

Devon Strategic Partnership Delivery Board
Meeting 11th March 2009
West Devon Borough Council Offices, Kilworthy Park, Tavistock

Minutes

Present: Jo Tennant, Devon and Cornwall Police (Chair)
Phil Norrey, Devon County Council
Sally Foxhall – Chair of Devon Strategic Partnership
Karen O'Donnell, GOSW
Steve Pitcher, North Devon District Council
Bindu Arjoon, Exeter City Council
Kevin Snee, Devon PCT (left during Item 8)
Peter Smith, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue
David Incoll, West Devon Borough and South Hams District Councils
Karen Chapman, Job Centre Plus
Martin Weiler, Environment Agency
Elizabeth Raikes (Torbay Council);
Nicola Bulbeck (Teignbridge District Council)
Jan Shadbolt (Mid Devon District Council)
Andrew Southall (SWRDA);
Martin Green (Audit Commission)
Alistair Macintosh, Devon Consortium (representing the VCS)
(Caroline Rae, DCC, Devon Strategic Partnership Development Officer)
(Sara Cretney, DCC, Local Area Agreement Development Officer)
(Chris Phillips, Principal Finance Manager, DCC, supporting item 7)
(Richard Scott, senior analyst seconded to Devon Strategic Partnership Resource Hub from Devon and Cornwall Police -observing)

1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Karen Kay, Plymouth City Council; Chris France (DNPA); John Peart, (LSC).

2) Minutes of last meeting Minutes approved.

3) Action List/ Matters Arising:

- a) Joint Declaration of Equality.** Caroline to draw up a list of key organisations not yet signed up. Jo then will write to encourage them to do so.
- b) Economic Downturn.** A brief update paper from Rob Hetherington, Head of Economic Analysis at Devon County Council, was tabled. Phil Norrey is the Local Authority representative on the RETG mentioned in the paper. After discussion, it was felt that whilst it was too early to commission a major piece of work and draw conclusions about the long term effects of the downturn, it would be helpful if a quarterly report could capture information about what is happening in Devon's economy in more detail, particularly looking at emerging patterns and identifying geographical 'hotspots'. It was felt that the recent CLG report was unhelpful and regular reporting using consistent data would help a clear picture to emerge. JobCentrePlus have just recruited a person to collect and analyse data; Karen Chapman would be happy for him to work with Rob on the work needed. It was agreed that Phil Norrey would talk to the public sector resilience sub group of the RETG on 16th March to get their advice about the work that would be useful to both Devon Strategic Partnership and Devon and on a broader sphere. He would then email that around the DSP Delivery Board before the next meeting so work could get underway without delay. Finally, with regard to the Local Area Agreement and economic downturn it was noted that there is now a real recognition by Govt that they need to be flexible, and that they will be prepared to negotiate re the economic downturn in the fullness of time.

