



**Devon Strategic Partnership
Papers for 1st meeting of new group 11th January 2007**

Summary by theme of key issues as currently emerging

Listed below are some of the key issues as currently emerging from the Evidence Base for the new Sustainable Community Strategy for Devon. The draft for consultation of this web based suite of documents is due to be uploaded onto the DSP website at www.devonsp.org.uk in the week commencing 8th January 2007.

Summary of Environment Theme

1 Environment – some highlights of progress in this area

- a. Renewable Energy and Energy efficiency draft strategy launched. RE4D project achieved funding
- b. Close involvement of Environment Agency and English Nature (now Natural England) on DSP Exec
- c. Climate Change sub group formed

2 Environment - Issues

- a. The evidence base for the new Sustainable Community Strategy shows the following issues as being important to Devon:

Issues from the theme analysis:

- i. **Climate change** is the number one environmental challenge that we face over the next five years and beyond. It is real and it is happening now. The scientific evidence is irrefutable and the impacts are already being felt. Temperatures are increasing, sea levels are already rising and there are changes in seasonal rainfall patterns, increasing the risk of flooding. Climate change will have a major impact on the environment and has the potential to undermine the environmental improvements that have been achieved in recent years
- ii. **Flood risk.** The risk of flooding is likely to increase. More than 15% of properties in Devon are in flood risk areas (greater or lesser).
- iii. **Waste** There is a growing amount of waste produced which has implications for disposal, sustainability, waste of natural resources and pollution. Reducing the amount of waste and increasing recycling and composting are important.
- iv. **Soils and run – off.** Agricultural pollution is the single biggest cause of water quality problems in Devon, particularly in the Axe, Exe, Taw and Torridge catchments. It also contributes to failures in Bathing Water Quality standards and impacts on shellfisheries. Run-off from land can increase flood risk, pollute rivers and harm aquatic wildlife, for example by smothering fish spawning gravels e.g. those in the River Torridge. Nitrate levels in groundwater have been steadily rising as a result of the increased application of fertilisers to agricultural land

- v. **Habitat fragmentation.** Devon still contains a significant number of wildlife rich sites, but they are mostly fragments of a historically much richer, more extensive and largely contiguous suite of habitats. The issues are that they are not all recorded, protected, that there is no overall blueprint for management, and that they are particularly vulnerable to climate change

Other Issues (from district and other strategies and carried forward from the 2004 Community Strategy):

- vi. **Improving the built environment and public spaces.** Issues around use of and access to public space, and improving the quality of the built environment, in terms of regeneration, standard and sustainability of new build.
- vii. **Transport, congestion and air quality.** Transport is an issue that cuts across several themes, but in terms of environment is particularly relevant in terms of congestion and pollution.
- viii. **Biodiversity issues** (linked to habitat fragmentation above)
- ix. **Funding: the need to lobby** for a fair proportion of agri-economic expenditure in Devon, and **the need for funding** for the advisory function.

b. Links to Cross Cutting Themes

As a Sustainable Community Strategy, it is important that issues are not considered in isolation but also show how they contribute to the environmental, economic and social sustainability of Devon. The solutions to some issues may well involve a cross cutting approach. Listed below are potential cross cutting themes which show a great deal of synergy with the issues being raised. These are proposed only as a starting point for discussion.

EXAMPLE: The table below shows that transport is not just an environmental problem and this should be acknowledged when considering how to act.

Issue	Climate Change	Making Devon Greener	Improving Devon's economy	Overcoming deprivation	Adapting to demographic change	Equality and social inclusion	Rural/ urban issues – looking after Devon's communities
	Environmental Sustainability		Economic Sustainability		Social Sustainability		
Climate change	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Flooding	✓	✓	✓				
Waste	✓	✓					
Soils and run-off	✓	✓					
Habitat fragmentation	✓	✓					
Built environment	✓	✓				✓	✓
Transport, congestion and air quality	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Summary of Economy Theme

1 Economy – some highlights of progress in this area

- a. Devon Economic Partnership/ Concordat being formulated
- b. Economic block of the Local Area Agreement agreed and being actioned
- c. Devon Economic Strategy being prepared

