

DEVON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

7 March 2007

Present:-

Rt. Rev. Michael Langrish (Chairman), (SWRDA), Mr Bunting, (Devon Association of CVS), Dr Collins (Natural England), Ms Davis, Councillor Dennis (Mid Devon District Council), Mr P Cloke (GOSW), Councillor Ferguson (Torrige District Council), (Devon PCT), (Business Sector), Councillor McInnes (West Devon Borough Council), Mr C Molton (SWRDA), Mr Norrey (Devon County Council and DSP Delivery Board), Dr Moffatt (Faith Sector), Mrs Rae (DSP Development Officer), Councillor Slack (Exeter City Council), Mr Smith (LAA Board), Councillor Connett (Teignbridge District Council), Mr Jones (Business Community), Councillor Yonge (South Hams District Council), Dr Radford (Devon PCT) and Mr P Sadler (Environment Agency).

Apologies

Councillor B Greenslade (Devon County Council), Mr J Bull (Learning and Skills Council), Mr M Weiler (Environment Agency), Mr N Hoskin (Dartmoor National Park Authority), Mr S Otter and Ch Supt C Terry (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary)

1 Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman hoped that this meeting would continue what had been successfully started at the Larkbeare meeting in January. It was about strategy, leadership and responsibility for management of the Partnership process.

2 Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2007 be signed as a correct record.

3 Terms of Reference including Governance

The Partnership considered the draft Terms of Reference which included the role of the DSP, the method of operation, the relationship with the other parts of the Partnership – the Conference, the Delivery Board, the Sustainable Devon Group and the Strategic Partnership Chairs Group. The report included a governance diagram and a DSP membership list. The Chair and the DSP Development Officer presented the report.

AGREED

(a) that this Group shall henceforward be called the Partnership Board;

(b) that the proposed Terms of Reference set out in the report be agreed subject to nominations for independent Chair being ratified by the Leader of the County Council.

4 Sustainable Community Strategy/ Vision Update

The Partnership considered the update report on the two essential elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy for Devon – a strong vision and a comprehensive evidence base. Views about the vision emerged from the January DSP meeting and the February Conference; a process of public consultation which will add to this information should be complete by the end of April 2007. The consultation draft of the evidence base was on the DSP website with a deadline for initial response by 30 March 2007. The DSP Development Officer reported that the next meeting of the Partnership Board would have

to decide what to take forward from the consultation process. The Chair hoped that with the Vision agreed we would be able to deliver outcomes and would be interested to hear at the May meeting how the Delivery Board would operate. It was important that any publicity must emphasize the added value that the DSP can bring and that DSP successes must be properly communicated.

5 Conference Report

The Partnership considered the report on the Conference which set the context and planned outcomes for the event held on 8 February 2007 at the Loop Centre in Exeter. The report detailed the morning activities – sessions on the Vision for Devon, the Theme Objectives and the cross cutting issues – and the afternoon sessions – successful delivery and the plenary feedback identified from the theme tables. The Conference concluded with a session on Partnership Next Steps and Summary led by Bishop Michael.

Partnership Members discussed the following issues in relation to the report:-

- the Conference provided a change of emphasis, a greater sense of energy and drive;
- still operating with the DSP comfort zone, how can we activate inclusion outside the DSP;
- two challenges – how do to deliver cross cutting outcomes and how to support innovative debate with the private sector;
- OPM facilitated the Conference well;
- there were dangers with a countywide cross-disciplinary approach which will average out issues and over-simplify problems;
- there has to be a way for young people to connect with the DSP perhaps by having a young persons' representative on this body.

The Chair said that he took away five things from the Conference – Progressive, participatory, partnership, poverty and a positive Devon strategy.

6 LAA Now and LAA/SCS Future

The Partnership considered the report on the context and performance of the Devon LAA, one of 21 national pilot areas, and every year Devon had the opportunity to “refresh” the Agreement to incorporate new developments. The Partnership also received a copy of the Department of Communities and Local Government publication *Developing the Future Arrangements for Local Area Agreements*. The 2007/08 refresh was submitted to Government in January 2007 and Devon was awaiting Ministerial sign-off. Additional outcomes in the four blocks had been included as part of the refresh and regeneration and housing were crosscutting issues, relevant to all four blocks. The report concluded with a 2006/07 mid-year performance summary showing which of the 114 indicators were on or above target, within 5% tolerance or below target.

Mr John Smith told the Partnership that the Government Office for the South West rated Devon's performance against targets as Amber demonstrating good progress, an ability to tackle barriers to performance and no major risks to delivery of key outcomes. The Partnership discussed its relationship to the LAA and how it added value and it was recognised that the Board had a crucial role to play in the distinctiveness debate and an opportunity to listen to the people of Devon. There was discussion about the Partnership Board's need to be able to challenge performance against the Vision for Devon. They requested the Delivery Board be asked to provide robust succinct exception reporting to them on a regular basis.

7 Devon Strategic Partnership Brand and Its Use

DSP Development Officer sought the views of the Partnership Board about the ownership of the DSP brand when reports are published by a removed group but under the DSP banner. It was suggested that the Chair of the Theme Group or the Partnership Board should sign off any future publications.

8 Process for the Election of New Chair

The Board was asked how it wished to manage the process for the election of a new Chair when Bishop Michael's period of office came to an end in August 2007. Various options and comments on the process of nomination were discussed.

AGREED that a Task Group comprising Councillor McInnes, Mr Bunting and the DSP Development Officer be given delegated authority to draw up a job description for the Chair and clarify the process of nomination and appointment.

Bishop Michael agreed to chair the September meeting of the Partnership Board to facilitate the changeover to a new Chair.

9 Future Meetings/Dates

The Partnership noted the dates for future meetings, as follows, starting at 10.30am (to be held at County Hall, Exeter, unless otherwise stated) were noted:

30 May 2007 at The Old Deanery, the Great Hall, Exeter
19 September 2007
16 January 2008

The meeting started at 10.30am and finished at 1.00pm