

DEVON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

11 January 2007

Present:-

Rt. Rev. Michael Langrish (Chairman), Dr Brownlow (SWRDA), Mr Bunting, (Devon Association of CVS), Councillor Channon (Devon County Council), Mr Cloke (Government Office for the South West), Dr Collins (Natural England), Ms Davis, Councillor Dennis (Mid Devon District Council), Councillor Ferguson (Torrige District Council), Mrs Foxhall (Devon PCT), Councillor Greenslade (Devon County Council), Mr Hindley (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), Dr Pearson (Devon PCT), Mrs Rae (DSP Development Officer), Councillor Slack (Exeter City Council), Mr Smith (LAA Board), Ch. Supt. Terry (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary) and Mr Weiler (Environment Agency).

Apologies

Councillor Connett (Teignbridge District Council), Councillor Prowse (North Devon District Council), Councillor Yonge (South Hams District Council), Prof Bull, Mr Otter (Devon & Cornwall Constabulary), Mr Radford (Devon PCT), Councillor Randall-Johnson (East Devon District Council), Mr Dancer (Lord Lieutenant) and Mr Jones (Business Community).

1 Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman summarised the history and evolution of the DSP to date; ensuring it was fit for purpose to deliver the Devon LAA and Sustainable Community Strategy and provide a strategic framework for partnership working in Devon. The Chairman also reminded the DSP of a number of its successes (e.g. Rural Strategy, Social Inclusion & Common Ground and the successful Benefit Take-up and Domestic Violence campaigns) and those areas that remained of high priority (e.g. Climate Change, Technological Challenge and Community Cohesion).

The Chairman emphasised that the focus of discussions at this, the first meeting of the new DSP within the revised structure, would necessarily concentrate on the role and influence of the DSP and its priorities for the County. The new structure would enable several equal 'tables' to be set up, each with a different role; these tables would include the DSP (this Group) which would focus on leadership, vision, priorities and strategy. The Delivery Board with its Chief Executive level membership would focus on drive and delivery and the Strong & Sustainable Group would hold the brief of integrating sustainability into the process, while leaving delivery to specific Theme Groups such as the Devon Economic Partnership.

2 Group Introductions

Members of the DSP introduced themselves outlining what they felt they could bring to its work in terms of added value to partnership working.

3 Themes and Priorities for Devon

The DSP received a summary prepared by the DSP Development Officer of those key issues, by theme, which had emerged from the development of the evidence base for the new Sustainable Community Strategy. These had been prepared in conjunction with the relevant theme champions, as issues which were still of concern and which linked to other objectives within the proposed sustainable community strategy.

Members noted that a draft of the web based suite of documents would shortly be published on the DSP website for consultation.

The DSP was invited to examine in detail, through a group exercise, the future direction of travel for Devon, to envisage how the County might look 20 years hence and to explore the corresponding role and priorities of the DSP and other related bodies.

[NB: The issues, comments and or observations made by Groups were captured and recorded separately]

Following initial consideration of the issues raised in the Group sessions there was then an opportunity for general discussion by the DSP to identify any significant issues or further action required. In discussing the outcome of the Group sessions, the broad thrust of which were welcomed, it was recognised that they revealed a number of common threads such as:

- the need for visionary, joined-up, firm, cohesive leadership;
- influencing people and organisations to achieve desired objectives (private behaviour, public policy) on such issues as climate change;
- encouraging wealth creation and development of new technologies through the planning system and as a means of combating outward migration from the County.

4 The Role of the DSP

The DSP discussed a paper prepared by the DSP Development Officer outlining the proposed future structure and role of the DSP based on the report from OPM and previous discussions at the former DSP Executive.

It was clear – from both this paper and the discussions on the previous item – that there was a clear recognition of the need for a clearly defined overarching partnership for Devon to govern and monitor the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The former encapsulated the priorities of Devon (i.e. strategic) while the latter was the process through which the detail could be secured (i.e. delivery).

The proposed structure was discussed namely the DSP Conference underpinned by the DSP itself (the Partnership) with a Delivery Board, Strategic Partnerships Chairs and Theme Groups, working together to achieve common objectives. It was envisaged that this, the new Devon Strategic Partnership, would be the strategic partnership tasked with:

- providing an active voice to promote Devon particularly at regional and national level;
- clarifying the real strategic issues and strategic priorities for Devon in light of the deliberations of the Conference and views of theme groups;
- securing a shared strategic view and upholding the vision for Devon;
- co-ordinating and influencing statutory agencies, persuading partners and stakeholders that, on occasion, there are other way of working to meet the needs of the people of Devon;
- overseeing the shape the SCS and the agreement of the 2008 LAA, and influencing the operational plans of partners to support the achievement of both;

- challenging ambition and thinking from the themed partnerships and the Delivery Board;
- actively discussing and resolving conflicts between priorities, issues and between partners;
- receiving summary reports on performance of the LAA and SCS so as to allow it to scrutinise and hold to account the Delivery Board, thematic partnerships and partner agencies insofar as they have agreed to take responsibility for the delivery of shared objectives.

In discussing the role of the DSP there appeared to be an emerging consensus that it should act as the principle public/private sector partnership body giving overall direction to the work of partners and constituent organisations. This was to be achieved through receiving, sharing, assessing, evaluating and prioritising suggested policy developments or specific initiatives and subsequent commissioning of relevant pieces of work where appropriate either by the Delivery Board or by the Strong & Sustainable, Strategic Partnerships Chairs or Theme Groups or by partner organisations. It was recognised that any such work must be beneficial to the county as a whole and be consistent with or complementary to the Sustainable Community Strategy if it were to be pursued.

There was also a clear consensus that membership of the DSP should be confined to those individuals within organisations with responsibility for leadership while those with management responsibilities should more appropriately serve on the Delivery Board.

In recognition of the above emerging consensus the proposed pieces of work on Climate Change (suggested by Mr Weiler) and Migrant Workers (suggested by Mr Norrey) were widely supported as worthy of being pursued, initially at least by those organisations, pending the establishment of the Delivery Board.

It was **AGREED**

(a) that the outcome of the discussions at this meeting should form the basis of presentation to the DSP Conference later in the year;

(b) that the DSP Development Officer be requested to formulate and circulate detailed proposals – based on the aforementioned discussions, on:

- the proposed membership of the DSP, Delivery Board and other Groups;
- the relationships/terms of engagement for and between the various component elements of the partnership;
- an outline of how the issues discussed at this meeting were to be taken forward and the issues to be discussed at the next meeting of the DSP

5 Future Meetings/Dates

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

7 March 2007 (Bridge Conference Room, 1st Floor, Heavitree Road
Police Station, Heavitree, Exeter)
30 May 2007 (venue to be determined)
19 September 2007
16 January 2008

The meeting started at 10.30am and finished at 1.00pm