2 Economy - Issues

- a. The evidence base for the new Sustainable Community Strategy shows the following issues as being important to Devon:
 - i. **Demographic change** manifested as:
 1. in migration and population growth
 2. related employment provision
 3. types of housing and services Provision (and relation to and ageing population)
 4. planning issues
 5. transport and infrastructure provision
 - ii. **Earnings and house prices** including:
 1. low overall levels of average earnings
 2. higher earnings in some districts
 3. distribution of high and low paid jobs and accessibility to these
 4. high house prices
 - iii. **Levels of deprivation** manifested as:
 1. pockets of high levels of deprivation with concentrations in particular communities
 2. differing types of deprivation in different communities
 3. difficulty in linking economic opportunity and success to all members of communities
 4. integrated solutions to issues required
 5. changing funding streams
 - iv. **Business productivity, including environment as an economic driver** including:
 1. low overall levels of business productivity and low growth forecast
 2. a massive difference between best and worst performing areas
 3. Exeter doing well, but no room for complacency
 4. North Devon and South Hams improving from a low base
 5. Torrington has extremely low productivity and a strong relative downward trend
 6. need to monitor performance of other Districts – particularly Mid Devon, ensuring relative business productivity grows
 7. Peripherality
 8. Outdated brand regarding the perception of Devon County Council
 9. How to capitalise on Devon's underused assets i.e. environmental quality
 10. Changing funding streams
 - v. **Employment including skills**
 1. Unemployment including underemployment
 2. high levels of self employment
 3. low levels of NVQ4+ qualified in Torrington and North Devon and links to low earnings and business productivity
 4. changing skills and employment needs in response to globalisation and commercial pressures
 5. high levels with no qualifications in East Devon and North Devon

6. Jobs matching skills. Low levels of Knowledge (KE) based employment in Northern and Western Devon
7. increasing role for social enterprise
8. funding streams
9. need for planning support to increase suitable employment sites

vi. **Other Issues** may include 'infrastructure' type issues and sustainable transport.

b. Links to Cross Cutting Themes

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EXAMPLE: The table below shows that employment including skills is not just an economic problem and this should be acknowledged when considering how to act.

	Issue	Climate Change	Making Devon Greener	Improving Devon's economy	Overcoming deprivation	Adapting to demographic change	Equality and social inclusion	Rural/urban issues – looking after Devon's communities
		Environmental Sustainability		Economic Sustainability		Social Sustainability		
1	Demographic change	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Earnings and house prices			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Levels of deprivation			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Business productivity, including environment as an economic driver	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
5	Employment including skills	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Sustainable transport	✓	✓	✓				✓

Summary of Housing Theme

1 Housing – some highlights of progress in this area

- a. Devon Strategic Housing Group continues to tackle all aspects of housing issues. Evaluation of previous Community Strategy (www.devonsp.org.uk Other Documents) shows some of this progress.
- b. Many district initiatives to create affordable housing
- c. 2nd home Council Tax revenue used to help overcome housing issues.

2 Housing - Issues

- a. The evidence base for the new Sustainable Community Strategy shows the following issues as being important to Devon:
 - i. **Increasing Housing Delivery.** Devon's Housing is some of the least affordable housing in England. Demand for housing is high with a continued net in-migration and a rise in single person households, the fastest growth being amongst the elderly. Supply has not kept pace with demand which has led to unaffordable housing for first time buyers and high private sectors rent levels in many parts of Devon, particularly the County's more rural areas.
 - ii. **Achieving Good Quality Homes.** Good quality homes are needed for new developments and for the existing housing stock in both the private and social sectors. If more housing is to be built, at higher densities it is important to mitigate the impact of development on the environment and climate change through good design and improvements in energy efficiency. Improvements to existing homes can make an important contribution to greater energy efficiency.
 - iii. **Reducing Homelessness.** The shortage of good quality, affordable housing is a significant cause of homelessness and overcrowding. Devon needs to increase the housing options for households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. This requires Local Authorities to continue to increase and improve current homelessness prevention initiatives and work to increase access to alternative accommodation e.g. private rented sector. It is also important that households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness have access to the right kind and level of support to enable them to sustain accommodation independently.
 - iv. **Making More Efficient Use of Existing Stock.** The increase in demand for affordable housing is unlikely to be met by increasing supply alone. Strategies and joint working is needed in order to make better use of the existing stock. This will involve reducing the amount of long term empty homes, monitoring the level of Right to Buy Sales, having efficient social lettings policies, encouraging the development of good quality, well managed, private rented sector and developing appropriate policy responses for managing the impact of second homes and holiday lets and enabling appropriate move-on from supported housing schemes.

