

Devon Strategic Partnership Delivery Board
7 September 2007

Agenda Item 6: Locality-Based Performance Framework and Self-Assessment Project

Recommendation:

- a. **That the Delivery Board note this project, in particular the proposed “Affordable Housing” pilot, and recognise the link with the wider Sustainable Community Strategy and LAA development work, and**
- b. **incorporate this project into the DSP work programme and receive a further progress report at the meeting scheduled for 17 December 2007**

1. Background

The White Paper *“Strong and Prosperous Communities”* aims to give councils and their partners greater flexibility to respond to the needs of local communities; to do this requires not only partners to sign up to joint plans but that they develop new ways of working that are inclusive and mutually supportive.

A locality-based performance management and self assessment framework is the cornerstone of making this happen. It’s about collaborative working, developing a shared and multi-layered approach to planning and performance management. It emphasises the key responsibilities of understanding the needs of Devon’s communities, making choices about priorities, agreeing objectives, taking actions to achieve them, and monitoring and evaluating performance to ensure it is having the desired impact. In doing so, identifying opportunities for improvement and consequently delivering better public services.

In order to make this happen for Devon, a project has been commissioned through the Devon Improvement Programme (DIP) to develop a self-assessment framework. The first step towards this is to work on a pilot to test a self-assessment methodology. After discussions with district council Chief Executives, it is proposed that “Affordable Housing” is taken as the pilot theme – see section 5 for further details.

2. What will the self-assessment framework look like?

The framework will:

- be inclusive and forward looking;
- draw together management information across organisational boundaries;
- create a multi-organisational self assessment methodology;
- assess risk, collective capacity and capability;
- embrace a form of peer challenge and review.

Ultimately, this framework (building upon the performance management systems already in place) will support the delivery of countywide priorities and targets within Devon’s Sustainable Community Strategy which will be delivered through the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and support the delivery of priorities and targets at a more local level. Also, it will anticipate the transition from CPA to CAA. This is one of two Devon Improvement Programme (DIP) projects and their vital links with the wider Community Strategy/LAA work are outlined on the attached diagram.

3. Benefits

Ultimately, the project will contribute towards improved local service delivery by:

- improved alignment of partnership activity at ‘strategic’ and ‘local’ levels;
- ensuring that countywide and local priorities are set which reflect the needs of Devon’s communities;
- more efficient use of our resources and capacity to deliver our priorities;
- evaluating the impact of our actions and identifying risks through self-assessment and citizen input;
- supporting each other to achieve our shared aim of making life better for local people;
- this is essential preparation in advance of the new CAA process in 2009;
- developing a new performance framework will put us ahead of the game, and

- successful work in this area may result in a 'lighter-touch' inspection approach.

4. "Affordable housing" pilot

Why choose "Affordable Housing"? We needed a cross-cutting theme where there is already interest in learning and further development. Teignbridge, South Hams and West Devon Chief Executives are keen to participate on the basis that the district officer time commitment will not be too onerous. It is about testing a methodology that with fine-tuning, can be rolled out more widely and the learnings will feed into the preparations for the new LAA in 2008 and CAA in 2009.

5. Key Project Milestones

KEY MILESTONES and DRAFT TIMETABLE 2007-08	By when
Self Assessment (inc. Risk) framework agreed	early Oct 07
"Affordable Housing" pilot scoping completed, including identification of management information and key participants	mid Nov 07
Self Assessment Pilot undertaken through series of facilitated workshops late Dec 07 – end Feb 08	end Feb 08
External 'peer challenge and review' validate Self Assessment findings and action plan	end Feb 08
Self Assessment summary report and action plan produced	end Feb 08
Outcome of Pilot and recommendations to participating Chief Executives and partner organisations and <i>DSP Delivery Board</i> for approval	early Mar 08
Overall 'Devon Strategic Partnership' approach to locality-based performance/self-assessment framework agreed	end Mar 08
Evaluation of pilot: learnings and areas of good practice shared across wider Devon partnerships through a series of workshops March onwards	Mar 08 onwards
Learnings incorporated into LAA and CAA preparations	end Apr 08

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