

## DEVON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP DSP Partnership Board

15 January 2009

Present:-

*Mrs Sally Foxhall (Independent Chair), Cllr Anne Fry (Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority), Mr John Bunting (Devon Consortium), Councillor Peter Hare-Scott (Mid Devon District Council), Mr Trevor Smale (Dartmoor National Park Authority), Councillor Des Brailey (North Devon District Council), Councillor James McInnes (West Devon Borough Council), Mr Tim Jones (Devon Economic Partnership), Chief Superintendent Jo Tennant (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary), Andrew Southall (SWRDA), Mr David Radford (Devon PCT), Dr John Chudley (Learning and Skills Council), Councillor Adrian Fullam (Exeter City Council), Councillor Brian Greenslade (Devon County Council), Mrs Caroline Rae (DSP Development Officer)*

Also in attendance

*Rob Hetherington (Devon County Council) Item 7  
Andrew Lightfoot (Devon County Council) Item 7*

### 1 **Apologies**

*Paul Gompertz (Environment Devon)  
Martin Green (Audit Commission)  
Mrs Sara Cretney (LAA Development Officer)  
Peter Cloke (GOSW)  
Dr E Moffatt (Faith Sector),  
Ian Thompson (SWRDA) – Andrew Southall representing  
CC Steve Otter (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary) Jo Tennant representing*

### 2 **Welcome from the Chair**

The Chair welcomed delegates back after the winter break.

Delegates were updated on two matters;

- 1) The Chair had received a letter from St Lukes Sports and Science College regarding the 'Skilled for Health Programme'. This was a pioneering schools' programme (part of a national pilot) aimed at getting city parents fitter through activities. The funding from Government had enabled the expansion of the Fit to Succeed and Healthy Lifestyles ethos from young people into the adult community.

Tim Jones advised that St Lukes were a partner in the 'Active Devon' partnership therefore he would deal with the correspondence.

- 2) A further letter had been received from Mid Devon District Council regarding LPSA2 reward money. It was agreed that this be considered under item 4a.

### 3 **Minutes and Matters Arising**

#### **(a) Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2008 be signed as a correct record subject to the minor amendment (inclusion of apologies from Dr J Chudley - Learning and Skills Council)

**(b) Matters Arising**

(i) Healthy Workforce (Number of Days Lost) (Min 4 - 08/10/08)

Mr Radford advised that there was more work to be done with GP's in this regard and asked that the Chair task him to take this forward on a formal basis.

(ii) Role of Pharmacies (Min 4 - 08/10/08)

The chair advised that the proposals originally outlined in the consultation on the role of pharmacies had been scrapped.

(iii) Grass Roots Funding (Min 7 - 08/10/08)

Mr Bunting advised that some funding would be received, but the amount was unknown.

(iv) 3rd Sector representation on Delivery Board (Min 9 - 08/10/08)

This action had been completed as there was now 3<sup>rd</sup> sector representation on the DSP Delivery Board.

**RESOLVED;**

(a) that Mr Radford report back at the next meeting regarding any progress on 3(b)(i); and

(b) that delegates note the bid to be submitted to RIEP under a 'joined up working' initiative towards the end of February, the money would be used to fund a project manager to co-ordinate such working.

**4**

**Update from other Partnership Tables**

Delegates were updated on the work of other partnership tables.

**DSP Delivery Board** – The minutes of the meetings held on **26 November 2008** had been circulated with the agenda. Issues considered at that meeting included LAA Performance Monitoring (environment and housing considered in detail), LAA finance update and annual review, an update on the Healthier and Stronger Communities Partnership, the role of champions for each of the SCS themes, the duty to involve, update on the resource hub and the Commission for rural communities project.

Furthermore, the Delivery Board had also met on **15<sup>th</sup> January 2009**. Issues considered included the Health and Wellbeing Partnership (Phase one was progressing. A group of approximately 12 representatives (including voluntary sector) would meet in March as it was important to steer the development of the group. Also considered was the impact of CAA on the LAA. The economic downturn and refresh of the LAA were discussed (both being substantive items on the Partnership Boards agenda) and the Declaration of Equality available for those who had not yet signed up. It was also noted that there was some ongoing work about mapping engagement and the Chair stressed the importance of a PAN Devon approach and avoidance of any duplication.