b. Links to Cross Cutting Themes

As a Sustainable Community Strategy, it is important that issues are not considered in isolation but also show how they contribute to the environmental, economic and social sustainability of Devon. The solutions to some issues may well involve a cross cutting approach. Listed below are potential cross cutting themes which show a great deal of synergy with the issues being raised. These are proposed only as a starting point for discussion.

EXAMPLE: The table below shows that reducing homelessness is not just a social problem and this should be acknowledged when considering how to act.

Papers for 1st meeting of new DSP 11th January 2007
 Summary of key issues for Devon as currently emerging.

	Issue	Climate Change	Making Devon Greener	Improving Devon's economy	Overcoming deprivation	Adapting to demographic change	Equality and social inclusion	Rural/ urban issues – looking after Devon's communities
		Environmental Sustainability		Economic Sustainability		Social Sustainability		
1	Increasing Housing Delivery.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Achieving Good Quality Homes.	✓	✓				✓	✓
3	Reducing Homelessness.			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Making More Efficient Use of Existing Stock.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Summary of Safer Devon Theme

1 Safer Devon – some highlights of progress in this area

- a. Safer Devon Partnership created
- b. Local Area Agreement agreed with a Safer Devon strand
- c. Domestic Violence work very successful

2 Safer Devon - Issues

- a. The evidence base for the new Sustainable Community Strategy shows the following issues as being important to Devon:
 - i. **Volume Crime** The impact of re-offending committed by adults and young people more specifically Priority and prolific offenders (PPO). We need to reduce this figure by providing a robust and consistent service across the whole area.
 - ii. **Domestic Violence** The issue for Devon is that domestic abuse has a major financial impact on all agencies' services and undermines the well-being of significant sections of the population. Services and policies have been developed over the last four years but need sustaining and building more comprehensively into mainstream activity
 - iii. **Alcohol/ Drugs** Lack of adequate prioritisation and funding for local alcohol treatment and projects, due to national absence of both.
 - iv. **Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)** In order to tackle ASB effectively, all agencies need to be signed up to taking action, from an early preventative stage right through to setting boundaries and enforcing an acceptable standard of behaviour. Whilst single agencies have responsibilities, there are multiple risk factors associated with ASB perpetrators and this requires a joined up response from all agencies
 - v. **Prejudice and hate crime** The issue for Devon is that activity on the impact of prejudice on minority communities has not so far been lead by a co-ordinated strategy or clear county-wide action plan.
 - vi. **Youth crime** To reduce the number of Devon's children and young people who enter the youth justice system
 - vii. **Fear of crime** General public perception that crime and anti-social behaviour is a bigger problem than crime data would show. This fear can impede quality of life and well-being for some sections of the community.

b. Links to Cross Cutting Themes

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EXAMPLE: The table below shows that domestic violence is not just a safety problem and this should be acknowledged when considering how to act

Issue	Climate Change	Making Devon Greener	Improving Devon's economy	Overcoming deprivation	Adapting to demographic change	Equality and social inclusion	Rural/ urban issues – looking after Devon's communities
	Environmental Sustainability		Economic Sustainability		Social Sustainability		

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Volume crime			✓	✓		✓	✓
Domestic Violence			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alcohol/ drugs			✓	✓		✓	✓
ASB			✓	✓		✓	✓
Prejudice and Hate crime			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Youth Crime			✓	✓		✓	✓
Fear of crime			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Summary of Strong Communities Theme

1 Strong Communities – some highlights of progress in this area

- a. Devon Compact
- b. Strong Communities conference Sept 2006 paved the way for future work
- c. Common Ground, set up directly as a result of the County for Everyone report that followed the 2004 Community Strategy, continues to deliver major results in the area of social inclusion

2 Strong Communities - Issues

- a. The evidence base for the new Sustainable Community Strategy shows the following issues as being important to Devon:
 - i. **participation, involvement and influence**
 - ii. **equalities and diversity**
 - iii. **accessible services**
 - iv. **community development**

b. Links to Cross Cutting Themes

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EXAMPLE: The table below shows that accessibility of services is not just a social problem and this should be acknowledged when considering how to act.