- c) **Sustainable Community Strategy champions.** At the last meeting of the DSP Partnership Board, Jo Tennant spoke to a paper about this; the Board welcomed the idea in principle, but deferred the item to be reconsidered at another meeting. This decision, together with the fact that discussions are taking place and planned with theme group chairs and leads, which may impact on the role of the champions, meant that it was therefore agreed to defer the implementation of champions on the DSP Delivery Board temporarily.
 - d) all other actions completed / ongoing/ on the agenda
- 4) **Devon Strategic Partnership update.** A paper was tabled containing several update items:
- a) Agreement between Devon Strategic Partnership and major theme partnerships. It was agreed that a meeting would be convened between the chairs of the Devon Strategic Partnership, DSP Delivery Board, chairs of the major theme partnerships, and relevant theme leads in order to help facilitate this process; Caroline to arrange.
 - b) Business representation. Steve Hindley, Chair of the Midas Group, has stood down from the group, as other commitments have made it difficult to attend meetings. It was agreed that Jeremy Filmer Bennett, Chief Executive of Devon and Cornwall Business Council would be approached to replace him. Action Andrew Southall. Martin Weiler noted that the other sector the group may wish to include was the utilities sector as they are very important in the work of the partnership and not currently represented. After some discussion it was agreed to consider this further outside of the meeting.
 - c) Minutes of meetings of Devon Futures and DSP Partnership Board were noted.
 - d) It was noted that a small group of the Healthier and Stronger Communities Partnership would hold its first meeting on 12th March. Alistair Mackintosh welcomed this and urged that they agree a date for the first full partnership meeting soon.
 - e) Devon Strategic Partnership Resource hub. Richard Scott, a senior analyst seconded to the hub from the police, introduced himself.
- 5) **Sustainable Community Strategy update.** A paper was tabled containing several update items:
- a) A spreadsheet was tabled identifying baseline data sources for the Sustainable Community Strategy outcomes, and potential gaps between what the Local Area Agreement is aiming to deliver and the Sustainable Community Strategy. There was discussion about what the outcomes (and the gaps in action relating to those outcomes) meant to residents, and how they were perceived. David Incoll requested that the satisfaction survey be brought to the next meeting. It was agreed to action out a piece of work about perception surveys. Martin Green offered to provide some information about this.
 - b) Other updates were noted.
- 6) **Local Area Agreement refresh**
- a) The forthcoming refresh of the Local Area Agreement will contain only small modifications. The refresh document will go to Devon County Council Executive on 27th March; this meeting is an opportunity for the DSP Delivery Board to sign it off. In the refresh document presented, some NIs were ready to go to the Secretary of State, some still had no baselines identified, and some NIs were being changed to from national to local indicators.
 - b) A concern was raised about the fact that the payment of performance reward grant was linked to the achievement of all agreed Local Area Agreement targets collectively, not individually. Devon has concern over some of these, especially those relating to NEETs and teenage pregnancy; a lot of work is happening in these areas, but achieving a nationally set reduction on already low percentages that exist in Devon would be difficult. In addition a 14 month delay in data on teenage pregnancies coming forward means that the work being done during the course of the Local Area Agreement may not be reflected in the data until after it concludes. If targets are not achieved, then this would affect the performance reward grant. The DSP Delivery Board therefore expressed a wish that Devon County Council Executive request that Govt consider removing these targets from

being 'locked into' the performance reward grant. The DSP were clear that if this was not possible the LAA should be presented for sign off with these NIs included.

- c) Steve Pitcher requested that the rationale behind LAA 27 be circulated.
- d) Approval of the refresh on behalf of the DSP Delivery Board was delegated to Jo Tennant and Phil Norrey as agreed at the last meeting.

7) Local Area Agreement Finance

- a) Chris Phillips, Principal Finance Manager for Devon County Council presented a paper about Local Area Agreement financing. It was recognised that there had not yet been an opportunity to test the accuracy of the data presented; also that some of the entries were aspirational e.g. LAAs 19 and 22 (capital investment in employment sites). It was also noted that there was an issue of consistency between what was coming from mainstream budgets and what money is additional. Partnerships working in theme areas could add detail.
- b) The linking of financial data with information about the impact on different geographic areas would be useful - to see how the money is being targeted geographically.
- c) Chris will do further work.

8) LPSA2

- a) Phil Norrey introduced this item and confirmed that Devon County Council receives this grant and makes the final decisions about its allocation. This year there has been a clear decision that LPSA2 will be kept outside of the mainstream budgeting. In terms of allocation, there is a need to take several things in to account:
 - i) Spend should further the aims of the Sustainable Community Strategy
 - ii) Money should only be allocated where there is an exit strategy
 - iii) Spend should take into consideration the fact that many people have worked extremely hard to achieve reward grants in their area of work. It is important that they see some reward for that work.
 - iv) Some decisions need to be taken earlier than others. It is important not to rush the process but some decisions will need to be taken before the end of the financial year, when Devon County Council Executive meets on 27th March.
 - v) Capital and revenue split must match the balance of receipts.
- b) David Incoll made a request for Healthy Walking programme to be considered for funding; this expires at the end of the financial year
- c) Alistair Macintosh made a request for significant funding of at least £734K and up to £1m for projects relating to Strong and Inclusive Communities projects that are awaiting funding, including Community Development and Engagement Strategy, Support for Village Halls/Community Associations (Accessible Services), Service User Engagement, VCS Representation, Building VCS Capacity (including tendering/commissioning issues) and Service User Engagement; these meet a number of other key LAA priorities including LAA2, 9, 10, 15, 30 and 34 as well as LAA 16. Fuller details would be sent to Sara/Caroline after the meeting. The DSP Delivery Board noted this request and supported it in principle, particularly as it contributed to what the DSP were trying to achieve. They recognised though that the final decision rested with DCC Executive.
- d) It was agreed that to take this forward all comments/ requests should be sent to Sara Cretney, identifying those that need to be considered at the 27th March meeting of the Devon County Council Executive. Papers for the 27th meeting needed to be finalised a week before.
- e) There were no objections in principle to the proposals tabled as part of the papers for this item.

