

DEVON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP DSP Partnership Board

9 July 2008

Present:-

Mrs Sally Foxhall (Independent Chair), Councillor Des Brailey (North Devon District Council), Adrian Fullam (Exeter City Council), Councillor Brian Greenslade (Devon County Council), Jay Talbot (Devon Consortium) Councillor James McInnes (West Devon Borough Council), Councillor Alan Connett (Teignbridge District Council), Anne Fry (Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority), Councillor Peter Hare-Scott (Mid Devon District Council), Dr E Moffatt (Faith Sector), Peter Cloke (GOSW), Mr Tim Jones (Devon Economic Partnership), Mr Paul Gomperz (Environment Devon), Trevor Smale (Dartmoor National Park Authority), Mr Roland Pyle (LAA Development Officer) Mrs Caroline Rae (DSP Development Officer)

1 **Apologies**

Karen O'Donnell (GOSW) (Peter Cloke representing)
David Radford (Devon PCT)
Dr John Chudley (Devon & Cornwall Learning and Skills Council)
Chief Constable Steven Otter (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary)
Assistant Chief Constable Paul Netherton (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary)
Mr John Bunting (Devon Consortium) (Jay Talbot representing)

2 **Welcome from the Chair**

The Chair provided a report on the role and responsibilities within the new performance framework' which quoted from the DCLG document (DRAFT 23 June 2008) on the goals and principles that informed the development of the performance framework. These included; creating a shared endeavour, a focus on improving outcomes, reducing bureaucracy while ensuring rigorous performance management, building the confidence of local people in public services, effective partnership, making the best use of resources, encouraging innovation and recognising success.

In respect of the Devon Strategic Partnership and performance management, there is a need to;

1. Agree effective performance management arrangements which identify responsibility for LAA targets (including likelihood of delivery and enabling plans to be adapted as necessary to drive further improvement and identify and manage risks)
2. Monitoring and managing the partnership's performance in achieving LAA targets and SCS outcomes;
3. Understanding progress being made on the 198 national indicators;
4. Putting the duty to have regard to LAA targets at the heart of individual organisation's business and budget planning;
5. Holding partners to account / scrutinising partners' contributions to the SCS and LAA;
6. Making changes to the LAA in response to evidence and intelligence e.g. issues identified in the Comprehensive Area Assessment or annual review of the LAA;
7. Seeking to prevent problems and where they occur, tackle them quickly; and
8. Promote a culture of innovation and learning from others.

The Chair also reflected on the recent Boundary Committee announcement regarding Local Government Re-organisation and stressed that the Partnership still had a vital role to play to deliver improved services across Devon, regardless of the current political situation.

Delegates agreed that the important issue was serving the customer and achieving outcomes.

3 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2008 and 15th May 2008 (Special Meeting) be signed as a correct record, with a minor amendment to the minutes of 16th April to show Paul Gompertz representing Environment Devon (not Environment Agency)

4 **Martin Green – CAA Lead (Role of Partnerships in Improving Quality of Life)**

Mr Green attended the meeting in his capacity of Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) Lead for Devon (although he covered Plymouth and Torbay also). He updated delegates on the CAA and how it will support and regulate Local Authorities, particularly in the context of partnerships.

There would be a further consultation paper published on 31 July 2008 on the whole area assessment (these would be linked to LAA areas). Each organisation would undergo a 'organisational assessment' which would be similar in nature to the 'Use of Resources' and 'Direction of Travel' assessments. The focus of assessments would be to ensure that priorities were correct and improvements were made in quality of life, with particular focus on the vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Mr Green explained the new working relationships which he hoped would ensue. He wanted to see real delivery of the LAA and would be available to support the partnership, but still had to retain professional independence within his audit role. He also envisaged a more 'real time' (on going) assessment rather than the old style inspections methodology.

Questions / Discussion:

- Concerns over how outcomes were defined and delivered;
- The balance between process and outcome – what would be measured?
- Were any 'good practice' lessons available to assist delivery in Devon?
- Whether assessment timings were negotiable?
- Advice on a definition of sustainability and how aspirations might be managed.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- (a) thank Mr Green for attending the meeting;
- (b) receive a copy of the consultation report (as above) when this was published.

5 **Sustainable Community Strategy / Local Area Agreement – moving from Planning to Delivery**

The Board considered a report on both the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-18 and the Local Area Agreement 2008/2011 and how delivery might be monitored.

The Sustainable Community Strategy had been approved by Devon County Council, the booklet and the flyer were ready and the website nearly developed. All would be launched together. The next step was development of a system of monitoring progress.

In respect of the LAA, this was signed off on 30 June 2008. It was due to be published in paper and electronic forms shortly and would include sections (as circulated with the agenda) relating to each District local authority/local strategic partnership area the National Parks. The next steps were developing performance management and monitoring systems and also refining delivery plans.