Finally, (as raised under 2) delegates discussed the letter from Mid Devon District Council regarding the reward grant under LPSA 2. It was noted that Devon County Council was the accountable body, but the DSP Delivery Board would consider the business cases for proposals at its next meeting and its advice would be given to DCC.

**Devon Futures** – a verbal update was received on the most recent Futures meeting (9<sup>th</sup> January 2009). Tim Jones advised that a series of meetings had taken place looking at various aspects of life in Devon, over the next 30 years, with the aim of ensuring that today's decision making was robust and fit for the future. Topics included climate change, population, social inclusion, fuel poverty and the impacts of the Regional Spatial Strategy

(RSS). All the information would be collated and a list of actions and recommendations produced for the DSP Partnership Board to consider in due course.

**Strategic Partnership Chairs Group** – a verbal update was received on the most recent meeting (14<sup>th</sup> January 2009). Issues considered included the best way of dealing with PAN Devon issues, the need for more consistency of approach across Devon, the role of local members and core business of Local Authorities, that Cllr Alan Connett was the new Chair of the Teignbridge LSP and a concern that the East Devon LSP had appeared not to have attended recent key meetings, which was important given the spatial planning issues around the East Devon and Exeter areas.

**Conference (7<sup>th</sup> November 2008)**– Delegates reviewed questions that had been posed for the Board by delegates at the Conference as well as points made by children / young people. Some of the comments included the use of technology being maximised to ensure effective engagement and participation, the enjoyment of the children and young people's contribution, that delivery must happen, wider communication, equality issues, ensuring there are measurable outcomes, the need to organise the structure for the Healthier and Stronger Communities Partnership, arrange resourcing for the DSP HUB and the role of and connecting with Parish and Town Councils.

The date of the Conference also coincided with the 11 million takeover day and as part of Devon's contribution, children were invited to share their views of how they Devon to be in 30 years time. Some of the comments included being able to 'have a say' and being listened to, concern for the elderly, using different sources of fuel and energy, jobs and careers, safe communities and places for all, potential future transport and communication and food issues (local produce, role of supermarkets etc).

Delegates discussed;

- The role and importance of parish plans;
- The need to better use the community planning database;
- How an 'open space' conference model might work in the future;
- The need to consider innovative methods of working – including better use of marketing expertise;

## **RESOLVED**

(a) that an update on the progress of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership be made to the next meeting of the DSP Partnership Board;

(b) that delegates note the reminder to sign up to the Declaration of Equality should they wish to do so;

(c) that thanks to Prof. Rod Blackshaw (who was stepping down as Chair of the Teignbridge Local Strategic Partnership) be formally placed on record;

(d) that Mrs Rae and the Chair make contact with the East Devon LSP regarding involvement;

(e) that the RIEP bid be circulated once it had been submitted to the regional fund; and

(f) that the DSP Partnership Board note the comments made by the conference and ask the Development Officer make contact with the marketing expertise in other organisations (particularly Devon and Cornwall Constabulary) to make use of the available marketing tools.

## **5**

### **Sustainable Community Strategy Champions**

The Board considered a report on the role of sustainable community strategy champions. Delegates noted that the scope of the DSP work was becoming more complex (38 priority areas within the LAA and the monitoring role of the Delivery Board) and therefore

considered the suggestion of the Delivery Board that the Partnership Board might wish to appoint champions from within its membership to provide strategic direction in each priority theme area. Each champion would take a more detailed interest in the performance and delivery of Local Area Agreement priorities that related to their Sustainable Community Strategy theme.

#### **RESOLVED**

(a) that the DSP Partnership Board support the notion of appointing champions from within its membership for each of the Sustainable Community Strategy priority themes; and

(b) that the Partnership Board revisit the issue at the next meeting to see if the capacity of Members allows for the appointments to be made.