9) CAA

- a) Martin Green advised that the final framework for CAA had been published. The scoring system for the organisational assessment had changed in the final framework as a result of the consultation.
- b) Martin was pleased to see the mapping exercise of how far the Sustainable Community Strategy was being met by the Local Area Agreement; Audit Commission had carried out a similar exercise and got similar results. Martin would like to attend most meetings of DSP Delivery Board to help build an open dialogue between Audit Commission and the

DSP Delivery Board, and in July will bring a quarterly review. This would be a significant item on the 9th July agenda.

- c) Referring to the possible tension between Audit Commission and GOSW demands as per the minutes of the last meeting, Martin acknowledged the concern but could not allay fears. He doesn't expect in practice there will be any problems, but if for instance targets are not challenging enough Audit Commission will expect to be able to highlight that under CAA.

10) AOB

- a) Steve Pitcher asked whether HCA should be invited to attend the DSP Delivery Board. It was agreed that Phil Norrey would approach Colin Molton, with a view to him attending when there was a significant item on the agenda relating to housing. In addition HCA want to hold 'the Single Conversation' with Local Authorities. It was agreed it may be better if this included other partners too, perhaps as a sub group of the DSP Delivery Board. Phil will liaise with Colin Molton.
- b) Alistair Macintosh confirmed that he plans to prepare a paper for a substantive agenda item to the DSP Delivery Board meeting in July about the Voluntary and Community Sector in the context of the Devon Strategic Partnership.

11) DONM

- a) 29th April 2009 10-12pm - Room B, Somerset House, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service HQ, Clyst St George (**list of attendees one week beforehand to sarah.mupinyuri@devon.gov.uk to allow security passes to be prepared**)
- b) 9th July 2009 10-12pm - Conference Room, Job Centre Plus, Pynes Hill Court, Exeter
- c) 8th Sept 2009 2-4pm - Kilworthy Park, West Devon, Tavistock
- d) 12th Nov 2009 2-4pm - Mid Devon District Council Offices
- e) 14th Jan 2010 2-4pm - Conference Room, Job Centre Plus, Pynes Hill Court, Exeter

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION	WHO	HOW REPORT?
3a	List organisations not yet signed up to the Joint Declaration for Equality Write to encourage signature	Caroline Jo Tennant	
3b	Seek RETG advice about the work that would be useful to both Devon Strategic Partnership and Devon and on a broader sphere. Quarterly report that captures information about what is happening in Devon's economy in more detail, particularly looking at emerging patterns and identifying geographical	Phil Rob Hetherington with JCP staff member	Email to DSP Delivery Board Report to future meeting

	'hotspots' – dependent on RETG advice as above		
4a	Meeting to be convened between the chairs of the Devon Strategic Partnership, DSP Delivery Board, chairs of the major theme partnerships, and relevant theme leads in order to help facilitate this process	Caroline to arrange	Report progress to next meeting
4b	Invite Jeremy Filmer Bennett to Join DSP Delivery Board as business rep.	Andrew Southall	Invite to next meeting
5a	Piece of work about surveys and perception data	Caroline to coordinate Martin Green to provide info	Report to future meeting. Satisfaction survey to next meeting
6b	Devon County Council Exec be asked to consider requesting that certain targets be removed from be locked into overall performance for performance reward grant purposes.	Sara	Report to next meeting
6c	Rationale behind Local Area Agreement 27 be circulated	Sara to arrange	Email to members
7c	Further work be done on Local Area Agreement finances to improve level of detail available, including by geography if possible.	Chris Phillips to coordinate	Report to future meeting
8d	Comments and requests re LPSA2 to be sent to Sara Cretney	All	Update at future meeting
10a	Liaison with Colin Molton from HCA re the Single Conversation and possible attendance at DSP Delivery Board	Phil Norrey	Report to next meeting