assets perhaps in one area may be a good way forward. The recent Devon Renaissance work should be possibly taken into consideration, as should the role of home working, the recent Sowton Industrial Estate Joint Green Travel Plan, and Devon County Council's work as part of a pilot following the Quirke report about community ownership of assets.
 4. It was therefore agreed to facilitate a workshop to allow an extended conversation about this, with appropriate people from each partner organisation to explore the possibility of collaboration. Caroline to organise.
4. **2012 Olympics.** Paper was introduced by Andrew Lightfoot from Team Devon. The group noted the report and discussed its contents. They welcomed the activity planned, but stressed it was important to ensure there was clarity of vision and objectives, with a focus on the legacy of the games; they recognised that the legacy was linked to the buy in achieved. David Incoll said he would like to see District Councils more involved; Andrew Lightfoot said Team Devon would welcome their increased involvement. Re a particular proposal around Healthy Businesses, the LSC was already planning to extend the Healthy Schools scheme to Colleges and Chris Roberts would investigate whether this could be extended further. Recommendation 2 of the paper - it was considered that much of what was discussed would link closely with the Delivery Board's future core business, and there were many interdependencies. It was agreed that Andrew would come back to the Delivery Board later in the year once more work had been done and a plan had been developed.
5. **Progress report on Sustainable Community Strategy/ Local Area Agreement .** Paper was introduced by John Smith (DCC).
- a. **Prioritisation process** John confirmed that the prioritisation process was about prioritising what is in the evidence base, and this process included some testing of the priorities with the public. This was not another consultation phase. David Incoll recognised this but requested Sherford be included in the priorities if the Local Area Agreement or Multi area Agreement was a way of bringing money to Devon that could help offset the large sums needed by Highways Agency for Sherford. Philip Bostock said there was a similar problem in Cranbrook. It was not clear whether the Sustainable Community Strategy was the best place to address this issue, but it was agreed that a change to the sub text of priority 13 could cover housing growth.
 - b. **Plans for the next period.** The prioritisation would be finalised on 31st August by the Task and Finish Group. A report would come to the Delivery Board on 7th September prior to the DSP Partnership Board on 19th September and the Conference on 9th October. The next stage is to turn priorities to actions and identify funding streams. We do not yet know all the components of the Local Area Agreement but 4.2 of the report proposed actions that can be taken even though we do not have all the information. This was agreed.
 - c. **Possible Exeter Unitary Status.** A discussion was held about the implications to the Local Area Agreement of the decision about Exeter's unitary status not being finalised. Devon's current Local Area Agreement finishes in March 2008. If Exeter achieves unitary status from 2009 it would be expected to have its own Local Area

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Agreement. It would be extremely difficult to negotiate an Local Area Agreement for Devon by March 2008 that included plans for how part of it could be devolved just 9-10 months later. This difficulty would involve many partners. Bob Spencer said that that he would be concerned if there is any delay to the progression of work that is required and that inertia could be equally damaging. He proposed proceeding but preparing for either option; this could duplicate effort initially but it must be of benefit in the long run. Karen O'Donnell endorsed this, saying it was critical that momentum wasn't lost, and that GOSW have a wish to complete agreement by March '08 not June '08 as Central Govt have implied. Outside of the central discussions there may need to be parallel work on what would happen if Exeter separate – an MAA may be a useful way forward. It was suggested that the proposed resource hub could be a way of providing the extra effort required. It was agreed to press forward now to agreement of an Local Area Agreement by March 2008.

- d. **Communications Plan** This was approved. The group were keen to stress the importance of Paragraph 5 – that it is essential that Delivery Board members manage the dissemination of key messages and communication within their own organisations. John Smith noted that Devon County Council currently fund the core resource to the Devon Strategic Partnership / Local Area Agreement. David Incoll suggested the SW Centre of Excellence may have funding available. Caroline to investigate. LSC may have small amount of funding for communications.

6. **Developing and delivering the 2008-11 Local Area Agreement - a Programme Management approach.** The paper was introduced by John Smith (DCC). In this changing landscape the only way to deliver robustly is with a programme management approach, and the paper showed how we can do that. The group endorsed the approach recommended in the paper and agreed in principle to the formation of a resource hub. The group were asked to inform relevant people in their organisations so that discussions on practicalities could be held very shortly.
7. **Sub National Review.** Karen O'Donnell summarised the key points from the Govt's recently published sub national review (Review of sub national economic development and regeneration).
8. **Withdrawal of RSCP funding.** It was agreed to pass this to the DSP Partnership Board offering support for a letter to be sent to Govt as the loss of this funding (and the BCU Commanders' fund) will impact rural areas, but only if there was a clear effect on outcomes, rather than just the inputs which the briefing currently focussed on.
9. **Digital Switchover** Phil Norrey had asked this be mentioned for the group to consider any consequences that the Delivery Board needed to address. It was agreed that there were likely to be, but it was currently to have a watching brief, and should return to the agenda in 4 months' time.
10. **AOB** Paul Sadler urged the group to disseminate the message about signing up to Flood Warnings Direct – it was suggested this might be best achieved through public service announcements on the television.

11. Dates of Next Meetings.

7 th September	2.00 – 4.00	SHDC, the Cary Room, Follaton House, Totnes
4 th October	2.00 -4.00	venue tbc (offers?)**
9 th November	10.30- 12.30*	Environment Agency Exminster
5 th December	2.00 – 4.00	Devon PCT, Dean Clarke House, Exeter

* please note time – incorrectly printed in agenda

** offers of a venue for this meeting to Caroline please