

**DSP Partnership Board  
Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

**Agenda Item 8 – withdrawal of DEFRA RSCP funding**

**Recommendation**

- That the DSP Partnership Board note the planned withdrawal of the RSCP fund next year and decide whether members wish to write to DEFRA collectively or individually or not take action at this time.

**Context**

This item has been passed to DSP Partnership Board by the Delivery Board, offering support for a letter to be sent to Govt as the loss of this funding (and the BCU Commanders' fund) will impact rural areas, but only if there was a clear effect on outcomes, rather than just the inputs which the briefing currently focused on.

**Withdrawal of RSCP funding**

Defra's Rural Social & Community Programme (RSCP), managed by Devon Rural Network, and managed as part of the current Local Area Agreement, was launched in Summer 2005 as a pilot programme, with delivery up to March 2008. The investment into Devon was over £840,000. The programme is intended to help rural communities shape and enhance their own futures. Emphasis is placed on meeting the needs of those at greatest risk of social exclusion in a rural context, with delivery embedded in the voluntary and community sector. Priorities and key actions were identified in Devon by a broad range of local partners. It is planned to terminate the programme in 2008 subject to CSR07 although DEFRA may be looking at other ways to provide some funding for Community Council of Devon and enabling of affordable housing. Devon Rural Network is very concerned that a lot of other projects that benefit rural areas may be lost without this funding continuing.

Work in Devon supported by the RSCP includes

1. Devon Rural Housing Enablers
2. Parish Plan Grants
3. Rural Social Inclusion Programme
4. Rural Community Buildings
5. Rural Outreach Learning Initiative
6. Rural Carers Project
7. Rural Community Enterprise
8. Community Banking
9. Exmoor Rural Housing Enabler
10. Support for Parish and Town Councils
11. NASP
12. Rural Volunteering
13. Equality & Diversity - Excluded People
14. Equality & Diversity – Gender
15. Community Planning Database

Devon Rural Network are looking for letters of support / lobbying:

“The loss of RSCP funding will be very detrimental to not only the communities in Devon but also those who work on the individual projects. Please take this information to your boards and partnerships so we can get the message out as far across Devon as possible. Any support is much appreciated.”