Issue	Climate Change	Making Devon Greener	Improving Devon's economy	Overcoming deprivation	Adapting to demographic change	Equality and social inclusion	Rural/ urban issues – looking after Devon's communities
	Environmental Sustainability		Economic Sustainability		Social Sustainability		
Participation, involvement and influence				✓	✓	✓	✓
Equalities and diversity			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Accessible services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Summary of Culture Theme

1 Culture - Issues

The theme analysis above shows the following issues as being important to Devon:

- i. **Better integration of cultural provision across Devon**
- ii. **Improving access to cultural opportunities**
- iii. **identifying standards of cultural entitlement**

Other issues raised by district and other strategies and carried forward from the 2004 Community Strategy) include:

- iv. **Enhance and promote Devon's reputation** as home for high quality cultural experiences and enterprises

2 Links to Cross Cutting Themes

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EXAMPLE: The table below shows improving access to cultural experiences has wide implications and this should be acknowledged when considering how to act.

Issue	Climate Change	Making Devon Greener	Improving Devon's economy	Overcoming deprivation	Adapting to demographic change	Equality and social inclusion	Rural/ urban issues – looking after Devon's communities
	Environmental Sustainability		Economic Sustainability		Social Sustainability		
Better integration of cultural provision across Devon		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Improving access to cultural opportunities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
identifying standards of cultural entitlement						✓	✓
Enhance & promote Devon's reputation as home for high quality cultural experiences & enterprises						✓	✓

Summary of Sustainable Energy Theme

1 Sustainable Energy – some highlights of progress in this area

- a. Renewable Energy and Energy Reduction report and draft Strategy and Action Plan - 2003
- b. Devon Sustainable Energy Network created

2 Sustainable Energy - Issues

- a. The evidence base for the new Sustainable Community Strategy shows the following issues as being important to Devon:
 - i. Devon needs to **reduce its** share of **emissions** urgently
 - ii. Devon needs to **realise the economic benefits of moving to a low carbon economy** by reducing energy use, improving energy efficiency and creating opportunities for business growth through development of low carbon technologies, such as renewable energy;
 - iii. Devon needs to protect the health and well being of vulnerable individuals by **eliminating fuel poverty**, caused by increasing energy costs, low incomes and poorly insulated and heated homes.

b. Links to Cross Cutting Themes

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EXAMPLE: The table below shows that fuel poverty is not just an environmental problem and this should be acknowledged when considering how to act

Issue	Climate Change	Making Devon Greener	Improving Devon's economy	Overcoming deprivation	Adapting to demographic change	Equality and social inclusion	Rural/ urban issues – looking after Devon's communities
	Environmental Sustainability		Economic Sustainability		Social Sustainability		
Reducing emissions	✓	✓	✓				✓
A low carbon economy	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Fuel poverty	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Summary of a Healthier Devon Theme

1 Health– some highlights of progress in this area

- a. Restructuring of PCTs/SHAs
- b. Joint NHS/Devon County Council appointment of Director of Public Health

2 Health - Issues

- a. The evidence base for the new Sustainable Community Strategy shows the following issues as being important to Devon:

- i. **Accidental Injury**
- ii. **Emotional Wellbeing**
- iii. **Health Protection and Emergency Planning**
- iv. **Health Inequalities**
- v. **Obesity**
- vi. **Smoking**
- vii. **Sexual Health**
- viii. **Sensible Drinking**

b. Links to Cross Cutting Themes

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	Environmental Sustainability		Economic Sustainability		Social Sustainability		
Accidental Injury			✓				
Emotional Wellbeing			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Health Protection and Emergency Planning	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Health Inequalities			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Obesity		✓	✓			✓	✓
Smoking			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sexual Health				✓		✓	
Sensible Drinking			✓	✓	✓	✓	

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Information re Children and Young People and Older People themes to follow