The DSP Delivery Board were due to consider proposals for the performance management and monitoring of the LAA at its next meeting on 24 July.

Consideration of the recommendation relating to theme coordinators attending future Partnership Board meetings, to give presentations on progress towards LAA targets and priorities, would be considered under item 6.

6 Update from other Partnership Tables

Delegates received an update from other partnership tables and their role within the DSP structure.

- **Delivery Board** – had met once and considered how the Delivery Board would assist the delivery of the Local Area Agreement and performance manage it, and the desirability of aligning budgets where practicable and advantageous¹.
- **Futures Group** – This group reconvened to review its role and future direction. The terms of reference were still valid and the group would undertake 'horizon scanning'. The group would also undertake 'blue sky' thinking about futures and trends and what these meant for Devon.

Delegates noted that an update on the Resource Hub was not included within the report and that this would have been useful. Councillor Greenslade said the notion that external assistance from LIFT SW might be available to take the hub forward would be further investigated and a proposal developed.

A diagram was circulated showing the links between the DSP Partnership Board, Delivery Board and Conference, Partnership Chairs group, Devon Futures and other existing networks (e.g. DRN).

It was **RESOLVED**;

(a) to note the update from the Partnership Tables;

(b) to note the role of the Devon Strategic Partnership and delivery structures of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement and that the structure was still fit for purpose;

(c) that the Futures Group be given a slot at the next Conference to engage a wider audience;

(d) that, the Delivery Board would be responsible for monitoring performance, but a summary should be regularly provided to the Partnership Board;

(e) that the Partnership Board welcomed the idea of the Delivery Board inviting the theme co-ordinators to their meeting to update them on performance issues although further thought should be given to whether it was appropriate

7 Health and Well Being Partnership

The Chair declared an interest by virtue of being a Member of the PCT Board.

Delegates were circulated with two reports (of the Director of Adult & Community Services and Chief Executive of the Devon PCT) that had been considered at Devon County Council's Executive Committee on the Health and Well-Being Partnership within the DSP programme.

The consultation document set out a framework for strategic planning, co-ordination and joint commissioning in order to meet the requirements of the Government's Sustainable

¹ Ch Supt Jo Tennant, BCU Commander for Devon and Cornwall Police was elected as chair of the Delivery Board to replace ACC Bob Spencer.

Communities Strategy in the context of the Local Strategic Partnership and Local Area Agreement.

Delegates expressed their disappointment at receiving the documentation retrospectively, but noted they were being asked to endorse the papers.

Discussions took place on;

- The use of the word 'wellbeing';
- The need for the Stronger and Inclusive Communities Partnership to be included;
- A report on 'Community Well being' which had been written in West Devon District Council and that delegates were advised to read the contents.

It was **RESOLVED**:

(a) to receive the report that was sent to DCC's Executive (18 March 2008) which contained the proposal for the formation of the Health and Well-being Partnership within the revised LAA structure for Devon;

(b) to receive the report that was sent to DCC's Executive (30 April 2008) on the response to the consultation;

(c) to note the implementation process as set out in the recommendations of the report dated 30 April; and

(d) to endorse in principle the decisions taken by Devon County Council and Devon Primary Care Trust, as organisations with statutory responsibility for strategic planning of health and social care services, to establish the Health and Well-being Partnership for Devon, but to recognise that the detailed internal structure of the partnership and some details of its method of working, particularly with reference to the Strong and Inclusive Communities Group, had still to be finalised.

8 Update on VCS, Stronger Communities and their role in the DSP

Delegates were updated on two recent meeting relating to the stronger and inclusive communities partnership. Concerns had been raised over the resourcing of the partnership, but Mr Talbot added that the group had added much value and had been strong in putting forward ideas.

A second meeting, involving the Director of Adult Services and the Director of Public Health, was deemed very helpful. The Stronger and Inclusive Partnership needed to locate with the Health and Wellbeing Partnership but also build links with organisations such as the Children's Trust. A further meeting was scheduled for 31 July 2008.

In addition, the Partnership Board were keen to build on working with the Consortium.

It was **RESOLVED**;

(a) to note the positive progress that had been made and build on these foundations;

(b) to receive an update on the work on the Consortium at the next meeting; and

(c) to receive a report on migrant workers and on progress since the published task group report (that had been previously received by the Partnership Board)

9 AOB

It was **RESOLVED** that the Autumn conference would take place in October 2008 (exact date to be agreed) and that in future only one conference would be required (taking place in the Autumn).

10 **Date of Next Meeting**

8 October 2008 – 10.00am (Venue to be agreed)

The meeting started at 10.00am and finished at 12.25pm