### **6 Local Area Agreement – Review and Fresh**

Delegates received a report on the progress on the Local Area Agreement refresh. It was noted that Devon had an opportunity to ‘refresh’ its Local Area Agreement for 2009 onwards, in line with CLG guidance. The full document was available on the web at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/laaannualreview200809>

Devon must submit any refreshed LAA to GOSW on 2nd March 2009. It is anticipated that there will be very few amendments other than the examples of unfinished business referred to within the guidance. The refreshed LAA would be submitted to CLG towards the end of March 2009, therefore there was the potential for a final sign off by the Delivery Board at their meeting on 11th March 2009.

Delegates were also circulated with the latest draft on how the LAA was performing to date (a document written by GOSW and submitted to CLG).

Delegates commented that many of the areas deemed to be at risk, in terms of delivery, were directly related to the economic downturn.

It was also noted that some of the data sets were annual but there was a need to challenge if this information was available for review.

#### **RESOLVED;**

(a) that the timetable and limited scope for the ‘refresh’ of the Devon Local Area Agreement be noted; and

(b) that the review of the Local Area Agreement also be noted; and

(c) that the comment relating to a ‘third sector engagement strategy’ (page 3) be checked for accuracy.

### **7 The Economic Downturn and its Effect in Devon**

Delegates received a presentation and report on the current economic downturn and its effects in Devon. The presentation covered issues such as the origins of the recession, the global position, the high profile impacts (High Street names), retail closures, high level indicators such as bank base rates, housing prices and unemployment figures, energy prices. The presentation then focussed on the local picture in terms of unemployment and youth unemployment, housing tenure and repossessions, the impact on the LAA and its targets.

It was noted that as the downturn became more severe, its effects would be felt in many areas of work and would impact on the delivery of services and the partnership work via the Local Area Agreement.

Devon County Council and the Devon Economic Partnership had been looking at the wide ranging impacts of the downturn. A spreadsheet was circulated which offered a starting point for assessing the impact of the downturn on delivery of the Local Area Agreement. This spreadsheet had adopted a traffic light system to show those areas at greatest risk in red.

Delegates informed the Board of actions that their organisations had taken / or could take in response to the current situation;

- The LSC were working regionally and had developed a Regional Skills Plan, were working closely with Job Centre Plus and were currently undertaking a pilot programme with an FE college;
- A better focus on / and more opportunities for apprenticeships and the importance place they have in industry and for the economy;
- The current difficulties in providing housing and that this was unlikely to be addressed by national policy;
- There was a lack of awareness regarding the business of the Devon Economic Partnership;
- The ongoing problem of bureaucracy and its tendency to stifle innovation;
- Use lessons from the Foot and Mouth Enquiry where confidence was low – but through positive marketing and other actions, a difficult situation was remedied;
- The importance of creating the conditions to allow recovery e.g. DCC was retaining and pursuing its capital programme to retain infrastructure investment; and
- The fact that a lot of work was ongoing and the importance of collating this information.

#### **RESOLVED**

(a) that Mr Hetherington be thanked for his informative and interesting presentation and that it be circulated to Members of the Board;

(b) that the LSC's Regional Skills Plan be circulated to the Partnership Board;

(c) that the existence of the 'Area Action Force' (SWRDA), involving all relevant agencies, in times of large scale redundancies be noted;

(d) that members provide whatever additional information they can about the social, environmental economic and cultural impacts of the economic downturn from their own organisations to help build a clearer picture of the situation in Devon;

(e) that Mr Hetherington be the point of contact for collating this information and to ensure that business analysts from other agencies were involved in the process; and

(f) that a report on the current position with housing supply, provision and building be brought to the next meeting of the Partnership Board.

#### **8 AOB**

No items raised

#### **9 Date of Next Meeting**

Future dates were agreed as;

Thursday 16 April 2009 (venue TBC)

Thursday 16 July 2009 (venue TBC)

Thursday 15 October 2009 (venue TBC)

All meetings to start at 9.30am and offers of hospitality welcomed.

The meeting started at 14.00pm and finished at 16.20pm