

DSP Partnership Board

9 July 2008

Agenda Item 5: Sustainable Community Strategy & Local Area Agreement: moving from planning to delivery

Recommendations:

- That the DSP Partnership Board notes this report
- That the Partnership Board invites Devon Local Area Agreement theme coordinators to future meetings to give presentations on progress towards LAA targets and priorities.

Devon's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-18

Following approval at the last DSP Partnership Board meeting, the Sustainable Community Strategy has now been approved by Devon County Council full council meeting, with the proviso that some elements of the Devon Brand are incorporated. The booklet will be published, together with a one page summary flyer, later this month. At the same time a new Sustainable Community Strategy website which includes links to evidence, consultation, relevant sections of the Local Area Agreement and delivery plans, and links to partner websites will be launched. The website will be part of the Devon Strategic Partnership website. The publication of the Sustainable Community Strategy provides the framework for partnership working in Devon for the next ten years.

Progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Community Strategy outcomes will be monitored by the Devon Strategic Partnership - the primary delivery tool will be successive Local Area Agreements, but elements of some outcomes will be addressed in other ways.

Devon Local Area Agreement 2008-2011

On 30 June, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government signed off all 150 Local Area Agreements (LAAs), including the Devon LAA 2008-2011, with local government and their partners.

The Devon LAA, which will be published in final paper and electronic form later this month alongside the Sustainable Community Strategy, will include a section for each District local authority/LSP area and a joint Dartmoor/Exmoor National Park section describing the LAA priorities of particular relevance to people and communities in that locality and the ways in which partners will contribute to them. The draft district pages are attached and the Local Area Agreement that was submitted to CLG can be viewed at

<http://www.devonsp.org.uk/sustainablecommunitystrategy/outcomes/draftlaa0811.pdf>

The LAA identifies the partners/partnerships who have signed up to each improvement target. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 lists "partner authorities" who are required to have regard to all those targets which they have signed up to. In order to fulfil this requirement they will need to show how they are planning for the implementation of their contribution to the achievement of those targets. A wide range of other groups and organisations, both statutory and non-statutory, will contribute to achievement of LAA targets, for example:

- Citizen's advice bureau

- Community and voluntary transport groups.
- Community re-use, recycling and composting networks.
- Councils for voluntary service
- Credit unions
- Faith groups and networks
- Senior councils
- Town and parish councils
- Voluntary youth services and youth associations

The LAA priorities are underpinned by delivery plans which describe how the local improvement targets will be met. Those plans will be completed by the end of July.

The DSP will need to oversee and managing progress towards delivery against all targets in the LAA based on data and information provided by individual partners.

Performance management and monitoring

Strong and effective performance management will fundamental to identifying the risks to meeting targets and adapting/developing delivery plans. The DSP Delivery Board will consider proposals for the performance management and monitoring of the LAA at its next meeting on 24 July. This Board may wish to invite LAA theme coordinators to attend future meetings to update members on progress towards LAA targets.

The LAA will be subject to an annual review which will be conducted by GOSW on behalf of central government. The first review will take place towards the end of this year, and be complete by March 2009 will:

- Finalise targets which were not completed when the LAA was signed off;
- Discuss the delivery plans and
- Assess risks to the achievement of targets.